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MAY 2022

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Why cars will have critical role in New Plymouth's future

Our government is committed to decarbonising New Zealand's economy over the next 30 years and one of the ways they plan to cut emissions is through changing the way New Zealanders move around, particularly in our main centres.

And the way they are doing that is by channelling the billions of revenue collected in fuel tax and road users charges across the country into projects focused in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

There is a view in Wellington that the public transport systems that serve Auckland and Wellington so well can be replicated in smaller centres to help drive decarbonisation and this philosophy is driven through Waka Kotahi, the New Zealand Transport Agency, which props up ratepayer funded bus services across the country, many with alarmingly low occupancy rates.

Auckland Super City is talking about closing Queen Street to traffic. The reality of the activity there at the moment is that few would notice. But in a city with more than 1.6m people, light rail and busy bus and ferry networks all merging into downtown, a pedestrian friendly central business district and car free main street makes good sense.

So then we turn to New Plymouth, the city with around 65,000 people. Our bus service is chock full of students early in the morning and between 3 and 4pm and the rest of the time the huge buses largely drive around with one or two passengers.

While our population continues to grow around 1000 people a year and congestion issues during the morning and afternoon peaks are on the rise, we simply don't have anywhere near the population base to run a traditional high frequency public transport system viably. Something needs to be done to identify an alternative model, but purchasing another low emissions fleet, when the current large buses are

required to move our school children around, doesn't make economic sense and is unlikely to help materially reduce our transport emissions.

The reality is New Plymouth is a city which caters as much to its rural surrounds as its urban dwellers. The city, like many, is spreading north along the coast with Bell Block now home to more than 8000 people and rapidly expanding towards Waitara.

So many people who live in satellite towns like Ōkato, Ōākura, Inglewood and Waitara, or further afield in Stratford, Ōpunake and Hāwera, commute to work in New Plymouth and return home each night.

If we are to decarbonise the transport requirements of Taranaki's people it will be done through electric or hydrogen powered vehicles and improved carpooling or sharing technologies. It will not be done with buses, which simply don't effectively accommodate the needs of our households and businesses across the region.

And once we accept that the role of the automobile will remain critical to our quality of life and economic prosperity for the foreseeable future we must also accept that Council has a significant role to play in ensuring sufficient network capacity to accommodate forecast vehicle movements and parking in our urban centres to ensure they are accessible.

The future of Centre City carpark appears increasingly uncertain. The loss of the Downtown car parking building has cranked up the pressure on already constrained central New Plymouth parking availability. There is not a lot we can do about Centre City but Council must look to fast track the reinforcement and reopening of the Downtown car parking building and send a message to those looking to invest in the CBD that we are focused on doing our part.

While our construction sector is at capacity we have to put our foot on the gas and solve this problem now to support our central business



district. This will not come at the cost of our wider strategic goals for a more pedestrian friendly city and the desire to connect our coastal walkway to Pukekura Park. In fact it may well complement our CBD development by providing building and business owners increased certainty in terms of local parking capacity and the Council's commitment to investing in the CBD.

While the good intentions emanating from Wellington would steer us towards either demolishing the building now or undertaking the cheapest fix possible to get it open, then demolishing the building in 15 year. If we step back and look out to 2050 our district population will be more than 100,000, Centre City carpark will most likely be demolished and the Downtown Carpark will continue to play a pivotal role in accommodating both long term lease and casual car parking with a mix of office workers and shoppers.

If government wants to support a lower carbon future for Taranaki's transport sector perhaps they could fund solar panels on the car park roof and some electric fast charging infrastructure in the lower levels from the fuel tax and road user charges being siphoned out of Taranaki each year.

Corteva's Back Beach site must be next.

Neil Holdom, New Plymouth District Mayor



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Kaitake Community Board

It looks as though I was tempting fate in my last TOP article with talk of enjoying our "pretty stable weather".

No sooner had that edition hit the press when we were hit with torrential downpours, gale force winds, road closures from downed trees and flooding, and a damaging landslide at the Ōākura Beach Holiday Park.

I think we can count ourselves lucky that no one was hurt in any of those events. I feel the need to acknowledge the efforts of the NPDC Parks and Roding Teams and those locals who pitched in to assist, with the cleanup in the aftermath of that wild weather.

I have reported previously on work the Kaitake Community Board had put in regarding a local body representation review that was being carried out in an effort to improve how we are represented in our rohe, and to increase the opportunity to have our voice brought to the Council table.

