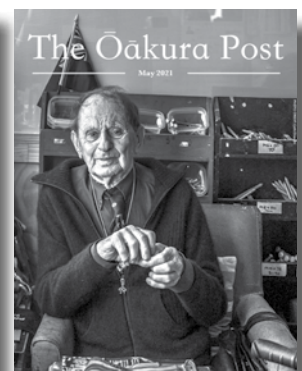
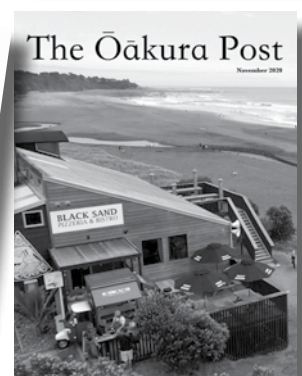
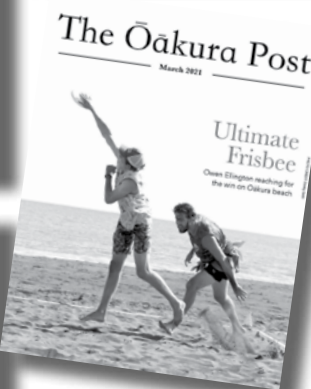


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June 2021



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Morning Talk

In August 2018 the Morning Talk coffee group started meeting at the NPOB Surf Clubrooms. Jaynie McSweeney, who looks after the administration of the surf club, has been supportive of this group from the outset and has been happy for us to use the venue at no charge for this community gathering. The coffee and tea is free of charge. People can make a donation to the surf club if that is something they wish to do but by no means expected. In March this year we opened up the sealed container of those donations and handed it over to Jaynie, \$292.00. If you would like to know more about the Morning Talk get together give me a call 752 7875 or see the details on the back page.



Hello TOP Readers

I cannot believe it has been a year since the first issue of The Ōākura Post - TOP was printed and published. I cannot believe how quickly each month rolls around. I can believe though, how supportive this community has been of TOP. It is a privilege to be able to share local news and stories. Thanks everyone. We have covered a lot in the past year. With Covid-19 related stories being at the forefront, there was also plenty of content from groups and clubs. These and local interest stories are what we needed to read about because they provide a boost of positivity. May I suggest that you go online or to the library and reread some of the past issues, it's your Ōākura diary. You are TOP people.

Tracey

The Ōākura Post

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

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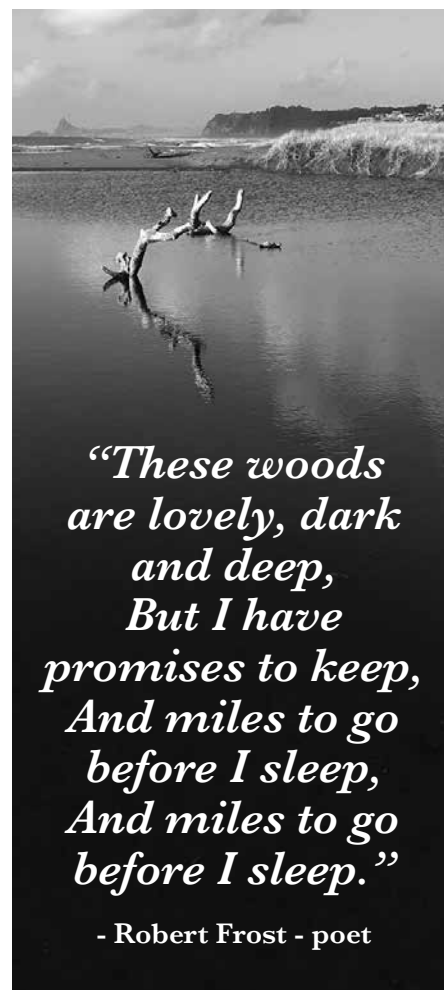
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1st June 2020

Issue: No. 13



*Thank you, silent supporters,
for your donations.*



*"These woods
are lovely, dark
and deep,
But I have
promises to keep,
And miles to go
before I sleep,
And miles to go
before I sleep."*

- Robert Frost - poet



Stephen and Fiona Black

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By the time you are reading this all the consultation, the hearings and the ensuing debate on the NPDC 2021/31 Long Term Plan (LTP) will be done and dusted. The plan will have been signed off to become the blueprint for the direction of the district for the next three years.

