

# The Ōākura Post

July 2021



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*"Don't count every hour in the day, make every hour in the day count."*

- shared by Les Lewis

PHOTO CREDIT: Claire Florence



## How I came to NZ...

My mate Derek Williams and I worked on neighbouring farms. We had been friends for the last 6 and a half years and we went out everywhere together - dances on Saturday nights, chapel on Sunday nights and Young Farmers on Monday nights.

One day we were reading the Farmers Weekly and noticed that Canada, Australia and New Zealand were advertising for dairy farm workers. Thinking that Canada was very cold in the winter and Australia was a little too hot in the summer, that left New Zealand as our only choice!

So, we applied to emigrate. After filling in forms, having a medical and interview, we were accepted in 1957. We travelled to Glasgow and boarded the Captain Hobson at 4:30pm 28th May 1958. At 7pm, with well wishers on the wharf singing Now is the Hour and Auld Lang Syne and pipers playing, 500 immigrants sailed off down the Clyde into the Atlantic.



After seven weeks at sea, we docked at Wellington port at 6pm on Saturday the 19 July. We then travelled by bus to New Plymouth where we had a meal at the Piccadilly restaurant.

Our new employer, Mr David Wright of Tipoka Road, Rahotu, picked us up and we began work the very next day early in the morning. And that was the beginning of my 63 years living in New Zealand.

*Les Lewis was born in Herefordshire, England and has lived the last 26 years in Ōākura.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Cleaner Required.** Experienced, reliable, physically able and efficient house cleaner required. Oakura township, 1.5 hours per week. Immediate start. For further info please phone 0273787191.

**Mahjong.** Expressions of interest for a local group to play Mahjong. Contact the TOP team, see page 16 for details.

**Spinner or Weavers.** Any Spinners and weavers that would like to meet locally. Contact the TOP team, see page 16 for details.

**\$10 to advertise your classifieds**

## Taranaki Tribe by Mike Ure

The Taranaki tribe had many pa kainga within their rohe.

Many have not withstood the ravages of time, and lay in ruins.

Most were constructed long before Europeans arrived to these shores.

And had thriving communities surrounding them (kainga).

These sites defended for hundreds of years with archaic weapons, taiha, mere, etc.

Atrocities were inflicted upon the Taranaki people at a number of these pa, kainga, before and after the introduction of the musket.

After the enemy grew tired of the siege, they would leave. The ones lucky enough to escape would return to bury what was left of their loved ones.

Most of these archaic sites do not represent our history with the Crown or our history of colonisation.

They represent our tribal history.

Our stories of war and peace,

Some of the stories held close by those given the korere.

Some stories not for everyone's ears.

Knowing some of those stories myself.

Better to leave them in peace.



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# Kaitake Community Board

It has been a busy period for your Community Board. We have attended various meetings, workshops and briefings since the last reporting. While the long grind of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan is over we are now in the throes of the urban streets review.

The council is carrying out a district-wide discussion on urban speed following the signing off of the 2018 New Plymouth District Speed Management Guidelines. We do encourage everyone to have their say. Check out the interactive map to see what safer speeds might look like on your roads and around schools, and let the council know what you think! The link to the map and survey is here: <https://www.newplymouthnz.com/Council/Have-Your-Say/Consultations-and-Surveys/Safer-Speeds-Review-Urban-Roads>.

So, what are the areas of roading interest for us at the moment? In Okato it's about two separate locations where vehicle speed is an issue. First, on Oxford Road coming into the Village from the 50km restriction signs many vehicles aren't slowing down until they are outside the police station (funny that). The other area is on Carthew Street (SH45) where many vehicles heading south rapidly increase speed after leaving the roundabout while still well inside the 50km signs.

In Ōākura it is about coming up with a permanent traffic calming solution on Tasman

Parade, progressing the plan for the Donnelly Street traffic safety issues the school faces every day, widening the southside footpath from Donnelly Street to the Wairau Road intersection, and tidying up the walkway between Butlers Lane and Corbett Park.

