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Founding Families enjoy a Face/Body Painting Party, 1980s

THE PEOPLE OF OMAHA: NEARLY 50 YEARS IN PARADISE

Words by Sally Blyth

Past Newsletters have reflected on the history of this special area, the evolution and development of the land and the changing environment. In this issue, we take a look at the people who have long and strong Omaha connections.

Developed by Broadlands and marketed as Omaha Ocean Beach Resort, the subdivision opened for inspection during Easter 1972. The original brochure talks about careful planning and fabulous design, scenic pleasures and a wealth of natural assets, along with enticing promo photos. It had pulling power but, flicking through it today, it is evident that most of the photos, apart from the front and back covers (aerial photos of the spit), were not taken anywhere near Omaha - bikini-clad beauties sauntering along a shopping strip and lounging on a tropical island, a marina with wall-to-wall yachts, Pohutukawa trees on the water's edge, a well-established suburban home and a golf course with



hills along the boundary! The development plan shows spaces marked for tourist and marina development, motels, a shopping mall and a tavern. This may have been the early vision but it never became reality.

Buy and Build

Bill and Joan Freeth were among the first to purchase a section - Lot 59 in Meiklejohn Way - in April 1972. The price was \$5,900 with a 5% discount for prompt





This is not our Omaha!

payment. They spent the summer holidays in a caravan on their section, acquainting themselves with the area. The only building at that time was a small Site Office for Broadlands salespeople, on the eastern corner of Meiklejohn Way and Argo Rise. Whilst other families purchased sections during 1972, no one had built or set up a campsite yet and Bill says their first New Year's Eve, 31st December 1972 (his birthday) was "very quiet". Little did he know that would be their last quiet New Year's Eve for some time!



Joan Freeth on their section in Meiklejohn Way, 1971 (with one of several Site Office caravans in the distance).

New Lots in Stage 2 went on sale in January 1973 and sold quickly. People were attracted to the area – so close to Auckland yet so far from the city, so unspoiled yet with so much on offer. Extensive planting was put in along the walkways – small pine trees, toetoe/pampas and a mix of Banksia and Pohutukawa on roadside berms. The golf course was taking shape.

The Freeths started their build in June 1973 and several other families in Meiklejohn Way also got under way that year including Lorna and Geoff Kjestrup, John and Yvonne Foster, Fran Alexander. Also Tony and Beryl Teare in Kitty Fraser Lane; the Smyths and Blyths in Darroch Slope; and Vic and Mary Glucina on a Southern Isle beachfront section. Houses of all styles and sizes were constructed; some baches and others more substantial; some group homes and others



An old brochure, undated, but accurate with its tag line about "a whole new way of life" although I don't recall too many young ladies surfing in bikinis! Note the hand-drawn map top left. The brochure included this blurb to the right.

architecturally designed. Virtually all had uninterrupted sea views at that point, and a near neighbour was a rare thing.

Our house in Darroch Slope (the late Graeme and Helen Blyth) was completed in August 1974 at a cost of \$20,000. It was about the eighth to be built, was two storeys and slept 16 in beds/bunks. The section (Lot 200) had been bought on a whim – Dad was an avid boatie and, after a Sunday drive north to take a look, he thought a place here would be just the thing. We ended up returning to Auckland as the proud owners of a piece of land (well, sand!) We'd whittled it down to two potential sections and dithered for a while. There were various covenants to be aware of (indeed, these still apply today) and one section was \$1,000 more than the other, a fortune in those days! We opted for the cheaper one at \$5,000 and, as was the purchase process, pulled the "For Sale" peg out of the ground and took it to the Site Office where the deal was done. A SOLD sticker was put across the sign and we proudly stuck it back in the ground. Our first holiday in Omaha was the summer of 1974/75 and we had no inkling of what an intrinsic part of our lives Omaha was to become.

Much of the decorating and landscaping work was DIY, with my parents' friends coming to stay for the weekend to help with erecting this and painting that. We kids were roped in, paintbrush in hand, to help waterproof the basement blocks and stain the fence. It was all a learning curve and the wallpaper in the bathroom was put on upside down; it was such a busy retro pattern no one noticed at the time!

It wasn't all work of course – a few bottles of Lion Red got downed when the day's toil was done and many barbeques enjoyed.

IF YOU CAN AFFORD A SECTION AT OMAHA THEN YOU'LL KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE THERE

Because Omaha is an exclusive holiday resort developed for people who want more than a holiday investment. After years of careful development the real potential is only just beginning to show. It's been said that, in 20 years, money won't buy a section at Omaha. This could well prove to be true. It's certainly the last major seaside development ever to be developed within 100 miles of the city. And where can you buy a section within easy walking distance of a safe boating and fishing harbour as well as a fabulous ocean beach... three miles of it looking out over the sparkling waters of the East Coast to the Islands of the Gulf.

...offers you a whole new way of life

There were 249 Lots for sale in the initial release; the cheapest was \$3,000 and the most expensive \$12,750. Only 15 Lots were priced at five figures, no doubt the beach front ones which no longer exist. As a comparison, in 2013 the sections (land only) for sale in the real estate windows ranged from \$300k to \$1.2m. Interesting that after 40 years (1973–2013) the numbers were the same, it's just that they had two more zeros added! These days, you'd be hard pushed to find a vacant section under \$1.2m, much less one with a house on it!



Omaha Beach, 2 April 1976 – Whites Aviation Photograph.

The Establishment of the Ratepayers Association

Because there were a few areas of general concern amongst the early section owners, a casual meeting was organised by Bill Freeth and neighbour John Foster, held in January 1974 at the Meiklejohn Reserve, to talk through the issues. A further meeting was held in January 1975, also on the Reserve, with attendees sitting on rugs and beach chairs, and a makeshift sound system set up. A set of rules for an association – to be known as Omaha Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association (OBRRA) – was presented and agreed to. The annual subscription was \$1 per annum and the first Committee meeting was held at an office in Newmarket. OBRRA was officially

incorporated in February 1975 and became a legal entity. This was the beginning of a heck of a ride for those early Committee members who tackled things head on!

The Committee members had many strengths amongst them, as well as a good dose of resilience to get results. They attended meetings on many issues including stopping the development of sections along the Golf Course boundary on the western side of Omaha Drive, sorting sewage and water issues, and they also worked to retrieve a big "pot" of money that had been built up by Omaha ratepayers over the years. Under Bill's presidency, these funds were found and fought for, with the request that the money be used for Omaha facilities. And it was – including the Community Centre, boat ramp and more. The Golf Club and Course were leased from the Council, thanks to the efforts of President Peter Turner, Vice-President Lew Purdie and others. Various organisations and individuals had their eyes on it, so the outcome could have been quite different without the input of these passionate locals.

There were many trials and tribulations through those early years in working towards the betterment of Omaha Beach but it is the camaraderie that is remembered most by the movers and shakers of the time. Committee members through the years have taken the reins from those early folk, with battles continuing to be fought and victories celebrated. Everlasting thanks is due to all the prudent and passionate people who made sure ownership stayed local and future plans remained sensible and realistic – they have played a huge part in creating the Omaha of today and their efforts should not be underestimated.

Gravel Roads and Stormy Seas

With Stages 1 and 2 sold out, sections in Stage 3 of the Northern end went on sale in 1975. The brochure states: "The existing 1.9 miles of country road approach to the causeway ... planned to be upgraded giving an all-sealed road access ...". In reality, it was nearly 20 years before it was actually sealed (early 1990s) – and the existing Omaha ratepayers paid for it. Until that time, our cars would arrive in Omaha covered in dust, having negotiated the 90-degree bend on Omaha Flats Road approaching the causeway. That corner, where the strawberry stall now sits, was later reworked to become the gentler curve it is today, a huge improvement.

When the storms of 1975 and 1976 hit Omaha, the timber wall that had been

built along a length of the beachfront was undermined and the beachfront sections behind it were gouged away. More big storms hit in 1978 and the remainder of the wall was destroyed. Some of the beach front sections were virtually worthless, although subsequent negotiations resulted in some compensation. Engineers were engaged to try to solve the problems of erosion and foreshore instability. It was a complex project that took years, at huge cost, but suffice to say the groynes have done the trick as well as the wave run-up installed beneath the sands.



The Freeth children behind the original sea wall after the storms.

The sole beach front house at the time of the storms – built by the Glucina family – ended up marooned on its own little island; it's a scene that will never be forgotten by those of us who were there at the time. The house was later relocated to the corner of Darroch Slope and Kitty Fraser Lane. Vic and Mary Glucina lived there in their retirement; always keen for a friendly chat, they were well known "Dallies" in the area. They passed away in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Sadly, their son Greg, one of the early "kids", died shortly beforehand.



The Glucina's house (protected by large quarry stones) and what is left of the wall.

Early Golfing Days

Despite the devastation caused by those storms, the rest of the subdivision surged ahead. The Golf Course was a busy hub, with a range of trophies being hotly contested.

The Club began operation in 1975 with a shed and an honesty system. A payment of \$50pa to Broadlands, the developers, covered green fees for the year; rock up with your clubs (often carried on a nifty

"spike"), grab a golf card and set forth to conquer the course. This made it easy to give golf a go, and most people did. The social club started in 1976 and became "official" in 1980. The Club's first President was Michael Dowd (1980/81). A Men's Club Captain was appointed in 1985 (Gus O'Hanlon) but, perplexingly, the Ladies didn't get their Club Captain until 1997. The main board in the clubrooms was donated by the Turners and installed when the building was completed.

The iconic trophy that everyone aspired to win was the Bissett Rosebowl (for pairs), donated by local identity Jim Bissett. The inaugural winners were Lorna and the late Dr Geoff Kjestrup in 1976 and again in 1977. Bill and Joan Freeth won it in 1978. There were plenty of tournaments in those early club days, including the popular "Meat Packers" day when Bill would invite his Auckland business mates in the meat industry to visit. The golf was followed by a barbeque with top-notch export-quality meat (aka cube rolls) which the guys brought up with them.

The kids were encouraged to give golf a go as well and Omaha resident Michael Dowd spent many hours patiently teaching us the basics and nuances of the game. We'd get out and practise as much as we could, learning good golf etiquette and habits from an early age; some of us went on to become quite obsessed with the game. We had many fun moments devising golf-appropriate pseudonyms for each other, doing make-believe movies and mock commentaries which generally served to put us off our swing or all-important putt, but always had us in hysterics. A Junior Cup was introduced in 1979, won by Michael Teare. I won it in 1980, Glen Watt 1981, Michelle Dowd in 1982 and 1983, and Kevin Turner in 1984 and 1986. Mary Sorenson was a driving force behind various golf tournaments and many of the cups in the trophy cabinet are named after founding families: Kjestrup, Blyth, Dowd, Turner, Hyland, Bissett ... and more.



Me putting Mike Dowd's tips into practise



Graeme Blyth, Bill Freeth and Mike Dowd watch Rutherford Blyth (my grandfather, up from Dunedin, who continued playing golf well into his 90s!) tee off on the first. Note the long drop in the background, the old tennis courts and green two-tone station wagon!

The Course was saved from going under at one point and, happily, the 9-holes increased to 18-holes with the development of the Southern end and thus became a "proper" golf course. There have been many holes-in-one through the years, and the Club has continued to flourish and thrive. It is now one of the most highly-regarded courses in the country. (See page ?? – Golf Club report)



Golf Club AGM and BBQ on the reserve, 1978.

Friendships and Party Time

Enduring family friendships and connections, that are still going strong today, were made during Christmas/New Year 1974/1975. Several families have travelled overseas together, gone on sailing trips in the Pacific, taken the essence of Omaha fun further afield. Sadly, some of the personalities from those early days are no longer with us but they are always remembered.

Christmas Days were spent on the beach; New Year's Eve parties became legendary. Flagons of beer and sherry, bottles of Asti Spumante and casks of Chasseur and Muller Thurgau were enjoyed at each other's houses at all times of day and night. It was a case of "start a party or find one" – music blared, spirits were merry and the parties

were full-on. On a quiet night, after dark, Gus O'Hanlon would gravitate to wherever a light was on, beer in hand – he became known as "The Omaha Moth".



The late Gus O'Hanlon, aka the "Omaha Moth".

The early founding families would drive to Omaha most weekends on a Friday evening, summer and winter, whatever the weather. We'd trundle along SH1 via Albany, stop in Warkworth for a feed of fish & chips at Tony's. School holidays were also spent at "the beach". The roads may be better now, but the traffic is so much worse, so the drive time these days is maddeningly longer. Checking Google Maps for traffic flow has become a vital information tool when coming and going.

Even though plenty of hours were spent doing DIY and putting finishing touches to the new builds, just as many hours were spent beaching, boating and socialising. We all reluctantly returned to the city on Sunday afternoon, relaxed and energised for the week ahead. Or exhausted!

We children were made up of about 50/50 girls/boys, aged between 7 and 15, plus a toddler. Once we linked up, we were virtually inseparable, drifting to and from each other's houses, hanging out together,

riding bikes in clusters, listening to LPs, shrieking with laughter. For several years we zoomed around on 50cc mini-bikes – apologies to those we annoyed with the noises of youthful glee!

All through the 1970s and 1980s there were endless parties, all-day lunches and veritable feasts, some planned and others impromptu, many with a theme: an offal night, a pie night, a wild kill night, a Scottish night (with Omaha-made haggis!), fondue nights, seafood nights, Abba nights, a Hawaiian Luau and much more. There was an all-day face/body painting party, mid-winter Christmas bashes, a hat party, a Wild West party, and a barn dance with formal square dancing, hay bales and a bona fide caller.

A particularly vivid party memory is the Casino Night held at the Teare's – brilliantly run and the best of fun, for adults and kids alike.

Lauris and the late Reg Gould were one of the early families. Reg, a talented musician and an amputee, was a familiar figure riding around Omaha on his quad bike, quite a novelty in the '70s. Reg taught me guitar on a Saturday afternoon – I'd always wanted to learn piano but a guitar was much more portable! He played in the Hofbräuhaus band and had the crew come up to Omaha once for a memorable knees-up. Lauris married Fred Mortensen after Reg's passing and they are longtime well-known locals.



Reg on his quad bike after the storms – NZ Herald, 24th October 1978.

Birthday parties, beach parties, pool parties, dress-up parties, big "zero" parties and, as we grew up and left home, or the country, there were farewell parties, going-flatting parties, 21st bashes and welcome home gatherings. There was certainly no shortage of social occasions and pretty much everyone was at every one of these events. Much later, after the Community Centre was built, my sister's 1995 wedding was the first private function in that venue.

Naturally, there were plenty of barbeques and on Mothers' Day we'd always have a big breakfast fry-up on the beach when the mums would relax whilst dads and kids were on duty. We had group picnics by the estuary and rounders games on the beach.



An all-day deck-do at the Blyth's



*Fran Alexander arrives in the Wild West
(aka the Marshalls)*



Barbara and Michael Dowd try to tame the Wild West!



Mid-Winter Xmas in Omaha is all too much for Santa, aka Mike Dowd! L to R: the late Yvonne Foster, Pat Marshall, Joan Freeth (front) and the late Helen Blyth



Mothers' Day beach bbq, 1970s



Lambs and pigs were roasted on spits by the men, served with salads whipped up by the women. And fresh corn cobs. They were massive and memorable occasions, and there were many of them. The one held at on the Foster's Pt Wells property was a standout.

The annual Fishing Competition was run in an unusual way with no sponsors or official organisers. The sum of the entry fees would be split as prize money, and whoever won with the biggest fish on the day not only scooped a prize but also got to run next year's tournament! Is that actually a prize? Peter Turner won in 1981 with a 4.5kg snapper, and a decade later in 1991 Annette Turner won with a whopping 7.7kg snapper. John Crockett won best other fish that year with his granddaddy Hapuka.

