

TIS THE SEASON FOR SPREADING JOY!

Ōtorohanga District Council staff recently brought the magic of Christmas to life through the power of song, delivering heartfelt carols to spread joy in our community. Led by the talented Theresa and Adelle, the team showcased their musical talents and festive enthusiasm in two special performances.

Staff visited the residents of Beattie Home, filling the air with holiday cheer and smiles. Although small, the casual ‘foot and finger tap’ was a gesture that was well received by the staff. The sound of classic Christmas carols echoed through the halls, creating a festive atmosphere and reminding everyone of the season’s spirit of kotahitanga. The residents were delighted by the thoughtful gesture, with many singing along and reminiscing about their own favourite Christmas traditions.

The festive celebrations continued the next day with an impromptu gathering before the monthly Council meeting. The meeting room transformed into a space of joy and camaraderie as elected members paused to enjoy and join in the performance.

Theresa and Adelle, who orchestrated this “council choir”, expressed their gratitude to the staff for their enthusiasm and participation. “It’s such a pleasure to bring smiles to others, especially during this time of year,” said Adelle. “Music has a way of bringing people together, and we’re so proud of our team for making this happen.”

This heartwarming display of Christmas spirit is a reminder of what makes the Ōtorohanga District so special.



UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please note, there are no meetings scheduled for January 2025. All meetings will resume in February 2025.

Ōtorohanga Community Board	Monday 3 February 4pm
Chief Executive’s Review Committee	Monday 10 February 10am
Elected Member Workshops	Tuesday 11 February 10am
Kāwhia Community Board	Thursday 13 February 4pm
Council	Tuesday 25 February 10am

LIBRARY

Questions / Registrations?
Phone 07 873 7175 | Email library@otodc.govt.nz



TOP OF THE STACK INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION WINNERS 2024

Our 2024 winner of the Top of the Stack Interschool reading competition was Ōtorohanga South School. They win a cool trophy to display for the year, some books for their school library and bragging rights for the next year. Don’t forget to sign your primary school aged children up to the 500 Books Before College Beanstack challenge, so that they can compete on behalf of their school in 2025!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE FOR ADULTS ON BEANSTACK

Be a summer legend by reading your way through the summer months. Whether it’s on the beach, in the backyard or on the couch – hot days are a great excuse to put your feet up with a good read. Check out our summer reads in the book lists for some inspiration - go to the ‘discover’ tab in the app or ‘recommendations’ on a computer to find these. Here you will find lists of titles that have been added to the library recently. Share your recommendations and write us at least one book review (or up to three) that we will share with others on Beanstack. Enjoy this summer challenge and earn yourself a sweet treat when you complete.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT MORNING

Join the fun Friday 20 December from 10.30 - 11.30am and make some cool Christmas decorations for your tree or to give to family and friends. This event will also earn you a card in our Raumati Toa Summer Legends programme.



HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Come along and have a ton of fun – keep the kids occupied in January 2025! Please register so you don’t miss out.

Tuesday 14 January
10.30 - 11.30am
Ōtorohanga Library

- Taniwha Eggs and Balloon craft

Wednesday
22 January 2 - 3pm
Ōtorohanga Library

- Clay Taniwha
- Kite making

Wednesday
15 January 1 - 2.30pm
Kāwhia Hall

- Balloon Craft
- Taniwha Feet
- Clay Taniwha

Thursday 30 January
10.30 - 11.30am
Ōtorohanga Library

- Taniwha Feet
- Print making

Remember you will earn a card in our Raumati Toa Summer Legends programme

BLACK OUT POETRY COMPETITION

A Black Out Poetry Competition is running for the teenagers of Ōtorohanga District. This a chance for rangatahi to get creative over the summer break and be in to win a prezy card. It is open to all high school students. Entries close 24 January 2025.

Places are limited, please contact the library to register and reserve your spot.

Phone (07) 873 7175, email library@otodc.govt.nz, or message us on Facebook www.facebook.com/otolib

RAUMATI TOA SUMMER LEGENDS: TANIWHA CARDS ARE HERE - COLLECT THEM ALL!



This summer, the Ōtorohanga District Library is excited to bring you **Summer Legends**—a fun, interactive reading programme for tamariki (children) ages 0-18, which has now opened and runs until 31 March 2025. Whether you’re a young reader or new to the library, this free programme is all about exploration, creativity, and collecting!

Summer Legends invites tamariki to visit the library regularly, dive into reading adventures, and earn special **Taniwha Cards** by completing various quests. There are 15 unique cards to collect, including 12 common cards and three rare ones, each wrapped in mystery envelopes to keep the excitement alive. The aim? Collect them all!

How to Collect Taniwha Cards

Earning Taniwha Cards is all part of the adventure! Here are just a few ways to earn them:

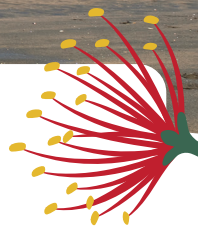
- **Visit your local library:** Issue books and explore what’s on the shelves.
- **Complete Summer Legends quests:** Attend craft sessions, write reviews, sign up to the challenge in Beanstack and other fun activities.
- **Participate in activities:** Each activity offers a chance to engage with friends, explore new ideas, and earn cards.

