

The Ōākura Post

November 2020



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The Editor...

With the Pohutukawa trees soon to be in full flower, it reminded me once again how lockdown has put my year out of sync. I feel like I'm two months behind. Flowering Pohutukawa signals Christmas and Summer. I'm not sure if I'm ready for Christmas, however I'm always ready for Summer. I spent many summers in Oakura visiting my grandparents. Looking out to sea from their home on Messenger Terrace I was mesmerised by the feeling of infinity and freedom. There are no restrictions when the sea is in front of me. What does the sea and beach mean to you? Ngā mihi, Tracey

The Ōākura Post

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

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Driftwood Corner

*This corner is for quips, quotes, jokes and the like that come our way.
Send your favourite to our email address or phonetext it through.*

This month's entry is from Rosemary Law

“He aha te korero”
(what's the story)

You can use this when you
catch up with your mates

Recycling Sports

Whether it be balls, boots, sticks or racquets more than 10,000 donated items have been distributed across Manawātū and Whanganui. The project has now started in Taranaki, administered by Sport Taranaki and supported in this region by Waste Management. The system is simple, with specially marked bins placed in easy-to-reach locations around Taranaki.

A bin is now at the Ōākura Library. All donated goods are collected, sorted and cleaned, then handed out to those families who can make best use of them.

Christmas @ The Beach

**Shearer Reserve,
Ōākura
Sunday 13 December
4.00-7.00 pm**

Bring the family to a
community event and join in
the Christmas festivities with
local musicians and performers.



Well folks, it does seem as if Christmas is just around the corner and this tumultuous year is finally reaching its end. Let's hope we can all enjoy a great summer holiday with family and friends. The community needs it.

It has been an especially busy year for the Community Board. As your elected representatives we get involved in many local community issues that need attention. Some can be fixed as simply as a phone call or email, but others can follow a more protracted course to reach a resolution. A lot of what we do takes place well under the community radar. That is quite understandable, most folk just go about getting on with their own lives and only contact us when an issue arises or when something upsets them.

This varied nature of the Community Board's role means we also have to be proactive and anticipate Council strategies and policies that may have a future impact on our community. There is a huge amount of reading and research in that. Therefore we frequently spend a great deal of time liaising with Council officers who are responsible for developing recommendations for the decision-makers around the Council table. This isn't high profile work in the public gaze but, nevertheless, needs to be done in the interests of all the people that live, learn, work and play here.

This brings me to a relevant issue now facing the community. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has requested that NPDC review the situation at the Weld Road Reserve due to ongoing environmental damage of the archaeological site of Hauranga Pā. Heritage New Zealand is aware that the track on

by Doug Hislop

the public reserve over the headland is being used more often as an alternative to the beach access around the headland, particularly for cycling and when the tide is lapping up to the base of the escarpment. This issue has been an ongoing matter of considerable public interest since 2009 and has been raised with the council on numerous occasions.

The council does have a legal responsibility to prevent ongoing damage to the archaeological site and is currently exploring options to do this. To help resolve this matter NPDC is surveying the community on how and why they use this area. The survey will be open for input over the summer, however initial feedback will inform a short term response before Christmas to prevent damage and this is likely to require consideration of closing of the informal track. Additional feedback gained over the summer period will guide options for longer-term solutions. You can have your say through the following link: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5982110/Weld-Road-Reserve>

The Community Board's stance on this is unwavering. We have always supported the protection of the total archaeological site of Hauranga Pā, parts of which are on a public reserve and others on private land. All require protection. To that end, and for many years, we have consistently submitted to NPDC to develop an alternative route for the public. However, the very many formal submissions and informal requests we have made stretching back to 2010 have attracted scant attention from the Council decision-makers.

Public access over the headland coastal reserve has been a contentious public issue for many years and has resulted in a lot of anti-social behaviour and ongoing public disturbances. None of that has served any useful purpose whatsoever. We would urge all residents who use the beach track to complete the survey so NPDC has a good understanding of its importance to you and is sufficiently tuned into the attitudes and experiences of the community at large to arrive at a sustainable solution.

The reconstitution of the Kaitake Rugby Club into a wider sporting organisation is continuing very well. With the goodwill of the club committee and input from NPDC and Sport Taranaki everything is on track to meet constitutional requirements and future funding application deadlines to upgrade the clubhouse and replace the park lighting.

We understand Access Radio (Radio on Wheels) will be broadcasting live from Ōākura later this month. This will be an excellent vehicle (no pun intended) for the community to broadcast all the good things that are happening in the village. Also plans are afoot to hold a festive event in Shearer Reserve in mid December. It will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to come together and enjoy what is going to be a great show.

