

## SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



Top of the Spit.

## HEADLINE NEWS

### PEST PROOF FENCE

It is going to happen! \$136,500 has been raised from individual donors, private trusts, banks, local resident groups and other large benefactors. Auckland Council will soon select one of three tenders to construct a purpose-designed pest proof fence across the spit. The most suitable line for the fence will be determined in consultation with the successful tenderer, Auckland Council and Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust. Two pedestrian gates, one vehicle gate and information signs will be installed. Auckland Council is about to conduct a consultative process in support of an application for resource consent. Hopefully the fence, similar to the one at nearby Tawharanui Open Sanctuary, will be in place by Christmas.

### OMAHA PARK

The costs awarded by the court for the Omaha Park appeal have now been received. We had expected to be in touch with the members who gave financial support but have put this on hold for the moment in case there is any effort to change the original decision. It had been rumoured that following the change to the single city and the disappearance of both the old Rodney Council

and the Regional Authority (who with OBC were strongly opposed to this development) there had been an approach by the parties associated with Omaha Park seeking some as yet unknown revision to the conditions put in place by the Court. Our information to date is that this has not happened. We will continue to keep in contact with the planning authorities to ensure we are advised in the event that such an approach is commenced.

It is interesting to note reports of an approach by the Te Arai Point Developers lobbying the new council for approval to put a sub-development in place possibly involving a contribution of land adjoining council owned land in return for approval for a subdivision.

We trust that the ruling of the court will remain in place but pending some clarification plan to hold the remaining funds given the possibility of having to incur further costs.

### FLOODING

Thanks to a relatively dry winter after the summer rains water table levels are back to normal for the time of year. Hopefully the flooding we feared will not eventuate. See the separate report on Council activities on page 6.

## HEADLINE NEWS

As noted before it is the committee's view that mounting a legal challenge to the storm water charges presently included in our rates bill would be a complex and costly exercise with an uncertain outcome. We will be pursuing the new council to make good the shortcomings of our drainage ponds etc which were highlighted by the heavy late January rains. The resultant problems have been increased by a conspicuous lack of spending on stormwater assets for some years.

### MOTORWAY EXTENSION

Despite objections to the spending of \$1.3billion on the Puhoi to Wellsford extension to the northern motorway, both political and environmental, the Government appears committed to the project.

Over time the motorway will further open up the Warkworth area, and perhaps help the growth in the north of the island. The "Holiday Highway" canard has not been helpful to a considered view of the project. Certainly Omaha residents will benefit from the extension but we are not the ones it is being built for. Sometimes the cost benefit analysis does not allow for the change in living, working and economic growth that better roads bring. We hope it may be so.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Many thanks to those of you who gave feedback regarding the Walkway and quarry projects. It is pleasing to report that the feedback was almost entirely positive. Developments since Easter are covered later in the newsletter and will be the subject of discussion at the Forum on Saturday 19th November. Please try to keep this date clear.

Congratulations to Tony and Karen Hoksbergen as winners of the Morris and James book given to us by the publisher and used as a prize to encourage feedback/contribution from our residents.

### MEETING DATES

We want to want to address the timing of the AGM and the Forum and the need for two separate meetings. Accordingly we are seeking members' views before making any change.

It has seemed to the Committee that there is an overlap between matters discussed at the Forum and those at the AGM. We wonder whether we need both meetings or if all the business could be covered at the AGM.

Timing is also important. Does the date of the AGM (always held at the end of the New Year Holiday) suit members? This four day break is certainly the busiest time of the year at Omaha. One possibility is to hold the AGM and Forum in November. We have generally had a very good turnout for the Forum and it may be that the November date would be a better fit. If we were to do this we would need to bring back the financial year end from October to September to

allow time to prepare the annual accounts. It is the committee's view that the business part of the AGM can be dealt with quickly so little time should be lost to the information side of the Forum. Member feedback on this issue would really be appreciated. Please let us have your views,

You can contact us by mail (PO Box 123 Matakana 0948) or email [us@omahabeach.co.nz](mailto:us@omahabeach.co.nz)

### RATES

The annual rates bills have now been issued and while there have been reports that the increase has been greater than the uniform 3.94% claimed we have checked the figures and after combining the old RDC and ARC rates adjusting for the higher GST and ignoring the previous prompt payment discounts the actual increase is exactly the percentage claimed. There have been comments that there has been a significant rise in the charge made by Watercare Services. In part the calculation is confused by the fact that in their first year of billing Watercare only invoiced 10 months (from July 2009 not May) so a comparison made without the two month adjustment is misleading. Clearly however there have been subsequent raises. One for the second half of the 2010/11 year that seemed to creep through and a further increase of 4.5% is reported for the 2011/12 year although invoices have yet to be issued. Water Care is reducing the price of water but for tank supplied Omaha that is of no consequence. We will try to compare the 2011/12 charge against the rest of Auckland when this is to hand.

