

# ĀMIO

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE



## SAILING INTO POSSIBILITY WITH SAILABILITY WAIKATO

Sometimes, the smallest moments leave the biggest impact. When Dr Michael Moloney from Sailability Waikato spoke to the Ōtorohanga District Council Grants Committee recently, he described one of those moments as an “odd little miracle.”

Through their programme, children and young people, including those with ability challenges who use wheelchairs or live with neurodevelopmental conditions, are given the opportunity to sail. For many, it's their very first time out on the water.

Ōtorohanga Community Grants funding of \$2,901 has helped Sailability purchase new life jackets and carry out vital boat maintenance, ensuring even more tamariki can share in these experiences.

Dr Moloney became visibly emotional as he recalled the joy of watching an autistic student take to the water, overcoming barriers that once seemed impossible. “It was like watching a light turn on,” he said.

Over the past three years, Sailability Waikato has worked with four Ōtorohanga schools, Korokonui, Kio Kio, Ōtorohanga Primary, and St Mary's, with others set to join soon. Across the wider Waikato, 14 schools now benefit from the programme.

For the students, the experience is more than just sailing. It's about confidence, inclusion, and proving that no challenge should stand in the way of adventure. Ex-student of St Mary's, Kanohi-Marama Martin, pictured with Nicky Deeley - Ōtorohanga Community Grants Manager (left) and Dr Moloney (right), said “I still remember the first time I went sailing, I was nervous, but it felt like flying on the water. Talking with Dr Moloney again reminded me how special that day was and how much it meant to all of us.”

Thanks to Ōtorohanga Community Grants Committee and Sailability Waikato, more young people are discovering not just the freedom of sailing, but the freedom of possibility.



## KORONEIHANA 2025 - NGĀ KAWE MATE O TAINUI WAKA

Members of our team were honoured to attend Koroneihana 2025 for Ngā Kawe Mate o Tainui Waka. It was a privilege to stand alongside iwi, hapū, whānau and manuhiri, acknowledging those who have passed, and reflecting on the deep connections that continue to bind us together.

We're grateful to have been welcomed into this important occasion which carries such significance for Tainui waka, the rest of the motu and the world.

We share in the celebration and coronation of Te Arikiniui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po.

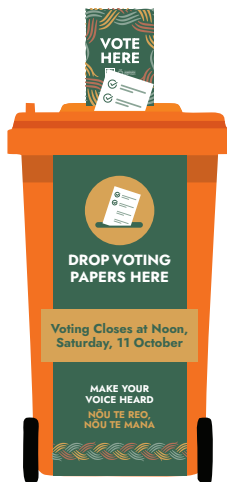
Ka nui te mihi, thank you for allowing us to share in this moment of remembrance and kotahitanga.

## VOTING IS OPEN

Orange voting bins are out!  
Special votes are also being taken at the ŌDC office, 9am-4pm.

Cast your vote at any of these locations:

- Ōtorohanga District Council Office - 17 Maniapoto St, Ōtorohanga
- Ōtorohanga District Library - 27 Turongo St, Ōtorohanga
- Woolworths Supermarket - 119-123 Maniapoto St, Ōtorohanga
- Kāwhia General Store - 29 Jervois St, Kāwhia



## WASTE WORKSHOPS



## UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

### ReCreators Workshops

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



## THANK YOU, MAYOR MAX



After more than a decade of dedicated service, we take a moment to reflect on and thank His Worship the Mayor, Max Baxter, for his years of leadership in the Ōtorohanga District.

Max's journey as Mayor began in 2013, and since then he has guided our community through times of growth, change and challenge, with unwavering commitment and heart. His approachable style, deep care for people, and ability to bring people together have made him a trusted leader and advocate for our district.

During his time as Mayor, Max has been a strong voice for rural communities, ensuring Ōtorohanga continues to be recognised both regionally and nationally. Whether it has been in council chambers, at community events, on the marae, or alongside local organisations and businesses, Max has always put people first.

Nationally, Max played a key role as Chair of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, where he helped create opportunities for young people right across New Zealand. His advocacy gave rangatahi in small rural towns the same hope and pathways as those in bigger cities, something he cared about deeply.

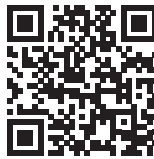
Beyond the achievements, it is Max's warmth, humour and genuine connection with people, that have left a lasting mark. Known for being just as comfortable chatting with residents at the supermarket as he is sitting at the council table, Max has reminded us that leadership is about people, trust, and service.

As we thank Max for his 12 years of dedication, we also acknowledge the countless hours, personal sacrifices and hard work he has given to make Ōtorohanga a better place for all.

On behalf of the Ōtorohanga District Council and our community, thank you Max – for your passion, leadership and the legacy you leave behind. Your service has been invaluable, and your impact will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Join us as we celebrate and farewell Max Baxter for his years of dedicated service as Mayor.

The community pōwhiri will take place on Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 4.30pm (arrivals later are welcome), followed by supper. Please express your interest to attend to receive the full invite and event location details by scanning this QR code.



## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meeting	Tuesday 30 September 10:00 am
Kāwhia Community Board	Thursday 2 October 4:00 pm
Ōtorohanga Community Board	Monday 6 October 4:00 pm



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O  
ŌTOROHANGA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ōtorohanga District Council | 17 Maniapoto St, Ōtorohanga  
0800 734 000 or 07 873 4000 | [www.otodc.govt.nz](http://www.otodc.govt.nz)

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[www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries](http://www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries)