Well that's all for this month. Ka kite anō au i a kotou.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the Ōmata School hall at 5pm on Monday 16 November.

(752 7324 or douglashislop@gmail.com)

on behalf of Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, Graham Chard and Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, who is the Councillor Rep. on the KCB

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Black Sand Pizzeria

Hey Black Sands Team, looks like there are some new and exciting things happening down at the beach! Tell us about the project on your doorstep.

Yes 2020 has been the year of change. Like many, during lockdown we were able to take a moment, step back and reflect on what's important to us. We've been able to collaborate with our new Chef/ Partner Matt and brainstorm what being on the beach means to the community and to us. Here we hatched the plan to offer quick, tasty, 'mostly healthy' daytime fair out of the 3-wheeler screamer that you may have seen Martin ripping around the village in. Our vision is to take advantage of our amazing beachfront location and build a hub to check the surf, have a chat, or grab a bite ready to be taken away for a stroll on the beach or park up on our deck seating.

What's on offer?

Think of a mini Beach Café Cabinet. We're driven by a 'mostly' healthy beach time fare with a few naughty treats. Acai Bowls, Smoothies, Italian Subs, Kombucha, Gelato and Homemade Doughnuts are all available.

How often will we find the Bomboloni operating out front of Black Sand Pizzeria?

Until Summer Holidays hit, everyone



will find us open on the weekends 11-2pm (weather permitting). Keep up to date with movements and new additions via Facebook Black Sand La Vera Pizza Napoletana and Instagram @blacksandpizzeria

If you were a doughnut which flavour would you be?

(Martin) I'd be the Lemon Curd with Rosemary sherbet because I start off sweet then I've got a bit of tang.

(Matt) I'd be the Smores doughnut because I like a bit of sweet and savoury together and it reminds me of my American childhood.

How long have you been a part of our food community here in Oakura?

We've been here feeding the Village since 2016. We are so privileged to be where we

are on the beach and thank the NPOB Surf club for all their support enable us to be able to operate out of this amazing beach side location. We'd also like to say we couldn't have been here for so long without the support of this local community.

The past few weeks has been amazing with the soft opening of the Bomboloni. We have sold out of everything each day that we have been open! Thanks so much everyone, we can't wait to show you all the new and exciting things happening at Black Sands.

Speaking of new and exciting, the Pizzeria is where it all began. Now you have an exciting, modern Bistro menu. Tell us about that.

As many of our regulars will know our new chef Matt has created quite a buzz in the kitchen with his unique 'bistro style' menu that has complemented Martin's pizzas over the last few months.

With this new collaboration Black Sand has a selection of small plates, mains and desserts driven by fresh, seasonal and local ingredients. Matt's aim is to keep the menu small yet constantly revolving.

Along with Martin's Napoli style pizzas, our menu is interesting and offers something for everyone. Watch this space!

We are still a small family owned restaurant, but our family just got bigger and we can't wait to share all this good food with all you good people.



Travelling during the Pandemic

Last month we featured Kate's story of traveling to the UK during the pandemic, we finish it off this month with her experience of getting back home again. If you missed Part 1 you can read it online www.theoakurapost.co.nz

by Kate Evans

I was concerned about my return to NZ because flights kept getting cancelled, often within only hours of warning. Two days before I was due to fly home I got a call from Singapore Airlines while I was in the supermarket. The agent told me that I didn't have the right papers to get into New Zealand. I panicked! It turned out that he didn't know I was travelling on a NZ passport, so he was wrong.

My heart rate got up again and it was a reminder of the uncertainty I still faced. In the end, leaving the UK went without a hitch. I was greatly relieved when I got on that flight. The flight had so few people on it that everyone had three seats to themselves and I was able to have a great sleep. I guess there is some benefit to travelling amid a global pandemic.

I arrived in Auckland late at night and was corralled into a line with lots of sterilising and masks again, just like in Singapore. It was a long, drawn out process to get checked into a hotel. Various government officials, Army officers and police took details from a long distance and without touching anything. We were

told they were working as if we all had Covid. Finally I arrived at my room at the Four Point Sheraton in Auckland, a very nice hotel. I was on the 11th floor in a room with no windows opening to the outside. I had a visit daily from a nurse who took my temperature and asked if I had any of the symptoms in her long list. Our meals were delivered in plastic that was thrown away after use. Down in the lobby was a swarm of Army, police security and Ministry of Health workers. There was certainly no escaping.

There was a small outdoor area where I could stand in the sun and do 50m laps for an hour. If I remembered, I could also book to take a walk at Queens Wharf. I was lucky, some other hotels have nowhere to go outside. Caged in by a 6-foot fence and watched over by the Army, you could easily feel like a prisoner. I chose to look on the bright side and be grateful for what I managed to do.

