

OHUI NEWSLETTER



Mataariki & 60th Birthday Celebration

TCDC Bathroom Upgrades Start Date

TCDC Hall Maintenance | Wish List

Opoutere Hall Survey & Hall News

Local Community Classes & Bookings

“Te Rangimarie Opoutere Hall is rapidly approaching its 60th anniversary, we warmly welcome you to join us and celebrate this milestone and Matariki with the community next week, Sunday 22nd June”

Stephanie Noa,
OHUI, Chair



199

Members

330

Mailing List

28

Bookings
Since Jan 2025



Kia ora, OHUI community!

Welcome to our seasonal community hall newsletter – your go-to source for local updates, events, and stories that bring us together. Opoutere stories and news – all to help you feel engaged, inspired, and connected.

Autumn wrapped Aotearoa in its golden glow and we begin to feel the first whispers of winter, we’re reminded of the importance of slowing down, staying warm, and nurturing ourselves and each other.





Celebrating Matariki & 60 Years of Te Rangimarie Ōpoutere Hall

We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate Matariki – a time of reflection, renewal, and connection – and a very special milestone: **Ōpoutere Hall's 60th anniversary!** Matariki is a beautiful time in the Māori calendar to honor those who have passed, celebrate the present, and look ahead with hope. It's a time for gathering, storytelling, and shared kai – values that have also been at the heart of Ōpoutere Hall for the past six decades. This year's celebrations will be extra meaningful as we recognize 60 years of the hall being a hub for our community – hosting everything from dances and markets to celebrations, meetings, and moments of togetherness. Join us for a afternoon of whānau-friendly activities, Matariki-hangi, and a chance to look back at the hall's rich history – and forward to its bright future. **Sunday 22 June 2025 from 1pm. Let's honor Matariki and the legacy of our beloved hall – together.**



Hangi Donations Needed

As we prepare for our upcoming Matariki hāngī, we're reaching out to our wonderful community for support. **We will be gratefully accepting donations of kai (food), supplies, or koha** to help make this celebration a success. Matariki is all about coming together, sharing, and reflecting – and your contribution, big or small, will help us honour this special time. **If you're able to donate or would like to lend a hand, please come along Saturday 21st June from 4pm** – we'd love to have you involved. Ngā mihi nui!





Bathroom Refurb - July Start!

The Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) is moving ahead with upgrading our bathrooms to make them easier and better for everyone to use. The approved plan includes fully accessible toilet, so everyone can get around safely and comfortably. Plus, we're adding a new family room – a private spot for parents and caregivers to take care of little ones.

These upgrades will make our community spaces more welcoming and inclusive, which is exactly what we're all about. Right now, TCDC, with our input, are reviewing submitted tenders and the work is planned to start in July. Our preference is to get local contractors involved – it's awesome to support local businesses while making these essential improvements. We're really looking forward to seeing the finished results and can't wait to share it with you.



Ngā mihi nui, Len!

We were especially excited to receive feedback from TCDC Mayor Len Salt, who acknowledged the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in caring for and improving our hall. His kind words mean a great deal to us as volunteers – it's incredibly encouraging to know that our efforts are seen and appreciated at a district level. This support fuels our commitment and reminds us that community spaces like ours are important hubs for community wellbeing.

"When we talk to people around district and other parts of the community Opoutere Hall is held up as a fantastic example of community contribution and the work you have done is recognized right across the district. It's all that aroha - that volunteer contribution".



TCDC Planned Works

There has been some great progress on improvements to our community hall – and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) for their ongoing support. These essential works that are helping transform our hall into a safer, more comfortable, and welcoming. Key upgrades already completed include, panic fasteners, borer treatment, and gutter cleaning. After the bathroom upgrade and heating we're moving forward with the installation of an underfloor water barrier to help prevent further borer issues and warm the hall.

In Progress

- Heating
- Insulation
- Accessible Toilets
- Kitchen Upgrades
- Storage Space

Wish List

- Solar Panels
- Open Plan Spaces
- Double Glaze Windows
- Septic System Upgrade
- Rooding Drainage

We Value Your Input!

We are committed to making our hall a welcoming, functional, and enjoyable space for everyone. As part of this ongoing effort, we warmly invite you to share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for upgrades or improvements. Whether it's a small detail you've noticed or a big idea you believe could enhance the overall experience, your input is invaluable. Your feedback will help us prioritize changes that truly matter to our community and ensure the hall continues to meet the needs of all who use it. Please take a moments to share your feedback, suggestions, and ideas. Click the online survey link below.

ONLINE SURVEY CLICK HERE!



Tēnā koe, Terry.

