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Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary. Photo: Benjamin Brook Photography

## Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (OBSLC)

### SAFETY AND FUN ON THE BEACH

By Sally Blyth

Our local Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (OBSLC) is here for our safety and it also generates many good times for those involved in the Club. We're pleased to share a bit about the Club's history and what it does for the community.

Here in Omaha, we have access to 3.9km of beautiful white-sand beach via 22 individual walkways. The beach is patrolled by members of the OBSLC which is one of 74 Surf Lifesaving Clubs in the country. The Club was first established in 1988, and the Clubhouse is located on William Fraser Reserve. It's a dynamic, not-for-profit organisation

comprised of highly trained and dedicated volunteers and supporters who are passionate about water safety and who contribute their time and skills to the local community. We thank them for this.

#### A bit of history ...

When the idea of starting up a local surf club in Omaha was put on the table back in the 1980s (by Mark Flavell), Terry Gillespie and the late Bill Freeth were two locals who put their hands up to get involved. Terry, a keen yachtie, was involved with Mairangi Bay Surf Club and on the Committee of Auckland Surf, and Bill was always eager to be involved in local community projects. Along with many others back in the day, Terry and Bill helped out in various ways to enable the Club to get up and running.

A committee was formed and there were many meetings, with visions of a Clubhouse and a need for funding. People took on various roles to progress the dream. Bill Freeth had discussions with Bill Fraser, the landowner, who generously gifted the land on which the Clubhouse sits – hence the Reserve's name. He also handled the protracted negotiations with Council and, after long and controversial meetings, he finally got Council permission to get things underway.

The Clubhouse was funded by grants from various trusts, along with a lot of local fundraising efforts, BBQs etc. Terry dealt with the finances and his wife Linda took on the initial role of secretary. Phil & Marlene Woodbury were also involved, with Marlene taking over the secretary role after Linda. Terry was the Delegate to Auckland Surf.

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## Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (OBSLC) 🇳🇿🏄🌊

Once enough funding had been secured, along with the land, plans were drawn up. Bill Freeth oversaw the building of the Clubhouse which was built on time and on budget. It was a big project and there were many working bees that took place including at weekends. Eventually, the local Omaha community had its very own Surf Club and premises. Now, 36 years later, it is a thriving and invaluable addition to our community and the wider area.

The Omaha Beach community has grown significantly since the Club was first established and numbers

during peak season have increased enormously through the years. The main part of the beach patrolled by the Surf Club is midway, between the flags in the beach area by the tower. Priority is given to those who swim within this flagged area, with a high level of lifeguarding services and vigilance available in a friendly and safe environment.

The Club welcomes new and existing members and encourages all members to develop skills and fitness through Surf Sports. These include surf and swimming skills as well as knee board, surf ski and canoe paddling, along with Inflatable

Rescue Boat (IRB) racing. Regular training sessions are held for seniors and juniors throughout the year, as well as adventure paddles. All this outdoor water-based activity certainly enhances fitness and engenders friendships, allowing those involved to have heaps of fun whilst growing invaluable skills, particularly around water safety.

The Club competes in a number of carnivals, Regional and National, for all ages and there has been much success, especially over recent times. The Club was named Surf Life Saving NZ Northern Region Club of the Year in 2021/22.

### AN OVERVIEW FROM OBSLC PRESIDENT LINDA CRISFORD

Drawing on the Key Vision of Surf Lifesaving NZ – “No one drowns at the beach in Aotearoa New Zealand” – Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club’s key purpose is to save lives, develop and support great New Zealanders and ensure the safety of our communities at the beach and in the water.

Over the years, the Omaha Beach lifeguards have done thousands of preventative actions and saved hundreds of lives. One that will never be forgotten was the saving of one of our own members who suffered a major cardiac event whilst training on the beach. Club members present used CPR and the local defibrillator and, working together, they saved his life. It was a textbook save by a dedicated team.

Every weekend between Labour Weekend and up to the end of Easter, Omaha Beach is patrolled by Volunteer Lifeguards who enthusiastically and professionally give up their time. They are a true credit to the organisation.

However, there are many key people who work behind the scenes. Yes, we all see the Lifeguards in their yellow and red but there is a huge number of other volunteers who work tirelessly to support our Lifeguards. We are one team – from coaching, managing, surf officiating, training, cooking sausages, preparing food for surf officials at carnivals, cleaning the Clubhouse, maintaining the building, being a Committee member, fixing broken gear, repairing motors ... the list goes on!

We have placed significant focus on being

volunteer-centric as we believe volunteers are the backbone of the Club. Their dedication and high level of competence are things we take extreme pride in, as I’m sure the Omaha Community does too. Age is no barrier; we have Lifeguards aged 14 up to 72 years of age.

Volunteering as a Surf Lifeguard is fun and rewarding – all our volunteers make a real difference in people’s lives, giving back to the community and making lifelong friends.

Our young people are amazing – did you know that the following Headgirls, Headboys, and Deputy Headgirls and Boys of Mahurangi College from 2015 have been, or are, Omaha Beach Surf Lifeguards?

*Tobey Sykes; Leilani Jones; Miriama Iversen; Jackson Whitaker; Hannah Powell; Seek Oliver; Liana Sykes; Finn Stevenson; Max Matthews; Grace Richards; Russell Dunstan. Also School Dux Chantelle Maher.*

They are all extremely competent, dedicated and inspirational young leaders and we are so proud of them. Thanks for what you do for our community!

#### Key Milestones

The Club has also achieved some key milestones which are noteworthy.

- Club of the Year SLSNZ 2021-2022
- Finalist in Club of the Year SLSNZ 2023-2024
- Conjoint winner of SLSNZ Gudsell Trophy (for the Club that trains the most Lifeguards) – this is a true reflection and recognition of those key members who train, educate and examine our lifeguards

- Participation in the 90-Mile Beach challenge
- Competing in the international Master competition in Australia

Surf Sports, from Seniors to Juniors, has seen amazing successes with increasing numbers participating in carnivals and pool events. Our Club is now a force to be reckoned with and we are highly respected in the competitive space.

OBSLC has continued to go from strength to strength over the last 36 years, developing into a strong all-inclusive family Club where whole families train, compete and lifeguard together.

#### Looking Ahead ...

We are planning a significant reconfiguration of the Club to ensure it remains a major Lifesaving hub for the area. As the population of Warkworth and Matakana continues to grow and the new motorway links the area to Auckland more efficiently the number of people coming to the beach is growing every year. The Club is completing a feasibility study for up grading the Club’s facilities.

As our membership has increased to approximately 700 members and we are tasked with providing Lifeguards at Omaha Beach and Tawharanui, alongside needing to respond to the Leigh peninsula, as well as having a Search and Rescue Squad, our facilities have become inadequate, and we need to look to what we need in the future.

We will receive some funding from SLSNZ and Auckland Council but will need to fundraise a major component of the cost. We know the community will be right behind us and will support the upgrade.



### The Patrolling Season

Volunteer Surf Lifeguards are on duty at weekends and public holidays at our local beaches – see below for the schedule. During the week, Lifeguards are allocated by the national Surf Lifesaving organisation.

- Omaha Beach from Labour Weekend until Easter Monday.
- Tawharanui from mid-December until the weekend after Waitangi Day.

### Keeping Safe

There's been an AED defibrillator situated on site at the Surf Club since 2017. Thank goodness for that otherwise my neighbour may not have survived his medical event. President Linda's overview mentions his rescue and how the AED played a vital part in that – along with the crew from the Surf Club, first responders and the Westpac Helicopter. I was walking down to the beach that evening – the weather was perfect and the full moon was rising – when the Westpac Helicopter flew overhead and landed right there on the beach in front of me. Little did I know at that time that it was my neighbour whose life they were dutifully and mercifully saving. Another neighbour also suffered a medical event on the beach in January 2024 and was saved by the actions of those nearby. Not to mention my water event in January 2022 when the right man in the right place at the right time rescued me, and that of my friend whose daughter was her guardian angel. Beaches are fabulous playgrounds, but they can be dangerous places. Our Surf Lifesaving Club plays a vital role in keeping us safe – the word "lifesaving" being key, but often missed out as we shortcut to Surf Club.

FYI, there's another AED at the Golf Club/



Community Centre and also one at the Surf Club Southern tower.

Safeswim is a website that offers live information on beaches across Aotearoa NZ, including Lifeguard Patrol hours, hazards, water conditions, tides and public facilities etc. Check it out to get all the info you need to swim safely. Remember, if you are going to swim alone, make sure you let someone know. <https://www.safeswim.org.nz/>

### The Clubhouse

In a situation similar to that of the Community Centre and the Bowling Club, no money was exchanged for the land on which the Clubhouse sits (as mentioned, it was gifted). The Council leases the building back to the Surf Club. With an open plan lounge, kitchen and deck area upstairs and a full-sized training room downstairs, the facilities of the Clubhouse have done a sterling job over the past 36 years. As President Linda has mentioned, it is time for some refurbishment and plans are underway to get this funded and accomplished.

It is poignant that Bill Freeth was farewelled at a Memorial Service in the Clubhouse in August (see page 37), in the place that he helped create, a place that was special in his heart. We're sure he'd be right behind the renovation plans and we look forward to seeing progress as the new look takes shape. The upgrade will enable the Club to thrive and endure into a new era.

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to:

- President Linda Crisford, the Committee, and the Lifeguard crew, for all that you do.
- Bill Fraser for gifting the land.
- All the Club's Partners plus past and current supporters of the Club.

- The Club's major sponsors:
  - Platinum Sponsors: Bayleys, JavIn, Debt Managers
  - Silver sponsor: Omaha Holiday Homes
  - Bronze Sponsors: Dark Lab, Sculptureum, Insite Security

### Life Members

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • William Fraser     | • Robert Burt      |
| • William Freeth     | • Deborah Collings |
| • Betty Paxton       | • Frank Maher      |
| • Graham Parfatt     | • Ruth Tanner      |
| • Adam Wright        | • Mark Flavell     |
| • Dean Revell        | • Robert Earley    |
| • Lisa Chapman-Smith | • Terry Gillespie  |



### ACCESSIBILITY ON THE BEACH

Of special note, is that the Club has an accessible beach wheelchair which was kindly donated by Judith Herbert. This is all part of the Club's focus on supporting everyone in the community. If you'd like to utilise the wheelchair, please contact either David Stone on 027 490 9188 or Brian Wade on 027 499 2257. Thank you Judith, this is a truly valuable asset for our community.

### Greetings to fellow Omaharians and visitors,

Your committee has once again been fully engaged with a myriad of issues that affect Omaha residents and property owners. I distinguish the two as the majority of property owners are not residents and, to a certain degree, this curtails, in some circumstances, OBC's voice. Numerous Auckland "Have your say" public engagements are directed to you in terms of where you actually live rather than as an Omaha homeowner.

The OBC Committee estimates that only roughly a third of Omaha properties are permanent residents.

January 2024 began with a debrief of the near riots for three consecutive days over the Christmas and New Year period. A series of follow-up meetings were held with Police and, more recently, with Auckland Council, with a view to deterring such behaviour again this next holiday period.

Not acceptable are comments like – "it's just kids having fun."

Not acceptable are Parents and so-called responsible adults buying grog for underage kids and sending them off with the grog to make their own fun.

There was a real scenario of teenagers getting smashed and, when confronted by Police, the parents were called – and, well, they were on Waiheke!

OBC is not the "fun police", but it is seriously unacceptable for local residents to be picking up broken glass off the streets on the morning following these near riot events.

More about this later in this Newsletter.

Auckland Council has increased the level of consultation and so the "Have your say" questionnaires are streaming in and, where relevant in OBC's thinking, responded to. Where it is really important OBC gives you notice of that fact by either a Facebook post, mail out, or a notice on our website.

If you are not a member of the Omaha Community Facebook group, it is worthwhile joining. Remember nothing offensive is to be posted and the administrators are doing a fabulous job in monitoring what goes on. Do also check our OBC website as much as you can. The front page is managed by a Committee member and contains many need-to-know bits of information.

The latest consultation subject is around two of the shoreline adaption plans. As I write this, I have engaged with the Council person managing the process and, along with Committee member Paul Head, we recently met at the Community Centre before undertaking a drive by/walk around of:

- The Community Centre.
- The sandcrete and gabion walls south of the boat ramp to the causeway.
- The groynes and dunes.
- The northwestern sand bank.
- South to the boat ramp and wharf.
- The Southern Isle, William Fraser Reserve.
- Down Inanga Lane to the attenuation pond bridges walkways and dunes.
- Finally, south to the southern lake the creek to the Whangateau and the quarry.

This is a consultation undertaken when Council assets might need to have money spent on the relevant assets. As an example, the groynes and dunes are the community's biggest asset, and Omaha needs to protect the status quo – if you see people climbing or playing in the dunes, please ask them to stop. On the eastern side of the Whangateau are the sandcrete walls adjacent to the golf course and the gabion baskets outside the Community Centre and northwards – the area north of the boat ramp has no protection and the local community there is working on a solution. OBC has supported their actions to date. The response from Council's representative was extremely positive.

One particular headache for the OBC was the review of the electoral act on Rodney Local Board representation. Warkworth had three representatives on the Local Board and that level of representation is now reduced to two. This is despite 75% of responders from the area objecting to the change. While the process was very much flawed in the view of OBC Committee, the cost of a judicial review outweighed the benefit to the community and therefore we decided to take no steps.

I do want to thank your local Councillor Greg Sayers for his help in dealing with Council. Greg is great at establishing communication lines and following through!

As you will have noticed, Watercare has, since the end of September, been constructing a new stormwater drainage

system down at the Boat Ramp. Originally, we understood this would take until Christmas but it seems, as of early November, that the Boat Ramp parking is almost back to its capacity. The community will, I'm sure, appreciate the speed at which the project has been dealt with.

A work in progress is the application of Auckland Council's Flood Risk Assessment plans, which have been in place for a number of years, with the last revision mid-year 2023, I am told. The OBC Committee is engaging with Council to understand the impact in certain areas where the plans are clearly wrong, but there will not be a general approach to deal with affected LIM reports or areas where Council clearly sees risk. It will be up to individual property owners to engage directly with Council regarding their own risk profile.

Earlier this year OBC Committee member Vicky Heiplik and I met with senior management at Vector with a view to understanding why Omaha, or parts of it, was intermittently having so many power cuts. A more detailed explanation appears later in this Newsletter (page 26) but, suffice to say, we found the managers we met with helpful, informative and constructive. I note that there have been no power cuts in the last six months, as far as I can recollect.

Thank you to the Committee members for all their help and support during the year. I wish you all a happy holiday and safe golfing, fishing, relaxing or whatever else you will be doing. Be considerate!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and happy Summer!

Chris Allan,  
OBC President



### OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024

"Working for the Omaha Beach Community": Chris Allan (President), Rohan Meuli (Treasurer), Rob Zubielevitch (Executive Officer), Murray Beatson, Terry Brailsford, Paul King, Paul Head, Vicky Heiplik, Sally Blyth

**ALCOHOL BAN TO BE ENFORCED!**

Expect to see a greater Police presence in Omaha this Summer...

Those of you who were around last Christmas / New Year will be aware that Omaha experienced significant problems with drunken and violent behaviour by young people, some as young as 14.

This included deliberate damage to private and public property, a group of youths on the roof of the shops at the carpark, bottle throwing and fights verging on riots. On at least one occasion Police were forced to use pepper spray on a group of violent youths. There were also real concerns about the safety of young girls out after dark given some of the behaviours police and Insite Security witnessed.

Both Police and Insite Security have said explicitly that the behaviour was dangerous and out of control and was the worst they had ever seen at Omaha. As a result, a number of residents felt unsafe to go out after dark. Many residents spent successive mornings cleaning up broken glass on or outside their property.

Consequently, after these problems, there was a very strong feeling from the community that the behaviours were more than "just a few teenagers having fun" and were totally unacceptable in our community. In fact, Police have advised there was a hardcore group of troublemakers causing much of the trouble. Unfortunately, they've spoiled it for everyone else and Police are left with no choice but to take a much tougher approach to any similar behaviour that may occur over this Xmas / New Year holiday period.

This will include enforcement of the existing alcohol ban. The ban is stipulated under Council bylaw and has been in place for a number of years. It specifies that alcohol is banned in all public areas of Omaha from 7pm to 7am during the months of daylight saving. This includes roads, footpaths, reserves, carparks, the beach and any other area considered to be public.

To do this, the Police will be having a much greater presence than last year, including bringing resources in from

outside the area. This will enable them to increase both the number of patrols and the number of officers available to respond to the kind of issues and violence they were forced to deal with early this year.

Importantly, they will be confiscating any alcohol where there is a breach and also issuing fines for breaches of the ban.

Serious or violent behaviour similar to what they experienced last holidays will lead to arrests.

In conjunction with the Police plans, Council have upgraded the old, faded, alcohol ban signage around Omaha. Their approach is very much one of no surprises.

Omaha is a holiday destination. We're all here to have a good time but what we experienced last summer was unacceptable. Police and Council have realised this and it's pleasing that they are responding positively to the community's concerns.

**INSITE SECURITY AND INVESTIGATION**

Hi All, Summer is here and it's time to make the best of our paradise!

Insite Security 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.

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

The reality is that we provide a presence which adds to safety but certainly does not ensure it.

In respect to last summer, I cannot be blunt enough. It was a \*\*\*\*fest.

It was unsafe for all due to the gathering of three school groups [30 to 40 youths] and alcohol.

Any one of these kids as individuals was quite affable and mannered. Get them together and fuel them with alcohol and we have vandalism, harassment and assault, to name a few issues – and right in the face of Police.

This year the Police have agreed to a bigger presence and will prosecute where required, which I am happy about as many deserved it last year.

As soon as the parents of those involved, belatedly, chose to send their kids home as the threat of arrest became prominent, Omaha was, overnight, back to the paradise we all enjoy. Individuals and groups that demonstrate antisocial, nihilist behaviour are not welcome in Omaha.

This year we will be enforcing the Omaha wide alcohol ban. This will deter groups from walking and drinking but the onus remains with the parents. Don't fill your teens with alcohol then send them out and about!

We have cameras at the roundabout and at the carpark and elsewhere.

To the 90% that know what considerate behaviour is – dob them in – call 105 or flag down the patrol. Let's make such behaviour totally unacceptable.

Remember, times are tight and that means, like most industries, the nefarious element is also out there trying to generate revenue. The moral of the story is, keep the tools and toys locked out of sight.

You are by far our best eyes and ears as you are everywhere and usually at the right time. The Neighbourhood Watch initiative is a great tool and helps connect our efforts.

When you see any suspicious activity, we and/or the Police need details: time, description, rego, activity/behaviour, direction. If safe, and you have backup, then ask questions – 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, offering education around the alcohol ban, pets on the beach, camping and running our eye past every property on the Isle.

A big shoutout to the OBC for their work for our community – this is one of the many reasons why Omaha is our special place to be.

*Scott from Insite Security*

**Council Noise / Animal Control  
09 301 0101**

**MPI / Fisheries 0800 809 966**

**Police non-urgent 105**

**Phone Insite Security on 09 425 7113**



**MATAKANA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE: A VITAL AND VALUABLE SERVICE**

Thank you for the opportunity to supply an article to your Omaha Beach newsletter. As this is the first such article, I will strip it all back to describe what we are all about.

You have all driven past the Matakana Fire station – for some of you, hundreds of times. But you may have little knowledge of how the station came into being and what we do. The Brigade was formed in the mid-2000s following an earlier house fire in Point Wells that resulted in two fatalities. A group of motivated locals got together, campaigned and fundraised to establish a Brigade for the greater Matakana area. After much work the Brigade was established and eventually the fire station was built on land supplied for use by the Whistler family in its current location.