I met lots of people who had been through difficult times or were trying to see dying relatives. It was pretty sad. In the exercise yard there is a lot of graffiti from past 'inmates'. I

gathered from the RIP messages that one family had not made it back in time to see their loved one. It was yet another reminder of the hardships people are facing.

I coped mostly by doing my yoga practice (who knew you could do yoga even on a plane while wearing a mask) and lots of meditation. I found that 'acceptance' and 'gratitude' served me well. Family and friends sent lots of love, and at the end of the day that is most important.

It was worrisome that someone somewhere could stop me from getting home at the very last minute. You had to be low risk to leave managed quarantine. If you had a temperature you would be stopped from leaving. Worse than that, if you showed any symptoms at any time, you would be moved to the hotel where all those who tested positive must stay, and it could be for up to 28 days.

I accept that to do the elimination strategy we have to have strict quarantine measures. The experience of being unable to control what would happen to me was very scary. When I got in my car to head home, I burst into tears! It was pretty stressful travelling amid a global pandemic and yet it all went smoothly. I'm so grateful for that and to be home again.

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Kaitake are Champions... Again!!



A nail biting end to the season saw Cunningham Construction Ltd Kaitake FC win Taranaki's Senior Men's Championship Division making it back-to-back promotions in what was an action packed calendar year.

The club will now have a representing Premier Division team achieved in an amazingly short period of time since formed less than two years ago.

The First XI managed to go the full league season without defeat (again) dropping points to only NP Rangers and Eltham FC. In the end the title was won by a single point but that doesn't paint the full picture of the team's dominance. Scoring 128 goals and only conceding 13 in 18 games was remarkable and may never be repeated. The only loss came in the Duff Rosebowl to rivals Moturoa 1st XI, a game in which Kaitake was leading 3-1 with just 40 minutes left to play. Unfortunately, the double game week proved too much and Moturoa deservedly came away 6-3 winners.

The reserve's season was as exciting as any witnessed in division 2

since it started. Four teams dominated the league with Vertech NZ Kaitake FC sitting top up until the very last game. Unfortunately, a loss away at Eltham 2-1 was enough to hand Rangers the title by a mere 2pts. Having beaten Rangers 5-1 only two weeks prior to take the Challenge Trophy the lads made sure the season ended with silver wear. New recruit Adrian Wright also finished with the league's Golden Boot, rounding up a superb first season for the reserve team.

Going forward the club is again on the recruit to strengthen existing squads and are also hoping to add an extra team. We would encourage anybody interested to get in touch via email kaitake.fc@gmail.com.

For more information on club events or if you would like to be involved in next season please also follow us on Facebook; facebook.com/kaitakefc.

Thanks to sponsors; Cunningham Construction, Vertech NZ, Butler's Reef, Three Sisters Brewery, High Tide Cafe, Fast Pace Solutions & Metalcraft Roofing.

Mike Maxim Chairman

Ōākura Barbershop

Hi my name is Ian Wallace, owner and head honcho of the new 'Oakura Barbershop' (formerly known as the Blue Lounge Barbers). I was born in the UK and moved to Paraparaumu as a young child. At the age of 20 I packed a bag and a guitar and decided to live in Spain and learn some Spanish guitar, which led to becoming a full time musician.

After 3 years of Spain it was time to cool down and head to the UK where I settled for the next 20 years. I lived in a beautiful town called Knaresborough and enjoyed a life as a full time musician/session guitarist. When I was about 30 I realised I had an awesome time zapping round but not much to show for it so decided to take a friend's advice and try my hand as a barber. I loved it!

I studied and worked under the watchful eye of a groovy guy who was a very well respected salon owner and award winning barber (and extremely bald). We became friends over time and I was fortunate to manage one of his salons which really set me for running my own barbershop. Fast forward 14 years and I returned home and quickly realised the amount of barbers in NZ was absolutely amazing (almost as many as coffee shops!) So with this in mind I wanted to set up out of town and bought a retro caravan which is where the Blue Lounge story began. Driving around meeting lots of wild and wonderful folks along the way I decided to put my feet down in Oakura.

I have been based next to High Tide Cafe for one year and due to a change in circumstance I am now based just behind the 4 Square at No.4 Butlers Lane, I have hopefully created a friendly, spacious cabin which has a relaxed, calm environment for all my clients. I cut all men's and boy's styles and have a huge range of top quality products from shampoo - beard oils (some of which are made right here in the village!) I am a huge believer in supporting local people and business and hope you get a chance to call in for a chop and chat sometime soon. I do have a vinyl player set up which is a BYO sort of system or just enjoy the mix of what's already playing.

