

The Ōākura Post

March 2022

Cyclone Dovi hit hard

Juliet Squatriti sent this photo
of a fallen tree on Kaitake Golf course

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Cricket Club reunion update

The Organising Committee of Ōākura Cricket Club 50th Jubilee regret to inform that due to the ongoing Covid restrictions and uncertainties, we have decided to postpone the Events that were planned for 4/5 March.

At this stage we are planning to re-schedule to later in 2022.

We will still have an Old Timers Day for our home game on Saturday 5 March at Corbett Park for all those who'd like to come along.

We will have a marquee, a barbecue and liquid refreshments available ... and adjourn to our sponsor Butlers Reef after the game.

For any queries please contact greg@gregshearer.co.nz or call him on 021 2551791.

Greg Shearer, on behalf of Organising Committee

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Kaitake Community Board

After the relative freedoms of the Xmas and New Year period, and the sense of 'normality' that the opportunities to get out and about with friends and whanau brought us, the central government edict of a Sunday night transition to a COVID Red Traffic Light setting, issued due to the incursion of the highly transmissible Omicron variant into New Zealand, crashed us all back into an environment of anxiety, uncertainty, turmoil and conflict.

Changes to mask requirements and the introduction of vaccine passport mandates, have again polarised areas of communities and has intensified the vigour of a variety of protest groups. This is becoming particularly evident at NPDC public facilities and service industry venues.

I would urge everyone to follow the oft used "Be Kind" mantra, and to bear in mind that those at the public face side of these facilities, services, and business, did not make these rules, they are merely the ones tasked with the duty to apply them.

On the activity front:

One bit of disappointing news is the postponement of the replacement of the foot bridges in Matekai Park from the Build a Bridge programme for this 2022.



A reduction in the availability of students for the project would result in an extension in the construction period. This extension would push aspects of the stream bed work into the May to October period, and this would be contrary to Taranaki Regional Council Freshwater stream and wetland work rules.

Rest assured that these two bridges have not

yet reached the end of their useful lives. The Parks and Reserves staff have a regular inspection programme for all the bridges in the district, and these bridges will be included in a replacement programme at an appropriate time in the future.

Your Kaitake Community Board is continuing to pursue a variety of Community Board Discretionary Fund Projects. Substantial daily increases in the cost of everything impacting the budget ceiling and the availability of staff to progress these projects is becoming somewhat problematic.

And finally 2022 is Local Body Election time, the time when you have the opportunity to influence who goes forward to represent you and for you to have your say as to how you would like see things done for the next three years.

In the 2019 Council elections only around 45% of eligible voters in the New Plymouth District actually took the opportunity to cast their vote. While we did better than the 41.7% average voter turnout across the country, this statistic shows that well over half of our population had no say in who was voted in to represent them.

That's me for this issue. Kia noho haumarū, a tangohia tiaki tātou katoa,

Stay safe, and take care everyone.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on Monday 16 May at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm

Graham Chard (027 220 4549, thechardz@gmail.com)

on behalf of Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, Renee Hohaia and Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (the Councillor representative on the KCB)



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Happy Retirement

Some words from Ōākura School Principal, Lynne Hepworth:

At the end of the 2021 school year we farewelled Noddy (Mr Jury) after 26 years of service as our caretaker. Noddy's loyalty and commitment to our school and community has been exceptional and goes well beyond being an employee.

Not only did Noddy and Vicky's children attend our school, but Noddy is also an ex-student of Ōākura.

For many years Noddy has been our 'go-to' person when we have had any questions about our school history, the buildings, grounds or infrastructure. He has the ability to fix anything, and is known for finding 'just the right part' that is needed to do this, in one of his sheds. He has many talents and over the years we have seen this in every aspect of school life, from creating amazing props for our productions through to helping to prepare our school hangi.

But most of all Noddy will be remembered for his generosity and willingness to help the community. He was often seen up at school

or at the Ōākura Hall on weekends or evenings helping OJSC (Ōākura Junior Sports Club), FOOS (Friends of Ōākura School) or school groups set up for their events. He was always on call to respond to call-outs or emergencies, from fire alarms to floods. Our staff have also been lucky to enjoy veggies from Noddy's garden that would quietly appear on our office desks.

As usual Noddy didn't want a fuss made for his retirement, but despite this and alert level restrictions, we were able to hold a staff and board function to farewell Noddy and also have an outdoor assembly where our students presented him with special messages, sang our school waiata and performed a haka.

Later in the year we will be installing a drinking fountain dedicated to Noddy in our new outdoor learning area.

We are going to miss seeing Noddy at school every day, but we wish him a well-deserved, happy retirement.



Elaine Kessler had some questions for Noddy:

Who offered the job to you and what year was that?