The fishing competition started small and was run by the people. Weigh-in was always a big deal. It grew through the years, with kids' sections being introduced and many more participants. In 1991 there were 160 entries (\$5 entry fee) but sadly the competition died out about three years later – possibly because the winner had to organise it! Time for the fishing competition to be resurrected ...?

We'd do day trips to Tawharanui, Pink Beach and Goat Island and loved the marine environment. The OBRRA put on family beach days with huge turnouts (1,000+) and prizes. Everyone got involved. In 1997 there was the Seagull Race from Matakana Wharf, up the river and back, a fundraiser for the Surf Club, sponsored by local businesses. Each boat had to have a Seagull motor (4.5hp max) and two people on board. Fun.



My Mum and Uncle would always organise a sweepstake for the big horseraces on Boxing Day and New Year's Day and we'd huddle around the transistor radio listening excitedly. There would be loud cheers radiating from Darroch Slope as the horses passed the winning post and the sweep winner was identified and congratulated. Truth be known, that transistor radio was blaring horse races all day every day when a race meeting was on; no wonder racing got well and truly under my skin!



On the Foster's property, Pt Wells.



How many men does it take to carve a beast or two!?



Above, The late Vic Glucina, Tony and the late Beryl Teare tuck in, Graeme Blyth tends to the spits, Darroch Slope.



Left: Bill Freeth and the late Graeme Blyth make sure the steaks are spot-on.



Peter Turner and his winning fish, 1981 Annette Turner and John Crockett, winners 1991.



So many good times. I missed Xmas/New Year 1977/78 as I was having a ball in Europe on a life-changing two-month round-the-world School Trip (thanks EGGs, glad I learnt German!) I'd just turned 15 and returned home with incredible experiences under my belt, and the travel bug. At the same time, I was sad that I'd missed a whole summer at Omaha – I guess it was an early form of



The "racing transistor"

FOMO! Fairy-tale castles and Christmas markets in Germany, alps and snow in Switzerland, the delights of Paris and the austerity of East Berlin were certainly a far cry from the beach I'd come to love on the other side of the world. I can still remember making a couple of collect calls home to the Omaha party line to check in.

Bill Freeth captured much of the '70s, '80s and '90s on film and, in researching/writing this article, I watched much of the footage - heart-warming scenes of those old days as well as a snapshot of parties I'd been to and ones that I'd missed out on.

Action and Antics - Outside and In

The dads would go on fishing expeditions, the kids would go beaching, golfing, or bush, often disappearing for the entire day in that good old-fashioned Kiwi summer way. The mums would get a bit of well-earned peace. At the time I thought it positively dull that Mum would prefer to stay home alone but, once I became a mother myself, I understood and appreciated exactly why!

We'd set off on all-day bike expeditions to Pt Wells on our Raleigh 20s - the gravel road didn't make for an easy ride but the ice-blocks at the end was worth it. We'd attend the annual Disco at Pt Wells Community Hall and wonder how on earth anyone could live in such a tiny and seemingly (to city kids) dull place. Now it's a thriving sought-after village with everything going for it - and quite a few of those founding kids now call it home!

Oh, the freedom and simplicity of childhood back then. We only ever saw each other in Omaha and it was wonderful to consolidate friendships in an environment far removed from home and school and daily routine. We learnt to launch, drive and clean boats, to water-ski and be rope girl, and safely shoot a beer can with an air rifle (and sometimes a rabbit). We played endless tennis and the late Beryl Teare ran regular tournaments which were a heap of fun with a highly competitive element. The courts originally faced east-west and someone always had the sun glaring right in their eyes; so much better when they were later changed to north-south.

We'd collect pipi and tuatua, hook and identify all manner of fish, go splashing for flounder in the estuary, catch sprats off the causeway bridge, tootle across the harbour to Ti Point in dinghies and canoes. In those days of youthful abandon, life was never better than when a 5pm high tide coincided with rolling waves, a shepherd's delight sky and a surf-rider (a cross between a lilo

and a boogie board). The only limit was our imagination.

On occasional trips to Warkworth with the parents for supplies, we got to discover the pub's beer garden, Stubbs the butcher and the best ice-creams.

In winter months we'd go for blustery beach walks, play board games and 500, or just hunker down in a basement bunkroom and listen to music. The parents congregated elsewhere, with booze.

There were elements of creativity alongside outdoor activity. Bill Freeth did bronze casting, and we'd go to his house to watch him produce impressive pieces in a complex process. Dad would do model-making, fiddle with remote controlled toys or make things with Meccano. I spent hours doing paint-by-numbers.

No TVs, computers or PlayStations so we'd make up plays, enact soap operas, script and film Super-8 movies, record mock radio stations onto cassette tapes. We'd set up secret clubs, make huts, use toetoe stems as horses and do backyard gymnastics - it's surprising how much fun you can have balancing along the top of a low retaining wall (the beam), doing arabesques and hand-stands on a tarpaulin on the ground (the floor mat), swinging from the clothesline (the bar) and jumping over a stool (the vault). Someone would be judge and much time was spent perfecting our various [and very mediocre] routines. The Martelli family had a trampoline and we'd flock there to bounce and backflip and chatter away. We'd make and fly kites and even, one calm night, we set adrift a "UFO" which was eerie and fun (Dad's idea based on a prank he pulled as a med student at Otago that had made the papers).

Skateboarding was big. A bunch of us would head to Bluebell Parade and have competitions to see who could roll down in the most fancy and innovative style without mishap. We choreographed group formations and, once we'd perfected a few routines, we'd invite the parents to come and watch, charge them .5c for the privilege. I like to think they were amused. It certainly amused us for hours on end!

We also put on concerts, acting out silly skits and showcasing our guitar, recorder, singing and dancing "skills". The parents would clap and be glad they had booze on board; they might even get up and do impromptu skits and songs themselves! There was always much hilarity. Occasionally we held dance-a-thons to see who could keep dancing the longest

(the record was 24-hours straight, without sitting down - I remember that because it was me and Roger Alexander joint record-holders!)

Nasty black flying beetles invaded our bedrooms and our sleep. We called them "Oogy-Blacks" and they terrorised us. We'd always appoint someone to be on "Oogy-Black" alert, devising an alarm call which could go off at any time if a black critter appeared unbidden. They disappeared for many years, but I've noticed a few recently and hope the menacing things are not making a comeback.

We were brought up to conserve water and make do. Social media meant transistor radios and party phone lines and trips to Matakana to pick up post restante mail during the summer holidays. There was a phone box on the corner and hardly a car on the road. We all learnt to drive on these roads.

Laurie was an older English gentleman with black-rimmed spectacles who lived in a caravan on Darroch Slope - he was Omaha's first permanent resident and never went out with a tie and his cap. He would join in the party occasionally but sit on his red wine all night. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a tale to tell, but I wonder what he really made of the antics! No one recalls Laurie's surname but we remember him well. His caravan blew over during one of the big storms but luckily he wasn't inside it - he may have been out storm-hunting with the rest of us!



A rare photo of Laurie - with cap, tie and red wine!

Vege gardens were started, fish would be home-smoked amidst the smell of sawdust and brown sugar and Dad got into home brewing. Mrs Rathé's stall selling beans over the causeway was an institution and probably the first honesty-box roadside stall.

Once a year the core group of families would rendezvous in Auckland for a Dine & Dance evening at Pinesong (now a retirement village) and Sorrento (still going). As a mixed group of teenagers, we weren't all that enamoured with dressing up and dancing with each other in such a formal way (we preferred to sing Delta Dawn loudly into soup ladles and jive to Abba in our lounge) but the buffets were pretty good!

Overall, it was a brilliant coming together of a diverse group of people, with a wonderful soundtrack to match. It was all very egalitarian, without airs or graces. Doctor, pilot, builder, businessman ... work was irrelevant, and what school you went to, or how you were doing, was neither here nor there.

We'd go for beach walks and dream of where life might take us. Little did many of us realise that, wherever we went in the world, most of us would end up right back here.

Location Location Location

In 1991 Omaha Beach became a film location for the film *The Piano*. Karekare Beach is more widely known as a location for the film, but the scene when the waka arrives was actually filmed right here in our bay, out by the bar. Some scenes were also filmed on the shore, with the canoe on the sand (supposedly on the water).

The waka wasn't the most stable of craft and locals Jack Amos and Bill Freeth ended up with the tricky but important job of being in rubber duckyies alongside the boat to stabilise it so it didn't tip over during filming. Who knew!?

Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill – they all got to spend time in Omaha during the four days of filming. Also Temuera Morrison who worked with the Prop (the piano itself); according to Sam Neill, he was critical in keeping everyone in good heart. At the end of those long days of filming, Tem and the crew would get into the waka and paddle off into the evening sunset amidst a sea of song, and the locals would watch with a smile.

In 2010 Omaha was the setting for the dystopian TV mystery thriller series *This Is Not My Life*. Set in the fictional town of Waimoana in the 2020s (the new houses in the Southern end being suitably futuristic) the show is about a guy who wakes up one morning to find that he doesn't know who or where he is and doesn't recognise his wife or children. I suspect this was also the



Jess in the Lobby Bar at Warkworth Hotel

case on some mornings back in those early days!

It's All About the People

It's now 50 years since Omaha Beach was first developed. Some families have come and gone but a surprisingly large proportion of those early families retired here, live permanently in the environs or maintain strong connections with it.

The Freeths bought and built across the road from their original house in 1985 and moved in permanently. The Kjestrups also became permanent residents that year. The Teares, Dowds, Turners, Marshalls and many other families from those early days also made Omaha home during the 1980s and 1990s. It's testament to the lure of Omaha Beach.

I spoke with Jess (age 20) whose family built a house in the Southern end in 2005, when she was a 5-year-old. It was a beach house but, when Jess was 13, her family moved permanently to Omaha, from Auckland, in 2013. Jess initially found the move rather a shock but quickly made friends in the area and found herself enjoying the community spirit. Her parents continue to commute to businesses in West Auckland and have things down pat as far as timing goes; a measure of flexibility is valuable. A keen water-polo player through her teens, Jess's parents ensured she didn't miss out; getting her to training and games in the city was both a priority and a commitment and she's grateful to her parents for the sacrifices made to ensure she could continue to play.

Now a student at Victoria University, Jess is back in her home territory for the

summer holidays, and working at the Warkworth Hotel, where I chatted with her. This heritage building (est. 1862 by John Anderson Brown) has been stunningly transformed into a sophisticated and welcoming venue, with a strong nod to yesterday. The beer garden that I knew is no longer, but there's a lovely outdoor terrace, a sumptuous interior and a tempting menu.

In and around Omaha today there are several excellent licensed dining options, and the Superette for supplies. New families are moving in to discover the delights of the area as it continues to evolve, expand and entice. Progress continues – but thankfully it's rather different to what the original developers envisaged. There are no malls or motels – just a beautiful beach, a relaxed lifestyle, a quality environment ... and plenty of fabulous people.

Omaha is easy to love, hard to leave and impossible to forget. Embracing new friendships here goes with the territory and new ones are sure to be as enduring as those that began almost 50 years ago. The days of old I've reminisced about here are long gone but the memories and bonds remain fond and firm and will do so forever.

Other founding families from the 1970s, in addition to those mentioned in the article, include: Sorenson, Blanche, Gordon, Dow, Church, Banks, Allardice, Ramage, Nevill, Inkster, Hyland, Watson, Williamson, Bailey, Finnel, Lindsay, Armstrong, Jones, Burr, Stevens, Chapman-Smith ... et al!

Here's to the good old days!

Photos: Blyth, Freeth, Turner



The original originals at Jacqui Blyth's 21st party, 1st January 1985. Back row: Gus O'Hanlon, Hamish Alexander, Bill Freeth, Yvonne Foster, Helen Blyth, John Foster, Sally Blyth, Jacqui Blyth, Julie Blyth. Front row: Graeme Blyth, Fran Alexander, Louise Alexander, Bill Freeth Jr, Joan Freeth, Roger Alexander, Greg Freeth

For more info about the History of Omaha, former Office Bearers and more, see the OBC website www.omahabeach.co.nz/about/#history



Surf bar 1970s.



Early 70s view.



Di Balich - Omaha Coastal Specialist

There's no Secret to Success... and yes I do sleep with my phone.

Di Balich AREINZ Licensed Under REAA Act (2008)
W: www.dibalich.co.nz M: +64 21 917 080 E: Di@precision.net.nz



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

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

I am under pressure to deliver a President's Report for the Christmas Newsletter for 2020, and rightly so. I begin this report on Friday 13th November 2020, as auspicious a day as any. I have been down to the Community Centre for a lovely feed of fresh Leigh snapper and chips, a couple of glasses of wine, and a catch up with some stalwart golfers and other members of the community. Caravanning seems to be on the uptake at the moment by the grey beards, or grey nomads as they are called in Australia, fortunately, not in Omaha.

My understanding is that the freedom camping rules remain in place, i.e. no freedom camping in Omaha until into next year. Council is now completely under-resourced and, in terms of priorities, we hope that the status quo will remain on most things.

COVID-19 has dominated the year. Omaha was a fabulous place to spend lockdown as we, the more permanent residents, noted the huge influx of non-permanents enjoying the walks and the other recreational activities that were permitted. Pity about the "Karen's" that complained about the beach surf casters, surfers and any other complaint for that matter. One only had to pass within less than a metre of somebody when exercising and there was a hiss about a two-metre rule. Pity also about the public who treated the golf course on their walks like a public park, left their rubbish and dog crap behind. Also pity about the dog owners who didn't have their dogs under control and cried off and complained when individuals were attacked. It seems that absence of common sense is an issue. Now, after Level 4 and two Level 3 lockdowns, we seem a bit calmer.

I want to thank Kevin and Nicola Weston for enlivening the Community Centre and Golf Club - I encourage everyone who is a member of OBC to participate in all social functions at the Community Centre organised by the Golf Club. You are entitled to be there - you are a social member by virtue of your membership of the OBC.

It has been great to see builders and tradies



Photo: Sally Blyth

as busy as ever throughout the Omaha community village. As a property owner, please respect your neighbours, their views, their personal spaces - and don't bring to Omaha your Auckland fortress mentality.

In respect of local authority matters I can report positive things on all fronts.

The pathway from the roundabout to the Community Centre is shovel ready. The trouble is the budget has been decimated by COVID-19.

New toilet/shower facilities are scheduled in 2021 for William Fraser Reserve. We are expecting that the budget has been locked in for this. The Surf Club will be delighted, as will all visitors, as this is one facility that Omaha has been truly lacking.

A long-standing member of OBC raised the issue of spartina grass at the last AGM and we are pleased to advise that, in fact, the grass that is growing on the sandflats next to the 15th hole is a native sea grass and evidences a healthy estuary. I met with the biosecurity people who, having confirmed this to me, then showed me the "real McCoy" in the form of a growing spartina grass plant over by the mangroves on the western side of the Whangateau Harbour and approximately 100 metres north of the Causeway. I was told by these very helpful Auckland Council employees that

their contractors patrol three times a year and included in their brief is to identify and spray this very noxious plant.

Ice plants are beginning to overtake and dominate the dunes - potentially a South African import being cultivated by some residents. You can see evidence of this by the main Surf Club at William Fraser Reserve. It may be a NZ native variety (I hope so) but if it is the South African species it is a noxious plant. We have asked Auckland Council to investigate and report to us.

The roof of our Community Centre and internal drains about the roof have design defect issues and we are pleased to advise that Council is intending to renovate, repair/replace next winter presumably, now funding permits.

The 2002 expired lease contains a preamble stating that the original development on the leased area was funded by the Rodney District Council using funds derived from the Omaha community and accordingly there was an overriding requirement for the facility to be managed in the best interests of the Omaha community to ensure an appropriate level of community access, sound financial administration and careful management of the building asset.



Photo: Sally Blyth

We have received advice from OBC's instructed Senior Counsel that the May 2019 Resolution and prior Council documents create obligations on the parties to enter into a formal lease on the standard terms in the Guidelines, subject to the express terms in the May 2019 Resolution.

