



TIDE CHARTS [PG.25](#) | PRESIDENT'S REPORT [PG.5](#) | ACCOUNTS [PG.28](#) | RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES [PG.42](#)

Aerial rendering showing Omaha South – Credit: Peter Whiting, Boffa Miskell.

The Design and Development of Omaha South

By Sally Blyth

In previous issues, we've highlighted various aspects of Omaha's past history. We're now continuing the story of Omaha's evolution with a focus on the more recent design and development of "Omaha South".

We met with urban designer Doug Leighton earlier this year when he was back from Canada (with his Kiwi wife) visiting family. He and Ewen Henderson of Boffa Miskell led the planning and design of Omaha South, together with others as mentioned below.

Now based in Calgary, Alberta, Doug is founder and Principal of EDG planning & design, focusing on "destination development" – creating places people want to visit, live and invest in. His experience includes Auckland's Wynyard Quarter and Hobsonville Point,

Orewa town centre and Kensington Park along with projects in Queenstown, Wanaka and Cardona. Doug was heavily involved with the planning and design of Canadian destinations Banff and Whistler and is currently working on projects in western Canada as well as the new Mangawhai Hills community in Northland.

He shared with us his experiences with the planning and design of the southern end of Omaha (1997-2008).

OMAHA SOUTH – THE BEGINNINGS

The story of Omaha South began in 1997 when Manapouri Developments (developer John Darby and partners) acquired the south end of the peninsula from William Fraser of Mangatawhiri Farms. John was then known for developing the successful Millbrook Golf

Resort with help from consultants Boffa Miskell, who John again collaborated with to help plan and design the new "Omaha South" site.

John gave lead planner Ewen Henderson and lead designer Doug Leighton a simple but ambitious brief: "Create New Zealand's most exceptional coastal community". They were given freedom to start with a clean slate and assemble the best possible team and quickly launched a collaborative planning process to create a conservation-based masterplan.

Their first step was to hold open houses at the Omaha Golf Club in October 1997 and gather residents' input. They heard that the wetland forest and dunes should be preserved, the existing golf course extended and the infrastructure improved – and also that a very

COASTAL LIVING AT ITS FINEST



10 Ida Way **Omaha**



33 Kokopu Street **Omaha**



12/189 Mangatawhiri Road **Omaha**



12/91 Takatu Road **Omaha**

From architectural brilliance and relaxed seaside retreats to desirable coastal sections, Heather Walton-Bycroft and Mark Bycroft present a collection of exceptional properties.

With unmatched local knowledge and proven results, Heather and Mark are your trusted duo for buying and selling in Omaha.

Heather Walton-Bycroft

021 432 167

heather.walton-bycroft@bayleys.co.nz

MACKYS REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS,
LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Mark Bycroft

021 968 946

mark.bycroft@bayleys.co.nz

MACKYS REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS,
LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



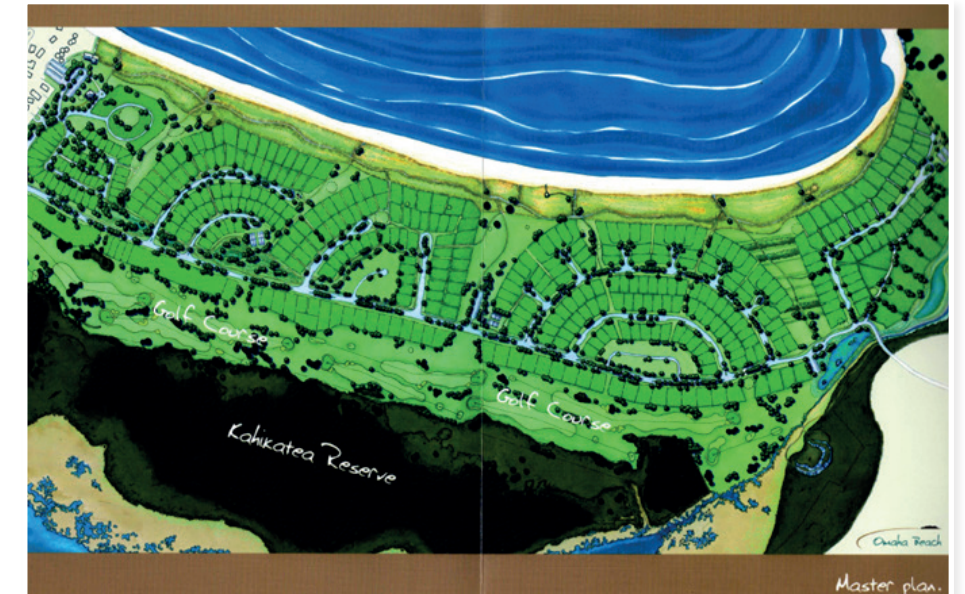
high standard of development and environmental protection was expected. Further discussions with Rodney Council, Ngati Wai Trust, Department of Conservation (DoC) and others identified the need for extensive environmental and cultural site research.

Boffa Miskell ecologist Dave Slaven worked with Forest and Bird, DoC, and others to identify measures to protect the wetland forest (including a “cat proof” fence) and landscape architect Peter Whiting researched dune care and native planting. Engineers Harrison Grierson and Connell Wagner investigated ground, storm and wastewater, Tonkin & Taylor worked on coastal and geotechnical issues, and Graeme Tuohey on traffic solutions.

Ewen, as lead planner, involved Ngati Manuhiri (local hapu of Ngati Wai) throughout the planning and design of Omaha South. This became a positive relationship, which is still reflected in street and neighbourhood names. Archaeologist Rod Clough worked directly with iwi to identify about sixty middens. Doug Leighton’s masterplan retained and protected almost all these sites, which can still be seen today. The combined research and consultation evolved into design principles, for example: stepping back from dunes and wetlands, expanding infrastructure, clustering development in defined neighbourhoods, offering diverse housing types, and providing significant open space and recreational amenities.

Doug, as lead designer, translated these principles into a series of site sketches and concepts – and the Omaha South masterplan took form over many iterations. This masterplan added nine holes to the golf course as a buffer from the wetland forest and created five neighbourhoods separated by open spaces. Up to 600 homes, four different housing types and a mixed use “village” beside the Surf Club, connected by pathways, were proposed. Design Guidelines were then developed.

Doug told us that one of his inspirations for the neighbourhoods was the form of the scallop shells from nearby Pink Beach. This radial pattern, together with shared easements, created more visual and enabled pedestrian access to the beach.



Master plan – Credit: Doug Leighton, Boffa Miskell

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ...

Some Omaha residents will remember a series of developer newsletters from 1997 to 2003. It is interesting to read these today, as they trace the planning and design process from consultation and design in 1997/98 through planning approvals in 1999 to marketing and development in 2000.

The August 2000 Omaha Beach Newsletter featured the Masterplan as a “centrefold” noting that ‘eventual development will be 70% open space’. It proudly announced: ‘Construction Underway’, ‘Record Sales for Stage 1 at Omaha Beach’ (\$32 million) and included Doug’s article ‘Better by Design’.



This highlighted John Darby, major partners (including the late Howard Patterson and Charles MacIndoe), introduced project manager Greg Gimblett, and launched Kelland’s Real Estate marketing. As a humorous aside – Doug noted that the photoshoot resulted in Wharehini’s diggers stuck very deeply in the sand!

The 2002 newsletters presciently stated that ‘Omaha Beach Proves to be a Valuable Investment’, advertised lots starting at \$170,000, and profiled ‘The Face of Omaha Beach – Darryl MacLean’.

The extended golf course (designed by Darby Partners) plus four kilometres of paved trails opened that year. Powhenua by Ngati Manuhiri were commissioned and installed, along with ongoing planting from their Pakiri native plant nursery.

The last neighbourhood (Omaha Village, by the Surf Club) received consent in 2003 and a newsletter article ‘Designing the Beach Beautiful’ praised Doug’s earlier Design Guidelines. Architect Lindy Leuschke stated these ‘are fantastic, we have the ability to be much more creative’. A highly qualified design panel was established including architect Brent Hulena, planner Peter Neave and environment lawyer Derek Nolan. The membership of the Panel has changed, and the Guidelines refined over time, however the resulting quality of development is clear for all to see. This has certainly helped contribute to growing property values relative to other areas.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

We asked Doug whether he noticed any issues and opportunities during his visit in January 2025.

First, he was surprised that the stormwater system hadn’t directed



Credit: Doug Leighton – Boffa Miskell

Omaha South, taken Anniversary Weekend 2010 – Sally Blyth

rainwater into the ground and that the infiltration basins appeared clogged. Maintaining the freshwater table was a concern at time of approval – so much so that piezometers (monitoring wells) were installed. He felt this could be easily corrected.

He also noted that the road verges and central “rain gardens” as well as open spaces between neighbourhoods were intended to have much more native planting. Boffa Miskell’s proposed planting was unfortunately eliminated by Rodney District staff to “reduce maintenance”. Doug suggested that replanting these areas would definitely enhance the community and arrival experience.

Thirdly, he felt there was more opportunity to do more with the Village area, with additional shops and services, given the greatly expanded population of the Omaha area.

Finally, Doug was disappointed to see that some landowners were encroaching onto common property and even into the protected dunes. He suggested that homeowner education and some enforcement might be needed to protect these sensitive areas.

A SENSE OF PRIDE

Doug recalls the project as a true team effort and fun to work on – ‘a great team working for a great client’. He believes their collaborative planning and conservation design approach helped avoid conflict, enhanced the design, and resulted in relatively quick approvals.

As mentioned, John Darby’s brief was to “Create New Zealand’s most exceptional coastal community” – whilst at the same time protecting Omaha’s environmental and cultural assets and spectacular beach. Omaha South (and many private homes) have since won many planning, architectural and landscape design awards. It has also been a commercial

success for its investors and partners, with Omaha South receiving the NZ Property Council’s top Urban Land Subdivision Award in 2005.

In Doug’s own words: ‘It’s my favourite career project, I’m very proud of it.’ Doug left Boffa Miskell in 2008 to join Brookfield Residential Properties and then set up his firm EDG planning & design. He visits Omaha on every trip “home” to Auckland and continues to work in New Zealand through EDG, helping masterplan and write the Design Guidelines for the recently approved Mangawhai Hills project.

Ewen Henderson went on from the success of Omaha South to work with Darby Partners and plan the equally successful Te Arai golf community, again through his thoughtful, collaborative approach. Ewen sadly passed away in 2021, but his legacy certainly lives on.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Locals may recall that the southern end of Omaha was used as a filming location for the TV show “This Is Not My Life”, a futuristic mystery thriller which aired back in 2010. The show was actually set in the 2020s – in a fictional township called Waimoana – and, with its contemporary aesthetic, modern architecture and minimalist nature, the look and feel of Omaha South at that time provided the ideal location for the series. Waimoana’s town motto was “You’ll never want to leave”.

As we now know, the early years of the 2020s became a significant one in history, with Covid and lockdowns, making the title of the show very apt!

Fast forward to 2025 and the southern end is now a well-established and thriving coastal community – and this is our life, and we don’t want to leave!

With thanks to Doug and the team who had the vision to create what we now enjoy.



Kia Ora,

When I took over as OBC President earlier this year we reconfirmed our purpose as an organisation. That is, “to promote and safeguard the interests of the Property Owners of Omaha Beach”. With that in mind we then set three priorities over and above the many other things we work on as a Committee.

Firstly, community safety and security, particularly over the Xmas period. Over the past few months, we’ve worked closely with Police to ensure they will have a greater presence than last year and that the Alcohol Ban will be rigorously enforced. There will also be local Council Wardens patrolling and, as usual, OBC will be funding additional patrols by Insite Security.

Police have advised that the drunken anti-social behaviour we’ve experienced in the past few years won’t be tolerated. To that end, OBC has funded the installation of several new cameras and upgrades to some existing ones. We’ve also established a wireless link between all the cameras so they are easier to access. A big thanks to Jim Dehlsen for kindly allowing us to set up a relay station on his property. Operating the new equipment would not have been possible otherwise.

The second priority is to increase communication with you, our members. The objective is to ensure that you know the issues that are impacting Omaha and what the Committee is doing to address them. As a result, we’ve had a greater presence on social media across the year, increased our emails to you and provided a mid-year News Update. We’ll be doing more next year but we’re also mindful of not spamming you.

Our third priority is to resolve with Council the outstanding lease on the Community Centre. This is a key community asset which must be

protected and managed for the entire community and OBC holds the lease from Council. The previous lease expired pre-Covid and we’ve been trying to finalise a new one ever since. However, Council is asking for terms which the OBC believes are unreasonable and could put the organisation at significant financial risk. We simply can’t do this. We have proposed a sensible compromise to Council and the Rodney Local Board and, at the time of writing, we’re awaiting a response. Further action may be required in the new year.

And speaking of Council, we’ve had a series of tough conversations with the Mayor and Councillors over the recent Rates increases. You’ve already seen copies of our letter to Wayne Brown, which a King’s Counsel was involved in drafting. The increases imposed on Omaha ratepayers, and those in Rodney more widely, are exorbitant and without justification. The response from Council has been disappointing to say the least, but we continue to put pressure on them to ensure this doesn’t happen again.

On another note re Council, we’ve been working specifically with Healthy Waters for 12 months to review the existing Omaha flood plain maps. These maps took no account of the fact that Omaha is built on sand and has many overland flow paths. The team at Healthy Waters agreed the maps are not correct and they are in the process of redoing them. This has taken longer than we hoped and has now been complicated by Council’s Plan Change 120 (PC120) which applies new standards to hazard identification and mapping. At the time of writing we are working with external consultants to fully understand the implications for Omaha of PC120 and plan to make a submission to Council. All households in Auckland have received a letter advising of the proposed changes and, whilst it is early days in the plan change process, we need to make sure that Omaha has a seat at the table on issues that impact us. In the meantime, we continue to work with Healthy Waters. So, what had been a reasonably straightforward (if long-winded) process of dealing with Healthy Waters has now become a complex issue dealing with multiple Council agencies.

Another area we’ve taken legal advice on this year is the proposed replacement of the Resource

Management Act (RMA). Mindful of the potential for over-development going back to the mid-2000s, we made a submission to officials outlining concerns should the new legislation allow existing court decisions that protect communities like ours to be easily overturned. This may or may not be an issue in future be we want to stay ahead of any problems, and we will be looking to meet with the Minister early in the new year.

We’ve also worked on a wide range of other issues across the year, including with Council on the replacement of a gabion wall; the new rubbish collection system and ensuring that additional (OBC funded) recycling collections continue over the New Year period; as well as ensuring that Council installed and maintained a sand fence to repair the hole that appeared at the northern end of the dunes.

OBC’s finances are in a strong position but we need reserves to fund the legal points above, as well as replacement and maintenance of cameras and other costs such as the additional recycling collection over the holidays.

Finally, a big thanks to the OBC Committee members for all they do as volunteers for the community and also to those outside the Committee who give your time and counsel when needed. It’s genuinely appreciated.

We’re a small group committed to helping the community and, on that note, we’re always looking for volunteers for projects or new people to join the Committee. If you’d like to help, please let us know.

Merry Xmas and a happy and safe New Year to you and your families.

Paul Head

President, Omaha Beach Community Inc.

OBC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025

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

Another year goes by, and another edition of our Summer Newsletter lands. It's a bumper issue with our feature article on the development of Omaha South taking us back to the late 1990s and the beginning of that phase of Omaha's evolution.

We also have a strong focus on our environment – birds, trees, land and water. There's a raft of information with ornithological, ecological and marine themes. Preserving and conserving our environment is so important – please do whatever you can to protect it. Whether it's how you deal with your Rubbish (important changes, see pages 41 for the full details), where you might wander in nature over summer, or how you deal with your own piece of paradise – let's make a concerted effort to behave well towards our wildlife, land and sea, and each other.

On page 11 we look at the joys of Warkworth, of which there are many. The Museum is well worth visiting, and the new bridge and walkway in Kowhai Park offers fabulous views of bush and birds.

I attended the Warkworth Theatre's production of Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days in mid-November at the Town Hall. This production, directed by Richard Hutchinson, was staged with minimal sets and few props and I loved every moment of it. I once went around the world in 80 hours but this was an outstanding global romp that took a couple of happy hours, with intermission. Laugh out loud funny and bravo-worthy. The leads were fabulous and the cast of talented actors took on many roles as they gallivanted their way around the world. Check them out www.theatre.co.nz.

This year I've spent about 120 days out and about in the world and, much as I love travelling, it's wonderful to come back home to my Omaha base. Fellow Committee members are great travellers too – and no matter where we are in the world, we aim to remain available and connected to stay across any local matters that may arise.

Paul has done an excellent job in his first year as President keeping the OBC ship on course. In his report, he refers to communication and safety/security being OBC priorities. I was recently flicking through some old Newsletters and it was interesting to note, in the 2005 edition, that the feature article was about the Omaha Beach Resident's Society

(OBRs) formally joining OBC. There is also reference to the inaugural OBC website having been set up and security cameras installed, along with an announcement, "Broadband has come to Omaha". Oh, how far we've come in 20 years – no more dial-up or toll calls, and we now have state-of-the-art cameras to help keep us safe, a website that is a go-to for info, and an enduring partnership with OBRs. Concern around the state of the dunes also featured back then – alas, we're still emphasising the need for dune protection today so some things remain the same. Please play your part in safeguarding this important aspect of our environment. The cover photo back in 2005 was of a rather spartan Omaha South – so it's rather timely that 20 years on we're featuring its development in this issue. Just look at it now!



I'm happy to stay put and not go far unless I must, but I do enjoy heading out to local quiz nights, Saturday afternoon racing at the Rusty and various music offerings in the locale, as well as sampling local delights throughout the region. Do make the effort to drive over the hill to Tawharanui, it's a special place in our midst.

Be aware that NZTA will begin operating the point-to-point safety cameras on Matakana Road on 1st December and fines will be issued to anyone whose average speed is over the 80km/h limit. Most of the time, it's not easy to attain that speed, but it will pay to keep an eye on our speedos, or get into cruise control mode, as we come and go over the summer.

Enjoy this issue as you slide gently into summer holiday mode and soak up the sun and festive vibes. If you've had a busy year, lie back and relax in this special place that much of the world will never get the opportunity to appreciate!

Sally Blyth (Editor)

sally@beyondlimits.co.nz

Ph: 021 480 323

Travel exhilarates and people are my battery. As always, I check out the beaches wherever I may be. If you're in the vicinity, get your toes in these sands – or pebbles!

- **Cold Knap Beach**, South Wales – Tucked away near Barry. Grey pebbles, kite surfers, a stiff breeze and gulls overhead. Invigorating.
- **Camp de Mars Beach**, Mallorca – Jewel in the Med. Clear, turquoise waters, bronzed bods, beachside cocktails and a restaurant jutting out to sea! Idyllic.
- **Seatown**, Dorset, UK – Privately-owned shingle beach. Fossil-hunting, fishing, walkways, thatched cottages, holiday park, and the Anchor Inn presiding – with lobster freshly caught in the bay for lunch! Awesome.
- **Town Beach**, Port Lincoln, South Australia – Happy orderly beachside community. Great seafood (Coffin Bay oysters!), shark cage-diving, and home of 3x Melbourne Cup winner Makybe Diva. A SuperMoon rising extra special.
- **Newcastle & Merewether Beaches**, NSW – Impressive, accessible urban beaches in a rejuvenated city. Surf, iconic Ocean Baths, coastal walkways, and top-notch seaside dining. Reviving.
- **Thessaloniki**, Greece – Benchmark for all waterfront cities with a port. Dolphins, shipping vessels aplenty, a promenade that stretches to The White Tower, and eateries galore. Mesmerising.

Home and away, I've enjoyed vineyards, pubs, oceans and more. Holmfirth Vineyard (Last of the Summer Wine territory) – superb. Visiting the Rovers Return on the Coro set – fun. The 3hr boat trip to Neptune Islands – not for the faint-hearted but worth it when a large white pointer stays and plays for ages. It was a relatively calm voyage that day but I was one of few who wasn't seasick! Great food options everywhere – but hard to find seafood and fish & chips as good as our local eateries serve!

Big city streets, small-town lanes, castles, parks, beaches, landmarks, galleries, surprises, and all manner of transport. It's brilliant getting out into the world – and wonderful to come home to all that's on offer right here. Sample as much as you can this summer!

ALCOHOL BAN

Expect to see a greater POLICE PRESENCE in Omaha again this summer. Alcohol Ban to be enforced.

Last Xmas / New Year there was a significant Police presence in Omaha including a high number of patrols and a "paddy wagon" at the carpark at the shops over New Year.