When I started the community was small and everyone knew everyone so I just got asked to apply for the job by the Board of Trustees, as we all hung out together as friends. That was 1995.

What changes have you seen in the school over all these years?

It's gotten bigger and has more classrooms. When I started there were only 8 classrooms, now there are 15.

What is a favourite memory you have from working at the school?

School hangi. Every family would put in about \$5 for the meats, then each classroom would add veggies that the kids would bring, like kumara, potatoes and pumpkin. Back then we cooked it in muslin cloths.

What has been one of the most difficult or interesting repair you've had to do?

The most difficult and first thing I had to do was get rid of the flying fox that went from the back of the school down the field to the tennis courts.

Tell me about the farewell that the school held for you.

On the last day each class gave me farewell cards and the kapa haka seniors did a farewell haka.



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Noddy!



Ray Priest comments...

I feel privileged to offer some reminiscences of Noddy, from the many years of our shared time at Ōākura School. A quiet, self-effacing man who shunned the lime-light, Noddy can only be described as a loyal, thoughtful, hardworking, helpful and good-humoured colleague and friend, who has always been a staunch friend of the school. You could always be sure that if Noddy said he would do something, it would certainly be done.

Over the years, Noddy provided me so much support with the many hangi we had at the Marae, being relied upon to turn up with trailer loads of firewood and helping to prepare and tend the fires. He is also a committed environmentalist. In the early days when I wanted to set up a nursery, Noddy leapt into the project, enthusiastically building several potting benches and bins to start the programme of many years of growing trees and plants. Similarly, he was always very supportive in my efforts to run the school vegetable garden.

He has always been a strong supporter of recycling in the school, hating to see any wasteful use of materials. I am still in awe of the way in which Noddy wielded the axe in providing the steady stream of chopped firewood to keep the classroom fires burning in the pre-heatpump days. So appreciated!

He was always a creative and perpetual presence behind the scenes of the school productions, helping to create backdrops and props. Noddy is a problem solver in the old-school way, and always ready to assist in various practical ways to support classroom activities. And nothing useful was ever wasted. So often Noddy was able to rummage in his extensive filing system for some useful object or material to support a science, technology or art project.

I always enjoy our many chats, and came to appreciate Noddy's extensive local knowledge about our community, being a long time resident of our village. He has certainly contributed hugely to the smooth running of our school, more often than not quietly and industriously behind the scenes.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement Noddy. Just think of it as a very long weekend.

Some words from Vincenza Clark, Ōākura Librarian:

I'd like to acknowledge that Noddy has been so good to me and he's gone above and beyond in looking out for us librarians at Ōākura Library. He's very knowledgeable and could fix most anything. But it's his caring nature that I'm most grateful for.



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Ultimate Frisbee

By Josh van Bergen

Over the weekend of 12/13 February, the 7th Ōākura Classic was held, our yearly social ultimate frisbee beach tournament.

Of the 80 players, 15 were Taranaki locals. Ōākura was represented by; myself, Josh, my sister Tasmin, my younger brother Finn, Owen Ellington, Kristen Thomas and Matthew Whitaker.

The nearing cyclone made for slightly miserable spectating but excellent playing conditions. The rain kept the normally sizzling and soft sand more compact and cool.

Unfortunately our tournament was cut short due to there being no beach to play on and some unfriendly 30+ knot gusts for most of the Sunday, but as ultimate players this was more than made up for on the Saturday night.

A huge shout out to volunteers- like the Ellingtons and our amazing sponsors Vertigo, PowerCo, Tsunami Teamwear, Burgerfuel and Aggreko.

Of course a massive thank you to tournament organisers Kelby and LeAnn Clements and Ben Pollard for their awesome work year on year to share our slice of paradise with ultimate players from far and wide.



