

The Ōākura Post

October 2020



Photo credit: Rosie Moyes

Meet Victor

How the man from a little village in the UK ended up in a little village in NZ

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The Editor...

I do love that my editorial space is getting smaller each month. It means there is a lot of content to fit in. It's a juggling act for me balancing the budget to put the publication together and a jigsaw for Charlie when she lays-up the pages. I would like to give a shout out to Charlie for the TOP job she does. It requires a great deal of skill and creativity to put something together that looks effortless. 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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Check your Smoke Alarms

We hope that you are enjoying the lighter days that bring with them the promise of Summer. September and October are great months for change as we shake off our Winter hibernations. It's also when we see a major change with Daylight Saving coming into effect, which of course is synonymous with changing the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Did you know that a house fire can kill you in less than three minutes? That's pretty fast, right! Working smoke alarms are definitely your best early detection. Don't forget that you can't smell when you are asleep so it's even more important to have a working smoke alarm to wake you up in time to get yourself and others out of the house.

Don't assume your smoke alarms are working. Press the button to check, yes it's noisy to check but if you do this every month and change the batteries every six months you'll be sure to sleep more soundly knowing your alarms are ready to save you.

Got an alarm that goes off all the time for no apparent reason? We hear this a lot. The most common smoke alarm people have in their bedrooms and living areas are photoelectric smoke alarms. The way these work is that there is a beam of light in the alarm, and if a smoke particle disturbs this beam of light it refracts the light onto a sensor that triggers the alarm.

However it's not just smoke particles that



can disturb the light beam. Dust and spiders are two other common culprits.

Often, if your alarm is placed near ventilation in your home, be it an open window, heat pump or a home ventilation system, you may find that it goes off for no apparent reason. The air movement created by these units can blow dust into your alarms and set them off. If this is the case the best thing to do is find a new position in the room for it.

Spiders on the other hand are amoral invertebrates and likely do it for a joke. Best defense there is to make sure you vacuum the smoke alarms to remove any unwanted guests.

Enjoy those long evenings!

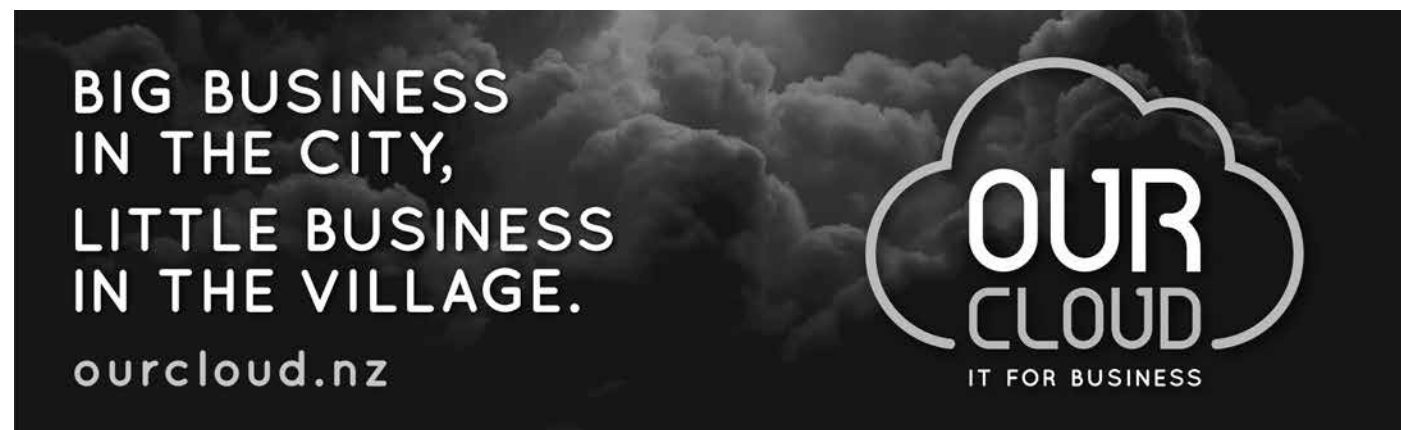
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Kaitake Community Board

on help updating Corbett Park and Sports Facilities

Greetings to all. This month's column has a sports and recreation theme - please read on!

As our community grows we see a constant increase in the number of residents regularly involved in sport and recreation. Every activity individuals participate in has its unique characteristics that appeal to one's interests, abilities, expectations and enjoyment. We also know that there is a mix of social factors that influence which pursuits folk decide to participate in. Sport is, and always has been, good for community health and well-being in folks.

Here in Ōākura our sporting history has a very long tail indeed. Mostly that is due to the steady stream of committed volunteers prepared to help out in clubs, on sidelines, on the beach, with fundraising and so on. Many, not all, do it for their kids. Just one example is the Ōākura Junior Sports Club.