This was in response to problems over the previous two to three years and Police's growing concern about drunken and violent behaviour by young people, some as young as 14.

For those of you who were not around in 2023/24, this included deliberate damage to private and public property, a group of youth 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 behaviour Police and Insite Security witnessed.

Both Police and Insite said explicitly that the behaviour was dangerous and out of control and was the worst they had ever seen at Omaha.

Consequently, given these problems, there was a very strong feeling from the community that the range of bad behaviour was more than "just a few teenagers having fun" – it was totally unacceptable in our community.

This led to the increased Police presence last year and there is consensus that the 2024/25 holiday period was much better than the 2023/24 one, but there were still issues and Police believe a strong presence is still required to ensure overall community safety.

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 enforce this ban, Police will be having an even 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 kinds 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 will lead to arrests.

Insite Security and the new Council Community Safety and Compliance Wardens (see below) will also be coordinating with the Police.

In conjunction with the Police plans outlined, the Alcohol Ban is well-communicated at the entrance to Omaha and through signage around the area. The 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 over recent summers is unacceptable. Police and Council have realised this and it's pleasing that they are responding positively to the community's concerns.

INTRODUCING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE WARDENS

Vasa and Gill are Council Community Safety and Compliance Wardens and you'll be seeing them around Omaha across the summer – and, in fact, for at least the next year.

They hold legal authority from Auckland Council to enforce legislation and regulations, manage bylaw breaches, ensure community safety and environmental protection and respond to instances of nuisance behaviour. They will be working closely with Insite Security and Warkworth Police over summer when visitor numbers swell and alcohol-fuelled misbehaviour peaks.

Very importantly, they will also be working with the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust to help visitors and locals protect the special wildlife on our doorstep.

We showed them around Omaha recently – they're both great guys, so if you see them out and about, please say 'hi' and make them feel welcome. They're here to help.



Pictured L to R – Gill (Council Warden), Sue Cook & Jo Strahan (OSPT), Paul Head (OBC), Vasa (Council Warden)

SUMMER POLICING IN OMAHA – LET'S KEEP OUR SLICE OF PARADISE SAFE



As we head into the busy summer season, Omaha is once again expecting an influx of visitors – especially teenagers – over the New Year period. While we welcome everyone enjoying our beautiful beach and community, we also need to be realistic about the challenges that come with large gatherings of unsupervised youth, particularly when alcohol is involved.

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all, Police will have a highly visible presence in Omaha during the New Year period. Multiple staff will be basing themselves in Omaha for late shifts, allowing us to respond quickly and effectively to any issues that arise. Our goal is simple: to prevent disorder, protect property, and keep people safe. But we can't do it alone, we need the support of our community.

How can you help? We're asking all residents and holidaymakers to be vigilant and proactive:

- Know where your children are, don't let them wander the streets with alcohol.
- If you choose to allow your teenagers



to drink, it must be supervised and at home – not in public spaces or liquor ban areas.

- Talk to your teens about the risks of drinking and unsupervised gatherings.

We've seen concerning examples in past years, such as 15-year-old girls hanging around highly intoxicated boys in the early hours of the morning. Let's be honest, very little good happens after midnight when teenagers are drunk and roaming the streets.

What are we trying to prevent?

We want to prevent Violence, Intimidation, Mass Disorder, Property Damage and Road Safety – this includes Golf Karts, boy racers, drink and drugged driving.

Omaha is a special place, and it's up to all of us to keep it that way. If we each do our part, we increase the chances of a positive, safe, and memorable New Year for everyone.

Let's work together to protect our community and ensure Omaha remains the peaceful paradise we all love.

Thank you for your support,

Sergeant Mark Stallworthy

Officer In Charge of Warkworth Police

MESSAGE FROM SCOTT AT INSITE SECURITY

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

Insite dispatches a patrol in Omaha each night over the peak period. We aim to keep the area as safe as possible and deter any behaviour that is contrary to OBC, OBRS and legal objectives.

The last few summers have presented a few school-age groups who caused the majority of the issues. These were certain Auckland school groups who demonstrated incredibly narcissistic behaviour. Any one of these kids, as individuals, were quite affable and mannered.

This year the Police will be providing a strong presence and will prosecute where required. Insite and the Police will enforce the Alcohol Ban and discourage the behaviour that has, in the past, led to injury (and worse), vandalism, harassment, arrests and behaviour that is unsafe for the rest of us to be around.

We have cameras around and will be using them to evidence behaviour.

We will also do our best to make sure any significant behaviour issues are reflected back to the parent hosts and relevant schools. Last year, once some of the parents involved, belatedly, chose to send their kids home as the threat of arrest became prominent. Overnight, Omaha was back to the paradise we all enjoy.

Hopefully this year those parents will be more proactive as the capacity for change remains with parents. Don't fill your teens with alcohol then send them out! If your choice is to let them drink, then send them out first and let them drink back at home with their friends.

To the 90% of people who know what considerate behaviour is – feel free to dob in those who don't. Call 105 or flag down the patrol. Let's make poor 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.

The reality is that we provide a presence which adds to safety but certainly does not ensure it. 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 etc. If safe, and you have backup, then ask questions; if unsure, then just observe from a distance.

The team at Insite also have a few other objectives like keeping our foreshores

from being pillaged, giving our feathered friends the space they need to survive, education around the Alcohol Ban, pets on the beach, camping and running our eyes 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.

Have a safe and hopefully social summer!

Council Noise / Animal Control
09 301 0101

MPI / Fisheries 0800 809966

Police non-urgent 105

MATAKANA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE – A VITAL & VALUABLE SERVICE

Hey, I've got a new car! Well not me exactly, but the Brigade has. And, actually, maybe it's not so new, given it's now several months old! But it's worth describing to you, as many of you may have contributed to its purchase. It's the new medical response vehicle – and what a beauty it is! You may have seen it around already, but in case you haven't, let me run you through it.

It's a new Ford Ranger 2.0 automatic. We took possession of it in February. It then went away for fitout including wrapping in red, installation of radio, light bar and full FENZ livery. Once back at base, we arranged a public Open Day on station for its unveiling and blessing. Murphy's Law, an hour into the Open Day, a medical callout was received and the vehicle was off to respond to its first event.

So, what makes this vehicle so special to our Brigade?

1. It's red!! Which means that other road traffic can clearly see that it is an emergency vehicle and allow it to pass by. Previously, it was not clearly visible that the silver Hyundai was an emergency vehicle and this sometimes created confusion to other road users, who often maintained their road position and speed, being unsure of our vehicle's role.

2. It has more room in the cab!! Often members are still getting themselves together enroute to a callout, particularly in terms of putting on and tying up bootlaces. Amusingly, talking



of the latter, once in the back seat of the Hyundai, a member inadvertently tied one bootlace to a loose string hanging from the front seat, as there was so little room to manoeuvre or even see what he was doing! He was then surprised that he was unable to extract himself from the vehicle upon arrival at the job.

3. It can carry more gear!! Wow, there is sooo much room in the tray, which is easily accessible from the side lockers and boot lid, together with a slide-out tray. As a bonus, items of gear don't become airborne missiles inside the cab should the unthinkable happen. Previously, such gear was in the same internal area as the passengers. Now all gear is fully contained in the separate tray area.

4. It has four-wheel drive capability!! Not all callouts are over tar-sealed roads or up concrete driveways. Being in a rural area, we are now able to get over terrain that was previously difficult, or sometimes impossible, to traverse. We now have higher wheel clearance and the vehicle can be driven over sand – but that doesn't mean we will be throwing the surfboard in the back!!

5. It looks more professional!! If you look the part, you are the part. No, it's not a vanity issue – if you are waiting for an ambulance, you are truly going to feel more relieved to look out the window and clearly see a FENZ medical vehicle

pulling up to your place, rather than trying to figure out what that old silver Hyundai might be.

6. It is all about Safety!! Along the same lines as #1. If parked on the roadside, say at a road accident, this vehicle is going to be much more visible from a distance and this will induce traffic to slow down in anticipation.

7. It's a multi-use vehicle!! While the Ranger's primary role is that of medical response, it can be used to transport staff and further equipment to major fire callouts. The tray capacity could easily be used for extra hoses, a portable dam, portable pump etc to be transported to the fire ground.

Whilst the fundraising for this replacement vehicle was "driven" (pardon the pun!!) by the Brigade members, it is you – the members of the community – who have made the monetary donations to get this project over the line. We warmly thank you all for this support and we can only endeavour to repay you in your time of need.

However, one thing the Ranger doesn't have is a bar fridge – I guess I'll just have to get a cold one from my fridge at home! Cheers!

Chris Jensen, Firefighter

Serving and Protecting our Community for over 15 Years

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

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

FOR ALL YOUR SECURITY NEEDS!

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

09 425 7113
www.insitesecurity.co.nz





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. It's a good idea to download the app to your phone.



- 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)

There is also an AED at the Point Wells General Store and in Matakana.

You'll find all you need to know about AEDs and locations around the country here: <https://aedlocations.co.nz>

Visit the St John's website for more information, including a video about how to use an AED.

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

BEING PREPARED

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 www.aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz

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.

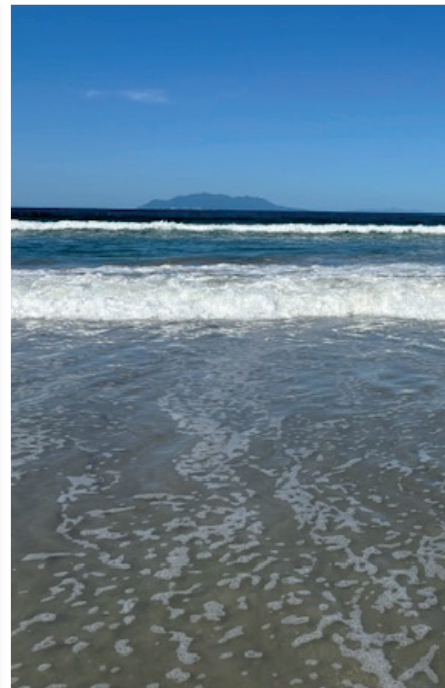
You can find out further information about Emergency Mobile Alerts via getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/ X (Twitter) (@AucklandCDEM) and Facebook.

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 tsunami, 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



Omaha January 2025



Omaha November 2025

MURRAY CHAPMAN & ONE MAHURANGI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

By Sally Blyth

We had a chat with Murray Chapman, Manager of One Mahurangi Business Association and a local community stalwart, to find out about what's happening in and around the great little town of Warkworth.

First, a little about Murray. Originally from Kurow, North Otago, his lengthy connection with Warkworth and environs means he's now a passionate local. He worked for the Chamber of Commerce in Auckland for many years as Head of Membership, growing that organisation significantly. His current role as Manager of One Mahurangi brought him back to Warkworth where he now lives. He's in charge of building membership, arranging events and training as well as looking after key stakeholders and it is evident he gets an enormous amount of pleasure from devoting his time and energy to the betterment of his local community.

The Business Association is essentially a community organisation. Its main focus areas are networking and education, alongside a strong advocacy role to ensure things are done properly and with a long-term view, especially important given the strong growth in the area. Advocacy work takes time and requires background research, good local knowledge and forward thinking. Murray's drive and calm persuasion has enabled great results to some tricky situations, and we'd like to record our appreciation of the time and energy given by Murray and his team.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Take the Matakana Link Road, which provides more benefit to those beyond Warkworth than it does to those living in the town. Originally set to be a two-lane road using external contractors, Murray and his capable team (which included experienced engineers) helped to have the design changed to become four lanes, using local contractor Wharehine, and coming in well under the original budget. A win-win situation. In another few years, when Warkworth Ridge is fully occupied and other developments under way, we'll all be very grateful for those four lanes.

The Joys of Warkworth



The Warkworth toilets upgrade is another example of where Murray and his team got a good outcome using local contractors and a plan that was fit for purpose.

One Mahurangi runs the Transport & Infrastructure Forum which takes place every three months. These meetings are solution-focused with representatives from the Business Association (including engineer Dave Stott), AT, Watercare, NZTA, local and central government, and community groups in attendance.

Regular meetings have been held with Watercare to address the pipeline situation in Warkworth. The new Chair and CEO of Watercare have listened and a much better project plan is now in place to get the works done in a timely way and, importantly, with minimal disruption to local businesses and residents. Murray and his team encouraged consultation with individual retailers to ensure an optimum outcome for them, after it was deemed that tunnelling under Baxter Street and Queen Street was the best approach for the works. Unfortunately, there will need to be trenching in Elizabeth Street but this work is being done at a time that will work best for the retailers.

A state-of-the-art tunnelling machine is being built to get the job done in a way that will create minimal disturbance, with access and parking being retained throughout in a staged process. There is no starting date or sequence of works confirmed as yet but, once the works are completed, the growing township can settle in and look forward to a future with much better infrastructure.

A fix to the disastrous intersection that is Hill Street remains in limbo but Murray continues to advocate for resolution. Three representatives from One Mahurangi form part of the design team, being the voice of the community – the “user” of this treacherous piece of road. The proposal for two roundabouts makes total sense and will futureproof the intersection, but funding issues have meant delays. A number of discussions have been held with AT, sometimes contentious, and there is still hope of a good outcome. A meeting was held in September, with Chris Bishop, the Minister of Transport. Murray reports that it went well and have provided some guidelines to work

with NZTA and Auckland Council to look at getting funding for Hill Street back on the budget. No promises, but it was a positive meeting. Let's hope it's a starting point for true progress. There is a perception that the intersection is less dangerous with less traffic on it, but those of us who use it know this is not the case – it makes it much trickier to navigate safely as no one is totally sure of who goes where when. Knowing that Murray and his team are continuing to advocate for progress on this issue can give us a measure of comfort. The sooner the intersection is sorted once and for all, the better.

Other pieces of work undertaken to improve safety and accessibility for locals and tourists alike relate to speed limits and public transport and the team is constantly monitoring what is happening in the neighbourhood to ensure it is done in an optimum way. The area is growing at a rapid pace with Warkworth Ridge, Warkworth South and plans for a retirement village and residential development near the Link Road.

Being mindful of the various ways people live, commute and interact is important and the Business Association is considering the impact of different lifestyles i.e. those who “sleep” locally but do most of their shopping and/or use services away from the local area due to commuting to Auckland etc, versus those who “live” locally and use local services and suppliers.

EVENTS

Alongside advocating for better infrastructure in the area, Murray is passionate about creating memorable social and fundraising events in the community. His involvement in the Winter Festival of Lights began seven years ago when he and some mates got together to make it happen. Held in July, it's a great event with music and merriment but, unfortunately, rain can keep people away. However, when the sun is out, so are the people and at night, with the lights, it ramps up to another level. With a sense of pride, Murray recounts the time a woman told him about standing with her 5yo son watching the Parade of Lights and the heartwarming comment the boy made about that moment of magic – “This is the best day of my life!”



Winter Festival

A call for volunteers for this event resulted in around 70 people putting their hand up, and those people are now engaged and passionate about supporting other local events which Murray is also involved in.

Murray has been Chair of the Kowhai Festival Committee for many years and this Festival has become an iconic local event. He stepped down from the role after the 50th anniversary in 2019 and then along came COVID and there were no festivals for a few years. Murray oversaw the resurrection of the Festival with a smaller offering in 2023 and then back to a full event for 2024. After 14 years at the helm, he has stepped back again, now acting as a mentor for the new chair and committee who organised this year's event on Saturday 18th October 2025. See separate note from Murray about this event.

The Great Debate is another event initiated by Murray, as a fundraiser for Hospice. Last year it was sold out, with 300 people in attendance. Debate topics take a light-hearted approach in an old-school way and, rather than being too serious, it's all about fun and entertainment. Since the Debate was started 14 years ago it has raised over \$65,000, and an even bigger amount than last year is envisaged for this year. This year it was held on Saturday 4th October. The event was a sell-out again and a huge success. The first debate (moot: Participation certificates are the reason no one can back a trailer) was won by the local Lions team, beating the Toastmasters team. The second debate (moot: Old age is a blessing) was taken

out by Murray's "Muzza's" team who beat the professional comedians!

The annual Warkworth Santa Parade is a highlight of the calendar. With music and floats and lots of good cheer, this event is set for Saturday 13th December.

LOCAL OFFERINGS

Warkworth blends rural and semi-urban lifestyles and retains its village charm against a backdrop of high growth and new developments.

The new motorway means traffic doesn't naturally flow through Warkworth and anyone heading to The Grange does so in a destination-driven way. There are plenty of great food places in The Grange but many have found business drop away by 50-70%. We'd all like to see these businesses survive and thrive and we encourage you to make the diversion to The Grange to support them. The Business Association would like to see some of the empty shops utilised as office space.

There are foodie treats galore and many great shops in the township. Do take time to explore the township and its many delights and offerings. And call in to see the One Mahurangi team at the Warkworth Information Centre who continue to work towards outcomes and solutions that benefit the community and will meet our needs into the future. We thank you for your work!

Ed's note: At One Mahurangi Business Association's AGM on 29th October, Murray announced his retirement after ten years as Manager. He will finish up on 18th March 2026. He feels it is time for

a new voice and a new direction. Go well in the future Murray – and enjoy some "you" time. Thank you from all the Omaharians who have enjoyed the events you've enabled. We really appreciate the great community work you've done.



THE 2025 KOWHAI FESTIVAL

By Murray Chapman

This was a strange feeling for me as I tried to step back as much as possible after well over a decade of running the Festival, I have mentored the new Chair and helped where I could, but I must say that the Festival this year was a huge success, and the weather played its part as the sun shone, and an estimated 12,000 people filled the streets.

The Festival this year had a very small Committee and a brand new Chairman and I take my hat off to them for the enormous amount of hard work they have put in to bring the Festival back to its larger version with over 180 stalls, great amusements for the families and food and drink for the slightly older visitors, with music until 9pm at night.

This was one of the best Festivals I have seen and been involved in and it's now an integral part of the community's social scene. However, for it to continue like this, it needs locals to step up and help the organisers run it. Please give some thought as to how you might contribute to all of the community events, otherwise we may not have them in the future for your children and grandchildren.

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST (OSPT)

By Jo Strahan, OSPT Chair

Thank you, OBC, for the opportunity to share with the community the activities of the Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust over the last 12 months. I joined the Trust in May this year, taking on the role of Chair and working with trustees Dr Marie Ward, Sue Cook and Lesley Barley. We gratefully acknowledge this year's retiring trustees Chris Allan and John Mew for their contribution to shorebird protection over many years.

I've been coming to Omaha for 30 years, to a treasured "old Omaha" family bach. I have visited the Sanctuary, walked our dogs on the beach, brought cats and even once some chickens with us on holiday. I guess I assumed things were ok – there was a Sanctuary with a predator fence, shorebird volunteers, fish in the sea and the sun shone on fun family times.

What have I learned in the last six months? Well, it has been a hard truth to hear and I wish it were different. I've heard the term "ecological sink" used to describe the Sanctuary – where birds come to breed and they and/or their chicks die. Which I can quite imagine leads to another unfortunate term – "localised extinction". I don't need to spell that one out, but what I didn't realise is that Omaha's breeding pairs of dotterels and oystercatchers come back year after year, to the same place, trying over and over to raise their chicks. These are our birds, they belong nowhere else, and they depend entirely on our community's conservation efforts.

Do we know what the problems are? Absolutely we do! Thanks to the dedicated work and careful records kept by volunteers over more than a decade, we know exactly what the key threats are. More importantly, we can do something about each one. The three issues are: cats entering the Sanctuary at nighttime to hunt; exceptionally high levels of human disturbance inside the Sanctuary; and high tides and storm waves washing nests and eggs away. The hard part, as with any volunteer effort, is what to do with limited resources to make the biggest

impact. With a handful of trustees and supporters, we can be proud to say that, right now, we are on top of every pest except cats. Right now, we have irrefutable evidence of cat intrusions into the Sanctuary that threaten our shorebirds. Right now, we know how many chicks survive to fly each season. Community volunteers have provided a solid foundation for decision-making.

Who are the decision-makers? Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary is a community reserve owned by Auckland Council and managed by the Rodney Local Board. This is a big, siloed, political bureaucracy and making headway for community conservation is not for the faint-hearted. We call on the recently re-elected representatives Tim Holdgate and Ivan Wagstaff, who sit on the Rodney Local Board, to deliver a better management outcome for Omaha's shorebirds.

The Trust has developed an Action Plan in support of our Vision to make the Sanctuary a safe place for shorebirds. Bringing this to fruition will require Council action and community support. Everyone can be a part of community conservation. Whether you donate, join the trapping roster (full training provided), sign up as a supporter to keep in touch, write an email to our local representatives ... there is something for everyone, and every little bit helps.

