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February 2021

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Dear Readers

Happy 2021.

What is it to be happy and when do you know that you are happy? That is more important than wishing for happiness. It is important to know what being happy means to you so then you know when you have achieved it. For example I am happy in summer because it is warm and I prefer warmth to cold. I am happy that I live with the beach on my doorstep and not a skyscraper as my neighbour.

I am happy that I live in New Zealand with fresh running water, an abundance of green space, an ability to grow food and freedom of speech. When life feels insurmountable I am able to remind myself that I am not a refugee in a crowded boat in the middle of the ocean with no idea what the future holds.

I wish you all happy times in 2021

Tracey

The Ōākura Post

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

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Driftwood Corner



"If you can't afford dog food don't get a dog."

"A home is not a home without a cat."

"It rained cats and dogs. Poodles everywhere."

- sent in by Les Lewis

I have a Burning Question...

For some time now I have wondered why the NPDC has not provided change facilities for swimmers at Ōākura beach?

Since the change of ownership of the former building where there were change sheds for male/female swimmers, we are faced with the choice of changing in the toilet cubicles (cramped), arriving/leaving wearing our swim-suits or changing under a towel/in a vehicle perhaps.

On a similar theme, I recently visited Weld Road in full summer mode - beach busy and a village of campers on the Timaru Road end. Why are campers now excluded from the clean grassy area at Weld Road where I remember families set up for a great summer holiday in the past?

Are there other community members who think these points should be addressed?

Jeni Brown



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Kaitake Community Board

Eighteen months ago the KCB began searching for an alternative location for the local kids' mountain biking activities. This very popular pastime needed a more specific location where they could construct their jumps and ramps rather than using the village's public tracks. This has been a work in progress since then, and a group of young people, supported by the Ōākura Community Action Group (OCAG), has been working with NPDC to develop plans for a mountain bike jump park in an appropriate space.

A 1600m² corner of Shearer Reserve has been selected as the most suitable site. That area is on the paddock adjacent to the walkway before it enters the bush and the Wairau Stream area, past the sewerage transfer building.

The proposal is for:

A jump park that caters for a range of skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

by Doug Hislop

- Four tracks being developed.
- Jumps built out of soil.
- Plantings being established.
- The park to be developed in stages.
- The park to be for daylight use only.

The area is a small part of the larger public reserve that has been under a pastoral lease and used as horse paddocks for many years. We understand the pastoral lease is not being renewed and the Council is to ask the community how the other grassed areas in the reserve could be utilised in the future if it is retired from grazing. It is Council policy to support the use of its open spaces by local communities to enhance wellbeing, sustainability and community development.

An online survey has been established to obtain feedback from the wider community on the bike track proposal and ideas for other parts of

the public reserve. The survey is available on the NPDC website. Go to 'Have Your Say' on the home page to access it. There will also be an area set up in the Ōākura library with brochures, maps and paper copies of the survey.

Please do take the time to have your say. Your input into any forward planning is a fundamental element for our community to continue to grow organically and sustainably.

Looking ahead, the KCB is in for a busy year with developing submissions after close scrutiny of the Council's 2021/31 Long Term Plan, the revised District Plan and the upcoming Representation Review. No doubt there will also be a range of community issues to stay on top of that pop up regularly. Such is life!

Ka kite anō au i a koutou.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board was held at 5pm on Wednesday 3 February at the Ōākura Bowling Club.

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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Christmas Party

On 6th December 2020 the Arden Place and Shearer Drive residents celebrated their 20 years plus Street Party. As usual Father Christmas attended, arriving on the Fire Engine with the all important bag of lollies for the children. We now have second generation little ones coming!

We had a wonderful turnout of approximately 60 people. Thanks Jim for the use of your garage once again. This annual event is our opportunity to extend Season's Greetings to our friends and neighbours, to welcome new residents and to have an enjoyable evening together.



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Pukeiti Cream

The new Pukeiti cream is believed to be the first in New Zealand to incorporate Rhododendron Anthopogon essential oil. It is hand-blended locally from Hayley's workshop in Inglewood, Taranaki.

The organic Rhododendron oil is sourced from Nepal and is known for its beneficial properties including being an immune stimulant and decongestant. Pukeiti Hand and Body Cream is blended with other locally sourced natural ingredients including kawakawa, calendula and evening primrose.

As Pukeiti hosts one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of rhododendrons, it is fitting the new cream incorporates Rhododendron oil and is produced exclusively for sale at the Pukeiti gift shop.

