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Photo: Debbie Lee

A DECADE OF ACTION

Words by Sally Blyth

In this issue we reflect back on what has been achieved in our community over the past decade under the guidance of past Presidents Graham Painter, Peter Hooper and current President Chris Allan.

As Editor, I enjoyed the assignment of reviewing past editions of the Newsletter and compiling an overview of the various issues, tasks, projects and challenges that the OBC Committee has addressed over the last ten years. There are many actions and achievements to capture and, as you cast your eyes over the following pages, you'll get a feel for the amount of work that has gone in to keep the community not just ticking over but thriving.

Projects fall into various categories, some requiring more rigour and monitoring than

others. The advent of the Auckland Super City in 2010 meant a new approach to just about everything and the work undertaken by the Committee at the time is to be commended. The efforts and energy they put into negotiating contracts, making submissions and forging new relationships cannot be under-estimated.

A decade on, Omaha is a community in good heart, with great facilities and a well-run programme of activities, not to mention plenty of camaraderie and a neighbourly approach to life, something that is getting lost in so many parts of Auckland. Walking along the network of pathways, I'm always met with cheery nods and smiles, especially during lockdown walks when the ability to get out and about in the fresh sea air was appreciated more than ever.

Looking forward to the future, it is notable that the year 2022 marks 50 years since the initial development of Omaha in 1972 – that's five decades of steady evolution towards the wonderful coastal paradise we all enjoy today. The place may have a few crinkles, grey hairs and niggly bits but it has eased gently and graciously into middle-age and an air of contentment is evident, despite the chaos of the world at large.

Let's march through the next decade with similar passion and commitment to that which has been shown over the past one. Immense thanks must go to all those key players who have revved up the Council, offered guidance through tricky issues, overseen projects minor and major, taken action when it was needed and generally been great caretakers of a precious place in this world.

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What the OBC Committee has achieved over the past ten years (2011–2021)

2011 to 2015

- President: Graham Painter
- Treasurer: Kim Fisher (2005–2012); Richard Muir (2013–2015)
- Secretary: Trish Jackson (2012–2015)

2016 & 2017

- President: Peter Hooper
- Treasurer: Ian Russell

2018 to 2021

- President: Chris Allan
- Vice President: Murray Beatson
- Treasurer: Rob Zubielevitch (2018–Oct 2020); Rohan Meuli (from Oct 2020)
- Secretary: Rob Zubielevitch

SUPER CITY (INITIATED 2010)

- **2010:** Unitary Plan issues, challenges, contracts etc
- **2014:** Ongoing legal work re mana whenua sites of cultural significance (x14), LIM circles, zoning, mangroves, floodplains, flooding risks
- **2015:** Coming to end of Unitary Plan process
- **2016:** Victory and a great outcome re Unitary Plan – a number of submissions were successful; end of the process; overview of outcomes for OBC published in Summer 2016/17 Newsletter
- Submissions have been put forward on: Projects and priorities for 2018; Omaha Drive cycleway/walkway; Dry Attenuation Pond and Rehui Te Kiri reserve flooding; RFT and regional land transport plan; Proposed Bus stops consultation; Road signs and marketing; Budget and Auckland Plan; Pest Free Omaha; Freedom Camping; Matakana Link Road; Public toilet facilities (2018); Proposed submissions on: Public nuisance, set net ban and Hill St intersection (2018)

OMAHA PARK LTD – SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT (proposal for development 2007)

- 2008: Legal proceedings in place to stop it going ahead, Graham Painter was the convenor. Richard Brabant appointed Barrister for OBG for the case – lots of work also by Chris Allan and Treasurer Kim Fisher.
- 2010: The case ran for several years and the appeal was successful in August 2010. Thanks to OBC’s OPL sub-committee who oversaw the challenge, raised funds and kept the community informed.

SEAWALL EXTENSION (Estuary) – completed 2012

MARINE RESERVE ISSUES (2011); Marine and Coastal area – claims by iwi (2018)

LOCAL IWI (MANUHIRI KAITIAKI) – Treaty Settlement (2012)

LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS – Te Arai (2012), Sandspit marina (2012)

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES – OBC became a not-for-profit with no tax payable (2012).

MAYOR LEN BROWN’S VISIT 2013 – Issues of focus: Maintenance, security, roading, boat ramp, boat speed, Omaha Drive footpath, stormwater, Whangateau Harbour, set netting, rating, Shorebirds Sanctuary (took Mayor by surprise), Tsunami response, Quarry

RATES

- **2014:** Monitoring and advocacy – a 10% rates discount does not recognise the reduction or absence of services (30% would be more appropriate)
- **2015:** Rates reduction negotiated

WATER

- **2012:** Water meter trial
- **2014:** Wastewater Treatment plan – consultative group set up
- **2016:** Wastewater Treatment plant – renewal of resource consent
- **2017:** Healthy Waters Action list
- **2020:** Advocacy re water and flooding ongoing

SHOREBIRDS SANCTUARY

- **2013:** Predator fence torn during storm 25 Sept 2013
- **2014:** Trapping for stoats, damage to birds (air-gun pellet in oystercatcher)
- **2018:** Safety concerns, cats out at night
- **2021:** Continual monitoring and messaging re problems caused by cats and picnics

RABBIT CONTROL

- **2012:** Problems!
- **2014:** Ongoing baiting programme
- **2017:** A major issue

PREDATOR FREE OMAHA

- **2016:** Active approach taken; Pest control expert engaged to talk with residents; Council policy deemed ineffective
- **2017:** Major issues with rats, stoats, possums and rabbits; Rat trapping under way
- **2017:** Grant received from Kiwibank Predator Free Communities Trust towards aim for Predator-Free Omaha

CIVIL DEFENCE/Tsunami EVACUATION PLAN

- **2011:** Safety information and siren testing
- **2013:** OBC survey undertaken to gather data
- **2014:** Negotiated exceptions for Omaha re Tsunami evacuation with only one way in and out
- **2016:** Overview of evacuation plan, warning signals, how to get out, manage kids etc

WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

- **2013:** Mangroves – control plan/working bee Jan 2013
- **2014:** Shellfish ban/cockle die-off issues
- **2014:** Full report re mangroves commissioned – finding was that active management is required urgently
- **2015:** Mangroves – removal of seedlings
- **2016:** Care for cockles
- **2021:** Bollards installed to help protect and restore balance to the environment and its wildlife

COMMUNITY CENTRE (opened September 1993)

- **2013:** Contributed to refurbishment costs (fireplace/curtains); Negotiated lease agreement (with Golf Course)
- **2014:** Report into ownership, how the Centre was initially built and funded (\$490k of community funds from “the Omaha Pot”);

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ongoing enhancements paid for with community funds

- **2014:** Council wanted to charge OBC commercial rent – after negotiations, the status quo eventually remained
- **2016:** Improvements to décor; Golf Pro-shop revamped
- **2016:** Lease discussions ongoing (due for renewal 2018)
- **2017:** Facelift inside and out
- **2017/18:** Complex negotiations continue re lease
- **2018:** Overview of Community Centre history published in Newsletter
- **2019:** Successful deal negotiated after 3 years of work (terms up to 30 years – for Golf Course and Community Centre)
- **2020:** Plenty of social functions; a great community space
- **2021:** Roofing work and maintenance undertaken

TANIKO WALKWAY

- **2011:** Initial scoping
- **2013:** Sponsorship, planting, funding; Resource consent granted November 2013
- **2014:** Consent fee waived after negotiations
- **2015:** Great progress made
- **2016:** Final 200m of track completed including bridge, change of route, maintenance etc

QUARRY WALK PROJECT

- **2013:** Bridge, native tree planting, macrocarpa seats – ecological study and report
- **2014:** Consent issues/challenge to costs, planting, seating installed on the track
- **2015:** Family planting day
- **2017:** 500 native plants supplied

BOAT RAMP

- **2011:** Lane markings created for trailer parking
- **2012:** 5-knot buoy installed
- **2013:** Boat Ramp study conducted in Rodney region following lobbying by OBC; new proposal put forward
- **2014:** Congestion and estuary hazards are major issues
- **2015:** Paving and widening work done
- **2016–2020:** Ongoing reminders about Boat Ramp etiquette
- **2021:** Ongoing congestion issues (especially when lockdown restrictions eased to allow boating); improvements to carparking planned; new signage; ramp water-blasted

STORMWATER ISSUES

- **2012:** Flood plain management plan initiated but not adequate; the “absurd” initial desk plan was withdrawn and a new plan developed. (NB: A “1 in 100-year rain event” happened in January 2012 – actually, there were 3 within 6 weeks!).
- **2014:** Rodney District Council officer determined that 480 Omaha properties would be subject to inundation due to rising sea levels – this was later reduced to 80 after lobbying and action. During the major rain events Jan/Feb 2012 the defined flood plain areas got no flooding and OBC worked to make sure affected residents didn’t have to submit flood mitigation plans with building consent.
- **2015:** Extreme rain and flooding Xmas eve 2015 – another “1 in 100-years rain event” in a few years, with 3-hours of intense rainfall.

- **2016:** Along came another rain event in June 2016 (28mm in 10 mins) with ongoing work by OBC to alleviate flooding issues; Council agreed with OBC’s campaigning – yes there is a problem! A study engaged with Tonkin & Taylor (overview of project published in OBC 2016/2017 Newsletter).
- **2017:** A rainy year – surpassed 2016 – stormwater infrastructure issues exposed; Council approved \$8.8m funding to resolve the issues.
- **2018:** “Tank loads” of rain – major flooding issues in Darroch Slope and reserves – meetings with Council Healthy Waters and agreement on a way forward.

COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL BOARD

- **2007–2016:** Long association with Penny Webster, former Mayor of Rodney (elected 2007) and Rodney Ward Councillor
- **2016:** New Mayor (Phil Goff), new Rodney Ward Councillor (Greg Sayers), Rodney Local Board Deputy Chair (Beth Houlbrooke – Chair 2016–2019))
- **2018:** Article on Allison Roe (Local Board Member 2016–2019) in OBC 2018/2019 Newsletter
- **2021:** Ongoing liaison about local issues and contributions from Councillor/Local Board members in each Newsletter

SECURITY

- **2012/2013:** Regular liaison with Chris Martin (Insite Security) and Warkworth Police; nightly Summer Patrols (initially introduced in summer 2007) run by Insite
- **2014:** Ongoing proactive security due to break-ins, transients squatting etc
- **2015:** Lots of petty crime, being monitored
- **2019:** Safety & security overview – burglaries, respect for neighbours, noise etc
- **2020:** Warkworth Police report included in Newsletter
- **2021:** Chris Martin retires and family members take over the Insite security business

ROADING ISSUES

- **2009:** Northern Gateway Toll Road (Johnstones Tunnels) opened 25 January 2009
- **2012:** SH1 Puhoi to Wellsford motorway proposal; Hill Street nightmares worsen!
- **2013:** Matakana through traffic and parking issues – submission to Unitary Plan
- **2014:** Matakana Link Road proposals; Hill Street intersection improvements and roadworks – ongoing nightmares!
- **2016:** Construction of Puhoi to Wellsford motorway begins
- **2018:** Traffic, signage, road markings in Omaha
- **2019:** Causeway markings for safety
- **2019:** Traffic safety concerns re use of ATV vehicles, quad bikes, electric carts around Omaha
- **2020:** New 60kph speed limit introduced on Omaha Causeway
- **2021:** New 80kph speed limit to Puhoi; Hill Street chaos continues; Puhoi to Wellsford SH1 Motorway progressing but delayed due to lockdown

OMAHA BEACH DEVELOPMENT – South and North

- **2015:** Sections in far northern end for sale
- **2018:** New bridge on reserve by Paraoa Cres

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RENTALS/TENANTS - Property rights and responsibilities (2014)

DOGS

- **2014:** Rules changed everywhere except Rodney
- **2018:** New dog access rules for the beach
- **2019:** Major changes and enforcement

SET NETS

- **2014:** Lobbying for ban
- **2015:** Crab fishing issues and ongoing set net concerns
- **2016:** Set net ban success after much work by many

BEACH PROTECTION

- **2014:** Dune protection and beach erosion issues
- **2014:** Beach no-no's - fires, dogs, creating private walkways
- **2015:** Dunes in good health
- **2016:** Beach etiquette reminders - ongoing
- **2018:** Northern Bank Erosion project
- **2020:** Concerns re desecration of rockpools
- **2021:** Concerns re impacts of dredging; signage on walkways deteriorating

MAINTENANCE/TREES

- **2013:** People poisoning trees for views
- **2014:** Maintenance of walkways and reserves and other general maintenance are major issues; good relationships forged with contractors and Parks people
- **2018:** Removal of harbourside pine trees
- **2019:** Pine tree removal north end, repairs to paths and walkways
- **2020:** Issues re spartina grass and ice plants; repairs to northern walkways

GROYNES

- **2014:** Maintenance difficulties - repairs done but failing in short period
- **2015:** Ongoing repair and maintenance
- **2016:** Repair project going well
- **2017:** Repair project complete

OMAHA DRIVE FOOTPATH

- **2015:** Proposal and plans for pathway from roundabout to Community Centre
- **2016:** Video produced by Peter Jackson; difficulties and setbacks encountered
- **2019:** Some slow progress
- **2020:** Delays due to COVID-19
- **2021:** Works undertaken and completed

NORTH-WESTERN BANK RESTORATION PROJECT

- **2016:** Proposed makeover
- **2017:** Ongoing work
- **2020:** Delays due to COVID-19

NEW PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES

- **2018/19:** Plans drawn up
- **2020:** Works approved but delayed due to COVID-19

FREEDOM CAMPING

- **2018:** Lobbying against the proposal
- **2019:** Ongoing strong lobbying
- **2020:** Success, no freedom camping allowed
- **2021:** Council introduces new bylaws which allow freedom camping! Residents asked to make submissions.

NEWSLETTER

- A long-standing and important comms tool since the early 1970s; three editions until 2013
- **2014:** Two editions per year - Winter and Summer
- **2016:** One Summer edition produced in print, other info via website and emails

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- **2007:** OBC Website and Database set up by Glenys McBain
- **2015:** OBC Facebook page set up
- **2015:** OBC website updated
- **2017:** OBC website rebuilt to be more user friendly; email up and running
- **2018:** All website work done in-house at less cost
- **2020/21:** Call for members to advise updated contact info to keep database updated

MEMBERSHIP

- **2014:** Overview and clarification re OBC and OBGC - membership
- **2016:** 1,000 members
- **2020:** OBRS overview in Newsletter; reminder re subs/fees
- NB: Interesting point to note - membership of the Ratepayers Assn in 1973 cost \$1 per family or section holder!

DEFIBRILLATOR

- **2014:** First AED purchased for \$2,950
- **2017:** 3 defibrillators in situ in Omaha
- **2021:** Additional defibrillators in Pt Wells and Matakana

SIGNAGE

- **2015:** General upgrade project; "Welcome" entrance sign destroyed by car
- **2016:** "Welcome" entrance sign reinstated

LOCAL CLUBS (reports published in each Newsletter)

- **2015:** Several new Clubs established
- **2015:** Golf Club hosted John Key PM Dinner
- **2016:** Ongoing Surf Club deficit reported
- **2016:** Floodlights removed from tennis courts southern end due to power costs, corrosion
- **2020:** Management agreement with OBGC confirmed

AGMS AND ANNUAL PLANNING FORUMS - Mayor Len Brown attended in 2012

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CHORUS FIBRE BROADBAND

- **2014/2015:** Upgrade of cabinets
- **2019:** Update on plans
- **2020:** Update on status
- **2021:** Work underway

COVID-19 (2020/2021): Observance and breaking of rules; delays to footpath along Omaha Drive and other projects; Auckland lockdown in place from 17 August to 3 December 2021

OBC COMMITTEE

- **2016:** Creation of 10-year strategic plan 2016-2025 (Vision - to be the "Safest Community in NZ"); Recruitment drive for Committee members
- **2016:** Major focus on identifying short, medium and long-term issues and plans re ageing infrastructure; Encouragement for members to use the Council website to contact Council rather than OBC for Council-related issues
- **2017 & 2021:** Call for Committee volunteers

RUBBISH & RECYCLING

- **2015:** Orange bags - problems with dogs and birds, bags bursting open
- **2017:** Revamp of rubbish and recycling services - survey proposed - calendar introduced in Newsletter to assist residents
- **2018:** Ongoing liaison to streamline rubbish issues
- **2019:** Info re waste included in Newsletter

LOCAL SERVICES

- **2013:** Kowhai Connection bus services begin
- **2015:** Matakana school bus begins
- **2016:** OBC becomes a formal member of Matakana Coast Trails Trust
- **2017:** The Concierge service begins
- **2020:** Pt Wells to Matakana Country Park pathway progress

- **2020:** Positively Matakana radio begins
- **2020:** Local Delights section in Newsletter

MATAKANA WALKWAY (created by Matakana Coast Trail Trust)

- **2011:** Stage 2 underway
- **2012:** Footbridges purchased (Dilworth and Tamaki Drive) - unable to be used for safety reasons
- **2014:** Matakana to Pt Wells/Omaha cycle trail in operation

COMMUNITY/PROPERTY

- **2013:** Changing demographics reported
- **2016:** More changing demographics - young families, permanent population increasing
- **2016:** Bayleys Advert shows lack of listings driving record prices in Omaha - Median sale price for a House in 2011 was \$845k, in 2016 it was \$1,409
- **2019:** Overview of the Pou in Omaha overview
- **2021:** Record house price sale over \$7m

WEATHER

- **2012:** Three major rain events Jan/Feb
- **2013:** Dry winter, long hot summer
- **2014:** Very windy days
- **2014/15:** A notably brilliant summer
- **2015:** Another major rain event Christmas Eve
- **2016:** Rain, rain, rain - yet another major rain event in June
- **2017:** A rainy year that surpassed 2016 and exposed stormwater infrastructure issues
- **2018:** Tank loads of RAIN
- **2020:** Great weather over lockdown (March-June); a great summer - with very warm water!
- **2021:** Unpredictable weather over lockdown from August, with lots of rain and wind



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

Greetings to fellow Omaharians and visitors,

It's 13th November 2021 and it's been raining for 12 hours, with more to come – a good time to reflect on the year and, indeed for me, the last 10 years of achievements by the Omaha Beach Community organisation. Editor Sally Blyth has produced an excellent lead article about the issues and successes, as well as the sometimes less-than-successful achievements of the Community that have been reported in various articles in the Newsletters spanning this decade, which your Committee produces every year at this time. Thanks to Sally and to Debbie Lee for their considerable efforts in producing this year's Newsletter and you can read more about what goes on behind the scenes on pages 9.

