

## Opito Bay Christmas Newsletter

Another year goes by and we are ready once again to enjoy all that Opito has to offer. We are fortunate to have a place in this wonderful and special environment.

I would like to thank the OBRA Committee members Paul Cook, Sue Edens, Nathan Tessellar, Cheryle Willoughby, Jonny Teat, Craig Roe, Glenn Sycamore, Perry Cornish and Edward Scorgie for their support over the past year. We have a fantastic community in Opito from first responders keeping us safe, volunteers helping us clean up our beach, planting grasses to protect our dunes, running our Sports Day and Fishing Competition, and those involved in active pest control (weeds, possums, rats and stoats). All contribute to ensure we have a safe and sustainable environment, so thanks to all - it is truly appreciated!

A reminder that the Kuaotunu Volunteer Fire Brigade will be coming around over the Christmas period selling raffle tickets to support the Brigade. Please have cash ready (\$10 a ticket). Great prizes available!

On behalf of the OBRA Committee, I 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 which are breeding on the beach at present, are also out and about during summer, and dogs and birds can be a potentially fatal combination – and not usually for the dogs! Be mindful when on the beach to have your dog under control and preferably on a lead. If you are renting your property please ensure your guests are aware of this issue.

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' session on Saturday 4th February between 9am – 12.00pm. To make a booking for your dog (it's free), email Sheila at [avertmydog@projectkiwi.org.nz](mailto:avertmydog@projectkiwi.org.nz) or phone 021 716 514.

## Dune Restoration Year 4

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 and Andrea Whitehead 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.



Another great turnout in June to plant another 2000 dune grasses at Stewart Stream

## Scallop Gathering Rahui In Place

With the support of Ngati Hei, Legasea, the NZ Sports Fishing Council and communities in the North Mercury Bay area, we were successful in initiating a rahui over 6,000Ha off Opito Bay. Research funded by us found that there was one legal scallop every 27sq metres in the bay. This was not sustainable. With follow up research by NIWA confirming the negative state of the beds, the Minister granted from September 2001 a rahui not only off Opito but covering 45% of the Gulf, or 500,000 Ha. This will last until September 2023 and will be reviewed prior to this to see if the beds have recovered. If not, the rahui will be extended for another 2 years.



## Beach Clean-Up Year 4

We have partnered with Sustainable Coastlines to have regular checks on plastic pollution in the Bay. The good news is that of the 238 beaches in the Sustainable Coastlines database, we in Opito are regularly in the top five when it comes to plastic free beaches. Congratulations!

We have noticed recently though an increase in plastic contamination. Our great team of volunteers are ensuring our beautiful Opito stays clean, and as a reminder, if you are walking the beach take a (non plastic) 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.



## Security Camera Now Operating

After many years discussing the need for a security camera we now, thanks to your generous contributions, have a system in place that is able to recognise both day and night registration numbers of vehicles coming into 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.

## Fishing Competition & Sports Day

They're on again! Join us this New Year for two days of family fun!

Last year because of Covid we had to cancel our famous Sports Day and Fishing Competition. But this year there's good news: they are both back on! Following this page are flyers showing details of both events. A special thanks to Cheryl, Roger and all the volunteers who make these events so successful.

## Summer Rubbish Collection Dates

Refer to the attached pages showing rubbish collection days for the Summer 2023 season.





## 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, Craig, Cassie and Aaron. Since mid 2021 they have recorded over 1130 'kills' of rats, possums, stoats, hedgehogs and weasels. With generous funding from the Opito community (thank you!) and The Waikato Regional Council, the team has been able to purchase and set over 150 traps along the length of the bay and into the hinterland along Stewart Stream. With an increase in trapping activity I have noticed an increase in native birdlife in the Bay including Kiwi, Kaka and Kereru.

Many thanks to those families, individuals and businesses that have contributed towards this program, every bit makes a difference. As you walk the trails in the native bush you can see the individual traps marked with their sponsor's name. To sponsor a trap and buy consumables for a year costs \$140, and each year the team need \$40 per trap for baits, lures and other supplies. If you have been thinking about joining in, or if you have already sponsored a trap and would like to help with next year's supplies, that would be much appreciated.

Please send any contributions to the OBRA account (03-1578-0007035-000) with PFO as a reference and, if you are sponsoring a new trap, the name you would like on it.

As there are a number of fledgling birds about, the team have temporarily shut down the traps in the Opito village. These will remain inactive through December and January and will be rebaited in February. During this break, traps will be collected for annual cleaning and maintenance. If you have traps on your property, you may wish to bait and operate them yourself over this period. The beach and bush traps will continue to be baited and monitored during this time.

