

SUMMER 2019 / 2020

OMAHA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT PG. 5

ACCOUNTS PG. 13

RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES PG. 24

Take me there! Photo: Tom Zhang

A NOTABLE HISTORY

Words by Sally Blyth

In past issues of the OBC Newsletter, we've looked back at the development of modern-day Omaha, the big storms of 1976 and 1978, the construction of the groynes and other defining moments. In more recent issues we've reflected on how Omaha has grown and changed, thriving its way through the decades towards a bright future.

All this is relatively recent history but, in this issue, we trace back to the area's earliest roots.

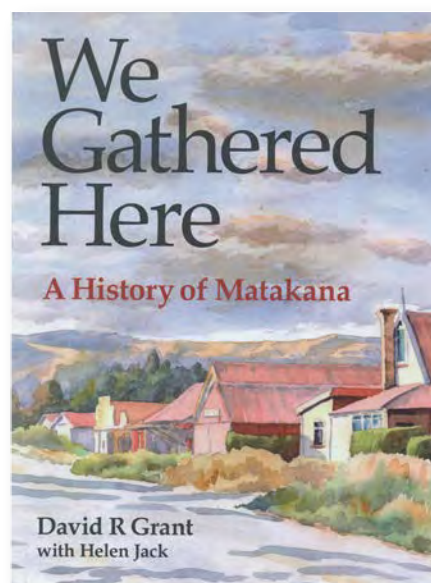
**WE GATHERED HERE,
BY DAVID R GRANT**

The focus for this article is a wonderful book called *We Gathered Here: A History of Matakana*, written by David R Grant with Helen Jack. David self-published the book in 2017 and it has already been reprinted due to its popularity. Have you seen a copy or had the pleasure of reading it yet?

ABOUT DAVID

David was born in Rotorua but brought up in the Matakana area. He attended Matakana School and Warkworth District High School, then began a building apprenticeship. His family moved to South Auckland and, later, David trained as a Presbyterian minister. He lived and worked around New Zealand, as well as stints in the USA, and retired back to the Mahurangi in 2003 after 30 years of ministry, settling in Snells Beach with his wife Alison.

Sadly, David passed away in June this year but his work lives on. Upon speaking with Alison, I learned that David spent six years meticulously researching this book, working on it with their daughter Helen Jack. Losing someone who has been such a stalwart of the community is undeniably hard for the family, and it's such a blessing for us all that he had completed this valuable book. It's a



privilege to be able to share an overview of, and extracts from, David's book, and thereby impart a little about his great passion for, and knowledge of, the local area.

EARLY TIMES IN OMAHA

While much of the book's content focusses on life in and around Matakana, from settlement to the present day, with lots of fabulous photos, the very first part recounts the early times in Omaha, in particular, Maori settlement. By page 3, the reader learns of the Te Kohuroa (Matheson's Bay) massacre of 1822, the result of warfare between Ngapuhi and the Hauraki Maori.

The story that unfolds tells of the Hauraki Maori arriving at Ti Point cliffs in war canoes, dawn raids at Matheson's, death, revenge, gatherings at Pauru Pauru Pa near Big Omaha wharf, fires on the sandspit of Omaha Beach and musters of men making their way through the sand dunes. There were many men killed from both tribes. Later – around 1870, some 50 years after the event – Heber Meiklejohn (1862–1946, buried in the Whangateau Cemetery) reported seeing a heap of human bones on Omaha Beach. It's hard to conceive of such warfare and murder right here on our tranquil shores!



Tranquil shores. Photo: Tom Zhang

The book tells us that: *"The only remaining present day reminder of the massacre is somewhat obscure, but very real. On Omaha spit are five pouwhenua (sculptures) or kaitiaki (guardians), gifts from the Ngati Manuhiri hapu based at Pakiri."* (p3)

These pouwhenua (Pou), which you will have seen as you walk around Omaha, acknowledge all past and present residents



Photo from Page 14 of *We Gathered Here* – A group of 24 Maori prisoners, 1864. From Alexander Turnbull Library.

and mark the places of settlements and battlefields. With the emphasis now on peace and welcome, they are in stark contrast to the bloody past enacted on Omaha shores.

Read more about the Pou on Page 10. You'll no doubt view them with an extra layer of insight next time you walk past!

ESCAPE FROM KAWAU

There's a story in the book about the escape from Kawau Island of Maori prisoners. This happened in the wake of the Taranaki Land Wars and it seems that similar wars were diverted in the Matakana area because of what ultimately transpired.

In brief, about 200 Maori prisoners were transported to Kawau Island by Governor Gray and, although perceived by local Pakeha to be living "a sort of elegant retirement", this was a distorted view of the reality. Feeling humiliated and unreasonably condemned to penal servitude, on 9th September 1864, they

escaped from the island, spending time near the peak of Mt Tamahunga where life was tough and food was scarce. They often went into Matakana to barter for, and sometimes steal, food from settlers and make their presence felt. This, in turn, made the settlers fearful; they felt that rebellion and massacre were waiting in the wings. Local meetings were called, attitudes were fraught, suspicions raised, and the community felt generally threatened. Matakana could very nearly have had its own land wars on account of all the tension but, on 14th November 1864, the Maori left peacefully, having been granted safe conduct back home to Waikato by Governor Gray.

Read more in David's book: Chapter 1, The First Settlers.

An account of the escape can also be found in *The Last Landfall* written by Leslie D Meiklejohn and edited by Carol and James Ramage, another account of early life in these parts.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Matakana is a thriving township with a fascinating history. It was initially divided into two distinct areas: Lower Matakana (the Sandspit area) and Upper Matakana (the area around the current town).

The first European settlers arrived in Lower Matakana about 1842. The first recorded auction sales were held in March 1853. The main 'street' was merely a track through the bush and followed close to the river. The wharves in Lower and Upper Matakana were built in 1879 and boats could only navigate the river two hours either side of high tide. Subsequently, the Omaha wharf was constructed.



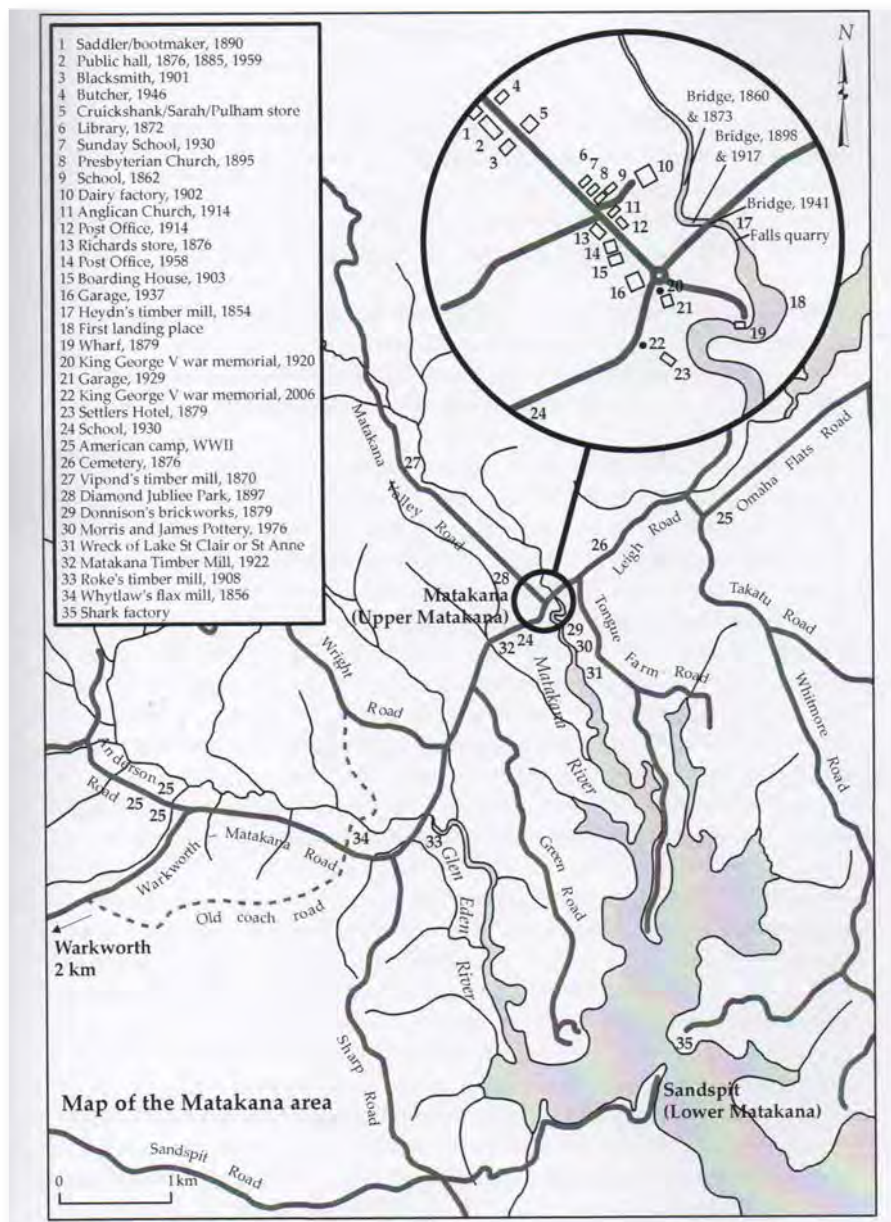
Omaha Pou. Photo: Tom Zhang

It's interesting to note that, back in the late 1880s, Matakana was a desirable area for Auckland families (Remuera gets a mention!) to visit, by boat, for a 3-day outing. They spent nights in the schoolhouse (women and children) or the boat cabin, visited Kawau Island, caught fish for breakfast, had a dance night in Matakana and then returned to Auckland via Scotts Landing and Waiwera, for a hot bath. So, even 130 or so years ago, this area was a holiday destination that appealed to Aucklanders. In fact, as more and more visitors came from Auckland around that time, Matakana "bulged at its seams to accommodate them." There were no boarding houses and visitors stayed in settlers' homes. Early Airbnb!

This book contains so much information about the rich history of the area and tells many stories of local families, industries, progress, public places and more. There are 20 chapters including The First Settlers (where Omaha is mentioned), The River, The Timber Industry, The School, The Churches, The Post Office, Matakana during the two World Wars and, the last gathering place, The Cemetery. It is full of captivating photos that showcase how things used to be and the evolution of the area.

Some random interesting snippets that sparked my interest:

- Matakana takes its name from an important pa at the mouth of the Matakana/Glen Eden river known as Matakanakana, meaning "the glowering eyes".
- There was a horse racing track in the heart of Matakana township, laid out on Dr Cruickshank's property, with meetings held on New Year's Day and Easter Monday (approx. 1870 to 1897). The meetings incorporated an Athletics element as well as horse racing. The area is now The Diamond Jubilee Park, which opened subsequent to the abandonment of the racetrack and to celebrate Queen Victoria's 60 years on the throne.
- The first Post Office in the district was at Omaha in 1858. Lower Matakana acquired a Post Office in October 1858. A new Post Office was built in 1914, and then a newer one in 1958 (now the superette). There were several post masters and mistresses, with an intriguingly large number of post mistresses.
- The road between Matakana and Warkworth was metalled around 1924, making it an all-weather road.
- A telephone service was in place by 1921. By 1929 Matakana had over 100 subscribers. A call between Matakana and Warkworth was a toll call back then.