### MEMBERSHIP

The golf club have recently carried out a survey of Omaha residents (members and non members). It is the first time we have had access to a picture of the community backed by a proper survey. We report on some of the results later in the newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Most residents have paid the 2011 subscription; a few have yet to so. For this group we ask that you do maintain your membership. Remember this year you can pay by internet banking as well as by credit card or cheque.

### SIREN TESTING

We expect the sirens will be tested over the weekend of 24/25th September at the start of daylight saving. We will issue a reminder near the time.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Up to mid August it has been a surprisingly mild winter. All that changed with the great southerly blast that dropped Auckland temperatures to a level that caused a deal of discomfort to us northerners and a deal of humour to the southern parts of the country well used to harsher conditions.

In the last few months we have been active with a number of projects but I fear we are a little way from finality on all of these.

The Hutchinson report on the Club/Community centre has highlighted that there is an urgent need for maintenance in some areas and we are resolved that this work should proceed fairly quickly. The cost of this work should largely be met from the maintenance fund established for this purpose.

The Golf Club want to carry out an upgrade to the interior appearance and decor. This is well overdue and we support their efforts. To this end we have resolved to make a capital contribution of up to \$10k which we are prepared to commit on the basis that the club itself will advance a similar amount.

The object is to give the Centre a warm and welcoming appearance attractive to both players and non players. Hopefully the maintenance and upgrade programme will have been decided and will be well advanced by year end.

We intend to have our annual planning meeting in November. This has been very well supported by members and allows the opportunity for you to have a say on future activities and improvements to the Omaha amenities.

In the Forum this year we are setting time aside to talk about tsunamis, emergency evacuations and communications. Do please come.

In terms of improving the amenities at Omaha we have made some very real progress in recent years and we want to be able to continue to solicit your views. At the same time to follow the Forum with the January AGM held over the New Year break, the busiest in the Omaha social year has caused us to wonder whether the two meetings could be combined. Our initial thought is to combine the Planning Forum with the AGM and to hold the meeting in November. We would need to bring the accounting year back a month to September to allow us to have the annual accounts completed, reviewed and posted in sufficient time to meet the November meeting date. The accounts would as a result not be included in the December newsletter but would be sent out separately.'

No change will be made this year and we will be seeking feedback and opinion from residents before the change is put forward for a vote.

The last item I want to note is to congratulate the Foreshore and Seabird Protection Trust who although a small group have successfully raised the monies to allow the vermin proof fence on the northern end of the spit to proceed. This is an excellent result and well supported by our residents. At the southern end the Taniko walkway has received a good deal of support. Our preference is that this be our first objective with the transformation of the quarry site, itself a much longer term undertaking, following from this. We intend to have the trail marked out by the time you read this. OBC and OBRS have each agreed to provide funding to keep the project moving. Please support the November planning meeting by attending and giving us your views.

I look forward to meeting you there.

**Graham Painter.**

## COMING EVENTS

See the RUGBY WORLD CUP on the big screen at the Club. Watch for advices on the times games etc on our website.

KOWHAI FESTIVAL WARKWORTH 1st - 23rd October with the Huge Day Out on Saturday 15th October and Nathan Haines in Concert on the Wharf commencing 6.00pm.

THE OMAHA BEACH RESIDENTS PLANNING FORUM at the club Saturday 19th November commencing 4pm.

In October the MATAKANA CINEMA foyer will be dressing up and sharing the heritage, culture and ecology of the region with a special display of just about everything we liked the look of, old and new.

HYNDS SHORT LINE OUT CHARITY FISHING TOURNAMENT 4th - 5th November, Omaha Bay.

### 12 SALES THROUGH BAYLEYS OMAHA OFFICE IN THE LAST EIGHT WEEKS

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## GOLF CLUB SURVEY

Survey Gizmo undertook a survey of residents and their habits for the Omaha Beach Golf Club.

The object was to identify the use made of the Community Centre/ Club and the potential for increasing this. Over 200 residents replied to the email survey and a number of questions were designed to give a picture of residents and their use of Omaha facilities.

Did you know?

- 84% of residents who responded describe themselves as temporary. Omaha is not their prime place of residence.
- 16% of residents describe themselves as permanent.
- 50% of residents visit Omaha once a month.
- 30% visit weekly.
- 10% visit infrequently.
- The average stay of 80% of those coming to Omaha is a weekend.
- 97% of those responding consider Auckland to be their normal place of residence.
- The average family size of 52% is three to five.
- The average family size of 43% is two.

It is disappointing to report that the survey has shown there are still members who say they are unaware the Club/Community centre is available to all or what activities are happening at the centre. The golf club website [www.omahagolf.co.nz](http://www.omahagolf.co.nz) and the Omaha residents website [www.omahabeach.co.nz](http://www.omahabeach.co.nz) both give information on current events so please check with these to see what is on when you are coming up.

