

The Ōākura Post

June 2020



*Arla & Phoebe Bennett practising their Highland dancing on the beach during Lockdown
taken by Stuart Bennett*

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TOP Notices

Do You Have?

Any issues of The Ōākura Messenger from our very first issues in October 2000 to July 2002?

Please let me know, I would be able to copy them and return to you.
Many thanks in advance.

The Community notice board which had been outside the Four Square is looking for a new home. The Kaitake Community Board would love feedback from the community for suggestions of where it would be best situated.

douglashislop@gmail.com or
editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

TOP The Ōākura Post

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

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers?

Please contact us with details.

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Welcome to the Ōākura Post

'Never, never, never give up on something that you can't go a day without thinking about.'

I saw this quote some time ago in a magazine, it was an artwork from a son to his mother, and it resonated with me. So much so, that ten years after resigning from my position at the TOM I've taken up again the opportunity to co-ordinate our local paper.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown, our TOM editor Kim Ferens announced that she was shutting down the TOM as it was no longer viable. In the early days of the TOM, Kim and I were co-owners and editors and I'd like to acknowledge again the brilliant job she has done keeping it going these last ten years. The excerpt in 'Going Back In Time' below gives a snapshot of the paper's history just before Kim took on co-ownership.

As a resident of Ōākura and having founded the publication 20 years ago, I am convinced that we need a community paper now more than ever. The reason I started the paper then remains the same today, local news for local people. Covid-19 optimists say NZ has an opportunity to reinvent itself, and with that I have rebranded the TOM as The Ōākura Post. I am excited to be back.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people who have been instrumental in getting this issue into letterboxes. Thank you advertisers, clubs, groups, organisations, and the many others who have expressed gratitude to me for taking up the mantle again. Thank you to Charlie Robertson, Suki Bishop, Rosie Moyes, Elayne Kessler and Andrea Leadbetter, you can read more about them in future issues. For all of you, a smile has been on my face. You are TOP people.

Tracey Lusk

Going Back In Time

The story of tom

TOM started out as The Oakura Messenger which was conceived in October 2000 at a discussion over dinner. Tracey Lusk and Sue Pritt toyed with the idea of a newsletter that catered specifically for the Oakura community. Tracey credits the Messenger's initial success to Sue's enthusiasm. "If it wasn't for Sue it would never have started. She took the idea and ran with it. She came the next day and said "Right this is how we should do it" Back in those days The Messenger consisted of four A4 pages. In order to cover the costs, The Messenger initially needed 12 advertisers. This was Tracey's job.

"I went, armed with a piece of paper, and

said "This is what we're going to do, and we want advertisers, and it's going to cost you x dollars, are you keen?" And we got twelve advertisers off a mock up. "Thinking back now I think 'That's pretty amazing really'. We had great support for something that people didn't know anything about. I thought the idea sold itself."

At the end of March that year, Sue Pritt decided to leave The Messenger and Catherine Jones joined, bringing with her that all important member of the team, Desktop Publisher. Bringing more than just her computer skills and software, Catherine's arrival marked a period of growth for The Messenger.

*Except from a story written by David Cadman published in TOM 2002.
You can read the full story at thetom/pdf/oakura-december-2002.pdf*

TOP Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that every row, column and 3 x 3 square contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

Solution on page 15

		8	7	3			9	
		4	6					
9	3							1
5		3	2				4	
				1				
	8				5	2		3
6					7		3	2
					6	4		
	5			2	3	9		

Mount Taranaki photo by Rosie Moyes

Kaitake Community Board

By Doug Hislop

It's certainly been an interesting couple of months for us all. Everything was pretty much in its normal balance in the community, and right around the country, back in early March but within a week or so everything was turned on its head most extraordinarily. However, other than the constant looming threat of Covid 19 danger it's been a beautiful couple of months, we've been blessed by superb autumn weather.

Many of us were dismayed when we learned the TOM would not be continuing. It's been a major part of community storytelling for the best part of the last twenty years. Kim Ferens has worked hard for such a long time keeping everyone informed with local goings-on through each issue of the TOM.

Thanks on behalf of us all Kim for your dedication and perseverance in the continual production of this little, but very vital community link. I'm so pleased that Tracey Lusk is prepared to keep the TOM concept going as The Ōākura Post. Many newer residents may not know, but Tracey actually started the TOM away back in the day, so in a way, it's a bit of a homecoming for her in that regard. We all need to get in behind and support Tracey's endeavours, especially over the next few months.

There has been a huge amount of behind the scenes Council work going on during the lockdown. The first part of the Council's action was to ensure that it could and would manage all essential services during the period and it is abundantly clear it has done that well. It was also crucial to carry out a great deal of high-level work to gather data and model possible scenarios about how to get past this unexpected event and the best way to put in place relief, early recovery and long-term re-

covery strategies for the district's residents. This has been exceedingly intensive work. It has meant revising the 2020/21 Annual Plan by 30 June with regard to the current situation and consideration of long-term impacts. Much preliminary work had already been carried out during the end of last year and the first part of 2020, but all of that has had to be re-visited, revised, reduced, and refined from the new perspective we found ourselves in.

There have been all sorts of questions to work through. Two issues on their own have demanded a huge amount of staff expertise and time to analyse data and make recommendations to the councillors. These are, can baseline rates be reduced through reprioritising the capital works programme and what can council do to provide relief and support to stakeholders and the community? All this work has resulted in the 'Getting Us Back On Our Feet' project. This was made available in a variety of ways for the public to have its say on the stimulus packages that were aligned with the principles of the central government's rescue processes.

