

Matua Moments

Serving the Matua Community

Issue #16 Autumn/Winter
2023

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Tauranga Astronomical Society Observatory Fergusson Park.

See article page 12-13.

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From The Committee

Due to the increase in printing charges it is regrettable that we have to announce this is the last edition of Matua Moments. For twenty years we have brought the news and history of the Matua Cherrywood area to the attention of residents on a twice yearly basis.

Matua Residents Assn have used this forum to convey the message of local organisations and Clubs as well as acting as a go between with Council and developments in the suburb.

The Association will continue with organising public meetings for a range of forums, not least of which is the Meet The Candidates for central and local body politics. Of particular note will be the revision of the Management Plan of Fergusson Park and Matua Park and the proposals for Matua Otumoetai under the recently approved Spatial Plan for these suburbs.

We are very appreciative of the support from our publishers, Kiwi Publications and in particular Sharyn who has put the many articles in to order and created the high standard of publication. There have been a number of advertisers that have been with us over the many years and without them we could not have lasted as long as we have. These include Otumoetai Health Centre, Superior Automotive and Otumoetai College who have advertised and provided articles.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the committee of MRA who have given their time and energy to make Matua the great place it is. Lastly but not least thank you to the residents who have supported our Association through the subscriptions but more importantly with the positive comments that have given the committee the boost needed as volunteers.

Matua and Cherrywood, you are a special and unique place to call home.

Richard Kluit

Chairman Matua Residents Assn

WWW.Matua.org.nz

is hosted by the Matua Residents Assn and is a vehicle of communication within our community. There is information about the roles of the Association plus

- Community Patrols and Neighbourhood Support
 - Civil Defence
 - Matua Estuary Care Group
 - History of Matua
- (photos and information is keenly sought)

Links to connect to pages / websites for Matua Bowls, Matua Baptist Church, Matua Kindergarten and Matua Primary are also included. A local business directory will be included.

If your community group wants to be part of this initiative contact Richard on 0274 337 675 or any committee member.



GO TO www.facebook.com/matuaresidentsassociation/ to follow us on Facebook.

What would you do in an Emergency?

With many areas affected by unusual weather patterns what would you do if it were Otumoetai that was affected. We are not immune as we found in 2005 and to a lesser degree in 2010 and 2013. Matua had over 60 homes severely affected in 2005 with residents having to evacuate their homes.

First point of reference will always be Emergency Management for Tauranga who will organise centres such as Baypark. At a local level and secondary to the main level of responsibility is an Emergency Management Committee for Otumoetai with representatives from five points to congregate if needed. For Matua the centre is Matua Bowling Club on Levers Road.

It will be important for people to step up and work together so if you have suitable experience and react quickly we would be keen to talk with you. This is not a role that requires a great time commitment. Knowing what we have available and how to respond quickly if the need arises is the main criteria.

Talk with Richard on 027 433 7675

MATUA RESIDENTS ASSN SUBSCRIPTION

See more about what we do at www.matua.org.nz

A \$10 annual subscription will give you the opportunity to make positive suggestions about the facilities that you, as a Matua resident, would like to see developed, enhanced or repaired. Have your say in the community by making a contribution. The subscription you pay will only be used for the benefit of the community or those who support it in some way. Subscriptions in the past have been used to purchase barbecues, park benches, park lighting etc.

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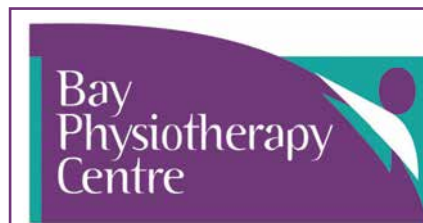


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Fergusson Park- The Jewel in the Crown

We are very privileged to have Fergusson Park as the centre of our suburb. Home to so many activities, the sports fields, playground, the clubroom user groups, the foreshore extending to the harbour and a place to walk, cycle or exercise the dog.

Council have begun the process of updating the ten year management plan for the Park and shortly will be calling for the input of residents and users. Our association will look to host public forums for this purpose so you can all have your say.

The spatial plan for wider Otumoetai shows the number of residents will increase quite markedly in years to come. With the pressure of more people in the city, the need to have the best use made of our facilities, decisions now will apply for a long time. If you wish to know more about the spatial plan search Otumoetai 2050 on the City Council website. Keep a look out for the meeting but in the mean time think about what is important for you in relation to the park and also local reserves.



