

the Ōākura Post

JULY 2022

NZ
sign
language

*from the
Archives*

*walk &
cycle trail*

Matariki &
Puanga

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SCHOOL
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Photo of Kalani Watts by John Quilter

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Kaitake Community Board

Winter is well and truly upon us, with days of seasonal rain, cold and wind interspersed with welcome periods of bright sunshine and (semi)warmth. It is wonderful to see the numbers out and about, regardless of the weather, playing or supporting the variety of sports that take place in the region.

COVID-19 is still circulating in our community and its effects, along with other seasonal ailments, have been felt with a number of businesses and schools in the province being forced to close periodically due to a lack of staff. After more than two years of this COVID carry on, it is no surprise to see an element of COVID fatigue and complacency creeping in; however we still need to protect ourselves and those around us by keeping up our hand hygiene, and mask wearing when required. If you do get sick, remember the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are very similar, so you should get tested and stay home to help protect the wider community.

I reported in last month's edition a potential issue with the Ōākura water quality. From the number of those who have contacted me, it is clear that this issue is not an isolated problem, nor is it something that has only very recently occurred. I would encourage everyone who is experiencing problems with their water quality, or who has problems with any other council service or function, to use the NPDC Service Request Process as follows;

1. Post your complaint to NPDC, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4342. (Please download our Compliments & Complaints Brochure) or Fax it to 06-759 6072. Call on 06-759 6060
Email at enquiries@npdc.govt.nz
Fill in our online contact form
Visit the Civic Centre or one of our Library and Service Centres.
We will respond to you within five working days.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the Hempton Hall in Ōkato on Monday, 15 August, 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)

2. If you are satisfied with our response your complaint is resolved. If you are not satisfied with our response a senior manager will investigate the matter and respond to your complaint.

Contrary to a widely held belief, council staff are genuinely committed to provide the best standard of service possible, and as part of that commitment they operate under a Customer Service Charter that states in part:

"Our promise to you... By working together, we will work smarter and help you achieve your goals."

We need to make sure to let them know if we have a problem to give them the opportunity to resolve it – and by all means let your Community Board know if you consider they have not followed through on that commitment so we can support you.

Finally, following up on some messaging I sent out recently regarding dogs defecating around the village without owners picking up after them, feedback provided back to me indicates that the vast majority of dog owner are being responsible in doing the right thing, however it is evident that, for whatever reason, there are some that do not. I have seen evidence of this on the Tapuae walking track from Washer Road to the beach, in places in Matekai Park, and along the verges of Surrey Hill Road and Wairau Road. To every dog owner - please ensure you pick up after your pooches.

That's me for this edition, so keep warm, stay safe, and get in touch with any of your Kaitake Community Board members if there is anything you think we may be able to assist you with.

Tangohia tiaki tātou katoa (Take care everyone)



Matariki & Puanga

Kia ora koutou.

On Friday 24th June, New Zealand for the first time marked Matariki with a public holiday. I am by no means an expert but I thought I would share with you some things I have learnt over the last few years.

So what is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also commonly known as the Pleiades. It is often referred to as the 7 Stars/Sisters of Matariki however it is now believed there are nine and two were forgotten about. In recent years and through the research of Dr Matamua and his team, the two 'left-out' stars have been reintroduced through the Kaupapa "Te Iwa o Matariki" (The 9 Stars of Matariki).

Although there are about a thousand stars in Matariki, nine stars are visible to the unaided eye. In te ao Māori, each of the whetū is associated with an aspect of wellbeing and the environment. When this cluster of stars rises each June or July it marks the beginning of the Māori New Year.

Did you know that in Taranaki we celebrate Puanga instead of Matariki. Do you know why?

Because from our location, we cannot see Matariki. Therefore we search out Puanga instead. Puanga is the star Rigel and is the brightest star in the Orion constellation.

So although all iwi celebrate the Māori New Year in June or July, not all iwi refer specifically to this time of year as Matariki. Instead, other iwi will name this time of year 'Puanga'. The tribes of Whanganui, Taranaki, parts of

the Far North and parts of the South Island recognise Puanga.

Like Matariki, Puanga is a time of reflection, remembering those who have recently passed, learning and celebration. As the months are getting colder, it is a time to hui (gather), rest the tinana (bodies) but engage the hinengaro (minds) and to prepare the soils for rest and rejuvenation and for the year ahead.

