

the Ōākura Post

OCTOBER 2022

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Photo: Ivy Clement waters the seedlings at Ōmata School

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Kaitake Community Board

This will be the last Kaitake Community Board column from me for the current term for this board, as we near the end of this trienium and with the approach of the local body election date of 8 October.

It has been an "interesting" three years; Three years that have seen a number of real 'highs', a few 'lows', and with a number of observations I have made about council process – particular during my time as the KCB Chair.

From a personal perspective I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve this community, and have largely enjoyed fulfilling this role. I say largely, because I still feel a measure of frustration at the variety of issues that have been brought to my attention, that we have still, as yet, not been able to have addressed.

I have spent a lot of time sitting in the council chamber observing the North Ward Councillors pounding the table over issues in their area and managing to get many of those matters resolved. I have seen the same thing occur with "Inglewood's Councillors" vigorously championing issues on that side of the mountain. Meanwhile our corner of the district appears largely ignored, despite the efforts of Amanda (our appointed Councillor representative) who is either overlooked because she is not a resident in our area, or because she stands aside due to perceived conflicts of interest, and it has fallen to the KCB to do our best to get problems in our area addressed.

One of the highlights of the current term was our success in getting Ward boundaries changed in the recent Representation Review, to provide a realistic opportunity for someone from this corner of the district to win a seat at Council.

There were also other significant wins on the positive side of the scorecard for the KCB:

- Defeating the high density housing proposal on the land below the Paddocks development.

- Getting the circa \$1,000,000 State Highway 45 'underpass to nowhere' at Wairau Road scrapped from the Annual Plan.
- Supporting the KCSH to get a lease on the Pavilion at Corbett Park.
- Clamping down on the freedom camping problem in our area.
- Formulation of a plan for, and assigning funds to, a Pump Track near the skate park at Shearer Reserve.
- Signoff on the headland walkway.

For every 'up' there is always a 'down', probably the biggest of those being the loss of the services of the long serving community stalwart, Doug Hislop, to the board – however, I do confess to picking Doug's corporate knowledge brain at every opportunity. Other lows were events attributable to climate change effects – e.g. the big landside at the motorcamp, the washout of the Ahu Ahu bridge, the timber log jam that closed Corbett Park, and the lack of progress on the Donnelly Street road safety issues.

There are two members of the current community board who are not seeking re-election; Paul Coxhead and Paul Veric. On behalf of the Kaitake Community I take this opportunity to thank you both for your time on this board, and to pass on particular appreciation to Paul Coxhead for his nine years of service with the KCB.

Again on behalf of the Community, I wish to thank those candidates who have put their names forward to stand for the Kaitake Community Board this time round; Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Elayne Kessler, Dave Kurth and Paul Lobb, and wish you all the best for the election.

That's me signing off

Hei konei rā

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)



Did you ever want to be a firefighter when you grew up?

The brigade is in great form at the moment and with several of the crew progressing through the ranks we are now looking for new recruits.

If you are looking for a way to get actively involved in the community and learn some great practical skills with a great team of locals, come down to the station on Monday nights at 6.30 to meet the team and observe what goes on at training. You need to be 18 or over, a class 2 drivers licence would be a bonus but not a requirement.



Pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

The Queen made several royal visits to Taranaki during her 70-year reign, with Pukekura Park being one of the many locations visited.

NPDC has opened a condolence book and set aside a place for those wanting to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away on 8 September. The book will be available at Puke Ariki.

People can leave floral tributes at the band rotunda in Pukekura Park.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at the Criterion Hotel, New Plymouth (1954). Taranaki Herald. Collection of Puke Ariki (PHO2009-286).



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Ōākura Tennis Club - Social Sessions

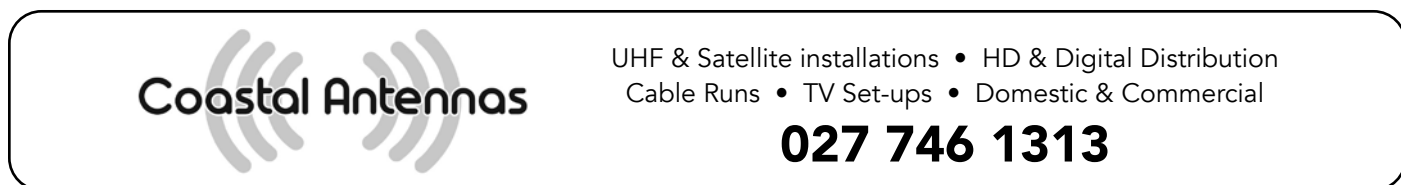
Just turn up and we can arrange a game for you!
Families can play together or kids play kids and adults play adults.

