



PRESIDENT'S REPORT PG. 3

ACCOUNTS PG. 17

RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES PG. 31

Tui - Photo: Marina Zubielevitch

THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS

Words by Sally Blyth

You will have noticed that more and more birds are visiting Omaha. This influx of birdlife first became apparent during lockdown - the birds obviously enjoyed the peace and quiet and they came calling. Birdsong became a beautiful and highly noticeable feature of the long periods of restriction we all went through. We may not have been able to fly anywhere, but the birds were having a field day during those challenging times.

The distinctive warble of our native tui is a joy to behold. Belonging to the honeyeater family, the tui feed on nectar from flowers and native plants and flutter about in Pohutukawa trees all over Omaha. They are generally entertaining and can be quite feisty. Sometimes they'll even let you get up close for a period of time to enjoy a good look

at their attractive iridescent plumage and familiar white throat tuft (poi). And then, just like that, they will take off, whirring noisily towards another Pohutukawa or Banksia tree, where they will feast further. They also enjoy feeding on flax flowers. They are not easy to photograph - although our resident photographer Marina Zubielevitch manages to regularly capture their splendour.

We've seen an influx of peihana (pheasants) in the area - they can take you by surprise, darting out across the walkways going about their business.

Kereru, kaka, korimako (bellbirds) and tikaokao (quails) are becoming more abundant, and we've even had kiwi visit our shores. One was spotted on the video camera at the Shorebird Sanctuary in early November, foraging happily in the dark.

It's great to see more and more kereru (wood pigeon) around the place, roosting in trees, feeding greedily on berries or lumbering loudly through the air like an Antonov aircraft. With its large body and inquisitive eyes, there's something endearing about the kereru. Watching them in action always makes me smile.

Quails were abundant back in the 1970s and then seemed to thin out, so it's nice to see them returning. It's also wonderful to know that bellbirds, another species from the honeyeater family, are becoming more prevalent here. Their melodic song is enchanting and, as you can see, tui and korimako, and other nectar eating birds, don't mind a drop or two of fresh orange juice!

Along with the protected shorebirds in our Sanctuary (see page 11), there are the ever-present seagulls, sparrows, finches,

thrushes, wax-eyes (aka silvereyes) and more. I've recently spotted (and heard) a few rosellas (kaka uhi whero) around the place too.

The dedicated team of volunteers who oversee Omaha's highly successful trapping programme (see page 13) is to be congratulated on creating a predator-free place where these birds can flourish. The increasing abundance of native birdlife in Omaha shows they are clearly thriving in our environment. Birds are a vital part of the eco-system and we are fortunate to have such a variety within our midst.

Just a note that, if you do have a birdbath on your property to attract the birds, do make sure you clean it out regularly. A birdbath is an excellent water source but can also be dangerous, even deadly, if not properly used and maintained. Check out this website for more info: <https://www.thespruce.com/how-bird-baths-hurt-birds-386298>

Let's continue to appreciate and nurture our birdlife – even if you're not a bird lover, they are a natural wonder (oh, the fascination of flight) and an ecological asset. Whilst cats are natural bird hunters, please do your best to deter them from pursuing this innate feline interest – keeping them in at night definitely helps keep our birdlife safe.

If you want to find out more about native birdlife in NZ, here's a great online resource:

<https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/>



Above, Korimako (bellbird).



Right, Kereru (wood pigeon)

Below right, pair of tui

Below left, A proud peihana (pheasant)



No one reads the market better!

NO FLUFF..JUST EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



DI BALICH 021 917 080

Licensed Agent REAA 2008

PRECISION
REAL ESTATE MREINZ

PRECISE PROFESSIONAL REAL ESTATE WITH INTEGRITY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Greetings to fellow Omaharians and visitors,

I begin writing this report for the Christmas edition of the newsletter, after spending most of my time on the Local Parks Management Plan, on behalf of the OBC. I had wondered, were our own community members discerning of the importance of participating in the Auckland Council consultation process which, as a result of being engaged, might impact the decision-making processes that influence life and the environment at Omaha? I was aware that the Omaha Beach Golf Club (OBGC) and the Omaha Shorebirds Protection Trust (OSPT) were submitting on their respective areas of interest. Unfortunately, as it turned out, there were no other submissions from fellow Omaha community members or organisations.

There are 24 named parks and reserves, some of which are not reserves at all.

Most of the park/reserves management issues and intentions set out in the Council's engagement document were just simply wrong. There is a clear discrepancy between Auckland Council's perception and the actual function of these parks and reserves, driven by the lack of communication to relevant stakeholders. This was hugely disappointing when you consider our ratepayer taxes are fuelling these ill-prepared or agenda-driven policy reviews. It is up to you, each community member of Omaha, to take the initiative to participate in Auckland Council matters, to ensure better outcomes for Omaha.

The hearing on the Rodney Parks submissions was heard on 7th November. I attended at Council's Orewa offices. A big thanks to Richard Brabant for appearing at the hearing on the submissions and for his persuasive, firm, and polite advocacy for OBC, OBGC and the OSPT trustees – and thank you also to Ngaire Wallen for appearing in person on behalf of the OSPT. I believe the Commissioners and Council staff appreciate the efforts made to have our say.

Following the hearing I have been advised that work to change the status of the esplanade reserve of the beach area on the eastern side of the Sanctuary to a wildlife reserve is underway.

The Council's "investment plan" for

Auckland golf courses is also a case in point in terms of how important it is for members of the community to have their say, individually and as a community organisation through representatives. Again, Richard Brabant had to spend hours getting the facts and information together to support a very detailed and accurate submission to the Local Board, which was 100% supported by the Local Board. The Council report/plan was just plain wrong and based on outdated data. It is frustrating to have to endure this from Council officers. Why do Councillors allow this to happen?

What do we at Omaha get for the significant contribution to Auckland Council's Rating pool? Treated Jones Road sewerage (discharged through underground reticulation in the golf course in the southern nine); an 830-metre footpath that cost \$800k and a few Pohutukawa trees; limited efforts by Healthy Waters; and some work around the Boat Ramp that we, the residents, struggle to access during the summer and long weekends with the influx of visitors.

What else? Certainly, great grass verge and dunes maintenance, along with predator management. And a public toilet in the William Fraser Reserve that is starting to take shape.

I am worn out by Council interaction on community issues, as are my fellow OBC Committee members. We face a steady response of roadblocks. Certainly, Beth Houlbrook and Greg Sayers have provided a voice but ultimately the Council officers determine what is good for us, and we are left with the wreckage – Freedom Camping is an example. Fiona Hyland has kindly summarised the rules and what you as a community member can/must do if you come across illegal Freedom Camping. That summary appears on page 7 in this Newsletter.

Having said that, a huge bouquet to the Council staff at the coalface, those on the front line who come and see us and our community and the projects, and who understand the realities of how to make Omaha Beach truly wonderful for all.

Issues to be addressed:

The signing of the lease for the Community Centre by Auckland Council in the form

OBC has been executed, reflecting a lease term of 10 years and two renewals of 10 years each, all at a peppercorn rent with no reservation that Council, in its wisdom, might charge the community for rates and a commercial rent at some time in the future. At time of writing the OBC, as lessee, had requested landowner consent (Council) for acoustic panels to be installed at the Community Centre at the cost of OBGC – a relatively simple request in the normal commercial world I live in, but NO according to the Council, because OBC hadn't signed the lease. In fact, we had but, with amendments, the issue has been placed before the whole Local Board for approval. Watch this space!

Golf course plans were binned, and proper consultation invoked or binned altogether – why does the Council need an "investment plan" anyway? The golf course is leased to OBGC for 30 years – all obligations are set out in the lease document, and the same applies for all the golf courses that Council own.

Freedom Camping – to be reviewed – they, the Council, did say this would happen. Do you think a "Tui" ad might be in the making?!

Unitary Plan issues both in the South and the North – OBC was **required**, and I say required, to submit at a cost of just under \$100,000 on many issues just to protect the environment that we currently live in and now the Council just ignores the planning rules that apply to Omaha. Indeed, it seems that under the replacement for the RMA, the Unitary Plan will be sent packing.

You have a great team in the OBC committee which is tasked with many different projects. Our website is a go-to place for information, and the OBC email address remains the primary point of contact. But the team cannot do all this on their own. There is a clear theme throughout this report – we need Omaharians to be participating in Council matters. I urge you to play your part in making Omaha a better community this summer. Whether this be submitting complaints to Council, picking up your dog's poo, obeying the "dog on a leash" rules, or assisting OBC and Insite when bad social behaviour occurs – it's all valuable.

I met recently with the new Rodney Local Board representative for Omaha, Point Wells and Matakana – Ivan Wagstaff. Ivan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

is closely connected to Omaha through his involvement with the juniors at Surf Club lessons, and with Emma Fairnie, resident golf professional/coach at the Golf Club. I am very encouraged by Ivan's interest in local issues and OBC is looking forward to developing a strong relationship with him going forward.

The future of Omaha is bright - encouraged by a thriving OBC team, supporting groups and the fresh perspective that Greg Sayers and the new Mayor will hopefully provide, we as a community might get some traction on matters that are most important in our community. I look forward to serving another year as OBC President to be a part of this hopefully exciting change. I have invited Greg Sayers to be our only speaker at the AGM to tell us how he is going to serve the Omaha community and influence changing the autocratic approach by current Council officers.

Wishing you all a Meri Kirihimete, look after yourselves this summer and enjoy your stay at Omaha.

Chris Allan, OBC President

OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022:

Chris Allan (President), Murray Beatson (Vice President), Rohan Meuli (Treasurer), Rob Zubielevitch (Secretary), Terry Brailsford, Paul King, Rob Macready, Paul Head, Simon Martin.

Special thanks to Debbie Lee for all the work she has done during her time on the Committee.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

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

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

on

SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY 2023 at 10am
followed by drinks and nibbles

OBC AGM AGENDA 2023

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 9th January 2022
4. Receipt of the President's Report for 2022
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2022
6. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2023 Subscription Year and Security Levy
7. Election of the Committee for the 2023 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
8. Receipt of Club Reports
9. General Business

Secretary

Omaha Beach Community Inc.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR GREG SAYERS

Season's greetings and wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Opening doors to the right decision makers within Auckland Council to assist the OBC Committee achieve their objectives has been very important this year. Your Committee continues to achieve outstanding results and its working relationship with myself, the Rodney Local Board and Auckland Council continues to be strong, productive, and collaborative.

Thank you to the Omaha community for your support during the recent elections. Since then, Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown has urged me to get busy and to deliver upon my election promises.

Getting Council focussed on delivering core services together with stopping unnecessary wastage and overspending is still firmly in my sights.

The Mayor has appointed me to a leadership role, creating a "razor squad" with authority to scrutinise the spending of every Council department, with the goal of cutting costs, increasing productivity and developing better customer services. Savings will be directed back into Council's frontline staff, improving roading and minimising rate increases.

In the past, senior Council staff have identified cutting frontline services such as libraries and community centres, or selling parks, before looking at Council's own internal processes. This is no longer the acceptable response.

In addition, the Council needs to define "what is core business?" At the time of amalgamation Auckland Council never went through the exercise of defining what this was. Accordingly, the efficiency and cost savings Aucklanders were promised never materialised. Trustfully, a new day has dawned under the leadership of Mayor Brown.

Significant pushback for change from some of the Councillors, Local Board members and staff is to be anticipated. However, the majority of Aucklanders have voted for change by electing Brown as Mayor. We can now expect that change to occur - expectantly for the better.

Integral to achieving any success will be reversing the centralisation of decision-making away from city-based bureaucrats and back to locally-based personnel. This is particularly necessary for rural areas like Rodney in the north and Franklin in the south. Urban-focussed planning, consenting, compliance and contracting rules simply do not work in the rural environment. Exactly where and how this will be achieved by the organisation is to be worked through. One size does not fit all and Mayor Brown understands this.

The public want Council staff to be more accessible, more identifiable and more accountable when helping them to resolve issues. Auckland Council's Chief Executive, Mr Jim Stabback, will need to be accountable for implementing the organisational culture changes required to fully support the Mayor's vision.

Success will also require the Local Boards to be given wider powers, more resources and budget to deliver more at the local level. This will include supporting Omaha's volunteer groups.

The Royal Commission's recommendation to have an 'Independent Services and Performance Auditor' acting as a watchdog over both the bureaucrats and politicians between election is still valid. Mayor Brown is currently neutral on this.