Over the years I've found that trying to get anything done connected with roading matters is like playing snakes and ladders.

An issue arises and everything seems to be progressing well so you feel as if you are really climbing the ladder and then all of a sudden a problem arises and you slide back down an unexpected snake. However, we will be concentrating on climbing all these roading ladders over the next few months and hoping there are no snakes waiting for us just around the corner.

We have been having discussions with Vodafone who want to locate a cell tower in Ōākura to enable better and more reliable coverage for its network. All telecommunications activity in NZ is dictated by the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications.


As long as companies meet these standards and comply with District Plan restrictions, they are able to decide where cellphone towers are erected, including on public road reserves owned by Council, and in urban and rural areas. This means the NPDC is unable to intervene in or prevent companies from erecting cellphone towers where they choose to do so. Towers can also be built on private land if the landowner agrees.

Providers are not obligated to consult with the community. However, as the erection of a cell tower was a contentious issue here once before, the KCB is setting up a public meeting so Vodafone can explain what it is planning to do and local residents can raise their concerns and have their say. It is likely that the meeting will take place at the conclusion of the next KCB meeting at the Ōākura Bowling Club on Monday 26 July.

We note that Ōākura came out on top as the best community in the district for household waste recycling. While that's a great result out this way, it is unfortunate that the number of non-recyclables being put in bins across the district is increasing, namely much more soft plastic and takeaway coffee cups being disposed of in the bins.

And finally, congratulations to long time Ōākura local Garry Carnachan. Garry has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours for having a significant influence in the governance of school sport in New Zealand.

Now retired from his role as chief executive of School Sport NZ, Garry is still hard at it facilitating a serious upgrade of the Kaitake Rugby clubrooms and the setting up of a community sports trust for the sporting bodies that use Corbett Park. This will ensure that the park remains in safe hands and the next generations of players and spectators can continue to enjoy its wonderful environment.



*Huge turnouts in support of both rugby and football at Corbett Park underlines the importance of retaining a fit-for-purpose community sport facility in the Kaitake district*

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on Monday 26 July at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm.

Doug Hislop - 752 7324 and [douglashislop@gmail.com](mailto:douglashislop@gmail.com)

on behalf of Graham Chard, Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, and Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Councillor representative on the KCB)

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# TOP Team...



**Elayne  
Kessler**  
*Proof  
reader*

I came to New Zealand from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA in 2000 with my then 16 year old daughter while my 19 year old son stayed in Albuquerque. I had been working for many years as a speech-language therapist in the schools there. Since there was a shortage of speech-language therapists in NZ I had an opportunity to come and work here. I signed a two-year contract with the Ministry of Education and I kept renewing my contract. Now it is 21 years later and I'm retired from that job. I became a NZ citizen in 2003. Obviously I love it here.

I have lived in Ōākura my entire time in NZ and feel very much a part of the community. Many of you will remember me from my retirement business a while ago, Ōākura Scoops. For five summers I sold Movenpick ice cream from a cart at Shearer Reserve. It was a unique opportunity to get to know so many of our local families and see plenty of smiling faces.

On one of my visits to the US I got to try out pickleball (a cross between badminton, volleyball and table tennis). It was fun and I wondered if we could play it in Ōākura. I went to the Ōākura Hall to measure if it was big enough for a pickleball court and was gobsmacked to see old badminton lines already painted on the floor - perfect for two pickleball courts. We now have enough people playing to have two pickleball sessions a week. (Look on the back page in Top Activities for the schedule.)

I enjoy growing healthy food. My lawn keeps getting smaller and smaller and my fruit and veggie areas keep expanding. I love animals and have four chickens and two pet Nigerian Dwarf goats, Bernie and Baama, who are a delight to have around.



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Vicky Jury's job is "making sure the Village runs right," according to the late Ash Hayden.

Vicky is the custodian of the Ōākura Community Hall which is a well-used, busy place. Employed by the NPDC, she is responsible for scheduling the many regular activities (like Tai Chi, pickleball, dance, and a variety of exercise and fitness groups).