Spring Heal Jack

Micheal Hodgkins came to be known as Spring Heal Jack who after the death of his parents chose to live in a hut in the south western side of Matua Salt marsh. Although the hut had neither water or electricity Michael/Jack took with him paintings by his famous aunt.

His name came about by the strange way he walked. When children teased him he responded by shaking his fist and shouting colourful terms of abuse. Local teachers took advantage of Michael's deep love of the natural world and his extensive knowledge of plant life by encouraging him to visit their classes. He also wrote for newspapers and featured on radio. Michael died in his hut in 1965.

Well known NZ actor and director Ian Mune was inspired to use Micheal's story as the base of his movie "The Mad Dog Gang meets Rotten Fred and Rats Guts."

The nephew of well known NZ artist Frances Hodgkins was an Otumoetai identity from the 1940's to the 1960's.



Painting by Pam Robertson

[article as published in Matua Moments #2 2016]

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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 Farrows section

[article as published in Matua Moments #6 2018]



According to the national organisation SVA (Student Volunteer Army) volunteering is “doing something to help without expecting anything in return”. The SVA is a charitable trust that started life as a Facebook group formed in response to the Christchurch Earthquake to help with the cleanup.

For 5 years now Ōtūmoetai College has participated in the SVA’s national volunteer scheme which encourages students to get involved in serving the school and wider community.

Led enthusiastically by Health & PE teacher Sandy Boubee, the initiative operates within the framework of the SVA’s Service Award. Volunteers can record any volunteering hours they do on the SVA Service Award online platform. This enables them to work towards physical badges - Member, Bronze, Silver, and Gold - to acknowledge the work they do in their community, whether it be for their school, whānau or neighbourhood.

With 2023 not yet half gone, nearly 100 Ōtūmoetai College students have recorded their volunteer hours through SVA, with 2 students recording over 250 hours of service this year and local Matua resident and Year 13 student Seth Turner over 500 hours!! This total

is close to being the highest number of hours recorded by our students in a given year since starting the National Scheme in 2019.

According to an independent report commissioned by the SVA, volunteering helps young people develop valuable skills such as communication, social and leadership skills, confidence and self-efficacy. It helps to prepare them for joining the workforce and making career choices. It also strengthens their sense of belonging at school and deepens their connection with the local community.

The report highlights the mental health benefits to all students but particularly to those who are shy or feeling isolated. It stresses the importance of these benefits to adolescents at a time in their life when they may lack confidence and self-worth.

The members of this year’s Ōtūmoetai College SVA Committee are passionate about enlisting volunteers and offering volunteering opportunities. They continue to promote the value of volunteering with the simple message of ‘Volunteering shows us what kind of community you want to live in’.

The group is busy preparing for National Volunteer Week, which takes place between 19th & 23rd June. They will be pairing up student volunteers with members of the school community and local community groups who have jobs they need help with (Ōtūmoetai College Health & Safety policies apply). Community groups can email svaserviceaward@otc.school.nz to make requests for volunteer help.



Members of this year’s SVA Committee volunteering their time to make plans for the upcoming National Volunteer week.

Never Stop Bowling

For many people the reason they give up their sport can be due to a health issue. For bowlers it may be that crouching down is too difficult. The answer is a Bowling Arm. Designed so that the bowler stays upright both to pick up the bowl and to make the delivery this tool has allowed many bowlers to keep playing for many extra years.

Recently Bowls Matua held a Bowling Arm tournament where 26 teams of bowlers from 17 clubs from Auckland to Coromandel to Tolaga Bay to Dannevirke participated.



Tupaea Place Cherrywood

Directly opposite the Cherrywood shops is Tupaea Place. This is almost certainly named after Hori Tupaea, principal chief of Ngai Te Rangi of Otumoetai Pa. In the mid 19th century one of the 9 pages of the Treaty of Waitangi was brought to Tauranga for signing by local chiefs however Hori Tupaea refused to sign and instead insisted he would form his own government for the area.

Two years later four signatories were massacred at Ongare Point, Katikati and Tauranga Maori looked to the British for Justice under the Terms of the Treaty. As a result the Government eventually brought in a ruling that the Treaty would apply to everyone, even those chiefs who had not signed.