Overall, there is a strong sense of hope that Rodney will be treated far more fairly this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every person who has contacted me throughout the year for assistance in dealing with Council issues affecting them. It has been an absolute privilege to assist you and to help.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, along with a safe and enjoyable summer holiday..

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



INTRODUCING IVAN WAGSTAFF - ELECTED MEMBER, RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

The thing I have enjoyed most about this election was meeting so many local people who are passionate about our area and committed to making it an even better place than it already is.

With a young family of three, I am focused on ensuring that community facilities and activities are meeting our needs, with a focus on our youth. The benefits from all the activities and opportunities for social connections these provide is key to the mental health of our children. It is great to see the Surf Club growing as a hub for our youth as well as other activities in the community like golf, surfing and also just a family day at the beach.

My family and I are keen boaties, and you will often find us launching from Omaha for a day out on the harbour. Improving water quality in our harbours and boating facilities is going to be high on the agenda this term. Through protecting our environment and supporting our marine and shellfish industries we can ensure all our marine-based activities can continue.

As a resident of Matakana and a daily visitor to Omaha I frequently reflect on what a privilege it is to live and enjoy all that our communities and area have to offer. Being able to represent our communities' goals and aspirations on the Local Board and playing a small part in enabling our people is a real honour. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming term. I walk my dog most

mornings at the beach if you would like to chat, please say hi!

Ivan Wagstaff, Elected Member

Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council

Phone: 027 334 1317

Email: Ivan.Wagstaff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

THANK YOU, BETH HOULBROOKE

The Omaha Beach Community Committee would like to acknowledge the work and advice Beth has given it, and our community, over the years in her role of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Rodney Local Board. Many of the projects completed over the years in Omaha are the result of Beth's hard work behind the scenes.

Thank you Beth - from the Omaha Community.

UPDATE ON ROADING, WALKWAYS AND RESERVES

Firstly, thanks from the whole community to Ron McMahon, Geoff Smith and others who gave their time and expertise to replace our iconic Omaha Beach sign after the previous one was smashed in a traffic accident a couple of months ago. The new sign is looking great!



Looking back over the last year, there's been a reasonable amount of capital and maintenance work done around Omaha throughout 2022 but a consistent theme has been the repeated delays with the starting of Council projects. Anyway, here's a summary of some of the other work completed, underway or planned around Omaha:

Concrete Walkways: There's been very little progress this year on the old concrete pathways in the north but Council advises that the planned rebuilding of a central path from William Fraser Reserve through to Blue Bell Parade will now take place in two sections, the first being from the Reserve through to Meiklejohn Way. This was planned for completion late this year but looks

increasingly likely to be after the summer holidays. Design is also well-advanced on the remaining section through to Blue Bell, apparently with specific consideration of stormwater issues in the area.



Map of William Fraser Reserve

Wooden Boardwalks (Walkways 2, 3 and 4):

Council is proceeding with the replacement of the tired old wooden boardwalks at the northern end and work is currently underway on Walkway 2.



Walkway fencing

Causeway: The promised electronic speed sign at the western end of the causeway has been delayed a number of times and the current indication from Auckland Transport is



Causeway path

Boat Ramp Car Parks: The planned work on Car Park B was completed some time ago but, once again, there have been repeated delays with the work on the main car park which was supposed to be done soon after Easter. We understand the delay is due in turn to further stormwater work planned for the area so we'll have to remain patient and, in the meantime, the damaged sign is supposed to be repaired.



Boat Ramp

Omaha Drive Walkway: The long-awaited walkway was completed and is proving to be a wonderful facility for walkers, cyclists, etc, though it would be very much appreciated if golf carts weren't used on it, thanks!



Beach Walkway Signs: With many of the old walkway number signs at the beach end of the walkways in the northern end missing, out of date or nearly invisible from the beach, it was great to have new signs with large numbers installed for Walkways 3-10 so our thanks to Council for completing that work.



New beach walkway sign

New Toilets at William Fraser Reserve: At the time of writing, the installation of the new toilets is well under way and these new facilities should be a great replacement for the old ones in the Surf Club.



New toilet facility

Improved Access from Surf Club: Our thanks to the Council for the improved access down to the beach from William Fraser Reserve.



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

- For roads, street signs and street lighting, contact Auckland Transport on 09 355 3553 or go to the "Report a Problem" form at www.at.govt.nz, or

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

ON THE ROAD – SAFE JOURNEYS

With the 2022/23 summer holiday season upon us, Omaha will see an increase in people staying in and visiting the area. With this population increase comes an increased number of drivers, cyclists, runners and walkers.

Drive Safely: To ensure that we can all enjoy our holidays in Omaha and its surrounds safely, we ask that all drivers adhere to the posted road speeds, don't use cell phones whilst driving, and don't drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. It's also important to drive to the conditions.

Omaha Beach Causeway: The causeway, "Broadlands Drive" has a 60kph speed limit (although do note that it is 50kph through the trees). All other roads in Omaha are 50kph – not 80kph, and certainly not 100kph! As reported, a speed sign will be installed in the early part of 2023.

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

NEW FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

– from September 2022

The Auckland Council passed a new Freedom Camping Bylaw in July 2022, and this was activated in September this year. The new bylaw radically changes where and how people can live on our roadsides and in our parks across Auckland.

Prior to new Freedom Camping Bylaw 2022, people living in a vehicle could not stay overnight in their vehicle on the roadside, on Council land, or in parks and reserves, unless designated a Freedom Camping area.

While this new Bylaw drastically changes the ability for people to live in vehicles across Auckland, it is an improved version to the one initially proposed by Auckland Council back in 2018, and which was subsequently stopped by the OBC legal action in 2019.

Our Auckland Councillor for Rodney, Greg Sayers, voted against this new Bylaw in July, driven by concern around the greater impact on Rodney. Another matter of concern is that there is no additional budget by the cash strapped Council to monitor compliance along the roadsides and parks, or to inspect the vehicles to ensure they meet the self-

containment requirements for sewage and grey water. There is also no budget to increase the number of sites in Rodney where campervans can empty their sewage and grey wastewater. All these aspects have a potentially significant impact on the surrounding environment.

Key rules under the New Freedom Camping Bylaw September 2022

- 1. You may Freedom Camp in a self-contained vehicle on all Council-owned land across Auckland unless an area is designated a prohibited or restricted area for Freedom Camping.** Omaha has no prohibited or restricted areas.
- 2. Reserves are excluded from the Freedom Camping Bylaw so remain protected from all camping, including in a vehicle, through the Reserves Act 1977.** This is a relief for Omaha as Reserves at Omaha will now not become large campsites (which was originally proposed) as they remain protected under their Reserve status. Please note that the carparks within the Reserves, eg William Fraser Reserve also remain protected due to being within the Reserve boundary.
- 3. Virtually all local roadsides across Auckland, including Omaha, are OPEN to Freedom Camping, unless the road is classified as a prohibited site.** Basically, anywhere where you can park your car/vehicle, on the side of the road or within a parking bay, without parking restrictions, is where Freedom Camping in a vehicle or caravan is now legal.
- 4. Freedom Camping vehicles must be self-contained, unless parked in a special designated non-self-contained parking area.** You must display a blue sticker stating you are self-contained. Note there will be a 2-year transition period between the current, less rigorous, vehicle self-containment process and a new process that requires self containment to be completed by licensed/certified people and organisations. However, this is dependent on the Government Freedom Camping Act amendments proceeding.
- 5. A Freedom Camping vehicle can stay for 2 nights in the same roadside park or carpark on Council-owned land, before being required to move by 9 am on the 3rd day.** The vehicle cannot return to the same street to freedom camp for the next 14 days. However, it can move around the corner to the next street at the end of each 3-day period.

6. There is no limit to the number of camping vehicles allowed in any one street or carpark, unless an area is a prohibited or a restricted freedom camping area. There are no prohibited or restricted areas in Omaha, outside of the protected Reserves – refer to point 2.

7. A Freedom Camping vehicle cannot park on the grass or grass verge in any circumstances, unless parking in a specified Freedom Camping area where this has been permitted.

8. Auckland Council has allocated no additional funds for monitoring or enforcement of Freedom Camping across Auckland. The enforcement will be undertaken under the same process that is utilised with noise and dog control. Ring 09 301 0101.

9. A review on areas that should be prohibited or restricted for Freedom Camping will now not take place for at least 18 months or onwards.

Any review would look at complaint numbers before inclusion of an area within the prohibited areas list would be considered.

HOW TO REPORT A FREEDOM CAMPING INFRINGEMENT TO COUNCIL

Ring 09 301 0101

This is the Council complaints line. Unfortunately, there is no online option available.

You MUST state it is a Freedom Camping issue at Omaha so it is categorised correctly.

For example:

- A vehicle camping overnight in a carpark in a reserve at Omaha.
- A vehicle camping on the grass verge.
- A vehicle camping on the street or parking bay for more than 2 nights.
- A vehicle that is clearly not self-contained and not displaying a blue sticker that is camping overnight on the road or in a carpark.
- Rubbish that has been left by a Freedom Camping vehicle.
- Disposal of sewage and/or grey water – which is PROHIBITED in ANY location within OMAHA under ANY circumstances.

All of these are illegal under the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

You will need to describe the vehicle, and the location and the breach.

Please make a request to the Council customer contact person that **they lodge a request for a compliance officer to attend.**

HEALTHY WATERS UPDATE

Omaha Stormwater Upgrade

Work continues on addressing increasingly frequent storm water flooding across all of Omaha, but particularly in the north. Groundwater levels are rising due to higher sea-levels, more regular heavy rain incidents and increased run-off from overflowing water tanks are evidenced in flooding and ponding.

Healthy Waters within Auckland Council have the responsibility to come up with and implement remedies for these issues.

There are currently projects identified to undertake upgrade and renewals works in several locations across Omaha North to reduce the duration and impact of nuisance flooding that creates serious health and safety hazards due to road and reserve flooding, as well as causing flooding to habitable dwellings. Covid has undoubtedly delayed progress on this work, however, there are now signs of progress on some of the projects

All projects in the Northern end are dependent upon the “best” solution being developed for the discharge point near the Omaha Boat Ramp.

Here’s an overview:

Omaha Boat Ramp

- Resource consent application lodged in January 2022 and draft consent conditions consolidated in mid-September.
- A question was raised from the Council planning specialist on 4th October regarding the effects on the boat users and the mitigation measures which were reviewed by consultants mid-October.
- The proposed outfall is 22 metres south of the Boat Ramp.
- There is also a minor change to the outfall structure. A concrete outfall structure was originally proposed but, after review, it has been decided to change to gabion structure, which would improve the lifespan of the structure and would cause less visual impact to the surrounding environment.
- Physical works will be planned outside of the summer period to limit the impact to the Reserve and boat users.

Darroch Slope Flooding

- The original contract works, including the installation of roadside drains/crossings, were completed in September 2022 and planting work has been completed.
- In the future, there is the possible addition of two soak pits to further improve the soakage of the stormwater system

Darroch Slope Ponding

- Various conventional pumped options with an outfall on the coast have been developed previously under the feasibility design stage, but these options were considered financially impractical to achieve.
- Healthy Waters (Operations) have now proposed an alternative option to alleviate the flooding and ponding issues within and around Darroch Slope Reserve. This option consists of a small pump station inside Darroch Slope Reserve, with a shorter, smaller rising main that connects to existing reticulation and discharges groundwater into the golf course. This option aims to attenuate flooding and ponding within the reserve and the adjacent areas by lowering the ground water level prior to a storm event in order to maximise the storage available.
- Healthy Waters is in the process of investigating the feasibility of this option as well as other variations on the proposed option. The feasibility study will focus on the hydrogeological and electrical constraints and provide high-level cost estimates to enable Auckland Council to determine the benefits and viability of the proposed option.
- During the torrential rain in July 2022, several members of the OBC Committee and other residents serviced the Council– provided water pump to remove water from Darroch Slope Reserve and pump it across the dunes. Not an ideal situation, however it did significantly reduce the level of flooding that occurred

Day Dawn Crescent, Edith Place, Thistle Terrace & Esme Grove

- Options and feasibility of options are still being assessed as original plans were deemed too costly. No dates have been provided for progress on this.

What can you do?

As you wander the paths through the Northern end, you will notice tank overflow pipes discharging water into pathways and the road. Gravity then takes over and

flows this water down the slope, through neighbours' properties and causing the flooding seen in the lower streets.

