

ŌTAKI UPDATE

Photographic exhibition of WWII veterans

More than 40 photographs of World War II (WWII) veterans based in Ōtaki and Waikanae are on display at Ōtaki Library until the end of October.

The portraits, by Wellington photographer Annette Scullion, are part of a nationwide ANZAC photography project organised by the New Zealand Returned Service Association (RSA) and the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photographers.

Photographers have worked with regional RSAs to photograph 3,000 WWII veterans throughout New Zealand.

The portraits will be gifted to the Royal New Zealand RSA as part of 2015 centenary ceremonies and publicly displayed at locations around the country as part of a commemorative touring exhibition.

Free kids' movies!

Ōtaki Library is also screening a children's movie every Friday afternoon starting at 3.20pm. Attendance is free.



Librarian Maia Whiterod (left) and Ōtaki resident Kaye Carkeek admiring the portraits.

First water invoices

Ratepayers in Ōtaki were sent their first water invoices at the end of September.

These initial invoices do not cover a full three-month period while we establish quarterly reading/invoicing cycles for each part of the district. Subsequent invoices will cover three-monthly periods.

A slight delay in posting the invoices was due to extra processing checks completed.

"As this is a new scheme affecting thousands of ratepayers, we want to make absolutely sure we have our processes right and some extra checks were necessary," says Council's Group Manager Corporate Services Wayne Maxwell.

Payment options are listed on the back of your water invoice (remember to include your water account number in any payment details).

If your water invoice is higher than you expected, there are plenty of easy, no-cost things you can do to save water at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/water-conservation. General rates invoices are not posted at the same time as water invoices i.e. you will receive them separately.

Mayor joins Ōtaki River walk



Mayor Ross Church recently joined a walk along the banks of the Ōtaki River. The walk, organised by Greater Wellington Regional Council, attracted three busloads of keen participants. Mayor Church (pictured with Peter Pope from Friends of the Ōtaki River) says it was great to see such a diverse range of people take part in the event and to see the work done by passionate regional council staff and Friends of the Ōtaki River to improve the area.

Ōtaki Beach development

At its last meeting, the Ōtaki Community Board allocated funding to resource the initial workshops and consultation on the Ōtaki Beach development project.

This project, driven by Colin Pearce and supported by fellow board members, is looking at how our community wants the beach area enhanced and how we can achieve this. The process will be led by the community rather than by Council.

If you would like to be involved, contact Colin Pearce on 06 364 6488 or email colin.pearce@kapiti.govt.nz

High praise for Ōtaki sports grounds

The grounds at Ōtaki Domain were given great feedback following the Heartland Championship match between Horowhenua-Kapiti and East Coast several weeks ago.

After the match, won by the home team, Horowhenua-Kapiti Rugby Union CEO Corey Kennett said the teams were exceptionally impressed with the ground they played on.

"Both teams commented it was easily the best they had played on this year during the championship. I'm extremely grateful for all the effort put in by the Kāpiti Coast District Council."

Commentators on Sky TV were also positive about the grounds, including Ian Jones who said: "I love this ground, I love the green of the grass ... it just makes you want to play rugby."

Deputy Mayor Mike Cardiff said it was great for the "parks staff to know their efforts are appreciated, particularly when favourable comments come from both winning and losing teams".

AquaEase classes increase mobility



A new programme at Ōtaki Pool is providing people with relief from aches and pains.

AquaEase classes have started at the pool on Tuesdays from 11.15-11.30am during the school term for anyone interested.

Local resident Pat Billing has been going to classes to help ease a fractured disc that resulted from a fall off a step ladder 18 months ago.

"I don't have the movement I had before the fall and am finding AquaEase is really good for improving my mobility and balance," she says. "I also find it helps motivate me and improves my general feeling of wellbeing."

Sandra Rylands is another keen participant.

"I have a long-term back injury and AquaEase is the best thing I've tried for it," she says. "After a class, my mobility is better for the rest of the day."

Councillor Penny Gaylor says it's great to be able to provide locals with programmes like this.

"The classes are proving really beneficial to those who've participated so far and I hope more people will come along and have a go."

For more information or to book into a class, ring Ōtaki Pool on 06 364 5542.

Enjoying AquaEase, L to R: Pat Billing, instructor Tracey Johns and Margaret Turner.