## OMAHA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Earlier this year OBC commissioned an independent review of the state of maintenance at the Centre with a view to producing a major external and internal maintenance/ refurbishment programme. This would allow us to understand of what funds might be required over and above those on hand. We were worried that given the age of the centre a major maintenance programme was overdue.

This survey has now been completed and a comprehensive report prepared by Hutchinson Consulting Engineers. While no major defects have been identified it is clear that there is a good deal of work required to bring the building up to scratch both externally and internally. The work should be commenced almost immediately and is a mix of a number of smaller items plus some larger works. The programme will be agreed in discussion with the new Auckland Council (the owners of the Community Centre) and overseen by

Hutchinson's. There are a number of smaller housekeeping items but majors include work to the rafters, a roof paint, sundry plumbing repairs, external coatings and the replacement of half the deck. Internally there are a number of items for attention including flooring and these will have to be attended to if not in this round of work then at some time in the near future.

The external work should certainly be paid for from the maintenance fund which has been built up over several years for just such a purpose. It is expected that the programme will use up the greater part of the fund.

The internal works are principally the responsibility of the Golf Club under the management agreement between OBC and the Club. Separately, the cost of work on improving the décor/ambiance of the centre will have to be met by the Golf Club supported by OBC. Both of us agree the present decor is unexciting and OBC has commissioned a design intended to enhance the look and appeal of the Centre.

OBC are very supportive of this project and it is our present intention, once the plan has been completed and agreed by both parties, that OBC would bear a proportion of the cost.

## POST BOXES

For some time the OBRS and OBC have been negotiating with Rural Post regarding their earlier insistence that post boxes must be placed on the road edge. This roadside positioning has been confirmed by the previous Rodney District Council (RDC) as being contrary to the bylaws. In addition the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) has confirmed that any roadside structure must be placed not less than one metre from the road edge. This is a national requirement. On main road locations the placement of boxes on the road edge creates a serious hazard and sooner or later a cyclist is going to collide with one of these and suffer some real injury.

The OBRS/OBC have had discussions with the Rural Post contractor and it has been agreed that post boxes should be moved so that they are not less than one metre from the road edge and on the right hand side of the driveway. This position meets the Rural Post guidelines which require that any box be positioned so that it can be accessed without the contractor leaving his vehicle seat. Incidentally it has been suggested that some boxes are too small to hold the size of mail delivered. You may need to consider a change. We understand the deliverer will advise you if this is the case.

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## OMAHA ON THE MOVE – THE OMAHA BEACH TANIKO WALKWAY PROJECT

Not much has happened over the winter but we have started to mark the route of the Taniko trail by the time you read this. The major cost will be in forming the path which will include a combination of metal path and boardwalk. Hopefully the need for the latter will not be large but this is a wetland as the writer can attest. The initial marking out survey proved quite a challenge. The attached photos may give some idea of the look of the track excluding the bush areas which we will enter at a later stage. The path is to run from the northern end road through or past the bush reserve along the length of the golf course. It will eventually join the quarry walk and finally the lake section to finish at the southern end of the beach creating a very attractive prospect for what up to now has been a rather remote and overgrown strip of land. Fund raising now becomes an issue and we have been promised support by OBRS. OBC itself will contribute and we will look to approach some of the charitable organisations with a history of support for projects of this type. There will be a need for volunteers to help with the physical work so if you think you can assist please let us know.

In June members of Auckland's Chinese Conservation trust and others helped plant around 1200 seedlings, flax, manuka and cabbage trees as part of a revegetation project designed to revegetate the area along which the walkway will be built. More plantings will be needed but the impact of this initial work is very evident along the route.

The 4 kilometre cycle/walkway from Point Wells to Broadlands Drive opened in April. It certainly reduces the distance to Point Wells and it is interesting to see there is quite a lot of activity preparing land for planting in this block. Thanks to contributions from Wharehine Group,



Top left: Point Wells cycleway/walkway. Other images, Taniko Walkway views and survey party checking their map.

Rhodes for Roads and Hutchinson Consultants the cycle/walkway, which will ultimately be incorporated in the much longer Matakana to Omaha route, involved the clearing of scrub on what had previously been designated a paper road by RDC and sealing the route.

## THE OMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST

### Nesting Time

Visitors to Omaha Spit will notice many NZ dotterels now displaying their russet breeding plumage. Breeding occurs from August to February. Soon nests will be formed as small depressions in the sand. Nesting areas are marked off with tape because the eggs are so well camouflaged that it would be easy to tread on them. Disturbance is a major cause of breeding failure.