- Consider installing retention or detention tanks to increase your unpotable water supply for use on gardens, washing boats etc. Slimline options are available and Council consents may not be needed. Find more details here: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/looking-after-aucklands-water/rainwater-tanks/Pages/default.aspx>
- Alternatively, look to install your own soakage pit to help give the water time to soak down through rather than run across the land.
- Be considerate of your immediate neighbours and those "downhill" from you. Channel discharge/surface water away from their properties, not just your own.
- Clear swales and soakage pits. Council contractors do this on a rotational basis, but buildups occur. If you see an issue, contact the Council 09 301 0101.
- Sign up for periodic updates from Healthy Water via email to omahaproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



STORMWATER WORKS

Darroch Slope and Kitty Fraser Lane

Darroch Slope in the Northern end of Omaha has been plagued by flooding issues for many years. Peter Turner, resident at 9 Darroch Slope, having monitored the situation for a number of years, made it his mission to seek and find a solution to the ongoing problem that was causing repeat headaches for residents of this street. He shares his journey to resolution with us.

Following an incident some years ago where some unknown party placed an empty can firmly into the drain in the carport of number 10 Darroch Slope, the resulting heavy rain caused tens of thousands of dollars' worth of damage to the property at number 10. The resulting damage necessitated the removal of the insulation batts, gib board, electrical fittings, floor coverings, fixed cupboards, beds and other items located in the bedrooms and the basement.

As a full-time resident in Darroch Slope, I took up the challenge in April 2017 to get the Council to look at improving the non-existent storm water situation in Darroch Slope. I had immense difficulty, firstly in getting some agreement as to whose problem it was to attend to this, being shoved around between Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and, latterly, Healthy Waters. It would have been very easy to just throw in the towel and put it in the "too hard basket" – but, then again, I like a challenge!

Finally, agreement was reached that it was in fact Healthy Waters' responsibility to address this problem.

There were countless meetings, telephone calls, emails and the like, not to mention the many different members of Council staff that I've dealt with over the past five-and-a-half years, most of whom just up and left the organisation!

The final result of this effort was that GHD Consultants were given a brief to formulate a design plan to remedy the flooding, mainly to the eastern side of Darroch Slope, with some additional work required to realign the walkway between numbers 7 and 9, plus extensive work behind number 3 Darroch Slope (a rear site), and numbers 3 and 5 Kitty Fraser Lane.

The stormwater works contract was finally let to KD Drainage to undertake this work and, as liaison person, I was tasked to represent the residents in Darroch Slope plus the affected parties in Kitty Fraser Lane.

The stormwater system which has now been installed comprises many metres of grated 300mm x 300mm channels, which feed into catch pits which, in turn, feed into large, perforated soak pits. The soak pits penetrate into the substrate 2.3m, and each soak pit comprises two large concrete vessels which have an external former filled with shingle and cloth lined barriers which will allow storm water to soak into the surrounding sand substrate. It was also necessary to cut and install these grated channels to all the existing driveways as part of the project. Servicing these catch pits and soak pits, the contractors have formed swales which accept water run-off from the road and surrounding areas and direct this water into the soak-age systems.

COUNCIL MATTERS

All the ground works have been top-dressed with a significant covering of good quality soil, and hydro seeded; the grass has now covered these areas extremely well.

As part of the project, it was necessary to remove a number of trees, which some residents were unhappy about. However, this was explained and a condition of the resource consent was the requirement to plant a minimum of 10 new trees. This has also been accomplished.

Suffice to say, this project has been completed expertly and, apart from a few issues of safety which are still being addressed, it was a matter of waiting to see the effectiveness of these works.

The whole project, from my point of view, has been a success, and it was a pleasure working with GHD, KD Drainage, and during the latter part, the representative from the Auckland Council Healthy Waters.

And was it effective?

Oh yes indeed! Despite plenty of heavy and relentless rainfall throughout October and November, the new stormwater system worked absolutely perfectly. The swales worked as planned, keeping the water at bay and it appears that no properties suffered from flooding. A job very well executed by all those involved. Thank you!

Ed's note: On behalf of residents and property owners in Darroch Slope (which includes me!) and Kitty Fraser Lane, I wish to thank Peter Turner for his valiant and unstinting efforts in achieving this great outcome for us. The work was done in a well-planned way and consultation was excellent.



Before



After

It was a long time coming but we now look forward to "no more flooding"! Thanks a million Peter, you did a fantastic job!

Photos: Peter & Annette Turner (pictured)



WATERCARE - IRRIGATION BYPASS INCIDENT REPORT

The Omaha Wastewater Treatment Plant is on Jones Road, on the western side of the Whangateau Harbour and services the townships of Omaha, Points Wells and Matakana.

In July 2022, following a period of sustained rainfall, Watercare had to partially bypass the final treatment stage of its Omaha Wastewater Treatment Plant, discharging to stormwater rather than irrigation. This was done to protect the integrity of the site's storage dam.

Following the incident, a comprehensive Irrigation Bypass Incident Report was produced in August 2022, prepared by Watercare. The report is a summary of the bypass event, focussing on the environmental consequences of the incident. It includes: a description of the incident; monitoring results; an assessment of the possible environmental effects; and Watercare's response.

A copy of the Incident Report is available on the OBC website <https://omahabeach.co.nz/>.



Work on the walkway



NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

By Marie Ward

The Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust (OSPT) was established in 2009 to protect the shorebirds that live and roost inside the Shorebird Sanctuary at the tip of Omaha Spit. Members of OSPT monitor shorebird activity, carry out predator control, and protect the nesting and roosting sites inside the Sanctuary to ensure our shorebirds are kept safe. As well as the Northern NZ dotterels and the variable oystercatchers that live and breed inside the Sanctuary, several other shorebird species can be found here at different times of the year. These can be divided into those that migrate from their breeding grounds within NZ, and those that are long-haul Arctic migrants that breed in the Northern Hemisphere.

The best known of the Arctic migrants are the bar-tailed godwits. From mid-September until the beginning of November each year groups of godwits arrive back at Omaha Spit. They then spend their time feeding in the Whangateau harbour. When the high tide covers the feeding areas the shorebirds roost on the spit at Omaha, catching up on their sleep during this period. Satellite-tracking of individual godwits and other migratory land-based birds has informed us of their amazing feats of endurance. Recently a satellite-tracked bar-tailed godwit became the world record holder for the longest continuous non-stop flight for a land-based bird. This record-holding godwit flew 13,036km non-stop from Alaska to NSW (Australia), flapping their wings continuously for 239 hours without a rest.

Whereas our Omaha godwits are not known to be record holders, they fly similar distances from their breeding grounds in Alaska to return to Omaha Spit and the Whangateau harbour, year after year.

The Whangateau harbour provides an important and abundant food source for shorebirds, which is why there are so many to be found inside the bird Sanctuary. It's always wonderful and exciting to see the newly arrived godwits each spring. We need to let them rest peacefully on the spit at high tide over the summer months as they need to double their body weight in preparation for the long flight north in March to breed.

Many other species of shorebirds also visit Omaha Spit, mostly for short stays only. The exception being a large group of banded dotterels who start arriving at Omaha in



Part of the post-breeding flock of banded dotterels roosting at Omaha Spit.

late January, feeding in the Whangateau harbour and roosting at Omaha Spit until mid-winter when they depart once more for their breeding grounds. Banded dotterels are a threatened endemic species which is being pushed towards extinction by rapidly declining numbers. Banded dotterels breed only in NZ, then migrate North at the end of the breeding season, forming large post-breeding flocks. Some banded dotterels also migrate to the East coast of Australia. At high tide, from mid-January on, we begin to see banded dotterels arriving at Omaha Spit.

For the last few years, we have had one banded dotterel with coloured leg bands amongst our flock of around 200 - 300. Colour banding allows us to identify individual birds, enabling us to learn more about the species. Our colour-banded banded dotterel has a red band over blue on the left leg, and a blue band over red on the right leg. It is referred to as "RB-BR". We know that RB-BR breeds at Kaikoura and is part of a much-studied group of banded dotterels. He is one of their few examples of banded dotterel fledglings that have returned each year to breed on their home beach. Last breeding season RB-BR was fitted with a light-weight data logger so that his movements between Kaikoura and Omaha Spit could be monitored. You can read more about the Kaikoura banded dotterel study at <https://www.facebook.com/BandeddotterelstudySBay/>

RB-BR is known by the Kaikoura group as "Mr Omaha". Last breeding season Mr Omaha and his mate were not successful, losing the eggs from four nests in succession during the breeding season. However, there was good news from Kaikoura this week, with a report of the successful hatching of three chicks to Mr Omaha and his mate. I believe it was from their third clutch of eggs for the season. Below is a photo of RB-BR taken at Omaha Spit, with Mr Omaha looking stunning in his breeding plumage. Keep a look out for the banded dotterels if you are visiting the spit over the summer.



"Mr Omaha" with another male and a female banded dotterel, roosting at Omaha Spit. Shorebirds often rest on one-leg for long periods of time. They are sleeping while they are roosting with the flock at high tide. Please don't disturb them.



"Mr Omaha" with some of the post-breeding flock of banded dotterels roosting at Omaha Spit. He has his post-breeding plumage here.

We ask that visitors to the spit please keep moving and walk on the wet sand below the high tide mark to avoid standing on any eggs or young dotterel chicks. Sadly, this does happen. Sitting on the beach inside the Sanctuary also prevents the nearby dotterel chicks from feeding. Remember too, please, that the birds on the spit during high tide are sleeping. Please do not cause them to lift off continually by walking through their midst.

Photos by Marie Ward

The Trustees of the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust are: Chris Allen (Chair), Rob Zubielevitch (Treasurer), Marie Ward, Sue Cook, Ngaire Wallen, John Mew.

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

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

A NEW GENERATION OF ECO-WARRIORS

By Ngaire Wallen, OSPT Trustee

Why are dotterels important?

In September we showed a small group of enthusiastic children and their minders around the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary. The children, in Year 6 at Kristin School, had



chosen to do a project on extinction, and had contacted the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust. There's nothing quite like a field trip at that age, so we met them on site.

It was a great time to do it – the tide was half-way in, the sun was shining and there were birds everywhere. In September the dotterels return to their chosen nesting site with their life-long mate, and start to settle in. There were numerous pairs in their rusty-red breeding plumage. Variable oystercatchers also pair up for life, and plenty of them with their distinctive red beaks and legs were squabbling over who was going to nest where.

After our walk around, we showed them a DOC200 trap on the outside of the predator fence, causing quite some excitement, particularly among the boys.

The only girl in the group of four had a large scrapbook and a list of prepared questions. She became the default interviewer. We settled in for a grilling, hoping that, between us, we could provide answers.

The question that stuck in my mind was **"Why are dotterels important?"** Why ARE they important? A delicate, pretty little bird that skitters along the beach, sometimes chooses unfortunate places to nest, and is only found in New Zealand.

How do you explain to a 9-year-old that we are all linked together, us and all the birds and plants, the ocean, the sky; that if one bit of our planet fails, we all fail a little bit too? At the age of these children, you can't fob them off with "just because", or "because I say so". I don't remember what I answered exactly, apart from something about, "Would our lives be any different if there were no dotterels, or kiwis? Probably not." She wrote down, "Dotterels are not important".

I couldn't leave it at that. "How would you feel," I asked, "if there were no more tigers or elephants?" She seemed to acknowledge that somehow this would be a bad thing.

"Dotterels are our tigers," I said, "there are not many of them, and if we don't look after them there will be none left."

The morality of extinction is so hard to put into words; whenever we are advised that yet another species has left the planet for good, it always feels like a significant loss.

Dotterels ARE our tigers/elephants/maui dolphin and if we are not very careful, they will become another example of the huia/giant eagle/moa and all the other birds that are already extinct from New Zealand.

The Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust is charged with doing all that we can to protect the dotterel and other shorebirds that nest within the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is less than 1% of what was their territory – we have taken the rest for ourselves.

The Trust is active in:

- Trapping for predators both inside and outside the predator fence. Traps are set with eggs or peanut butter.
- Marking the perimeter of the breeding areas with temporary fencing during the breeding season.
- Monitoring nests and, if necessary, relocating them above the high tide line.

Advocating for the birds with members of the community and visiting public.

The last breeding season – September 2021 to March 2022 – resulted in just two dotterel chicks successfully fledging (flying away), out of about 20 nests (probably between 45 – 60 eggs). That is not enough chicks to sustain the population.

This year we are working closely with the Council and Landcare Research to zoom in on the issues impacting on our breeding birds. They are quite well known, namely:

- predation from both mammals and avian predators;
- human disturbance;
- high tides / weather / climate patterns all beyond our control.