Photo by Denby Scott

Finn van Bergen

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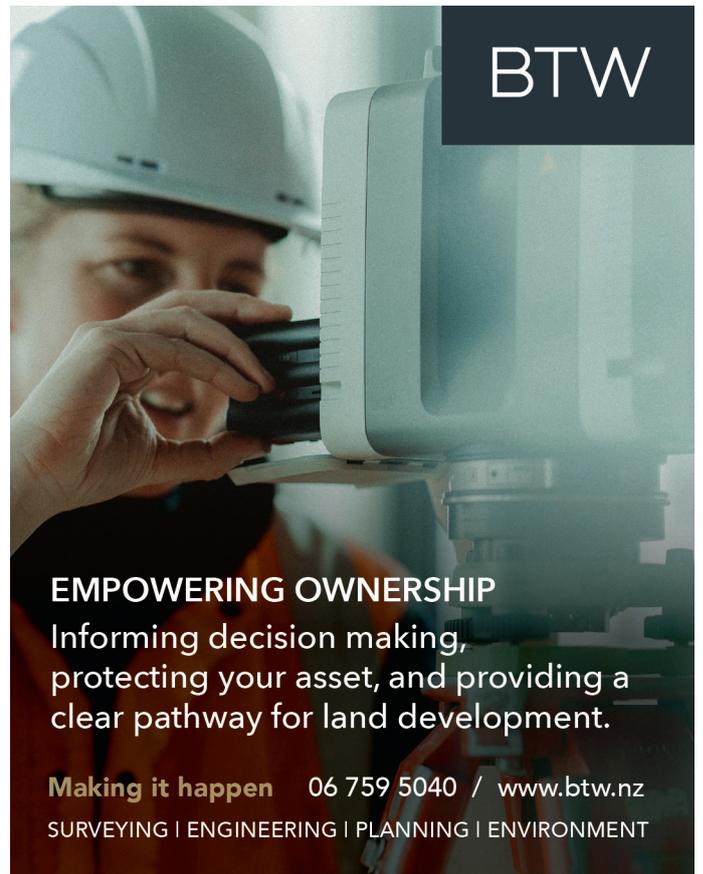


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Groms at Blacksands for the Wednesday Wipeout lunch



Aloha from the Boardriders Club

The summer fill of fun and warm water continues and so does Deken Waves providing surf lessons for club members. We had an amazing crew in the water ranging in age and shredding in the local surf over the holidays, and now through term 1.

Olympic coach Matty Scroinge has been in town preparing our high performance kids for this year's competition circuit, and for the up and coming groms to take that next step.

After an amazing performance at the nationals, the crew has competed at the Mount and now

on to Whangamatā to represent the club and take home the prizes.

In association with ParaFed Taranaki and the Hallberg trust Ōākura Boardriders will again host disabled surfing to provide kids and their families a day at the beach.

Thanks to our sponsors, the kids will be riding the waves on our new boards from Vertigo.

The Mike Christiansen Memorial Longboard Competition will be surfed in February, dates dependent on conditions. Updates via email and social media.

For details on how to become a member email oakuraboardriders@gmail.com

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NPOB Surf Life Saving Club

Regional Guard finish on the beach 25 February. Our volunteer weekend guards continue to be on the beach until Taranaki Anniversary Weekend 1-5pm. As always a big thanks to all of our lifeguards, giving up their time and helping out over the weekends.

Remember - swim between the flags, check conditions before going in, never swim alone and if in doubt, stay out. Parents always keep an eye on your kids and within arm's reach. The beach continually changes as with the conditions.

Our Juniors had a successful carnival at Fitzroy, with NPOB winning overall. A lot of fun in great weather and surf conditions. Junior Surf on Sunday mornings hasn't been so lucky with the weather this season.

When the conditions are ok we are operating under COVID red light restrictions with differ-

ent start times and entry and exit points.

Our Seniors managed to get their Taranaki Champs in at Fitzroy in horrendous weather and surf, their training and hard work definitely paying off in super challenging conditions. IRBs the following day had to be postponed due to water quality.

Sad to say that COVID has once again disrupted our season. We have been fortunate to get our local carnivals in under the red light, not so lucky with regional events.

Oceans 22 has been cancelled, a massive disappointment to the kids, and missing out on an awesome sporting event and the memories that go with it. So far Seniors Nationals and IRBs are looking to go ahead under amended programmes and restrictions. Watch this space...

We are lucky we live in such an amazing spot, it certainly makes staying local easy.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the rest of the summer!



Ōākura Tennis Club

Everyone's back on court and enjoying some game time. Soffe started with a loss to Okaiawa 11-5. They were on the back foot from the start with only three women available. Thanks to Toni for stepping up to play and it was also good to see Sammy and Daniel Lewis back on court.

Daniel and Toni combined well to win their combines. Graeme had another epic three setter against Hamish Mead on the lovely concrete, losing 6-4 in the third. The following week was a home game against Stratford. Gavin had an epic battle against Bruce Crowley, losing 7-5 in the third set.

This was Gavin's 3rd 7/5 loss in the final set in the last 12 months! Daniel notched up another singles win and Toni also came away with a singles win. A rain off against Huatoki the following week and Soffe are sitting in third position with 80 points, behind Okaiawa 106.5 and Rotokare 101.5, and Huatoki are fourth with 74points.

Fours has Black Sand Ōākura leading with BP Ōākura in fourth place. BP Ōākura Fours team has started the season well with their first win of the season against Rotokare. With most of the main team away at Sound Splash, the subs

had to dust off the cobwebs, pull on the knee braces and get out on court.

Jack Husband had a hard fought win in his singles and then combined superbly with Brian Husband for a convincing doubles win. Mark and Anne Bridges also combined well in the doubles to secure a win, giving the overall 4-2 win to Ōākura BP. The following week saw Jack pull off another two wins in the No 1 spot, helped by Ryan Waite in the doubles.