She organises the Hall for weddings, funerals and other special events that happen more often than you might think. This busy woman also cares for the Bowling Club that's located behind the Hall. For the past 20 years she did housekeeping for Ash and still does housekeeping for Marlene Johnsen.

Vicky was born in Wellington. Her family moved to Australia and then back to NZ. She attended several primary schools in the area — Urenui, Spotswood, West End, Moturoa — and then went on to Devon Intermediate and Spotswood College. At 18 she worked at Woolworths at the ice cream stand at the front of the shop, and later at Westown Hotel (who remembers those places?)

She then went to work with her Auntie at the Linnell's factory on Centennial Drive. They manufactured sugar cubes, icing sugar and Royal Almond Paste. "We had some fun at that job," she says.

At that time Vicky lived in an apartment below Noddy Jury's sister in NP. Occasionally Noddy would visit the old farm in Ōākura where he grew up. One day he was there when his sister brought Vicky to go mushroom picking on the



## Vicky Jury

by Elayne Kessler

farm. They met and at the end of the day they went to Butler's Pub together. In March 1982 they got engaged on Noddy's birthday and then married the following year. They have three children, Roxanne, Kalman, and Troy and three grandchildren.

They bought their house on the Ōākura Main Road near the Hall in 1986. The house is over 150

years old and was moved from Urenui a while before then. Sadly it's not eligible to be considered a Heritage House because there have been so many alterations made to it over the years. It has plenty of history though as home to Vicky and her family for the past 35 years.

Vicky started working part-time at Ōākura School about the same time Noddy started as school caretaker, more than 20 years ago. In 2004 the Taranaki Daily News decided to use adults instead of teenagers for the early morning paper deliveries so Vicky and Noddy took over the route from their daughter. They pick up the papers from the Ōākura BP at 4.00am each day and finish their deliveries about 5.00am. Noddy does the driving and Vicky tosses the papers with precision out the passenger window.

Vicky, herself, has never felt the need to learn to drive. She does most things locally, beginning with her daily walk to the 4-Square for her morning coffee. "My nails and hair are my other treats," she says. She gets her hair cut and coloured at The Hair Boutique in the Village and sees Emma at R&CO every four weeks to have her nails done. She gets something different painted on her nails each time and they have to be "designer nails", she says. Her nails have art work that is often determined by the season or a holiday theme, and the children at Ōākura School often like to have a look at them.

Once a week Noddy and Vicky take a trip to town to do their shopping. "It's our time together," Vicky says. Mostly everything else happens in the Village for Vicky and that way she is able to keep tabs on whatever is going on.

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STAPLES RODWAY

For a number of months now, Law West has 'sponsored' an advertisement stating that "The Sun is the main driver of climate change, not you, not CO<sub>2</sub>." We went and asked a **proper climate scientist**, and here is what he said...

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

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

**[climate.nasa.gov/causes](https://climate.nasa.gov/causes)**

**[ipcc.ch/report/ar5](https://ipcc.ch/report/ar5)**

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

.....



**Human activity is the driver of climate change**

**"The Sun doesn't appear to be responsible for the warming trend observed over the past several decades. CO<sub>2</sub> levels show a very different story."**

**- NASA**

**Yes, all of us contribute to this**

**Yes, it's the CO<sub>2</sub>**



# Who is trapping at home?

by Mark Danenhauer

The Ōākura community has done a tremendous job embracing the idea of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki.

Back in 2018 the community came out in force and bought heaps of traps at a workshop. Since that time you've bought more traps at school fundraisers and at another community workshop in March. There are now over 300 traps in Ōākura backyards and reserves such as Matekai Park, Shearer Reserve and along the coast!

Those traps are now registered on Trap.NZ as part of our Restore Ōākura project. Trap.NZ is a website that compiles and tracks all of the trapping being done in different projects across Taranaki. We use it to see how we are doing towards moving towards a predator-free Taranaki.

Trap.NZ can be accessed either on a laptop, tablet or smartphone. You simply request to join Restore Ōākura, then upload the location of your traps. You then record every time you check your traps, whether you catch something or nothing.