[article as published in Matua Moments #7 2018]

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Plan for the future of Ōtūmoetai Peninsula confirmed



With a lot of help from the community, Tauranga City Council have developed a long-term plan for the future of Ōtūmoetai Peninsula including the beautiful suburb of Matua. This plan, Te Mahere Takiwā mō Ōtūmoetai 2023-2050, outlines how council will protect and enhance what people love about living here as well as guide future development.

Developed together with mana whenua, the plan also recognises the key values of the Ōtūmoetai Peninsula – the past, present and future.

Commissioner Anne Tolley said the aim of the plan is to support 'liveable' neighbourhoods across Ōtūmoetai Peninsula by providing for a greater range of quality housing.

"The framework also identifies key projects to make sure the community is supported by the right infrastructure as it grows – whether that's pipes in the ground, ways of getting around, enough homes, and access to jobs, schools and other community facilities, now and into the future," she said.

Tauranga City Council Project Lead, Corinne Frischknecht, said around 19% of the city's population already call the suburbs of Matua, Ōtūmoetai, Bureta, Cherrywood, Brookfield, Bellevue and Judea home.

Projections indicate that the Ōtūmoetai Peninsula will grow by an additional 2,200 dwellings between 2018-2050.

"The area's central location and proximity to the harbour/estuary, green spaces, and commercial/retail centres make it a great place to live and this plan will protect the things people love about living there."

"We received more than 2000 pieces of feedback during community consultation on the Take me to the Future: Ōtūmoetai 2050 project, which helped us put this plan together," said Corinne.

The plan identifies five 'key centres' as areas where council need to invest further to support growth over time. Matua is an area that could support growth with further investment in public spaces, connections to the city centre, improved accessibility, and other local improvements.

Greater growth is expected in other suburbs like Brookfield, Cherrywood and Bureta given the size and offerings of the existing shopping centres. By allowing more people to live in these areas, there will be greater demand for services so council will support this by improving local facilities and offering better public transport, walking and cycling options.

Some of the key investments proposed in and around Matua over the next 10 years include:

- Deliver safety improvements at Levers Road and Hall Road pedestrian crossing.
- Provide safer walking and cycling connections.
- Upgrade Fergusson Park to increase safety and accessibility, improve amenity and placemaking and investigate facilities for water sports.
- Improve bus stop facilities (seating, shelter, real time information) and access to buses.
- Improve connection between the Cherrywood shopping centre and the coastal pathway.

You can find more information and read the full plan at www.tauranga.govt.nz/otumoetai2050

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 led 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.

[article as published in Matua Moments #4 2017]

Papahenga - Matua Saltmarsh



Very early maps record the saltmarsh as being called Papahenga, quite possibly because of the Papahenga being a native shrub that thickly covered the area.

Papahenga was used for many purposes. The leaves were used in cooking to add flavour to fish, eels and kumara. Various parts of the plant were helpful in cases of skin complaint, diarrhea and rheumatism. The bark, pulped and steeped in water, was used to dye flax and kiekie a deep black colour. The wood of course could be used for fires.

This area between Matua and Otumoetai, which in it's day would have included all that swamp land that is today Carlton Reserve, was a great food basket for Maori. Fish included aua (mullet), patiki (flounder),

banded kokopu, and giant kokopu, small sharks and small stingrays. The abundance of shellfish included kawari (whelks) huhuroa (horse mussels), titiko (mud snails) and pupu.

Of course there were many birds including pukeko, herons, duck, teal and bittern as well as kiwi and forest dwelling moa that lived on the edge of the patenga. A great variety of edible plants flourished: king fern, raupo, kawakawa, all used for flavouring, medicine, insecticide plus there were kahikatea and kohekohe that provided berries. Fresh water streams that fed the marsh provided eels, kakahi (mussels) and koura (crayfish).

[article as published in Matua Moments #5 2017]

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- **Counsellor (Nikki Mildon)** **0210 246 5523**
- **Unichem Otumoetai Pharmacy** **576 7290**
- **All About Hands** **570 2506**

Flu vaccination clinics resume

With the arrival of the 2023 influenza season Otumoetai Doctors commenced immunisations for influenza in the East Wing of the health centre on 3rd April. These clinics can be pre-booked with one of our reception team. Your doctor will also be able to provide a vaccination if you mention it while booking a routine consultation. Both the government funded and the patient-paid vaccination are available again in 2023.

