

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Following the severe weather in February, our district has faced significant challenges. Roads, homes and infrastructure were impacted across a wide area, and many people have been dealing with disruption and uncertainty.

I want to acknowledge the resilience of our communities and thank everyone who has supported neighbours, friends and whānau during this time.

Council staff, contractors and partner agencies have been working hard to restore access, repair infrastructure and support those affected. Recovery will take time, but the work underway across the district reflects our commitment to getting things back on track.

As always, we will continue to keep our communities informed as recovery progresses.



COUNCIL ATTENDS POUKAI ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Ōtorohanga District Council attended a number of Poukai gatherings throughout the week of 9 March, including at:

- Waipapa Marae
- Maketū Marae
- Ōkapu Marae

Council has been attending Poukai for the past several years as part of our ongoing commitment to iwi and marae.

Poukai are important events that bring communities together to honour the Kīngitanga and strengthen connections between iwi, hapū and communities. Staff and elected members attended across the week, including Mayor Rodney Dow, Councillors Tamaki, Jeffries, Kete and Butcher, Community Board members Hinga Whiu, Geoff Good and Richard Harpur, and a number of staff across the organisation.

Ōkapu Marae marked a particularly significant occasion, with the opening and dedication of their new Whare and Wharekai by Te Arikiniui Kuīni Ngā wai hono i te pō. Mayor Dow said it was an honour to attend alongside the ŌDC delegation and partner organisations including Waipā Networks, NZ Police and Trust Waikato throughout the week. Council's presence at Poukai reflects our ongoing commitment to building strong relationships with iwi, marae and the wider community.



The Road to RECOVERY

Following the severe weather and flooding across the Ōtorohanga District on 13-14 February, recovery work continues across our communities.

While the emergency response phase has ended, the work to repair damage, restore infrastructure, and support those affected is ongoing. Recovery will take time, and Council is working alongside government agencies, iwi and hapū, lifeline utilities, community organisations, and contractors to help our communities move forward.

ROADING RECOVERY UPDATE

Repairing damaged roads and restoring access across the district remains one of the biggest areas of recovery work currently underway.

Council's roading team and contractors are continuing to clear slips, repair culverts, stabilise road edges and assess longer-term repair solutions for affected areas.

While many roads have now reopened, some locations remain under repair or are operating with temporary traffic management such as one-lane sections.

We appreciate the patience shown by residents and road users while this work continues. The priority remains restoring safe and reliable access as quickly as possible.

For the latest roading updates, visit:

www.otodc.govt.nz/latest-news/article/605/roading-update-otorohanga-district



BRIDGE INSTALLED ON MANGATI ROAD

A major milestone has been reached in the district's recovery, with the successful installation of the new bridge on Mangati Road.

The original bridge was washed away during the February floods, cutting off access for residents living at the end of the road. Thanks to a huge effort from Council's roading team and contractors, a new permanent bridge has been installed and is now open.

Council would like to acknowledge the incredible support from contractors who helped make this happen:

- Universal Cranes
- Nick Pemberton Construction
- JC Civil
- C&R Group
- Humes
- ACE Consultants

Their expertise and willingness to step in quickly helped deliver a solution for residents sooner than expected.

Please note this is NOT the State Highway 39 bridge which belongs to NZTA. NZTA advise their bridge will operate as one-lane only initially, with traffic lights. For state highway inquiries, please email: waikato.projects@nzta.govt.nz

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council and Community Board meetings.

Kāwhia Community Board	Tue 2 April – 4:00pm
Ōtorohanga Community Board	Mon 13 April – 4:00pm
Elected Member Workshops	Tue 14 April – 10:00am
Council Meeting	Tue 28 April – 10:00am

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

WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY?



BACKYARD BUZZ – SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Join us for Backyard Buzz – Nature Inspired Crafts for Your Garden Friends, where kids can get crafty while celebrating the creatures that share our gardens.

Using natural and recycled materials, young makers will create a range of nature-inspired crafts designed to brighten up their backyard spaces and welcome their garden visitors.

Backyard Buzz is a wonderful opportunity for kids to connect with nature, enjoy creative play, and take home something special they've made themselves.

Register now – places are limited.

Ōtorohanga District Library
Monday 13 April – 2:00pm–3:00pm
Thursday 16 April – 10:30am–11:30am

Kāwhia Library (held at the Kāwhia Community Hall)
Wednesday 15 April – 1:00pm–2:00pm

Check out what you can do at the library today! Visit: www.otodc.govt.nz/our-district/libraries