Noah Lash and Charlie Bridges narrowly lost their singles in a 3rd set tie break for Noah and an unlucky 6-4, 6-4 to Charlie. The welcome rain put a dampener on the tennis for the 3rd round, which we hope to reschedule in a couple of weeks. Jack now leaves us for greener pastures in Canterbury so the knee braces might be getting a bit more use in the coming weeks! Midweek section 1 ladies are tied at 4th and section 3 are in 6th.

Juniors and coaching is back underway and junior club champs will be starting in March. The club champs gives all juniors having coaching an opportunity to play some games against their mates and put into practise the skills Monika has taught them. Contact Yifat on 022 323 7210 to register.

Thanks to Anne for the Fours update.

Jackie Keenan

Ōākura Library

If you are unable to visit one of the NPDC Libraries, you can borrow a bag of books with our click and collect service. Go to <https://pukeariki.com/libraries/click-collect-service> and fill out our online form. Or contact us 759-6060 and we can arrange the service with you.

Alternatively, you can place holds on books online. Go to the library catalogue and log in with your library barcode and pin number. Find the book you are interested in and place a hold for pick up at Ōākura Library. Contact us if you have forgotten your pin number. Free for under 18s and \$1.50 for each adult hold.

Need some inspiration for what to read?

Who better to give recommendations than our own lovely librarians! Check out the book nook on our website.

Recommended books:

Jess Quinn's inspirational memoir, 'Still Standing' tells her story of losing her leg to cancer as a nine-year-old and how she's come to an acceptance of this and turned it into a quest to help others.

Ai Weiwei's memoir, '1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows' tells a century-long epic tale of China through the story of his own extraordinary life and the legacy of his father, the nation's most celebrated poet.

'To Italy, With Love' by New Zealander Nicky Pellegrino. Love and food in Italy, need I say more!

'Klara and the sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro - a moving dystopian novel about AI and what it is to love.

'Fatal Dance' and 'The Younger Wife' are new to our shelves and authors Stephen Leather, Clive Cussler and Lee Childs have new releases out now.

Writers group

Tuesday 8th March 10am-12:00pm

Book group

Thursday 31st March 7:00pm-9:30pm

JP services

Every Thursday from 10am-12:30pm

Charlie has been promoted

Congratulations Charlie. Her new role as Senior Librarian will take her to Puke Ariki's Collections and Digital team.

We will miss her here but look forward to our ongoing working relationship. All the best.

Vincenza



Cyclone Dovi played havoc with trampolines

Ōākura Fire Brigade

Well after a loooong dry spell we've had quite the change in fortunes, and along with that change we've also downgraded the fire risk around the region to be an open fire season; this means that you no longer need a permit to light an outdoor fire. Given that nobody knows what change may happen before this goes to print, as always go to www.checkitsalright.nz before lighting to see the region's status.

Fires are a bit of a rare sight for us these days but in this weather we are certainly kept busy with flooding. We are trained and equipped with specialist pumps and tools to assist should you find yourself in er... deep water.

If you do find yourself in a position where your property is flooded call 111 and ask for fire, but also remember to call your insurer. With emergency services stretched, our focus is with removal of the water, your insurance company can sort out logistics such as accommodation, clean up etc.

Hope that you all remained safe during the recent wind event. With a number of trampolines and furniture taking flight it's a good reminder to take heed if weather warnings and make sure you secure items around your property.

I can't believe I'm saying this in February, but stay dry Ōākura!

The crew from the big red truck.



Green School learners and families were greeted by an abundance of fresh organic produce when they returned to campus at the start of the 2022 school year. It's a sight that's becoming more and more frequent as the Green School gardens grow and develop, along with the permaculture knowledge of each learner.

Green School's curriculum integrates food education as an essential component of its learning programme and sustainable practices. Through holistic food education, students learn how responsible food management can have a positive impact on nature, their community and themselves.

"It's not a new concept, in fact, it's an age old concept where community gardens bring people together and also help ensure food security of the community," says Head of School, Whaea Caroline.

"However, this new model is also about the importance of knowing where our food comes from.

Our students tend to the livestock (chickens and eggs), they weed and water our crops, and their vegetable bounties are then shared with their families. It's a wonderful way to build community connections and resilience," she says.

Through this real world learning, students are taught how to grow nutritious, seasonal and sustainably grown organic produce, which is then harvested and offered to the wider Green School

community either through donations, or fair price points.

Regular crop swaps are also held on campus for the Green School and wider community members to swap goods including vegetables, fruit, homemade preserves, clothes and crafts.