- Matakana School has been operating since 1862. The schoolroom doubled as a place of worship for the local Presbyterians. There was no uniform, some children rode to school, hats were compulsory, and had to cover the nape of your neck – it was thought back then that it would prevent polio if you had the back of your neck covered.
- There were schools at Big Omaha and Tawharanui but they closed in 1937 and 1943 respectively, and the pupils were bussed to Matakana School. Space was tight, and a new block was added in 1956.
- Hotels were established in Lower Matakana around 1861 and Upper Matakana in 1879, providing liquor and boarding facilities.
- The Matakana (formerly the Matakana Village Pub) has stood on its present site since 1903. Once a boarding house, it was revitalised by new owners in 2012 and, under new management since April 2016, it now operates a modern offering in the traditions of the original pub.
- Missionary visits began in the Mahurangi/ Matakana district as early as 1823, with further visits in the late 1840s. However, missionary activity didn't dominate the area.
- One of Matakana's earliest industries was timber logging and milling, with timber first being exported and then used locally for construction and ship building. One of the smaller mills belonged to John Meiklejohn who established his mill pre-1880 to supply the shipbuilding industry in Omaha. (Did you know that most of the streets in Omaha are named after boats built here? See The Ships of Omaha below.)
- The nursery business in Matakana had its roots in Scotland.

This is just a tiny taste of what this book contains – if it has whetted your appetite to find out more, do get yourself a copy! Check the website www.wegatheredhere.co.nz for more info and to purchase a copy. You can also buy it from Matakana Village Books. Highly recommended!

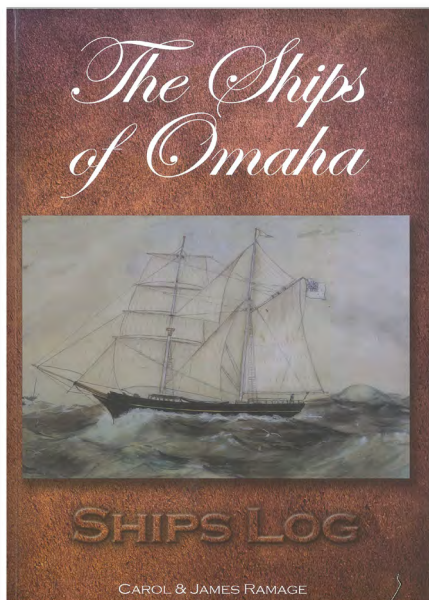
Thank you, David and Helen, for putting together such a valuable, intriguing and enlightening account of the history and growth of this region we all enjoy so much. And thank you Alison for allowing us to share an insight into David's research and writing with our local community. Our sympathy to you on the loss of your beloved David.

THE SHIPS OF OMAHA, BY CAROL AND JAMES RAMAGE

Another book containing fascinating information that looks at the early days in Omaha is *The Ships of Omaha* by Carol and James Ramage.

This book focuses on the ships built at Omaha by the Meiklejohn family, David Darroch, the Matheson family and a few others. Across the estuary, either side of the wharf at Whangateau, were shipyards owned and settled by these three Scottish pioneer families. From the mid-1880s to the early 1900s these shipyards built 69 Brigantines, schooners and scows; these craft became instrumental in the development of New Zealand, transporting materials and livestock.

The book includes stories about the ships, their fate, owners and more. If you're interested in shipbuilding, you'll enjoy this book!



ABOUT CAROL AND JAMES

Carol Ramage is the great, great granddaughter of Captain James Strange Meiklejohn (originally Mucklejohn) and his wife Catherine who came to New Zealand with their family in 1858 and settled in Omaha. Carol's great grandfather, Septimus Meiklejohn (1848-1911), is credited with building Lake Erie, the first scow in New Zealand. James Ramage has

had a huge interest in the sea, having been a Sea Cadet and serving with the Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserve.

They live in Omaha and it was a combination of Carol's family heritage and their love for the area that inspired them to produce *The Ships of Omaha*.

Another book of interest is *The Last Landfall: Early Big Omaha History* by Leslie Douglas Meiklejohn (1880-1960) mentioned earlier in this article. This book, originally published in 1960, was edited by Carol and James Ramage and reissued in 2007 for the 150th Family Reunion (1858-2008).

Thanks to Carol and James for being inspired to share an interesting part of the history of the area.

For more information, please contact Carol Ramage by emailing carol.ramage@extra.co.nz

THE STREET NAMES OF OMAHA

NB: This information appears in *The Ships of Omaha*.

When Broadlands subdivided the Northern end of Omaha in the 1970s, the streets were named after the Meiklejohn and Darroch families, and some of their ships. (Listed here with street name and the ship's name/date).

MEIKLEJOHN FAMILY

Meiklejohn Way		
Argo Rise	Argo	1865
Blue Bell Parade	Blue Bell	1866
Caroline Heights	Caroline	1860
Day Dawn Crescent	Day Dawn	1867
Excelsior Way	Excelsior	1862 & 1893 (Darroch)
Lagoon Way	Lagoon	1878
Omaha Drive	Omaha	1874
Pioneer Crescent	Pioneer	1859
Ruby Cove	Ruby	1860
Success Court	Success	1863 & 1925 (Darroch)
Twilight Bay	Twilight	1868

DARROCH FAMILY

Darroch Slope		
Dungarvon Place	Dungarvon	1886
Edith Place	Edith	1905
Esme Grove	Esme	1908
Ida Way	Ida	1884
Jane Gifford Place	Jane Gifford*	1908
Kitty Fraser Lane	Kitty Fraser	1911
May Way	May	1892
North West Anchorage	Nor'West	1908
Reliance Way	Reliance	1904
Rita Way	Rita	1903
Shamrock Crescent	Shamrock	1893
St Anne Place	St Anne	1899
The Southern Isle	Southern Isle	1901
Thistle Terrace	Thistle	1894

*The Jane Gifford is the oldest restored and most original sailing scow in New Zealand.

We're very fortunate to have such a wealth of information about the area in the form of these books, and I hope this article has enlightened and illuminated.

Next time you're out and about around Omaha, stop a while at a Pou, have a chat with a local and find out more interesting stuff!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

President Chris Allan reflects back on what has been a busy year working on behalf of the community.

FREEDOM CAMPING

What a year! Freedom Camping dominated the agenda for nearly eight months until August when Auckland Councillors finally saw that what was being proposed in their Bylaw was seriously flawed. Thankyou to the members of OBC who turned up at the AGM and the Special General Meeting in February and your overwhelming mandate for us to do what it took to stop the then current proposal to allow Freedom Camping on Omaha's Reserves (and the rest of Auckland's) which are protected under the Reserves Act, and no rules around our byways and berms. Compare that with the more forward thinking Councils like Tauranga and Wellington. Anyway, not wishing to point fingers, we start again with a clean slate.

However, I do want to say that I was very disappointed with the number of residents who personally submitted on the Freedom Camping proposals - there were only some 100 private submissions from Omaha out

of approximately 1,600 properties. You, the community, need to do better next time around if we are to succeed in protecting Omaha, when the new Bylaw is put out for consultation by the Council again.

The financial cost to the community was significant, and the OBC could not have achieved the outcome it did if it hadn't spent the money on instructing Senior Counsel. In doing this, the OBC saved the whole of Auckland from shoddy Freedom Camping rules. The legal and strategic advice we received from our QC, Bob Hollyman, and Senior Counsel, Bryan Latimour, was of the highest order, and was well supported by Murray Beatson, Graham Painter and myself. The OBC could also not have achieved the outcome it did without the support of Councillor Greg Sayers, and our Fiona Hyland on the political and media front. The voluntary time and expertise put in by your Committee members involved in this exercise was invaluable. I want to also acknowledge the financial contribution of the OBRS which, recognising the potential adverse impacts on their member residents, contributed half of the total legal costs involved.

Going forward, the OBC is not going to be able to afford to undertake the same legal fight without significant financial contribution from members and the community at large. The OBC will need a fundraising committee, and so I ask now for volunteers to come forward to be part of this. A special OBC sub-committee will be formed for this purpose. Auckland City owes the OBC a debt of gratitude ... and a lot of money.

Whilst we have some idea as to what is going to be proposed in the new Freedom Camping Bylaw, which we anticipate will address our concerns, nothing is certain.

COMMUNITY CENTRE LEASE

The lease of the Community Centre (from Auckland Council) also dominated my year and I am grateful to Geoff Smith who, on behalf of the Omaha Beach Golf Club, worked with me, over a 3-year period, to negotiate the 'best ever' deal for a lease term - of up to 30 years for both the Golf Course and the Community Centre. Given the template maximum term for Council leases of Community Centres is five years, this was a great outcome for this community. The lease

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terms still have to be finalised, recognising the close relationship the community has with the Golf Club and the activities that go on at the Community Centre, but I expect the document to be finalised in early 2020. Both leases are interdependent, recognising that important relationship.

With that thought in mind I encourage all of the community to use the Community Centre as a place to gather and socialise. If you want your community group to hold meetings there, please call the General Manager at the Golf Club first. (See page 15)

Thanks also to Beth Houlbrooke and the Local Board members, and particularly Council's Property Manager, who all (it was a unanimous decision on all counts) understand and support the importance that these leases have to our community.

FOOTPATHS

The footpath project, from the roundabout to the Community Centre, does have life in it – thanks to Martin Dancy, Rohan Meuli and Allison Roe of the Matakana Coastal Trail Trust. I understand that funding is available and that the project is now going through the resource consent process. The pathway will follow the eastern side of Omaha Drive for part of the way from the Community Centre south to the greenkeeper's shed, then cross over and continue on the western side to the roundabout.

WHAT ELSE?

Dogs. Would you owners please pick up your dog's droppings, whether it's on the footpaths, walkways, or the beach! And, would you owners of dogs please also observe the dog hours on the beach. This is a perennial problem. Last year the Committee complained that there was no enforcement by Council officers. When they finally came, the enforcement officers reported that offending Omaha dog walkers (ie dog owners with their dogs on the beach outside permitted hours) were the rudest they have had to police. We will be inviting the enforcement people to visit the beach more regularly. See page 20 for Dog Rules.

Birds. The poor old Dotterels still haven't learnt about storms and high tides, with the latest pair of eggs down the southern end lost, but the Dotterels can't do anything about dogs, balls, and other human paraphernalia disturbing their nests. Please respect these birds and their eggs and chicks – they deserve a chance!