WHEN: Sundays 3-5pm
STARTING: Sunday 16th October

WHAT: Social Tennis Games
WHO: Adults and kids (who can rally)

For any members (or potential members) who are keen to play some tennis.

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



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Pest control in the Kaitake Ranges

The Trust volunteers have been on a rollercoaster ride over the last few months. We were feeling fantastic after 10 kiwis were released into the Kaitake Ranges back in April, bringing the total number of kiwis released to 20. In addition to those birds, we know several of the birds from last year successfully bred, so likely there are more than 20 kiwis now. Things seemed great until someone made an awful discovery while checking on the kiwi with telemetry gear – three of the birds were dead.

Needless to say, that was devastating news and brought us all crashing down. The conservation community responded immediately, fearful that whatever killed the birds may strike again. TRC and Taranaki Mounga Project deployed traps in the area of two of the dead birds (two of the birds were a pair released in 2021 and one was from the recent release). Taranaki Kiwi Trust members worked tirelessly checking on the remaining birds while Trust volunteers spent hours rebaiting traps and checking on the other Kiwi.

The good news is that since that time not only have no other birds fallen to the same fate, but there are now 6 birds incubating eggs...and the roller coaster ride is heading back up after this news.

This rollercoaster of ups and downs is what happens when a new, groundbreaking project is being undertaken. What is being attempted here in our backyards and in the Kaitake Ranges is the next step in conservation – large, landscape scale predator control without fences.



Kora Crawford using the telemetry gear to check on the kiwi up near Pukeiti.

Predator eradication was first successfully accomplished in the 1960s on a tiny island in the Hauraki Gulf when all the rats that had infested the island were wiped off. Since that time conservationists have been removing predators from larger and larger islands resulting in over 100 predator free islands. The next step was to create eco-sanctuaries with large, predator proof fences, such as Zealandia or Rotokare. Now, the next step in conservation is taking place, predator control without the use of fences.

This is a new approach and as such is full of ups and downs because some techniques work and others not so much. Some of the highlights thus far are that possums have been removed from the farmland and village around the Kaitake and kiwi have been released. This groundbreaking project needs our entire community getting behind the effort by checking trap lines in the Kaitake Ranges, trapping in our backyards, and controlling our pets so they don't hurt our precious native species.



Trust members alongside Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Te ara Taio about to release a kiwi into the kaitake ranges earlier in 2022.

If successful, our native species will be part of our community and daily lives as opposed to just existing apart from us up in the National Park or on predator free islands or reserves. In 10 years hopefully we'll have kiwi in Matekai Park, kaka in our backyards, and gold stripe geckos galore.

There are now around 100 volunteers with the Trust checking traps and kiwi in the Kaitake. Additionally, there are hundreds of traps set up in backyards across Ōākura. We are all on this rollercoaster now, so let's do our part to control those predators and allow our native species to thrive.

If you are keen to get involved with the Trust contact us at morgpt@xtra.co.nz

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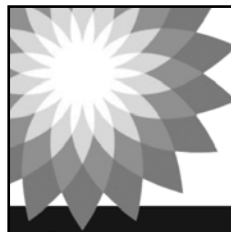
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People in our Community

**"IT'S SO ENJOYABLE,
THAT'S WHY I'VE STAYED."**

Robyn Lander grew up in Pahiatua, a little country town in the Wairapa where her parents were farmers. After going to Teachers College in Palmerston North, she moved to New Plymouth and worked at other kindergartens before Kaitake Kindergarten. When the previous Head Teacher was leaving she encouraged Robyn to apply for the position and she did.

Many people in our community know her because their children have attended the kindergarten, or even because they themselves attended as a child. When she first came to Kaitake there were two teachers and the the group size was 30 children. Now it's grown to six teachers and an administrator, and the kindergarten is able to have 80 families. Under Robyn's guidance as head teacher, the kindergarten has roughly doubled in size. "There's been a lot of change and I find change quite exciting," she says.