This is a valuable resource that gives us tons of useful information such as how many homes are trapping, how many pests we are catching each month or year, and if there are gaps in our trapping network that we need to focus on. However, it only works and we are only able to tell how we are doing if people use it.

It's fantastic that there are over 300 traps in Ōākura. Unfortunately,



*Main: Registered traps in Ōākura. Right: Mark Danenhauer, Community Liaison, Towards Predator Free Taranaki*

ly, when I look on Trap.NZ it looks like the majority of those traps have never been checked or haven't been checked for a very long time. I don't know if that is simply because people aren't recording their data on Trap.NZ or it's because those traps are no longer being used.

We are starting to see more native birds in the Kaitake Ranges and coming down into the village and reserves. That's due to all the work being done in the ranges and the surrounding farmland by many groups and volunteers. All of that work allowed kiwi to be released in the Kaitake Range recently. Now, it's important that those of us in the village do our part...

Hopefully, in the not too distant future we will see kaka, north island robins or kiwi in our backyards.

I always feel so lucky to live in such an amazing piece of the world. Let's work together to make it even more

so by helping to bring back our precious native wildlife through trapping and recording those checks.

For more information on how to use the Trap.NZ website or app, visit <http://www.trc.govt.nz/using-trap-nz-to-record-catches>. Or you can always get in touch with me at [mark.danenhauer@trc.govt.nz](mailto:mark.danenhauer@trc.govt.nz). I live in Ōākura and I'm happy to come and help you get set up.





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Watch this space for more details, and a new timetable coming out soon. Connect on Facebook at the Shine Yoga Studio page to see photos of the progress.

Call or email Kate on  
**027 203 7215 • [kate@shineyoga.co.nz](mailto:kate@shineyoga.co.nz)**  
for any further details

# Te Reo Māori Lessons

Kia ora koutou,

Just a quick update to keep the community informed on how the lessons are going. We have four classes on the go currently, two beginners classes, one advanced beginners and one intermediate, all on a Wednesday at the St James Church Hall.

The classes are progressing well and some nice dynamics and friendships are building within the groups. It is very casual and relaxed as well as being fun and good exercise for the brain.

We have had a few enquiries with people interested in starting. However, now that we are two terms in it is too difficult to bring in a new learner with no previous knowledge into a class that is already two terms in. However, if we are able to get enough new people keen to learn we could possibly offer a new class starting in Term 3, otherwise it will not be until Term 1 2022.

If you are interested still and would like to start in a new beginner class, please contact me. If you already have some knowledge and would like to join a current class then also contact me.

**Contact: Toni Peacock: 021 661 912, [thowison@hotmail.com](mailto:thowison@hotmail.com)**

## Kaitake Netball

The Sunday Sessions casual netball games are now underway. If you are interested in a game of casual netball, check out our facebook page (Kaitake Netball Club) and come along for a game.

We play at the Ōākura School Tennis Courts at 3pm on Sundays during Term 2 & 3.

It's a great way to work on your fitness and to bond with fellow women in the community.

Any queries: Toni Peacock, [thowison@hotmail.com](mailto:thowison@hotmail.com)/021 661 912

# Ōākura Library

## School holiday programmes

Create your own display maro (a Māori apron-like garment) on Wednesday 14 July 2pm - 3pm. Spaces are limited so please book ahead.

Create a spin drum at our craft table on Wednesday 21 July from 2pm - 3pm. No booking required.

## Festival of Words

Literature comes to life this winter with Puke Ariki's fabulous four day festival (29 July – 1 August) which includes performances and conversations with some of Aotearoa's biggest names in the literary arts.

At Ōākura we have two bookmaking workshops where you'll combine the power of words with creativity to handcraft your own book.

Children's session (ages 8+) 30 July, 3.30 - 4.30pm

Adult's session (ages 18+) 30 July, 6pm - 7pm

These are free workshops but you do need to book, visit [www.PukeAriki.com/FOW](http://www.PukeAriki.com/FOW) to get your tickets and view the full Festival line-up.