Predators. On a positive note, Rob Zubielevitch and Denis O'Callahan continue to develop a close and positive relationship with the Predator Department at Council in relation to trapping predators. Rob, when he is not catching his limit of large Snapper in the bay, or practising with his rock band, can be seen in his hi-vis vest around the golf course, or on the dunes, checking and rebaiting traps, and removing rodents. There have been some seriously large critters being caught. Trapping has moved to the beach dunes. See Rob's report on page 11 – and please follow his advice and instructions. Thanks to Rob and his team.

DIVERSITY

Rob Z and I met with the Surf Club Committee and a very knowledgeable Council officer in charge of the design, location and construction of the new toilet block near the playground next to the Surf Club down at William Fraser Reserve. Those community members present provided the Council officer with helpful suggestions for improvements, all of which were welcomed. The OBC will support this concept design and, in keeping with the theme, I can assure you these toilets will satisfy the needs of those calling for Diversity. There will be formal consultation with the community. Construction is not likely to be completed until 2021.

OBC COMMITTEE

We were joined on the Committee mid-year by Rohan Meuli who has taken a keen interest in technology matters, reserve management and, together with Paul King, traffic matters.

I want to thank your Committee for working with me through the year. We are a good

team and it is testament to the collaborative nature of the Committee that all Committee members have agreed to stand for another year. I expect there to be an exodus at the end of 2020, so it is up to you, the members of the community, to step forward and do your part to look after Omaha. Transition makes for a strong community.

Having said what I said earlier, we, as representatives of the Omaha community, don't like taking legal action, but we particularly don't like being mucked around and treated with disrespect or like we are idiots. As various players know, we are not afraid to draw on the collective resources of this community and stand up and fight against what does not serve the best interests of our community.

Finally, a big thankyou to Debbie Lee for bringing this Newsletter to fruition; it's a huge task and I am sure you will enjoy the read.

Once again, thank you for your support, and all the best for the summer months ahead.

Chris Allan, OBC President



OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chris Allan, Rob Zubielevitch, Terry Brailsford, Murray Beatson, Debbie Lee, Paul King, Alan Wham, Tony Marks, Simon Martin, Rohan Meuli



Di Balich - Omaha Coastal Specialist

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COUNCIL MATTERS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:



FROM COUNCILLOR GREG SAYERS

The local body elections are complete, and Phil Goff has been returned to power as the Mayor of Auckland. So, the topical question is, "what might be different under his reign over the following three years?"

During the last term of Council, the majority of Councillors have been acting virtually as an adjunct to the 'Super Mayor', passively facilitating the mayoral programme.

The inclusive and personable first Super City Mayor, Len Brown, was able to make the 'presidential' powers of the Auckland Mayor, which is uniquely supported by a fully staffed mayoral office, work well for him.

Phil Goff, who parachuted into Brown's job, adopted Brown's presidential approach – even more so. But Goff also brought with him a personal leadership style derived from a lifetime in parliamentary politics. That political culture is a zero-sum game, with winners and losers, insiders and outsiders, and last term it was rarely consensual around the Council debating chamber. This Wellington party political approach, by my coal-face observations, has not been helpful for good local government in Auckland.

Under the "secretive" Goff, councillors were divided into two factions; supporters of Goff were called the 'A team' by the media, and those who were not in the clique were dubbed the 'B team'. It should be pointed out that this 'B team' was created, not by its members, but by Goff himself, virtually as soon as he was elected Mayor through a perceived non-inclusive leadership style.

Can a leopard change its spots? Well, I believe our Mayor has learnt from the previous three years and he will be working hard with all the Councillors to create a culture whereby every

Councillor feels valued and is given a fair opportunity to deliver for each community they represent – a culture which should, by its very nature, also distil into the 21 Local Boards across Auckland.

This has already been evidenced to me in my early meetings with the Mayor. There is no doubt in my mind of his intent to improve on his first term. It won't take long for Aucklanders to work out if he's being successful or not.

It is my opinion a key action the Mayor must undertake, in order to instil a sense of greater confidence and trust about the Council, is to commission a full independent review of the Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs). This is something he promised on the election hustings.

Auckland Council and its CCOs have divided the people of Auckland into their own A and B teams. The 'A team' constitutes a favoured minority, among which are highly-paid bureaucrats and un-elected CCO directors and, among the public, a few favoured contractors and rich-listers.

The 'B team' on the other hand are the overwhelming majority of Aucklanders who have to pay for it all, with pending 3.5% rates increases compounding over the next three years, increased user charges, including fuel taxes and increased public transport fares. Aucklanders are feeling marginalised, disempowered and disrespected. Ratepayers are even having to pay to take their own Council to court to protect their property rights and retain protection over public reserves. The freedom camping debacle is an example of this, when the OBC had to resort to a legal challenge in order to prevent freedom camping suddenly being allowed in reserves already protected by the Reserves Act 1977.

This bossy, elitist attitude within the Council, reflecting a top-down authoritarian culture, is glaringly at odds with the Council's 'inclusive' 'diverse' 'politically-correct' messaging, as well as being against Mayor Goff's desire for a reformed political culture. This is not how local government is meant to work, nor how public servants, appointed or elected, should be behaving towards the people they are meant to serve.

There is a strong undercurrent of concern within Auckland Council that ordinary ratepayers are being marginalised and citizens' rights being increasingly over-ridden by an all-powerful Council/CCO bureaucracy. Mayor Goff is signalling that he recognises this and wants it corrected. What we don't want to see is the majority of Councillors and

Local Board members going along with the status quo again for another three years. Such politicians fail to understand that the primary role of an elected representative is to represent the public to the Council – not the other way around.

A more democratic Auckland local government, with better accountability to the public, and checks and balances in Auckland Council and the CCOs, is well overdue and will be warmly welcomed.

Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor, Auckland Council

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FROM BETH HOULBROKE, CHAIR - RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

I am very happy to have once again been re-elected to the Rodney Local Board for the Warkworth subdivision, and to represent the interests of the Omaha Beach community.

The last three years have given me further opportunity to come to know your fantastic Committee and the issues, ideas and aspirations they bring to our attention, always in a well-thought-out and well-researched way.

Key subjects and support areas have been:

- Freedom Camping and speed limit review bylaws;
- foreshore erosion; maintenance of walkways;
- reserve planting; stormwater drainage;
- shorebird protection;
- dog access;
- set netting and crab potting;
- community leases on the Golf Club, Community Centre, and Bowling Club;
- toilets and changing facilities;
- boat ramp; and
- the footpath from the roundabout to the Golf Club.

We have made progress on all these matters, albeit slowly on some, while other issues have been more quickly resolved.

COUNCIL MATTERS

What the community can look forward to is security of tenure due to the granting of 10+10+10 year leases on the above mentioned sites. This will allow you all to get on with continuing to improve and develop these important community facilities the way you do so well, with Council "getting out of the way" as much as possible. Council is, however, taking responsibility for seal repairs to the Community Centre roof.

You can also look forward to the completion of the footpath along Omaha Drive within the next 6 to 12 months. Thanks to Ian Hutchinson providing pro bono design services, we have been able to trim the costs of this back to a more affordable level that the Local Board can now fund from our Local Board Transport Capital Fund and Transport Targeted Rate. We have some mild disagreement with Auckland Transport on the specifications, which I'm confident we will work through and overcome.

New toilets and changing facilities are coming to William Fraser Reserve, to replace the inadequate facilities under the Surf Club which will return to the Club's control. Although not imminent, your Committee and the Surf Club have been consulted on preliminary design options and we are working through consent processes and budget approvals.

Following Auckland Transport's speed limit review, the causeway limit will drop from 80 kph to 60 kph on 30th June 2020. This was supported by your Committee and other submitters.

I must acknowledge Councillor Greg Sayers for his work on the Freedom Camping bylaw review, a fraught process which was fortunately exposed as such, to the extent it has been, in effect, put back on the drawing board for now. I want to assure the community that the concerns raised in the first consultation process will be carried forward by myself and Cr Sayers into the new process – and hopefully listened to by the decision-makers! Your Committee played a pivotal role as well in this turnaround.

With the local body elections now over, you have two new local representatives to tap into – Tim Holdgate and Steven Garner. These two gentlemen replace outgoing board members Allison Roe and Tessa Berger, who were not available to run again for election. I would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge the contribution of Allison Roe, your "local" Local Board representative in the last term. I am quite certain Allison will continue

to take an interest in Omaha, especially concerning the ongoing development of connectivity to the wider area through trails, via her involvement in the Matakana Coast Trail Trust.

Have a very Happy Holiday Season in this stunning part of New Zealand. Take care of your families in and around the water, while out cycling and walking, and enjoying everything the area has to offer. Be patient in traffic and just know that's what comes with being in such a fantastic place – everyone wants to be here. I'm never far away, so look forward to catching up with as many of you as can possibly attend the AGM on 19th January 2020.

Please contact me anytime on 021 839 413 – as long as I've got telephone coverage, which can be patchy in these parts, I'll look forward to taking your call. In many ways it is a blessing not to be permanently attached to a device over Christmas and New Year.

Beth Houlbrooke, Elected Member Chair – Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council

Mobile 021 839 413, Email

Beth.Houlbrooke@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

PROGRESS REPORT ON ROADING, PATHS AND RESERVES

Firstly, a reminder that for any issue about roading, paths, reserves, etc, your first port of call is as follows:

- for anything related to roads, street signs, footpaths, walkways (the ones directly between streets) and street lighting – contact Auckland Transport on 09 355 3553 or go to the "Report a Problem" form at www.at.govt.nz
- OR
- for reserves, parks, any other walkways, etc – contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101 or go to "Report a Problem" at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Along with all the regular maintenance work and a range of minor projects, of particular note are three larger projects which have been a focus over the last 12 months.

Repairs to Northern Walkways – Our thanks to Beth Houlbrooke and the Rodney Local Board for organising the long-overdue repairs to the deteriorating walkways in the northern half of Omaha. At the time of writing, the contractors have reached Blue Bell Parade (moving south) and we understand that the area right down to Broadlands Drive should be completed by the end of June 2020.

Please be aware that this project is on

"Council" walkways only, i.e. any walkways that do not go directly from one street to another, the latter being under the control of Auckland Transport. We will need to continue working on AT to get their ones properly fixed as well!



Proposed Omaha Drive Walkway – Again, our thanks to Martin Dancy, Beth Houlbrooke, Allison Roe, Hutchinson Engineers and others for their continued work on this long-running project, which would see a walkway built along the eastern side of the golf course, from the roundabout to North-West Anchorage. Involving both Auckland Transport and Auckland Council, as it does, progress has been slow in negotiating a design that meets all parties' requirements – but we remain hopeful of work at least getting underway next year.



Omaha Drive

Causeway Safety – A significant ongoing concern for our community is the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, etc on the causeway walkway. While Auckland Transport has recently approved the proposal to reduce speed on the causeway from 80kph to 60kph, we are also lobbying for additional



The Causeway

COUNCIL MATTERS

"traffic calming" measures to be deployed before there is a major accident on what seems to have become a raceway for all too many drivers. We'll report further on this as we explore some of the options.