Is there any good news? Yes! It might seem like a small thing, but this year Council approved a change to the underlying status of the land parcels to recognise the purpose of the Sanctuary for Wildlife Protection. This helps to align the reserve status with the Council's stated management intentions. Again, I acknowledge the important work of past and present trustees and supporters.

You might wonder why, if we know what the problems are and have been banging the same drum with Council for so many years, there hasn't been more action? It's a fair question! Omaha's other community parks and reserves have been upgraded with widened pathways, new footpaths, stormwater upgrades, new playgrounds, and toilets. These are wonderful community assets. My hope is that the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary gets some much-needed investment in the near future, so that our children and their grandchildren can enjoy the sight of shorebirds flying

overhead on their way to our special place, the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary. My heart-felt thanks to the small group of trustees and volunteers who are helping our birds hang on.

OSPT VISION

"Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary is a safe place where shorebirds can feed, roost and breed undisturbed."

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

For further information see www.omashorebirds.co.nz

A FEATHERED FRIEND'S ORAL HISTORY

Jo Strahan steps into the life of a Tūturīwahtu / NZ Dotterel to share some insight into what life is like for these birds in our midst.

Why do you want to hear my story? Who's going to be interested in hearing about an old bird?

I'm not famous like Kiwi, or cute like Fantail/Piwakawaka. Okay, I guess I am unusual living to 25 years old. I hear the average life expectancy for my kind is around five years. Hmm, I wonder how they work that out?



RyRy, a 23YO Tūturīwahtu / NZ Dotterel, Photo: Marie Ward

I guess that makes me a millennium chick! Hatched in the year 2000. Seems like yesterday. I've always stuck pretty close to Omaha. I've seen a bit of the world, mostly the North Island but once I went all the way to Golden Bay, at the top of the South. That was a long trip!

Me and my mate are what they call a "resident pair". There's no place like home. Hehe, there are lots of retired



resident pairs living at Omaha now! What changes in my lifetime, eh? More people, more houses, more boats, more visitors. More, bigger, newer, faster. What a great place to live though. We're so lucky.

I would have to say I've been lucky with my pair bonding. We have stuck together all these years. He's defended our territory and we've been faithful to the same place each year. In hindsight I wish I'd learned to read. We might have chosen to nest further up in the dunes, out of reach of the waves. But unless I have a 360-degree lookout from the nest it just doesn't feel right, you know? How would you know me? Well, I haven't always been the beautiful bird you see before you, in dove grey and russet. I was once a fluffy golf ball on stick legs. At two-days old I was finding my own food, thank you very much. And at that time, let me tell you, it was carnage on Omaha Spit – dogs everywhere. Luckily my parents were able to lead the beasts away with the “ol” broken wing” trick. Doesn't work every time, but it did that day.

Somehow, I survived to fly and thank goodness for wings. Without them we would be as stuffed as the Kakapo. Believe me, you wouldn't want to be a ground-dwelling night parrot. Mind you, our defence system doesn't make the grade either. Great camouflage doesn't help when the threat stalks with night vision and an acute sense of smell, not to mention sharp teeth. It's not a fair fight, that's for sure.

My mate was taken in 2020 – horrendous if you think about it. He was doing night duty on the eggs and was found along with four others in a cat-astrophic pile. It happened again in 2022, that time six of our best males. It's a worry, I hope something can be done.

You see, we just can't get ahead. Every year we try and try. First one nest of three eggs, which might get washed away, then we have another go, but the eggs get too hot or too cold. Such a shame, so many hundreds of eggs every year – and yet you can count the number of fledged chicks on one hand. Someone should tell the Council.

It's not because I'm a bad parent mind you. It's like a highway in that place. Ha! Supposed to be a Sanctuary but doesn't fit that description in my books. Right

when we breed, the visitors flood in. Just loads and loads of people. All doing their thing – fishing, set netting, walking the circuit, running, surfing, picnics, volleyball. People don't know, of course; it's not their fault, but there it is.

It's just that its constant! Flying up, running sideways, protecting the babies, keeping a lookout, scanning the sky. I don't know how the Godwits do it. They arrive totally jet lagged, eight straight days on the wing. They're on the sand with ragged feathers and empty bellies. You know that high tide is when they sleep, don't you? Yep, day or night, feeding time is low tide. Sleeping time is high tide. But still the people come. They don't know, there's no sign.

Food can be a problem. Do you remember the big cockle die-off in 2009? What a stink. Who would have thought that could happen. Some combination of heat and disease, I believe. Not great news for the Oystercatchers. They say you can't choose your neighbours – well I agree, Oystercatchers can be annoying. So loud, and bossy! But we rub along okay. I heard they didn't fledge a single chick last year. It's a tragedy. They're down to around 18 pairs. Someone should do something.

Actually, some of the human animals do care. They are well on top of the rats, mice, weasels, stoats, hedgehogs and possums. Good work! They tape off areas where we like to nest. Thank you! They put up signs – so many signs – to tell other humans about us. Nice one! They write emails, make plans, share stories, give money. It's just wonderful, what they do. Lovely humans.

AMAZING OMAHA – AND A FEW THINGS ABOUT CATS!

By Jo Strahan

Omaha is nestled between these special wildlife habitats:

- **Tāwharanui Regional Park** – watch out for Kiwi marching out of their open sanctuary over the hill and around the coastline toward Omaha;
- **The Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary** – the tip of Omaha Spit where breeding birds and seasonal fly-ins seek refuge; and
- **Taniko kahikatea coastal forest remnant** – protected as a DOC Scientific Reserve.

We love our wildlife, and we love our pets. Every home in Omaha is within a cat's roaming range of these biodiversity refuges. New Zealand has the highest number of cats per person in the world – and our wildlife is paying the price. More residents, bach owners and visitors means more pets are coming too.

The Problem: Nighttime Cats and Nesting Shorebirds Don't Mix

Omaha's shorebirds, including the threatened New Zealand Dotterel and Variable Oystercatcher, are heading toward local extinction. With only around 20 nesting pairs of each left, their survival depends entirely on community action.

Cats are natural hunters, and even well-fed pets will hunt instinctively – especially at night when native birds are most vulnerable. Cats are entering the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary a couple of times a week!

The Solution: The Omaha Community Cat Code

“Nothing good happens after dark” for cats or wildlife. Keeping cats in at night is a simple, responsible action with real impact. The Omaha Community Cat Code urges owners to keep their cats indoors overnight, to:

- Prevent nighttime hunting in our dunes, parks, and wildlife reserves.
- Support our community's predator control efforts – powered by dedicated volunteers.
- Keep our pets safe from cars, catfights, and disease.

Ōmaha Cat Code

Every cat kept inside at night

protects our native birds

Omaha's commitment to happy pets and safe wildlife

- **Home at Night:** Keep cats indoors from dusk to dawn.
- **ID & Chip:** Make sure your cat has a collar, bell and microchip.
- **Play & Enrich:** Give your cat toys, perches and time with you to keep them happy inside.

Community Support is Strong

- 76% of Rodney residents support containing cats near threatened species habitats (Auckland Council consultation in Oct-Dec 2024).
- Most cat owners, when informed, are shocked to learn of the nighttime devastation and want to do the right thing.
- Omaha is an ideal place to lead by example, showing other communities what's possible when a community pulls together.

Leading by Example

What can be achieved by working together? The evidence is all around you! A sanctuary fence, pest trapping and revived birdlife, community safety cameras, an amazing Surf Club, a thriving Community Centre.

Together, Omaha Beach Community Inc. and community conservation groups are working with Auckland Council on a community awareness campaign to introduce a voluntary Cat Care Code. We will know we have succeeded when we don't see cats in the Sanctuary a couple of nights a week!

TĀWHARANUI OPEN SANCTUARY SOCIETY INC. (TOSSI) – TWO SALLYS OUT AND ABOUT IN TĀWHARANUI REGIONAL PARK

By Sally Blyth

On a sunny but windy Tuesday in October, Sally1 (Editor) goes to meet Sally2 (Sally Richardson) at Tāwharanui to find out more about TOSSI and its work. Sally2 is Chair of TOSSI. A retired teacher, she lives in Warkworth and is an avid nature and bird lover, conservationist and keen traveller.

TOSSI is a community-based organisation, formed in 2002, that works in partnership with the Auckland Council and is involved in conservation work and volunteer programmes. These include forest and wetland regeneration and restoration, monitoring of animals and plants, pest control, running a nursery and the development of walking tracks. They also do fundraising, provide education to visiting school groups and do advocacy work.

Tāwharanui is 5,888ha in area, of which 170ha is farmed with sheep and cattle. The open sanctuary includes mature

Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary's Progress

We are making a difference!

2013 Bird hide constructed at lagoon

2014 Takahē introduced

2014 Gannet colony with models and sound system set up

2015 Myrtle rust outbreak and response

2015 Translocated pōpokatea/whitehead to Shakespear Open Sanctuary

2015 First Christmas luncheon

2016 Duvaucel's geckos introduced

2017 Giant kōkopu introduced

2018 Education trailer constructed

2018 Translocated tīeke to Shakespear Open Sanctuary

2021 Tītī/Cook's petrel fledged – first on mainland in over a century

2022 TOSSI video produced

2022 TOSSI's 20 year anniversary celebrated

2022 Wētāpunga introduced

2023 300,000th tree produced and planted on site

2024 Tunnel house at nursery erected

2024/5 Translocated kiwi to Mt Tāmahunga

2025 Wetlands restoration launched



Tossi Progress Board (2013 – 2025)

and regenerating native bush, wonderful beaches, spectacular coastal cliffs, wetlands, heritage sites, a marine reserve and extensive areas of rich pasture. The beautiful coastal forest features kauri and rimu on the ridges, and puriri, taraire, tawa, rewarewa and nikau in the valleys. Magnificent stands of pohutukawa forest are found on coastal cliffs.

In 2004 TOSSI helped fund a 2.5km predator-proof fence built across the Tāwharanui peninsula to create a refuge for native animals to be free from pests such as rats, stoats, cats and possums. With TOSSI's help, more than sixteen endemic species have returned to breed or been re-introduced to the sanctuary including takahē, kiwi, pāteke (brown teal), kākārīki, korimako (bellbird), toutouwai (North Island robin), kākā, pōpokotea (whitehead), tīeke (saddleback), geckos, giant kokopu (native fish), wetapunga (giant weta) and many species of seabirds.

Sally2 has been involved in TOSSI for about 15 years and, as Chair, is fully immersed in all aspects of it. There's a dedicated team of nursery volunteers who meet every Tuesday morning, all year round. I find them in the TOSSI shed busy repotting seedlings and I view the dozens and dozens of seedlings that are literally everywhere, growing in preparation for their time to be planted in next year's wetland. TOSSI grows and plants up to 20,000 trees and grasses

each year to revegetate key areas of the park.

I am whisked away by Sally2 for a tour of the park, on the park's “mule”, to take a look at what has been done by this hardy team of people, past and present. We don helmets and seat belts and are off. We pass the lagoon, with its aptly named “bird hide” where people can hide and watch birds. More wetland areas are being developed around the area between the lagoon and carpark areas. Some wetland areas have salty water, some have fresh.

There are pukeko everywhere and quite a lot of putangitangi (paradise shelduck), a colourful and noisy waterfowl and the only one endemic to NZ. Occasionally a pateke (a rare brown teal duck) can be spotted.

At night it's the kiwi who are prolific on these grassy expanses and public can visit and view them using a torch with a red bulb. Remember to be sensible and respectful. Stay on the paths and do NOT chase the birds; remember that poor behaviour will be reported! It's a





privilege to be able to enjoy something unique to our area. Be sure to be inside the park gates by 7pm in winter or 9pm in summer. The gates will automatically open to let you out when you're ready to leave. More about kiwi later ...

A white-faced heron flies gracefully overhead as we make our way towards the Information Hut. A striking ceramic artwork created by Morris & James has recently been re-erected outside the hut. The artwork was created a number of years ago but has been in storage and it's great to see it back on display with its words and images depicting birds, the sea and the environment in vibrant colours and unique designs.

Inside the hut, an empty cabinet is a reminder of where a range of taxidermied birds were once on display. They were stolen a year ago and the team is working on showcasing a display that is more modern and relevant. Suggestions are welcome! Two progress boards show the milestones and activities that TOSSI has initiated and enabled through the years.

We drive on to the Ecology Trail, the mule being a most excellent method of travel. A rosella flits from tree to tree in colourful splendour. We park up and cleanse our shoes as we go through the boot wash station into the Ecology Trail. Installed seating is unfortunately not permitted in the park but nature has provided her very own – large fallen trunks are propped at the ideal angle to perch on when one needs a breather. Some are au natural, others have been sculpted and moulded to make sitting a little easier and more comfortable. The track is an easy, pleasant and shady walk, although we only go part of the way as time is tight. There's also the upgraded Fisherman's Track as an alternative route towards scenic views and picnic spots. Back on the mule we drive on up the headland where huge expanses of reforestation are impressive in all directions. Large portions have been kept free of trees to retain the fabulous views from high points down to Anchor Bay, Ti Point, Little Barrier and, of course, the long bright white stretch of Omaha Beach.

Sally2 tells me that they do a kiwi call count every year in early June, around a phase of a new moon and before nesting time. They monitor for two



hours each night across six sites over four nights. Over the years, this has given good indication of whether the kiwi population has been increasing or decreasing. Sally2 says that hearing an average of 5.5 calls per hour over the six sites is a healthy statistic – at Tāwharanui the calls are over 15 per hour. The kiwi population in Tāwharanui is indeed doing well. Some have made their way over to Omaha (see page 15) and, given there is no cause for concern about kiwi numbers in Tāwharanui, it is great that they're finding a new home closer to our homes!

There's a small pink tent set up over yonder. Sally2 tells me it's where a team of Canadian ecologists are monitoring pukeko behaviour.

At some point during these holidays, head over to Tāwharanui and enjoy the pristine environment. Whether its beach, ocean, forest or farmland, the views are phenomenal from up high and down low. Take a picnic, go for a walk, spot some special NZ creatures, relax, swim or surf at the beach – and get a different perspective of our own lovely beach. It can get busy so choose your time wisely.

Many people play a part in ensuring that Tāwharanui flourishes into the future and some of the TOSSI crew hail



Sally2 by the resurrected sign

from Omaha. If you want to join them, become a member by going online to the website www.tossi.org.nz Maybe check out the excellent video while you're there.

CONSERVATION INACTION IS NOT AN OPTION – TAKATU LANDCARE GROUP

By John McIntyre, TLC Chairman & Karen Ward, TLC Community Coordinator

As the birdsong of spring fills Tāwharanui Peninsula and the surrounding bays, Takatu LandCare (TLC) is calling on the community to ensure that nature continues to have a voice – and a sustainable future.

Since 2012, TLC has been a dedicated grassroots conservation group working across Rodney East. Faced with a severely constrained funding environment last year, our group launched a subscribed membership drive to help retain our part-time Community Coordinator and sustain community engagement activities.

Recently, TLC celebrated the first anniversary of our membership programme with a membership function at Tāwharanui Lodge – an event that was more than just a social gathering. It was a call for collective action in the face of ongoing financial constraints, and a reminder that conservation doesn't happen without community participation and support.

Omaha Beach Community and its commitment to active predator control, led by Rob Zubielevitch and his team of passionate volunteers, continues to play a vital role in predator control – keeping pest numbers in check and helping to protect our precious native wildlife. Without this ongoing volunteer effort by us all – including weed management, riparian restoration and eco-habitat planting – the survival of our native birds would be at serious risk.

Kiwis on the Move

Kiwis are on the move – and the signs are encouraging. Recent monitoring has recorded a rise in both individual and duet Kiwi calls, while trail camera footage confirms increased Kiwi presence and breeding activity beyond the Tāwharanui Sanctuary. Sightings now extend to Buckleton Bay Headland,



Map provided by The Forest Bridge Trust. The blue line shows probable movement of kiwi dispersal.

Bishops Hill, and Omaha Bay – as shown on the latest Kiwi dispersal map.

With Kiwi population in the Sanctuary becoming dense, Kiwi have been encouraged to look for new territory. Over the past two years 40 Kiwi have been translocated from Tāwharanui Sanctuary to Tamahunga and at least 30 Kiwi are now known to inhabit the peninsula and its surrounding areas – a fantastic milestone for local conservation efforts. Increased engagement with the community through seminars focused on predator control and strategically placed Kiwi awareness signage, and Kiwi aversion training for dogs, has helped build greater awareness and protection for these treasured native birds.

Our Focus for the Future

Takatu LandCare's current focus is twofold:

1. Expanding our membership base and enhanced conservation collaboration

With a bold goal of reaching 150 subscribed members by 2026, TLC Chairperson John McIntyre says, 'It's not just about numbers; it's about building long-term conservation resilience.' The more members who join, the stronger our collective voice becomes in protecting the natural heritage of Tāwharanui Peninsula and its surrounding environments.

TLC is now a member of Whangateau Harbour Catchment Collective and is working closely with them to align our planned Omaha Bay upper estuary critical wetland fen eco-restoration conservation project with water care management of the harbour.

Your \$35 annual membership fee (and any donations) directly support our key conservation initiatives, including:

- Strengthening native habitat corridors on Tāwharanui Peninsula and expanding Kiwi dispersal routes throughout the region.
- Supporting wildlife to flourish outside the predator-proof fence of the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary.
- Helping us to build community capability by enabling local trapping groups to collaborate, share knowledge, to become even more effective in their predator control activities.

2. Launching a new "Coast-to-Coast" predator control initiative in 2026

TLC plans to implement a new virtual predator first line of defence – a network of advanced AT220 traps placed at key "pinch points" from the upper Matakana River (Tongue Farm Road estuary and from Millions Bay) to the upper Whangateau Harbour (end of Jones

Road adjacent to Omaha South). These strategic lines will form a protective buffer to intercept predators before they reach Tāwharanui Peninsula and the Open Sanctuary and provide greater protection to Omaha Bay from pest incursion. The initiative is currently in the planning phase and a fundraising appeal to support this special project will be announced early in the new year.

A Call to Action

In a region facing rapid development and population growth, TLC believes that proactive conservation isn't optional – it's essential to safeguard both our environment and community wellbeing.

"Conservation inaction is the costliest choice we can make. Without collective care and community support, the landscapes and native species we cherish today may not be here tomorrow."

Whether you're a local landowner, a weekend visitor, or simply someone who cares about the future of our slice of paradise, TLC encourages everyone to get involved in supporting local conservation.

Protecting nature. Building community. Taking action.

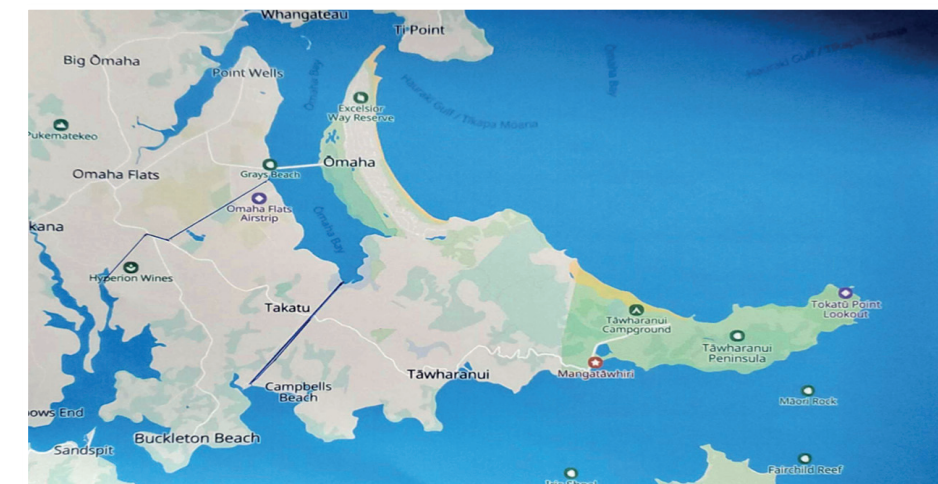
That's more than a tagline – it's TLC's rallying cry. And this spring, it's your chance to join the movement and support landscape-scale conservation in our region.

How to join

Becoming a member and joining online line is easy – visit our website: <https://takatulandcare.com/member-sign-up/>

Or contact our Community Coordinator Karen Ward

pestcontrol@takatulandcare.com



Virtual predator fence





TRAPPING FOR A PREDATOR-FREE OMAHA

By Rob Zubielevitch

We now have over 350 traps in the Omaha area including the Shorebirds Sanctuary and the hills behind Omaha to the south.