I would like to extend my huge thanks to the community for some wicked support through the covid period and right up to now - Oakura totally rocks! **Thanks, Ian**

021 0259 5954 or Oakura Barbershop



Give Your Walk a Purpose

Do you enjoy spending time in our local bush? If you answered yes, then you are just like us in the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust – a group of locals that love spending time in the Kaitakes and decided to give our outings a purpose by monitoring predator traps in the area.

The Trust is a diverse group of 60 or so people from the local community. Some of our members are retired and others are young people, some are runners, other hunters, and some have lived here their whole lives while others are newbies. The one thing that we all have in common is that we care about our native bush and decided to do something about it.

The Trust now monitors over 600 traps in the Kaitakes in 11 trapping lines. Many of those lines are not accessible to the public and give us access to seldom visited parts of the Kaitakes. Over the past year we have caught over 1,000 predators – that is a lot of rats, stoats and other non-native mammals that would have otherwise been out killing our precious native birds and eating their eggs.

We are starting to see some positive signs that our trapping work is making a difference. I've seen and heard stories about flocks of tui flying down to Matekai park in the mornings. Additionally, there are lots more kereru and grey warblers in the area.

This increase in bird life may be in part due to our work in the Kaitakes, but there are so many more people and groups working in the area. The Taranaki Mounga Project is one of the main forces behind the work, providing us support along with the traps and bait. The Taranaki Regional Council is also doing tremendous work with local landowners on trapping, and heaps of local homeowners in the area have set up backyard traps.

The TSB Community Trust made a generous financial contribution to our trust. With their funding we purchased gear to make our work easier and safer in some of the more remote areas we work.

Those of us in the Trust enjoy spending time up in the bush and we are doing our part so that soon we can not only see more birds

but will begin to see some that haven't been around here for a long time. There are plans to bring kiwi, kaka, and whio back to the local area. How cool will that be? In ten years, you may be able to take a stroll at night in your garden and see a kiwi!

Dahl holds up a rat from a Davis Track trap



The Trust is always looking for more people to join our team. If you enjoy getting out in the bush, have a few hours once a month, and are ready to give your walk a purpose, please contact KRCT President Peter Morgan at morgpt@xtra.co.nz



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Local Market

Farmers’ Markets are a precious commodity and now more than ever something we need to cherish and support. As many of us focussed inwards during level 4 lockdown this year, our thoughts turned to resilience and self-sufficiency and naturally towards our growing spaces. Turning bare earth into vibrant fruits and vegetables is no mean feat. I’m having to study at night classes just to figure out how to do this! In Taranaki, many growers have successfully turned their passion into thriving businesses with an amazing array of seasonal produce grown locally in our region.

So when my neighbour suggested a Sunday morning trip to the Farmers’ Market in New Plymouth, I grabbed a hessian shopping bag and my purse. Under the shade of the Huatoki Plaza, I was delighted by the vibrant atmosphere of the market with a variety of stalls and live music on offer. Everything from fresh eggs to fresh fish, yummy baked goods and specialty smoked sausages, preserves and, of course, fresh seasonal produce and seedlings. Speaking to the growers is a joy (and a lesson!) in itself, learning the ins and outs of growing microgreens, recipe ideas for oyster mushrooms as well as tips for the freshest baked bread.... so one groaning bagful later!!

I got chatting to one of the vegetable produce stall holders, Melissa Holmes, who is also on the Board of the Farmers’ Market Taranaki Trust and volunteers as the Market Co-ordinator. She told me all stall holders agree to a set of ‘golden rules’ which include: stall holders must be directly involved in the production process, all produce must be grown in Taranaki, and only food and flowers can be sold at the market.

I was keen to find out what a working vegetable farm actually looks like and she invited me to visit her at the Coastal Market Garden in Ōākura. Situated only a few kms from the sea, this busy working farm is managed by Melissa with the help of her partner and two workers who help out once a week. She has created a diverse shelter belt to provide a microclimate for her plants along with recently developed citrus, avocado and stone fruit orchards. There were tunnel and shade houses, rows upon rows of vegetables, passion fruit as far as the eye could see and a large strawberry patch.

Have you ever tried a raw asparagus straight from the ground? Magical!

Melissa is passionate about growing a diverse range of produce to help grow the local farmers’ market and support a sustainable future for Taranaki.

The Farmers Market is held every Sunday 9am-12pm at the Huatoki Plaza in New Plymouth, come rain or shine. For further information and to see the full range of produce, check out their website www.farmersmarkettaranaki.org.nz or www.facebook.com/farmersmarkettaranaki.

by Suki Bishop

Ōākura Makers’ Market

We are celebrating local talent again this year! The Ōākura Makers’ Market has been so popular over the last three years we are doing it again in 2020. This market offers an opportunity for local crafters, makers, artists, musicians and authors to share their amazing talents with the community.

