

The Ōākura Post

April 2021



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This year is whizzing by and each month comes around so quickly. I hope you enjoy this month's issue, there is a lot of good happening in our hood. I'm so proud to be a part of it.

Happy Easter and school holidays.

Tracey

The Ōākura Post

The Ōākura Post is a free monthly publication, delivered to all homes in Ōākura village.

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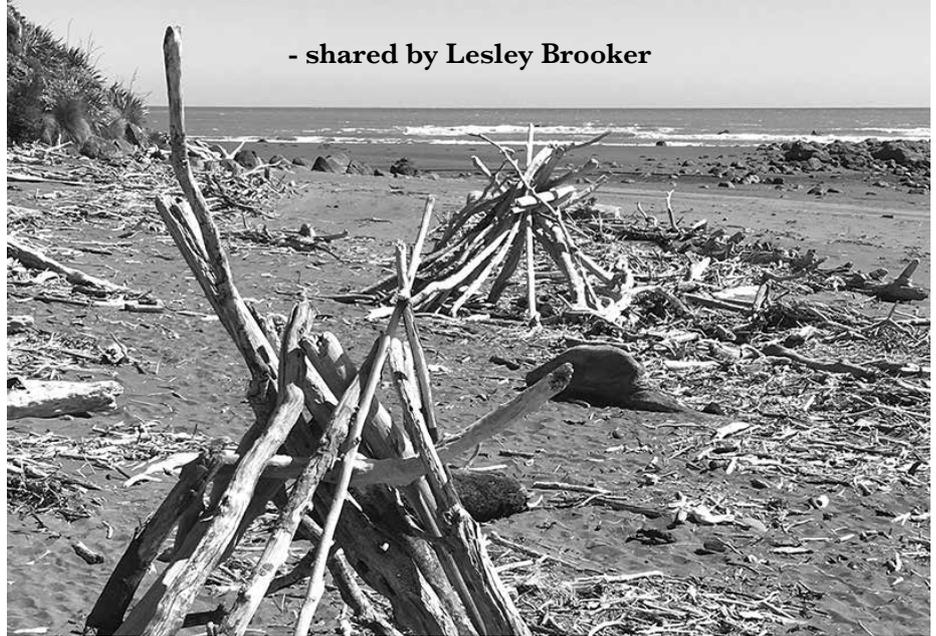
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*“How can you tell a Happy cyclist?
By how many flies are
stuck in their teeth”*

- shared by Lesley Brooker



Beach Steps re-open in April

The Messenger Terrace beach steps (at the river end) are currently closed as they are to be replaced. The beach access stairs to Ōākura Beach from Messenger Terrace are scheduled to be replaced.

The scope of works is to remove the old dilapidated wooden steps located in between 101 and 103 Messenger Terrace and replace with new wooden steps (Corbett Park end). The new steps will need to be designed in accordance with the Building Act and meet the minimum design requirements. The renewal work is part of the Council scheduled renewals programme to replace existing assets.

The works are expected to start week of 15th March 2021 and to take approximately two weeks, anticipated to be completed in early April 2021. These dates may change due to adverse weather conditions.

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Opening of the skatepark, 1990s

Kaitake Community Board

During the past month, the KCB has been hard at work on its submission to the 2021/31 Long Term Plan. The LTP is a very lengthy and comprehensive plan detailing all of the Council's activities. It describes the Council's budget, explaining what the Council plans to spend over the next ten years, and shows how Council plans to manage its assets and services over the same ten-year period.

There have been many public announcements about what is in the plan but the real substance is in the draft document. It is complex so we urge everyone to take the time to digest its contents so they understand the devil in the detail. Household rates are projected to rise by 12% next year and then 6% each year after for the next nine years. The compounding factor means that in ten year's time households would be paying 66% more than they currently do. There are several reasons for this projected scenario, but there are many big-ticket items included in the draft that impact rates and require your close scrutiny. Go to www.newplymouthnz.com.

We are identifying the issues out this way that will need deliberation and action over the next ten years. Our baseline is the Kaitake Community Plan, which sets out the visions and aspirations from our three distinct yet connected communities of Ōmata, Ōākura and Okato. We are seeking feedback from you on any rel-

by Doug Hislop

evant issues you may have so please contact KCB members to let them know about them. The draft LTP is now available for public consumption and submissions have opened.