I am happy to report that the proposals that we submitted on were considered by the Local Government Commissioners and were accepted as presented; so on October

the 8th this year New Plymouth District voters will elect:

- A Mayor
- Six Councillors in Kaitake/Ngāmotu General Ward (New Plymouth city to Ōkato)
- One Councillor in Kohanga Moa General Ward (Inglewood and surrounding area)
- One Councillor in North General Ward (Waitara up to Waitomo District Council border)
- One Councillor in the Te Purutanga Mauri Pūmanawa Māori Ward (across the District)
- Five Councillors at large (across the whole district General and Māori electoral roll), effectively giving those in our Kaitake rohe on the General Electoral Roll direct representation from 11 of the Councillors at the table, and those on the Māori Electoral Roll direct representation from 6 Councillors at the table. Now it is up to all of you to ensure you vote on the 8th of October to have a say as to who those Councillors will be.

Still ongoing is the hearing process for the NPDC Proposed District Plan (PDP). The KCB is continuing our work in an attempt to ensure that any residential development that is planned in and around Ōākura into the future occurs in such a way as to: preserve and enhance the character, culture and 'feel' of the village, to reflect the aspirations of its community, to provide for the safety of its residents, to ensure the preservation and protection of the ecosystems and habitats of the bush on the Kaitake Range and to maanaki the mana of the whenua that is the Kaitake range.

We are also working to ensure that we fully commit and lock in as much of the first tranche of the Community Board Discretionary Fund as possible prior to the end of the current financial year, as any funds that are not spent by then are lost to us and become part of the Council's 'operating surplus'.

Onwards and upwards, until next month Kia noho haumarū, a tangohia tiaki tātou katoa,

Stay safe, and take care everyone

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on Monday 16 May at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm
Graham Chard (027 220 4549, thechardz@gmail.com) on behalf of Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, Renee Hohaia and Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (the Councillor representative on the KCB)



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KAITAKE RANGES Conservation Trust

A sizzling summer of hard work



Carlos Reid loving holding Kowhai the kiwi

It has been a fantastic summer with warm humid days, but it feels like that's coming to an end.

Winter is still a great time to explore the Kaitake Ranges. There are fewer people out and about so you often have the tracks to yourself and the birds.

Trust volunteers have been up to their usual good work, checking and rebaiting over 700 stoat traps. All of those days out in the bush are fun, and totally worth it when you see and hear lots of native birds. On a walk I took up the Davies Track recently I saw and heard grey warblers, tomtits, fantails, tui, bellbirds, kereru, a hawk overhead, waxeyes and kingfishers. Pete Morgan said he saw some whio on the upper Timaru stream too. Not only are there lots of birds, but I also saw heaps of fungi and flowering red scarlet rata vine.

Last autumn 10 kiwi were released into the Kaitake Ranges and a dedicated crew of volunteers has been monitoring them. The transmitters on those initial 10 birds were changed out recently and those same volunteers who have been tracking them were super stoked because they finally got a chance to see those birds in person. Some of them

got to hold a live kiwi! Trapper extraordinaire, Jackie Keenan, said, 'Coolest thing I've ever done! Got to sit with Spencer in my lap!'

A year into their lives living in the Kaitake Ranges, all of the kiwi were in good health. All of that work checking traps is keeping the mustelid population down enough to allow the kiwi to thrive. Several of the birds have had chicks, one of which was sighted recently by a DOC ranger out on a night mission.

Another group of 10 kiwi were just released in mid-April. Once again the Taranaki Kiwi Trust was playing matchmaker, releasing 5 males and 5 females (at least that was the plan at the time I wrote this). The hope is that those birds will pair up and start breeding also. Those 10 new birds will bring the population of our local kiwi up to around 25, and hopefully it will keep growing.

This new group of birds will need more volunteers to help check up on them periodically to see how they are doing.

If you are interested in helping to either track the new kiwi or work to keep them safe by checking some traps once every couple of months, contact Pete morgpt@xtra.co.nz

Check your electric blankets

Kia Ora everyone.

We hope that you have enjoyed your Easter break and are getting used to the darker evenings. As the weather cools we start to think about home heating and remind you to get your electric blankets checked. They often get folded away and placed in storage over the summer and the wiring inside can break. (hint - roll them rather than fold to store away).

Keep safe and be burn-off prepared

The brigade has been kept pretty busy with many uncontrolled burn-offs lately. This involves rural firefighting tactics and often creative ways of getting access to water. Although we have 1800 litres in the appliance we can empty that in 6 mins if we don't conserve our water. Establishing water to the truck from a river, water tank or even swimming pool is usually one of our first tactics.

