

AMIO

APRIL 2023 ISSUE

INTRODUCING COUNCILLOR CATHY PRENDERGAST

What motivates or inspires you?

I am motivated by making a positive difference in people's journey through life and inspired by the challenges that people overcome in their daily lives.

What conversations would you like to have with our district residents?

What makes Ōtorohanga district the place that you are proud to live in and what are the challenges that you face living here? How do you think we can work together to achieve a better outcome?

Describe what you think our district looks like in 50 years and how your time as councillor will influence that vision?

In 2072 our district will be carbon neutral with its operations and run on 100% renewable energy which will be made possible by small home generation units e.g. solar power. My time as a Councillor will enable the uptake of this transition and encourage business and investment in our district. As a society we will have a strong focus on wellbeing, this will be taught and nurtured through our schools which in turn will be supported by Councillors.

What does leadership look like to you?

Leading by example, taking people along with you and seeing the sense of ownership and belonging grow within a community, is leadership for me.

What is your favourite song and what does that say about you?

I truly do not have a favourite song – I enjoy listening to music occasionally and I really admire those who have musical talent, but I love to listen to native birdsong and enjoy our natural environment.



ŌTOROHANGA FUNDING EXPO

The Ōtorohanga Funding Expo was held on 5 April at Ōtorohanga College. Put on by Ōtorohanga District Council, Ōtorohanga Charitable Trust and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), ten funders in total travelled from as far away as Auckland and Hamilton to meet face-to-face with our community volunteers and organisations. This gave our people the opportunity to chat with funders that offer financial support to local projects contributing to the wellbeing and vibrancy of our district. With over 55 people coming through the doors, funders were kept busy! The expo also offered an opportunity to attend a workshop to learn how to write better funding applications. Students of Ōtorohanga College catered the event with stunning food and amazing hospitality. Many of the funders, and those that attended, went out of their way to share their appreciation of the students with the organisers. If you missed the opportunity to attend and would like to connect with the funders, we have all of the funders details here - www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/funding-and-grants/otorohanga-community-funding-expo/



MEET THE TEAM

Sharen Webster-Fuatai - Customer Experience Manager

I was born and raised on Auckland's North Shore. My early years were spent in the hospitality industry, working in restaurants/hotels and the various roles including waiter, bar tender, barista, restaurant manager, food and beverage manager.

I owned two restaurants in Newmarket and Milford in the 1990's, then worked in event management - including the 2000 Americas cup defence on the Auckland Viaduct.

After the death of my first husband, I sold the restaurants, left the hospitality industry, and changed career path, taking on a 9 to 5 role for Inland Revenue.

After 16 years with Inland Revenue, and the recent purchase of a villa in Te Kūiti, taking on the Customer Experience Manager role at Ōtorohanga District Council was a no brainer. This has been a very exciting move for my husband and I, and we look forward to learning more about this beautiful district.



REDEDICATION OF SPACE FOR LIBRARY

On Tuesday 4 April, the Ōtorohanga Library reopened the space that, until recently, was the iSite. This awesome space has been rededicated to the library.



It will be utilised as a space to run library programmes, a quiet study/reading space (obviously when programmes are not happening!), and a place for library events such as author visits. It will also be available for not-for-profit community groups to use. There is even a scanner available for those wanting to digitise family photos and letters!

The programmes at the library have grown significantly in recent times, and we now have much more on offer. A dedicated space for these programmes will allow us to look at even more activities for the future. Come on down and check it out!



SAYING FAREWELL

We recently said goodbye to three of our staff, Vicki – our Business Support for Engineering & Assets, Wayne – our Landscape Serviceman, and Kylie – our HR Consultant. We thank you for everything you have done for our organisation and our communities, and we wish you all the best for the future!

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE – WE'LL BE COMING TO YOU SOON!

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else", or so the saying goes. Well, we want to hear your thoughts on where we should be going as a district, so we will be coming out to you soon, to talk about all things related to people, places and relationships. Together, we want to build a bright future - for all of us. Keep an eye out for key meeting dates that will be happening in your community soon!

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Ōtorohanga Community Board | 1 May |
| Kāwhia Community Board | 4 May |
| Ōtorohanga District Council | 16 May |
| Grants & Awards Committee | 18 May |
| Creative Communities Scheme Committee | 18 May |



POUKAI AT MAKETŪ MARAE

On Monday 13 March, a delegation of Ōtorohanga District Council attended the Maketū Marae Poukai. The Poukai are annual Kingitanga events that marae across many different regions host. These events were first instituted by Kingi Tāwhiao, the second Māori King, to support the pani (bereaved), the pouaru (widowed) and the rawakore (destitute) following the invasion and raupatu (confiscation) of the Waikato. To this day, Poukai continue to uphold and support iwi, provide a formal domain for kōrero to be shared, and reaffirm the Kingitanga.



Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o
Ōtorohanga
District Council
Where kiwi can fly

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