So when is Puanga Celebrated?

Puanga isn't celebrated over one or two days, instead it is a period of approximately a month or longer with at least two months of preparation followed by two months of wānanga (learning).

The first new moon in the month of Pipiri (June-July) is the period when stars like Puanga, Matariki and Whānui Vega set. This time is a chance to reflect on the past year and to remember your loved ones.

Puanga and Matariki then rises again in a fortnight in the eastern sky. This is the time to acknowledge the rising of our loved ones that have passed so that their spirits become stars and to prepare for the celebrations of the New Year.

On Wednesday 15th June the Ōākura School held their first Puanga Community event where both students and families were invited to the kura (school). With lanterns lit we started with a dawn ceremony led by Tāne Manu from Ngāti Tairi. The weather had been wet and windy all week but at 6:30am when we began the dawn service, the winds had calmed, the rain had ceased, the full moon was on display



and it was a majestic part of the early morning. Unfortunately we were unable to spot Puanga due to cloud and possibly vantage point, however we were mesmerised by the moon and were still able to learn about Puanga and acknowledge the significant event in the Māori Maramataka (calendar).

Following the service, we had a shared kai with traditional fried bread from George's Moturoa Café and fruit for parakuihi (breakfast), where whanau were able to mix and mingle. Parents were then welcomed into the children's classes to share in their learnings around Puanga, followed by an opportunity to watch the whole school perform their kapahaka under matua Clive's expert guidance.

To those who were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed your experience.

Ka nui te mihi ki ngā tāngata katoa i huihui mai rā ki te tautoko i te kaupapa nei.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou.

Greetings of the New Year.

Toni Peacock

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Taranaki short-changed on funding for state highways

MAYORS COMMENT

The status quo on road funding and financing is reaching a crisis point.

After more than a decade of requests, a controlled pedestrian crossing is finally being installed at Inglewood to help our school children safely cross State Highway 3 each day.

Strangely, Waka Kotahi, the government's roading agency and an organisation claiming to be dedicated to improving safety on our national highways, steadfastly refused to take on this project until NPDC came up with the money and agreed to project-manage it. Such is the nature of provincial relationships with a national roading entity, largely focused on investment in and around Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Records looking back over the past decade show Waka Kotahi has generated far more revenue from fuel tax and road user charges than it invests back in Taranaki, reallocating our share of revenue to the big cities as congestion, safety issues and road surfaces in Taranaki deteriorate. While it is disappointing, this is the reality we deal with and so NPDC is determined to make further investments on Waka Kotahi's network over the next few years, knowing that if we don't step up nobody will.

Anyone travelling through the intersection of Coronation Avenue and Cumberland Street during school drop-off and pick-up knows we have another issue there and we plan to install traffic lights in the next few years. We also have a problem at the poorly designed northbound off-ramp from SH3 to Bell Block which struggles to accommodate right turning traffic. So again NPDC will fund traffic lights on a national highway to fix a problem Waka Kotahi acknowledges but refuses to address.

There is a pattern here.

Stepping back from congestion, the safety issues at both ends of Egmont Road have been highlighted by our people as critical risks needing attention, along with the intersection of SH3 and Mangorei Road. The Egmont Road SH3 intersection at Bell Block is the sight of

frequent accidents and congestion and it is only a matter of time until someone is killed.

Egmont Village School has rightly asked for the speed limited to be reduced to 50km/h given the growth in the area and the risks to small children of huge traffic volumes coming through at 70. Waka Kotahi is talking about a high level of commitment to safety enhancements for Taranaki funded out of its road to zero campaign, however Egmont Road/SH3 is not mentioned in any of its plans, a reflection of a cookie cutter approach to asset and safety management driven out of offices in Wellington and Palmerston North.

We have to acknowledge Waka Kotahi for finally stepping up to address the issues between Waitara and Bell Block. Note that the investment only followed years of sustained pressure and what is being offered is the 'minimum viable product', likely to be constrained within 15 to 20 years, unlike the 50 year investments made around the main centres.