The station is positioned in the centre of the golden triangle of Omaha, Point Wells and Matakana, but also covers down to Rainbows End, up Matakana Hill as far as Govan Wilson Road and out to the end of Takatu Peninsula. Unlike most stations, no siren is sounded for callouts, so consequently the public may be totally oblivious to the callouts we attend, or how busy we may be on any given day. Brigade members receive the callouts either by pager or, more likely, via an app on their cell phones.

The Brigade has a strength of around 24 volunteers, which includes three officers who are either current serving or former career firefighters. Traditionally, we attend approximately 140-160 callouts per year. However these numbers are increasing as the local population gets bigger and 2024 will certainly far exceed these numbers.

A large portion of the callouts are to the Omaha area. Why? you may ask. An aging population with a lot of retirees and associated health issues and then

the population swelling considerably over the summer, in particular, during the Christmas holiday period with holiday makers and day trippers. You are all aware of how busy Omaha can get during such times. There is a clear correlation to an increase in callouts.

So how are we equipped to attend emergency callouts? Brigade firefighters undergo extensive training from Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) as well as our own weekly training nights. Further to this, almost all Brigade members are trained and qualified as medical first responders. Such training courses are run by St Johns and we receive further regular in-house training provided by an Omaha doctor, Linda.

Our vehicle fleet includes an appliance (fire truck), a tanker and a medical vehicle, which is the vehicle you are

most likely to encounter. Currently the medical vehicle is a small silver Hyundai, but this is soon to be replaced by a new 4-wheel drive utility, which will be much more practical and fit for purpose. This new vehicle is thanks to local fundraising, including a Golf Tournament hosted at your Omaha Golf course.

No doubt many of you have made contributions to this fund and we thank you all for these.

Lastly, just to be clear, if you phone for an ambulance, we are not a replacement for the ambulance, but we do respond as well as the ambulance. This is to provide you with care and attention until the ambulance arrives at which time we will hand over to them and assist further if required. The reality is that the Warkworth ambulance can frequently be tied up at another job and is often

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coming from further afield, sometimes much further afield!!!

It is our desire and objective to attend to your needs in a professional and competent manner – but please do not be offended when I say that we hope not to see you this summer!!!!

Have a safe summer and cheers to you all.

*Chris Jenson, Firefighter*

### FIRE RISK, READINESS AND PREVENTION

You can find out a huge amount of information about fire risk, readiness and prevention (and much more) at <https://fireandemergency.nz>

### 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/Community Centre, 1 North West Anchorage (North)

Find out locations of all AEDs in the country. You'll find all you need to know here: <https://aedlocations.co.nz>  
It's a good idea to download the app to your phone.

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/>



*The Westpac Rescue Helicopter helps save a life on Omaha Beach.*

### BEING PREPARED

#### Neighbourhood Support

For more information on Neighbourhood Support, contact Tanya via [omahanorth.rns@gmail.com](mailto:omahanorth.rns@gmail.com) or on 021 677 744.

#### What to do in an emergency

Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) have suggested individuals, families and communities work on these priorities so that, when an emergency occurs, we are all well aware of what to do, and better prepared.

#### Make your plan

The summer holiday period, when many owners are around, is a good time to connect with your neighbours so you'll be ready if an emergency situation occurs. Here are some things you can do in preparation:

- Share contact details with your neighbours so you can contact one another if an emergency occurs.
- Tell your neighbours about your emergency plan and ask about their plans.
- Find out who amongst your neighbours may be able to help you or may need your help in a disaster.
- Create a network with at least three other people where you will let each other know that a Civil Defence alert has been issued.
- Get involved in your community's events.

More information is available at [aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz](http://aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz)

### TSUNAMI ALERT UPDATE

#### Stay Informed and Be Prepared

In the event of a tsunami, you will receive warnings through official channels including the Emergency Mobile Alert platform (messages to your mobile phone), radio and television news broadcasts, social media and the Auckland Emergency Management website and social media pages.

There are also a number of natural warnings you can look out for. If you are near a shore and experience any of the following, take action. Do not wait for official warnings.

- Feel a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand or a long earthquake that lasts more than a minute.
- See a sudden rise or fall in sea level.
- Hear loud or unusual noises from the sea.

You can find out further information about Emergency Mobile Alerts via [getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/](http://getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/), X (Twitter) (@AucklandCEM) and Facebook.

**REMEMBER: If you are at the coast and feel an earthquake which is LONG or STRONG, GET GONE and move inland or to higher ground.**

To find out more about tsunamis, warnings and other hazards, or to check if you live in a tsunami evacuation zone in Auckland's Hazards Viewer, please visit the Auckland Emergency Management website [aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz](http://aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz)

### DUNE PROTECTION – LET'S TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!

Dunes are the only barrier between the sea and our properties and need fervently protecting so that the beach's structure and stability can be maintained.

For many years our dunes at Omaha Beach were some of the healthiest and most perfect in New Zealand but they are sensitive eco structures. They play a very important role in being Omaha's first line of defence in protection from storm damage and inundation, and storms take no mercy.

A combination of high tide, low pressure, strong easterly winds and large swells is not a good one and, if the dunes are breached, serious damage and erosion can result. Storms through the years have battered our dunes badly, including several in 2014 and again with Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023 when the dunes took a real hammering. Sometimes sheer walls are created ("White Cliffs of Omaha") and even parts of the wooden walkways have been washed away in the past.

The dunes really do need TLC and we need to stay off them. We need to give them a chance to recuperate and regenerate. Please don't dig holes and tunnels in the dunes. Please don't be tempted to walk across the dunes as a shortcut to the beach. Have your parties at home not in the dunes and please don't go digging into them or creating tracks through them. Such behaviour kills the vegetation and further weakens the dunes as a whole meaning they can collapse when their weight is unable to be supported properly. The grasses are vital to encourage healthy formation, growth and stability of the dunes.

You may have noticed, during the latter part of 2024, that there had been some damage to the dunes to the right of Walkway 2 (as you walk down to the beach). A breach such as the one shown in the following photo had the potential to compromise that entire section, so it was important that it be remediated as soon as possible.

OBC worked with Auckland Council and we'd like to let you know about the steps that are being taken to fix this issue:

1. The Walkway 2 sign that was previously in place is being replaced



with a new one so it is easy for people coming from the beach to find the walkway without having to climb the dunes to search for it.

2. A temporary windbreak fence is being put in place in the affected area to both stop people walking in the damaged dune area and to trap sand to help repair the hole.
3. In the New Year, the area will be replanted with spinifex dune grasses.

Sadly, we do not think this hole was initially caused naturally and Mother Nature has extrapolated the damage with strong easterly winds.

Given the vital role the dunes at Omaha play, we ask that you remain vigilant. Please always use the provided pathways for access to the beach and please encourage children to play on the beach, not in the dunes. Leaving the dunes alone to do what they do is important for the future stability of Omaha Beach.

Finally, it needs to be said that if breaches like these are not remediated (and the remediations subsequently respected), it is entirely possible that in the next big Gabrielle-like storm, we could see tidal inundation into the inner dunes. This could have the flow-on effect of potentially increasing all our insurance premiums in this area. We are very sure that none of us want that!

### NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

*By Marie Ward, OSPT Trustee*

**The Northern NZ dotterel is an endemic shorebird found only in New Zealand.**

It was once widespread throughout New Zealand, but the population is now estimated to be only ~2,600 birds. Northern NZ dotterels have been present along the Omaha and Whangateau coastline for hundreds of years, but

our recent data shows they are now struggling to breed successfully – locally and throughout the greater Auckland Region.

The Department of Conservation's most recent New Zealand Dotterel Recovery Plan, states that management at a NZ dotterel breeding site is considered "effective" if productivity each season averages 0.5 chicks fledged (i.e. able to fly) per breeding pair (or higher), over a 3-year period or longer. Using this approach, our NZ dotterel monitoring at Omaha Spit has only twice reached an "effective" level for a managed NZ dotterel breeding site in the past 15 breeding seasons. Even worse, last breeding season we had no NZ dotterel chicks survive to fledge. This is heartbreaking for those of us that have worked hard to control predators, protect nests and limit disturbance of breeding adults. Although we had 20 breeding pairs of NZ dotterel inside the sanctuary at Omaha in the 2023/2024 breeding season, and many hundreds of eggs, no NZ dotterel chicks survived to adulthood.



NZ dotterels typically lay three eggs in a "scrape" (nest) on the beach before beginning a 4-week incubation. NZ shorebirds evolved in the absence of mammalian predators, with the main threat to survival of the eggs and chicks from aerial predation. As a result, NZ shorebird eggs are well camouflaged (Photo 1 over page). In addition, the adult dotterels must choose a nesting site close to an abundant food source as, once hatched, the chicks are not fed by their parents but must find their own food (Photo 2 over page). Although the chicks must feed themselves, they still rely on their parents to warn them of predators, or other danger, and to provide protection from the weather.

As you and your friends and family enjoy our beautiful coastline this summer we urge you to follow the messaging on

signage at North Omaha Reserve. Please stay outside the fenced off areas where dotterels have nested, and move away if an adult dotterel feigns a “broken wing” or is “rat-racing”. They do this if you are too close to their nest, or chicks. If you see a dotterel doing this then please follow it out of the area. They will lead you safely away from their eggs or chicks, which you might not have even seen.

If there are NZ dotterel chicks feeding on the beach please move away and let them be. Chicks will hide when people are too close and may therefore not get the food they require for survival.

There are things we can all do to help improve the survival of our NZ dotterel chicks at Omaha Spit this breeding season:

- Continue to trap for rats, mustelids and hedgehogs;
- Keep outside taped-off breeding areas, and away from any dotterel nests;
- Ensure small chicks on the open beach can feed freely by not sitting or sunbathing nearby;
- Keep your cats indoors at night.

Best wishes to all those beach dwellers for an enjoyable and safe summer from Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust.

Photos taken by Marie Ward



1. A 3-egg NZ dotterel scrape (nest) on the beach at Omaha Spit. Scrapes with eggs are often on the open beach, just above the high tide mark and right where beachgoers want to walk.



2. A 2-day old NZ dotterel chick foraging for its own food at Omaha Spit



3. A very young NZ dotterel chick foraging for its own food at Omaha Spit.

Help give the shorebirds a future – shared with us, protected by us.

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](mailto:info@omashorebirds.co.nz)

For further information see [www.omashorebirds.co.nz](http://www.omashorebirds.co.nz)

### PROTECTING OUR DOTTEREL AND OTHER BIRDS

Marie Ward of OSPT located a document relating to the historical background regarding protection of the New Zealand dotterel and other birdlife on North Omaha Reserve, dated April 2010.

Following is an edited and abridged version of that report which provides further context to the OSPT article in this Newsletter. Please note that information and statistics quoted relate back to 2010 when the report was written.

Trustees at the time the report was prepared were: Dr John Dowding, Gwenda Pulham QSM, Sharon Kast, Joanne McPhee, Dr Marie Ward, David Stone, (Advisory Trustee: Dr Ruud Kleinpaste).

#### Formation of North Omaha Reserve

In 1989 Fletcher Development Ltd applied to subdivide the second phase of Omaha, the area north of Broadlands Drive causeway at the entrance to Omaha. The Department of Conservation opposed this and the matter was settled with the proviso that a number of conditions be placed on the consent with a view to providing protection at the northern end of the spit for the New Zealand dotterels and other bird life. The result was that this area was classified as a Reserve.

The area was subsequently sold to AG Dryden Ltd for development but unfortunately the conditions to protect the birds were never put in the consent and therefore there was no legal avenue to ensure their protection.

In 1996 the “Protocol to protect the dotterels at Omaha Spit” (see section below) was set up between the Department of Conservation (DoC), Rodney District Council (RDC), Auckland Regional Council (ARC), the Omaha Ratepayers Association and AG Dryden Ltd (the site developer).

In 1999 the area classified as Reserve was vested with Rodney District Council. North Omaha Reserve covers 7.9057 hectares of land comprising six parcels of land. The largest (6.0550 hectares) was classified under the Reserves Act 1977 as Local Purpose Reserve (Foreshore Protection). The other parcels were classified as Reserve (Esplanade).

The zoning put in place for North Omaha Reserve at that time was the most restrictive, aimed at protecting areas of high wildlife and vegetation value. This zoning was deemed important for future wildlife, vegetation and sand spit protection. Although the area is available for passive recreation, Council Bylaws prohibit the taking of dogs into the Reserve.

As part of the original resource consent, a pest proof fence was to be erected along the perimeter of the Reserve. This wasn’t done initially as, in 2000, it was felt prudent to wait and consider it in

due course as technologies improved. By 2003 active investigation into the provision of a predator-proof fence was recommended due to the success of other such fences around New Zealand and the increasing threats to the Reserve’s wildlife. The erection of the fence went ahead with the support of the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust (OSPT).

#### Wildlife on North Omaha Reserve

NB: Statistics mentioned relate to 2010.

The Reserve is a prime site for New Zealand dotterels, an endangered species with only 1,700 birds remaining. The Reserve has a breeding population of well over 1% of the total population which uses the Reserve from September to February. After the breeding period New Zealand dotterels (over 100 in 2010) from other sites congregate on the Reserve until the next breeding period.

It is significant to note that the regular presence of more than 1% of the total New Zealand dotterel population makes the site one of international significance for the species under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971.

The Reserve is listed in the DoC New Zealand dotterel recovery plan as a protection site due to its importance both as a flocking site and a breeding site.

Unfortunately, the Reserve is considered a potential “sink” for the regional population of New Zealand dotterel because the birds are site faithful and will always return to the site even though there are threats. In addition, if an adult or breeding pair dies, they are quickly replaced by others which are likely to suffer the same fate if the threats are not controlled or removed.

The threats to New Zealand dotterels include dogs, cats, rats, hedgehogs, stoats, weasels, black-backed gulls, harrier hawks and disturbance by vehicles and people walking close to nesting sites.

The Reserve is also home to other rare species. It is an internationally significant site for the variable oystercatcher as more than 1% of the birds use the site regularly for nesting and feeding. A large number of seasonally migratory birds that feed in the Whangateau Harbour – including bar-tailed godwits, South Island pied oystercatchers, banded dotterels and Caspian terns – also use the Reserve as a base.



An alert adult NZ dotterel keeping an eye out for any perceived threat to their nest.

New Zealand fairy tern, New Zealand’s rarest indigenous breeding bird, also visit the Reserve. Its threat ranking by DoC is nationally critical; there being only about 40 birds remaining. In addition to the wide variety of birds who use the Reserve, it is also home to the rare New Zealand green gecko.

All of these animal species are subject to the same threats as the dotterels. Therefore, the management of these threats is a key component in the survival of species in the Reserve.

Shorebirds are vulnerable to disturbance, especially during the nesting season. If birds feel threatened, they will leave their nests to draw potential predators away. Should this occur for too long the eggs will die, usually from overheating. This creates a conflict between public use of the area and the welfare of the wildlife. Minimising disturbance to wildlife requires visitors to be aware and willing to avoid nesting areas and access to be confined to the parts of the Reserve remote from nesting areas.

Because of the proximity to the Omaha subdivision, DoC has identified that the Omaha dotterel population is particularly susceptible in comparison to other national populations. As well as the increase in people visiting the Reserve, the number of dogs, cats and rats in the vicinity has increased markedly. The influx of visitors and people holidaying at Omaha (often with their cats and dogs) during the summer months coincides with the shorebirds’ nesting season. The

imminent development (as at 2010) of the subdivision adjacent to the Reserve will further increase predation and disturbance of the shorebirds.

#### Protocol to Protect the Dotterels at Omaha Spit (1996)

##### First Initiatives

Members of Omaha community and DoC repeatedly voiced their concern about the impact the subdivision would have on the dotterels at Omaha Spit as it extended north and approached the dotterels’ breeding area. As a result of these concerns RDC called a meeting with DoC, AG Dryden Ltd (developer), Royal Forest and Bird and the Omaha Ratepayers Association. The 1996 Protocol was the outcome of that meeting – a long-term agreement among the parties to manage the North Omaha Reserve in a manner which will protect the dotterels.

In the early years a temporary warden was appointed during the breeding season (September to February). A pest control programme was instigated by DoC and Forest and Bird with assistance from ARC. An annual talk was to be given by DoC in the summer when the highest use of the area occurs. A pamphlet about dotterels was to be distributed annually. Signage about the protection programme was to be placed at access points to North Omaha Reserve. Each organisation involved was to investigate how funding of the programme could be incorporated into its annual financial planning.

The success of the Dotterel Protection Programme was largely a result of the



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efforts of local residents Laura and Jim McKinlay. Back in 1993 they began trapping the pests that were wiping out the dotterels, enlisting other community volunteers to help. They erected simple tape fences around the breeding areas to protect the birds from people accidentally walking on the nests, which are simply a scrape in the sand. For his work over many years saving endangered New Zealand dotterels, Forest and Bird awarded Jim McKinlay its highest honour, the Old Blue, in 2009. From 2004, a community group of volunteers continued a trapping programme.

**The Situation as at 2010**

In May 2009, as a result of concern expressed by David and Jill Stone about the number of dogs being walked on North Omaha Reserve during the breeding season, ineffective signage and inadequate protection of the NZ dotterel, DoC convened a meeting with representatives from ARC, RDC and the existing volunteer group. The actions that arose from that meeting included: funding and building a new fence and gates; the erection of "no dogs" signage; provision of information to schools and community group; organizing weeding and recruitment of volunteers.

In July 2009, DoC chaired a public meeting for people interested in looking after the shorebirds at North Omaha Reserve. RDC and ARC also took part. A two-year plan was agreed with the following objectives.

- **To establish the Omaha Shorebird Protection Group for future advocacy and fundraising.** Result: The group is now registered as a Charitable Trust and charitable entity, Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust.
- **To establish an ongoing trapping programme to control animal pests.** Result: Dr Marie Ward is the trapping coordinator and after one season in this role is setting up procedures for more effective and secure trapping. Some traps were vandalized. ARC is funding new traps.
- **To erect a predator fence on the southern boundary of the Reserve, to reduce predator invasion and act as an advocacy message.** Result: RDC has obtained two quotes for a pest proof fence and OSPT has funding applications underway. In November

2009 Group Coordinator Joanne McPhee and RDC representative Cameron Walker presented the fence plans to the Omaha Beach Community Planning Forum, resulting in enthusiastic support for the project.

- **To monitor the birds on site to record the breeding success and communicate this to the group and public.** Result: Three people attended the Miranda Dotterel Training course in September 2009. 2 more have registered for the 2010 course. Dr John Dowding (a trustee of OSPT and responsible for the DoC NZ dotterel recovery programme) has provided on-site training. Experience in bird monitoring is slowly building, constrained by the time it takes to monitor the site. Dr Marie Ward is the bird monitoring coordinator and her results for the 2009 Omaha NZ dotterel breeding season (3 fledged chicks from 15 breeding pairs and the loss of at least one adult) reinforce the need for a pest proof fence. As well as arranging regular media releases, Joanne McPhee is currently involved in the production of a film which will be used to promote Omaha Shorebird Protection.
- **To raise public awareness especially for dog owners.** Result: New signs and media releases have not been effective. Because dogs are banned from the main beach from 9am to 7pm during summer, dog owners seem to think they have a right to take dogs into the Reserve, often unleashed. OSPT volunteers on the Reserve give out pamphlets and explain the need for shorebird protection. Besides disturbance by people and dogs, the existing fences have been vandalised with resulting vehicle incursions into the Reserve. Bonfires have been lit on the Reserve, using vandalized signage and traps. Omaha Beach Community Inc organised overnight monitoring of the Reserve boundary. As a result, police are talking to a group of local youths. A new information pamphlet specific to Omaha is being prepared. It will have a tear-off section for people to become Friends of Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust and for donations which are tax deductible. During summer, many people who visit or rent at Omaha have no knowledge that the

Reserve is a habitat for endangered shorebirds and don't seem to care. It is considered that a pest proof fence, as well as deterring pests, will be an excellent advocacy tool. It will indicate that the Reserve is a special place and secure new information signage inside the entrances will tell the shorebird story.