Come and kick off your Christmas shopping (if you haven’t already) on Saturday 5 December at the Ōākura Community Hall from 10am to 2pm. We have over 40 makers and their wares to fit all tastes and all sizes of Christmas stocking, from jewellery and clothing to felted goods, Christmas goodies and home décor. There will be face painting, henna artists, the fire truck, live music, food trucks, slushies and ice creams, coffee and scrummy baked goods to keep young and old fed and entertained.

Our local Fire Brigade in partnership with Rachel Hooper Realty will donate profits from their Sausage Sizzle to our cause and a charity of their choice. Tania Kilian puts a huge effort into the raffle and donates a large part of the prize to our charitable cause. On top of that, all stall fees, bake sale funds and raffle ticket sales will go directly to The Gift charity in New Plymouth, making sure many families will have a much brighter Christmas morning with the support of our community.

Organiser Lizaan Hale says ‘the Maker’s Market is a great family day out, there will be something for everyone.’ TOP also thinks it’s a lovely event to meet up with friends, find unique Christmas treats and all whilst supporting a good cause. Sounds like a good way to spend an hour or three, doesn’t it?

You can find us on Facebook - Ōākura Makers’ Market. Any enquiries can be directed to Lizaan at Lizaan_vn@hotmail.com



Vivi and Tom Hale running their stall



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Cathy’s Dance for Cathy’s Care Centre

Kia ora koutou, from the Team at Taranaki Retreat.

To those who danced the night away, honouring Cathy’s memory at “Cathy’s Dance”— can you believe it was two years ago?! The vision that we danced for was to improve, spectacularly, the facilities at Taranaki Retreat by providing an extra space for the Retreat’s Support Work – with Cathy’s Care Centre.

Since then, we’ve continued to work up the plans to get the building just right; applied for endless grants to secure the full funding needed, and carefully figured precisely what would serve those we’re supporting best within our budget. We want to get this just right!

We’ve been massively helped by the team at Beca, and have been blessed by offers of involvement in the build and kit-out by wonderful generous donors who share the vision.

The new building will feature beautiful rammed-earth walls to the interior of the counselling space to give that deep sense of groundedness and a completely confidential environment. An accessible bathroom will bring a much, much needed facility to the site. It will enhance safety when we are hosting an all-female group on site (often where there has been trauma) by providing a separate shower apart from the Guest Accommodation. We will also be able to replace a costly, rented temporary building where our phone, skype and online support happens with an actual office space!

The photo shows where it’s going to be... and we can’t wait. Well – we won’t have to wait much longer!!

We just wanted to let you know that we are hoping to get the building up in the near future; and we’ll be keeping you posted. This year has been such a challenging one, and the level of need in our community is so great. The Retreat provides a safe ‘Space to Breathe’ particularly for people who are dealing with seriously tough times. Cathy’s Care Centre will be a game-changer for us and our community... and that’s gotta make you want to Dance. Again!

**With aroha and thanks for your support,
Jamie Allen and all at Taranaki Retreat - taranakiretreat.org.nz**

Ōākura Library

Registration for our summer reading programme 'Splash into your Library' opens 27 November until 13 December and we have lots of fun planned!

Along with a reading log we also have six activities focussing on digital resources (movies, magazines and books), crafts, coding and games. It's ideal for children aged 5-10 years and is a free and fun way to promote literacy and encourage reluctant readers during the holidays.

You can register or find out more by coming in to see us.

Safer Speeds Review

Join us for a Safer Speeds Review - community consultation here on Wednesday 18 November 11.00am -1.00pm.

New to the shelves

'*Plant, Sow, Make & Grow*' is a beautifully illustrated book full of mud-tastic activities for budding gardeners.

'*No-waste Kitchen Gardening: regrow your leftover greens, stalks, seeds, and more*' is also filled with gardening activities to get children involved.

Regular programmes

Crackerjacks

Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts, suitable for pre-schoolers

First Thursday of the month, 10am - 10:30am



Ella Manning at our holiday programme with her watercolour planet

Book group

Join other book lovers in a friendly and relaxed environment. Books provided.

Last Thurs of the month, 7:30pm

Writers group

2nd Tues of the month at 10am.

Justice of the Peace Service

Every Thursday 10am - 12:30pm

**Happy reading,
Charlie & Vincenza**



Bowling & Club

Club Championships

The final two teams in the hotly contested Club Championship Fours have been decided with an Alan Bridgeman skipped team of Kevin Fleming, Murray Crombie and Norm Lofthouse taking on a Steve Muller lead quartet of Paul Coxhead, Peter Murdoch and Don Hinton in the final. The line-ups are evenly balanced and the rivalry will be fierce as the teams battle it out to be crowned club champions.

