

## KIA TAU TE MAURI O TE WĀ - EMBRACING SUMMER AND TAKING TIME TO REST

As we come to the end of another big year for our district, we want to acknowledge our community, our elected members and our staff for the dedication, resilience, and creativity shown in 2025. Together we have achieved some significant milestones — including a successful Local Government Election and signing the agreement to begin transition into Waikato Waters, shaping the long-term future of safe and sustainable water services for our region.

As we begin the summer break, we encourage everyone to slow down, reconnect with whānau and friends, and enjoy the sunshine safely - on our roads, at our beaches and around our homes and neighbourhoods.

He waka eke noa - we're all in this together.

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please note, there are no meetings scheduled for January 2026. All meetings will resume in February 2026.

Ōtorohanga Community Board	3 February
Elected Member Workshop – Induction Day 3	10 February
Kāwhia Community Board	12 February
Risk and Assurance Committee	16 February
Elected Member Workshop – Induction Day 4	17 February
Ōtorohanga District Council	24 February

## RATES

Rates invoices for instalment 2 for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 will be sent out mid-January 2026 and payment is due on Friday 27 February 2026. If you have not received your e-invoice by the end of January 2026, please check your spam ([rates@otodc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@otodc.govt.nz)) or alternatively contact ŌDC on phone or email.

Water invoices for Ōtorohanga Urban and Rural Water Schemes are also due in February 2026.

You may be eligible for a Rate Rebate. To check your eligibility, please visit [www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/](http://www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/)



## BE SAFE THIS SUMMER

### ON THE ROADS

More people on the roads means more risk. Please:

- Drive to the conditions and plan rest stops
- Put phones away
- Be patient — everyone is trying to get somewhere important
- Look out for cyclists, horses and pedestrians



## POOL SAFETY - FENCE FIRST, FUN FOLLOWS

With summer in full swing and more people enjoying backyard pools, it's important to remember that pool safety starts with prevention. Sadly, young children remain at the highest risk around pools - especially portable and temporary pools that are easy to overlook.

Under New Zealand law, any pool or spa that can hold 40cm of water or more must have a compliant safety barrier to prevent unsupervised access by children under five. This includes inflatable and above-ground pools, not just permanent in-ground ones.

A secure fence, gate and latch system is one of the most effective ways to prevent accidental drownings.

Building Consent approval is required prior to the construction of swimming pool fencing. Learn more at [www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/pool-safety/guidance-for-pool-owners](http://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/pool-safety/guidance-for-pool-owners)

## POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Ensure your pool has a compliant fence and self-closing, self-latching gate
- ☐ Keep objects like chairs, ladders and boxes away from the fence line
- ☐ Never prop gates open - even “just for a moment”
- ☐ Always actively supervise children in or near water
- ☐ Empty paddling pools after use and store them safely
- ☐ Use a secure cover on spa pools when not in use
- ☐ If you're unsure about requirements or need advice, visit our website or contact Council.



## DON'T TRUST YOUR TIRED SELF

### TIPS TO AVOID DRIVER FATIGUE:



Get plenty of sleep the night before driving



Avoid long hours of driving, particularly after work or at night



Swap drivers regularly where possible



Make regular stops at least every two hours

## SUMMER FOCUS - USING WATER WISELY

With hotter weather and many visitors expected over summer, it's important that we all do our part to use water responsibly. Small everyday actions make a big difference in protecting our water supply for everyone across the district.

### Easy ways to conserve water this summer

- Take shorter showers
- Use a trigger nozzle on garden hoses
- Water gardens early morning or evening to reduce evaporation
- Use a broom instead of a hose for driveways and paths
- Wash vehicles and boats on the lawn to water the grass at the same time
- Use pool covers to reduce evaporation
- Collect rainwater or reuse greywater where possible
- Check for leaks regularly (inside and outside)

If you notice a leak or water being wasted, please let us know immediately:

0800 873 4000 (24/7 line)





# LIBRARY



## ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT LIBRARY - MĀORI ADVISORY GROUP

The library is seeking passionate voices to join a new Māori Advisory Group to help shape literacy services and partnerships with whānau, hapū and iwi.

[library@otodc.govt.nz](mailto:library@otodc.govt.nz) | 07 873 7175 | Pop in to register

## WHAT'S ON THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?

Visit our website for the full list of activities.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Hey Kids! Come and join us for some Christmas Crafts at the Library. You can earn points in our 3D Print Quest: Summer Reading Programme just by attending.