Our Local Board representative and Deputy Chair Beth Houlbrooke has set out in her report the various successes and achievements that your Committee has been instrumental in achieving, culminating in the positive actions by the Local Board and the Auckland Council. Without a Committee representing the community's interests, these projects would not have been achieved. The pathway along Omaha Drive and re-roofing the Community Centre building are front and centre of those successful projects, in the last year. Unfortunately, the Surf Club toilets were stymied by COVID-19. I note a start is scheduled for the new year.

I also note that in the April 2006 Newsletter there was mention under the heading **Footpath Omaha Drive:** "From roundabout along golf course to Success Court) Requires a submission to the long-term sustainable plan ...".

You have to agree that this has been a long time in gestation and demonstrates the commitment of successive Committees to this single project. Our thanks also go to Martin Dancy, Allison Rowe and Ian Hutchison for their input and perseverance.

It is important to emphasise the strength of OBC's relationship with Beth over the past years. Beth is indeed a friend of this community. Thanks, Beth, for your support, counsel and patience. We have achieved a hell of a lot.

Can I also say that our relationship with OBGC as manager of the Community Centre

remains strong and solid, and on good footing – thanks to our close relationship with Kevin Weston (President), Geoff Smith (Course convenor/mediator/bi-linguist and jack-of-all-trades) and, of course, the indomitable GM, Sue Jury! Thanks – and what a great golf course we have and continue to develop.

It is vital that the community has an engaged and passionate organisation to advocate on its behalf – and to that end, the OBC needs new faces and energy. A building block of the success has been the willingness of individual Committee members to steer specific projects whilst under the guidance and supervision of the Committee as a whole. The intellectual property held by the current Committee members as to how and who to deal with at Council is immense and this know-how needs to be passed on to a new generation of Committee members.

I was co-opted onto the Committee in 2008 by the then President of OBC Graham Painter when the proposed development (Omaha Park) on the hill to the south of Omaha began to take shape and became a real and present legal problem. This legal fight took many years and was at a significant cost, with financial contributions by the OBC and OBRS as well as privately by Omaha Residents who helped to fund – and ultimately win – this legal case in the Environment Court. The volunteer hours were immense. I recall opposition from some Committee members on OBRS at the time to funding this – imagine what Mangatawhiri Road would be like with 856 residential units on the hill to the south!

The development proposal got another life when the Unitary Plan enabled the owner to again put the proposal forward. With OBC's vigilance and funding, that second attempt was resolved again in favour of the outcome previously reached in the Environment Court. It remains important that we keep vigilant. The Unitary Plan and, subsequently, the lease of the Community Centre kept me on board as unfinished business.

So, it really is time for me to go, surely!

In 2019 Auckland Council Freedom Camping proposals that would have seen our reserves and parks opened up for freedom camping were confronted by OBC with the threat of legal action. OBC argued that the Freedom Camping proposals and process were flawed, unlawful and not in Omaha's interests. In the

face of this and other media publicity the then Freedom Camping proposal was shelved by Council.

Now, once again, Council seeks to impose their will on the community by opening up all our roads and byways to freedom camping. And, once again, through OBC and the OBRS (whom we thank) we are having to fund legal action against ill-thought-out, flawed and unlawful proposals from your Councillors, all of whom supported that the current proposal be sent out for consultation. This is work in progress and there have been, and will in the future be, statements, explanatory notes and recommendations as to how to respond.

What is very clear is that every resident needs to have their say this time – hopefully you responded to the Council consultation document on the website following OBC's email encouraging you to do so. Last time only approximately 100 persons responded. Thank you to those individuals; however, the lack of response then was disheartening and unhelpful to the cause. The OBC's submission counts as one single voice (in spite of our protestations to Council) not 1,200 and we hope that many more people responded this time. I hasten to say that OBC does not object to residents' visitors coming up for short periods with their campervans – it's the freeloaders that OBC objects too and, given the level of rates each household is paying, you should be concerned.

The message is that the OBC Committee needs you to engage! Don't leave it up to a few to act – it takes all of us to benefit the whole community. Give, don't just take.

We lost some special Omaharians this year.

• **Peter Jackson.** OBC Vice President (2005 and 2006) and Treasurer in 2005. Peter was instrumental in mapping the merger of the two Omaha societies, OBRS and OBC, following the development of Omaha South in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2015 Peter galvanised action when he made a video in support of why Omaha needed a pathway along Omaha Drive to the Community Centre and submitted to the Local Board in support of this project. Sadly, he passed before seeing the first sod of earth turned in the latter part of this year. He was however, happily informed of the decision that the pathway had been given the green light before he passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

• **Judy Crooks.** Long-serving member of the community and former OBC Secretary. I have a 1994 Newsletter where Judy is reported to have submitted to Council in respect of the redevelopment of the William Fraser Reserve. Interesting comment – "in the end the Council did what they wanted to do."

• **Tony Marks.** Recent OBC Committee member who lent his considerable business experience to the Committee including contacting people who seemed not to know about the OBC despite living here and encouraging these lost souls to become members of OBC.

A very special thanks to each of the individuals that comprise my Committee. Without your dedication, humour, energy, patience, advice and collaborative actions, nothing would have been achieved over the past years we have been the OBC Committee. Some members are moving on and the few remaining cannot carry the load. If you think

you have the above characteristics and the intention of doing right by this community then we need you; please put your hand up!

Wishing everyone a happy Summer!

Chris Allan, OBC President

OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

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

**OMAHA COMMUNITY CENTRE,
 NORTH WEST ANCHORAGE,
 OMAHA BEACH**

on
SUNDAY 9th JANUARY 2022 at 11am
 followed by drinks and nibbles

OBC AGM AGENDA 2022

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10th January 2021
4. Receipt of the President's Report for 2021
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2021
6. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2022 Subscription Year and Security Levy
7. Election of the Committee for the 2022 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
8. Receipt of Club Reports
9. General Business

Secretary
Omaha Beach Community Inc.



THE ALL-NEW RANGE ROVER IS ON ITS WAY TO NEW ZEALAND – HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In October, Land Rover announced that the highly anticipated New Range Rover would be making its way to Aotearoa, with the first New Zealand customers getting their hands on the vehicle from mid-2022. So, what is it about the fifth-generation Range Rover that has fans of the brand so excited?

MODERN LUXURY BY DESIGN

The luxury SUV is the brand’s most desirable yet – a completely redesigned vehicle with updated styling and industry-first tech features that merges technological sophistication and with unparalleled design. The evolution of the New Range Rover’s design perfectly encapsulates five decades of Range Rover DNA, while meeting the needs of the 21st-century, technology-immersed customer.

With a new interpretation of its trademark profile, the vehicle is defined by three lines that can trace its origins back through the generations; the falling roofline, strong waistline and rising sill line. These trademark features combine with a characteristically short front overhang and a distinctive new boat tail rear – complete with practical split tailgate – to create an elegant profile.

There’s no shortage of luxury when it comes to the interior, too. Customers have a wider choice of materials and finishes that are more sustainable, responsible and progressive than ever.

ELECTRIFIED EFFICIENCY

With plug-in hybrid powertrains available later in 2022 and a pure electric version set to hit our shores in 2024, the New Range Rover will also cater to the changing demands of the market. The innovative Extended Range plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) powertrains provide CO₂ emissions below 30g/km, with a pure-electric driving range of up to 100km, delivering an expected real-world range of up to 80km – enough for typical Range Rover customers to complete up to 75 per cent of trips using electric power only.

SEAMLESS TECHNOLOGY

Tech innovation is at the forefront of the New Range Rover’s design. It revolutionises the in-car experience with a seamlessly integrated Amazon Alexa, features a 13.1-inch touch screen (the largest ever for the brand) and a new Rear Seat Entertainment system that supports devices with an HDMI port and Wi-Fi hotspot capability so passengers can enjoy smart TV on the move.

The New Range Rover already has Kiwi car enthusiasts rushing to get their hands on the vehicle and it’s easy to see why. To find out more visit <https://www.landrover.co.nz/vehicles-new-range-rover> or contact your local Land Rover retailer.

BEHIND THE SCENES – PRODUCING THE OBC’S ANNUAL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Here’s an inside glance into what goes on behind the scenes to bring the OBC Newsletter to you. As you’ll see, there are rather a lot of layers!

First, a little background ...

Initially produced by the Omaha Beach Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. (incorporated 24th February 1975), the Newsletter dates back to the 1970s when Omaha was established. In October 2005 the Association had a name change and became Omaha Beach Community Inc. with a new Constitution being drawn up.

Kim Fisher became Editor from the August 2005 edition. Up until 2012 three issues were produced each year but from 2013, which was when Kim passed the editorial reins to Sally Blyth, the Committee decided to reduce the publication to two issues, one in May and one in December.

Since 2016 just one bumper Summer edition has been produced each year, with general information being shared via the website and emails throughout the rest of the year.

Some years ago, Committee member Rob Zubielevitch wrote up a “how to” document for the Newsletter production to provide a clear framework for the Committee member tasked with coordinating the publication. At present this person is Debbie Lee and she’s a key part of the process.

Cracking the whip

Debbie calls herself the “bearer of the whip” as it is her job to round up all the various reports and content from clubs and contributors. She also checks in with regular advertisers and scouts out new ones. Being a passionate local, as well as a great communicator and networker, this is a role Debbie really enjoys.

The ball gets rolling in August when Committee members brainstorm potential topics for the Lead Article and frame up the contents list. Debbie gets her whip out in early October and Sally sets about researching and writing the draft Lead Article for review and finalisation. Details are ascertained, interviews undertaken, facts confirmed and photos sourced.

Meanwhile, with a “firm but nice” approach, Debbie gathers the various articles together, passing them to Sally as they come in. Rob Zubielevitch also lends a helping hand as they get ticked off the list. The aim is to have everything in by the end of October but this

isn’t always entirely the way it pans out, especially with lockdown getting in the way.

Review, edit, proof ... repeat

Sally reviews, edits and proofs each article received, gathering appropriate photos. Some following up and chasing up goes on by Debbie and there is plenty of liaison between the two of them. Meanwhile, Sally also compiles and updates snippets of regular information, finalises the lead article and is on standby to receive the AGM details, Financial Reports and President’s Report.

Once all the content has been fine-tuned and Sally is happy with the final draft, it is then proofread by the several Committee members. The file and photos then go to freelance graphic designer Julia Fisher (Kim’s daughter) who sets about doing the design and layout work.

The design and layout process

Sally and Julia liaise on progress and timeframes. Once Julia receives the final Word file, late November/early December, she assesses the volume of text along with how many images and advertisements there are, and then works out how many pages will be required.

Julia likens doing the design and layout process to piecing together a jigsaw puzzle and she works forwards and backwards as she formats all the components. She usually does this over a couple of sessions, playing around to get everything to fit just right.

The PDF file comes back to Sally for a final proof and any tweaks. Committee members then give it a final once over before it is signed off. At that point, Julia sends the file to Warkworth Print who take care of the printing and labels. Rob does a final check that everything is in order in this respect and then it all goes off to NZ Post for mailing out to NZ residents.

And then voila, it lands in your mailbox by mid-December! Or sometimes not ...

Getting the Newsletter out there

While all this production action is going on, the database – which is overseen by Sphere Accountants – gets reviewed and updated to make sure all notifications of changes of address and contact details have been captured. The OBC database has about 1,200 members and this is an important task.

Disappointingly, a number of copies get returned because of a wrong address,

or because the address in our database is a house in Omaha that doesn’t have a letterbox and is therefore undeliverable, especially in the Northern end. A bit of detective work then goes on to try to track people down in an effort to get correct addresses. Last year, the late Tony Marks (see page 32) got into Sherlock Holmes mode to find the gaps. He even took to putting letters requesting contact details into ziplock bags and taping them onto front doors and the Committee is very grateful for the work he did in this regard.

In addition to being posted out, copies of the Newsletter are also available from the Community Centre, the Omaha Café, the Omaha Superette, the Pt Wells General Store, the Farmers Daughter and the Matakana Information Centre. Thanks to Debbie Lee and Rob Zubielevitch who go out and about delivering batches of the Newsletter to these venues.

As a final step, the Newsletter is uploaded to the OBC website – this is done by Rohan Meuli who oversees the website in addition to his new role as OBC Treasurer.

In summary, as it has evolved through the years, the annual OBC Summer Newsletter continues to be a valuable source of local information and insight. It is handy to keep a copy on the coffee table throughout the summer months to refer to and share with friends and visitors. However, if you prefer a copy via email let us know and we’ll make a note for future issues.

us@omahabeach.co.nz

We hope you enjoy this edition – with a little more clarity around the time, effort and passion that has gone into producing it! Thanks to everyone who contributes and has a part to play in bringing it to fruition.

PEOPLE PROFILES

Let’s find out a little bit more about some of the people involved in the Newsletter, past and present, and the Committee ...

KIM FISHER – OBC LIFE MEMBER

Kim served as OBC Treasurer from 2005 to 2012 and was made a Life member of the OBC in 2012. He was Editor of the OBC Newsletter from 2005 until 2013. He shared his reflections and memories about his life, his family and his connection with Omaha Beach with current Newsletter Editor Sally Blyth.

Kim’s involvement with the OBC began in mid-



2005 when the late Peter Jackson, who was Vice President and OBC Treasurer at that time, got in touch to ask Kim if he would stand in while he was away on an overseas trip. Kim, a Chartered Accountant and keen community man, with a holiday home at Omaha, said yes and got on with the job. Upon Peter’s return, Kim suggested he’d be happy to continue doing the books, leaving Peter to do the “moving and shaking” in his role as Vice President, which he was so good at. Thus, a short stint turned into a long-term role for Kim!

Around the same time as Kim donned the Treasurer’s hat, the then President Greg Stenbeck (2005–2007) approached Kim to see if he might be interested in being Editor of the OBC Newsletter. Kim was a little taken aback and somewhat apprehensive about this suggestion, as numbers were his gig rather than words (although he’s pretty handy with words too!), but Greg assured him, “You don’t have to do anything, all the content will come to you” – or something along those lines. With plenty of hindsight, Kim produced a knowing “yeah right” laugh as he recalled this to me – as he and I know, editorship is enjoyable, but it’s never about not having to do anything! At that time three issues per year were produced which also made it a somewhat relentless task. Finish one edition, and onto the next ...

Anyway, Kim took on the challenge with gusto, plucking relevant content from other local publications and writing about things that interested him. A source of comfort was that his daughter Julia, a graphic designer, put her hand up to do the design and layout of the Newsletter, with Warkworth Print taking



care of the printing and distribution. The Membership Secretary at the time was Glenys McBain and she provided valuable assistance to Kim as he found his feet.

Up until Kim took over, the Newsletter had been printed in black & white, but Kim’s first issue as Editor (Issue 2/2005) had a summery cerulean blue incorporated into it. Kim’s next edition (Issue 3/2005) was the Christmas edition and it became a full colour publication, redesigned by Julia to incorporate the now-familiar OBC logo.

A major local matter between 2008 and 2011 was the OBC legal challenge to the proposed Omaha Park development at the southern end. Kim, with both his Treasurer and Editor hats on, was across the whole issue, along with then President Graham Painter, Chris Allan and Richard Brabant. After much hard work, a positive result was achieved and this is referred to in other parts of this Newsletter.

When Kim relinquished his role as Treasurer to Richard Muir in 2012, he was made an OBC Life Member. He also handed over Editorship of the Newsletter to me and my first issue was May 2013. This meant Kim could relax a little and enjoy the wonderful environment of Omaha with a more leisurely perspective.

Omaha Reflections

So, what delights Kim most about Omaha, you may ask? I think you probably know the answer to that one, but here’s Kim’s perspective ...

The Fisher family would usually spend their summer holidays at Orere Point in eastern Auckland when the kids were young. After six years renting the same place, it wasn’t available one year so they looked further afield and found a house available for rent in Omaha. It ticked their boxes and, overlooking the bad press at the time regarding the storms and beach erosion, they signed up, headed north and loved every moment of their very happy holiday month here (Christmas 1987).

They reconnected with Omaha again in the early 1990s: one of Kim’s clients owned a house in Jane Gifford Place and they bought a half-share. After sharing ownership for five years, and with their love of Omaha sealed once and for all, the Fishers purchased the house outright. This generated many happy family times ahead.

Daughter Julia (OBC Newsletter designer) recalls that having a place in Omaha as a teenager was “the best thing ever”. She

loved spending the weekends and holidays immersed in the surf, bodyboarding to her heart’s content. Mum Cushla was a “more the merrier” person and the house was always bursting with kids and friends and hangers-on. As Julia says, the city rules didn’t apply in Omaha, where running free was the name of the teenage game and tackling or avoiding traffic chaos getting in and out of town wasn’t so much of a thing.

Kim fondly remembers Cushla picking him up from work and they would head north to their slice of paradise, often grabbing some dinner from Pohutukawa Café (now The Farmers Daughter) en route. Even though in her latter days Cushla was ill with cancer and the family was dealing with all the challenges that brings, being in Omaha enabled them to feel a sense of freedom from the daily burdens as they soaked up the beauty of the ocean views, relished the feel of white sand beneath their feet and eased into the more relaxed pace of life. A weekend in Omaha can sure do wonders!

“I’ve gone swimming in the ocean every day I was in Omaha, summer and winter,” Kim told me. That’s impressive!

Connections

Some connections are local, and some are lifelong. Most of the best are both!

Kim has a number of local connections, including a family connection with Keith Jackson whose wife Trish was OBC Secretary 2012–2015. He also went to Auckland Grammar School with Graham Painter, OBC President 2008–2015. Kim lived in St Heliers as a boy and took the bus to school – with a chuckle, he remembers being quite happy with the longish journey, given the bus was usually full of girls going to EGGs, St Cuthberts and Dio which provided plenty of amusement for the boys on board!

A Lifelong Passion

As well as his affinity for family, friends and Omaha, Kim is keen motor-racing man – a passion that was ignited when his father took him to the 2nd Grand Prix at Ardmore in 1955 when he was 12 years old. Kim was immediately hooked and in 1963, when Pukekohe opened, he took on a range of voluntary roles including flag-marshalling, being on the briefing panel and organising meetings at Pukekohe Raceway.

He is currently the Chief Accident Investigator, a voluntary role where he can bring his investigative skills, precision and attention to detail to the fore. It calls for a

large chunk of his time but he loves being involved and it was no surprise when Kim told me that he also “does the books” for the club!

Kim has never competed in the sport himself but he figures that overseeing the accounting side of things is a great way to get insight into a realm he loves, while at the same time giving service back to the sport. Kim also enjoys the opera, having been involved with NZ Opera since it was established.

With eight grandchildren and an active outlook on life, it didn’t surprise me when daughter Julia told me that although he’s officially retired, having worked for Deloitte throughout his professional career, this didn’t stop him from working! He still does books for a few organisations and was still going into the office up until the first lockdown.

Kim’s favourite saying is a Groucho Marx one: “These are my principles – if you don’t like them, I have others.” I think this reflects a flexible person who is happy to compromise in an effort to get the best result.