"To have our learners know that they can actually grow a huge portion of their own food and not have to buy it is such a wonderful concept to be passing onto them. Learning about food, regardless of age, provides a holistic approach to learning that upsills our learners for life and prepares them for a sustainable future."

For more information:

thrivewithpurpose@greenschool.nz
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State of the Polar Bear Report 2020, global population = ~30,000, Susan Crockford



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"One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore..."

Dr. Ottmar Endenhofer, IPCC co-chair of Working Group 3, November 13, 2010 interview (H1 Dr. Charles Battig)

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 Let's be rational

Māori place names Translated

With Maori language being used more frequently in news and reporting, many people are left wondering what has been said. To aid you in getting an understanding of what is being said, here are some translations for a few words frequently used when talking about Aotearoa.

Aotearoa - Land of the Long White Cloud (ao = cloud, tea = white, roa = long)

According to Māori history, the North Island of New Zealand is known as Te Ika a Maui – ‘Maui’s fish’. Maui appears in many Māori and Polynesian legends; he was the clever, gifted demigod of supernatural parents. His most impressive achievements was fishing up New Zealand’s North Island.

The North Island - Te Ika-a-Māui (meaning The Fish of Māui)
The South Island - Te Waka-a-Māui (meaning The Canoe of Māui)
also known as - Te Waipounamu (literally: water and greenstone, from the presence of this stone in the South Island.)

Auckland - Tāmaki Makaurau (sometimes written as Tāmaki-makau-rau or Tāmaki Makaurau)
Tāmaki Makaurau, the Māori name for Auckland, means Tāmaki desired by many. This name refers to the abundance of natural resources, strategic vantage points, portage routes, and mahinga kai which first attracted Māori, and then other settlers

Motu - Island (also known as moutere)

Wellington - Te Whanganui-a-Tara (also known as Pōneke)

Te Whanganui-a-Tara is the Māori name for Wellington Harbour. The term is also used to refer to the city of Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, which lies on the shores of the harbour. Te Whanganui-a-Tara translates as “the great harbour of Tara”, named for Tara, a son of Polynesian explorer Whatonga, whose descendants lived in the area

“Pōneke” is a Māori language name for Wellington, derived from “Port Nicholson”.

Pronunciation is somewhat different as the vowels are pronounced differently. Using the guide Toni shared with us in the February issue you can have a go at pronouncing them. One easy place to start when pronouncing the words is to break each syllable up and to say the word slowly. le, Ta / ta / ra / i / ma / ka Tataraimaka

Māori vowel sounds are pronounced as the vowel sounds in the English words below.

The short vowels are:	The long vowels are:
a – as in but	ā – as in bar
e – as in vet	ē – as in dairy
i – as in beat	ī – as in peel
o – as in orphan	ō – as in bore
u – as in to	ū – as in too.

Most of the consonants are pronounced the same as they are in English, with the exception of: ng – as in singer (not finger) • wh – as in film • r – which is slightly rolled

Try these words and see if you can pronounce them. Karahiua!

Ōākura • Ngāmotu = New Plymouth

Tataraimaka • aroha = love / compassion • maranga = get up
whakarongo = to listen

Life at red in Ōākura and Okato

Taranaki and the rest of the country are settling into life under the Government’s Red Traffic Light Covid protection. New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) facilities are all operating and following safety guidelines.

The Ōākura Library is open with social distancing capacity limits. If you’re over 12 years 3 months, you’ll need to show your My Vaccine Pass, scan or sign in, wear a mask at all times and social distance.

The Okato pool is also open with capacity limits so you can cool off in the summer heat. Again vaccine passes are necessary and you’ll need to scan or sign in, wear a mask (except when swimming) and social distance.

Your rubbish and recycling collection continues and the Okato tip is open as normal while following the safety rules.

All parks, playgrounds, public toilets and walkways are open, so this could be a good chance to check out and enjoy our magnificent coastal attractions.

Many NPDC services are available by phone or online, so don’t hesitate to pick up the phone and call 06 759 6060, or visit www.npdc.govt.nz.

Morning Tea Morning Talk

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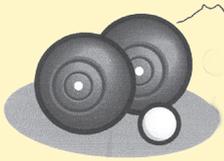
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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Taranaki Men's Open News

The 2022 Taranaki Open Fours tournament was a tremendous success with Ōākura receiving high praise from the contestants for both our great service and hospitality and the high quality and good performance of our green. Well done to greenkeeper Wayne Robinson, services organiser Andy Shearer and all the match-day helpers for a fantastic job. A great team effort combined with excellent bowling saw the quartet of Kurt Smith, Adam Collins, Wayne Robinson and Jim Priest sail through the qualifying rounds undefeated. Unfortunately, their winning run and title aspirations were dealt a terminal blow when defeated by an experienced Whangarei outfit and eventual tournament runners-up in the 1st round of post section.