The issue has been that the Auckland Council standard lease provides that the Council has a discretion to review rent to market, two yearly. The May 2019 Resolution granted a lease at a peppercorn rental. Rates can also be imposed on the lessee at the Council's discretion. We have not agreed to those particular terms. We have agreed to the terms of the May 2019 Resolution recording the grant of lease to the Omaha Beach Community.

OBC has contemporaneously, collaterally and interdependently agreed with the Omaha Beach Golf Club to a management agreement for the same terms as the grant to the OBC and the management fee under the management agreement has been resolved as well. The management fee payable by the Golf Club helps fund external maintenance of the building. There is a maintenance programme and budget in place for the next ten years. OBC continues to obtain updated reports from Hutchinson & Co as to the maintenance requirements and works closely with the Golf Club in terms of ensuring those maintenance obligations are complied with. Our thanks go to Geoff Smith for his wisdom and

practical advice over these last five years in getting us to the point that we are at.

Not so successful is the north-western bank restoration on the Whangateau. For those residents who are in that area I expect you will need to co-ordinate amongst yourselves and take steps to preserve your exposed western boundaries because the message we were getting from Council representatives is that, unless there was a public benefit, i.e. a walkway, there was little appetite for assistance other than to restore sand dug from the Whangateau onto the banks where the erosion occurs. An unsatisfactory outcome.

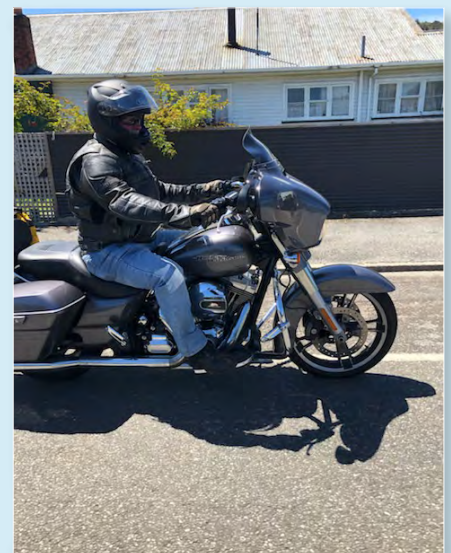
There is a coastal plan in the offing, but again affected by COVID-19, and it will be important that residents, particularly of those properties within the vicinity of the coastline on the Whangateau north of the wharf, submit and be active in debating the merits of the proposed plan. I would like to be really blunt here – if you do not take steps to put your hand up and oppose or submit, your voice will be lost.

2021 will be my final year, I have been on this committee since 2008 and it takes a lot of time and energy. It is important that you all realise the importance of the knowledge, experiences and wisdom of the grey beards and grey trusses that have been there and done that. It is imperative that the wisdom and knowledge of the history of Omaha is retained. One of the last things I will be doing in my role as President will be to manage a couple of affidavits from

our original residents so that in any future tussle with Council we have the sworn evidence available to the community.

Thanks to my committee for all their support this year, it has been a tough one but at times a lot of fun. All the best.

Chris Allan, OBC President



OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chris Allan (President), Rob Zubielevitch (Secretary/Treasurer), Terry Brailsford, Murray Beatson, Debbie Lee, Paul King, Alan Wham, Tony Marks, Simon Martin, Rohan Meuli

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COUNCIL MATTERS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:



FROM COUNCILLOR GREG SAYERS

As we enjoy this summer you may be forgiven for thinking things are back to normal. This year has been anything but that, and while some in our community have got through relatively unscathed, others have had their lives turned upside down.

What has been uplifting are the individuals and groups who have stepped up to help people out. The Omaha community is no exception. Well done.

A predicted dry summer will present the same challenges as last year regarding water supply. Households reliant on rainfall for their water, who ran out last summer, have been strongly encouraged by Auckland Council throughout the year to install another tank. To make this easier, the Council waived resource consent fees for the installation of new tanks.

You may recall last year water truck filling sites were closed during the drought to ensure town supply wasn't compromised. Watercare refused to support alternative water deliveries because tank users were not Watercare customers.

In a desperate plea at the time, to the Mayor, he eventually agreed with me that Council had a moral obligation to step in and resolve the emergency of getting water to empty tanks. It was a great relief to many Omaha residents when bulk water tankers started delivering water to the local water delivery companies from Auckland's central reservoirs.

Another battle I had this year was to get the Council to reconsider their early stance not to reuse the bulk water tankers to deliver emergency water if the Warkworth filling station had to be closed again due to a drought. I'm pleased to say that, if another

severe drought strikes this summer, the bulk water tankers will fortunately now be recommissioned. The difference, however, will be that the Mayor will not agree to the Council picking up the tab and the local water delivery companies will be passing on the cost to the households ordering the water.

On another topic, this year it has been a privilege to continue to work alongside the OBC Committee. We face many issues, ranging from crab potting through to clearing out storm water ponds. With COVID-19 having had a significant impact on the Council's finances, these have proved difficult to progress.

This lack of progress was extremely frustrating to observe. Therefore, maybe Auckland Council's greatest challenge, as it enters its second decade, is to give focus on one of its weaknesses from the first decade, something also highlighted by the COVID-19 lockdowns.

In a word: Local. Auckland needs to put increased focus on giving communities a sense of greater influence, along with more discretionary spending, delivered to them in partnership with the Local Boards. Omaha is a standout community for piloting any such policy change. Your community has proven itself capable of working collaboratively with Council around numerous community projects. The OBC and other local volunteer groups are well-organised, competent and would be open to Council trialling a more community-based governance model. Unfortunately, under the current Council regime that is a very big "if", but it is a goal I have taken on. Auckland Council should be removing barriers for volunteer groups and local suppliers who want to help their neighbourhoods. With Auckland Council's budgets being so affected by COVID-19 surely now is the perfect time to relook at the way Council can get jobs done using volunteers and local know-how.

In closing, I look forward to serving Omaha's interests in 2021. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable summer

You can keep track of Cr Greg Sayers progress with Council via his business Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/regsayersnz>

Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor, Auckland Council

Phone: 021 285 9900

Email: greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



FROM: BETH HOULBROOKE, DEPUTY CHAIR - RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

Season's Greetings to all residents and holiday makers in wonderful Omaha Beach. I hope you all enjoy a fabulous summer at the end of what has been an annus horribilis for everyone.

Looking back on the Local Board's achievements for the area over the past year, I was expecting to be despondent with the lack of progress in most areas we are responsible for due to the delays and budget cuts caused by COVID-19. However, I am quite pleased that we have continued to keep up a good standard of maintenance and open communication lines with your very effective OBC committee.

Putting aside "roads, rates and rubbish" – because it may not be widely understood that local boards are not responsible for, nor do they have a decision-making role on any of those three things generally accepted to be core Council business – here are some of the projects and initiatives we are working on currently:

William Fraser Reserve Toilets and Changing Rooms – Concept designs have been approved after consultation with OBC and the Surf Club. These will be further refined, consents applied for, water supply secured, and the building built as soon as budget allows – expect this to take two years. This well-overdue facility will look very aesthetically pleasing, with outdoor showers and foot taps.

Omaha Drive Pathway – This is in final detailed design with thanks to pro bono work by Hutchinson Consultants, and is ready to be delivered by Auckland Transport on our behalf. The budget allocated to it by the Local Board, however, was lost due to unspent capital budgets for transport

COUNCIL MATTERS

infrastructure being severed by AT during lockdown. We are now working to have it funded from the Transport Targeted Rate which you are all contributing to, and my hope is that it is finally laid in 2021.

Boat Ramp and Parking – The Local Board is progressing concept designs, in consultation with the OBC committee, to improve the management and performance of the boat ramp and associated carparks. Physical works may still be some time off due to budget constraints, but we do have a small budget to press on with minor interim improvements, plans, and consent applications.

Asbestos uncovered on the foreshore facing the Whangateau harbour, south of the boat ramp, is being dealt with by removing the obvious surface exposed material, and re-grassing the area to hopefully provide enough natural cover to stabilise the bank and prevent the need for a full scale excavation and removal. For this reason we ask that you do not try to move the fences or walk or drive over the fenced off area until this has taken hold, because to do so may result in an expensive and much more drawn-out removal process. Our Parks team will be in contact with affected property owners with a view to opening up areas of access as best as can be made possible before the summer.

Budget cuts have affected the renewal programme for **walkways and boardwalks**, however they continue to be prioritised for attention on a schedule that will take 5-6 years to complete. Likewise, the **Community Centre** roof should be repaired next year.

Additionally, we have progressed a number of community leases to give security of tenure to the Golf Club, Bowling Club, tennis courts and Community Centre, so that much needed locally funded improvements can be undertaken with confidence.

Responding to issues raised at last year's AGM, through the committee, or locals contacting me, we have undertaken a rabbit cull, sprayed spartina grass, and will make improvements to dog signage (particularly in the area north of Walkway 2 where shorebird protection is a priority), and improve the predator-proof fence.

There are no playground or park furniture renewals planned for the coming year, however if you spot damage, vandalism, or maintenance issues, then please report

them directly to Council for attention.

You can do this on-line with a smart phone, adding any photos, at <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/report-a-problem.aspx>.

Requests for service go straight through to the contractor who can quickly assess the work required and arrange for it to be carried out. Similarly, for overflowing rubbish bins or toilets that need cleaning, reporting via this link is the fastest way to resolve the problem. Posting about it on the local Facebook community group page is not, unless you are sharing that link – thank you!

Omaha is a popular place, and not only for relaxation and recreation. A little-known fact might also be that it is the Local Board that approves event and location permits such as for Thundercats and other major sporting events and carnivals, as well as filming of television advertisements and drama series, held on the beach and public reserves. If you have any concerns about the impacts of these activities on our facilities, environment, safety, quiet enjoyment, or traffic, then do let us know so we can ensure these are mitigated in future permissions.

The great drought of last summer took its toll on trees and plantings on berms and reserves. With acute water shortages it was difficult for Council to supply unscheduled and unbudgeted watering to save all of the plantings at Omaha (and elsewhere). Priority was given to keeping up supply of water to tanker deliverers, and looking after expensive sports fields, and we were fortunate that issues raised during the period of the Epidemic Response Committee allowed golf course maintenance to resume after a period of ridiculous restriction.

It may well be that we are looking at another dry summer so I do hope that you have ordered your tank fills in advance, added extra storage capacity if feasible, and trained your family and guests to conserve water as much as possible. And if you see a sick-looking tree on the verge, please give it a drink of water from the washing machine!

I would like to thank the OBC committee for all the work they do on your behalf, including arranging the local fire truck to water trees last summer. You are well represented with this highly competent

organisation and it is always a pleasure to work alongside them. It is my undertaking, and that of your other local elected representatives, to do our best to support everything that is important to this community, acting on it where we have an appropriate role, ensuring value for money, and giving effective representation to Auckland Council and its CCOs.

See you at the AGM on Sunday 10th January.

Beth Houlbrooke, Deputy Chair – Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council

Warkworth Subdivision Elected Members

Phone: 021 839 413

E-mail:

beth.houlbrooke@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



FROM: TIM HOLDGATE, RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

Topics for discussion and decision have been various for Rodney Local Board (RLB) members over recent months. Top of the list has been COVID-19 and its ramifications, from the need for virtual Skype meetings to a sizeable reduction of some \$550 million in Auckland Council's disposable income; the Auckland Council (AC) response being emergency budget reviews, with an austerity theme being the dominate element.

A Resource Consent application for a landfill by Waste Management NZ Ltd, notified earlier in the year, related to the RMA hearing schedule published late October 2020, to begin 9th November 2020 at the Warkworth Town Hall. A major event on the local landscape, for consideration by the appointed Hearing Panel of Commissioners.

The board of Auckland Transport's decision in October to relinquish the Sandspit

COUNCIL MATTERS

Wharf carpark, passing the administration thereof to AC without notifying the Local Board, was disappointing. The timing of the changeover, with the Christmas holiday period rapidly approaching, was also particularly concerning for our RLB Community Services team.

COVID-19 has also seen the need to cancel or postpone several iconic local events including the Kowhai Festival, the Festival of Lights, and the annual Santa Parade. The RLB continues to support these local events and looks forward to a more normal events calendar for the year ahead.

November's bi-monthly Snells Beach Ratepayers meeting provided an enlightening presentation by Paul Klinac on "AC's regional approach to coastal management". Other items up for discussion on the night included the perennial Hill Street intersection, the new Boathouse Bay residential development's implications for the foreshore & nesting bird populations, together with the beginning of construction for the new Matakana Link Road.

A more recent development has seen the re-emergence of the Warkworth weir debate. A report prepared by NIWA will be presented to the RLB's meeting on 4th November 2020, including the likely ecological issues relating to the removal of the weir, which were raised originally at a local meeting in February 2019.

Tim Holdgate, Elected Member, Rodney Local Board

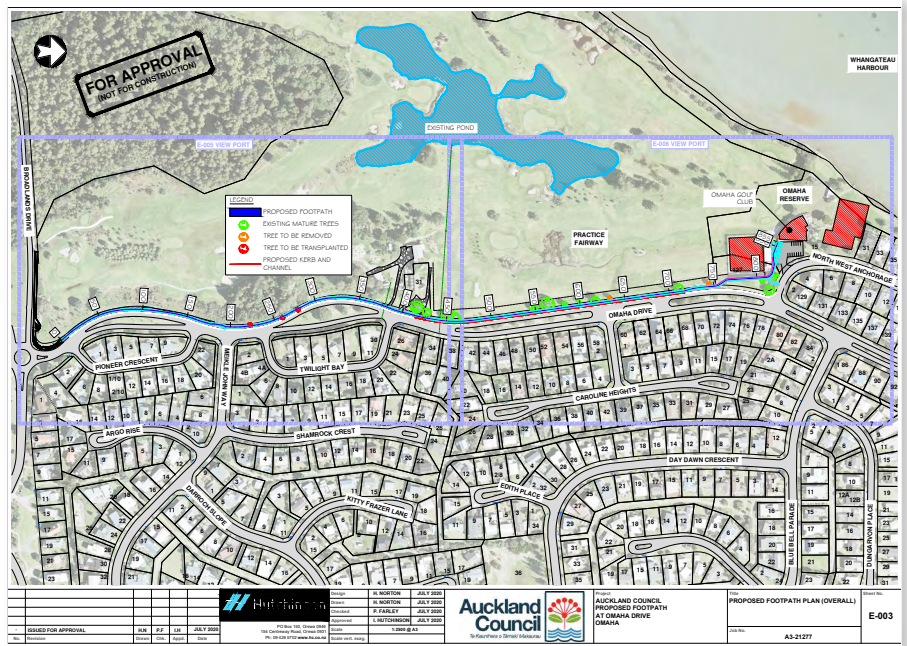
Email: tim.holdgate@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

PROGRESS REPORT ON ROADING, PATHWAYS AND RESERVES

Firstly, a reminder that your first port of call about maintenance issues around Omaha is:

- for roads, street signs, footpaths, walkways (the ones directly between streets) and street lighting – contact Auckland Transport (AT) 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

As most of you will be aware, following on from COVID-19, Council implemented an Emergency Budget (and Auckland Transport has also tightened its spending)



Proposed Omaha Drive Walkway Plans:

so unfortunately we can expect less of the regular maintenance work than we're used to, as well as less interest in any project work that we propose.

Here's a summary of some of the work completed, underway or planned around Omaha.

Causeway: In mid-year, Auckland Transport reduced the speed limit on the causeway from 80kph to 60kph in the interests of safety. They had previously advised that, once this has been in place for a reasonable period, they would monitor compliance with the new limit and then look at whether any further "traffic calming" measures (for example, an electronic vehicle speed sign) should be deployed.



The speed limit is now 60kph on the causeway – please observe it!