In talking with Kim, I get a strong sense of humility and professionalism, combined with an unflappable approach to life. A respected and respectful man who always dots the I’s and crosses the T’s. A true unsung hero – whose praises we are pleased to sing very loudly here in this issue!

Thank you, Kim for all you have done for so many in this community, and beyond.

JULIA FISHER – AN EYE FOR DESIGN

With a background in advertising, Julia is a freelance graphic designer and she enjoys the flexibility that freelance work offers. She works from her home in Auckland and, with lots of clients and two teenage children, life is busy. She and her husband love to escape to Omaha, when they can manage it; it’s their happy place.

Julia’s husband is Canadian and when they met, he had only been to a beach a handful of times – what better introduction to beach life!? Omaha is a huge part of their lives and both their kids (the oldest is 14) have grown up not knowing life without it. They love the beach, the environment and the simple pleasures in life that Omaha offers. “Every swim is different,” says Julia, who is a keen swimmer like her dad and her love of the ocean is evident, although she misses twilight walks and talks on the beach with her mum Cushla. For so many of us, Omaha is all about relaxation and connection, past and present.

Julia started doing the design and layout

work for the OBC Newsletter when her dad Kim took over as Editor in 2005. Her first task was to set up the original formatting and files. Shortly afterwards, a new logo was introduced – the colourful one with the shell, fish, cabbage tree, tui and sun – and a full redesign process was undertaken which also catered for increasing advertising and colour printing.

In the early years, Julia was also involved in the advertising aspect, which was largely driven by the late Peter Jackson. Debbie Lee now liaises with the advertisers, along with Rob Zubielevitch; some of the early ones are still with us and this ongoing loyalty is appreciated.

A further design update was undertaken in 2016 with a new look and feel being revealed for the Summer 2016/2017 edition.

Julia undertakes the design and layout each year in a seamless and streamlined way, being on standby to receive the file and on call to do any final design tweaks. Once the completed file gets signed off by the Committee and sent off to Warkworth Print – it’s “job done” for another year.

www.juliafisher.co.nz



SALLY BLYTH – A WORLD OF WORDS AND CONNECTION

When I was shoulder tapped back in 2013 to edit the OBC Newsletter it felt easy enough to say “yes” as words and contributing to the community have always been high on my priority list. And here I still happily am, eight years later! (Hmm, I note that Kim was Editor for eight years ...)

I’ve held this role under three Presidents and two co-ordinators (Trish Jackson and Debbie Lee) and I have to say that editing and producing the Newsletter has been a streamlined, well-guided and highly supported process. Thanks to Trish for gently settling me into the role, and Debbie for making it a pleasure to remain in it! As indicated by the “Behind The Scenes” article, there are many steps and much input by a lot of people.

On a blustery day in early October, as I was doing some diary planning, I thought, “Hmmm, it’s getting close to OBC Newsletter time ...”. ESP was obviously at work across the Omaha airwaves because Debbie rang me up that very day. “It’s OBC Newsletter time ...”, she said. How quickly a year goes by. Suddenly it was, once again, time for action.

Each year I set out to keep a log of the hours involved in bringing the Newsletter together – but that idea quickly goes by the way in favour of getting on with the job. In all honesty, what is better than spending time on a task that involves passion, pleasure and purpose? Clock-watching just gets in the way of good things.

A bit about me ...

Dunedin-born and Auckland-raised, I spent the 1980s living and working in the UK and Europe. An unconventional professional life – mostly spent with not-for-profits in the health, wellbeing and disability sectors – has been balanced with a lifetime of writing and creative pursuits.

Being self-employed since 2006, I spend my time between Auckland and Omaha doing a diverse range of contract work. With wi-fi, laptop and Zoom, I’ve been able to do this entirely in Omaha during lockdown – bonus! On the creative front, I love working with inks, was a mask artisan for 20 years (Masquerade style, not protective!), am a freelance travel writer and have had eight garments in the WOW World of Wearable Arts Show.

The Racing Game

My lifelong passion is horseracing. I’ve had a small share in six horses over the past 14 years, all winners. A new filly is preparing to begin her racing career in the new year and I truly hope she can deliver a win strike rate of 100%. This is akin to winning Lotto, but she is showing early promise and, like most owners, I remain eternally optimistic!

The racing industry is highly complex and often misunderstood, as I’ve come to understand through being involved in many aspects of it, after a shoulder tap back in 2015 from Michael Dowd – Omaha resident, longtime family friend and fellow racing enthusiast – took me from helping revamp the website of the NZ Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation to becoming Vice President of it!

The Travel Game

I’m a sixth generation Kiwi, long-time Omaharian and ardent Europhile who loves

connecting with people and sharing/hearing life stories, especially curious travel tales. As a keen skier, I get as much pleasure from being in the snow as I do soaking up summer days.

Through the years, I've organised conferences around the world and, over recent years, have been escorting trips for seniors, near and far, as a Tour Leader. This led to me setting up my own Beyond Travel Companion Services at the end of 2019, designed for anyone wanting support and assistance to travel internationally. Stymied by the pandemic before it got off the ground, I've been waiting patiently while borders are closed, doing writing and Board secretariat work in the meantime (oh, the things you learn!)

I'll be escorting several NZ tours for Pukekohe Travel in early 2022, including to the Chatham Islands. And then, when our borders are fully open, I'll be ready to kick-start my business. With the new protocols and ongoing uncertainties which underpin this new era of travel, I hope my specialised offering will be valued and desired more than it ever might have been. Near or far, new or familiar, there's always a unique adventure to be experienced and travel memory to be captured and shared.

www.beyondlimits.co.nz



DEBBIE LEE - COMMITTED TO HER COMMUNITY

Born in London, Debbie is now a very content Omaha resident. She arrived in Hamilton from the UK in November 1981, spent six months in Sydney in the early 1980s and then made Auckland home in 1983. She and her husband Chris have owned a property in Omaha for 25 years, enjoying it as a holiday home before becoming residents.

After 17 years in the metropolis, there was a move to Queenstown in 2000 and they managed a hotel for almost a decade. Whilst living amongst the mountains, Omaha remained their northern beach retreat.

When they returned to the Auckland area

in 2009, they decided to make Omaha their permanent home. Switching from hospitality to real estate was their next move and Debbie and Chris got their licence that year. They started their real estate career with Barfoot & Thompson due to it being a family business with values that aligned with their own.

In 2011 they started the journey of setting up their own real estate company, originally named Omaha Real Estate which was rebranded to Maximise Real Estate. Debbie and her team of six (all women and all home-based) provide a professional service with many happy clients. Chris works behind the scenes and the business is a major sponsor of the Omaha Bowling Club.

Being keen to get involved with the local community and give back to the special place she calls home, Debbie joined the OBC Committee in 2016 and has clocked up six years to date. Initially she looked after the database, having taken over that role from Glenys McBain who set it up in 2007. When McNicol & Co (now Sphere Accountants) took over management of the database in 2019 Debbie put her hand up to be the Newsletter Co-ordinator, a role previously undertaken by Trish Jackson. Debbie confides that it could have been a few too many wines at a certain Committee meeting that led to her hand going up! She added that, being the only female on the Committee, another of her roles is "keeping the guys in order".

When she's not involved with property or Committee business, or enjoying an early morning beach walk, Debbie can be found at the Bowling Club. She took the game up when she sponsored the Club in 2019 and, although she had never even thought about playing lawn bowls, she is now ultra-keen on what she calls "a thinking game". After initially being a little shocked at how competitive the game can be, she now loves the mental tactics as much as the physical prowess required. "I feel mentally exhausted at the end of a day's play," she told me, indicating this was all positive.

Being a sport you keep improving at the more you play, Debbie plays once a week and tries to get a couple of practice sessions in as well (outside of lockdown). She served on the Bowling Club Committee for a time and is full of admiration for older Club members - some of them in their mid-90s - who still enjoy spending a whole day on the bowling green, giving younger members a run for their money. She especially enjoys the tournaments that the Club hosts. Despite

lockdowns playing havoc, she is looking forward to getting back on the bowling green and polishing up her "rusty" game.

Debbie loves the Omaha environment and, with a natural affinity for people, her pride in being a part of the community is evident. She's also delighted to tell me that she has still got the original Lot Number plaque from when the section was originally purchased back in the mid-1990s. Being such a community-minded person, it's no surprise that a testimonial on her website talks of her as being "professional, positive and enthusiastic".

Check out Debbie's website and if you're looking to buy or sell a property, get in touch with her - you'll be assured of the personal touch and a committed approach.

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



ROB ZUBIELEVITCH - FINGER ON THE PULSE

Auckland born-and-bred, Rob has been on the Committee since 2015 having the role of Secretary/Treasurer from 2018. Although he has now handed over the Treasurer role to Rohan Meuli, as of October this year, he will continue to assist Rohan with the accounts and financial side of things. He'll also remain as Secretary on the Committee, so he is not relinquishing his ties with the OBC Committee any time soon!

You could say that Rob is the Committee's "Go-To Man" - he's got his finger on the pulse of things and if he doesn't know the answer off the top of his head, he'll find it out. If he doesn't know someone yet, he's bound to do so soon. If he hasn't caught that rat yet, he will make sure he does!

Having owned two properties in the Northern end of Omaha, Rob now lives in happy retirement in the Southern end and has a fulfilling 18-year connection with Omaha. After concluding a career in the finance industry seven years ago, Rob now spends his time out and about in the community and pursuing his passions of fishing and trapping (see article on page 20). He also plays bass

guitar and bass ukulele and is a member of Jade River Ukes. He enjoys a good jam session and performs at various local venues and festivals.

Keep an eye out for Rob - and if he has a fish, a rat or a uke in his hand he's bound to be smiling! Even better if there's a wine in the other hand!



CHRIS ALLAN - LAWYER, LEADER, BIKER

OBC President Chris Allan has a lengthy connection with Omaha, having had a place here since 1997. He was one of the first to purchase a section in the Southern end - at the same time buying in the Northern end where he owned and enjoyed two separate properties before building and moving into his Southern end house in 2003.

Chris, a partner in a law firm, was co-opted onto the OBC Committee in 2008 to assist with the Omaha Park legal challenge, having been recommended by Barrister Richard Brabant who was leading the case. The rest, as they say, is history - he remained on the Committee and has been OBC President since 2018.

Chris works in Auckland city, but Omaha is home. Golf is a sporting pursuit he enjoys but his real passion is motorbikes. As a proud owner of Harley-Davidson, he is a member of HOG (Harley Owners Group) and also a keen team motorbiker.

While he loves to don his bike helmet, with his President's hat on, Chris has given his time and energy to the Omaha community in numerous ways over many years and he is to be commended for getting some great gains and results for the area. The Committee appreciates his leadership and legal expertise, and residents have much to be grateful for. Thank you, Chris!



RICHARD BRABANT - ADVOCATING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Richard is a Barrister who specialised in environmental law for 30 years until his retirement in mid-2021. His son Jeremy is also an environmental law Barrister and they worked together for about 15 years on many hearings.

Richard was an intrinsic part of the legal challenge when the Omaha Park development was proposed, which arose through his friendship with Graham Painter and Chris Allan who invited him to represent the community. Jeremy was also part of the OBC legal team. This important piece of work will be appreciated by the Omaha community for many decades to come.

The first part of the challenge was to make application for the OBC to take part in the hearing as it required status to represent the residents. The landowner was opposed to this but the Environment Court judge ruled in OBC's favour. The community's

expert evidence and legal submissions were accepted by the Court in declining the landowner's appeal.

One of the major issues as to why the Court rejected the appeal of Omaha Park against the Rodney District Plan was that the land (650ha) came under the East Coast Rural Zone. This was a critical issue as there had been a huge amount of revegetation planting of the farmland as part of the Di Andre Estates sub-division which initiated restoration of the land in the late 1990s. When the Omaha Park case went to Court, the land was flourishing through regeneration and the development would have compromised this. (This is reported on in full in the Summer 2018/2019 OBC Newsletter).

Richard's family have had a holiday home in the Northern end of Omaha since 2012 and, as with many Kiwi families, he envisages it remaining in the family for many generations to come. He is a keen golfer and formed the Friends of the Omaha Beach Golf Club in 2012. This is a charitable trust set up to maintain, protect and enhance the golf course environment and Richard has been very involved in the course redevelopment and replanting programme with this vision in mind.

Sailing has been a long-held passion for Richard, and he's a keen boatie when spending time in Omaha. He has a strong connection to the marine environment and its ecosystems and also provides advice to community organisations like the Shorebirds Protection Trust.

After a career focussed on protecting and enhancing the environment, Richard continues to do so from a more leisurely vantage-point. No doubt, in time to come, his great grandchildren will also get to enjoy this wonderful environment that Richard has played a strong part in protecting.

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ALISTAIR DRYDEN – DECADES OF CONNECTION WITH OMAHA

Editor Sally Blyth sat with Alistair to find out about his close connection with Omaha, which spans from its very early days, right up to the very last phase of its development.

THE BEGINNING – BILL AND BOB

First, let's go back to the beginning. Developing the Omaha spit was the idea of the late Bob Green, a land agent who was inspired by the Pauanui development several years earlier. He collaborated with local farmer Bill Fraser, who owned the Omaha spit as part of his large farm, which also encompassed the southern end. Bob pitched the idea of developing the spit into a similar beach resort. The land was basically scrub and gorse, with a number of wild cattle roaming free, but with its white sand beach surrounded by hills, it certainly had potential. Bill was interested.



The Omaha spit before development

One thing led to another and, partnered by Broadlands Finance, the development got under way. One of the first steps was to create an accessway and this is where Alistair comes in.

The Causeway

Born and bred in Auckland, with an engineering degree from the University of Auckland, Alistair put in a tender to Broadlands in 1970 to construct the Omaha Causeway, under the family firm Dryden Construction. They got the contract and work began immediately. Alistair was a hands-on foreman/supervisor, overseeing the works and devising innovative solutions to the various problems that cropped up. From pushing sand with bulldozers to build up the roadway, to the construction of the bridge from a floating platform his team of 10 toiled in the great outdoors with a high dose of enjoyment. He says that working in winter wasn't too onerous as it meant the sand was often wet and therefore easier to manage.

A few interesting points to note:

- Whilst Alistair says that working with sand has plenty of merits, and the estuary provided a pleasing work environment, the

tides created difficulties and materials had to be brought in by dinghy.

- Alistair had previously been working at the Wellsford oxidation ponds so shifting focus to Omaha was literally a breath of fresh sea air.

- The forked entrance into Omaha was contoured in this way to preserve as much bush as possible and to create an aesthetically pleasing arrival point.

- The tender put in was \$185k, with the bridge being a \$55k component of that price, including tar-sealing. An expected completion date was agreed and the terms were that a \$1k bonus would be paid for each week the project was finished earlier than the agreed date, but a \$1k penalty would be charged for each week of delay. Alistair was happy to report that he received a \$4k bonus!

- Alistair was a little gutted to learn many years later that the next competitive tender had come in at 25% more than his own – but that's the nature of a tender! He hadn't allowed enough for some difficulties like working with tides and the isolation of working on a spit (which at the time was like an island) but, overall, he was more than satisfied with how things turned out.

- Dryden Construction got extra work contouring the sandhills, constructing roads and installing services for the initial 200 sections. Initially, the sub-division was serviced by a reticulated water supply from a bore and sewerage was drained to tanks in the Golf Course before being trucked off site.



The Causeway Bridge pylons



Omaha, early 1970s



Stage One Section Plan

The Far North

Fast forward to 1992 when the land in the very northern part of the spit past Success Court, which comprised 253 sections, was put up for sale. This was the last parcel of land on the spit available for development and Alistair put in a successful tender, through his company A G Dryden Limited. He set about sub-dividing the land and selling the sections stage by stage. As one stage was sold, the next one was developed, and it was done over five separate stages.

Alistair and his wife Shane had a bit of fun devising street names, which Rodney District required to be named after scows to acknowledge the history of their construction and use in the area. Of course, many of the names were already taken, but a valuable reference point was the book The Phantom Fleet – a history of scows. May, Rita, Ida ... they can all be traced back to these boats.



There's a surprisingly remote feel about being on the tip of the spit and Alistair and his family had the privilege of strategically

ALISTAIR DRYDEN – DECADES OF CONNECTION WITH OMAHA

choosing the very northern section, next to the Shorebirds Sanctuary. They built in 2014 and Alistair likens being in the upstairs, north-facing room, to being on the bridge of a ship. The grassy mound ahead resembles the prow and there are views on all sides. Sunrises, sunsets, starry skies, ocean, estuary, boats, birds, orcas – they see it all from the last frontier!

Rowing Prowess

Prior to Omaha becoming a major part of his life, Alistair was an Olympic rower! His love of rowing began at college and, after winning a silver medal at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth as part of the Men's Eight, he competed at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics (Fours) and the 1968 Mexico City Olympics (Eights). No Olympic medals were won but what an experience! He also won the inaugural Prince Philip Challenge Cup regatta in 1963 in Henley-on-Thames.

Alistair was Club Captain of the Auckland Rowing Club for ten years and is presently Club Patron. His children are also keen rowers. These days Alistair is an armchair sportsman, enjoying watching cricket and other sports.

Reflections

Alistair and Shane got married just after getting the Causeway contract and they celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2020. With four kids and seven grandchildren, Alistair and his family get up to Omaha as and when they can, and love to spend the Christmas holidays here.

Although Alistair hasn't been on the OBC Committee, he has had plenty of interaction with the various members through the years and is very much in touch with local issues. His comment, "The OBC is the best and most active ratepayers' association I've ever been involved with" speaks volumes and ties in beautifully with the theme of this Newsletter.



Alistair has decades of connection with Omaha – and now that the hard work is done, he can sit back and survey the scene, in the satisfaction of knowing he has played several parts in the development of this slice of paradise we all love.

With reference to a past story about some people across the estuary finding the ever-expanding twinkling lights of Omaha a nuisance ... may Omaha Beach continue to be illuminated by shining stars, lights and souls.

COUNCIL MATTERS



CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:



UPDATE FROM: COUNCILLOR GREG SAYERS – RODNEY WARD

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.

In this column I would like to cover Rubbish collections and the Three Waters Reform.

Council is wanting to improve the way it collects our rubbish that is destined for landfill. Early in 2022 different options will go out for public consultation. These options are likely to include whether the cost of collection is added onto your rates as an additional fixed annual charge, or if it should remain a pay-as-you-go rubbish collection service. The option of having bins instead of bags will be included. Bags may suit some households who are not around to wheel in a bin because they have left the bach, however the added option to use a bin instead may better suit households with a desire to be more environmentally friendly, or who are sick of dogs and seagulls raiding the bags.

I will be keen to see and support the majority point of view from Omaha residents and ratepayers.

The Government's decision to forge ahead with its Three Waters proposals, despite widespread opposition from local councils, has prompted me to seek a judicial review.

Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta has made an unforgivable U-turn by removing the promised option for councils to

opt in or opt out of the Three Waters reform process.

This is because the vast majority of New Zealand councils, including Auckland, have kicked the idea for touch.

A judicial review looks at whether the Government acted fairly, followed correct procedures and acted within their powers.

Such a review would require the majority of Auckland Councillors to support it. Once this is done, other councils from around New Zealand would be invited to also lend their support. However, Auckland Mayor Phil Goff is not supporting a judicial review.

His response to my call for a judicial review reads, "I have sought advice on whether judicial review would be effective in achieving change in the Governments proposals. However, the advice I have received from staff is that the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty and the fact that local government is a creature of central government statute means that the Government is free to legislate changes which are then binding on Council.

"We have therefore chosen not to follow that route but to participate through the Working Group to seek to persuade the Government to make the changes we believe are necessary."

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The "Working Group" set up by the Labour-led Government to smooth the path forward has an Auckland representative on it – ex-Labour leader Phil Goff.

Let's also not forget Minister Mahuta, who is spearheading the Three Waters Reform, is the same person responsible for making overseas diplomatic appointments, such as New Zealand's Ambassador to the United States, a posting which Goff is reported to be seeking. Can anyone else see the web of conflict of interests here?

Ratepayers across Auckland should now, more than ever, rally to put pressure on the Auckland Councillors to have a judicial review initiated. This is the only independent and legal option left available to ratepayers to appeal the reform.

Moving forward, a possible solution would be for Auckland Council to continue to retain control of Watercare – which currently manages Auckland's wastewater and drinking water supply. Watercare is governed by a board of directors who are answerable to elected councillors, who are in turn answerable to ratepayers. Retaining strong accountability to ratepayers is vitally important, but the Government's proposal seeks to distance ratepayers from having such a powerful governance role. I believe this is wrong.

Watercare could even invite struggling northern councils to consider consolidating their water assets under its management. Elected members of those northern councils could then have a seat on Watercare's board. In this way, Watercare would become the overarching water controlling entity for the north, but still be accountable to ratepayers.

This could potentially achieve the Government's desired overall outcomes, but without removing ratepayers from being a strong part of the governance framework.

Personally, I draw little comfort from the fact that the Government says that it will gather public feedback on Three Waters, but only via a Select Committee process.

Ordinary ratepayers will be intimidated by such a high-level process. Ratepayers are being purposely manipulated from having a voice over the future of the assets they paid for and own.

Accordingly, the Government's intention is to push forward at full steam to create four publicly owned entities to manage drinking water, stormwater and wastewater

infrastructure throughout New Zealand.

It is disgraceful behaviour from Minister Mahuta and it flies in the face of any Treaty-based principles.

In closing and on a more positive note, I look forward to serving Omaha's interests in 2022. 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/gregsayersnz>

Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor,
Auckland Council
Phone: 021 285 9900
Email: greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



UPDATE FROM: BETH HOULBROOKE, DEPUTY CHAIR – RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

Thank you once again to the OBC Committee for continuing to involve me in the community's projects and future plans through another challenging year of disruptions in 2021. Together, we are slowly but surely ticking off a few big-ticket items.

The latest news is our Summer Wardens. We have appointed two paid Wardens who will be responsible for monitoring compliance issues across the Rodney Local Board area. The purpose of the role is to provide education and direction to the public to encourage compliance with Council bylaws in order to protect public safety, increase public awareness and accountability, and drive enhanced environmental outcomes. It includes attention to freedom camping, dogs on beaches, sediment run-off, and environmental management (e.g. protection of nesting shorebirds). It is intended that the Wardens will work in a proactive manner, positively encouraging compliance before breaches occur. This initiative was heavily influenced by repeated calls for added resources at Omaha and, although the Wardens won't be present every day, they will come around often enough

to make an impact and send a message to anyone acting irresponsibly towards wildlife or public safety.

NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE RODNEY LOCAL BOARD IN OMAHA ARE:

- **Omaha Drive Walkway** – A long-held request that has finally come to fruition. Some former members of the Committee have literally died waiting to see it! By this of course I refer to the late and dearly-loved Peter Jackson who took this project on and invited me to meet with him to discuss it more than five years ago. Peter was relentless in his pursuit of this. Prior to that it had already been raised as a priority with me by former respective Chairmen Graham Painter and then Peter Hooper. Then the Matakana Coast Trail Trust added their voice to it – namely via Martin Dancy and Allison Roe. And along the way the various Committee members and members of the public. So I am very pleased to finally have this delivered in time for the holiday season. The path will hopefully be a safe place to bike, walk, push a buggy, or jog along, particularly for families with young children who can feel more confident allowing them to get ahead without having to worry about fast moving cars and boat trailers, or – had it been installed on the opposite side of the road as was considered at one stage – reversing cars from the many driveways.
- **William Fraser Reserve toilets, changing rooms and outdoor showers** – Another long-held request that I had hoped would be installed by now. Unfortunately, another COVID-19 lockdown delayed the construction start and, although we could have commenced this side of Christmas, we decided it best not to disrupt the reserve during its busiest period of use over summer. Construction is now due to start in March, and the project should be complete by May 2022. Prior to construction, Council has upgraded the water bore to provide potable water to the new facility, with a view to being able to open the tap in drought periods for emergency water supplies.

MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL WORKS:

- **Repairs to the Community Centre Roof** – Extensive repairs have been undertaken on the Community Centre roof to address structural issues and weathertightness.
- **Asbestos containment south of the boat ramp** – Complete.

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- **Realignment of the predator fence at North Omaha Reserve** – Complete bar planting and updated signage which were still to be added at the time of writing.
- **Footpath to walkway entrance improvements north of the Surf Club** – To enhance accessibility through the removal of a number of barriers, removal of stormwater ponding at identified points of road connection, gradient improvements at key points to improve accessibility, installation of bollards to reduce vehicle access to the footpath network, and installation and replacement of a number of footpath signs.

COMING UP:

- **Boat Ramp Parking** – A proposal has been fully worked up with the OBC Committee, with a view to improving functionality and performance. Physical works are due to start later in 2022.
- **Walkways and boardwalks throughout Omaha** – Many of these have deteriorated and require replacement or redesign. These will be delivered in stages over the current and following two financial years, including upgrades to signage.
- **Road Safety Improvement** – The Local Board has resolved to fund a driver feedback sign on the causeway to support the reduced speed limit there, after many reports of concern for walkers and cyclists due to drivers not heeding the new limit. It is hoped this will help remind drivers of their speed. These have proven very effective elsewhere.

COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS SUPPORTED:

- **Planting days** – As covered elsewhere by Rob Zubielevitch, the Local Board funds trees for planting on parks and reserves. This budget would not go nearly as far if it wasn't for the volunteer groups who turn out to help at Working Bees to get them planted in the ground, so we are extremely grateful.
- **Pest eradication** – We are funding a project called "Restore Rodney East" which seeks to network existing and fledgling community-based pest-free groups from Puhoi to Pakiri. Members of these groups got together to form a steering committee and come up with an area-wide strategy and role description for a facilitator. We have now appointed a paid facilitator to work with these volunteer groups to ensure they have the knowledge and resources needed to carry out their pest management plans

effectively. Omaha representatives have been fully involved in the steering group heading this project and have been able to build on the Pest Management Plan we funded a few years ago.

- **Water Quality** – I have regularly attended the Whangateau Harbourcare Society meetings, along with Omaha representative and current chairman Terry Brailsford. I hope that the Local Board, with further support from Auckland Council, can assist the organisation in their efforts to improve water quality by identifying the source, and mitigating the effects, of sedimentation flowing into the harbour.

A lot of the above projects would not be possible without the support of my team on the Local Board who waste no time in reminding me how well "my" subdivision is doing for its fair share of the Local Board's budget. The nature of subdivision boundaries within the Rodney Local Board area means that there is always an imbalance between the north and the south, with members elected by subdivision in the following makeup: **1 Wellsford / 3 Warkworth / 1 Dairy Flat / 4 Kumeu**. This means it is essential to work together to gain support for spending in the north. Without the pre-agreement of my team members (who are all based in Kumeu and Dairy Flat) at the 2019 election, it may have been a case of the north fighting it out with the south for share of spending. I ask that voters keep this in mind at the next local body elections in October 2022.

Take care on the roads, beaches, and in or on the sea this summer. Have a very Merry Christmas.

Beth Houlbrooke, Elected Member
Deputy Chair – Rodney Local Board,
Auckland Council
Phone: 021 839 413
E-mail: beth.houlbrooke@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

UPDATE ON ROADING, WALKWAYS AND RESERVES

Firstly, a reminder about your first ports of call about maintenance issues around Omaha:

- For roads, street signs 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, walkways, trees, etc – contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101 or go to "Report a Problem" at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Despite COVID-19 and its effect on the Council budget and their work programme, we've been fortunate to see a reasonable level of ongoing maintenance this year, as well as some project work around Omaha. There has also been some good work by Council in attending to urgent repairs such as the recent damage to the quarry path, the chain gate on the southern-most walkway and the fairly significant rebuild (including realignment) to a section of the bird Sanctuary fence which had become undermined.



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

Repairs to Northern Concrete Walkways: As noted last year, 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 in 2019 but the Council's Emergency Budget last year put paid to the plan to continue down to Broadlands Drive. However, we have continued to lobby to have some of the worst spots fixed over the past 12 months and we still anticipate that the overall plan will be completed at some stage.



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In the meantime, with the welcome support of the Rodney Local Board, there is more work now being done to improve some aspects of the northern-most walkways, with the removal of a number of barriers to footpath access, removal of stormwater ponding at some spots, gradient improvements at key points to improve accessibility, installation of bollards to reduce vehicle access to the footpath network, etc.

Wooden Boardwalks (Walkways 2, 3 and 4):

Council has undertaken repeated maintenance on the tired old wooden boardwalks at the northern end but we're advised that there is now a plan in hand to replace them by some sort of arrangement with bollards and rope, so we'll await some details on that.



Community Centre Roof Replacement: Started prior to the latest lockdown, Council has been working on the very welcome replacement of the Community Centre roof as part of their repairs and maintenance programme. It was good to see the shrink-wrap and scaffolding come down recently!



Estuary Esplanade: Remedial work continued on the esplanade in regard to the asbestos issue, in particular with the protective layer of grass being laid down until such time as further work is undertaken.



Boat Ramp Carparks: As recently notified, Council will be making some improvements to the overflow carpark this month with some more significant work to the main carpark to be carried out after Easter.



Omaha Drive Cycle/Walkway: As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter, it's great to see the walkway by the golf course on Omaha Drive finally underway after so much work by so many people over the last 15 years or so. As most of you will be aware, the completed walkway will run from the roundabout right up to the Community Centre and will provide pedestrians, cyclists, runners, etc with a safe option for what is currently a potentially dangerous stretch of road. Our thanks to the many people who lobbied for the walkway for so long!



On 25th November President Chris Allan had a photoshoot with some of the key players. Everyone involved in this project can be justly proud.



Pictured: Chris Allan, Martin Dancy, Allison Roe, Ian Hutchinson and Christine Wilkinson



Beach Signs: Many of the familiar number signs at the beach end of the walkways in the northern end are missing, out of date or nearly invisible from the beach. We understand the Council's Projects Team does have the replacement of these on their action list but unfortunately the work is at a lower priority.

ON THE ROADS

Safe Journeys: Omaha Beach is likely to be a popular destination over the summer season, with or without COVID-19 restrictions.

Drivers travelling in and around the Rodney district roads should note that there have been a number of posted speed limit changes. State Highway 1 from Johnstones Hill Tunnels (near Puhoi) to Warkworth is now 80kph with some sections with even lower posted speeds. Many rural roads around Warkworth and surrounding areas (i.e. Snells Beach, Matakana to Leigh, Tawharanui Peninsula) have posted reduced speed limits.



Omaha Beach Causeway: The Causeway (Broadlands Drive) is now 60kph, reduced from 80kph. This was implemented to

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increase safety for pedestrians, walkers and cyclists.

To follow on from this reduction in the speed limit, OBC lobbied Auckland Transport for further assistance to improve safety by encouraging compliance with the new limit. AT duly advised us that an electronic speed sign (presumably one similar to those near the entrances to Whangateau and Snells Beach) would be set up at the western end of the Causeway and we are currently awaiting details including an ETA.



The Causeway bridge and estuary from above. Photos: Noah Barclay, Pix Media

Golf Carts: Over previous summers there has been an increase in golf carts being used for purposes other than going to and from the Omaha Beach Golf Club. The use of golf carts, loaded up with people and being driven randomly, not only on the roads but also on footpaths, berms, parks and reserves, is inconsiderate and dangerous – and could result in serious injury.

With the increase in the number of people driving, walking, running and cycling during the holiday season in and around Omaha we ask that motorists please drive to the road conditions and within the speed limits so we can all enjoy a relaxed time and stay safe this summer.

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

HOUSING SUPPLY BILL

As you may be aware this bill supported by both Labour and National and is currently processing through Parliament.

Whether it affects Omaha or not is uncertain at this stage, and OBC/OBRS expect to give an update later this year, or early next year.

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NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

At low tide the sand flats of the Whangateau Harbour provide an abundant food source for many hundreds of shorebirds. Twice a day, as tides cover the mudflats, the shorebirds find a safe roosting site on Omaha Spit. They gather in flocks on the spit and use the few hours over the high tide to catch up on sleep. By roosting together, the birds are quickly alerted to any danger and are then able to lift off as one.

Over the summer our godwits become pretty tolerant of people walking slowly past on the wet sand when they are roosting on the spit and quickly settle down again to sleep.

Please be mindful of all the birds on Omaha Spit over the high tide and show them some love by not disturbing them.



Sleeping godwits and NZ dotterels at high tide, Nov. 2021 – Omaha Spit. Photo: Marie Ward

Currently we have around 500 godwits on Omaha Spit at high tide. These same birds return to Omaha in September every year after breeding in Alaska. We know this because a few of our birds have coloured flags on their legs which means we can positively identify them. Our oldest bird in the Godwit flock has orange over green flags on her left leg. These flags were placed on her legs in Yalu Jiang as an adult on her first migration north to breed in 2002. It is such a relief to see her return safely to Omaha in September each year.



The oldest known godwit from our Omaha flock, colour banded as an adult in Yalu Jiang in 2002. Photo: Marie Ward

A few weeks after the adult Godwits return to New Zealand in September or October, the

first of the juvenile Godwits arrive. These stand out in the flock as all their feathers have grown at the same time due to the chicks replacing their down with feathers. This gives them a speckled appearance, quite different to the other adult birds.

Amazingly the juvenile Godwits find their way south to New Zealand several weeks after their parents have already migrated south. How they know where they are headed is one of those remarkable feats of nature that we have no explanation for. In early November we had 8 juvenile Godwits with our Omaha flock. If you look closely they will stand out with their speckled feathers, they often also have a slight burnt orange colouration around the top of their beaks. This staining is from the tannins in the Alaskan tundra as they feed.



A juvenile godwit, newly arrived from Alaska. Note the tannin staining around the top of the bill from feeding in the Alaskan tundra. Photo: Marie Ward

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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

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

PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA

We have now completed our fourth year of predator trapping. We have over 130 traps based around the reserves and the Taniko reserve. We also have 21 traps in both the northern and southern dunes as well as 130 traps in the hills behind Omaha. These are monitored separately and are not included in the Omaha totals.

We are using three types of traps. The DOC 200s, which are baited with an egg and sometimes supplemented with mayonnaise, are targeted at stoats, weasels and rats. Victor rat traps which target rats and mice, are baited with peanut butter. Approximately 15 Timms possum traps are baited with apple.

All our traps have obvious warning signs and, as you can see, we don't use poisons of any kind.

We enter our catch into a system called CatchIT which records each trap catch by date and vermin type. They are then consolidated with other local trapping organisations called Takatu Landcare. You can see the results for all the local areas on www.takatulandcare.com/catch-map/

The trapping team consists of Rob Rowdon, Phil Bougen, Tony Hoksbergen, John Mew and Rob Zubielevitch. It is very motivating to chat to locals as we check and load our traps and to know our work is appreciated. Many people comment on the increase in the local birdlife, particularly our native birds.

A special mention must go to one of the team, John Mew. John looks after 55 traps – a mixture of DOC200s, Victor and Timms Possum traps. He has been particularly successful at the roundabout end of the causeway where the catches have been outstanding. John loves seeing the birdlife increase as a result of the trapping and seeing native birds such as Kaka visiting Omaha.

In the last 12 months John's trapping line has personally caught:

- 176 rats
- 238 mice
- 5 weasels
- 10 possums
- 6 hedgehogs

An outstanding effort John!



John Mew with his catch

The team total for the last 12 months is:

- 255 rats
- 271 mice
- 9 weasels
- 8 hedgehogs

Phil Bougen who looks after the traps in the surrounding hills in the Southern end has caught over 60 possums and 70 rats. Another outstanding effort.

Interestingly, four years ago we trapped 18 stoats in one year, but this year none. Hopefully we have dealt them a big blow in Omaha.

A big thank you to:

- **Beth Houlbrooke** – Rodney Local Board
- **Michelle Jenkinson** – Department of Conservation
- **Ngair Wallen** – Takatu Landcare
- **Whangaripo Valley Eggs** – for supplying our eggs
- **Omaha Beach Community** – for funding our peanut butter

Finally, volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Rob Zubielevitch robzubielevitch@gmail.com



Piwakawaka (Fantail)



Matuku Moana (White-faced Heron)



Pateke (Brown Teal)

Photos: Marina Zubielevitch

OBC PLANTING DAY 2021

Rodney Local Board supplied over 2,400 native plants for two sites in Omaha. One site was in the Quarry Reserve off Mangatawhiri Rd where 1,600 of these were planted, with the remainder being planted at the end of Paraone Place.



The sites were cleared of gorse and scrub and, luckily, Saturday 10th July was a fine one for Planting Day 2021. Volunteers turned out in force to complete the planting by midday and the Local Board also cooked up a great BBQ for the volunteers which was hugely appreciated.



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The rainfall since has been plentiful which has given the plants a great chance over summer.

Our thanks to all the volunteers and, in particular, Rodney Local Board for enabling this important activity to be completed smoothly.

NOXIOUS PLANTS IN OMAHA

by Rohan Meuli

I'm sure we've all been delighted that the work being done by our dedicated team of trapping volunteers, as well as residents and Council, has clearly been making a difference in knocking back both predators and animal pests around Omaha – it's great to see so many more forest birds such as tui in the past few years (as well as the seabirds of course).

On the flora side, however, there's still a lot to be done about the noxious plants that unfortunately are a common sight around Omaha.

Interestingly, the Council identifies gorse, lupin, nightshade and ice plant as apparently the 4 most common pest plants in the Omaha area.