Be careful where you place piles of scrub for burning, wind quickly changes on the coast and embers are easily carried to dry bush. If possible ensure that you have a water source handy to dampen down your pile should it start to spread. If it does get out of control, call 111 as soon as possible, the quicker we know about it the better the result.

Take care,

The crew from the big red truck.





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A new librarian at Ōākura Library

I caught up with Clare Leven over coffee while sitting on her back deck one beautiful Sunday morning.

Congratulations Clare, on your new role as a Librarian at the Ōākura Library. Tell us a bit about your background and how you got to take this position.

I moved from England to Ōākura with my partner Ben in 2008. Before then, while we were still based in Brighton, we spent two years travelling around the world. We had a good look at many, many places as we travelled in an old ambulance. Ben surfed and I read books.

One of the places we visited was here. We stayed at the the Wave Haven and met lots of great people. At the end of those two years of travel we returned to Brighton and always said that the only place we'd ever emigrate to would be Ōākura. We came back 10 years later.

I began volunteering at the Ōākura Library and at Adult Literacy Services in New Plymouth. I took some time off to have children, and in that time I started learning Te Reo Māori. I studied at Te Wānanga for three years and now continue practising my skills with Te Reo courses Toni Peacock teaches right here in Ōākura

When my kids got a little older I volunteered at the library for the school classes. A casual librarian job became available this past May



and I took that. When our librarian Charlie was promoted to a new role at Puke Ariki I applied for the vacancy she left.

What influenced your love of books?

I've always loved reading, that's my time out. I'm part of a book club in Ōākura that's been going for a long time. We meet at each others homes and all bring books we have read to share with the others. It's more of a book swap and recommendation time. It widens your taste. I like reading all sorts of books. My favourites are well written with characters that have depth, ones that overcome adversity and provide inspiration. I also enjoy a good thriller or autobiography.

I remember when I was five there was a writing competition and the winner got their book published and placed in the school library for checkout. I won and still have that book.

Your family?

My partner is Ben. My son, Freddie 11, and daughter, Mia 8, both go to Ōākura School. The rest of my family is in England and they come visit when they can. My mum was a teacher and says she always wanted to be a librarian. She was very envious when I got the job!

Mia is currently entering the Ōākura Library's 'Self-Made Library Books' challenge for children. She's hoping the book she's writing and illustrating will be chosen to become available for library checkouts. Like mother, like daughter!

What do you enjoy most about your work at Ōākura Library?

Meeting people in our community, helping the school children and encouraging people to have a passion for reading. If someone asks me for book recommendations, I'm likely to follow them around with suggestions. It's great to be part of a very supportive team with Vincenza leading the way.

I look forward to meeting you all.

By Elayne Kessler



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New Vodafone cell site on the way

Vodafone has been working with the Kaitake Community Board since May 2021 on locating a new cell site in the Ōākura Village.

The Village has very poor coverage and required additional capacity to meet the demand for mobile data. Covid-19 has accelerated the use of digital services and data consumption. Demand for mobile data is increasing and shows no signs of slowing down – last year alone demand increased by a whopping 60 percent.

The new cell site on Butlers Lane in Ōākura will provide better coverage with faster access to the internet and a greater range of services for mobile users. The location and design were selected after taking into consideration the surrounding environment, existing streetscape including power and fibre services and the coverage needed for Ōākura.

Vodafone initially identified three locations in Ōākura (Bowling club, Cnr of State Highway 45 and Dixon St and Butlers Lane) that we were considering for the placement of a cell site. We carried out extensive site investigation works on two of the locations after the bowling club made a decision not to enter a lease. We sought feedback from the Kaitake Board and acted on their feedback that the proposed State Highway location was not ideal from a safety perspective.

We acknowledge that some people would prefer we put our cell sites out of sight and far away from them, but this is not possible. The infrastructure needs to be closer to the users to meet the capacity demands. This is the reason why building cell sites for urban users in out of town or rural locations, such as hills etc and away from residential housing, is no longer an option.

All of our cell sites must operate within the limits set out under the New Zealand Radiofrequency Field Exposure Standard and we comply with the Standard. All radio frequency fields, including those used by mobile phones (3G, 4G, 5G), AM/FM radio, WiFi and televisions, are non-ionizing waves. This means that they don't have the power to alter the structure of a human cell. Vodafone will continue to monitor international research and adhere to international guidelines based on comprehensive scientific research and independent analysis.

