

ĀMIO

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT CONNECTION

May 12 2022

Kia ora

Welcome to Āmio, Ōtorohanga District Council's first community newsletter! We're so excited to start our monthly newsletter to strengthen our connections with the community and keep everyone informed about all things council. We've important information to share, and look forward to sharing our stories with you. Why the name Āmio? Well, Āmio (pronounced ar-me-oar) means to 'circle around'. So, in the context of this newsletter, it means that we will cover or encircle the Ōtorohanga District, connecting and sharing council information within our district and with our people. Thanks to Lloyd and Hinga Whiu for their guidance on the choice of the perfect name.



GREAT START TO OUR ŌTOROHANGA TOWN CONCEPT PLAN ENGAGEMENT

We've had a busy few weeks of engagement activities as part of the process of developing the Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan. Last week we held two public drop-in sessions where the community came to share their ideas and visions for Ōtorohanga Town's future. We had an amazing turnout! If you came along, thank you, your input is important as we shape what the future looks like.

If you couldn't make it to the drop-in sessions, don't worry! You can still let us know your ideas and visions by completing our quick and easy survey. Just scan the QR code to tell us what you think. Remember to complete the survey by Sunday May 15 as it closes then.

In July we'll have the draft Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan ready and will come back to the community to make sure we got it right. You can find out more about the plan, process and timeline here: otodc.govt.nz/town-concept-plan/



WAIPA RIVER ENHANCEMENT

Waikato Regional Council is undertaking some minor river bank stabilisation alongside the section of the Waipā River that runs through the Ōtorohanga township. This includes the removal of trees and selective weed spraying.

The work is being undertaken as part of Te ara a Waiwaiā Waipā River Enhancement programme that involves planting 5975 native plants alongside the river. Planting of a 10-metre wide riparian strip will commence in June 2022.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Help the council reduce the amount of paper we use by sending us your email address so we can send correspondence to you by email. Head to <https://form.jotform.co/90287880867878> to update your details.

LIBRARY IN-HOUSE PROGRAMMES RESUME!

Regular in-house programmes have restarted at the Ōtorohanga Library! Pre-schoolers can return to **Storytime on Thursdays at 10.30am** for half an hour of song and stories. If you have a toddler aged up to five years, they will love this programme! The team is looking forward to seeing parents and babies back to their **Wriggle & Rhyme programme** on Friday mornings at 10.30am. This half hour session is an interactive programme of music and movement that encourages babies' development. Is your child a budding young architect or designer? Then send them along to the **LEGO club** for primary school children, which starts again on the 24th of May at 3.30pm. For adults, the **book discussion group** meets on the 12th of May at 1.30pm. This hour-long programme is for anyone who loves sharing their great reads with others.

Also for the grown-ups is the **adult reading challenge** where you complete a number of reading challenges and compete for weekly prizes and also the grand prize draw! The library team is introducing some great new **STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programmes** in the library after school. These will run on a Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30 to 4.30pm and are for children aged 7+. You'll need to pre-register your child for this programme so just phone the team on 07 873 7175 or email them at library@otodc.govt.nz to book.

• May 17 will be **Building with Keva Contraptions**. If your child is interested in building and how structures can be built without falling over, this is for you. This programme will run every Tuesday except the last Tuesday of the month.

• May 19 is **Fun with MakeyMakey - circuitry and computers**. Connecting the world with your computer, this fun programme allows all sorts of inventive fun – including making a banana piano! It will run every Thursday until the end of term two.

All the library programmes are free. If you would like to learn more, contact the library team on 873 7175 or email library@otodc.govt.nz

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A RATES REBATE?

You may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$655 towards your rates if you meet certain criteria.

Check if you qualify by heading over to our website: otodc.govt.nz/services/building-property/property-and-rating/rates-rebate/ or calling our friendly customer service team on 07 873 4000.

Remember, you will need to return your completed application form to the council by June 30, 2022.

NEIGHBOURS AT WAR? NOT ANYMORE!

Occasionally the council gets complaints about disruptive activity, and we do our best to find solutions that suit everyone. Recently we were able to help some neighbours in Ōtorohanga, who were having difficulties resolving an issue over parking.

Neighbours of local Ōtorohanga business Pumpn, Norm and Jan Farquhar contacted the council's roading team with concerns about delivery drivers obstructing their driveway, and parking and unloading supplies on the side of Haerehuka Street, causing disruption to traffic flow.

The council approached Pumpn's managing director, Shane Phillips, about the problem and found business had started to outpace their supply and storage capacity, with reduced space creating access problems for large trucks, which were pushed into roadside parking. The council worked with Shane to address the issues and find a positive way forward starting with ensuring delivery drivers kept the live traffic lanes clear whenever they parked outside their site.

Call it good timing, or just good business, Pumpn were then able move into the former RD1 warehouse and depot. Either way, Pumpn now has more storage with ready through-access to Lawrence St for articulated trucks and their bulk deliveries. This has also freed up parking space at their main office building and customers are now able to drive up to the retail showroom. Gone are the days of parking and unloading on the road!

The council's Roding Officer, Jaime McLellan, was delighted that a practical solution had been found for the parking and storage problem. The positive outcome was credited to the council's negotiations, Shane's progressive approach and the patience and understanding of their neighbours.

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 the council's website, one week before the meeting date. All meetings are streamed live on our YouTube channel.

- Council - May 17, 10am, Council Chambers
- Ōtorohanga Community Board - June 2, 4pm, Council Chambers
- Kāwhia Community Board - May 27, 1pm, Kāwhia Community Hall



Ōtorohanga
District Council
where kiwi can fly

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