Staff had to also develop funding applications for the government's shovel-ready projects within a very short timeframe (with Easter in the middle of it). Every local authority in the country has rushed to apply for a slice of that funding so Council staff have done a huge amount of hard yards to gather together all the required application information and build some compelling arguments why its several applications should be chosen even though there is no hard and fast figure of how big the pool is or the length of time it will be rolled out over.

The KCB has been soldiering away behind

the scenes too. I have attended many zoom meetings and have become quite a dab hand at working in this digital interface. Imagine how hard it would have been for all of us if the government broadband upgrade hadn't been rolled out across the country.

Current projects we are working on are the establishment of a kids mountain bike facility in Shearer Reserve, getting some funding together to support the replacement of the lighting poles at Corbett Park, re-booting the urban predator-trapping project, and analysing the state of the Matekai Park and Oakura Beach trails for some possible maintenance work. The biggie is to review the Kaitake Community Plan. It is proposed that Council Service Managers (and budget holders) will consider the community board plan in formulating their draft proposed work plans and budgets for the 2021/31 LTP.

Here is the link to our community plan, we certainly welcome any feedback you may wish to provide us with.

<https://www.newplymouthnz.com/-/media/NPDC/Documents/Council/Council%20Documents/Plans%20and%20Strategies/Kaitake%20Community%20Board%20Plan.ashx>

Well, that's it for this initial issue of TOP. The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the NPOB Surf Club at 5pm on Monday 22 June. At this point, we have no knowledge if it will be an off-site zoom meeting or a restricted public meeting.

Ka kite anō au i a kotou.

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

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Keith Preston

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We Are All in this Together

What a long strange trip it's been. Just over two months ago 15,000 of us gathered under a beautiful blue Taranaki sky in the Bowl of Brooklands, having welcomed musical acts from all corners of the globe to WOMAD.

While Europe, North America and Asia were shutting down we were coming together for what seemed like the last great party on Earth, at least for 2020. We were the envy of the world. We may have been lucky that a cluster of Covid-19 cases did not emerge from the event but I believe it was the right decision at the time under the circumstances to go ahead with the show.

It seems like a lifetime ago. Now, as we have emerged from our lockdown we are again the envy of the rest of the world having in essence eliminated the virus from our shores. We are the lucky ones, led by a coherent, compassionate government following advice from public health experts, and part of a largely responsible population of people that looked after one another by following the rules laid out. The future remains uncertain, but here in New Zealand we can feel good about where we are.

There was a great degree of uncertainty going into lockdown, and a great deal of stress out there as we were facing a massive unknown. Would we or our loved ones fall ill and maybe die, would we lose our jobs, would we ever

by Brad Ellington - MD

see friends and family overseas again? What the actions of our government have done is buy us time for when Covid-19 reappears, or the next virus emerges. The health system of this country was woefully unprepared for an outbreak on the scale of what happened in other parts of the world.

There was a critical shortage of ICU beds, ventilators, negative pressure isolation rooms, masks, and testing capabilities. The lockdown has allowed much of the deficiencies to be addressed. Testing and contact tracing has been thorough, identifying clusters and isolating suspected cases to prevent further spread. Hospitals have done some miraculous engineering in preparation.

Taranaki Base hospital and Hawera hospital now have negative pressure isolation rooms on the ward and in the ED which, though the installation of massive fans and filters, ensures the virus does not spread to the rest of the hospital. Protocols and medical teams were created and are continually being adapted as the knowledge of the virus and the course of the illness it causes changes.

The hard work of the community in adhering to the lockdown rules bought us time to make some of these changes, to obtain more PPE,

to increase testing capabilities and to see what treatment strategies have either worked or not worked in the rest of the world.

Simple things like having sick patients change position from lying on their backs to on their stomachs for periods of the day has shown to improve outcomes.

Studies are being conducted on a variety of medications, therapies and vaccines that may prove to be effective. We are now in a place where even with a re-emergence of the virus we are far less likely to have our healthcare system overwhelmed as has occurred elsewhere.

It has certainly been an interesting two months and who knows what the months ahead hold for us all. I remain optimistic that the world will emerge on the other side of the pandemic in a stronger place, better positioned to deal with future global emergencies and hopefully have nations and leaders who are more willing to cooperate and share resources with one another.

Continue to look after yourselves by making healthy choices in your lives, wash your hands, stay home if you are ill, look out for each other and remember we are all in this together.