They will close on 6 April and then hearings will be held and decisions made in June. Remember that individuals and other groups can, and should, make their own submissions to the Long Term Plan too. If you haven't yet submitted you only have until 6 April to do so. You can make a submission online. Here is the link: <https://www.newplymouthnz.com/Council/Have-Your-Say>.

The District Council says residents' opposition to the 'much-promoted' Pukeiti to Ōākura Taranaki walking trail has played a part in substantially driving up development costs. That was surprising as virtually everyone we speak to is in support of the trail. In fact, we continually get asked when it will be finished. We understand a huge amount of planning has been carried out over the past five or six years, including consultation with all the stakeholders and working through all the issues that have arisen, so maybe that is why the cost has increased. It would be very useful for the KCB to know what the community thinks about the trail, whether they support it or not. Let's know what you think by posting on the KCB or Ōākura Action Group FaceBook pages.

By the time you are reading this, we may have already held a Restore Ōākura Community workshop (Sunday 28 March in the Ōākura Hall). There has been some evidence of possums returning to Shearer Reserve and it's the time of the year when rats are on the move, looking for a warmer habitat and a reliable winter food source. Setting your traps and regularly checking and re-baiting them will certainly be a great help in preventing reinfestation in the community and on the Kaitake Range.

A big thanks to John Shewry and Colin Webber for their work on the boardriders' skatepark upgrade. John has put a lot of volunteer hours into this project which has seen the half-pipe resurfaced. The original skatepark, which was laid by OBC members in the 1990's, has also been repaired. As we all know, Shearer Reserve is an amazing, well-used facility to have in our community and it is awesome to see it upgraded. Thanks to all OBC members who have put volunteer hours into this project - take a bow everyone!

Well, that's it for this month.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on Monday 3 May at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm.

752 7324 and douglashislop@gmail.com on behalf of Graham Chard, Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, and Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Councillor representative on the KCB)

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COVID Changed Plans



Pam and Chris Edler have been coming to New Zealand from Washington State, US every summer for the past 25 years. This last time they arrived, summer 2019, turned into a different visit than the others. Pam begins telling the story:

My husband and I decided to venture off to NZ because my daughter and son-in-law had moved there, purchased a house, and began working as teachers. They are both primary school teachers and were teaching at the small, rural Te Kiri school. They later moved to Ōākura and secured teaching jobs in this area.

Our first grandchild was born in the US before their move to NZ. The second child was born in NZ when they were already living here. With my daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren living in NZ, I managed to coax my fearful flyer husband to travel by air. After our first trip he became a true believer in the joys of being in NZ.

We purchased a house across from Ōākura primary school and enjoyed having our grandchildren over after school for afternoon tea, tin biscuits and cheese. When they moved on to college we sold that house and moved into a long term rental house owned by my daughter

by **Elayne Kessler**

and son-in-law and just two doors down from where they lived.

We are able to enjoy family dinners and other family times. Today our grandson is 25 years old with a degree and a sound job. Our granddaughter is 21 and just completed her Bachelor of Science degree and is pressing onwards to her Masters.

Chris picks up the story: In December 2019 we came for our usual stay of five months which was to be completed in late April 2020. Covid happened and NZ went into lockdown about a month before we were supposed to return home. Our initial reaction was to head home as soon as practical and we gave ourselves a week to get ready, including booking airline flights.

After a couple of days talking with family both here and in the US, everyone told us to stay put for as long as we could because of the danger of catching Covid while on our long trip home. Our visitor visas allowed us to be in NZ for only six months. We were worried but also hopeful that Immigration NZ would allow us to stay longer. Thankfully Immigration NZ granted all

those with visitor visas an automatic extension to their return date — for us it was a five month extension.

In the end, Immigration NZ gave us two additional extensions of various lengths, sometimes with only a week's notice that it was being granted. Suffice to say we were very nervous as each deadline approached - uncertainty, stress and anxiety are words Chris uses to describe those times.

Those months were both the scariest and safest I have felt in my life, Pam says. I felt safe here, but scared of what could happen and also for the safety of my family in the US. The daily briefings by the NZ Government set my mind at ease for our own safety and that of all New Zealanders. The leadership was impeccable and Kiwis know how to act as a team. That seems so different from the US.