While the plan is a ten-year strategy to realise the district's aspirations, it must be reviewed every three years. Council's annual budgets relate directly to the LTP's first three years.

At the time of writing this, the councillors hadn't met to thrash out the final budget details of the LTP - what to include, what to delete. In the final analysis, it will be interesting to observe what influence all those citizens that made written and verbal submissions will have. Many in the community believe that public submissions in this instance are a waste of time so why bother. However, I read and listened to a large number of statements by those that took the time to elaborate much further than just ticking an option presented by the council in its consultation process. All must believe they will be listened to.

I read all the 4563 submissions. It took me a week of pretty intense concentration but is certainly nothing to skite about. In the beginning, I did have my own personal views on what was the best way forward and yet found myself on numerous occasions reflecting on points of view

different from what I had first decided was the best option. In that respect, it's hard to imagine that the mayor and councillors could have been any different. As the final arbiters in the process, councillors cannot (and should not) have a fixed personal agenda on what needs to be done. There is far too much at stake for the community they have been elected to represent.

The KCB made both written and verbal submissions on the LTP. These are available online. In the main, our submissions were about land transport issues and the poor water supply in Okato. These were based on the priorities identified as the most important and pressing issues set out in the KCB community plan that we worked continuously and collaboratively with our community to develop. That plan is entirely based on New Plymouth District Blueprint - a thirty-year vision, and the Council's Strategic Framework - Building a Lifestyle Capital, He Whakatūtū Haupū Rawa Hei Āhua Noho. These are the key drivers for Council operations.

We reviewed the plan at length last year and it accurately represents the vision and values the community has for our district. We believed this comprehensive information about the local community would assist and support the NPDC in mapping and achieving its strategic and business objectives, safeguard and maintain its assets and develop an understanding of the impacts of governance decisions upon our local residents, businesses and organisations. If this is not the case what has been the point of spending hundreds of hours following these council

strategic objectives and developing the plan?

Over the 10-year life of the LTP, the KCB community will contribute some \$45 million in rates, not accounting for new dwellings (growth) or other inevitable (and compounding) rate increases, thus taking the total to well over \$50 million. Yet in this 10-year plan, there is little of substance guaranteed to be carried out. We acknowledge there are some inclusions that, in the main, are technical infrastructure items in nature and associated with residential growth. Some others will be covered by staff time but there are no guarantees that these will result in further expenditure in our community. There have been numerous times in past NPDC budgets where the words have not translated into reality. That gives credence to the multitude of issues that our community has brought to the attention of the NPDC over many years that have not been resolved, or satisfactorily addressed.

Will we fare better in the 2021/31 LTP? Only time will tell, but our KCB life still continues at an unrelenting pace. The next three council cabs off the rank are: the district-wide urban roads speed review; the revised district plan submissions hearing; and the elected member representation review.

The KCB will be involved in all these processes, and then there's the central government biggie looming over us all - the Three Waters Reforms. We will need to fully understand the nature of the reforms and stay on top of the emerging plans, the reform timeline and the key decision milestones that the NPDC will have to take.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held Monday 14 June at the Ōmata Community Hall at 5pm.

Doug Hislop - 752 7324 and 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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Meet two of the TOP Team...



**Tracey
Lusk**
Editor

I grew up on the dairy farm next to Parihaka Pā. At Pungarehu school, dad was on the school committee and mum helped serve hot milo. My grandparents, Sam and Tess Dobbin, lived on Messenger Tce and we would often visit or stay. Happy times on the beach, playing, collecting mussels and paua, and fishing.

When I was 10 years old we moved to Ōākura. My uncle Brian Burkett and sons Shane and Greg lived there and built our house on Russell Drive (in those days only three houses long). Coming off a farm, suddenly the neighbours were awfully close and my three sisters and I were constantly told to keep our voices down, that was easier said than done.

An adjustment for me was going to a new school where kids didn't arrive in gumboots, have home-baking, wear handmade clothes, and you didn't 'like' boys, you 'loved' them.

Following College in Okato, I trained in beauty therapy and established my own clinic in New Plymouth, later moving it to Ōākura, where High Tide Cafe is currently and now at my home.