Dr Brad Ellington moved from Kansas to Oakura nine years ago with his wife and three children. He is a Consultant in the Emergency Department at Taranaki Base Hospital



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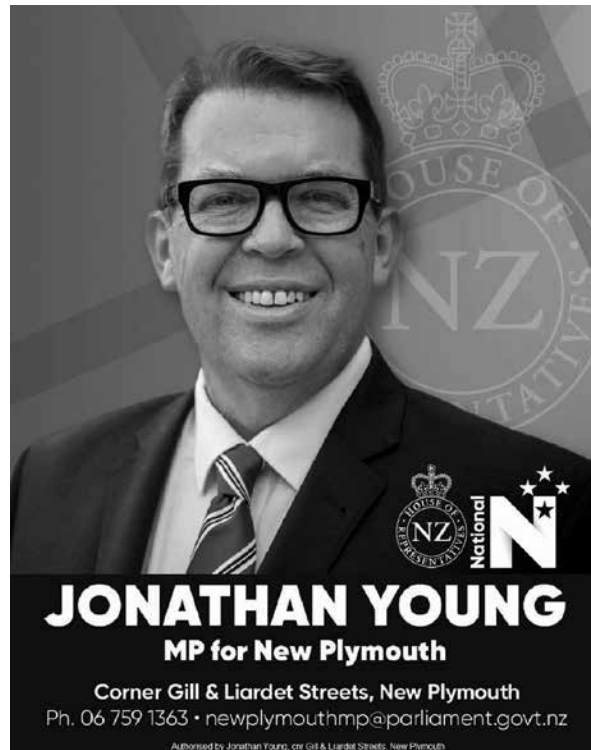
Jonathan Young

MP for New Plymouth
National Party Spokesperson: Energy & Resources
National Party Spokesperson: Regional Economic Development (NI)

I was very sad to hear that we were to lose the TOM among the economic fallout from Covid-19. So it was heartening to see Tracey Lusk pick up the baton and commit to returning to the publication that she helped found 20 years ago. At times like these, anything that serves to bring our communities together becomes even more valuable, and TOM has been a real asset for the people of Oakura.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kim Ferens for the outstanding job she has done in recent years. Kim has a real heart for the community and that showed in every edition.

While TOM has survived the lockdown as the Oākura Post, a number of local businesses have suffered and I feel for those who've lost their jobs and livelihoods. Over the last three months, my team and I have spent many hours contacting constituents, community groups and business owners, large and small. We've heard some harrowing stories from employers and workers of their attempts to save jobs while struggling to cope with loss of income.



It is to be hoped that they will be supported as we recover from the Covid lockdown.

Taranaki is in a relatively good position to help with the rebuild. We provide the primary produce that people need, from food and dairy to logging and fuels of a variety of sorts.

We are facing a difficult challenge, but that's not something that Taranaki has ever shied away from and I have every confidence that we will strive together and prosper in the testing months to come. And from a National Party perspective, our new leader Todd Muller has signalled his intentions to positively focus on the Covid-recovery. By becoming spokesperson for Small Business, Todd is acknowledging the importance of that sector to protecting jobs and rebuilding the economy. As the heart of our communities, supporting local business is a great way to support local jobs, so I encourage you to join in

with the Go Local Go Taranaki campaign.

If there is anything I can assist you with, please phone my office (06) 759 1363 or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

Planting Up the Dunes

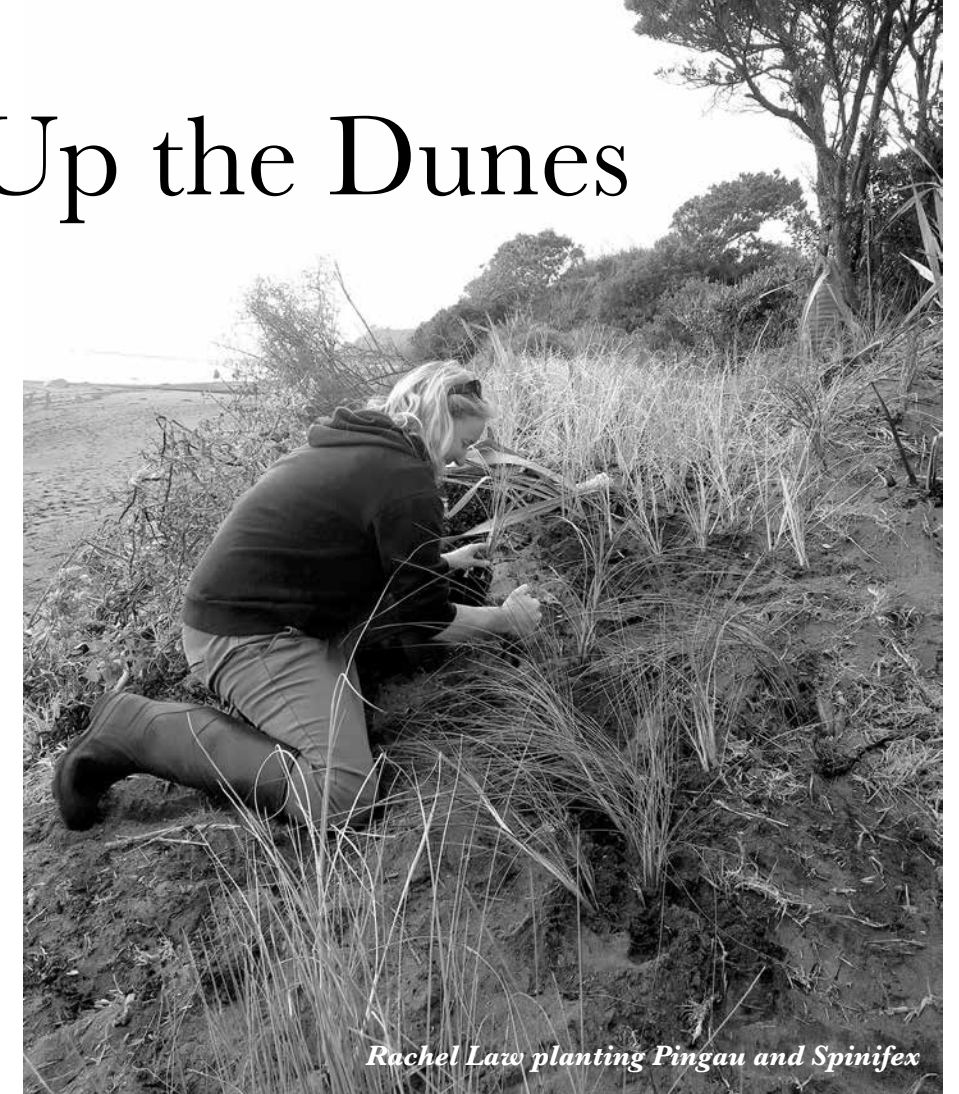
The New Plymouth District Council has again provided us with a bunch of lovely plants to plant at the end of Weld Road. The last couple of years we have planted grasses they provided, but this year we have some coastal trees and bushy plants to put in too. We are delighted!