Changes you need to know

While community outbreaks of COVID appear to be routinely managed in 2023 there is a re-emergence of other nasty respiratory illnesses this Autumn. Masks are still required while attending appointments within Otumoetai Doctors although patients can choose to wait in their vehicles until the doctor meets them at the front door. Patients presenting with respiratory or infectious illnesses are now seen in Room 1 at the top of the ramp, usually after a conversation with one of our nurses. Patients are asked to wait in their vehicles in dedicated parking spaces available under the adjacent awning.

After many years running the Travel Clinic our nurse Gill has moved on to another opportunity at the Tauranga Hospital Cancer Centre. This service will be continued by our COPD nurse Lesley and delivered on Tuesdays in the same consult room. Dr Lemberg will give Yellow Fever vaccinations if necessary, following the initial travel consultation.

You may see some new faces in the clinic this winter. We are providing opportunities for trainee nurses to learn about general practice, as well as welcoming a trainee doctor and locums in April and July. Dr Anita Page is providing locum cover for Dr Burness who retired in April while he travels overseas. Dr George Ansley, who has been with us for three years is now taking on patients who were previously enrolled with Dr Burness.

All About Hands

*Great news...
Hand Therapy is now
available on your doorstep!*

All About Hands has been based at Otumoetai Road since inception 6 years ago, however directors Jill Edwards and Michelle Caspersonn have recently re-designed and fitted out Suite 3 (above the Pathlab at Otumoetai Health Centre) as a purpose built facility. We have 4 therapists based at the Otumoetai site as well as 1 at our satellite clinic out at Ōmokoroa.

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Local History

The Catholic Church in Tauranga Moana.

Tauranga is the oldest Catholic Parish in New Zealand following the first presence in the simple faith and devotion of the early Catholic settlers, some of whom married in to local families. The Church was formally established on 7th March 1840 when Bishop Pompallier arrived on the Otumoetai foreshore and dedicated the mission there to the saint of that day, Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Pompallier had been present the month before at Waitangi for the signing of the Treaty and mainly due to his push included a guaranteed freedom of religion and insistence of religious tolerance.

The Catholic mission Church was sited on the flat lands below Otumoetai Pa. This is the area currently beside the walkway from Shaw Place Reserve to Beach Road Reserve and is noted by an information board close to the large macaranga tree on the foreshore. It was described as being "a very neat church, the interior gorgeously decorated by native wickerwork." The tuku tuku work, depicting biblical incidents was for years thought to be removed to Rotorua as the church was allowed to deteriorate however this is now thought to have not been the case and the church simply decayed. In 1871 a small wooden church was built in Cameron Road followed by a more solid gothic revival style erected in 1888.

The early priests who served until Pompallier were French Marists, the first being Philip Joseph Viard SM who became the first Catholic Bishop of Wellington. These early missionaries endured harsh conditions as they sought to bring the faith to the people of Tauranga Moana, travelling on horseback, by canoe and on foot to all parts of the area.

Familiar to many local churchgoers is the waiata that reminds all of the rich inheritance that is ours: Ehara i te mea no inaianei te aroha – no nga tupuna tuku iho, tuku iho. (The love we share is not from the present, but is handed down to us by our ancestors.)

[article as published in Matua Moments #8 2019]

Matua Primary Symbol

Viewing the new sign as you pass Matua Primary entrance you may be forgiven for thinking that the school has changed their symbol from a Kotuku (white Heron) to a Tui. After 50 years with the Kotuku the school felt that a change was needed but instead of replacing the heron with the Tui the decision was to have both.



Why the Tui?

It is long believed that Matua School was named after the Matua Iwi Pa that was located on the hill on the corner of Matua Road and Manuwai Drive. The suburb itself changed from being Otumoetai West to Matua after the school changed from Levers Road School.

Ngati tell of a Tui that spoke to the Rangitira (chief) of Matua Pa and offered two very sound levels of advice. It is these words of wisdom that the school considers are valuable lessons for the children to learn.