Like many good ideas, the concept of the Ōākura Junior Sports Club was hatched at Butlers Reef Hotel in 1999. Phil Thompson and Jodie Temata provided the initial impetus and they were soon joined by other interested and enthusiastic folk.

Phil took on the leadership role of Chair and the other members of that inaugural committee were Jude Nagel, Pat and Paul Coxhead, Pauline Shannon, Lynne Hepworth, Denise Howe, Wendy Askew, Mike Hareb, Mark Powell and Dom Squatriti. Now, here we are a couple of decades on and the club is still going strong.

by Doug Hislop

The folks mentioned have moved on and Susan Eagar and another committee now hold the reins and are doing the hard yards. That same ongoing process happens in all our local clubs and organisations and its worth can be seen in the achievements of all our top young sports people and our wonderful community facilities built up over the years.

Consequently there has been an uninterrupted stream of superb athletes coming out of our community. There is little doubt that supportive parents, a progressive school, sensible club structures, and willing volunteer coaches, managers and fundraisers all add to this very successful recipe. It epitomises what 'community' is about and something we must all work hard to retain. As we become more popular as a lifestyle proposition and more folk move here we can't allow our values and lifestyle to be diluted or compromised.

Now to the theme of this column. The Kaitake Rugby Club went into recess some years ago and the clubrooms now need some tender loving care. The club committee has very generously offered to donate the clubrooms to the community and the KCB is currently working closely with different groups to set up a governance structure to manage this important community asset and obtain funding for repairs and maintenance. The replace-

ment of the sports ground lights is also part of the project.

Corbett Park is our only public sports field. It is in constant use and caters for a wide range of sporting activities. To that end, the setting up of a management group of all the local sporting stakeholders who use the park is important. It ensures all can be involved in its stewardship and maximise its potential for all. We certainly need everyone on board with us over the next few months, so if you are asked for your support in some way please put your hand up.

We are also working with Council staff to develop a designated area for all our younger residents whose passion is mountain biking. The project is progressing, although rather slowly as we work through all the various rules and regulations that have to be followed when setting up something on Council land. The kids have been involved with developing the concept plans and what they have come up with looks pretty special. Let's hope it all comes together as the long summer evenings eventuate now that daylight saving has kicked in.

Well, that's it for this issue.

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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The Ōākura Arts Trails takes place this year on the week-ends of the 31st October and 7th November 2020. Some artists will be open during the week days too so look out for the orange and blue flags. Artists will have their studios open from 10am to 4pm. It is a great way of seeing and supporting local art in Ōākura.

Our web page has just been updated by Hall of Design and has all you need to know about the trail with maps and printable brochures. Our brochures are also available at the notice-board next to the chemist in the village. The opening night for the trail is at the Okurukuru Winery on Wednesday 28th October.

This year we have new artists Rose Petterson, Lizzy McNaught, Brian Clark and Ross Bennett. Jill Shearer has come back to join the trail after a few years break. We have Hall of Design on the main road in the village as a place of interest with local artist Maryanne Shearman displaying her work.

The other place of interest and major sponsor is Okurukuru Winery. At the winery each artist will have several works on display. We will be having a few local up-and-coming young artists showing off their work at the winery too. This is a good place to start your trail and also have lunch and a coffee.

Each year artist Kris White goes into the Kaitake Kindergarten to create art with the children. This year the children drew their faces and Kris transferred the face images onto a large canvas.



Ōākura Arts Trail

vas. They then put painted hand prints over their faces on the canvas. The work is called "Talk To The Hand". The idea behind this artwork is from a piece of art Kris had made from her 100 Day Challenge where she created a piece of artwork each day for 100 days. The artwork will raise funds for the kindy.

New Artist Rose Petterson (Photo) was commissioned to make The Junction Zero Waste Vision Sculpture in 2019. Rose's sculpture, Pine Forest, can be seen at the transfer station on Colson Road in New Plymouth. Rose is a very talented artist, her work is amazing and a must see on the trail.

Travelling during the Pandemic

On 11th March my lovely Mum died in the UK, suddenly and very unexpectedly. I was desperate to get back to the UK, but the timing could not have been worse. Day by day, hour by hour the borders were closing. It was rapidly becoming clear that we had a global pandemic steamrolling towards us here in NZ and that it had already taken hold in the UK. I had to give up on trying to get back to the UK at that point.

I think my Mum timed it just how she wanted. She never liked a fuss, would never tell you if she was unwell and having just six people social distancing at her funeral would have been the humble way she would have wanted to exit. For me, however, it was very distressing. Watching a pixelated film of your Mum's funeral is not something anyone wants to have happen.