Interclub Tournaments

The midweek Avery and Gilmour cups along with the Saturday Shield and Pennants Tournament are in full swing with the Ōākura Bowling Club fielding strong teams in all competitions. Roy Phillips and Paul Coxhead do a tremendous job of organising and selecting the teams for the mid-week competitions and thumbs up to all the players who compete each week, hail, rain or shine. Keep up the enthusiasm and dedication.

November bowling action will see Ōākura field a talented side in the Division 1 Bill Smee interclub competition. The Bill Smee is Bowls Taranaki premier interclub event and it is great to see an Ōākura team take on the best bowlers in the province.

Club News

Kurt Smith has followed in the footsteps of Club legend Jim Priest and his best mate Taranaki representative Adam Collins in winning the rescheduled 2020 Junior Champs of Champs. Smith played outstanding draws bowls and, combined with great shot selection, won the title 21 - 13 over his West End opponent.

Oakura BBQ Bowls Evening

Lawn bowls is a great sport all ages can enjoy. It is easy to learn, social and most of all lots of fun. The Ōākura Bowling and Social Club is opening up the gates and inviting you to the Jean Sandel sponsored Ōākura BBQ Bowls evening on Friday 27th November from 5.30pm till 7.30pm. The club is situated behind the Ōākura Community Hall on South Road Ōākura.

No previous experience is necessary as our friendly volunteers will be on hand to tell you all about the game, show you how to play and organise games. All equipment will be provided, attire is casual, so all you need is to turn up on the day with some flat shoes, jandals or joggers and a desire and willingness to 'Have A Go!'. There is no charge for this fun event, which includes a free sausage sizzle, and there will also be lucky draw prizes at the end of the evening.

Lawn Bowls... Let the good times roll!



Ōākura Tennis Club

The tennis season has begun with lots of action! We had a good turn out of kids and adults for our Love Tennis Open Day with jumbo racquets, fun games, prizes and a sausage sizzle. Competition for our 3 midweek ladies teams started on the 19th October and A-grade on the 1st of November.

We have reduced our A-grade teams to a soffe and the A2 team and A3 players moving into the Fours competition on a Saturday morning. We have two junior green ball teams and one youth team entered on Friday nights.

The junior coaching with Brett and Chantelle and Monika's development squad are all underway.

On the 23rd of October we had our Rally for Breast Cancer fundraiser, raising \$245 for the Breast Cancer Foundation. Chantelle kept the kids busy as it was a teacher only day and Brett kept the ladies moving, getting pink while playing some fun games. Thanks to the ladies who came and supported and helped eat the yummy pink morning tea!

Congratulations to Daniel Lewis for making the 14's Tennis Central Teams event in Christchurch where their team was placed fourth. A great experience and fun time.

Anyone wishing to join the club contact

Jackie on 027 673 2900 or

Tash for juniors on 027 775 5440



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Oakura BBQ Bowls

Oakura Bowling and Social Club

Friday 27th November

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- Organised games

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L-R Back: Manu Schafer, Skyer McFetridge, Kalani Watts, Kalani Louis, Spencer Rowson, Kane Rowson. L-R Front: Amanda Gouldsbury, Tash Gouldsbury, Nate Florence, Ariana Schafer

Boardriders News

Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Team placed 8 out of 11 in the 5-day event held in Kaikoura during the October School Holidays. Kalani Louis finished 3rd in the under 16 boys division and Natasha Gouldsbury finished 4th in the under 16 girls division. The Club is super proud of all the groms competing and a BIG thanks to everyone involved, especially our sponsors, and a massive shout out to our local Manu Schafer for all the coaching and support prior to and during the trip.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 7th October with a great turn out and some exciting new plans for the boardroom and access, plus extra opening nights for the club (to be advised). Luke Florence will continue the President role for another year with a good supportive committee team.

The Annual Club Champs was held on the weekend 17th & 18th October. Unfortunately the waves didn't play part but a great two days of surfing at Main beach and Rockies.

It is membership time again, and new members are always welcome. Club membership entitles you to participate in surfing lessons (at a discounted cost), borrow boards, join in the social events offered at club, compete in all age surf competitions and hire the club rooms for private functions.

For membership details email oakuraboardriders@gmail.com. Club nights are every Friday and with the weather warming up and longer days, summer's just around the corner.

NPOB Saving

With summer just around the corner, the club is in full swing getting ready for the season ahead. Weekend patrol starts Saturday 28th November from 1-5pm and continues every weekend through to Taranaki Anniversary Weekend.

NPOB lifeguards are in the process of refreshing for the season, along with weekly trainings for lifeguard upskilling, first aid courses and various lifeguarding courses.