Many local people have helped us with the planting in the last couple of years but for anyone who is new to this activity, here's why it's important. If we think of our rivers as the life blood of the land, we can think of the coastline as the skin, the protective layer that forms a defence against the rugged west coast elements. The wind, the big stormy seas and surging current at the end of the rivers.

The sand dunes on the coast are a big part of that protection. Our coastal walkways and those of us lucky enough to live on the coast get protection from a sturdy healthy sand dune. If you have been walking along the beach from Oakura to Ahu Ahu you will have noticed how the big autumn swells and king tides have been eating away at the sand and exposing the edge of the dune grasses. The pretty amazing thing is that these dune grasses put their roots in deep, hold on to lots of sand and have well designed long tendrils. They can be pushed around by the sea but will settle back down, pushing back, putting roots down and collecting sand again.

You will notice how the planting by keen locals in the area has extended the dunes well down the beach. The coastal section we are planting between Weld Road and Ahu Ahu Road is one of the most vulnerable on our local coastline. There has been a massive sand spit formed across the bottom of the Timaru River at the bottom of Weld Road, pushing the river up against the sand dune and washing it out.

The massive rain at the end of May has eaten this sand spit away, pulling the river back so hopefully this will help us in our mission to restore the dune. There are two reasons for looking after this section of coast. You can read



Rachel Law planting Pingau and Spinifex

by Rosemary Law

about the Hauranga Pā and Kāinga site there. The sign asks us to respect the history of this place and gives us a bit of information. Though most of us don't know much about its history, we can show respect by not walking on it.

I know very little about the history but I understand Maori coastal communities traditionally buried their dead at the end of their land closest to the sea so that the spirits of their ancestors could fly off to their ancestral place. Showing respect by not walking on this place where they are buried also protects this environment from damage by human traffic.

There are very few times we can't walk along the beach, king high tides will block it off so check the tides before you go walking. Lots of websites tell you when the tides are.

We are really hoping restoration of this awesome section of our coast will encourage sea birds back, including the very cute little blue penguins we used to see there while surfing but have sadly not obviously been around for a while. A healthy dune habitat provides amazing benefits for us and the creatures we share this space with.

The planting mission will be on a weekend soon when the weather is nice enough, keep an eye out for a notice on Vertigo Facebook and at Vertigo shop.

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Ōākura Library

We are pleased to say that as of 21 May, Ōākura Library opened to the public under the safe working rules for Alert Level 2.

We have a slight change of opening hours for the winter months:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday we will be open from 11am - 5pm.

The return slot is open for after-hours drop offs. Our WiFi is back on 8am – 8pm, the colour photocopier is available for use and as of 1st July children's library accounts (that is anyone under the age of 18) will not incur overdue fines.

There will be some changes to the way we operate as we continue to play it safe and these include no public programmes, multiple cleans throughout the day, asking for your details for contact tracing, limiting entry and asking for patience and kindness as there may be a queue to get in. We also want to reassure customers that no fines will incur on library items that were due to be returned during our closure from 20 March until 21 May.

Charlie and I have been busy since level 3, we started our home delivery service! We delivered over 300+ books to our over 65 year old library patrons, to their doorstep and we felt like book angels! Although this service has now stopped, if we missed you out please check in with us and update your contact details.

Our shelves are bursting with new books we've received over the last two months! Also check out the delightful new picture books 'A Stack of Alpacas', 'Show and Tell' and 'Bob goes Pop'. Inspiring messages and fun rhyme, very enjoyable!

We've missed you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Charlie and Vincenza

Puke Ariki NPDC



Club Championships

Congratulations to all the Club Champions for the 2019/2020 season. The club wishes them success as they represent Oakura in the Bowls Taranaki Champion of Champions series now to played early in the new season. The Shield final and First Year singles have also been pencilled in to be played at the beginning of next season. Well done to Bowls Taranaki to include these tournaments in next year's programme.

At Club level the highly prized Collins Trophy has reluctantly been cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions, however the remaining games in the President Trophy (handicap singles) will be added to next year's playing programme.

Club News

The AGM for the Oakura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday 28rd June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving and club acknowledgements.

My highlights for the season would be the winning of Saturday Northern Division Shield Trophy, retaining the mid-week interclub Avery Cup and a very credible 2nd place in the 1st Division Pennants competition. As club Captain it was promising and rewarding to see a number of first year and under 5 years bowlers participate and perform to a very high standard in the Club Championship tournaments. Recognition must also go to Wayne Robinson and his team who have excelled in providing the club with a world class green. Great effort guys, it was a real pleasure to play on such a high-quality surface.