My husband Robert and I have three sons, the youngest about to leave home. As a stay at home mother I worked from home for my husband's business, as a parent helper at school and on the Board of Trustees. It became apparent that school kept me in touch with the community. Without that connection a newcomer to the village can miss out on what is going on. This inspired the ideas culminating in my setting up the local newspaper, an information centre in the village and hosting Thursday morning community coffee at the Surf Club, catching up and meeting new people.



**Charlie
Robertson**
Design

I am originally from England. I grew up in East London. When I was 18 years old I went to Australia to work for a year as a secretary for my aunt who ran a design company - but I was really terrible at it so ended up teaching myself how to use the programmes and became a member of the design team instead.

Back in England I got a job at a local newspaper designing adverts, then moved back to London to work at The Daily Mail. I started going out with a chilled out windsurfer, Fergs, who was just about to go travelling so I resigned from my job and joined him in Hawaii and then later Australia for a year in total.

We moved to Brighton when we came back and I was asked back to The Daily Mail, this time to work on the Weekend magazine.

Farrell and Oscar were born in Brighton and then Fergs and I got married and moved to Cornwall where Jago was born.

Cornwall was beautiful - but still didn't feel like home. We decided to immigrate to New Zealand and start a new adventure! We arrived in October 2007 and bought a large bus and lived in it for three months as we travelled around in search of a place to settle permanently. When we returned to Oakura for a second look we felt like we were coming home.

I started volunteering at the library to help out with the school visits. This led to a permanent job and I work at Ōākura and Bell Block library and I buy all the childrens books for Puke Ariki.

I love Ōākura, and so do the rest of my family. It's difficult being so far away from grandparents, sisters, brothers and cousins, but its a sacrifice we are willing to make for a better life.



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Grey-faced petrels have been spotted around Ōākura, sparking excitement that a new breeding colony may be becoming established among the coastal cliffs.

If confirmed, it would be just the second colony of the native seabird in Taranaki.

That possibility is "very, very exciting", according to Towards Predator-Free Taranaki project manager Toby Shanley, who spotted the birds near the end of Ahu Ahu Road.

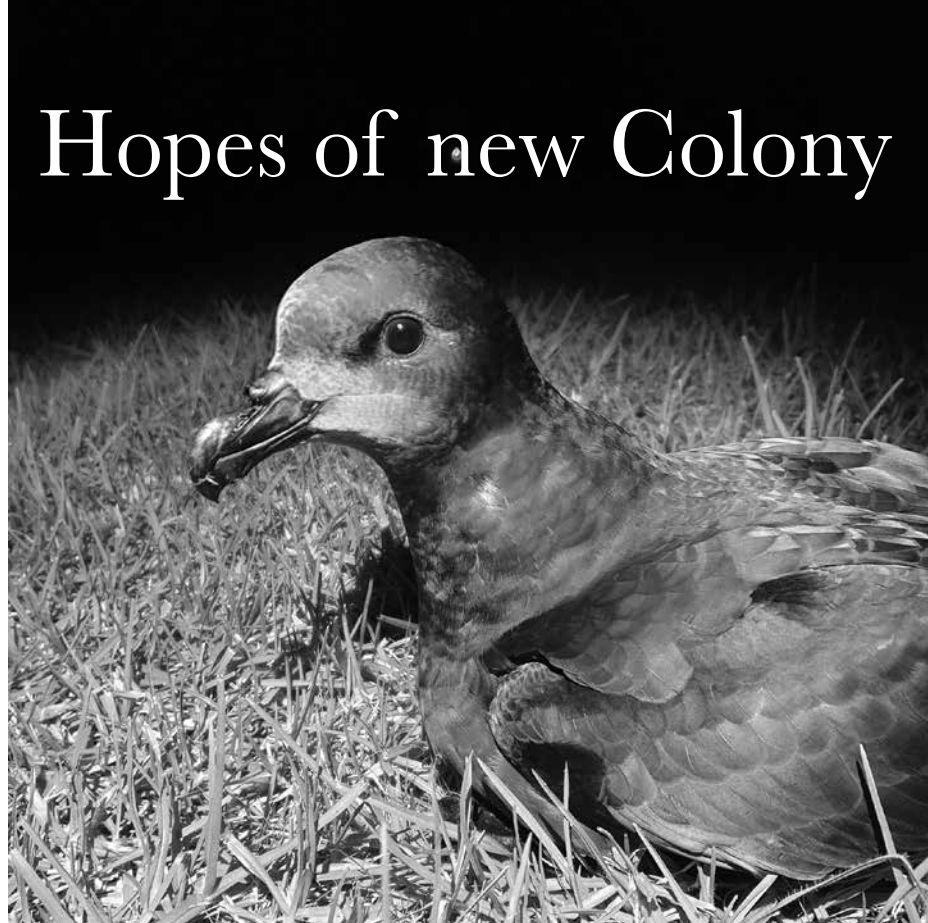
Hearing their distinctive call one night, Toby took a torch outside to investigate. He came across two of the birds on the ground, with about 10 to 20 more flying overhead. He spotted three more near the Ōākura Campground.