## New to the digital library

LinkedIn Learning – 16,000 courses that will help you learn business, personal, technology and creative skills.

Niche Academy – step by step videos that will show you how to use some of our most popular resources.

Prenda – coding for kids. Learn to make games, apps and websites with easy, fun videos and exercises.

Check them out here: [pukeariki.com/libraries/digital-library/](http://pukeariki.com/libraries/digital-library/)

**Happy reading, Charlie and Vincenza**



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# Ōākura Fire Brigade Medals

After months of exhausting, and let's face it, 'age defining' training for the brigade's stair climb team, the 8 members assembled in Auckland to face up to the challenge of climbing the Sky Tower in 25kg of full firefighting kit and breathing apparatus.

Two members of our team did exceptionally well, taking out 2 silver medals in their respective age groups. Fergus Robertson set a blistering pace of 11.54 and took second place in the men's grand masters and 15th place overall, 641 people took part. The mercurial Lizzie Beveridge took second place in the women's grand masters with her time of 18.25. Lizzie's placing is exceptionally legendary considering she had just finished her last treatment for cancer in February this year.

Well done to all members of the team, Fergus Robertson, Mark Town, Lizzie Beveridge, Ross Bennett, Rebecca McDonald, Roger Duncan, Aaron Murphy and Blake Marston.

The Sky Tower Climb Challenge is now in its 17th year and supports the families of Leukaemia and blood cancer patients. We are so pleased to announce that this year firefighters collectively raised a record \$1.37 million. Our brigade raised over \$10,000. The team would like to thank everyone who helped us raise funds for the cause, from individual donators to all of the fantastic local businesses that contributed prizes to our raffle and bingo night.

The team are looking forward to the next Sky Tower event in 2022... after a cup of tea and a lie down.



*From top Left to Right: Fergus Robertson, Mark Towns, Aaron Murphy, Ross Bennett, Lizzie Beveridge, Becs McDonald.*

## Do your ears feel blocked, are you having trouble hearing?

Some people naturally produce a lot of wax that can become impacted and cause irritation and hearing loss. Other things may increase the need to have your ears suctioned such as hairy ears or hearing aids.

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AROUND TARANAKI

## HOW I FELT CHRIS PARKER

Block out the calendar from 29 July through to 01 August. The Right Royal Cabaret Fest brings New Zealand's leading cabaret artists, performers, and comedians to Taranaki.

Thu 29 Jul, 7:00 PM

Regional Ōakura Hall,

Tickets \$45.00



@TaranakiArtsFestival



@Tafnz

One of the standout shows over the four days, *How I Felt* by comedian Chris Parker, will open the festival for a night of hilarious and clever storytelling at the Oakura Regional Hall on Thursday 29 July.

Chris Parker is an award-winning comedian who emerged from Alert Level 4 with a hat made of felt creations, a new Instagram following (20k), and an experience he has now turned into a sold-out show, 'How I Felt'.

*How I Felt* is New Zealand's, and dare we say it, the world's first live comedy felting show. During this humorous one-hour show, Parker will leave you in stitches with his stories about what he thinks about different kinds of coffee, his experiences of sibling warfare, ballet lessons, therapists and how he feels about things that make him stressed and anxious.

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# NPOB Surf Life Saving Club



Our senior season finished up with prize giving in early May. Thanks to everyone who participated over the season in all shapes and form, whether it be lifeguarding, competing, coaching, supporting, cleaning the bathrooms or carrying the towels. Everyone is appreciated and everyone helps with keeping the wheels going around.

As always our top senior awards can easily be awarded to a number of people. We are incredibly lucky to have so many volunteers who show up day after day, giving up their time and expertise to help NPOB.

This year our top awards were awarded as follows:

**Kevin Wood Trophy – Outstanding Patrol Member**  
**Ross Lilley**

**Laurie Petty Trophy – Club Person of the Year**  
**Bruce MacDonald**

**Volunteer Award – Speaks for Itself**  
**John Quilter**

You will have noticed the scaffolding around the club at the start of June. This was set up so we could replace the roof. We were lucky to get a run of good weather to get the job completed. The next big project will be across the road at the gear shed.