- **To improve site stability.** Result: Sand fences are being maintained by RDC.
- **To control weeds on the Reserve.** Result: A weeding day is being organized with RDC. A planting schedule will be prepared.

**References**

- Protocol to protect the dotterels at Omaha Spit (1996)
- RDC North Omaha Reserve Management Plan (2000)
- RDC Omaha Coastal Compartment Management Plan (2003)
- DoC New Zealand Dotterel Recovery Plan, 2004 - 14 (2007)

*Editor's Note: The importance of protecting our local birdlife is evident from this document and our community must applaud those whose past efforts have helped to establish a programme with the birds' safety in mind. It is great that Marie Ward provides continuity of care from past to present. Thank you, Marie. Please be mindful of our precious birds and give them some peace by staying away from the Reserve.*

**PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA**

*By Rob Zubielevitch*

**We now have over 330 traps in the Omaha area including the Shorebirds Sanctuary and the hills behind Omaha to the south. We can all agree that the local birdlife has flourished in the last few years and many native species are common around our properties.**

Apart from the possum traps, we use two types of traps. One is a standard victor rat trap which is baited with peanut butter and placed inside what is known as a rat motel. It has a small opening where the rats and mice enter to access the trap. Occasionally we catch small weasels in them as well.

The other trap we use is called a DOC 200. This also has an opening and a trap which activates when the animal walks

on a plate to reach the bait at the other end. This trap is baited with an egg, sometimes supplemented by a dab of peanut butter or rabbit meat. The DOC 200 is designed to trap rats, weasels and stoats.

We have had a few problems this year with, presumably, kids poking sticks inside the DOC 200s which sets off the trap. The traps are not checked daily by the volunteers which means they could be out of commission for up to two weeks if this happens.

We have noticed that in the last two months we haven't been catching many rats and we're not sure why.

*Editor's note: Perhaps this means that the trapping programme is working very well!*

We know there are still weasels in the area, particularly in the bush between the roundabout and the Causeway and have had recent reports of them running across the road. We are making a special effort to catch them.

We have an impressive catch so far this year (as at 13 November)

- Rats – 307
- Mice – 473
- Weasels – 12
- Stoats – 7
- Possums – 20

Thanks to the team of trappers – John Mew, Rob Rowdon, Phil Bougen, Joop Zuurmond and Tony Hoksbergen.

Finally, a big thank you to our supporters:

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

If you would like more information about our work, please contact Rob Zubielevitch, [robzubielevitch@gmail.com](mailto:robzubielevitch@gmail.com)

### PLANTING IN OMAHA

One of the great things about Omaha is how involved many people are in the community.

This manifests in many ways – from volunteers at the Surf Club and people working on pest control and, as outlined in the following article about John Mew, volunteers working on planting and restoring native bush to the area.

A great example of this is the area around the quarry at the southern end of Mangatawhiri Road. Here are some Before and After photos so you can see the difference all this planting makes.

The first photo below is from 2015 and you can see the area was pretty much just scrub.



The second photo is from mid-2024, with planting well established.



Over the intervening decade between when these two photos were taken, volunteers have planted thousands of native plants which have totally transformed the area. This includes more than 1000 plants over the past two years, with the most recent planting day being in August 2024.

Many of the plants were provided by Auckland Council and include Mahoe, Rewarewa, Horoeka, Harakeke and Nikau amongst many others. In addition, John Mew has provided a number he grew from seedlings or cuttings, including Manuka, Koromiko, Five Fingers, Karaka, Whau, Corokia, Totara, Puriri, Kowhai and Pohutakawa – as outlined in the article about John.

These plantings not only beautify the area, they also provide homes for native birdlife and help provide resilience in the face of climate change.

A big thanks to all those involved in this transformation over the years.

### JOHN MEW – A PASSION FOR REGENERATION

Sally Blyth met with John Mew who is actively engaged in regenerating our local reserve with native plants.



I met John on a chilly but sunny spring morning on the edge of the reserve at the end of Mangatawhiri Road and he took me on a most enlightening tour. It's quite astonishing to learn of what he has done in this little enclave of bush, shrubs, grasses and trees. Established trees flourish, and newly planted ones are being nurtured along, some very tiny, others quite spindly, and many growing up nicely. The landscape changes from Cabbage trees, grasses and Flax to Manuka and Totara and Kahikitea. All sorts of natives can be found in this small but significant area. A kaka cries out and flies joyfully overhead, the rejuvenation of plant growth, along with a successful trapping programme (see page 13), inviting the birds to come calling. There's a swampy area which the pukekos love.

John's involvement began in 2022/2023 when he cleared out a whole lot of gorse and planted a number of Kowhai seedlings. Prolific gorse is an ongoing and costly problem but John is doing what he can to stop new gorse seedlings growing. He receives welcome assistance from Dan Marrow, Community Park Ranger at Auckland Council, through the provision of protective gloves, potting compost, mulch and other necessities, as well as good advice and, of course, plants. The Council also assists with spraying and preparatory work.

Several Community Planting Days have been held through the years,



as reported in previous issues of the Omaha Newsletter. This year's Community Planting Day was held on 24th August. Trees planted in the past have grown large and robust and they meld seamlessly into the surroundings, helping the ecosystem and enhancing views of the land. In time to come, the new ones will blend in too.

"They'll far outlive me," says John with a wry smile, content in the knowledge that these trees will remain in situ for generations into the future. It's a privilege to have the opportunity to understand and appreciate how they got there.

The Council has provided 500 plants with approximately 250 being planted by volunteers, and the other 250 being planted by John over the winter. It is significant that John has also contributed and planted a further 1,000 trees. He grows the trees from seedlings and cuttings at his home which is like a mini garden centre with many pots and trays nurturing young plants. It's an orderly set up and I'm captivated by John's delight as he shows me the next generation of plants destined for Omaha's reserve.

John's knowledge of local trees and plants is growing – and extra-impressive, given his prior knowledge was restricted to British flora. He's planted just about every type of local native tree one can name (Totara, Pohutukawa, Kowhai, Karaka, Manuka) alongside others that aren't so familiar, including Whau, Ngaio, Five-Fingers, Akeake, Mahoe, Karamu and Mapou. I've seen plenty of Akeake trees on the Chatham Islands but had never heard of a Whau tree. So, on a sunny morning walk with John in mid-September, I learned that the Whau is a fast-growing native that is suited to a coastal environment. It also provides good shelter for other plants. We pass a tree that, for all intents and purposes



appears, dead and mangled but John assures me it is actually a Matai and is alive and thriving.

Each newly planted tree has a bamboo stick with a coloured ribbon to ensure it stands out rather than be trampled on. Some are hardier than others, and some struggle, the Lemonwood being one. Given the soil is not the best, being surrounded by swampland, it's remarkable to see what John and his co-volunteers have created. Keeping on top of the "three evils", namely gorse, pampas grass and woolly nightshade, is no simple task but John gets out and does what he can.

The small Lancewood plants (Horoeka) intrigued me and I learnt that they have a unique lifestyle. The leaves of the young plant are brown and mottled and droopy resulting in a rather nondescript, even lifeless, appearance. As the tree grows, the leaves slant downwards and develop barbed spears and bright spots to deter predators, in an effort to protect itself. Back in the day, it would have been a brave and hapless moa who would dare dabble with a Lancewood tree! The bamboo for the marker stakes comes from the Lucy Moore Reserve in Warkworth, courtesy of Tim Armitage of Forest and Bird who is trying to eradicate a patch of invasive bamboo. Lucy was born in Warkworth and went on to become one of New Zealand's most respected botanists. Read more about Lucy in the following article.

Hailing originally from England, John and his wife have been spending time in Omaha since 2012, coming and going between here and the UK over the years until they decided to sell up in the UK and settle permanently in Omaha in 2019. A former accountant in London, with a penchant for gardening, John decided that, once he retired, he needed a project that incorporated the great outdoors and that desire manifested in his passion for native tree planting.

On average, John spends a couple of hours every day doing what he loves, and the reserve is better off by 12 to 50 trees a day. He's also involved in the Omaha Shorebirds Protection Society and is part of the local trapping crew. This work in nature keeps him active and happy and his invaluable efforts are ensuring our local land will be in healthy and attractive shape for generations to come. Thank you, John, for the work you do ... and for a most informative morning walk!

### LUCY MOORE (1906-1987) – A LOCAL'S LIFE WITH PLANTS

Born in Warkworth on 14th July 1906, Lucy went on to become a respected scientist and botanist.



Lucy enjoyed a childhood amidst books and the wildlife of bush and shore in the Warkworth area which enabled a rich preparation for her later life. She went to primary school in Warkworth and in 1920 she then went to Epsom Girls Grammar School in Auckland, which was founded in 1917. Excelling in languages and science (Botany was taught from Form Four), Lucy won a Junior Scholarship to Auckland University College, enrolling in 1925. She gained a first-class MSc in 1929 with a thesis on the root parasite *Dactylanthus*.

Lucy was commemorated in the Women in Science Stamp Collection – issued on 2nd November 2022, the stamp issue is a celebration of all the women scientists in Aotearoa New Zealand and highlights the remarkable work of four trailblazing women, born between 1873 and 1941, one of whom is Lucy Moore. Lucy was friendly with another EGGs student, Lucy Cranwell (later Smith), and they were known as the "two Lucies".





Lucy was the first female employed as a scientist by the DSIR which did not employ any women as scientists until the late 1930s. She was able to secure permanent work more than ten years after her graduation, appointed to the Botany Division in Wellington. She had responsibility for lower plants and was also assigned to work on weeds. This led to an important paper on the pasture invasion and life history of the hard fern *Paesia*, published in 1942.

In their 20s, the “two Lucies” collaborated on field research that took them to remote parts of New Zealand. They wrote important papers and produced zoological research, with their research being described as “highly original and influential”. In May 1935 they set off to spend ten months in London and Amsterdam.

Back in NZ, Lucy secured her position with the DSIR. During WW2 she was involved in charting New Zealand’s seaweeds for medical research. In later years she remained an algologist, working with botanical artist Nancy M. Adams to produce the widely read *Plants of the New Zealand Coast* (1963).

Lucy was involved in ecological studies, spoke at international congresses, and produced important reference works. She officially retired in 1971 as one of the highest-ranking DSIR officers. She returned to Warkworth in 1980 and was active in the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand and took a close interest in Rodney County conservation issues. She practised with dedication and received many awards and honours including an MBE in 1959, held many roles and gave many lectures. She disliked socialising and never married, but she had a gift for lasting friendship. Sometimes called “mother of New Zealand botany” with an unequalled range of expertise, she died on 9th June 1987 at an Orewa rest home.

An extraordinary life of a lesser-known local female botanist! Read more here:

- <https://collectables.nzpost.co.nz/women-in-science/>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5m55/moore-lucy-beatrice>
- <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/summer-newsroom/the-two-lucys-kiwi-botanists-in-their-brothers-shorts>

**LET’S GET RID OF ICE PLANT!**

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



The Council identifies ice plant, gorse, lupin and nightshade as 4 of the most common pest plants in the Omaha area and you can read about them at:

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

In particular, we’d like to see owners and residents remove the increasingly popular ice plant. You may be surprised to see it listed as a noxious plant but, if you read the Council website link above, then the situation is pretty clear.

Here’s an excerpt:

- You must not breed, distribute, release or sell ice plant. As ice plant is a National Pest Plant Accord species, these restrictions apply within the Auckland region and across the whole of New Zealand.
- You must not plant ice plant within the Auckland region, unless you are transferring an existing plant on your land to another location within the boundaries of the same property.
- You must destroy any ice plant on land that you occupy if it has been planted in breach of the above rules and you are directed to do so by an authorised person.

As you may have noticed, the Council has already been making an effort to remove ice plant around public areas and if you see any in public areas, please let them know.

And yes there is NZ native ice plant (which this unwanted visitor is taking over) – please have a look at <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/ice-plant> to find out about the differences, etc.

## Marine Environment

The weather has been up and down all year, as usual. Here we present some charts and information about weather, tides, moon phases etc so you can make the most of your Summer!

### TIDE CHARTS

If you’re keen to take a quick dip, an ocean swim, a beach walk, a surf or a boating outing, it is very helpful to know what the tides are doing so we’re including charts for January and February 2025 here for easy reference.

Full Tide Charts for the year can be found on the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) website:

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/tides-and-tidal-streams/tide-predictions>

See Tide Charts following.

### SURF FORECAST (AND MORE)

Here is a good website where you can check all marine info – it includes: surf forecasts and ratings; wave type, height and energy; swell periods, maps and info; wind state, direction, alerts and maps; tide times and heights; live weather info and temperatures; webcams; sunrise/sunset times. You can check the hourly forecast, or a 12-day one.

Great for surfers – but also useful for anyone to have a quick check of before heading to the beach, even if it’s just for a walk. Beach walks are best done on a medium to low tide and a quick dip is better when the tide is high. More timid swimmers who don’t like big waves can check when they are likely to be more mellow and those who want the big gnarly waves can see optimum times. It’s good to know what awaits you!

<https://www.surf-forecast.com/breaks/Omaha>

### MOON PHASES 2025

The Moon is key for many things in life – from fishing, planting and harvesting by its phases, to partying and skygazing beneath it. It also guides the tides. Here’s a quick reference Moon Phases Calendar for 2025. The black circle is the New Moon (i.e. no moon in the sky – best for stargazing) and the white circle is the Full Moon.

This calendar comes from an excellent Norwegian-based website called Time and Date that cover astronomy, time, weather, space and more.

<https://www.timeanddate.com>

Through this site you can check precisely when and where the Moon will rise. FYI, there will be two total lunar eclipses visible in 2025 – on 14th March and 8th

### 2025 Moon Phases Calendar

Jan	7:☉, 14:☉, 22:☉, 30:☉
Feb	5:☉, 13:☉, 21:☉, 28:☉
Mar	7:☉, 14:☉, 23:☉, 29:☉
Apr	5:☉, 13:☉, 21:☉, 28:☉
May	5:☉, 13:☉, 20:☉, 27:☉
Jun	3:☉, 11:☉, 19:☉, 25:☉
Jul	3:☉, 11:☉, 18:☉, 25:☉
Aug	2:☉, 9:☉, 16:☉, 23:☉, 31:☉
Sep	8:☉, 14:☉, 22:☉, 30:☉
Oct	7:☉, 14:☉, 22:☉, 30:☉
Nov	6:☉, 12:☉, 20:☉, 28:☉
Dec	5:☉, 12:☉, 20:☉, 28:☉

September 2025. There will be a Super Full Moon on 6th November and 5th December 2025 – it’s always a spectacle to watch a Super Full Moon rise over the horizon from Omaha Beach. (A Super Full Moon is when the Moon is at its closest orbit to Earth – perigee).

### WEATHER

For those who like to know what the forecast has in store for us, here’s a good website to refer to – you can search anywhere in the world and it’s pretty spot-on.

<https://www.yr.no/en>

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*Team Victoria Turner*

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v.turner@bayleys.co.nz | 021 795 099  
1 Matariki St, Omaha Beach

New Zealand Hydrographic Authority Tide Predictions

# Omaha

Lat. 36°20.5'S Long. 174°45.9'E

## January 2025

N.Z. Local Times and Heights of High and Low Waters

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 We	02:51	0.6	9 Th	03:41	2.5	17 Fr	04:25	0.6	25 Sa	05:00	2.3
	09:35	2.7		09:31	0.8		10:54	2.7		10:46	1.1
2 Th	15:22	0.8	10 Fr	16:02	2.6	18 Sa	16:59	0.7	26 Su	17:03	2.3
	21:45	2.5		22:02	0.6		23:17	2.6		23:01	1.0
3 Fr	03:34	0.5	11 Sa	04:43	2.5	19 Su	05:08	0.6	27 Mo	05:55	2.4
	10:18	2.7		10:37	0.8		11:38	2.7		11:44	1.1
4 Sa	16:06	0.7	12 Su	17:00	2.6	20 Mo	17:41	0.7	28 Tu	17:57	2.3
	22:31	2.6		23:05	0.6		23:58	0.9		23:58	0.9
5 Su	04:17	0.5	13 Mo	05:44	2.6	21 Tu	00:01	2.5	29 We	06:46	2.4
	11:03	2.8		11:43	0.8		12:20	2.6		12:36	1.0
6 Mo	16:51	0.6	14 Tu	18:00	2.5	22 We	18:22	0.8	30 Th	18:51	2.4
	23:18	2.6		00:08	0.6		00:45	2.5		00:51	0.8
7 Tu	05:02	0.5	15 We	06:43	2.6	23 Th	06:30	0.8	31 Fr	00:51	0.8
	11:48	2.8		12:44	0.8		13:03	2.6		13:25	0.9
8 We	17:37	0.6	16 Th	18:59	2.5	24 Fr	19:02	0.8	1 Tu	07:35	2.5
	00:05	2.6		01:08	0.6		01:31	2.4		01:39	0.7
9 Th	05:49	0.5	17 Fr	07:39	2.7	25 Sa	07:13	0.9	3 Su	08:22	2.6
	12:34	2.8		13:42	0.8		13:47	2.5		14:12	0.8
10 Fr	18:25	0.6	18 Sa	19:57	2.5	26 Su	19:42	0.9	4 Mo	20:34	2.5
	00:54	2.6		02:02	0.6		02:18	2.4		01:39	0.7
11 Sa	06:38	0.6	19 Su	08:32	2.7	27 Mo	07:58	1.0	5 Tu	08:22	2.6
	13:22	2.7		14:35	0.7		14:32	2.5		14:12	0.8
12 Su	19:14	0.6	20 Mo	20:52	2.6	28 Tu	20:25	0.9	6 We	20:34	2.5
	01:46	2.6		02:53	0.5		03:10	2.3		02:26	0.6
13 We	07:31	0.6	21 Tu	09:22	2.7	29 We	08:49	1.1	7 Th	02:26	0.6
	14:13	2.7		15:26	0.7		15:19	2.4		09:08	2.7
14 Th	20:07	0.6	22 We	21:43	2.6	30 Th	21:12	1.0	8 Fr	09:08	2.7
	02:42	2.5		03:41	0.6		04:04	2.3		14:58	0.7
15 Fr	08:28	0.7	23 Th	10:09	2.7	31 Fr	09:53	2.8	9 Sa	14:58	0.7
	15:06	2.6		16:14	0.7		16:10	2.3		21:23	2.6
16 Sa	21:02	0.6	24 Fr	22:31	2.6	1 Tu	22:04	1.0	10 Su	21:23	2.6
	03:58	0.5		04:43	2.5		05:08	0.6		02:26	0.6
17 Su	10:38	2.9	25 Sa	05:24	2.5	3 Su	06:46	2.4	11 Mo	02:26	0.6
	16:30	0.5		11:28	0.9		07:13	0.9		08:22	2.6
18 Mo	22:58	2.8	26 Su	17:42	2.5	4 Tu	08:22	2.6	12 We	08:22	2.6
	04:45	0.4		23:52	0.8		09:00	2.7		09:00	2.7
19 Tu	11:24	2.9	27 Mo	06:24	2.6	5 We	10:14	2.6	13 Th	09:00	2.7
	17:17	0.5		12:31	0.9		11:08	1.0		15:08	0.8
20 We	23:46	2.8	28 Tu	18:44	2.5	14 Fr	13:28	0.9	14 Fr	21:24	2.6
	05:32	0.5		00:14	2.6		15:52	0.7		03:22	0.7
21 Th	18:04	0.5	29 We	00:58	2.5	15 Sa	13:08	2.5	15 Sa	09:45	2.7
	00:35	2.7		06:37	0.9		18:33	0.7		15:26	2.3
22 Fr	06:22	0.5	30 Th	13:28	0.9	16 Su	18:57	0.8	16 Su	22:09	2.6
	12:59	2.8		19:42	2.5		01:41	2.5		15:26	2.3
23 Sa	18:53	0.5	31 Fr	01:48	0.7	17 Mo	02:08	2.6	17 Mo	22:09	2.6
	01:27	2.7		08:12	2.7		07:18	1.0		02:08	2.6
24 Su	07:14	0.6	1 Tu	14:20	0.8	18 Tu	08:38	2.8	18 Tu	03:22	2.3
	13:50	2.7		20:36	2.5		14:32	0.6		08:57	1.1
25 Mo	19:44	0.5	2 Tu	01:41	2.5	19 We	20:59	2.7	19 We	15:26	2.3
	02:22	2.6		07:18	1.0		01:10	0.7		21:13	1.0
26 Tu	08:10	0.8	3 We	13:51	2.5	20 Th	01:10	0.7	20 Th	03:22	2.3
	14:43	2.7		19:37	0.9		07:50	2.7		08:57	1.1
27 We	20:39	0.6	4 Th	02:01	0.6	21 Fr	13:42	0.8	21 Fr	09:56	1.1
	03:21	2.6		08:38	2.8		20:08	2.6		16:21	2.3
28 Th	09:12	0.9	5 Fr	14:32	0.6	22 Sa	20:08	2.6	22 Sa	22:11	1.0
	15:40	2.6		20:59	2.7		02:01	0.6		16:21	2.3
29 Fr	21:39	0.7	6 Sa	02:01	0.6	23 Su	02:08	2.6	23 Su	22:11	1.0
	03:21	2.6		08:38	2.8		07:50	2.7		16:21	2.3
30 Sa	09:12	0.9	7 Su	14:32	0.6	24 Mo	07:50	2.7	24 Mo	09:56	1.1
	15:40	2.6		20:59	2.7		13:42	0.8		16:21	2.3
31 Su	21:39	0.7	8 Mo	02:01	0.6	25 Tu	20:08	2.6	25 Tu	22:11	1.0
	04:22	2.5		08:38	2.8		01:10	0.7		16:21	2.3