### Trapping Programme

The single most important way to improve breeding rates is by protecting the breeding adults and their eggs and chicks from predators. Currently this is best achieved by a line of traps across the buffer zone between the subdivision and the nesting areas. Last season OSPT purchased additional traps and the number of rats, hedgehogs, weasels and stoats caught increased. However, pests do get past the trap lines. Recently in broad daylight a large rat was seen scampering across the dunes by representatives of Auckland Council and OSPT.

From July to March a team of volunteers is rostered to check traps on a daily basis. Marie Ward (m.ward@auckland.ac.nz) would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining the trapping team. You might like to take part one day a week or fortnight. It takes about 30 minutes to check all the traps, and is a pleasant way to get some exercise.

### Whangateau Harbour

There are so many shorebirds at Omaha because of the proximity to Whangateau Harbour and its abundant food supply. If we wish to protect our shorebirds, it is important to be vigilant about activities that might threaten their habitat. It would be appreciated if fishermen on the spit do not leave line or bait around. Bait attracts rats. Recently several birds have been injured by becoming entangled in fishing line.

Residents should be aware that the conservation reserve extends south of the first rock groyne as far as Walkway 2 and a number of dotterels nest in this area. It would be appreciated if dog owners could take their dogs to and from the beach along Walkway 2 rather than using the track at the groyne. Domestic cats can also enter the reserve and attack the chicks and adult birds. If you have a cat at Omaha please ensure that it is well fed and kept inside at night.

For more information and details of how you can help visit:

[www.omashorebirds.co.nz](http://www.omashorebirds.co.nz)



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## SEAWALL EXTENSION

Resource consent is being obtained to continue the replacement of the sea wall on the harbour side, running the length of the golf course to the point where the rock filled gabion baskets commence just past the putting green. While the work may be done in stages the consent is intended to cover the total job. Members will remember the trial section of sand/mudcrete put in a few years ago and the intention is that the new work will comprise the same materials. The existing wall which has suffered a good deal of deterioration and comprises metal and asbestos will be entirely replaced. The new wall is designed to weather better and have a more natural appearance. Presently the work is scheduled in the 2012/2013 years.

## FLOODING AT OMAHA BEACH

Our Council contact reports the following storm water operational matters in Omaha have been attended to in recent months:

- Partial removal of weed growth within the main Southern Pond.
- Southern Pond forebay has been cleaned out.
- Outlet channel from the pond has been cleared of blockages.
- A number of popping manhole lids have been secured.

Ponding and groundwater issues were a major concern following the major rainfall events during summer. Generally the ponding has been much less of an issue in recent months however Auckland Council is undertaking the following investigations:

- Review of all previous groundwater monitoring and establishment of additional monitoring in selected areas including Southern Isle.
- Engaging a groundwater specialist to investigate specific ponding issues and potential solutions in the Southern Isle area and in the reserves and walkways in Omaha South.
- Surface water issues related to the stormwater systems in the road reserves in Omaha South and Mangatawhiri Road in particular.

Work will continue on investigation of groundwater, ponding and other stormwater management issues and options. When this work is sufficiently advanced this will be made available for discussion with the Omaha Community.

Ken Tomkins, Senior Catchment Planning Specialist with the Auckland council reports the ground water levels at Omaha are relatively low for this time of year and this follows a "dry" August in which only 50mm of rainfall was recorded. Current groundwater levels in the vicinity of Southern Isle/Ruby Cove are nearly 1 metre below the lowest ground level in the area, which will allow the ground soakage systems to be fully functional for normal rainfall events.

## WHANGATEAU HARBOUR

The Whangateau Community Group recently held a forum to discuss future concerns and possible actions to preserve the quality of the harbour. We had feedback that OBC have not been represented on this group despite having a significant interest in the harbour given it adjoins our strip of land, is the site of the major boat ramp in the area and plays an important role in the recreational activities of our community.

OBC representatives have attended a number of meetings of the group. Clearly we are concerned about some key issues in the harbour:

- Mangroves and the steady spread of this plant across the upper harbour.
- Water access for boats.
- The possible silting up of the harbour.
- Sediment and contamination.
- Wastewater affecting water quality.

The editor was not able to get comment from the Auckland Council officers who attended the forum in the time available before publication on the grounds that any material supplied had to be vetted at length. One was left with the impression that this group will spend more time talking than doing anything.

We were able to speak to Kerry Connolly an OBC member with considerable professional experience in this area and on this subject. Kerry had significant input into obtaining the monies used to allow the preparation of a scoping survey to investigate the state of health of the Whangateau. His view is that of the possible risks to the harbour the most pressing is the build-up of sediment from run-offs from the land and streams surrounding the harbour. Waste water issues are slight, assuming the Jones Rd wastewater plant is running within its capacity, the major population centre, the Omaha settlement, is on the sandspit and run off pollution here is minimal.