The research is to confirm the main causes of nest failure (although we have a pretty good idea) so we can start to address the issues.

We are part of the Omaha Community, and hope that our community comes to love the Sanctuary as much as we do. Without community support the birds will not survive.

The Sanctuary is an internationally significant shorebird site, home to dotterels

and oystercatchers, and the summer home for about 800 godwits. There are numerous other visitors including Caspian terns and pied stilts and some very rare visitors of the shorebird or wader type that get serious bird watchers quite excited.

All this is right here in Omaha, adjacent to the feeding grounds of the Whangateau Harbour.

It a natural taonga, and it needs our help.

What can you do? A few things:

- Follow the rules – **absolutely no dogs** – technically past Walkway 2, but does anyone even know that? No picnics, no cricket. Come and see the birds and walk quietly on. Stick to the paths and stay out of the fenced off areas. Keep your cat inside at night.
- Be an advocate for the birds, for this special place. If you see people behaving badly, tell them, as nicely as possible, that we love this place, and we want them to respect it.
- If you want to be a hands-on helper, call us. Any of the trustees will be very happy to hear from you.

Ask yourself "Why are the dotterels important?" Will they be important to your children and your grandchildren, even if you couldn't give a toss? Will they be another creature to find out about in history podcasts?

HELP GIVE THE SHOREBIRDS A FUTURE, SHARED WITH US, PROTECTED BY US.



Our next generation of eco-warriors – education is always the answer.

The Omaha Shorebirds Trust would like to thank the Year 6 pupils of Kristin School for their kind donation of \$331.00 to the Trust. It was unexpected and much appreciated.

PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA

By John Mew

Whilst we can't claim to have achieved our long-term goal of pest elimination in Omaha (as part of the effort to make New Zealand predator free by 2050), the team remains committed and continues to monitor and keep baited more than 200 traps around Omaha. In part this effort overlaps with the work done by the team at the Omaha Spit, and every predator caught around Omaha is one less that can try to get beyond the predator fence that protects the nesting shorebirds.

We have deployed more traps over the last year, and now have trap lines running across the dunes, around the pond at the southern end of Mangatawhiri Road and around the old quarry, along the rear of houses backing on to the southern part of the golf course and along the causeway road and in the bush on the northern part of the golf course. In addition to the traps in and around Omaha, there is a trap line in the Taniko Reserve, and there are also 130 traps in the hills behind Omaha. We do not use poisons at all – we use traps which are specifically designed to avoid harming pet cats and dogs.

Trapping over the winter was difficult because of the very wet weather. Some of our traps were washed away and had to be retrieved as the waters subsided – but, over the year, we have achieved results for the Omaha traps as follows:

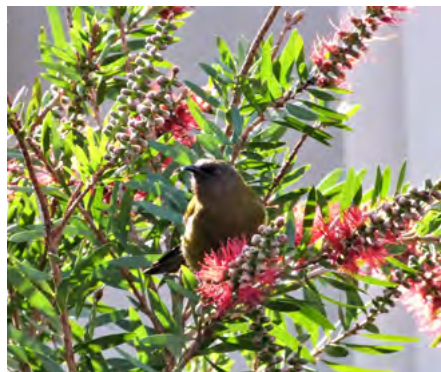
	20/21	21/22
Rats	255	283
Mice	271	313
Weasels	9	5
Stoats	0	0
Hedgehogs	8	6
Possums	6	2

In addition to the above, traps at the Shorebird Sanctuary have accounted for a further 30 rats and 14 mice, and the traps monitored by Phil Bougen in the hills behind Southern Omaha have caught 90 rats, 13 possums, 4 stoats, 7 weasels, 3 hedgehogs and 2 mice. Tony Hoksbergen caught a weasel on the dunes on 25th October.

Whilst it is encouraging to report that, for a second year running, stoats have not been caught in the Omaha traps, Phil's efforts up on the hills demonstrate that they are still out there!

We recognise that trapping alone will never lead to the complete eradication of introduced pests. Other technologies will need to be employed to achieve that. We can, however, strive to keep pest numbers down and, in doing so, give our native birds a better chance of surviving and thriving. As we go round our trap lines, passers-by often engage with us, thank us for our efforts and comment on the abundant birdlife that we enjoy in Omaha. Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the numbers of ground nesting birds, most prominently pheasants, and increasingly frequent visits by kaka – the large native parrots that are often to be seen flying over Omaha.

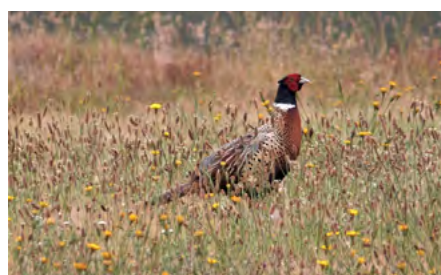
So, progress is being made. Anyone who is up and about early in the morning will have noticed the volume of birdsong, and especially the tuis which seem to go from strength to strength.



Korimako (Bellbird)



Tui



Peihana (pheasant)

Photos: Marina Zubielevitch



If you would like to join the team of volunteers that currently comprises Rob Rowdon, Phil Bougen, Rob Zubielevitch, Tony Hoksbergen, John Mew and recent recruit Joop Zuurmond, then contact Rob Zubielevitch (robzubielevitch@gmail.com).

We would like to thank some of our supporters during the past year:

- Rodney Local Board
- Department of Conservation
- Auckland Council
- Takatu Landcare
- Whangaripo Valley Eggs – who donate our trap eggs
- Omaha Beach Community – who fund our peanut butter

THE HEROES OF OMAHA

These little dune grasses do more than many people realise. They are the main reason



Omaha hasn't been completely washed out to sea in past storms and are an incredibly crucial part of our environment.

ENVIRONMENT

When large waves damage the front face of the dune during storms, these grasses repair and rebuild the dune by trapping windblown sand and binding it to the rebuilding dune.

Those who have walked the beach following a storm and seen the steep eroded sandcliffs where waves have washed the sand out to sea may have wondered how the damage would be repaired. As the weeks go by, you may not notice as nature gradually heals that damage because it is such a slow process. It's important to understand that all this repair work is done by the valuable dune grasses.

The main dune grass at Omaha is the silvery green spinifex which, during November and December, has the easily recognised "tumbleweed" seedheads. These are tough plants which can survive storms and droughts. They do have one enemy though, humans. Yes, our valuable dune plants are easily damaged and killed by foot traffic.

So, in these modern times of more severe storms and coastal erosion it is super important to never walk on the sand dunes. Please use the boardwalks and public accessways and protect these wonderful dune grasses.

From time to time, we also hold community planting days on the dunes for which we encourage you to volunteer. In September, after a mysterious denuding of a substantial area at the front edge of the dunes just south of Walkway 3 earlier this year, a small group of energetic folk replanted 1,000 spinifexes which, with the benefit of a wet spring, look to be repopulating and stabilising the affected area nicely. Our thanks to the volunteers and also to the Council for supplying and delivering the plants at no charge!

Let's spread the word about how important the dunes are. To protect our dunes, stay off them, and ask others to stay off them too. By doing this we can minimise the impact of erosion and keep Omaha Beach healthy.

Replanting Day



NOXIOUS PLANTS IN OMAHA

We'd like to remind you about the noxious plants that unfortunately are all too common a sight around Omaha and we'd love to see removed!

The Council identifies ice plant, gorse, lupin and nightshade as four of the most common pest plants in the Omaha area and you can read about them at:

- Ice Plant <https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/caredu/>
- 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>

Of those, perhaps the worst are the 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 but Council generally does eventually deal with it!

ICE PLANT: 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 who 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 where you'll find the situation is pretty clear about the need for it to be removed.

The Council has also started making an effort regarding ice plant and if you see any in public areas, please let them know.

On a more positive note, the Council website has a lot of other helpful information about plants, 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>.



Gorse, above, Ice plants below,



MARINE ENVIRONMENT



PROTECT OUR ROCKPOOLS

by Mary Coupe

Some of you will know that our application for a 186A temporary ban on collecting sealife out of the intertidal rock pool areas (excluding kina) was declined.

Thank you to the hundreds and literally thousands of you who supported our endeavours to give the rock pool areas around our coastline a temporary reprieve from the intensive harvesting that's been going on. The likes of limpets, chiton, sea anemones, black snails, rock oysters, crabs and starfish can now barely be found out on the rocks. And the worry is we are heading into another busy summer.

Negotiating the legalese was a challenge with Fisheries insisting on using the word "fishing". This word confused people's understanding of our specific focus: hand harvesting (albeit with chisels, wire, hammers and the like).

Our biggest sadness was witnessing Ngati Manuheiri not supporting their hapu Ngati Wai's (Omaha Marae's) clear wishes and extensive endeavours to protect our local marine coastline. Ngati Manuhiri asked

us to withdraw our 186A application after a year's work of effort and process. They said they wanted to put it in themselves. We have yet to see the intertidal areas included in any such application.

Our locally funded signs will stay in place and will hopefully continue to act as a deterrent or prompt to "Look & Not Take".

So many of us are on the "same side" in our extraordinary endeavours to safeguard and enhance our natural environment. Trapping programmes, native planting, Shorebird protection and the like are such gifts to the tiaki guardianship. Your efforts make such a difference.

Happy Summer everyone!

Useful links:

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

<https://www.nznature.co.nz/rock-pools> Rock Pools - New Zealand Nature (nznature.co.nz)

www.facebook.com/ProtectRockPoolSealife/



THE DAY I NEARLY DROWNED

By Sally Blyth

The sea is endlessly wonderful, yet always unpredictable. Natural occurrences like eruptions and tsunamis bring hidden dangers for swimmers, as I found out when I got into difficulty back in January. I share my experience here in the hope that it will encourage people to add an extra layer of vigilance around water safety.

The early months of the year brought superb weather and warm seas. I swam more than I ever have and loved it. Until one day - 18th January 2022 to be precise - I ventured into that warm sea on a beautiful blue-sky afternoon ... and nearly drowned. Yes, I got into difficulty at Omaha Beach, where I have swum for 50 years, and it was a terrifying ordeal.

Here is how the drama unfolded ...

I am paddling in the shallows on a gorgeous summer's day with the intention of a quick afternoon dip. For some reason I don't like the strength of the waves or the tugging, swirling sensation around my feet as they ebb away. My gut is telling me not to go in, but my whole being is keen to do so. And why wouldn't you want to swim on a perfect day like this?

I move along the beach a short way to see if another spot might have less undertow and sooth my uneasy gut. It doesn't, even though the people there seem to be having a good time. The waves are regular, I can't see a rip and there is no rough "washing machine" water going on. I convince myself that my gut has got it all wrong.



18th January 2022 - the perfect summer's day

Next minute, I am bowled over by an incredibly strong wave. I'm on all fours in the shallows in a most undignified pose, wondering what on earth has just hit me. Before I can stand up, I am sucked out to sea in a matter of seconds. I am far from shore and I have no idea how I got there. I'm a bit alarmed as it happened so quickly and I start

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

swimming my way back to shore. I make no headway. In fact, I seem to be heading further out to sea with each stroke. I tread water and try to get my head around my predicament. I'm a moderately strong swimmer, but this is way out of my league, and I know I am in serious trouble.

I'm not being swept along the beach like a rip would do. Instead, I'm being carried out to the horizon – towards Hauturu, to a place where I may never be seen again. The Surf Club flags are out but by now I'm not sure they'll see me as it happened so fast and I'm so far out. My head must be as hard to spot as a peppercorn in a swimming pool.

At this point I realise that drowning is a real possibility – even if I have the stamina to keep myself afloat for some time, no one will know I'm out here and drifting. I contemplate the horrific reality that my life could end right here at my beloved beach. My life flashes before my eyes – it's a dire moment in time and a sickening feeling that I cannot describe but will never forget. I think of my sons. I can't leave them. I can't drown, not here, not now, I have too much more to do in life. And I have a group to take to the Chatham Islands in three days' time! I gather all the resolve and energy I can muster and make a plan not to die.

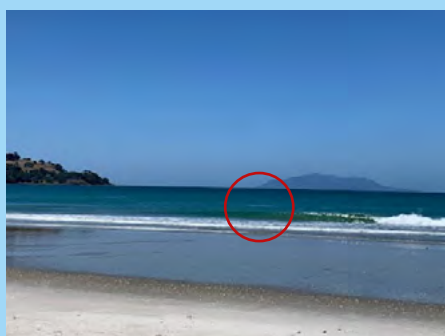
Time is of the essence and I put my hand up and yell "HELP". It feels surreal to be doing something that only happens in movies or to other people. By now I am both terrified and terribly calm. Help, Help, I yell as loud as I can. HELP!