The AGM has been set for Friday August 13, a catch up over the winter and the official start to the 2021/22 season. As always everyone is welcome. It's hard to believe we are already half way through 2021.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page. When the roof is complete we will celebrate this and open the bar!

## Indoor Bowling

Since my last update we are well underway with our club championships, having completed our champ triples and are half way through champ fours. The triples were eagerly contested with a number of teams able to reach the semi-finals.

After seven rounds the final was to be decided by Jimmy Priest's team of Nev Jans and Val Bridgeman up against Peter Anderson's team of Bruce Duggan and new comer Pat Cunningham. Great bowls were played by both teams with the lead changing regularly until the final end when the score was six all. In the final end each bowl made a difference and it was extremely tense with Peter Anderson producing the winning shot with his last bowl to win the triples title for 2021. Congratulations to Peter and team, especially Pat Cunningham in her first year of bowls.

The champ fours has one round of section play to go, with only Jimmy Priest's team being undefeated at this stage. He is guaranteed a place in the final with a number of teams still able to qualify, so it will be an exciting week ahead.

Over the Queens Birthday Monday holiday we had our annual Presidents vs Club Captains night, which is a fun way to hold an evening of lighthearted bowls when there are a few people away on holiday. As the President, I am reluctant to say we were beaten on every game with the bragging rights going to the Club Captain for 2021. Better luck next year.

It is worth noting our club members are giving up their time to teach the Year 7 & 8 students at Ōākura Primary School the game of indoor bowls. This is taking place every Tuesday morning for six weeks at the Ōākura Village Hall and will result in a team being selected to play in a primary school tournament in Ōpunake. Great to see our club members passing on their knowledge to the younger generation, and for the school to get involved in a sport seen by many to be for 'oldies' only. I will keep you posted on how the students go in the tournament

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# Kaitake Golf Club

## Men's News

We had a very successful TWO BALL BEST BALL with the Gross Winners being Samuel Jones (Manaia +3.9) and Benjamin Joseph (Inglewood 0.1) and the Nett winners Geoff Farrant (Kaitake) and John Boon (Waverley).

In the Ladies section Gross Winners Fay Rowe (Manukorihi) Maureen Giles (Inglewood) and Nett Winners Joan Gerrard (Kaitake) and Helen Beaurepaire (Kaitake) well done to them all.

No Hole in Ones and no one broke the course record so that still stands with Euan Ritchie with a 63 Gross.

The course is in great shape and we had a lot of visitors for our Two Ball Best Ball and they were most impressed with our greens and fairways. The greens are putting really well at present.

## Women's Results

Kaitake Womens' pink and black flags were put to use again as we hosted the Weekend Ladies Pennants finals.

As the month of May was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the timing of bringing out these flags was very apt.

Our Weekend Pennant Team has finished second. We were just one point behind the winners, Manukorihi, who beat Te Ngutu in the final round.

The 9-hole Pennant competition has been

won by Te Ngutu. Kaitake Ladies held onto 3rd place.

Our very long-term members, Shirley Aspinall and Ann Murdoch, have decided to retire their clubs. These ladies have been inspirational to many of our younger members and we wish them well. Our sympathy goes to the family and friends of Yvonne Coxhead, one of our members who passed away recently.

**CHIPPERS:** Next Chippers day will be Sun 11 July 2021. We will be in touch and hopefully we can get some coaching for the kids.

There is still firewood for sale at the golf club.  
See Denise in the office for details.



May the 23rd we held our Annual Club champs at Graveyards. The hard core crew of competitors and spectators battled the winds but what a great day. Congrats to Ari Shewry who took out the Open Womens and to Simon Deken for the Open Mens. (All other results are on our facebook page.)

Big ups to Paige for her battle in El Salvador to qualify for the Olympics. It couldn't have been any closer for her. We are all really proud of you Paige!