As a bit of a botanical novice myself, I can't say I've spotted nightshade but the lupin and gorse are quite prominent in parts of the dunes (and, at least in the case of the latter, down toward the quarry), while it's amazing to see how much ice plant there is around walkways, home gardens, etc.

For more detail on these (and other) noxious plants, please visit the excellent Conservation Auckland section on the Council website and in particular:

- Gorse – <https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/ulespp/>
- Lupin – <https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/luparb/>
- Nightshade <https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/solmau/>
- Ice Plant https: <https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/caredu/>

From our residents' point of view, I suggest that for now we focus mainly on just a couple from the 'gang of four', namely gorse and ice plant.



Gorse

In the case of the all-too-familiar and unwelcome **gorse**, the Council will remove this from public areas on request (unless there is a complication such as it being on an eroding bank) – so when you spot it in the dunes or elsewhere, please take a few minutes to report the location (preferably with a photo of the particular area) to Council at:

<https://onlineservices.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/councilonline/rfs/landingpage#>.

It may take a reminder or two (especially during higher levels of lockdown) but Council generally does deal with it in the fullness of time!

Ice plant is a slightly different kettle of fish, as there will be quite a few people in Omaha who have deliberately planted it in their own garden and may be surprised to see it listed as a noxious plant. However, if you could please have a read of the Council website link above, then the situation is pretty clear about the need for it to be removed.

The Council has also started making an effort on ice plant in public areas – some of you will

have noticed that a good spread of ice plant in the garden between the surf club and the car park has been completely cleared away recently.

On a more positive note, the Council website has a lot of helpful information, in particular a series of coastal planting guides at <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/plants-animals/plant-for-your-ecosystem/Pages/coastal-ecosystems.aspx>.

And please keep an eye out for notice next year (often about mid-year) of the wonderful planting days that have been a regular feature of community life in Omaha over the years, especially in the Southern end.



Ice Plant

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WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

While many of us are aware of the sterling efforts of groups such as the Omaha Shorebirds Protection Trust and the Omaha Trapping team to protect and improve the environment around the Omaha spit, less well-known perhaps are the efforts being made to protect the wider Whangateau Harbour.

For example, Whangateau Harbour Care is a volunteer group set up “to sustain the environment of the Whangateau Harbour and its catchment” –see <https://www.facebook.com/WhangateauHarbourCare/>

There are also private landowners dedicated to the protection of the harbour’s shoreline and bird habitats on their own land, such as Lu and Kay Rathe whose property is on the north side of Omaha Flats Road at the western end of the causeway. The Rathe family is well-known locally, having been in the area for many years, and it was Lu’s mother, Ngaire, who specifically set up an Esplanade Strip in 1996.

Showing a vision for the environment ahead of the time, her objective was “the protection of conservation values” on the Esplanade, while generously still allowing the continued use of this private land by the public for appropriate leisure activities (i.e. no vehicles or animals).

However, over the last 25 years or so, the popular spot has progressively become the summertime destination for more and more people along with their cars, trailers and watercraft (including motorised craft) and there has been mounting concern that the shoreline and bird habitats in the area have been suffering accordingly.

Lu Rathe speaks passionately about the family’s concern for the welfare of the bird species in the intertidal zone such as banded rails, Australasian bittern, kingfishers, fernbirds and marsh crakes, for the birds that forage near the foreshore when the tide is out such as NZ dotterels, godwits, wrybills, grey-faced heron, knots, royal spoonbills and variable oystercatchers, as well as other species such as Caspian terns and pied shags that forage in the area when the tide is in.

The recent installation by the Council of bollards to protect the area from vehicles, as well as (we understand) new signage, is a genuine and well-meaning attempt by all parties to restore the balance between the needs of the local environment and its

wildlife with the opportunity for people to still enjoy safe and sensible leisure activities.

We hope this rebalancing is supported and respected by local people and visitors alike.

Links:

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

<http://www.omahashorebirds.co.nz/>

<https://omahabeach.co.nz/restore-rodney-east-project/>



<https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/media/voilaquu/rodney-east-roadmap-report-final-r.pdf>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5f1968bccd99463494df1f109370804f>

PROTECT OUR ROCKPOOLS

by Alys Midgelow-Marsden

We also acknowledge Mary Coupe for her efforts in bringing attention to the importance of protecting our rock pools.

“**Look, don’t take**” say the signs you can see near the rockpools. Why are we so keen to protect rock pools?

It is because healthy rockpools, full of life, supporting special plants, birds and animals, are now rare and it’s our job to conserve them, just as much as other habitats.

Thank you for helping to send a petition to Parliament to ask for greater protection for the rockpool environments locally. We will let you know how many of your concerns will be addressed in the New Year.

Rockpools are like natural aquariums. We can see and enjoy some of the wonderful life in our seas by taking time to look in the pools.

The plants and animals which call these rockpools home have to cope with changing conditions all of the time. Just think, the tide comes in and out daily, it might rain and add fresh water to the pool, waves batter the rocks, the water heats up in the sun, maybe they even dry out for part of the time each day. All in all, the animals and plants living here have a hard life!

There are lots of resources to enable rockpooling for you and your family to be a richer experience. The New Zealand Marine Studies Centre has wonderful information, much of it ready to download – and it’s really kid-friendly.

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/marine-studies/resources/download/> - New Zealand Marine Studies Centre, University of Otago, New Zealand.

The waterproof guide to rockpools (Northern NZ Rocky Shore Guide) is available at the Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre or there is a lovely guidebook about rockpools book for young kids: <https://www.nznature.co.nz/rock-pools> Rock Pools – New Zealand Nature ([nznature.co.nz](https://www.nznature.co.nz))

For more detailed information, and to add your own pictures of sightings, check

out Intertidal Zone – Rockpool Life NZ · iNaturalist NZ.

You can also follow our Facebook Page @ProtectRockPoolSeaLife’ www.facebook.com/ProtectRockPoolSeaLife/

Photos by Alys Midgelow-Marsden



CREATURE FEATURE: PĀTANGAROA (STARFISH)

Did you know that pātangaroa (starfish), kina papa (sand dollars or snapper biscuits) and kina (sea urchins) are closely related to each other?

We know this by looking at their bodies, where we find that they all have a spiny,

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hard skin which helps to protect them from being eaten by other animals. They also have a special body shape – when you look at them you will see that their bodies are like pieces of a pie, this is called being “radially symmetrical”.

Creatures with these spiny, hard skins are known as kiri taratara or “echinoderms”. Their family includes sea daisies, brittle stars, feather stars, sea cucumbers (all of these are found in deep water so we can’t see them in the rockpools), and starfish and sea urchins which live in both shallow and deep waters and which we do often see in the rockpools.

Did you know that New Zealand shares a special connection to Bermuda? New Zealand and Bermuda are the only places in the world where you can find all 6 types of kiri taratara.

Pātangaroa (starfish) have a really interesting life story. They begin life as free-swimming little animals before settling to the sea floor and changing into mini adults which then grow each year. Starfish live for a long time; many live for over 35 years. The largest starfish in New Zealand is the 7-armed starfish and it can grow to 75 cm across – that is huge!

Starfish don’t have a central head or brain – their “brain” is scattered through their legs and their eyes are on the ends of those legs. If they lose one or more of their legs, they gradually grow new ones. Just imagine us doing that!

And the most-weird fact about starfish is how they eat. Starfish are predators, they eat other animals such as oysters, snails and paua. They grab their prey and place the opening in the middle of their arms over it, then turn their stomach inside out to cover the prey, emit stomach juices to digest the prey, and then suck it and their stomach back up into their body. Wow!

When you do investigate the rockpools, remember, they are special, fragile environments. A limpet can live for 20 years, a periwinkle 10 years, a starfish 35 years or more – these creatures may well be older than you or your children. Be careful where you walk, and don’t move stones around as lots of the rockpool creatures use the rocks as protective hidey-holes.

Remember, when it comes to rockpools, the motto is: “Enjoy. Look. Don’t Take”. (Unless it is plastic or fishing lines washed up in or around them, in which case you are welcome to take those home to your bin!)



Coscinasterias muricata (11-armed starfish)



Fishing waste

LIFE BELOW ŌMAHA BAY

by Peter Revell

Beneath the surface, life is being raked away ...

Taking a closer look at the bigger picture is often the best way to identify such issues. Ōmaha has a significant issue, the bay is being dredged and the filters ripped out, leaving the ecosystem to collapse.

Growing up, my father taught me “the answer to most problems is often right in front of us”. In this case, the theory holds true – it is, it just happens to be at the bottom.

Hopefully, you are enjoying reading this from here in Ōmaha or nearby. No matter the weather, it is an incredible area that gives so much – however, there is a problem, and it is impacting more than just Ōmaha, it is impacting Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf.

Ask any good gardener, and you’ll discover their secret is organic matter: worms, micro-

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

organisms and other soil-filters enriching and aerating the nutrients for strong roots and plant growth. A plough or rake through this ecosystem takes a lot to repair but, unlike the seabed, we can add compost and nutrients back into the soil to speed up the recovery. However, if it is not correctly balanced, the worms struggle to survive.

Scallops ("Tupa") – which are part of the Pectinidae species – provide a marine life nutrient, but are also filtering systems, binding and filtering sediment. Just like upsetting a garden's ecosystem, without scallops doing their filtering work, we start to see an unhealthy seabed which suffocates shellfish with muddy water, eventually leaving a barren sea floor which impacts the greater area.

As the seabed continues to be raked and ripped up, the impacts will soon be too great to recover from – and not just for Ōmaha, there will be a catastrophic collapse downstream and enjoying the Gulf as we know it will be very different.

Hundreds of species rely on Ōmaha Bay and Whangateau Harbour to survive, from fish to sea birds, whales to seaweed. Each and all, interconnected, are reliant on the other forming the ecosystem of the Gulf. Natural currents are the transport highway and these marine logistics capture critical nutrients like scallop planktonic larvae "spat" and life from our bay down into the greater harbour. With dredging, we are raking them up, the bed being tilled open, destroying the ecosystem in our seabed.



Scan this image to see a dredge animation

Blaming and finger-pointing serve no one. Our neighbours in the Coromandel have recently banned dredging for the exact same reason, but with that, the equipment and quota has shifted North into our own garden. Recreational dredges are no different, they too rip open the seabed and leave only destruction behind. Harvesting

in the Marlborough Sounds–Tasman Bay area stopped in 2016 and, five years on, the bed and ecosystem have not yet recovered. Dredging also needs to be banned around Ōmaha Beach, Kawau Island and Little Barrier Island ("Te Hauturu-o-Toi") – today.

Two octopus live in holes near the centre of the scallop bed in Ōmaha Bay; these, and only a few other species, are left after years of raking. Scallops best survive in amongst seagrass, but a dredge leaves nothing untouched behind it, it's path has no warning, it's impact taking years to recover from. A study by Dr Currie Parry GD found this is the case in Australia following dredging impacts on the benthic infauna. A dredge goes deeper than the bed tissue, raking up Bivalve and borrowing species.

Only those who dive down can see the destruction; like a sports field with cricket pitches all over it, the garden ecosystem is collapsing at each dredge passing. I have been diving the bay for years, each season observing life disappearing, this year being the most shocking and obvious.

To describe the aftermath ... the sand bed is left bare and flat, nothing survives, plants, crustations, urchins, breeding holes, aeration structures – it is smooth, flat and obvious, taking years to repair. If this was at surface level for all to see, nobody would let it continue.



Photo: Noah Barclay, Pix Media

Some may argue scallop predators like the starfish ("Sea Stars") will overtake the bed if left alone, but these are a keystone species meaning when the bay is returned to its balanced state, the "Sea Star" predators and ecosystem also return. This is not possible while dredging continues. Fish stocks also need to be increased to support the bed recovery with predator balance.

New research from "NIWA" has recently discovered how important this very bay, this scallop bed, is in providing for the rest of the Gulf. When it collapses, the impacts will be obvious – but, by then, sadly too late.

So, what can be done? What is being done?

The easiest and fastest path is for the community – you – to say, "no more". Share this message and help to save the area. Be ok with change, there are many divers who have their hands up to help provide a sustainable catch by carefully hand-picking only the mature scallops, leaving its surrounding area untouched. Some dive shops are doing deals on those that bring in a dredge, offering special deals on lessons.

Ban dredges, do the right thing and if you own one – scrap it. Please!

Many other bays and communities have made this first step. Responsible retailers have pulled the devices from their stores. Our bay needs its whānau to ban dredging so that community leaders can confidently evoke change with industry and governing bodies. At the time this went to print, there are significant movements of support, local and regional, so please take time to read and support their efforts. Thank you.

When the ocean floor provides more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe, doesn't it make sense to stop dredging and protect the bottom filters?

Have a warm and relaxing summer, enjoying the bay and "filling your basket with knowledge".

Whaowhia te kete mātauranga
Mā te kimi Ka kite, Mā te kite ka mōhio, Mā te mōhio ka mārama
Ko Peter Revell tōku ingoa, Ōmaha-rian,



To encourage people to stop dredging, our local dive shop in Warkworth, NZ Diving, is offering a \$150 discount on dive lessons if you hand in a dredge.

Phone Neil on 021 221 3971 for details.

Talks are well underway to ban scallop dredging in our area. Most participants are confident a ban (similar to the one in Coromandel) will be in place within a year.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

A CHANGING BEACH

By Sally Blyth

Beaches and coastlines are always changing – as are the seabed, estuary and rockpools, as outlined in our articles – but have you noticed how much Omaha Beach itself has changed recently? It's different every time you go down there. It's different now to what it was even just a few years ago, with more changes and marked differences evident over this past year.

So many shells! The Northern end has always been more "shelly" – which is normal, but lately much of the beach resembles Pink Beach with all the shells exposed as the tide ebbs away. It's a bit sore on the feet too! Pristine white sand is minimal these days, mostly confined to the edge above the high tide mark.



Also, so many rivulets and channels, some of them quite wide and deep. Ridges and folds, grooves and trenches – they're all over the beach these days. It's an ever-changing landscape of patterns, shapes and colours. But it's the prevalence of crushed up pink-hued shells, north to south, that stands out.

The East Coast can get a bit hard hit through autumn from tropical storms, which often pushes sands up into the dunes, exposing

the shells. As the bay tidal flow circles the groynes, it washes sand and structure away or onto land, hence the need for ongoing dune protection. The groyne rocks serve to loop tidal flow back into the bay and, without them, Omaha would be looking very different again.



There are many factors contributing, some also natural and organic. What is interesting is that the entire Hauraki Gulf is a large bay in itself. All too easily we see only what is in front of us, however it is all inter-related. The seabed is part of a web of life, species being both filters and nutrient feeders for the Gulf. Marine biologist Leila Meistertzheim found a single mussel filters on average up to 25L a day of sediment, bacteria and, sadly, microplastics. Without these, the sediment suffocates other species and shellfish. With the absence of mussels, the bay is left to rely on other species like the scallops. It is running out of backup solutions. Studies are now finding just how much Omaha and Little Barrier impact the greater Hauraki Gulf and, as this web is damaged, the system "lets go" and we see increased levels of shells on the beach. The dredging is having



an impact – indirectly to the visibility of shells, but significantly on the system as a whole – not just to the sea floor but also on our surrounding coastal areas. Scallops' eggs, those that survive natural predators, are vulnerable to a greater threat. As a comparison, their young shell is no stronger than a few layers of our skin – no match for a dredge. A dredge destroys more than its catch in a single pass, scallops aside, and the seabed and species also destroyed in the process end up washing away or, at times, washed up onto the inter-tidal zones or land.

The bay used to be an abundance of shellfish and life, sadly only memories now. But there is hope, there are changes we can make and decisions that can be made today that can lead to a positive difference for the future.

Newtons third law says: "For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction" and we are seeing that at play here in Omaha. Let's protect our beautiful bay!



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WELLINGTON



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 9th January 2022.



Statement of Financial Performance

Omaha Beach Community Inc
For the year ended 31 October 2021

	NOTES	2021	2020
Income			
Advertising Income - Newsletter		3,500	2,000
Advertising Income - Other		700	700
Donations Received		529	1,405
Interest Income		995	2,747
Subscription Income		62,087	59,348
Total Income		67,811	66,200
Expenses			
Audit Fees		-	(130)
Bank Fees		82	80
Depreciation - Fixed Assets		2,243	5,499
Freight, Courier & Postage		208	398
General Expenses		-	69
Insurance		1,140	1,140
Maintenance		607	1,453
Members Meetings		615	494
Newletters		12,297	10,330
Office & Administration Expenses		5,400	5,400
Pest Eradication		246	307
Presidents Expenses		130	117
Printing & Stationery		215	428
Security - Camera Maintenance & Patrol Costs		28,948	31,248
Website Development & Maintenance		1,370	1,091
Xero Fees		540	540
Total Expenses		54,041	58,464
Operating Income/(Loss) for the Year		13,770	7,737
Less Non Operating and Non Recurring Items			
Freedom Camping Objection Expenses		10,564	-
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year		3,206	7,737

These financial statements have been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. FINANCIALS



Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc
As at 31 October 2021

	NOTES	31 OCT 2021	31 OCT 2020
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank		83,365	83,972
Receivables		1,498	475
BST Receivable		-	1,078
Total Current Assets		84,864	85,525
Non-Current Assets			
Term Deposits - BNZ Bank	6	27,505	26,962
Property, Plant and Equipment		10,541	5,084
Total Non-Current Assets		38,046	31,945
Total Assets		122,909	117,470
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
BST Payable		2,233	-
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees		10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		12,233	10,000
Net Assets		110,676	107,470
Equity			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		107,470	99,734
Current year earnings		3,206	7,737
Total Equity		110,676	107,470

For and on behalf of the Committee:

President: Chris Allan

Treasurer: Rohan Meuli

Date: 27.11.2021

These financial statements have been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.



Omaha Beach Community Centre Maintenance Fund

Omaha Beach Community Inc
For the year ended 31 October 2021

	2021	2020
Statement of Financial Performance		
Income & Expenditure		
Income		
Golf Club Contributions Community Centre	10,000	3,958
Interest Income - Community Maintenance Fund	154	957
Total Income	10,154	4,916
Less Expenditures		
Maintenance - Community Centre	-	7,425
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	10,154	(2,509)
Accumulated Funds at Start of Year		
Community Maintenance Fund - Retained Earnings	42,870	45,379
Accumulated Funds at Year End	53,024	42,870

	2021	2020
Statement of Financial Position		
Assets		
BNZ Current Account		
Community Maintenance	24,532	13,981
BNZ Term Deposits		
Term Deposit 3023 - CM Fund	13,856	13,775
Term Deposit 3026 - CM Fund	13,117	13,053
Total BNZ Term Deposits	26,973	26,828
GST CC	1,519	2,061
Total Assets	53,024	42,870
Less Payables Owing		
Payables Owing	-	-
Accumulated Funds at Year End	53,024	42,870

OMAHA PARK

The sum of \$30,800 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 Sphere Chartered Accountants (previously known as Macnicol & Co) for their assistance. The name has changed but the team who provide valuable advice is the same, and we specifically acknowledge Abby Brown, April Corry and Paul Macnicol for their efforts over recent years.