The new site will go live sometime in the next four to six weeks.

Ngā mihi,
Lisa Mulitalo
Community Relations Manager, External Affairs
0508 266 686 (0508 Community)
lisa.mulitalo@vodafone.com

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MORNING TEA - MORNING TALK

Morning Talk coffee group is taking a break while covid 19 is spreading throughout the country. It will resume when it feels right to gather again. Any enquiries can be made through Tracey 752 7875.



From Left to right: Floyd Fenning, Levi Termath, Levi Fox, Joel Becroft in Oakura at 'the gap'

Another mint month

Aloha ocean-folk and beachside cruisers, welcome to the changing season.

Let's grab a moment to be grateful for the awesome summer we've had but now it's time to rip through the garage and dig out ye-old faithful polar fleece from the nineties and flush the white tail nests from your rigid old winter suit that you should have thrown away in 2003.

It's been another mint month for all our local surfers relaying all-time sessions from every nook of our blessed coastline. Most locals will agree there has been a massive surge of surfing activity in the region over the last year, making for some competitive line-ups. Even some termed 'average spots' on the coast have been seen teeming with salty saloons. Winter should thin the crowds at your fav spot? One hopes...

The OBC Groms Club Champs was held at the start of the month and what an epic day

it was! A swarming mass of frothing groms, sun and fun waves! Awesome to see the surge of new talent coming through. Thanks to all the crew for making it happen!

Congrats to local Paige Hareb who ripped it up at the Newcastle Surfest earlier in the month finishing third. This final result jumped her up to fourth in the Australia/Oceania regional qualifying series and nailed her a spot in the Challenger Series where she will go on to compete for a spot in the top-tier Championship Tour. To reach the CT for 2023 she will need to finish in the top six of the Challenger Series. Paige is staring the barrel of travelling and competing at some horrible places around the world this year including the Gold Coast, South Africa, France, Portugal, and Hawaii...



Also, a massive congrats to club member Skylar McFetridge who has been selected to join the NZ Junior Surf Team to represent at the ISA World Surfing Champs in El Salvador! A shout to Taranaki groms Kalani Louis, Natasha Gouldsbury, and Spencer Rowson who also made the NZ Junior team. All the best!

And finally, congrats to Chris Faherty who landed the biggest Kingfish of the summer from the club at a metre long! Chris was out trawling a couple hundred metres off Ōākura with a buddy on local charter boat 'Two Bung' when the big fella hit! Nice work and your shout when we see you next, mate!

Cheers, stay close to the source - OBC



Skylar McFetridge. Photo credit Coff Media

Kaitake Golf Club News



We have been very busy these last few weeks after the big clean up with all that wind and rain. A huge thank you to our marvellous volunteers. We are underway repairing the 16th green and it is coming along nicely, so hopefully this will help with our putting accuracy.

Please be aware of the COVID19 restrictions. All members and guests must be double vaccinated to enter the Clubrooms. You must have a valid Vaccine Passport which needs to be sighted by the office person or bar person. If you do not have a vaccine pass please be considerate and do not enter.



MENS REPORT:

The Mens Pennants got to the Semi Finals but unfortunately lost. Well done to all the Pennants boys who gave up their time to play for Kaitake Golf Club.

We have just had the Alban Reid All Irons & Hybrids which was won by Bryan Lewar.

We have The Canadian Foursomes coming up on the 1st May so anyone interested please get in touch with the office.

FOOS (Friends of Ōākura School) had their fund raising event at Kaitake Golf Club and it was a very successful day. We look forward to hosting this event again next year.

If anyone would like to have a fund raising day or just a fun works day out, please contact the office. We can organise something for you.

Roger Cloke Club Captain

LADIES REPORT:

Our Pennant Teams are still going well with all three teams still sharing the top of the table, a great start to the season. A reminder that full results can be seen on the Taranaki Women's Golf Facebook page and on the Taranaki Golf website under 2022 Women's Pennant Results.

The 18 Hole Grandmother's Trophy this year was won by Sally Kwon. The 9 Hole Grandmother's Cup was won by Yvonne Hildred and the 9 Hole Ladies Cup was won by Kath Vernon. The 9 Hole Globe Foursomes was won by Raewyn Bishop and Yvonne Hildred and the 9 Hole Top Dog Champs are Angela Hitchman and Kath Vernon. The Aotearoa Cup was won by Sally Kwon. The Coronation Medal was also won by Sally and the Veterans Trophy was won by Maureen Neilson.