"It's been so exciting to work with Pukeiti on this cream and I know users will really feel the benefits of the Rhododendron oil promoting stillness and calm, and the added ingredients of kawakawa, calendula and New Zealand totara all working to help heal ailments such as wounds, cuts and rashes," says Hayley. "It really is the most luxuriously thick moisturising cream."

Hayley is certified in aroma science and is the creator of Hayley Benseman Skincare, a mindful skincare range that focuses on using local native flora and 100% natural ingredients.

Pukeiti Hand and Body Cream was launched at the Pukeiti Feel Good Festival on 31 January.

Pukeiti Hand and Body Cream retails for \$49.

You can find Hayley on Facebook @HayleyBensemanNZ



Unique butterfly released in Taranaki: Have you seen one?

A beautiful butterfly has arrived in Taranaki but don't be fooled by its good looks - it has a very important job to do.

Three days before Christmas Taranaki Regional Council environment officers released about 100 Honshu white admiral (*Limenitis glauca*) pupae at Ōākura and another 100 at Kakaramea. Most had successfully hatched when the officers returned a week later.

The butterfly was first imported from Japan in 2010 by Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research as a biocontrol agent. It attacks Japanese honeysuckle, an invasive weed that smothers and strangles New Zealand's native bush. It has been released in other parts of the country since 2014, following a period of containment and testing.

Although the adult butterflies only live for about a month, the females will lay hundreds of eggs in that time.

That's good news, as the caterpillars feed on the leaves of the Japanese honeysuckle, damaging the foliage. When present in large numbers they can defoliate plants.

It's hoped that in the longer term they will help reduce the growth of weeds around the region.

The Council is keen to hear from anyone who spots a Honshu white admiral in Taranaki and help to track their progress and how far they spread.

It is unique looking so should be easy to distinguish from other butterflies.

Adults are black with white markings on the

by Katie Holland

top of their wings. If you see them drying their wings, the underside appears orange. Their wingspan is about 60mm.

Environment Services Manager Steve Ellis says the Honshu white admiral is one of several biocontrol agents the Council has released to control weeds. Agents may be used when a



weed has become widespread and traditional chemical control is not practical.

If you see a Honshu white admiral, call the Council on 0800 736 222 and ask for a Biosecurity Environment Officer or register your sighting at iNaturalist.nz.





WANTED



Have you seen this possum,
spotted on the edge of Ōākura recently?





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In the village and surrounding farmland we are down to the last remaining possums, so we need your eyes and ears to help track them down!

If you see or suspect one in Ōākura - Kaitake please call 0800 736 222 or report it at www.trc.govt.nz/possum