So while Waka Kotahi continues to tax here and spend elsewhere, NPDC is doing what it can to pick up the slack but that's not all we will be doing. Later this year Mayors, Chairs and councillors from all around New Zealand will come together for their national conference and the annual general meeting of Local Government New Zealand. I will be presenting a document at that meeting to every mayor and council in New Zealand, seeking their support for an independent review of the way Waka Kotahi funds roads in New Zealand. My expectation is that virtually every council in New Zealand will support this proposal to Government because even in places like Auckland, where they get the largest share of road funding, the government's contribution to road maintenance is not sufficient to maintain the condition of the roads.

Roads are quite literally being run to failure. We have seen this in Taranaki over the past decade and if you study the numbers and the maintenance budgets, contractual



arrangements and quality assurance safeguards it is clear things are likely to get steadily worse.

While there are clearly some in Wellington who view provincial roads as a liability, we recognise they are critical productivity infrastructure bringing our people, businesses and products closer to the rest of New Zealand and the markets we rely on. The more efficient and reliable our roads are, the better the lifestyle and economic output of our region is.

Having spent 20 years in the business of renovating infrastructure I'm committed to supporting Waka Kotahi to be a more effective and efficient asset manager. The best way to do that right now is to place sustained scrutiny on their funding and processes, highlighting the reality of a broken system which is already negatively impacting our people and is deteriorating.

While some may see a future for New Zealand dominated by four or five mega-cities, we recognise that it is provincial New Zealand that has kept our economy afloat over the past few challenging years and will continue to do so for decades. Something has to change and each time NPDC funds a new set of traffic lights or pedestrian crossing on a state highway, you should consider it a monument to the failure of our national road funding system and a reflection of the apathy for the provinces that exists in the Beehive and the bureaucratic offices run out of Wellington.

Neil Holdom,
New Plymouth District Mayor

More 1080 for the Kaitake Ranges

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

There is an impending drop of aerial 1080 for the Kaitake Ranges for June/July 2022 when weather permits. We have been notified by EPRO of this. Is this what we want to continue on a 3 yearly basis?

There was 6kgs per ha spread in two drops in 2019. Since then a huge ground based effort has taken place by many hard working volunteers and paid people, who are doing a great job. Possum and Mustelid numbers have been reduced markedly.

The quote "that manufactured 1080 is biodegradable" and breaks down readily into non toxic by-products is incorrect as fluorocitrate is a by-product of 1080 degradation by micro-organisms and is toxic. The breakdown of poisoned rotting carcasses can kill, especially dogs as carcasses get washed down rivers on farms and beaches for months. There goes free running of dogs safely for quite some time.

Landcare Research did research on the breakdown of 1080/fluorocitrate. With the equipment Landcare has, results were measurable with water temperature at 21 degrees C, our streams run in winter at less than 11deg C. This would make for a slower degradation.

Many water supplies come from the Ranges, so initial thoughts are that there are baits contaminating the water. For many months every time a tap is turned on is there poisoned rotting carcasses contaminating the water? The manufacturer's label states to avoid pollution of all water supplies. Interesting when Government is putting such an emphasis on clean water. Bottled drinking water is supplied for a few days to some. How ironic...

Aerial spreading of 1080 is not as precise as we are lead to believe; it does get into waterways and the spread isn't as even and precise as it's supposed to be. That is the nature of this application. Sadly, cows were poisoned and died in the 2019 drop on the edge of the Kaitake range.

Long term, sublethal effects on human health is one of the major gaps in knowledge surrounding 1080, quoted from Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 47:29-36.

Something to think about.

Joy & Matt Redshaw



Driftwood bach - beach art

Ōākura Library

The Royal Society Science Book Prize "celebrates the very best in popular science writing from around the world". We have last year's winner, 'Entangled Life' by Merlin Sheldrake, and shortlisted for this year's prize is 'The End of Bias: how we change our minds' by Jessica Nordell. Both transformational books explore how we view the world and encourage us to re-examine those views for the betterment of mankind and our planet. Timely reads, highly recommended.

New picture books with lovely messages:

'A Walk in the Words' by Hudson Talbott is about a boy who is a slow reader but discovers the joys of reading at his own speed and without feeling overwhelmed. He learns that Albert Einstein and Leonardo Da Vinci were slow readers.

'Pooka' by Alison Murray is a colourful "empowering tale about believing in yourself no matter how small you feel". The Pooka showed Nina that "everything can change if you believe". Not just for kids!

