

# Matua Moments

Issue #6  
Autumn/Winter 2018

## Plots Available at Otumoetai Railway Gardens

**Ever wondered about the gardens at the bridge entering Matua?**

You can lease a half plot for \$10 a month or \$20 for full sized plot. Most of the tools are provided, including things like wheel barrows and hoses.

There is compost and often a range of seedlings that you can help yourself to plant...and many an experienced gardener willing to share knowledge to newbies. A lovely way to get to know people in your community and great way to feed the family!

Please contact Vikki Taylor on 021 143 4341 or email: [vikkiycz@gmail.com](mailto:vikkiycz@gmail.com) for more info.



**Receive a \$20.00 Garden Voucher for plants if you sign up for a plot at the Railway Gardens and can present a copy of this voucher.**

*\*Offer applies from 1 May until 1 September 2018.*



# JOIN THE BATTLE FOR OUR NATIVE BIRDS.

**BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT**

**See Page 5 for further information about this great initiative.**

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



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## From The Committee

We are happy to bring to Matua and Cherrywood another edition of Matua Moments. As well as showcasing our activities we offer this as a vehicle for local clubs to profile themselves and also local businesses to increase their exposure to potential customers.

We welcome input from the community with ideas and stories. There is such a rich history in this area and needs to be told and shared with so many people who have come to live here from afar.

A great initiative for the community is Predator Free BOP. Matua and Merivale are the two suburbs chosen to trial the program styled on the success achieved by the Wellington community. With one rat able to eat up to 50 native birds in their lifetime any effort to reduce their numbers will ensure we see more birds in our trees.

Residents can apply for a trap, funded by Rotary and manufactured by Menz Shed, and place them on their section. Check out their promotion in this edition.

Unfortunately our Fergusson Park fun day in support of Night Owl Cinema was thwarted by the weather, so the robotics movie Big Hero 6 had to be shown in the Matua School hall. Not to worry we will be there next year with our team from Neighbourhood Support, Community Patrols and NZ Police.

While we have had a website and Facebook page for some time a lack of skill in these areas has seen them take a back seat. We are pleased to advise that they are in the process of being revamped and will be great tools to get not only our activities out to the community, but offer opportunity for our residents to put their stories and thoughts about. Check out

[www.matua.org.nz](http://www.matua.org.nz) and please LIKE and SHARE Matua Residents Assn Facebook page.

*Richard Kluit*

Chairman Matua Residents Assn

*Historical information has been sourced from the NZ room at Tauranga City Libraries and the Booklet "Otumoetai Pa Historic Reserve". It is the intent of Matua Residents Assn to respect the sources of (acting only as a conduit for) historical information from our region that may of interest to readers and to not unduly claim any rights.*



Go to [www.facebook.com/matuareidentsassociation/](http://www.facebook.com/matuareidentsassociation/) to follow us on Facebook.

## Across the Water

Whether from window or foreshore our view across the water of Te Awanui (Tauranga Harbour) is drawn to Matakana, however nestled against that backdrop is another island - Rangiwaea.

Separated from the main coastal island by Hunters Creek yet accessible at low tide the 267 hectares comprises forestry, pastoral grazing, horticulture and agriculture operated by the Tauwhao Te Ngare Trust for the benefit of the 19 residents.

Settled well before colonisation when these islands comprised coastal forest dominated by Kauri, Rimu, Kahikatea, Totara and Pohutukawa the islands contained a vast diversity of bird and fish life. Now fresh and saltwater wetlands are being restored by hapu members of the Ngai Tauwhao marae of Ngai Te Rangi through a 25 year riparian restoration project.

Archaeological deposits indicate large complex settlements once existed here. Now most residents who have lived all their lives on the island now do so on whanau land with the hapu embarking on a comprehensive Papakainga Housing project. Island children are home schooled with one attending school on the mainland. Access is by the barge and ferry services which can make transport cost expensive.



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## Fishing off Kaiarero - Tilby Point

The site of the boat ramp at Fergusson Park, known over the years as Kaiarero (once affectionately referred to as The Pope's nose) has become a popular spot for local fishers seeking Kingfish (kingi). Growing up to 1.5m in length the green/gold band from nose to yellow tail makes for a spectacular catch from either rod, fly fishing or kayak in the waters off the park.

Predominantly found in the northern half of the North Island, Kingi are a carnivorous school fish feeding off the small flounder that are stirred off the bottom by the movement of stingray that can be found in abundance in our tidal harbour. Kingi are attracted to rock outcrops or in this case the boat ramp where a change in depth occurs. Incoming tides and summer temperatures offer better chances of success.

Other popular catches are Snapper and Kahawai and bones of these two plus those of Horse Mackerel, Gurnard, Trevally and Barracouta were found by archaeologists at the Otumoetai Pa site. The lack of Kingfish bones indicates that changes to the harbour over many years have altered the fish in our local waters. Using baited hooks or trolling stone lures along in the water were the methods deployed by Maori and today our fishermen use livebait, high speed jigs, surface poppers and stickbait.



## Matua Residents Assn Representing your Views

From time to time we are asked why we are not making submissions to council on a variety of specific topics affecting the city.

The answer is simple. Without a mechanism to gauge the majority point of view we do not feel we have the right to make a statement For or Against. For every resident in favour of a museum or a cycleway or road upgrade or chlorinated water there is an opposing point of view. All councils are required to act in terms of the Local Government Act 2002 and often it is this that is driving the stand Tauranga City Council takes. We recommend a quick glance at this to understand their rationale.

For matters directly relating to Matua we make submissions to Council specifically asking that Tauranga City Council inform and listen to people that are affected. Direct communication, especially through one on one or public meetings, are more effective than relying on media reports.