This year was her 25th year at Kaitake Kindergarten. "I just mentioned it one morning and brought morning tea for everyone." The rest of a celebration was organised as a surprise. She arrived at work one day to find the kindergarten streamed with balloons and a party atmosphere. They said they were taking her to dinner at the Surf Club, and when she got there she found lots of people from kindergarten in the past, people from the Ōākura School community, other members of our community and, of course, her family.

"If I really think about how long I've been there it feels like about 10 years. The reality is that some of my former students are bringing their children so I actually know it's been a long time."

Just like it's a fantastic community to live in, Robyn says Kaitake is a fantastic kindergarten to work in. "There's always support for whatever you want to do. If you want to make alternations to your playground, the community is right there to build it. If you want to purchase resources, they are very willing to fundraise. Unlimited support, that's what I see. "She believes that unlimited support is pervasive throughout the community, whether it's Surf Club, Boardriders, Ōākura School, sports teams or whatever — volunteers are there."

Robyn recalls the tornado that hit Ōākura in July 2007. It was a stressful time to be working. It struck at the beginning of school holidays so fortunately no children were present. It was devastating, with so much destruction of the building and outdoor areas. The community was at the kindergarten for the clean up, helped with alterations to the building and raised funds, even some people who had no association with the kindergarten took part. When we opened for the new term we used Playcentre and St James Hall. That was a difficult time for the children, teachers and families.

Robyn moved from living in New Plymouth to her house in Ōākura in 2001 with her late husband Brent and they named it 'Grandvue', probably because of the spectacular vista it allows from on high. "My life is so busy at work. I come home to a quiet retreat of a house. It's a special property that gives me my needed down time."

Down time for Robyn means taking care of a large garden, a beautiful, fluffy cat, an 18 year old little dog and four alpacas. She has a grey, a light brown, a dark brown and a black alpaca. They get sheared once a year and Robyn spins



Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

Spring is here and the tennis courts are no longer under water! The season is swinging into action with competition starting around Labour Weekend and the beginning of Term Four for school kids. In September we held our AGM and kids muster with Blitz tennis.

For juniors we have coaching with Monika from Blitz tennis and games on Friday afternoons.

The junior grade tennis is a great opportunity for kids to meet other kids around the region, play at different clubs, practise skills learnt at coaching, learn how to score and get to play as part of a team. Anyone interested in learning more about Friday afternoon tennis can discuss with Monika or contact Yifat or Jackie.

For the adults we have Midweek Ladies played on Monday, practise night on Thursdays, group and individual coaching sessions through Blitz, social tennis with other clubs and competition on Saturdays. Any new players are welcome and the club is happy to facilitate any other tennis activities that club members would like.

Go to blitztennis.nz website for coaching and group sessions for both kids and adults.

Juniors contact Yifat 022 3237210
Adults contact Jackie 0276732900

Swing free.

their wool. She belongs to the Ōākura Yarn Spinners, a group made up of more knitters than spinners, that meets fortnightly, all with a common interest. She uses the four colours from her alpacas to knit beautifully patterned, soft and warm blankets. Her four grown children and seven grandchildren, five in Taranaki and two in Melbourne, are the fortunate recipients of Robyn's hand spun, hand knitted blankets. The children visit often to swim in the pool, pet the alpacas and just run around the three acres.

There's a motor home in the big shed beside the house. Robyn has taken it all over the North Island and plans to travel all over the South Island after she retires, quickly adding, "That isn't going to be soon. I feel privileged to have taught and influenced so many Ōākura children and have loved getting to know the children's families."

real reflection at gsnz

Reflection is an important exercise regularly practiced at Green School New Zealand. It happens in the traditional way, following a completed exercise or project, and also daily, in relation to how learners are feeling about what they are learning, how they are learning and even where they are learning. Not only does this enhance communication between learners and teachers, but it enables the school to adapt, and places learners at the centre of learning. Providing time to reflect and offer feedback regularly, also enhances the confidence and trust learners have in their own learning instincts.

Below, some students share reflections about their learning environment and experiences at Green School New Zealand.