"It would be amazing to have another colony of these special birds in our region. And it's a great indication that the predator control work being done by locals is having a real impact."

Grey-faced petrels are slow and clumsy when on the ground and nest in burrows, which makes them extremely vulnerable to stoats. Introduced predators such as stoats are one of the main reasons grey-faced petrels have become so rare on New Zealand's mainland, their main breeding colonies remain on predator-free offshore islands.

Rural land surrounding Ōākura was part of the second phase of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki back in 2019/2020, with the programme supporting landowners to trap mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels). With mustelids now under control, grey-faced petrels may be venturing back to breed, Toby says.

"The coastal cliffs are the perfect habitat for them. This is the time of year they are pairing up – they breed for life – and preparing bur-



rows in which to lay eggs. So to see so many around now is certainly a good indication they are either breeding here, or trying to."

Taranaki's only other mainland colony is protected by a predator-proof fence at Rapanui, near Tongaporutu.

Toby plans to search the coast for burrows to establish whether there is indeed a colony growing. He is keen to hear from anyone who may have seen or heard the birds or seen possible burrows.

The best time to see and hear the birds is at night, as they travel out to sea to feed during the day.

And they'll be loving our recent weather as they "love a stormy night", says Toby.

To read more about grey-faced petrels and listen to their call go to www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz.

Record a sighting at www.inaturalist.nz or email pftaranaki@trc.govt.nz. You can also contact Towards Predator-Free Taranaki on Facebook or by calling 0800 736 222.

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Ōākura Library

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'll have two book making workshops, check out the full line-up and book your tickets at www.PukeAriki.com/FOW

Calling all green-fingered gardeners!

Do you have spare vegetable, herb, flower, native and heritage seeds, or seedlings you have potted up? Drop off at the library until 30 June.

We'll be having a seed swap event at the end of August, more details coming soon.

Let us help you find that next great book

Young adult novel:

'Inheritance Games' by Jennifer Barnes. It's a fun mystery novel full of enigmatic characters, puzzles and riddles. Avery has nothing to her name but suddenly inherits billions of dollars from a complete stranger. Why her? Find out!

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'The invisible life of Addie LaRue', 'The seven deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle', 'Life after life' and 'Eternal Life'.

'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig, what makes a life a worthwhile one? What if we could rewind? A thought-provoking and quirky read.

Happy reading, Charlie and Vincenza

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The Past through Pā sites

In seventh form maths a few decades ago I remember having a conversation with a friend about what we would do when we left school. I said I wanted to study archaeology. She said, "You can't do that there's no future in it."

She was one of those smart girls who didn't need to pay attention and could still top the class, so I listened to her and went on to a satisfying career in nutrition. I did still manage to sneak a pre history anthropology paper in to my first year course and absolutely loved it. It was like sitting in on a discovery documentary every day.

We heard about our ancient ancestors, Australopithecus afarensis, the famous Lucy in Ethiopia, Neandertals in Europe and the ancient Long Barrows in England. Part of the year included lectures on what archaeological digs could tell us about early Māori life in Aotearoa. I remain fascinated by archaeology so was delighted to move back to Taranaki and be shown the Koru Pā site.

This felt like a magical place, a promontory in the crook of a river bend on the Ōākura river that snakes down to the sea. It was the first place I really felt a sense of the people who first lived here. The stone walls along paths, kumara pits and terraces that give a hint of everyday life in that community so many years ago. I have heard local iwi say Pā sites are places of reverence. I understand this and understand why it is now closed to public viewing.