In the last three years as at 31 October we have trapped:

- 24 Stoats
- 31 Weasels
- 1,063 Rats
- 42 Possums
- 1,103 Mice

We have also managed to trap 10 rabbits over the past three years in our DOC 200 traps. We bait these traps with eggs, which is not normal rabbit food but somehow the smaller rabbits get in through the small hole in the cage.

We still have sightings of stoats as they cross the road near the Roundabout to the Causeway and we are trying our best to catch them.

The team of trappers finds it very satisfying when locals see us out trapping and show us their support, particularly about the increased birdlife over the past five years.

A big thanks to the trappers: John Mew, Rob Rowdon, Phil Bougen, Joop Zuurmond and Tony Hoksbergen, also Dennis O'Callahan and his team in the Northern end.

None of this would happen without our supporters:

- Auckland Council, especially Dan Marrow, Park Ranger
- Department of Conservation
- Rodney Local Board
- Takatu Landcare, especially Karen Ward
- Restore Rodney East
- Whangaripo Valley Eggs – who donate our trap eggs
- Omaha Beach Community – who fund our peanut butter

If you would like more information about our work please contact Rob Zubielevitch, robzubielevitch@gmail.com

PLANTING DAY

On 12th July we had our annual Planting Day on the reserve off Mangatawhiri Road near the green water tanks.

Twenty locals turned up and set about planting 750 natives. The plants were supplied by Auckland Council and

Community Park Ranger, Dan Marrow, led the volunteers.

The natives were all planted in 90 minutes which was a great effort.

If you are walking up to the quarry, take a look on the pathway on the left before the bridge and see what was accomplished.

A special thank you to Dan Marrow and John Mew who organised the day. And thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to help.



Dan Marrow and the team at work

JOHN MEW – OVERSEEING PLANTING PROGRESS

In last Summer's Newsletter we profiled John Mew and the wonderful planting and regeneration work he does in the southern end of Omaha by the quarry. Sally Blyth met up with him again in October for an update on planting progress and how the trees are doing.

First John took me to show me the trees that were planted on the Planting Day in July. The Council contractors had cleared all the gorse in preparation for the day and, as reported, it was a great success.

The trees are, naturally, still small and settling in. Alas some are struggling and a few haven't made it – but, in general, it's looking great. In terms of who decides which plant goes where in preparation for Planting Day, it's a blend of Council contractors, Dan Marrow (from Auckland Council) and John placing the plants out in advance. There's method (trying to ensure that particular plants end up with suitable conditions) but also a hint of random as

to what goes where so that the planting looks as natural as possible. The community volunteers then take over to get the plants in the ground.

Contractors have been engaged to come and spray as there are a lot of weeds and it's important that the area around newly planted trees is as clear as possible. Bindweed, which can smother plants, is a particular problem, along with rabbits and Pukeko that eat and pull out plants. Some trees are protected with a hessian screen to keep rabbits away. These are supplied by Council but some plants still get chomped by hungry rabbits on the prowl. Coprosmas, Pseudopanax and Kowhai seem to be particular favourites for the rabbits.

There's a rather lovely bank area by the pump shed where 750 trees were planted by community volunteers. About 90% of these are still alive and it's looking good, with flowering manuka and a variety of robust natives. John hopes they are still looking good by the end of summer but, given the variables of weather, pests, weeds etc, it's inevitable that some will not thrive or survive. Those that don't make it will be replaced next winter, and any gaps will be filled in with other plant species to provide variety.

We walked by the area that was planted out during the 2024 Planting Day and it was great to see the bulk of those having grown well over the past year. John has been busy releasing the plants from encroaching weeds, particularly thistles which seem to enjoy conditions at the reserve and grow to a prodigious height.

John grows from seed and supplies the more standard varieties of tree himself, including key revegetation species like Manuka (hardy, big flowers, more bushy) and Kanuka (smaller flowers, softer leaves, grows taller). Dan Marrow from Council, with whom John consults frequently, supplies the more unusual ones. I was interested in the rather rare Coastal Maire tree which bears olive-like fruit, the Putaputaweta (Marblewood) tree with its "toothed" leaves, the Taraire with its leathery leaves, and various other less common native species. The luscious glossy green leaves of the Puriri tree are a delight to look at with their rippled effect. Crushing up the wave-edged leaves of the Lemonwood tree exudes lemony aromas. Flax, cordyline and ferns do well. Young Matai are wiry and tangled, appearing dead, but they



John Mew

are very much alive. John would like to have some Ponga and Rimu planted and plans to put in a request to Council for next winter's planting.

I asked John about Nikau – New Zealand's only native palm species and one of my own favourite trees – and he pointed out several baby ones dotted throughout the planting areas. The Nīkau is very slow growing, taking 40–50 years to form a trunk and about 200 years to reach 10m tall. In years to come, future generations will hopefully get to see these small specimens as tall ones!

We spotted a few birds. Californian quail and Rosellas are prevalent, along with Tui and Piwakaka (Fantails). John was rapt to see a small flock of Korimako (Bellbirds) recently – it's been a while since they've been around in these parts – and Kaka are often to be heard flying over the reserve. Grey warblers and Shining cuckoos can also be heard at the reserve, as well as more commonplace imported species like Yellowhammers, Goldfinches, Blackbirds and Thrushes.

There's an area near the carpark where the trees are doing really well, thanks to them being planted in mulch that was donated by the OBC and Auckland Council. Having the mulch makes life easier for John as it helps keep the weeds at bay and moisture is retained which helps the plants grow.

Areas that were planted quite some years ago are looking great, with ferns and Ti Kouka (cabbage trees) and a broad range of natives providing beautiful backdrops. Some areas haven't fared so well due to challenges

with soil and weather conditions, weeds, and the pesky rabbits. Or could it be, in part, due to John enjoying a lengthy and well-deserved mid-year break in the UK and Europe to visit family and friends, which meant he wasn't on hand to give the plants his usual daily TLC!?

It was great to meet up again with John on a warm and pleasant October day with dry footing (last year it was very boggy!) and see the planting progress over the past year. Thank you, John, for your time, knowledge and dedication in guiding the regeneration of this area in Omaha South.

DUNE PROTECTION

Sand dunes suffer damage from time to time and need our help to heal or repair.

Holes in the dunes are often called blowouts and occur where there aren't enough dune plants to trap sand and effectively hold the dune together. The solution is to plant new spinifex dune plants and let them do their work trapping sand and rebuilding the dune. A temporary sand fence can also be effective in trapping windblown sand and stopping people walking in the damaged area.



Volunteers in dune hole doing planting work

Omaha has a history of great volunteer turnouts for Dune Planting Days and has been well supported by Auckland Council who supply the plants. Several planting bees have been held this year including one where over 30 residents planted 800 spinifex plants near walkway 2.

OBC has funded specially selected fertiliser for application to areas where it's needed.

Long-term, our emphasis needs to be on keeping the dune plants healthy by not walking on them. They are fragile and easily damaged by foot traffic.

Omaha has plenty of walkways and boardwalk access to the beach. As residents, we need to encourage everyone to use them. Awareness is key – if you see someone traipsing through the dunes, feel free to remind them they are damaging our environment.

BEWARE OF PAPER WASPS – PREVENTION IS KEY!

By Paul King

With the warm weather upon us, there may be an increase in wasp populations around the home, properties, and public spaces.

There are several types of wasps in New Zealand:

- German and Common Wasps (Vespula)
- Paper Wasps (Australia Polistes humilis and Asian Polistes chinensis)

The easiest way to identify a Paper Wasp is by their long dangly rear legs. Vespula wasps do not have the same dangly legs.



Asian Paper Wasp, Source: www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz

If you disturb a Paper Wasp nest you may be warned by a single wasp sting.

Paper Wasps build their nests from timber particles, lay eggs and seek food for their new brood. Controlling these nests while they are small means they don't build up in numbers, so being proactive in this regard is a good step. Walk around your property and find any wasp nests early in the season, then eradicate them with special wasp spray and fly spray. Do this early morning or late evening when the wasps are back at their nests. Be very careful not to get too close and do not threaten the nest as you may be attacked and stung.





What are we looking for and where can they be found?

You're looking for a roundish grey ball, hanging by a small arm. These nests can range in size from 10mm to 150mm but are typically 40mm to 60mm.

Some common places that Paper Wasps may be found:

- Exposed, unpainted wood including fences and buildings.
- Metal containers and sheds.
- Under eaves.
- On roofs, especially where two downward angles meet.

- Under solar panels.
- Inside bushy plants.
- On outer branches of trees.

If the DIY options are not practical or suitable, then locate a Wasp Eradication service company and have them visit your property to assess the situation and advise on the best course of action to eradicate any nests.

Most people can tolerate a wasp sting. However, some people may be allergic to wasp venom that can lead to a life-threatening anaphylactic shock. In this case, call or get someone

to call 111 Emergency and have the paramedics deal with the initial reaction. If you suffer an anaphylactic shock on account of a sting, you will likely be required to go to hospital for subsequent treatment and observation.

Take care and steer clear of Paper Wasps this summer!

Ed's note: It's comforting to know that there is a nice new medical response vehicle in our community, and capable responders at the helm, to assist should a Paper Wasp do us damage!

Marine Environment

KAWAU VOLUNTEER COASTGUARD UNIT – SAVING LIVES AT SEA

By Paul Steinkamp,
President of the Unit

Coastguard New Zealand is a charity and currently only about 30% of its funding comes from central Government.

Introducing the Unit

The Kawau Volunteer Coastguard Unit is based in Sandspit. We are somewhat like a franchise. We are an Incorporated Society with charitable status and our own Constitution. We are non-profit making and are all volunteers. We follow the rules and regulations of Coastguard NZ, including training and appearance. We are reimbursed for fuel used and some maintenance costs. There are some 64 units like us around New Zealand, including some in the lakes, and some air operations.

Our Unit has around 30 active crew members. We are unpaid volunteers and are divided up into three crews. Each crew is on call one week in three, for the weekend and at night. During the day we rely on any crew members who are available; either not working (retired!) or able to leave work as required. We aim to be available 24/7 and, yes, we have answered calls on Christmas Day!

For the technical amongst you, our boat is a 10.3m Naiad with twin 315 HP



Yanmar engines. Total weight is around 6.5 Tonne. In calm waters we achieve around 26–30 knots and, obviously, this reduces as sea conditions worsen. When cruising, we use around 45 litres of diesel per hour. We carry First Aid medical equipment, defibrillator and oxygen. Also, there is a petrol-driven fire/salvage pump for firefighting or pumping out leaking boats. All the crew complete various training units, including First Aid, as required by Coastguard NZ.

We were based on the beach at Sandspit, launching with a tractor and trailer but in October we moved onto a Marina berth at the Sandspit Marina. This makes launching and recovery both simpler and easier. We pay a monthly rental, like other non-berth owners but, in the future, we aspire to own our own berth.

The boat is currently some 15 years old and we are fundraising for a new boat. This is expected to cost our Unit around \$1.3m. Coastguard NZ will help with some

of the funding, but we must raise at least half of it.

Currently we hold a Golf event each year at Omaha Golf Club, and we are also helped by being allowed to collect the entrance fees at the Di Balich "Coffee and Cars" events which are held every month.

Our Role and Taskings

We launch as and when requested by the Marine Rescue Centre at Mechanics Bay in Auckland – they coordinate our services with that of Fire, Police, St Johns, Westpac Helicopter and any other Emergency Services. Our taskings can be anything on the water from medical emergencies, assistance to local fire units, sinking or distressed boats – including Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) activation – down to the more mundane electrical and mechanical problems.

Nowadays kayakers and jet skis also provide some of our taskings. With

mechanical and electrical problems, we are not expected to fix them, although we may provide a jump start from our battery pack. Our role is mainly to get the boat and crew to a safe haven. We always try and deliver boats to where they would like to go but, if it is a very busy time on the water, we may just go to the nearest safe haven so we can move on to assist others.

If you have a boating incident anywhere between Bream Tail (north of Pakiri) and just south of the Mahurangi River, we are likely to be tasked to you. We also extend out to Great Barrier Island and the Mokohinau Islands, as required. We currently have around 100 callouts per year. Many of you will have seen our big orange boat bringing in distressed boats to the pontoon next to the Omaha boat ramp.

To launch we need a minimum of two qualified (trained) crew and one skipper, who must be certified by Maritime New Zealand. We currently have two skippers in the Unit and they do most of the taskings.

Membership

Membership of Coastguard NZ only costs \$150 per year and, as a member, you get our services for free, whatever type of boat you are on. If you join, make sure you designate Kawau as your Local Unit as we then get a percentage of your Membership Fee which goes towards funding our Unit. To find out more, Google "NZ Coastguard membership" or call 0800 BOATIE (262 843) – you can find out about the different types of membership and can get more detailed information.

If you are not a member and end up using our services for whatever reason, then the charges are normally around \$280 per hour. Obviously, in an emergency or life-threatening situation, there is no charge for Coastguard's services as our core purpose is "saving lives at sea".

Be part of our crew!

If you are within 20 minutes of Sandspit Marina and would like to be on the crew then send me an e-mail at paul.steinkamp@coastguard.nz

It does take up quite a bit of your time, especially in the summer, but we give some excellent training and it's a rewarding thing to do.

Marine Environment



We document all our taskings on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/kawaucoastguard/>

We have also just launched a website <https://www.coastguardkawau.org.nz/>

BOATING SAFETY AND CONDUCT

Nearly all boaties around Omaha are very safe and courteous. However, there is a small minority of people who could improve their conduct.

If you see anything that should be reported to the authorities, there is a duty Harbourmaster who can be phoned. They may be able to respond if they have a boat in our area. It's helpful to note and provide as much info about an offending boat or skipper as possible.

Ph: Harbourmaster on 09 362 0397

FISHERIES OFFENCES

If you see someone who is breaking the fisheries regulations you can phone Fisheries to report the offence.

Again, providing description and details of the offender's boat and/or car will make it easier for them to be identified and checked.

Ph: Fisheries on 0800 4POACHER (0800 476224)

WHANGATEAU HARBOUR CARE – A LOCAL LEGACY OF CARE

By Richard Gerard

Richard Gerard is Chair of Whangateau HarbourCare Group. An avid paddleboarder, whose kids were brought up beside (and on) the harbour, he's passionate about keeping this place healthy for future generations.

When the conditions are right, most mornings you'll find me out on my paddleboard, moving across the glassy, clear water of the Whangateau Harbour. From out there, you really get a sense of how alive this harbour is – the stingrays gliding under the board, Dotterels and Spoonbills feeding on the flats, the ripple of fish just below the surface. It's one of the most special places in New Zealand, and those of us lucky enough to live here have a responsibility to look after it.

That's why Whangateau HarbourCare began more than twenty years ago – a small group of locals worried about what they were seeing: declining

shellfish beds, muddier water, new pressures and changes in the way the harbour was behaving. Since then, volunteers have rolled up their sleeves to plant trees, monitor water quality, control weeds, trap pests, and be a voice for the harbour.

One of our proudest traditions is the annual cockle count, now in its 22nd year, run with scientists from the University of Auckland's Leigh Marine Laboratory. It's a brilliant example of ordinary people gathering data that tells an extraordinary story about the health of our harbour. This record of cockle number and size was all the more important after the catastrophic die-back in 2009 – we know that the cockles are returning in numbers, but they're not growing to adult size – something that scientists are still working to understand. The cockle example shows how vulnerable our harbour can be, and how we must take action to protect it and build resilience.

Our Down with Pests group demonstrates that old adage "many hands make light work". We've set up a coastal trapline from Horseshoe Island to Tramcar Bay, which we check and rebait regularly – with each of our volunteers only needing to take their turn two to three times in the year.

As Chair, I'm incredibly proud that HarbourCare is a founding member of the Whangateau Catchment Collective. The Collective brings individuals and groups together across the catchment under a shared, community-led Action Plan for the harbour's future. Together, we're tackling the issues that threaten the harbour and are working to restore its health – from the hills to the sea.

After years of paddling, I've learned that it's best to work with the tide. The same



The harbour's sandy reef.
Photo: Sophie Journee



goes for looking after this harbour. When we move together, in the same direction, we create real momentum for change.

WHANGATEAU CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE – TAKING ACTION FOR A HEALTHY WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

By Alicia Bullock

Alicia is Project Lead and Catchment Facilitator for the Whangateau Catchment Collective – a community-led network of locals, landowners, iwi, conservation groups, farmers, scientists, educators, and businesses to protect and restore the Whangateau Harbour from the hills to the sea. Alicia is passionate about bringing people together to take action for a resilient, thriving harbour and catchment – a place she's proud to call home.

If you stand at Ōmaha boat ramp and look across the Whangateau Harbour, you're looking at one of the most ecologically important estuaries in New Zealand – a living engine that quietly sustains life. Beneath the sandflats lies a hidden world: microscopic plants feeding shellfish, crabs, and worms. This is the base of the entire food web – which in turn supports wildlife including the graceful eagle rays that are so iconic of this place. The harbour's little-known sandy reef is a vital nursery for snapper and parore; its clear waters support native seagrass and seaweed forests and its beaches and tidal flats host migratory and resident shorebirds that rely on this haven to rest, breed, and feed.

Whangateau Harbour is a rare and special place – one of the last relatively intact estuarine systems left in Auckland. But that balance is fragile and the harbour is under pressure.

Sediment from eroding hillsides and waterways threatens the harbour's health. Scientists from the University of Auckland's Institute of Marine Science (Leigh Lab) are clear: tackling sedimentation is a top priority for safeguarding the harbour's future. Sediment clouds the water, smothers shellfish beds, and fuels the spread of mangroves into places they've never grown before. Mangroves aren't the



PHOTO WCC catchment map

cause – they're a symptom of a system under stress. They provide valuable buffering against storm surges and erosion, but their encroachment reflects what's happening inland: where forests and wetlands are missing or fragmented, the land can't hold its water – or its soil.

Thanks to the mahi of the Collective's land-management specialist Duncan Kervell, our community will soon have access to easy-to-use GIS mapping tools that identify erosion hotspots and restoration opportunities across the catchment. These maps will give locals and the Collective the confidence to prioritise action – fencing and planting eroding hillsides, stabilising streambanks, restoring wetlands – where it will have the biggest impact. The goal is a community-led, evidence-based approach to sediment (and mangroves), grounded in local values. Whangateau Harbour and Catchment Map, Whangateau Catchment Collective

Weaving the strands of community action

Across the catchment, there's already an incredible amount of mahi – from trappers, tree planters, and stream-care volunteers to landowners fencing waterways, parents connecting tamariki with nature, and community and conservation groups leading key initiatives, all building on the legacy of care from those who came before us.

Each is a strand of harakeke (flax) – strong on its own, but far more powerful when woven together.

That's what the Whangateau Catchment Collective is about: a network that connects and strengthens what already exists, identifies gaps, and focuses our shared effort where it will make the most difference. The Collective aims to help groups share knowledge, pool resources, attract funding, and align their mahi, recognising that to protect this special place, we must take action across the whole, connected system – from hills to harbour.

Over the past year, we've hosted community workshops, hui, and dozens of conversations – around kitchen tables, on farms, in streams, and along the harbour edge – to build a shared vision and the actions to get us there. The result is the Whangateau Harbour & Catchment Action Plan – a living roadmap that weaves local knowledge, science, mātauranga Māori, and practical expertise into a plan for collective action.

The harbour's living engine

Professor Conrad Pilditch, Head of the University of Auckland Marine Institute, shared the importance of the harbour's hidden life, and the impact of mud, at the second Action Plan workshop in May 2025:

"The most important functions of the estuary occur in the sandflat sediments. The biodiversity in the sandflats drives everything, including the plants that live there as well, only you can't see them, because they're small and microscopic. But everything that happens, all the things that the fish feed on, all the things that the birds feed on, all the things that people care about, is down to the animals and plants living in the sediments.

"Walking around the sandflats here after storms ... you will see that bright orange clay and thin layers on top of the sandflats. When we first started out looking at sedimentation and the impacts on estuarine ecosystems, we thought we probably need about 10% mud on the sandflats to actually start driving change in biodiversity. But as we progressed the research, [we find that] relatively small amounts of mud within these sandflats begin to affect

the system quite dramatically. You don't see these effects, but they're eroding the system's resilience to a point where you can flip it into another degraded state. ... It begins to drive change.

