

KEEPING OUR DISTRICT MOVING AFTER RECENT WEATHER



When the rain didn't stop, neither did our Council roading team and contractors. Over the past two months, they have been working tirelessly to keep our district connected following a run of heavy rain and stormy weather.

NIWA's 30-day rainfall figures for June/July show our area recorded more than 300mm of rainfall, triggering multiple slope failures and storm-related damage across the network. Around 12 large over-slips were recorded over just two days.

Persistent heavy rain over the following weeks also made cleanup challenging. In some cases, crews were called back multiple times as fresh slips occurred. In total, dozens of slips have been cleared, along with urgent safety work to stabilise banks, remove hazards and improve drainage in vulnerable areas.

Our teams and contractors have been quick to respond, often working long hours and in tough conditions. This work isn't just about cleaning up damage; it's also about protecting our network from further deterioration and keeping our communities connected.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this essential work has been carried out, which helps to keep our crews safe while they work.

THE POETS BILLBOARD IS LIVE!

The Poets Billboard is a heartwarming community initiative dreamed up and delivered by Nicky Deeley, ŌDC Manager of Community Development and Wellbeing. With the generous support of a local billboard owner, we've transformed an unused signboard on Maniapoto Street into a beautiful public stage for words and poems, written by local voices and printed big and bold for all to see.

A billboard... for poetry? Yes, and it's already stopping people in their tracks.

We're honoured to launch this project with a poet whose words carry decades of wisdom and gentle insight, Sylvia Beveridge, with her poem 'Walk Soft'.

Sylvia is a published poet, a lifelong writer and a much-loved member of the Ōtorohanga community. Now 94 and living at Beattie Home, Sylvia continues to write with grace, clarity, and compassion, finding inspiration in the stillness, beauty and fragility of life.

Read more about Sylvia and her poem here:

www.otodc.govt.nz/latest-news/article/486/the-poets-billboard



DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE A SUCCESS FOR THE COLLEGE

The Defensive Driving Programme at the College has wrapped up with a fantastic milestone, all 20 students who enrolled completed the full programme with 100% attendance – an outstanding achievement.

Over the four sessions, students built their knowledge, confidence and skills to help them become safer drivers on the road. The group has been fully engaged, making the most of the opportunity to build safe driving habits and grow their confidence behind the wheel.

The programme is a valuable stepping stone for these young drivers.

Project Navigator - Elle Freestone of Ōtorohanga Employment Hub captured photos of the students in action, demonstrating the energy and focus of the programme.



INTRODUCING.... OH! GALLERY AT Ō CAFÉ

We're excited to share a brand-new initiative OH! Gallery, a creative pop-up art space that celebrates local talent in everyday places!

Our first OH! Gallery is now open and proudly hosted at Ō Café, in Ōtorohanga, transforming a corner of the café into a mini gallery for quality, engaging and interesting works by local artists.

Kicking things off is the incredibly talented Kiana Ormsby, whose work is now on display for all to enjoy while grabbing your morning coffee or lunch with friends.

Pop in, take a look, and support our amazing local creatives. If you wish to share your creativity with the community, get in touch today!



UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ōtorohanga Community Board	Monday 1 September 4:00 pm
Kāwhia Community Board	Thursday 4 September 4:00 pm
Council Meeting	Tuesday 30 September 10:00 am

WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY?



FROM PAGE-TURNERS TO PRIZES: ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT LIBRARIES LAUNCH TEEN READING CHALLENGES

Two new reading programmes have launched for rangatahi aged 12–18 years-old, promising rewards for something many teens already love doing: reading. Check out what you can do at the library today!



Check out what you can do at the library today!

PREFER NOT TO COME OUT IN THE RAIN?

Check out our website for the delivery services we offer.

- Housebound Services
- Rural Delivery Service

KATE IS COMING TO TOWN!

In conjunction with the Storylines Trust, our Ōtorohanga Library is excited to host acclaimed New Zealand author Kate De Goldi on Tuesday 2 September from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Known for her dedication to promoting literacy and storytelling, Kate will share her insights as Te Awhi Rito New Zealand Reading Ambassador.

Her talk will focus on the critical importance of story and language in fostering a love of reading among children, highlighting how these elements contribute to their development and creativity. This event offers a unique opportunity for parents, educators, and community members to gain valuable perspectives on encouraging reading for pleasure.

WASTE WORKSHOPS



With this waste workshop series, our recycling and sustainability experts will help you reduce your waste, help make clothes last longer, save items from landfill and offer opportunities to learn new skills.

100% funded by the National Waste Levy, no ratepayer money is used for these events

UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

Sip & Sew Workshops

Date: Sunday 14 September
Ōtorohanga Library, 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Kāwhia Community Hall, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

ReCreators Workshops

Date: Saturday 11 October
Ōtorohanga Guide Hall, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Kāwhia Community Centre, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Cloth Nappies, Parenting and more online course

Full access to this online course – learn at your pace. PLUS, receive a cloth nappy starter pack worth \$60, delivered to your door once you finish the course!

