

ĀMĪO

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT CONNECTION

16 June 2022

Kia ora

With Matariki, the Māori New Year approaching, we'd like to highlight some local events celebrating this special time of year.

We're proud to support the **Matariki Festival ki Ōtorohanga** to be held at Ōtorohanga Rotary Park from 2 pm to 7 pm on Friday, June 24th. Bring a blanket and picnic and learn about Matariki. Ōtorohanga Library will run a **Matariki-themed story time session** for babies and toddlers on Thursday 23 June at 10.30 am.

Take the time to join in these events and celebrate this significant time for Aotearoa with your whānau and friends.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

The council is developing a concept plan for the Ōtorohanga township to determine where and how our town can grow, as well as help guide future developments in and around the town centre.

With our first community engagement, we heard the vision, aspirations and opportunities you see for our town and the challenges that could prevent Ōtorohanga from reaching its full potential. A range of issues and themes have emerged from our talks with you.

Now it's time to build on these early discussions and we'd like your feedback on the key themes that have emerged.

We're holding another **public drop-in session** to share what we've heard and see if you agree or not. This session **will be held on 18 June from 9 am to 2 pm at St David's Church hall**, corner Ranfurly and Turongo Streets, Ōtorohanga. It's open to everyone, so bring your friends and whānau along.

Our consultants will then combine your feedback with information on the Ōtorohanga environment, culture, social makeup, economy and infrastructure, to create a draft Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan, to lead us into the future.

In July we'll share the draft concept plan with you, to ensure that what we heard was correct and give you a chance to tell us what you think. Keep an eye out here, on our website and Facebook for your chance to share your thoughts on the draft plan!

KĀWHIA WATER METERS SHOWING VALUE

Our project to install water meters to identify leaks in the Kāwhia water network is going well, with nine minor water leaks and one major water leak identified already.

The major water leak was discovered on private property and has been calculated at approximately 27m³ of water per day and over 800,000 litres per month! This particular leak was completely unknown to the building occupier and was not showing any visible signs above ground.

The new meters are being installed to help provide better information to the council when we're trying to identify leaks, making the repair process quicker. So far, over 180 of the 300 water meters needed have been installed.

COME TO OUR COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY!

If you've been for a wander down the stopbank pathway lately, you'll have noticed that we've removed some trees and sprayed weeds as part of the Te Ara a Waiwaiā Waipā River enhancement project.

Now we're ready to plant, so we'd love you to come and help at our first community planting day! Join us on **Thursday 30th June starting at 10.30 am and finishing at 12.30 pm** and bring your spade, gardening gloves, gumboots or covered shoes, sunblock and hat.

Meet us at the end of Rangipare Street behind the grandstand at the Island Reserve - parking is available at the sports club at the end of Orahiri Terrace.

There will also be a FREE BBQ for our helpers as a thank you. So head down to our community planting day - we'd love to see you there!



KĀWHIA ENTRANCE SIGN REFURBISHMENT

Kāwhia's much-loved entrance sign is getting a refurbishment with funding from the Kāwhia Community Board.

A morning karakia was held this past Tuesday and work will now begin. This includes a new spray paint for the steel frame and Kahu and the welcome sign being replicated in more durable material.

The reinstallation of the sign will be accompanied by another karakia and unveiling.



GOOD NEWS FOR RATEPAYERS

The Council has been able to hold the expected increase in rates to 5.52 per cent despite the Long Term Plan projecting an overall increase, changes being made for new projects and taking into account the inflation the country is currently experiencing.

This doesn't mean that everyone will have an increase of 5.52 per cent, as some rates are paid equally by all properties in the District and some are spread based on the capital value of the properties. Changes in the value of a property, compared to the overall value of the district, can mean that increases can be higher or lower.

The average rates for a residential property in the district in 2022/23 is approximately \$2,400 per year or \$46 per week. That covers refuse collection, road maintenance and building, animal control, district development, stormwater drainage, cemeteries, swimming pools, libraries, civil defence preparedness, parks and reserves, public toilets and a whole host of other activities. For more detailed information on what your rates cover take a look at the Long Term Plan 2022-23 on our website.



BE HEARD

Are you 18 years or over?

Check you're on the local electoral roll for the upcoming Local Government Elections

www.vote.nz

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 - June 21, 10 am, St David's Church, Cnr Ranfurly & Turongo Streets, Ōtorohanga
- Ōtorohanga Community Board - July 7, 4 pm, St David's Church, Ranfurly & Turongo Streets
- Kāwhia Community Board - Meeting for June cancelled



Ōtorohanga

District Council
where kiwi can fly

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