Thankfully a guy walking along the beach hears my cries. I can see him scan the water and when he spots me, he races in. I am flooded with relief when he reaches me. We begin the long journey back to shore; it takes us more than half an hour of incredibly hard work. My rescuer's strength and guidance help keep me going and I find energy I had no idea was within me. I am calm and not panicking but, at one point, still with a long way to go and energy levels depleted, I fear we both may drown. But one must never give up, not if one wants to live ...

We talk to each other and keep on keeping on. We are finally able to touch the bottom. Relief. We are swept out of our depth again. Despair. Slowly but surely, we keep at it and eventually make it safely to the sand, coming in right in line with my towel and the backpack my rescuer had discarded before rushing out to save me. I've never felt so exhausted or relieved in my life. I am shaking in utter shock

and my lungs are burning. Being a Tuesday, the beach isn't very busy but, even so, no one has noticed this saga take place – people continue to read their books or chat amongst themselves.

My saviour's name is Dwayne and I thank him profusely for his heroic act. He points out a murky piece of water – a channel that has formed which I obviously got dragged into. Despite my exhaustion and disbelief at what has just happened to me, I have the wherewithal to take a photo of the scene ... look closely and you can see the channel – a benign-looking dirty "smudge" (circled). It's further out than it looks and I cannot believe how frightening it was to be out there.



18th Jan 2022, 3:26pm – the smudge that nearly killed me!

Having been weary of the water ever since a classmate drowned in a river on a school trip back in 1974, I always check the surf report before I go swimming – height of waves, energy, tides etc. Later, reflecting upon my ordeal and trying to make sense of things, I realise that the tide turned about the same time as I got sucked out, the full moon had peaked a couple of hours earlier, and, most telling of all, the Tongan volcano had erupted three days earlier on 15th January, generating tsunami warnings and sea chaos far and wide. This may have created the channel that almost ended things for me.

I later discovered that I was not the only one who got into difficulty that day – a friend and Omaha resident faced a similar ordeal with her adult daughter. They were as traumatised as I was, so much so that they still haven't ventured back into the Omaha waters to this day. Even though this had shaken me to my core, I did go swimming again less than a week later and continued to swim through the summer until the water temperature dipped below my benchmark. Gotta get back on that horse!

In the wash-up from all this, I learned that, on weekdays, the beach is patrolled by lifeguards

from the national organisation, not from our local Surf Club who only patrol the beach at weekends. It is also worth noting that the beach had been closed for several days prior due to the tsunami alert but was open again. I had spotted people swimming over those closed days.

FYI, my ordeal happened between Walkways 9 and 10; my friend's occurred further towards the north of the beach. A week or so earlier I'd been swimming with a friend down the Southern end of the beach on yet another ideal summer's day – even though the waves were enormous that day, my gut gave me no cause for concern and it was one of the best swims of my life.

Morals of the story: Never under-estimate the power of the sea even on a perfect day. Always listen to your gut! Always tell someone you are going swimming, especially when swimming alone. Don't swim on a turning tide, a peaking full moon or when eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis are about! If a beach is closed, it's for a reason! And always listen to your gut! Note, the safest time to swim is generally during a slack tide (the hour preceding or following a high or low tide)

There have been 75 preventable drowning fatalities this year, as at end November 2022. Most of these fatalities are as a result of swimming x19 (that was me), most occurred in Auckland x15 (yes), most were at beaches x20 (yep), most were NZ Europeans x30 (tick), most were in the 65+ age group x20 (not me, yet!) and most happened in January x24 (yes). An alarming statistic is that of all those who have drowned, 81% were male. Find more info here <https://watersafety.org.nz/>

It was obviously not yet my time to go, and my guardian angels were looking over me. Thank you, Dwayne, it would have been a different outcome if you hadn't come along when you did. You were the right man in the right place at the right time, and you saved me! This enabled me to live on and go to the Chathams as planned (where you don't swim due to rugged waters, reefs and sharks) – and also to edit another Omaha newsletter!

Stay safe folks, use extra vigilance when you go swimming, and heed "beach closed" advice and tsunami warnings.

NOTE: Strong rips near the groynes have also been reported. Please take care wherever you swim, whether it's at Omaha Beach or elsewhere.

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 22nd January 2023.



Statement of Financial Performance

Omaha Beach Community Inc
For the year ended 31 October 2022

	NOTES	2022	2021
Income			
Advertising Income - Newsletter		2,004	3,500
Advertising Income - Other		609	700
Donations Received		2,770	529
Interest Income		309	995
Subscription Income		76,708	62,087
Total Income		82,400	67,811
Expenses			
Advertising		395	-
Bank Fees		40	82
Depreciation - Fixed Assets		2,035	2,243
Freight, Courier & Postage		597	208
General Expenses		210	-
Insurance		1,140	1,140
Loss on Disposal		1,007	-
Maintenance	7	10,000	607
Members Meetings		-	615
Newletters		11,680	12,297
Office & Administration Expenses		5,800	5,400
Pest Eradication		96	246
Presidents Expenses		178	130
Printing & Stationery		394	215
Security - Camera Maintenance & Patrol Costs		25,408	28,948
Website Development & Maintenance		1,320	1,370
Xero Fees		513	540
Stripe Fees		250	-
Total Expenses		61,063	54,041
Operating Income/(Loss) for the Year		21,336	13,770
Less Non Operating and Non Recurring Items			
Freedom Camping Objection Expenses		8,408	10,564
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year		12,929	3,206

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

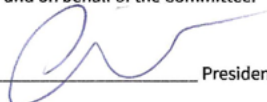


Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc
As at 31 October 2022

	NOTES	31 OCT 2022	31 OCT 2021
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank			
Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)			
BNZ Oncall		3,463	6
BNZ Cheque		44,724	79,269
ASB Cheque		4,090	4,090
Total Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)		52,277	83,365
Total Bank		52,277	83,365
Receivables		-	1,498
GST Receivable		2,950	-
Term Deposits - BNZ Bank	6	67,725	27,505
Total Current Assets		122,952	112,368
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment		11,231	10,541
Total Non-Current Assets		11,231	10,541
Total Assets		134,183	122,909
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		578	-
GST Payable		-	2,232
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees		10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		10,578	12,232
Net Assets		123,605	110,676
Equity			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		110,676	107,470
Current year earnings		12,929	3,206
Total Equity		123,605	110,676

For and on behalf of the Committee:


President: Chris Allan


Treasurer: Rohan Meuli

Date: 24.11.2022

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 2022

	2022	2021
Statement of Financial Performance		
Income & Expenditure		
Income		
Golf Club Contributions Community Centre	9,889	10,000
Interest Income - Community Maintenance Fund	264	154
Total Income	10,153	10,154
Less Expenditures		
Maintenance - Community Centre	14,258	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	(4,104)	10,154
Accumulated Funds at Start of Year		
Community Maintenance Fund - Retained Earnings	53,024	42,870
Accumulated Funds at Year End	48,920	53,024

	2022	2021
Statement of Financial Position		
Assets		
BNZ Current Account		
Community Maintenance	20,298	24,532
BNZ Term Deposits		
Term Deposit 3023 - CM Fund	13,999	13,856
Term Deposit 3026 - CM Fund	13,214	13,117
Total BNZ Term Deposits	27,214	26,973
Accounts Receivable	831	-
GST CC	578	1,519
Total Assets	48,920	53,024
Less Payables Owing		
Payables Owing	-	-
Accumulated Funds at Year End	48,920	53,024

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. We thank the team who provide valuable advice and specifically acknowledge Abby Brown and April Corry for their efforts over recent years.



COMMITTEE PROFILES

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE OUR TWO NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS - ROB MACREADY AND PAUL HEAD.

INTRODUCING ROB MACREADY



With my wife Sheree, we have had our "Northern end" bach at Omaha for some 17 years. Over that time, our three "kids" have grown up loving the time they have spent here as a family and with so many extended family and friends. Max is now 25, Zoe almost 21 and Lucy 18 and they are bringing their friends to enjoy all Omaha has to offer.

Six years ago we put our original 1980's bach on a truck and farewelled it to Jones Road where it lives on. Our new place remains true to the beach bach concept and here we continue to make memories.

My background has been in owning, building and running businesses with Sheree. We have owned video stores, multiple childcare centres and a marine engineering business. We currently own a niche travel agency (outbound ski, bike and hike travel) - oh, and another childcare centre! My skills are around building relationships along with dealing with suppliers, staff and customers. Amongst this is a sound understanding of contracts and how to get things done "through" others.

We are an active family and love spending time skiing, fishing, riding (e-bikes are the way to go!!), travel and hiking. I also race a 1990 Alfa Romeo 75 in a couple of local race series (purely for fun!!).

I joined the OBC Committee to be involved in our community. To, in a small way, give back to the community that has given our family so much. I have learnt a lot about what goes on behind the scenes in keeping our community safe and ensuring the best outcomes are considered for residents, locals and visitors. I am happy to meet and discuss issues that our community faces.

INTRODUCING PAUL HEAD

My wife Dianne and I have owned a property in Omaha since 2011. In mid-2021 we sold our home in Auckland and became permanent Omaha residents. Fair to say we're loving it and are committed to being involved in the local community.

I have an extensive background in marketing and communications, having led the marketing function at some of New Zealand's leading organisations.

For the past decade I was Chief Executive of the Commercial Communications Council, the industry body representing advertising and media agencies, where I worked closely with central government in Wellington, often at a Ministerial level, on issues affecting both the advertising industry specifically and the broader media environment more generally.

In my spare time, I enjoy the beach, getting out on my mountain bike and travelling with my wife Dianne. I'm also partial to a buttery Chardonnay!





**SUPPLYING QUALITY HOUSEHOLD
WATER TO THE OMAHA AREA
FOR OVER 30 YEARS**

 **425 8454**

0800 747 928 or
027 556 6111
rhodesforroads.co.nz



THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS' SOCIETY INC. (OBRS)

By Tony Coupe, Chairperson, 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 OBRS Committee comprises Tony Coupe (Chairperson), Mark Bower, Fiona Hyland, Daniel McCarthy, Derek Nolan, Faris Azimullah, Mayurie Goodwin and Bernard Duignan. The Secretary of OBRS is Paul Macnicol from Sphere Accounting in Warkworth.

I want to take the opportunity to thank all our OBRS Committee members for the many hours of voluntary work and for bringing their expertise and thoughtful considerations to the many matters which arise. Every effort is made by them to enhance South Omaha's experience.

The OBRS deals with Southern Omaha matters, particularly vetting new and existing Building Applications (renovations) by the Design Control Committee (DCC), subdivision matters generally and also the maintenance and upkeep of our three tennis court complexes.

Before commenting on the above, it is useful to once again explain the relationship between OBRS and Omaha Beach Community Inc (OBC).

The OBC evolved from the Omaha Beach Ratepayers Assn and has since been the formal body from the early days of development of properties in North Omaha.

Our 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. 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 OBC & OBRS community members that OBRS should become a corporate member of OBC. Essentially, each OBRS member is a member of 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 the more recent construction of the walkway/



Southern End, Photo: Marina Zubielevitch

cycleway from the Broadlands Drive roundabout to our Omaha Community Centre.

Omaha Design Control Sub-Committee (DCC)

The DCC comprises Mark Bower (Chairperson), Peter Neeve (Planning Consultant) and Brent Hulena and Richard Harris (both Architects).

Over the course of the year the DCC has been involved in various initiatives. These include the preparation of the private plan change to resolve the current issues around the interpretation of building setbacks from yards and ensuring that the Legacy Planning provisions continue to be applied to development in Omaha South. The plan change is progressing through Council. The initial submission period closed recently with only one submission being received that is not in support of the proposed changes.

The DCC has also been busy preparing further refinements to the Omaha South Design Guidelines to assist in providing additional clarity for owners regarding development matters and the design review process.

There has been a steady flow of development submissions throughout the year across Omaha South, both for the development of new dwellings on vacant properties and building additions and alterations. The majority of development submissions have been for additions and alterations to dwellings, with one submission involving the demolition of an entire dwelling and the

construction of a new one in its place. It is anticipated that we will see more of this as the older houses are replaced over time.

It has also been pleasing to receive a number of submissions for additional or new landscaping on properties. As with the standard of the design of dwellings, the landscaping submitted for properties has been high, incorporating planting and landscape features that reflect the coastal location and will enhance the landscape values of Omaha South generally.