You're welcome to send any queries or constructive comments about roading, paths, etc to us@omahabeach.co.nz

Rohan Meuli

UPDATE FROM "HEALTHY WATERS"

"Healthy Waters" is a department within Auckland Council; its role is to lead stormwater management in Auckland. Within its mandate is "to protect people and property from the dangers of flooding while preserving the health and value of our waterways and harbours for future generations."

We have been provided with the following update in relation to the issues being worked on in Omaha.

BOAT RAMP - BRIEF UPDATE

Healthy Waters' preliminary design, that was developed with marine specialists, required additional investigations and design as the original plan was for a box culvert along the boat ramp. However, this wasn't favoured by the stakeholders and therefore we moved the outfall onto the beach south of the boat ramp. Construction likely to start October 2020.

DARROCH SLOPE

A feasibility design of the upper Darroch Slope problem area has been developed and has progressed to the preliminary design stage. We are now in the process of developing resource consent supporting documents and informing the community at Darroch Slope and The Southern Isle of the upcoming works through letters. The solution in this upstream area will include swales, channels, soakholes and manholes along the footpath. The purpose of these interventions will be to capture and redirect waterflows into the existing stormwater pipe downstream. Construction likely to start mid-2020.

A feasibility design for the downstream catchment has also been developed - a much more complex site that features large flat geography and high groundwater level. This solution is technically challenging and will require extensive studies of the site, hydrology and groundwater behaviours. The proposal will include large pipes and pumps that will take time to design, assess and deliver. The feasibility design is currently being reviewed and assessed internally

and we will progress it to the next stage of design shortly. This is a very complex multi-million-dollar project which requires extensive investigations and assessments. Construction likely to start in 2022.

DAY DAWN CRESCENT/EDITH PLACE

The feasibility design solutions for the flooding issues along Edith Place and Day Dawn Crescent have been developed. As with Darroch Slope, we will provide additional swales/channels, a new stormwater pipe and an upgrade of the existing stormwater pipe. The feasibility design has been accepted by Healthy Waters as a draft, assuming downstream options are applied. This is to ensure downstream will not be affected as a result of this implementation.

Construction will start once the design for the downstream site - Darroch Slope - is finalised - likely to start in 2021.

THISTLE TERRACE/ESME GROVE

We have conducted an assessment of the flooding issues and will progress it to feasibility design in the coming months.

INANGA LANE POND

Pond and sand dune vegetation maintenance work and re-planting was planned for October/November 2019. Healthy Waters are now investigating the feasibility of implementing a proper engineered pond. The proposal will include modifying the pond and converting it into a wetland which will provide multiple ecological, technical and societal benefits.

POU IN OMAHA

You will have seen the Pou in Omaha, standing proud, surveying the bay. We also mention them in the lead article of this Newsletter. You may have noticed that they've recently received a makeover and we thought you'd like to know a little more about them.

Kim Martinengo, Public Art Project Manager at Auckland Council, explains more about these impressive pieces of art we can all enjoy while out and about around Omaha Beach.

The Omaha Pou were carved between 2004 and 2008, using logs recovered from the Omaha Beach development site. The lead carver (toi whakairo) was Wyvern Rosieur (Ngai Manuhiri, Ngati Wai) with support from senior carvers Harry Waikare and Hone Heke. Materials used for the Pou include Totara, Kauri and Hinuera stone.

The Pou range between 4 and 6 metres in height and represent key tupuna (ancestors) of Ngai Manuhiri / Ngati Wai and Te o Māori (the Māori world). These are as listed:

- Omaha - kaitiaki (guardian) of Omaha region
- Tangaroa - kaitiaki of the sea
- Matariki - celestial stars known as the Seven Sisters
- Kewai - freshwater crayfish kaitiaki of the rivers and streams
- Kaitiaki Tapu - kaitiaki of tapu (sacred) sites

Since 2017 Auckland Council has stepped up the care and maintenance of the Pou to ensure they have a life beyond the general 15-year cycle of large-scale carvings in the marine environment. This has included the yearly application of oils, paints and stains as well as removing rot in Omaha and Kaitiaki Tapu.

One of the key issues identified with the Pou has been rot undermining timber near the concrete footings which support them. To resolve this, Council have worked with engineers and the carvers to develop a steel bracket system which separates the Pou from the footings, preventing water from being drawn into the timbers. All five Pou have received new foundations and brackets and were re-oiled (end September 2019).

Residents may remember that, when the Pou were first installed, plaques were attached to the footings which named each kaitiaki and gave a description of who/what they represented. Council are presently finalising new texts for plaque replacements with the carvers, which will be cast in bronze and installed by early December.

If you'd like to find out more, email Kim. Martinengo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Photo: Marina Zubielevitch

ENVIRONMENT

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

The bar tailed godwits are our most common Arctic migrant shorebirds. Each September/October they return to New Zealand after breeding in the the Alaskan tundra. They fly directly from their breeding grounds back to New Zealand in the longest non-stop flight of any non-seabird species. The godwits arrive back in New Zealand looking thin and with their feathers worn. They spend the summer feeding voraciously in preparation for their next breeding season when they fly North once again, in March.

We have about 450 godwits that roost at Omaha spit when the tide is high and they can no longer feed on the Whangateau harbour sandflats. The birds use this time to rest, many of them tucking their long beaks over their shoulders with their eyes closed, or sitting on the shell banks. It is particularly important that we allow them peace and quiet while they are roosting for an hour or so either side of the high tide. Recently we have had some people visiting the Sanctuary at the northern end of Omaha spit that have been seen to deliberately disturb the roosting birds by jogging through their midst. One group of paddle boarders were even seen running deliberately through the godwits flapping their arms at them. The godwits that roost at Omaha are our taonga and we should respect and look after them. If you wish to visit the spit then please keep below the high water mark, and walk slowly past the roosting birds.



Roosting godwits at Omaha spit in October 2019. They have recently returned from breeding in Alaska and will spend the summer in the Whangateau, fattening up for the next year's breeding. Notice how worn their feathers are after their long flight back to NZ. (Photo Marie Ward)

Meantime, in the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary, our resident dotterels and oystercatchers are in the middle of their breeding season with birds laying and

incubating eggs. During this time they are extremely vulnerable to predation. While we are confident that there are no rats, stoats or hedgehogs within the pest-proof fence, cats have been detected entering the Sanctuary along the estuary shore line. Residents and holiday makers are requested to please keep cats indoors at night and make sure they carry identification collars.

Once the chicks are hatched they will need to go down to the beach, to the water's edge, to find their own food. At this time they are vulnerable to disturbance and visitors are advised to keep well clear, particularly if the birds are exhibiting defensive behaviour. The chicks are small and hard to see if they are not moving on the beach. Sadly, each year we find some that have been trodden on by beachgoers not looking out for them.

Finally we would like to remind residents that dogs are totally banned from the Shorebird Sanctuary and also north of Walkway 2 on the ocean beach and north of the steps from the car park at the northern end of Omaha Drive.

Enjoy the summer and help look after the birds.

Marie Ward & Denis O'Callahan

If you would like to help look after this special place at Omaha contact the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust at info@omahashorebirds.co.nz and for further information see <http://www.omahashorebirds.co.nz/>

PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA

We now have nearly 100 traps positioned in Omaha mainly around reserve and bush settings in the Southern end of Omaha. The Omaha Shorebirds Protection Society also has a substantial number of traps set around the Sanctuary at the northern end of the spit. The traps are a combination of DOC 200s which are designed to kill stoats, rats and weasels, and Victor rat traps which are housed in rat motels for protection. We also have several possum traps located in the Taniko Reserve behind the predator fence.

We have recently positioned nine DOC 200 traps in the sand dunes in the southern end to try and protect dotterels which nested there last year and, already, last month. This nest

unfortunately was washed away by a king tide accompanied by a strong easterly wind.

We have now placed signs supplied by Auckland Council showing the areas where trapping is in place and many of the traps now have red warning signs asking people to leave them alone. The traps generally are not in the public view.

We also wish to point out that we do not use poisons of any kind in our traps. The traps are baited with either an egg or peanut butter.

The intention is to place rat traps in private properties in the Northern end for those property owners who are keen to have a trap in their property.

We now have every trap with a GPS coordinate and will start recording all catches on a system called CATCHIT. A network of like-minded trappers has been set up with us and trappers from Takatu, Leigh, Point Wells, Ti Point and others and we meet every month for coffee to discuss results and exchange tips for improvements. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please email if you are interested.

We are also lucky that Council, via Takatu Landcare Group, have funded a Community Pest Management Coordinator to liaise with all the groups and coordinate data, dealing with Council and a host of other issues. Ngaire Wallen from Campbells Beach has that role and it has been fantastic working with her; we have progressed a lot under her guidance.

In the last two years we have caught 18 stoats and a similar number of weasels and, of course, many rats. People tell me all the time that they notice the bird life is flourishing in Omaha and we are starting to see Bellbirds, Kaka, Grey Warbler and other birdlife not apparent two years ago.

I would like to thank the following people for all their support during the year:

- my fellow trappers, Phil Bougen and John Mew;
- Ngaire Wallen from Tatatu Landcare Group;
- Beth Houlbrooke - Rodney Local Board;
- Kat Lane - Senior Ranger, Department of Conservation;
- Paul Duffy, Sinead Brimacombe and Glenn Browne from Auckland Council;
- Denis O'Callahan, Marie Ward and the rest of the Omaha Shorebirds Protection Trust;

ENVIRONMENT

the Omaha Beach Community and Omaha Beach Residents Society for supporting us financially with the essentials such as peanut butter, gloves and other items.

RABBITS

We are all aware that the rabbit problem in Omaha is at a serious level in both the Northern and Southern ends of Omaha. Last July, Auckland Council were considering a push to help the community reduce the rabbit problem. They were going to try a variety of solutions, including four nights of shooting on the



Silvereyes in the garden. Photo: Marina Zubielevitch Pateke (NZ native duck) family in the stormwater pond. Photo: Marina Zubielevitch

golf course, dealing to rabbit population on the dunes, and other measures. There were obviously serious health and safety issues to consider and there was some funding required from the community. Unfortunately, that programme has been postponed until June 2020.

We will keep you informed of developments via our website www.omahabeach.co.nz

Finally if any of you are interested in helping with trapping or just would like to chat

about it please email me robzublelevitch@gmail.com

Rob Zubielevitch

PINE TREE REMOVAL (NORTH END)

The five harbourside pine trees in the North end have finally been removed by council contractors.

It was a long process involving two or more years in the consenting process and we appreciate the work put in by the Council's project manager, Sarah Jones.

The site has had some interim planting and fencing done to keep pedestrians off this fragile dune area.

More planting will be done during next year's winter planting season.

OBC asked Council to make the wood available for locals to use as firewood. This was done and many households will enjoy some excellent burning next winter.



