

#### **Stormwater**

As a suburb traditionally affected by significant rains it was interesting to note that during the heavy rains experienced in March we were largely unaffected. The storm water system coped and perhaps as a result of the work Tauranga City Council has undertaken properties were damp but not underwater as in past years.



Houses in the worst areas either have or are now in the process of being moved off site. This is the view from Warrington Street where #33 was removed along with two from Matua Way. Next to follow will be three from Percival Ave.

Where does all the rain go? Most of Matua's water is directed through the storm water pipes to the harbour and as long as the tide is out the flow is not restricted (and clears the sea lettuce out of the pipes). High tide can cause major problems with water backing up. A large amount of water on the southern side of the suburb flows into storm water ponds adjoining the salt marsh. As the water flows into the first the overflow transfers to the second. and then onto the third, before a much "cleansed" rainwater enters the saltmarsh and flows to the estuary at the back of the suburb.

This area is well worth checking out with a wide range of bird life and rare plants.

## **Birds Of Matua Estuary**

Matua Estuary Care Group have been distributing copies of a booklet titled

Birds of Matua Estuary. With artwork on the cover of a budding



artist from Matua Primary the booklet has information and photos of the birds that can be found around the Tauranga Harbour. Produced and printed by BOP Regional Council the publication offers an insight into the many birds that have graced our shores for hundreds of years. The eradication of predators being undertaken by group members will ensure more and more of these birds will be seen flying or fossicking in the estuary.

Birds such as the Noho Perehu (Banded Rail), Natuku (Bittern), Pukeko, and Natata (Fernbird) are amongst the many that are either permanent or migratory varieties. Once kiwi and small forest dwelling moa lived around the edges of the marsh, known at one time as Papahenga because of the native shrub that thickly covered this area. Now this plant can no longer be found but the rare Oioi is protected by Q.E.2 National Trust Covenant.

Anyone keen to view a copy can email: community@matua.org.nz



Richard Kluit... an area specialist for over 20 years and passionate about our community



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Instead of the Waitangi Day Picnic in the Park this year the Association got behind Night Owls Cinema, and organized a range of games to fill the late afternoon and early evening leading up to the movie commencing on dusk. A great turnout on a superb evening will ensure there will be more screenings next summer.

We have quite a number of new people in the community particularly young families drawn by the school.

Through various activities we have received enquiry into the role of the Association. It has brought us to the realization that in many ways we are poor communicators to the newbies. People who have been in the community for a period of time know what and who we are, generally on a personal level but because we do not email, facebook and promote our website we are flying under the radar of our younger residents. Look out soon for our facebook page and a revitalized website as we challenge ourselves to address this and hopefully as a result bring new and younger energy in to the committee.

An apology from the last publication. I spelt Heel incorrectly in the article about local identity Spring Heel Jack. Also the painting was by local lady Pam Robinson, not Roberston. My apology to Pam and our appreciation for the use of the artwork.

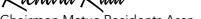
It is some way off yet but be aware that we will be holding a "Meet the Candidates" early September, leading into the Elections.

While crime levels are low around Matua we have had instances of paint balls being projected at houses and bikes stolen from properties. Keep vigilant and if something seems wrong contact Police or at least record details and take a photo.

"See something Say something".

Let's all make the most of the winter knowing there are many far worse off than ourselves.

Richard Kluit
Chairman Matua Residents Assn





In the 19th century Otumoetai Pa, the largest Pa in the Tauranga district (500 people) and the residence of the principal Chief Tupaea, was known by Anglican and Catholic missionaries as the capital of the district. The meaning of Otumoetai is "the tide standing still as if asleep."

While more commonly recognized as being based in the Bay of Islands Bishop Pompallier established the Catholic Mission on the foreshore at Otumoetai in 1840. While based here the Bishop was well known for influencing the Treaty of Waitangi negotiations with his addition of the unwritten 4th article of the treaty, allowing religious freedom.

The area around the Catholic mission (gifted by Chiefs Tupaea, Te Omanu and Tangimoana) was known as Roma (Rome). In 1843 Chief Tupaea gave Pompallier a club for King Louis Phillipe of France who put in on display at the Louvre in Paris.



A painting of the inside of the Catholic Church.





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#### **House Truck**

At this time of year there are plenty of campervans and freedom campers in the town and any number spending the night at Fergusson and Kulim Parks. Users of the park could have been forgiven for having to make a double take recently, when a house truck could be seen driving around the park before taking a large part of the carpark at Fergusson Park.



Having been picked up from nearby Hartwell Place the easiest way to avoid trees and lighting poles was to carry it around the edge of the park to be beside the clubrooms, where it remained over night before a late move the following night to the new resting place near Katikati.