We also want to acknowledge the feedback from TCDC's Deputy Mayor Terry Walker, whose support and practical guidance have been invaluable. Terry's recognition of the work being done, and his understanding of the challenges faced by volunteer groups - truly means a lot. His encouragement reinforces that we're on the right track! Strengthening our resolve to keep working hard to create a welcoming, well-maintained space for all.

"I support what they're trying to do, because I think halls need to be heated to be used all year round. So I think its a fantastic thing to be able to do"



Whangamatā Kaumatua Rōpū

Pink Ribbon High Tea

Guests travelled from all over Waikato, Whangamatā, Onemana, Thames, Waihi, Paeroa, and of course, our own Ōpoutere, for a beautiful show of support and community spirit for the **Whangamatā Kaumatua Rōpū, Pink Ribbon High Tea**. What a fabulous day with plenty of pink, laughter, and delicious treats on offer, the community came together in true manaakitanga to support a cause close to many hearts. Teacups clinked, stories were shared, and thanks to everyone's incredible generosity, an amazing **\$2697.82** was raised for breast cancer. Ka pai to everyone who helped make it such a memorable and meaningful event – proof that when our elders lead with heart, the whole community shines! Thanks for the generous hall koha WKR!



Help repurpose the Hall Piano

If anyone out there has a knack for creative projects– or knows someone who does – who might be interested in giving the old piano in the hall a new lease on life. It's seen better days musically, but we think it's got loads of potential for a fun repurpose! Whether it's turning it into a quirky bookshelf, a funky planter, or something totally unexpected, we'd love to hear your ideas (or connections!). 📖🌟





Hall Easter Event Egg-stra Special!

Wow – what an egg-cellent day we had at the Ōpoutere Hall Easter event! The hall was bursting with color, laughter, and the sound of happy tamariki as families gathered for a morning of crafty fun and chocolate-fueled adventure. From glittery Easter art to bunny mask masterpieces, creativity was everywhere – and the epic Easter egg hunt had kids zooming around with baskets in hand



and big smiles on their faces! The hall was perfect spot for rainy day activities and the redwoods proved to be the perfect backdrop for a good old fashioned egg hunt. Shoutout to everyone who joined the fun and helped make this event such a success. It was community magic at its finest.. Easter is the only time it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket!

Ka kite, see you Clayton!

We'd also like to extend our aroha and best wishes to Clayton and his whānau as they get ready to set off on an exciting new adventure. Clayton's presence and contributions have made a lasting impact, and he will be missed by all who've had the pleasure of working alongside him. We wish you all the best for this next chapter! May it be filled with adventure, happiness, and southern hospitality. All the best e hoa!

OHUI Committee Members

Opoutere Hall United Inc current committee

- Stephanie Noa - Chairperson
- Margot Nicholson - Vice Chairperson
- Michelle Barclay - Secretary
- Jennifer Edwards - Committee Member
- Annabel Campbell - Committee Member

We are now on the hunt for a new Treasurer to join our awesome committee. If you or someone you know is interested we'd love to hear from you!



Team Effort to get Heatpumps!



We're thrilled to share that our discretionary grant **application for heat pumps was partially successful**, with **\$3,000 approved**. Using funds from hall hire and koha plus budget from the wonderful TCDC property team we can now get the heat pumps installed this month. Having a warm hall is a game changer for the community. But we also need to boost our own funds again so we are calling for the generous support of our community over Matariki and the year ahead with bookings. We are proud to be able offer a warm hall for the community to enjoy - and we know that with the support of our community behind us, we'll get there!

Haere rā, goodbye Shubham.

On behalf of OHUI we'd like to send a heartfelt thanks and warmest farewell to Shubham Solanki, TCDC Parks and Reserves Manager as he prepares to take on an exciting new role with Christchurch City Council. Shubham's kindness, professionalism, and passion for our public spaces will leave a lasting impact across the district. His mahi has helped enhance the natural beauty, accessibility, and sustainability of parks and reserves including our humble Hall. While we're sad to see him go, we're also glad and wish him every success in this new chapter. Christchurch is lucky to have him! Ngā mihi nui, Shubham – thank you for everything, and all the best!

"Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi"

Share resources and knowledge for the wellbeing of the people.



Starlink Internet

Our rural location is no longer a barrier to stay connected. Wi-Fi is available at the hall to all who need it. All thanks to funding from **The Lottery Grants Board**.