The bad luck story for Ōākura goes to the team of Peter Radich, Pat Walklin, Craig Murray and Steve Muller. The foursome just failed to qualify with 5 wins from 8, losing their last game by 1 point in an extra end to young superstar Aiden Takarua and his team from Pt Chevalier. Leading 17-3, the Ōākura team looked on track for qualification but it was a game of 2 halves with the strong Pt Chevalier finally finding form and storming home for victory.

The Alan Bridgeman led team of Bruce Jackson, Kevin Fleming and Bob Anderson also missed qualification but were super competitive, losing a number of close games to high quality opposition.

Interclub

Ōākura finished a very credible 2nd in competitive Saturday Shield competition. The Ōākura boys finished strongly with 3 wins from 4 in the last round but it was not enough to catch the competition runaway leaders Inglewood. A great club effort and well done to all the participating bowlers.

Club News

Congratulations to Adams Collins (senior men) and Kurt Smith (under 8s) in making the Taranaki rep teams to take on some of New Zealand best bowlers in the Hex Tournaments played at Palmerston North and Wanganui.

A fitting reward for some great bowls played by Collins and Smith throughout the year.

Peter Radich and Steve Muller teamed up to win the Kiwi Butcher sponsored 2-4-2 pairs tournament played at Vogeltown in early February. Radich and Muller were undefeated in their 4 games and the victory was especially sweet for Radich, being a Vogeltown old boy.

Just a friendly reminder to all visitors and club members that a valid vaccination pass is required for entry to our clubrooms and green.

The Underarm Bowler



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Kaitake FC

Pre-season Update

Well it is that time of year again and after shrugging off the Christmas pudding, the Kaitake FC players are back and looking forward to chapter 4 of the club's fascinating story.

Interestingly, as the men started to gradually appear to training, there seemed to be a group of ladies at Corbett Park training very hard, putting the men to complete shame... and so, the next chapter is truly under way as we welcome the 1st ever Kaitake FC Ladies Football Team!

With great thanks to the hard work in the summer months from Ōākura's very own Molly Lumb and Rebecca Sumpter we have a team ready to head into the 2022 season.

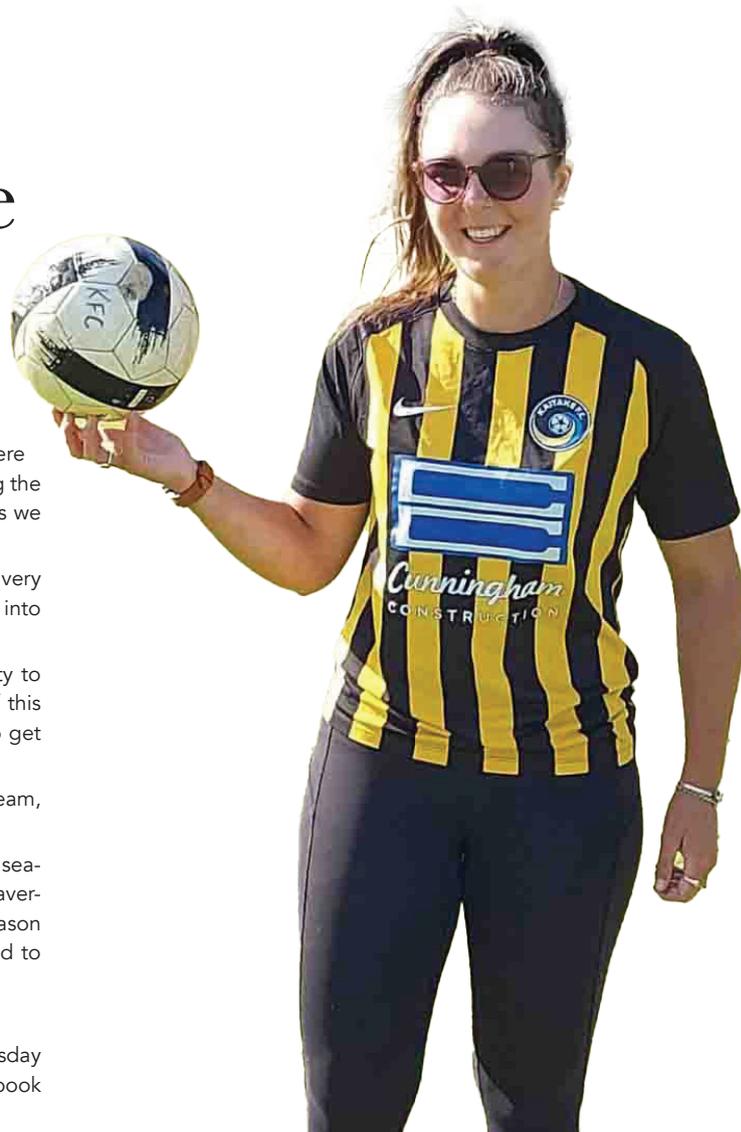
Molly said "On a personal level I am so happy we have the opportunity to play club football in Ōākura, this is such an exciting time to be part of this club and I speak for all the other girls when I say we are very excited to get the season under way.

