

Welcome Back Ōtorohanga

A NEW YEAR, A FRESH START, AND PLENTY HAPPENING ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

Kia ora Ōtorohanga,

We hope you've had a chance to slow down, enjoy the summer sunshine, and spend time with whānau over the Christmas and New Year break. As 2026 gets underway, Ōtorohanga District Council is back on deck and ready for another year of mahi for our people, places and future.

January is always a time of reset - for families, businesses and communities. It's also when Council picks up momentum on projects that support everyday life across the district. From essential services and community facilities to planning for what's ahead, there's a lot happening behind the scenes and plenty coming up over the weeks ahead.



STAYING INFORMED DURING CHANGING WEATHER

Summer weather can change quickly, with hot days, heavy rain, strong winds and fast-moving storm systems. Staying informed helps everyone make safe decisions - whether you're travelling, working outdoors or planning activities.

Weather watches and warnings may be issued for conditions that could cause disruption or risk, including heavy rain or severe thunderstorms.

Council encourages residents to:

- Check official weather updates regularly
- Take warnings seriously and plan ahead
- Adjust travel or activities when conditions change

The best way to stay informed is through MetService - www.metservice.com/national

Staying connected helps keep our communities safe when conditions change.

HAVE YOUR SAY: COUNCIL LOGO CONSULTATION NOW OPEN

In December 2024, Council changed its organisational logo from the former three kiwi beaks to Te Ōhanga / The Nest. The new logo was intended to better align with Council's wider branding and to reflect themes of connection, weaving and collective effort - how Council works with and for the community.

While the change was made with good intent, we heard clearly that the logo is important to many people, and that the removal of the kiwi symbol caused concern for some in our community. As a result, Council paused the rollout and committed to seeking community feedback before confirming a final direction.

We are now asking you to have your say.

The consultation includes three options:

- **Option 1:** Return to the former kiwi beaks logo
- **Option 2:** Keep Te Ōhanga / The Nest as it is
- **Option 3:** Retain Te Ōhanga / The Nest with a kiwi added

Changing or retaining a logo does have time and cost implications, so your feedback will help inform a considered decision that reflects community views.

Consultation is open now and closes on 6 February 2026, with a Council decision scheduled for 24 February 2026.

Have your say at engage.otodc.govt.nz/otorohanga-district-council-logo-review



UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are open to the public, and we welcome our community to attend and observe local decision-making.

Ōtorohanga Community Board	2 February 4.00pm
Elected Member Workshops – Induction (Session 3)	10 February 10.00am
Kāwhia Community Board	12 February 4.00pm
Risk and Assurance Committee	16 February 10.00am
Elected Member Workshops – Induction (Session 4)	17 February 10.00am
Ōtorohanga District Council	24 February 10.00am

Meeting agendas and confirmed times are published on the Council website ahead of each meeting.



RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Over the Christmas and New Year period, rubbish and recycling volumes across the district were much higher than usual. This meant some collections took longer to complete and, in some areas, were carried out later in the day rather than at the usual morning time.

We acknowledge that this may have caused inconvenience or confusion, and we thank our community for your patience during this busy period.

To clarify:

- Collections continued on their normal scheduled day
- Bins were still collected, but often later in the afternoon
- Later collections did not mean bins had been missed — crews were working through extended routes

Services are now returning to normal as holiday volumes ease. If your rubbish or recycling is ever not collected by the end of your scheduled collection day, please contact Ōtorohanga District Council the following day so we can follow it up promptly.

SUMMER ROADS & BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

January and early February are a busy time on our roads. With summer holidays still underway, increased travel, and children beginning to head back to school, we're asking everyone to take extra care.

Over summer, our roads see a mix of holiday traffic, heavy vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and families enjoying the warmer weather. As school terms begin, traffic patterns change again - particularly around schools, bus stops and residential streets.

Council encourages all drivers to:

- Slow down, especially in residential areas and near schools
- Be alert for children walking, biking or scootering
- Take extra care around school crossings and drop-off zones
- Allow more time for journeys as traffic increases

We all share responsibility for road safety. Small changes - easing off the accelerator and staying focused - can make a big difference.



WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY?



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www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries



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