Silvereyes in the garden. Photo: Marina Zubielevitch

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS 2019

OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS SOCIETY (OBRS) (Southern Precinct Property Owners Only)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF Omaha Beach Residents Society will be held at

OMAHA COMMUNITY CENTRE, NORTH WEST ANCHORAGE, OMAHA BEACH

on SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2020, AT 10am

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF Omaha Beach Community will be held at

OMAHA COMMUNITY CENTRE, NORTH WEST ANCHORAGE, OMAHA BEACH

on SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2020, AT 11am followed by drinks and nibbles

OBC AGM AGENDA 2020

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 20th January 2019
4. Receipt of the President's Report for 2019
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2019
6. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2020 Subscription Year and Security Levy
7. Election of the Committee for the 2020 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
8. Receipt of Club Reports
9. General Business

Secretary

Omaha Beach Community Inc.

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. FINANCIALS

Due to space constraints, we are publishing an abbreviated set of financial Accounts. The full set of accounts may be viewed on our website www.omahabeach.co.nz or you may request a copy by emailing us@omahabeach.co.nz

Copies will also be available at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 12th January 2020.

Statement of Financial Performance

Omaha Beach Community Inc For the year ended 31 October 2019


	NOTES	2019	2018
Income			
Advertising Income - Newsletter		4,447.83	2,347.83
Advertising Income - Other		1,200.00	700.00
Donations Received		419.00	1,040.00
Interest Income		1,367.13	1,156.02
Subscription Income		58,861.05	57,809.98
Total Income		66,295.01	63,053.83
Expenses			
Audit Fees		1,015.00	1,217.00
Bank Fees		76.08	91.20
Consultancy		-	369.50
Database Maintenance		85.22	450.00
Depreciation - Fixed Assets		2,941.14	3,202.66
Footpath Investigation Costs		-	4,100.00
Freight, Courier & Postage		201.21	1,105.20
General Expenses		841.55	424.35
Insurance		1,140.00	1,140.00
Members Meetings		446.88	-
Newletters		10,023.77	9,580.00
Office & Administration Expenses		5,400.00	213.89
Pest Eradication		78.15	911.91
Presidents Expenses		203.05	103.48
Printing & Stationery		1,372.67	1,803.42
Rubbish/Recycling		1,000.00	-
Security - Camera Maintenance & Patrol Costs		25,295.22	27,912.72
Website Development & Maintenance		1,033.11	2,507.22
Xero Fees		539.88	495.26
Total Expenses		51,692.93	55,627.81
Operating Income/(Loss) for the Year		14,602.08	7,426.02
Less Non Operating and Non Recurring Items			
Freedom Camping Objection Expenses			
Expenses Incurred		41,429.68	-
Less Omaha Beach Residents Society Inc. Contributions		(19,170.51)	-
Total Freedom Camping Objection Expenses		22,259.17	-
Intangible Assets Written Off		300.00	-
Provision for Legal Fees		10,000.00	-
Total Non Operating & Non Recurring Items		32,559.17	-
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year		(17,957.09)	7,426.02

Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc
As at 31 October 2019

	NOTES	31 OCT 2019	31 OCT 2018
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank		16,817	29,481
Receivables		2,351	192
GST Receivable		-	290
Total Current Assets		19,168	29,964
Non-Current Assets			
Term Deposits - BNZ Bank	7	82,067	76,316
Property, Plant and Equipment		10,583	13,524
Intangibles	6	-	300
Total Non-Current Assets		92,650	90,140
Total Assets		111,818	120,104
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		1,000	1,500
GST Payable		171	-
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees		10,000	-
Total Liabilities		11,171	1,500
Net Assets		100,647	118,604
Equity			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		118,604	111,178
Current year earnings		(17,957)	7,426
Total Equity		100,647	118,604

For and on behalf of the Committee:

 President: Chris Allan

 Treasurer: Rob Zubielevitch

Date: 20.11.2019

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. FINANCIALS

Omaha Beach Community Centre Maintenance Fund

Omaha Beach Community Inc

Statement of Financial Performance For the Year Ended 31 October 2019

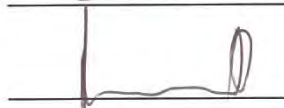
	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income & Expenditure		
Contribution from Omaha Beach Golf Club	8,400	6,750
Interest Received - BNZ	771	791
	<u>9,171</u>	<u>7,541</u>
Less: Community Centre Maintenance	0	5,523
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	<u>9,171</u>	<u>2,018</u>
Accumulated Funds 1 November 2018	36,302	34,284
Accumulated Funds 31 October 2019	<u>45,473</u>	<u>36,302</u>

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 October 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
BNZ Current Account	17,617	8,166
BNZ Term Deposits	26,161	25,471
GST	1,584	2,816
Accrued Interest	111	41
	<u>45,473</u>	<u>36,494</u>
Less Payables Owing	0	192
Accumulated Funds at Year End	<u>45,473</u>	<u>36,302</u>

For and On Behalf of the Committee

 President: Chris Allan

 Treasurer: Rob Zubielevitch

Date: 20.11.2019

OMAHA PARK

The sum of \$30,309 is held in Grove Darlow's trust account. This sum is the payment received from Omaha Park after the costs award made against it and is being retained in OBC's name in Grove Darlow's trust account to defray the cost of engaging any further attempt to carry out a subdivision of the Omaha Park land.

The OBC committee would like to thank Macnicol & Co, Chartered Accountants, for all the assistance they have given us over the last three years. Their advice has been invaluable, and we specifically acknowledge Paul Macnicol, Abby Brown and April Corry for their efforts.

MACNICOL+CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

COMMUNITY MATTERS

AEDS IN OMAHA (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS)



This symbol is the international symbol for an AED defibrillator – available for public use in an emergency when someone is having a heart attack.

You should be aware of where the nearest units to you are located.

Are you aware there are three AEDs in Omaha? There is a unit in the Northern end, one in the Southern end and a centrally-located one.

- Omaha Surf Club, 57 Broadlands Drive
- Omaha Southern Surf Tower – access via Pukemateko Reserve
- Omaha Golf Club, 1 North West Anchorage

To be fully prepared in advance of an unexpected heart event, we recommend you download the AED Locations app onto your phone or computer.

Find out all you need to know here:

<https://aedlocations.co.nz/>

Knowing where to go and what to do ahead of time can save a life.

The units are fully portable, lightweight and easy to carry. You can take the unit to wherever it is required. No prior knowledge of how to operate the AED unit is needed as you will be stepped through the instructions by automatic voice prompt guidance.

The use of an AED in Omaha certainly saved David Willis back in April 2017 – he was going for an early morning run along Omaha Beach when his heart stopped and “everything went black”. Luckily, AJ Hazelhurst and his wife Julie, also out enjoying the beach, were on hand to quickly and ably assist. They did CPR and dialled 111 – Julie also had the AED app and discovered there was an AED nearby at the Surf Club. It was put into action, shocking David, and keeping him alive until the ambulance, and then the Westpac Helicopter, arrived.

Another plus in this scenario was that Mr Hazelhurst had recently done a CPR course, so knew what he was doing in that regard.

The Westpac paramedic said it was the first shock from the AED that started David’s heart again and, in effect, saved his life.

“Every time I look at my kids, I remember that day and everybody who kept me alive,” the father of two said.

Read the Stuff article here:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/rodney-times/97385664/rescuers-help-cardiac-arrest-victim-piece-together-incident>

Do visit the St John’s website for more information, including a video about how to use an AED.

<https://www.stjohn.org.nz/First-Aid/AED/>

It’s definitely worth spending some time fully digesting this information so that you are prepared.

FIBRE BROADBAND UPDATE

Good news! Chorus workers have recently been sighted “on the ground” in Omaha, apparently doing detailed visual surveys.

We understand that work will start on installing fibre next year, with the bulk of the rollout being done in 2021.

The online Broadband Map at <https://broadbandmap.nz/> confirms that the fibre rollout is planned to be completed by May 2022.

TRAFFIC REPORT

SAFER ROADS – SAFER JOURNEYS – SAFER HOLIDAYS

With the onset of the summer holiday season, Omaha experiences a large increase in population.

With this comes an increase in vehicular traffic, cyclists, runners, walkers and children using our roads, footpaths and parks.

To ensure we can all safely enjoy a fun time in and around the Omaha Beach area (including the causeway – Broadlands Drive) it is imperative that vehicle drivers keep within the marked speed limits and drive to the road conditions.

ATV VEHICLES – QUAD BIKES – ELECTRIC CARTS USE

There has been a noted increase in recent



years of ATVs, Quad Bikes and Electric cart type vehicles being driven around Omaha, not only on the roads, but footpaths, berms, parks and reserves. These ATV type vehicles are not permitted to be driven on public roads or spaces unless specifically registered and warranted or used under specific requirements. Please refer to the NZ Transport web site <https://nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/vehicle-types/quad-bikes-and-atvs/> for more detailed information pertaining to types and usage.

There have been observations of these ATVs / Quad Bikes / electric carts being driven poorly, overloaded with people and with no helmets or safety belts being used. In some instances, these vehicles have been on the roads at night, some without any form of lighting. This is a recipe for disaster; think about the consequences, should the inevitable happen!

We remind all owners/drivers with these types of vehicles of their legal responsibilities and ask that you refrain from using them in and around the public roads and spaces in Omaha.

In summary, we again ask that drivers drive responsibly, within the speed limits and road conditions – and please SLOW DOWN so we can all enjoy the holiday season in Omaha.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

BEACH ETIQUETTE

Please respect the beach this summer:

- Respect the dog rules
- Pick up after your dog
- Keep your kids off the dunes
- No fires on the beach
- Stay safe in the water
- Report anything untoward to Insite Security
- No Set Nets on the beach

An Alcohol Ban is in place around Omaha in public places between 7:00pm and 6:00am over the summer holiday period.



BOAT RAMP ETIQUETTE & CARPARKING

Everyone's keen to get out on the water by boat, so please be mindful and respectful when using the boat ramp and carpark area! It's not that hard to launch boats and park cars/trailers well and with respect to others – please exercise patience and caution and observe protocol.

Thank you!

CLUB REPORTS



OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB – SUMMER 2019 REPORT

General Manager:

Sue Jury (Phone 021 248 3886)

Email: gm@omahagolf.co.nz

Website: www.omahagolf.co.nz

Phone: 09 422 7551

As we look forward to the summer season there are many reasons to get involved in your local Golf Club and Community Centre. The golf course and community continue to make positive progress towards meeting the needs of our members and guests – and golf is in good heart. Participation has increased during the year, and new members are always welcome, as are social members from the local community. If you are a member of OBC you are automatically entitled to become social members of the Golf Club.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020

If you're interested in joining as either a golfer or social member, simply email us and we'll send you our membership options and pricing. As for last year, we are offering a "New Residents of Omaha Membership Special Package" – so do get in touch with us for details.