Currently we are waiting on a response to a 'Covid 19 visa extension' application that would allow us to stay until the end of April 2021. We are hopeful we will get that approval and have booked our flights. Once again we are living with some uncertainty. If we depart as planned, we will have been here 17 months.

Thank you New Zealand. Wish we could stay here forever...



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Living to a Hundred

Is something really worth celebrating, and at the end of February, Patricia (Pat) Holmes did just that. On a beautiful sunny day at the end of February, Pat was joined by four generations of her family including two great-great grandchildren – what an achievement. When I asked for her secret to a long life, she replied “I wouldn’t have a clue, life just rolled on and I just kept going”.

Born in 1921 Pat lived with her parents William and Annie Lawn on a farm in Warrea. The youngest of eight children, she didn’t attend school until she was six but remembers her time at home with mum. Pat tells me she wasn’t born at home as her seven siblings were, but was the first of her family to be born in the maternity hospital in New Plymouth.

She went on to have a family of her own with three boys and a girl and moved to Ōākura from Manaia in 1970. Sadly, her husband Duke Norgate died only six months later but she did eventually remarry in 1985 to Sid Holmes.

Pat enjoyed living on McFarlane Street so she moved to the house next door. Until only three years ago she was living there quite independently, driving and busy with knitting and reading and catching up with friends. However, becoming unwell Pat moved in with her daughter and son-in-law in Ōākura. She did try a spell in a rest home but after a week she decided it wasn’t for her and preferred living with her family.

I asked Pat about her birthday party which she says was wonderful. “It was great to see all the little ones. Family came from all over New Zealand, even the South Island.” Those that couldn’t make it in person recorded special messages and songs for the event which she says were very special. To congratulate her achievement, Pat received numerous birthday

by Suki Bishop

cards beautifully on display in the living room.

I was excited to see a card from the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy and one from the Right Hon. Jacinda Ardern. There was even a lovely card from HRH The Queen. Pat’s daughter Karen says she wasn’t worried about getting these cards as you have to apply for them and she didn’t think she had done anything particularly amazing to get to a hundred!

When I asked Pat what she thinks about living in Ōākura she says the climate is pretty good. In her younger days she had fun whitebaiting with

her family she has always been a great cook and sponges, scones, pikelets and yo-yos were always on offer with a cup of tea to the many visitors of friends and family that constantly called when she was living in her own home.

She recalls the village had a lot of paddocks and a lot less houses with just a few baches on the beach. She went on to tell me the pharmacy used to be the village store and the now real estate was the post office which later became a craft shop. Pat remembers being asked to sell her cane basket work there. She also says she kept busy with macramé, icing cakes, playing the piano and the organ. A little bit of everything she says. On fine days Pat still has the opportunity to see the village in her wheel chair.



Pat on her 100th birthday with her granddaughter Connor



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For a number of months now, Law West has 'sponsored' an advertisement stating that "The Sun is the main driver of climate change, not you, not CO₂." We went and asked a **proper climate scientist**, and here is what he said...

"The overwhelming evidence is that recent climate change is caused by human activity and, left unchecked, will dramatically and negatively impact the lives of New Zealanders and future generations."

If the Oakura community would like additional information, please check out:

climate.nasa.gov/causes

ipcc.ch/report/ar5

**Professor James Renwick, Climate Scientist,
Victoria University of Wellington, Feb 2021**

.....



Human activity is the driver of climate change

"The Sun doesn't appear to be responsible for the warming trend observed over the past several decades. CO₂ levels show a very different story."

- NASA

Yes, all of us contribute to this

Yes, it's the CO₂

Summer in the Kaitakes

I feel so fortunate to have the Kaitakes right here in our backyard. It's so nice to be able to go for a hike on the weekend or evening without having to take a long drive. Taranaki Maunga and the Pouakai Range may be bigger and more renowned, but the Kaitakes have some nice bush, great views, and are always a good workout.

The Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust volunteers have been putting in a lot of days hiking, running, and monitoring traps in the Kaitakes this summer. That means we've been enjoying dry trails, beautiful views of the sparkling Tasman from those few spots that pop out of the bush, like at goat rock or Patuha Trig, and hot, sweaty days. Anyone that went for a walk during the month of February will tell you one other sign of summer in the Kaitakes - the bush seems to be alive with the overwhelmingly loud sound of cicadas.