Regular events:

Crackerjacks Thursday 7th July 10am-10:30am. Join us for pre-school story time with song, craft and games in a relaxed atmosphere.

JP service

Every Thursday 10am-12:30pm

Book group

Thursday 28th July 7:00pm-9:30pm. Join friendly book lovers at the library. Books provided.

School holiday programmes

Please book, as spaces are limited.

Wednesday 13th July 2pm-3pm create and build with cardboard using a Makedo construction kit.

Wednesday 20th July 2pm-3pm make a colourful cardboard Pukeko.

Happy reading,
Clare, Vincenza, Lucy and Rebecca



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Oakura Storm Swell, pic Simon Deken

Ahoy there salt-sprayed dwellers!

Finally, some decent storms and rogue swells have raged through!

Many of us have been waiting for some grumpy weather to spark the senses and get this winter underway! just a bummer we haven't had any significant tornadoes yet to boost the adrenaline levels and drum up a bit of local banter at the Four Square. But it's still not that cold...local snow-junkies must be losing their minds. The age-old 'southerly blast' battalion must be close to deploying its wind-troops from south pole soon...and probably before this goes to print!

A community question: Who has an Oakura Boardriders Club surfboard at home?

The club is missing an alarming number of our grey Soft Tech surfboards and a few Malibu's. These are not cheap and for CLUB MEMBERS ONLY. We are kindly asking those who have been using them through the earlier months to double check they don't still have one or two lying around at home. The seasons wear and tear and losses have committee members considering tightening the access levels for 2023.

On the positive, enabling more kids to go surfing is what it's all about and we stoke on the fun and development these crafts bring to many. But yes, the boards have been hammered by mis-use and handed out loosely to many friends of members...not to mention a handful of the fins being lost.

Anyway, any help with the boards is much appreciated!

IT'S PARTAAAAY TIME! Save the date for the 1st of JULY! the Boardriders is throwing a party to get everyone out of their cave and into the rave...well kind of...if you know a Boardriders party you know you don't really want to miss it. It's time for good ol winter catch up with friends.

Happy storm chasing wave slayers and snow hounds.

Stay close to source, cheers OBC



Ōākura Fire Brigade Update



Xavier Melvin with firefighter Karley Maetzig

Kia ora koutou katoa.

Long before kids get the crazy idea in their heads that they want to be dot com millionaires or, worse, social media influencers when they grow up, there is still a magical period in their lives when being a firefighter, pilot, policewoman, etc captivates their imaginations. Each year, we get the opportunity to make that magic real for the kids from the local schools and pre schools as we share our fire safety message. The squeals of delight radiate around the station as they get to sit in the appliance, dress in uniform and even squirt the hose. Recently Firefighter's Karley Matzig and Mark Town did a fantastic job of showing the kids from Kaitake Kindergarten around.

WE ARE RECRUITING! If you can't shake that passion you had as a toddler to be a firefighter then why not join our team? We are looking to take on 2-3 new recruits. It would be especially helpful if you had a current HT licence and were available for responding during the day, but don't worry if you don't fit that description, everyone brings new skills and character to the brigade. If you are interested, come along to a training night around 6.30pm on Mondays and ask for the Chief or Deputy.

New Zealand Sign Language



hail
hukātara, ua whatu



bird, chicken
manu, heihei

For more signs visit www.nzsl.nz

Driftwood Corner

What does "put a sock in it mean"?

It means to shut up, to be quiet. It originates from old-fashioned gramophones with those big amplifying horns. You could reduce their volume by putting a sock - or any other fabric - into the horn.

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Pictured from left: Stu, BC, Neil, Gary, Gregg

Ōākura to Fort St George walk/cycle trail

PART 1 BY CLIVE NEESON

Over the last two years many coastal walkers might have wondered why a bunch of ferals have been clambering through the vegetation past the campground. When we started 40 years ago we were in our natural prime but looked no less feral in muddy jeans and torn t-shirts. We always wondered why no one stopped to ask what we doing and why the girls even put on a bit of pace as they walked by. Years later I was told that we were assumed to be community detention workers. Why else would anyone be wasting a Saturday slashing gorse on public wasteland unless compelled by the harsh hand of law? But these days the mature trees may provide a bit more clue.