The Summer Legends programme is designed to make the most of the sunny season by offering engaging activities in collaboration with Waitomo District when you visit parks, pools, and more! You’ll even find special rocks hidden around town to earn extra cards.

Get Started with a Welcome Pack!

Register at your local library and pick up a welcome pack filled with everything you need to kick off your adventure, including a “how-to” guide, reading log, bookmark, and a collector’s box for your Taniwha Cards.

Sign up and join us this summer to become a Summer Legend!



OPERATING HOURS OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD



HIP HIP HOORAY FOR MAYOR MAX!

Ōtorohanga's beloved Mayor, Max Baxter, has reached a significant milestone celebrating his 60th birthday. It's a perfect occasion to reflect on the incredible journey he's had as a leader, advocate, and champion for our district.

Max first took on the mantle of Mayor in 2013 with a vision to make Ōtorohanga a thriving, connected, and supportive community. From the early days of his leadership, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to listening to the people, tackling challenges head-on, and advocating for people in our district.

Over the years, Max has been instrumental in driving key initiatives, from improving infrastructure and supporting local businesses through Elevate, to ensuring our community is prepared for the future with Tuia and rangatahi engagement. His hands-on approach and genuine care for the wellbeing of residents has earned him immense respect and admiration.

Under his leadership, Ōtorohanga has celebrated significant achievements, from community facilities to partnerships that have strengthened ties between diverse groups. Max's ability to connect with people, understand their needs, and inspire positive change has been the cornerstone of his success.

Beyond the council chambers, Max is known for his warm personality, sense of humour and ability to bring people together. Whether it's laughing with tamariki and rangatahi, attending local events, or simply having a chat with residents, Max's authenticity shines through.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Max for his years of service and the incredible impact he's made on Ōtorohanga. We also wish him joy, good health, and continued success as he enters this new chapter.

Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and the lasting legacy you're building for our community.

Here's to the man, the myth, the legend, Maximus!

Happy 60th birthday, Hip hip hooray!

WANT TO INVITE MAYOR MAX TO YOUR EVENT?
Find out more at: www.otodc.govt.nz/about-council/mayor-councillors-and-boards/invite-the-mayor

Ōtorohanga District Council Office

17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga

Mon 23 December	9am - 4pm
Tues 24 December	9am - 12pm
Wed 25 December 2024 - Sun 5 January 2025	CLOSED
Mon 6 January 2025	Back to normal hours

Building Control Close Down Period

In accordance with the Building Act 2004, Building Control will pause the working clock over the Christmas period from Fri 20 December 2024 to Fri 10 January 2025.

Last day to apply for Land Information Memorandum (LIM): 19 December 2024

Last Day to apply for Building Consent or Resource Consent: 19 December 2024

Ōtorohanga District Library

To renew books, contact the library on 07 873 7175

Mon 23 December	9am to 5pm
Tues 24 December	10am to 12pm
Wed 25 December 2024 - Sun 5 January 2025	CLOSED
Mon 6 January 2025	Back to normal hours

Kāwhia District Library

Sat 21 December	10am - 12pm
Mon 23 December to 5 January 2025	CLOSED
Mon 6 January 2025	Back to normal hours

Refuse transfer stations

For further details contact Envirowaste on 0800 240 120

DECEMBER 2024	Ōtorohanga	Kāwhia
Mon 23	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
Tues 24	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
Wed 25	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thurs 26	CLOSED	CLOSED
Fri 27	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
Sat 28	10am - 4pm	12pm - 3pm
Sun 29	10am - 4pm	12pm - 3pm
Mon 30	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
Tues 31	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
JANUARY 2025	Ōtorohanga	Kāwhia
Wed 1	10am - 4pm	12pm - 3pm
Thurs 2	CLOSED	CLOSED
Fri 3	10am - 4pm	CLOSED
Sat 4	10am - 4pm	12pm - 3pm
Sun 5	10am - 4pm	12pm - 3pm

Ōtorohanga Swimming Pool

For further details contact the pool on 07 873 8646

DECEMBER 2024	Gym and indoor pool	Outdoor pools
Mon 23	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
Tues 24	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
Wed 25	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thurs 26	Open 12pm - 6pm	Open 12pm - 6pm
Fri 27	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
Sat 28	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 10am - 8pm
Sun 29	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 10am - 8pm
Mon 30	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
Tues 31	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
JANUARY 2025	Gym and indoor pool	Outdoor pools
Wed 1	Open 12pm - 6pm	Open 12pm - 6pm
Thurs 2	Open 12pm - 6pm	Open 12pm - 6pm
Fri 3	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 12pm - 8pm
Sat 4	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 10am - 8pm
Sun 5	Open 6am - 8pm	Open 10am - 8pm
Mon 6	Back to normal hours	Back to normal hours

Our call centre will be available during the holiday closure.

For all enquiries, please call 0800 734 000 or visit www.otodc.govt.nz

RATES

Rates invoices for instalment 2 for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 will be sent out mid-January 2025 and payment is due on Friday 28 February 2025. If you have not received your e-invoice by the end of January 2025, please check your spam (rates@otodc.govt.nz) or alternatively contact ŌDC on phone or email.

Water invoices for Ōtorohanga Urban and Rural Water Schemes are also due in February 2025.

You may be eligible for a Rate Rebate. To check your eligibility, please visit www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/