As this will be the last column for 2019/2020 season, I would like to thank all those members that have assisted in the day to day running of the green, bar and administration of the club over the past year. The wider membership owes you all a great depth of gratitude. Without the support of volunteers such as yourselves, the club would not be in the fantastic position it is today. A big thanks goes to the two amigos of Rod Smith and Mike Vickers who work tirelessly and continually throughout the year in maintaining the surrounds and clubrooms in such a magnificent condition.

The club is a tremendous asset for the wider Oakura community and everyone is welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club on Friday evenings from 4.30pm to 7pm throughout the winter months. Who knows, we may even entice you to take up this great game.

The Underarm Bowler



Oakura Tennis Club

Jackie Keenan - Secretary
Ph 027 673 2900

We will all have lasting memories from Lockdown and hopefully everyone had some great experiences to remember it by. Mine are delicious homemade meals including pasta, gnocchi, homemade ice cream, feijoas and beach walks in our bubble.

Tennis wise we were kind of lucky in that the tennis season was drawing to a close when COVID 19 struck with only the finals getting cancelled. We didn't get to run Club Champs or have an end of season bbq so next summer will be a goodie to make up for it!

Well done on Soffe, A2 Wilson Trophy and A3 Sumpter Trophy, all making the semi-finals this season. Unfortunately we had to default Soffe which was really gutting as we had a committed team of Sue Oldfield, Grace Kelly, Taylor Mitchell, Jackie Keenan, Ana Spurdle and ring in Catherine Stevenson for women with Graeme Mitchell, Jaime Simpson, Brady Simpson, Josh Walden and Andrew Hood all season. Unfortunately we had injuries and work commitments for four of our men leaving Josh as sole available male. Rotokare got a free ticket to the final against Pukekura.

A2 Wilson Trophy semi-final we were beaten by Pukekura but not without a battle.

A3 Sumpter Trophy semi-final we lost to Pukekura 12-4, but with 4 super ties all going the way of Pukekura it could have easily gone to countback with an 8-8 draw.

Thank you to all those who committed to Friday nights and/or Saturdays to play or watch their kids play tennis – over 95 of you! And a big thanks to those who organised the teams each week, and I want to say a special thanks to all those who filled in for us when we begged you – thank you so much, no doubt we will be in touch again next season!



Kama Rung-Hansen and Callum Lewis

It was great to see Matt Stringer at cardio tennis for a catch up while he was back in NZ showing off their new baby daughter Willow in February. The club were lucky to have Jaime Simpson coaching this season and we're sad to see him go. We didn't get to give him a send-off due to COVID 19 so that must mean he will be back one day! We wish him all the best farming down south and potentially heading across the ditch in the future.

There are no coaching activities over winter but

we are hoping to welcome Matt Stringer back next season.

For those that have been to the school courts you will have seen the signage. To aid with contact tracing tennis nz has developed a tracking system where you book online with details of who you are playing with. Please remember to fill this in whenever you play.

Hope everyone is still finding time to enjoy our slice or paradise – how beautiful have the sunsets been? Not to mention the surf!!



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Roamie Trinder, Hazel Butler, Thea Hohaia, Noam Carmi, Robyn Lander (Head Teacher), Sophie Van Hyfte, Ellie Hutchings, Florence Covello, Harlow Davies.

Kaitake Kindergarden

Level 2 was announced by the Government and all of the children were very excited about returning to Kindergarten. They had been very busy at home enjoying time in their 'bubbles', exploring what their nearby community had to offer. As time went on many of the children were very keen to return to Kindergarten. The children enjoyed the resources that the teachers put on the online learning portal for our families. This was a great way to keep in touch, the teachers would post something online and soon after we were receiving feedback and also families telling us what they were doing and learning about.

Everyone seemed to be having fun enjoying such a variety of activities, lots of the families participated in the teddy bear hunt and at Easter time there were some activities for the children to participate in. Parents have said that they feel very fortunate to be living in a community that embraced the challenges and made this into a special family bubble time for their children.

The key approach that we took when moving to Level 2 is that children were returning to kindergarten as if they were returning from a long break like we have at Christmas / New Year time. Apart from additional cleaning, hygiene requirements, and tracking and tracing procedures it is business as usual here at Kaitake kindergarden. All of the children have done very well with the new hygiene practices, hand washing. Sanitising is an essential part of the day with the children understanding the need for this.

We are all very happy here at Kaitake, it is business as usual, and we are all having fun times and learning as we settle back into kindergarten post Covid-19. Thank you to all of the children for being such 'super heroes' in this very challenging time.



Te Reo Māori Lessons in Ōākura

Tēnā koutou tāngata mā. Hope you and your whānau are all well and enjoying being out of your bubbles.

We had to postpone the start of the lessons due to COVID-19 but are now looking to get up and running.

We have had enough interest to hold two classes, hopefully this is still the case post lockdown. To those that originally expressed interest, please get in touch again to confirm or withdraw your name if you haven't done so already. We are missing some people's email addresses.

This is a great local opportunity to start your journey and also to link with other people in the community sharing the same interest and creating the networks and opportunities to kōrero Māori. Or perhaps you simply want to learn the very basics and how to pronounce the words we use in everyday life correctly.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to register.