**KAWAHIA COMMUNITY HALL:**  
**Thursday 18 December 2.00-3.30pm**

**ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT LIBRARY:**  
**Monday 22 December 1:30pm - 2.30pm**  
**Tuesday 23 December 10:30am - 11:30am**

## 3D PRINTQUEST SCAVENGER HUNT

Clues are popping up all over town... can YOU find them all? Open to ages 0-18. Explore, discover, and solve your way through a town-wide adventure full of surprises. Every clue brings you closer to glory!

**Friday 19 December - Friday 30 January**

### KĀWHIA SCAVENGER HUNT

Go to the Kāwhia Garage to grab your worksheet. Scavenger hunt in Kāwhia and town surrounds.

### ŌTOROHANGA SCAVENGER HUNT

Go to the Ōtorohanga District Library to grab your worksheet. Scavenger hunt around Ōtorohanga township.

**Check out what you can do at the library today! Scan the code or visit:**  
[www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries](http://www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries)



## 3D PRINT QUEST - SUMMER READING EDITION

From 1 December - 28 February tamariki and rangatahi can read books, complete challenges and earn points to exchange for their own custom 3D-printed creation.

Register at Ōtorohanga Library and collect your starter pack.

Read. Earn. Print. Let the quest begin!



## 3D PRINT QUEST - ADULT SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Whether you're devouring thrillers, dipping into memoirs, or browsing our newest titles, every book counts!

**Why Join?** **Fresh picks** – Explore our curated New Books list in the Beanstack app, linked straight to our library catalogue. **Share your thoughts** – Log each book and add a quick rating or review to help other readers find their next great read. **Earn a reward** – Finish all 12 books and reviews to receive a 50-gram 3D print of your choice or get a 50-gram discount on a larger print.

Jump into the Beanstack app today and start turning pages toward your reward!

[otorohangalibrary.beanstack.org/reader365](http://otorohangalibrary.beanstack.org/reader365)

## Thank you Ōtorohanga

We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this year - from supporting community-led projects, major infrastructure improvements, and regional collaboration, through to strong community participation in the 2025 elections.

We wish everyone a safe, restful and joy-filled summer.

Meri Kirihimete me ngā manaakitanga o te tau hou

From all of us at Ōtorohanga District Council



## HOLIDAY HOURS & SERVICES



### Ōtorohanga District Council Office

17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga

Normal hours:	Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
Wed 24 December	CLOSES 12 noon
Mon 5 January 2026	REOPENS 9am

Urgent issues (24/7): 0800 8734000  
[info@otodc.govt.nz](mailto:info@otodc.govt.nz)

### Libraries

#### Ōtorohanga District Library

Wed 24 December	CLOSES 12 noon
Mon 5 January 2026	REOPENS - normal hours resume

#### Kāwhia District Library

Wed 24 December	10.30am - 12 Noon
Wed 7 January 2025	REOPENS

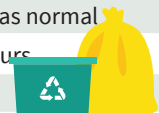
### Rubbish, Recycling & Waste

#### Kerbside Collection

No changes to regular collection days

#### Recycling Centres

<b>Ōtorohanga - Progress Drive</b>	Closed Friday 26 December, open otherwise as normal
<b>Kāwhia - Lake Road</b>	Normal hours
<b>Rural unmanned sites</b>	24/7



### Pools & Aquatic Centre

Open throughout summer except public holidays.

WEEKENDS	
<b>Outdoor Pools</b>	
1 Dec - 1 Feb	10am-7pm
2 Feb - 3 April	12pm-6pm
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	
1 Dec - 1 Feb	8am - 8pm
2 Feb - 3 April	12pm-6pm
WEEKDAYS	
<b>Outdoor Pools</b>	
1 Dec - 1 Feb	10am-7pm
2 Feb - 3 April	10am-7pm
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	
1 Dec - 1 Feb	6am - 8pm
2 Feb - 3 April	6am - 8pm

Urgent pool enquiries: Santana 027 282 7272

### Animals / Noise Control

Animal control emergencies	24/7
Noise control	Active 24/7 in Ōtorohanga township

### How to report an issue during the holidays

**0800 873 4000** - phone line operating 24/7 throughout the entire break

[info@otodc.govt.nz](mailto:info@otodc.govt.nz) (non-urgent enquiries)

**Antenno app** (non-urgent reporting)



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)