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## **Campervans**

The very mention of freedom campers brings out a range of opinions from locals. The council has set a bylaw by which three "self contained" vans (NZS5465 certification) can remain for two nights in any calendar month in the designated areas of Fergusson Park. These areas are in the carpark or by the boat ramp toilet block. This applies from Sunday to Thursday at this location.

Any vehicle without self contained (Toilet) facilities must use a camping ground. Breaking the law can result in a \$200 fine however Tauranga City Council are on record as saying they prefer to educate offenders and give warnings to move on. No fines have been collected.

Kulim Park can take 5 vans on any night, Carlton Reserve 6 and Matua Saltmarsh 3. Not all of these parks have toilet and shower facilities but those that do are preferred by campers. The vans without facilities seem to draw the greatest comment. While predominantly young foreigners there are also kiwis who choose to or are forced to live in vehicles. Only the accent can often allow you to differentiate between.

There are concerns that washing clothes and preparing food/doing dishes in sinks intended for washing hands can result in a health risk to all concerned. Stringing clotheslines between trees is also unsightly.

Some would argue that all types of campers spend money on food and fuel while in our city and many are working in the orchards as they explore our country. They can be a range of ages and are both Kiwis and foreign tourists. Many kiwis have explored the rest of the world in a similar manner.

Let us know your thoughts by emailing: community@matua.org.nz but please express your views to your ward counsellors, phone the call centre on 577 7000 or email: info@tauranga.govt.nz



## Matua - For years a source of food

Residents know Matua as a leafy suburb but for well over a century the peninsular was a source of food for the Auckland market as well as the whaling fleets and Australian gold rushes.

In the 1830's Traders set up base on the foreshore to send dressed flax to Sydney. At this time local Maori cultivated kumara and soon began growing potatoes, pumpkins, maize and wheat to supply the growing Auckland market. The wheat lead to fattening pigs and salted pork was sent to the Australian gold fields. By the 1850's Tauranga Maori owned several coastal vessels and supplied wheat, potatoes, India corn and onions to northern markets. The Otumoetai land was so rich crops could be grown without manure.

European settlers extensively cultivated the southwest corner of Matua peninsula with maize, wheat and oats as well as developing orchards of apples, peaches, lemons and apricots. As years past more Lucerne was planted as well. The opening of the railway line in 1928, with the station at Otumoetai, saw extensive citrus development however citrus canker in 1939 saw most trees destroyed.

With the advent of WW2 the government took over the Lever farm and grew vegetables for the New Zealand and American Armed forces. The Tilby farm was a maize and cattle farm producing prime beef. Mangolds were grown to fatten pigs which were then sent north, together with Belgium carrots.

By the 1950's and 1960's as the suburb was subdivided and market gardens, particularly with glasshouses for growing tomatoes changed the landscape. By the 1980's most of those had disappeared as housing took over.



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Flu Vaccine Time: Protect yourself against the unpleasantness of catching the flu... The Government is again offering the free flu vaccines to all patients over the age of 65 years, and also to those under 65 who have chronic illnesses.

If you have any questions about the flu vaccine, please do not hesitate to contact our practice nurse for advice.

For those patients under 65 years of age, who would also like protection against the flu, but who do not have a chronic illness there is a charge for the vaccine. Otumoetai Doctors will be running booked flu vaccine clinics again this year, so please phone to make your appointment in the flu vaccine clinic. Winter coughs and colds

Most people refer to a cold as "the flu" but influenza or the real flu is a specific illness, different from a cold.

#### **OTUMOETAI OPTOMETRISTS - SUITE 3 - PHONE 576 0085** International Glaucoma Week (12-18 March 2017)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified glaucoma as the second leading cause of blindness, with 79.6 million people expected to have lost their sight from glaucoma by 2020. New strategies concerning glaucoma screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation are mandatory.

The Sneak Thief of Sight - Glaucoma, if not treated, will impair your eyesight which can have major repercussions in many aspects of life. Strictly speaking Glaucoma cannot be cured, but it can be controlled so that further damage is slowed or halted - depending on what type of Glaucoma is present. It is important to realise that any loss of vision cannot be regained and you often do

not notice the gradual decline in vision until it is too late. Having an early diagnosis for the presence of glaucoma is vital.

If you have a family history of Glaucoma it is crucial you be checked frequently and regularly and everyone over the age of 40 years should be checked for Glaucoma at least every 2 years. If you have Glaucoma it will be with you for the rest of your life.

Phone David Parlane for an appointment on 576 0085.

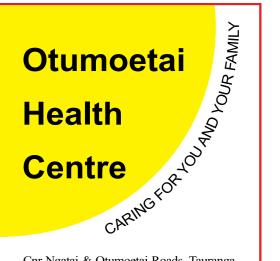
Source: NZ Optics, March 2017

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#### **Bowls Matua Inc.**

Playing bowls is perhaps stating the obvious when thinking about being a member of Matua Bowling Club but there is far more to this Club. Midday every Wednesday a number of members gather in the Legacy Room for a game of Bolivia and Thursday there is Marjong played.