We are really keen to hear from anyone wishing to join this great new team, get involved in Women's football and be part of the Kaitake Family".

As for the men's teams, we hope to build on the success of the previous season, though a few younger faces would be most welcome to bring the average age down. Club captain Paul Cunningham says "2022 will bring a season of fresh challenges given the Covid situation, but the club is well placed to have another great season of good competition, fun and friendships".

The competitive seasons for both Men & Women begin in early April.

If anyone would like to get involved in the club, trainings are on Wednesday night from 6.30pm. email us on kaitake.fc@gmail.com or go to our Facebook Page - Kaitake FC - and send us a message.



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All classrooms have been taking the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful weather to do some fantastic learning outdoors.

We are very fortunate to have such amazing grounds and native bush for our children to learn in. Here is Korimako and Tūi doing just that.



A New Year and some New Faces

This year we welcome Mrs Julie Herbert and Ms Renee Coffey, as well as our many new learners. We interviewed our two new teachers to find out a little more about them.

Mrs Julie Herbert

Recently I have been teaching at Horsham Downs Primary School in Hamilton.

I have loved being back at Ōmata and so far I have enjoyed the wonderful staff here that I am working with and also the friendly and helpful students. I love that we can go swimming every day and that there is such a beautiful garden. I also think the school's bush area is amazing with the trees and wildlife (especially the noisy cicadas at the moment).

This year I am looking forward to meeting all the new New Entrant students who will begin

their school learning at Ōmata and giving them all a happy start to school full of learning opportunities.

Ms Renée Coffey

My teaching career began at St John Bosco in Taranaki. For the past two years I have taught at Waihi Beach Primary School at the base of the Coromandel. I am very happy to be returning to my roots where it all began.

So far I love the nurturing environment of Ōmata School. The teachers and children are all amazing. The physical space is really cool with the veggie garden, orchard and the bush classroom.

This year I am really looking forward to teaching in a collaborative environment with Mr Bennett and doing plenty of hands-on learning experiences.

Rūma Kiwi

We also interviewed our newest learners who have just started school in Rūma Kiwi.

We asked them what they liked the most about Ōmata School.

Kiana said that she loved the zip line. Baxter commented he loved writing at this school. David told us he likes school because you get to learn, whilst Mila added "I like to learn".

We also asked why we go to school

Willow explained "You have to learn how to write before you go to university".

Hiroki said "We come to school to have fun and to go to the pool".

Mila commented "We come to school to see our friends and learn how to get on with them".

By Millie Stonier, Year 8



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New staff at Ōākura School



Mrs Smith is teaching year 7 & 8 students in Room 9. She loves hanging out with her dogs and teaching them cool tricks. She also really enjoys reading. She loved her first day in Room 9. She says everyone's really friendly and the students are super helpful. Mrs Smith grew up in a small town and really loves the sense of community here in Ōākura. She has been teaching for 19 years now.

This year is **Miss Barrett's** fifth year teaching. She taught at Ōākura School in 2018 and 2019, this year she is teaching in Room 2. She found her first day great and said it was nice to see all the children she used to teach now that they are older. Miss Barrett is excited to get to know the junior students better and work with her new team. She moved to Ōākura to be closer to family and because her time when she last taught here was really enjoyable.

Andy Shearer is our new caretaker. He's looking forward to seeing the school grow and students prosper. In his spare time Andy loves to play golf and bowls. He also enjoys gardening, cooking and music. He took up a job here because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity (as his predecessor was in the job 26 years straight). He found his first day at school fantastic.

It's **Miss Gooch's** first year teaching! She spends her spare time with friends and family, cooking, travelling (post pandemic) and volunteering. She said her first day in Room 8 was amazing



and the children were all great and they had lots of fun together. Ōākura School was where Miss Gooch went to school for years 7 to 8, so when she saw a job had opened up here she thought it would be great to come back.



Mrs Stirling loves to be outside, whether it's biking, running, hiking or pilates. She's excited for all the opportunities that the year 7's and 8's are going to get this coming year. She also hopes she gets the chance to be able to be close to the mountain and sea. Something about our school is really inviting and when she got to Ōākura School she said that the school was very welcoming. Her first day in Room 11 was amazing and everyone had 'posy vibes.'