Username : Opoutere Hall
Password: 1OpoutereRd





Community Classes

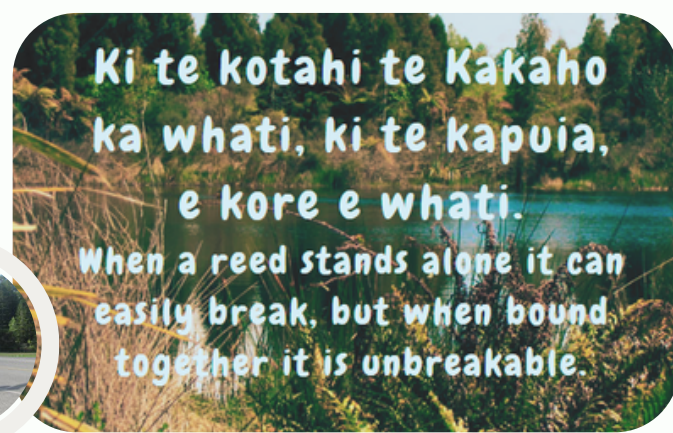
This term our Matariki workshops with the wonderful Maringirangi have been a beautiful way to prepare for the Māori New Year – learning, sharing, and connecting through kōrero, stories, and culture. We continue to embrace the spirit of Matariki, we're also adapting to the season's chilly embrace. Due to the colder weather and lack of heating at the hall, we had to move the Matariki workshops to Ōpoutere School. However with heat pumps being installed this month in the Hall, we look forward to welcoming these classes and many more back. Thank you for your understanding and continued enthusiasm – we look forward to celebrating Matariki together with warmth, learning, and aroha!



Local Bookings & Initiatives

We are still focused on seeking out, booking in and promoting locally led initiatives. If you have time to host a class, share your skills or simply sit and welcome people to come and share a morning or evening together, please get in touch. Cost will not be a barrier for local community classes this year.

He Whakatauki | A Proverb



Invitation to get Involved

Are you passionate about making a difference and helping to restore our community hall? Consider joining our mailing list or volunteering your time and skills to community support events.

Bookings | Hall for Hire

Hall occupancy is now set at **99 people**. Bookings will still only be accepted around planned works. Please check our website [calendar](#) for hall availability.

Jane Mabbott Photography

The beautiful Opoutere photography on our website and in our newsletter was captured by and gifted to us by local photographer Jane Mabbott. Any enquires for purchasing these images can be sent to Jane, via Facebook.

Hall Hire Information

Hall Hire Information can be found online <https://www.opouterehall.co.nz/blog/> Newsletters are also posted in the blog! See our website www.opouterehall.co.nz



Fiber Network Roll Out

Work has officially begun on the installation of the new fiber network in Ōpoutere, following a successful community session with Chorus. It's an exciting step forward for our area, bringing us closer to faster, more reliable internet for homes and businesses alike. As the rollout progresses, residents can expect some minor disruptions in and around the community, such as roadworks or limited access to certain areas and in some cases limited access to internet. Chorus and their contractors are working hard to keep any inconvenience to a minimum, and they appreciate your patience and understanding during this time and welcome your questions. This short-term disruption will be well worth it – we're on our way to a more connected Ōpoutere!

Emergency Response Group

We are fortunate to be enjoying a safe and steady season, with no major emergency events affecting our community so far. This sense of security is thanks to the ongoing efforts of our local emergency response group, community awareness, and communication with TCDC Emergency Management. Staying prepared for potential storms and remaining alert, our community continues to work together to stay ready and resilient. Guidance from TCDC, along with the dedication of volunteers, we have clear communication, and planning, in place to keep everyone informed and safe. Whether you're checking on neighbors, attending emergency workshops, or helping spread the word. Your efforts play a vital role in keeping Ōpoutere, prepared, and protected. Thank you!

Contact Details

opouterehall@gmail.com

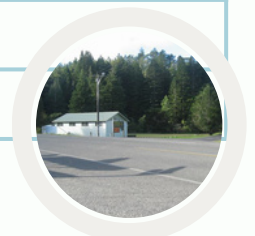
1 Opoutere Road
Opoutere 3691

Facebook | Website



OHUI Key Dates

June 21	Hangi donation drop off and prep evening - from 4pm
June 22	60th Anniversary & Matariki Celebration - from 1pm
June 30	Hall closed for heat pump installation
July 1	Hall closed for bathroom upgrades
TBC	Community Fence and Deck Paint
TBC	Community Progress Celebration



Community Notices



**WHAREKAWA CATCHMENT CARE
GROUP**
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
RAYONIER MATARIKI FORESTRY

PLANTING DAY

22 JULY 10.00AM
KAPAKAPA WETLAND

**22 JULY
10.00AM
KAPAKAPA
WETLAND**

BACK-UP: 25TH JULY



HALL FOR HIRE
opouterehall.co.nz