I still felt desperate to get home. My Mum had a business in the UK renting out eight bedsits. She was 83 when she died so this was a pretty impressive feat. When the lawyers wrote and said it's time to ready your mother's house and belongings for sale, I again looked at the possibility of travel. At that exact moment the UK opened its borders for what it called 'air corridors' which meant coming from one of 14 countries on the list you would not have to isolate when you got there. Of course, NZ was on the list!

For the first time in five months going back was doable! I have one friend who had been travelling recently for work and he said, "Do it." I have another friend who had a nightmare trying to get back and she said, "Whatever you do, do not go." So, I decided to go! People were saying I was mad, courageous, a trailblazer even. All I could think of was being with my family and taking care of closing up my dear Mum's life.

My ticket cost twice the usual price and it was also announced that I would have to pay for quarantine when I returned. I accepted this, though decided I would try to get an exemption based on compassionate grounds. Just days before I left, Auckland went into Level 3 lockdown. My domestic flight got canceled and I had to drive to Auckland without knowing if I would get through the Auckland roadblocks stopping all



by Kate Evans

unnecessary travel in and out of the city. It was becoming clearer to me just what I had gotten myself into. The stress and uncertainty were certainly real. I got through the roadblock within 15 minutes, not needing the extra two hours I gave myself. Pretty soon I was in a deserted Auckland airport. Nothing was open, no food or coffee.

The flight left on time. We were social distanced and required to wear masks for the ENTIRE flight. I was pretty annoyed about this then but it has become so normal for me now. At Singapore the staff outnumbered the passengers about 5:1. We were kept in single file, social distanced and made to sterilise our hands a number of times. It was exceptionally organised. An official told me that the staff were all volunteer airline crew who felt it was best to make sure Singapore was a safe place and travel could carry on. This impressed me, people working together for the greater good of the country.

The transit was fast and efficient, but arriving in Heathrow was quite a different story. There was no staff to advise us or guide us, and whilst we were asked to wear a mask there was no social distancing. It was the usual mayhem at Heathrow with hundreds in the queue for passport control. Thankfully if you were from one of the 'air corridor' countries you had a separate line.

The underground was quiet for a rush hour arrival and the reality of what they have lived with in the UK started to dawn on me. They have had restrictions in place since March and kids have been out of school since then. There are many businesses still closed and queues to get into all High Street shops as entry numbers were restricted for shops, buses and pubs.

I heard many stories about people in the UK who had been badly affected by Covid and are still living with the after effects. One of the biggest topics of conversation in the UK is what a 'shambles' the leadership is in. People are absolutely fed up with it. Most conversations I had inevitably came around to people saying boy we wish we had Jacinda Ardern as our Prime Minister, if we had we wouldn't be in such shambles. Had I gone to the UK three years ago, I doubt anyone could have even told me the name of our Prime Minister!

I spent 13 days there and managed to get everything sorted. Incredibly I got my Mum's house on the market also. I saw all the people I dearly wanted to see and looked at a million photos. My Mum seemed to have photos in every drawer of every piece of furniture! I found love letters from my Dad who died 33 years ago which she had saved. He wrote to my Mum when he was a lovesick puppy in the Navy in the 1950s. The trip was worthwhile just to find those.

read Part 2 in TOP November Issue

Oakura arts trail

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LUMEN Studios

LUMEN Studios & Gallery is an artist-run space based at the old Cheese Factory in Tataraimaka. Founded in 2019, LUMEN hosts exhibitions showcasing artists from the Taranaki region and runs workshops and holiday programmes. The gallery is located 6km south of Ōākura nestled in a valley beside the Timaru Stream surrounded by native bush and exotic gardens.

Resident artists Alice Cowdrey and Teresa Goodin will be opening their art studios to the public during the upcoming Taranaki Arts Trail and exhibiting new work in the gallery during the month of November.

The exhibition of new work will be opening at 6pm, Friday 23rd October, on LUMEN's one-year anniversary. To celebrate Alice and Teresa will be giving away an artwork each and places in their upcoming workshops at the event.

The Arts Trail is a great opportunity for visitors to step inside the artists' studios and learn more about how they create their work. Alice, who specialises in needle felting, looks to nature, animals and folk art for inspiration. She uses a range of fibres and textiles to create brooches and larger works of art.

Teresa creates complex handcrafted collages inspired by the Western Mysteries, Eastern Philosophy, Indigenous Wisdom and the beauty of the natural world.

LUMEN is an evolving space with a focus on creativity and wellbeing. As well as hosting exhibitions and workshops, the space is home to natural health practitioners Teresa Goodin and Corryn Baxter-Pryce. Teresa is a Spiritual Counsellor and Flower Essence Practitioner, offering flower essence remedies, consultations and card readings. Corryn from Olive's Branch Medicine offers Herbal Medicine, Traditional Healing (Rongoā, Romiromi, Mirimiri), massage (light and deep tissue) and Jin Shin (Japanese acupressure).