In the late 1970s trees and native birds were very scarce in Ōākura except for hoards of penguins waddling up the beach at sunset. A new species called 'surfers' arrived and, like the penguins, occupied the small fibro baches along the foreshore. Surfers were chasing a life in paradise akin to Robinson Crusoe. The waves were great but a landscape of kikuyu grass, lupins and gorse just didn't fit the picture.

Whether you owned or rented, planting a few trees around the bach required written permission from the leasehold landowner so the best way to green the village was to find a piece of neglected public wasteland. The coastal strip between the Ōākura campground

and Ahus (Ahu Ahu Road) footbridge had for decades been a stark treeless swathe of boxthorn, gorse and lupin. Ōākura had its own town Council then and one day the sole village caretaker, Race Nash, pushed a track through with his tractor and loyal Corgi dog as co-pilot. We were now able to walk to Ahus surf break, albeit with no shade nor shelter.

The next year, my surfing buddy John Thomas and I bought some pohutakawa trees and Norfolk pines from Wairau Nursery and planted them in a row from the campground to Ahus. It was hot, grey iron sand so we had to carry in buckets of water over the first two summers. Walkers would say "Ya dreamin' mate" and others said "You're mad, it's not meant to be", which strengthened our resolve even more. Those same trees are the large ones you walk under today.

But we were not the only crazy dreamers. At the centre of Ōākura was a swampy sheep paddock reverting to gorse when Graham 'Quacky' Churchill saw its potential and began organising Saturday working bees to plant it out. Today we know it as Matekai Park. The Ōkato surfers also began planting a coastal strip at Rocky Point to shelter the exposed surf breaks which has now grown into a much appreciated nature walk. A new wave of madness had begun as the feral fanatics took to the gorse with slasher and spade. A picture was emerging of how we could build an all-weather sheltered nature trail from Ōākura to Rocky Point using the old coast road and public reserves. To build the vision we could start with a 'pilot' segment from Ōākura campground to Timaru Rd. So we kept on planting along Ahus roadside and up the bank.

The madness continued. Mike Christiansen and Paul Lobb rallied members of the newly formed Boardriders Club. Local teacher Ray 'Happy' Priest inducted Ōākura school pupils and Paul "PJ" Jamieson of Parks coordinated our working bees under Ōākura Coastcare which included representatives of TRC and contemporary Hapu. Norton Moller also supported the vision by contributing a crucial margin of farmland under QE2 trust. We now had a community project with the blessing of NPDC and a clear vision of a magnificent coastal nature trail.



Pictured: John Quilter donated 15 Nikau

John and I made a short film showing the progress and potential of the project. It was used as a submission to Councillors who became very enthusiastic and Peter Tennant brought the hammer down to approve construction of two footbridges crossing the streams at Ahus and Weld Rd. This provided an immediate link from Ōākura to Fort St George and onward to Pukeiti Park via quiet country roads - a safe 10k run and scenic cycleway avoiding use of the hazardous main road as well as saving petrol to access the surf breaks. The Ōākura Coastal Trail became so popular with walkers, runners, cyclists and prams that we needed to improve the surface. With no budget we couldn't afford concrete and decided that a soft grass surface was healthier anyway and fitted the natural theme.

Progress was piecemeal as opportunities arose. When truckloads of topsoil were being removed to straighten the main road at the golf club, we employed a case of beer to persuade the truck drivers to dump it at both ends of the

walkway then we later spread it over the sand track with wheelbarrows to help the kikuyu grass grow. When Don Harvey found a spare culvert pipe on his farm he brought down his chainsaw and removed the fallen macrocarpa which had been blocking the stream for years at Ahus corner carpark. We then built a dry crossing over the pipe as a safer shortcut to the dangerous gravel road ramp. Paul Coxhead then turned up with his digger and graded a nice path through the cutting which everyone uses today.

Although working bees were spontaneous and a bit guerrilla style, NPDC followed through with maintenance and safety upgrades and the trail became progressively more user friendly and popular. In 1998 it won a TRC Environmental Award and subsequently NPDC set aside \$750,000 for further path upgrades and extension of the trail to Fort St George.