Proposed Omaha Drive Walkway: There had been good progress on both the design and funding for this project through to early this year, with approval by Auckland Transport as per the drawing. It is shovel

ready apart from a final quote from local construction companies. This is all thanks to Hutchinson Consultants pro bono work which has been substantial – an enormous thank you to Hutchy and his staff.

Prior to COVID-19, it was anticipated that construction would have been underway by now. But with the Rodney Local Board (RLB) capital project funds having been suspended this year due to COVID, we must now wait until next June to hear whether we shall have the funds that were approved in 2019. The Local Board has confirmed that the walkway remains a high priority and we await more information about a revised timeframe for construction. Hopefully the work will be completed before Christmas 2021 – that will be time for a real celebration, the completion of a major project that Peter Jackson started over 10 years ago.

To explain how we ended up with the pathway in the drawing ...

At the start we had three options to consider – on the East or West border of the road, or on the golf course boundary. Whilst the East side of the road was favoured by many, it became impracticable because of the number of driveway crossings and the drainage issues. The route along the golf course boundary was considered too dangerous unless fencing was erected to stop golf balls, which would have been unsightly and spoilt the views. So in the end the West side of the road was the

COUNCIL MATTERS

only option, with some caveats – kerb and channelling to collect the water and drain it through existing pipes to the golf course lakes, pruning of three existing Pohutukawa trees approved by Council Arborist in exchange for planting a few new ones, a flat grass parking area on the west side of the concrete pathway down to Caroline Heights for the usual overflow when there is an event on and, finally, a well-engineered retaining wall on the East side of the Bowling Green. Please accept that whilst this may not suit everyone, in the end it was that or nothing!



Omaha Drive



Repairs to Northern Walkways – The long-overdue repairs to the deteriorating walkways in the northern half of Omaha had been completed down to Blue Bell Parade by this time last year but the remaining work (down to Broadlands Drive), which was expected to be done by now, has been a casualty of the Emergency Budget. However, the Local Board advises that Council will at least look at doing some of the higher priority sections.



A walkway badly in need of repair

Paths, Signs, Plants, etc: While we've seen other work being done by Council on paths (such as the revamp of the gravel path around the southern lagoon and the green surfacing on the walkways in the Rahui Te Kiri Reserve), there remain other needs such as the repair of some of the older wooden beach walkways, as well as the replacement and/or upgrading of many of the beach walkway signs (especially those at the beach end).



In regard to plants, as mentioned in Beth Houlbrooke's report, many trees (especially smaller ones) died in last summer's drought and need replacement. Planting on some sections of the dunes appears to have regressed and we're also keen for Council to continue eliminating noxious plants such as gorse and blackberry, as we locate them.



Point Wells to Matakana Country Park

Pathway: The good news is that the Point Wells to Matakana Country Park pathway is approved by Auckland Transport and is shovel ready to be constructed on the North side of Omaha Flats Road. Matakana Coast Trail Trust (MCTT) has secured \$250,000 for this and is currently applying for the remaining \$500,000. There is confidence that our Fundraiser will achieve this sometime next year.

Date for your Diary: Allison Roe & Martin Dancy, Trustees of MCTT, have been invited to make a presentation at the OBC AGM on Sunday 10th January regarding the Puhoi to Mangawhai Pathway and connecting Pathways, known as the Rodney Greenways Plan approved by RLB and Auckland Council. Come along to find out more!

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



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ENVIRONMENT

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

Officially known as the Omaha North Reserve but usually called the Shorebird Sanctuary, this is a priceless asset of the Omaha community. We are indeed lucky to share the beautiful environment with these unusual and, in some cases, endangered New Zealand birds.

During the summer, from September to February, the Northern New Zealand dotterels and variable oystercatchers are nesting and raising their chicks. The nests consist of a simple scrape in the sand or shells and may contain up to three eggs. The nesting areas are defined by orange tape fences but often the dotterels make nests outside the fences and even outside the sanctuary on the main Omaha beach – so tread carefully and watch out for any birds behaving defensively. Dotterels will feign injury and try to lure you away from the nest while oystercatchers will mount a noisy attack to try and drive you away. At these times, when the birds are away from the nests, the eggs are vulnerable to predation by seagulls and hawks. Nests close to the high tide line are also vulnerable to storm surges which can wash them away. Birds that lose their eggs can re-lay up to four times in a season.



NZ Dotterel (Photo: Marie Ward)

Eggs, chicks and adult birds are also vulnerable to predation by introduced mammals. The Pest-proof Fence, which was installed in 2012, backed up with intensive trapping, has been effective in eliminating rats, hedgehogs, stoats and weasels. However domestic and feral cats are known to enter the Sanctuary along the shoreline on the estuary side and they have been detected by automatic trail cameras mounted at the western end of the fence and within the Sanctuary. Last summer the bodies of several adult



Bar-tailed Godwits waiting to fly north to Alaska, 15th March 2020 (Photo: Sally Blyth)

dotterels and oystercatcher chicks were examined and found to have been killed by a cat. The prime suspect was a black cat with white paws and no tail which was eventually trapped and eliminated. It is most important that all cats at Omaha are kept inside at night, are well fed, and carry identification. Dogs are totally banned from the Sanctuary.

Other shorebirds which can be seen at Omaha include the bar-tailed godwits which nest in Alaska and migrate to New Zealand during the summer. The godwits arrive in September after the amazing non-stop flight of 11,000km, taking nine days and losing up to 50% of their weight. They rest on the beach for 24 hours while their digestive organs regenerate and then they start to feed on the mudflats of the Whangateau Harbour at low tide, resting on the Sanctuary beach at high tide. It is important not to disturb them at this time. In March they will have regained their strength ready for the flight back to Alaska via the Yellow Sea, where they have a refuelling stop so they are in good breeding condition when they arrive. Juvenile godwits make the migration to New Zealand at only two-months old but stay here for a couple of years until they reach breeding age, so there are always a few here during the winter. Last winter was exceptional in that up to 45 godwits were seen here.



Bar-tailed Godwits resting at high tide (Photo: Marie Ward)

If you are particularly observant you may see New Zealand's most endangered bird,

the fairy tern, of which there are only about 40 left. Their main breeding site is at Mangawhai but with a pair often seen at Omaha we hope that they may start nesting here as well. You may also see the larger Caspian terns, which have a nesting area on a shell bank in the Whangateau Harbour, and the common white-fronted terns resting on the rock groynes. During the winter months we see migrants from the South Island, the pied oystercatchers, banded dotterels and wrybills.

The 2019/2020 breeding season was not good at Omaha, with only two variable oystercatchers and three dotterels fledged. This was partly due to the predation noted above but also due to the impact of increasing human activity in the Sanctuary which prevents the chicks from going to the shoreline to feed. Dotterel and oystercatcher chicks are not fed by their parents like most birds. They are guided to the water's edge and shown what to do, then they must find their own food. People picnicking and playing on the beach prevent the chicks feeding, leading to starvation. During the recent Labour Weekend, we observed several groups of visitors with tents, awnings, barbeques, beach chairs and ball games. If we are serious about conservation of the shorebirds at Omaha we are going to have to change this behaviour. There are 3kms of glorious beach at Omaha for picnics, sunbathing and games. If you are visiting the Sanctuary, please follow the rules, walk slowly along the water's edge at low tide, look out for the birds, keep your distance and do not linger.

We have also experienced other forms of undesirable behaviour, including night-time set-netting, a bonfire in which Council signs were destroyed and two trail cameras stolen.

If you would like to support the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust by donations, by volunteering or to report problems, please contact us: info@omahashorebirds.co.nz

ENVIRONMENT



Adult variable oystercatcher sitting with juvenile feeding (Photo: Marie Ward)

For further information see
<http://www.omashorebirds.co.nz/>

PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA

We have now completed our third year of predator trapping. We have over 120 traps based around the reserves and bush settings in the Southern end of Omaha and around the entrance to the causeway area. There are 10 traps set in the dunes as well.

We have two types of traps - DOC 200 traps which are baited with an egg and traps stoats, weasels and rats; and Victor Rat traps which are housed in rat motels and baited with peanut butter. We do not use poisons of any kind. We also have several possum traps which are baited with either apple or a cinnamon paste.

All our traps have warning signs which ask people to leave them alone.

We recently updated our GPS coordinates for every trap and all catches are logged into a system called CATCHIT which gives us a picture of where the traps are located and how individual traps are performing with catches.

The Omaha group is part of the Takatu Landcare Group and we share data with each other and have regular catchups with trappers from Leigh, Pt Wells, Ti Point and Takatu.

It gives the team great satisfaction to see these predators being eliminated as birdlife is really flourishing in Omaha. If you see us in our DOC volunteer vests, please come and have a chat - we love talking about our work!

Special thanks to the Omaha Team - Phil Bougen, John Mew, Rob Rowdon and Rob Zubielevitch.

Thanks also to:

- Ngaire Wallen - Takatu Landcare Group
- Michelle Jenkinson - Department of Conservation
- Sinead Brimacombe - Auckland Council
- Whangapiro Valley Eggs - for supplying our eggs
- Omaha Beach Community - for supplying peanut butter

Volunteers are always welcome to help check our trap lines - write to us at us@omahabeach.co.nz



Hard at work (Photo: Ngaire Wallen)

Working to protect our native birds
(Photos: Marina Zubielevitch)



Tui, Bellbird, Kereru

RABBITS

In July this year Auckland Council agreed to assist with a rabbit cull and engaged Nick Ranger from Wildlands to cull the rabbits from the dunes. The operation was successful, with over 300 rabbits culled over three nights. There was a noticeable drop in rabbit sightings over the following few months but, alas, they are starting to increase in numbers again.

OBC has asked Council to repeat the performance on a regular basis and their reaction to that has been positive.

OMAHA QUARRY



Omaha Quarry - left 2013, right 2020

Are you aware of our local Quarry Walk?

Located near the Southern end of Omaha Golf Course, the Quarry can be accessed off Mangatawhiri Drive. Car parks are available.

This project was initially featured in the Summer 2013 Omaha Newsletter after the path and steps to the top of the Quarry were completed. Exotic plants were reduced throughout the Quarry area to allow native regeneration. It was a community effort with assistance from Takana Nurseries and the support of Auckland Council - and a lot of hard work by local Residents at the time.

The Quarry itself was partly formed back in the 1960s to provide the rock base for the existing causeway leading to Omaha Beach. Seating is in place at the top so you can pause and enjoy the peace and views.

Over the years 3,000 plants have been planted in the area and will eventually form a native planting corridor running from the Taniko Forest all the way to Tawharanui. This area will also form the entrance/exit point for the Taniko Walkway.

Over 150 volunteers have worked hard to make this a success, along with the good people at BNZ's "Closed For Good" programme. The tracks are now well-established, used daily and offer fantastic views of the bay.

If you haven't walked the Quarry yet, please go and have a look - the views are outstanding, although beware, the walk involves walking up 130 steps to the top!

Apparently, a local record has a runner doing 12 consecutive laps of the quarry ...

PLANTING DAY

Auckland Council again supplied over 400 native plants and cleared scrub and gorse at the southern end of Mangatawhiri Rd.

A group of local volunteers planted the various varieties of natives on Saturday 12th September. The area is adjacent to



another planting which took place the previous year. Luckily, we have had great rainfall since September to give the plants a good chance over summer.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and Sinead Brimacombe from Auckland Council for making this planting day happen.

RESPECT THE ROCKPOOLS

During October, local residents off for a walk on Omaha Beach during low tide passed a couple heading back to their car with a huge bucket of local sea-life. It was obvious the intention was to eat what they had gathered. The residents were further shocked to find 40+ visitors to Omaha Beach set up with shade tents and a picnic, with buckets and bowls full of little black snails, tiny black shellfish, starfish and tiny kina. Also an octopus baking in the hot sun.

Unfortunately, it is not illegal for people to come in and strip the rock pools, and thereby, in a short space of time, totally decimate an area and upset the fragile eco-balance, all for a little amusement, entertainment and food. Sadly, there are no restrictions on this practice and no limit on quantity or size, including baby kina.

The lack of sea-life in rockpools around the Auckland area is upsetting - and a far cry from the bountiful sea-life that inhabited the same rockpools some decades ago.

Pillaging this precious element of nature is selfish and short-sighted. We urge people to respect the rockpools and sea-life, so it can thrive and regenerate.



(Photos: Rob Zubielevitch)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING 2020

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 10th JANUARY 2021 at 11am
followed by drinks and nibbles

OBC AGM AGENDA 2021

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 12th January 2020
4. Receipt of the President's Report for 2020
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2020
6. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2021 Subscription Year and Security Levy
7. Election of the Committee for the 2021 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 10th January 2021.

MAGNICAL+CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Statement of Financial Performance

Omaha Beach Community Inc For the year ended 31 October 2020

	NOTES	2020	2019
Income			
Advertising Income - Newsletter		2,000	4,448
Advertising Income - Other		700	1,200
Donations Received		1,405	419
Interest Income		2,747	1,367
Subscription Income		59,348	57,948
Total Income		66,200	65,382
Expenses			
Audit Fees		(130)	1,015
Bank Fees		80	76
Database Maintenance		-	85
Depreciation - Fixed Assets		5,499	2,941
Freight, Courier & Postage		398	674
General Expenses		69	842
Insurance		1,140	1,140
Maintenance		1,453	-
Members Meetings		494	447
Newletters		10,330	9,460
Office & Administration Expenses		5,400	5,400
Pest Eradication		307	78
Presidents Expenses		117	203
Printing & Stationery		428	1,463
Rubbish/Recycling		-	1,000
Security - Camera Maintenance & Patrol Costs		31,248	25,295
Website Development & Maintenance		1,091	1,033
Xero Fees		540	540
Total Expenses		58,464	51,693
Operating Income/(Loss) for the Year		7,737	13,689
Less Non Operating and Non Recurring Items			
Freedom Camping Objection Expenses			
Expenses Incurred		-	41,430
Less Omaha Beach Residents Society Inc. Contributions		-	(19,171)
Total Freedom Camping Objection Expenses		-	22,259
Intangible Assets Written Off		-	300
Provision for Legal Fees		-	10,000
Total Non Operating & Non Recurring Items		-	32,559
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year		7,737	(18,870)

Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc

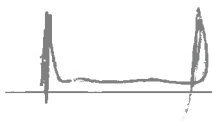
As at 31 October 2020

	NOTES	31 OCT 2020	31 OCT 2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank		83,972	16,817
Receivables		475	1,345
GST Receivable		1,078	-
Total Current Assets		85,525	18,162
Non-Current Assets			
Term Deposits - BNZ Bank	6	26,862	82,067
Property, Plant and Equipment		5,084	10,583
Total Non-Current Assets		31,945	92,650
Total Assets		117,470	110,812
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		-	1,000
GST Payable		-	78
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees		10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		10,000	11,078
Net Assets		107,470	99,734
Equity			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		99,734	118,604
Current year earnings		7,737	(18,870)
Total Equity		107,470	99,734

For and on behalf of the Committee:



President: Chris Allan



Treasurer: Rob Zubielevitch

Date: 18.11.2020

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. FINANCIALS

MACNICOL+CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Omaha Beach Community Centre Maintenance Fund

Omaha Beach Community Inc
For the year ended 31 October 2020

	2020	2019
Statement of Financial Performance		
Income & Expenditure		
Income		
Golf Club Contributions Community Centre	3,958	8,500
Interest Income - Community Maintenance Fund	957	385
Total Income	4,916	8,885
Less Expenditures		
Maintenance - Community Centre	7,425	(192)
Total Less Expenditures	7,425	(192)
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	(2,509)	9,077
Accumulated Funds at Start of Year		
Community Maintenance Fund - Retained Earnings	45,379	36,303
Total Accumulated Funds at Start of Year	45,379	36,303
Accumulated Funds at Year End	42,870	45,379

	2020	2019
Statement of Financial Position		
Assets		
BNZ Current Account	13,981	17,952
BNZ Term Deposits	26,828	25,775
Interest Accrued	-	111
GST CC	2,061	1,541
Total Assets	42,870	45,379
Less Payables Owing	-	-
Accumulated Funds at Year End	42,870	45,379

OMAHA PARK

The sum of \$30,659 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

THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS' SOCIETY (OBRS)

There is often some confusion amongst Omaha residents in regard to the roles of the Omaha Beach Community Inc (OBC) and the OBRS.