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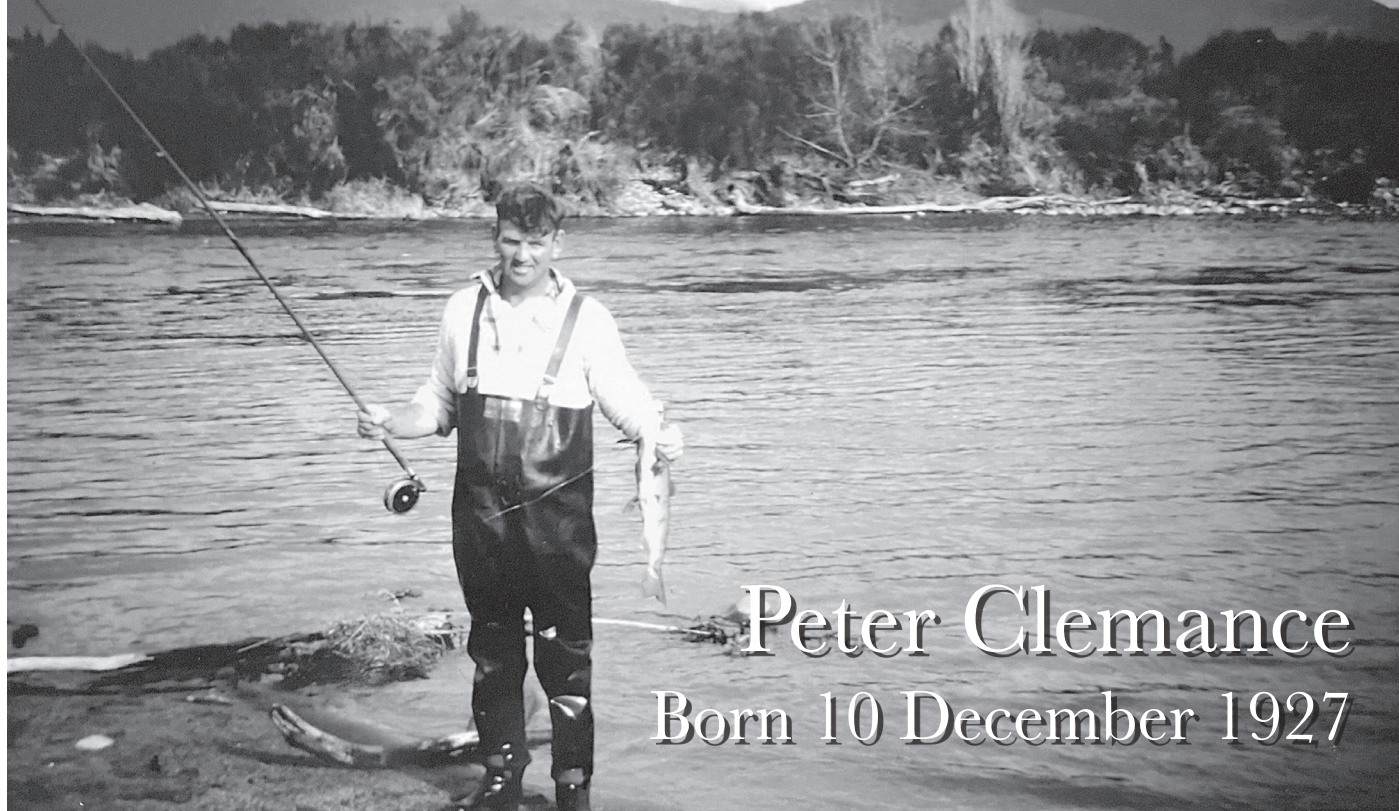
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Peter Clemance

Born 10 December 1927

Peter trout fishing on the Tongariro River

I met Peter for the first time in May 2018. He came along to the Morning Talk coffee group. Two years later Peter celebrated his 93rd birthday and the coffee group was delighted to be able to celebrate his special day with him.

Peter has an association with Ōākura local Ashley Heydon in that Ashley's late wife Nona was his cousin. Connections run deep when you come from the coast and Ōkato, being a near neighbour, was this family's link.

I asked Peter to share some memories.

Let's go back a bit. Tell me about when you were 5 years old.

We were living in Upokongaro, up the Whanganui River, where my father was a school teacher. I wasn't allowed to go to school because there was not enough money to pay new entrant teachers. When I turned six I went and lived with my father's sister, she was a new entrant teacher in Whanganui. I stayed there during the week and went to the school where she taught. By the end of that year I had learned everything I needed to be at standard one level and I could go to school at Upokongaro.

When did you come to Taranaki?

I left Upokongaro when I was 21 and moved with my parents to Ōkato. My grandmother (Fox) owned the house on the Main Road (still there and owned by the local vet). The shop beside it was my grandfather's store and behind both was a farmlet that I worked on as well as having a job at the factory. Over the years I lived in other houses in Ōkato before buying my farm on Hampton Road. I sold the farm and moved to Ōākura.

What is your association with Ōākura?

During my school years my family and I would

by Tracey Lusk

spend every summer camping at the Jans campground (no longer here but was behind the stand of tall Pohutukawa as you drive up Jans Terrace) in a tent my grandmother bought so we could holiday with her. In those early days of camping here, Wairau Road was a gravel track to the beach and either side of it was farmland. There were two campgrounds, the Jans and one where Shearer Drive is now.

One time during a camping holiday a few of us were playing a game of throwing rocks into the sand dunes, I threw this one rock at precisely the same time as a head popped up out of the dune and I hit a boy on the head. I took off, yelling all the way back, "I've killed him!" I hadn't killed him.

My wife Lynette also had a connection to Ōākura in that her Grandfather (Harper) was headmaster at the school. On his retirement he helped to build the first house on Linda St which is still there, albeit with many renovations since. His wife was well known herself as being one of the ladies that swam in the sea every day of the year. The other two were Mrs Prudence Jans and her mother, known as 'little mother'.

How long have you lived in Oakura?