Overall, the high quality and diversity of the architectural design of both new dwellings and alterations and additions to existing dwellings that have come before the DCC is pleasing as this continues to ensure that the high standard and quality of development in Omaha South is maintained and enhanced.

Subdivisions in South Omaha

Your committee remains very concerned with the Auckland Council granting non-notified subdivision consents in South Omaha where the new lots are in clear breach of the Lot Sizes and other requirements in the Special Omaha South Precinct Rules contained in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

COVID, along with a general reluctance on Council's behalf to meet in person, has delayed a proposed meeting with Council Officers to address this problem. A meeting with key Council representatives has finally been agreed to by Council and is scheduled prior to Christmas.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Tennis Courts

Our three tennis court complexes have been regularly maintained throughout the year and are available for use by all OBRS members. They are a great asset but are starting to show their age. Repair work on fencing and gates is being done. The land on which the Courts are situated is leased from Auckland Council at a 'peppercorn' rental. The current 20-year term of the lease expired in 2021 and a new 20-year lease on the same terms as before is being negotiated with Council. We are hopeful the lease will be signed and in place by year's end.

THE INTERNET @ OMAHA

Broadband

The rollout of fibre in the ground around Omaha was completed early in the year and many people are now enjoying a high-capacity fibre connection through their ISP. Wireless broadband is also available and some people are still using the long-standing copper phone line-based DSL service (in particular VDSL).

To find out more about getting connected to the new ultra-fast fibre network in the area visit www.chorus.co.nz/get-connected or call 0800 222 644.



Chorus coverplate

Omaha Beach Community 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!

travel&co.
The best active travel on the planet

SKI BEYOND THE ORDINARY

CANADA | USA | JAPAN | CHILE | AUSTRIA | FRANCE | ITALY | SWITZERLAND

As a New Zealand owned travel company we've been crafting active travel holidays for over 30 years.

Talk to an Active Travel Expert
0800 555 035 travelandco.nz





COMMUNITY MATTERS

BEACH ETIQUETTE

PLEASE RESPECT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER:

- **Respect the dog rules (page 27)**
- **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**



**DO YOU HAVE A PASSION
FOR YOUR LOCAL OMAHA
COMMUNITY?**

**WE'D LOVE TO HAVE
YOU ON BOARD!**

I've served on the OBC for a few months now and the thing that's surprised me the most is the breadth of work this small group does on behalf of the community. Things like dealing with Council and Auckland Transport on drainage, flooding, shore protection and roading issues to name a few. Then there's working with Police and Insite Security to help keep the community safe, including funding Insite patrols across key periods of the year and also the installation of new security cameras. And let's not forget predator control or making submissions on local bylaws and regulations, to name a few more issues your Committee members work through.

Whichever way you look at it, this group really is the voice of the Omaha community.

But there's constantly more to do and we always need more help, so we're looking for a couple of new members to join the team. The time commitment includes attending a monthly meeting on a Thursday afternoon/evening and involvement in the occasional project.

So, if you're interested in making a meaningful difference and have the time and energy please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Email: us@omahabeach.co.nz

Paul Head, OBC Committee Member



CLUB REPORTS



OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB SUMMER 2022 REPORT

General Manager: Paul O'Brien

(Phone 021 248 3886)

President: Kevin Weston

Email: gm@omahagolf.co.nz

Website: www.omahagolf.co.nz

Phone: 09-422 7551

This year has been a positive year for the Golf Club with investment and improvements. Membership has continued to grow significantly from 868 members to 1038 and is continuing to grow. The improvements and investments on the course mean that the Omaha Beach Golf Club is ranked no. 23 in New Zealand from over 400 courses. This is a big attraction for people coming to our area and a positive influence on house pricing. (Source: NZ Golfing Magazine)

The year has finished with the Club making a \$126k profit with healthy reserves of nearly \$400k on the Balance Sheet. The Club took over the running of the Pro Shop and Driving Range in June this year. This is working out well and we have a positive partnership with the Golf Warehouse.

The 2022 year has had its challenges with Covid, with members and the community not being able to use the café and bar and events being cancelled or reduced. It has been the wettest in the course's history the number of days we have had to close and/or not allow people to use carts is unprecedented.

Despite these hurdles and challenges, we have continued to invest and improve the golf course and facilities. We have finally finished the new roof on the building, with the Council, which has taken a long time, with an over run of nearly a year. We have invested into improvements to the toilets and bathroom facilities this year and these are now completed for everyone to use.

Changes with former GM Sue Jury leaving and new GM Paul O'Brien arriving: This year we saw the resignation of Sue Jury who has been the Club's General Manager for the last three years. We were pleased to appoint Paul O'Brien as the new GM who is in the process of shifting to the area and making this his new life. Paul is an experienced GM and will add a lot of value and expertise to the running of the Club.



The Lakes layout

Course Development - VISION | 2022

Last year we completed the new 15th hole and this year we have opened a new 17th hole. Many of you would have seen the extensive earthworks and effort required to build these new holes and improve the course. Each hole is a big investment for the Club of approximately \$250,000. Omaha Beach Golf Club is very grateful to Tony Kortegast (President Friends), Richard Brabant (Vice President) and their committee for helping us make this project come to life and reach completion.

Junior Golf: Emma Fairnie, our Professional, has become the Golfing Director (we think the only female in NZ) and is now on the board of the NZPGA. Emma has continued to successfully run school holiday programmes and has increased the demand for golf, in particular by children and women.

Lease: The Club has signed a 30-year lease for the course which now gives us confidence for the future and assurity to our members that the Golf Club will continue to grow and develop.

Community Centre: You would have seen the new roof has finally been finished. This year we have renovated the toilet facilities which are looking very nice now. Our next improvement project will be the acoustics of the ceiling, as it can be hard to hear when there are functions and a lot of people in the centre. Next year we are planning to improve the hospitality and kitchen facilities.

Moving Forward: The Club is in a stronger position with robust platforms for staff, management, and governance to continue to make improvements and offer our members and community a place to enjoy.

Thank you for your support.

If you are not a golfer and you are reading this, can I remind you the Community Centre/ Golf Club is yours and we welcome residents



New 15th Hole



Planting near the 15th hole

and visitors. Residents are entitled to a discount at the bar with your Community Membership Card. We also welcome you walking the course and using our facilities (of course at the appropriate times when golfers are not playing).

If you are not a golfer and are thinking about giving it a go - we have a team of people to support you, as I know it can be a bit daunting at first.

This is my last year as President and after four years on the committee, I feel the Club is in a good position for me to leave. I am confident that the current committee and new members will continue to make improvements and create an even better place for our wonderful community.

Kevin Weston, OBGC President

CLUB REPORTS

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (OBSLC)

President: Linda Crisford

Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Website: www.omahasurf.co.nz

Phone: 09-422 7022

What an amazing Club! Read on!

Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club has continued to go from strength to strength based on its strong, all-inclusive family-based focus, culminating in winning the coveted title of Club of the Year. This is the first time we have won this prestigious award and Junior Surf Volunteer of the Year awards. The Club was honoured and ecstatic by these wins and it is a testament to the incredible high standard of patrolling, the number of volunteer hours given, the work of the Committee and all of our members. It was a wonderful team effort.

The Club has also prioritised the mental health and wellbeing of our volunteers which has been a mainstay in retaining volunteers and increasing our membership significantly – which now stands at over 550.

Omaha Surf Club has also grown in its capabilities due to our lifeguards who are enthusiastic, professional and diligent. They love taking on board greater leadership roles and this will continue to strengthen the Club going forward.

We have had 28 new guards qualify this season, many of them parents, which is outstanding. This enables us to be able to patrol efficiently and keep the public safe both in and on the water and the beach. Our community is privileged to have such amazing and dedicated lifeguards.

The Club continues to reach out to the community in many areas, particularly in creating sustainable positive relationships with our sponsors and other groups to create a community hub space.

Some Highlights

We were delighted to be able to celebrate Rob Earley's Life Membership this year. Rob is a dedicated lifeguard, an excellent communicator and a fantastic role model who has devoted many hours and weekends to ensure the smooth running of the Club. Congratulations Rob!

Five Omaha athletes were selected into the Surf Lifesaving Northern Region Sport Development Squad.

At the Junior and Senior Northern Champs we



picked up 6 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze medals – an amazing achievement for a small club.

To keep members inspired, enthusiastic and happy we have implemented the Omaha Challenge Cup, the Omaha Coastal Classic and a Surf Sports Team Building Camp – thank you Tracy Blair.

Frank Maher's board events have become an integral part of our calendar.

So come and join our caring, friendly and family-focussed Club. Meet new people, learn new skills and have fun!

As we are part of your community, remember to say THANK YOU to the lifeguards – two small words that mean a lot and make our guards feel valued.

As our numbers grow and, therefore, so do our equipment needs, we continue to reach out for funding, and we thank all those who contribute.

We have a fantastic Sponsorship Board on the bunker. Gold, silver, bronze and one platinum are available. Ask for our sponsorship package. Please become a sponsor – we need you! Contact mail@omahasurf.co.nz

Remember to remind your family, your visitors

and people who are renting over summer to – Swim between the flags!

Please swim safe this season.

Linda Crisford, OBSLC President



CLUB REPORTS

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

President: Christine Wilkinson
Email: wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com
Phone: 021 1777 173

It's so nice to be out and about again and playing bowls, after yet another year of disruptions due to COVID.

Even with these trying times, we have still grown our membership to almost 100 members. It's so good to see a lot of keen new bowlers coming into the mix. Our Wednesday morning rollup has turned into quite a social morning with an hour or two of bowling, followed by a coffee at the Community Centre/ Golf Club Café. It's also great to see many of the newer bowlers wanting to go further to the North Harbour champs, which we haven't seen within the Club for a few years.

March 2023 marks 30 years for our little Club. We look forward to organising a fitting event to mark the occasion and are hoping to get some foundation members along to be a part of this event.

We have a dedicated committee whose members give time and value to our Club. The committee spends many hours making sure that everything keeps running in a positive way to ensure everyone is happy with the bowling on offer.



We aim to make bowling available at all levels - we welcome 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 have Lazy Sunday afternoon bowls which has generated a great deal of fun and a lively social environment. We have fortnightly tournament competition days with other local clubs and fortnightly half-days for our Club only. We also offer coaching on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at no cost to our members.

A thank you to Debbie Lee from Maximise for continuing to stand by us and providing us

with the sponsorship that we need to operate.

Thanks also to all those sponsors who support the tournaments throughout the year and pay for signage on the scoreboards and sheds.

With summer just around the corner, we look forward to starting our Club tournaments for the 2022/23 season. We would love new members, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you're keen to have a go.

Christine Wilkinson, President

OMAHA CLUBS - A SUMMARY

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

CLUB	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
Omaha Shorebirds Protection Trust	Rob Zubielievitch (Treasurer)	021 963 434	robzubielievitch@gmail.com
Omaha Beach Golf Club	Paul O'Brien	09 4227551	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
Sea Swimming Club	Stephen Smythe	021 766 915	stephensmythe@icloud.com
Community Garden Club	Dave	021 373136	linda.dave@bachcare.nz
Waka Ama Club	Gavin Jones	021 939650	nivag@slingshot.co.nz
500 Club	Michelle Timmons	021 985020	timos.tribe@xtra.co.nz
Mahjong	Deborah Finnigan	021 287 2722	poszum68@gmail.com
Omaha Tennis Club	Amanda		seanamanda13@hotmail.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.

ANIMAL PATROL

To start with, a reminder to everyone that, if you see unacceptable behaviour by any animals around Omaha, please contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101.

Now, speaking specifically to pet owners, we know that, for many of our residents and visitors, having your pets around is an integral part of enjoying being at Omaha – but please do take responsibility for them.

DOG OWNERS

Firstly, a reminder about the dates and hours when dogs are permitted on the beach:

Please make sure your dogs are well-behaved at all times – not too much barking, no hassling birds, absolutely no biting of course – and make sure you pick up after they've done their business! On reserves, dogs should be on leash at all times.

HORSE OWNERS

Can you please pick up after your animals too, as it's very unpleasant to see their large droppings on the beach and the dunes (especially around Walkway 5)!



CAT OWNERS

Please keep your cats inside at night so they're not tempted to head north to the Shorebird Sanctuary. Please also discourage them from hunting the native birds that are growing in numbers around Omaha

And, on a lighter note, here are our dogs, Neo and Zeke, enjoying an evening walk around the block in Omaha, with sister Lily keeping them company!