While the Kotuku is honest, wise and helpful the Takahia the talking Tui is determined and hardworking and is on a journey to become a Matua Learner. Along the way he learns important lessons from Kotuku the wise white heron – and finds that being a Matua Learner is special.



For more check out the Matua values being taught to their students on www.matua.school.nz/the-matua-learner

[article as published in Matua Moments #5 2017]



Matua's "Secret" Observatory

Did you know that Matua is home to an astronomical observatory? Due to its unobtrusive design with a flat sliding roof instead of the more familiar dome, many people don't realize that the Tauranga Astronomical Society's observatory is located in Fergusson Park – in the Otumoetai Sports and Recreation Club (OSRC) building.



The Tauranga Astronomical Society (TAS) had its beginnings back in 2001 from the Tauranga U3A astronomy group, with a Mr Denis Twiss coming to the U3A group to explain what it would be about and to ascertain the interest in forming an astronomical society. As there was a reasonable interest, it was decided to go ahead with the first two introductory meetings, which were held at the Bureta Park Motor Inn, in late 2001. As could be expected, the venue for meetings have changed several times over the years, as has the committee. The Society has developed considerably since those early days.

Our first telescope, an 8" Meade SCT, was bought fairly early in the Society's existence and a 10" Dobsonian followed, which we acquired from the family of Denis Twiss, following his death. All this time, we had thoughts of building an observatory - even looking at sites offered by the Tauranga City Council such as at McLaren Falls Park (17km South West of Tauranga City), but security was the greatest concern there. We were also given very sound advice not to build too far out of town as the public wouldn't travel any distance. As we wished to include the public in seeing the wonders of the solar system, the galaxy and beyond,

we would have to consider a site within the bounds of the city. After considering a few sites, we concluded that the best site would be in Fergusson Park, Matua, close enough for all the residents and the schools of Tauranga to be able to enjoy the observatory, which apart from the lights at the local port, had very little light intrusion.

In June 2008, the Otumoetai Sports and Recreation Club Inc (OSRC), then consisting of the Otumoetai Football Club and Albion Cricket Club, adopted the Matua Scouts, Matua Guides and the Tauranga Astronomical Society as members of OSRC.

In March 2009, after receiving a total of \$15,000 in funding from Bay Trust, the Perry Foundation, and Pub Charities, we took delivery of our brand new 14" Meade LX200 ACF Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope.

OSRC, under the Chairmanship of Matua local Richard Kluit, spent two years negotiating with the Tauranga City Council, fundraised all the money required and in 2010, completed a \$700,000 upgrade of the clubrooms and facilities, including the new observatory attached to the main hall. The major contributors to the upgrade to the facilities were Tauranga Electricity Consumer Trust (TECT), Bay Trust and the Lotteries Commission. Each group in the Otumoetai Sport and Recreation Club retains their individuality, but as a combined group, owns and operates the clubrooms in Fergusson Park.

Our purpose-built observatory was opened in June 2010 with our flagship 14" Meade SCT permanently installed on a viewing platform. The observatory has a 4m x 4m flat sliding roof, which is motor driven. We also have our 10" Dobsonian, an 8" Meade SCT, 8" Dobsonian and a collection of several other smaller scopes including a Lunt 60mm solar telescope.



In the view of local Mauao Mount Maunganui (which features on our recently adopted new logo), we mostly have a fairly good, dark view of the sky, despite the lights at the Port of Tauranga a few km away. The Football Club holds their winter practice nights under flood lights. Fortunately, the new LED flood lights are well designed and the light scatter is not too bad, but of course the best viewing is after the teams have left the playing fields and the lights are turned off, usually around 8pm. The local residential streetlights were replaced with new LED lights in recent years and again are very well designed with no upward scatter of light, much to our relief.

We hold our regular public meetings at 7:30pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from February through November. The program content usually includes a number of interesting topical short videos, live presentations and discussion - as well of course as telescope viewing whenever possible, which is always encouraged over watching any videos being played in the main hall. We also occasionally open on other nights when there are good viewing opportunities, especially for our "Family Moon Viewing Nights".

Occasionally, we host visiting guest speakers, and in early March, we were delighted to again host John Drummond from Gisborne, who delivered a very interesting and entertaining presentation on his astrophotography. Approximately 60 people attended, including a number of first-time visitors. Following John's talk and a short break, our audience headed outside to watch the International Space Station pass through the Southern Cross, followed by viewing of the Moon, Mars and Venus through our various telescopes. The weather was perfect!