Driving between New Plymouth and Ōākura I am often looking out for Pā sites. They appear everywhere though I understand many are flattened and destroyed in the process of building and grazing land. I often think on how populated this area of Aotearoa must have been considering how many Pā sites are still visible. North Taranaki has so many hills and small knolls and is a relatively temperate climate, pretty perfect for the people who lived on these Pā sites as far as I can tell.

Many Pā sites show themselves better in different lights, the shadows in winter highlight some of the terraced top hills and you often see cows standing on the tops in summer as it's



by Rosemary Law

the coolest place to catch the wind. At a Koru Pā working bee recently, I was told there were 700 Pā and Kāinga sites between Ngamotu (New Plymouth) and Ōākura. That sounds pretty densely populated to me.

An RNZ interview with an author whose book is about "out of the way" places to visit in Aotearoa also made me reflect on Pā sites, how important and precious they are. The author was asked what places he particularly recommended people visit. He suggested walking up on Pā sites. At first glance they don't seem particularly well positioned but when you get on top, you see how well they are aligned to looking down river valleys, out to sea or for scoping the surrounding countryside. (Remem-

ber, for Māori these are wāhi tapu or sacred sites, so seek permission and show respect to these places).

Many of us go off to look in wonder at ancient sites of the World, Machu Picchu, Stonehenge and the like. I missed the famous ones but went to a lot of sites of the Pictish people in Scotland, I loved these too. It made me wonder why our own history doesn't get the same attention.

When someone recently said to me "we should just put a line under our history and move on shouldn't we?" I was lost for words. Where do you start a conversation like that? I know what I'll say now. Take the opportunity to stand on a Pā site, think about what was there before, how many people were living in these communities, how the people lived and what was taken from Māori, the impacts of which continue to affect Māori and us all today."



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

climate.nasa.gov/causes

ipcc.ch/report/ar5

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

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- NASA

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Fire Brigade

The brigade went through the best kind of drought through April - some of you may have noticed the silence. 33 days of silence in fact where the siren did not sound, 33 days of no person in distress, no families in danger, no property damaged, no medical attention needed.

So well done to you all out there, thank you for being more aware, taking care of one another and pausing for that one small extra moment to ensure your safety and that of others.

The crew were called to respond to a house fire in New Plymouth recently. The occupant of the home was awoken by his smoke alarms, there is no doubt that they saved his life and we cannot stress enough the importance of checking your smoke alarms are in working order. You are in fact 4 x more likely to survive a house fire if you have working smoke alarms. Fire is fast, it only takes 3 minutes for fire to engulf your home, the air is toxic from the fumes of the materials burning in your home and your visibility will be extremely limited. A smoke alarm IS your best and earliest warning of danger.

Such as at the fire mentioned above, we are often at an incident for a long time. Once the main visible fire has been extinguished a house holds many hidden areas where smouldering heat soon builds up and then combusts to create more danger. So we enter a phase we call dampen down and overhaul. This is where we use a Thermal Imaging Camera to detect hot spots. These could be smoldering insulation inside walls, piles of clothes in a wardrobe, or perhaps stored household items in the roof cavity, and so we will make our way methodically through the property finding and dampening down the hot spots, pulling panels off walls and ceilings, breaking up piles of clothes or building materials, all the while still trying to preserve the scene for the fire inspector to determine cause - and most importantly to ensure that we don't have to return to the scene again with egg on our faces!

So here's to more long silences, less loud alarms and eggless faces.

The crew from the Big Red Truck.

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Cooking and Creating Cafes is still a passion for this Cafe Queen



L-R: Supporting staff; Barbara at YELLO in the earliest days; Victor and Barbara celebrating 25 yrs; Delicious Pies; Lemonwood.



Barbara Olsen-Henderson
- celebrating 25 years in the cafe business

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Oākura Tennis Club

Over the winter months tennis coaching continues but competition has finished so it's time to check out some of the teams. This month it's the Oākura Aces who were the UNDEFEATED green grade champions this season, finishing with 86 points. The Oākura Roasters team was a close second on 84 points.

Green grade is played on a full court with slightly lower pressure balls so rallies can last a lot longer! The team included Eric Spencer, Austin Fearon, Sophia Winstanley and Angus Thorpe and was managed by Emma (mum of Angus). They had some convincing wins and 2 draws with the second and third place getters. From a parent: "The kids were awesome, they had some incredibly long games and really persevered. One afternoon Eric and Austin's singles games were about 1 hour 20 each! And it was really hot. We were all very proud of their on court behaviour." Thanks to the parents who gave up their Friday afternoons to support the team!