The Trust has been busy checking traps and



by Mark Danenhauer

doing our part to remove predators so that our native birds can thrive. The other day I saw a tomtit right by the start of the Wairau Track. I've never seen one that close to the farmland before and I hope that it's a sign of more native birds to come. We are slowly moving closer and closer to the day when we will have kiwi in the Kaitakes! Thanks to a huge effort by the Taranaki Kiwi

Trust, Taranaki Maunga Project, all the Trust volunteers, and others it looks like a permit to bring kiwi to the Kaitakes may be approved very soon! If everything goes according to plan we will have kiwi in the Kaitakes this April or May!

The Trust is happy to welcome some new volunteers. Over the past few months the Trust has been joined by Steve Leach, Andrew Cullen, the White family, Ian Ives, Keith Coughtrey, and Helle Rung-Hansen. Thanks so much guys!



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Ōākura Library

Our 'Design a Bookmark' competition is underway. Come into the library to pick up a template or go to www.pukeariki.com. Submit as many entries as you would like.

Winners will have their design turned into an official Puke Ariki and Community Libraries bookmark. This is very popular with children but please note adults there is a category for you, too!

School holiday programmes:

Wednesday 21 April, 2-3pm

Join award winning comic book author and illustrator Craig Phillips for some illustration techniques.

For ages 9+ spaces limited so book early.

Wednesday 28 April, 2-3pm

Pop-up craft table.

Open to all ages.

Classes FREE online:

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Easter Hours:

Closed Good Friday and Easter Monday. Open normal Saturday hours on 2 April.

**Happy Reading,
Charlie and Vincenza**

Chris West has served for 40 years as a Volunteer Fire Fighter



Ōākura Fire Brigade

The crew have had a busy start to the year with a good variety of calls that have used the many skills required to be a trained member of the brigade - vegetation and structure fires, medical calls and road accidents. It has been pleasing to see a fast response to the siren and more than a dash of healthy competition in the race to get on the truck.

It's these skills and competitive spirit that were celebrated at Honours night in February. The crew did a great job of transforming the appliance bay into something resembling the dining hall at Hogwarts and with crew, partners, life members and FENZ dignitaries present we celebrated the combined accomplishments of the crew.

With many members achieving various year milestones in the brigade, special mentions must go to Nick Manning for his 5-year medal and Seamus Breeze for his 14-Year Long Service Good Conduct Medal. But there is one gentleman worth celebrating who I'm sure will eventually end up cast in bronze and mounted to the front of the station (if only to keep his hips and knees intact), SFF Chris West.

Chris was honored for his 40 years service to the brigade. To put that into perspective, when Chris started volunteering I was 8 years old, Counting The Beat by The Swingers was the number one song, chicken nuggets hadn't been invented, the internet was the webbing in your togs and fire was still a relatively new concept.

There is no substitute for experience and I for one always feel more confident at an incident with "Westy" at the wheel. We are honoured to salute you Chris, and are grateful for the commitment and experience you bring to the brigade.

The crew from the Big Red Truck

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Kaitake Football

Summer winds and late afternoon sun beat down on the well groomed, rabbit holed grass of Corbett Park. 40 odd men hobble and grunt in small packs around the boundary lines, like herds of overweight goats in the January sun.

Heavy breathing commences as laces are tied, ankles strapped and beer bellies tucked under shrunken football shirts. These are no doubt, positive signs of the beginnings of a new season approaching for the Kaitake Football Club in 2021. Merely an idea two years ago, shared between friends over a strong espresso at High Tide Cafe. Now coming into Kaitake's third football season, the idea has grown from casual coffee chit-chat to an established, successful and well respected club. Filled with an array of local talent, deep community spirit and pride for a new club that rivals many long established players in the region.

Six weeks into training and beer bellies continue to shrink, despite best efforts at Butlers after training. Breathing easier and jerseys not as tight, laps around the park become more disciplined and frequent with every passing week thanks to our new head coach, Manuel Luque. A seasoned footballer with a wealth of knowledge and passion for the game, he looks forward to the 2021 Kaitake chapter and the healthy mix of youth and experience present in this year's teams as we head into the Taranaki Premiership League, a momentous effort and milestone for the club.