Times listed are N.Z. Daylight Time

New Zealand Hydrographic Authority Tide Predictions

# Omaha

Lat. 36°20.5'S Long. 174°45.9'E

## February 2025

N.Z. Local Times and Heights of High and Low Waters

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 Sa	03:58	0.5	9 Su	05:24	2.5	17 Mo	05:21	0.7	25 Tu	06:10	2.4
	10:38	2.9		11:28	0.9		11:48	2.6		11:57	1.0
2 Su	16:30	0.5	10 Mo	17:42	2.5	18 Tu	17:46	0.7	26 We	18:19	2.4
	22:58	2.8		23:52	0.8		00:14	2.6		07:01	2.5
3 Mo	04:45	0.4	11 Tu	06:24	2.6	19 We	00:58	2.5	27 Th	00:14	0.9
	11:24	2.9		12:31	0.9		06:37	0.9		07:50	2.7
4 Tu	17:17	0.5	12 We	18:44	2.5	20 Th	13:08	2.5	28 Fr	13:42	0.8
	23:46	2.8		00:53	0.7		18:57	0.8		20:08	2.6
5 We	05:32	0.5	13 Th	07:21	2.6	21 Fr	00:56	2.5	29 Sa	01:10	0.7
	12:11	2.9		13:28	0.9		06:37	0.9		07:50	2.7
6 Th	18:04	0.5	14 Fr	19:42	2.5	22 Sa	13:08	2.5	30 Su	13:42	0.8
	00:35	2.7		01:48	0.7		18:57	0.8		20:08	2.6
7 Fr	06:22	0.5	15 Sa	08:12	2.7	23 Su	01:41	2.5	31 Mo	02:01	0.6
	12:59	2.8		14:20	0.8		07:18	1.0		08:38	2.8
8 Sa	18:53	0.5	16 Su	20:36	2.5	24 Mo	13:51	2.5	1 Tu	14:32	0.6
	01:27	2.7		01:41	2.5		19:37	0.9		20:59	2.7
9 Su	07:14	0.6	17 Mo	02:37	0.7	25 Tu	02:01	0.6	2 Tu	02:01	0.6
	13:50	2.7		09:00	2.7		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
10 Mo	19:44	0.5	18 Tu	15:08	0.8	26 We	02:01	0.6	3 We	02:01	0.6
	02:22	2.6		21:24	2.6		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
11 Tu	08:10	0.8	19 We	02:29	2.4	27 Th	02:01	0.6	4 Th	02:01	0.6
	14:43	2.7		08:05	1.0		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
12 We	20:39	0.6	20 Th	14:36	2.4	28 Fr	02:01	0.6	5 Fr	02:01	0.6
	03:21	2.6		20:22	0.9		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
13 Th	09:12	0.9	21 Fr	02:29	2.4	29 Sa	02:01	0.6	6 Sa	02:01	0.6
	15:40	2.6		08:05	1.0		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
14 Fr	21:39	0.7	22 Sa	14:36	2.4	30 Su	02:01	0.6	7 Su	02:01	0.6
	03:21	2.6		20:22	0.9		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
15 Sa	09:12	0.9	23 Su	02:29	2.4	31 Mo	02:01	0.6	8 Mo	02:01	0.6
	15:40	2.6		08:05	1.0		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8
16 Su	21:39	0.7	24 Mo	14:36	2.4	1 Tu	02:01	0.6	9 Tu	02:01	0.6
	04:22	2.5		20:22	0.9		08:38	2.8		08:38	2.8

Times listed are N.Z. Daylight Time

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Omaha Beach Community Inc. will be held at **Omaha Beach Community Centre, North-West Anchorage, Omaha Beach** on SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2025 at 10:00am followed by drinks and nibbles

**OBC AGM AGENDA 2025**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 21st January 2024
4. Receipt of the President's Report for 2024
5. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2024
6. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2025 Subscription Year and Security Levy
7. Election of the Committee for the 2025 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
8. Receipt of Club Reports
9. General Business

**Executive Officer**  
Omaha Beach Community Inc.

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](http://www.omahabeach.co.nz) or you may request a copy by emailing [us@omahabeach.co.nz](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz). Copies will also be available at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 12th January 2025.



**Statement of Financial Performance**

Omaha Beach Community Inc  
For the year ended 31 October 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>			
Advertising Income - Newsletter		650	4,750
Advertising Income - Other		1,500	2,109
Donations Received		1,149	550
Interest Income		6,225	2,310
Subscription Income		79,826	79,794
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>89,349</b>	<b>89,513</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising		109	360
Bank Fees		259	207
Depreciation - Fixed Assets		4,257	3,723
Freight, Courier & Postage		253	303
General Expenses		942	659
Insurance		4,292	1,140
Loss on Disposal		1,090	-
Maintenance		-	4,670
Committee Meeting Expenses & Reimbursements		494	250
Newletters		15,287	11,149
Office & Administration Expenses		6,041	5,997
Pest Eradication		2,093	237
Rubbish/Recycling		1,000	-
Security - Camera Maintenance & Patrol Costs		32,490	30,600
Website Development & Maintenance		1,211	1,355
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>69,818</b>	<b>60,649</b>
<b>Operating Income/(Loss) for the Year</b>		<b>19,531</b>	<b>28,864</b>
<b>Less Non Operating and Non Recurring Items</b>			
Donation - Golf Club heat pumps 50%		-	4,854
<b>Net Profit (Loss) for the Year</b>		<b>19,531</b>	<b>24,010</b>

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



16 Te Mana Street, Omaha sold at auction

**Another fantastic Gold Standard result**

I have the buyers - do you have their new dream home? Let's talk because my reputation is built on your success.

*Wishing all my valued clients a very safe and happy Christmas*



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rod@RodCheesemanRealty.co.nz  
www.RodCheesemanRealty.co.nz



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## Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc  
As at 31 October 2024

	NOTES	31 OCT 2024	31 OCT 2023
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			
BNZ Oncall		50,668	4,706
BNZ Cheque		34,433	37,117
ASB Cheque		4,090	4,090
Total Bank Accounts		89,191	45,913
Receivables		4,452	5,522
GST Receivable		-	1,912
Term Deposits	6	56,009	78,473
Total Current Assets		149,652	131,821
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment		27,580	25,795
Total Non-Current Assets		27,580	25,795
Total Assets		177,232	157,616
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
GST Payable		85	-
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees		10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities		10,085	10,000
Net Assets		167,147	147,616
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		147,616	123,605
Current year earnings		19,531	24,010
Total Equity		167,147	147,616

For and on behalf of the Committee:

President: Chris Allan

Treasurer: Rohan Meuli

Date: 18 November 2024

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 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Statement of Financial Performance</b>		
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Golf Club Contributions Community Centre	11,982	12,298
GC Contribution re AC Insurance/Maintenance fee (6 years)	6,000	-
Interest Income - Community Maintenance Fund	2,899	1,177
Total Income	20,881	13,474
<b>Less Expenditures</b>		
Maintenance - Community Centre	14,835	2,500
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	6,046	10,974
<b>Accumulated Funds at Start of Year</b>		
Community Maintenance Fund - Retained Earnings	59,894	48,920
Accumulated Funds at Year End	65,941	59,894

	2024	2023
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>BNZ Current Account</b>		
Community Maintenance	27,745	20,604
<b>BNZ Term Deposits</b>		
Term Deposit 3047 - CM Fund	25,878	-
Term Deposit 3023 - CM Fund	15,112	14,431
Term Deposit - 3045 CM Fund	-	25,000
Total BNZ Term Deposits	40,990	39,431
Accounts Receivable	1,171	1,126
GST CC	(3,964)	(1,267)
Total Assets	65,941	59,894
Accumulated Funds at Year End	65,941	59,894

### OMAHA PARK

The sum of \$32,366.76 is held in Grove Darlow's (Solicitors) 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 on 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.



**THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS' SOCIETY INC. (OBRS)**

The current OBRS Committee comprises: Tony Coupe (Chair), Fiona Hyland, Daniel McCarthy, Derek Nolan KC, Faris Azimullah, Mayuri Goodwin and Phil Bougen. The Secretary is Paul Macnicol. Here is a report from Tony Coupe, Chair.

The OBRS committee has applied itself well this year to the various matters facing it. I am thankful for the contributions that each Committee member has made, particularly bearing in mind the many voluntary unpaid hours they generously fill undertaking their roles.

OBRS is a Corporate Member of Omaha Beach Community Inc. (OBC) and therefore, essentially, each OBRS member is also a member of OBC.

OBRS was established by the developers of Omaha South to operate as a Body Corporate. Its purpose is to deal with all matters affecting South Omaha and, in particular, to ensure that new builds and alterations are compliant with Design Guidelines. Those Omaha South Design Guidelines are administered by a sub-committee, namely the Design Control Committee (DCC). The DCC comprises Derek Nolan KC, Chair, Peter Neeve (Planning Consultant) and Brent Hulena and Richard Harris (both architects).

In the last 12 months, from October 2023, the DCC has considered the following applications:

- New houses - 3
- Additions and alterations - 10
- Other (swimming pools, exterior colour changes, fencing, landscaping) - 15

Each of these submissions has had to be carefully considered to ensure it falls within our South Omaha Precinct Design Guidelines. These submissions can range from relatively straightforward to complex applications which the DCC considers and deliberates upon using the professional expertise and knowledge of its members as architects and planners.

**Private Plan Change**

In 2022 OBRS submitted a request for a change to some of the provisions in the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) as they affect Omaha South. The purpose of the Plan change was to amend the

definitions of yards in the Omaha South Precinct to better align them with the legacy controls under the former Rodney District Plan which has been the basis for the form of development that has occurred at Omaha South.

Existing rear lots, in particular, were disadvantaged under the yard definitions in the AUP. Owners of these sites would unnecessarily have had to seek Resource Consents to apply before building, instead of the long-standing controls that previously governed building at Omaha South. The Plan change also clarifies that the development controls in Omaha South are the primary controls that need to be met.

The Plan change was notified to all Omaha South property owners and a number of submissions were lodged. After the hearing, the Council Hearing Commissioners approved the change and the amendments to the AUP have now been incorporated.

**Tennis Courts**

OBRS is also responsible for administering and maintaining the three tennis court complexes at Tuna Place, Mangatawhiri Road and Taumata Road. The court complexes are now over 20 years old. Users of the courts at both Mangatawhiri Road and Taumata Road will have noticed that the artificial turf surfaces are in a poor state and in need of replacement, notwithstanding our regular maintenance over the years. The OBRS Committee has resolved to resurface these two complexes. Tuna Place was refurbished five years ago with artificial turf. Extensive research has led us to going with a hard-court surface as used in Stanley St. Tennis Arena.

There are two reasons for this, one is cost. Although court replacement has been budgeted and saved for in our Long-Term Maintenance Plan, the costs of new artificial surfaces have skyrocketed in comparison to hard-court surfaces. We have funds in hand to meet the refurbishment of hard-court surfaces.

Secondly, hard-court surfaces allow for the possibility of incorporating Pickleball court lines onto the courts, so as to promote further use and options for community use of the courts. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the USA and is an easier, more accessible and family-friendly game.

We have consulted with our South Omaha community, both at our last AGM in May 2024 and subsequently by email, on this possibility. There has been both keen support as well as push-back from some members. We have taken the concerns raised by some members on board, principally about noise. At the time of writing, no decision on Pickleball has been made.

**Community Objectives and Initiatives**

The OBRS Committee has an overarching responsibility to administer building guideline compliance for new builds and alterations in Omaha South. We are also considering what initiatives could enhance the lifestyle and enjoyment of Omaha South Community members – any ideas from our members would be gratefully received.

The upcoming holiday season is near – I wish all Omaharians a safe and enjoyable summer and trust it will enable you the rest and recreation that the area provides.

*Tony Coupe, Chair, OBRS Inc.*

**THE COASTAL TRAIL : A REVITALISED VISION AND COLLABORATION WITH SAWMILL BREWERY**

The Coastal Trail, formerly known as the Matakana Coast Trail Trust (MCTT), has unveiled a fresh brand and renewed momentum, marking a significant step forward in its long-standing vision.

This ambitious project aims to create over 100 kms of trails, connecting Pūhoi to Mangawhai through some of the most scenic areas in the region. The trail will sustainably connect our communities, preserve the environment, and provide exciting outdoor recreational opportunities for both locals and visitors.

A particularly exciting development is the start of construction on a critical 2.2 km section linking Point Wells to Matakana Country Park. This milestone is a huge win for the community, showcasing the dedication and hard work invested in this project. After thousands of volunteer hours, this section, which runs along Omaha Flats and Point Wells Road, is set to enhance safety and accessibility for residents and visitors alike. Scheduled for completion this summer, it promises to



*The Coastal Trail team*

transform a previously hazardous route into a safe and inviting path, further enriching the trail network.

To celebrate the progress of **The Coastal Trail**, a partnership with Sawmill Brewery has led to the creation of *The Trail Raiser*, a limited-edition Oyster Stout offering locals a unique way to support the project. This collaboration embodies the spirit of sustainability and community; with each can sold, funds directly contribute to the construction of the trail.

Crafted with local Matakana oysters and Kawakawa, this silky, spicy stout not only highlights regional flavours but also serves as a toast to community spirit. The evolving can design reflects

the ongoing journey of the trail itself, changing with each batch to symbolise the shared vision of bringing **The Coastal Trail** to life. As the back of the can explains, "The design reflects the progress we have made in constructing **The Coastal Trail** cycle path." Every sip of The Trail Raiser encourages supporters to "raise a can to raise some cash," directly aiding the next stages of trail development.

You can get your hands on a limited-edition can of *Trail Raiser* from the Sawmill Brewery, The Superette – Omaha, Matakana Liquor, or online at [www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz/trailraiser](http://www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz/trailraiser)

As **The Coastal Trail** brand identity takes shape and construction advances, the project stands as a testament to how local action can create lasting change. There are many ways for community members to get involved, whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word. To learn more about The Coastal Trail, its mission, and how you can help, visit [www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz](http://www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz) or contact Meg on 021 984 316.

**TE ARAROA : THE LONG PATHWAY**

Thanks to Clay Wakefield of the Auckland Tamaki Makaurau Te Araora Trust for an overview of the stretch of Te Araora on our doorstep.



When we stand on Omaha beach or are in the Whangateau estuary and look due west our view is to Mt Tamahunga, with its native bush clad slopes and a Meteorological Service radar dome at its peak (437m). With an increasing focus on pest eradication, alongside recently reintroduced Kiwi, Mt Tamahunga is a wonderful part of our local backyard.

What few people know is that traversing Mt Tamahunga is also a part of **Te Araroa (TA) – The Long Pathway** – the 3,000km continuous walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. <https://www.teararoa.org.nz>

The trail was opened in 2011 and since then has established itself as one of the great long-distance walks of the world. About 60% of **Te Araroa** crosses Department of Conservation Land, including many highlights of New Zealand backcountry walking, with 30% crossing public parks and reserves and a further 10% crossing private property. The trail is physically signposted for all of the 3,000km including our local section.

Each year approximately 2,000 walkers from all over the globe walk **Te Araroa** in one continuous journey, mostly heading Southbound (SOBO) with some doing the Northbound (NOBO) route. The journey takes somewhere between four to six months during the predominant walking season of October to April. This timing allows for the South Island rivers and mountain crossings to be traversed safely over summer. Additionally, many walkers, called "section walkers", (often New Zealanders), complete TA in smaller manageable sections over a number of years and walking seasons.

TA walkers reach Mt Tamahunga after walking 482 km from Cape Reinga (or 2,557km from Bluff!) and having walked Pakiri Beach from Mangawhai as part of the trail. You may see walkers on the trail in Pakiri as well as on Mt Tamahunga and they are often sighted crossing Matakana Valley Road as they traverse Govan Wilson Road into Dome Valley and then to Puhoi, Waiwera and onto the city. Sometimes they deviate to Matakana to resupply or if weather conditions require a detour. Obvious by the backpacks they carry, walkers are self-contained with tents and food for the longer sections or, alternatively, TAs (Trail Angels) may offer beds, showers and meals along the way.

So, over our summer, when looking west from Omaha to Mt Tamuhunga, spare a thought for our **Te Araroa** walkers on their long and fabulous journey as they move through our local backyard – or maybe you’re keen to try this local part of **Te Araroa** yourself!

Clay Wakefield  
(TA SOBO completed 2023)

### A POWERFUL UPDATE – NEWS VECTOR

#### News about Omaha’s power supply and Vector’s progress

As many of you have been aware, continuity of power supply into Omaha has, in the past, been an ongoing challenge.

This year the OBC committee has worked hard to establish a strong relationship with senior members of the “Customer Experience” team at Vector. We met with them in March of this year to voice our community’s concern regarding the regular power outages that we had been experiencing.

As some background to this it is important to know that Omaha is viewed as a “rural community” and, as such, we do not enjoy the same service levels as our city cousins.

Below is an extract of the service levels that we can expect as rural customers (from [https://blob-static.vector.co.nz/blob/vector/media/vector-2022/vector\\_service\\_standard\\_res\\_2022.pdf](https://blob-static.vector.co.nz/blob/vector/media/vector-2022/vector_service_standard_res_2022.pdf)):

We are now actively monitoring all outages that we experience here in Omaha that exceed the 4.5-hour

#### time to restore power

Unexpected interruptions to your power supply can happen and when they do, we know how important it is to get the power back on.