Our Quick 6 Sessions have concluded with 12 players going on to become members, some already starting to play club golf and entering competitions on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It's been great to see many of these players out on the course at different times, enjoying their golf.

Following a recent 'Women and Girls Ambition' Workshop attended by Andrea and Mary, a Taranaki Series of She Loves Golf events has been set up, which is an ideal opportunity for our Quick 6 Ladies and others new to golf to check out and perhaps get along to. Kaitake has pencilled in two dates – Friday 13th May at 1pm and Friday 27th May, also 1pm. Call Andrea for further information regarding this.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

All golfers age 50 and over may join the Taranaki Vets Golf. Once a month a game is held at a golf club in Taranaki. Ladies and men are all welcome.



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Green School hosts global accreditation insititute

Green School New Zealand is looking to solidify its qualification path for learners by joining one of the most established accreditation organisations in the world.

NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) recently visited the school's Ōākura campus as part of a multi-stage assessment that will determine whether Green School becomes one of approximately 1500 public, independent and international schools worldwide to obtain NEASC approval.

The organisation is globally recognised for its standards of excellence, and Head of School, Caroline Rennie, said gaining accreditation with NEASC will be an important next step for the school and its learners.

"The reason we are engaging in this accreditation, on top of ERO (Education Review Office), is so our learners who are graduating from Green School New Zealand will have an externally validated international high school diploma, and the world will know we have met a

global standard of education practice."

Whaea Caroline said the visiting team was impressed with the innovation, curriculum design and unique facilities at Green School, despite this being only its third year of teaching and learning.

"They have acknowledged the fact that it takes courage to step out of the world of traditional, externally validated examinations and move towards digital portfolios, micro-credentials and a holistic transcript that curates evidence of learning to demonstrate a learner's application of knowledge, skills and competencies," she said.

Green School will now go through a 12 month internal reflection, followed by a further external review and visit by a NEASC team in Term 1 2023, after which its accreditation status will be finalised.

"It is a very thorough, reputable process that does take time, however we feel it will be incredibly worthwhile for the future direction of Green School New Zealand and the learners who graduate from our unique programme."



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population 1975 = 5,000; totaltoast.com

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Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, IPCC co-chair of Working Group 3, November 13, 2010 interview (with Dr. Charles Hall)

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Let's be rational

Local area gets an upgrade

Ōākura cemetary

Ōākura cemetery is tucked away behind Butlers Tavern on the main highway and has served this settlement since the first recorded burial in 1888.

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has recently finished work at the cemetery to extend both the ash and burial plots. The seven-wire fence has been removed and a barrier that matches the rest of the cemetery has been installed. Future plans include some retaining to further extend the burial area.

Generally, you should contact a funeral director to arrange a burial or cremation. NPDC manages the Taranaki Crematorium and 11 cemeteries throughout the district including Ōākura. The Council cemetery office provides information about the cemeteries and how to arrange burials, cremations and memorials.



It also holds all historical records for Council-administered cemeteries. Burial plots are sold as required; however, family can reserve extra plots at the time of a bereavement.

NPDC open hours: 8am-5pm Mon to Fri
Phone: 06 759 6060

Find out more at
www.npdc.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/

Bollards and footpaths on Butlers Lane

The walk to school has become much safer for Ōākura School students following last year's installation of bollards next to the new footpath on Butlers Lane. The school and parents contacted New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) asking for help to stop cars parking on the grass, blocking the footpath and creating a huge risk for the main users of that footpath – the school children. Since being installed the bollards have successfully prevented cars from driving over the footpath which helps the kids get to class more safely.

Whenua
Land, country, nation, ground, territory

Rohe
District, area, territory, region

Kaitiakitanga
Guardianship

Kotahitanga
Collaboration, working together

Whakapapa
Ancestry

Manaaki
To look out for, give hospitality, show respect, care for others

Mātauranga
Knowledge & Understanding

Wairuatanga
Spirituality

Manaakitanga
Hospitality

Whanau
Family

Whanaungatanga
Relationships, participation

Mauritanga
Life Essence

Orangatanga
Health & Wellbeing

Te Reo Māori words

“Human activity is the cause of climate warming trends”