Pulling aside Jimmy Bevington, our Club President, before he jogged another lap out, I asked



for his perspective regarding Kaitake FC and our club's collective vision for the year ahead. "The directive for the club has always been pretty clear, to help as many people play sport as we possibly can. We are seeing already that 2021 is going to be a really exciting year for the club with registrations significantly higher for the 3rd year in a row, and it is tremendously exciting for us to be starting a 3rd senior men's team. The credit for our growth without doubt has to be placed with the overwhelming sup-

port we get from our community. It has given us a great platform of positivity and with that I pass on our immense gratitude."

As we journey into our third and most challenging season thus far, feel free to follow the ongoing adventures of Kaitake Football Club through our Facebook Page or website and to learn when and where we are playing next. We welcome all newcomers and deeply appreciate the ongoing support we receive from our sponsors, fans and community alike.



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Sunday Sessions

Netball Games

3pm at Ōākura School Courts
Starting Sunday 9th May

We hope you have all had a great summer break and are now looking forward to the winter sports. Kaitake Netball Club will be starting up the Sunday Sessions Casual Netball games from Sunday 9th May. Registration will take place at this time also. Bring \$20 (covers the whole season).

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, Kaitake Netball Club, to stay updated.

We will play over Term 2 & 3.

No Commitment.

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Good opportunity to meet some fellow women living in the village.

We look forward to seeing you back out on the court.

Any queries contact Toni Peacock:
thowison@hotmail.com or 021 661 912



Ōākura Tennis Club

This was the first year that Ōākura has entered an A Grade Fours team - a team made up of just 4 players (any gender), playing one game of singles and one game of doubles. Jack Husband, Ryan Waite, Noah Lash and Charlie Bridges were the main stays of the team, supplemented when required by a variety of subs from the club.

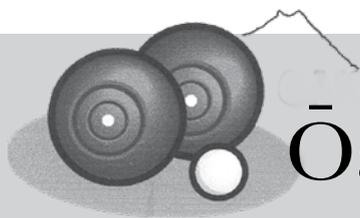
The Fours teams are often made up of ex Soffe cup players who either don't want to play 3 games on a Saturday anymore or don't have a Soffe Cup team at their club, so the competition was pretty tough. Our team had a mixed bag of successes with a few wins, a few draws and quite a few hard fought losses.... finishing 5th on the points table. This young team will only get better and it was great to have a competition for them to play in given there wasn't an A3 grade this year.

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Club Championships

Steve Muller and Don Hinton won the Championship Pairs with a come from behind win over the duo of Andy Shearer and Ray Haslip. The Shearer outfit raced away to a 10 – 2 lead but with Hinton finding his range late in the game and Muller timing in with some clutch bowls the duo powered home to win 21 – 16.

The 1st round in the club's Singles Championship has been completed with Ray Haslip, Rod Smith, Andy Shearer, Allan Bridgeman and Kurt Smith qualifying for post sectional play. Well done to the qualifiers and we look forward to some exciting and entertaining games over the coming weeks.

Interclub Tournaments

Ōākura finished strongly with 3 from 4 wins in the final round to win the Nth Div mid-week Gilmour Cup. Great work to all participating members and congratulations to selectors Roy Phillips and Paul Coxhead for orchestrating an excellent victory.

The young and talented Ōākura brigade of Adam Collins, Kurt Smith and Aidan Zittersteijn have advanced to the semi-final of the Taranaki Centre triples.

The trio played with great skill, determination and finesse to achieve their semi-final berth and have a great opportunity to add another win to their growing Taranaki titles portfolio. Our best wishes are with the lads.

The 3-day Nth Island LVA tournament was held at the West End bowling club with the Ōākura team of Steve Muller, Kerry McGovern, Bruce Jackson and Andy shearer winning the

Consolation Cup. Well done to the team, and the boys are keen to follow up their good result when the event travels to Tauranga next year.

The trio of Peter Radich, Bruce Jackson and Wayne Robinson finished 2nd in the over 60s 3-day tournament played at West End. The guys played consistent high-quality bowls against some of Taranaki's best bowlers and were justly rewarded with a top 2 finish.