ROHAN MEULI - NEW OBC TREASURER

Our thanks to Rob Zubielevitch who has very capably served as our OBC Treasurer since 2018 and is now stepping down from that role, though he remains on the OBC Committee as Secretary.

Taking over the reins is Rohan Meuli who has been on the Committee for the last couple of years. Rohan and his wife Kerri have enjoyed holidaying with their family at their property in Success Court for more than 20 years and have been living there permanently for the last few years. Rohan has an IT business and has many years of professional experience in managing small businesses, marketing, etc, as well as serving on Body Corporate, trust, church and community groups over the years.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS' SOCIETY (OBRS)

There continues to be 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' Assn 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 administration 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. There was agreement by both OBC and OBRS community members that 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 at 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 more recent approval of the walkway/cycleway from the Broadlands Drive roundabout to the Community Centre which is currently under construction and nearing completion.

The OBC management of the Omaha Park Environment Court Appeal which stopped the development of 856 house sites on the headland at the southern end of Omaha and the 2019 objection to the Auckland Council's proposal for Freedom Camping are further examples of the logic for having one body speak for Omaha.

A new Freedom Camping Bylaw is now proposed by Auckland Council providing for freedom camping in most Auckland residential streets, including Omaha, with some restrictions. OBC has taken legal advice challenging the legality of the proposed bylaw with significant financial support of OBRS. This bylaw, if passed, will have a significant impact on our Omaha streets and existing toilet facilities, particularly over summer.

You will also be aware that OBRS recently wrote to all members advising of a planning initiative the OBRS is taking in relation to the provisions of the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) applying to Omaha South. In essence, OBRS is seeking a plan change to correct an anomaly whereby the Yard Standards that apply under the AUP are in some instances unworkable, particularly affecting rear and corner sites.

On a lighter note, please remember that every OBRS member and 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 licenced Club facility and, as of right, also providing (OBC) members with a 10% discount on bar purchases.

It is pleasing to say that the three principal Omaha Committees of OBC, OBGC and OBRS continue to work together in a very constructive manner to further enhance living here at Omaha.

Tony Coupe, Chairperson, OBRS



Photo: Noah Barclay Pix Media

FIBRE BROADBAND, INTERNET AND CONNECTION



Work resumed on the rollout of fibre in the ground as soon as Auckland stepped down from Level 4 but, according to the official Chorus sources, the disruption appears to have pushed out the general availability until February next year. However, the word "on the ground" is that it could be available a month or two earlier - we'll see!

You can check the ETA for your specific address at <https://www.chorus.co.nz/tools-support/broadband-tools/broadband-checker>

And if you need a connection in the meantime, wireless rural broadband is available but many people still prefer the longstanding copper phoneline-based DSL service (in particular VDSL).

COMMUNITY MATTERS



OBC WEBSITE

www.omahabeach.co.nz

The official OBC website is kept up to date with news and events, as well as useful information on the area, its activities, its history etc, so please visit!

If there's anything important or interesting happening around the community, then please let us know at us@omahabeach.co.nz and we'll update the website accordingly!



OMAHA BEACH 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 so generously given!



Here's some background about how the Omaha Facebook page came about ...

Chris Martin and his family moved to Omaha 18 years ago and built their first home in the, then quiet, undeveloped southern end of the beach. He became very involved and passionate about the community through his business at the time - Insite Security Ltd.

About five years ago Chris was asked whether he wanted to be involved in managing the Omaha Beach Community Facebook page and he was happy to help. When the group grew to over 6,000 members, he found it hard to administer on his own and so looked for a community-minded, similarly-passionate and strong family-oriented person to assist. He found Bianka Dalton, and they make a great team!

Bianka's family (who are originally from Croatia), through her Dida and Dad, brought their section in picturesque Omaha. The bach was built in 1984 and they have been part of the community ever since. Bianka absolutely loves Omaha and has enjoyed watching it grow and develop over the years. She now visits with her husband Nick and daughter Arabella.

Bianka agreed to help with the Facebook page to keep people and properties safe, reunite pets with family and keep people

updated on what's happening. She loves working with Chris and together they like to keep things upbeat and positive, whilst looking after the Omaha community.

If you are a resident or bach owner and want to keep up to date with what is happening in and around Omaha Beach, please join them.

OMAHA BOAT RAMP

As all boaties know, the ramp is becoming more popular with boat owners all over Rodney and beyond. It is the only all-tide ramp in the area.

We know that 80% of all users of the ramp are from outside Omaha and the volume of traffic is causing disruption on busy days to the residents of Omaha Drive and the side streets off it.

We had the busiest day in the history of the ramp on Saturday 16th October 2021 where over 350 vehicles with trailers launched from the ramp in one day. An additional 50 vehicles associated with the boats also needed to find parking somewhere.

The queue to enter the boat ramp was back to the Golf Club along Omaha Drive at 6:30am in the morning, and we can expect similar days this summer.

Auckland Council is making improvements to the carparking commencing in early November when work will start on the renewal and reconfiguration of the overflow carpark. Works include renewal and reconfiguration of bollards and line marking.

Works to the main carpark will commence following the Easter weekend and will take approximately three weeks onsite. These works, which are being delayed so there is not too much disruption in the peak holiday

BEACH ETIQUETTE

PLEASE RESPECT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER:

- Respect the dog rules (page 42)
- 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



COMMUNITY MATTERS

season, will formalise carparking in an effort to create efficient and practical use of the carpark footprint. Council also intends to water-blast the ramp before Christmas. Hopefully we will have more signs asking people not to park single cars in the two boat trailer parks as this just adds to the problem. Safe Boating!

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR YOUR LOCAL OMAHA COMMUNITY?

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD!



The OBC is looking to fill upcoming roles on our Committee and we're reaching out to you, our membership, to invite you to join us!

The OBC is the organisation covering all of Omaha, both North and South, and its Committee is a key liaison body with the Auckland Council. The OBC undertakes numerous projects and advocates for Omaha on important issues.

If you've been looking for an opportunity to:

- utilise your skills and experience;
- volunteer your time and develop new skills along the way;
- give back to your thriving local community;
- gain an insight into local issues and important projects;
- connect with other passionate locals;
- step into an opportunity that can enhance your networks;
- contribute positively towards the next decade of growth;

we'd love to hear from you!

Being involved is a chance to get inside the engine room of an organisation with a long and proud history. You'll be surrounded by people with passion and drive and the same common goals.

Whether you've had a long attachment with Omaha or have recently discovered its delights; whether you have a holiday home or are a permanent resident - come and join us!

Volunteering has become important to many people and organisations and being involved with the OBC is a valuable way to be a part of a community with 50 years under its belt. To continue strongly into the future, we need you to put your hand up and step on board. We will appreciate all that you bring - and who knows where being on our Committee may lead you ...

Come join our Omaha Beach Community Committee!

The Committee generally meets once every six weeks or so, either at the Community Centre or a Committee member's house, starting at 4 or 5pm (wine o'clock!) Meetings are social and fun and last an hour or so (or until the wine is gone!)

If you have flexibility and the capacity to offer your time and skills in 2022 and beyond, please get in touch with us to find out more! We can talk to you about what's involved and answer any questions you may have.

us@omahabeach.co.nz
or call Debbie Lee on 027 599 5431



Layers of Nature. Photo: Sally Blyth

OBITUARIES

Sadly, as President Chris Allan reports, the OBC lost three people this year who have contributed to the community and Committee in a variety of ways. Each of them served on the OBC Committee – we acknowledge the part they played and send our sympathy to their families.



PETER JAMES (PJ) JACKSON – PASSED AWAY FRIDAY 2ND APRIL 2021 AGED 78 YEARS

Peter began his involvement with the local Committee in 2004 and was made an Omaha Beach Community Life Member in 2009. He was Vice President of the OBC Committee in 2005 and 2006 and also had a short stint as Treasurer in 2005 prior to Kim Fisher taking over. Peter continued to provide advice and guidance on community matters after retiring from the Committee and played a major part in obtaining approval for the footpath along Omaha Drive – lobbying for the path started in 2016 and it is finally under construction in 2021.

Peter and his wife Sally had a strong passion for Omaha Beach and, having always lived near the water, they found their idyllic spot for a beach holiday home in the Northern end of Omaha and built their house on the waterfront.

When Peter and Sally sold their “Living and Giving” chain of homeware stores and gifts in 2004, Peter’s involvement in the local community began. In 2005 he was part of

a team of 12 Committee members – which included Ian Baudinet, Mike Prebble and Kim Fisher. Led by President Greg Stenbeck, Peter referred to this group as “the Tight Five”.

Peter helped the community in many ways and played a part in a number of successful initiatives, his negotiating skills coming to the fore in several areas. He put high value on Omaha’s pristine rural backdrop and he was part of the intensive fight to protect that for all time through the challenge regarding Omaha Park.

The completion of the long-anticipated and much-needed footpath along Omaha Drive is testament to Peter’s keen and ongoing interest in all things Omaha. He will be missed.

An article on Peter was published in the May 2009 OBC Newsletter after he was honoured as a Life Member of OBC.



JUDITH MARGARET (JUDY) CROOKS (NÉE JOHNSON) – PASSED AWAY 12TH AUGUST 2021 AFTER A BATTLE WITH CANCER

Judy began her involvement with the local Committee in 1991. She became Secretary under the Presidency of Max Bunker in 1994. When Ian Smith took over as President in 1995, Judy remained on as Secretary until 2001 when Jo Richards took over. Erin Jerkovich was Treasurer for the bulk of those years. Judy was made an Omaha Beach

Community Life Member in 2001 at the end of her long tenure as Secretary.

Judy and her husband, the late Brian, first enjoyed Omaha in the mid-1980s. After renting for some years, they bought their own property in 1987. Not only was Judy involved in the OBC Committee she also served as the 2014 President of the Omaha Bowls Club and, as a keen golfer, was highly involved in the Omaha Beach Golf Club.

With a keen community spirit and the desire to give things a go, Judy played an active part in convincing the Council to demonstrate that Omaha rates were being fairly spent and was part of the team, driven by Bill Freeth, that negotiated that “the Omaha Pot” funds of approx. \$1.2m be spent at Omaha as it had been contributed by residents over the years. Judy’s father built the original entrance sign into Omaha.

Judy was a trusted friend of many people in and around Omaha and will be missed.



ANTHONY JOHN (TONY) MARKS – PASSED AWAY 24TH JUNE 2021 AGED 76 YEARS

Tony led a full business and family life and in recent years the OBC enjoyed his friendly and energetic participation on the OBC Committee. Tony was a great help in tracking down contact details in order to keep the OBC’s database updated and the OBC is grateful for his support. He will be missed.



OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB SUMMER 2021 REPORT

General Manager: Sue Jury
(Phone 021 248 3886)

President: Kevin Weston

Email: gm@omahagolf.co.nz

Website: www.omahagolf.co.nz

Phone: 09-422 7551

What another interesting year we’ve all had with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to transform nearly every aspect of our world. Meanwhile, our friends, family, colleagues and communities have had their lives changed in ways that promise to have much longer-lasting effects. Living through a global pandemic has driven dramatic shifts in our jobs, childcare and education, sporting and recreation activities, retail and purchasing mechanisms, eating habits, and even our collective sense of time.

Each and every one of us can recall ways in which our lives have been altered, but one lesson rings true: virtually no one has been left untouched after almost two years of such dramatic disruption. Perhaps a healthy dose of empathy and patience along with pragmatism and creative thinking will make us all stronger as we re-build and re-make our world in the years ahead.

As for so many organisations, we’ve been confronted with unprecedented constraints, with forced closures and restrictions in the way we are 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.

The Omaha Beach Golf Club (“the Club”) has grown over many years into a strong and vibrant entity, forging an increasingly important place in the Omaha community. Despite yet another year of uncertainties and ongoing restrictions, our membership has increased significantly: at the end of 2020 the Club had 749 playing members; as of late October 2021, our membership base had grown to 868.

CLUB REPORTS

VISION | 2022 (GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME)

VISION | 2022 is a joint initiative between the Club and Friends of Omaha Beach Golf Club (“Friends”). Friends is a charitable trust that was formed in 2010, 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. The Golf Course, currently ranked close to the top 20 in New Zealand, is a course of two nines.

Our aim is to complete the upgrading of the northern 9 holes of the Course to deliver one of the best golfing experiences in the region, to members and visitors alike. Building on the extensive native tree planting work which is being completed, the plan is to revert the course to entirely native planting over time, as well as to enhance wetland planting in low-lying areas and better integrate the course within the Whangateau Harbour environment. This will be of benefit not only to golfers, but also to the wider Omaha community who use and enjoy the entire area.

The **VISION | 2022** programme is being ably overseen by Tony Kortegast, President of Friends, and focuses on the remaining holes that require upgrading – holes 15, 17 and 18 – with minor improvements also to be completed on holes 1 and 16. The final step is to combine the two holes currently played before we cross the road to form a new 3rd hole, which will play as a par 5. This ambitious development programme is being achieved through fundraising initiatives, and launched through a donation scheme, with pledges so far totalling over \$600,000 from generous members and supporters. Funds raised so far have enabled the Club to complete development of the 15th hole, and to commence a programme of works on the 17th hole.



The 15th hole completed

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Mondiale | Omaha ProAm

Omaha hosts New Zealand’s longest running **ProAm** event which attracts many of the country’s top professional golfers annually. This PGA-sanctioned two-day event is now in its 23rd year, with a prize pool of over \$30,000. It takes place in March annually and this year the Club hosted players from across New Zealand entering to play.

The **Omaha Scramble** was initially postponed due to the pandemic, but we managed to run it a few months later, albeit in a slightly different format. It is the Club’s signature event and secured a full field within five weeks of registrations opening. The highly successful weekend includes an event dinner, fundraising auctions and on-course challenges to help raise funds towards course development.



Golfers at the Scramble

Life member Bill Abraham almost single-handedly organised the **Warkworth-Wellsford Hospice Charity Tournament** featuring an amazing prize table and fundraising auction.

Volunteers from the Club and Hospice joined forces to ensure that golfers and sponsors were well catered for with on-course food stations and an array of refreshments and beverages back at the Clubhouse/Community Centre. Almost \$100,000 was raised from this event for Tui House, to provide Hospice care and support to those with life-limiting illnesses (and support for their loved ones too).

JUNIOR GOLF

Golf Pro Emma Fairnie secured funding from NZ Golf and led two hugely successful School Holiday Programmes and an After-School Golf Programme for young golfers. Junior Golf has increased in demand and popularity throughout the year, and much of this can be attributed to Emma’s dedicated enthusiasm and skill in supporting young people interested in playing golf.

CLUB REPORTS

AT THE CLUBHOUSE/COMMUNITY CENTRE

A new roof for the Clubhouse/Community Centre

This Auckland Council funded project has been a significant undertaking which initially involved a total replacement of the roof and repairs to internal guttering. As with older buildings, we don't always know what we're up against until they are "opened up". This was indeed the case for the Clubhouse/Community Centre with unexpected repairs being required on ceiling framing, internal ceilings and walls (due to long-term water damage) and extensive work on both internal and external electrical systems. The programme of works commenced in May and was expected to take 16 weeks to complete. Constraints around COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and delays in building supplies have meant that the project was extended out to six months. As of mid-November, the project is almost complete and awaiting a final Council inspection.

Point of Sale System

The Club invested in a new Point of Sale System to service the Café and Bar. Members (including paid-up members of OBC) now receive a 10% discount on bar beverages when they scan-in with their membership card. The new system reporting capability provides indepth information and data to more efficiently manage expenditure and income.

Mid-Winter Christmas Gala dinner and Fundraising evening

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions meant postponing the Mid-Winter Christmas event until later in the year. We had a full house of guests from the Omaha community who enjoyed a gala Christmas themed evening with entertainment from comedian Brendhan Lovegrove and a live band.



36 SOUTH Travel Club was launched last year as a regular Club event to reconnect members and the local community with a love of travel – to discover new and exciting uncharted regions with other discerning travellers. 36 SOUTH is organised by "The Travel Queen" Annie Mellor. You may have seen her talking travel on TV3's The Café or on radio sharing her worldwide travel encounters while working with a boutique travel company and international cruise line.

To say it has been challenging running a Travel Club while international travel has been cancelled is an understatement. However, Annie, in her indomitable style organised an evening called ...

A Night in Rio

The event saw guests dancing, celebrating and immersing themselves in a spectacular Carnival atmosphere. They were treated to amazing Latin beats with Chico and the band straight from Sky City as well as Samba dance with Brazilian Divas.



BATHROOM PROJECT

The Clubhouse/Community Centre bathrooms date back over three decades and, while they have served us well, are now in dire need of a refit and updating to meet increased demand. A project was developed to renovate both bathrooms with Committee member Will Selles taking the helm for planning, building consents and fundraising. It has been an enormous undertaking, with refit work being managed by Mark Bower. This project has been made possible with the generous support of financial donations from Omaha Beach Community, Omaha Beach Residents' Society, Club members and local residents. We're also grateful to several businesses who have donated products and trades services towards the refit project. With work recently commencing, we expect both the Men's and Women's facilities to be completed in the new year.

SPONSORS

We wouldn't be able to achieve positive outcomes for the Club without the generosity of individuals, businesses and organisations that support our work, through sponsorship, donations, or in-kind contributions. Such support is vitally important and greatly appreciated. The financial contributions from our family of sponsors and donors are undisputedly important for our financial base and enable us to add value to the Club that would not otherwise be attainable. Despite the uncertainties wrought by the pandemic, our sponsorship base remains strong and we now have 56 businesses and organisations partnering with the Club. Thank you.

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (OBSLC)

President: Linda Crisford

Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Website: www.omahasurf.co.nz

Phone: 09-422 7022

Investing in growing connections between our members has been a key focus for Omaha Surf Life Saving Club and an area of particular joy for our Club in 2020-21.

Over the past year we have continued to develop a Club culture that is all-inclusive of age and gender, running events and activities that interest both our junior and senior members. We are particularly inspired by 69-year-old local resident David Stone, who has started training to be a lifeguard with us. He truly is living out the values treasured by the Omaha family. We welcome and value all members of all ages. So come and join us, learn new skills, meet wonderful people and be of service to your community.

As we worked to grow into a strong family and community Club throughout the year, many exciting events were put on to provide fun activities for everyone to participate in. Some Club activity highlights include a team-building weekend at Whangamata Surf Club in May run by our Competitive Sports Organiser Tracy Blair. As well as an all-ages-and-abilities paddle from Scott's Landing up the Mahurangi River to Warkworth, a ski paddle to Mathesons Bay and the Omaha Reality Paddle (our version of the Molokai Event) organised by Life Member Frank Maher. These events have been so popular that they've become fixtures in our calendar.