The team has also been busy clearing the walking track along Stewart Stream that can be accessed from Matapaua Bay Road. This had become overgrown with pampas grass, wild ginger and other pest plants. Now it is being mowed regularly to keep these pests weeds at bay and allow for a pleasant walk beside the stream. Access to Sandy Bay and the Waterfall can be made following the track.





## Lonnies Lures

11 Ohinau Drive, Opito Bay

Taking care of your fishing tackle needs at Opito Bay

Lonnies Lures stocks a full range of world leading Glowbite fishing lures including:

Grumpy Fish – Kabura Sliders

Jack Flash – Slow Pitch Jigs

Micro Flash – Mini Bombs

Lightning Rod – Knife Jigs

New Squidinator Soft Baits and Bleeder jig heads

Braid pliers

Fluorocarbon leader

Braid mainline

Clips

Rattles

Spare lure tails

Whether you're a seasoned lure fisher or a complete novice, there is something for you at Lonnies Lures. We don't just sell you a lure and say "see how you go" . . . we actually spend the time to ensure you know exactly where to go and how to fish them, to get the best possible results. So, drop in for a chat at 11 Ohinau Drive – I am here for most of the festive season (perhaps call or text on 027 240 9813 to make sure I'm around) and let's see what we can do to help you get the very best out of your fishing trips around the Coromandel this season.

I look forward to seeing you.

Tight Lines . . . . . Grant (Lonnie)



Gaylene Lonergan

And

John Boyd

Combine to bring you Original Art from the Bay

*One day only*

Friday 6th January 2023

10am to 3pm

11 Ohinau Drive, Opito Bay

Everyone welcome

Sign-posted from the boat ramp

See you there !!!



## A Reminder to Stay 'Fire Safe' This Summer

The wet spring has meant there is an abundance of plant material that will die off when the anticipated dry weather occurs. FENZ have advised that at this stage there will not be a total fire ban this summer.

This means that beach bonfires, etc. will be permissible By Permit Only. Fire permits can be obtained online at [www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz)

The commencement date is 20th December 2022

We ask you to be super vigilant when lighting beach bonfires, fireworks and lighting of 'magic lanterns' to ensure there is an offshore breeze taking sparks out to sea and not into bush or pasture, where a single spark will ignite dry material.

- **If you see an out of control fire, 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. Think about how you would get out if a fire was to involve your home at night.
- 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. Remember, when identified, the property owner is responsible for the considerable cost of extinguishing the fire.



# OPITO BAY ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST

Proudly Sponsored by Smuggler Marine

**NEW!**  
Option to enter  
Snapper category  
by photo measure.  
Refer additional rules/  
information card.



*The ultimate ride*

Smuggler Marine is again thrilled to be lead sponsor for the Opito Bay Fishing Competition. The way the entire community gets behind this event for the good of the bay is outstanding. We are excited to see this iconic competition continue and to be part of its future going forward.

## MONDAY 2ND JANUARY 2023

Prizes including rods & reels, fishing equipment & accessories, dive gear. Also the great Opito Bay Fish Auction, fresh fish to take home. See you all there!

### TIMES:

START TIME FISHING 6AM.

LAST WEIGH-IN AT BOAT RAMP

STRICTLY 2.30PM

### TO ENTER:

Register and pay at Sports Day or at Boat Ramp **ON THE DAY**, from 5.30am – 11am.

Or register at 20 Opito Bay Rd (day prior)

Entry fee: \$10 per person, per category (men/women/dive/Junior/landbase plus more...)

**EFTPOS** available if required.

(Entry must be paid prior to fishing).

### PRIZES FOR:

- Heaviest or longest Snapper, Kahawai, John Dory, Kingfish, Mystery Weight plus others
- Junior, Women & Men sections, category -Boat, Land & Diver categories
- Strictly no Eels, Stingrays, Barracuda, Pink/Blue Maomao, Parrot fish, Leatherjackets or sharks please!

#### Please Note:

- Minimum snapper length 350mm
- Maximum 2 x Kahawai per fisher

**PRIZE GIVING & FISH AUCTION FROM 4.00PM AT BIELS SHED (BLACKJACK RD – SIGNPOSTED)**

**BBQ sponsored by Chef Ready Meats - Hamilton**

Eftpos, direct credit or cash accepted.

*Please donate fish to the auction to help support next year's Fishing Contest, Childrens Fishing Day & Family Sports Day!*

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



## CHILDREN'S FISHING CONTEST

### TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023

by the wharf / bridge on the beach Start Time:  
11.00am

Age categories up to 14 yrs

**Fish must be caught by the children**

**(not mum or dad!)**

### PRIZES FOR:

Biggest / longest catch plus mystery or hard luck story!!