My wife and I moved here 40 years ago this May and I have lived in the same house on Wairau Road ever since. We moved off the farm we were on in Ōkato. Lynette continued to work at Ōkato College (now Coastal Taranaki School) as a remedial reading teacher. I worked in the Parts Department at Moller Johnson Motors as a storeman until one year and one month before enforced retirement at 60 years old. For a short time longer I worked at Pinewoods kiwifruit orchard (Main South

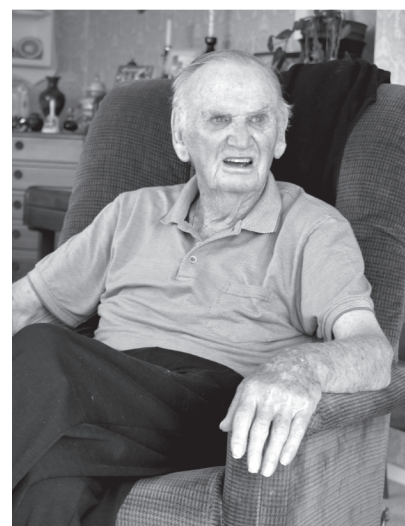


PHOTO CREDIT: Miles Wagstaff

Road - no longer there) as a gardener. Sadly, in 2011 my wife passed away. Together we had two sons, Richard, Phillip, now deceased, and a daughter, Megan. I have one granddaughter.

Oakura 40 years ago?

By that time Wairau Road was sealed and the whole of Ōākura was residential housing.

Today?

I enjoy living here. Once I retired I loved spending more time trout fishing, playing golf, going to church and attending Probus meetings.

Peter's verve for life is inspirational and when I asked him if he would consider leaving the village to go to a retirement village, he assured me he is well cared for here by a group of three lovely ladies who call in on a daily basis. Twice a week he uses his motorised scooter to go to the shops and will often stop to chat to people he meets on the way. He will leave only if he can no longer manage in his home.

If you see a man on a scooter or at his mail box waving out, he will always be ready to have a chat.



Niwa Shewry

by Suki Bishop

The Ōākura Bowl Jam has been running for three years now. Niwa came second in 2019, didn't compete in 2020 due to an injured wrist but won this year's Open Mens comp, competing against skaters from around the country. The prize money for the 2021 was \$500 plus other goodies.

Phil Culf who started the Ōākura Bowl Jam with the Taranaki Skateboarding Association and used to own Velocity Skateboard Shop in Fitzroy, was one of the earliest sponsors of Niwa back in his early days. Phil says "The skate bowl at Ōākura is one of the best in the country, certainly in the top 5. It was designed by Jason Parkes from Auckland."

From Phil.... "This year Niwa thrashed everyone. Home advantage aside, he is an exceptional talent. He has worked extremely hard to get where he is. Niwa is very driven and determined but most importantly, he really enjoys it, which shows in his skating style."

I asked Niwa's dad, John Shewry, for an update on the NZ Olympics team...

'He was on the long list for the team last year but now is shortlisted to the 'now' list, so could potentially go this year if it ran. Olympics NZ is saying it's going to, but everyone else seems to say it's unlikely. I would assume it's pretty unlikely looking at the state of the planet. Pretty amazing if he gets a spot but we would normally need qualification points prior normally but I'm unsure how that will happen between now and July.'

New Doctors at Moturoa Medical Centre



We are delighted to be introducing Dr Sarah Prior to our Moturoa medical centre. Sarah has been a partner with the CAREfirst group, working from our Westown practice since 2014. She is returning from Maternity leave to work at Moturoa Medical permanently from the 22nd February.

Sarah is an experienced GP, she is settled in New Plymouth with her husband Tim and their two children. She is really looking forward to continuing the care of her patients at Moturoa and meeting new patients that she will be taking over their care.

We are also pleased to be welcoming Dr Tyler Maltman back to the practice starting at Moturoa in February. Tyler has returned to Taranaki from Canada and is looking forward to reconnecting with the Moturoa patients and community. He has a keen interest in adventure activities so don't be surprised if you see him exploring our Maunga or windsurfing off the coast.

Dr Gill Churchman, a long standing GP in the Moturoa community, continues to care for her group of patients within the practice. Gill has been looking after the Moturoa community for many years now and is looking forward to the new GPs joining her.

Moturoa Medical is also delighted to have a doctor who is undertaking specialist GP qualifications and will be working with the team this year. Dr Marcel Fernando is joining us for the first six months of this year and is really looking forward to working with the Moturoa community and the medical team. He has been working as a fully qualified doctor at Taranaki DHB for the past three years and is joining the team with excellent experience.

