



# *Insiders Guide to the Beautiful Opotiki*





## *Welcome to Opotiki*

So you are considering making the leap or if you already have welcome to your new home - This is a guide written by OPAC employees to show off our beautiful town, scenery and to sweep you off your feet so you fall madly in love with our little slice of the world! It will also (hopefully) make your transition to Opotiki a whole lot easier with a little local knowledge.

Opotiki's sense of community is fiercely strong and you certainly do not remain a stranger for long. It won't be long until you are invited over for a bbq, out fishing, asked to be an extra set of hands at a community day, or roped into a social sports team.

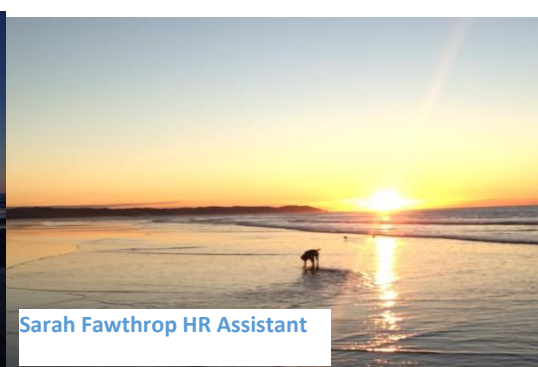
Opotiki may not have a mall that's open 24/7 or pumping nightlife but you are spoilt with all Mother Nature has to offer. Take a walk in your back yard and you'll run into red and fellow deer, drop a hook in the water and your fishing in an ocean filled with record breaking fish, dip your feet in the water and your met crayfish, kina, mussels and paua.

This town allows our kids to grow up in an environment where they can be true "kiwi kids", get muddy, express themselves, access to safe swimming beaches, bush walks - the opportunity to be true country bumpkins.

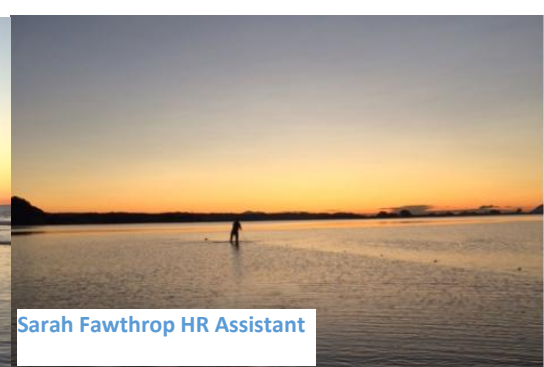
If that doesn't do it for you, we *are treated to some stunning sunsets that are sure to take your breath away.*



Nicki Paget Operations Manager



Sarah Fawthrop HR Assistant



Sarah Fawthrop HR Assistant





## *History of Town*

The name “Opotiki” originated from the name of a spring of the eastern bluff above Waiotahi Beach called “O-Potiki mai-Tawhiti.” This name goes back to the migration from Hawaiiiki. It concerns a chief Tarawa who, left behind, decided to join his people whom he knew were in New Zealand. Tarawa, and his brother Tuwharanui, set sail for New Zealand in a canoe named Te Arautauta, accompanied by two Tanahanaha fish pets known as O-Potiki-mai Tawhiti, and meaning “two pets from afar.” Landing on the Waiotahi Beach, Tarawa found a spring as an abode for his two fish pets. The spring thereafter became known as O-Potiki-mai-Tawhiti because of the continual reference to the inhabitant fish of the same name.

Before the arrival of Europeans, Opotiki was a populous Maori centre, and a large village, Pa Kowhai, extended along the river banks from King Street (west) to the present A. & P. Showgrounds. This was the home of the Whakatohea tribes, whose lands extended from Kutarere in the west, to Opape in the east, and for many miles inland.

## *Opotiki Climate*

The climate of the coastal Eastern Bay of Plenty is amongst the sunniest in New Zealand. Here’s what to expect in Opotiki.

- Summer (December-February) daytime high temperatures are usually between 20 and 26 degrees. February is our driest month with an average 79.8mm rainfall
- Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) daytime high temperatures are usually between 15 and 24 degrees.
- Winter (June-August) daytime high temperatures are usually between 11 and 16 degrees, though inland, morning frosts down to about -3 are common. In Matawai and Waioeka Gorge it has been known to snow. August is our wettest month with an average rainfall of 141 mm





## *Bush Walks*

### *Tauranga Loop Track*

Walk/Tramp: 2 hrs – Easy - Loop

The track starts adjacent to the road and within 5 minutes reaches the historic Tauranga Bridge, spanning the Waioeka River. From the bridge you can see stunning views of the Waioeka River and surrounding native bush.