Once we learn of an unplanned outage on our network, we endeavour to restore the power supply as quickly as reasonably practicable. If we don’t restore your power within the timeframes outlined below, we commit to pay you \$50 if you ask us to do so. That’s equivalent to almost one month’s line charges for the average household. The timeframes are:

- 2 hours in the CBD
- 2.5 hours in urban areas
- 4.5 hours in rural areas

To make a \$50 claim, you must contact us to request the payment within six months of the eligible power outage either by phone on 0508 VECTOR (0508 832 867) or by email to [info@vector.co.nz](mailto:info@vector.co.nz)

#### number of interruptions

We strive to minimise interruptions and currently average around one fault per customer, per year. However, the number of interruptions each customer experiences may vary widely. This is usually related to your location and rural customers can expect more outages because the network is exposed to more interference from weather and trees.

We expect the number of interruptions longer than 1 minute that a customer experiences per year should not exceed:

- 4 in the CBD and urban areas
- 10 in rural areas

We expect most customers will experience the lower end of each range. During the process of fixing a fault on our network the power may trip on and off more than once, and we count this as a single interruption.

threshold. Earlier this year (20th February), we encouraged our Omaha people, via the Omaha Beach Community Facebook page, to lodge claims with Vector relating to an outage we experienced in October 2023.

When we met with Vector in March, they acknowledged that the Omaha community “deserved an explanation” regarding the issues that we have experienced with the continuity of supply of power – especially post Cyclone Gabrielle.

As background, Vector inherited infrastructure from the previous Auckland Electric Power Board (AEPB) (of which ~70% was underground) and from Waitemata (of which ~90% was overhead) – it is this last network that we are on, and this has been the most problematic and most concerning for Vector. During the winter of 2023, (after Cyclone Gabrielle) there was a huge slip adjacent to their major feed up to Wellsford that, had it weakened more, could have taken out the power to the whole area for a very long period of time. To mitigate this, they installed a mini generator farm based in Warkworth for most of 2023 which augmented the power supply considerably to the local area.

During the summer of 2023/2024 Vector then made significant progress by:

- Completing the works around undergrounding of the main power cables from Wellsford to Warkworth (through the Dome – this has more capacity than the previous overhead lines and is much more resilient); and
- Commissioning and activating a new Substation (called Big Omaha) –

located past the Sawmill Brewery just beyond Quintal Road on the way to Leigh.

There are now four substations on their Northern circuit (which covers the area from Wellsford/Warkworth and across to Snells Beach). They are planning on adding another four substations to this Northern circuit based on the projected growth in the area (especially in Warkworth).

Previously our feed of power into Omaha was from the Warkworth substation (opposite the Warkworth Golf Club). We are now fed by the Big Omaha substation which services Omaha (via the causeway), Point Wells, Whangateau, Leigh and further up the coast. This means we are less likely to be affected by outages than we previously were, and we are now much closer to our local substation.

Interestingly, there is also a power supply feed that comes over the hill at the southern end of Omaha. We’re not sure how much of a backup this could provide to Omaha, but it certainly is good that it’s there.

We also ascertained that as soon as five faults are logged (either via their online website or via the phone) an “area outage” should be activated.

Following these ongoing discussions with Vector, and the relationships we have formed, your OBC Committee now feels much more comfortable with where Vector is and their ability to ensure we have minimal disruptions.

### THE INTERNET, MOBILE DATA AND SOCIAL MEDIA AT OMAHA

#### Fibre Network

As of August 2024, copper is no longer available in Omaha. To find out more about getting connected to the new ultra-fast fibre network in the area visit [www.chorus.co.nz/get-connected](http://www.chorus.co.nz/get-connected) or call 0800 222 644.

**Omaha Beach Community Inc. Website**  
[www.omahabeach.co.nz](http://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](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz) and we’ll update the website accordingly.

**Omaha Beach Community Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach](https://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!

#### Matakana App

<https://matakanacoastapp.com>

Download this handy app to your phone to find out what’s going on in and around Matakana as you’re out and about.

#### ONE NZ/STARLINK UPDATE

One NZ continues to invest millions of dollars in improving and upgrading our mobile network, as we roll out 4G and 5G across the country.

They are planning to build two additional sites for Matakana in 2025, one along Omaha Flats Road and one to the north, both of which will significantly improve coverage in the area and the projects are under acquisition process. In the meantime, One New Zealand customers can also use Wifi calling (<https://one.nz/our-networks/wifi-calling>) to stay in touch.

With their SpaceX partnership launching soon (date still TBC in the coming months), this will help with all coverage blackspots, initially enabling One NZ customers to send and receive TXT messages anywhere in NZ with line of sight to the sky. More info here: <https://media.one.nz/testing>

### BEACH & SAFETY ETIQUETTE

Please respect the beach this summer. It is important to note the Alcohol Ban and measure being taken around this.

- No alcohol on the beach (or any public space) between 7pm and 7am during daylight savings. This will be strictly observed by patrols and Police throughout the summer period.
- Respect the dog rules and pick up after your dog (page 34).
- Stay off the dunes, they need protection for a purpose! (See page 9)
- No fires or fireworks on the beach.
- Stay safe in the water; let someone know if you intend to go swimming alone.
- Be kind and respectful – and show patience.
- Observe the speed limits when driving, including the causeway.
- Use golf carts appropriately; no racing around on the roads, or on Reserves.
- Report anything untoward to Insite Security or the Police.

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

#### WE’D LOVE YOU TO JOIN OUR OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY INC. COMMITTEE!

The OBC Committee undertakes a wide range of work on behalf of the community – things like dealing with Council and Auckland Transport on drainage, flooding, shore protection, paths and roading issues to name a few.

An important piece of work that benefits the community, and visitors, is the organisation of additional rubbish and recycling collections over the holiday period.

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 that 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 to give to your community, please contact us, we’d love to hear from you. Email: [us@omahabeach.co.nz](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz)



**OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB INC.**

General Manager: Frazer Bond  
 President: Robert Begg  
 Patron: Michael Dowd  
 Email: [support@omahagolf.co.nz](mailto:support@omahagolf.co.nz)  
 Website: [www.omahagolf.co.nz](http://www.omahagolf.co.nz)  
 Phone: 09 422 7551

We are excited to share that Omaha Golf Club has experienced remarkable growth this year, both on the course and in our membership. As of October, we have recorded 30,000 rounds – a 27% increase compared to last year, with the busy season still ahead.

Our focus remains on strengthening our membership and building connections within the community, a commitment we will continue into next year. Currently, our membership is nearing 950 across all categories. We are also enhancing our offerings with non-golf-related events, such as our recent Jules Taylor Wine Tasting evening and other themed gatherings for those who may not yet be interested in golf.

We've introduced a new social membership card with even more benefits. For just \$100, anyone can join as a social member, and that fee will be credited back to your club account for use at the bar or in the golf shop. Plus, you'll earn 10% back on your account any time you buy, for future spending. This is now one of our annual membership options.

Of course, OBC members are also entitled to become associate non-playing members of the Golf Club free of charge. This enables you to enjoy the facilities at the clubhouse, including the bar (no discounts apply), without the need to sign in. If you don't already have one of the orange cards, please get in touch.

This year, we've completed the 18th hole, along with a new chipping facility and a larger putting green. We will also be adding nets to the driving range to help players warm up with their bigger clubs.

Our Golf Shop is expanding with new products, including everyday essentials like sunscreen, round neck shirts, shorts, and more. It's worth stopping by – even if you're not a golfer.



Photo: Benjamin Brook Photography



The Estuary Café & Bar team, led by Peter and Chef Warwick, has been enhancing their offerings over the past year. They have successfully delivered various events and continue to serve delicious breakfasts, cabinet food, and amazing pies. Our Friday night dining is nearly sold out each week! Reservations are welcome at 09 422 7551, or feel free to just drop by.

We're also planning a much-needed upgrade to the bar, expanding our selection of wines, spirits and tap



cocktails to cater to everyone's tastes. The bar is open to all, subject to liquor licensing requirements, so grab a friend or come down to meet new ones!

We have several projects underway at the Club, from small maintenance tasks like cart shed upkeep and improving the cleaning bay, to painting water tanks and planting more native trees. We're also focused on larger golf hole enhancements to elevate our course's standing on New Zealand's map.

If you have any questions about the Golf Club, membership or bookings, please email [support@omahagolf.co.nz](mailto:support@omahagolf.co.nz). We look forward to seeing you this summer. Thank you!

*Frazer Bond, NZPGA Member. Omaha Beach Golf Club General Manager*

**ESTUARY CAFÉ & BAR – TREATS AND TREASURES**

Sally Blyth met with Peter Burney, co-owner of the Estuary Café & Bar, to go behind the scenes of this great local offering.

Estuary Café & Bar is co-owned by Peter Burney and Warwick McIndoe and they have a team of nine staff.

Initially, Johnny & Warwick from Bramble Café took over the Estuary Café & Bar in mid-2023. Once it was up and running in its new guise, and ticking along nicely, Johnny made the call to relinquish his interest in order to fully focus on Bramble and other activities. He asked his friend Peter Burney, who was General Manager at the Matakana Country Park at the time, if he would like to get involved. Having been in hospitality for 30+ years, Peter leapt at the opportunity, initially giving Johnny and Warwick a hand and then coming in as an official partner when Johnny stepped back in September 2023.

Thus, Peter and Warwick are now joint owners and directors of (Bobby Dazzler Hospitality Ltd) Estuary Café & Bar and have a formal lease with the Golf Club to operate. Over the past year, Peter and Warwick have been busy growing the business and refining their offering. Getting to know their customers has all been part of the journey. Working as a chef back in the 1990s, Peter was involved in Shed 5 and various other well-known Wellington establishments. He moved to Auckland in 1995 and had a stint at Melba and other iconic restaurants. He then got into bar management, managing the Kings Arms until its time was up. Having also worked in Australia and Europe, he is now loving life north of Auckland overseeing our community café. It's a busy life but with a more relaxed edge to it.

Warwick is head chef at Estuary Café & Bar, whipping up delicious meals and cabinet food, together with the staff team. Everything (99%) is made from scratch on the premises. Their full



The Estuary Cafe and Bar crew gathering

breakfast menu is available Wednesday to Sunday, with Warwick getting a well-earned rest on Mondays and Tuesdays when only cabinet food is available. Golfers, tradies, bowlers, car clubs, walking groups, cycling groups and locals come in droves for a food top-up during the day and the home-made pies and toasties (ham off the bone) get a big "thumbs up"!

At weekends during the hot summer period, Peter gets out on a golf cart to sell homemade sandwiches and a range of soft drinks to hungry and thirsty golfers who really appreciate this service.

Keen to initiate innovative offerings, the team held a mega Treasure Hunt on Easter Sunday 2024 and it went off with a bang, with about 400 kids turning up to hunt for eggs. Another one is planned for Easter Sunday 2025 with even more eggs and other goodies!

Friday nights at Estuary Café & Bar are full-on and always booked out. Business quadruples over the summer months and the team managed ably last time but say they're better prepared for this coming summer season.

Providing substantial tasty food that is value for money is what Peter and Warwick are aiming for. The place is full to the brim for breakfast every weekend and there's a steady stream of clientele enjoying the wide array of food, which is all testament to this being what they deliver. They also cater for a range of groups who meet at the Community Centre.

Peter says planning is in full swing as the summer looms, with the beanbags and deck chairs ready to go out on the lawn and regular music gigs being planned. The team is looking forward to welcoming Andy back and other artists over summer and the ice-cream van will be returning too.

The word about what's on when at Estuary Café & Bar gets spread via their Facebook page as well as through the

Golf Club – look out for some fabulous summer offerings and get down and enjoy the summer vibe by the estuary!

- Estuary Café is open from 7:30am to 3pm daily at the Community Centre.
- Fridays till late (bookings required).
- Open till 8pm every night during January 2025 to make the most of summer.
- Snack menu only on Public Holidays/ long weekends.
- Closed Christmas Day.

Contact: [Peter.burney@gmail.com](mailto:Peter.burney@gmail.com)  
 (09) 220 7572

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

**OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE – A WELL-UTILISED HUB**

In addition to being a hub for golfers, the Community Centre gets used by many different groups and individuals in all sorts of ways. Estuary Café & Bar provides catering. The bar has a wide range of beverage offerings and sometimes there's entertainment on site. Always, there's a convivial atmosphere and beautiful views.

Here's a snapshot of some of the groups who enjoy the use of our fabulous Community Centre.

- Dinner Friday nights
- Golf tournaments and events
- OBC AGM in January & OBC Committee meetings
- OBRS Friends of Omaha
- Black and White golfers (annual event, sponsoring disadvantaged youth to play golf)
- Bowling Club on Wednesdays
- U3A annual event
- Bridge
- Mahjong over winter
- Car clubs – random but regular
- Cycling groups
- Walking groups
- WAPPS
- Social Events e.g. Family Days, Jules Taylor, horse racing, rugby etc

**OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (OBSLC)**

President: Linda Crisford  
 Email: [mail@omahasurf.co.nz](mailto:mail@omahasurf.co.nz)  
 Website: [www.omahasurf.co.nz](http://www.omahasurf.co.nz)  
 Phone: 09-422 7022

See the feature article in this Newsletter for an overview of OBSLC. Remember this summer – don't swim alone, swim between the flags and check the conditions so you keep safe.

**OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB**

President: Christine Wilkinson  
 Patron: Tony Teare  
 Email: wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com  
 Phone: 021 177 7173

What a busy year of bowling it's been with far less rain this winter and more playable days out on the green. With more members joining we are becoming a fairly large club for such a small area. This year we've managed to send quite a few teams and individuals through to play in North Harbour competitions at the next level. We are starting to make our presence known at North Harbour competitions with Omaha now on the radar as a competitive club. Alongside this, we continue to have our social bowlers come and have a rollup on a Wednesday morning and then head to the Estuary Café for coffee and a catchup afterwards. Omaha has a good rapport with other clubs in our area, especially Mahurangi (Snells Beach) and Warkworth.

Omaha Beach Bowling Club has now had a year in its newly renovated clubrooms and it feels like we've had this lovely new space for ages! It's made such a difference with the extra room and the lightness of the whole area. We can now host tournaments without bowlers having to sit outside and be separated from the main area. We now have room to tailor for the additional membership which has grown to around 130 members. Last year we were very close to reaching 100 members. I believe some of this is due to the renovations and also, with more members, we've become very visual from the footpath with a lot of people stopping to watch the bowlers during their weekend walks and cycle rides.

This year, with our membership still growing, we've seen a lot more players using the green and coming down for a

rollup. We now have plenty of days and options for members to choose from.

This coming year we get to settle down a bit and "play bowls". There are no big projects in the pipeline. We do have a couple of smaller "tidy up" jobs which include laying tiger turf or similar in the outdoor BBQ area. Other than that, it will be general maintenance around the Clubhouse.

We are still very much a volunteer-based organisation and rely on our members to be on the committee and take care of all things in relation to the Club including running tournaments, maintenance, cleaning and anything that needs doing. This is a great way to meet others within the Club while improving the facility we have for all of our members.

Paul – aka Coach – puts in a lot of time and patience with all the new bowlers, helping them settle in and learn a few things about bowls.

**Sponsorship**

In September 2023 we welcomed Heather Walton Bycroft and Mark Bycroft from Ray White Matakana as our MAJOR Sponsors for the next couple of years. We thank them for their support of the Bowling Club and for all they do for us. Please support them where you can. Heather and Mark also donated the large TV in the Clubhouse. We hope to hold a couple of member movie nights or similar during the year as well as enabling members to watch sports after a game of bowls.

Thanks also to all those sponsors who support the tournaments throughout the year and pay for signage on the scoreboards and sheds. This all contributes to our holding account for a new green when this eventually needs replacement.

This year we will be holding our first NEW WORLD Warkworth Ham Tournament – thanks to Damian Langley for sponsoring

this event which will be open to all clubs, with Christmas ham prizes to be won.

**Subscription Fee**

Our subscription fee for this year is \$190 – such great value for money to get you outdoors, socialising and playing a great game. If you wish to join up or come down for a game of bowls, or find out more, please contact:

Mike Jackson 021 839 964 or Paul van der Linden 021 189 0110.

From all of us at the Omaha Beach Bowling Club, have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Christine Wilkinson, President,  
Omaha Bowling Club*

**OMAHA TENNIS CLUB**

Administrator: Amanda Brown  
 Email: seanamanda13@hotmail.com

Omaha Beach Tennis Club is a members' only Club adjacent to the Community Centre. Family subscription is \$100 per annum. The season runs from 1 December to 30 November. If you are interested in joining the Club, please email Amanda Brown 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](http://www.omahabeach.co.nz)
- "Omaha Beach Community" Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach>

Contact us by email [us@omahabeach.co.nz](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz) with any queries or suggestions.

CLUB	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
Omaha Beach Golf Club	Frazer Bond	09 4227551	<a href="mailto:gm@omahagolf.co.nz">gm@omahagolf.co.nz</a>
Omaha Beach Surf Life Saving Club	Linda Crisford	09 422 7022	<a href="mailto:mail@omahasurf.co.nz">mail@omahasurf.co.nz</a>
Omaha Bowling Club	Christine Wilkinson	021 177 7173	<a href="mailto:wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com">wilkinsonsmc@gmail.com</a>
Omaha Tennis Club	Amanda Brown		<a href="mailto:seanamanda13@hotmail.com">seanamanda13@hotmail.com</a>

**SAYERS SAYS IT**

A Message from Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers



As the end of the year approaches, how is Auckland Council performing under Mayor Wayne Brown and his election promise to "Fix Auckland"? Financially the Auckland Council Group performed better than it has under previous Mayors, particularly given the additional challenges from last year's weather events.

Auckland has had a large cost-of-living impact, with high inflation and interest rates affecting the daily lives of many residents and ratepayers.

However, the big financial positive is that Auckland Council's costs are now getting under control. Council is back on track in terms of being in a good position to tackle some of the bigger physical and financial challenges Auckland has put off for too long.

These include:

- fixing Auckland's infrastructure
- increased transport funding and activities to deliver better, more efficient public transport
- building financial and physical resilience of the region following last year's weather events
- providing fairer funding for local boards – so more local community facilities can be built in our area
- getting Council finances in better shape for the future.

Areas of focus include repaying debt from the proceeds of selling poorly-performing airport shares, and also making sure Auckland's port is making a profit for ratepayers.

Underpinning this progress, is that Council staff and management have taken on board Mayor Brown's determination for there to be a laser-like focus to stop wasting money. He is not there yet, but he has made a good start within the bureaucracy, including dramatically cutting out the upper management layer. The Mayor is particularly pleased to see this layer of bureaucracy and duplication removed and it goes hand-in-hand with moves to find savings and rein in operating spending, while not compromising

the activities and services the Council provides to Aucklanders.

At the beginning of the financial year, Council faced a fragile future with a potential budget hole. But it has been a good year for the Mayor, and ratepayers, because he has stemmed an incoming financial tide.

Additionally, the Mayor has done a deal to get extra money for Auckland for weather recovery and resilience from central Government. He has also put Council in a stronger financial position for the future with the establishment of the "Future Fund" to mitigate rates rises for Aucklanders should the city be hit by another major weather bomb.

Mayor Brown feels he has made good inroads with the new Government, including looking at ways to fund transport and water infrastructure.

All-in-all, not a bad effort by Mayor Brown during his first term – but, of course, there's more to do and he will need to continue to work hard to fix Auckland, and deliver more for the Omaha community through working with myself, the Rodney Local Board, and our local resident and ratepayer groups.

On a personal note, I have continued to work hand-in-hand with the OBC and the Omaha Beach Residents Society on projects including gaining better protection for the dotterels at the Omaha spit reserve, getting misinformed flood plans corrected, and sorting-out the Community Centre lease.

I look forward to serving Omaha's interests again in 2025. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy summer.

