

ĀMIO

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT CONNECTION

November 17 2022

Kia ora

It has been a super busy month as we have started inducting the new triennium's elected members, welcomed and farewelled staff, and moved back into the refurbished council building. All the while keeping business as usual trucking along. Keep reading to find out more...

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI CASSIDY TEMESE

Ōtorohanga District Council (ODC) is proud to warmly welcome Cassidy Temese as our newly appointed Kaitakawaenga – Iwi Relations Advisor.

Cassidy is of Maniapoto, Waikato and Ngāpuhi descent, and is connected to many of the marae of the district. He has engaged with ŌDC through a number of projects over the years within an iwi and marae capacity.

Cassidy joins us with a background in health policy, research and promotion. He also holds governance roles within the Māori, social and environmental sectors on a local and national level. Formally, Cassidy has completed studies in finance and te reo Māori through Waikato University, and postgraduate health sciences at Auckland University. In respect to his new role, the Kaitakawaenga has been a priority of this council over the past few years and in alignment to a number of reviews and documents including the long term plan. Council worked in partnership with iwi to develop a bespoke role that will support ŌDC moving forward with regard to iwi partnership and cultural competency.

On Monday October 31, mana whenua and council formally welcomed Cassidy and his whānau with pōwhiri. A number of elected members were in attendance, with Mayor Max Baxter sharing this new role would signal ŌDC's commitment to iwi



partnership relations, and to other local authorities as to what can be achieved.

Cassidy's first two weeks have seen him hit the ground running, with the swearing in of newly elected members, and in supporting the guided bus tours for members throughout the district. Amidst this busy schedule, his influence has already been felt deeply, with the sharing of rich history, and the delegation of council representatives ascending upon Mōkai Kāinga for the passing of Tainui rangatira, Nick Tūwhāngai. Although young, Cassidy brings with him a wealth of skills, experience and support from mana whenua.

Nau mai haere mai ki te whānau o Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Ōtorohanga e Cassidy.

(Welcome Cassidy, to the whānau of Ōtorohanga District Council)

Paraphrased from King Country News facebook post.

FRESH COUNCIL OFFICES FOR COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY

Following a blessing led by Shane Te Ruki and mana whenua on October 25 reopening the council office space for re-entry, progress began moving the team back in. All our staff, including our customer experience office are once again under one roof at 17 Maniapoto St, and are thriving in the open space environment with improved ability to collaborate, and deliver services to our district. The community have asked some questions about the refurbishment so thought we'd cover them off in this month's Āmio:

Why was the project needed? The interior of the building has remained largely unchanged since the 1980s. Major building systems, such as heating/ventilation, toilets, suspended ceiling, electrical and data cabling were at the end of their life, and we needed to significantly improve fire safety and security in the building. Rather than making improvements in a piece-meal manner, it was more efficient and cost-effective to complete the full upgrade now and have a building that best serves our customers, community and staff, now and well into the future.

What is the budget? The upgrade was approved for \$2.5 million, more than half of which was needed to cover upgrading the basic building systems like the heating/ventilation, electrical etc mentioned above. Overall, the upgrade costs work out at less than \$2,200/m², which represents good value for projects of this scale and complexity, particularly given the supply and inflationary pressures affecting the building industry.

How will the community benefit from this project? Aside from a modern, fit-for-purpose environment for customers and stakeholders, we will encourage greater community use of the building. The upgrade has future-proofed the building, meaning whether there is a council based in Ōtorohanga or not, the community will retain a valuable asset. We'd love to take you through the building so you can see the complete project.



Details on how we will offer this opportunity will be shared soon!

GET TO KNOW YOUR ELECTED MEMBERS

Each month we're going to feature at least one of your elected members, and there is no better one member to start with than the Mayor himself. We have asked them all the same short answer questions, here is what Max has to say:

What motivates or inspires you? Success and happiness of others and myself are major motivators.

What conversations would you like to have with our district residents? What do you see as a measure of success for the Ōtorohanga District?

What are the the key performance indicator's for a council to achieve the trust of residents? **Describe what you think our district looks like in 50 years and how will your time as councillor influence that vision?** Ōtorohanga District will be an affordable place to live where consideration and engagement with all residents is our focus and a quality standard of living for all is achieved. The beauty of our district will be highlighted and the towns of Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōtorohanga becoming destination towns that demonstrate what is possible as inclusive and safe places to live. My time as Mayor is to lead the councillors and district towards that goal.

What does leadership look like to you? Leadership is about empowering others. **What is your favourite song and what does that say about you?** What a wonderful world (Louis Armstrong) Sometimes it is nice to pause the politics and reflect on the true beauty that is around us.



ROAD TRIP WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

Becoming an elected member is an act of service and requires a serious commitment. To kick off, staff organised a number of induction days that gave an overview of council activities along with expectations and responsibilities of Elected Members. We also spent two days exploring the district sharing areas of significance including marae, halls, water and wastewater treatment plants, subdivisions, and more! The photo of under Huipūtea tree was taken after newly elected member Roy Willison shared kōrero of the tree and the site and what it means to both Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāpuhi. We will be looking to ways of sharing such kōrero with our whole community.



NEED HELP WITH YOUR RATES REBATE APPLICATION?

Head to a Rates Rebate Outreach Session where our friendly staff can assist you.

Session details:

- Saturday November 26, 10am – 2pm, Rusty Snapper/ Wharf, 64 Jervois St, Kāwhia
 - Thursday December 15, 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Countdown, Maniapoto St, Ōtorohanga
 - Saturday January 28 2023, 10am – 2pm, Rusty Snapper/ Wharf, 64 Jervois St, Kāwhia
- We're also running sessions next year, check out our website: www.otodc.govt.nz.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Our awesome library staff are packing a punch with a great line up of programmes **LittleBits** on a Monday (3.30 to 4.30) Easy to use electronic building blocks for creating inventions large and small suitable for ages 8+

Arduino on Thursdays (3.30 to 4.30) Explore our hands-on, step by step sessions that take you on your first steps in programming electronics and science. Suitable for ages 10+.

Limited space for both, contact the library to make your booking

The team is also plotting some summertime action with:

Summer Safari – This summer reading programme is for primary school aged children and runs over the summer holidays. Registrations open soon, but if you are wanting to know more, talk to one of our fabulous library team. The programme includes reading and fun activities to do, Bingo Style!

Keep up to date with Library activities on their Facebook page: **otolib** or through our council website. To make bookings or ask questions pop in and see the team or call on (07) 873 7175

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** – November 22, commencing at 10am
 - **Kāwhia Community Board** – December 2, commencing at 4pm
 - **Ōtorohanga Community Board** – December 5, commencing at 4pm
 - **Council** – December 14, commencing at 10am (to be confirmed on November 22)
- Updates will be provided on our website*