Ngā mihi, Toni Peacock
thowison@hotmail.com

021 661 912

Facebook page @tereooakura

CLASS TIMES:

Monday nights (starting 8th June & Term 3 20th July)

7:00pm – 8:00pm - Level 1

8:15pm - 9:15pm - Level 2 +

\$10/session (first class free)

At the NPOB Surf Club in Ōākura



NPOB Surf Life Saving Club

Like all clubs after a couple of quiet months due to COVID the surf club is slowly opening the doors as the levels drop. At level 3 we were able to use skis and boards and at level 2 the IRBs were allowed to get back in the water.

With the beautiful weather, warm water and not a lot of other sport yet to start, the beach has been a pretty busy place. It is great to see Martin and his team at Black Sand back in action also.

The end of our surf season didn't go quite as planned. Our seniors were lucky to get to Nationals before everything started to get cancelled. Special mention to Jordan Grylls who had a great competition finishing, 9th in the Open Female Flags, 6th in the Open Female Sprints, 7th in the u19 Female Flags and a podium finish with 3rd in the u19 Female Sprints. Unfortunately for our IRB team they weren't so lucky and had their Nationals



cancelled, had to happen but still disappointing for the crews who had put in a lot of time and practice over the season.

Save the date for our AGM which has been set for Friday 24th July, everyone welcome. As the levels lower and gathering sizes increase we will be organising some trainings, club nights, Black Sand table tennis and maybe even a couple of fun runs. Keep an eye on the Facebook page, NPOB Surf Club for all updates. As always everyone welcome.



Kaitake Netball Club held their registration night at Butler's Reef on Wednesday 3rd June. For those who have never been along but are keen to join this year it's not too late.

A reminder that the purpose of these games is to get people back on the court with no commitment and no practises, just play when you can, when it suits you right here in Oakura. You don't even need to travel and it's great fitness. It doesn't get any easier than that.

These Sunday Session Casual Netball games are played at the Oakura School Courts at 3pm and will be played during the remainder of Term 2 & 3 (not including school holidays).

Feel free to come along and find out more if you are interested.

Go to our Facebook page for more information and to follow us – Kaitake Netball Club

We hope to see you back out on the court.

Cheers, Toni Peacock
thowison@hotmail.com

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Big Red Truck

First of all we would like to say a big welcome back to the TOM. It's a great way for us to be able to communicate with our community, Kim has done a great job over the past years and we wish Tracey and the new team all the best.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to you all for limiting your risk over the lockdown. As you can imagine any emergency response needs to happen rapidly and safely. For us it meant taking the unusual measure to split ourselves into two teams that would allow each team to respond on a week on week off basis. So in effect we had our family bubbles and our fire crew bubbles.

The extra PPE (personal protective equipment) we needed to don before we even got to the appliance bay added to the hilarity of rapidly disrobing out of our civvies and into our fire uniforms. With a quick squirt of hand sanitiser, an extra slap of rubber gloves and a small but manly shriek as our facemask straps pinged our ears we were ready to get into the rest of our gear and ride the appliance.

The Oakura community did an amazing job of looking after each other during lockdown, and we look forward to seeing this continue, we're here for you too. If you ever feel the need to call for an emergency please never hesitate to call 111, it's never a disruption or a disturbance for us volunteers to be of aid to our community.

Stay Kind.

The crew from The Big Red Truck

Whats up at Kaitake Golf?

After an unprecedented end to summer golf with the arrival of Covid 19 we are now back on the course and almost back to normal. The rapid 'lockdown' of the country meant that most of the population were confined to their homes apart from those employed in essential services.

Golf courses were closed and not even the green keeper was allowed out there to continue any maintenance. As the weeks passed - week one, week two and then week three, the golf administrators feared for the cost of getting the greens back in order was becoming exorbitant.

They reasoned hard with the Government for an exemption for those greenkeepers who operated on solo positions to be able to maintain the greens and other vital areas in a safe environment. Much to everyone's delight the rules changed and greenkeepers were able to legally get back on the course and restore order. Amazingly, at Kaitake the rest from play had allowed the grass to recuperate well and the damage was limited.

The move from Level 4 to Level 3 meant there could be some play. With a clever booking system golfers could get out either on their own or with someone from the same 'bubble'. It wasn't quite the same, no tee boxes, no flags on the green and for many, no one to talk to. Still it was good to

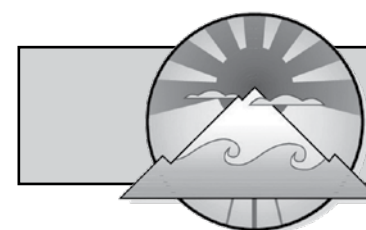
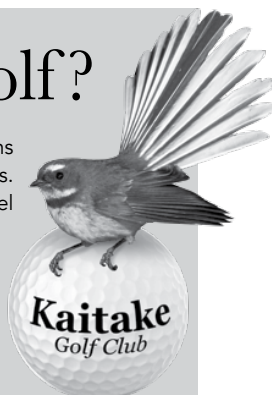
see the tide turn and signs of getting back to business. The next move from Level 3 to Level 2 meant we could start to play with friends while maintaining 'social distancing'. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Competition golf has started again and the Men started their Strokeplay Championships while the Women played a 27 hole competition in outstanding conditions. Over the break we have seen several new players sign up as members and enjoy the facility on their doorstep. Just before the 'lockdown' 13 women enjoyed a beginners Quick 6 introduction to golf. Hopefully they will be back with the same enthusiasm soon.