Neo, Zeke and Lily out walking –
Photo: Rohan Meuli

Ed's note: Indi the cat (12yo, part-Burmese) enjoys a twilight walk to the beach with me. She will never venture further than the walkway; the beach itself is definitely a step too far. She waits patiently while I have a quick beach walk, and then trots home alongside me. Passing dogs don't bother her much (in fact, sometimes it's the other way


around!), and at night she has more sense than to roam around in the dark – it's much cosier inside!




Beach

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

Reserve

All times
 On-leash All times

Omaha east

All times
 Prohibited All times

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).

Call easyflow Irrigation for all your garden and lawn irrigation needs.

From New Installations, upgrades and servicing – we cover it all using only the best products to get the best results for our clients at the best price.



Phone Richie on
027 668 8301

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. We aim to keep the area as safe as possible and deter any behaviour that is contrary to OBC, OBRS and legal objectives.

The reality is that we provide a presence which adds to safety but certainly does not ensure it. One guard cannot "herd cats" all over Omaha.

A significant part of our time goes toward "entertainment challenged" youth.

In recent weeks, we have had theft and vandalism and summer numbers have not yet started.

We understand that historically, the perception is that our wee gems are safe in little old Omaha. The reality is that last summer is one we do not wish to repeat!

At one end of the spectrum there are unpredictable youths from out of town, in vehicles, looking for trouble and, at the other end, local gatherings of normally well-intentioned kids exploring the boundaries.

Please know where your kids are, what they are doing and with whom.

Feel free to talk to our guard. We are happy to communicate with an address or phone number when they are where they shouldn't be.

Last year, a couple of parents came to the Surf Club carpark to round up some individuals. This is a great response and also provides support to the guard, sending a message of solidarity to the rest.

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

A similar message applies to youths in golf carts. Thanks for a slight improvement last season. However more parent input is required. There is a clear pattern of increasing bravado and lack of awareness from youths in carts. We all know it was the fun stuff back in the day - but times are different and so are our kids.

The time is coming where this, also, won't end well.

We want to be proactive and we invite all parents interested in their youth's whereabouts to supply contact details.

You can email them to admin@insitesecurity.co.nz or, even better, wave down our patrol, have a chat and give them some details - or turn up at the Surf Club car park at 10/11pm to escort your crew home.

Remember to keep the tools and toys locked and 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, Insite or the police need details

- time, description, rego, activity/behaviour, direction etc. If it feels safe, and you have backup, then ask questions - but if unsure then just observe from a distance.

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. We also run our eye past every property on the Isle.

Also, work has started on phase two of the Omaha cameras - this is the Surf Club carpark installation which will give 360° coverage and this will be in operation before the holidays begin. The roundabout cameras are working well, albeit with a couple of hurdles. Insite contributed a replacement overview camera that had succumbed to the salty conditions. The outgoing camera will need to find a new pole, thanks to the new "pole" taking its place. Thanks to Paul King for following up with relevant bureaucracy to keep it functioning.

Stage three next year will entail bringing all cameras together on one network.

Thanks to the OBC for all your hard work to keep Omaha the special place it is.

Have a safe summer!

Council Noise / Animal Control 09 301 0101

MPI / Fisheries 0800 809 966

Police non-urgent 105

PHONE INSITE SECURITY ON 09 425 7113

Serving and Protecting our Community for over 15 Years



DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

- New Alarms
- Design, Install & Service
- CCTV - Design, Install & Service
- Panic Alarms
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Access Control Systems
- Alarm Monitoring
- Rapid Response 24/7
- Premise Patrols
- Lockup Checks

FOR ALL YOUR SECURITY NEEDS!

Contact Insite for your **FREE SECURITY appraisal.**

09 425 7113
www.insitesecurity.co.nz

SAFETY & SECURITY

FROM WARKWORTH POLICE

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

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. We are heading into the warmer months and the large events are "all go" in Matakana.



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 also on social media and, most importantly, on our roads. Just remember this is our last Summer with Hill Street being the main entry to our Coastal Paradise.

Road Safety is our main concern and roads are 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 a 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

TSUNAMI SIREN THEFTS AT OMAHA

The OBC Committee has been liaising with Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) at Auckland Council regarding our tsunami siren warning system, which we found was not fully operational. Sadly, the loudspeakers at Omaha (and Point Wells) have been subject to ongoing theft and vandalism.

Initially, this was considered a minor issue and AEM were working on replacement options. However, we have been told that incidences of theft have continued and, in fact, escalated.

Replacing the tsunami sirens is not as easy as it may seem, because it's not an "off-the-shelf" product. These are specialised items of equipment and software that can't be sourced locally. AED will continue to work on options for replacement.

This means that, until resolved, the audible warnings for a tsunami threat at Omaha may not be functioning at full capacity or as you might expect (for example only some sirens may be operating).

Stay informed and prepared

Sirens are only one way you could be alerted to tsunami threats. You will also receive warnings through other official channels including the Emergency Mobile Alert platform (messages to your mobile phone), radio and television news broadcasts and social media platforms.

Please refer to the OBC website for more details, and updates (Omaha Beach - Omaha Beach Community).

Also, to find out more about tsunami warnings and other hazards, please visit the Auckland Emergency Management website (Get ready for New Zealand ShakeOut this week | Auckland Emergency Management).

AEDS IN OMAHA (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS)

There are three AEDs in Omaha - please make sure you are aware of where your nearest unit is located. There is also an AED at the Point Wells General Store and in Matakana.

- **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)**



Find out all you need to know here: <https://aedlocations.co.nz/>
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/>

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.

OMAHA RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

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

- **Northland Waste** provides a weekly (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 2022, through to the week following Waitangi weekend in February 2023, 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 following Christmas 2022, through to the week of Auckland Anniversary Day in January 2023, 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. We have arranged back-up collection days if the volumes require it. 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:

WARKWORTH RE:SORT RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

183 Sandspit Road, Warkworth. Open 7 days
Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Weekends & Public Holidays 9.00am – 4.00pm. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. See website for pricing
www.northlandwaste.co.nz/service/transfer-station



Yes please!



No thanks!



SUMMARISED CALENDAR OF OMAHA RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DAYS OVER SUMMER 2022/23

DECEMBER 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
19 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th Christmas Day
26 th Boxing Day	27 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	28 th	29 th	30 th RUBBISH	31 st New Year's Eve	

JANUARY 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1 st New Year's Day
2 nd Day after New Year's Day	3 rd RUBBISH & RECYCLING	4 th	5 th	6 th RUBBISH	7 th	8 th
9 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th RUBBISH	14 th	15 th
16 th RUBBISH & RECYCLING	17 th RECYCLING	18 th	19 th	20 th RUBBISH	21 st	22 nd
23 rd RUBBISH & RECYCLING	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th RUBBISH	28 th	29 th

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 th <i>Anniversary Day</i>	31 st RECYCLING RUBBISH	1 st	2 nd	3 rd RUBBISH	4 th	5 th
6 th Waitangi Day	7 th RUBBISH RECYCLING	8 th	9 th	10 th RUBBISH	11 th	12 th

The fortnightly kerbside Recycling collections, and the weekly kerbside Rubbish collections, will then revert to the normal schedule. If in doubt, the collection day for your next Recycling collection day, once we have reverted to the normal collection schedule, can be found on the Auckland Council website: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

FOODIE CORNER

EASY SUMMER COOKING

Here's a tasty, no-fuss recipe from Lauraine Jacobs to make summer dining easy!

This summer at Omaha, a complete one-dish meal, served up straight from the pan, will make dinner prep a whole lot easier. Tossing everything into a pan or casserole to roast or braise develops lovely flavours and doesn't create piles of dishes to clean up afterwards.

One thing to consider is that it's important to get the timing right. If you toss in tender fresh green vegetables or little tomatoes at the start of the cooking time they will be completely overcooked by the time the potatoes and chicken are ready - so add the delicate vegetables with only 20 or 35 minutes to go. Add in fresh herbs and a shake of a spice mix for more flavour.

In the following recipe substitute fresh green beans for asparagus as the seasons change.



Summer Chicken Tray Bake

- 5-6 chicken legs
- 12 small (perla) potatoes
- 15 baby carrots, peeled
- 1 large fennel bulb
- Sprig of fresh rosemary leaves
- 12 cherry tomatoes
- Small bunch asparagus or beans, trimmed and cut into 8cm lengths
- 5 tbsps extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsps spice mix (Moroccan spice blend is great)
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh parsley or basil leaves to decorate

1. Prepare an oven tray by lining it with baking paper. Set the oven to 200°C.
2. Place the chicken legs, potatoes and carrots in one layer in the dish, spreading out evenly. Slice the fennel bulb in two lengthwise and cut each half into about four wedges. Add these to the tray, poking them between the chicken and vegetables. Drizzle the olive oil over everything and sprinkle the spice mix and the rosemary leaves over. Season with plenty of salt and pepper and place the tray in the centre of the oven to bake for 30 minutes.
3. After 30 minutes, remove the tray from the oven and add the tomatoes and asparagus, distributing them evenly. Use a spoon to gather up the juices from the bottom of the tray and spoon it over everything. Return the tray to the oven and continue to cook for about 20 minutes longer until it is all golden and tender.
4. Serve at once with a few fresh herb leaves strewn over. This recipe serves 2 to 3 generously but can be scaled up by increasing everything.



Lauraine Jacobs is the author of **IT TAKES A VILLAGE**, the essential guide to the Matakana and Omaha area with stories and great photos. Every bach and home should have a copy. Email Lauraine at lauraine@laurainejacobs.co.nz or purchase at selected outlets and bookstores. \$45rrp.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

LAURAINE JACOBS
A guide to Matakana and its surrounding districts



WHAT'S ON?

What's on? What's there to do? The answer – plenty!!

This area has many exciting events and activities ahead, and a huge array of wonderful places to eat, drink and enjoy socialising. Experience as much as you can this coming summer!

We would also suggest that you download "The Matakana App" for the latest in what's on in the area. You can also access the Matakana Coast Tourism site, which is a really good website with a lot of info about local activities. <https://www.matakanacoast.co.nz/>

SUMMER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2022/2023

• **Carols@Matakana – Saturday, 10th December 2022**

St Leonard's Church, 24 Matakana Valley Road, Matakana.

Games start at 5pm and the service gets underway at 6pm.

• **Matakana Christmas Night Market – Friday 23rd December 2022, 5.00pm – 9.00pm**

Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana

Not only will there be food stalls, but craft stalls to shop all items small businesses have created ... and pony and train rides, and face painting for the kids.

• **Hidden Valley Festival – Tuesday 27th December 2022, 3.00pm – 11.00pm (R18)**

Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana

Featuring: Chase & Status (DJ Set), Dom Dolla, Kanine presents INVERSION, Patrick Topping, Skream, Heidi, AROHA, Prospa (Live), JessB, Partiboi69 + more

<https://www.hiddenvalleyfestival.com>

• **The Great Summer Art Exhibition – Friday 30th December 2022, 7.00pm – Monday 2nd January 2023, 4.00pm**

Mahurangi East Community Hall, 21 Hamatana Road, Snells Beach

Hosted by the Mahurangi East Tennis Club, the artworks include photography.

<https://www.mahutennis.co.nz/art-expo>

• **NYE at Rothko – Saturday 31st December 2022, 6:00am – 12:30am**

Executive chef, Josh Hazel, will be delivering a 5-course degustation accompanied by laser light shows throughout the night.

Enjoy a cocktail and canapés on arrival and take a stroll through the Galleries and Rear Gardens to discover over 650 works of art from local and international artists. Admire the special lighting exhibit in the rear gardens, reflective of this year's event theme 'life of light and colour'.

Wrap up the night with a glass of champagne at midnight and if you wish to, join the dancing at Freddie's Outdoor Kitchen, open until 12:30am.

<https://www.sculptureum.nz/whatson/new-years-eve-at-rothko>

• **Highlife NYE Festival – Saturday 31st December 2022, 3.00pm – Sunday 1st January 2023 1.00am**

Highlife Entertainment is returning to the Ascension Wine Estate with a New Years Eve experience.

Expect music from world class DJs and entertainers, dancers, gourmet food, and premium beverages ... and a fireworks display to welcome the New Year in style.

highlifefenye.co.nz

• **Connected 2023 – Ultimate NYE Party @ Leigh Sawmill Café – Saturday 31st December 2022, 8.30pm – Sunday 1st January 2023 2.30am (18+ event)**

142 Pakiri Road, Leigh

Expect a high-energy night of the best Jungle, Old Skool, and Drum and Bass Auckland has to offer, including DJs Mac Summer, Mr. Big Stuff, and more.