LUMEN will be hosting a series of workshops and events during October and November:

- 10 & 11 October – Vintage Kimono Sale
- 23 October – Exhibition Opening and 1-year Anniversary Celebration
- 30 October – 2 November – Taranaki Arts Trail (Open Studios)
- 3 November - Needle Felted Floral Brooch Workshop
- 4 November - Native Flower Essence Workshop
- 7 November- Native Flower Essence Garden Tour
- 8 November – Rongoā Hikoi
- 11 November - Exploring your Feminine Essence Workshop
- 12 November - Exploring your Masculine Essence Workshop
- 14 November - Needle Felting & Embroidery Workshop

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The Man Behind the Apron

When Lemonwood Eatery opened two years ago, we were met with the smiling face of restaurant manager Victor Higgins wearing a fabulous apron.... so who is the man behind the apron? *Suki Bishop asks the questions*

Victor - is that a family name?

My mum's dad was called Victor. He died before I was born so I was named after him. My dad's brother is also called Victor so my family nicknamed me Buster. I've no idea where that came from!

Where are you from?

I'm from the UK, a little village in Somerset called Clutton. It's about the same population size as Ōākura.

Why NZ?

I came travelling with a friend in July 2017 and we both found jobs in Auckland. While I was working in an Italian restaurant I met Rahul from Bach on the Breakwater. He offered me a job and I moved to New Plymouth.

How did you meet Barbara?

I was managing the Bach [on the Breakwater] in the evenings and then daytimes, and when my visa was about to expire Barb offered me a role here.

Are you vegan?

Six days a week! I'm flexitarian but eat vegan food here. My mum has been a vegetarian for 25 years so I've grown up with it. A few of my friends are vegan so I've always had it in my life and I enjoy it.

How did you start in the business?

I had my first job at 16 working for a family-run business. It was a lodge near a man-made lake which hosted weddings, Sunday lunches and a small hotel. I started there as a waiter and after 8 years I was their general manager.

What was your favourite part of that role?

Definitely the weddings and events, stressful but really enjoyable! I enjoy doing functions



Photo credit: Rosie Moyes

so the Friday night dinners here are nice. I like having the time to talk to lots of people and making everybody feel welcome. We are looking forward to running the cooking classes here again in summer.

How do you remember your customers' names?

I have a list with little reminders so it's easier. Between us we can usually recall most of our customers' names once they have been in a few times.

What did you do in lockdown?

I worked on our new website which took

quite a few weeks to do. I also made cabinet labels, table numbers – the sorts of things we never really get the time to do nicely. The website seems popular and we are getting a lot of messages.

What's your favourite place in New Zealand, other than Taranaki?

I've only travelled around a little bit. I liked working in Auckland coming from a small country village in the UK. I've just come back from a holiday in Nelson which was really nice. I also like the city life in Wellington.



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Kia ora koutou e hoa mā,

Wasn't it fantastic to see the country embrace Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori which took place over the week of 14th-20th Sept. So much exposure and space for Māori to be spoken and heard.

After three years of my own study at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa I realised there was a growing interest and desire to learn the language amongst the local community and we just needed to connect with these potential students and to help support and guide them to begin their own reo Māori journey. Offering locally based classes at the NPOB Surf Club has certainly helped to increase the numbers of students. We have 30 students currently over three classes so we have got off to a rocking start.

The first few weeks we worked hard on learning the Māori alphabet and pronunciation and explored some of the very poorly pronounced words that we all use in our everyday lives, mostly place names and many of them local around our area. I am hoping that those who are taking the lessons are now able to pronounce Tataraimaka, Ōākura, Rāhotu, Ōpunake, Pio Pio and many more by simply breaking the words down to their syllables and correctly pronouncing the vowel sounds.

The fact that you are consciously thinking about how the name should be pronounced and possess an eagerness and willingness to try to do it correctly is so very important in order to protect and nourish this beautiful language and culture unique to Aotearoa.

If we learn the correct pronunciation ourselves, and can support and guide our children to learn the correct pronunciation, it will never be a problem for them. Let us lead by example and expel the feelings of embarrassment, or worse, simply not caring. We all need to do our bit in order to let this language thrive, the indige-



Te Reo Māori Lessons

nous language of Aotearoa. We need to give it a space to be used within our everyday lives.

And so I invite you to begin or to continue your journey of learning te reo Māori. I am offering classes from beginners to those with some study under their belt, and hoping to add more classes for varying abilities if we have the numbers. If you have not yet started but are interested, please contact me to see if we can start a new absolute beginners class for Term 4 in mid October.

Toni Howison

CLASS TIMES:

Level 1: Mon 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Level 1: Wed 1:00pm - 2:00pm

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

Level 5: Dependent on numbers

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Here are some snippets of what the current students have to say about the classes.