We were very proud to have 9 new lifeguards sit their bronze exam with another 5-10 to follow in January. Great numbers for NPOB!

If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard please contact the club by email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz

Junior Surf starts Saturday 14th November at 2pm, thereafter every Sunday 10am to midday. You will need to arrive at 9.45am to be ready to go at 10.

If you have kids keen to give it a go please

Surf Life Club

either email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz for more details or turn up on on the day with your swimming gear. Everyone is welcome.

Parents are required to stay at the beach with any child who is at the training and parent participation is always encouraged and appreciated, especially in the water.

If getting wet isn't your thing then we always need help on the beach organising the children.

Sunday night swimming has started again at the Aquatic centre, 5-6pm, aimed at U11s and over to practice surf skills, relays, tube rescue, fun relays. Keep an eye on the facebook page for updates.

As a club we can't operate without our volunteers who come in all shapes, sizes and with different skills. There is a job for everyone, please don't be shy to shout out if you can help in any way.

As always if you are going in the water, check the conditions first and if you are at a patrolled beach - swim between the flags - this is the safest place.



Sheldon, Bex and Mark kitted up for practice and recovering afterwards

Ōākura Fire Brigade

Now that we have rocketed into November thoughts start to turn toward summer holidays and more relaxing times. For some of our crew, however, the thought of a rest is the furthest thing from their minds. Lizzie, Mark, Bex and yes, even Sheldon, have been busting out their firefighting gear and madly climbing thousands of stairs around the town as they train for this year's Auckland Sky Tower challenge, to be held on the 21st November.

The Sky Tower challenge is an incredible event where firefighters from all around New Zealand come together to raise funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. Around 1000 firefighters will climb the Auckland Sky Tower, tackling 51 flights of stairs, 1031 steps, wearing 25kg of firefighting gear with their breathing apparatus on.

If you wish you can help the team raise funds by donating through the official Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge website <http://bit.ly/ovfb2020>. This link takes you straight to the donation page for our team.

Take care everyone, we look forward to seeing you out and about in the village.

The crew from the Big Red Truck

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Mitchell and Mason building a wall



Riley and Aliana cooking the sausages

Student Volunteer Army Project

Find, Build, Act, Share, that is the philosophy of the Student Volunteer Army which was founded in Christchurch after the earthquake in 2011 to clean up liquefaction. Last term Room 6 was involved in a Student Volunteer Army project of their own with the challenge of using the same philosophy. The overarching question was "Can young people plan and carry out a service project without adult supervision?" and the resounding answer from Room 6 was "Yes".

Student volunteers picked four key areas in which they would like to take action. green space, water, fundraising and helping others.

Green Space

Down in our school bush, we levelled out a path that was a health and safety hazard and we also made a retaining wall to stop children from slipping down the bank. We also planted the bank to keep it stable. We used treated wood and stakes that Steve Gibson and ITM kindly donated for the path stabiliser and we used spare dirt from the construction of our new classroom to level out the path.

We used plants from the bush and swamp, and moved them up to the top track where they are now growing and rejuvenating the bush area. This was a successful plan that went very well.

Water

For our SVA project we planned to fix the waterway that leads from the main road into the bottom of our bush to make sure that the water flow was clean and fresh and ensure that our bush was healthier and less swampy at the bottom. We contacted the Taranaki Regional Council who contacted the NZTA to see if they would help us with the task of clearing out the bottom of our bush. We planned to create a

track that leads down the bush from the road and then add horseshoe shaped rock formations that would filter out the water that runs down the hill.

NZTA hadn't responded by the time we needed to take action, so we decided to improve the track at the bottom of the bush by clearing it. We cut and pruned some trees that were in the way of the track, and swept the actual track to make for easier access from the top of the bush to the bottom. We also added some stakes to the stairs to make it safer to walk down and access from the top.

We are still waiting for NZTA's response, and are hoping to be able to carry on our project to make the bush healthier and to positively impact out school community and land.

Fundraising

The fundraising team chose to fundraise to raise money for KidsCan, a charity that helps less fortunate children around New Zealand. Throughout the course of Term 3, there have been roadblocks and difficult decisions to



Coming Up

November

16 Year 8 to Young Leaders' Conference in Palmerston

23 Parent Help Morning Tea 10.30-11am

24 Taranaki Y7/8 Athletics Inglewood

December

4 Year 7/8 Big Day Out

10 Year 1-6 Big Day Out

make, one of them being changing the date of the sausage sizzle and bake sale due to COVID-19. Although the date has changed a lot, the job still got done and was completed to a high standard. We approached Pak n Save New Plymouth and they kindly donated 120 sausages for our cause.