A successful weekend was in order for the two Ōākura teams contesting the highly competitive 2-day classic fours (Spurdle) tournament played at Inglewood. The Peter Radich led team of Steve Muller, Kevin Fleming and Bob Anderson and the Jim Priest skipped quartet of Alan Bridgeman, Bruce Jackson and Wayne Robinson finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. It was a tremendous effort by all the players and a great result for the club.

Club News

A big thanks to Jean Sandel for sponsoring the two Ōākura BBQ bowls evenings played over the last two months. These tournaments were a great success and gave non-bowlers a first taste of this great game.

Ōākura is proud again to partner up with the Okato Bowling Club for their 2-day tournament played on 17th & 18th of April. Greens at both clubs will be used over the weekend with prize giving along with the 'best feed' in town at the Okato clubrooms on Sunday 18th afternoon.

The Underarm Bowler

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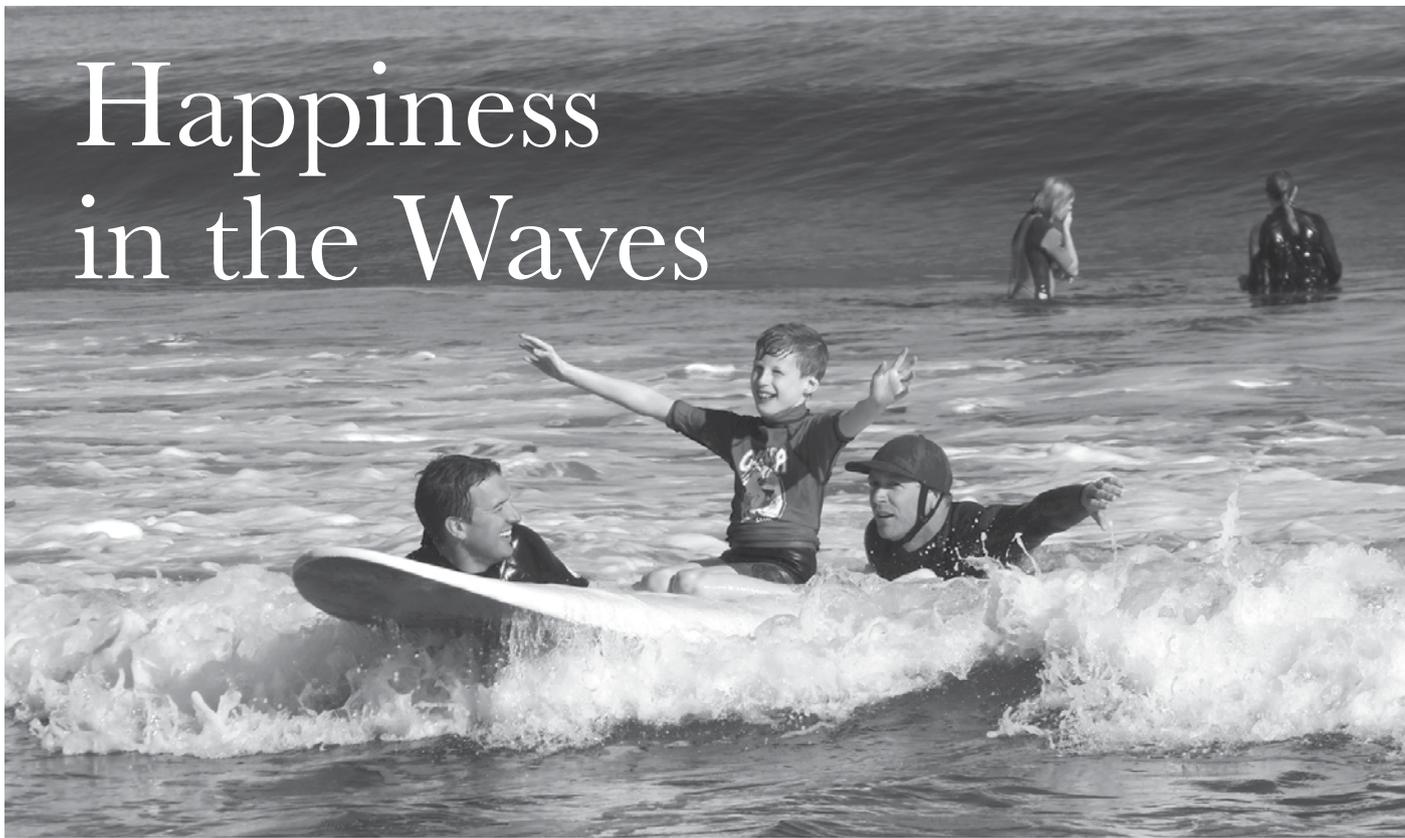
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Happiness in the Waves