Email – admin@omahagolf.co.nz

COURSE UPDATE

Part of our long-term greens/

environmental strategy is to remove non-native trees, replacing them with native varieties. This enhances both the aesthetic landscape and helps with the ecosystem and birdlife. It becomes a natural extension of the present DOC large Kahikatea forest areas to the west.

In the last five years the Club, assisted by Friends of Omaha, have planted over 700 native trees on the areas which are leased to us. The next stage of planting is the north-east corner where the three exotic Banksias were recently removed. This area is going to be cleared, and progressively planted with Pohutukawa trees and native ground cover. This new 'bush tree area' will sit behind the present native bush that is planted around the existing Puriri tree.

COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CAFÉ

We're delighted that our barista coffee has been so well-received by our local community. We're exploring options with some fantastic coffee suppliers so we can continue to offer even better coffee. Our café and coffee bar are open seven days a week (from 8.30am till late afternoon), and we continue to offer a Friday night Dinner Service. Our weekly Dinner menu includes fresh Leigh fish, which is hugely popular. You're most welcome to book a table for a Friday dinner – simply phone us on 09 422 7551.

Summer is also a great opportunity to relax on the deck, enjoy the sunshine and take advantage of our full bar service and bar food during the weekend. We'd love to see you here!

We've come through a winter that was filled with both challenges and victories – and, as we have come close to the end of the year,



Christmas in the Community Centre

on behalf of everyone here at the Golf Club and Community Centre, we wish all the best to you and yours this Christmas season, and thanks for a wonderful year.

GOLF HQ

Summer has definitely arrived in Omaha with the warmer weather and longer days, meaning more golf being played. The Omaha Beach Golf Club is definitely becoming a busier place, with rounds played up 6% on last year.

Our golf course is open seven days per week and, with our Golf HQ Operations team of Blake, Hamish, Peter, Luke & Emma, Omaha is one of the lucky few golf courses in New Zealand with multiple NZPGA Members on staff every day of the week. All golf-related enquires can be forwarded to the Pro Shop on 09 422 7551 ext 1. The team will be able to help with anything you need:

- Golf Coaching for Beginners with an NZPGA Professional
- Hire Equipment
- Golf Carts
- Trundlers
- Clothing
- New Equipment

CLUB REPORTS



Golf tournament

UPCOMING SUMMER GOLF EVENTS

2019/2020:

- Saturday 14th December - New World Warkworth Ham & Turkey Christmas Tournament
- Thursday 2nd January - Mitre 10 Mixed Open Tournament
- Fri 13th/Sat 14th/Sun 15th March 2020 - Mondiale Omaha Beach Pro-Am
- Bayleys Summer Twilight Series
 - 15th & 22nd November 2019
 - 6th & 13th December 2019
 - 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January 2020
 - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th February 2020
- 7th March 2020 - Bayleys Summer Shootout

JUNIOR GOLF

NZPGA and Scottish PGA Professional Emma Fairnie has taken the reins to grow the Omaha Beach Junior Programme, with a slowly but steadily growing interest in Junior Golf. It's a great game to get your youngster involved, as we look to teach many life skills such as trust, honesty, sportsmanship, integrity and effort to help grow the kids into mature adults (who can also play golf!).

During last summer, we had over 30 young people involved in the Summer Junior Programme, which was absolutely outstanding - a great mix of experienced and brand new golfers were exposed to the game from all ages, ranging from 5 to 16 years old.

To get involved in the Summer Junior Programmes this year here is the key info:

What we cover: Key golf skills for all levels - putting, chipping, full shots and playing on the Course.



Juniors getting autographs

DATES (JUNIORS) 2019:

Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th January
Tuesday 14th Friday - 17th January
Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th January

COST:

\$195 per child, per Weekly Programme

WHO TO CONTACT:

The Golf HQ Team at info@golfhq.co.nz

JUNIOR TWILIGHT SERIES

A new initiative we will be running is the Junior Twilight Series generously supported by Shore Electrical. A great fun series and a wonderful way to expose your child to some relaxed 9-hole golf. Plenty of prizes will be available for everyone and loads of fun is sure to be had!

To get involved, here's the key info:

DATES:

12th & 19th December 2019
9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th January 2020

Cost: \$15 per Junior, per event

WHO TO CONTACT:

Emma or Peter at info@golfhq.co.nz

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

President: Linda Crisford

Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Phone: 09 422 7022

Website: www.omahasurf.co.nz

Last season was again very busy, and we are predicting that this season the numbers on the beach will be even higher. There were

two major rescues, 12 assists, six major first aids and hundreds of preventative actions; overall, 2,889 lifeguard-patrolled hours. This is a credit to the professionalism and dedication of our lifeguards who give willing of their time to serve the community.

Our Club is growing in numbers and we welcome new members of all ages. We are family-oriented and it is wonderful to see parents and children being involved together in training, lifeguarding and competitions.

We will be running our Tryathlon on 5th January 2020, starting at 9am - a fantastic success last year - and our neighbourhood Bucket Shake on New Year's Day.

Omaha Beach SLSC will be hosting two carnivals again this season: the Northern Junior Champs during the weekend of 1st and 2nd February; and the Northern Region Senior and Masters Champs on 22nd and 23rd February.

We appreciate all the support we receive from our local community as funding continues to be an issue - remember, we receive no money from the government. Over the summer period, please remind your family and visitors of the following:

- Swim between the Red and Yellow flags when lifeguards are on duty
- If you are caught in a rip remember the 3 R's - Relax, Raise your hand, Ride the rip until it stops
- If you see someone in trouble dial 111, ask for police, they have a direct line for us.

Also, remember there is an AED located at the Surf Club.

Have a wonderful summer and, once again, our thanks to our local community.

CLUB REPORTS

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

President: Terry Simpson
Phone: 09 483 9474 or 022 629 2595
Email: names@xtra.co.nz

The Omaha Beach Bowling Club continues to grow in strength. Our membership sits at 70 as a result of a consistent increase over the past three years.

Most days you will find activity on our green with Club events, tournaments open to all bowlers including visitors, informal roll-ups and coaching. Social bowls can be arranged for non-bowlers on request and at modest rates. Our sets of loan bowls help encourage learners and allow new bowlers to start playing without a major financial outlay. Coaching is available and well-indicated by the very successful signs at the entrance to Omaha. Most playing days we dress in mufti, but we have an attractive blue Club shirt which identifies us as a Club.

In the last few weeks we have hosted Club visits from Mangawhai, Northcote and Helensville. We are happy to host visiting teams and enjoy the comradeship of bowlers from outside our own area. These clubs are appreciative of the opportunity to travel outside their own patch and many have not been to Omaha before.

One of our challenges is to raise the \$150,000 required to replace our carpet green. At present we are approx. \$40,000 short of our target. Although our 15-year-old green is still in good repair, it is due for replacement. So far, our efforts to get a grant have not been successful and we still need to find the money. Any sponsors who can see some benefit in supporting our Club would be welcomed.

There is definitely a buzz about our green and, whether you want to play socially or competitively, there is a warm welcome awaiting you.



Bowling Club members

OMAHA TENNIS CLUB (INC)

Amanda Brown
Email: seanamanda13@hotmail.com.

Good news. After three years of negotiations with the Auckland City Council, on 5th September we received a new lease agreement for 10 years plus 10.

Our Committee has an obligation to maintain the courts to a high standard and accumulate sufficient savings to replace the turf when it wears out. Our best estimate is that the present surface will need to be replaced in three years at a cost of between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

Our current subscription is \$90 per family per annum. The season runs from 1st December to 30th November. In November all members will be emailed inviting them to renew for another 12 months. Payment may be made by internet banking and a new key will be posted out before the lock is changed at the end of November. Any enquiries about membership please email Amanda Brown seanamanda13@hotmail.com

WAKA AMA

Waka ama is the New Zealand term for the sport of outrigger canoeing. We are currently looking for new members joining the Omaha Club

Waka Ama "Give it a go"

Saturday 10.30am at Omaha Boat Ramp

We have got the gear and invite new paddlers to join us.

Contact us on facebook@
OmahaOutriggerCanoeClub or 021 939 650

Location: Omaha Boat Ramp
When: Saturdays 10.30 - 12.00
(Weather permitting) it is offered throughout the entire year
Cost: Omaha Outrigger Club membership
Single \$75.00, Families \$150 and Juniors \$25.00
President: Gavin Jones

We are looking for kids to join the Mahurangi College team. Sounds like you?

Location: Omaha Boat Ramp
When: Saturdays 9am to 10.30am
(Weather permitting) it is offered throughout the entire year.
Cost: Club membership, Juniors \$25.00
(Additional cost will apply for entering competitions)
Junior Coordinator: Susanne Jones
021 1500 046
Coach: Gavin Jones

Equipment: All supplied. In time students may wish to purchase their own paddle and life vest.

It is compulsory that life vests are worn in Wakas.

FIND OUT MORE

A reminder that you can find out more about the OBC and local activities through our OBC website www.omahabeach.co.nz

Contact us by email us@omahabeach.co.nz with any queries or suggestions.

There is also a Facebook page "Omaha Beach Community Page".



Paihia Waka Ama 2019

CLUB REPORTS

OTHER CLUBS

Here's an overview of, and contacts details for, some other clubs/groups that are in Omaha which you may not be aware of, as well as contact details for the Clubs mentioned above.

CLUB	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
Sea Swimming Club	Stephen Smythe	021 766 915	stephensmythecloud.com
Community Garden Club	Dave	021 373 136	linda.dave@bachcare.nz
Waka Ama Club	Gavin Jones	021 939 650	nivag@slingshot.co.nz
500 Club	Michelle Timmons	021 985 020	timos.tribe@xtra.co.nz
Mahjong	Deborah Finnigan	021 287 2722	poszum68@gmail.com
Omaha Shorebirds	Dennis O'Callahan	021 441 886	info@omahashorebirds.co.nz
Omaha Beach Golf Club	Sue Jury	09 422 7551	admin@omahagolf.co.nz
Omaha Beach Surf Life Saving Club	Linda Crisford	09 422 7022	mail@omahasurf.co.nz
Omaha Bowling Club	Terry Simpson	022 629 595	names@xtra.co.nz
Omaha Tennis Club	Amanda Brown		seanamanda13@hotmail.com

DOGS ON THE BEACH – MAJOR CHANGES

As you may well have heard, Council has changed the hours and dates for dogs to be on the beach. The area covered is southwards from the access track to the beach at the northern end of Rita Way to the southern headland.

Summer dates now run from 1st December to 1st March each year. Dogs are only permitted on the beach between 5:00pm and 10:00am. Dogs are NOT allowed on the beach between 10:00am and 5:00pm.

Overall, this means dogs are able to enjoy the beach for longer hours than has previously been the case, but the summer period has been shortened, which brings Omaha in line with the rest of the Super City. On reserves, dogs should be on leash at all times.