Once across the bridge the loop track begins and can be walked in either direction.

Travelling clockwise, turn left and walk through regenerating farmland on the southern side of the Tauranga Stream for approximately one hour. The track then crosses over the stream to the northern bank and doubles back along the bush edge to the Waioeka River. There is a second stream-crossing at the mouth of the Tauranga Stream to get back to the Tauranga Bridge.

DOC estimates the track will take 2 hrs but can easily be done in 1 hr. Dogs are allowed to be walked by you must have a permit. I would recommend parking near the top and walking down to the bridge.

### *Whinery Track*

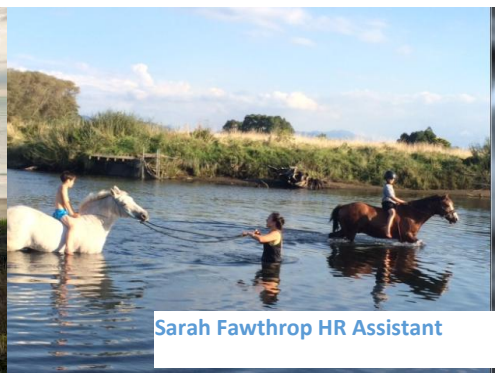
This reserve is a 429ha area of native forest running down to a spectacular set of waterfalls on the wild and scenic Motu River. It contains some grand old miro, rata, rimu, matai and kahikatea trees. Birdlife is abundant with fantail, grey warbler, kereru, tui, kaka, cuckoo, kiwi, kingfisher, North Island weka and the North Island robin.

The track follows a route that is believed to have originally been used as a trail by Maori travellers. It became a bridle path in European times and was upgraded to a dray trackaround 1913 when it was used to drive sheep and cattle from Gisborne to the Bay of Plenty. Starting from the car park near the magnificent Motu Falls you will cross a 42m suspension bridge just downstream of the falls.

The 6.3km one-way track will take you about 2.5hrs. The grade is fairly easy and the track should be suitable for most levels of fitness. NOTE: Just past Motu township lies the Motu Scenic Reserve. It is a kahikatea wetland forest, which is home to bush and wetland birds and is a valuable game bird breeding habitat. It contains a picturesque lake, which can be viewed by walking a few metres off the road.

### *Manganuku*

Manganuku is camp in the middle of the Waioeka Gorge. It is very back to basics with a long drop and a stream that runs through the middle. It is a DOC camp with an honesty box as payment. The walks from the camping sites follow the river and have stunning scenery of the New Zealand bush







## *Summer Activities*

### *Opotiki New World Summer Festival*

A fun filled festival of activities which is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year running is full of events and activities for the whole family throughout the festive holidays. This Opotiki New World Summer Fest is sure to please visitor and locals throughout the summer.

We have a return of the popular events like the raft race, beach dig, O-mazing Race and the Island View Lantern Fest as well as the outdoor movie nights and sand sculpting and Rodeo.

This so much to do throughout the summer months so if you are interested in going along contact the Opotiki i-SITE on 07 3153031 for dates and other information or have a look at <http://www.opotikin.z.com>

### *Beaches*

It's no secret that Opotiki has some beautiful and amazing beaches and rivers. All along the coast lines you will see swimming, diving, fishing, pipi picking to name a few.

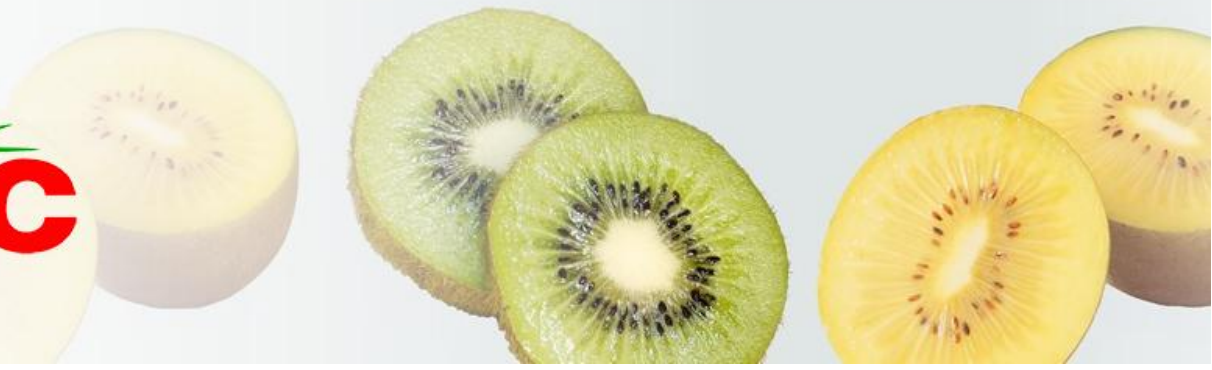
The most popular beaches would have to be Waioatahe pipi beds, Snells beach and Hikuwai however, these can be dangerous and there are not usually life guards on site. Waioatahe surf club however does have life guards about and they will have their flags in full force throughout the summer season.