You may be wondering how we will fit into our current building, the truth is it will be a bit of a squeeze. The practice facilities have served the community well, however, it is clear that we will very soon need a larger facility that better supports the team to care for the community. We are planning for this and would like to reassure the community that any new practices will be close to the Moturoa village. We are focused on ensuring that you as patients can access medical care readily and easily in your local community environment.

Sarah, Gill, Tyler, Marcel and the team are looking forward to being able to provide on-going care as a team to all of the patients currently enrolled at Moturoa Medical. We expect that we will soon be able to enrol new patients at the practice if you would like to join us.

CAREfirst Medical Centre
753 9505

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Niwa Shewry catching some air



Bowl Jam Results

Under 12

- 1 Monty Graham 10..... Mangawhai
- 2 Ace Findlay 10..... Ōākura
- 3 Dexter Lock 11 New Plymouth

Under 16

- 1 Sam Westerkamp 14..... Auckland
- 2 Monty Graham 10..... Mangawhai
- 2 Flea Griffin 12 Palmerston North
- 3 Max Reid 13 Mt Manganui

Women's Open

- 1 Billie Morrison 14..... Auckland
- 2 Naomi Gough 23..... Whanganui
- 3 Alice Westerman 16..... Auckland

Men's Open

- 1 Niwa Shewry 14 Ōākura
- 2 Remus Henry 14..... Taupo
- 3 Sam Westerkamp 14..... Auckland
- 4 Jackson Wilcox 19..... New Plymouth

Boardriders News

What a great start to 2021 with these awesome long days at the beach. Water temps have been up and down but great to see the beach packed most days. Club is back open every Friday night.

Competition surfing is back on the radar, with Nationals just held in Piha with great representation from the Club, Paige, Ari, Dawson and Tom. Well done to you all.

With the smaller swells it's good to see the groms holding their own with the tourists down the coast. Casey and Vertigo are busy with lessons.

What an epic weekend we just had with the Ōākura Bowl Jam and to see our local Niwa Shewry rip it up in front of his home crowd - and eat some of Martin's famous donuts from Bombolini.

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Ōākura Library

A new year is the perfect time to learn some new skills and if you're a Puke Ariki library member you now have access to Lynda.com!

It's an online educational platform offering video courses on topics such as web design, digital marketing, graphic design, photography and many, many more!

Library members have free and unlimited access to over 7,000 courses, with an average of 10 new courses added each week.

Courses are video based, taught by industry experts, and include beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. If you don't already have a library card come in and see us and we'll set you up in just a few minutes. Remember to bring photo ID and proof of address.

Our regular programming resumes this month:

- Crackerjacks (pre-school story time) - First Thursday of the month at 10am
- Justice of the Peace Service - Every Thursday 10am - 12:30pm
- Book Group - Meets here the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. New members always welcome.
- Start your own with Book Group in a Bag. Check out the details of this new service on our website pukeariki.com.
- Writers Group - Second Tuesday of the month at 10am.

And if you're still looking for that next inspiring book, check out our librarian selected summer reads for adults, teens and kids on our website.

Happy reading,

Charlie and Vincenza

The children have loved the Summer Reading programme and Craft Table this summer - Finn and Chloe Milestone-Webb with their woven fishes



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Te Reo Māori Lessons

On offer again for 2021, starting in March. Classes are likely to be on Wednesday afternoons and evenings but yet to be confirmed.

If you are still interested in continuing your lessons or would like to start, please attend the hui so we can look at making groups to suit levels and setting class times. Beginners are welcome.

Hui

**Butlers Reef (out back)
Wednesday 10th February
6pm - 6:30pm**

If you are unable to make it or if you would like any further information, please contact me.

To keep updated please like our facebook page, Te Reo Māori o Ōākura.

Updated information will get posted there. <https://www.facebook.com/tereoookura>

Contact: Toni Peacock 021 661 912
thowison@hotmail.com

Tai Moana Tai Tangata



Tai Moana Tai Tangata is a new exhibition of artworks by Brett Graham (Ngāti Koroki-Kahukura, Tainui) on at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery until 2 May.

Curated by Dr Anna-Marie White (Te Ātiawa), Tai Moana Tai Tangata looks at the language of war memorials in times of peace and engages with significant local history and sites. One of the large-scale sculptures included in the exhibition is Cease Tide of Wrong-Doing, which takes the form of a niu pole and has a close historical connection to Ahu Ahu in Ōākura (pictured left).