"Te Reo class is such a fun interactive class, a real safe environment where everyone can give it a go. I would highly recommend" - Renee

"Class is instructive and enjoyable. It doesn't matter if you make mistakes as she [Toni] is always there to help" - Lynne

"It is great to see so many people from our village engaging in Te Reo Māori. The classes are relaxed yet productive and so enjoyable" - Anne Bridges

"A judgement free and supportive environment in which to start your journey in learning te reo Māori" - Gillian

"I really look forward to the lessons. The environment is really inclusive and relaxed. Learning te reo that can be used in everyday conversation with a focus on pronunciation has been awesome" - Catherine

Ōākura Tennis

There's been a flurry of activity at the tennis club with spring here and the tennis season soon to get under way. The spring weather is heralded by the red and orange hues (aka moss!) appearing on the courts! The committee have been busy fixing holes in netting, wind cloth, weeds, moss, new nets for courts 3 and 4, new tie downs and winders for courts 1 and 2 and scaring the spiders in the clubhouse. The courts are due for their annual groom over the holidays so we will be ready for lots of tennis action this term!

We have some exciting new coaches lined up this season thanks to Tash Lewis in conjunction with Vicky Haylock from Blitz Tennis www.blitztennis.nz. We were hoping to welcome Matt Stringer back unfortunately he has been held up in the UK but hopes to return in the future.

Brett Bennett will be taking the early morning junior group coaching, cardio and coaching sessions. Brett is a young enthusiastic qualified coach with experience from beginners to high performance players. Monica Neckarova will be taking the development squad. Monica is our own local international tennis player originally from Slovakia. She started playing tennis when she was six years old and owned a successful tennis academy overseas. She is keen to share her love of tennis and help take



kids to the next level! Chantelle Peters will return to take the after school group coaching sessions. Chantelle completed her Junior Level 1 coaching qualification in 2019 and is keen to continue working with the after school groups. Individual and group coaching can proceed during Covid-19 alert levels 1 and 2 with appropriate safety measures in place.

Book in at <https://www.blitztennis.nz/registration.html> or come along to the open day Sunday 11th October to chat about options.

Our AGM in September saw two faithful members Craig Waite and Rebecca Scott retire from the committee. They have both served for over seven years on the committee and will be missed (especially Craig's barbeque skills). Hopefully we will still see Craig's mean backhand slice on court and thanks to Becs for her photography skills and getting our website set up and operational! A big thanks also to Craig and Melissa for hosting our post team swim sessions and end of season tennis parties over the years especially when they didn't know they were hosting! Thanks heaps guys!

Graeme Mitchell had ideas of retiring from

President but has agreed to continue on for another year. Jackie Keenan and Gavin Stanley continue their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and the workers in the committee consist of Tash Lewis for juniors but looking for an assistant to help with this role if anyone is interested, Lee Lash will cover media/website, Anne Bridges grant applications, Roseanne Donovan midweek ladies and club captain, Sue Oldfield and Toni Howison. Thanks to Gavin for hosting the AGM and his delectable dips.

We have combined our open day with the NZ Tennis 'Love Tennis' campaign so come along on Sunday 11th October from 1-4pm for some fun games and lots of prizes to give away. We will have coffee and cake and the bbq in action. Bring the whole family.

Jackie Keenan 027 673 2900

Juniors for booking coaching visit blitztennis.nz for teams
Tash Lewis 027 775 5440

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Ōākura Library

It's spring cleaning time and if you're conscious of chemical use, we have a host of helpful books with recipes and suggestions on how to use natural products. Here are just a few titles:

'Low Tox Life: a handbook for a healthy you and a happy planet'
'Zero Waste Home: the ultimate guide to simplifying your life'
'Simply Living Well: a guide to creating a natural, low-waste home'
'A Natural Year: living simply through the seasons'

New to the shelves

Beautiful and inspiring cookbooks such as Nadia Lim's *'Vegful'*, Ottolenghi's *'Simple'* and Meller's *'Root Stem Leaf Flower'*.

My family loves Nadia's pineapple fried rice, pizza dough recipe and Mexican stuffed kumara. I've enjoyed several of her vegetable and fruit combo salads, too. Ottolenghi's lamb and feta meatballs are, according to my husband, "the best meatballs ever!" I will be making his Chicken Marbella recipe again and I've heard that his honey and yoghurt cheesecake is delightful.

Regular programmes

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2nd Tues of the month at 10am.

Justice of the Peace Service

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Friday 11am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

If you're new to the area or don't have a library card yet we'd love to sign you up. Plus if you have under-18s at home they can get a youth card, which has no late fees or hold fees. Come in and see us and we'll get you set up.