The sediment in the water following the heavy rainfalls earlier in the year was quite noticeable and reflected slips and blockages to the surrounding waterways. Kerry believes the first priority in managing maintaining the purity of the harbour is to appoint an experienced soil conservator to assess the catchment area to prioritise the steps required to check the sources of sediment then take some action to stabilise areas of erosion with normal soil conservation techniques. We hope the Council take on this responsibility.

It seems that a more positive approach is to be adopted with regard to mangroves than previously. Where these are blocking access to the coastal area they may be able to be removed without a consent process. Where they are spreading a consent will be required to remove or cut back but is likely to be granted. This would be an improvement on earlier policy which meant that only the very smallest plants could be removed and therefore meant that earlier encroachment could not be dealt with.

One item of interest is in relation to the shellfish ban. Kerry advises that a combination of low tides and high temperatures two summers ago combined with naturally occurring shellfish pathogens put a strain on the shellfish (cockle) population resulting in over 70% dying. Numbers here are still well below normal levels.

We will look to taking a more active role in liaising with the Harbour Care Group and the council itself with regard to Whangateau issues.

OBC are interested in action not discussion and will support tangible actions to improve the quality of the harbour and communicate news of activities and calls for assistance to our members.



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## LOCAL NEWS

### WARKWORTH AREA LIASON GROUP

The Warkworth Area Liaison Group is a local forum representing a range of community groups and individuals and has as its primary purpose the advocacy of those issues affecting the continued growth and prosperity of the Warkworth area. We keep in touch with this group and our interests certainly coincide in some areas. The group has been most active in pressing for the work on the Hill St intersection and we wish them success.

### RODNEY LOCAL BOARD-WARKWORTH

The Three Year Draft Local Plan has been the main focus for board members lately. They have pushed to get many of the issues that affect the area included in the information booklet and want to have as many submissions as possible. Once the plan has been signed off they will then be able to concentrate on the issues identified in it and lobby the Governing Body to get funding to adopt them. Residents are urged to make submissions to the Three Year Draft Local Plan on any issue we wish to progress in our area: roading issues, environmental issues, harbours, water/waste water etc. In passing we note that Local Board member Tracey Martin has been confirmed as the NZ First candidate for Rodney in the November election. She stood for the party at the 2008 election.

### KOWHAI FESTIVAL

This is due to begin on the 1st of October running through to the 23rd. The Huge Day Out will be on Saturday the 15th of October. On this day the centre of Warkworth is virtually closed with stalls lining the main street and food and entertainment on the wharf. The day ends with a jazz festival featuring well-known NZ musician Nathan Haines

### MANSION HOUSE

It is disappointing to read of concerns expressed at the poor condition of Mansion House on Kawau. The category 1 historic rated building has a leaking roof, needs paint and, has some cracked walls and reportedly the landmark copper mine chimney is in a poor state of preservation. The property is administered by DOC and funds appear to be available only to cover a fraction of the total work that needs to be done. While it is denied that the situation is critical it is acknowledged that significant funding needs to be found from outside DOC operations channels or from other sources. Questions have been raised as to whether DOC have the resources or the ability to maintain a property of such national value and Kawau residents have become involved through their local association.

### HIGHLIFE FESTIVAL

The festival returns to Matakana Country Park over New Year 2012. The Golf Club are organising the campground across the estuary as they did in 2010 and a large crowd is expected. The last festival was

very well run and caused minimum disruption at Omaha. We hope the same happens again.

### THE OAKS-WARKWORTH

It is planned to build three multi-level apartment blocks comprising retail space and village amenities on the street level, with 86 units on the levels above the shops on the site bounded by Queen and Neville Streets and backing the Establishment. Additionally there will be a rest-home/hospital facility with a capacity for about 130 residents and staff. Car parking under and in the complex will amount to approximately 125 car spaces, depending on council requirements.

The developers hope to maintain as many trees as possible as a priority. These will break up the perceived height of the buildings from the Neville St aspect.

The Establishment will be extensively renovated to house a quality bar and restaurant.

Subject to the necessary consent programme construction is loosely predicted to start in about a year and the initial construction will take about two years.

### TAKATU ROAD

While there is no likelihood of sealing the road in the foreseeable future it is pleasing to report that some work will be carried out this spring, widening the hill section east of Sandpiper Lodge and making some slip repairs to a section west of the lodge. The road has been the subject of many complaints for some time and carries a large volume of traffic to the Regional Park. The hill section past the lodge heading toward the park is narrow, and visibility poor. While to date there have been few accidents reported it is not a pleasant section to drive. When the best advice to the nervous is to wait until another vehicle comes along and tuck in behind, then an upgrade is needed. The walk between Omaha and the park (and back) is very pleasant and well worth doing any time from below three-quarter tide.

### LEIGH MARINE CENTRE

The Auckland University Marine Laboratory has now become the South Pacific Centre for Marine Science. There has been a very significant capital programme undertaken in the last two years which culminated in an official opening in June.