Brett Graham spent six weeks in Taranaki as the 2019 Govett-Brewster Artist in Residence. Connecting with tangata whenua and his extended whānau, the artist researched the history of the relationship between Taranaki and Tainui Māori and his own whakapapa links to the area. He focused on the pact of solidarity forged during the New Zealand Wars, a relationship known as Te Kīwai o te Kete.

Tai Moana Tai Tangata features monumental sculptures that occupy the entire Govett-Brewster Art Gallery. Asking visitors to locate themselves within the history and narratives contained within, the exhibition offers all visitors an important opportunity to reflect upon the significance of our shared history.

The exhibition is well worth a visit and is an important opportunity for families to learn about local history expressed in a creative and meaningful way.

Tai Moana Tai Tangata is firmly located within local history and geography, and artworks connect visitors to multiple sites around the Taranaki coastline including Te Namu Pā, Ōhawe, Cape Egmont Lighthouse, Parihaka and the Manaia Redoubt.

Spencer Lister Local Plumber Drainlayer



Hi, my name is Spencer Lister. Many of you will already know me as I lived and traded in the area for many years as ASG PLUMBING LTD. This year marks 35 years in the plumbing industry which makes me one of the more experienced plumbers in the area. I am looking for new work in the village or surrounding areas or even with local builders who need a good reliable plumber. I am friendly and approachable and always respectful towards clients and property. A big advantage for my clients is they always deal with the same person everytime, and once I know your property I have an understanding of the plumbing system and where everything is.

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My prices are competitive and the price given is what you pay; there are no hidden costs. My workload is programmed, and once I say 'Yes' I am committed so it is difficult for me to attend urgent work but will always try and help when I can.

I am thankful to be living in Taranaki and especially the Ōākura area. I look forward to providing a great service and meeting all the new clients and re-aquainting with the old ones.



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NPOB

Surf Life Saving Club

With summer now in full swing (most of the time), NPOB Surf Club has been busy.

As always, thank you to our volunteer guards patrolling the beach over the weekend. Weekend patrol will continue to be on the beach 1-5pm Saturdays and Sundays through to Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. Regional guard (week guards) have now finished. Please always swim between the flags when you can, check conditions before going in, never swim alone and if in doubt, stay out.

We have had 6 new lifeguards qualify in January, thanks to Dean Spicer for putting them through the coursework in preparation for the exam.

This season we were lucky to have the Central Region carnivals held in Taranaki at Fitzroy Beach at the beginning of February. A top effort from both Seniors and Juniors in very tough conditions. Congratulations to the NPOB Juniors who won the Central Region Junior Championship overall.

Our 2021 Oceans Camp was again another great success, with a record number of 52 kids attending (9 to 14 years old). Three and half days of full-on activities including beach and water sessions, team building and ending with the Dylan Dunlop-Barrett Eliminator on Sunday morning.

Congratulations to everyone on the start line, this is a really hard event and you should all be very proud of yourselves. Special mention to Ethan Peacock (1st) and Eliya Shlosberg (2nd) for taking out top spots. Overall a huge effort put in from everyone, with some only just starting out in Surf Lifesaving. Weather played its part and we had a great couple of days on the beach.

Next up is Taranaki Champs for Juniors, Seniors and IRBs end of January, finishing up with Oceans at the Mount end of February, Seniors at Ohope mid March and IRBs at Ruakaka mid April. Good luck to everyone competing.

Please stay safe everyone, swim between the flags and parents please always watch your kids in the water.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!



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*Mark Stewart,
Becs McDonald,
Karley Maetzig,
Sheldon Prichard*

The Ōākura Fire Brigade

With 2021 upon us the crew are going from strength to strength with progression through the ranks. Rebecca McDonald recently completed her recruits course, and Mark Town and Lizzie Beverage completed their Qualified Firefighter courses. Rowan Oldfield will be completing a Station Officer course this month and we have 6 members heading to Senior

Firefighter courses and 3 recruits to undertake their recruit course.

Each of these courses are a full time 5-7 day commitment, usually undertaken at the FENZ National Training Centre in Rotorua or one of the larger training centres throughout the country. Successfully completing these courses takes a lot of prelearning and physical commitment.

They put all the crew under significant but controlled pressure in dangerous scenarios and I have yet to see a crew member come back without a story to tell and a smile on their face.

Congrats to all of the crew who have shown this commitment to our community and successfully continued their progression through the brigade.