*Cr. Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor, Auckland Council*

Phone: 021 285 9900  
[greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
<https://gregsayers.co.nz>

**REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN RODNEY**



An Update from Ivan Wagstaff, Rodney Local Board Member

Hey everyone, I really appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the past year and share some of highlights,

especially in Omaha. It's been a year full of challenges and achievements, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.

**Rebuilding and Improving Our Spaces**

One of our biggest focuses this year was on restoring and improving our infrastructure and public spaces, especially after the severe weather events early in the year. In Omaha, we completed the renewal of walkways and signage, making it safer and more enjoyable for everyone to get out and explore. The Omaha walkway renewal project has been a highlight and continues to encourage us all to get outdoors.

**Stormwater Upgrades in Omaha**

We've also continued our work on stormwater upgrades in Omaha. These upgrades are essential for managing heavy rainfall and preventing flooding, which has been a significant concern for our community. By improving the stormwater infrastructure, we're helping to protect homes and public spaces from water damage and ensuring a safer environment for everyone.

**Whangateau Harbour Initiatives**

We've also been actively working on environmental projects in Whangateau Harbour. Our efforts have focused on improving water quality and restoring natural habitats. By partnering with local environmental groups, we've made significant strides in reducing pollution and protecting the diverse marine life in the harbour. These initiatives are crucial for maintaining the ecological health of the area and ensuring it remains a beautiful and vibrant place for future generations.

**Engaging with Our Community**

Despite some temporary closures, our libraries continued to be a cornerstone of community life. We kept the programs running, supported mobile library services, and made sure volunteer libraries had what they needed. The Warkworth library, in particular, remains a vibrant space for learning and connection.

We also backed a bunch of community-led initiatives aimed at environmental restoration and pest management. These efforts have been especially impactful in Omaha, where local groups have been working hard to preserve the natural beauty of the area. By funding



these initiatives, we've empowered residents to take an active role in maintaining their environment.

**Keeping Omaha Safe**

Looking ahead, safety will continue to be a big priority for us, especially in Omaha. After last year's issues with teenage disturbances during the summer break, we're planning to support you by implementing strategies to keep the area safe, similar to the work we've done in other town centres. These include increasing Police presence, improving lighting in key areas, and organising community patrols. We've sought additional compliance officers specifically for our coastal areas in Rodney and these extra resources will help patrol our communities and ensure bylaws are adhered to.

We'll also be engaging with local youth to provide positive activities and spaces where they can gather safely, with a programme running over summer to utilise our Parks and Facilities. This will include outdoor sporting activities, art, and fun events for youth.

These efforts aim to ensure that everyone can enjoy a peaceful and enjoyable summer.

**Adaptation Plans for Omaha**

This year, Council has been working on the Shoreline Adaptation Strategies for the Ti Point to Sandspit area, which includes Omaha. These plans are crucial for addressing the impacts of climate change, such as coastal erosion and sea-level rise. For Omaha, this means implementing measures to protect our coastline and manage the risks associated with coastal inundation and erosion. The adaptation plans are very important for Omaha, and community input is critical. By involving the community in these plans, we can ensure that the strategies we develop are effective and reflect the needs and concerns of local residents. Your feedback and participation are essential to ensure Omaha remains a resilient and safe place for the future.

**Managing Our Finances**

On the financial side, we've done our best to balance the need for essential services and infrastructure improvements with our budgets being under pressure. We've managed to deliver projects on time and within budget, ensuring that we can continue

to invest in critical areas without compromising our budgets.

**Looking Forward**

As we look ahead, my commitment to supporting the communities of Omaha, Warkworth, and the wider Rodney area, remains strong. The next term will, however, see a reduction in the number of local representatives for our area. I saw significant risks with this change and appreciate the support from your area in raising the awareness of the risks. It does, however, highlight the importance of engaging with and supporting those who decide to stand for public office in our area. I truly see the value in having our communities represented at the table and, with my term ending in 2025, I encourage anyone who is passionate about our community to consider standing for the Local Rodney Board. Your voice and dedication can make a significant difference.

As a community I am sure you will build on the successes and support each other and the OBC to tackle new challenges with the same resilience you have all demonstrated in the past year.

Wishing you all a great summer! I am looking forward to more walks on the beach at Omaha and I am sure I will see many of you along the way.

*Ivan Wagstaff, Elected Member*

Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council  
Phone: 027 334 1317  
[Ivan.Wagstaff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Ivan.Wagstaff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
Visit Auckland Council's website:  
[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

**UPDATE ON ROADING, WALKWAYS AND RESERVES**

*By Rohan Meuli*

Hi everyone - firstly, a reminder that your first ports of call about maintenance issues around Omaha are:

- For roads, street signs and street lighting, contact Auckland Transport (AT) on 09 355 3553 or go to the "Report a Problem" form at [www.at.govt.nz](http://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](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Despite budget pressures, there has been a reasonable level of ongoing general maintenance and a few major

projects over the last 12 months or so, including:



1. **Meiklejohn/Darroch Slope Reserve stormwater:** A large project was completed to reduce the flood risk in the Meiklejohn/Darroch area, including the installation of a small pump as an emergency measure



2. **Repair of the Omaha wharf:** A large project in train to replace pontoon piles, refurbish the connecting gangway and repair the jetty and pontoon.



3. **Stormwater upgrade at Boat Ramp Reserve:** Another large project currently underway with the upgrading and realignment of the stormwater network along Omaha Drive and within the Omaha Boat Ramp Reserve to reduce frequent flooding and improve water quality.
4. **Roadworks on Omaha Drive (and side streets):** The roads around Blue Bell Parade, North West Anchorage, Success Court, etc (and the linking section of Omaha Drive) received



some welcome remedial work to repair potholes, cracks, etc as well as being resurfaced.



5. **Suctioning of cesspits:** To help reduce the risk of localised flooding, the Council is doing regular suctioning of cesspits.



6. **Dune cleanup:** A good example of Council responding to a local concern - in this case, inappropriate activity in the dunes with youngsters clearing an area within the dunes to set up a picnic area, dropping litter, making small fires, etc - by removing the tables.
7. **Pruning of causeway trees** - It's important the causeway walkway



is kept clear of obstructions to pedestrians and cyclists so it's good to see the trees being carefully maintained.

You are welcome to send any queries or constructive comments about roading, paths, reserves etc to us at [us@omahabeach.co.nz](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz)

**HEALTHY WATERS UPDATE**  
The Healthy Waters team of Auckland Council continues to work hard to reduce the flooding issues in Omaha. Here's an update from them.

Healthy Waters have completed 75% of the Omaha Boat Ramp SW upgrade and have now started the reinstatement work. We are working diligently to finish everything before Christmas, weather permitting. While we're doing our best to stay on track, we may need to adjust timelines depending on weather conditions.

We want to remind the community that this is an active worksite, and people need to follow the safety signs placed around the area. Below is the site plan showing progress and work still to be completed.

**Questions and Information**

For any questions about construction during the project, please contact Adam Stout, Project Manager, Albergeldie Complex Infrastructure on 021 088 0191 or [astout@albergeldie.com](mailto:astout@albergeldie.com)

For more information, please contact Auckland Council's Healthy Waters Department on [omahaproject@aklc.govt.nz](mailto:omahaproject@aklc.govt.nz) or call the Contact Centre on 09 301 0101.

**FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW**

Below are the key rules and need-to-know information regarding Freedom Camping in our locale.

You can search and view the Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw 2022 at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

**Key Rules**

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, except Reserves (see below).
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 and Pukemateko 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 (however certain restrictions do apply).
4. **Freedom Camping vehicles must be self-contained, unless parked in a special designated non-self-contained parking area.** They must display a blue sticker stating the vehicle is 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 third 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.

**To report a Freedom Camping complaint**

You can ring the Council complaints line 09 301 0101 to report a Freedom Camping infringement. Ring 09 301 0101. You MUST state it is a *Freedom Camping issue at Omaha* so it is categorised correctly. You will also need to describe the vehicle, the location and the breach and please ask that the contact person at Council lodges a request for a compliance officer to attend.

For example:

- A vehicle camping overnight in a carpark on 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.

## Animal Patrol

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

Many of our residents have pets, and visitors often bring dogs with them. We recognise that having your pets around is an integral part of enjoying being at Omaha – but please do take responsibility for them.

**Dog Owners** – Please make sure your dogs are well-behaved at all times – keep barking to a minimum, don't let them hassle birds, absolutely no biting of course – and, importantly, please make sure you pick up after they've done their business!

Note that dogs are prohibited from the Shorebird Sanctuary at all times.

Here are the dates and hours when dogs are permitted on the beach:

**Horse Owners** – Please pick up after your animals too, we don't want to negotiate our way around their large droppings on the beach and dunes!

**Cat Owners** – Please keep your cats inside at night so they're not tempted to head north to the Shorebirds Sanctuary and please do your best to discourage them from hunting the native birds. There have also been incidences of cats on the prowl at night intruding into people's houses through cat doors and scoffing their pet's food (not to mention spraying and causing chaos as they try to exit the house when discovered!) Keeping your cat in at night will also avoid this insufferable scenario!

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



*Sadie (French bulldog) and Neo (black & white spaniel/pug) have fun on the beach*

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.

### ADDITIONAL RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS IN OMAHA

The OBC Committee is pleased that it has again been able to arrange additional Rubbish and Recycling collections over the peak summer and holiday period and thanks both NorthlandWaste for providing additional Rubbish collections, and Auckland Council for its additional Recycling collections. Let's keep Omaha tidy!

See the Calendar on the following page for collection dates.

#### RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

For the week of Christmas 2024, through to the week of Waitangi Day in February 2025, we will have the benefit of twice-weekly kerbside Rubbish collections, using the NorthlandWaste rubbish wheelie bins and/or orange plastic bags

#### RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

From the week of Christmas 2024, through to mid-January 2025, we will have the benefit of weekly kerbside Recycling collections, using the Recycling yellow-lid wheelie bins.

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

Important things to note about the Recycling collection service:

National standards and guidelines were introduced in 2024 for what items can, and cannot, be placed in kerbside Recycling bins.

#### Items accepted in your kerbside Recycling bin:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic bottles, trays, and containers (grades 1, 2 and 5 only)
- Tin, steel and aluminium cans

#### Items now excluded from Recycling:

- Items less than 50mm (e.g. caps, small cosmetic and spice containers)
- Aerosol cans (steel and aluminium)
- Liquid paperboard (beverage cartons and juice boxes)
- Plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7
- Aluminium foil and trays
- All lids
- Items over 4 litres

For more information on the new Recycling guidelines, visit the Auckland Council website.

For anyone still unsure or needing to find an alternative method of disposal, search for a specific item to discover how to get rid of it using Auckland Council's search tool or download the Binny app on Google Play or the App Store.



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

If the contractor has not collected all the recycling in your street on the specified collection day, please leave your Recycling wheelie bin out, and they will return the next working day to empty your bin.

The collections start from the northern end of Omaha, so it's likely that it will only be the southern residents needing to leave their Recycling wheelie bins out for collection on the following day.

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

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

If in doubt, the collection day for your next Recycling collection day, once we have reverted to the normal collection schedule, can be found in a search on the Auckland Council website <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/>

### WARKWORTH RE:SORT RESOURCE

**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**

**From Warkworth:**  
 1.4km East of the Hill Street Intersection heading towards Snells.

**From Snells:**  
 4.3km from the Sandspit Intersection heading towards Warkworth.



DECEMBER 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23 <sup>rd</sup> Rubbish Recycling	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	26 <sup>th</sup> Boxing Day	27 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
30 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish Recycling	31 <sup>st</sup>					

JANUARY 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 <sup>st</sup> New Year's Day	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rubbish	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish Recycling	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
13 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish Recycling	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
20 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
27 <sup>th</sup> Auckland Anniversary Day	28 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish Recycling	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup> Rubbish		

FEBRUARY 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Rubbish	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Waitangi Day	7 <sup>th</sup> Rubbish	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>

## WILLIAM (BILL) FREETH (31/12/1936 TO 17/7/2024) – COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

By Sally Blyth

Bill Freeth was one of the original pioneers of the Omaha community. He passed away peacefully, with family by his side, at Harbour Hospice Hibiscus Coast in July this year. A memorial service for Bill was held at the Omaha Beach Surf Club on Wednesday 18th August at which it was acknowledged that the community has lost a true stalwart and advocate in his passing. We share a snapshot of Bill's life, both private and public, through this Newsletter.

Bill meticulously documented his life in three scrapbooks – books 1 and 2 cover his early years and life up to the 1990s and the third volume goes through to Covid/lockdown times in 2020. These books provide a fascinating glimpse into New Zealand life in the second part of last century and rich insight into Bill's own life and thoughts, how he navigated the complexities of his life and how he became the man we all came to know.

Bill was born in Auckland on 31st December 1936. His mother Florence Freeth (called Betty) was born in England in 1900 and emigrated to NZ in her early 20s. His father was William Galbraith, a businessman from Oamaru who ran a large furniture business and was one of the first elected Councillors on the newly established Rotorua District Council, where he served for ten or so years. William Galbraith was also the proprietor of the 5 Star Geyser Hotel in Rotorua where Betty worked as head of the Dining Room.

Bill's early years were spent in Rotorua before he and his mum Betty moved to Vivian Bay on Kawau Island around 1940, living there during the war years. During their time on Kawau Island, Bill did correspondence school. There was no electricity and supplies came from Warkworth. This time of Bill's life had a profound effect on him, given he was the only child for miles.

In his journals he recalls fishing in the bay, playing with the little blue penguins and special times with his black cat. He also had a pet wallaby and two hens.

Special memories included rowing his dinghy around the bay, setting fish traps, sailing a model yacht and eating big plates of fried tomatoes. He watched warships go between Snells and Kawau. His notes talk of a boy of about the same age as him (6 or 7) coming to stay – the son of the Warkworth baker. Bill showed the boy his bush hut made of large flour sacks and his secret biscuit tin. Life on Kawau pleased Bill even though it must have been lonely but, then again, he had no other experience to compare it with. One evening, while sitting waiting for fish, his black cat got hit in the head by a rock which killed him outright; that must have been a devastating moment for young Bill.

In 1945 Betty and Bill left the island and settled in Tauranga. Bill went to primary school and was, for the first time, surrounded by other children. He went on to Tauranga College, enjoying cricket and hockey. The strap and cane were rife back in those days and he recalled that he and his friend were caned for having been seen riding bikes on the footpath. A far cry from the freedom of island life.

Although Bill dreamt of being an architect, he didn't achieve School Certificate and felt he'd failed himself and let his mother down. Betty decided the best thing was to move to Auckland to enable more opportunities for teenager Bill. They settled in Northcote and, after considering an electrical apprenticeship, Bill got a job as an office boy with Colyer Watson and Co, earning about five pounds a week. The company processed animal hides and tallow, among other things, and was based in a rather seedy part of Auckland, complete with associated malodorous smells. He spent the next 16 years working his way up the ladder at this organisation.

Bill did his compulsory military training with the Air Force in Dunedin. He enjoyed this time in his life and recognised the life lessons this period taught him. Due to the nature of his parents' relationship, Bill did not know William Galbraith was his father until he was to complete his application form for Compulsory Military Training. Bill had always referred to his father in the same manner as everyone else did, that being Goll, or Golly, which was in reference to his reputation that "everything he touched turned to Gold".



Auckland in the 1950s was a vibrant place and, despite pubs shutting at 6pm and having to be 21 to drink in them, Bill led an active social life with girlfriends, motorbikes and cars including a near new Mark II Zephyr. He met Joy and, 18 months later, on 30th August 1958, they married and Bill worked up to three jobs to save enough to buy a house. They had three children, the late Debbie, and sons Billy and Greg, before going their own ways in 1968.

At a bit of a crossroads, Bill resigned from Colyers and went overseas, travelling to the USA and through the Caribbean including the Bahamas, Jamaica and Haiti. He got involved in a host of activities, mostly related to boats and tourism. He returned to New Zealand in 1969 and, with the help of a Mrs Marshall, he took on the role of looking after his three children. He had a stint at real estate but realised that was not his gig. He then became involved in tourism, driving foreign tourists around Auckland in a Kombi mini-bus and enjoyed this very much.

After time as a TV salesman – frustrating work but it paid the bills – he went on to get a job with a Colyer Watson related business, JK Mooneys, managing a small operation with three employees, processing dag wool and cattle tails. It was a smelly, dirty process in a dilapidated shed in an undesirable location. He spent the next period of his working life transforming the business into the largest "Wet Blue" hide processor in NZ with over 50 staff and the latest Italian plant and equipment housed in a 50,000 sqft new building, built in two stages whilst still operating day-to-day. He called this business Southern Cross Leathers Ltd (SCL). Eighty



per cent of the production was exported to Italy for finishing into fine leathers; the rest was exported to Japan, England and China amongst other countries.

Bill worked at SCL for many years and introduced new initiatives to improve the working day for the factory workers. Mostly Pasifika people, they spent their days handling wet hides, blood, fat, flesh, salt, tanning chemicals and the like. It was hard and heavy work with low pay and a unionised structure. Bill organised a cook to provide boil-up, extended smoko to 30 minutes and restructured things to enable a better way of working for the crew. This was not how a factory was run back in the 1970s/80s – it was cutting edge stuff.

Bill met Joan and they married in April 1971 and, soon after, they began their foray into adventures in Omaha. Together they had son Damion and they would all head to Omaha on the weekends. This was the beginning of many enduring and rewarding friendships and several of Bill's friends shared their memories at his Memorial Service – Terry Gillespie, Michael Dowd, Tony Teare and myself. Here's a snapshot ...

- Of note were all the things Bill did for the community including taking on the monumental task of overseeing the building of the Surf Clubhouse. (See page 4). Bill was also involved in the building of the Community Centre and Bill and Joan were among the "Gold Donors" of the Bowling Club, giving seed funding for the Club so work could begin.
- Trips overseas and around New Zealand – golfing, boating, music festivals.
- Friday afternoons at the Matakana pub where yarns would be shared and the problems of the world would be solved. Everyone was interested in who Bill had rarked-up that week and Bill would duly produce associated correspondence and seek various opinions on the matters at hand.
- Many deep discussions and debates amongst the "early settlers" at one place or another – some resolved, others not.
- So many memorable activities through the years including rabbit shooting on the golf course, floundering on the southern side of the

Causeway, being "shipwrecked" on Little Barrier Island, family beach days and BBQs – and haggis!

- Bill's love of tender meat of the highest quality, cooked to perfection, with the meat for barbecues being supplied by his meatpacker friends. Salads and desserts were whipped up by the women and a good time was always had.
- Lamb or pork being roasted on a spit, with cooking getting underway early in the morning and the spit turned by hand. Bill was always there, beer in hand, pontificating, all day long.
- Bill's love of catching and eating fish and his enjoyment in foraging and fossicking in the rocks for shellfish. In light of this, the men decided to have a "Land and Sea" night. The women were dressed in formal attire for the evening and the men, dressed in dinner suits, served up a meal they had produced from what they had caught or grown – fish, rabbits, oysters, and potatoes. This event is still talked about today.
- Drinking pleasures – there was the home brew made by the men, which became compulsory drinking and supplemented the commercial bottles purchased. Bill was also a red wine aficionado and did plenty of research to ensure the purchase of smooth and full-bodied red wine for the best possible price.
- Bill's bronze casting session at his home with a furnace made out of an old oil drum – a meticulous and complex process. He crafted figurines from wax and turned them into wonderful bronze ornaments. (Two of his pieces were on display at the service alongside his urn).
- Bill's immovable and unerring dedication to justice. He could spot injustice as well as pathways to resolution and was always constructive and consistent. He was a prime mover in the early Ratepayers Association with many interactions with the Council and mayors during the years.