"And every time the wind blows, [the mud] is remobilised, it's up into the water column ... that's associated with a loss of primary productivity at the base of the food chain, which makes its way up through to the upper levels, the fish and the birds, and it also alters the nutrient cycling and ultimately leads to a loss of the shellfish ... So, it's a question of getting together and acting in the catchment to reduce that [sediment] loading. ... If we can get the catchment right, then the chances of maintaining and improving the harbour are really quite good – the moana can recover."

The Power of Citizen Science

Whangateau Harbour is one of the most studied estuaries in New Zealand. Through our partnership with the University of Auckland Marine Institute / Leigh Lab we're bringing that science to the people – and making Citizen Science a cornerstone of the plan. Volunteers are already monitoring water quality and collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) in our streams to reveal the life they support. Our founding member, Whangateau HarbourCare, runs the annual volunteer cockle count – now in its 22nd year. With partners like Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust and the Leigh Lab, we're going to build a cohesive Citizen Science programme above and below water that will inform our actions – because what we understand, we value – and what we value, we protect.

Ōmaha's Role

Ōmaha has a crucial part to play – especially in protecting the internationally significant Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary, home to Godwits and endangered Dotterels. The Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust, a valued Collective member, does incredible mahi, but they can't do it alone. Small actions – keeping dogs out of the sanctuary, keeping cats in at night, giving birds space – make all the difference.

The Ōmaha community is deeply connected to the harbour and the sea – from Surf Club mornings and family

boating days to winter beach walks, exploring the harbour by paddleboard and kayak, and the rush of wing-foiling on a breezy afternoon. These moments remind us how much this place gives to us – and why caring for it, together, matters.

Harbour Etiquette: Sharing the Space Respectfully

Our harbour is both playground and taonga. Everyone has a role, and every action counts – here are just some examples of how you can help:

- **At home:** Mind stormwater drains; set backyard predator traps.
- **On land:** Pick up litter; plant trees; protect habitats.
- **On the water:** Observe speed limits; fish responsibly, look after wildlife and each other.

How we work – Whangateau Catchment Collective

Community-led.

Community drives the vision and mahi – shaping priorities that reflect the values of those who know and love this place.

Collaborative and Connected

We bring together people, groups, and organisations across the catchment – sharing knowledge, aligning resources, and weaving our mahi for collective outcomes.

Evidence-based

Decisions are grounded in science and local knowledge. We use data, research, and on-the-ground experience to guide where action will have the greatest impact.

Action-focused

We turn shared goals into practical results – planting, restoring, monitoring, and adapting as we learn, so the harbour and its catchment can thrive for generations to come.

Putting the Action in Action Plan

Later this year, the Whangateau Harbour & Catchment Action Plan and StoryMap – the digital home of the plan – will be released. These, along with the GIS maps and tools that support them, are owned by the community, for the community.

With the planning phase complete, the next chapter is all about action – turning our shared vision into mahi on the ground: restoring streambanks, planting hillsides, gathering Citizen

Science, supporting local projects, and using our collective energy to care for and protect this place.

It's going to take all of us – whether we live here year-round or spend part of our time here – to keep the Whangateau Harbour the extraordinary place it is.

The Collective thrives on the diversity of skills and experience within our community – from strategy, planning, communications, storytelling, and art to science, business, technology, project management, education, and hands-on restoration mahi.

Whatever your background, there's a way to contribute and be part of this shared effort to protect and restore our harbour and catchment.

Join the collective effort!

Connect with Alicia at whangateaucatchment@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/whangateaucatchmentcollective – to keep up with community events, restoration mahi, and ways to contribute.



Hui for the Harbour, October 2024 – kickstarting the development of the Action Plan for the harbour and catchment. Photo: Restore Rodney East



Volunteers eDNA testing.





Whangateau Harbour after a short period of heavy rain – these photos were taken on 21 March 2022 at 10:19 am, 11:54 am, and 12:49 pm. Photos: Alicia Bullock

MOON PHASES 2026

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 2026. The white circle is the Full Moon (usually good weather and no wind!) and the black circle is the New Moon (i.e. no moon in the sky – best for stargazing).

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

Through this site you can check precisely when and where the Moon will rise. FYI, there will be a total lunar eclipse visible in Auckland on 3rd/4th March 2026 and a partial one on 28th August. There will be a Blue Moon (second Full Moon in a calendar month) on 31st May. Look out for Micro Full Moons (when the moon is furthest from Earth so appears smaller) on 31st May and 30th June. The Super Full Moon on 24th December should be a spectacle for Christmas Eve – when the Full Moon is closest to Earth and appears larger. Perfect timing for a celestial spectacle!

2026 Moon Phases Calendar

Jan	3:○, 11:●, 19:●, 26:●
Feb	2:○, 10:●, 18:●, 25:●
Mar	4:○, 11:○, 19:●, 26:●
Apr	2:○, 10:○, 17:●, 24:●
May	2:○, 10:○, 17:●, 23:●, 31:○
Jun	8:○, 15:●, 22:○, 30:○
Jul	8:○, 14:●, 21:○, 30:○
Aug	6:○, 13:●, 20:○, 28:○
Sep	4:○, 11:●, 19:○, 27:○
Oct	4:○, 11:●, 19:○, 26:○
Nov	2:○, 9:●, 18:○, 25:○
Dec	1:○, 9:●, 17:○, 24:○, 31:○

TIDE CHARTS

Knowing what the tides are doing is important and helpful – whether you're off for a quick dip, an ocean swim, a beach walk, a surf or a boating outing. Here are charts for January and February 2026 for your easy reference.

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

www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/tides-and-tidal-streams/tide-predictions

WEATHER, TIDE & SKY

It's the usual thing these days – the weather continues to perplex and cannot make up its mind! Sunny one minute, pouring the next. Calm and tranquil one moment and then a squall comes through. Drizzling in Matakana, sun shining in Omaha. Mist on the hills, blue sky out to sea. We have an ever-changing backdrop and it pays to be prepared for any and all types of weather on any given day. Umbrella, jacket, sunglasses, and a hat that can ward off both sun and rain are required just about every day, no matter where you are or what you're up to.

Here we present some charts and information about weather, tides, moon phases etc in the hope of helping you make up yours so you can make the most of your Summer!

SURF FORECAST (AND MORE)

www.surf-forecast.com/breaks/Omaha

This is a great website to check for all aspects of marine info – 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.

Superb 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!

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. www.yr.no/en

New Zealand Hydrographic Authority Tide Predictions

Omaha

Lat. 36°20.5'S Long. 174°45.9'E

January 2026

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

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

Times listed are N.Z. Daylight Time

Crown Copyright Reserved



New Zealand Hydrographic Authority Tide Predictions

Omaha

Lat. 36°20.5'S Long. 174°45.9'E

February 2026

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

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

Times listed are N.Z. Daylight Time

Crown Copyright Reserved



OBC AGM AGENDA 2026

1. Welcome
 2. Apologies
 3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 12th January 2025
 4. Confirmation of Minutes of Special General meeting held 19th October 2025 to approve Constitution
 5. Receipt of the President's Report for 2025
 6. Receipt of the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st October 2025
 7. Confirmation of Amount of the Annual Subscription Fee for the 2026 Subscription Year and Security Levy
 8. Election of the Committee for the 2026 year from nominations received in accordance with the Constitution
 9. Receipt of Club Reports
 10. General Business
- Executive Officer**
Omaha Beach Community Inc.

OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2026

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
Omaha Beach Community Inc.
will be held at
**Omaha Beach Community Centre,
North-West Anchorage,
Omaha Beach**
SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2026 at 10:30am
followed by drinks and nibbles



One Call. One Buyer.
Over \$4 Million.

Rod Cheeseman Realty
Setting the Gold Standard in Omaha.

A stunning four-bedroom bach on Taumata Road, Omaha, has sold for over \$4 million — after just one phone call. Agent Rod Cheeseman, of Rod Cheeseman Realty, connected the property with expat buyers.

"I knew these guys," says Rod. "They're lovely people. As soon as I walked into the Taumata Road property, I knew it was the one for them."

Cheeseman said the deal came together quickly.

"I just said to the buyers, 'We are going to do the negotiations right here, right now and we signed the agreement on my iPad there and then.'"

Cheeseman said the sale price was well above the "woeful" RV of \$3.125m and the \$4m the vendors had paid back in the 2022 peak.

For results that speak for themselves - Deep local knowledge - Trusted relationships, and the Gold-Standard service, Rod Cheeseman Realty continues to deliver exceptional outcomes for Omaha property owners.

E rod@rodcheesemanrealty.co.nz
W rodcheesemanrealty.co.nz



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

Copies will also be available at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 11th January 2026.



Statement of Financial Performance

Omaha Beach Community Inc
For the year ended 31 October 2025

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
Revenue from commercial activities			
Revenue			
Advertising Income - Newsletter	1	3,940	650
Advertising Income - Other	1	1,700	1,500
Donations Received		100	1,149
Subscription Income	1	76,695	79,826
Total Revenue		82,435	83,125
Total Revenue from commercial activities		82,435	83,125
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	4,356	6,195
Total Revenue		86,791	89,319
Expenses			
Expenses related to commercial activities			
Administration Expenses	2	6,150	5,400
Advertising	2	1,084	109
Depreciation	2	5,834	4,257
Freight, Courier & Postage	2	518	253
General Expenses	2	329	942
Insurance	2	4,386	4,292
Loss on Disposal	2	-	1,090
Members Meetings	2	1,309	494
Newsletter - Editing, Publishing & Postage	2	15,071	15,287
Pest Eradication	2	258	2,093
Printing & Stationery	2	306	-
Professional and consulting fees	2	8,738	-
Repairs and Maintenance & Rubbish/Recycling	2	2,173	1,000
Security Cameras Maintenance	2	4,348	4,978
Security Patrol Costs	2	27,804	27,512
Stripe Fees	2	325	259
Website Maintenance	2	1,326	1,211
Xero Fees	2	682	641
Total Expenses related to commercial activities		80,642	69,818
Total Expenses		80,642	69,818
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		6,149	19,502

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.



Statement of Financial Position

Omaha Beach Community Inc
As at 31 October 2025

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

	NOTES	31 OCT 2025	31 OCT 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	3	127,157	89,191
Debtors and prepayments	3	2,811	4,452
Short Term Investments - Term Deposits < 12 months	3	58,177	81,887
Other Current Assets	3	1,252	-
Total Current Assets		189,397	175,530
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	28,690	27,580
Total Non-Current Assets		28,690	27,580
Total Assets		218,087	203,110
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	339	85
Provision for Litigation/Legal Fees	4	10,000	10,000
Total Current Liabilities		10,339	10,085
Total Liabilities		10,339	10,085
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		207,748	193,025
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	6	207,748	193,025
Total Accumulated Funds		207,748	193,025

This statement has 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 2025

	2025	2024
Accumulated Funds at Year End		
Income & Expenditure		
Income		
Golf Club Contributions Community Centre	12,371	11,982
GC Contribution re AC Insurance/Maintenance fee (6 years)	1,000	6,000
Interest Income - Community Maintenance Fund	2,306	2,929
Total Income	15,677	20,911
Less Expenditure		
Maintenance - Community Centre	-	14,835
Total Less Expenditure	-	14,835
Increase / (Decrease) in Fund	15,677	6,076
Accumulated Funds at Start of Year		
Community Maintenance Fund - Retained Earnings	65,941	59,894
Accumulated Funds at Year End	81,618	65,971

Statement of Financial Position

Assets		
BNZ Current Account		
BNZ Community Maintenance	26,633	27,745
Total BNZ Current Account	26,633	27,745
BNZ Term Deposits		
Term Deposit 3046 - CM Fund	-	25,908
Term Deposit 3048 - CM Fund	40,000	-
Term Deposit 3023 - CM Fund	15,567	15,112
Total BNZ Term Deposits	55,567	41,019
Accounts Receivable - Community Centre	1,171	1,171
GST CC	(2,423)	(3,964)
Resident Withholding Tax - CC	671	-
Total Assets	81,618	65,971
Total Statement of Financial Position	81,618	65,971

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

2025 Performance Report | Omaha Beach Community Inc

Page 16 of 16



The OBC Committee would like to thank Sphere Chartered Accountants. We thank the team who provides valuable advice and specifically acknowledge Abby Brown, April Corry and Kaye Collis for their efforts this year.



THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS' SOCIETY INC. (OBRS)

The current OBRS Committee comprises: Tony Coupe (Chair), Fiona Hyland, Ian Daniel, Derek Nolan KC, Faris Azimullah, Mayurie Goodwin and Phil Bougen.

Here is a report from Tony Coupe, OBRS Chair.

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

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: Design Control Committee (DCC). The DCC comprises Derek Nolan KC, Chair, Peter Neeve (Planning Consultant) and Brent Hulena & Richard Harris (both architects).

The OBRS Design Control Committee has been active over the last 12 months, the economy not appearing to deter ongoing investment in Omaha South.

Five applications were made to build new homes and 22 to undertake additions and alterations, some quite extensive. In addition, there were seven approvals sought for decks, fencing and swimming pools plus ten inspections required for completed projects. These submissions can range from relatively straightforward to complex applications which the DCC considers and deliberates upon using their professional expertise and knowledge as architects and planners.

Last summer the DCC had prepared updated Design Guidelines which were approved by the OBRS Committee. These are on the OBRS website (go to the tab "Wanting to Build?") and working well, with owners and architects referring to them.

https://irp.cdn-website.com/7eae45a3/files/uploaded/Rev_OBRS_Guidelines_-_Dec_2024.pdf

Peter Neeve, the DCC Manager, also receives numerous queries from owners and their advisors and provides assistance to help them with this process.

Tennis Courts

OBRS is also responsible for administering and maintaining the three tennis court complexes at Tuna Place, Mangatawhiri Road and Taumata Road. These court complexes are now over 20 years old.

The Tuna Place tennis courts were resurfaced with an artificial turf under a previous committee approximately five years ago and are being regularly maintained.

The Mangatawhiri Courts were resurfaced at the end of last summer with a hard-court surface laid by Plexipave NZ and by all accounts are playing well. More importantly, this is a low maintenance surface and therefore requires less annual costs to upkeep.

A decision on the resurfacing of the Taumata Courts has been deferred for the moment but, thanks to the efforts of Committee member Phil Bougen, these courts in their current condition will remain playable for another year or two.

Pickleball

After extensive consultation and research, a decision was made the OBRS Committee not to introduce and facilitate the playing of pickleball on any of our tennis court complexes. The reasons were set out in email correspondence dated 20th August 2025 to OBRS members. See copy below.

Date: 20th August 2025
Dear Members,
PICKLEBALL COURTS

As advised in the Annual Report of the OBRS circulated to all members ahead of the June 2025 AGM and for the reasons described in that Report, the OBRS Committee has been investigating the implications of installing pickleball markings and pickleball nets at the Mangatawhiri Road and Taumata Road tennis courts if they are replaced with hard surfaces, as has now occurred at Mangatawhiri Road.

Community Matters



In particular, the Committee was aware that the noise effects from the use of dedicated pickleball facilities might differ from traditional tennis and therefore needed investigation.

Rather than relying on internet articles on the topic or assertions from lay persons on the likely noise impacts, Marshall Day Acoustics (MDA) were retained as independent experts to investigate, to undertake modelling and to report on the issue.

A detailed report from MDA has been received and considered by the Committee.

MDA concluded that provided that various mitigation steps were taken, pickleball courts could be operated in a manner that would comply with the Auckland Unitary Plan noise limits by a significant margin and that the noise would be reasonable. This was important advice.

The Committee then had to assess the costs and practicality of the mitigation measures recommended by MDA. This has taken some time.

The principal measures are the need for sound barriers along part of the tennis courts' perimeters (as shown in the MDA report) and, in order to take a conservative approach, to limit the use of the pickleball courts to end at 5pm daily, although the tennis courts could continue as usual to be used until 10pm.

Sound barriers are commonly in use in many situations for acoustic mitigation. The most common are close boarded timber fences (which the Committee obtained quotes for to understand the cost, using as an example the 75m length of fencing recommended by MDA for Mangatawhiri Road at varying heights) but there are also specialised fabric and transparent type barriers as well.

A combination of solid and perhaps some transparent materials, depending on the location, would likely be desirable at the Mangatawhiri and Taumata Road courts.

Ensuring the dedicated pickleball courts with their nets and markings were not used after 5pm on any day would effectively require an OBRS court manager, such as



Insite Security, to attend the courts at that time daily and remove or shift the nets from the courts and perhaps to monitor the situation. Taken together, the substantial costs both initially with the purchase and construction of the required sound barriers (over \$20,000 for the Mangatawhiri Road courts and likely to be similar for Taumata Road if both proceeded) and longer term with the ongoing management required over the use of the pickleball courts and equipment from 5pm each day, has lead the Committee to determine that it is not feasible, for cost reasons, to undertake the mitigation recommended by MDA. Accordingly, the decision of the Committee is that pickleball markings and pickleball nets will not be installed at either the Mangatawhiri Road or Taumata Road courts.

For completeness, the Committee records that certain other possible effects of dedicated pickleball courts were suggested by some members, such as the possibility that they may attract non-Omaha residents, or they may attract cars to Taumata Road where there is less parking and so on. The Committee has considered these matters, including assessing the cost of installing gate codes and tags (as commonly found on gates at marina piers, as an example), but it has not been necessary to progress these matters further given the decision referred to above.

Tony Coupe, Chair, Omaha Beach Residents Society Inc

Community Objectives & 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 provide you with the rest and recreation that the area provides.

Tony Coupe, Chair, OBRS Inc

THE COASTAL TRAIL – NEW SECTION OPENS IN TIME FOR SUMMER

The Coastal Trail is a proud community project, managed and led by the Matakana Coast Trail Trust, a passionate group of dedicated volunteers working tirelessly to make the Coastal Trail vision a reality.

We're thrilled to announce that the Point Wells to Matakana Country Park section of the trail is officially open, just in time for summer! This new trail represents local collaboration, generosity and community spirit, bringing us closer to our vision of a safe, scenic adventure trail connecting our coastal communities.

It's been great to see so many people out enjoying the new trail, whether walking or cycling. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, or helped spread the word. Your support has made this project a reality.

We are now working on the planning and design for the next section of the trail, from Matakana Village to Sharp Road. To find out more, or to support The Coastal Trail, please visit thecoastaltrail.co.nz or contact info@thecoastaltrail.co.nz



Omaha Substation

A POWERFUL UPDATE – NEWS FROM VECTOR

The OBC continues to enjoy a good working relationship with Vector.

As per our recent OBC Mid-year Update, we engaged with them regarding the outages that were being experienced too often in Omaha South. As reported back then, Vector were able to make an interim change which improved the issue but still left us with some risk of outages continuing to occur.

Vector has recently advised us that they are now targeting further improvement in the reliability and capacity of power supply to Omaha. They will be installing an additional feeder (a new 11kV circuit) from the new Big Omaha Substation and bringing it across the causeway. The new circuit will be underground along its entire route. This should make our power supply more resilient to the environmental effects that have been plaguing the current supplies.

This work is planned to start in first quarter of 2026 – so, watch this space!



THE INTERNET, MOBILE DATA AND SOCIAL MEDIA @ OMAHA

Fibre Network

www.chorus.co.nz/get-connected or call 0800 222 644.

Website

Omaha Beach Community Inc.
www.omahabeach.co.nz

The official OBC website – set up in 2005 – 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 to get the latest updates and info!

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

Facebook Page

Omaha Beach Community
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 Coast 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.

SAFETY ETIQUETTE IN AND AROUND PARADISE

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, Wardens and Police throughout the summer period.
- Respect the DOG RULES and pick up after your dog (page 40).
- Stay off the DUNES, they need protection for a purpose! (See page 19)
- NO FIRES or fireworks on the beach.
- Stay SAFE in the water; let someone know if you intend to go swimming alone.
- Observe the SPEED LIMITS when driving, including the causeway.
- Observe the SPEED LIMITS within the harbour when boating.
- Use GOLF CARTS appropriately; no racing around on the roads, or on Reserves. NB: Police will be paying close attention to kids in golf carts in Omaha this holiday season.
- Use JET SKIS responsibly, observe speed limits and maintain distance from the public. Safety is paramount!
- Respect the SHOREBIRDS in their Sanctuary – keep dogs and cats away, and please do not picnic within the area.
- Be decent, kind, respectful and patient – it's always better that way!
- 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 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. These are definitely doing their job well.

Whether it's making submissions on behalf of the community, doing predator control work or dealing with random issues that pop up, 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 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.

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



OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB INC.

General Manager: Frazer Bond
President: Robert Begg
Patron: Michael Dowd
Email: support@omahagolf.co.nz
Website: www.omahagolf.co.nz
Phone: 09 422 7551

This past year has been one of the most special in Omaha Beach Golf Club's history — a year of milestones, growth, and genuine community spirit.