2 of the main places in Opotiki township for fresh water swimming would be the Otara and Waioeka rivers. These are very popular with kids.

### *Swimming Club*

We have a number of swimming pools in Opotiki and swimming club has become very popular with the locals these past few seasons. The Opotiki College hosts swimming club for ages ranging from 4yrs old through until adults. They cater to all skill ranges such as beginners all the way through to competitive and for those who are interested they also have aqua aerobics at St Joseph schools on Tuesday and Thursday.





## *Hunting a way of life in Opotiki*

Meat hunting, tailing, live capture of deer, culling from helicopters and skinning possums provided a good honest income for Opotiki bushmen and kept the economy booming in the early days. Gun Smoke and Deer Tails is a book written by Bernie Wilkinson about his time in Waioeka Gorge tailing and meat hunting it is a good read if you are interested in hunting in the mighty Waioeka.

The industry hasn't completely died out with 2 helicopters still operating out of Opotiki and hunters contracted to tail goats and deer. Hunting is a passion for many locals who hit the hills most weekends, it is not uncommon to see a ute cruising through town with a 115kg red stag tossed in the tray or a 140lb boar strapped to a dog box.

Urutawa Conservation Area, Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve, and Raukumura Conservation Area are all great exceptional hunting areas. Please ensure you check NZ Walking Maps and obtain a permit from DOC before heading out on your hunt.

## *Fishing in Opotiki*

There are popular boat launching and fishing spots at Opape and the Ohiwa Harbour boat ramp. There's surfcasting all up the coast including at the entrance to Ohiwa Harbour, and from Waitahe and Hikuwai beaches. Annual tide charts are available from the i-SITE and weekly tide charts are published in local papers





## *Health Services*

### Doctors:

Church St Surgery: Dr Joseph Scott-Jones 94 Church St, Opotiki Phone: 07 315 6307.

Toi Ora Health: Dr Mark Haywood. 32A King Street, Opotiki. Phone: 07 315 7900

Whakatohea Health Centre: Ralph Wiles 117 Church St, Opotiki. Phone: 07 315 6126

Opotiki Hospital - Out of Hours Cover: Ring 07 315 8500 & the nurse on duty will tell you what to do

Emergency – Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance RING 111

AFTER HOURS CLINIC 10.30am-11.30am

DUTY DR is at the clinic each public holiday & weekend @ 10.30am

### Dentists

Phoenix House Dental Centre. Pyne Street, Whakatane Ph: 07 308 7469 Emergency Line: 021 628 791

Dental HQ, 19 Pohutukawa Ave, Ohope Ph: 07 312 6330

## *Labour service providers*

If you find yourself in need of a “Tradie” here are a few of our local providers:

Plumber: Opotiki Drain layers Ltd 89 St Johns St, Opotiki Phone: 07 315 6321

Electrician: Cameron Electrical Church St, Opotiki Phone: 07 315 6352

Electrician: Jayar Electrical (24hr) 22 Church St, Opotiki Phone: 07 315 6469.

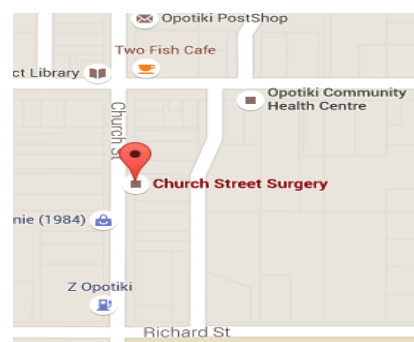
Builder: Alan Murray Builder Phone: 07 315 6567

Builder: Matt Gerbert Builders 2321 State Highway 2 Opotiki 3198 Phone: 07 262 5818

Mechanic/ Tyre: Opotiki Tyre Service Bridge St, Opotiki Phone: 07 315 6603

Mechanic/ Tyre: Wakelin Motors Parts & Services 33 King St, Opotiki Email: wakelinp@callplus.net.nz. Phone: 07 315 6293

Eastern Bay Motors: 1 Elliott St, Opotiki 3122 Phone: 07-315 6142







## Childcare

**Homebased Childcare:** if you want to have your child/ren looked after by trained, qualified and monitored educators then this is the service for you.