If you feel there is a need to have an open discussion on a topic then please contact us and let's take it further.

## PREDATOR FREE BAY OF PLENTY

You can help bring native birds back to our neighbourhoods by participating in Predator Free BOP. This movement will be achieved by residents chipping in to help eradicate predators such as rats and mice from the BOP.

By having a trap in your back yard we can give our native species a fighting chance, it is anticipated that one rat can take 50 native birds in it's life time. Based on the success of a similar initiative in Wellington and with the hope that this will spread throughout the country the Matua and Merivale suburbs are the pilot locations for BOP. Of course this does not restrict the practice to just these areas. The teams of volunteers, some from Matua Estuary Care group, who currently operate traps in the Estuary areas and along our foreshore, will continue their good work.

With funding from local Rotary and with the traps manufactured by volunteer labour at Menz Shed the free wooden traps can be obtained by contacting the team at [www.predatorfreebop.nz](http://www.predatorfreebop.nz) Check out their facebook page.

Over 150 were given out at the recent Matua School gala day where local councils had a stand in support of this initiative. Matua Residents Assn have offered to coordinate the local distribution where the target is to place one in every five backyards.



### HELP BRING NATIVE BIRDS BACK TO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

To make New Zealand Predator Free, we need everyone chipping in. You can help eradicate predators like rats from the Bay of Plenty simply by having a trap in your backyard. By reducing the numbers of pests we're giving

our native species a fighting chance to reclaim areas where they once thrived.

Backyard trapping is easy, a great activity to get the family involved in and makes a big difference.

### SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR TRAP

[PredatorfreeBOP.nz](http://PredatorfreeBOP.nz) [Predator Free BOP](#)



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## Know where to get an AED

Be prepared for when you need to know where the closest defibrillator is. Download the APP AED Locations.



Machines are located at the Matua Bowling Club, Fergusson Park Clubrooms, 67 Kings Ave, Otumoetai Doctors, Tauranga Bridge Club and Otumoetai Golf Club.

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## Neighbourhood Support Matua



Matua Neighbourhood Support Coordinator

Christine Christie advises that several new groups have been formed as residents get to know new neighbours or reacquaint with others. Sharing of contact numbers and having a street leader keeping the group informed means there is more interaction and additional security for those spending time on their own. The occasional street barbeque helps to bring new friendships for young and old.

If your street or part thereof wants to call neighbours together then call Christine on 021 256 2808.

## Snippets of History

The people of Otumoetai Pa would have been surprised to see the first European ship enter the harbour when the Anglican Mission schooner Herald arrived in June 1826. It had sailed from the Bay of Islands seeking food for the mission boarding schools.

The missionaries on the Herald brought seeds and cuttings of plants which had never been grown in the Bay. Peach, quince, pumpkin and other seeds were distributed to the local growers. By the 20th century descendants of the Peach trees grown from these original plantings were common all over Tauranga, including Otumoetai Pa where they still survive.

Otumoetai Pa was within the 50,000 acres of land confiscated by the Government in 1865, following the battles of Gate Pa and Te Ranga in 1864. This spelt the end of Otumoetai as a Pa. Parts of it were granted to chiefs Taiho Ngatai and Tomika Te Mutu and half an acre went to trader James Farrow. The rest was put up for sale and by 1881 the chiefs land and Farrow's section

had all been sold. The whole Pa was occupied by two European farmers - Robert Matheson and John Snodgrass.

### The Value is in the Land

Anyone thinking of buying along the Otumoetai foreshore will be aware of the value of the land. This has long been the case as in pre European days Ngamarama people who from the 14th century were attracted by the ideal living area and by the 16th century six Pa sites controlled by Ngati Ranginui existed on the escarpment overlooking the beach. Kainga (undefended village) and cultivation sites were also sited across the peninsula. Defences and palisading were built over time creating a defensive Pa which was hotly contested and by the arrival of European in the 19th century the area was under the control of Ngaitarangi.

As the largest Pa in Tauranga and the residence of principal chief, Tupaea, it was known by missionaries as the capital of the district.

Today the commanding views over the inner harbour to Matakana Island, Mauao and Waikorire (Pilot Bay) and easy access to the water, fertile gardening soils and an easy access to today's city centre make the Otumoetai foreshore just as attractive as in was in years gone by.

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- **The Dentists** - Phone 576 4895
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- **Otumoetai Optometrist** - Phone 576 0085
- **Foot Clinic (Podiatrist)** - Phone 0800 111 150

### OTUMOETAI DOCTORS

**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.

**Otumoetai Doctors - Monday to Friday 8am - 5.30pm. Saturday 8.30am - 1pm**  
**Phone 576 2321 for an appointment.**

### BAY PHYSIOTHERAPY

**Have you fallen into the trap?**

"It has been playing up for a while now but I thought it would get better by itself"

"It hurts but I still manage to do most things"

"I've been told that it is arthritis and it will never get better"

"I've been told that look, you're getting older and you'll need to put up with these things".

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## Drones in The Sky

With more instances of sighting a drone in the sky above us it is timely to point out the rules for the operators of these machines.

Pilots must ensure all practical steps are taken to minimise hazards to persons, property and other aircraft. There is to be no flying within 4 kilometres of the airport or rescue helicopter base. Flights must be in daylight and the craft must be within eye site of the pilot at all times.

When flying over homes and parks there is a requirement to obtain the authority of the property owner so before heading to our parks talk

with the Council. They will point you to [www.airshare.co.nz](http://www.airshare.co.nz) where you can register your flight. Always speak with air traffic control if within controlled air space.

When the Civil Aviation Act of 1990 was put in place the rule makers would not have anticipated the drones of today so show both consideration and common sense and you can enjoy great times with these wonderful machines.



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