Great Prizes – including rod & reel combo sets.

A fun day for the kids. Come along!

### FREE ENTRY

**SWEETS FOR CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATE;  
LOLLY SCRAMBLE AT THE END...**

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM FISH AUCTION & RAFFLE FUND TO  
SUPPORT OPITO BAY SPORTS DAY AND FISHING CONTEST.**

# OPITO BAY ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST

Proudly Sponsored by Smuggler Marine

## TIME.

2 January, start time 6.00am to finish time 2.30pm last entry acceptance at boat ramp. Entry fee \$10.00 per fisher.

## CATEGORIES/SECTIONS.

Boat, Land Based, Diver. Junior [15 yr or younger], Women, Mens,  
Fisher - Heaviest/longest Snapper, heaviest Kingfish, John Dory, Trevally, other.  
Diver - Heaviest Kingfish, Crayfish, other.

## RULES.

Snapper - minimum length 350mm. Note option for catch & release large snapper and enter competition by emailed photographed length entry - see below. In the event of measured Snapper being entered, the judges will then measure largest caught snapper and award overall largest Snapper prize on longest length.

Kahawai - max entry 2 per fisher.

Not accepted - Parrot Fish, Leather Jackets, Pink or Blue Maomao, Eels, Stingrays, Barracuda, Sharks, Octopus, non-table fish.

For fishing categories, catch being entered must have been caught on a rod and reel.

## SNAPPER CATCH & RELEASE

### PHOTO ENTRY OPTION

Recognising that larger snapper are critical to ongoing breeding and maintaining healthy fish stocks. We have introduced the option for competitors to catch, measure, photograph and release their snapper and still be eligible to enter the largest snapper category.

## ENTRIES

A maximum of ONE entry per registered angler is permitted. A digital photograph must be submitted that clearly shows the whole fish on the measure, confirming the measurement precisely.

You must photograph your fish with the competition information leaflet in the picture with your fisher number identified on the leaflet.

Email your single entry picture as early as possible with a close-off 2.30pm for receipt of entry email.

Email to [opitofishing@gmail.com](mailto:opitofishing@gmail.com)

## MEASURING YOUR CATCH

A clear photograph of the fish, correctly placed on the measure, is critical for your entry into the competition. It is your responsibility to ensure you provide an image that we can use to validate your entry. Place your fish on the official measure as shown and take one or more digital photographs that clearly shows the whole fish, placed side-on, on the measure with either the upper or lower jaw touching the starting edge the measure.

Ensure the V of the tail is clearly visible and as close to the midline of the measure as possible. Take the photo from directly above the fish looking down on it rather than from the front or side. For your entry to be valid it's critical you take a good clear photo. Take several pics, submit only one.



## FISHER NAME / NO.

## HERE'S SOME OF THE THINGS THAT CAN GO WRONG WITH PHOTOS:

Image not focused (length can't be verified).

Image doesn't show the whole fish on the measure (length can't be verified).

Shadows - watch automatic cameras as strong shadows may mean we can't verify the length. Photos are better taken in light shade with no shadow if possible, or use a fill-in flash.

Photos should be taken as close to above the fish as possible. The rule of 'feet' applies - if you stand over and look down on the fish and your feet are in the shot, you're in the right position!

## CHECKLIST

Make sure the photo is of sufficient quality and suitable to enable the length to be verified.

The photo submitted must be in landscape format.

Take several photos just in case [submit only one]. Shadows can cause problems if the fish is placed on part sun/part shadow.

The tip of the jaw must touch the edge starting point on the measure. The whole fish must be visible on the measure. It is permissible to place a hand or have someone hold the fish on the measure or use damp cloth on the fish to settle it while a photo is taken, provided this does not obscure the fish significantly or prevent from being able to validate your catch.

The V of the tail should as close to the midline of the measure as possible.

The measure must be placed on a flat surface.

The jaw of the fish must not be distorted in an attempt to exaggerate the length and the tail must sit naturally on the measure - If the jaw has been extended or the tail appears to have been squeezed together, the catch may be declined or a deduction in length may be made at the sole discretion of the administrators.

Please note that your fish may not be eligible for entry if the above conditions are not met. The organisers totally reserve the right to accept an entry on the basis that an appropriate reduction in length is made for any non-compliance and/or the Fishing Competition administrators also reserve the right to disqualify any catch at their sole and absolute discretion for any reason whatsoever including, but not limited, to suspected measure tampering and false date submissions.

## MEASURES

All catches must be measured on the measure supplied or a competition "L" shape measure if you have one.

The measure may not be modified so it will affect the ability measure the fish accurately from the jaw tip. The vinyl measure may be shortened, however it may not be cut and re-joined.