We continue to try very hard to include our local community in all we do, not only by providing lifesaving and Emergency Call Out Squad services but by making the Club available to host local gatherings like yoga,



spear-fishing events and an underwater hockey mid-winter swim.

Our thanks to our professional and dedicated lifeguards, members and committee who have given extra time, experience and training to keep up with the requirements of an increasingly busy season and the uncertainties of lockdowns. Maintaining the level of lifeguarding we need has been very important as Omaha Beach is exponentially gaining in popularity due to many new homes being built in Warkworth and Matakana and the area's nearness to Auckland. This is continuing to bring new challenges as the numbers on the beach are rising so fast. We need to continue to train, retain and upskill our members to be able to fulfil our lifeguarding obligations.

To keep our Club thriving, our new treasurer Jess Broun has worked tirelessly to navigate the new government funding and put in place robust accounting procedures to manage this. Please be aware that the Government funding we receive pays for a proportion of lifeguard operations only. Nothing for Junior Surf, nothing for sports equipment, nothing for carnivals or any competitions. So please

CLUB REPORTS



Omaha Bowling Club

continue to support us through donations so we can maintain and grow our community Surf Club.

We have worked hard on training and retaining lifeguards and have held an increasing number of refreshers this season. We have been lucky to have trainer Andrew Cowan on board to teach our new lifeguards too.

In total 23 new lifeguards passed their exams and 223 juniors were registered with the Club last season. The growth of our Juniors is continuing and, thanks to the Junior Committee, this large group is able to enjoy a fantastic experience every Sunday morning.

We are planning a major reconfiguration of the Club to futureproof us as we move forward. We can apply for funding from the Council and the Government, but a significant amount will need to be provided by the Club and we will be looking to raise further funds over the next 24 months. We will need your support by donating towards this fund. Please – please – please donate, every little bit counts.

COVID-19 dependent, we will be doing our bucket shake on New Year's Day so please be ready for us. We need you! We are aware not everyone has cash so will have a QR code available for donations.

We were honoured to make Rob Earley a Life Member of Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club for his dedication, hard work and ongoing commitment to Surf Lifesaving and our Club. He truly exemplifies the meaning of "in it for life".

We are very proud of our lifeguards and the work they do by keeping you and your families safe on the beach and in the water.

Lastly, we are proud that our Club has become an important place for sharing experiences, tackling new challenges and growing friendships. A legacy we hope lives on.

Please swim safe this season.

Linda Crisford, OBSLC President

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

President: Christine Wilkinson

Email: wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com

Phone: 021 1777 173

This last year has seen our Bowling Club go from strength to strength. The new green has turned out to be a fantastic asset to the Club and is attracting more new members in the area. We welcome these new members and encourage others in the area to come along and join. Our numbers are up again on last year and the increased membership makes for competitive tournaments and fun social bowling.

Once again, we find ourselves in the midst of strict COVID-19 lockdown restrictions with the Delta variant. Unfortunately, this has inevitably delayed the opening of the bowling season for the second year in a row. Life is no longer as we know it and we will need to adapt to these changing times as we move ahead in the future.

We have had many a working bee this year, keeping the Club neat and tidy. It's looking good with the sheds repainted, the roofing cleaned up and the water tank being given a new lease of life.

The Club has managed to put up brand-new fencing along two of perimeters of the Club which will see us well into the future. This was

CLUB REPORTS

due to a kind and generous donation from the late Judy Crooks, an Omaha local who has recently passed away. Judy was a valued member of the Bowling Club and was one of the foundation members who helped get the Club off the ground many years ago.

As I write this, we have started our alteration on the Clubhouse extension. This will take place over time as we go through three stages of the build.

Debbie Lee from Maximise Real Estate continues to support the Club as our major sponsor and has erected a new sign on the fencing. Thank you to all other sponsors that continue to support us, and also to the new sponsors who have recently come on board.

We aim to make bowling available at all levels – those wanting to play for championship status as well as those who wish to play at a social level. As well as our Club champs, we now have Lazy Sunday bowling which has generated a great social environment. We have also continued our free coaching throughout the year on a regular basis.

Let's hope, with summer on the way, that the virus levels reduce and we can get back out there and get bowling. Come along and join us. Contact Christine 021 1777 173 for more information.

Christine Wilkinson, President

WAKA AMA CLUB

Despite the lockdowns during the year, you'll likely see our members out on the waters this summer. Come join the Club if you're keen to find out what Waka Ama is all about!

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.



OTHER CLUBS

Here's a snapshot of Clubs/Groups that are in Omaha.

CLUB	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
Sea Swimming Club	Stephen Smythe	021 766 915	stephensmythe@icloud.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	Christine Wilkinson	021 177 7173	wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com
Omaha Tennis Club	Amanda		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:

OBC website www.omahabeach.co.nz

"Omaha Beach Community" Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach>

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

SAFETY & SECURITY

Please take heed of this important message from Insite Security



Ph: 09 425 7113
admin@insitesecurity.co.nz
Alarm, CCTV, Monitoring, Patrol

Hi All

Summer is here again, and we all want to enjoy our wonderful beach!

Insite dispatches a patrol in Omaha each night over the peak period (1st December 2021 to 31st January 2022). We aim to keep the area as safe as possible and deter any behaviour that is contrary to OBC, OBRS and legal objectives.

A significant part of our time goes toward 'entertainment challenged' youth. The reality is that we provide a presence (often at the Surf Club reserve) which adds to safety but certainly does not ensure it. One guard cannot ensure safety for 10-50 youths, most of whom are non-compliant, particularly in an environment where there are endless options to be hidden.

We understand that, historically, the perception is our wee gems are safe in little old Omaha. Based on escalation in the last few years and a year of pent-up frustrations about freedom restrictions – I want to change your mind on that!

For example – there is what seems to be an annual start of season altercation of local vs non-local youths. We got lucky last year with the guard in the right place at the right time, interrupting two groups of 15-20 youths with intent.

During the summer there are more and more out-of-town, unpredictable youths in vehicles, looking for trouble. We don't want to get this wrong before parents respond.

A similar message applies to youths in golf carts.

We all know it was the fun stuff back in the day – times are different now and so are our kids. There is a clear pattern of increasing bravado and lack of awareness from youths in carts. The time is coming where it, too, won't end well.

We are very aware residents have different views of what is acceptable. From our point of view, it's about what is safe.

Our guard's job is comparable to herding cats. Your average 15-year-old is not deadly but does have sharp claws – and they are never wrong! There are, however, bigger cats who reside off the isle, with no gates to stop them roaming. Certainly, no place for kittens!

We want to be proactive here.

We invite all parents who are interested in their youth's whereabouts to supply contact details to us.

You can email them to admin@insitesecurity.co.nz or, even better, wave down our patrol, have a chat and give them some details.

Then at 10pm, if it comes to it, we can let you know that your offspring is at large and not necessarily in good company or they are goalsetting with Nitro Circus and Jackass objectives. Occasional parent presence also provides a united front as opposed to one guard trying to spoil all forms of fun, a situation that is easily avoidable.

Over summer we have a camera installation planned for the Surf Club parking area which will be a good deterrent. There have been a few bold robberies over the winter period in the greater area – some of them organised, some of them drug-inspired, some opportunist. Your vigilance and the roundabout cameras make Omaha a harder target. The moral of the story is, keep the tools and toys locked out of sight.

You are by far our best eyes and ears as you are everywhere – and usually at the right time. The Neighbourhood Watch initiative is a great tool and helps connect our efforts. When you see any suspicious activity, we or the Police need details: time, description, rego, activity/behaviour, direction. If you feel it's safe, and you have backup, then ask questions – if unsure, then just observe.

We also have a few other objectives like keeping our foreshores from being pillaged, giving our feathered friends the space they need to survive, providing education around the alcohol ban, pets on the beach and camping, as well as running our eye past every property on the isle.

A big shoutout to the OBC for their unique action around the freedom camping bylaw. That is one of the many reasons why Omaha is a special place to be.

Have a safe and hopefully social summer!

Council Noise / Animal Control 09 301 0101

MPI / Fisheries 0800 809 966

Police non-urgent 105

PHONE INSITE SECURITY ON 09 425 7113

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- CCTV - Design, Install & Service
- Panic Alarms
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- Access Control Systems
- Alarm Monitoring
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09 425 7113
www.insitesecurity.co.nz

SAFETY & SECURITY

FROM WARKWORTH POLICE

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



Another eventful year has flown by, and this COVID-19 outbreak has really tested us as a community. Having said that, the Rodney Coast is an incredible area to live, work and relax. Omaha is one of the slices of paradise in the area that is hard to beat.

With travel being limited at this time, the area is going to be extremely busy – even more so than usual. The huge influx of population brings its challenges and frustrations over the summer months.

One message I want to highlight to everyone is to please be kind, respectful and have patience for one another – not only in the local community but on social media and, most importantly, on our roads.

Road Safety is our main concern and the road is where our loved ones have the highest chance of being hurt. We want everyone to get home safely, so please do your bit and drive safe, sober and distraction-free.

The use of Golf Carts continues to be an issue in the 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. 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.

We also see an issue with vehicles being broken into. The easiest way to prevent being a target is to ensure you remove valuable items from your vehicle.

Please don't hesitate to Call 111 if there is any Crime occurring where there is an imminent risk of injury to people or risk of damage to property – or even if there is someone acting suspiciously.

If there is a traffic matter that does not involve an imminent threat of harm, Call *555.

If you are reporting an historic matter, please Call 105 or call into the Warkworth Police Station to report the matter.

Our Warkworth Team are here working 24/7, 365 days a year to make our area the safest place in New Zealand.

Kia Kaha and Merry Christmas.

Sergeant Mark Stallworthy

Officer In Charge, Warkworth Police

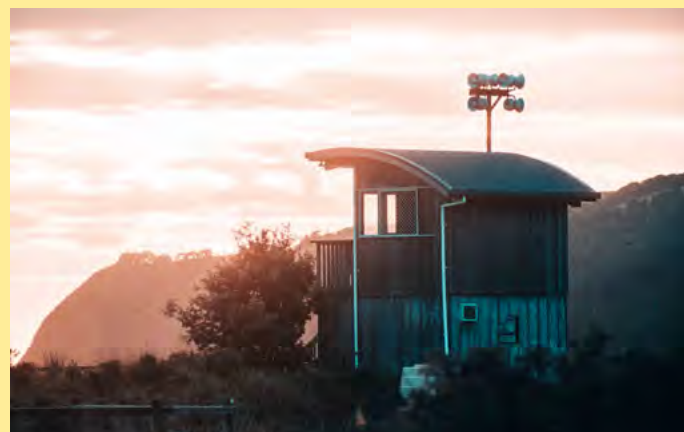
AEDS IN OMAHA (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS)

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 Golf Club, 1 North West Anchorage (North)**

NOTE: There are now also AED Defibrillators at the Pt Wells General Store and in Matakana.



Southern Tower. Photo: Noah Barclay, Pix Media

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.

SAFETY & SECURITY

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/>

TSUNAMI SAFETY IN OMAHA – A REMINDER

Tsunami Safety brochures have been distributed in the past, and there has been a focus on it through the years, but here's a reminder ...

Geological investigations have identified the East Coast of New Zealand as a potential tsunami risk.

Tsunami waves are generated by earthquakes and the height of the waves



Great Barrier Island clear on the horizon. Photo: Sally Blyth

depends on the magnitude and nature of the earthquake, as well as the distance from the New Zealand coast. Omaha Beach is, to some extent, protected by the Great Barrier and Little Barrier Islands but, in the event of a serious tsunami, wave heights could exceed 5m.

The Omaha Beach development is built on a sandspit and most properties are below the 10m contour line. The same applies to low lying areas of Point Wells, Omaha Flats and Whangateau. Land above the 12m contour may be considered relatively safe, for example in the vicinity of Caroline Heights. Signs have been installed to indicate refuge areas above the 12m contour.

In the event that a general evacuation of Omaha Beach is required, the narrow causeway of Broadlands Drive could become choked with traffic, particularly during the peak holiday season. Furthermore, the traffic must merge with that from Point Wells and the Leigh Road. Therefore, alternative evacuation routes to high ground must be used.

There are two types of tsunami:

- **“Near source”** – Generated by an earthquake (one that is hard to stand up in or lasts for more than a minute), underwater landslide or volcanic eruption close to the coast. Unusual noises from the ocean or the ocean rushing in or out are also signs to evacuate immediately to the nearest high ground refuge zone.
- **“Distal” (distant)** – Occurs far from New Zealand and may take 3-12 hours to arrive. Pacific monitoring ensures maximum warning time, indication of wave height and expected arrival time.

If there is sufficient time, the tsunami siren evacuate signal may sound.

Evacuate signal: DOT-DOT-DOT for 15 minutes.

From Area 1, north of Broadlands Drive – Go to Caroline Heights.

From Area 2, south of Broadlands Drive to Pukemateko Reserve – Go to high dunes west of Mangatawhiri Road.

From Area 3, between Pukemateko Reserve and Rahui Te Kiri Reserve – Go to top of Old Quarry via path, south of golf course, and across bridge.

From Area 4, Taumata Road – Go to Te Kie Point via path behind tennis courts.

NOTE: Boats already at sea should stay as far offshore as possible.

Do not return to the Evacuation Zone until the official “all clear” is given.

The key safety precaution is to keep away from the beach and low-lying areas until the danger has passed. Knowing what to do will save your life, and others near you.

Be prepared, GET READY, GET THRU!

Find full information about Civil Defence procedures in Omaha, including a helpful map, on the OBC website under the “About” tab. You'll also find more information on how to prepare for emergencies at www.aucklandcivildefence.org.nz

You can register to receive public alert notifications via smart phone App, SMS and/or email from Auckland Civil Defence by visiting the above website.

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 (normally a Monday) kerbside Rubbish collection service using their wheelie bins and/or orange plastic rubbish bags.



- Auckland Council contracts with Smart Environmental to undertake fortnightly (normally a Monday) 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.

We very much appreciate the co-operation and assistance given to the OBC, and the Omaha community, for these additional collection services.

RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

From the week following Christmas 2021, through to the first week of February 2022, we will have the benefit of **twice-weekly**

kerbside Rubbish collections, using the Northland Waste wheelie bins and/or orange plastic bags.

See the Calendar on following page for collection dates.



RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

From the week of Christmas 2021, through to the week of Auckland Anniversary Day 2022, we will have the benefit of **weekly kerbside Recycling collections**, using the Recycling wheelie bins.

See the Calendar on following page 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.**

If the contractor has not collected 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:

Northland Waste has opened its new **Warkworth Re:Sort Resource Recovery Park**



183 Sandspit Road, Warkworth

Open: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm. Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 9.00am to 4.00pm. Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

See website for pricing www.northlandwaste.co.nz/service/transfer-station

Further Comments about the Orange Bags:

We continue to experience problems with the ongoing use of the orange plastic Rubbish bags. Following the survey of residents, a couple of years ago, we had been working towards converting to the wheelie bins but, regrettably, other commitments of the OBC Committee have prevented this, so far.

The issue with the plastic rubbish bags relates to those who put their bags out on days other than the scheduled collection ones, and where the seagulls, and the occasional dog, get into them and we end up with the contents strewn around the streets (and left for permanent residents to clean up!) This is in addition to the environmental damage being done through the use of plastic.



SUMMARISED CALENDAR OF OMAHA RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DAYS OVER SUMMER 2021/22

DECEMBER 2021

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

JANUARY 2022

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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 st RECYCLING Anniversary Day	1 st RUBBISH	2 nd	3 rd	4 th RUBBISH	5 th	6 th Waitangi Day
7 th RECYCLING Waitangi Day Observed	8 th RUBBISH	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th

Note: some collections will take place on Public Holidays.

From the week commencing 7th February 2022 the fortnightly kerbside Recycling collections, and the weekly kerbside Rubbish collections, will revert to the normal schedule.

OMAHA RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Some of you may have seen the recent news that Auckland Council is potentially moving to a Rates-funded, or a "pay-as-you-throw" model (PAYT), for the collection of household and business rubbish.

Councillor Greg Sayers was reported as saying that, "A Rates-funded refuse collection service instead of the pay-as-you-throw orange bags would not be better for Rodney residents.". We took exception to these comments in relation to the orange plastic bags, and made our position clear to Councillor Sayers, who we are expecting to maintain contact with, along with the Local Board, on the subject.

We understand Councillors are expecting to see an initial discussion paper in December and will be deciding what options and details go out for public consultation. That public consultation is expected to occur as part of the Auckland Council Annual Plan/Budget-setting processes, typically held around March. Whilst the OBC will be able to make a submission, it is important that all residents do the same and respond to the consultation.

MAHURANGI WASTEBUSTERS

Mahurangi Wastebusters was established in 2017 in response to increasing demand from north Rodney locals wanting alternatives to sending their waste to landfill. They are focused on reducing, repairing, reusing and recycling as much as possible for the benefit of people and

the environment. They offer zero waste education and support waste minimisation activities across the region.

Based in north Rodney, Auckland with refuse and recycling centres at 55 Lawrie Road, Snells Beach (temporarily closed) and 141 Rustybrook Road, Wellsford.

They provide rubbish and green waste disposal for residential and small business customers. They also accept scrap metal and recyclables that can be re-manufactured or re-purposed sustainably, and they have small shops at both locations where pre-loved goods can be purchased at bargain prices.

Please note: Hazardous waste, clean or hard fill and vehicles over four tonnes are not permitted.

HOURS: Rustybrook Road, Wellsford: 10am - 2pm Tuesday to Sunday

Rusty Station Shop: A new shop open 9am - 3pm on Wednesdays for a once-a-week garage sale. Located opposite the railway station in Wellsford.

NB: Lawrie Road is temporarily closed for site works.

Read more here:

www.mahurangiwastebusters.nz



Holiday Rental Management

www.beachhouses.co.nz

021 533 846

PERSONALISED, PROFESSIONAL AND RECOMMENDED

PAW PATROL

Hi, all Omaha dogs - this is your favourite canine correspondent, Zeke, here again for my annual two pennies worth!







As always, I've included a reminder for your forgetful owners about the dates and hours that we're allowed to be on the beach now that we're approaching summer. Remember that not everyone loves dogs (hard to believe, eh!) so please be on your best behaviour when you're on the beach or just hanging around the walkways, shops, etc - not too much barking, absolutely no biting and make sure your owners pick up after you've done your business!

Be especially nice to any of the wonderful kids around Omaha and please do your very best to avoid Omaha's special birds - remind your owners that we're not permitted to go any further north on the beach than Walkway 2 (between Rita Way and Ida Way) for that reason.