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Ōākura Tennis Club

Junior tennis is still enjoying their summer break but Soffe cup started back on the 16th. The Soffe team has dropped from second place to fourth after a couple of narrow wins and a few losses and injuries. Hopefully the team has no more injuries! Rotokare with 91 points is ahead of Pukekura's 86 points, with Okaiawa on 65 and 63 for Ōākura.

The Wilson Trophy A2 team has a longer break but will be rearing to go on the 30th of January after some close games. They had a good 10-6 win over Pukekura and 9-7 against Inglewood, but lost on a countback 21-17 to Rotokare and finishing round 1 sitting in second place. The fours team have had a win, 2 draws and 3 losses.

The midweek ladies teams enjoy a bit more of a break and will be keen to restart once school goes back, so Mums can get some Me time again!

Monika and Chantelle, with support from Taylor, are being kept busy with coaching. Monika is also available in January for individual or small group lessons for adults as well as kids.

Term time coaching will restart after Waitangi weekend so be sure to check out Blitz Tennis website (www.blitztennis.nz) and book in to a session early to avoid missing out.

Cardio tennis will restart for adults with the school term and is a great way to earn a swim in the sea! Come along on Thursdays at 9.15am.

For adults keen on a skills-based coaching group, come along on Fridays at 9:15am, ideal for those who are returning to tennis and players at B-grade level. And if you have a group of friends keen to give tennis a go, Blitz Tennis can organise a small group session at a time which suits you. See www.blitztennis.nz for contact details.

Enjoy hitting and cooling off in the ocean.

Jackie Keenan 0276732900

Kaitake Golf Club

2021 has got off to a fine start with the first tournament for the year successfully completed. The Beachcombers, sponsored by Butlers, had a field of 115 golfers and non-golfers. It was a very successful day with it being the first tournament of the year in Taranaki.

We have had a great turnout of green fee players over the Xmas and New Year period, and have been very lucky with the weather.

One of our Chippers had an awesome win at the Opunake Golf Open. D'Angelo Squatriti, who is only 11 years old, won his Division with an outstanding 43 Stablefords and won a 50" TV. Congratulations D'Angelo.

The Men have started their competitions for the year and had a big turnout for the first comp of the season.

\$5.00 WEDNESDAYS are still going strong and we welcome any non-golfers also to come along and join in.

Chippers will be starting soon when school goes back, but if anyone is interested please contact Denise on 06 7527 665.

Womens News

The 18 Hole Shootout sponsored by Raceway Mowers and Cycles was held in December and won by Lorraine Julian with Joan Gerrard as runner-up.

The Ladies Christmas Lunch at Butlers was attended by women across all our divisions – Weekend, Midweek and Nine Holers.

Midweek Ladies opening day was on Tuesday 2nd February with both the 18 Hole ladies and 9 Hole ladies playing for their respective Summer Trophies. Weekend Ladies starts on Feb 6 with the Jocelyn Garcia Trophy.

A new Quick 6 Series to attract new members starts on Sunday 21st February for 6 consecutive Sundays. Clubs and balls will be provided. Anyone interested in giving golf a try contact Andrea Jarrold on 0273587001 or Denise in the office on 7527665.



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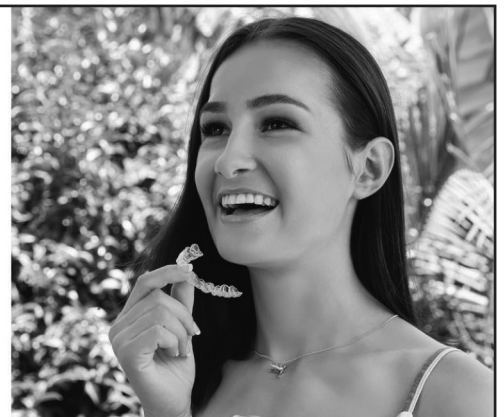
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2020 Cup Winners from left: Lola Crawshaw -Leadership, Amelie Henderson -Arts and Culture and Academic Excellence, Haruna Saito -Academic Excellence, Mia Matheson -Responsibility, Aliana Scholey -Sporting Excellence



Coming Up

Feb	8	Waitangi Day Holiday
	10	Year 5-6 Beach Education at East End
	11	Information Evening 5:30-7:30
	12	Year 7-8 Beach Education at East End
	23	Home and School Meeting 3:15pm
	26	Ōmata Triathlon
Mar	2	Swimming Display Day
	8	Taranaki Anniversary
	9	Teacher Only Day

2020 Reflections

In 1859 Charles Dickens wrote 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times' - a quote from his well-known story 'A Tale of Two Cities'. In true 2020 agile style, I'm going to flip this quote to 'It was the worst of times, it was the best of times.' It is hard to put into words the upheaval that occurred, both personally and professionally.