Over 99.9% of actively publishing climate scientists

If you would like to learn more try: www.climate.nasa.gov

Sponsored by Rational Humans of Oakura, contact at earthtoscale@gmail.com

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

INTERCLUB TOURNAMENTS

Ōākura completed an unprecedented 3-peat in winning the Club of Origin tournament played at Paritutu on April 3rd. The Ōākura teams capped off a memorable day, finishing the tournament in the top two placings with both teams undefeated winning 4 games from 4. However, bragging rights goes to the foursome of Pat Walklin, Spud Andrews, Kurt Smith and Alan Bridgeman who edged out the current trophy holders of Adam Collins, Steve Muller, Bruce Jackson and Paddy Mullin with a superior points differential. A great effort from all of the boys. The tournament ensures that some of Taranaki's oldest clubs can once again relive their glory days and rekindle old friendships. Thanks to Shorty Sanger, Kevin Gray and the Warea Bowling Club for their continuing sponsorship of this event.

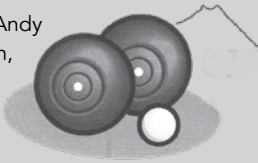
The trio of Steve Muller, Jim Priest and Rod Smith finished 3rd in the over 60s 3-day tournament played at Inglewood. The guys played consistent high-quality bowls and were justly rewarded with a top 3 finish.

Peter Radich, Pat Walklin and Steve Muller finished 2nd in the Stumble Inn/Vogeltown Pharmacy sponsored Vogeltown triples tournament played early April. The boys were undefeated, losing only by differential to a strong Paritutu side.

CHAMPS OF CHAMPS

It was a hard day at the office for Ōākura boys with both Jim Priest, senior singles champion, and the fours team of Alan Bridgeman, Bob Anderson, Kevin Fleming and Paddy Mullin losing their first-round

games. The pairs of Peter Radich and Andy Shearer and triples of Wayne Robinson, Bruce Jackson and Paddy Mullin play their Champion of Champion games late April. Good bowling to all.



CLUB NEWS

The highly regarded and fiercely contested Collins Trophy competition was won by the reigning champions of Alan Bridgeman and Ray Haslip. The duo won 7 from 8 games to hold off the tournament favourites, Wayne Robinson and Kurt Smith, who finished 2nd. Jim Priest and Roy Phillips were in 3rd place just ahead of Kerry McGovern and Mike Yardley. Well done to Mike Yardley, one of the keen social bowlers, who played some terrific bowls under the tutorage of club stalwart Kerry McGovern. Perhaps we will see Mike in the Ōākura blue next year. The format is a round-robin 2x4x2 pairs completion with each game consisting of 6 ends lasting approximately 1 hour. Past President, Mark Collins, donated and originally sponsored the trophy with the concept that the teams consist of a senior player with a junior and/or social player. It is fantastic to see two of the club's life members, Roy Phillips and Alan Bridgeman, continuing Mark's legacy and generously sponsoring this popular tournament and great concept going forward.

The Underarm Bowler

Pump track close to fruition



Plans for a pump track in the reserve behind the children's playground and skatepark have been underway for some time and it's getting closer to becoming a reality.

Velosolutions is working with the interested parties in the community to develop a Velosolutions Pump Track. "Our flexibility and adaptability combined with a decade of

experience allows us to work directly with our clients throughout the entirety of the planning and construction process". The company has developed a unique asphalt technique which ensures the durability, cleanliness and all-weather functionality of the track, and requires the least amount of maintenance. The company is known worldwide for its exciting and multi option track designs. "We ensure our tracks are accessible for first time riders and young

children whilst enabling progression and also appealing to the most experienced riders." The track designs are suitable for both training and racing, and can be used for Red Bull UCI Pump Track World Championships. Many different combinations of rollers and turns will allow enough challenges for both beginners and pro racers to improve their riding.

Local resident John Shewry is working on the funding side of the project. "We've found just over half the money through the Ōākura Boardriders and the Kaitake community board. We've had some generous offers from local businesses, the medical centre and Black Sand and many locals. However we still need another approximately \$60,000. We'd like donations on a per metre basis ideally with a minimum of \$260 = 1m. At this stage we're asking for people to express their support and amount they wish to donate as we really need to make sure we can secure the full amount before we commit us all".

Please contact John directly at email theshehwrys@gmail.com with your donation, name and amount. He will get back to everyone once the full amount has been reached.

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB



Down to the wire

The A Grade Fours competition has seen the Ōākura Black Sands team come out as joint champions. The Black Sands team (otherwise known as Team Ferguson) is new to the competition this year and has played consistently all year coming out on top of the points table going into the finals.