**Happy reading,
Charlie & Vincenza**

Indoor Bowls

We have come to the end of another indoor bowls season with our closing night on 14th September. More about that later, but first a wrap up of the past few weeks. We managed to hold our Jamieson Cup club event which was delayed from the start of the season.

The event which is based on games of 21 ends means there is plenty of opportunity to stage a comeback if you lose points early on, and is a good test of mental toughness to remain consistent throughout. It is played over two nights with the winning team being determined on a countback to the number of points.

The team of Greg Jans, Neville Jans, Bernie Gibson and Gwen Jury were the outright winners by only one point over a team skipped by Ray Hislop.

The annual Mens vs Ladies night was won by the Ladies. Our number of ladies playing this year is down so a few men stepped up and played for the ladies to bring home the win.

Our closing night was a great social event with fun bowls, superb supper and of course prizegiving. Great to see a number of different players winning events this year, although the MVP award went to Greg Jans who has consistently been a winner or runner-up across all our championship events - a fitting recipient given the time and effort Greg also puts in being the Club Captain.

Mike Vickers and Steve Muller along with helpers have been coaching groups of students from Ōākura Primary School in preparation for a Year 7/8 tournament held at Ōpunake. This is a great way to introduce the younger generation to our fabulous sport and we wish them well at the tournament.

It has been another great season of indoor bowls, albeit with a slow start due to covid-19 restrictions. We look forward to a new season starting in March 2021, with a few Xmas tournaments between now and December. We are always keen for new members so watch out for announcements in February next year.

The President

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Opening Day

A brisk but sunny Taranaki afternoon welcomed in Opening Day and the start of the Ōākura Bowling Club 2020/2021 season. It was great to see a number of new faces alongside the usual suspects enjoying the friendly banter around the green and later in the club rooms.

As per club tradition, Roy Phillips (club patron) delivered the first jack of the day with great accuracy, while Kevin Fleming (President) rolled down the opening bowl of the season. A big thanks must go to Andy Shearer and Bob Anderson for organising the refreshments, Wayne Robinson for preparing the green and also the club members who assisted on the day.

1st Year Bowler Membership Offer

Building the playing membership base is an important and challenging issue for any sporting club. The Ōākura Bowling Club is offering all first-time bowlers a package deal with the offer of \$50 fees for the initial year,

club polo shirt, a set of pre-loved bowls and coaching sessions. For more information about this great offer please call Steve Muller - Match Convenor 0211695863.

Tournaments

October bowling action includes the start of the Avery, Gilmour, Shield and Pennants interclub competitions. The highly anticipated Oakura Club Fours Championships begins on Sunday 18th at 9.30am. The delayed 2019 Champs of Champs will also be played in early October. We wish success to all the participating Ōākura bowlers.

Craig Murray impressed the small crowd at Waitara with 3 hard fought wins from 4 games in the deferred Taranaki 1st Year Singles competition. Craig played some great bowls throughout the tournament and will be a bowler to keep an eye on in the future.

Ōākura finished equal 1st in the Taranaki Shield final played in tricky conditions at the Rahotu Bowling Club. However, an inferior differential saw the boys from Ōākura placed 3rd behind Hawera Park and winners

Ōpunake. Well done to Ōpunake as it was their first Shield final appearance in 34 years.

Club News

Great news on the sponsorship front with Smiths Sparky Services, Turners Cars, Summit Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Central Turf, Jean Sandel, Z Petrol, Butlers Reef, Raceway Mowers and Cycles, BTW, Bayleys Taranaki and the Ōākura Medical Centre/Skin on 45 all recommitting their support to the club in the upcoming season. It is fantastic to see the above organisations getting behind their local bowling club and we encourage not only members but the wider community to utilise their products/services wherever possible.

For those who cannot commit to playing bowls every week, the club is planning a monthly Friday evening BBQ bowls roll-up. It will be an excellent opportunity for the Ōākura residents to enjoy a social and friendly game of bowls. Details in next month's column. Who knows, one day we may even entice you to take up this great game.

The Underarm Bowler



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Kaitake Golf Club

It is September and spring is here with all its fickle weather patterns. Wind, rain and sunshine, we have seen it all. Kaitake golfers are not daunted and are happy to be out on the course. We have welcomed several new players to the Club and hope they enjoy the friendship and camaraderie experienced at Kaitake. One way to get to know other members is to turn up for the Mixed Pairs Ambrose held one Sunday a month. It is like a golfing blind date – put your card in on arrival and a draw is done. You have a golf partner for the day!

The women members held an old fashioned Bring and Buy. It was very popular and they managed to raise a considerable amount of money for the Club. It is proposed to hold another early in December and have a Christmas theme.