Sunday Open Jam sessions at the Club  
have started - (Updates on fb and insta)

*Dates to throw in your diaries:*

September 2nd - 3rd: Primary School  
Surf Champs Gisborne [www.surfingnz.co.nz/primary-school-champs/](http://www.surfingnz.co.nz/primary-school-champs/)

October 11th -15th: National Scholastic  
Surfing Championships Taranaki [www.surfingnz.co.nz/scholastic-championships/](http://www.surfingnz.co.nz/scholastic-championships/)

October 22-25th: Labour Weekend - Club's 30th Anniversary!

## Enjoy the waves - *Luke*

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# Movement Madness

Movement Madness is an event hosted by Ōmata school every year. Ruru students organise games for 12 groups of combined Ōākura and Ōmata year 1-4 students.

It's always a blast. The sun shone brightly on the fresh winter day on 26th May for the year 1 and 2 event. There were lots of fun activities like helicopters, rob the nest, soccer skills, sack races, all in tag, obstacle courses, bucket towers, river on the bank and lots of other fun games and activities that those involved could play.

Kids loved joining in on the games and coming to Ōmata to experience the wonders of our school environment, playing and laughing with their friends. Ruru students enjoyed leading the activities and encouraging the younger students to be involved, showing them how to play these fun games, and watching them laugh and enjoy themselves.

**Amelia and Olivia Prestidge (11 yrs)**



*Lewis Vincent and Marley Lilley taking part in the obstacle course at Movement Madness*

## Coming Up

July

- 1 Puanga Celebration
- 2 Music Assembly 9am: Kiwi, Pūkeko, Pīwakawaka, Tūi
- 3 Ceilidh Night 7-9pm Ōmata Hall
- 5 Quiz Night at Good Home 7pm Ruru camp fundraiser
- 7 Music Assembly 9am: Kōtare, Korimako, Ruru, Marimba Group
- 9 End of Term Two
- 26 Start of Term Three



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# Ōākura School - Camp Wellington



**On Monday 24th May, Ōākura School's year 7&8s went on a week long camp to Wellington. We stayed at Silverstream Retreat in Upper Hutt. For Tuesday and Wednesday we travelled into Wellington and completed a range of learning experiences there, and then we went to Porirua on Thursday. Students wrote a daily diary on the exciting events they experienced each day of the long-awaited camp. Here are some of the entries that were written each day.**

**Monday 24th May**

Dear diary,

Today, Monday the 24th of May, we travelled all the way to Wellington from Ōākura School. It took us 6 hours! I have been waiting for this day forever. We left Ōākura at 9:10, halfway to Hawera we stopped because some people felt sick. When we stopped in Hawera we were halfway through the movie, 'Home Alone'.

We hit the road again, after 'Home Alone' we put on 'Elmo'. While Pearl and I were trying to sleep, Elmo's high pitched voice was bursting my eardrums. We stopped in Whanganui and had lunch at the best park in the world. On the way to Upper Hutt our bus almost broke down. We arrived at Silverstream Retreat. We had a delicious dinner and dessert and we are about to play bingo!

I wonder how tomorrow will be.

*Maia Dinnison (age 12)*

**Tuesday 25th May**

Dear Diary,

I saw a giraffe, a cheetah, a kangaroo... you name it, I saw it!

I was so excited to go to the zoo and Te Papa. We ate breakfast and then were off. We hopped on the bus and 1 hour later, we arrived at the zoo!

I was very excited to look around. At the zoo there is a trampoline! I lost interest in the animals for a bit, and backflipped on the trampoline. The interest comes back when I see a giraffe! (not Harold). It was around 5 metres tall and there were three of them!

*Cole McNeil (age 11)*



*Above: Parliament in session;  
Right Chili Kearns-Grieve identifying fingerprints*

**Wednesday 26th May**

Dear Diary,

Parliament! We got to go into all the fancy-smancy, cool debate rooms where all the laws of New Zealand are made. Brody and Reija did a roleplay where they pretended to be Prime Ministers responding to the media, which was really funny.

Capital E is a film/video making place where we were reporting about an alien invasion! I was a chaos reporter which was a really cool role to play.