The laboratory is expected to a major centre for ocean research capable of attracting major project funding. The public will be able to better understand the work of the centre through the Edith Winstone Blackwell Trust which has endowed the new interpretive centre which is presently reported as opening in mid October. The display will feature work being done in the laboratory, a sound tunnel to feature marine life acoustics collected by the laboratory static, and interactive displays This will be a major attraction over the coming summer. Be sure to visit.

# WATER

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## LOCAL NEWS

### NGATI MANAHURI TREATY SETTLEMENT

In May this year the local iwi Ngati Manahuri concluded a Treaty settlement valued at nine million dollars which included the return of a number of culturally significant sites, the transfer of some lands and the return to and subsequent gift to the people of NZ of Hauturu (Little Barrier). The Ngati Manahuri area of interest runs from Whangaparoa in the south to Bream Tail and included both Great and Little Barriers, Kawau and various gulf islands. Hauturu has had particular significance to Ngati Manahuri who occupied the island before having it compulsorily acquired by the Crown in the late 1800s. The gift back and the ongoing ownership of Little Barrier by all New Zealanders and its continuation as nature reserve is a very significant part of the agreement. A small area on Hauturu of particular significance has been retained by the iwi. The deed was signed at Omaha Marae in Leigh.

### HILL ST INTERSECTION

The delay to the upgrade of the Hill St intersection reported in the last newsletter appears to be confirmed despite the objections of residents. It appears however that there have been changes to the light phasing to improve the flow of traffic, particularly coming from the eastern beaches. Better management of the timing phases will assist the fluctuating levels of traffic demand from the north. New software is to be installed in coming months assisted by a CTV camera.

The Rodney local Board has expressed considerable disappointment with the ongoing delays. Lack of funding is being blamed as well as initial projections of volumes not eventuating and uncertainties about the eventual route of the motorway extension. Wherever the motorway joins to Warkworth it is hard to see that Hill St problems will disappear when the connection is made and it seems increasingly likely that we will still be writing about the problems of Hill St in another 5 years.

## PROMOTING A SAFER OMAHA

### WINTER 2011

Happily there is not a lot to report relating to safety/security over the last 4 months. There have been some small incidents and Insite has provided back up and support to residents. The programme of patrols introduced for the holiday weekends (Easter and Queens Birthday) operated for the first time this year and appeared to work well. The deterrent effect of the night patrol cannot be underestimated. We have had the odd fire on the beach and intrusion into the sanctuary area at the northern end. Please if you see something untoward or suspicious call Insite. They will either investigate or pass the matter on to the right authority.

We are in the process of making application for the community grant received from RDC and then last year from the new Auckland Council to carry on the security patrols over the summer and hope this will be approved.

Without wanting to harp it is clear that the problems we report invariably are caused by teenagers overstepping the mark. Parents; please know what your children are up to. We want everyone to have a good time at Omaha, young and old alike.

Chris Martin advised us of a problem with mice in one residence where the property had not been opened for some time. A combination of this and the weather had led to the mice being undetected and a fair amount of damage resulted. We have not

heard any similar stories but it certainly is not a good idea to have your house closed up for long periods.

One last thing. Chris asks us to say that if you are going to let your property over the summer make sure you know who will be occupying the place, particularly over the New Year when the Highlife Festival is on.

### TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLANNING

Residents will know that the event that causes us the greatest concern at present is a tsunami originating somewhere in the Pacific and threatening a tidal surge that at worst breaches the sand dune barriers and spreads into the residential area.

Tsunami waves are generated by earthquakes and the height of the waves depends on the magnitude and nature of the earthquake and the distance from the New Zealand coast. Omaha Beach is to some extent protected by the Great Barrier and Little Barrier Islands but in the event of a serious tsunami wave heights could exceed 5 metres.

The Omaha Beach development is built on a sand spit and many properties are below the 10 metre contour line. The same applies to low lying areas of Point Wells, Omaha Flats and Whangateau. Land above the 10 metre contour may be considered relatively safe, for example in the vicinity of Caroline Heights. Signs will be installed in Omaha to indicate refuge areas above the 10 metre contour.



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# PROMOTING A SAFER OMAHA

There are two types of tsunami and we need to understand the difference:

- The first is known as a “distal” (distant) tsunami. It occurs far from New Zealand and may take from three to twelve hours to arrive. Pacific monitoring ensures that we have the maximum warning time possible, indication of wave height and arrival time.
- The second is a “Near Source” tsunami generated by an earthquake, underwater landslide or volcanic eruption close to the New Zealand coast. Your first and probably only indication of a Near Source tsunami will be a major earthquake (one that is hard to stand up in), unusual noises or changes in the ocean.

To date the incidents we have encountered have been located far enough away from NZ to allow ample warning and the last earthquake in the nearer Kermadec’s was quickly identified as causing no serious tsunami threat. In the event of major shake in an area close to NZ we would have very little time to evaluate the position and even less time to alert and clear residents from the danger area.