The highlight was, without question, our 50th Jubilee, which brought together more than 170 people for a night of stories, laughter, and celebration. It reminded us that Omaha Beach Golf Club isn't just a place to play golf — it's part of the community's story.

That celebration also reached beyond our gates, with Omaha hosting the Freyberg Masters, a NZ National event. It was such a proud milestone, showcasing Omaha Beach to golfers across the country. The course presentation, volunteer support, and atmosphere were second to none — a true credit to everyone involved. This was followed up with our feature in The Cut Magazine, putting Omaha Beach on the national map and real recognition of how far we've come — from humble beginnings to one of New Zealand's most vibrant and welcoming Clubs.



Membership and Momentum

We've now surpassed 1,100 members, an incredible milestone that reflects the continued belief and enthusiasm of our golfing community.

Our Full Playing and 9-Hole 7-Day membership categories have both reached capacity, and we now operate a waitlist for those options. It's a wonderful sign of how strong the Club's position has become — but also a reminder of the importance of planning for sustainable growth.

For those still looking to join, we have other membership categories open, along with flexible payment options designed to make joining easy. From December to February, new members can sign up and take advantage of 10-monthly payment terms at no additional cost — helping spread the cost of membership while still enjoying full benefits.

We've also introduced a fantastic Introductory Membership at \$500, which includes six 9-hole rounds, a Golf NZ handicap for one year, and a \$50 bar tab. It's the perfect way for beginners to get started or returning golfers to get back into the swing — a simple, welcoming way to join the Club and community.

A Place for Everyone

While golf remains at the heart of what we do, we've continued to build a space where everyone feels welcome. We've expanded capacity with new outdoor seating, and our Family Event Days every long weekend have become a local highlight — bringing together families, neighbours, and visitors for relaxed, social days on the deck.

We've also seen more locals joining through our Social Membership Card — a \$100 membership that gives you \$100 back in Club credit plus 10% rewards on purchases at the bar and golf shop. It's our way of saying: you don't have to play golf to belong here.

Investing in the Future

As we grow, we're committed to making sure our progress benefits members and the wider community alike.

This coming year, we'll be investing in course cameras and upgraded security with more staff, introducing player-tracking technology to improve pace and safety, and preparing to complete the Pitman Plan with the redevelopment of our new Par 5 3rd hole.

This project will complete the re-build of the Northern 9 and mark the culmination of more than two decades of member-driven progress. The design merges the existing 3rd and 3A holes into a modern, flexible Par 5 with alternate tees and green options, thereby improving playability, drainage, and course balance.

Like every major improvement at Omaha, this one will be achieved through membership support — by members and sponsors who believe in leaving a lasting legacy.

Donations are being received through the Friends of Omaha Beach Golf Club Charitable Trust, making all contributions tax-deductible. Whether you can give a little or a lot, every dollar will help us reach the \$300,000 goal and break ground in early 2026.

If you'd like to contribute, please make payment to:

Friends of Omaha Beach Golf Club Charitable Trust
ASB 12-3095-0237820-50

(Include your initials + surname in the reference)

Your support — just as it did with Vision 2022 — will help us finish what we started and keep Omaha Beach Golf Club moving forward for the next generation.

If you would like to see the plans and learn more, visit the Club's website or feel free to reach out to me to discuss further.

With Thanks to Our Sponsors

Our success wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors, who continue to back our events, programmes, and facilities.

A special thank-you to JBWere, our Diamond Sponsor, for committing to another two years of partnership. Their belief in the Club and continued investment in us are a huge part of our story.

We also extend sincere thanks to all our sponsors — large and small — who contribute so much behind the scenes. We encourage all members to support them in return, because they're part of this community too.

Our People — The Heart of It All

At the centre of everything we do are our people.

To every staff member and volunteer — full-time, part-time, casual, or simply

helping out at events — thank you. Every early morning, late night, and small effort contributes to the bigger picture. Without your dedication and pride in this place, none of this would be possible.

The same goes for our members, whose belief in the Club's direction has driven our success. The leadership, the committee and I can set a course, but it's your support, your ideas, and your energy that brings it to life.

A Club Built on Belief

Omaha Beach Golf Club's growth is not just about numbers; it's about people believing in something together. We've built momentum because of strong leadership but, more importantly, because of the shared belief — that this Club belongs to everyone who walks through the doors.

As we provide a place for members, families, and friends to gather, socialise, and create memories, our focus remains simple: to keep investing in our greatest asset — the people, to enable a place for this generation, and the next.

See you at the Club!

If you have any questions about the Golf Club, membership or bookings, please email support@omahagolf.co.nz

We look forward to seeing you this summer. Thank you!

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

OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE — A WELL-UTILISED HUB

In addition to being a hub for golfers, and somewhere to come and get great food and drink, the Community Centre gets used by many different groups and individuals in all sorts of ways. Estuary Café & Bar provides catering with a wide range of food and beverage offerings. Sometimes there's entertainment on site. Always, there's a convivial atmosphere and beautiful views.

Here's a snapshot of things that happen in our fabulous Community Centre:

Friday night dinners, Golf tournaments and events, OBC AGM (January) and Committee meetings throughout the year, OBRS Friends of Omaha, Bowling Club gatherings, U3A annual event, Bridge, Mahjong (winter), car clubs, cycling groups, walking groups, WAPPS, various social and fundraising events.

OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB (OBSLC)

President: Linda Crisford
Email: mail@omahasurf.co.nz
Website: www.omahasurf.co.nz
Phone: 09-422 7022

This year my focus is on celebrating and recognising our young people who are so committed to our community.

What a fantastic season 2024/2025 Omaha Beach Surf Lifesaving had, culminating in our Club winning Surf Lifesaving Club of the Year at the SLSNR Awards of Excellence for the second time. The following members were Club finalists at the awards: DHL Lifeguard of the Year, Jackson Whitaker; and Outstanding Contribution to Junior Surf, Jason Reid, who won this category. This was a great accolade to our people who give their time, passion, care, kindness and energy to the Club in all volunteer areas — Lifeguarding, Sports, Juniors, Inflatable Rescue Boats, Education, Training, Coaching, Administration and cooking sausages!

A focus of our Club is to support, promote and enable our young people to develop new skills and become leaders. They are our future and our young leaders are exceptional, stepping up to not only take on Lifeguarding but also committee work, training, mentoring and instructing. This is epitomised by Stella Stanley Hunt who was selected for the BP Leaders for Life Programme and Jayden Early, Flynn Powell and Bella McCormack who not only lifeguard but also train our younger members. They are amazing mentors and the community is lucky to have them.

The following lifeguards have also received leadership recognition at Mahurangi High School: Maia Iversen (Head Girl), Luke Matthews (Head Boy), Oly Gipps (Deputy Head Boy) and Aria Dewe, Eva Fitzgerald, Poppy Campbell, Anna Hyde and Matai O'Malley (Prefects). We are very proud of them.

Our Club has continued to participate in carnivals and sports events with increasing success.

At the Aon Surf Life Saving Championships in Gisborne, in wild weather, Zac Donaldson became the Club's newest National Champion, taking out the U15 Run Swim Run title, as well as Bronze in the Surf race. Kane



Wright took Silver in the U15 Beach Sprint and Toby Sykes got Bronze in the U19 Board race.

We also sent four teams to the BP NZ IRB National Championships, with a mix of experienced and new crew. We came 19th out of 30 — a brilliant effort.

The Club also entered four teams in the Ninety Mile Beach challenge, with one team being an all-girls crew who were first timers. Hilary Barry from TVNZ spoke highly of all the competitors.

Junior Surf continues to grow, as the community can see on a Sunday morning. This is a large undertaking by dedicated parents, coaches and managers. If you have children or grandchildren, come and join the Club — it's wonderful to see the joy and excitement on their faces as they learn new skills and make new friends. A lot of fun, not just for the children, but the parents too!

We had a large group of Rookies pass their Lifeguard exam at the beginning of this season, and we are continually training and upskilling our guards for the future.

For this 2025/2026 season, over 15 of our Lifeguards have been selected by Surf Life Saving Northern Region (SLSNR) to be paid Lifeguards across the Auckland — an exceptional achievement.

Work has been continuing on the feasibility study regards looking at upgrading the Club to futureproof it for coming years and to ensure we continue to be fit for purpose to protect our community. This has been done with the support of SLSNR and SLSNZ and we will keep the community informed of progress in this space.

We are very pleased to announce that Victoria Turner and her team at Ray White have become a Platinum Sponsor. They are, and have been,



very connected to the Omaha Beach Community. We are also very excited to cook the hundreds of sausages on a state-of-the-art brand-new barbecue provided by Victoria and Richard Turner. Thank you!

Also, a big thank you to Debt Managers for being a Platinum Sponsor.

We are always grateful for the community's support and for your feedback. Please come and visit the Club, especially on the weekends, to see what we do – you will be warmly welcomed.

With summer nearly here, please remind friends and visitors to check conditions, swim between the flags and no one swims alone.

Last thoughts ...

There are two small words that make our guards feel valued and they are “thank you” – so please say THANK YOU to them, they will really appreciate it.

Have a wonderful, joyful summer – enjoy the beach and keep each other safe.

Linda Crisford, President, OBSLSC

OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

President: Ewan McLeod

Patron: Tony Teare

Email: mcleodewan@gmail.com

Phone: 021 2964573

The Omaha Beach Bowling Club has gone from strength to strength over the last few years with well over 100 members, many of whom are new to bowling in the last five years – or who we term “juniors” in bowls speak (even if you are 70+ years old!)

Our extended and renovated Clubrooms have proven very popular with both our members and visitors from other clubs. Our artificial green is the envy of many other clubs.

We have a Committee of nine members: Ewan McLeod (Chair); Jill Rowdon (Secretary); Gayleen Redding (Treasurer); Warwick Hall; Mike Jackson; Paul O'Brien; Joanne Ohms; Maryann Steele and Christine Wilkinson.

The Committee meets once per month but members are always working to ensure our Club is serving the needs of our new bowlers, our social bowlers and our more experienced bowlers who are maybe seeking more competitive



competitions both at our Club and further afield.

For newer bowlers we offer coaching assistance on Wednesday and Saturday mornings (Contact Paul van der Linden on 021 189 0110). There is no charge for this and the Club has a range of bowls of various weights which you are welcome to use. This is a good opportunity for those thinking about bowling – but who are not yet sure – to give it a go.

These mornings are also enjoyed by our regular members with a “rollup” for an hour or two, usually followed by a chat and coffee at Estuary Café.

Sunday afternoons are set aside for social bowls – two hours of bowling (sponsored by the Estuary Café), including some fun events and refreshments to follow. Also, once a month we organise a BBQ. We are also hoping to get a Friday night Twilight Competition under way with a neighbouring club.

And, for bowlers who wish to be more competitive, on Tuesday mornings we hold a two-game/half-day tournament from 9:00am to 12 noon. This is a “single entry” tournament where we form random teams of two or three players, mixing experienced players with less experienced and new bowlers.

Every third Thursday of the month we hold a three-game tournament from 9:00am to about 2:00pm for players ready to step up from the half-day tournament.

And, for the more competitive players, there are Open to All Club tournaments at other nearby clubs, the most popular being at Mahurangi/Snells Beach on Tuesdays.

Additionally, once a month we are now holding a full-day tournament (four games) which is open to teams

from other clubs. This has proved very popular, with some great meat prizes on offer, sponsored by New World and The Botanic.

Our various Club Championships take place in the early part of the year with the opportunity for winners in the various grades (men's/women's singles; pairs; triples; fours etc) to take part in the North Harbour Championships. Last year our Club had a record number of entries to the Regional Championships.

A big thank you to our major sponsors: Bayleys; Flooring Xtra; Rhodes for Roads; Settlers and Fairview Village. Thanks also to our other sponsors who support our Club and tournaments: Dominator Doors; Treez and Lawns; Albany Heat Pumps; and Omaha Construction. Whether you are a Club Member or not, you will still see some of their signage as you pass by our Club. They support our Omaha community and, in return, it's essential our community supports them. We are always on the lookout for new and additional sponsors.

For more information on our Club and/or tournaments etc you can refer to our website: omahabeachbowls.co.nz

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

*Ewan McLeod, President,
Omaha Beach Bowling Club*

FIND OUT MORE

A reminder that you can find out more about the OBC and local activities:

- OBC website www.omahabeach.co.nz
- “Omaha Beach Community” Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omahabeach>

Contact us by email

us@omahabeach.co.nz with any queries or suggestions.

SAYERS SAYS IT

**A Message from
Rodney Councillor
Greg Sayers**



What can be done about the massive Rates increases?

Under current law, Rates increases are linked to either a property's capital value (CV) or land value (LV). In Auckland, Rates are based on CVs – meaning your Rates depend on your property's value relative to others across the city.

When thousands of CBD properties saw their CVs drop, areas like Rodney and Franklin – where CVs held steady, decreased less, or even rose – ended up shouldering a larger share of Auckland's total Rates bill. The result: Rodney residents are paying disproportionately higher increases.

Rates remain a wealth tax in disguise – charged on what your house is worth, not on the Council services you actually receive or use. For example, after a lifetime of work and paying off a mortgage, retirees can easily face a \$4,000-plus yearly Rates bill that their pension or KiwiSaver simply can't cover.

To help rein in Rate hikes, the coalition Government has introduced the Local Government Amendment Bill, which redefines the purpose of local councils and re-emphasises delivery of core services such as roads, water and waste management.

The Bill removes the requirement for councils to promote the “social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being” of communities – known as the four well-beings – introduced under Labour. Instead, councils must focus on cost-effective, good-quality infrastructure, performing regulatory functions, and supporting local growth and development.

This represents a return to the previous National Government's approach. The Government says the change will prevent councils from straying into non-essential activities and help keep Rates under control.

Councils must also give particular regard to core services – defined as network infrastructure, public transport, waste management, civil defence, and community facilities such as libraries, museums, and reserves.

The Government's explanatory note hints that further measures may follow – including a rate peg, which could limit how much councils can increase Rates each year.

For example, Auckland Rates increases could be tied to inflation plus a small margin for growth, or capped at a maximum (say, no more than 10% for any one property). I have written to the Mayor and CEO of Auckland Council requesting that Auckland considers such an approach voluntarily.

Although the Bill doesn't impose a cap, its focus on core services is a clear signal that financial restraint is expected – and that tighter controls may follow if councils fail to “stick to their knitting.”

The main drivers of Auckland's steep Rates increases include historical under-investment in infrastructure, the need for new infrastructure to meet population growth, and escalating construction and maintenance costs. The Government has not signalled any cut to immigration numbers, meaning Auckland must continue to expand – and pay for it. In addition, the Bill removes the requirement for councils to consider knowledge of tikanga Māori when appointing directors to council-controlled organisations.

While these reforms aim to control spending, the real challenge remains: how to fund the enormous cost of maintaining and upgrading Auckland's infrastructure. Councils need a wider range of funding tools beyond Rates and user fees.

Ideas such as a regional accommodation levy, GST sharing on new builds, returning the GST paid on rates, or congestion charging have all been proposed – but, so far, the coalition Government has not agreed to any of them.

Another practical option is to increase the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) – the flat charge every property pays regardless of its value or location. Auckland's UAGC is relatively low and increasing it would spread costs more evenly and thereby help reduce the general Rates burden.

One major lesson from this year's Rates debacle is that ratepayers should know the effect of updated CVs (recalculated every three years) before consultation begins. The failure to do this led directly

to the confusion and anger many Aucklanders – especially in Rodney – are still feeling. This must never happen again.

I have also called for an independent service and performance auditor to be appointed to Auckland Council – a recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance when the Super City was created but never implemented. Such an independent watchdog would protect ratepayers' interests, free from political spin, pressure, or internal bias. They would have the authority to investigate and publicly report on Council performance at any level of the organisation.

On a personal note, I continue to work closely with the Omaha Beach Community and the Omaha Beach Residents Society. I look forward to continuing to serve Omaha's interests in 2026.

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: 09 301 0101 or 021 285 9900

greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

<https://gregsayers.co.nz>

AN UPDATE FROM IVAN WAGSTAFF

**Thank You, Omaha –
Now the Work Begins!**

I want to start with a simple and heartfelt thank you. I am incredibly humbled by your support and the trust you've placed in me to represent our community on the Rodney Local Board. Seeing the strength of our turnout was a powerful reminder of how much people here care about our future.

I also want to be upfront with you: I had publicly announced that I would not be running again. I felt I had done my term, and it was time for others to step up. However, seeing the immense challenges our community is now facing—particularly the unfair and misleading rate hikes that blindsided so many families – I was approached by people from all corners of our region. The message I heard was clear: the





fight wasn't over. With that incredible encouragement, I knew I had a responsibility to keep working for you. Your vote has now given me a clear mandate to continue that fight on your behalf, and I do not take that lightly.

Now, with your support, here is where my focus will be in the term ahead.

Investing in Our Community Hubs

Our local clubs, halls, and community centres are the absolute heart of our region. They are where our kids learn to play sports, where we gather for events, and where our volunteers build the social fabric that makes this area so special. A top priority for me this term is to ensure these hubs have the support they need to not just survive, but to thrive.

I will continue to be a strong voice during the annual budget process, fighting for our fair share of funding to upgrade and maintain our parks, halls, and sports fields so they are fit for our growing communities. Equally important, I will work to cut the Council red tape that frustrates so many of our volunteers. A major part of this is streamlining the lease renewal process. Uncertainty around leases makes it nearly impossible for clubs to plan for the future or invest in their facilities. We need to provide them with security and a simpler process, and I am committed to making that happen.

Protecting Our Coastline, Together

Protecting our stunning harbour and coastline remains a fundamental priority. This isn't just about preserving a view; it's about safeguarding our environment, our public access, and our way of life. As your representative, I will work to deliver the renewal of the public seawall south of the Omaha boat ramp.

I will also continue to vocally support the community's efforts on the proposed seawall north of the ramp. My role here is to act as your advocate, helping you navigate the complexities of the Council consent process and ensuring your local knowledge is heard and respected. These projects are vital for managing coastal erosion and protecting the health of the Whangateau Harbour for generations to come.

The Shoreline Adaptation Plan: From Plan to Action

With the Council's long-term Shoreline Adaptation Plan now adopted, my focus is squarely on implementation

and funding. A plan on paper is meaningless without the budget to make it happen. My job as your elected representative is to be your strong voice during the annual budget process, fighting to ensure that the specific projects identified for our coastline are funded and prioritised. This means turning a 100-year strategy into real, tangible actions on the ground. I will be pushing to ensure that any solutions are practical, tailored for our unique coastline, and developed in partnership with our community, not imposed on us.

Fighting for a Fair Deal on Rates

The fight for fair rates is my most urgent priority. The battle over last year's misleading rates process continues—I have already taken this matter to the Ombudsman and will continue to publicly call on the Mayor to find a fair remedy for the families who were hit with shocking, un-budgeted bills.

We know further increases are proposed for next year, which will compound the shock our community has already endured. This is simply unaffordable for many. I am demanding full transparency from Council on all its financial modelling for future budgets; we will not be misled again. As your representative, I will be fighting for a fairer approach, including a full review of how rates are set and calculated for rural and coastal properties that are not receiving city-level services.

A Safer Summer Delivered

Protecting our lifestyle also means ensuring our summers are safe and enjoyable for residents. I'm proud that after working closely with the Omaha Beach Community (OBC), we successfully secured funding for dedicated compliance officers (Wardens) for our area. (See page 7). This initiative arose directly from listening to your concerns about issues like freedom camping, parking congestion, boat ramp etiquette, and the antisocial behaviour that can stem from alcohol consumption in our public reserves and on the beach.

A key part of their role will be to provide a visible presence and enforce the local bylaws, including the Alcohol Ban, to ensure these beautiful spaces remain safe and welcoming for everyone, especially families. You will see the Wardens on the ground this summer, a direct result of our community speaking

up and working together to find a practical solution.

Like many of you, I walk Omaha beach in the mornings with my dog. It's our beach, it's very special, and it's a powerful, daily reminder of the "why" behind all this work. It's why I care so deeply about water quality, coastal protection, and preserving the unique character of our community.

Thank you again for your trust. The real work starts now. I am committed to being the proven, grounded, and accountable voice you elected me to be.

Together, let's get it done.