In August 2022, we hosted Gary Sparks from Hawkes Bay Astronomical Society, who gave a very interesting talk on Archaeo-Astronomy in Peru, which was well attended, well received and followed by good viewing through the telescopes.

During the winter months from April to September, we host a number of school groups, Scouts, Cubs, ICONZ and many others, who visit the observatory and participate in our fun and interactive "Astronomy 101" program in the main hall. The children participate in practical demonstrations, using various props, to learn about the relationships between the Sun, planets and their moons. A scale model demonstration measuring out the distance between the Earth and the Moon

usually draws a lot of surprise from young and old alike. Even more so when we use the 5-meter diameter circle on the floor to show how big the Sun is compared to our tiny 4.7cm diameter model of the Earth. Our "gravity simulator" (using stretchy Lycra on a hoop and marbles as planets / moons), is always popular with the children.



Our Facebook page is followed by more than 11,000 people, with alerts for the International Space Station and the Starlink satellite trains being the most popular posts. Despite the negative aspects of Starlink, we have found that the interest in Starlink has led to a greater interest in astronomy from the general public and we have had many visitors and several new members as a result.

Due to COVID19 in 2020, we were unable to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Tauranga Astronomical Society Observatory. We currently have approximately 30 memberships but as with most clubs, it is usually a small, core group of dedicated volunteers who do most of the work. During the last 3 years, we have sadly lost a number of our key people due to age, health and moving away. As we start our new financial year of memberships, we hope to have new people join and get involved in all aspects of running our club to take it ahead into the future - where the sky is the limit.

Our AGM is due to be held on Tuesday night 13th June at 7:30pm. Our current committee members are: David Greig (President), Kevin Patmore (Secretary), Raewyn Forrest (Treasurer), Keith Forrest and Martin Capener.

Written by David Greig, President of Tauranga Astronomical Society

The following are local service centres where you can call in without an appointment to see a JP free of charge.

Arataki Community Centre, Zambuk Way, Mt Maunganui - Mondays & Fridays 10.00 am – noon

Bethlehem Community Church, 183 Moffatts Road
Friday 10am - 12 noon

Courthouse, McLean Street
Monday 1pm - 3pm
Tuesday 10am - 12 noon
Wednesday 11am - 1pm
Thursday 1pm - 3pm
Friday 1pm - 3pm



Greerton Library, 139 Greerton Road, Gate Pa
Tuesday 2pm - 4pm
Thursday 2pm - 4pm

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 215 Devonport Road
Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm

Katikati Resource Centre, Beach Road
Friday 10am - 12 noon
Toni Millar 027 480 1050

Mount Maunganui Library,
Tuesday 11am - 1pm
Friday 11.30am - 1.30pm

Otumoetai/Matua, St Columba Church,
502 Otumoetai Road
Tuesday 10am - 12 noon

Omokoroa Library and Community Centre,
Western Ave
Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Papamoa Library, Gravatt Road
Monday 5pm - 6pm
Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Tauranga Multicultural Centre, Historic Village
Thursday 11.30am - 1.30pm

Te Puke Library, 130 Jellicoe Street
Thursday 10.30am - 12.30pm

The Crossing Shopping Mall,
2 Taurikura Drive
Saturday 10am - 12 noon

Welcome Bay Community Centre,
242 Welcome Bay Road,
2nd & 4th Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm

Please note Service Centres are closed on public holidays.

CHOOSE A BOOK

Like to have a good read and want to pass the book on for someone else to enjoy?

Well there is a way to share the passion and power of words with your neighbours and two of our residents are offering this to you.

On Levers Road and Manuwai Drive you will find two Mini Libraries where you can take or swap a book. Look for the box with a window at 239 Levers Road or check out the big red telephone booth at 102 Manuwai Drive.



Oh and take a book with you to add to the collection.



[article as published in Matua Moments #2 2016]

TAURANGA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
7:30pm to 9:00pm

Telescope viewing (weather permitting)

What might have been

In the last edition of Matua Moments we highlighted the new walkway through the saltmarsh joining Sylvania Drive carpark to Elmes reserve. This whole saltmarsh area has a long and varied history and could easily have been so different today.