Billy, Bill's eldest son, spoke of his father collecting things – driftwood, shells, old artefacts – and of him being an active participant and follower of Wabi-Sabi – the Japanese art of impermanence. Wabi refers to living with humility and simplicity while being at one with nature, while Sabi is defined as the ability to

accept the lifecycle of anything as it is, flaws and all. Other definitions include:

*"An intuitive appreciation of the transient beauty in the physical world that reflects the irreversible flow of life in the spiritual world."*

*"An understated beauty that exists in the modest, rustic, imperfect, or even the decayed."*

*"Aesthetic sensibility that finds melancholic beauty in the impermanence of things."*

Many were unaware of his connection to this practice; it adds another dimension to the person Bill was.

With a huge commitment to his community, Bill stood for honesty and integrity. He was a tough but fair man who led by example. He could never be fooled and had a huge sense of right and wrong. His desire to get things done and do things right shone through very clearly and he was firm in taking measures to highlight things that he believed were wrong and fight to make things right. He always won!

Bill was well-organised and meticulously planned. He was successful in business, well-respected by those he worked for and those who worked for him. He was a real thinker who always researched his topics. He was a raconteur of note and a good debater. He was fearless in tackling officialdom, persistent and dogged as he followed matters to their conclusion.

Referring back to Bill's days at Southern Cross Leather, a worker from Niue was unable to afford to return to the island, although he made sure his wife could go back every couple of years to visit family. Bill had known this guy from his days at Colyers and, mindful of the guy's deteriorating health, he suggested to the directors at a Board meeting that the company cover the [minimal] cost of a trip home for him, knowing this may be the last opportunity. The chairman was concerned it would set a dangerous precedent and said no. Bill was aghast, and promptly resigned. Despite the chairman's efforts to get Bill to stay, he left SCL, the good salary, the car etc, as a matter of principle. Sadly, the worker died a few months later having never returned to his homeland. This act alone shows how resolutely Bill stood for what he believed was just and right.

Bill was the beloved husband of Joan for 53 years, the loved father and father-in-law of Billy, Greg, Damion and Sharon, and the late Debbie, and grandfather of Jade and Sterling. Bill and Joan were Omaha residents for many decades. They sailed their yacht all around the coast, and enjoyed travelling about in their motor home, heading out and about all over New Zealand over many years.

Not only was Bill a husband, father and grandfather – he was also an outstanding Omaha icon – a title that was well-deserved by Bill. His contribution to the growth, development and stability of Omaha since 1972 can never be taken lightly.

Look around Omaha and you can see concrete evidence of his involvement – the Surf Club, the fishing decks on the Causeway, the boat ramp, the greenkeeper's shed and implements, the formation and construction of the Bowling Club. Much of this was achieved thanks to Bill discovering an appreciable sum of money that had accumulated and was sitting in Council funds. Bill ensured the money got returned to Omaha, from where it had come, and those funds (in excess of \$1m) were spent on facilities for the community to enjoy, including the Community Centre. Knowing that money was there was one thing, securing it was another. Bill usually triumphed where others may not dare to tread.

Without doubt, Bill has left our community with many amazing assets that Omaha can enjoy well into the future. His legacy is everywhere around us and those of us who shared part of our lives with Bill were fortunate indeed.

Rest in peace Bill – our community is all the better for your courage, belief and tireless life's work. You deserve recognition and a good rest. You will never be forgotten.

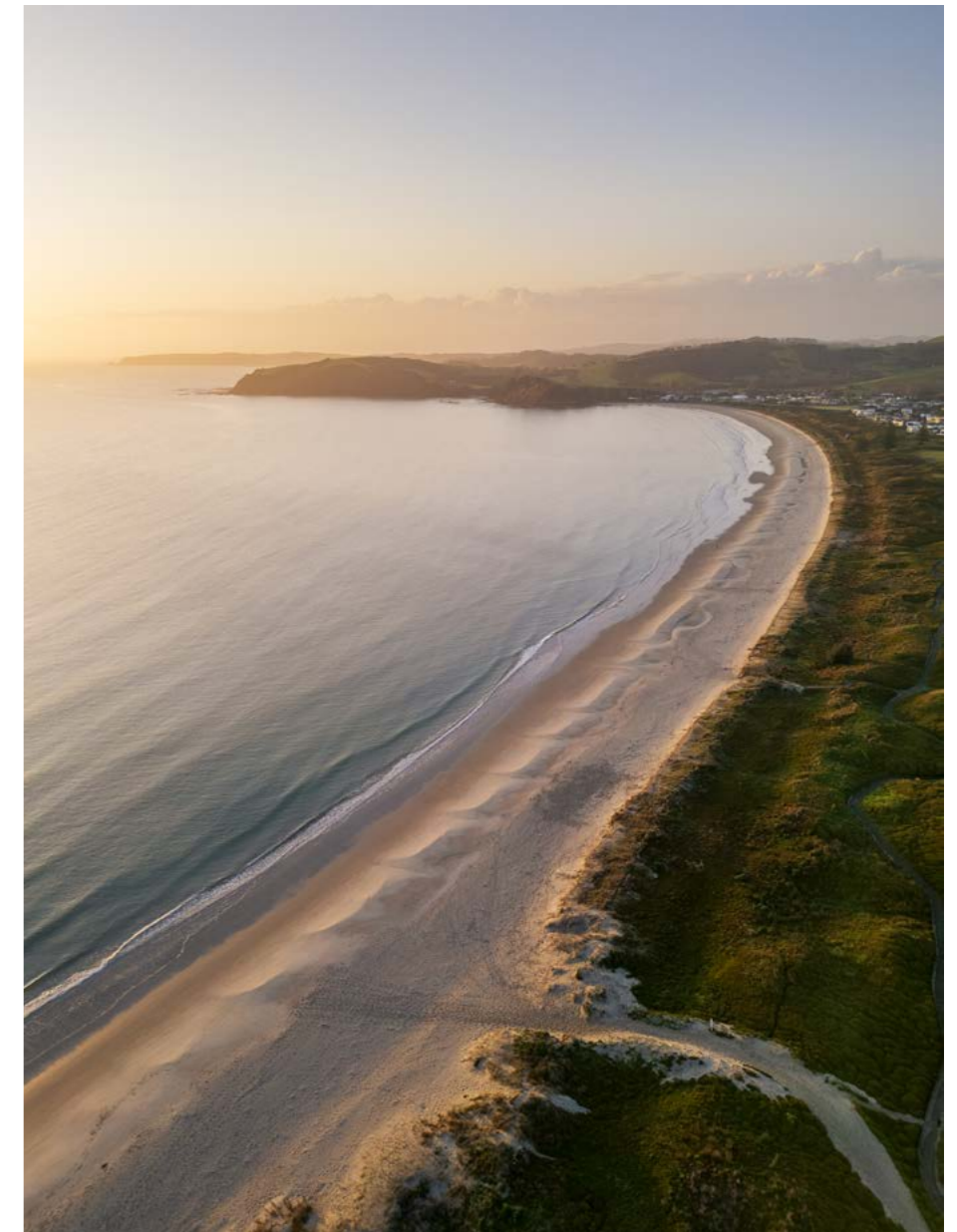


Photo: Benjamin Brook Photography

In recognition of his services to the community, Bill was made a Life Member of Omaha Beach Community Inc. and the Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. Read more about Bill on the OBC website.

[https://omahabeach.co.nz/dt\\_team/bill-freeth/](https://omahabeach.co.nz/dt_team/bill-freeth/)

*Ed's note: As Editor of the Omaha Newsletter over many years, I had the privilege to glean lots of information that Bill had collected and curated over the years about the history of Omaha, so the fact that his life was so well-documented came as no surprise. Far too few people capture their life story in this way; it provides such valuable reference and context for those left behind. I've known Bill and the Freeth family since the early 1970s and have a lifetime of fond memories. With his passing, I'm also more aware now than ever of what the community has both lost and gained.*

*To start the service, the Celebrant recited a poem called Scratch the Dog – it is unknown where it came from, or whether indeed Bill wrote the poem, but its words were poignant and included the line: "Take me where laughter is louder than grief." Bill – the community grieves your passing, but the laughter will continue loudly in this place you called home for many years.*

*We also acknowledge the passing of another "pioneer" local, John Foster, who died on 25 July 2024.*

## The Answer – Plenty!!

There is, as always, much happening this coming summer season. We are blessed with many excellent eateries and wineries where we can socialise and relax, retail outlets to go on a spending spree, places to pamper and indulge ourselves ...

Do get out and sample what's on offer!

Downloading "The Matakana App" is a good idea to get the latest about what's on in the area. You can also access the Matakana Coast Tourism site, which has a lot of info about local activities. <https://www.matakanacoast.co.nz>

## Summer Events 2024/2025

### AT MATAKANA COUNTRY PARK

Entry at 1151 Leigh Road and 33 Omaha Flats Road, Matakana [www.matakanacountrypark.co.nz](http://www.matakanacountrypark.co.nz)

- **Matakana Christmas Market** – Sunday 22nd December 2024. Food stalls, food trucks, craft stalls, activities for the kids and more!
- **Christmas Carols at St Andrews Church** Check signage on the street for dates and details.
- **Hidden Valley Festival** – Friday 27th December 2024, 3.00pm – 11.00pm (R18) Featuring International artists Bou + B Live 247 and plenty more. A range of local artists too. Several stages. Lots of fun. Tickets [www.ticketfair.com](http://www.ticketfair.com)

### AT THE STABLES

Matakana Country Park <https://stablesmatakana.co.nz>

- **Matakana Comedy Club** – Friday 20th December 2024, from 7:30pm  
A comedy Christmas special featuring top tier NZ comedians – non-stop entertainment and plenty of festive cheer.
- **"The Rolling Stones" aka Brown Sugar** – Tribute Series – Saturday 28th December 2024, 7:30pm  
Get your Stones fix! An electrifying night of rock 'n' roll. A Stones party you won't forget, with Brown Sugar in full flight. Limited tickets.

### AT LEIGH SAWMILL CAFÉ

142 Pakiri Road, Leigh

- **"The Fleetwoods" Christmas Special** – Saturday 21st December 2024 Doors open 8pm, Onstage 9pm. R18 event.  
Celebrating the music of Fleetwood Mac with a 5-piece tribute band. Covering the late 1960s Peter Green era to the big hits of the 1970s and 80s.
- **"Summer Thieves"** – Monday 30th December 2024, 8-11:30pm  
A great party and happy dance floor – special guests Mirage.
- **Sawmill NYE Party** – Tuesday 31st December 2024, 3pm until 1am 1st January 2025  
Good old Mill NYE Party with the Sunshine Boys – it'll be a goodie!

### THE GREAT SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

Tuesday 31st December 2024 to Thursday 2nd January 2025, Open 10am – 4.00pm daily <https://www.mahutennis.co.nz/art-expo>

(Prizegiving and Preview Evening on Monday 30th December at 7pm, tickets available for purchase).

Mahurangi East Community Hall, 21 Hamatana Road, Snells Beach.

Hosted by the Mahurangi East Tennis Club, for the 31st consecutive year, a host of artworks will be on display for sale, including photography. Well worth a look!

### WARKWORTH RODEO

Wednesday 1st January 2025 at Warkworth Showgrounds, SH1.

Traditional Rodeo events (barrel racing, steer riding, breakaway roping).



### WARKWORTH A&P SHOW

Saturday 15th March 2025, 9am-5pm at Warkworth Showgrounds, SH1.

All your favourite A&P Show events including wood shopping, sheep shearing, cattle, miniature horses, donkeys, mules, mounted games and more. Kapa haka, pipe band, dog displays. Baked goods, craft and produce plus creations from the kids.

So many wonderful products and services on offer in our local area! We encourage you to buy and try them! Be loyal and shop local – you won't be disappointed.

### MARKETS

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

**The Matakana Village Farmers' Market** – Open every Saturday between 8am – 1 pm (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>

**The Matakana Market** – Open Saturday 9am to 2pm – at the Old Dairy Factory, 28 Matakana Valley Road, Matakana

Stalls inside and out offering a range of crafts, food, clothing and more. <https://www.thematakanamarket.co.nz/>

**Matakana Country Park Markets** at Matakana Country Park, entry at 1151 Leigh Road and 33 Omaha Flats Road, Matakana <https://www.facebook.com/matakanacountrymarket>

- **Sunday Markets, 9am to 2pm. DATES for 2024/25: 22 December (Christmas Market); 12 & 26 January (Auckland Anniversary); 9 February (Waitangi); 23 February; 9 & 30 March; 20 April (Easter); 27 April (ANZAC); 1 June (King's Birthday)**

Made by locals. Grown by locals. Loved by locals. Fresh produce – Coffee & pastries – Amazing food trucks for breakfast or lunch – Plants & beautiful homewares – Clothing & crafts – Bouncy castles & face painting – Pony rides & a mini train – Plus lots more!

- **Friday Night Markets, 5pm to 9pm DATES for 2024/25: 20 December; 4 January (Auckland Anniversary); 28 February; 28 March; 18 April (Good Friday); 25 April (ANZAC Day); 30 May (King's Birthday)**

Get along to the Matakana Night Market for dinner and drinks! Our market lane will be hosting Auckland's most popular food trucks, cold drinks and live entertainment.

### 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>

### LOCAL CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS, BARS & EATERIES

**Omaha Beach Café & Eatery**

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

1 Matariki Street, Omaha – Our local café by the beach for all sorts of treats.

**Estuary Café & Bar**

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

Omaha Beach Community Centre & Golf Club – See page 28

**The Farmers Daughter**

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

329 Omaha Flats Road, by the causeway on the estuary – Fresh and fabulous.

**Fired Pizza Company**

<https://www.firedpizzatakeaway.nz/> 85 Omaha Flats

Road, open when the sign is out – Great wood fired pizzas and the best tiramisu.

**Bramble – Espresso Shop & Honest Canteen**

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

Offering superb coffee and a range of wonderful food from both cabinet and menu for a delicious breakfast or brunch. Open from 6am.

**The Village Eatery**

<https://www.facebook.com/The.Village.Eatery.Matakana>

989 Matakana Road – Pies, burgers, salads, deli goods and more.

**Smiths @ the Matakana Country Park**

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

Rural charm meets urban energy – with live music.

**The Stables Event Venue @ the Matakana Country Park**

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

Rustic charm and natural beauty – perfect for your private function. The restaurant opens for special pop-up dining events featuring global cuisine, with live entertainment.

**Rothko @ Sculpturem**

<https://www.sculpturem.nz/eat-drink>

Spectacular dining. Re-opening early December after renovation – and with a new chef.

**Matakana Market Kitchen**

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

2 Matakana Valley Road – Relaxed riverside dining.

**Jin Jin** <https://www.jinjin.co.nz>

44 Matakana Valley Road – Modern Asian dining.

**Plume Vineyard Restaurant** <https://plumerestaurant.co.nz/restaurant>

49A Sharp Road, Matakana – A winery restaurant with seasonal menu.

**Viet Q Foods** <https://www.facebook.com/vietqfoods.co.nz>

969 Matakana Road, opposite the school – Food truck offering authentic Vietnamese food.

**The Vintry** <https://www.vintry.co.nz>

2 Matakana Valley Road, next to the cinemas – Wine centre and lounge bar in the heart of Matakana.

**8 Wired Brewing Co** <https://8wired.co.nz>

56 Matakana Valley Road – Barrelworks and tap room with award-winning craft beers and good food.

**The Matakana Village Pub** <https://www.thematakana.co.nz>

11 Matakana Valley Road – Lively times in a historic location.

**The Sawmill Brewery + Smoko Room**

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

1004 Leigh Road – Independent B Corp certified brewery (first in NZ) offering food, craft beer, wine and more. BYO wine on Mondays.

**Ravish** <https://www.ravish-hq.com>

7 Sharp Road – Coffee kiosk (7 days) and catering.

**Nectar Café at Morris & James**

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

48 Tongue Farm Road, Matakana – Cabinet food, hot food, pet friendly, great for kids, and the pottery showroom and shop on site. (Wed-Sun).

**Smoke Junction BBQ** <https://www.instagram.com/smokejunctionbbq>

1 Anderson Road (Junction with Matakana Road) – Small craft BBQ, static food truck – ribs, brisket, pork belly ... salads, slaws, sliders. Open Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun.

**Great FOOD (Food and Beverage Delivery)** <https://greatfood.co.nz>

Order online and Great FOOD will take care of preparing and delivering fresh, hot and ready-to-eat meals to your door. A great local service for those times when you're not in the mood for cooking. You can pick up too. Tues-Fri 4-8pm. Sat/Sun 11am-8pm. Closed Mondays.

**BY THE MATAKANA ROUNDABOUT:**

**The Rusty Pelican** <https://www.rustypelican.co.nz> Good friends, good food, good times, with daily specials – and the Rusty Sportsbar next door with big screens and TAB facilities.

**Tramcar Matakana** <https://www.tramcarmatakana.co.nz> Home of burgers, fish & chips, ice cream and all tasty things – dine in or takeaway.

**Goose Bakery & Café** <https://www.goosebakery.co.nz> Open Wed-Sun for delicious baked goods, small goods, bread and tasty treats!

**FOR SUPPLIES**

**The Superette** Omaha Beach, 4/1 Matariki Street <https://www.facebook.com/thesuperetteomahabeach/>

**Point Wells General Store/ Takeaways** 14 Point Wells Road <https://www.facebook.com/PWGeneralstore/>

**Four Square Matakana** 21 Matakana Valley Road <https://www.facebook.com/Foursquarematakana/>

**Matakana Liquor Centre** 993 Matakana Road <https://www.facebook.com/p/Matakana-Liquor-Centre>

**Matakana Village Butchery** 66 Matakana Valley Road <https://www.matakanavillagebutchery.co.nz>

**Matakana Oysters** <https://www.matakanaoysters.co.nz> 1217 Leigh Road – Fresh local oysters, condiments, honey and more at the Green Shed.

**Matakana Smokehouse** <https://www.matakanasmokehouse.co.nz> Cnr Matakana and Sharp Roads – Small family-operated smokehouse. Small batch, sustainable practices, smoked weekly.

**Matakana Coffee Roasters** <https://www.matakanacoffee.co.nz> Fantastic local coffee – available at various outlets, cafes and supermarkets, as well as right on our doorstep at The Roastery in the top carpark at Matakana Village.

**LOCAL WINERIES**

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

**Heron's Flight** <https://www.heronflight.co.nz> 49 Sharp Road – Matakana's original cellar door. Great wines with intimate tasting room.

**OBV (Omaha Bay Vineyard)** <https://omahabay.co.nz> 169 Takatu Road, Matakana – Majestic views, superb hand-crafted wines and tasty platters.

**Matakana Estate** <https://www.matakanaestate.co.nz/> 568 Matakana Road – Cellar door, restaurant and luxury lodge.

**Takatu Lodge & Vineyard** <https://www.takatulodge.co.nz/> 518 Whitmore Road, Matakana – A hidden hilltop gem offering great wines and luxury stays.

Visit the websites below, for more details of the many Matakana Wineries and tours available in the area.

<https://matakanawine.co.nz/>  
<https://www.matakanacoast.co.nz/listings/vineyards-cellar-doors>

**CREATIVE/HOME/GIFTS/ART**

**Sculptureum** <https://www.sculptureum.nz> 40 Omaha Flats Road – A world-class multi-faceted venue consisting of the incredible Sculptureum Experience with its Gardens and Galleries and also Rothko Restaurant.

**Beetopia & Honey Tasting Shed** <https://www.nzhoneytasting.co.nz> 181 Omaha Flats Road – Tastings, courses, and a range of honey varieties, pure beeswax candles, food wraps and gift ideas. Lots of bee info on the website too! Open Sat/Sun and by appointment.