Monika is doing a great job as club Coach. Over the winter months there are Wednesday and Friday morning adult group coaching sessions and junior coaching sessions either before or after school Monday through Friday. Go to the blitz website www.blitztennis.nz to check out what's available.

Roseanne gets the women's 8s team together once a month to compete with clubs in town. Everyone gets to play doubles with two



*Austin Fearon, Sophia Winstanley,
Angus Thorpe and Eric Spencer*

different partners followed by a shared lunch. A very social day out if anyone wants some winter tennis action!

**Contact Jackie for any
club queries 027 673 2900**

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NPDC

SAFER SPEEDS REVIEW: URBAN ROADS

As part of the Safer Speeds Review, NPDC is opening a discussion to understand our community's sense of safety on our urban roads and consider what speeds might be desirable for increased safety.

Public input will help NPDC draw up proposals for formal community consultation later on.

To make our roads safer, should we drop our speeds limits:

- On some local roads?
- Around all urban schools?
- In our retail centres of Westown, Fitzroy, Bell Block and Waitara?
- In a wider area of New Plymouth's CBD?

For more details and to send in your feedback, go to newplymouthnz.com/HaveYourSay.



Feedback closes on Friday 18 June.

Contact NPDC

P: 06-759 6060 E: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

More information:

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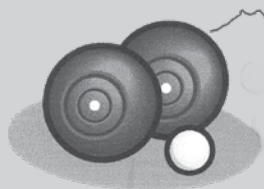
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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Club Championships

Alan Bridgeman and Ray Haslip defeated the duo of Adam Collins and Roy Phillips to win the coveted Collins Trophy. Both teams finished the competition with 5 wins and when Bridgeman landed his first 2 bowls beside the kitty in the extra end it was good enough to seal the victory. Well done guys and thanks to all bowlers who participated in this great Tournament.

Adam Collins won the final club championship with victory in the President Trophy (handicap singles) over a gallant Bruce Jackson. Collins consistently harassed the kitty throughout the game and was a well-deserved winner 15 - 8.

Champs of Champs

The Ōākura championship fours combination of Steve Muller, Paul Coxhead, Murray Crombie and Don Hinton finished agonisingly short of a Taranaki Title when they lost the final of the Champ of Champs 4s played at Paritutu on May 1st. It was great effort from the Ōākura quartet who defeated a very talented Paritutu team in the semi-final but unfortunately the boys could not carry that form into the final and lost to a deserving Opunake team 16 - 8.

The senior singles Kurt Smith, junior singles Craig Murray and the triples team of Steve Muller, Andy Shearer and Kevin Gray all lost their first-round games while the pairs of Steve Muller and Don Hinton won their first game 18 - 2 over Waimea but lost to Vogeltown in the next round.

Club News

The AGM for the Ōākura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday 20th June. Club awards will follow the AGM, along with prize giving, club acknowledgements and refreshments.

My highlights for the season would be finishing 4th in the Bill Smee Div 1 competition, 3rd in the 1st Div pennants and winning the mid-week interclub Gilmour Cup. As club Captain, it was promising and rewarding to see a number of Ōākura bowlers participate and perform to a very high standard in Bowls Taranaki Centre tournaments, interclub competitions and the Champion of Champions events.

As this will be the last column for 2020/2021 season, thanks to all members that have assisted in the day to day running, green maintenance, bar and administration of the club over the past year. Without the support of volunteers such as yourselves, the club would not be in the fantastic position it is today. Recognition goes to Wayne Robinson and his team who have excelled in providing the club a world class green. The green just keeps getting better each year.

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

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Kaitake Golf Club

Men's News

Hi everyone. It is starting to get cold in the mornings so any players out at Kaitake please be aware if there is a frost on the course no golf before 9.30am.

The Men have just finished their Strokeplay Championship with Joseph Doyle winning the Seniors, Roger Cloke winner of the Intermediates, Bob McLean winner of the Juniors and Norman Lofthouse winner of the Limits. They also played for the Foreman Trophy and that was won by John Haylock. Matchplay championship competitions start on the 5th June 2021

The Semi Finals of the Mens Pennants was played at Kaitake Golf Course. The semifinalists were Manukorihi and Inglewood, with Manukorihi being the overall winners at the Finals.