On very early maps the area was known to Maori as Papahenga after an abundant native shrub that was used for many purposes but no longer exists through the area. When Otumoetai land was confiscated after the battles of Gate Pa and Te Ranga in 1878, the land was sold to private ownership and in time became the farms of the Tollemache, Snodgrass and Matheson families.

The saltmarsh originally covered a much larger area than it does today, extending beyond the railway line that was built in the mid 1920s, to the base of Otumoetai ridge. A stream and marshy land encircled the base of the higher land on which Otumoetai College, Intermediate and the Windsor Road subdivisions stand. Turning saltmarsh into dairy farm was considered easy with the installation of a one-way flood gate system. Aerial views still show the many drainage ditches that crisscrossed the saltmarsh. Part of the land had been divided into smaller blocks for market gardens.

Today very little remains after a storm in 1969 destroyed the

floodgates, and salt water once more reclaimed the area. In the same year the saltmarsh zoning was changed from rural to residential, and Kingslea Marinas Limited began to dig canals and drains for a proposed 248 section residential housing development, similar to what now exists in the Coromandel towns of Whitianga and Pauanui. Concerned by this proposal the Native Forest Action Council and the Tauranga branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society took a case to the Planning Tribunal, and in 1970 the Council's rezoning was overturned.

In an agreement between the City Council, the Conservation Department and the Queen Elizabeth 11 National Trust 25 hectares was placed under a covenant to protect the future use of the land.

[article as published in Matua Moments #2 2016]

If you are unsure whether your smoke alarm is clean or working, or if you can't replace the batteries without assistance, ring your nearest fire brigade. They will provide this service for you

It could save lives!



HOSPICE DONATION DRIVE

Help support the terminally ill and bereaved by donating clean, quality goods to Waipuna Hospice Charity Shops!

All funds raised are used to provide specialist palliative care to Waipuna Hospice patients and their loved ones.

For a FREE collection, call (07) 281 1755 or visit our website to book. Alternatively, drop your donations at any of our shops.

Matua What's in a name?

The concise Maori dictionary shows Matua as parent, adult, father, important.

It seems no doubt that the name for our suburb stems from Matua-lwi Pa, the history of which can be found in an article on the Residents Assn website. There are two definitions of the name Matua-lwi. One is parent Pa, all the other Pa being it's offspring. A second interpretation is Totara Pa - all the other Pa in the locality are it's branches.

Matua as a suburb only really gained it's name in the late 1960's, prior to that it was part of the greater Otumoetai region and more latterly part of Otumoetai West.

There are people who have Matua as their first or last name. It does

however have a world wide reach. Closest to home is the Easter Island mythology of Hotu Matu'a, a legendary supreme chief and part of the Polynesian migration of the Pacific.

Much further north but still in the northwest Pacific is the uninhabited sub arctic volcanic island of Matua near the centre of the Kuril Island chain. The Treaty of St Petersburg saw the Kuril Islands transfer from the Empire of Russia to the Empire of Japan. During WW2 it was garrisoned by 7/8000 men and had an active runway but after the war it returned to Russian control and was home to a radar station. The 1500 meter main cone has lava flows on all sides and in 2009 the eruption was large enough to disrupt air traffic between Asia and

North America.

In India the Matua Mahasangh is a Hindu sect of seven million who call West Bengal home. A large number of Matua are Bangladesh refugees as the movement was founded in the mid 1800's in the Faridpur province of Bangladesh. With many socially disadvantaged the sect preach love, tolerance, gender equality and non-distinction irrespective of caste, class or creed. The rest of the world could take note of these beliefs.

Across the other side of the world Matua is a town in the province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

And to finish with Matua is a genus of South Pacific ground spider with two species found only in New Zealand.

[article as published in Matua Moments #9 2019]

Over twenty years of Matua Moments



Kiwi Publications would like to thank all the advertisers over the years for helping to make such a successful community newsletter. There have been many changes over the time but the biggest thanks to Richard Kluit who has been with Matua Moments throughout and has kept the articles coming, ensuring the continuation of the newsletter for so long. Many thanks for allowing us to be a part of the very strong Matua Community, we wish all the best to everyone for the coming years.