This is all pretty clear, not hard to misinterpret or forget. The rules apply to ALL dog owners – so let's see if we can avoid any issues this summer please. It's a shame when a small minority of people spoil things.

Thanks for observing these Dog Access Rules for Omaha Beach!

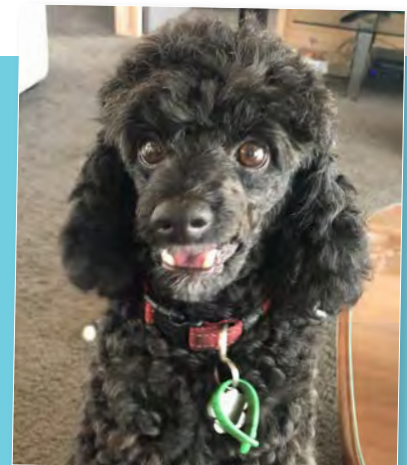
Beach		
	Summer	Winter
	Off-leash 5pm - 10am	Off-leash All times
	Prohibited 10am - 5pm	
Summer rules apply from 1 December to 1 March. Winter rules apply from 2 March to 30 November.		

FROM ZEKE TO MY DOGGIE FRIENDS

Hi there, my doggie friends - my name is Zeke and I'm lucky enough to live at Omaha all year round!

It's great news that we've been given more access to the beach but please remind your owners that they need to obey the permitted hours and they need to always pick up after us. And we dogs should try to be on our best behaviour at all times, especially around children!

I'll look forward to seeing you around the place – and, remember, I'm always keen for a game of chasie!



SAFETY & SECURITY

Here's a report from Chris Martin of Insite Security - keeping our community safe and secure.

Please note that Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 29th November 2019 to 6th February 2020, thanks to Chris and the Insite Team.

If you need assistance in any way, dial 0800 OMAHA HELP (0800 66 24 24) at any time.

INSITE SECURITY - A FAMILY AFFAIR...

We are delighted to advise of some new additions to the Insite Family with daughter Sarah and son-in-law Scott Donaldson joining the Insite business in December of this year.

Many of you will remember Scott from his epic journey last year when he carried out the first successful solo kayak crossing of the Tasman - an incredible feat of mental and physical prowess that saw him at sea for 62 days battling all manner of sea and weather conditions



Scott and Sarah at a Press Conference following his successful arrival in New Zealand



This is the kayak that Scott paddled and lived in for 62 days at sea

This will bring to five the number of family members working in the Insite business. Eldest son Nick now manages our Technical side of things, his particular focus being on the larger, more complex camera and alarm system projects

After having lived for the past five years in Coffs Harbour, Australia and also

spending many enjoyable holidays with us in Omaha, Scott and Sarah, together with 8-year-old son Zac, have decided to make Omaha their new home and are moving here in November. (Please say "hi" if you see them around the beach!)

Scott and Sarah are going to be taking care of business development and managing the daily Patrol and Technical work loads. Anita and I will also remain gainfully employed here doing all the things we have happily done for the past 15 years or so.

OMAHA BURGLARIES

Well, I think the final count for the number of burglaries at Omaha over a two-month period in July/August of this year was 12.

Obviously, these crimes were a serious blow to the safety and sanctity of our Community, particularly so when a number of these burglaries were not discovered for some weeks after they had occurred and were only found when the owners arrived up for the weekend.

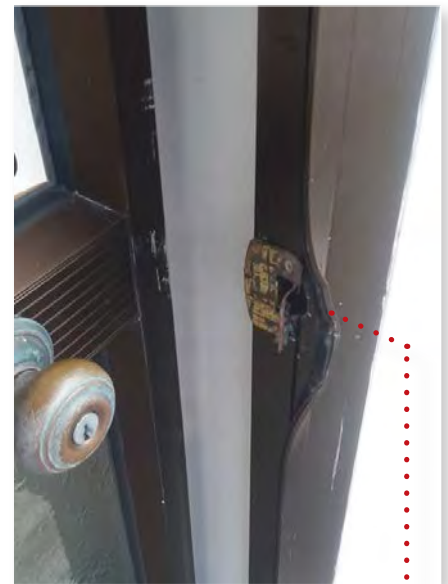
Next time you are out walking around Omaha streets, pretend you are a burglar and take a note of those properties where: all of the curtains are drawn; no visible alarm; the grass needs a mow; and the wheelie rubbish bin is still sitting at the end of the drive from the owners' last visit, possibly weeks or months earlier.

Now you will start to see how easy it is to spot which houses are the safest to hit ... **and this is precisely what these burglars were doing!**

My opinion at the time that these burglaries were occurring was that it would be a combination of Community and Police that would eventually lead to the capture of these bastards (and in a funny sort of way this is exactly what happened).

I was at home one afternoon at around 5:00pm when I received a call from a Resident who was out walking his dog around Omaha North. This observant and very helpful chap had noticed that the front door of a house he knew belonged to people who were not permanent Residents was insecure and, in light of all of the recent break-ins, thought it was worth letting me know about it.

I immediately drove around to the house and, upon arrival, knew instantly that there had been a break-in as this was what I saw...



Front door lock shown jemmied open

I had a quick look inside the house and found the contents of drawers and cupboards tipped out on the floors in just about every room I could see.



The picture above shows where the Plasma TV was once mounted (the subsequent mess left courtesy of the burglars!)

I tracked down the owners of the house and passed on the bad news as to what had happened, and they then drove up from Auckland to survey the damage to their home and work out what had been stolen.

The Police were called and here is where we got our Big Breakthrough on this crimewave!

The SOCO (Police Scene of Crime Officer) who attended the next day - looking for fingerprints, other forensic evidence, etc - located a hand-rolled cigarette lying on

SAFETY & SECURITY

the carpet of the Master Bedroom. It didn't belong to the owners, so it was submitted for DNA testing.

Bingo! A week or so later the tests came back identifying the saliva that had been left on the cigarette as belonging to a very bad burglar from Red Beach!

Police did a Search Warrant on this person's property and, lo and behold, located there was masses of property, all stolen from Omaha homes.

BURGLARY PREVENTION

To help prevent your Omaha hideaway from being defiled, please consider taking these simple steps to help protect your home.

- If you are not a Permanent Resident, get to know people in your street who are. Permanent Residents know the comings and goings around their immediate neighbourhood and, if they are aware that you might not be visiting Omaha for a month or so, they will be alerted if unexpected people or vehicles are seen at your property.
- Ask one of your Permanent Resident neighbours if they could put your wheelie bins away for you and get them out of the drive or roadway. (Could be worth dropping off a bottle of wine every month or so to say thank you!)
- Go to Mitre 10 or similar type hardware store and buy one of those electrical timers that will turn on lights and/or a radio at certain times of the day/night.
- Hang some old towels or clothing out on your clothesline.
- Have a burglar alarm installed. Burglars are inherently lazy people - they don't like alarm systems and will ignore your property in favour of one that doesn't

have an alarm. Alarms can be monitored now via your Broadband service or through a cellular dialler (you no longer need a phone line to your home).

- If you are not going to be up for several weeks or months arrange for one of our local Garden Care people to pop over every month or so and give the lawn and grounds a bit of a tidy-up - generally this is not an expensive exercise.
- If you see suspicious vehicles or persons around the place, please make a note of Rego numbers/descriptions of people. If, however, you feel that a crime is actually in the process of happening then please ring 111 immediately. Fortunate to be a full-time Resident at Omaha, I try to be very active around our streets and on the beach. If you ever need my assistance, please feel free to give me - Chris - a call on 0274 349 303 and I will do my very best to help you.

INSITE SECURITY - SERVICES

While we are very active around the beach and streets with our Patrols around holiday periods and providing 24/7 attendance at alarm activations, we also have a highly qualified Team of Security Technicians who spend their workdays:

- installing new Alarms, Camera systems, access Control systems
- servicing alarms
- setting alarms up for Monitoring; and
- all manner of other Security Tech work.

We also work closely with all of the reputable Builders and Electricians around the Warkworth district.

We are hugely reliant on our local customer base for this work and encourage you to please give us a call if you need any

aspect of a Security System looked at or implemented (new or old). A phone call to 09 425 7113 or email to chris@insitesecurity.co.nz will get you our fast and friendly service.

HOLIDAY TIMES - RESPECT THY NEIGHBOUR AND OBSERVE THE LAWS

This is a time where the Omaha Beach population grows from a reasonably small Community to one where we can have several thousand persons in residence, and others who are day visitors. This works well and people have a great time if they have respect for other people around them and look after our beautiful environment.

Please, if you are having parties or lots of people staying, be aware of your noise levels and how this can affect your neighbours' enjoyment of their time up at Omaha. Our local Police will also be very active around Omaha during this period and will be paying particular attention to speeds, driving and alcohol consumption with respect to vehicle use.

Be aware there is also an Alcohol Ban in place around Omaha in public places between 7:00pm and 6:00am over this period.

We look forward to seeing you around the Beach sometime soon and wish you all Great Times at our wonderful Omaha.

Best Regards,

Chris Martin, Director,
Insite Security

Office: 09 425 7113
www.insitesecurity.co.nz
Mob: 027 434 9303 or
chris@insitesecurity.co.nz



Bruce Johnston
027 280 2798
bkcj64@gmail.com



OMAHA RUBBISH COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND WASTEBUSTING

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MAKE SURE ANY TENANTS ARE AWARE OF THE PROCESS AND DATES FOR RECYCLING AND RUBBISH COLLECTIONS. RECYCLING AND RUBBISH ARE COLLECTED SEPARATELY.

OMAHA RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

By way of a reminder ... Omaha property owners are provided with the following services throughout the year:

- Northland Waste provides a weekly kerbside Rubbish collection service using their wheelie bins and/or orange plastic rubbish bags.
- Auckland Council contracts with Smart Environmental to undertake fortnightly kerbside Recycling collections using their wheelie bins.

However, weekly Rubbish and fortnightly Recycling collections are insufficient to cope with the needs of Omaha over the peak summer and holiday period.

We have again worked with Northland Waste in relation to the Rubbish collections, and Auckland Council in relation to the Recycling collections, and have been able to conclude the following arrangements.

RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

From the week of Christmas, through to the week of Waitangi Day 2020, we will have the benefit of twice-weekly Rubbish collections, using the Northland Waste wheelie bins and/or orange plastic bags. Northland Waste provides these additional Rubbish collections as a service to the OBC, and the Omaha community - which is greatly appreciated.

See Calendar below for collection dates.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

From the week of Christmas, through to the week of Waitangi Day 2020, we will have the benefit of weekly Recycling collections, using the Recycling wheelie bins. The OBC, through the membership subscriptions, meets the cost of the additional weekly collections charged by Auckland Council.

See Calendar below for collection dates.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE:

Recyclables will ONLY be collected from your official green/yellow Auckland Council wheelie bins.

Recycling will NOT be collected from other bins or containers or if left loose next to the recycling bin.

