



## Opito Bay Christmas Newsletter

We have arrived at the end of 2021 with a real appreciation of living in this beautiful country. Our inability to travel overseas has led many of us to enjoy travelling around and discovering what is unique and special about New Zealand, Aotearoa.

It has been hard on occasions, but we have endured and 'got through'. Those who shared lockdown at Opito Bay reported a newfound appreciation of the sense of community that helped everyone get through safely under the circumstances. With this in mind it is worthwhile mentioning we do have a few immune-compromised and at risk residents in the Bay and we would hope anyone intending to travel to Opito Bay has been suitably vaccinated.

I would like to thank the other OBRA Committee members Paul Cook, Sue Edens, Nathan Tessellar, Cheryle Willoughby-Parker, Johnny Teat, Craig Roe and Glenn Sycamore for their support.

Our Easter barbecue is always well attended and gives us the opportunity of catching up with friends and neighbours. We have a fantastic community in Opito Bay from first responders keeping us safe, volunteers helping us clean up our beach, planting grasses to protect the dunes, running our Sports Day and Fishing Competition\* and those involved in active pest control (weeds, possums, rats and stoats) as well as those monitoring the native birdlife on our beaches and dunes. They contribute their own time to ensure we have a safe and sustainable environment, so thanks to all - it is truly appreciated!

On behalf of the OBRA Committee, we wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Chris Severne  
Chair OBRA



## Sharing Your Opito Summer With Your Dog?

Getting out and about with your favourite furry friend is a wonderful way to spend summer. However our native birds, especially our endangered dotterels, are also out and about during summer, and dogs and birds can be a potentially fatal combination. There are baby dotterel and oystercatcher chicks on the beach now and into January. Please be mindful and on alert when on the beach to keep away from the fenced off nesting sites and ensure your dog is under control and preferably on a lead.

The Kuaotunu Bird Rescue Trust has some fantastic advice on how you can desensitise your dogs to birds. Visit [kuaotunubirdrescue.org](http://kuaotunubirdrescue.org) to discover more.

## Kiwi Avoidance Training For Your Dog

The Project Kiwi Trust has been extremely successful in rearing and releasing kiwi into the Kuaotunu Peninsula – so successful that kiwi can now be heard on our properties at Opito Bay. Sheila Westley from Project Kiwi will be holding another 'Kiwi Avoidance Training for Dogs' with a session on the 8th January between 8.30am – 12.30pm. To make a booking for your FREE Kiwi Avoidance Training, email Sheila at [avertmydog@projectkiwi.org.nz](mailto:avertmydog@projectkiwi.org.nz)

## Dune Restoration Year 3

Another successful dune planting session was held in June at Stewart Stream where a further 2000 dune grasses were planted. The hard-working Tanya Patrick from TCDC oversaw the process and also put on a barbecue for our 30 volunteers who, as usual, did a fantastic job. This is now an annual regenerative programme to restore our damaged dune system and replace exotic weeds with native sand binding grasses.



## Beach Clean-Up

We aim to have at least two 'Beach Clean-Ups' a year. Our last one was in April 2021 and we intend to have another one Waitangi weekend 5-7 February 2022. The good news is that of the 238 beaches in the Sustainable Coastlines database, we in Opito are at the very top when it comes to plastic free beaches. Congratulations! Our great team of volunteers and residents are ensuring our beautiful Opito Bay stays clean. As a reminder, if you are walking the beach please take a bag with you to pick up any plastic or inorganic material. Check out [www.litterintelligence.org](http://www.litterintelligence.org) to see how we stack up.





## Scallop Gathering Rahui in Place

Success!! Led by Joe Davis of Ngati Hei, Legasea and the Opito Bay Community, a Rahui is in place for two years from September 11th 2021. Attached is a poster you may like to put up in your home to remind visitors of the rahui. Posters have also been put up on our noticeboards and boat ramps. After 2 years we will revisit the beds to see if there has been sufficient recovery for a sustainable fishery. Thanks everyone for their ongoing support.