The Kaitake women are busy preparing for their annual 'new look' 2-day tournament. Historically this was played over 72 holes but the format has changed and will be known as Kaitake Womens Open over 54 holes, still with the 'foursomes' format. Entries are being received and several from outside Taranaki. It looks to be shaping up to be another successful Kaitake event.

While the Womens competition season is drawing to a close for 2020 there are still

some important games to play. The 9 hole and 18 hole division club championships will get underway in the next two or three weeks. The 36 hole strokeplay is another test of skill and endurance and takes part in early October. There are no final results for some competitions with multiple rounds to play as they have yet to be completed.

Mens Competition Results:

Mens Top Dog has been played and was won by Ian Frame and Bruce McNiece with runners up Geoff Farrant and Steve Corlett – well done to all who entered.

We have the Mens Shootout coming up with quite a few of the regulars trailing behind, needing better scores to make the cut for the shootout. Final is on the 17th October with only 3 weeks left to enter better score cards. A fun day for the boys. A huge congratulations to Jack van Prehn (14 yrs old) having his 1st HOLE IN ONE on the 13th Hole in a competition played at Cambridge. Well done to Jack, a very special moment for him.

Chippers for the 5-12 year olds is run on alternate Sunday mornings. Clubs and balls are available. Talk to Denise for more information on this and any other questions relating to Kaitake. The office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Jack van Prehn - Hole in One

\$5.00 WEDNESDAYS

We run a small competition on a Wednesday from 8am to 1pm and is open to everyone. You don't need to be a member or affiliated with another golf club. This is just a casual competition for everyone. So please consider coming along and joining in with our members. You don't need to book a time, just turn up yourself or with a mate and I'm sure Denise in the office will fit you in with a group to play with. Any further info phone Denise 06 7527 665.

Ōākura Boardrider

Springs has arrived with small chances of surf. These pockets of warm days are certainly getting us through all the missed overseas holidays. Great to see all the groms in the water with the colder temps. Snow's been a bit on and off.

We had the Annual Golf comp against New Plymouth Boardriders - great to get the win and catch up with the NPL members for a beer and to watch the Naki take the shield from Canterbury on the same day.

Dates for the calendar:

Friday night club nights start 6th November - We will be asking for volunteers to help on these nights so get involved. It's a great way to meet your fellow members.

AGM to be held on Wednesday 14h October at 7:30pm - Due to Covid-19 this had been postponed.

Club Champs to be held 17th October with the reserve date of the 24th October - Check FB and Insta for updates.

Watch out for the upcoming OBC T-Shirt line to order prior to Christmas

Term Four surf lessons which will subsidised by the club for all club members. For details or to book: caseystevens@outlook.co.nz

The Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Team 2020 heading to Kaikoura in October has four of our Club Members competing



1. When did you start surfing? 2. Favourite Break? 3. Who taught you to surf? 4. Favourite Surfer? 5. Where would you love to surf? 6. Fav Food?

Ariana Schafer - Natural

1. 8 years
2. Stent
3. Dad (Manu)
4. Carissa Moore
5. Jeffreys Bay
6. Everything



Skylar McFetridge - Natural

1. 8 years
2. Stent
3. My Dad (Pauly)
4. Tyler Wright
5. Somewhere in Hawaii
6. Donuts



Kalani Watts - Goofy

1. 7 years old
2. Rockies Left
3. Dad (Johnno)
4. Eli Hanneman
5. Skeleton Bay
6. Mums cooking



Nate Florence - Natural

1. 6 years
2. Stent
3. Dad (Luke)
4. Parko
5. Kelly Slater's Wave pool
6. Krispy Kreme

Due to the Covid restrictions the team was unable to hold fundraising events. However, they have had amazing support from our local sponsors, so a BIG shout out to you all.

Surfing Taranaki, OBC Boardriders, NPL Surf Riders, RTL Roofing, Taranaki Steelformers, BTW, South Coast Construction, The Hour Glass, Luke Florence Builders, Hirepool, Screen Art, Mint Home Loan Finance, Black Sand, Smoothstar #supportlocal. Follow the team on instagram tara_scholastics_surfteam_2020

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Coming Up

Many events have been put on hold as we ride out the change in levels

OCTOBER

- 12 Start of Term 4
- 16 Rooms 1 and 7 visit the NP Recycling Centre
- 17 Election day - Polling Booth in Ōmata Hall
- 23 Y4-6 Energy Skills Science Fair
- 26 Labour Day Holiday
- 27 Teacher Only Day
- 28 Y1/2 Ball Skills at Ōākura
- 29 Y3/4 Ball Skills at Ōākura

NOVEMBER

- 11 Y7/8 PCT Challenge



11 year old boys on the start line

Ōmata Cross Country

After many false starts the Ōmata Cross Country got under way on Thursday 17th September and Friday 18th September. We were once again lucky to run on a challenging course at the Waireka Estate and we thank Mr and Mrs Matthews for letting us use their property. The course is considered one of the last 'true' school cross country courses and consists of steep hills, open fields, gravel tracks and even a ford to cross a lake. Kids' legs were splashing in and out of the deep cold ford. Several yellow striped bees flew above the participants.