The OBC evolved from the Omaha Beach Ratepayers' Association and as such has been a formal body since the early days of development of properties in the north of Omaha.

The OBRS was created by the developers of south Omaha to essentially operate as a body corporate. Membership is compulsory for each property owner and formalised by a covenant over each title.

The OBRS has specific responsibility for the ongoing administering of the Design Control Guidelines and for such assets as the six tennis courts.

Back in 2004 both committees acknowledged that it was less than fully effective to have two separate committees dealing with Council and other official bodies on matters affecting Omaha as a whole and there was agreement by both OBC and OBRS community members that the OBRS should become a Corporate Member of the OBC. Essentially each OBRS member became a member of the OBC.

With responsibility for all matters involving Omaha at large, the OBC has been extremely effective in looking after community interests. There are many examples going back in time such as the causeway walkway/cycleway and its dedicated bridge and, on the same subject, the very recent approval of the walkway/cycleway from the Broadlands Drive roundabout to the Community Centre.

The OBC management of the Omaha Park Environment Court appeal which stopped the development of 856 house sites on the head land at the southern end of Omaha and the more recent successful objection to the Auckland Council's proposal for Freedom Camping are further examples of the logic of having one body speak for Omaha.

Another less well-known benefit is that every OBRS member, as an OBC member, is by right a Social Member of the Omaha Beach Golf Club (OBGC) and you should all have received membership cards providing access to the licensed facility as of right and also providing members with a 10% discount on bar purchases.

It is pleasing to say that the three principal Omaha committees of OBC, OBGC and OBRS have in recent times been working together in a very constructive manner and I'm sure will continue to do so.

Graham Painter, Chairman, OBRS

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Firstly, thanks to everyone who contributed their annual subscription in 2020 (\$70). Yes, it's that time again for 2021 but it's all for a very good cause.

Particular thanks to everyone at the Northern end, where the subscription is voluntary, especially those who came late to the party after we delivered letters to the Omaha addresses, having initially sent them to the Auckland addresses. This raised a further \$5,000 of valuable funds which will come in very handy and be put to good use.

Thanks also to those who advised of corrections and additions to our database, which has been updated so you can receive

this Newsletter by mail and by email. Please continue to keep us updated with changes to your contact details. us@omahabeach.co.nz

There is a vast amount of valuable beach furniture, barbeques and other equipment in homes that have the blinds drawn and are obviously unoccupied for lengthy periods and one of the most important uses of the subs money is the engagement of security patrols. You'll see we are replacing the current cameras with upgraded versions and this, coupled with the great service from Insite Security, has to contribute significantly to your peace of mind.

Add to this the issues with walkways, traffic, community leases, toilets, the long-delayed extension to the footpath/cycleway from the roundabout, predator traps, groynes and, recently, freedom camping ... and you will see that the list of issues affecting your community is extensive and continuous.

Your support is really appreciated by the OBC Committee volunteers who work tirelessly on your behalf.



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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 e.g. if a neighbour has reported something suspicious or untoward 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.

We can't get hold of you if the information in our database is out of date. So if you move addresses, whether your home in Omaha, Auckland or elsewhere, please do let us know.

If you've got a new email address or phone number, or updated your old 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!



FIBRE BROADBAND, INTERNET AND CONNECTION

Broadband

Well, the good news is that workers were onsite near the roundabout in late October to start the process of deploying Internet fibre in Omaha. However, the online Broadband Map at www.broadbandmap.nz still indicates that the rollout of fibre is to be completed by May 2022 and there's also now a predictable proviso that "planned availability dates are no longer accurate due to the COVID-19 lockdown period" - so we'll have to see how things progress. In the meantime, wireless rural broadband is available, but many people still rely on the longstanding copper phoneline-based DSL service (in particular VDSL).

Community Website www.omahabeach.co.nz

Earlier this year, we refreshed the OBC "official" website to make it a little more compact and more informative for Owners and Residents, as well as visitors. In particular the most notable "News & Events" are now right on the Home page

so do check in regularly. If there's anything important or interesting happening around the community, then please let us know at us@omahabeach.co.nz - and we'll do a shout out. Check in regularly for all the latest local gen!

Community Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach

While not operating under the auspices of the OBC Committee, we appreciate the role that the ever-busy local Facebook page plays in providing useful information to Residents and Visitors. Our thanks to the Admins for their time which is generously given!

OMAHA BOAT RAMP

Every year in every Newsletter we mention boat ramp etiquette and carparking. You have all probably noticed that the boat ramp carpark and overflow carpark have been full many times this year, particularly after both lockdowns. The situation will be much worse this holiday period due to a number of factors.



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COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Boaties from all over Auckland prefer to use the Omaha boat ramp as Gulf Harbour is extremely busy and most other ramps in the area require the right tidal conditions to launch. We estimate that 70% of all users are not local and we will be conducting a survey of these numbers for a period in January, particularly in weekends. There is nothing to stop non-locals from using the ramp of course, as it a public ramp.
2. A rising number of boaties use Omaha as a launching ramp to travel to Great Barrier and elsewhere in the Gulf and will stay there for 48 hours or more. In normal circumstances that parking space would be used by up to six boats at ranging intervals.
3. People who park their cars in the carpark with no trailer attached which takes up a genuine vehicle and trailer park.
4. Some nearby residents also deliberately park their visitors' cars in the carpark, taking up further potential trailer parking. Again, legally there is nothing to stop these people doing this, but we believe it to be an unfortunate and ultimately selfish practise.
5. Vehicles and trailers are therefore taking up more and more space on surrounding streets, but particularly Omaha Drive, which is creating congestion and a potential hazard to other motorists and pedestrians.
6. Inexperienced or arrogant boaties preparing their boats on the ramp are also holding up everyone else.

We have been talking to Auckland Council about improvements to the ramp and carpark and would have liked to have had some of these completed by the holiday

period. These improvements would not cost that much and would make a difference to ramp users.

- Water blasting the ramp.
- Removing the four rough garden beds from the boundaries to create more carparking.
- New signage using much stronger language re no private single car parking.
- An indication that there is a serious drop off at the end of the ramp at low tide.

Longer term we need to have the drop off fixed, the ramp widened, the carpark guidance provided and lane marking on the ramp.

We would welcome any suggestions for improvements to ramp and parks. You can email us at us@omahabeach.co.nz

POSITIVELY MATAKANA

Positively Matakana is part of Positivity Radio, a community radio network set up by Noel Edmonds who is now a local resident since recently moving over from the UK.

Interviews, stories, updates, events, club activities, leisure sports and an eclectic range of great music from all eras.

A team of contributors are around and about in the Matakana-Leigh-Point Wells-Omaha area to capture the latest local offerings and info. They're always looking for news snippets of local community interest so please phone Annie on 027 9297767 or email mellorannie@gmail.com

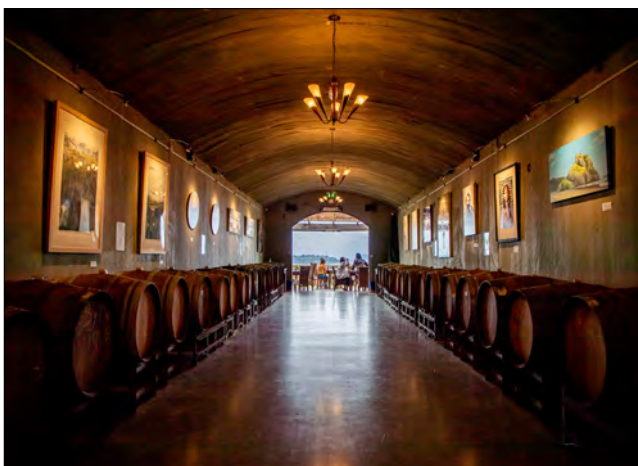
To listen - download the app PosRadioNZ and find Matakana. Or listen online at <https://positivitynz.radio>



BEACH ETIQUETTE

PLEASE RESPECT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER:

- **Respect the dog rules (page 29)**
- **Pick up after your dog**
- **Keep your kids off the dunes**
- **No fires on the beach**
- **No alcohol on the beach**
- **Stay safe in the water**
- **Report anything untoward to Insite Security or the Police**



Combining our two passions; Art and Wine, Bev & Hegman Foster invite you to visit the Winery where they have established OBV Gallery. Representing a select group of contemporary New Zealand Artists including;

Mandy Emerson, Graham Young, Helene Carpenter, Christian Nicholson, Brad Novak, Ron Hall, Shaun Ryan, Shane Walker, Hanna Isaac, Raewyn Hildreth, Richard Smith, Vivian Keenan, Ilya Volykhine, Merthyr Ruxton, & Heather Wilson.

Soak up the atmosphere of the Winery building, enjoy the stunning coastal views, immerse your senses in fine wines, contemporary art & gourmet platters.

Open Friday - Sunday 11 - 5pm or By Appointment
www.omahabay.co.nz
PH 09 4230022 169 Takatu Road, Matakana



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

The first quarter of 2020 got off to a smooth start at Omaha Beach Golf Club and Community Centre, with no indication of what lay ahead for the rest of the year. Little were we to know the impact COVID-19 would have on the Club, although it pales into insignificance as we witness the devastating death toll and economic impact across the globe.

As for so many businesses and organisations, the year has presented us with unprecedented challenges as a result of the pandemic, with forced closures and continued restrictions in the way we've been able to operate our services and facilities. With each change in our operating environment, we were also challenged with an increased demand in playing numbers on the course and, for extended periods, limited playing availability.

During this tumultuous time our committee and staff have endeavoured to put the health and safety of members, visitors and supporters first and foremost.

Considering all of the above, we feel that our financial position is strong and the correct financial and operational decisions have been made in order to minimise the impact of the SARS 2 Corona Virus.

THE FINEST 40 GOLF COURSES

New Zealand's Top 40 Golf Rankings were announced in May, with OBGC standing out as one of the "big movers" – coming in at Number 23 (up from Number 32 in 2018) out of a total of 400+ courses nationwide. Rankings are compiled from a panel of twenty-seven "rankers" with nearly 1,000 years of combined golf experience. The scoring system is based on seven criteria that cover key factors essential in good golf course design, as well as what is important

to golfers who play New Zealand's golf courses.

MEMBERSHIP AND GOLFING

Our membership retention and growth has been outstanding this year and our existing members are to be congratulated for encouraging family and friends to join OBGC. Despite constraints, golf participation has been high, due to many other sports not being played and increased member demand – hence our golf starter sheets have often been near capacity.

At the time of writing this report, our golf membership stands at 742 – an increase of 118 since November 2019. A warm welcome to members who have joined the Club during the year, and we trust all are having a positive experience.

Social Membership

The support provided by the local community is always appreciated, and it is a pleasure getting to know Residents who have become regular customers of the onsite Café. Residents and homeowners who are members of OBC and OBRS are deemed to be social members of the Club. We are working with representatives from these associations to produce social membership cards for all interested and eligible households. Further information is to come about this initiative.

THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Volunteers

An incredibly valuable contribution to our Club culture is the volunteer and supporter network. These people dedicate a significant number of hours to both the Course and Clubhouse. We simply wouldn't be able to effectively operate without their support. Our gratitude and sincere thanks go to these generous people for their skills, expertise and goodwill. As there are too many individuals to name, we acknowledge the groups that they represent:

- Our Governance Committee Officers.
- People who help with Course maintenance and new Course developments.
- Dad's Army – a team of talented gents who help to maintain the interior of the Clubhouse, manage signage, and help with whatever is needed for events.
- Diamonds in the Rough – a dedicated team of garden enthusiasts who maintain our gardens.

- Folk who dedicate their time and expertise to undertake a wide variety of tasks, both in the Clubhouse and on the Course, for tournaments, events and regular activities.
- Donors of equipment and services who help fulfill our "wish lists" for the office and Clubhouse.
- Experts who advise on a wide range of legislative and regulatory compliance matters.
- Committee representatives of local Associations – OBC, Friends of OBGC and OBRS.

Sponsorship Partners

Late last year the Club was thrilled to welcome Jarden as our first Principal Sponsor. As a much-valued partner, Jarden has made a significant difference for members and locals alike. Jarden sponsored an event where Bill English spoke to a group of Club members about economic matters, both global and domestic.



Bill English talks to members

Our family of sponsors and donors has grown to 61 this year, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to the Club. Working with you all this past year has been a pleasure and we're proud to have you all with us.

COMMUNITY CENTRE INITIATIVES

In July our committee made the decision to sub-contract out the Café to one of our staff members, and it has been heartening to witness the support from customers and members for the services offered by Kim and her team. The Café is open to everyone daily and has gained a dedicated following for its Friday night dinner service.

CLUB REPORTS

Our team is working with the Café and the Auckland Food Truck Co-operative to offer evening meals during the summer holidays. Keep an eye on OBC's social media sites, and the Club's Newsletters for further information about these and other upcoming initiatives.

We ran a community competition earlier in the year to name the Café and the judging panel agreed that Estuary Café was the perfect choice. New signage and a visual identity are currently being developed and we hope to launch it before Christmas.

Several new Clubs will be up and running in the New Year, including 36 SOUTH Travel Club, the Omaha Fishing Club and a fortnightly Bingo Club. We are looking for folk who can help with Club operations and, if you're interested, please email us at: admin@omahagolf.co.nz

VISION | 2022

This is a joint initiative between OBGC and Friends of Omaha Beach Golf Club. "Friends" is a charitable trust that was formed in 2010 with its purpose being to raise funds and provide other resources to support the Club with Course development, for the benefit of its members and the wider Omaha community.

It has long been a goal of the Club to finish upgrading the northern 9 holes to deliver a Course of 18 holes of consistently high standard and year-round playability. With this in mind, an ambitious fundraising plan has been developed to raise the funds required to commence development of Holes 15, 17 and 18.

Mondiale | Omaha ProAm

New Zealand's longest running ProAm event attracts many of the country's top professional golfers annually. This PGA sanctioned two-day event is now in its 21st year and with a prize pool of over \$30,000.



Mondiale Pro Am

We've come through a year that was filled with both challenges and opportunities.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve, we've seen, and resolved, many confronting moments. We've been inspired by the way everyone has risen to the challenges, with resilience, courage, flexibility and a caring heart.

To each and every person who plays the Course or passes through our doors, thank you for your contributions and patronage. Our very best wishes and happiness to you and your families as we look forward to an enjoyable and successful 2021.

Check the website for the latest info www.omahagolf.co.nz



Omaha Golf Course and Clubhouse



Burger Night, Estuary Café



The Golf Course lake



Santa mowing the Course

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (OBSLC)

President: Linda Crisford

Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Website: www.omahasurf.co.nz

Phone: 09-422 7022

This summer will likely prove to be the busiest ever - there were 900 people on the beach on Labour Weekend Sunday!

The Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club has worked tirelessly this year to ensure we have trained, educated, and supported our lifeguards to be ready for what is already proving to be an extremely busy season. Just last weekend we welcomed 12 newly trained guards to our team.

Congratulations to them as well as all the newly refreshed lifeguards. We need to continually upskill our lifeguards as the statistics from last season show how busy, dedicated and professional our lifeguards are with two major rescues, 12 assists, six major first aids and, overall, 2,889 lifeguard patrolled hours. Tending to all this so professionally was a fantastic achievement.