## Our Pest Control Team Are Doing a Stunning Job

I would like to give a big 'Shout Out' to our Pest Control Team: Rachel, Margie, Richard and Craig. Since early 2021 they have recorded over 500 'kills' of rats, possums, stoats, weasels and hedgehogs. With generous funding from the Opito Bay community (thank you!) and The Waikato Regional Council, the team have been able to purchase and set over 100 traps along the length of the bay and up into the native bush. Funding has also allowed us to purchase baits and lures to attract pests into the traps.

With an increase in trapping activity we have noticed a corresponding increase in native birdlife in the bay, including kiwi. The team has also been busy clearing the walking track along Stewart Stream (access from Matapaua Bay Road). This had become overgrown with pampas grass. Now it is being mowed regularly to keep this pest weed at bay and allow for a pleasant walk beside the stream. To give the team a bit of a break over the holidays, you can help by checking any traps on your property or ones you see while walking. If you need help clearing them, feel free to text Craig (0274944092) or Margie (0210367943), let either of them know if you record a catch and which trap it is in. Thanks so much for those who have donated toward this program, as soon as we can catch up we'll thank you individually, name and deploy the new traps.

## Security Camera Now Operating

After many years discussing the need for a security camera we now have, thanks to some generous Opito contributors and a \$5000 contribution from Pub Charities, a system in place that is able to recognise both day and night registration numbers of vehicles entering and leaving the Bay.

For your privacy the only people who will have access to this information is the NZ Police when they request it. There will be two OBRA Committee 'Gatekeepers' to ensure no access is given to the general public. If you have a crime to report to the police, they will now have access to track vehicles that have been in the bay. As usual, call 111 if you are affected by any crime in the bay.

## Green Waste Collection

Because of Lockdown we were unable to have a 'Green Waste' collection at Labour Weekend. This has now been rescheduled for Auckland Anniversary Weekend with the collection by Tricky Trees happening on the Tuesday morning of the 1st February. Cost will be \$40 per cubic metre. If more than a cubic metre, Tricky Trees will invoice the household separately. If you are interested in this service and are a paid up member of OBRA please contact our Treasurer Paul Cook on [prcook@me.com](mailto:prcook@me.com). We will then advise Tricky Trees which properties are to be collected from.





## The Moloks Are Gone

After a year of negotiating with TCDC we were unable to retain the Moloks and glass recycling bins at the Matapaua Bay Road. We are obviously disappointed with this decision.

As an interim measure until 120 litre rubbish bins are proposed to be introduced some time in 2023, rubbish will be collected kerbside using the bottle bin (green), plastics, paper, metal (large green bin with yellow lid) and TCDC blue rubbish bags for landfill. Please note the blue rubbish bags cannot be left in a container, they must be left beside the kerb. Attached is a pdf from TCDC noting kerbside collection dates for North Mercury Bay. We suggest you print it off and place on your noticeboard to let you and your visitors know the collection dates. Collection dates from February '22 will be sent out once available.

NB there are significant fines for 'fly dumping' any form of rubbish including inorganic items by the roadside or any area not designated for rubbish collection. TCDC has advised it will police this form of activity heavily over the summer period. Some residents have opted to contract Coastal Bins Ltd ([coastalbins.co.nz](http://coastalbins.co.nz)) to pick up their bins on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Contact them directly if you want this service.

## \*Fishing Competition Cancelled for 2022. Sports Day Postponed Until Easter 2022

It is with regret we have had to cancel the very popular Opito Bay Fishing Competition for 2022. With Covid restrictions under the traffic light system, it makes it difficult to safely hold events with large numbers of people. We thank both committees for their great work and we look forward to holding these events again when it is possible.

## A Reminder to Stay Safe This Summer

Following the loss of a residential property by fire in Opito last year many people have asked us what lessons can be learned from this sad event:

- **Dial 111 immediately**
- Have an escape plan and leave the property as quickly as possible, and once you and your family are out of the house, stay out. Never go back inside
- Escape plans are especially important for 2 story properties where there are only limited options to escape. How would your family escape a fire night or day?
- A house fire can kill you in less than three minutes.
- Install smoke detectors in rooms, hallways and living areas
- Smoke detectors in garages are also a great idea as they are still likely to be heard.
- If your property backs onto reserves consider creating a safe distance between home and bush.