To help manage volumes of recycling, **please put your Recycling wheelie bins out on each collection day – regardless of how much is in the bin.** If the contractor cannot collect all the recycling on your street on the collection day, please leave your bin out and they will return the next working day to empty your bin.

Please have bins out by **7am on collection day.**

You **must be able to close your Recycling bin lid** (to enable the truck to lift and empty it, without spillage).

If your bin is not large enough, it can be swapped for a larger 360L bin at no cost. Please contact Auckland Council to arrange this.

See below for further guidelines and detail of what can, and what cannot, be recycled:



SUMMARISED CALENDAR OF OMAHA RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS OVER SUMMER 2019/20

DECEMBER 2019						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23 rd RUBBISH & RECYCLING	24 th	25 th Christmas Day	26 th Boxing Day	27 th	28 th	29 th
JANUARY 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 th Dec RUBBISH & RECYCLING	31 st Dec New Year's Eve	1 st New Year's Day	2 nd	3 rd RUBBISH	4 th	5 th
6 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th RUBBISH	11 th	12 th
13 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th RUBBISH	18 th	19 th
20 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th RUBBISH	25 th	26 th
27 th Auckland Anniversary	28 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	29 th	30 th	31 st RUBBISH	1 st FEB	2 nd FEB
3 rd FEB RUBBISH & RECYCLING	4 th FEB	5 th FEB	6 th FEB Waitangi Day	7 th FEB RUBBISH	8 th FEB	9 th FEB

From this point on, both Rubbish & Recycling collections then revert to the normal schedule (with the next fortnightly Recycling collection on 17th February 2020).

MAHURANGI WASTEBUSTERS



Mahurangi Wastebusters is a community-led business focused on reducing, repairing, reusing and recycling as much rubbish as possible for the benefit of our people and our environment. As a charitable trust led by volunteers, they started out small, offering waste minimisation activities, events and workshops, which received huge community support.

They provide rubbish and green waste disposal as well as scrap metal, recycling, re-use and re-sale services for residential and small

business customers at 55 Lawrie Road, Snells Beach and 141 Rustybrook Road, Wellsford (the two former waste transfer stations).

Their plan is to help the community achieve the following landfill diversion targets:

- 50% in 2020
- 65% in 2021
- rising to 70% by 2022

They will be tracking and reporting progress using a proven product tracker tool that will measure the flow of waste material through their sites.

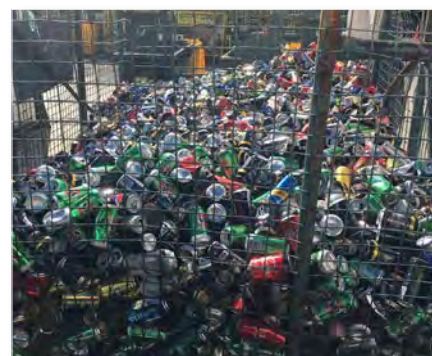
Both the former waste transfer stations are on top of closed landfills. To reduce environmental harm, only waste from residential and small business customers can be accepted. No hazardous waste, clean or hard fill, and vehicles over four tonnes are not permitted.

HOURS:

- Lawrie Road: 8:30am to 4:00pm (Thurs, Fri, Sat), and 9:30am to 4:00pm (Sun)
- Rustybrook Road: 10:00am to 2:00pm (Wed and Sat)

Read more here:

<https://www.mahurangiwastebusters.nz/>



SUMMER EVENTS – WHAT’S ON?

As usual, there are loads of events happening in and around the area over the summer season.

Here’s a summary of what’s on (at least what we’re aware of!) over the next couple of months. Also keep an eye out for posts on our website (<https://omahabeach.co.nz/>)

The Matakana Village Farmer’s Market happens every Saturday from 8am to 1pm, throughout the year.

DECEMBER 2019

- Sunday 1st December 2019: **The Omaha Half Marathon**

For information about the event, winners etc check the website www.omahahalfmarathon.co.nz You may wish to enter next year!

- Friday 20th December 2019: **Christmas Comedy – A Night of Good Food and Laughs!** The Stables, Matakana Country Park, doors open 6:00pm. Join 7Days regular and star of What We Do In The Shadows, Cori Gonzalez-Macuer and support act Will Wood for a night of award-winning comedy. One night only. Tickets include a glass of bubbles, 2-course set menu plus 2-hour comedy show. www.stablesmatakana.co.nz Tickets from www.eventfinda.co.nz (\$5 goes to the Starship Foundation).

- 27th Dec 2019: **Hidden Valley Festival**; Matakana Country Park, 4:00pm to 11:00pm – after three sold-out years, Hidden Valley returns for its fourth year. Bigger and better than ever, it will feature an insane line up for the young set, including Wilkinson.

- Tuesday 31st December 2019: **Highlife NYE Festival**, Ascension Wine Estate, 480 Matakana Road, Matakana, from 3:00pm to 1:00am – revel in the occasion with international and local live acts, DJ’s, dancers, performers, gourmet food, craft beverages, multiple areas to explore, lots of good people and a heart-stopping fireworks display to welcome in the next decade! Features The Black Seeds.

JANUARY 2020

- Sunday 26th Jan 2019: **Sonorous Festival 2019**; Matakana Country Park.

12 noon – 11:00pm. Returning for a third year of interstellar sonic grooves of what has become a bit of a fixture in house and techno purists’ calendars over the past few years, adding another chapter to this splendid journey of what’s known as Sonorous (Festival); a deep, resonant sound. Indoor and outdoor stages.

FEBRUARY 2020

- Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th February 2020: **The Extravaganza Fair**, Matakana Country Park. From 9:00am both days.

This is a unique market/festival, which is completely FREE. You will find market stalls, arts and craft, food, musical entertainment and kids shows. www.extravaganza.co.nz

Featuring:

- The Ashton Family Circus – bringing grassroots entertainment for everyone to enjoy;
- Miss Dylan Daisy’s Magic Show – sure to delight!
- The Karl Austin Experience – a comedic musician with a passionate talent.

- Saturday 29th February 2020: **Matakana X Run**; 8am registration, Matakana Country Park (limited places, enter early). Contact 09 422 9944 or max@actionmatakana.co.nz

MARCH 2020

- 15th March: **Warkworth A&P Show**.

OTHER EVENTS AND PLACES YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

- **Omaha Beach Golf Club**, at the Community Centre, Omaha Drive. See report on Page 17. OBC members are welcome to use the CLUB Café and Bar facilities.
- Check out the **“Weekly Rituals”** at Smiths Bar & Restaurant, a combination of an old blacksmiths and a 60s bach at the Matakana Country Park – including DJs playing funk, soul and groove on the deck from 2pm on Sundays.
- **Sawmill Brewery**, on Leigh Rd, has occasional special events.
- **The Matakana** also has occasional special events.
- **Sculptureum** – A world of art, food and wine. Three sculpture-filled gardens, six art galleries, a vineyard, an events space and Rothko restaurant and bar. www.sculptureum.nz

Check www.matakanacoast.co.nz for listings

HELP US TO HELP YOU!



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

It is important that we keep our property owner database up to date.

Throughout the year, the OBC receives requests for owners' contact details. This can be for a number of reasons, but most often if a neighbour has reported something suspicious to do with your property and we need to follow up.

It might be a burglary, a burst water pipe, an unmonitored burglar alarm that keeps going off, flooding, fire, windows/doors left open, lights left on, unsupervised out-of-control parties etc.

It is very frustrating when we find the information that we have on our database is out of date. This happens when an owner has moved addresses and not updated their details with the OBC.

If you have moved from your permanent home in Auckland or elsewhere over the last five years or so, or you have changed your email address or phone number, or added a new one, please drop the OBC an email at us@omahabeach.co.nz – otherwise you could be missing out on important information about issues regarding Omaha and our community.



We love keeping you informed – please keep us informed!

EDITOR'S NOTE



Photo: Tom Zhang

I've been editing this Newsletter since 2013. It's always a pleasure to bring the issues together and this one has been particularly enjoyable; so many informative reports from Committee members and locals – and David Grant's gem of a book. Pour a wine, sit back, and enjoy getting updated on local happenings, past and present!

It's been an interesting year for me. In last year's Newsletter I mentioned renovations were afoot ... well, it's probably no surprise that "a bit of renovation" turned into "a major re-build" – and took much longer than anticipated. We won't mention budget blowout!

In hindsight, we probably should have bowled the place and started from scratch, but that would have been an entirely different project to what we initially set out to do – inject new life into a 45-year-old property in a short timeframe for minimal cost. Reality – such a plan is an impossibility if a quality result and an enduring new era is what you're after!

We'll be in by Christmas – just – and I'm looking forward to settling in and reconnecting with the area after a year of day trips to check progress, make decisions etc. I'm sure my parents, Helen & Graeme

Blyth, would be duly proud of what Brett and I have achieved – a new lease of life for the old family beach house, and many happy times to come shared with good friends and family. It's been harrowing at times, but it's been worth it. (Probably what my parents said when they initially built the place back in 1974!)

Thanks to Kelly Sharp, our builder, and all the teams that worked on the project. Thanks also to our neighbours for invaluable assistance in numerous ways. Peter, the lawn would have remained a desert without you!

The first drinks on the new decks are going to slip down very easily!

It's great to read in the Golf Club Report of a focus on growing Junior golf. I learnt to play at Omaha when I was 12 and the skills, etiquette and discipline you learn through taking up golf as a child are hugely valuable. Our two sons are keen golfers (they had clubs in their hands virtually as soon as they could stand!) and it's a great family activity, involving exercise, easy socialising and a measure of friendly rivalry. We've had years of enjoyment playing at golf courses near and far and, although I don't play much myself these days, I still appreciate all that the game offers – and understand both the obsession and frustrations!

As a horseracing enthusiast, I was intrigued to learn, from ***We Gathered Here***, that Matakana once had a racecourse. Who knew!? The Post Office chapter brought back memories of trekking into Matakana to pick up mail that had been forwarded post restante style for us during holiday periods. These days, emails alert us to just about everything we need to know, wherever we are in the world but, back in the day, the Post Office was the true hub of communication. Mention of the telephone exchange reminded me of the party line we used to have; three long rings and that meant the call was for us. Nowadays, a landline is almost a relic of the past. And soon we'll have fibre which is great news. The present becomes history with startling rapidity!

Special thanks to local photographer Tom Zhang who has shared some of his stunning images with us – both blue skies and moody ones. Let's hope this summer is full of the blue and sunny variety! Check Tom Zhang out on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/TomZhang1970>

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Photo: Tom Zhang

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2019/2020 edition;
- Debbie Lee for easy collaboration to bring all the reports and information together;
- all contributing photographers;
- our 'family' of regular advertisers whose support pays for the Omaha Newsletter – and a big welcome to new advertisers.

SECURITY: For local assistance at any time, dial 0800 OMAHA HELP (0800 66 24 24)

Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 29th November 2019 to 6th February 2020

Thanks to Chris and the Insite Team for working to keep us safe!

**SO THAT WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
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