To ensure we maintain our lifeguard goals we are continuing to focus on recruitment, retention and training thanks to Andrew Cowan, Deb Collings, Rob Early, Ruth Tanner and Leilani Jones. Our committee - Gayleen Redding, Jess Broun, Tracy Blair, Gillian Walker, Darren Hodgetts, Rob Early, Marc Simpkin and Amanda Garthwaite - work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of our Club in all areas.

Seeing the Juniors on Sunday mornings is a sight to behold, the joy on the children's faces is testimony to the hard work of the parents, coaches and managers.

We have run outstanding carnivals for Northern Regions, pulling together as a Club to do an amazing job both on and off the beach.

It is important that we recognise that we are a volunteer organisation on which there are continuing increasing demands on our time and resources through COVID-19 compliance, Health and Safety, funding, Northern Regions and new Government forms, in order to acquire and maintain the boards, surf skis, clubhouse and equipment we need.

The Government has come forward with some funding, however it will only support operating costs and, overall, will only amount to 15% of our costs.

CLUB REPORTS

Therefore, we continue to rely on you, the community, and the public to support us financially to ensure we can look after our beach goers.

Please support our wonderful guards and Club by donating directly to the Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

You can make a donation through any of the following ways:

- make a deposit to our OBSLC Bank Account 12-3050-0277263-00
- contact Gayleen Redding, our hardworking administrator at mail@omahasurf.co.nz
- contact Jess Broun (our Treasurer) at the brouns@gmail.com

Raising money for the Club is an ongoing constant concern and every dollar counts. I thank you in advance for your donations.

We are a family and community Club – so come and join us!

And please remind all your family and friends that swimming between the flags will keep you safe.

Have a wonderful summer.

Linda Crisford, OBSLC President



Newly Qualified Lifeguards,
31st October 2020



Members of the Omaha Beach Bowling Club

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

President: Christine Wilkinson

Email: wilkinsonsbc@gmail.com

Phone: 021 1777 173

The summer Bowling season is officially underway.

This now sees winter behind us and a brand-new green ahead of us. This past year has been a tough one with COVID-19 and its effects, which are still ongoing. We accomplished our fundraising goal this year to replace the green. This was an enormous achievement, given the current economic climate. Club members dedicated time and effort to this large project. Now we have a new season to look forward to – our experienced players and new members alike.

We've got a great committee who are keen to move the Bowling Club forward, as well as many members who are happy to get behind each of our committee members. We're looking at a strong push to get new sponsors on board as well as supporting those that continue to support us. If you can assist in any way, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Frank Timmins – your



Travelling wasn't possible due to COVID-19 – but with our bowling bags, we look like we're off somewhere!



Construction of the new bowling green

help will give the Club a good base for the years ahead.

Omaha Beach Bowling Club aims to make bowling available at all levels – those

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CLUB REPORTS

wanting to play for championship status as well as those who only wish to play at a social level. We have many a trophy to play for this season, as well as our Lazy Sunday Afternoon bowls held every First and Third Sunday of the month for our members. Paul and Maurice also offer free coaching for anyone who would like to upskill or learn from scratch as a new bowler.

If you would like to join as a new member, please don't hesitate to contact Paul Van der Linden, Maurice Hulme or Frank Timmins. The fees are \$160 per year per person. We'd love to have you as part of our friendly club.

Now that we have our new green, let's all enjoy bowling as much as we can.

Come along and have a go.

Christine Wilkinson, President

Omaha Beach Bowling Club Committee Members:

- **Paul: 0211890110**
- **Maurice: 0274 801 407**
- **Frank: 021 905 849**



WAKA AMA CLUB

Omaha Waka Ama is back on the water after a long break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of our junior members has increased considerably, there is a good chance you'll see them out on the waters this summer.

We are in the process of fundraising for a W1 (single outrigger canoe) and are also in need of another W6 (6-person outrigger canoe) to cope with the growth of the Club.

Location: Omaha Boat Ramp. When: Saturdays 9am to 10.30

Weather permitting, we operate throughout the entire year.

Come and have a go this summer!

Email nivag@slingshot.co.nz for more info.

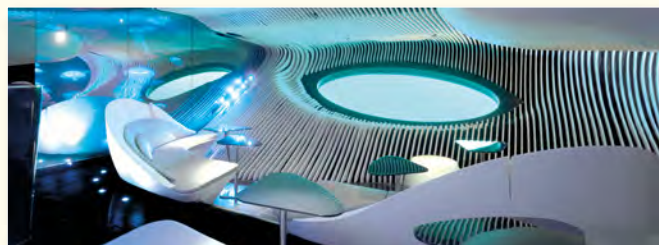
36 SOUTH TRAVEL CLUB

Here's a new Club with a difference ... the 36 SOUTH Travel Club, a place to reconnect with your love of travel.

Launched in October 2020, Omaha Golf Club and Omaha Beach Community present this exciting new initiative with organiser "The Travel Queen" Annie Mellor. You may have seen her talking travel on TV3's The Café, or heard her on the radio, sharing her worldwide travel encounters while working with a boutique travel company and international cruise line. Behind her entertaining stories and ideas for 36 SOUTH she has an experienced travel agency to source the deals and make your plans happen. The perfect combination!

Monthly events, held at the Community Centre, will include guest speakers to inspire and feed your love of travel. There'll be travel book authors, regional wine tastings, travel operators with behind-the-scene insights, in-depth info about special destinations and local secrets, "how to" travel blog tips, best solo deals and more!

Come along and share your travel favourites or discover new and exciting destinations with other discerning travellers.



The Blue Eye Lounge

To find out more about the 36 SOUTH Travel Club and receive info about upcoming events, contact Annie Mellor on 027 929 7767 or mellorannie@gmail.com

PONANT CRUISES IN NZ

At the inaugural 36 SOUTH event in October, guest speaker Bianca from PONANT (the only French-flag cruise line) shared information about high-end cruises on small capacity luxury ships - including some special NZ-based cruises, for New Zealanders only, aboard La Laperouse with its unique multi-sensory underwater lounge, the "Blue Eye". For more details check <https://en.ponant.com>



Dreaming of cruising... La Laperouse

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
36 SOUTH Travel Club	Annie Mellor	027 929 7767	mellorannie@gmail.com

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". <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach>

PAW PATROL

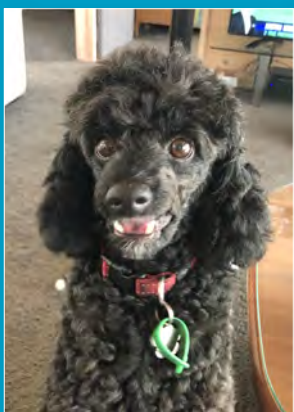
Hi, all Omaha dogs – this is your favourite canine correspondent, Zeke, here again!

Firstly, a reminder about the hours and dates that we're allowed to be on the beach (see right).

This is a real privilege for us so please remind your owners that we all need to obey the permitted hours and they need to always pick up after us.

We dogs should always be on our best behaviour, especially around children and, of course, the wonderful birds we have at Omaha.

Remember, in particular, that we're not permitted to go any further north on the beach than Walkway 2 (between Rita Way and Ida Way) so that we don't scare the birds that roost there.



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.

Enjoy the summer and please say hello if you see me out walking with Mum and Dad!

SAFETY & SECURITY

FROM INSITE SECURITY

A message from Chris Martin of Insite Security – keeping our community safe and secure. Please note that Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 30th November 2020 to Waitangi Weekend. Thanks to Chris and the Insite Team.

If you need assistance in any way, dial 09-425 7113 or 111 in an emergency.

Hi to everyone, and just reflecting back on the magnificent Labour weekend that we had this year. The boat ramp was certainly running at capacity and I suspect this will continue right through summer as there is a limited number of “all tide” ramps throughout the district.

A plea to Boaties to please maintain your calm and be courteous to others using the boat ramp when it is busy. A personal “does my head in” moment on the ramp is when there is a queue of boats waiting to launch and someone is sitting in the middle of the ramp blocking one of the main lanes, while they methodically sort out their fishing gear prior to dropping their boat in the water! Aargh!

Same courtesy goes on the retrieval – please don’t get your boat back on its trailer and then stop to have a yarn with the guy next to you on the ramp re your catch for the day. Move your boat and trailer off the ramp asap so the boats circling the ramp can get a chance to get home themselves.

Behaviour-wise, Holiday weekends through the year haven’t been too bad. We had a couple of Noisy Parties to deal with and, to their credit, the persons involved were immediately co-operative when it was pointed out their festivities were keeping the rest of the neighbourhood awake. Again, I guess if people were just a little bit more courteous towards others there would be no need to ask for a stereo to be turned down or off at 2:00am in the morning!

A bit of disorder in the Surf Club carpark and incidents of excessive drinking on the beach – but all in all people are just having a good time and being co-operative when asked to desist.

Are golf carts legally allowed on the roads?

As per the extract from Auckland Transport shown below, the short answer is a very clear ‘No’.

This question gets asked every year around this time, and generally arises as a result

of “young people” being observed driving golf carts at speed or in an otherwise dangerous manner around Omaha streets and walkways.

It would seem that, for three-quarters of the year, there are no issues with golf carts but, once summer arrives, there is a flurry of complaints.

Personally, I have no problem with people responsibly using their carts to get to the Golf Club.

Unfortunately we have at least four properties (that I am aware of) that regularly allow their teenage children (and younger) access to the family golf cart to drive where they will around the Omaha streets, at all times of the day or night. I’m guessing that when the parents are nearby the carts are driven at a moderate speed and carefully but, once out of view of parents, then it is time for a bit of a hoon! (Heck, we were all young once and I probably would have done the same given half the chance!)

However ... let’s take heed of the AT guidelines.

“In order for a golf cart to be driven on the road legally, it would need to be registered and licensed. Generally, golf carts cannot be registered for use on NZ roads as they do not meet minimum safety requirements for a vehicle. A golf cart is not a vehicle that is suitable for NZ roads for a number of reasons.

Most golf carts fail to comply with general safety requirements as they have insufficient lighting equipment, their steering is left hand drive, they have no automotive glazing and poor seatbelts, seatbelt anchorages and brakes that usually operate only on the rear axle.

Typically, the bodies are constructed of fibreglass or lightweight metal and without doors or anything to keep the occupants inside the vehicle. Section 6 of the Land Transport Act 1998 states that ‘a person may not operate an unsafe motor vehicle on a road’.

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SAFETY & SECURITY

Therefore, golf carts would need to have efficient brakes, steering, lights and tyres suitable for the vehicle's usage. In conclusion, as a golf cart doesn't meet general safety requirements, it can only be operated in an area not considered a road.

They also aren't classified as a mobility device and therefore cannot be used on the footpath.

The definition of a road is quite broad and includes the following:

- a street
- a motorway
- a beach
- a place to which the public have access, whether as of right or not
- all bridges, culverts, ferries and fords forming part of a road or street or motorway."

Our local Police are also becoming increasingly frustrated at the number of occasions they find teens and younger persons "misusing" golf carts on Omaha streets, and elsewhere, and we understand

that they will now be taking a much firmer line with offenders. (See the following message from the Officer in Charge at Warkworth Police).

Sad that it has to come to this but the situation has only arisen by a few parents out there who are wilfully aiding and abetting their kids to break the law. Do we really need one of these kids to be badly hurt or to injure someone else before the message finally gets through?

Burglary

Only one burglary at Omaha over the past couple of months that we are aware of. The offender/s have targeted a home in the Northern end (disturbingly, at about 10.00pm at night). They have jemmied open an aluminium door at the rear of the property and then come inside. It appears that the alarm going into activation disturbed them and they made their exit via a laundry door.

Thankfully nothing was taken or destroyed within the home, however there was thousands of dollars' worth of damage

caused by the jemmying of the aluminium door and attempts also made on other aluminium windows in the same part of the house.

Please be aware of vehicles or persons who might seem "out of place" at certain times around Omaha. If you see something suspicious, ring 111 immediately. Police would rather attend now, and sort matters out than have to retrospectively investigate a series of thefts or burglaries that they have little or no leads to follow up on. A vehicle registration number can be just the breakthrough the Police need to resolve a series of crimes.

All the best to everyone out there, please take care and safely enjoy all the wonderful things that Omaha has to offer.

If you need to get hold of us at Insite Security, please call on 09-425 7113.

Best Regards,

Chris Martin, Director, Insite Security

Office: 09-425 7113

Website: www.insitesecurity.co.nz

FROM WARKWORTH POLICE

A message from Mark Stallworthy, Officer in Charge at Warkworth Police



We live, work and relax in a slice of Paradise. The Rodney Coast is a stunning area and Omaha is one of the slices of Paradise that is hard to beat. It's beautiful but it still provides challenges to Police over the summer months. The area has a huge influx of population within hours of the start of a Public Holiday and at the start of the Holiday season. It attracts day visitors from all over New Zealand [and the world] and that dramatic population explosion, in turn, creates frustrations for the local Community and Police.

Your local Police will use a common-sense approach to managing these frustrations. We give you our promise that we will respond in a way proportionate to your concerns. We try to apply the rules in a rational way.

As mentioned by Chris Martin, one of the things we are attempting to manage is the

use of Golf Carts in your neighbourhood. If you are commuting from home to the golf course, or back, and are driving in a manner that doesn't cause anyone annoyance or disturbance, you are sober and hold a driver's licence, then the Police will apply the provisions of the Land Transport Act in a common-sense way. If, on the other hand, three of you (usually one of whom is on the roof) are racing around in a Golf Cart dragging a teenager on a skateboard behind, our response is likely to be less congenial.

Golf Carts should not be used as a common form of transport. Persons operating them should not be unlicensed. All vehicles used on roads need to be up to a Warrantable standard; they require working lights, seat belts and doors and should be registered. I have asked my staff, in the first instance, to stop and educate people using Golf Carts but I have also asked that they take enforcement action against those who blatantly ignore these simple guidelines. First and foremost, we want everyone to have a great summer and to get home safely at the end of it.

Road Safety is the main concern here and I'd

ask all of you ... would you send your child out on a lightly-built Golf Cart in Ponsonby, Parnell or Queen Street? I have personally seen Golf Carts involved in crashes and, trust me, they are not designed to collide with Motor Vehicles. Neither are the precious humans within them.

This week I was talking with Members of the Omaha community, updating them on another traffic matter that was reported. I noticed that they reported their concerns to the Public Counter of the Station days after an incident occurred. This works, but it makes the subsequent enquiry much harder to investigate. Where possible, always call the Police when and where a Road Crime is occurring. The Police rely heavily on the Community to be our eyes and ears and we encourage you to report concerns to us in a timely manner. For example, if you see someone acting suspiciously, looking into properties etc, call 111.

The Police would rather attend and prevent a crime than hear about it the next day. If you call 111, the Police Communication Teams can instantly run registrations of vehicles. They can see if anything is suspicious and can dispatch your local

SAFETY & SECURITY

Police straight away to intercept a vehicle. Reporting it the next day, while helpful, is often too late.

If it doesn't look right, give us a call then and there.

In summary, we need you to report Crimes through to our Dispatch Team. The rule of thumb I find most helpful to apply is:

- If there is imminent risk of Injury to People or Risk of Damage to Property, call 111 immediately.
- If it is a traffic matter that does not involve an imminent threat of harm, call *555.
- If you are reporting an historic matter, call 105 or call into the Warkworth Police Station to report the matter. We'd love to see you!!

Mark Stallworthy

AEDS IN OMAHA (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS)



This is the international symbol for an AED defibrillator – available for public use in an emergency when someone is having a heart attack. Please make sure you are aware of where the nearest units to you are located.

Are you aware there are three AEDs in Omaha?

- Omaha Surf Club, 57 Broadlands Drive (Central)
- Omaha Southern Surf Club Tower – access via Pukemateko Reserve (South)
- Omaha Community Centre, 1 North West Anchorage (North)

A big shout-out of appreciation to Murray Baber from BLK Baber Lock & Key NZ Ltd who has kindly donated a new lock to secure our defibrillator at the Southern Omaha Surf Club Tower. Thank you, Murray, for your assistance to the community.