The future was bright and for a minimal budget our community now had an enviable coast trail



Pictured: Clive Neeson planting Nikau

to Fort St George which was being enjoyed by many on a daily basis. Planting continued steadily and it was looking better every year. But then - oh dear, it all changed. Next month in Part 2 we continue the story about why after all that great progress we have no coast trail today - but also why the dream is still alive and hope is revived.



Pictured: Pete Cassie with Puriri tree



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Learning at Green School



Green School New Zealand takes the best from conventional education and pairs it with a 21st Century way of learning designed to prepare students to thrive in the fast-paced world we live in. The difference in its learning programme is not so much what is taught, but how it is taught.

The school's pedagogical belief is that learning and growing happens best through real experiences. Students connect with subjects in a way that makes it relevant to them, their passions, and their future.

This approach forms the basis of Green School's science and maths classes, which GSNZ secondary science and maths teacher, Michael Fenton, says offers wonderful opportunities for each individual learner.

"As teachers here, we get to focus on teaching and learning for the love of learning. We do benchmark our progress, but it is more about learners showing what they can do, and future goals that they have."

He says there are currently three classes focused on the regional Science and Technology Fair, where the projects in action investigate how science can be used to benefit other people.

"We have a Mission to Mars project where applying maths and science knowledge includes coding, teamwork, systems thinking and planning for sustainability. It's about understanding issues, and deciding where our knowledge can be used to make a positive difference."

Year 3 and 4 teacher, Nick Rowe, says a great deal of class time is also spent out in the environment, where they can teach in a way that encourages learners to awaken their senses.


"In doing this they really see, feel, hear and taste the wonders of the outdoors. When the learners' senses and eyes are opened, they want to know more and interact more. This encourages environmental stewardship in later years."

At the root of the Green School programme is a mission to equip learners with the knowledge, values and skills that will empower them to make an impact in the world - not in the future, but right now.



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ARCHIVES

From the Taranaki Herald November 1884

A YOUNG GIRL THROWN FROM A HORSE AND KILLED.

A YOUNG GIRL THROWN FROM A HORSE AND KILLED.

A VERY sad occurrence happened yesterday afternoon at Oakura, which has thrown a gloom over the district. Miss Mary Jane Cash, daughter of Mr. Cash, who had recently purchased Mr. Caverhill's farm at Timaru, was, it appears, going to fetch some letters from the Okato Post Office when her horse bolted, and she was thrown. Her foot unfortunately got caught in the stirrup, and she was dragged a considerable distance along the road, and was consequently killed.

An inquest was held at the Oakura Inn last night at ten o'clock, before Captain Davidson, Coroner, and the following jury:—F. W. Mace (foreman), S. W. Wareham, F. J. Morris, J. C. Honeyfield, J. Jury, C. Andrews, A. Roderique, W. Elkin, G. Julian, T. McGuinness, J. Searle, J. Taylor, W. Hughes, and N. H. Julian.

The following evidence was taken:—Martin Cash, father of deceased, deposed that he last saw his daughter at half-past two on Friday afternoon. She was proceeding to Oakura for letters. The horse she was riding was a quiet one, and one she had been in the habit of riding for the past two years. On hearing of the accident he started for Oakura, and on arriving there found her dead. She was aged sixteen years.

Ann Cash, mother of deceased, deposed that her daughter saddled up her horse at about two o'clock on the day of her death, to go to Oakura for letters. She put on the side saddle. It was an old one, and a crutch belonging to it was lost. Two of the girths were in good condition, but the third was not. There was a ladies stirrup on the saddle, but she also used a strap for the other foot, which witness thought she usually hung upon the crutch. Did not see her mount the horse, nor leave the place. On hearing of the accident witness immediately left for the township and found her daughter there dead. Deceased was dreadfully cut about the face, and her clothing was very much torn. The horse was a remarkably quiet one. Deceased was in the habit of riding the horse, and never before been hurt by it, but had been thrown off once.

James Loveridge deposed to deceased calling for letters at his store at about half-past two o'clock. She did not dismount, but turned the horse to proceed homeward. He saw no more till five or ten minutes afterward, when he saw deceased hanging by her legs from the saddle and being dragged by the horse, which was galloping. Finding he could not stop the horse, he went to catch his own to ride after her, when he noticed that deceased had got clear. He then went to where deceased was, and saw some persons carrying her body to the hotel. She appeared to be quite dead. She was severely cut about the face, and was bleeding—particularly from a large cut under the chin. He also saw a cut over her eye. When witness saw her being dragged she was on the off side of the horse.