By the end of the day there was over \$450 raised, which to us, is a significant amount of money. Hopefully this will change a few kids' lives. Not only was it fun to fundraise, but on the day the kids of Omata School enjoyed receiving a sausage and baked treats.

Helping Others

We had a lot of ideas at first but we chose to put gifts into shoe boxes and give them to children at Taranaki Base Hospital to help entertain them. We had a bit of a roadblock with how we would pay for all of this, so we held a pyjama/onesie day at school. We raised \$365 that we spent on small gifts, which we placed into shoeboxes and delivered to Taranaki Base Hospital.

By Year 7 and 8 students

Rare to Everywhere

Kiwi: a fruit, people from NZ, but also a bird. It's a bird we have failed to look after, and a bird that will die without our help, which is exactly why Kiwi Trust has launched a project to prevent this from happening.

Kiwi Trust is an organisation formed by volunteers from all across Taranaki. They share the same goal, to 'take kiwis from rare to everywhere'. Over the past few months, Kiwi Trust has hatched a plan that will help them take better care of our kiwi. The plan: use drones to track kiwi.

The idea is simple enough, ending hours of volunteer work whacking through the bush trying to locate where our kiwis have moved to, with the main outcome being all the scratches you attain while doing this. Before launching a drone, however, there were questions that needed investigating. How low will the drone need to fly? How close can we get to the kiwi? And, of course, is this even possible?

To find answers to these questions, Kiwi Trust headed to Ōākura School, hoping that a group of students would be able to help with the project and gain a deeper understanding of nature and our endemic birdlife. A lucky group of children volunteered to help, after all there was the chance to help our wildlife and have a day or two up Taranaki Maunga.

Our class began by learning about kiwis and why people need to track them. Next, we worked with Kiwi Trust and our teachers to design investigations that we could carry out with a drone to see how effective it would be at tracking kiwi. Once this was done, we were ready for test runs.

The drone we used was about a metre square, with tracking equipment hitched on to the bottom. During our second test run, at Corbett Park, we hid a tracker deep in the bush (and by this I mean the small forest next to the playing field) and watched as the drone, controlled by Ben Plummer, lifted into the air. The drone flew in a grid pattern, sensing the 'beeps' put out by the tracker. Finally, a GPS point was recorded that told the drone where the tracker was and the tracker retrieved.

After carrying out investigations, we were ready to test the drone in the environment it would be used in and to test it on real kiwis living in the



Ōākura School children volunteered to help Trust

wild. To do this, we went to North Egmont Visitor Centre, meeting with members of Kiwi Trust for a day of searching for kiwis, first with ground equipment and later with the drone. Again using the grid pattern, half an hour was spent watching the drone and listening for the hinting sound of the beeps from the tracker.

With a day of excitement behind us, we headed down the mountain with an air of success and pride.

Kiwi Trust had an idea: To take Kiwis from rare to everywhere. With help from Ōākura School, Kiwi Trust is now well on their way to making this a reality. Kiwis need our help, and they need it now.

By Aster Danenhauer (aged 13) and Emma Jackson (aged 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

Monday and Wednesday 6am, Friday 9am. Boxfit Friday 6am. All 1 hour sessions. Ōākura Hall. Graeme 021 536 990

Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

JKA Karate

Jim Hoskin 752 7337

Justice of the Peace. Lynn Murray.

Ōākura Library Thursdays 10am - 12.30pm. 17 December last day.

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 and coffee. Bring your own mug if you can. A donation to the surf club is optional. Tracey Lusk 752 7875

Move It or Lose It - fitness classes

Ōākura Hall, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am. Contact Gloria 752 7442

Meditation Group

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Ōākura Yoga

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Pickleball Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Wed 7.30-9.00pm and Thurs 9.15-10.45am. All skill levels welcome and equipment is provided.
ekesslernz@hotmail.com.
Elayne Kessler 027 937 7173

Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

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

Meet Wednesday 7pm at Butlers Reef until daylight saving starts.
Sheree 027 3444 723

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 & 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 Wed before and after school, mid week ladies 9am-2pm, club day Sundays 3-5pm, www.blitztennis.nz.
Juniors Tash 027 775 5440,
Seniors Jackie 027 673 2900
Jackie Keenan 027 673 2900

Tai Chi Classes

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

Val Deakin Dance School

Ōākura Hall on Friday afternoon - Pre-school dance classes at 2:45, ballet for 5 and over 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. Rachel 0204 092 5243

Ōmata

Ōmata Playgroup

contact Ōmata School 751 2308

TOP Notices

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Next Issue

In your letterbox 14th December.
Deadline for content 26th November.

Views expressed in The Ōākura Post are not necessarily those of the The Ōākura Post

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