There are THREE steps to operating an AED – pull handle, apply pads, shock.

When someone has a heart attack (sudden cardiac arrest or SCA), an AED can be used to deliver a short, powerful electric shock to help the heart regain its natural rhythm. Anyone can quickly learn to use a defibrillator – you don't need to be a medical professional.

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.

Using a St John AED is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Pull handle.
2. Apply pads.
3. Shock.

Here's an overview of AED life-saving devices:

- **Easy to use:** Using the AED is simple. Calming and clear natural voice instructions coach you through every step of first aid defibrillation and CPR.

- **Always ready:** Comprehensive automatic self-tests check all the AED's vital functions on a daily, weekly, and monthly schedule, to ensure it is always ready for emergency life saving. They also alert you if any part of the defibrillator needs attention. The defibrillator is powered by a long-life (four year) disposable battery.
- **Safe:** The AED will not allow shock to be applied unless a shockable rhythm has been detected.
- **Versatile:** Can be used on anyone of any age, including children and infants (infant/child pads available separately).
- **Effective:** Patented SMART Analysis heart rhythm assessment and SMART Biphasic defibrillation therapy, clinically proven in more than 10 years of use. No other biphasic waveform is as well-documented.
- **CPR coaching:** Clear and easy-to-follow instructions can also talk you through the latest CPR guidelines if required.

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. It's definitely worth taking time to fully digest this information so that you are prepared.

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/>

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OMAHA RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

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

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 have proven insufficient to cope with the needs of Omaha over the peak summer and holiday period.

The OBC committee has again worked with Northland Waste in relation to the Rubbish collections, and Auckland Council in relation to the Recycling collections, and has been able to conclude the following arrangements for the current summer and holiday period.

RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

From the week following Christmas 2020, through to the week of Auckland Anniversary Day 2021, 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 we greatly appreciate.

See Calendar below for collection dates.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

From the week of Christmas 2020, through to the week of Auckland Anniversary Day 2021, 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 lid) Auckland Council Recycling wheelie bins. Recycling will NOT be collected from other bins or containers or if left loose next to the recycling wheelie bin.

To help manage the volume of recycling, please put your Recycling wheelie bins out by 7am on each collection day - regardless of how much is in the bin.

Please also note that, due to a combination of the extra volume of collections and traffic delays for the collection truck getting through the tunnel and back to their Silverdale base, the Recycling will, most likely, be spread over TWO days.

If the contractor cannot collect all the recycling in your street on the specified collection day, please leave your Recycling wheelie bin out and they will return the next working day to empty your bin. The collections start from the northern end of Omaha, so it's likely that it will only be the southern residents needing to leave their Recycling wheelie bins out for collection on the following day.

You must be able to close your Recycling wheelie 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 details of what can, and what cannot, be recycled:



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).

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: Wed and Sat 10:00am to 2:00pm

Read more here:

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



SUMMARISED CALENDAR OF OMAHA RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS OVER SUMMER 2020/21

DECEMBER 2020						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
21 st RUBBISH & RECYCLING	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th Christmas Day	26 th Boxing Day	27 th
28 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING <i>Boxing Day Observed</i>	29 th	30 th	31 st New Year's Eve			

JANUARY 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 st New Year's Day	2 nd	3 rd
4 th RUBBISH <i>New Years Public Holiday Observed</i>	5 th RECYCLING	6 th	7 th	8 th RUBBISH	9 th	10 th
11 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th RUBBISH	16 th	17 th
18 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd RUBBISH	23 rd	24 th
25 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th RUBBISH	30 th	31 st

FEBRUARY 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 st <i>Auckland Anniversary Holiday Observed</i>	2 nd RUBBISH & RECYCLING	3 rd	4 th	5 th RUBBISH	6 th Waitangi Day	7 th
8 th <i>Waitangi Day Observed</i>	9 th RUBBISH	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th

Notes:

- Some collections will take place on Public Holidays, and the weekends.
- From 15th February 2021 both the (weekly) Rubbish & (fortnightly) Recycling collections will revert to the normal schedule.

SUMMER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2020/2021

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! Also keep an eye out for posts on our website. www.omahabeach.co.nz

DECEMBER 2020

- Sunday 6th December 2020: **The Omaha Half Marathon**. A competitive running event promoting health and fitness as well as celebrating the Omaha and Point Wells area. Distances of 21km, 10km, 5km and 2km. Rain days: Backup #1 – 13th December 2020; Backup #2 – 20th December 2020.

For information about the event, winners etc check the website www.omahahalfmarathon.co.nz

- Saturday 12th December 2020: **Cellar Door Live Sessions**. Matakana Estate Winery, 568 Matakana Rd, Matakana. 11:00am – 5:00pm.

Come and enjoy a Saturday afternoon with jazz tunes and tasty treats with a glass of wine at the cellar door. Jazz/soul duo playing live music 12 to 3 pm. Wine tastings and Sawmill beers. Food truck serving tasty tacos and fries ... or share a Puhoi Valley cheese picnic box with your group. Persons under 18yo must be supervised.

Contact: info@matakanaestate.co.nz Phone: 0800 568 686

- Thursday 17th December 2020: **Late Night at Matakana Estate**. Matakana Estate Winery, 568 Matakana Rd, Matakana. 5:00pm – 8:00pm.

Evening patrons welcome at the cellar door to have a drink

and a bite to eat. Amaranto food caravan will be dishing up their freshly made Italian dishes; live jazz tunes from Latakana throughout the evening.

To book a table Email: info@matakanaestate.co.nz

Phone: 0800 568 686

- Sunday 27th December 2020: **Hidden Valley Festival**, Matakana Country Park, Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana. R18. 4:00pm to midnight. After selling out four years in a row, the iconic post-Boxing day foray returns; first out of the gate for Summer's festive season in picturesque Matakana.

www.hiddenvalleyfestival.com

- Thursday 31st December 2020: **Sculptureum**, 40 Omaha Flats Road. 6:00pm to midnight. Dining, a welcome drink, music and entertainment – also entry to the galleries and gardens. Tickets strictly limited.

To book, Email: rothko@sculptureum.net or

Phone: 09-955 7172

MARCH 2021

- 20th March 2021: **Warkworth A&P Show**. Live music, kapa haka, children's Fun Zone and food, as well as wood chopping, animals, dog agility, vintage cars and trade displays.

OTHER EVENTS AND PLACES YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

- **Omaha Beach Golf Club**, at the Community Centre, Omaha Drive. OBC members are welcome to use the Café and Bar facilities. Check out the dinner specials on Friday nights! www.omahagolf.co.nz, www.facebook.com/Omaha.Beach.Golf.Club.NZ Phone: 09-422 7551
- **Matakana Village Farmers Market**, 2 Matakana Valley Road. A true foodie's heaven with a focus on fresh, sustainable and local artisan goods. Open every Saturday, from 8am – 1pm. www.matakanavillage.co.nz/market Pop into the craft-oriented Market in the old Creamery adjacent, open on Saturdays until 2pm.
- Check out the **"Daily Rituals"** at The Stables Restaurant, Matakana Country Park. www.stablesmatakana.co.nz/daily-rituals
- Check out the **"Weekly Rituals"** at Smiths Bar & Restaurant, Matakana Country Park, a combination of an old blacksmiths and a 60s bach at the Matakana Country Park. www.smithsmatakana.co.nz/rituals
- **Sawmill Brewery**, on Leigh Rd. In the Smoko Room you can expect great food, and a massive selection of beer made on site. www.sawmillbrewery.co.nz/brewery
- **The Matakana (Village Pub)**, 11 Matakana Valley Road. Check out their daily specials, and events. www.thematakana.co.nz Phone: 09-422 7518
- **Sculptureum**, 40 Omaha Flats Road – 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
- **The Warkworth Hotel**, est. 1862. Lovingly restored into an exciting new Restaurant, Bar and Function Centre in the heart of historic Warkworth town – beautiful décor and great food. Be sure to book! www.warkworthhotel.co.nz Phone 09-422 1862
- **Matakana Cinemas**, 2 Matakana Valley Road. This world class facility is a fantastic asset to the local community. The Vintry wine bar is adjacent and you can grab a glass of a local wine and take it in to the cinema with you. Open 7 days, and sessions from early till late, the cinema plays the latest releases along with a few classics. Book by phone on 09-422 9833 or online via their website www.matakanacinemas.co.nz

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Tawharanui – Pink Beach Walk: Very few people know you can actually walk the coastal route from Omaha to Tawharanui. It is only approximately 4km as the crow flies, but you will need to watch for the tides. The walk covers pristine beaches and will require a good level of fitness.



Pink Beach, south of Omaha

Goat Island Marie Reserve: This marine reserve surrounding the tiny Goat Island is one of the most popular snorkeling/diving spots in the Auckland Region. Fish are fearless and plentiful which makes the whole trip worthwhile.

Warkworth: The town exudes a strong colonial heritage, so any 1900s fan will be served! Aside from heritage architecture, do not leave the town without checking out the huge kauri trees in the forest nearby and the Warkworth & District Museum. Parry Kauri Park, Tudor Collins Drive, Warkworth. <https://warkworthmuseum.co.nz/>

Warkworth Cement Works: Pack a picnic and cool off on a hot day at the Cement Works, it's an almost ghostly place, but fascinating and comes with an awesome swimming hole. Wilson Road, Warkworth.

Puhoi: More than a simple small village, Puhoi showcases the story of its early settlers: bohemians that came to the country in search of a fresh start. Visit the famous Puhoi Pub Hotel & Stables, est. 1879.



At Scandretts Bay



Pakiri Beach

Pakiri Beach: Often described in three words: 'pristine white sands'. Located only 30 minutes from Omaha. Fantastic horse trekking along the beach. <https://www.horseride-nz.co.nz/>

Pakiri Beach

Mt Tamahunga: Drive out towards Leigh and turn left up Omaha Valley Rd to find the Mt Tamahunga track. While it's only a few kms, it is steep. The views at the top (Auckland highest peak) are worth the effort.

Ti Point Coastal Walkway: Boardwalks and coastal paths take you from the wharf to the open grassy area of Ti Point Scenic Reserve. Approx. two hours return, some minor scrambling involved. Fabulous views of Omaha. Even venturing half-way is worthwhile.

Scandrett Regional Park: This small Regional Park and historic farm on Mahurangi East Peninsula is just 3kms beyond Algies Bay. The pioneering Scandrett family set up life here in 1863; today you can wander around the restored homestead, barns and beautiful bay. Best at mid to high tide, ideal for swimming, kayaking and picnicking. There are several walking trails including a short track down to Martins Bay.

At Scandretts Bay

On the Water: Take a leisurely cruise on the Matakana River, or get on board the Shuckleferry to learn about the local Mahurangi oysters. www.oysterfarmtours.co.nz/ Hop aboard the Royal Mail Run Cruise to Kawau Island from Sandspit or explore the local coast and islands with Gulf Eco Adventures.

The Matakana Coast Information Centre in the foyer of the Matakana Cinemas complex has a stack of brochures about everything on offer in the area and, often, passionate volunteers on hand to share info.

Check www.matakanacoast.co.nz for more info.

LOCAL DELIGHTS

There are so many fabulous products and services in the local area, we encourage you to buy and try them! Be loyal and shop local. Here's a small selection of local goodies.

Check out the Made in Matakana Facebook page for more goods and services <https://www.facebook.com/groups/597530070863638>

Matakana Honey: Roger Alexander of Matakana Honey took up beekeeping in 2012 after 33 years of building. Rog was keen to get involved in an industry that would satisfy his desire to contribute to the community and help the planet. After throwing himself in at the deep end, he formed his own beekeeping strategies that enable him to keep his bees healthy and happy. To ensure a great quality of life for his bees, he limits the number of hives he runs, and this also ensures the highest standard of honey, which has antibacterial properties.

Matakana Honey is locally produced in the surrounding hills and is triple-churned in a cold vat for three days in Matamata. Rog's excellent-quality certified honey tastes absolutely delicious and is fantastic for

health and wellbeing. Available at Matakana Farmers Market on Saturdays and online. Also candles and wax blocks.

<https://www.matakanahoney.co.nz/>

Ikes Mandarin: Roger is also the man behind Ike's Mandarins – you'll have passed the stall on Omaha Flats, on the left shortly before the causeway. Roger planted his mandarin orchard in 2000 and, just like a great wine, time brings out the best in mandarins. Now, 20 years later, these sweet, easy-peel, no-pip mandarins are "simply the best". At the end of last season, Roger gifted two tons of mandarins to various Auckland charities; a sure sign of abundance and generosity.

The mandarin season runs from April to July. Look out for these juicy colourful tasty morsels on the stall when autumn looms.



Dutch Touch Produce: You'll find Leonie Boele's genuinely home-grown seasonal produce at the Matakana Market where she recently won the award for best stall. She grows her freshly harvested and beautifully presented tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, herbs, beetroot, spinach, pak choy, and soon garlic too, in peat soil. Because she tends her produce with personal TLC, the quality, flavour and freshness are second to none. Leonie also sells lemons, grown by Wendy Inger along the road, and local capsicums from Southern Paprika – owned by Hamish (Roger's brother) & Robyn Alexander who have grown locally for many years. Leonie

also makes and sells beeswax wraps – a great item to have in the kitchen to cover and/or wrap food in (e.g. cheese) to keep it fresh. Eco-friendly and reusable – a great replacement for plastic food wrap.

Check regularly for Leonie's seasonal items for sale at the Ikes Mandarin stall.

NB: As the local roadside stalls operate an honesty system, it always pays to carry some cash/coins with you so you can snap up the local goodies fresh from the land!

Matakana Oysters: The Green Shed at 1217 Leigh Road was set up in 2006 to sell Pacific oysters fresh off the Mahurangi Harbour, harvested on the low tide by Tom and his team. The flavour and texture of the oysters changes subtly with the seasons – saltier in autumn/winter and creamy in spring/summer. Buy in the half-shell or a pottle; choose smaller cocktail size, medium or large. Eat there or takeaway (lovingly packaged with ice).

Next time you approach the Green Shed corner and see the signs out, swing in and pick up a feed. There's a scallywag charm to the place and a huge vinyl collection out back. Humour, a good yarn and delicious oysters guaranteed.

They endeavour to open every day but "due to weather, tides and rum" they can be closed at short notice. Check ahead. NB: Closed throughout February and when heavy rain is about.

<https://www.matakanaoysters.co.nz>

Phone: 09-422 6313



LOCAL DELIGHTS

Maxwell & McIntyre Natural Oral Health:

This wonderful range of vegan organic whitening toothpastes and tooth powders are made by hand in Leigh from all-natural products using a high quality organic, raw, cold-pressed (green) coconut oil base. No harmful and unnecessary chemicals, foaming agents or toxic ingredients. Coconut oil helps maintain a natural balance so as not to inhibit or change taste. It also has antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties and helps keep gums healthy.

The world's only (and they believe best) green coconut oil toothpaste. Try it, you will be surprised at how good your teeth feel afterwards. Check the website for more info and local stockists.

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

Matakana Berry Co & Gala

Berry: One of the largest strawberry producers in the country, these are quality berries grown with care and picked with pride. Strawberries have been grown here in Omaha Flats since 1991 and the operation is still going strong. With premium soil and an ideal climate, the berries are sweet and tip-top quality and harvested earlier than other areas due to high sunshine hours and minimal frost. They also grow blueberries.



The "Pick Your Own" season starts on 10th December - check the website for specific PYO days and be sure to take your own container. You'll also find storage tips and recipes on the website.