When **Mr Kennedy** has spare time he enjoys playing football, volleyball and golf, which is why there's no surprise that he's looking forward to the sports that the children might get involved in

this year. He's also excited for the Football World Cup (If there's one). He grew up in Ōmata, and went to school there, so that's why he decided to teach here at Ōākura School. Before that, he trained at three schools in Tauranga, but this is his first year in a full time teaching job. Still, he's enjoying his first few days at Ōākura in Room 4.



Ms Shaw, also called Whaea Leanne by her students in Room 5, used to work at a school in Auckland as a Deputy Principal. Walking, dancing and solving problems are activities that she enjoys. She came to this school because she wanted to find the right place where her children would thrive. Now that she's here, she is happy that she gets the chance to walk to school everyday and see the friendly faces of the Ōākura staff and tamariki.

In the office this year is **Amanda Cavey**. She has been a school administrator six years now and wanted the challenge of working at a larger school. Amanda found her first day at school great, everyone was so welcoming and she says she looks forward to getting to know the students of Ōākura School and the community. She likes to spend time with her family and friends and enjoys being in the garden.

We look forward to our community, tamariki and whānau getting to know our new staff and welcoming them to our kura.

Hannah Stanley and Miri Sandbrook (age 12)

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TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Bowling and Social Club

Bowling tournaments September through to April. Both mid-week and weekend games. Steve Muller 757 4399

Dancing in the Dark

Glenys Farrant 027 753 0120

Golf

Practice net. Non members welcome. Clubs and balls can be supplied. \$5.00 WEDNESDAYS. Casual competition for non-members. 8am to 1pm open to everyone. Denise 752 7665

Inferno 45- 4 X Bootcamp fitness

Mon and Wed 6am, Fri 9am. BoxFit Friday 6am. All 1 hour sessions. Ōākura Hall. Graeme 021 536 990

Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

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JKA Karate

Jim Hoskin 752 7337

Justice of the Peace. Lynn Murray.

Ōākura Library Thursdays 10am-12.30pm.

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

Pete Morgan 027 372 5182 morgpt@xtra.co.nz

Morning Talk - coffee group

Thursdays 10-11am at NPOB Surf Club. Free tea/coffee. Tracey Lusk 752 7875

'Move it or Lose it' Strength and Balance

Fitness Classes Ōākura Hall, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am. Contact Gloria Zimmerman 027 284 9111

Meditation Group

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Mini Groovers - Music Group

All parents welcome with babies/under 5's. Every Tues during term time 10-11am at the Church Hall. Visit their Facebook page: Mini Groovers - Ōākura. Fe Scott: 027 228 9113

Ōākura Yoga

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Pickleball Ōākura

Ōākura Hall - Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 9.15am. All skill levels welcome and equipment is provided. Elayne Kessler 027 937 7173

Playcentre

14 Donnelly St. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - noon during school terms. oakura@playcentre.org.nz

Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238 traceymackkyle@gmail.com

Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday night 7pm over winter commencing April at Butlers Reef. All welcome. For more info call Margaret 027 232 1899

Probus Club

Meets once a month at Ōākura Bowling club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month 10-11.30am. Contact Brenda Ryan 757 3537 or 027 748 9698

Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni 021 661 912 thowison@hotmail.com

St James Church

Sunday Worship every 2nd and 4th Sun 10am okatocp@gmail.com

Sunday School - St James Church Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am. stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Surf Lessons

Deken Waves Surf Coaching. Group & Private sessions available. Contact Simon: 021 122 9525 dekenwaves@gmail.com

Tennis Club Winter Coaching

Junior coaching Mon-Fri before or after school, check www.blitztennis.nz. Adults

Wed 9-10.30am advanced, Fri 9-10am adult returner/improver, 10-11am adult beginner, contact Jackie 027 673 2900

Tai Chi Classes

Every Monday 9-10am at Ōākura Hall. Judi 027 268 2601. Just come along or contact: taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School

Ōākura Hall Friday afternoon - Pre-school dance classes at 2:45, ballet for 5+ 3:15 to 4:15. val@valdeakindance.org.nz 752 7743 or text 027 694 0933

Tataraimaka

5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

Monday to Thursday 5-6 pm, Tataraimaka Hall. Barney 027 752 7076 barney@5efitness.com or visit www.5efitness.com

Gymnastics Group for children - 5-7 yrs.

Tuesdays after school at the Tataraimaka Hall for basic level gymnastics sessions. Rose at rosem@realfoodnutrition.co.nz

Okato

Okato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

Okato Lions Club

John Hislop 757 9696

Okato Squash Club

Monday nights from 6.30pm. Everyone welcome. Ladies morning Friday 9.30 -11am. All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

St James Church

Sunday Worship every 1st and 3rd Sunday, 10am. Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tues each month, 5pm. okatocp@gmail.com

Ōmata

Yoga Classes

For info - Annalisa 027 444 8345

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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