For dinner we had fish and chips and corn dogs or something.

It was very nice.

*Kamma Rung-Hansen (age 12)*

**Thursday 27th May**

Dear Booklet-Thingy,

Today we went to Adrenalin Forest. It is a high ropes course up in some great pine trees and I loved every second of it! We clipped into harnesses and wires with these fancy smart-clips; travelling around the trees via ziplines, moving logs, trembling wires and more. I got all the way up to level 3A!

We also visited the National Police Museum, which was next door to the training academy for police officers. The guide, Nick, told us a bit



about the police force history and let us wander around to read about well-known officers and cases. He also gave us a short lesson on forensics, where we dusted our fingerprints!

*Jessica Field (age 11)*

This was a very exciting time for the seniors. Camp was concluded on Thursday night with a talent show. It was so entertaining, from comedy, to skits, to dancing. Congratulations to 1st place winner Cory/Chinman who sang, 'Don't worry, be happy' as a Chinman.

2nd equal went to 'Squeaky Kleen' a skit advertising a cleaning product by Jessica, Samantha, Kenzie and Lia. The other 2nd placegetters were Ella and Imogen who adapted the 'Four Yorkshiremen' from Monty Python. Last but not least was the brilliant dance team who choreographed their own dance to 'A hard knock life'. All in all it was an amazing experience and will definitely be remembered.

*Ella Kitson (age 12)*



# 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

### Golf

Practice net. Non members welcome. Clubs and balls can be supplied. \$5.00 WEDNESDAYS. Casual competition for non-members. 8am to 1pm open to everyone. Denise 752 7665

### Inferno 45- 4 X Bootcamp fitness

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

### Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

### Jewellery Making Classes with Sally Laing

Well-equipped studio in Ōākura, qualified, experienced teacher. [www.sallylaing.co.nz](http://www.sallylaing.co.nz) [sally@sallylaing.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:morgpt@xtra.co.nz)

### Morning Talk - coffee group

Thursdays 10-11am at NPOB Surf Club. Free tea/coffee. Tracey Lusk 752 7875

### 'Move it or Lose it' Strength and Balance Fitness Classes

Ōākura Hall, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am. Contact Gloria Zimmerman 027 284 9111

### Meditation Group

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

### Music Group, Mini Groovers

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

### Ōākura Yoga

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

### Pickleball Ōākura

Ōākura Hall - Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 9.15am. 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](http://oakura@playcentre.org.nz)

### Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238 [traceymackkyle@gmail.com](mailto:traceymackkyle@gmail.com)

### Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday night 7pm over winter commencing April at Butlers Reef. All welcome. For more info call Margaret 027 232 1899

### Probus Club

Meets once a month at Ōākura Bowling club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month 10-11.30am. Contact Brenda Ryan 757 3537 or 027 748 9698

### Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni Peacock 021 661 912 [thowison@hotmail.com](mailto:thowison@hotmail.com)

### St James Church

Sunday Worship every 2nd and 4th Sun 10am [stjamesoakura@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesoakura@gmail.com)

### Sunday School - St James Church

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am. [stjamesoakura@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesoakura@gmail.com)

### Tennis Club Winter Coaching

Junior coaching Mon-Fri before or after school, check [www.blitztennis.nz](http://www.blitztennis.nz). Adults Wed 9-10.30am advanced, Fri 9-10am adult returner/improver, 10-11am adult beginner, contact 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](mailto: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](mailto:val@valdeakindance.org.nz) 752 7743 or text 027 694 0933

### Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

## Tataraimaka

### 5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

Mon to Thurs 5-6 pm, Tataraimaka Hall. Barney 027 752 7076 [barney@5efitness.com](mailto:barney@5efitness.com) or visit [www.5efitness.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:okatosquash1@gmail.com). Ladies morning every Friday 9.30 - 11am. All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

## Ōmata

### Zumba

Ōmata Hall - Tues 6.30pm. \$5pp. Contact Elsa Nordin via Messenger or Facebook 'Zumba Omata with Elsa - Team Azucar'

# TOP Information

## The Ōākura Post

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