Available at the gate on Omaha Flats Road (Sept to Jan) and also at the Matakana Farmers' Market.

www.matakanaberryco.co.nz

Flourish at Home: An artisan soap maker producing a range of luxurious and skin-nourishing milk-based soaps containing only the highest quality natural oils and butters that will gently cleanse and nourish your skin. Hand made in Matakana using traditional cold process methods.

Free of chemical preservatives (parabens), synthetic perfumes, artificial colorants, phthalates and unnecessary ingredients, all soaps are cruelty-free and never tested on animals. Dairy milks are locally-sourced and the almond and coconut milk is made from raw ingredients - no fillers, thickeners or emulsifiers. All colours from natural sources and only therapeutic-grade cold-pressed essential oils are used for fragrance.

The soap range includes:

- Lavender lemon almond milk swirl
- Gently exfoliating hibiscus flower (great for gardeners!)
- Orange blossom and shea butter goat's milk



- Lemongrass, ginger and coconut milk
- Fragrance-free Manuka honey and oatmeal goat's milk
- Rose clay and shea butter goat's milk
- Mango butter and turmeric milk
- French green clay and avocado butter facial bar
- Rhassoul clay and Manuka honey goat's milk facial bar

In addition, Flourish at Home produces a natural, mineral-based laundry detergent, an oxygen based laundry soak and brightener, and the 'Sparkle Bar' - an all-purpose plant-based kitchen and bathroom cleaning soap that not only makes all kitchen and bathroom surfaces gleam, but also cleans dirty dishes! (Editor's note: The Sparkle Bar is brilliant!)

For more information please visit www.flourishathome.co.nz or find them on Instagram: [flourish.at.home.nz](https://www.instagram.com/flourish.at.home.nz)



Pt Wells General Store / Takeaways:

Established in 1948, and owned by Bex since 2016, this is one of those rare village stores that offers a combination of nostalgic vibe and modern offering - served with a friendly smile.

The store stocks a heap of fresh local produce, coffee, honey and more, as well as meat from both Matakana and Mangawhai butchers. Pick up general supplies, pies, sandwiches and summer treats.

If you're not in the mood to cook, order Takeaways. Fresh Leigh fish and delicious

MAXWELL & McINTYRE

Natural Oral Health

A photograph showing four jars of Maxwell & McIntyre toothpaste. The jars are labeled 'STRAWBERRY TOOTHPASTE', 'BAKING SODA TOOTHPASTE', 'SWEET PEPPERMINT TOOTHPASTE', and 'RALISI HPOWE'. They are all described as 'VEGAN ORGANIC COCONUT BASE NATURAL WHITENER'.

www.maxwellandmcintyre.co.nz/stockists

LOCAL DELIGHTS

burgers are tops and there's a wide array of all the usual takeaway items on the menu. The chips are cooked to perfection.

Usual Takeaway hours are **Wed 12-3pm and Thurs to Sun 12-7.30pm** ... but from Boxing Day hours will be midday until 8pm every day.

Check their Facebook page. Bex looks forward to welcoming you this summer!

<https://www.facebook.com/PWGeneralstore/>

Charlies Gelato: A favourite chill-out spot for locals and visitors to the area - just off the main Matakana Road, look for the large red sign at 17 Sharp Road. Over 40 ice-cream (gelato and sorbetto) flavours, many made with their own fruit grown on the property. Enjoy your ice-cream in the delightful gardens. Try the dark chocolate gelato which won them a Gold medal at the 2020 NZ Ice-Cream awards.

They also serve wood-fired pizzas made the authentic Italian way (summer period only).

Also available - locally roasted coffee, fresh home baking and bread, berries, citrus, figs and other home-grown produce. Charlies are setting up a new deli section which will include a range of pantry items, green, dried goods, some organic and local. Get along to check out all the goodies.

More info at www.charliesgelato.co.nz and on their Facebook page.



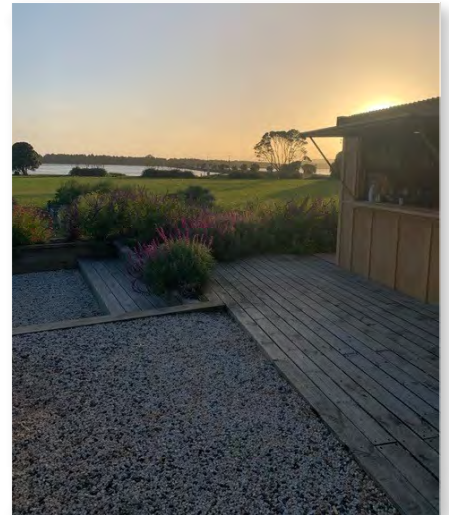
OOB Organic: From its early days as a pick-your-own blueberry orchard in the 2000s, OOB is now a highly-regarded and well-recognised producer of ice-creams, sorbets and ice-blocks, snap-frozen fruit, vegetables and berries, and, of course, punnets of their delicious fresh blueberries - all 100% certified organic and widely available.

The good news is that the Orchard ice-creamery shop on Jones Road will be opening for the summer season from Friday 18th December. Serving a wide range of mouth-watering ice-cream flavours and the inimitable soft-serve berry blend which has been a local favourite for many years. Pull up a bean bag, relax under the trees and indulge. And/or take a tub home for later.

The Farmers Daughter

After a winter of renovating, The Farmer's Daughter is reopening as a two-tier business.

The new Espresso Bar, overlooking the vegetable gardens and out to the estuary, is open 7AM - 3PM, 7 Days a Week, serving Eighthirty Espresso, Iced Matcha Lattes, Cold Pressed Juice + Wild Delicious



Fermented Water Kefir, Fresh Salads, Sandwiches, Cakes + Baked Goods - to dine in or takeaway.

The dining room is open 8AM - 3PM Wednesday to Sunday for brunch and lunch with a spectacular view, and a sustainable focus. Local beers, Peroni on tap, an extensive wine list and a delish menu for the kids too.

<https://www.facebook.com/thefarmersdaughteromaha/>

Bali Bliss at Bali Gardens

Sharleen Greer offers Bali Bliss days at the beautiful Bali Gardens at Point Wells, as well as other retreats. Her next event is Sunday 24th January 2021.

Check www.midlifecourage.co.nz or email Sharleen on sgreer@xtra.co.nz for more info or to book.

Bali Gardens is open Fri-Sun 11am until 3pm - call in for beautiful artisan products from Bali. <https://www.baligarden.nz/>

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LOCAL DELIGHTS



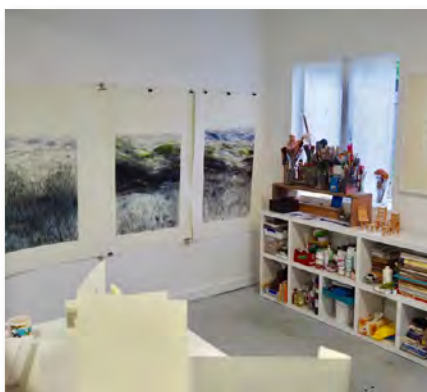
Blue Adventures/Omaha Surf & Supply Co

Visit Blue Adventures at their new boutique store Omaha Surf & Supply Co, located next to the Farmers Daughter at Omaha Harbour. Run by Nina and Tony, you'll find a wide range of wetsuits, surfboards and summer gear for the whole family.

If you've ever been keen to give kiteboarding, wakeboarding, foilboarding and/or wingsurfing a go, books a water-sports lesson with Blue Adventures for a personalised and exciting experience. Or rent a SUP or Surfboard. Get out on the water this summer with Blue Adventures!

For full info and links to Facebook and Instagram check www.blueadventures.co.nz

Takatu Studio: Helene Carpenter runs this busy working artists' studio on Takatu Road. Work is available for sale, including painting, prints and pottery. Exhibitions, workshops, classes and collaborative projects showcasing local artists ...



ceramics, printing, painting, life drawing ... it all happens here.

Helene, originally from Wales, was with Red Sea Gallery in Singapore (2006 to 2016) but is now a fully-fledged Kiwi and loving sharing her creative space and artworks. In collaboration with Philippa at Village Picnic, she also runs private Painting Parties - create an artwork while enjoying great local food and wine. They also offer drawing classes for aspiring young creatives aged 12 to 20 who are keen to learn about illustration.

Those who visit the studio are welcome to attend their Soiree evenings: BYO, held every two months on the first Friday (next one Feb 2021). A great way to network with other locals who appreciate all things creative.

Check the Facebook page for more info, feel free to PM Helene: <https://www.facebook.com/takatustudio>

And on Instagram [takatu_studio_helen](https://www.instagram.com/takatu_studio_helen)

BEYOND Travel Companion Services: Sally is a Tour Leader, Writer/Editor, Creative and Facilitator with 40+

years of diverse travel experience. She offers professional Travel Companion Services for anyone who would like assistance, support and companionship when travelling. Ideal for seniors and solos; tailored to meet your needs.

Also specially-curated escorted trips for ultra-small groups. Sally will take care of everything so you can relax and enjoy yourself without worry.

If you love to travel but desire support, especially during these COVID-19 days, this is the service for you. Currently restricted to travel within New Zealand - but once the borders open, Sally will be ready to escort you wherever you'd like to go. Attend a family event or take a bucket list trip - you'll be in safe and capable hands, and fun is guaranteed!

SUGGESTIONS:

- **World of Wearable Art "Up Close" Exhibition**, Wellington (12th Dec 2020 to 14th Feb 2021 at Te Papa) - Sally has had 8 garments in the WOW show and would love to escort you to this exhibition and share "behind the scenes" info. NB: This is not the live WOW show.
- **Race Day** - As a longtime horseracing enthusiast and owner, highly involved in the industry, Sally is keen to share her passion for this sport. Enjoy an escorted raceday experience at the racecourse of your choice.
- **Norfolk Island** - An under-rated and utterly fabulous gem in the Pacific - when borders open, let's go!

Phone Sally 021 480 323 at any time to have a travel chat.

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www.beyondlimits.co.nz

FOODIE CORNER

Lauraine Jacobs is well known for her book MATAKANA, published in 2008. Presently she is updating, rewriting and again working with photographer Ken Downie to create a new version with all new content. MATAKANA TOO will be published in spring 2021, with 25 new local heroes, and will be a comprehensive guide to the eateries, art, walks, wines, places to stay, and great activities of our area. Passionate about supporting local food producers Lauraine's book will have all new recipes inspired by the growers of the Omaha Flats and the food artisans of Matakana Village and Matakana Farmers Market. Here she shares a sneak preview of one of her best loved recipes from the book.



Lauraine's Best Ever Bacon and Egg Pie

A bacon and egg pie is one of the iconic food heroes of any New Zealand beach picnic. Years ago, I added herbs and tomato to my version to make it truly tempting. This pie is best served warm.

- 500g packet Paneton frozen flaky puff pastry (Matakana Four Square or New World Warkworth)
- 8 slices Matakana Bacon Company loin bacon
- 10 eggs (Quail Farm or the Matakana Farmers Market)
- 4-5 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley and basil
- 2 large firm but ripe tomatoes (The Grape Man, Omaha Flats)
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

#Matakana Bacon #local eggs #local summer heritage tomatoes

1. Place a baking tray in the oven and heat the oven to 210°C. The baking tray will heat up and the pie can be placed directly on this which helps to cook the pastry base.
2. Divide the pastry into two, one piece larger than the other. Roll out the larger piece and ease into a 24cm pie tin with a removable base.
3. Remove any rind from the bacon and cut into small strips. Place these pieces in an even layer over the pastry base.
4. Take nine of the eggs and break them one at a time, placing directly on top of the bacon. Take care not to break the yolks.
5. Chop the herbs very finely and scatter over evenly on top of the eggs. Apply salt and pepper liberally, and finish by placing thin slices of tomato on the herbs.
6. Roll the remaining pastry out and cut into thick strips. Place them on top of the pie to form a lattice. Break the remaining egg into a cup and beat with a fork. Use a little of the beaten egg to seal the pastry strips to the sides of the pie and then brush liberally to form an egg glaze on the lattice.
7. Place the pie into the pre-heated oven on the pre-heated baking tray and cook for 35 - 40 minutes until the pastry is golden and crisp.
8. Remove the pie when cooked and allow to stand for at least 20 minutes. Serve 6-8.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Who knew what 2020 would bring ... that dreaded five-letter word with numbers has cropped up numerous times throughout this Newsletter, along with its impact, so I will avoid mentioning it.

I feel fortunate to have spent lockdown in Omaha - I was here in late March, lockdown Level 4 came suddenly and then I had to stay! I've worked from home (in Auckland) for 14 years so having to do so from Omaha was something of a bonus. With laptop, wifi, Zoom and no distractions, it was a productive and gentle time - albeit a very strange one that required a measure of adaptation and patience for all. I'm just eternally grateful that we completed the rebuild on our house last year and I was able to enjoy it throughout those odd days of bubbles, solitude and adjustment to the new ways of the world. Many new builds and renovations were stopped in their tracks and that must have been so frustrating for affected owners and, indeed, the building crews and tradies.

I'd been in the throes of launching a new travel offering when lockdown arrived. Bad timing! That went on hold, along with planned travel, and I focussed my attention on writing and editing projects. I went no further than the Matakana 4 Square for supplies and the beach for exercise, picking up top-up items from the Omaha Superette en route. Thank goodness for local suppliers who stock just about everything we need. And it's great to highlight a small range of local products and services featured in our Local Delights section.

Writing the lead article about Omaha's founding families took me right back to my youth and the antics we all got up to back in the day. The parents sure knew how to party and we kids made the most of our special playground. It's not possible to indulge in that kind of zany fun anymore with so many rules, regulations and red tape, health and safety concerns and the consequent taming of unabashed and innocent fun. The evolution of modern society only serves to heighten the magic of past memorable moments and enduring friendships of yesteryear. New families moving in foster new friendships and the fellowship within our community remains strong, just in a different way.

I stepped into the recently restored Warkworth Hotel the other week and was captivated - beautiful inside and out, with a variety of offerings, locals are loving it. It's owned by the people who bring us Stables/Smiths at the Country Park and I'd encourage you to get along. Do book! It's so very different to the pub of the 1970s yet its intrinsic history is captured magnificently. I also enjoyed a great night at The Matakana pub quiz night during the winter (Tuesdays) - another wonderful piece of history in our midst, run by Kelvin and his team.

Borders may be closed but we are in one of the best spots - so much natural beauty, so many local products and services, and plenty of camaraderie ... right here on this unique spit. I've spent more nights in Omaha this year than I have in Auckland - which

was always our longer-term plan, just not envisaged quite yet. There's an upside to everything!

I have to admit I have itchy feet. International travel in the 1970s was exotic and, in time, I think it will again have that edge. Whilst many of us look forward to global travel, when we can do so safely, these months of sitting tight and riding through the challenges have been somewhat mellow and calming, despite uncertainties, troubling moments, a bit of tedium and grappling with masks. Having wine, fresh air and a beautiful beach close by helped, along with all those jokes that circulated! Throughout lockdown I took photos of the beach most days (it never ceases to amaze me at how different it is from one day to the next) and some of them feature in this issue.

2020 has been a year of taking stock of what's really important and what most definitely is not. The world is forever changed and, as we move into a new era, being able to enjoy all that Omaha offers is more appealing and an even bigger privilege than ever before.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sally Blyth (Editor)

sally@beyondlimits.co.nz Ph: 021 480 323



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Photo: Sally Blyth

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2020/2021 edition (with special thanks to Debbie Lee for easy collaboration to bring all the reports and information together);
- all contributing photographers;
- our "family" of regular advertisers whose support helps us bring you this Omaha Newsletter – and a big welcome to new advertisers.
- Julia Fisher, graphic designer, for the design and layout work on the Newsletter www.juliafisher.co.nz

SECURITY: For local assistance at any time, dial INSITE SECURITY 09-425 7113
Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 30th November 2020 to Waitangi Weekend, February 2021
Thanks to Chris and the Insite Team for working to keep us safe!

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