The semi finals saw an all Ōākura play off with Ōākura Black Sands versing Ōākura BP. Whilst some great tennis was played by both teams, Ōākura Black Sands came through with a convincing win. The depth of this team is its key as even when two members were away, they could still field an all Ferguson team – pulling Fletcher home from University to clinch the win.

This put the Ōākura Black Sands into the Finals playing against Waiwaka. With both Brodie and



Ōākura Black Sands team

Ferg back in the province, the team selector had some tough choices to make but decided on the Brodie, Cooper, Ferg and Miller combination, with Leanne taking on the all important moral support role. Waiwaka put forward a strong team for the Final's so nothing was guaranteed.

The singles started the day with Miller and Ferg taking convincing wins and Brodie and Cooper playing hard but coming second.

The doubles then became critical games. Miller and Ferg took a few games to settle into the rhythm but then combined well to take the win. Brodie and Cooper had a hard gig to head into the doubles facing their opponents that had just beaten them in singles. But not to be deterred, they played strongly and led the first set 5-3 at one point. A couple of stray points, however, saw the set level at 5-5 and then Waiwaka take the set 7-5. With renewed confidence, the Waiwaka pair were too strong in the second set, taking the win over Brodie and Cooper. This left the score line at 3 all so a count back on sets and games was required. In an unusual scenario, these were even as well! Taranaki Tennis ruled that Ōākura Black Sands and Waiwaka would be Joint Champions for the Fours Competition.

Congratulations to Ōākura Black Sands for a great season (best the Soffe cup team start making some space for the up and coming Ferguson talent!)

Anne Bridges

Indoor Bowls

The 2022 season is off to a fabulous start with lots of familiar faces returning for another year, and good to see new members enjoying the game for the first time. We started in March with a couple of club nights, including 'bring a friend' and coach and learn. This is an excellent way to introduce new players to the game, and allows some of the more experienced bowlers to pass on their knowledge around bowl delivery and use of the mat.

In April we started our Jamieson Cup competition, which is a round robin format played over three nights with only one game per night of 21 ends. This is a real mental challenge to stay consistent over the course of the game. Following this we will start our club championships which run through the winter season, and various 'centre' events in New Plymouth where we play tournaments and interclub events. We also enjoy social visits to other clubs throughout the year which is a great way to connect with fellow bowlers.

We are always keen for new members so come on down to the Ōākura Hall on Monday nights from 7-15pm and give it a try.

The President



Ōākura one of first in NZ

Ōākura was one of the first places in New Zealand where pickleball was being played. That was three years ago and we have been going strong ever since. Now it's caught on and is played in most cities and towns throughout New Zealand.

Pickleball is a cross between badminton, volleyball and tennis. Many of our players have played these sports in the past and have now switched to pickleball, while others are complete newbies. It is fast-moving so provides exercise for flexibility, cardio, quickened reflexes — overall good for your body and mind skills. It's lots of fun and a great way to meet others.

If you have thought about giving it a go, now is a good time. Daylight savings has ended, the cold and wet weather is on its way but playing pickleball in the Ōākura Hall will always keep you warm and energised. There are two sessions per week (including over school holidays): 7.30 - 9.00pm on Wednesday evening and 9.15-10.45 on Thursday mornings.

All equipment is provided. First time players are free and and thereafter it's \$5.00 per week, whether you play once or twice during



Thursday morning players. Front row: Marian, Karina, Cheryl, Maria Back row: Bev, Michelle, Fiona, Nigel, Sandra. Taking the photo: Elayne

the week. We're friendly, fun-loving and moderately competitive. We're patient with new players and we would welcome you.

(At this time the group has opted to require a vaccination passport for a while longer)

If you want more information, call or text Elayne at 0279377273 or Vincenza at 0277396574



Ruru students take off on their neon party run

Run Revolution



This term in Ruru we have been lucky enough to have started a programme called Run Revolution. Hayden Shearman from Ōākura has created a programme to address the massive health problem of teenagers (and then adults) becoming inactive as they get older. It is a fun programme, designed for year 7 and 8 students that is meant to encourage people to love running and getting healthier physically and mentally. Hayden has taught us how to pace ourselves correctly and how important it is to show good form.

He said, "Intermediate is a great age to introduce some new exercise habits. Running is a super convenient and versatile form of exercise that everyone can do, whenever, wherever they are".