Women's Results

Our Pennant Teams have one month of matches left to play. The Midweek Team have had two wins out of their five matches. The Weekend Team have had five wins out of six matches and are now in 1st place leading by one point with one match to play and a bye on the final day. Nail biting times!

The 9 Hole Team have had three wins out of four matches and are currently also in 2nd place behind Te Ngutu and Inglewood, who they play against in their next two rounds.

18 Hole results - Eight women played in the

qualifying round for the National Teams event. Gallantly representing Kaitake were Kim Woodward, Diane Jones, Maureen Neilsen and Joan Gerrard. Other results included Home Pennant, the cards for Noreen Potts, Mary Barrett, Diane Jones and Joan Gerrard have been forwarded to Taranaki Golf. Kim Woodward won the Grandmothers Trophy.

9 Hole results – Christine Alexander defeated Coraleen le Breton in the Cooper Challenge final match. Yvonne Hildred was the winner of Round 2 Sue Bunt Salver (Home Links) with nett 29. Jo Wilson-West won Round 2 putting, LGU Round 2 winner was Jean Keegan with Jo Wilson-West and Raewyn Bishop runners up. The Monthly Medley winner goes to Chrissy Warden with Jo close behind. Stableford Round 2 winner was Ngairie Grundy with Angela Hitchman runner-up. Super 9 Round 1 winner on a count back was Jenny Clark and Joan Coles. Globe foursomes Round 1 winners Raewyn Bishop and Yvonne Hildred.

The Kaitake Womens Division made a donation to the Club of \$4000 to go towards a kitchenette.

TEE SIGN SPONSORS:

We are looking for two new tee sign sponsors for the 4th tee and the 6th tee. Contact Denise.

CHIPPERS: Next Chippers Day will be Sunday 13th June 2021

Indoor Bowling

We are well into the season now with plenty of non-club tournaments and events underway. First, our own Jamieson Cup which was played over three nights, with games of 21 ends.

Going into the final night all teams had a chance of winning so the pressure was on not only to secure a win but also to think about ends and points as that would be the count back criteria. The Jim Priest skipped team played a consistent game to come out winners over Syd Sharpe's team. In the other game Greg Jans played against Dean Baker's team, with both teams playing well which was reflected in the score by eight all after nine ends.

As the game continued the scoring freed up with both teams scoring more points each end although still close until the 16th end, when Greg killed the jack going for the chance of five shots. This gave Dean the small break he needed to come out eventual winners of the game and also winning overall. Well done to Dean, Zena Smith, Bruce Duggan and Bryan Bedwell.

Our championship Triples have started with six teams in the hunt for the semi final positions. There has been some close games during the round robin sections, so looking forward to the finals.

Last month I mentioned our Junior U18 player Katie Clough represented North Taranaki Centre in Otorohanga. This was a representative match against Tauranga and a great experience for Katie winning 3 of her 5 games. Overall Tauranga were the winners.

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Coming Up

June

- 7 Queen's Birthday holiday
- 14 Kaitake Community Board Meeting in Ōmata Community Hall
- 21 Y7/8 Ruru Girls' Self Defence



New learning space open

The Ōmata Community were very excited to celebrate the opening of the new Ruru learning space on Wednesday 5th May. Parents, representatives from our local iwi Ngāti Tairi, teachers, former students, architects, builders, Ministry of Education, friends and current students came together for the official opening. The opening was led by Tāne Manu with waiata echoing through the air and karakia which supported the blessing given by Reverend Albie Martin on Monday morning. It was a magical afternoon for the many people who had a good look around our new learning space and shared kai.

Ruru is enjoying the new learning space, enhancing their learning with the varied break out spaces and making the most of all of the up to date technology in the classroom.

Millie Stonier and Jaimee Bloor

Kiwi Return to Kaitake

This year Ōmata is lucky enough to be one of the three coastal schools involved in the Te Ara Taiao project, funded by Sustainable Taranaki with the aim of creating positive environmental impact in our community. As part of this project our across school student leadership group has taken part in collaborative meetings with leaders from Ōākura and Coastal School hosted by Tāne Manu. We were also invited to attend the release of three kiwi into the Kaitake ranges near Pukeiti.