## WARNING ACTIVATION

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) sends notification of tsunami in the Pacific Ocean area to all registered subscribers. It is received in New Zealand by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management. If considered necessary the Ministry will issue National Tsunami Warnings and Advisories and notify regional and local Civil Defence and



Omaha – High ground. This map will be produced in an A3 format, on a water resistant medium, so that residents can easily identify their property and their nearest high ground.

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## PROMOTING A SAFER OMAHA

Emergency Services so that pre-planned warnings and evacuations can be put into effect.

**Local Warnings** Most television and radio networks will provide public information. Public should refer to the back of the phone book, listen to the radio, and follow instructions. **Community Warnings** The Omaha community will put in place a “phone tree” method of contacting residents to warn them of an impending event that may have a significant risk to life and property. The priority for first calls will be based on the threat. In the case of a tsunami or flooding calls will be made to all low lying at risk areas in order to initiate evacuation as required.

Our concern has been and remains that the sort of orderly evacuation set out in the initial plans has all the hallmarks of a paper plan which makes little allowance for the type of reaction and panic that would be likely in the event the community was exposed to a major flood risk with very little time to react. For Omaha there can be no single simple plan that would fit all or any event. For example the rapid evacuation of mid- week mid-winter residents can not be replicated over the Xmas / New Year period when there could be 10,000 residents and visitors. To evacuate such a number across the causeway and along Omaha Flats Road in a 2 hour period would be an impossibility.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP

This group comprising a number of Omaha residents has been established to work on the review and finalisation of the plan, to meet at least annually with the community to discuss the plan, to liaise with the our key contact in Auckland Council Civil Defence to

effect any changes. The group is to meet the residents to discuss the plan at the 2011 Planning Forum. This discussion is expected to be the major topic at this meeting.

We believe in the meantime that in the event of the need for a major move of residents this should be to the high ground in Omaha identified on the map below. We note particularly the length and location of the land identified as over 10 metres above sea level which would be reasonably available to all residents and for most within a short walk/run from their property.

### REMEMBER THE SIGNALS

In the case of tsunami the siren system will sound as follows:

#### Alert Signal, dash-dash-dot-dot for 15 minutes.

- Evacuate beaches.
- Listen to radio or TV for information.
- Prepare to evacuate if required.

#### Evacuate Signal, dot-dot-dot for 15 minutes.

- Evacuate immediately to nearest safe high ground.
- Directions and traffic control measures will be provided.

#### All Clear Signal, continuous tone for 5 minutes.

- Return to home if not affected.
- Follow directions of the emergency services if your area has been affected.

### EMERGENCY WARNING TEXTING. Registration can be made by texting OPTNRDCD to 2678.

MATAKANA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRUST

<b>The Alert Signal</b>	<b>dash-dash-dot-dot</b>	Prepare for evacuation
<b>The Evacuate Signal</b>	<b>dot-dot-dot</b>	Evacuate
<b>The All Clear</b>	<b>continuous tone</b>	The Threat has passed



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## CLUB REPORTS

### OMAHA BEACH GOLF CLUB

Email: [gm@omahagolf.co.nz](mailto:gm@omahagolf.co.nz) .New Website  
[www.omahagolf.co.nz](http://www.omahagolf.co.nz) Phone: (09) 422 7551

No time to hibernate this winter, I am pleased to say that we have been very active with a lot of positive results. The message that I wish to reinforce to everyone is that the Omaha Beach Club is your club, not just the golf, tennis or bowling club, it is the hub where you come down, enjoy a meal and a glass or two of fine wine or a snack and take in the spectacular views sitting on the outside deck with coffee in hand.

The results of the recent householders survey highlighted the need to make changes. The main issues were the café, the need for maintenance to the deck and inside flooring plus upgrading some of the furnishing and bringing back SKY. Read on, changes are happening.

- The café has new operators and we welcome Annie and Enid. The mix of Fijian and Maori culture has brought a refreshing new style of cuisine, sensible pricing, and a friendly greeting awaits your visit.
- The deck is to be replaced where needed.
- The inside floor will receive a new coating of polyurethane.
- SKY is back on the big screen. Join us for RWC viewing throughout the tournament.
- Free Wi Fi is available. Just ask the café or bar for the password.
- Up coming social events will be on the OBC website.
- The club is available for hire for functions and is an excellent venue for your staff Christmas party. Bowls, tennis, petanque or just hitting some golf balls into the estuary, plenty of activities for all ages.

#### Club Card

The introduction of the card to all Omaha residents allows all of us to benefit from lower bar prices. You only need to carry one card as you can purchase from the café and the golf shop. It is easy to use; all that is required to activate your card is enter your unique four digit pin then load your card with \$100 and it's ready to use and no worries carrying cash or the eftpos card.