At Run Revolution we don't just run, we sprint, walk, stretch, do drills, learn technique, do breathing and mindfulness, play games and relays, learn how our bodies work, and ultimately have heaps of fun moving! We learnt how to calculate how many steps we take per minute and how to change our gears easily to help with finding a pace we are comfortable with.

Last Friday we also had a fluro run as part of our 18 minute party run around a 500m track. We do a party run increasing by 3 minutes every week as we started with 9 minutes and this week finishing in a 5km run.

By Hayes Lee and Lily Williams (Year 7)

EVENTS	
Optimistically we hope these events might be able to proceed, however they may be subject to cancellations or postponements.	
MAY	
2	TERM 2 BEGINS
18	Y 1/2 MOVEMENT MADNESS
19	Y 3/4 MOVEMENT MADNESS
26-30	BOOK FAIR
JUNE	
6	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
23	PUANGA CELEBRATION 6:30am

Ōākura School Beach Education



During the last term each class has been lucky enough to have Beach Education lessons with the New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club. The lessons were run by Hailey and Anthony Ander for the year 5 - 8 classes. Tamariki all had enjoyable experiences at their Beach Education and they learnt something helpful, safe and interesting.

Luke Mottern, who is a year four student, learnt to never go swimming without an adult watching and not to swim against a rip. His favourite part of the day was when they played games where they dressed up as lifeguards. He thinks Beach Education days like this one are important because "You learn safe things and good things to know at the beach".

Sophie Faragasso thinks that Beach Education is vital because lots of people get caught in rips and need to learn what to do. Sophie learnt to always choose a patrolled beach and to relax, raise and ride the rip. Sophie's favourite part of the day was going swimming.

Tom Hale's favourite part of Beach Education was the activity when they got into groups and talked about what was wrong with photos at a beach. He learnt to never swim alone and relax, raise and ride if you ever get caught in a rip. Tom thinks Beach Education is an important thing to do because if you didn't know all the stuff that you learnt at Beach Education you wouldn't know how to be safe at the beach. He wants to remind people to not swim unsupervised.

Ethan Court learnt how to spot a rip and where to swim at a beach so he doesn't get pulled under or out to sea. Ethan thinks Beach Education is important because it teaches people how to be safe at the beach. His favourite part of the day was going swimming.

Hannah Stanley (age 12)

You are special to me because when we make cakes you let me lick the bowl and we get to go on the farm together. The dinners you make are really good and I like the puddings too. You are amazing at looking after your garden. I love hanging out with you.

Jack



Kaitake Kindergarten celebrations.

April marked a special month for our head teacher Robyn Lander. She celebrated 25 years teaching at our wonderful Kaitake Kindergarten.

Robyn arrived at kindergarten to see lots of balloons and excited children wishing her a happy 25th birthday!

Later on in the evening a surprise party was thrown at Black Sand Pizzeria. It was an awesome chance for past and present teachers, friends and committee members to celebrate Robyn's achievement in our community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn for her tireless commitment to care, leadership and learning with our future generations. We are extremely lucky to have this wonderful kindergarten on our doorstep in Ōākura that is not just a kindergarten but a special place with a community of like minded teachers, support staff and parents.

Roll on the next 25 years Robyn!

Rebecca Le Prou

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TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings
Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

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 027 753 0120

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

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sally@sallylaing.co.nz/ 0276643511

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

Meditation Group

Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Mini Groovers - Music Group

All parents welcome with babies/under 5's. Every Tues during term time 10-11am at the Church Hall. Visit their Facebook page: Mini Groovers - Ōākura. Fe Scott: 027 228 9113

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 0279377173 or Vincenza 0277396574

Playcentre

14 Donnelly St. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - noon during school terms. 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 021 661 912 thowison@hotmail.com

St James Church

Sunday Worship every 2nd and 4th Sun 10am okatocp@gmail.com

Sunday School - St James Church Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am. stjamesoakura@gmail.com

Surf Lessons

Deken Waves Surf Coaching. Group & Private sessions available. Contact Simon: 021 122 9525 dekenwaves@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+ 3:30 to 4:15. val@valdeakindance.org.nz 752 7743 or text 027 694 0933

Tataraimaka

5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

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

Gymnastics Group for children - 5-7 yrs.

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. Ladies morning Friday 9.30 -11am. All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

St James Church

Sunday Worship every 1st and 3rd Sunday, 10am. Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tues each month, 5pm. okatocp@gmail.com

Ōmata

Yoga Classes

For info - Annalisa 027 444 8345

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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