Coming up on the 21st June is the first Open Tournament Mixed Pairs post Covid19. Contact the Kaitake Office and come and have some fun with your partner.

Kaitake Golf Club welcomes new members any time. We are proud of the well maintained facility we can offer the community. Phone the office and talk to Denise about opportunities to try out golf and see if it is for you.

06 752 7665 (Mon, Wed & Fri 9.00 – 3.00)



OAKURA SCHOOL

Return to School

Lockdown has been interesting, so we have some news to report to you (the reader) about Oakura School and how our school responded to lockdown and how things have changed since our return to school. We have multiple interesting things to share with you. One of the things that has changed on our return to school is that we have new rules that we have to follow.

At Oakura School we did online learning during lockdown. We used Googlemeet for meetings, a range of online google tools for learning and the Seesaw App. We continued with our normal topics online such as reading, writing, maths and art. The things we did during lockdown were either school related or they were for fun, such as using the leg limbs to make them move in a circular pattern to create movement through a mechanism known as a bicycle, watching movies, playing video games etc, etc.

We interviewed some children and teachers and asked them some questions about how they felt about online learning during lockdown. Across the school, most children thought that the online learning was fun, but also challenging. Most students stated that they prefer to be back at school to do their learning. Teachers found that online teaching was also a challenge, especially in that they were not able to give extra help to students when they needed it. Teachers thought that our students and their families were really positive and patient.

Since we have been back at school, students have been playing lots of games and doing lots of art. Teachers have been focussing on helping children to feel welcome back at school.

In conclusion Oakura School has been reacting appropriately to the situation at hand and the children are getting back into a suitable routine.

Aiden Hocking & Lincoln Philips-Lim (Age 12)



Harriet with her nest



Monet with her Monet

LEMONWOOD eatery

French Friday in the Village

We've all been feeling a little caged in lately with the COVID-19 restrictions curtailing our precious social engagements for the better part of two months. The lockdown has seen some local hospitality businesses reduce their hours or close their doors for good. But LEMONWOOD Eatery has bucked the trend. Barbara Olsen-Henderson with her loyal team has decided to open extra hours to give the community more choices rather than less.

If you know Barbara, you'll appreciate that the the saying "Less is more" does not describe her at all. For her - more is never enough. Whether that means colour (her trademark), terrific food, engaging staff or eclectic décor, her desire to give the community somewhere exciting to hang out with their friends more often than before, has seen Lemonwood opening on Friday nights for dinner.

So while there's nothing new about eating out in Oakura, there's a little twist to the new Friday Night Dining. Firstly - there's no menu - you get what you're given, and secondly the price is fixed at just \$38 per person every time. Barbara and her daughter Kelly experienced this charming dining experience in France a few years ago and

Barbara's been wanting to introduce it to the locals for years. So while the cost is modest and the setting a little bohemian, the experience is damned fine!!

The COVID restrictions mean they're capping numbers at 40 at this stage and have been fully booked for the first two weeks of opening in Level 2. So you need to book to ensure you get a table.

And what sort of things are you likely to get? While the mains are a secret till the last minute because that's when Barbara often makes the final decisions, the starting courses are things like Black Bread with beetroot hummus and garlic butter, double dumplings with ginger miso sauce, cumin polenta fries with garlic aioli, bubble and squeak with house-made smoky cheese... the list goes on. All made in house and all plant-based. Not forgetting they serve delicious wines and local artisan beers of course.

Oakura has now got a popular addition to our evening dining establishments and Lemonwood Eatery is putting our little seaside village on the dining map.

Lemonwood Eatery Facebook Page
or call 06 7527 303



Solae - Girl with the Pearl Earring



Govett Quilliam, New Plymouth

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Time to Reflect

Returning to School

Thank you to our year 8 leaders who warmly welcomed our younger students into Omata as they arrived back. It was lovely to see the smiling faces as students were reunited with their friends on Monday morning. We would also like to thank the staff for being so organised and welcoming to our students on their first day back at school.

The children have already had an amazing time back at school and are stuck into their learning. The teachers are easing them in and focusing on some art and creative activities. The students are focusing and showing a great learning ethic.

Thank you for staying resilient and coming to school in these unpredictable times. Staff ensured that the children felt safe and happy as they arrived at school with the extra thought of balloons at all the entrances to the school.

The classes have focused on getting out for physical education and calming, mindfulness activities. As well as that, we have been writing a few poems, focusing on what our quarantine was like and ANZAC day.

Roxy and Lola

It is hard to put into words the upheaval that has occurred during the last couple of months, both personally and professionally. Everyone has been affected and I would like to acknowledge the way our Omata Community, staff and Board have responded to this unprecedented challenge. Children have had many positive experiences and enjoyed the enforced family time. Whilst they are very pleased to be back at school, they realise things are a little different and are embracing the new routines. It has been very stress free with children showing great resilience and independence as they make their way into school from the gate in the morning.

Karen Brisco - Principal

Teachers have all reported that children have had wonderful engagement with learning this week and have settled into routines smoothly. Parents and caregivers, you have all done a great job over the last few weeks! Well done to you all.

Events like this, that produce some large scale and long-term societal change, happen very rarely in history. We have long talked about embracing change and that education is about preparing our children for uncertain futures. Right now is when our ongoing focus on resilience, responsibility, caring for our environment, ourselves and others, comes to the fore. Certainly I feel our staff, students and whanau have demonstrated many times those attributes over the last couple of months.

