

Ōtaki UPDATE



A monthly newsletter
from your Local Council

Ōtaki buses now running on cleaner, blended fuel



Alana Fraser (left) and Tuscany Thatcher from Ōtaki College at the cleaner bus launch.

The local UZABUS is now running on a diesel/water fuel mix in a trial that involves the Clean Technology Centre and Ōtaki College.

UZABUS operates on the Ōtaki-Waikanae 290 route. It also provides a school bus service in the area.

On August 22 there was a grand launch at the Clean Technology Centre in Riverbank Road to mark the project.

Those involved included Kāpiti Mayor Jenny Rowan, UZABUS managing director Justin Allan, Ōtaki College Principal Andy Fraser, Dr Steven Finlay from GrowWellington, Arthur Graves from the Ministry of Education, Greater Wellington Regional Council representatives, and Kaumātua Akuhata Akuhata (Uncle Rowdy) supported by Ricki Baker.

Mayor Jenny Rowan spoke enthusiastically about the project, saying it was innovative, wholly embraced the clean technology philosophy of the Centre, involved the community through Ōtaki College, and had potential for growth.

"This project captures the very essence of what the Clean Tech Centre is all about."

Blended Fuel Solutions (BFS) is based at the Centre in Riverbank Road. It has entered into an agreement with UZABUS to supply blended fuel for a six month trial, which has just begun.

BFS principal Leigh Ramsey said the bus company was using a 6% water mix known as DOE6. "The trial is to show that BFS can supply DOE6 on a daily basis and that the buses continue to meet their contract requirements with the MoE and the WRC."

Leigh said the technology of adding fuel to water and

the positive effects that it has in combustion were well proven overseas. "The key benefits are a significant reduction in soot and carcinogenic gases, and international tests have shown less soot and wear meats in the lube oil of engines."

The trial also involves Ōtaki College where blended fuel is being trialled in two of its diesel engine vans. Year 12 chemistry students are also involved in the blended fuel emulsion process as part of their chemistry credits for the year.

BFS is keen to further expand the use of blended fuel. "We used blended fuel in a very old industrial forklift recently, owned by Riverbank Engineering, which used to belch smoke like a steam engine. The blended fuel reduced visible smoke and odour by at least 75%. The engineers were speechless."

BFS is based in the Clean Technology Centre which is also home to a number of other operators, such as Energy Savings Specialists, Geozee Systems, Little Greenie, Solarzone, Silaca Glass Crushers, Waste Transformation Ltd, and Symbiont Ltd.

The Centre in turn is the cornerstone of the clean Technology Park being developed by Pritchard Enterprises Ltd.

Kāpiti Coast District Council places a strong emphasis on clean technology in its economic development strategy and has supported the development of the Clean Technology Centre and its expansion of activity into the Clean Technology Park.



BFS principal Leigh Ramsey (left) and UZABUS managing director Justin Allan with exhaust filter samples. The light circles are after the fuel has been blended.

Local body elections

Nominations for the 2013 local elections have closed and the full list of people standing for election is published in this issue of the Ōtaki Mail.

The voting period starts on Friday 20 September 2013 and ends at noon on October 12. Voting documents will be sent by NZ Post to registered voters between between 20 to 25 September.

All Kāpiti residents aged 18 or older can vote so long as they are on the Residential Roll, or the Ratepayer Roll. You are automatically on the Residential Roll if you are on the Parliamentary Roll for an address within the Kāpiti Coast District Council area.

There are several ways to be included on the Ratepayer Roll, but you must confirm your details each election year to remain on that roll.

The full list of people standing for the local body elections in Kāpiti can also be found at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/elections

Grab your togs and come swimming



August 26, 2013

Kāpiti's newest community facility, the Coastlands Aquatic Centre, is open for business.

The \$21 million dollar facility was jointly opened on 10 August by Mayor Jenny Rowan, Aquatic Centre Trust Chair, Neil MacKay and Richard Cathie representing naming sponsor Coastlands.

Mayor Rowan says people are certainly making the most of the new state-of-the-art swimming pool complex located in the heart of Paraparaumu.

"The weekend after opening we had about 2200 through the complex and more than 40 people to a mid-week aquafit class. People have been waiting so long for this fabulous facility. There is a real excitement in the community."

The aquatic centre, a stone's throw from the Coastlands shopping centre, replaces the old Raumati pool, which closed last month. The new complex features a 2.4m deep main pool with moveable floor (so the depth can be varied) a programmes pool, a toddlers' pool, a hydroslide,

spa, sauna and café. There is also an on-site physiotherapy practice.

"We're getting great comments from the community," says Jenny.

"It's great to see such a cross section of people using the pools; from families with littlies, to older members of our community. It's also getting the thumbs up from aquatic sports and competitive swimmers who welcome having a new deep pool in the region."

The Coastlands Aquatic Centre project was driven by the Kāpiti Coast District Council in partnership with the Kāpiti Aquatic Centre Trust. Contributors to the project include foundation sponsor Pak'nSave and naming rights sponsor Coastlands. Significant funds were also provided by the Lottery Grants Board, the New Zealand Community Trust and other community funding organisations.