Richard Grylls deposed: Seeing a runaway horse dragging something alongside it, he ran from his garden and followed it to the beach. On getting close to the beach he found the body of deceased lying on the sand. She was dead, and her clothes were over her head. Witness replaced them, and felt her pulse which he found had ceased to beat. Assisted by Mr. Corkill he carried her about a hundred yards. Witness's wife arrived, and they bathed deceased's face with water. She was quite dead however. She had a large cut under the chin about an inch and a half long, and a cut on her forehead. She was bleeding from the nose. The body was carried to witness's hotel, and he sent Mr. Honeyfield to tell Mr. Cash of the occurrence.

Ellen Julian deposed that she saw deceased on horseback proceeding at a walking pace towards her home. Shortly after passing she heard a scream, and on looking back saw that the horse had fallen over a stump and was lying on the ground, and deceased appeared to be fastened by the leg or skirt to the saddle. The horse jumped up and galloped towards Mr. Grylls', dragging the deceased along the ground. She screamed when she first fell, but did not hear her scream afterwards. By the Coroner: It was on the side of the road that the horse fell; and did not see anything that could have frightened the horse. The stump was that of a punga standing in the ground. When witness first saw deceased she was riding on the metal.

Dr. Gibbes, M.D., deposed that he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body, and stated he had found her neck broken and her face dreadfully cut. He considered the cause of death was fracture to the spine. Death must have been instantaneous. The wounds on the face might have been inflicted by the hoof of a horse. A kick from the horse under the chin would account for her neck being broken.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."



Pictured: Luke Barrett

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB



There's been some social tennis played in between days of rain and Monika is being kept busy with coaching during the week. Adult competition tennis managed some social doubles on Queen's Birthday and a drink to finish the season off. Congratulations to the Ferguson Fours team who were combined winners of their grade with Waiwaka.

Luke Barrett is dominating the Taranaki junior boys, winning the Taranaki 10 and 12 year olds division. Well done Luke.

Keep hitting when the rain stops, get in touch with Monika for any coaching tips and hopefully the moss doesn't take over the courts!

Jackie



Visitors to Ōākura

WHO ARE YOU?

Cristiana and Aldo Vogliotti, the parents of Nico Vogliotti.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Torino, Italy

WHY ARE YOU IN ŌĀKURA?

To visit my son Nico, his wife Katie, and our grandson Enrico and seeing the restaurant my son and his wife built, Toret. We have been to NZ a few times and are pleased to be able to be here again.

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED WHILE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?

Family time, nice long beach walks, cycling,



Storm debris at Corbett Park - photo by Ian Scott



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Working Together for a Sustainable Future

Over the last few months Ōmata and Lepperton schools, under the guidance of the Taranaki Regional Council, have been working together to enhance the ecosystems within our kura. Students from Ruma Piwakawaka potted up native seedlings growing on the pathways of our Ōmata bush and gifted these, along with hand-written letters, to Lepperton School. The tamariki at Lepperton School have used these seedlings to enhance their own bush and have since written thank-you letters back. Recently, a group of Lepperton students travelled to Ōmata to spend time with us in our ngahere (bush).



Movement Madness

In May Ōmata school hosted an annual event called Movement Madness. Junior students from Ōakura and Ōmata came together to participate in a series of fun games. The games aimed to encourage movement, involvement and enjoyment. The school leaders from Ōmata school organised the games and led each group. Games included sack races, obstacle courses, fling-a-ma-jigs, high jump, soccer skills and helicopter tag. Some of the games were changed to fit the different year groups by either making them more challenging or easier. One of the popular games was bucket stackers and the aim of this game was to try and get your bucket tower as tall as you can and then once you're done, you would knock it down with a tennis ball. It was great to see both of the 'Ō' schools come together for this community event. There was fun, laughter and new friendships forming on a sunny Autumn day.