Anglican Homebased Childcare

Ph 0800 566 523

HBC Homebased Childcare (2009) Ltd

Ph: 07 308 7576

**Nga Kohanga Reo:** If you prefer a whanau supported learning environment where your child will be nurtured & educated in the first national language of NZ , te reo Maori then Kohanga Reo ( the language nest) could be for you and your tamaiti/tamariki and whanau of which there are numerous in the Whakatohea rohe. There are several scattered throughout the district.

Te Whare Aroha o te Humarie KR

Ph: 07 315 8454

Terere KR

Ph: 07 315 5404

**Childcare Centres:** If you prefer a larger learning environment that provides for care and challenge to children's learning by qualified early childhood teachers for children from birth to 5yrs then try these services. These are some not all:

Rose Garden Preschool

Ph: 07 315 7177

Opotiki Community Childcare Centre Inc

Ph: 07 315 8364

Te Aria a Toka Family Service Service

Ph: 07 315 5967

## Co-ed Schools

These well recommended within the education fraternity:

### **Primary**

St Josephs Catholic School

Ph: 07 315 6066

Woodlands Primary

Ph: 07 315 7633

### **Kura Kaupapa Maori**

Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Waioeka

Ph: 07 315 7722

Te Kura Mana Maori o Maraenui

Ph:07 325 3686

### **Secondary**

Opotiki College

Ph: 07 315 7022

### **Teritary**

Whakatohea Training Unit

Ph: 07 315 8645





## Places to eat

Our local Cafe TwoFish has yummy coffee, wide range of menu and cabinet food. Open for breakfast and lunch located 102 Church St, Opotiki 3122 Open Monday – Saturday. TwoFish has also received a certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisors and has a 4.5/5 Star rating.

Hot Bread Shop has a great range of quick and easy cabinet food and made to order menu. They also have your kiwi favourite pie's and scoop ice creams. Located 43 St John St Opotiki open Monday – Sunday for Breakfast lunch.

If it is a quick and easy Fish n Chip dinner you are after Ocean Seafoods are the best. You can also purchase seafood and instore. They are located 90 Church St Opotiki 07 315 6335

Arigato Mum's Sushi scores a 4.5 on Trip Advisor and certainly has a reputation among visitor and locals for having "the best" sushi and friendliest staff. They are open 8am to 6pm daily located in the heart of town (95 Church St Opotiki



## The Gym

### YWAC centre

Elliot Street Opotiki  
07 3157455

Open 5:30am – 7:30pm Mon – Fri; 8:30am – 12:30pm Sat

YWAC - Youth Whanau Activity Centre houses the popular 'YWAC GYM' which offers a range of Les Mills classes, circuit training and other various classes throughout the year. This is being run by Cherish Chase. Shoot down and find out what else is going on down there.





## Accommodation

Need accommodation from budget to luxury then look no further Opotiki and its outlying regions can provide them all. Here's but a few recommendations.

Camping / Backpackers / Cabins / Hotel / Motel / B&B

Agassiz House Opotiki Backpackers	027 372 8158	<a href="http://www.agassizhouse.co.nz">www.agassizhouse.co.nz</a>
Bunkhouse Opotiki	07 315 5864	<a href="http://www.motocycletrails.com">www.motocycletrails.com</a>
Bushaven	07 92907564	<a href="http://www.bushaven.co.nz">www.bushaven.co.nz</a>
Eastland Pacific Motor Lodge	07 315 05524	<a href="http://www.eastland_pacific.co.nz">www.eastland_pacific.co.nz</a>
Hawai Bay Holiday Park	07 315 7472	
Island View Holiday Park	07 315 7519	<a href="http://www.islandviewholiday.co.nz">www.islandviewholiday.co.nz</a>
Masonic Hotel	07 315 8284	
Opotiki Holiday Park	07 315 6050	<a href="http://www.opotikiholidaypark.co.nz">www.opotikiholidaypark.co.nz</a>
Pohutukawa Luxury Lodge	07 315 5144	<a href="http://www.pohutukawalodge.com">www.pohutukawalodge.com</a>
The Royal Opotiki Backpackers	027 555 0935	
Tirohanga Beach Motor Camp	07 315 7942	<a href="http://www.tirohangabeachmotorcamp.co.nz">www.tirohangabeachmotorcamp.co.nz</a>





## ***Social Services***

If you are ever in need of Budgeting services or a hand through grief we have a number of Social Service providers who can cater to your needs.