Everyone was affected. I would like to acknowledge the way our Ōmata Community, Staff and Board responded to this unprecedented challenge. 'Bubbles, zoom and lockdown' were familiar words, with new meanings. Ōmata Rōpū Tautoko was born.

Teddy bear hunts became a daily fascination, the world seemed to hold its breath as we tried to keep COVID19 at bay.

Ashley joined us in our living rooms daily, Facebook became the 'go to' place for recipes, humour and a window to the world during this crazy time.

I am so proud of our staff who all rallied to provide learning packs, learning bubbles, bedtime reading videos and online zooms for students as we dove headlong into level four lockdown. Then as we emerged, we got stuck-in to return some normality and provide many rich learning experiences.

Thank you and aroha to all of our teachers, sup-

Karen Brisco - Principal

port staff, Board of Trustees and whānau. He waka eke noa. You are amazing.

We all weathered this extraordinary experience over many, many months, staying positive, being kind and getting through with the ongoing uncertainty of how this will continue to play out. The importance of balance in our lives has never been so starkly illustrated as it was during lockdown.

Whilst it was the most trying of times, it was also like a very deep breath that made us slow down and reset. Covid gave us the gift of time - time to spend with our children and families, time to reflect on how we live our lives and time to reconnect.

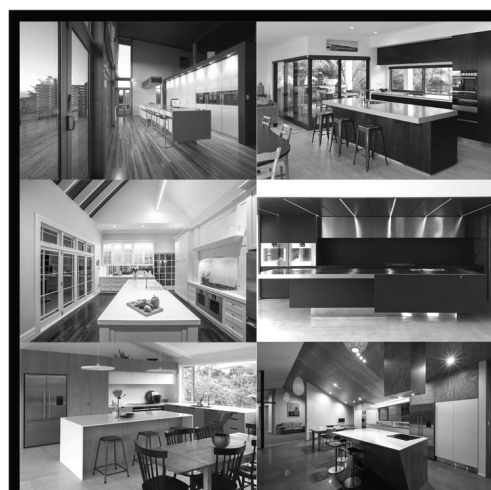
Wrapping around our community with kindness, strength and support for each other as

we went into a time of physical isolation was crucial to making sure we came out able to face the ongoing challenges ahead.

Leading a school during a global pandemic is one of the toughest challenges of my career, not physically but certainly with a heavy responsibility. Fortunately, I do not walk alone; I have a team to support me, to share with and to help carry the load. I am grateful for them all.

Our Year 8s could feel a little robbed or resentful that Covid interrupted their final year at Ōmata, but instead, I want them to think of 2020 as the year they will never forget.

We were a part of global history and in many ways, it's a gift. Learn from the 'worst of times' and hold onto the 'best of times' as the blueprint of what it is to be a good person.



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TOP Activities

Ōākura

Bowling and Social Club

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

Dancing in the Dark

Glenys Farrant 027 7530120

Inferno 45- 4 X Bootcamp fitness

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

Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

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sally@sallylaing.co.nz 027 664 3511

JKA Karate

Jim Hoskin 752 7337

Justice of the Peace. Lynn Murray.

Ōākura Library Thursdays 10am-12.30pm.

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

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

Morning Talk - coffee group

Thursdays 10-11am at NPOB Surf Club.
Free tea and coffee. 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

Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Pickleball Ōākura

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

Playcentre

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

Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238
traceymackkyle@gmail.com

Pool Club

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 and 4th
Sun 10am stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Sunday School - St James Church

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

Tennis Club

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

www.blitztennis.nz. Midweek ladies
competition contact Jackie.
Juniors Tash 027 775 5440,
Seniors Jackie 027 673 2900

Tai Chi Classes

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

Val Deakin Dance School

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

Tataraimaka

5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

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

Gymnastics Group for children age 5-7 years.

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

Okato

Okato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

Okato Lions Club

John Hislop 757 9696

Okato Squash Club

Monday nights from 6.30pm. Everyone
welcome okatosquash1@gmail.com.
Ladies morning every Friday 9.30 - 11am.
First 2 sessions free, racquets available.
All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

Ōmata

Ōmata Playgroup

contact Ōmata School 751 2308

TOP Notices

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March Issue

delivered online and on Facebook
from 27th February.

*Views expressed in The Ōākura Post are not
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