Ngā mihi,

Ivan Wagstaff, Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board

Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council
Phone: 027 334 1317

Ivan.Wagstaff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Visit Auckland Council's website:

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

UPDATE ON ROADING, WALKWAYS AND RESERVES

By Rohan Meuli

Hi everyone – firstly, another reminder that your first port of call about maintenance issues around Omaha is:

- For roads, street signs and street lighting, contact Auckland Transport (AT) on 09 355 3553 or go to the "Report a Problem" form at www.at.govt.nz, or
- For reserves, parks, walkways, trees, etc, contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101 or go to "Report a Problem" at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Though we certainly grumble about Council and AT from time to time, we have seen a reasonable level of ongoing general maintenance and a few major projects over the last 12 months or so, including the following:

1. Stormwater upgrade at Boat Ramp Reserve – This large project to upgrade and realign the stormwater network



along Omaha Drive and within the Boat Ramp Reserve to reduce frequent flooding and improve water quality has now been completed.



2. Resealing roads in Omaha North – We've also seen quite a lot of resealing work recently on Omaha Drive and some of the side streets.



3. Suctioning of cesspits – As usual, the large pump trucks have been circulating periodically to help reduce the risk of localised flooding by doing regular suctioning of cesspits.



4. Cleanup of Archies Park mound – After years of weeds etc gradually overtaking this amazing mound, there was a big cleanup a few months ago and Archies Park has never looked so good!

5. Cleanup of noxious plants on dunes – This is arguably the most important Council work in the whole year as a team of contractors swept through most of the dunes, removing as many noxious plants as possible! Invariably, a small portion of the weeds have been overlooked so we're liaising with Council about the contractors returning to round off the job.

6. Repairing damaged bollards, vandalised verge, etc – Council also have to deal with the results of stupidity, especially from motorists, with examples being the car that knocked over bollards on Omaha Drive near the Community Centre and the mindless vandalism of doing wheelies on the verge near the roundabout.



7. Dune Recovery – Another very important project with the worrying break in our all-important dunes near Walkway 2 being gradually repaired with input from local folk and Council.



8. Dealing with the smell! – As occasionally happens, a persistent and unpleasant smell was emanating from one of the sewage pumping stations and (after some prompting by locals and OBC!). Watercare duly came with some impressive machinery to sort it out.

9. Roundabout foliage safety issue – This is another good example of Council responding to feedback from you and us! The bushes that were growing on the islands approaching the roundabout were blocking the view of motorists which was obviously dangerous so the Council has followed up by removing the foliage and replacing them with



(hopefully) some low-level alternatives.

10. Signage – And 2+ years after Cyclone Gabrielle, the dog warning sign at the beach end of Walkway 2 is finally replaced!?



Lastly, OBC gives special thanks to Barbara Tupou Clark, the Council's Parks & Community Facilities Coordinator for Rodney, who is our "go to" person at Council when something has gone wrong in Omaha!

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

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

The following examples are illegal under the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

- 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 two 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.

The key rules and need-to-know information regarding Freedom Camping in our locale can be found in Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw 2022 on aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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.

OMAHA PROPERTY TITLES AND COVENANTS – WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (ESPECIALLY IN NORTHERN OMAHA!)

As many of you will already know, the rules for building and renovation in Omaha South are well defined and managed by the Omaha Beach Residents Society (OBRS) Design Control Committee.

They are published on the [OBRS website](#).

Any applications for the OBRS Building Approval Process (and this applies to both new and existing properties) are spelled out here:

https://www.obrs.co.nz/dcc_guidelines

However, in Omaha North, you are on your own and Auckland Council's unitary plan typically reigns supreme!

BUT many properties have existing covenants in place that are referenceable via a search of your Certificate of Title – these will inform you of things like height restrictions as well as any other “rules” that can be applied to your property.

Did you know, for example, that in some locations in the north you cannot have a caravan on site for any more than six weeks within any three-month period? And that your grass must not exceed 30 centimetres? Neither did I!

Below is an example of some of the rules that can apply to various properties.

The Transferee will not use the land or permit the same to be used for any trading or commercial purpose without first obtaining the written consent of all of the registered proprietors of the lots whose properties adjoin the land;

The Transferee will not permit to be placed upon the land any caravan unless such caravan is currently registered with a current warrant of fitness, has wheels attached and arrangements approved by the Transferor have been made for toilet and sewage disposal and the Transferee shall not place nor permit nor suffer to be put upon the land any

caravan for a period in excess of six weeks in any three month period;

The Transferee will not remove from the land any existing ground cover, plants, shrubs or trees except as may be necessary for the purpose of erecting forthwith any building authorised in the terms hereof or constructing any paths or driveways; The Transferee will keep all grass on the land trimmed to a height not exceeding 30 centimetres.

Now to height restrictions! These are varied within Omaha North – for some properties in the older subdivisions (think The Southern Isle, Blue Bell Parade, Ruby Cove for example), there are blanket limitations that mean for properties close to the water you can only build a single level home. These limitations were put in place originally to ensure that there were viewing lines for properties set further back from the beach were maintained.

Whereas within the most northern end of Omaha, height restrictions can vary significantly from ~6.5 meters to allowing for three levels.

As these covenants are binding on successive owners of the properties subject to the covenants – not just the original owner – knowledge of the covenant terms (what restrictions your property may be subject to, or you, as an adjoining owner, may have the benefit of) is critical, particularly where building alterations or demolition and a new build is undertaken.

Also, there are unfortunately problems with new titles having been issued by LINZ (or its predecessor) without a record of the covenant being recorded on the title. This does not mean the covenant terms no longer apply – they continue to be enforceable by properties which have the benefit of the covenant. Property owners in Omaha North (or anyone contemplating purchasing in this location) should expect to see notice of a covenant on the title record. If you don't, request your lawyer to search the historic records of the title.

For those of you contemplating renovations or a rebuild, the message from all of this is always engage an expert and get them to check your specific property's covenants.

Animal Patrol

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. If you see unacceptable behaviour by any animals around Omaha, please contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101.

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:

Beach		
	Summer	Winter
	Off-leash 5pm - 10am	Off-leash All times
	Prohibited 10am - 5pm	

Summer rules apply from 1 December to 1 March.

Winter rules apply from 2 March to 30 November.



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 – Given we now have Kiwi back in Omaha, it is even more important to please keep your cats inside at night to protect the Kiwi as well as our Sanctuary shorebirds.

Cats on the prowl at night can also intrude into houses and cause mayhem, for human and cat dwellers. Very unwelcome!

So, please aim to keep your cat in overnight for the safety of our birdlife and to avoid your cat trespassing. And please also do your best to discourage them from hunting native birds.

Omaha Rubbish and Recycling Collections



RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

This year has seen some significant changes to our kerb-side Rubbish collection services, as a result of Auckland Council's introduction of a Rates-paid service, and the provision of new Council Rubbish wheelie bins, and Council plastic Rubbish bags. Council has contracted Northland Waste for our Rubbish collection service.

Please note the following, which includes changes to our kerb-side Rubbish collections from what has occurred previously. There used to be two Council rubbish collections per week over the period, but this year there will only be one Council collection per week. The other collection referred to is for Northland Waste customers Only and requires a separate Northland Waste bin.

The OBC Committee has engaged extensively with Council, and Northland Waste, over the changes to the kerb-side Rubbish collections. We have also engaged extensively with Council over the provision of additional Recycling collections over the peak summer period. Whilst we believe an acceptable arrangement has been reached, Council is requiring the OBC to pay the cost of any additional collections on behalf of its members.

Rubbish Collections

Northland Waste's plastic Rubbish bags have been phased out following the introduction of the Council's new service in September 2025. Please do not place the old bags out for collection. (NB: Northland Waste plastic Rubbish bags can still be taken to their Transfer Station on Sandspit Road at any time at no additional cost).

The Council has provided each property with a new Rubbish wheelie bin (or a supply of Council plastic Rubbish bags, if requested by the property-owner).

Council's Rubbish wheelie bins and Council's plastic Rubbish bags will continue to be emptied and collected on a Monday (or the following day if the Monday is a Public Holiday). Those with

Northland Waste wheelie Rubbish bins (see below) will be able to have these emptied on a Monday, also.

For Northland Waste Customers ONLY:

Northland Waste will continue to provide Omaha with an additional Rubbish collection service each week (on a Friday, or Saturday) over the summer period (see Calendar below). **However, please note that this additional Rubbish collection, over the summer period, will only be for customers of Northland Waste, using Northland Waste's wheelie Rubbish bins. No Council bins or plastic Rubbish bags will be collected on the Friday (or Saturday) over summer.**

For those wanting to utilise Northland Waste's service (in addition to the Council collections on a Monday), Northland Waste is offering flexible options for its bins, designed to work alongside the new Council service (noting, again, that the additional Rubbish collections for Omaha on a Friday, or Saturday, over the summer period are only available to those residents who have a Rubbish wheelie bin from Northland Waste). For details, please contact Northland Waste.

Rubbish wheelie bins (and any Council Rubbish bags for collection on a Monday) must be put out by **7am on each collection day**

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

As noted above, Council is requiring the OBC to pay for additional collections for its members. This summer, the way that the days of the normal fortnightly Recycling collection falls has meant that only one additional Recycling collection has been arranged (and will be paid on your behalf by the OBC) – the extra date is Monday 5th January 2026.

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.

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

If your wheelie 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, once we have reverted to the normal collection schedule, can be found at <https://collectionforauckland.nz>

Summarised Calendar of Omaha Beach Rubbish & Recycling Collection Days over Summer 2025/26

Yellow is Council rubbish collection – once a week.

Blue is Northland Waste bin collection only (additional collection for these customers).

If you are NOT a Northland Waste customer, please do NOT put your Council bin out on Northland Waste-only days as it will not be collected.

Green is Recycling.



DECEMBER 2025						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
22 nd Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish	23 rd	24 th	25 th Christmas Day	26 th Boxing Day	27 th Northland Waste Rubbish	28 th
29 th Council Northland Waste Rubbish Recycling	30 th	31 st				

JANUARY 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 st New Year's Day	2 nd Day after New Year's Day	3 rd Northland Waste Rubbish	4 th
5 th Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish Recycling	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th Northland Waste Rubbish	10 th	11 th
12 th Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish Recycling	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th Northland Waste Rubbish	17 th	18 th
19 th Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd Northland Waste Rubbish	24 th	25 th
26 th Auckland Anniversary Day	27 th Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish Recycling	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st Northland Waste Rubbish	

FEBRUARY 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1 st
2 nd Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th Waitangi Day	7 th Northland Waste Rubbish	8 th
9 th Council Rubbish Northland Waste Rubbish Recycling	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th



WARKWORTH RE:SORT RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

183 Sandspit Road, Warkworth

Open 7 days: Mon-Fri 8:30am to 5pm; Weekends and Public Holidays 9am to 4pm

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

CONTACT: 0800 499 246 or
warkworth@northlandwaste.co.nz

If you are not at your place to bring your bins out, or put them out ... help is at hand with a new Bin Service!

BIN BOY TO THE RESCUE: YOUNG LOCAL TURNS PROBLEM INTO PRACTICAL SERVICE

When the introduction of rates-funded rubbish bins created a new issue for weekenders – who often head home before bins are emptied on Monday mornings – 13-year-old Hudson Dransfield saw more than just abandoned bins. He saw an opportunity.

A Mahurangi College student and budding entrepreneur, Hudson launched a simple but clever service to help holiday homeowners: for just \$2 a week, he'll put your bins away after collection, keeping your property tidy and inconspicuous. And if your bin isn't out, you don't pay.

"With summer here, more people are up for the weekends," Hudson says. "But when they leave on Sunday and the bin stays on the street, it's a bit of a red flag that no one's home."

When he's not sailing in the College 420 sailing squad he is sailing his Laser, hunting, gaming or maintaining his YouTube channel, Hudson, aka Bin Boy, loves fishing and even won biggest snapper of the year 2023 at the Point Wells Fishing Club as a 10-year-old. He fishes after school in the Whangateau Estuary or off the Pink Beach rocks and now also has a small runabout but only goes beyond the estuary when accompanied by an adult. Hudson follows the old-school fishing practice of releasing his first catch of the day – he says it sometimes brings him good luck!

Hudson's family have had a bach at Omaha for 33 years and his family moved up to live here permanently seven years ago. Whether it's bins or big fish, Bin Boy is definitely reeling in success. The priority after school on a Monday afternoon is to put his customers' bins away, both rubbish and recycling.

A bin put out too early is another red flag and since his service has been on the local Facebook page and Junction magazine, he's been asked to also put bins out prior to rubbish day, including the green waste bins that are collected monthly. Contact Bin Boy to keep your property safe!

Hudson can be contacted at: OmahaBinBoy@gmail.com



FOODIE CORNER

Lauraine Jacobs is our resident foodie at Omaha. She's a cookbook author and writes a monthly column for the Mahurangi Matters, after a lifetime of regular food writing in Cuisine Magazine and The NZ Listener.



I am looking forward to another year of exciting eating around and about Omaha. When we built here 23 years ago, my greatest joy was to find the farmers' stands at the gates of the properties along the Omaha Flats Road. Back then we had no stores in Omaha, a tiny dairy at Point Wells, and the township of Matakana was truly almost a one-horse town where we could get ice-creams, the Herald, bread and milk and not much more. Now, we are spoilt for choice for food shopping and we can eat out at places that are fit for a king.

Here are some of my favourites:

Top of the list is Gretchen Young's **The Superette**, right here at Omaha Beach. There's nothing that's not possible there, and this exemplary store is well stocked with amazing food, and everything any family could possibly want. I vote this as the best store in NZ! See page 45.

Omaha Flats farmstands are well worth stopping at. I buy potatoes, avocados, flowers, bananas, citrus fruit, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, beans, corn, honey, feijoas and so much more.

Matakana Oysters on the Matakana Leigh Rd for fresh oysters, local honey, farm eggs, and, if you're in luck, Tom's excellent oyster soup.

Matakana Farmers Market on Saturdays is worth rising early for as not only are there straight-from-the-farm seasonal fruits and vegetables, olive oils and drinks, but you can have an excellent feed, enjoy great coffee, get your knives sharpened and leave before the tourist hordes arrive from 9am. The pasta is as good as any in Italy.

Ringawera is a fantastic bakery with superb sourdough breads, high quality pastries, a cabinet overflowing with take-out treats, and always great coffee.

Matakana Village Butchery, further along the Matakana Valley Rd, has been around for longer than I remember and the quality of their meat is superb. Don't miss their ham – whole hams, half hams and sliced ham. (See page 44)

Village Kitchen, located at 989B Matakana Rd with fridges and freezers stocked with ready-made meals, salads and cabinet food, and well curated deli items, is a newcomer with delicious food.

Matakana Smokehouse on Sharp Rd is stocked with fresh fish (yay!), great smoked fish and salmon, plus a whole range of superb deli items including Salty River Farms greens. (Closed weekends).

Charles Gelato, with its award-winning gelato and ice cream in a multitude of flavours, also has a great little pantry store for essential and gourmet delights. Take the kids for a treat and wander into the adjacent pick-your-own flower garden.

For eating out: I recommend **The Farmers Daughter**, **Sawmill Brewery**, **Omaha Beach Café**, **Rothko at the Sculptureum**



(awarded ONE Hat by Cuisine Magazine) and Matakana Market Kitchen in the village. Also, the trip over the Matakana Valley Rd hill to **Whanga Eats** is well worth the drive.

For Catering: **Source Kitchen**, now located in the Sculptureum grounds, cannot be beaten for a top-class catering experience. **Ravish** on the corner of Sharp Rd prepares excellent salads and food for parties, barbecues etc and their coffee cart is one of the most popular road stops in the area.

Recipe

Here's an easy little snack from my recipe files to whip up when you have neighbours and friends over this summer.

Zucchini Fitters with Sour Cream and Spicy Chutney:

1. Finely grate 3 courgettes.
2. Place them in a sieve over a bowl and squeeze them hard to remove any excess water.
3. Beat 3 eggs well with 2 tablespoons of self-raising flour, pinches of salt and pepper and a teaspoon of ground cumin.
4. Chop some fresh dill, parsley or mint and add that to the eggs with 3 or 4 tablespoons of crumbled feta and the grated courgettes.
5. Heat some oil in a frying pan and drop small tablespoons of the mixture in. Cook on both sides until the fritters are golden and firm to touch.
6. Serve topped with a dollop of sour cream and some spicy chutney.
7. Makes about 12 to 16 depending on the size.



MATAKANA VILLAGE BUTCHERY – A MEATY HISTORY

This local butchery was built in 1946 by Percy Smith and has had a few owner/operators through the years including J E Jones, Russell Kidd and Bill & Doris Ferguson. Jim & Dawn Penney took it over in 1965 and then Steve & Lynda Whitaker bought it in 1989. Steve (aka Wiri) started work as an apprentice for the Penneys and was with them for 22 years so he knew the ropes well.

Steve had an enormous circular butcher's block where he did all his chopping. Operating in true old-school fashion, he had an ancient till, only took cash or cheques and even wrote the sales dockets by hand! Locals knew to carry cash to get their steak and sausages! Upon his retirement in 2011, Steve, who lives in Leigh, sold the business to former All Black Glen Osborne who ran it for a couple of years.

Current owners Matt & Sarah Watts took over in 2013. Whilst it's been modernised, it retains the flavour of a traditional, family-owned butchery. Now 80 years old, it's a fantastic local treasure and the current team continues to provide the best quality meat alongside a range of deli items. They also have the facility to process your own home-raised or recreationally caught meat.

Steve and his butcher's block back in the day (early 2000s)



RIP DIANNE MORROW (BORN 10TH DECEMBER 1942; DIED 23RD SEPTEMBER 2025)

By Lauraine Jacobs

It was very sad to read that we have lost a wonderful woman, Dianne Morrow, who served not only the Omaha community, but was much loved in the wider food scene. Diane's funeral was held in October at the Omaha Community Centre where family and many locals paid tribute to this former caterer of the Golf Club.

Dianne had a great career in food. In her early days she was a champion of NZ Cheese before many people recognised and loved different styles, and she was supportive of many food producers and chefs. She started a delicatessen in Warkworth, where I used to call in to buy the best of New Zealand cheeses and all manner of other lovely deli items. Dianne was always up for a good yarn about the food scene and was never afraid to find the gossip and share news of other chefs. After she left the Golf Club and Community Centre she moved on to work at Mahurangi Winery in its early days.

On our OBC community Facebook page, many others commented about this "Force of Food". Here are a few quotes:

"Aw no!! She was my very first boss at the Golf Club and then I went onto Mahurangi Winery with her."

"Hugs to all. Would have loved to have been there to celebrate her life."

"She was ahead of her time with her food interests, shop & catering and was a real character. A lost local identity."

"Di was amazing, taught me so much over the years I worked for her at the Golf Club and beyond."

Dianne was a lovely lady, never scared to speak her mind, and enjoyed her last years peacefully living in our beach community.



the SUPERETTE PIZZA Kitchen

HOW TO ORDER

Call us – 021 023 32572 (available during opening hours)

Order on Uber Eats

Pop in and order instore

4/1 MATARIKI STREET, OMAHA 0986

The Superette: A Fresh Take on Local Living

A chat with Gretchen Young

What brought you to Omaha and why did you decide to buy The Superette?

My partner Mike had a holiday home in Omaha and always joked that I should take on the local store. One day he went in and, as fate would have it, it was actually for sale. At the time I was training to own a supermarket and we were living three hours apart. Buying The Superette wasn't part of the plan, but it meant we could finally be in the same place – and we haven't looked back. I grew up in my parents' supermarkets, so food retail has always felt like home. Taking on The Superette felt like a natural next step.

Tell us a bit about The Superette and what makes it unique.

I wanted to create a different kind of convenience store – modern, local, and reflective of how people really live here. Omaha has completely embraced that idea. We champion local growers and small producers, from beautiful nearby produce to meals from places like Ripe Deli. Being independent means we can move fast. If something excites us, we can launch it straight away.

How has the store evolved since you took it over?

It's barely recognisable now! We've completed a three-stage renovation to make the space work as a true full-service grocery store, and we managed to do it all without closing a single day – even over Christmas. Our goal was to make the store easy to shop and genuinely enjoyable to be in.

How do you manage Omaha's seasonal nature?

Running a business in a seasonal town definitely has its challenges, but our loyal locals make it possible. Their support carries us through the quieter months and helps us keep our standards high year-round.

How do you find new products for the store?

I'm a foodie at heart. I love discovering new ideas, and even when I'm on holiday I'll visit other stores just to see what's happening. It keeps me inspired and helps The Superette keep evolving.

What's been your proudest achievement since taking over?

Seeing young locals grow through the business has been incredibly rewarding. We've never had to advertise for staff – everyone comes through community connections. Watching them build confidence and move into great careers is really special.