### ***Whakatohea Iwi Social & Health***

128 Church st, Opotiki 3122

073156042

Open 8:30am – 4:30pm Mon – Thurs; 8:30am – 4:00pm Fri

W.I.S.H provides a range of social and health services including:

Alcohol and Drug, domestic violence, mens and womens programmes, Health Promotion, Adult and Youth mental health, H.I.P.P.Y, Mental health addictions, AOD assessments and support, Family start, youth awareness, wellchild/tamariki ora, parenting programmes, rheumatic fever, whanau care and support.

### ***Te Ao Hou Trust***

38 King St, Opotiki, 3122

07 3156266

Open 8:30am – 4:30pm Mon – Fri

*Te Ao Hou Trust provides Whānau Ora Navigation services, a Kaupapa Maori Antenatal & Parenting Programme and two Coordinators to assist in the All Age Suicide Prevention strategy through Kia Piki te Ora.*

*Te Ao Hou Trust is also part of the new Healthy Families New Zealand prevention partnership as Opotiki is one of the ten communities chosen throughout New Zealand by the Ministry of Health.*

### ***Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust***

94B Church St, Opotiki 3122

07 3155174

Open 8:30am – 5:00pm Mon – Fri

*WWT operates a free, confidential and culturally aware whanau support service, providing information, support, advice and education to empower people to manage their lives and improve quality of life. WWT offers Housing support, Lifeskills programs and parenting programmes. This includes everything from "one on one" support to Group Programmes, Marae Programmes and Holiday Programmes for youth. Their innovative approach aims to empower and encourage all youth.*

- Opotiki Family Violence Network
- Anti Bullying program
- Youth Services
- Budgeting Advice
- CAYAD services (Community Action Youth Drugs and Alcohol)
- Studio 315 is an independent Youth/Community radio station (Opotiki FM 88.1) and Music Recording Studio run by a highly talented and creative team:
- YWAC Gym:





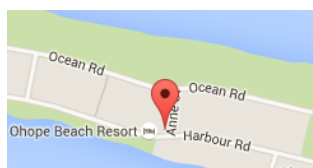
## *It's only a hop skip and a jump and you are in.....Ohope*

Ohope is aprox 30 minutes from Opotiki. Ohope is home to some beautiful homes, stunning scenery and beaches. It has a laid back "batchy" feel but has a large community of permanent residents. Great places to check out in Ohope are:

Port Ohope – Take a walk or a drive down to Port Ohope it is surprisingly big suburb. You will discover a few stores, great fishing spots and the local golf course

Hui bar and grill – Hui bar and grill has a relaxed atmosphere, friendly staff and serves delicious food. On a typical Sunday afternoon you will find a few of the locals enjoying a drink and great live music on the deck overlooking the ocean. (07-312 5623 19 Pohutukawa Ave, Ohope 3121)

Stand up paddle boarding – If you are into or would like to try your hand at stand up paddle boarding Ohope is the place to go with a "SUP" club. For more information visit <http://www.supclub.co.nz/>  
You will find them here --->



## *.....Whakatane*

Whakatane is our main centre that has all the shops and services a main city has to offer but with the smaller town charm. It is only a 40 minute drive from Opotiki. Places we love to go to in Whakatane are:

The hub: 99 The Mill Road Whakatane – There is plenty of parking available and has Harvey Norman, Bay Betta Electrical, Carpet Court, Farmers, Rebel Sport, Number One Shoe Warehouse, K Mart, Briscoes, Postie Plus and Bunnings Warehouse.

Soulsa Restaurant: Soulsa has great atmosphere, delicious food and lovely wait staff. Booking is absolutely essential. 126 The Strand Whakatane, 07 307 8698.

The Bird walk Whakatane: The bird walk guides you through the Mokoroa Bush Reserve and will take aprox 1 – 1.5 hours and you do not need a high level of fitness to complete it. It's recommended that you start from the track access at the end of White Horse Drive. The track inclines for the first part, before meandering through the bush and will take you to the bottom of Mokorua Gorge Road.

### GETTING AROUND.... driving in New Zealand resources

- Check out resources from NZTA (or request a copy from the office) for those new to new Zealand roads <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/driving-in-nz/> guideline comes in 11 languages.

The image features the OPAC logo on the left, which consists of the word "OPAC" in bold red capital letters with a green sunburst graphic above the "P". To the right of the logo are several slices of kiwi fruit, including both green and yellow varieties, arranged in a row.

## So where is Opotiki?