Also on offer is a small library where books are exchanged. For those who just seek a bit of local company the Club offers a social membership which allows companionship and access to the clubroom facilities. Friday afternoon has meat raffles together with the Bar which is in operation most other afternoons of the week.

With the Summer twilight now finished an alternative for social bowlers is Roll up on Monday, Wednesday and Friday plus a Saturday equivalent to the Twilight played in the afternoon.

New members are always warmly welcomed.

Players from all local western bay clubs competed in the annual two day Margaret Sadler Memorial Open in March. Day One was extremely hot but Day Two played out at a more comfortable temperature with the top two winning fours from Tauranga South. Matua provided the third placed team.



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### Fern Garden

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One of the best childcare centres in NZ and part of a multi-award winning group of childcare centres is our very own Otumoetai based, Fern Garden Preschool. Husband and wife owners Nikeeta and Dr Darius Singh, with three generations of teaching background in both their families, have had a single vision: "to simply give our children more amazing opportunities and experiences than we ever had", starting at preschool.

In 2011, they embarked on a journey in Tauranga to deliver on their vision and promise to our communities. Their first national award came after their first year of operations in Otumoetai, with their patented invention of an online learning system that lets parents watch their pre-schoolers' gain NZ curriculum outcomes, like leaves emerging on a growing online tree. The child's entire learning portfolio is mapped on their online tree so that areas (branches) of their strengths, interests and opportunities can be identified faster than ever before by parents and teachers to create holistic and balanced learning experiences at day-care.

Fern Garden's invention took out the top innovation award by the NZ Early Childhood Council and was presented

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In 2013, their outstanding design of a solar powered and innovative "sister" childcare centre in Auckland, called Magic Kingdom, took out the Bronze Prize at the NZ Commercial Building Awards - inspired by their sustainability philosophy (i.e. rainwater recycling and worm farm and vege garden projects) which are all founded at Fern Garden.

In 2014, they won a nation-wide tender to offer exclusive care and education services to a leading multi-national corporation called Orion Healthcare, based in Auckland CBD. Their centre is called Milky Way, which is modelled on Fern Garden's best practices as repeatedly identified by ERO.

In 2015, the group recently WON "Best Emerging Business" and made FINALIST for two categories: "Excellence in Innovation" and "Excellence in Business Leadership" in a Westpac Business Excellence Awards event. It's no wonder that the last 5 years has been an exciting journey of growth and sustainability for the proud owners and teaching teams at Fern Garden and its sister centres.

Call the friendly team on (07) 576 1976 or fill an enquiry form on the website http://www.ferngarden.co.nz or pop in anytime for a tour to see for yourself "childcare like you've never seen before".



#### **Kulim Park**

Kulim Park was established in 1950 when Bureta farm was subdivided for housing. Mr W. Rushton and Sickling Brothers George and John gifted about one hectare at the northwestern corner of the farm for children's recreation. The name Kulim, for the avenue and the park, has origins in Malaysia. The then county engineer and owner of the land from Waikareao railway bridge to Bureta, had a son living in a town called Kulim in Malaysia.

The park was increased by Council in 1986 by purchasing adjoining land that had originally been part of the Crown grant to the children of the early trader John Lees Faulkner and his wife Ruawahine.

From the late 1960's the Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club used Kulim Park for races as it was considered a safe area for youthful sailors. In 1973 reclamation of the harbour at the eastern end enabled a storage shed to be constructed.



In 1988 a new entrance to Kulim Park was completed by the Lions Club of Otumoetai. In accordance with the wishes of the donors the park has been developed for family recreation such as playground, picnic tables and barbecues. The petangue and adult fitness gym are recent additions.





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## Do you have knowledge of the Matua and Otumoetai areas from years gone by?

This area has changed so much since the 1970's and with so many of our residents having moved here in recent times it would be great to hear of and see what has changed.

Maybe you have old photos or stories about growing up in this area. We would love to share those in this publication.

Contact us via email: community@matua.org.nz



## Night owls cinema

Night owls cinema came to Fergusson Park recently with several hundred locals taking part in the fun events leading up to the main event - the movie Jumunji.

The crowd was entertained by very talented young singers and musicians from Otumoetai Intermediate. Children played games such as vertical bungi, toss the gumboot and egg and spoon race or just had a picnic waiting for the darkness.





## Check out our website: www.matua.org.nz

If you haven't taken a look at our community website we encourage you to do so. Better still, tell us what you would like to see on the site and provide us with community information, photos etc. If you are a resident of many years tell us about growing up around Otumoetai.

Soon we should have a large number of historic photos that will show your street and others nearby - the way it used to be.

We are keen to lift the standard of information available and you can help us do that. Email: community@matua.org.nz Post: PO Box 6004, Brookfield 3146.



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