

# Ōtaki

## UPDATE



A monthly newsletter  
from your local council



## Don't dump grass clippings

Dumping garden waste irresponsibly is both illegal and bad for the environment.

Council's Biodiversity Advisor Rob Cross says reports of grass clippings and other waste being dumped around the river and estuary are concerning.

"As well as being unsightly, dumping garden waste spreads weeds that threaten our natural environment. Offenders think what they dump breaks down but instead the seeds, bulbs and cuttings create new weed colonies in all the wrong places.

"Community volunteers are working hard to restore the river and estuary and it's sad to see their efforts undone by people who clearly don't understand the consequences of what they are doing.

"We appeal to people to dispose of their garden waste responsibly. Any instances of dumped garden waste should be reported to Council by phoning the Call Centre on 04 296 4700."

## Sustainable Home & Garden Show

Don't miss the Sustainable Home & Garden Show in late March!

The show this year features special guest, renowned TV chef Mike Van de Elzen.

There will also be loads of eco-friendly stalls, workshops and speakers, school gardens, local food and entertainment on offer.

Don't miss taking part in building an eco town entirely out of lego! Register now at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ecotownbuildingcomp](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/ecotownbuildingcomp)

"It's shaping up to be a great event as always, with something to interest everyone," says Council's Event Co-ordinator Margaret Sweetman.

The show will be held at Kāpiti Primary School, Rimu Road, Paraparaumu on Saturday 22 March (9am-4pm) and Sunday 23 March (10am-4pm).

**More information:**  
[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/homeandgarden](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/homeandgarden)



Mike Van de Elzen

## Kite festival bigger and better

This year's Ōtaki Kite Festival promises to be bigger and better than the inaugural festival in 2013.

The festival, at Ōtaki Beach on March 8/9, provides free entertainment for the whole family with an exhibition of huge show kites, stunt kites and fighting kites.

There will be plenty of stalls, prizes for best home-made kite, best newspaper kite, best kite made of recycled material and even best kite 'unlikely to fly but does'.

"The focus is on providing some free fun on one of the best beaches in New Zealand and this is an opportunity for us to show it off to visitors," says festival organiser Barbara Franks.

World-renowned Peter Lynn kite makers of Ashburton are bringing their new range of big show kites and Marcel Lagrand's stunt kites will provide a great show on the beach.

At the end of each day's kite flying, the acrobatics and street theatre group Fuse Circus will put on a performance in the car park by the surf lifesaving club.

Council provides the main source of funding for the kite festival, having committed to supporting it for this and the next two years. The support has helped underpin the festival's status as one of Kāpiti's key events,

attracting a large number of visitors from throughout the region and beyond.

The kite festival is organised by the Ōtaki Village Promotions Group which also organises the mid-winter lantern carnival in Main Street (scheduled for June this year), annual community group expos in November and bi-monthly business network meetings.

Ōtaki will additionally be the host for the Maoriland Film Festival later in March, attracting possibly several thousand more visitors to the town.

## YOUR NEW COMMUNITY BOARD

Ōtaki's new Community Board has been inaugurated following the elections in October.

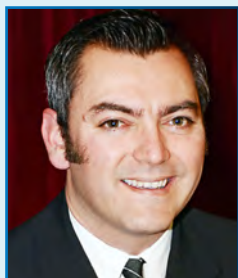
Community Boards are the grass roots of local democracy where people in each of the district's towns can take their concerns or seek assistance.

Boards are elected every three years, just like the Council. Board representatives can sit at Council meetings and contribute to the debate, ensuring the views of their local community are heard.

Boards also control local funds for making grants to individuals and groups for community purposes.

Ōtaki Community Board covers an area including north of Marycrest, Te Horo and Ōtaki, and north to Forest Lakes.

Here are your new Community Board members until the end of 2016.



**James Cootes (chair)**  
Tel: 06 364 3234 or 0274 572 346.  
Email: james.cootes@kapiti.govt.nz



**Rob Kofoed**  
Tel: 06 364 6154 or 0275 364 614.  
Email: rob.kofoed@kapiti.govt.nz



**Christine Papps**  
Tel: 06 364 2004 or 027 201 6435.  
Email: christine.papps@kapiti.govt.nz



**Colin Pearce**  
Tel: 06 364 6488  
Email: colin.pearce@kapiti.govt.nz



**Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor** also joins the Community Board.