The Parafed Taranaki & Halberg Disability Sports Foundation Surfing Day was held Saturday 13th March. This event is an annual fixture that dates back 10 years. It gives our club an opportunity to give back to our local community by supporting these kids to jump in the ocean and ride a wave, something we may take for granted sometimes. The smiles and screams of excitement from these kids was very emotional. Can't thank everyone enough that came down to help & support.



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Surf Life Saving Club

Well where to start.... COVID got us again.

Oceans 21 was once again amazing with an absolute awesome crew of 33 troopers from NPOB. We got the first 3 days and then COVID turned up and the finals day which covered the 3 big water races, Surf, Board and Diamond, was cancelled. Congratulations and commiserations to those that made the finals, bring on 2022. (Sorry u14s, it will have to be a Senior Nationals final for you guys next year).

We did however manage to get a few finals in before Sunday. Congratulations to Darcy O'Sullivan who got a bronze medal in the u12 girls flags and also to Darcy O'Sullivan, Freddie Chambers, Kohen Hareb-Hine and Pearl Shearer who got a bronze medal in the u12 beach relay.

Tough, challenging conditions – rips, troughs, big sets, all sorts of shaped waves. Impressive and inspiring watching 900 11-14 year olds from all over New Zealand battle through



their races with smiles, laughs and tears.

Regrettably for our Seniors, the TSB Nationals were cancelled. Really gutting for everyone, 1500 competitors from all over NZ were due to compete at Ohope 11-14 March. Our seniors will now head to Fitzroy for fun end of season carnival with Fitzroy, East End, Opunake and of course NPOB. Not quite the same but a good blow out amongst mates.

IRBs are up next in April, competing for National titles in Ruakaka. At this stage it is looking promising for them to go ahead. They missed out last year with lockdown, another cancellation would be a tough blow.

Early March we had our Under 7 Ribbon Day which the little kids love. Under 7s are

too young to compete in local carnivals so Ribbon Day is their very own turn to shine. They had a fun day with lots of smiles.

Weekend patrol finished up over Taranaki Anniversary weekend. If you are out in the water now, please make smart decisions. Check conditions before you go in, don't swim alone and always keep your kids within arm's reach. Once again, a really big thank you to our volunteer lifeguards, some of them have done 45 hours plus lifeguard hours along with a whole lot of other time that they continuously give to the club and the members. You are all appreciated!

For more info on NPOB contact Jaynie McSweeney 027 374 3762

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Coming Up

April

2-6 Easter Break

9 ANZAC Commemoration 9.15am

16 End of Term 1

May

3 Start of Term 2

Life Education truck week 1



Triathlon with a Slippery Finish

On the 26th February all students of Ōmata participated in our annual triathlon. Students and whānau gathered at the swimming pool to cheer each other on as the newest students got ready to splash their way through the pool. After the 5 yr olds had finished their length, their year 7 and 8 buddies heaved them out of the pool and onto the next leg. When the the rest of the younger students finished their swim, most of the school was crowded around the tennis court watching the biking length as the kids finished their two laps on their bikes or scooters. Once everyone had finished the biking leg, it was on to the last leg of the triathlon, the running. As they ran their little legs round the whole field, the older students began their biking on the opposite side of the field. They pumped their legs on their bikes around the rugby field twice finishing just after the last of the younger students slid their way across the finish line and happily received their, soon to be demolished, ice blocks. Shortly after, the older students began their second lap of the running leg. Then like a stampede of raging buffalo, the first of them skidded along the slippery finish line and were shortly followed by the rest of the students as a big applause came for the last of the competitors. It was great to experience the great support from peers and whānau. It was such an amazing day.



Introducing our Lead Ambassadors for 2021; Louis Hickson, Noah Glasgow, Ella James and Natalie Withers

Swimming Lessons

At Ōmata we've been really fortunate this term to have the amazing help from Tenaya Richardson, who is a professional swim coach, in all the classes. Tenaya has been helping everyone develop their skills in the water. Students have been perfecting strokes, developing buoyancy, building confidence and learning about water safety. It has been really apparent, and shows at events like the triathlon, what a difference the lessons have had on everyone's confidence and skills in the water.