Refer to <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/in-the-event-of-fire/what-to-do-in-a-house-fire/> for more details.

- Before you light an outdoor fire please check the website to see if a FIRE BAN is in place in your area ([www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz) and click on 'check before you light'). Over summer there will be a lot of dry material that will ignite quickly, putting properties at risk. The homeowner is responsible for the considerable cost of extinguishing the fire. This means NO fireworks or floating Chinese lanterns over the summer period please.



# OPITO MATTERS



## Art on the Hill

Two award-winning Artists  
Gaylene Lonergan and John Boyd

Bring you Original Art from the Bay

## Art Exhibition

One day only - Monday 3rd January 2022

10am - 3pm

11 Ohinau Drive - Opito Bay



# THIS SITE IS CLOSED FOR DISPOSAL

FROM 15 NOVEMBER 2021



Alternative disposal for household rubbish and recycling can be by scheduled Kerbside collections. Check the schedule for your area at [tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside)

Bagged domestic rubbish can be disposed of for a small fee in the portable rubbish compactor at Kuaotunu boat ramp.

For properties outside of the Kerbside collection areas, or for larger volumes of recycling and rubbish, including green waste, visit the Matarangi, Coromandel Town or Whitianga Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) - addresses are listed on the above map.

**Check hours and locations for all our transfer stations at [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)**

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection 2021/22  
Tuesday 28 December 2021 - Friday 11 February 2022



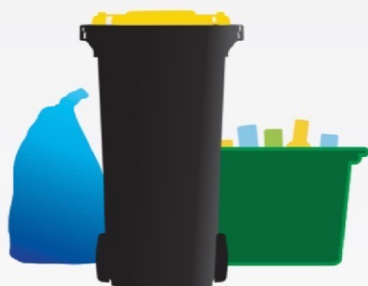
# MERCURY BAY NORTH

Kuaotunu to Whangapoua



## Summer pick up schedule

Tuesday



Friday



*Please place on the kerbside on your collection day by 9am.  
This schedule is subject to change at short notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.*

## HOW TO RECYCLE ON THE COROMANDEL



What goes in your wheelie bin?

Paper, Cardboard, Cans & Plastic



Paper & Cardboard



Aluminium & tin cans



Only Plastic



**NO GLASS**

Discard lids and rinse plastic item clean.  
(Other numbers, or no number, put in the rubbish.)



What goes in your TCDC crate?

Glass bottles and jars ONLY



Rinse clean and do not overfill crate.

[tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside)

# Summer Kerbside Rubbish & Recycling Schedule

## MERCURY BAY NORTH

Tuesday 28 December 2021



Friday 31 December 2021



Tuesday 4 January 2022



Friday 7 January 2022



Tuesday 11 January 2022



Friday 14 January 2022



Tuesday 18 January 2022



Friday 21 January 2022



Tuesday 25 January 2022



Friday 28 January 2022



Tuesday 1 February 2022



Friday 4 February 2022



Tuesday 8 February 2022



Friday 11 February 2022



*Please place on the kerbside  
on your collection day by 9am.*

*This schedule is subject to  
change at short notice due  
to COVID-19 restrictions.*

## Matarangi Refuse Transfer Station

101 Matarangi Drive, Matarangi

### SUMMER HOURS

Friday 17 December 2021 – Sunday 20 February 2022

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Mon – Fri: 12:30pm-5:30pm

Sat, Sun and public holidays: 10:30am-5:30pm

Hours and locations for all transfer stations: [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts)



# RĀHUI. NO DIVING OR DREDGING FOR SCALLOPS

An official 2 year ban on taking scallops from the eastern Coromandel coast.



Ministerial approved rāhui is supported by Ngāti Hei and the local community. The ban applies to recreational, customary and commercial scalloping for 2 years from 11 September 2021.



**Please respect this rāhui.**



*This rāhui was initiated by Ngāti Hei, the Opito Bay Ratepayers Association, the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club, Whangamata Ocean Sports Club, New Zealand Underwater Association, Spearfishing NZ, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea.*