Enduring adaptations to our societal mores are inevitable; hygiene practices, greetings, travel and gatherings will all be modified, and then over time, relaxed. Our challenge is to instil confidence, feel connected and unpack the recent events. Experiences like singing together, telling stories, creating art, physical activity, games, reflection, mindfulness and philosophy are all playing their part. We will need to be flexible and nimble and build on some of the magic that has emerged during lockdown.

What lingers most after this experience for me, is a pervasive sense that the world is fundamentally unpredictable, and that life feels more fragile than it once did. For some these thoughts may be overwhelming and we must acknowledge this and support the growth of a new strength that will come out of understanding and knowledge.

My hope is that this experience will allow us all to adapt more readily and provide us with new opportunities. I find comfort in knowing that while we try to prepare our children for an uncertain future, it is our values that help us navigate choppy waters.

ANZAC

by Piper Johnson, Year 4

Stomach lurching,
Sadness all around,
Sore and injured,
Beginning to be starved.

Both survivors,
Burns and scars,

Relieved to be home,
Who really won?



Catherine Beggs, R4 with her bubble art



Beau McEldowney, R4 with his bubble art

Lockdown 2020 by Mitchell Fraser, Year 8

The days as we knew them have changed.
The long drives in the motorhome are, for now, extinct. Visitors have stopped calling to visit.
The recycling bin is overflowing as no collections are allowed.
The silence seems so much louder as no longer can I hear trucks shuddering up and down our long road.
The birds sound as if they are surround sound. Different species of birds start to appear before me as if I have only seen that particular bird once before.
The skies are now clear right down to the sea, apart from on the days a fire is lit where smoke billows out and lingers over the countryside for about three days.

The sheep grow extremely woolly, awaiting the time when the shearer is permitted to enter our property, and earn his keep.
One windy day, white dust is flying high over the paddocks. Of course, the farmers are still allowed to work and fertilise the earth.
Time with my dog was awesome, just playing basketball, racing around doing jumps on my bike and generally hanging out together.
Having many opportunities to run around outside to break the learning process and enjoy my best friend, my dog Blake. He was excited about every new trick.
I figured out that routine breeds resilience and that perseverance to succeed gives you more time and freedom.

You just need one thing or action to brighten up a long day. Mine was baking and smoothies. So many varieties can be made from so few choices.
I miss the chatter and jokes of my older brothers and sister in-laws arriving and eating whatever was on offer and holding my tiny nephew.
I really enjoyed fence building with my Dad, haymaking and having to load the hay on to the trailer and my little brother falling off from time to time rolling to a stop. Those were fun times.
During this time I have found some parts difficult and most parts awesome, just hanging out with my family. We made the most of this opportunity gifted to us, and re-found our appreciation and gratitude for each other.

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Solution for
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featured on
page 2

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1	7	4	6	5	9	3	2	8
9	3	5	8	4	2	6	7	1
5	1	3	2	6	8	7	4	9
7	9	2	3	1	4	8	5	6
4	8	6	9	7	5	2	1	3
6	4	9	5	8	7	1	3	2
3	2	7	1	9	6	4	8	5
8	5	1	4	2	3	9	6	7

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Dancing in the Dark

Glenys Farrant

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Inferno 45- fitness

Graeme

021 536 990

Indoor Bowls

Marvin Clough

752 7531

JKA Karate

Jim Hostin 752 7337

Kaitake Netball

Toni Peacock

thowison@hotmail.com

Kaitake Rangers

Conservation Trust

Pete Morgan 027 372 5182

Morning Talk - coffee group

Tracey Lusk 752 7875

Move It or Lose It- fitness

Gloria 752 7442

Oakura Bowling and Social Club

Steve Muller

757 4399

Oakura Meditation Group

Kate Evans

027 203 7215

Oakura Playcentre

Kate Garner

021 254 4769

Oakura Pony Club

Marlies Butland Delfos

027 459 5962

Oakura Pool Club

Sherree 027 3444 723

Oakura Sunday School

stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Oakura Tennis Club

Jackie Keenan 027 673 2900

Oakura Yoga

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Okato and District

Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

Okato Lions Club

John Hislop 757 9696

Okato Squash

okatosquash1@gmail.com

Omata Playgroup

751 2308

Pickleball Oakura

Elayne Kessler

027 937 7173

Probus Club

Brenda Ryan 751 1633

St James Church, Oakura

stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Tai Chi Classes

Judi 027 268 2601

Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni Peacock

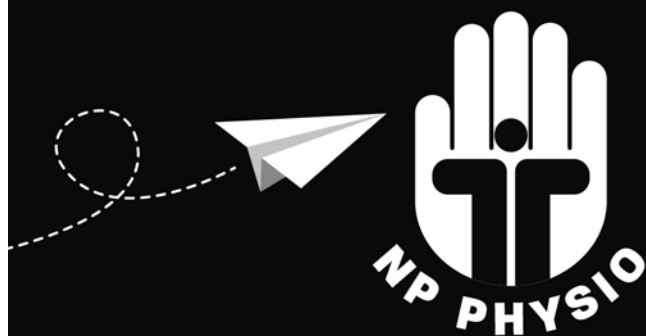
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Val Deakin Dance School

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Please make contact with
the organisations for
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