<https://www.leighsawmill.co.nz/bar-restaurant-venue/gig-guide-leigh>

• **UB40 – Monday 2nd Jan 2023, 4:30pm to 10:00pm**

Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana

The "A Summer's Day Live" Tour kicks off January 2023 with a few of your favourite acts: UB40, Jefferson Starship & Dragon!

What's on – Events – Matakana Country Park

• **Summer Haze – Wednesday 4th January 2023, from 2:30pm**

Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana

Shapeshifter, Fat Freddy's Drop and King Gizzard & The Lizard combine for Summer Haze.

All information, including event timings and bus info will be released and be available on Summer Haze <https://summerhazenz.com>.

• **Food Truck Collective @ Omaha – Saturday 14th January 2023, 5.00pm – 9.00pm**

William Fraser Reserve, 37 Broadlands Drive, Omaha

The Food Trucks are heading to Omaha, with an amazing selection of street food, music and entertainment, plus a pop-up craft beer bar.

Food Truck Collective – Find Auckland's Best Street Food

• **Matakana Food & Beer Festival – Saturday 28th January 2023, 8.00am – 7.30pm**

Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana

This Festival is an opportunity for food, beer, and entertainment lovers to enjoy products from a selection of food trucks and breweries, with music.

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

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 – you won't be disappointed.

MESSAGE FROM GRETCHEN YOUNG, NEW OWNER OF THE OMAHA SUPERETTE

We're thrilled to be given the opportunity to own The Superette at Omaha Beach. The name is staying the same, but the community can expect to see small changes over the coming months and year. We have loved meeting the locals as we've moved through changeover and we appreciate your input and feedback as we progress on our journey to bring more fresh options into Omaha. A huge thank you to Vinod and Vijay for passing on their knowledge and expertise in the transition process; we wish them all the best in their future endeavours and hope to welcome them back to the beach for a visit any time. We will be launching our Instagram and Facebook pages soon so you can stay up to date with what's happening at the store.

LOCAL MARKETS

There are three excellent markets in Matakana, each one unique.

The Matakana Village Farmers' Market – Open every Saturday between 8am – 1pm (rain, hail, or shine)
2 Matakana Valley Road, Matakana

From award-winning coffee to mouth-watering brunch dishes, there's plenty to sample and savour. Relax by the riverside listening to live local music. Also check out the offerings at the old Creamery above
<https://www.matakanavillage.co.nz/market>

Matakana Market – Open Saturday 9am – 2pm. At the Old Dairy Factory, 28 Matakana Valley Road. Stalls inside and out offering a range of crafts, food, clothing and more.
<https://www.thematakanamarket.co.nz/>

Matakana Country Park Market – Every Sunday 8.30am – 1pm. Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road, Matakana. Shopping for all things local including food and produce, arts and crafts, children's entertainment, vintage goods, clothes and more. <https://www.matakanacountrypark.co.nz/whats-on>

LOCAL CINEMA

Matakana Cinemas
2 Matakana Valley Road, Matakana
A boutique, 3-cinema attraction located in the heart of Matakana, playing the latest blockbuster and foreign films.
<https://www.matakanacinemas.co.nz/page/now-playing>

LOCAL CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Omaha Beach Café & Eatery
1 Matariki Street, Omaha. "Our local café".

Estuary Café & Bar
Omaha Beach Golf Club / Omaha Community Centre. Estuary Cafe (omahagolf.co.nz)

The Farmers Daughter
329 Omaha Flats Road.
<https://thefarmersdaughteromaha.co.nz>

Rothko (@Sculptureum)
40 Omaha Flats Road. Set amongst galleries, gardens and a vineyard.
<https://www.sculptureum.nz/eat-and-drink/rothko-restaurant>

Smiths & Stables
1151 Leigh Road. <https://nzvenues.co.nz/auckland-venue/the-stables>

Plume Café
By the roundabout at Matakana. Plume Vineyard Restaurant. 49A Sharp Road, Matakana. <https://plumerestaurant.co.nz>

The Vintry
2 Matakana Valley Road. The Vintry specialises in locally grown Matakana Wines. All their family-owned wineries are located within a 14km radius of The Vintry's doorstep. They also have a great selection of spirits and beers. Enjoy a wine tasting, wine by the glass as you watch a movie at Matakana Cinemas, or take your own taste of Matakana home with you from their cellar door wine list.
<https://www.vintry.co.nz>

Matakana Market Kitchen
2 Matakana Valley Road
Relaxed riverside dining.
<https://www.matakanamarketkitchen.co.nz>

The Matakana (Village Pub)
11 Matakana Valley Road
Lively times in a historic location.
<https://www.thematakana.co.nz>

Jin Jin
44 Matakana Valley Road/ Modern Asian dining. <https://www.jinjin.co.nz>

Viet Q Foods
969 Matakana Road. Food truck offering authentic Vietnamese food. <https://www.facebook.com/vietqfoods.co.nz/>

Brick Bay – The Glasshouse
7 Arabella Lane, Snells Beach
Restaurant, tasting and sculpture walk.
<https://www.brickbay.co.nz>

8 Wired Brewing Co
56 Matakana Valley Road
<https://8wired.co.nz>

The Sawmill Brewery + Smoko Room
1004 Leigh Road
Independent New Zealand owned brewery
<https://www.sawmillbrewery.co.nz>

Wineries

Visit the website below, for details of Matakana Wineries
<https://matakanawine.co.nz/>

WELLNESS

The Space

Offering a variety of yoga meditation and gatherings that inspire growth and inner wisdom and provide clinical support for physical health.
<https://www.thespacematakana.nz/events-matakana-wellness>

Bali Garden

An oasis in Point Wells offering a range of treats and treasures – retail, wellbeing workshops and events, also a luxury accommodation retreat.
<https://www.baligarden.nz/wellness>

YogiFish

Offering swimming and yoga adventures – local sand and land outings as well as a range of swimcation/yoga escapes.
<https://yogifish.nz/retreats/>

Parohe Island Retreat, Kawau Island

A new retreat right on our doorstep is what we have been waiting for – 20ha of wellness sanctuary tucked away in Bon Accord harbour offers 2, 3 and 4-night wellness retreats, to reground the senses and uplift the soul.

All the retreat packages include plant-based meals featuring organic ingredients from the garden and eco-chic Scandinavian-style accommodation.

Daily yoga classes and access to Parohe's picturesque hiking trails, land and water activities and wellness facilities – there's always something wonderful to do in the luxurious grounds. Or book out the retreat for a wedding or conference and design your own package. <https://www.parohe.co.nz/>

RESOURCES

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. www.matakanacoast.co.nz

Download **"The Matakana App"** for the latest info on what's on.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's been an eventful year and, even though we left lockdowns and restrictions behind us, Covid waves continued to infiltrate our lives. I succumbed to a bad dose mid-year, and then endured another nasty virus (not Covid) which was, in fact, worse. Brain fog is a real and very awful thing. Rest is best.

Quite apart from Covid waves, as you will read on page 15, I got myself into a tangle in the beach waves. The importance of water safety can never be under-estimated or over-emphasised and it's heartening to know, as I pull together all the content for this Newsletter, that our Surf Club is in such good heart.

It's nice to have a focus on the resurgence of our native birdlife in this issue. Flight is a wondrous thing; from watching our feathered friends roosting quietly or flitting from tree to tree, to sitting in a metal bird zooming across the globe like the godwits.

I've been fortunate to do a heap of travelling this year, leading tours and visiting friends, including three trips to the Chatham Islands – such a unique place that truly blows your mind. I've also taken groups the length and breadth of New Zealand, exploring far flung corners and hidden destinations as well as mainstream destinations. Even though staff are thin on the ground and service can be hit-and-miss, it is mostly offered with a smile.

We live in a beautiful country, but my highlight was making my first post-lockdown visit to the UK and Europe in September to visit friends and do some research and writing. Oh, and to celebrate a certain big birthday. Covid barely got a mention, although there is still a requirement to wear masks on public transport in Spain and Italy.

Swimming in the Mediterranean Sea is the antithesis of an open surf beach like Omaha and the waters of Mallorca were warm, buoyant and inviting. Also pleasantly uncrowded. The little beach where we

swam each day, at the end of the street and alongside the promenade that leads to Palma, is formed by groynes. Perfect for families and a tranquil dip on a hot day.



Beach at Molinar, Mallorca

On the other hand, the chillier waters at spectacular West Bay in Dorset (where Broadchurch was filmed) did not entice me in. Huge groynes have been installed there over recent years to mitigate the risk of flooding along the sea front, which forms part of the Jurassic Coast. With changing sea levels and huge exposed cliff faces, erosion and rockfalls are becoming more of a reality and ongoing concern given the wind, waves, weather and passage of time.



East Cliffs at West Bay, Dorset

The hills of Tuscany are far from the sea and the only liquid I enjoyed there came in a pool, or a glass served with great food! I am happy to confirm that a pub crawl in London today is as much fun as it ever was – this time with the Queen's passing on everyone's lips!

I now find myself with yet another hat, being co-opted onto the OBC Committee, and I'll be pleased to assist in whatever way I can as my availability allows. I want to acknowledge the great work done by Committee members

– they put in plenty of hours and effort, often invisible, to keep Omaha ticking along nicely. I encourage you to put your hand up and get involved!

Finally, if you're spreading your wings in 2023 and leaving these shores, travel safe. Feel free to talk to me, or fellow Committee member Rob Macready – travel is our passion. The world is indeed open for business and waiting for you!

This will be the first year in many that I won't see the New Year in at Omaha – I'll be in the Chatham Islands leading a trip with a horse racing focus. Believe it or not, it's the second-oldest racecourse in the country. With the Chathams being 45 minutes ahead of NZ, I'll see in 2023 before you! I will not, however, be swimming on the island as the sea is dangerous and there are sharks. The ocean is for viewing only!



Waitangi Beach, Chatham Island

Again, I give thanks to Dwayne for rescuing me so that I could go on to enjoy a productive, enjoyable and enlightening, if somewhat challenging, year.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas 2022 and Happy New Year 2023!

Sally Blyth (Editor)

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

If you want to find out more about the Chathams, read my article in the NZ Herald, May 2022. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/nz-travel-why-the-chatham-islands-should-be-on-your-bucket-list/CPYESPQZKFMX4CPPWWKGIPYJYE/>

BEYOND

Travel Companion Services

no limits, new horizons



Assisting you see the world in this new era of travel.
Personal support and companionship. Ultra-small group tours.

SALLY BLYTH

Phone 021 480 323

sally@beyondlimits.co.nz

www.beyondlimits.co.nz



Let's make it happen!



Photo: Sally Blyth

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2022/2023 edition (with special acknowledgement to Rob Zubielevitch for all his work);
- all contributing photographers;
- our “family” of regular advertisers whose support helps us bring you this Omaha Newsletter – and a big welcome to new advertisers.

OBC DATABASE – ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Anyone who has worked with a database will know how difficult they are to keep up to date. At OBC we’re no different. But having accurate contact information for our members and residents is really important; it enables us to keep you informed of issues that impact our community, seek your input from time to time and, yes, to accurately invoice annual membership subscriptions for those of you that aren’t covered by the OBRS levy for residents at the southern end.

Also, if something goes wrong when you’re not at your Omaha property, we’d like to be able to get hold of you if need be. But if we don’t have your full and correct contact details, we can’t do that!

So, if you’ve recently moved into the area or your email or postal address has changed in the last 18 months, we’d really appreciate it if you could send us an email with your updated contact details.

us@omahabeach.co.nz

Now’s the time to get in touch and make sure we do have the correct information. It will be helpful to stipulate which address you prefer to have the Newsletter sent to.

- **Name**
- **Omaha Beach address**
- **Home address if not a permanent Omaha resident**
- **Postal address for Newsletter (make sure there is a letterbox if in Omaha)**
- **Email address**
- **Phone number(s)**

Ensuring your records are up to date will mean you won’t miss out on important information about issues regarding Omaha and our community – and it will be much appreciated at our end.

We love keeping you informed – please keep us informed!

SECURITY: For local assistance at any time, dial INSITE SECURITY 09-425 7113

Omaha has 24-hour security patrol from 1st December 2022 to 31st January 2023, and long weekends

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

**SO THAT WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
AND ANY UPDATED ADDRESS/CONTACT INFORMATION EMAIL [US@OMAHABEACH.CO.NZ](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz)**

OBC WEBSITE ADDRESS www.omahabeach.co.nz