

FAQs : Frequently asked questions

Can I enter more than once?

Yes and No. We're looking for the best designs to make it through to judging and for that reason we want residents to submit the design they think is best. By all means, create multiple options and feel free to include those in your one submission. However, we would suggest keeping that to your top 3 designs.

Once submissions close a shortlist will be given to judges to pick a winner.

What is being judged?

There are a few parts to the competition. The \$500 Prezzy card will be awarded to the best sign – and that is the sign that is being replaced – the blue rounded trapezoid shaped sign.

Runner-up signs could also win a runner-up prize. Designs that don't include the sign but include inserts for the 3 round holes on the frame or designs to add to the frame could also win a runner-up prize.

Who can enter?

Only residents of the Ōpōtiki district can enter the competition and must have an Ōpōtiki district postal address. There are no age restrictions on who can enter and there is a section on the submission form to declare if you are a minor.

You can also enter as a group.

Who can't enter the competition

Entries from people outside our region will not be accepted and Council staff along with their immediate family are ineligible to enter.

How do I win a runner-up prize?

A runner-up prize can be awarded to anyone who's sign was great but didn't win, it could also be given to someone who designed options for the frame. Or it could go to someone who submitted cool ideas for the circle inserts. The runner-up prizes are an extra way for us to acknowledge and reward creativity.

What happens to the winning design?

The winning sign design will be translated into a physical sign on ACM. Depending on what that design is, we may need to alter or amend parts to it. By entering the competition, you agree to council applying possible changes to your winning design. The same goes for any winning design for the frame or inserts.

Are the white frames being replaced?

No – the only part being replaced is the blue (rounded trapezoid shaped) sign. The frames are iconic and will remain but could be updated with circle inserts and designs to the frame.

What will the new sign be made of?

The replacement 'welcome sign' will be made of ACM which is a cost-effective material perfect for signage because of its stability, low weight, and smooth profile.

What's the history of the original signs?

The original signs are the result of a 1960's 'welcome to Ōpōtiki' sign competition by the Ōpōtiki Jaycees group. It was won by a 14-year-old – Don Mihaere. Now 80 Mr Mihaere remembers the competition fondly, saying the prize money then was around '25 pounds' which converted today is just under \$280.

What's the story behind the original design?

Designed by Don Mihaere when he was 14 and attending St Josephs Convent, the frame was designed to include 3 circles – the first represents the Otara river, the second the township and the third the Waioweka river. Because of his time at Catholic school Mr Mihaere said it could also represent the holy trinity. Another interesting fact – the original design included koru work on the base but because it was too difficult to paint to all 3 signs it was left off the final signpost.