Peyton Valentine and Hayes Lee (Year 7 Ruru students)

Indoor Bowls

Our season is well underway with plenty of action during our Monday club nights at Ōākura Hall. Our club competition events are sprinkled with fun club nights and trips into New Plymouth for tournaments. Our first club competition was the Jamieson Cup which was played over three nights, with each game being 21 ends. The winner is determined based on the number of wins/ends/points. This year the winning team was Pat Walklin (Skip), Steve Muller, Mike Vickers and Val Bridgeman who won by 32 ends vs 29 ends.

We have also played our championship triples event which was hotly contested over five rounds. Two teams made it through to the final, Merv Hooker (Skip), Neville Jans, Val Bridgeman and Jim Priest (Skip), Bruce Duggan, and Mike Vickers. The final, played over 12 ends, saw both teams trading early shots with the game even through to the sixth end, when Merv's team scored a few ends in a row to run out comfortable winners. Well done to Merv and team. Championship Fours are up next and we'll keep you posted in the coming month.

The President



Trenton Martin leading the blessing



Manuhiri and Tangata Whenua

School property development

Over the past few months, Ōākura School has been updating their year five and six block and adding two new classrooms. The construction started in late 2021 and is planned to be finished sometime around the end of August this year.

Tamariki and kaiako of the two new classrooms were privileged to be able to participate in the blessing and opening of the two new classes. Trenton Martin, a Ngāti Tairi kaumatua, led the blessing with karakia to bestow Mauri and goodness on our new classrooms. Ngāti Tairi whānau also joined us in acknowledging the role the classrooms will have in our kura to nurture learning and provide shelter for the tamariki.

Room 8 and the Tawa Room have moved into the two new classrooms - Miro and Kahikatea, named after the native trees from our local environment. In the coming weeks, the area outside of the new block of classrooms will be upgraded so that the students have more room to enjoy breaks outside. Another space

in-between room six and seven will be created. A plan of this is shown on a board on the school gate next to the office.

The students who are now in the new classrooms say that they find the new update to Ōākura School more modern, flash and easier to get to.

At the moment, teaching in the new classrooms are Becky Gooch in Miro Room and Megan Batley in Kahikatea; with Lexi Harcourt in room 6 and Judy Zieltjes in room 7 set to move into their new rooms by August this year.

Te Ara Taiao o Kaitake

Recently the Ōākura School Te Ara Taiao student leadership team met with the leaders from Ōmata School and Coastal Taranaki School. As one combined group they went on a half hour walk to a highish clearing, near some of the kiwis' territories. From there they used telemetry gear to gather data about Haimona, Ngapikitanga and Puanga - the kiwis.

Telemetry is a piece of equipment that you can use to learn different bits of information about kiwi. Telemetry gear is an aerial connected to a small radio. Each kiwi has an individual

tracker that the radio can be connected to. If you connect up the telemetry gear and the transmitter, then every 10 minutes the transmitter sends out a series of coded beeps. When you decode the beeps they mean different things, like how long ago they fed and if they have kiwi chicks or eggs. The transmitters have to be replaced every year.

All of the Te Ara Taiao group used telemetry gear. They gathered data about Haimona, Ngapikitanga and Puanga the kiwi. Some of the information they gathered about Haimona was that she has been 98 days without having an egg, however Haimona has not deserted her burrow. At the time the data was gathered Haimona had been out to feed 20 hours ago and she was feeding for 690 minutes. Haimona has been feeding for 740 minutes on average over the past week. There is 41 weeks of battery life left on the tracker.

All of this data that has been gathered shows that the kiwi are thriving and healthy in their new environment. The Te Ara Taiao leadership group are learning lots and are excited to be involved in such an amazing project.

Hannah Stanley & Miri Sandbrook (age 12)



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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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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 traceymackyle@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

Ōkato Co-operating Parish

St James, Sunday Worship: every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 10am
St James, Prayer Meeting: first Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm
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: taranakitachichuan@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

Ōkato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

Ōkato Lions Club

John Hislop 757 9696

Ōkato Squash Club

Monday nights from 6.30pm. Everyone welcome. Ladies morning Friday 9.30 -11am. All levels welcome. Rachel 0204 092 5243

Ōkato Co-operating Parish

St Paul's, Sunday Worship: every 1st and 3rd Sunday, 10am
St Paul's, Prayer Meeting: first Thursday of each month, 7.30pm
okatocp@gmail.com

Ōmata

Yoga Classes

For info - Annalisa 027 444 8345

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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