And, from my feline sister Lily, a word to her fellow cats to please remind their owners to keep them inside at night so they're not tempted to head north to the bird sanctuary and cause trouble!

Anyway, enjoy the summer and please say hello if you see my new little brother and me out walking!

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

Beach		
	Summer	Winter
	Off-leash 5pm - 10am	Off-leash All times
	Prohibited 10am - 5pm	
<p>Summer rules apply from 1 December to 1 March.</p> <p>Winter rules apply from 2 March to 30 November.</p>		
Reserve		
	All times	
	On-leash All times	
Omaha east		
	All times	
	Prohibited All times	
<p>This covers the Omaha Beach Reserve and adjacent beach and foreshore areas: Northwards of the access track to beach at northern end of Rita Way (Ida way - Rita Way Reserve).</p>		

FOODIE CORNER

Matakana has always been a passion for food writer and Omaha resident Lauraine Jacobs and her first book MATAKANA (2008) was a go-to guide for both locals and visitors.



This new book extensively revises and updates information about our talented food artisans and food producers, artists, adventurers, clever business people and health seekers who have enhanced the depth of the options offered to visitors for relaxation, to indulge in and simply enjoy by creating opportunities around the treasures of the area.

Overflowing with enthusiasm for the pleasures of the area, insights are provided into the community, the popular Farmers Market and surrounding village, and shares all the important details of accommodation, eating, drinking and snacking in the area, art and inspiration, health beauty and wellness, Omaha Beach Golf, and walks and sports activities of the area. As well there are more than 25 Local Heroes who have shared their

fascinating stories, along with stunning portraits. The photography is brilliant, as Ken Downie has captured the light, the atmosphere and the character of Matakana in full glossy colour.

The abundant cafés, restaurants and wine, beer and food outlets, accommodation options are all listed, along with information about the Village, cinema, local regional parks and the walks, beaches, exercise and health places and the people that make the district one of Auckland's best weekend destinations, and a fabulous place to live. As a bonus,

Lauraine has included a dozen fabulous simple recipes using the best of the region's produce. She defies anyone to read it and not learn more about our region.

Published by Massey University Press 2021 rrp \$45 in bookstores or contact Lauraine for direct sales lauraine@laurainejacobs.co.nz

A RECIPE FOR SUMMER

Here's a fab recipe from Lauraine using local Omaha strawberries and OOB blueberries, plus the great croissants from Ringawera Bakery in the Village.



Baked Blueberry and Strawberry Croissant Pudding

Ringawera Baker's excellent croissants are perfect for a Bread and Butter pudding. Use OOB blueberries and locally grown strawberries.

- 4 croissants
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 200g blueberries (fresh or free flow frozen)
- 1 punnet strawberries
- 6 fresh free-range eggs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- Pinch of ground cinnamon
- 450mls whole milk
- Icing sugar to finish

1. Butter a large ovenproof baking dish. Pre-heat the oven to 170°C.
2. Slice the croissants thickly (about 4-5 slices in each roll.) Butter each piece lightly on one side. Place them in the dish, overlapping slightly with each other.
3. Scatter the blueberries and strawberries evenly throughout the croissant slices, pushing them between the croissant slices.
4. In a bowl, beat the eggs well with the sugar and cinnamon, then add the milk and beat again.
5. Carefully pour this batter over the croissants. Push the croissants down so they are thoroughly soaked in the batter. Let the dish stand for at least 5 minutes before placing in the hot oven.
6. Bake until the pudding is golden and puffed on the top. Take from the oven, dredge with sifted icing sugar and serve with runny cream. Serves 8.

29 Glenmore Drive Warkworth phone 09 425 8682 www.carltonpartyhire.co.nz

SUMMER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2021/2022

What's On?

Unfortunately, due to lockdowns and traffic light systems, who knows!

We're not including details of events due to restrictions and uncertainties. Do check the website www.omahabeach.co.nz and no doubt you'll be keeping your eyes and ears open about what is on. Pop into the Matakana Information Centre to find out the latest information.

EVENTS THAT WE HOPE WILL BE HAPPENING OVER SUMMER!

• **Hidden Valley Festival**, Monday 27th December 2021: Since this Summer Music Festival began in 2016, it has sold

out year after year. Now in its sixth year, the iconic post-Boxing Day event returns – first out of the gate for Summer's festive season in picturesque Matakana. R18. Find out more: www.hiddenvalleynfestival.com/

• **Omaha Beach Golf Club**, at the Community Centre, Omaha Drive. OBC members are welcome to use the Café and Bar facilities.

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

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

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.

<https://www.matakanavillage.co.nz/market/>

Pop into the craft-oriented Market in the old Creamery adjacent, open on Saturdays until 2pm.

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>

CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES:

CONVENIENCE & CAFÉS:

Omaha Beach Superette, 1 Matariki St: Open 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week – selling food, dairy, produce, convenience items, and a good wine selection! Even if you need something obscure, chances are the Omaha Superette will stock it.



Omaha Beach Café & Eatery, 1 Matariki St: Open 7am – 2pm Wednesday to Monday. Fabulous food (cabinet and menu), great coffee, and a selection of yummy treats, served with a friendly smile. <https://www.omahabeachcafe.nz/>



The central hub where the Superette, Café, shops, services, Surf Club, public reserve and carpark are located. Photo: Noah Barclay, Pix Media

Estuary Café, Omaha Community Centre – Tasty home-made café food, treats and drinks to fuel your golf swing and keep you going for all your outdoor activities. Plus dinner made easy Fri, Sat and Sun! www.omahagolf.co.nz/news/estuary-cafe/

• 8:30am – 3pm Monday to Thursday

• 8:30am – 8pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday



The Farmers Daughter, Omaha Estuary on the west side of the Causeway – Deliciously healthy food with a variety of options, a great beer and wine list, and fabulous outlook.

• Open Friday and Saturday nights for dinner, 5pm till late.

They are in the process of re-opening to full capacity. See their website for further information.

www.thefarmersdaughteromaha.co.nz



On Instagram [@athefarmersdaughter_omaha](https://www.instagram.com/athefarmersdaughter_omaha)

Point Wells General Store, open daily from 7am – Convenience items galore, and excellent takeaways. www.facebook.com/PWGeneralStore/



Food, beverages and entertainment: The Stables, Smiths Bar & Restaurant, Sawmill Brewery, The Matakana (Village Pub), Rothko @ Sculptureum, The Warkworth Hotel, Leigh Sawmill Bar & Restaurant, Matakana Cinemas, 8 Wired Barrelworks & Tap Room, Charlies Gelato and more ...

Produce/products: Matakana Honey, Ikes Mandarins, Dutch Touch Produce, Matakana Oysters (from The Green Shed), Matakana Berry Co & Gala Berry, OOB Organic, Maxwell & McIntyre (natural oral health), Flourish at Home (artisan cleaning products), Blue Adventures/Omaha Surf & Supply Co, Takatu Studio (Art and Pottery by Helene Carpenter), and more ...

Check out their websites and Facebook pages!

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

Matakana Walkway/Cycleway

Enjoy a leisurely walk (or cycle) along any or all of the stages of the Matakana Walkway/Cycleway. Start at Jones Road (opposite OOB Orchard Shop), amble up to Takatu Road, and then on to **Morris & James Pottery and Tileworks** at 48 Tongue Farm Road (approx. 1.5hrs return). A great way to get rid of your excess Christmas kilos amongst nature! Along the way, notice the series of way markers designed by Nick Charlton of Morris & James Pottery.

Wander amongst the colourful pots at the iconic Morris & James pottery shop, enjoy a factory tour and treat yourself to coffee and a bite to eat at the café on site. The perfect way to while away a chunk of a summer's day.

The Morris & James shop is open 9am – 5pm, 7 days a week, with free Factory Tours at 11:30am daily.

www.morrisandjames.co.nz

The Coffee Pot-tery Café on site is open 9am – 3pm Mon-Fri and 9am – 4pm Sat/Sun for a great range of cabinet food along with a full breakfast and lunch menu (catering by Philp It). www.philpitercatering.co.nz

Carry on to Matakana Village, or head back and grab a cooling fresh berry soft serve ice-cream (dairy free available too!) from the **OOB Orchard Shop** on your return. Pick up some freshly picked organic blueberries and a full range of ice-creams and sorbets available by the scoop or in a tub.

The OOB Orchard Shop opens for the summer season in mid-December and will run through to mid-March 2022. Shop hours are typically 12pm – 6pm daily.

www.ooborganic.com

Find out more about the **Matakana Walkway/Cycleway** here: www.mctt.org.nz/project/omaha-trail



LOCAL DELIGHTS

PIX MEDIA – Local Photography

You'll notice that some of the photos in this edition of the Newsletter have been taken by Noah Barclay, a local 17yo who started photography and videography as a hobby five years ago. Things have now taken a step forward and his hobby is turning into a business – Pix Media.

Apart from a few years living in Point Wells and a couple of years in Auckland, Noah has lived his life in Omaha so he knows the environment well. He attends Mahurangi College and this year received the top Year 12 Prize for Art/Photography. He'll return to school next year for Year 13 study, alongside progressing his business.

Check out Noah's website www.pixmedia.nz for some stunning photos, many taken with a drone and offering a unique perspective of Omaha and its environs. He's still refining the website, which has a gallery showcasing the quality and diversity of his work (prints available) and links to his Instagram and Facebook pages.

If you'd like some photography or videography done at a fair price by a local lad, get in touch with Noah noah@pixmedia.nz



The Estuary. Photo: Noah Barclay, Pix Media

The Knitting Truck – Yarn Supplies

The Knitting Truck is your local yarn store, home of beautiful knitting, crochet, weaving and spinning supplies. We are located in our little, tiny house/shop at Charlies Gelato, 17 Sharp Rd, Matakana. The shop runs 100% from our solar panels and focusses on NZ made products. We offer helpful advice and support to our customers and look forward to helping you on your crafting journey.



Owned and run by Ann Dewey. Hours are 10am – 4pm, Wednesday to Sunday and open online always. Phone the shop on 021 194 5631

www.theknittingtruck.com

Bali Garden – Create an Oasis at your Home

Founded in 2011 by Robyn Alexander, inspired by her many years of travel to exotic locations, love of design and a desire to embrace and share a space with like-minded people, Bali Garden is an oasis right here in Point Wells (292 Point Wells Road) offering a range of treats and treasures.



Switching from the corporate world, Robyn undertook several design courses, and it was gardening that proved to be the medium through which she has gone on to fulfil her creative yearnings. At Bali Garden you'll find a retail space showcasing many Balinese artisans and there is a lush palm enclave housing a Bale (Gazebo), perfect for wellbeing workshops and weddings. There is also a luxury accommodation retreat and a working horticultural business.

Browse the beautiful products in stock, many of them "one offs" – or the team can

LOCAL DELIGHTS

assist you to source items for your special residential or commercial project.

Open 11am – 3pm, Friday to Sunday – or by appointment

www.baligarden.nz or email robbyn@baligarden.nz

Life Celebrant – Sharleen Greer

What a year for everyone. I have had time to seriously look at my business and, like many others, I have had to pivot into something else. I have just completed my certificate in Celebrant studies and next year this will become a Diploma when I do the marriage papers.

I have transitioned from Life Coach to Life Celebrant, offering ceremonies for Funerals and End of Life Celebrations, and Memorial Services especially for those affected by COVID-19.

When you are coping with the death of your loved one, it can feel overwhelming having to organise a funeral. This is where a celebrant is helpful in guiding you to create something special and appropriate to celebrate their life. I have a wealth of resources that are available for you to use and plenty of ideas that might be useful.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss your needs.

Contact: Sharleen Greer – Life Celebrant on 021 1456 432

Kotare Studio – Fine Art Textiles

Alysn Midgellow-Marsden is an experienced freelance artist in fine art textiles, an author of several books and numerous articles, a tutor and former gallery director. She is also a tutor for Creative Matakana in May each year.

Alysn says: “There are two major factors in my life which ran side by side for many years, moved apart and are now intertwined once again. The first is that I can’t remember a time when I didn’t spend time ‘making’, or stitching. These efforts were not always successful, but we all have to start somewhere! As I grew older my creative efforts included painting and poetry but always included fibre arts.

“The second major influence is a combination of biochemistry, marine biology and conservation which were my degree subjects. I think that my approach to my art and my world view is informed by the investigative, experimental exploration which is the basis of the scientific method.

“Since living at the coast, I have been re-united with the coastal environment. Over the last 18 months my work has been concentrating on the dual themes of the place, culture and stereotypes associated with textiles; and the coastal and marine environment – it’s beauty, raw energy and challenges.”

Alysn’s artworks are based around metals, fibres, textiles and stitch and often stretch traditional definitions between sculpture, installation, wall-based work, textile and video. She hopes that they allow an opening for you to enjoy your emotions and your connection to humanity.

Recent awards for selected exhibitions include: Mandurah Wearable Art (Australia) for ‘What Lies Beneath’; ‘Wall Brooches II’, (Australia) for ‘Taniwha’; ‘Changing Threads’ Nelson Arts ‘Bernina Award’ for ‘The Space Between VII’.

Alysn extends an open invite to locals to visit her studio and talk more about her work (but ring to check she is in first). Tel: 022 3186750

Studio: Kotare Studio, 865 Takatu Road, Tawharanui Peninsula

www.alysnmidgellowmarsden.com

Instagram: [@alysnmart](https://www.instagram.com/alysnmart)

Ed’s note: Alysn wrote the article about rock pools and sea creatures on page 22! Her artworks are magnificent!



Alysn in her studio



“In urgent need of solace” – AMM

YogiFish – Ocean Swimming and Yoga Adventures in Leigh

Run by Kaye Mueller, YogiFish is a new Leigh-based venture for joy seekers who are curious to set out on journeys of exploration – on the yoga mat and in the ocean.

YogiFish is all about encouraging you to let go of the shore and discover new soul and seascapes with flow-style yoga classes, breathwork, ocean safaris and retreats.

Yoga and swimming provide solace, respite from a busy mind, comfort in community and joy in exploration. You learn to move and breathe easier and with grace so that even a gnarly swim can feel like a watery meditation.

No matter if you’re scarred or scared, sick or sad, no matter what your age, body type or ability: yoga and water support you as you find joy in movement and flood your body with happy ‘endorphins’.

You don’t have to take yoga classes to swim with the pod, and you don’t have to swim to join a yoga class. But if you’re curious, come and discover how these two powerful practices can transform your swimming – and your life.

YogiFish offers a yoga-swim Toe Dipper with loads of support and tips. Or there’s a Try-A-Swim most Fridays at Mathesons Bay for rusties, rookies and transitioning pool lapsters. We do Loopy Tuesday laps around Matheson Bay, plunges at dawn, moonrise dips, safaris along the Leigh and Ti Point coastlines. And we’ll show you the crevices, canyons and caves of Goat Island. We also organise longer safaris, yoga/swim escapes and swimcations, locally and beyond.

The latest lockdown threw the yoga into a tangle, but classes will resume soon at Leigh Hall to loosen all those knots.



YogiFish – Goat Island

If you’re ready to get your ‘endolphin’ fix and switch your head and heart to blue, come and play. Check out the schedule or sign up for the newsletter on the website over the page.

LOCAL DELIGHTS

About Kaye:

I’m Kaye Mueller and I’ll be your YogiFish guide on the yoga mat and in the ocean. After a lifetime of living in my head and running from fear, I discovered the solace and joy of ocean swimming. I then dived deeper

into yoga and found that these two practices dovetail beautifully: Both invite you to relinquish control, to flow with the elements and listen more deeply to your Self.

I love to share the joy of movement on land and sea; to help others let go,

flow and breathe deeper; to witness the exhilaration and healing power of the ocean.

YogiFish was born from this passion.

Web: www.yogifish.nz
Email: kaye@yogifish.nz



EDITOR’S NOTE

The freedoms of travel, entertainment and outings were snatched from us this year, restrictions put upon us, and much of it endured through pretty awful weather. Now that things are opening up and we can move about the country, there’s really no better place to be than Omaha Beach as summer emerges.

Itchy feet and a dormant passport have, however, had me reflecting on time spent in other beaches around the world that have grabbed my attention, for very different reasons.

- La Concha, San Sebastian, Spain: A golden-sand, crescent-shaped urban beach in Basque Country with an elegant promenade leading from one green mountain, with a funicular up to a charming fairground dating back to 1912 on its peak (still operating), to another with a historic fortress on top. Superb views in all directions. There are two other city beaches, one for surfing.
- Essaouira Beach, Morocco: A bustling 5km long caramel sand beach on the edge of the Medina, with camel and horse-riding on offer, kite-surfers, beach and water activities and a somewhat hectic vibe. Panoramic views of the Atlantic, impossibly picturesque sunsets and plenty of wind.
- Pärnu Beach, Estonia: A popular family

holiday spot in the Gulf of Riga, part of the Baltic Sea – safe, wide, shallow and warm, with promenade. Less than two hours from the intriguingly beautiful medieval capital city of Tallinn.

- Emily Bay, Norfolk Island: A tranquil turquoise lagoon nestled amongst the island’s rugged coastline, overlooked by the scenic golf course and Cemetery, and surrounded by the historic ruins of Kingston settlement. Nature and yesteryear collide with perfection.
- Allans Beach, Otago, NZ: A remote beach on the Pacific Ocean coast of the Otago Peninsula. With wildlife. Isolated and little visited, walking on this beach feels like being at the end of the world, which it nearly is – yet it’s not far from Larnach Castle.

I also recall visits to various Eastern Bloc countries under Communist rule in the 1970s/80s. When Kim and I spoke, we reminisced about memorable time spent in the USSR, behind the curtain – he attended the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution in 1957 and I was inside the Kremlin when Brezhnev died in 1982! Crossing those borders back then was a regimented, drawn-out and angst-ridden process and I was detained and interrogated due to inadvertent paperwork errors or an officer with power games on his mind on a number of occasions. It was no fun but it did engender

resilience! I’ve returned to several Eastern European countries since, without incident – and I have to say I’m very glad to have been able to avoid the local Auckland “Checkpoint Charlie” regimes during lockdown!



Essaouira Beach. Photo: Sally Blyth

It’s been a pleasure to bring this Newsletter together and I thank all those who have been on the end of Debbie’s whip, supplying interesting and informative content and images.

As this challenging year comes to a close, and a new one awaits, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas 2021 and Happy New Year 2022!

Sally Blyth (Editor)

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

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Let's make it happen!



Photo: Sally Blyth

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2021/2022 edition (with special acknowledgement to Debbie Lee for easy collaboration in gathering content);
- all contributing photographers;
- our "family" of regular advertisers whose support helps us bring you this Omaha Newsletter – and a big welcome to new advertisers.

SECURITY: For local assistance at any time, dial INSITE SECURITY 09-425 7113
Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 1st December 2021 to 31st January 2022 and long weekends.
Thanks to Chris and the Insite Team for working to keep us safe!

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