## HOW IS THE LENGTH DETERMINED

The V tail the innermost point of the V must touch or exceed the line on the measure to qualify for that 0.5cm increment. For example if your fish is just over 40cm but does not reach the 40.5cm mark then the length recorded will be 40.0cm. Please ensure your fish is placed so the tail is evenly spread and the middle of the tail is along the midline of the measure.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**SMUGGLER  
MARINE**  
*The Ultimate Ride*





# OPITO BAY FAMILY SPORTS DAY

**NEW YEARS DAY  
SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>,  
JANUARY 2023  
START TIME: 10.00AM**  
ON THE BEACH, BY WHARF  
/ RESERVE OPPOSITE  
MATAPAU BAY RD.

**After a big night, come on down to the beach and join in the fun. If you are not feeling energetic, be entertained by all the action! Lollies for the children who enter races!**

This is a legendary free event with heaps of great prizes. Bring cash and be sure to support our raffles and enjoy refreshments. All proceeds go back to supporting Opito Bay. Soft drinks/ water available to purchase plus home baking treats for sale!

## **OPITO BAY SPORTS DAY RAFFLE:**

– Prizes include an assortment of fishing gear, kitchen accessories, linen, household goods etc. Tickets sold prior to Sports Day and on the day (under awning).

**Raffle drawn at end of the day: 12.30PM**

Be there to pick your prize, or leave phone no. (Must be collected at Opito Bay). See our website for further Opito Bay news and updates:

[www.opitobay.nz](http://www.opitobay.nz)

## **SPORTS DAY EVENTS:**

**Commences promptly at 10am!!** Raffle drawn at end of the day (approx. 12noon)

**First running races:** Please be on time or the children will miss out!

**Starts with 7 yrs boys/girls races**

**6 yrs boys/girls, 5 yrs boys/ girls**

**Little un's races 1-4 year olds**

**4 yrs/ 3 yrs / 1-2 yrs**

**8 yrs boys/girls, 9 /10 upwards to 16 yrs**

**Adults:** Single men/women, Married men/women, Nana/ Grandads (under 60 yrs/over 60 yrs/over 70yrs), Serious runners races men/women

**Sack races (categories similar to running races) Little one's no sack just do what they want on their own preferably!**

**Happening at the same time:**

**Sandcastle Competition (young children, kids and family mixed groups) spot prizes, lollies**

**Beach Marathon Senior (by running races start) age categories**

**Junior (below sandcastles) from 6-7 yrs/ 8-10 / 11-13 / 14-16 (approx.)**

**Length:** Run down past boat ramp and back, shorter length for young runners (end of Pohutukawa trees) Bike /markers at turn around points. Free drink & lollies for those who enter, spot prizes. Winners' will be told to be available at prizegiving.

**Gumboot Throws Men/ Women**

**Tug of war (North side Stewart Stream Bridge to the Sands versus South Side Bridge to Moore Cres. Men's/Women's/ Kids/mixed team – best of 2 or 3!**

**Finish with Egg Toss – young kids / youth / teenagers / adults / mixed FUN GAMES!**

At tractor and gazebo for **Marathon prize winners, announcements and drawing Opito Bay Raffle (approx. 25 prizes) to be won!**

## **FISHING CONTEST REGISTRATION**

**Register on the beach for next days Fishing Contest.**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

**ZURU™**

**farro**

# MERCURY BAY NORTH

Kuaotunu to Whangapoua



## Summer pick up schedule

Please place on the kerbside on your collection day by **7:30am.**

Tuesday



Friday



*Refuse and recycling collection schedules may be subject to change at short notice due to industry and nationwide staff recruitment challenges. We appreciate your patience and support.*

## 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, discard lids  
and do not overfill crate.

## Summer Kerbside Rubbish & Recycling Schedule

# MERCURY BAY NORTH

Tuesday 27 December 2022



Friday 30 December 2022



Tuesday 3 January 2023



Friday 6 January 2023



Tuesday 10 January 2023



Friday 13 January 2023



Tuesday 17 January 2023



Friday 20 January 2023



Tuesday 24 January 2023



Friday 27 January 2023



Tuesday 31 January 2023



Friday 3 February 2023



Tuesday 7 February 2023



Friday 10 February 2023



**Please place on the kerbside  
on your collection day by **7:30am**.**

*Refuse and recycling collection schedules may be subject to change at short notice due to industry and nationwide staff recruitment challenges. We appreciate your patience and support.*

## Matarangi Refuse Transfer Station

101 Matarangi Drive, Matarangi

### SUMMER HOURS

Friday 16 December 2022 - Sunday 19 February 2023

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)