On Wednesday the 14th of April we set off to explore Pukeiti with our curious minds. The damp tracks led us to investigate the tree houses and also the environmental options of improving the quality of the wai or water used at Pukeiti that we could then use at our own school.

The arrival of the kiwi was a momentous occasion and it was very special to be part of the ceremony to return this taonga or treasure to our rohe (local area). Ōmata students voted to give one kiwi the name Pūanga meaning 'to bloom' or 'blossom', and we hope that she is enjoying her new home.



Mason, Emma, Jenaya, Lily and Ms Aylward and Blake explore Pukeiti

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Oākura School

Up in the Kaitake Ranges behind Oākura, kiwi used to be plentiful, but ever since pests came along their population has been slowly declining. Two hundred years ago there were thousands of our native birds and the night air resounded with kiwi calls and whistles.

In 2019 there was estimated to be 68000 kiwis left in Aotearoa. A group of students from Oākura School, Coastal School, Ōmata School and the community of Oākura, is hoping to change this and restore the Kaitake Ranges to the home of kiwi as it once was.

A young kiwi from the Rotokare Scenic Reserve, named Kōwhai by Oākura School, was released at Pukeiti Gardens on the 9th April. The young kiwi, was one of a number of kiwi gifted to the care of Rotokare Scenic Reserve from the Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park. They were then protected and cared for at Rotokare Scenic Reserve until they were big enough to be released at Pukeiti. A group of students from Oākura are taking part in a project learning about the environment called Te Ara Taiao and were lucky enough to be at the release of Kōwhai.

The kiwi release is the second time Oākura School has been involved with the Kiwi Trust, the first being in 2020. Sian Potier worked with a Year 7 & 8 class last year to help make students become knowledgeable about the kiwi and the three threats that currently face them; pests and pets, habitat loss and, last of all, humans. We united with the Kiwi Trust and helped them to figure out how to track kiwi more efficiently



on Taranaki Maunga by using drones instead of bush-bashing with large, heavy equipment. We did the final test on Taranaki Maunga, tracking Koko the kiwi with the help of Sian and Ben Plummer (drone specialist).

Prior to Kōwhai arriving, students listened to some speakers who spoke about the significance of the kiwi being returned to the Kaitake Ranges and to the kaitiaki (guardianship) of Ngāti Tairi. There were many visitors present, such as people from Predator Free Taranaki, the Mouna Project, and other schools. The welcoming of Kōwhai started with a beautiful karanga and korero to welcome her to her new home. She was then released in a burrow not far from Piwakawaka Hut. Kōwhai has a tracker on her leg so that she can be identified and tracked in her movements around the ranges.

Student Stories

Hello everybody!

We are going to use The Oākura Post to share and publish Oākura School's writers! This section will be open each month to different sections of Oākura School to share some writing. This month we have a piece of writing from the Year 5 & 6 team. The writing can include all genres of writing and entries are open for ages 5-13 throughout the year. I hope you will enjoy this section in the future with your family and friends.

The Snail

She is a mountaineer,
Leaving a trail wherever she goes.
She is a race car,
Winning the race to be the slowest.
She is a diamond,
Shimmering in the sun.
In the kingdom of the small, she is a giant.

Maisie Hinton (age 10)

One of the boys attending the release said, "She should be very happy here because we have a beautiful forest." To help kiwi on their way back to the Kaitake Ranges you can trap pests in your garden. The traps can be bought from Oākura School if you need them. It's fantastic to get kiwi back on the Kaitake Ranges. It would be, as a resident said on the day, "Lovely to hear them calling in the night again."

Oākura students are continuing this project all year long and are hoping for more opportunities like this to get involved with caring for our local environment. Nau mai, haere mai Kōwhai, welcome home.

Ella Kitson (age 12)



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TOP Activities

Ōākura

Bowling and Social Club

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

Dancing in the Dark

Glenys Farrant 027 7530120

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

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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/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

Ōākura Hall Bookings

Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

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

Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238 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

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 Winter Coaching

Junior coaching Mon-Fri before or after school, check 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

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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Know of people outside of the village that would like to be kept updated?
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Got a burning question?

Send it in and we will endeavour to answer.

Got a story idea?

Make contact with us by phone or email

July Issue

Delivered and online from 26 June.

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

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