There were smiles, cheering, puffing and exhaustion as participants crossed the finish line, but there was also an overwhelming sense of achievement. Participants were encouraged on their way by peer marshalls who stepped into a leadership role and supported their school mates.

We spoke to several students about their experience. Lincoln who came racing in, in the lead and then ran the course a second time to support a younger student said, "It was awesome and great but it was very cold when I went through the ford. It sent chills down my spine." Carter acknowledged, "It was tiring and fun. I liked the water splashing on me. I didn't like the heavy clothes after the ford." Monty had a huge grin and told us, "It was hard and fun at the same time." Phew, we finally completed the races!

By Madelyn and Jordan

Ōākura School

We've had a busy term but not as busy as usual because of the cancellation of activities due to Covid-19. Students have been disappointed when events, especially sports events, have been cancelled. Other things like our whole school assemblies were postponed and we missed seeing our parents in the school. Earlier in term 3 we had learning conferences and we were glad that we could share our learning with our whānau. Another thing that was postponed but has been rescheduled for Term 4 is our school disco, which we are all looking forward to.

Mediation and Leadership

During the entire year our year 7 and 8 students have been involved in leadership and mediation training on Fridays. In mediation training our Year 7s learned great communication and problem solving skills to help the Year 1s and 2s fix problems they may encounter in the playground. Our year 8's focused on creating and leading activities and events for other students.

Excellence Badges in Ōākura School

Here at Ōākura School we have a program called the Excellence Badges. Students in Year 7 & 8 gain credits for completing tasks that help them to earn a badge. This program was started to help encourage students to excel in chosen activities as well as try new experiences. There are five different badges that you can receive, Cultural, Citizenship, Sports, Academic and Overall Excellence when you achieve the first four.

For the Sports badge, credits can be gained by participating in various school sports such as cross country, interschool sports, AIMS Games, Tough Kids, Chess Club and much, much more. The Culture badge is about experiencing the arts and learning about various cultures, so you could do kapa haka, music performances or languages to fulfil this badge. There are a few ways to earn your Academic badge.

A common way to earn academic credits is to complete learning to a very high standard. Once a student does this five times they earn an academic credit. Other ways to earn academic credits is to enter maths or writing competitions, or be selected to enter work into the Science and Technology Fair. The last badge is the Citizenship badge. This one is about helping the community, so doing road patrol and



Chess Club: Back row - Corey Barrett, Xavier Leach, Bodhi Danenhauer, Arla Bennett, Adi Carmi, Jacob Bentall, Felix Field. Front row - Lia Barton, Orr Carmi, Aster Danenhauer

other community acts help towards getting this badge. Once you earn those four badges you get your Excellence badge.

Recently the teachers changed the way in which credits were earned. Now for each badge a student must do a 'Credit of own design'. Students come up with new ways to learn, or help others to get this credit. Some examples of the credits this term have been running a comic club, picking up rubbish in our community or sewing masks to donate to communities that need them. This really helps us use our own initiative to develop ways in which we can extend ourselves and help others.

FOOS - Friends of our School

At Ōākura School we are very lucky to have

the FOOS support our school. The FOOS are a group of parents that help organise and run fundraising activities to help with resources in our school. They helped to purchase a technology kit and students are using this to develop their design and construction skills.

We have just finished our Spelling Bee that was organised by the FOOS. Students asked for donations or sponsorships for their spelling lists. It was fun to do something new and play lots of spelling games in class. The money raised from the Spelling Bee will be used to purchase robotics and equipment for coding. Our students can't wait to start using these!

Aiden Hocking (age 12) and Lincoln Phillips-Lim (age 12)



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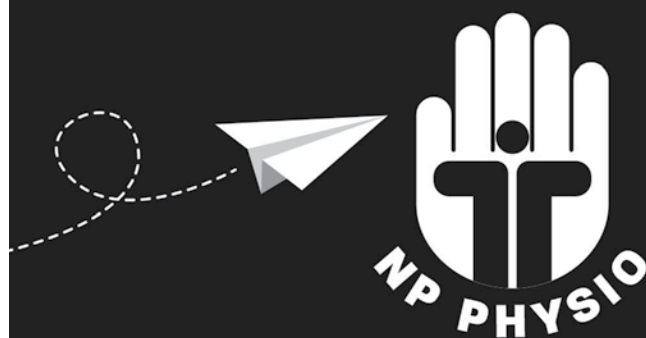
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TOP Activities

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

Website

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Got a burning question?

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Got a story idea?

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Next Issue

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

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

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