**Omaha Surf & Supply Company** <https://www.omahasurfsupply.co.nz> 327 Omaha Flats Road, by the estuary. Surf and lifestyle supplies, focused on exceptional design, sustainability, and functionality. Open 10-3 most days. Also HQ of Blue Adventures – water sports lessons.

**Hazel Hunt Furniture and Art** <https://www.hazelhunt.co.nz> 1168 Leigh Road – Art (Hazel is a talented artist), rustic furniture and handpicked homewares and gifts.

**Green with Envy** <https://greenwithenvy.co.nz> 615 Matakana Road – A beautifully curated collection of items (furniture, homewares, linens, gifts) that bring style and simplicity to your home.

**Unity Collection** <https://unitycollection.co.nz> Shop 5B, lower-level Matakana Village – An authentic Maori contemporary gallery curating high quality design, fashion and art from leading Maori creatives. Open daily.

**Art Matakana** <https://www.artmatakana.com> Matakana Country Park – Contemporary fine art gallery showcasing a range of NZ artists, both well-known and emerging.

**Artform Gallery** <https://www.artformgallery.co.nz> 2 Matakana Valley Road – Stunning handcrafted sculpture, object and wall art.

**The Eco Room** 860 Matakana Road – A small boutique offering eco-friendly, sustainable, kiwi-made and unique products. Online store <https://theecoroommatakana.com>

**Shaggy** <https://shaggy.co.nz> Online and at Matakana Country Park on Sundays when the market is on – Ya go-to local Independent surfwear brand. T-shirts, hoodies, headwear, accessories and custom manufacturing.

**Clay Friends** <https://www.clayfriends.nz> 1 Anderson Road, Matakana – Claymaking space, ceramics store, classes and workshops.

**Trio Soy Candles** <https://www.triosoycandles.co.nz> 304 Matakana Road – Candles, bodycare and gifts. Open Thurs-Sun 10am-4pm

**Nomad & Home** <https://nomadandhome.co.nz> 1 Matariki Street, Omaha – Beach and lifestyle: Homeware, gifts, resort & activewear with an emphasis on natural and organic. Closed Tues.

**Of Hand & Heart Art Gallery** <https://www.ofhandandheart.com> Follow the yellow brick road down the short alleyway on Queen Street, Warkworth (beside Pete & Mary's Eatery) to visit Rick and Mio at this amazing gallery – a treasure trove of gorgeous pottery, ceramics, paintings, fibre art, jewellery, silk garments and unique gifts.

**Home Matters** [https://www.instagram.com/home\\_matters\\_nz/](https://www.instagram.com/home_matters_nz/) 7 Sharp Road, Matakana – Homeware, gifts, furniture, interior design. Open every day.

**BODY/MIND/WELLNESS**

**Uniquely You Health Solutions** [www.uniquelyyouhealthsolutions.nz](http://www.uniquelyyouhealthsolutions.nz) Home-based naturopathy clinic and herbal dispensary run by Sandy Watts in Omaha. Sandy is a registered Naturopath and Medical Herbalist, and Clinical Nutritionist. Contact Sandy on 0275 492 887 or [sandy@uniquelyyou.nz](mailto:sandy@uniquelyyou.nz)

**Matakana Botanicals** <https://matakanabotanicals.co.nz/> 1122 Leigh Road – High-quality skincare products inspired by the natural resources of the region. Also a function venue.

**MangaSmile** Facebook: MangaSmile Instagram: MangaSmileNZ. Smile with Confidence this Summer – Have your teeth professionally whitened in the comfort of your own home. Achieve up to 18 shades brighter in less than 1.5 hours. MangaSmile travels to Omaha every week. Call Haylee 022 426 1793

**Zen Den Matakana** <https://www.zenden.nz> A sanctuary in the heart of Matakana Village with café and bookshop. A meeting point where connections flourish, wisdom is shared, and wellness is celebrated.

**Bali Garden** <https://www.baligarden.nz> A tranquil space in Point Wells offering all things wellness – a special sanctuary for the community and beyond.

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

**The Space** <https://www.facebook.com/thespacematakana.nz> Experiences that develop self-awareness and mental resilience, balancing our physical body and emotional state.

**Oasis Wellness Collective** <http://www.oasiswellness.nz> A holistic approach to self-care through bodywork, yoga, breathwork, meditation and workshops.

**Nourished Leaf** <https://www.nourishedleaf.com> Reiki energy Healing, Intuitive Massage, Holistic Facials, Sacred Space Holding

**Matakana Village Books** [www.matakanavillagebooks.co.nz](http://www.matakanavillagebooks.co.nz) Visit Matakana Village Books for your summer beach reads. Pick up a copy of their free Summer Reading Guide which showcases lots of books for adults and children and could provide inspiration for your Christmas shopping. Open seven days and online.

**Lady Barber Haircutting Saloon** <https://www.ladybarber.co.nz/>

Matakana Country Park – Vanessa and Julee offer professional hair and makeup services for ladies, gents and kids. Closed Sun/Mon.

**ROADSIDE STALLS**

So many roadside stalls in the area offering fresh seasonal produce and

local goodies. Many now have Eftpos and online banking facilities; some retain the old-fashioned "money in the box" honesty system. Avocados, strawberries, mandarins, fruit, veges, citrus, greens, flowers, herbs, plants ... you name it, if it grows and it's in season, you're bound to find it on the roadside.

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

The area surrounding Omaha is chockablock full of fabulous places selling all sorts of goodies. Homeware, fashion, art, jewellery, op shops, recycled goods, supplies, products and services in and around Matakana Village and beyond. Not a mall in sight – just passionate people selling wonderful stuff!

*The Knitting Truck; Village Picnic; Old School Inc; oob organic; Matakana Berry Co (Gala Berry); Charlies Gelato; Morris & James; River Nile Linens; About Time (Pt Wells); Shadze of Lace; Bach; Summer Sessions; Coconut Gallery ... and so much more.*

Check out Neowork, a service connecting the community to get things done. <https://www.neowork.co.nz>

We're so lucky to have so much in our midst, on top of our beautiful beach and tranquil environment. **SUPPORT LOCAL!!**

**uniquely you**  
natural health solutions

**Achieve optimum health, vitality and energy with an individualised wellness plan.**

Sandy Watts  
Registered Naturopath  
Medical Herbalist  
BNHM, MNMHNZ, Dip Nutrition

- Gut/digestive and immune health
- Sleep and stress
- Wellness and healthy ageing
- Heart health, type 2 diabetes
- Weight management
- Quadscan body composition analysis

**Take control of your health, restore your energy levels, enjoy life at your best.**

Book a consultation with Sandy Watts, Omaha Naturopath  
0275 492 887  
[sandy@uniquelyyou.nz](mailto:sandy@uniquelyyou.nz)

[www.uniquelyyouhealthsolutions.nz](http://www.uniquelyyouhealthsolutions.nz)

Find lots more info here about Matakana Village <https://www.matakanavillage.co.nz/>

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](http://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.



## OBC DATABASE – ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Databases are difficult to keep up to date.

It is important that OBC has accurate contact information for our members and residents; this 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](mailto: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!**



Whangateau Harbour and Omaha Bay aerial – Philip Webb

## Foodie Corner

A local food overview from our resident foodie, Lauraine Jacobs. A well-known food writer, Lauraine has spent time in Omaha for over twenty years and shares an ideal recipe for making the most of fresh local produce this summer.

### THOUGHTS OF FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD.

What makes a good Summer in Omaha? For many of us it is going to be a feeding frenzy – family, friends and lots of fish. Holiday time means barbecues, feasts and hopefully some leisurely meals. Keeping it simple and buying local helps. Here are my tips for food destinations in and around Omaha.

**Eating Out:** We're lucky to have four café/dining spots right in Omaha or on the Omaha Flats. And they range from the very casual to a swept-up exciting new food experience.

**Omaha Beach Café & Eatery:** Year round this popular café behind the Surf Club has been filled with regulars who regularly meet for snacks or hearty breakfasts, and visitors and beach walkers who enjoy a very good cup of coffee and excellent café style food. It's open early every day and well into the afternoon.

**Estuary Café & Bar, Omaha Beach Golf Club:** All are welcome, not just golfers, at the café in the recently renovated community centre/clubhouse. Great coffee, excellent cabinet food, snacks and meals cooked to order and a lovely setting to relax over an early evening drink while the kids play on the lawn. Look for some extra food trucks and events over the holidays and don't forget to book for the tasty Friday night dinners. (See page 42)

**The Farmers Daughter:** The outdoor tables, overlooking the kitchen garden and the estuary, make this the number one stop for lovely healthy simple breakfasts and lunches. The menu features fresh-from-the-garden produce with contemporary ideas and interesting wines to match. Dinners are Thurs to Sat but keep an eye out for extended hours during the summer.

**Rothko at the Sculptureum:** It's going to be an exciting summer as a new star chef, Neil Sapitula, has arrived to take over the kitchen and this really raises

the level of dining in the district. In 2023 Chef Sapitula won the Cuisine Rising Chef Award and Rothko's owners have lured him from top places in Mt Maunganui to refresh their menu with the aim of providing an extraordinary dining experience. His totally delicious and sometimes unusual food has hints of his Filipino roots and is sure to garner attention from right around the country. Be sure to book.

**Eating In:** Omaharians are the luckiest beach resort dwellers in NZ. Surrounded by so many fresh-from-the-farm stands, and with access to the superb Matakana Farmers Market on Saturday mornings (go early from 7.30am to beat the rubbernecks and get the best of the farm produce) we can feast of the freshest and most delicious ingredients all year round.

My two favourite retail spots are, in my opinion, better than any other anywhere.

**The Superette:** Owner Gretchen Young has this amazing store almost perfect now, after two years of hard work. There is absolutely no need to cross the causeway for the store is stocked with everything you need and a load of hard-to-find-elsewhere delights. Vegies are fresh (many locally sourced), there's meat from the Matakana Butcher and if you can't see what you're after just ask and it will be sought out if possible. Charlies' Gelato at the window too, along with hot pies for the hungry!

**Matakana Smokehouse:** It's my favourite food destination in the district. From a tiny store front at the Sharp Rd corner (Tues to Fri) you can purchase not just some of the best-ever smoked fish, but also fresh fish and other gourmet pantry delights.

And, talking about eating in, here's a recipe to make every barbecue a real success. Vary it according to what's in your vegie drawer and do try cooking the cos lettuce like this!

### Barbecued vegetables with agrodolce tomato and olive sauce

2 aubergines  
2 red capsicums  
3 medium carrots  
4 purple kumara  
6 medium potatoes  
4 small red onions  
3 heads cos lettuce  
½ cup olive oil  
2 tsp ground cumin  
Rosemary and thyme leaves, chopped  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

- Prepare the vegetables by peeling, washing and cutting into even pieces, roughly 6cm long and remove any stalks, seeds, and skins.
- Cut the cos lettuce heads into half, making sure you leave the stalky end intact.
- Place all the vegetables into a large dish and toss well in the oil, cumin, rosemary and thyme leaves and sprinkle a generous amount of salt and pepper over.
- Pre-heat the barbecue so it is steady at 180°C and put the aubergines, carrots, kumara, potatoes and onions on the grill. Keep the peppers and lettuce aside as they will take a shorter time to cook through. Turn frequently and, after about 15 minutes, add the peppers. These vegetables will take about 30 to 40 minutes in total.
- Add the lettuce to the grill once the vegetables are soft,



Barbecued vegetables with agrodolce tomato and olive sauce

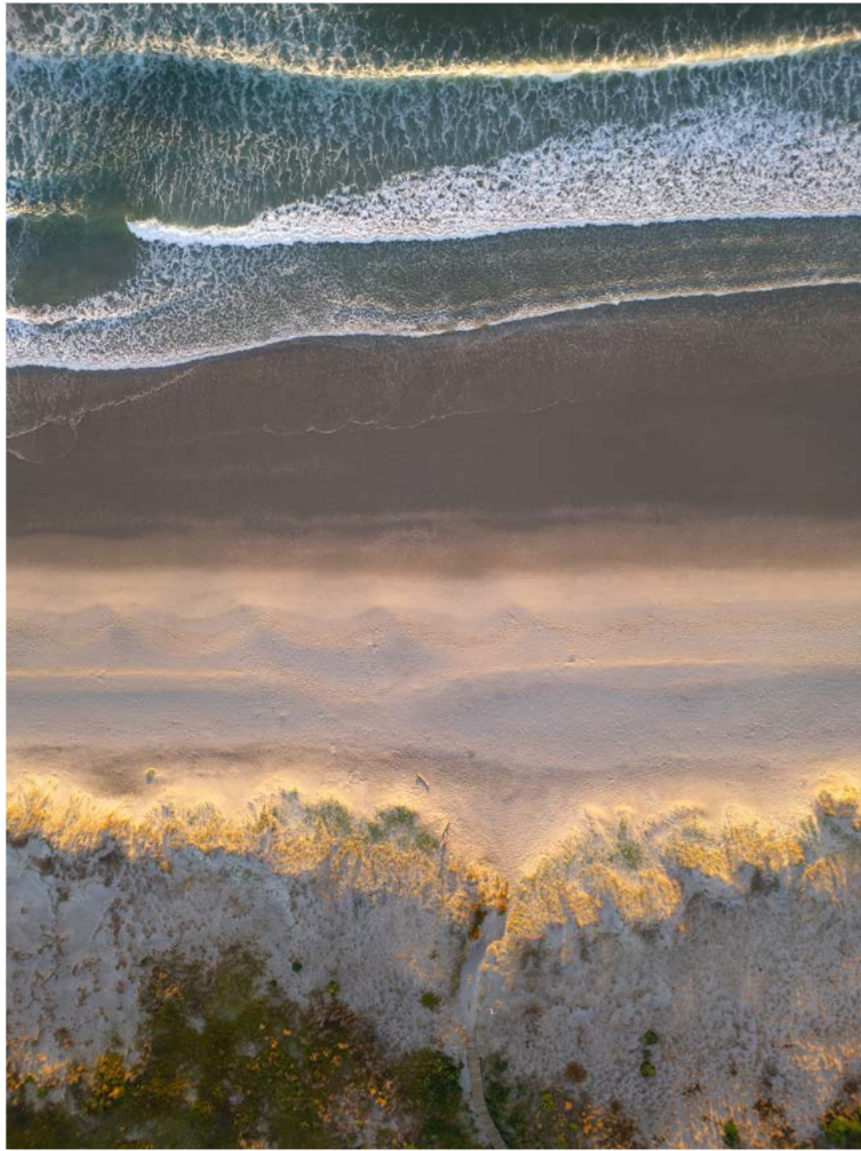
as you will only want to slightly char the edges and heat it through without making it soft and flabby.

- Serves 10 to 12

### Agrodolce tomato and olive sauce

800g Italian style ripe tomatoes (small vine tomatoes)  
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
4 tbsp good quality wine vinegar  
2 tsp caster sugar  
2 tbsp thyme, chopped  
1 tsp sea salt flakes  
Freshly ground black pepper  
½ jar pitted black olives (Salvagno)  
Fresh basil leaves to finish

- Pre heat the oven to 180°C.
- Cut the tomatoes into halves or quarters depending on their size and place them in a single layer in an oven dish and drizzle over the oil vinegar, sugar, thyme leaves and salt and pepper.
- Bake the tomatoes for about 35 -40 minutes, or until they are soft and collapsing. Turn them a couple of times during cooking. When they are almost done, add the olives and return the dish to the oven for a few minutes longer.
- Let the tomatoes cool, then place them in a bowl and lightly mash them so that they become a chunky sauce. You may need to add a little vinegar, sugar or salt depending on your taste.
- Chop the basil roughly and stir through.
- Serve at room temperature with the vegies. Makes about 500mls.



**BENJAMIN BROOK PHOTOGRAPHY**

Ed's note: We thank Benjamin Brook for providing some of the images of Omaha in this Newsletter. Ben, your work is stunning!

Benjamin is a local photographer who specialises in aerial imagery, capturing the beauty of the world's natural landscapes from the air. He partners with the likes of golf courses and local businesses all over New Zealand to create captivating and awe-inspiring content, helping them to stand out and draw in more customers, clients and visitors.

If you're wanting to view more of Benjamin's work, enquire about his services, or just want one of his stunning images on the wall in your own home, visit his website.

[www.benjaminbrook.co.nz](http://www.benjaminbrook.co.nz)

Instagram [benjamin\\_brook](https://www.instagram.com/benjamin_brook)  
(two underscores, not one!)

*Benjamin Brook*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Editor's Note**

Every year rolls around quicker than the last and this past year is no exception. I've spent much of it overseas, taking groups and private clients to far flung places, which I love. However, it's so wonderful to get home to my Omaha base, reconnect with friends and the local environs and enjoy everything this area offers. It's an ideal balance.

I've been to some fabulous beaches on my travels this year – and came across a few Lifeguards along the way. Portugal: The craggy beaches near Sagres in the Algarve sit at the base of high cliffs. I only saw them from the sea and, although the access up and down looks exhausting, the stunning setting must make the climb worthwhile. Nazaré Beach, up the coast, is a beautiful stretch of caramel sand. The Lifeguards were on duty but the notoriously cold Atlantic water meant not too many

were swimming the day I was there (in June). Tiny beaches tucked along the Douro River at the base of steep hills sculpted with vineyards provide a playground for locals to enjoy time in the water – it gets very hot up the valley. Italy: Castiglione della Pescaia on the west coast of Tuscany is an ancient seaside town with a string of inviting beaches along its coastline. The sea is calm, warm and clear, the beaches are littered with loungers and umbrellas and there are excellent facilities (which you pay for!) Lifeguards scan the beautiful vista, making sure everyone stays safe. Australia: Where the Donnelly River meets the Southern Ocean is a remote spot in Western Australia – shorebirds gather at the water's edge which resembles dark tea on account of staining from the local timber tannins. It's like being on the edge of the world. Emily Bay on tiny Norfolk Island in the

Pacific is a beautiful tropical lagoon, and Slaughter Bay is great for snorkelling in rocky turquoise waters.

I also wandered amongst giant dunes on my journeys. The Yaegarup Dunes in WA is a huge landlocked mobile dune system accessible by 4WD. It's a fantastic lunar landscape of soft white sands that lead to an expansive rugged beach. Then there's the massive "ergs" – seas of dunes formed by wind-blown sand – in the Sahara Desert. Riding a camel across the Erg Chebbi at dawn as the full moon set against an inky sky and the sun rose in a haze of pink is a highlight of my life. If you get the opportunity, make it happen!

When I'm not travelling, I'm either designing the next trip, writing and editing or wearing one community hat or another. A theme that shines through in this Newsletter is around



Erg Chebbi, Sahara Desert

the importance and value of giving back to your community – as showcased in our lead article about the Surf Club, the profile about John Mew and the obituary of the late Bill Freeth. Sometimes, it is only after death that we truly understand the depth and breadth of what people have done in their lifetime to enable benefits, facilities and niceties for all. Take time to acknowledge those you know who have voluntarily given their time and energy to your community over this past year; they'll appreciate the nod.

The OBC Committee members certainly work tirelessly, and mostly invisibly, ensuring things in Omaha tick along seamlessly and that assets get maintained, repaired or enhanced as needed. Behind the scenes there is monitoring, troubleshooting, collaboration, consideration and negotiation. There is also plenty of camaraderie. Come and join us!

Safety and protection are other themes that pop up throughout this issue, along with recognising the enduring friendships and fun times that being part of a community like Omaha engender. Whether you enjoy your summer with old friends or new, stay safe, take care of our environment and have fun!

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**Special thanks to: Everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2024/2025 edition, all contributing photographers, and our "family" of regular advertisers whose support helps us bring you this Omaha Newsletter – and a big welcome to new advertisers.**



Surf Patrol, Nazare, Portugal



Castiglione Italy







Emily Bay, Norfolk Island


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