By Louis and Natalie



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Oākura School Year 8 Leadership

The year eight's leadership learning is up and running. Oākura School offers the choice of eight different leadership positions for 2021. These leadership positions are: Art, Media, Sports, Student Mentor, ICT, Manukura, Enviro and Head Pupil.

They all are ready for 2021 and have plans for their leadership roles already! I took the opportunity recently to chat to a few of these budding leaders to find out about their plans for the year.

First up, one of this year's enviro leaders; Samantha Bentall. Samantha and her Enviro colleague, Triston Priest, already have lots of ideas (not yet approved) for the Oākura School's enviro centre such as an annual tour of the enviro centre for the community and school to learn more about our native plants, trees and their history. This tour will give insights on Oākura School's environmental work, such as our yearly beach cleanup and teaching kids all about different plants and trees! "THE ENVIRONMENT RULES!" says Samantha.

One of our art leaders for this year is Melissa

Killian. She says that this year's art leaders are planning to run a drama club for kids that enjoy acting, playing some games and inventing their own plays.

Speaking of games, Kohen Hareb-Hine is a sports leader this year. He comments that the sports leaders are going to be setting up a fun athletics day for years 1-8 on Oākura School's back field. This will be a good chance to show their skills in leading the activities while everyone gets to have fun at the same time.

The student mentors job is to help year 1 and 2 students with their reading, writing and mathematics learning. One of these mini teachers, Jessie Burnand, says that this year's student mentors are planning a special activity day for the kids, where the student mentors set out loads of games and activities for their junior buddies to play and win prizes. Jessie says, "We have two whole pages of plans!"

Last but not least are our Head Pupils, they help to run a variety of student events. This year's successful Head Pupils are Darcy O'Sullivan, Cooper Ferguson, Libby Tito and Jonty Hilliam. According to Darcy, this year they want to start a fundraiser for St John's NZ - Ambulance Ser-

vice, to help them buy new equipment to help their many patients. All in all this year's leaders at Oākura School have got off to a sharp start and are ready to make 2021 the best year yet!

Our ICT leaders have discussed ways in which to look after all of our devices and help with problem solving when something goes wrong with our devices. They are also thinking about running a coding or Minecraft club for students at lunchtimes.

Our Manukura leaders help to promote and organise events to celebrate te reo Māori. They are about to start our token system in which students are rewarded for speaking te reo Māori in the playground and classrooms. We also see our Manukura leaders helped lead at Kapahaka and we can't wait to see what other ideas they come up with. We have also seen them in action for school pōwhiri when they welcome guests into our school.

Last of all we have our media leader - me! I write these articles and take photos of school events. I also have a couple of ideas up my sleeve for the year as well.

Ella Kitson (age 12)

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TOP Activities

Ōākura

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 7530120

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

Jewellery Making Classes with Sally Laing

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sally@sallylaing.co.nz 027 664 3511

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

Music Group, Mini Groovers

All parents welcome with babies/under 5's.
Every Tuesday during term time 10-11am
at the Church Hall. Gold coin donation.

Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Ōākura Yoga

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Pickleball Ōākura

Ōākura Hall - Wed 7.30pm, Thurs
9.15am and Thurs 7.30pm. 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. Visitors welcome.
oakura@playcentre.org.nz

Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238
traceymackkyle@gmail.com

Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday night over
winter commencing daylight saving at
7pm at Butlers Reef. All visitors and
new members welcome. For further info
contact Margaret on 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 Peacock 021 661 912
thowison@hotmail.com

St James Church

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

Sunday School - St James Church

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am.
stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Tennis Club

Cardio tennis Thurs 9.15am,
Group coaching Fri 9.15am,
Development squad Tues 4.30-6pm,

Junior coaching Mon-Wed check
www.blitztennis.nz.

Juniors Tash 027 775 5440,
Seniors/mid-week 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

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

Gymnastics Group for children age 5-7 years.

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 okatosquash1@gmail.com.
Ladies morning every Friday 9.30 -11am.
First 2 sessions free, racquets available.
All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

Ōmata

Ōmata Playgroup

contact Ōmata School 751 2308

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