What can locals look forward to this summer?

This summer is all about easy, delicious food. We've hired a pastry chef to grow our fresh lunch and food-to-go offering, and we've just launched The Superette Pizza Kitchen – wood-fired pizzas made with Italian in the Village bases, available on Uber Eats. Plus our refreshed wine and cheese range and hand-picked rosé selection are ready for those long afternoons on the deck.

What's your vision for The Superette's future?

To keep growing our community of regulars who value local, independent food done well. We'll keep expanding our fresh range and evolving with Omaha, staying true to who we are while continuing to raise the bar.

What's On This Summer?

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 at www.matakanacoast.co.nz

Summer Events 2025/2026

AT MATAKANA COUNTRY PARK

Entry at 1151 Leigh Road and 33 Omaha Flats Road, Matakana www.matakanacountrypark.co.nz

Matakana Christmas Market – Sunday 21st December 2025, 9am to 2pm. Food stalls, food trucks, craft & gift stalls, live music, activities for the kids and more – including Santa and a bouncy castle.

Christmas Carols at St Andrews Church – Check signage on the street for date and details.

Hidden Valley Festival – Saturday 27th December 2025, 3pm to 11pm. The 10-year anniversary! Featuring Wilkinson, K Motionz / Kettama. Special guest Chris Stussy. Several stages. Lots of fun. R18.

Sweet Home Aotearoa – Saturday 3rd January 2026, starts at 1pm. A new Country and Roots festival bringing a taste of Nashville to NZ. Curated by SIX60 and featuring a world-class lineup including Yelawolf, Tash Sultana (DJ Set), Tami Neilson and plenty more. Perfect for laid-back summer vibes in a uniquely Kiwi atmosphere as the new year gets under way. Food and drink available.

AT THE STABLES

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

"Friends Around" – Friday 19th December 2025, 7pm to 12:30am. A boutique club night featuring MC Tali & Chiccoreli and more. Don't miss this DJ-led night of soul, reggae, disco, house and Drum & Bass.

"Legacy Fest 2026" – Sunday 25th January 2026 – with Hello Sailor, Jordan Luck Band, Rumpus Machine,

The Waterways, LouLou. A summer afternoon of live music across the gardens of The Stables & Secret Garden. Get along for this boutique open-air celebration.

"Summer Roadie" – Friday 6th February 2026 (Waitangi Day) – with Che Fu & The Krates, King Kapisi, Sambora & P Digsss, Wendy Douglas, and Phil Stoodley.

This day will unfold like a greatest hits road trip through NZ music culture. Soul grooves, coastal reggae warmth, high energy DnB, Kiwi summer hits and lots of party beats.

AT MATAKANA VILLAGE PUB

George FM Summer Tour XL. Wednesday 28th December at 4pm. R18. Summer vibes featuring Club SACHI, Gentleman's Club and a host of DJs.

AT LEIGH SAWMILL CAFÉ

142 Pakiri Road, Leigh

New Year's Eve Sessions – Wednesday 31st December 2025, 4pm start, ending 1am Thursday 1st January 2026. A free and family-friendly event between 4-8pm (in the courtyard). Head inside for dance floor action from 8pm, a charge applies. Good times, good beats, good kai, good vibes!

Caravana Sun – Sunday 11th January 2026, 4:30pm to 8pm. Renowned for their electrifying lives shows blending reggae, indie grooves and infectious energy. A fab summer-arvo gig!

Leigh Sawmill Jazz Festival – 17/18 January 2026. Returning for its second year with new artists and classic favourites over two days.

- Saturday 17th January 2026, 3-11pm:

A family-friendly event in the afternoon; R18 after 8pm.

- Sunday 18th January 2026, 3-7pm: Featuring Love Square session – with rhythms and melodies from Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

THE GREAT SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

Tuesday 30th December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Open 10am – 4pm daily @ Snells Beach Community Hall, 21 Hamatana Road, Snells Beach. Prizegiving and Preview Evening on Monday 29th December at 7pm, tickets available for purchase \$20pp.

Hosted by the Mahurangi East Tennis Club, for the 32nd consecutive year, a host of artworks will be on display for sale, including photography. Well worth a look!

www.mahutennis.co.nz/art-expo

WARKWORTH RODEO

Thursday 1st January 2026 @ Warkworth Showgrounds, SH1.

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

COFFEE & CARS – SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY @ MATAKANA VILLAGE

An ultra-fun morning out to see the amazing number of collectable cars (think vintage, muscle, super expensive and just very expensive!) that are hidden away in garages for much of the time. Plus, we're raising money for Coastguard!

The event held at Omaha on 16th November was a fabulous affair with good weather. The public vote went to Sharon Marhsall's pink 1956



Thunderbird. Another successful event also took place at Sculptureum on 7th December. Join the fun in Matakana Village in February!



Photo: Richard Wooders

WARKWORTH A&P SHOW

Saturday 21st March 2026, gates open at 9am @ Warkworth Showgrounds, SH1.

All your favourite A&P Show events including a Truck Show, wood chopping, 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.

WHANGATEAU FOLK CLUB @ WHANGATEAU HALL, 533 LEIGH ROAD

Acoustic Music and Social Club Nights on the last Monday of each month. Floor singers and guest bands perform in this beautiful wooden 120+ year old hall with amazing acoustics and seductive lighting. Doors open 6:45pm. Musicians, folk enthusiasts and guests welcome. Small charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided at interval. The wonderful local bluegrass band The Pipi Pickers often do a set. Get along for a night of upbeat and quirky entertainment. whangateau.co.nz/about/folk-club

Local Delights

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.

First, we profile a local delight that is worth a visit.

BEETOPIA – "FOR ALL THINGS BEES"



Sally Blyth met with Grass Esposti who runs Beetopia, situated at 181 Omaha Flats Road, to find out all about bees, bush, trees and wax!

Beetopia is a hive of activity with Grass at the helm. She runs education sessions for kids and adults, specialising in offering neurodiverse learners a unique experience about bees. She also offers beekeeping workshops.



We enter a shallow bush area where there's a special seating arrangement. Information is given and received in this tranquil environment – it sure beats a classroom!

We walk through more lovely bush and it's hard to believe that, just prior to Covid, the whole area where I'm standing was a large flat stretch of land without a tree in sight. With conservation in mind, the vision was for this area to be planted out as a forest and to become an area for education. And that is precisely what happened. But it wasn't an easy process! A week before lockdown in March 2020, a consignment of 10,000 native trees arrived on site. Alas, the lockdown prevented planting teams from being able to come and

plant the trees, and they sat on site waiting patiently for life to get back to normal. By August that year, it was unseasonably warm and, with little water, the trees were in grave danger, but eventually there was resource and capacity to get them planted. Out of their little pots they came, planted into that large piece of land that Grass had mown to "within an inch of its life". All trees were staked and tended to and, wow, you should see it now! Great soil helps the trees flourish.

For her education sessions, after Grass has enlightened the kids with some info, she gives them five leaves and gets them to find the tree they are from. They then sit down and draw the tree (and/or flower) and then monitor it for pollinators. Afterwards, they go into the Honey Shed to do some honey tasting. Grass stocks lots of varieties of honey, produced locally as well as further afield, including some from the Chatham Islands – a part of NZ that is free of bee disease.

Matakana School has a number of hives and Grass teaches the teachers about beekeeping so they can share the knowledge with their students.

Now, the thing about Beetopia is that they have a strong focus on our native bees – which are quite different to the imported and more familiar honeybees. Dr Ngaire Hart is a native bee expert and did her PHD thesis on these creatures. New Zealand used to have about 150 native bee species but now has only 28 (27 are endemic to NZ). Grass learnt much about native bees from Dr Hart, and she now loves sharing her knowledge with the wider community here in our locale.



Ngaire Hart



Find out more about native bees here www.fortheloveofbees.co.nz/native-bees

Unlike their exotic counterparts, native bees, which are usually black or dark grey, do not produce honey or have stings. But they are great pollinators. About half the size of a honeybee, they live in small family units in tiny individual holes as part of a colony. It's enlightening to learn about these bees and Grass points out a bank full of little holes where they live. Who knew!?

Grass and her husband run and maintain the Beetopia property and business. Grass opens her Store and Honey Shed to the public on Saturdays between 9am and 3pm. Through the summer season, she'll also open on Sundays between 9am and 1pm, and at other times by appointment for those wanting to learn about bees. The shop is full of beautiful beeswax candles of all shapes, sizes and styles, and much more besides. There's a great Christmas range, including red candles created using natural dyes. Grass makes many of the moulds herself, others are imported from Italy.



Beetopia offers a unique environment to showcase the wonder of our native bees and trees. Grass is happy that the proliferation of trees means there is much less mowing to be done these days – although weeding now demands her spare time, whenever that is, given her life is as busy as the proverbial bee! Make time to go visit Grass and learn about “all things bees”!

MARKETS

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

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

From award-winning coffee to mouth-watering brunch dishes, there's plenty to sample and savour. Relax by the riverside listening to live local music. Also check out the offerings at the old Creamery above.

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.

thematakanamarket.co.nz

Matakana Country Park Markets
@ Matakana Country Park, entry at 1151 Leigh Road and 33 Omaha Flats Road, Matakana [facebook.com/matakanacountrymarket](https://www.facebook.com/matakanacountrymarket)



- Sunday Markets, 9am to 2pm: 21st December 2025 (Christmas Market); 11th January 2026. 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 castle & face painting, pony rides & a mini train. Plus lots more!
- **Friday Night Markets**, 5pm to 9pm (last Friday of the month): 19th December 2025 (Christmas Market); 30th January 2026

Get along to the Matakana Friday 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.

www.matakanacinemas.co.nz

LOCAL CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS, BARS & EATERIES

Omaha Beach Café & Eatery
www.omahabeachcafe.nz/

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

Estuary Café & Bar
www.facebook.com/Estuarycafe

Omaha Beach Community Centre & Golf Club, for a range of great eats

The Farmers Daughter
thefarmersdaughteromaha.co.nz/
329 Omaha Flats Road, by the causeway on the estuary – Fresh and fabulous.

Fired Pizza Company
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
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.

Smiths @ the Matakana Country Park
www.smithsmatakana.co.nz/

Rural charm meets urban energy – with live music. Quiz night Tuesday.

The Stables Event Venue @ the Matakana Country Park
stablesmatakana.co.nz/

Rustic charm and natural beauty. Hosts a range of music and dining events. Perfect for a private function.

Rothko @ Sculptureum
www.sculptureum.nz/eat-drink
Spectacular dining. Awarded One Hat.

Matakana Market Kitchen
www.matakanamarketkitchen.co.nz/

2 Matakana Valley Road – Relaxed riverside dining.

Jin Jin www.jinjin.co.nz/

44 Matakana Valley Road – Modern Asian dining.

Plume Vineyard Restaurant
plumerestaurant.co.nz/restaurant/

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

The Vintry 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 8wired.co.nz

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

The Matakana Village Pub
www.thematakana.co.nz/

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

The Sawmill Brewery + Smoko Room
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 www.ravish-hq.com/

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

Nectar Café www.facebook.com/Nectaratmorrisandjamescafe/

48 Tongue Farm Road, Matakana (the old Morris & James site) – Cabinet food, hot food, pet friendly, great for kids. Lots of vegan options. Open 9–4 Sat/Sun; 9:30–3 weekdays.

Smoke Junction BBQ 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) 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
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.

Viet Q @ Tramcar Matakana
www.tramcarmatakana.co.nz/ & www.facebook.com/vietqfoods.co.nz

A range of delicious, authentic and ever-changing Vietnamese dishes, as well as burgers, fish & chips, ice cream and all tasty things – dine in or takeaway.

Goose Bakery & Café
www.goosebakery.co.nz/

Open Wed–Sun for delicious baked goods, small goods, bread and tasty treats!

FOR EDIBLE AND DRINKABLE SUPPLIES:

The Superette Omaha Beach, 4/1 Matariki Street
www.facebook.com/thesuperetteomahabeach/

Point Wells General Store/Takeaways, 14 Point Wells Road
www.facebook.com/PWGeneralstore/

Four Square Matakana, 21 Matakana Valley Road 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 (See page 44)
www.matakanavillagebutchery.co.nz

Matakana Oysters
www.matakanaoysters.co.nz

1217 Leigh Road – Fresh local oysters, condiments, honey and more at the Green Shed.

Matakana Smokehouse
www.matakanasmokehousenz.com

Cnr Matakana and Sharp Roads – Small family-operated smokehouse. Small batch, sustainable practices, smoked weekly.

Matakana Coffee Roasters
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.

Village Kitchen
www.villagekitchen.co.nz/

989b Matakana Road – A new offering serving up delicious, handcrafted food – fresh salads and cabinet food, ready-

made meals and deli goods designed to make life easier (and tastier). Check them out!

Ringawera Bakery
www.facebook.com/ringawerabaker/

17/2 Matakana Valley Road – Amazing breads, pastries, sandwiches & coffee

LOCAL WINERIES

Brick Bay – The Glasshouse
www.brickbay.co.nz/

7 Arabella Lane, Snells Beach – Restaurant, tasting and sculpture walk.

Heron's Flight
www.héronsflight.co.nz/

49 Sharp Road – Matakana's original cellar door. Great wines with intimate tasting room.

OBV (Omaha Bay Vineyard)
omahabay.co.nz

169 Takatu Road, Matakana – Majestic views, superb hand-crafted wines and tasty platters.

Matakana Estate
www.matakanaestate.co.nz

568 Matakana Road – Cellar door, restaurant and luxury lodge.

Takatu Lodge & Vineyard
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.

makanawine.co.nz/

www.makanacoast.co.nz/listings/vineyards-cellar-doors

CREATIVE/HOME/GIFTS/ART

Nomad & Home
nomadandhome.co.nz

1 Matariki Street, Omaha – Beach and lifestyle: Homeware, gifts, resort & activewear with an emphasis on natural and organic. Closed Tues.

Sculptureum
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
www.nzhoneytasting.co.nz
(See page 47) 181 Omaha Flats Road

Omaha Surf & Supply Company
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.

Hazel Hunt Furniture and Art www.instagram.com/hazelhuntartandfurniture/
1168 Leigh Road – Art (Hazel is a talented artist), rustic furniture and handpicked homewards 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
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
www.artmatakana.com/

Matakana Country Park – Contemporary fine art gallery showcasing a range of NZ artists, both well-known and emerging.

MichaelJohn Jewellery
www.michaeljohnjewellery.com

Matakana Country Park – Pop in for jewellery advice and inspiration and to see some unique and stunning bespoke rings.

Artform Gallery
www.artformgallery.co.nz

2 Matakana Valley Road – Stunning handcrafted sculpture, object and wall art.

The Eco Room
theecoroommatakana.com

860 Matakana Road – A small boutique offering eco-friendly, sustainable, kiwi-made and unique products. Online store theecoroommatakana.com/

Shaggy 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 www.clayfriends.nz

1 Anderson Road, Matakana – Claymaking space, ceramics store, classes and workshops.

Home Matters homematters.co.nz
7 Sharp Road, Matakana – Homeware, gifts, furniture, interior design. Open every day.

Mi Studio www.mistudio.nz
304 Matakana Road – Pottery, Art school/workshops. Open Sat/Sun 10am–4pm.

Old School Inc.
www.facebook.com/OldSchoolMatakana/
745 Matakana Road – A fabulous range of vintage furniture and homewares, rugs and runners and treasures of all description. Thurs–Sun 9:30am–4pm

Of Hand & Heart Art Gallery
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.

| BODY/MIND/WELLNESS

Lady Barber & Son Haircutting Saloon
www.ladybarber.co.nz

@ Matakana Country Park – Now in their groovy new premises, Vanessa and Texas offer professional hair and makeup services for ladies, gents and kids. Book online. Closed Sun/Mon.

Uniquely You Health Solutions
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

Dance Classes @ Matakana Hall
www.matakanacommunitygroup.org/hallactivities.html

With Elodie Rizzo, certified dance teacher. Mondays & Wednesday – for kids and adults. Ph. 021 0858 0104

Check out other activities that take

place in the Hall, including table tennis, tai chi, choir, floral art and balance classes.

Three Local Gyms

- **Keep Fit Matakana**
www.keepfitmatakana.co.nz/
@ 44 Matakana Valley Road
- **Fitness Matakana**
fitnessmatakana.co.nz/
@ Matakana Country Park, 1151 Leigh Road
- **BodyRe Matakana**
www.bodyre.co.nz/ @ 20 Quintal Road

Matakana Botanicals
matakanabotanicals.co.nz

1122 Leigh Road – High-quality skincare products inspired by the natural resources of the region. Also a function venue.

MangaSmile
FB: MangaSmile
Insta: 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 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 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.

Oasis Wellness Collective
www.oasiswellness.nz/

A holistic approach to self-care through bodywork, yoga, breathwork, meditation and workshops.

Nourished Leaf
www.nourishedleaf.com/

Reiki energy Healing, Intuitive Massage, Holistic Facials, Sacred Space Holding

Matakana Village Books
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.

| 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. Do stop by and take a look.

| 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; oob organic; Matakana Berry Co (Gala Berry); Charles Gelato; About Time (Pt Wells); Shadze of Lace; Bach; Summer Sessions; Coconut Gallery ... and so much more.

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

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

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.

Special thanks to:

- Everyone who has contributed to this Summer 2025/2026 edition.
- All contributing photographers.
- OBC Committee members for review and proofing.
- Our “family” of regular advertisers whose support helps us bring you this Omaha Newsletter.



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

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!

BEYOND

Travel Companion Services

no limits, new horizons



Come travelling with BEYOND in 2026

Personal support and companionship - taking you safely wherever you wish to go.
Bespoke small group trips with a gentle and relaxed approach.



Let's make it happen!

SALLY BLYTH
Phone 021 480 323
sally@beyondlimits.co.nz
www.beyondlimits.co.nz



PROOF IS IN THE RESULTS

A SELECTION OF OMAHA PROPERTIES **SOLD BY THE DI BALICH TEAM** - PAST 12 MONTHS



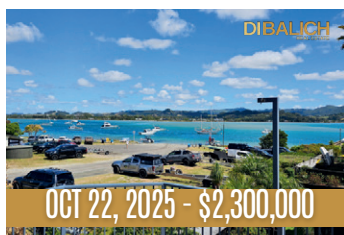
OCT 31, 2025 - \$4,250,000

182 MANGATAWHIRI ROAD



OCT 29, 2025 - \$3,600,000

11 ARGO RISE



OCT 22, 2025 - \$2,300,000

233 OMAHA DRIVE



NEW OMAHA PRICE RECORD
FOR SECOND ROW

OCT 15, 2025 - \$7,250,000

29 TAUMATA ROAD



NEW OMAHA PRICE RECORD
FOR OCEAN WATERFRONT

OCT 1, 2025 - \$11,225,000

6 KUTAI LANE



SEPT 26, 2025 - \$2,800,000

15 KEWAI STREET



SEPT 19, 2025 - \$3,575,000

10 MAY WAY



AUG 15, 2025 - \$5,500,000

78 MANGATAWHIRI ROAD



AUG 7, 2025 - \$3,550,000

243 MANGATAWHIRI ROAD



JUL 24, 2025 - \$1,845,000

17 ARGO RISE



JUL 10, 2025 - \$3,300,000

141 OMAHA DRIVE



JUN 19, 2025 - \$4,850,000

57 TAUMATA ROAD



MAY 8, 2025 - \$2,460,000

45 KOKOPU STREET



APR 15, 2025 - \$5,625,000

40 INANGA LANE



MAR 10, 2025 - \$2,320,000

168 OMAHA DRIVE



JAN 30, 2025 - \$5,750,000

39 TAUMATA ROAD



JAN 30, 2025 - \$3,500,000

3 TAUMATA ROAD



JAN 16, 2025 - \$2,515,000

9 MATARIKI STREET



DEC 20, 2024 - \$4,100,000

32 TAUMATA ROAD



DEC 6, 2024 - \$3,350,000

19 LAGOON WAY



PREVIOUS RECORD HOLDER
FOR FRONT ROW

NOV 18, 2024 - \$9,300,000

43 TAUMATA ROAD

DI BALICH - TIME TESTED AND PROVEN

Lives Local, Works Local, Supports Local...

CONTACT DI TODAY FOR YOUR

OBLIGATION FREE PROPERTY APPRAISAL



DIBALICH
REAL ESTATE



di@precision.net.nz



www.dibalichrealestate.com

Di Balich AREINZ Licensed Real Estate Agent, Associate, Precision Real Estate Ltd MREINZ Licensed REAA 2008

DI BALICH 021 917 080