

ĀMĪO

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT CONNECTION

August 11 2022

Kia ora

We hope you're having a great week and that you're staying warm in this chilly winter weather. A lot is happening at Council, read on to find out more about our projects and news.



LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

Along with our community, we've been creating a blueprint for the future of Ōtorohanga Town and we've finished the draft Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan. We're keen to hear whether you think we've got it right! A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Drop-In Session last weekend to share their thoughts on the draft plan. Your opinions are appreciated and will be considered when the Plan is finalised.

I couldn't make the session – can I still give feedback?

Yes! Just head to our website (<https://www.otodc.govt.nz/town-concept-plan>) or follow the QR code above and fill out the form. Use the form to tell us if you agree with the draft or if you think something needs changing and why. You have until **Sunday, August 15** to share your opinions. And if you wish to speak about your submission to Council at a formal meeting called a hearing you can do that too.

What happens next?

Once we've received community feedback, including those speaking at the hearing, Council will consider what changes need to be made to the Draft Plan. The final Plan gets presented to Council in September for formal adoption. And then we'll put the Plan into action!

MANIAPOTO STREET WATER MAINS RENEWAL

Wondering what's going on in Maniapoto Street? We're renewing the water mains to ensure that we can meet the growing demand for our town and continue to provide uninterrupted water year-round. So, although the project is temporarily disruptive, it is vital to the future development of our town.

Traffic management is in place to keep vehicles and pedestrians safe. We expect that it will take up to a month to complete the work and we appreciate your understanding and patience while this happens.

Keen to find out more? Head over to our website:

www.otodc.govt.nz/council/projects/watermain-renewal



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A RATES REBATE?

To check if you are eligible or to get an application form visit www.govt.nz/rates-rebates.

Our outreach team will be moving around the district, to support our community to check for eligibility. They'll start in Ōtorohanga in September, then head to Kāwhia and Tihiroa in October and November.

Watch out for updates on the dates and locations closest to you.

WHY SHOULD I VOTE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS?

Some people think there's no reason to vote in local government elections, after all, what does Council do? But they're wrong! There's no level of government in Aotearoa that is more directly involved in the day-to-day happenings within our local community, than our Council. Think about your local roads, parks and playgrounds, where your poo goes and how safe your drinking water is, libraries, swimming pool, how safe buildings are, and ensuring food premises are operating safely, to name a few. These are just some of the things that Council takes care of. The mayor, councillors, and local board members make decisions that have an impact on many aspects of our lives and our local community. So, it's a good idea to pay attention to local elections, find out about the aspirations and ideas of candidates, and VOTE for the people you think best represent you and the things you care about. You don't have to own property or a house to vote. If you live in the district and are enrolled in the district then you can VOTE and have a say in the future of the district! Head to vote.nz to make sure you're enrolled to vote and get out and vote in your local government elections! This opportunity only happens once every three years!

ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE WINNER!

Congratulations Trudy Wilson for winning the library's grand prize draw for the Adult Winter Reading Challenge! Participants were given nine challenges, ranging from reading an award-winning book to watching a movie on Beamafilm, an online movie streaming service. Trudy's winning prize includes a six-week gym membership (donated by Ōtorohanga Memorial Pools), restaurant vouchers, cinema tickets, and a bunch of things to snuggle down with a good read during these winter months. A big THANK YOU to those businesses who supported us with prize donations. Congratulations Trudy, we hope you enjoy your prize!



CLOSURES FOR TRAINING

Our customer service centre and library will be closed for training on the following dates: **Customer service centre:** 23 August, closing at 1.45 pm and reopening the next day at 9 am. **Library:** Last Wednesday of each month at 4 pm.

SUPPORT THE ARTS – BE A CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME ASSESSOR

We're seeking passionate local arts advocates to be voluntary assessors for the Creative Communities Scheme arts funding programme. If you have art experience, local connections, and/or cultural knowledge, this will be a great opportunity for you to support the assessment of applications and ensure that funding processes are fair, democratic, and representative of our diverse community. To apply to be a Creative Communities Scheme assessor, contact Nardia Gower: nardia@otodc.govt.nz



RATES AND WATER BILL REMINDER

Payments for rates and water are due soon. **Water billing for Ōtorohanga Urban:** For water billing accounts starting with 8,01, and 10 - your payment is due on 26 August 2022. **Rates 1 July 2022 to 30 June 23:** The first instalment for rates is due on August 26th, 2022. You should have received an invoice for Instalment 1 for rates by now. If not, please contact our Customer Experience Team to get a copy: info@otodc.govt.nz or phone: 07 873 4000. To set up a rates payment plan and pay monthly or weekly, drop the team line on the email address above.

Upcoming Council and Community Board Meetings

You can find each meeting's Order Papers (that's the topics and information they are talking about) on Council's website, one week before the meeting date. All meetings are live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

- **Council** - August 16, 10am, St David's Church, Cnr Ranfurly & Turongo Streets, Ōtorohanga
- **Ōtorohanga Community Board** - 8 September, 4 pm, St David's Church, Ranfurly & Turongo Streets
- **Kāwhia Community Board** - 26 August, 1pm, Kāwhia Community Meeting Room, Jervois Street, Kāwhia