#### Car Raffle Result

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser. The draw was made on the 13th August under police supervision by life member Lorna Kjestrup who drew the four prizes and the Citroen C3 car went to an ecstatic Robert Fitzjames. Roger Richwhite, Lyn Williams and Judy Hart took out the other prizes. The club achieved close to their target and it will assist in the continual upgrading of our irrigation system.

#### New First Hole

The opening will be shortly, we are waiting for the grass on the tee blocks to get established and it will then be complete. The club is appreciative to the Friends of Omaha, a dedicated group who have made this happen and further improvements are planned.

#### Activities

Free coaching for beginners is conducted every Monday 1pm for ladies and 3.30pm for men. This has proven to be a great success and has given confidence to over 20 new members who had been hesitant in giving it a go. Please contact the office and join in and remember this an invitation to everyone not just members.

Junior coaching clinics are being run every second Sunday of the month starting on the 11th September at 10.30am. Only 12 spots available \$10 a lesson conducted by Sergio Figueroa NZPGA, 16 years experience in coaching. Contact Kat in the Golf Shop on 422 7551 ext1.

Summer membership rate is \$475 to Easter 2012 and concession cards are available

**John Phillis, General Manager**

### OMAHA BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Email: [mail@omahasurf.co.nz](mailto:mail@omahasurf.co.nz)

Phone: (09) 422 7022 (club) or 0274 934 811

The surf club enjoyed a really good season last summer with great numbers of children participating in Junior Surf and Rookie Life Guards as well as a record 39 trained Life Guards patrolling the beach. The new deck (constructed with funds raised at the annual auction, the generous support of various trade and company sponsorships, and a funding grant from Pub Charity) proved a real asset to the club. We look forward to the final stage of building improvements which will see the interior of the club get a full makeover that will address the needs of the growing club membership and its supporters.

Registration for the coming season will be at the club on Saturday the 29th of September at 2:00 PM. We encourage new and existing members to come along and sign up on the day. However if people can't make it on the 29th the club website has an online application form as well as loads of information about the club and getting involved in surf life saving. **Visit [www.omahasurf.co.nz](http://www.omahasurf.co.nz)**

The auction in January was a great success and went so well we are going to do it again – only better! This time it's moving down the road to the Matakana Country Park and will be held shortly after New Years in a marquee made available by Adam Bennett of Highlife Entertainment. Let us know if you would like to reserve tickets for this fantastic community event by emailing [mail@omahasurf.co.nz](mailto:mail@omahasurf.co.nz).

**John Williams, President**

**OMAHA BEACH TENNIS CLUB Contact:**  
**Amanda Brown [seanamanda13@hotmail.com](mailto:seanamanda13@hotmail.com)**

Next report will be in the December newsletter.

### Now is the perfect time to plant native trees!

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## SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



Fishing At The End Of The Spit, Starfish, mid beach Po.

## CLUB NOTES

**OMAHA BEACH BOWLING CLUB INC.**  
**Contacts: Giles Boyd - President (422 7392);**  
**Brian Franklin (422 9899) and Jim McKinlay**  
**(422 9063)**

These members are always willing to assist anyone interested in using the green. The club runs Open Sponsored Pairs Tournaments every two weeks and these are well patronised by affiliate bowlers from other clubs in the area.

The club is desperate for new members and in summer there will be roll-ups on alternate Thursdays for anyone wishing to have a go. The subs are very reasonable and you cannot get a better deal if you are a first year member – free. We have a wonderful facility and the green is as good as any all-weather green. All it needs is people. There are bowls available and you do not need whites, just flat soled shoes. Help keep us alive! Give bowls a try.

### MAIL

Please do check the address we have used to post you the newsletter. We have to be certain that our address list is accurate in order to continue to receive the postal concession.

If a correction is needed please call **Glenys McBain 021 543 348** or email **OBCdatabase@gmail.com**

### KICK BACK CAFÉ

Great to see the Kickback Cafe open on a full time basis. Welcome Houman and Hamed and their families. We wish you all the best as we do Vinod and his staff at the superette. The winter months are not easy with Omaha relatively quiet and both shops deserve our support. The location is a good one right in the centre and with good parking available.

### MATAKANA INFORMATION CENTRE

Matakana Information Centre are working towards a most impressive event to draw the locals and tourists alike to Matakana Village, aiming for end of September kick-off.

Conveniently located in the Matakana Cinema foyer, volunteers are on duty between 10am-1pm daily. But the centre is 'open' every day from 9am through to 'last movie'.

Call them up on 422 7433 or check them out on the web, at [www.matakanainfo.org.nz](http://www.matakanainfo.org.nz)

Photos OBC photo library, Marie Ward, Dennis O'Callahan, Kim Fisher. Editor Kim Fisher



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