Elliot, YEAR 4

"We are outside most of the time - on Tuesdays we are outside all day, it's called Nature Day. We can earn "badges" in trapping, making fires, river safety, and knots. Also, we have a tropical house and veg gardens and you can take fruit and veg home. On Crop Swap day you can bring in your own food produce and share it with others. I like maths at Green School because the teachers make it fun!"



Lachlan, YEAR 10

The teachers have quite a lot to say about your learning and it's not just about school work. You can talk to them and get advice about anything. We have a cool community. Parents will come and help with our projects. No one is judgemental here. Your opinions are respected and important.



Evie, YEAR 6

We have animals here and people look after the chickens every day. Animals feel safe at Green School, even though there are people here. I like that if you need to calm yourself down there are places you can go. All the kids make stuff here - they even made the playground!



Haka, YEAR 10

We have a focus on mental health which is important for New Zealand. Teenagers these days are facing big mental health challenges.



Frankie, YEAR 7

The community at Green School is very friendly and open. I love it how everyone knows each other's names. We support each other. The teachers are not just for learning, they are also there to support you.



Bonnie, YEAR 8

We do lots of things outdoors and off campus. In Hikoi we do kayaking, trapping, caving, swimming, tramping, camping and lots of other things. We have a class called Green Studies where we do 'seed to table'. We grow and harvest and then have a Masterchef competition with the food we grew.



Gibson, YEAR 8

We get to focus on a subject a lot without worrying about tests. There's lots of time outdoors and it's really special that we have the river to swim, test the water quality and look for invertebrates.



Jordan, YEAR 9

I enjoy the smaller classes, so the teachers can really help you and spend time 1:1 with you.



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Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

Myth busting at the business end of water reform

Everywhere we turn in Aotearoa, there's an upsetting story about the quality of our three waters – drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

These are being caused by a combination of factors, including an ailing, deteriorating and over-burdened water infrastructure, population growth and regular extreme weather events, like flooding that swamped Coastal Taranaki and our friends in Nelson.

Water reforms will be welcomed in Ōpunake, where latest news reports say citizens have been living with unacceptable brown drinking water, which is so bad "the dogs won't even drink it".

So, to protect our precious waters, change needs to happen, and it is.

The legislation to set up Water Services Entities is progressing through the public submission stage. I have been part of the cross-party group of MPs travelling the country hearing submissions on the bill. It will come back to Parliament with recommendations from the submission process.

There's a risk some people may have made submissions on a bill that doesn't exist, because they were told, wrongly, that iwi will own half the water entities, or impose royalties on water, or veto decisions, or that Central Government will take over the assets and debts. None of this is true.

Ownership of water entities remains with councils. Local iwi will join council reps to appoint independent professionals – like engineers, planners, or accountants – to boards that oversee entities.

The misinformation campaign in rural communities has been condemned by Local Government NZ. It is a shame that rhetoric from Destiny Church and the Taxpayers Union is blocking discussion of important public health improvements and economic benefits.

Public health experts like Professors Michael Baker and Nick Wilson from the University of Otago published research in July 2022 showing more than 34,000 people get sick from drinking water each year. In 2016, four people died and more than 8,000 got sick in Havelock North when drinking water was contaminated. The National Party quite rightly set up an inquiry which led to the Three Waters proposals.

Taranaki beaches have also been affected by unacceptably high levels of E coli and enterococci bacteria. In March 2019, the New Zealand Secondary Schools Triathlon was cancelled after high levels were found at Ngāmotu Beach. A subsequent Taranaki Regional Council report said stormwater controls at Port Taranaki had not kept pace with its expansion to accommodate logs.



In March 2021, Back Beach also recorded unacceptably high bacteria levels and surfers and swimmers were warned to stay out of the water.

A news report in May this year, outlined "a \$31 million solution to the long-running issue of raw sewage leaking into rivers at two of Taranaki's top holiday spots" – Onaero and Urenui.

Close by, at Waitara, there was a call for urgent action by the New Plymouth District Council to fix ongoing flooding issues affecting some residents for decades.

The new water entities will have much stronger balance sheets to borrow at lower interest rates, so councils won't have new debt burdens. Without reform, households face costs of up to \$9,000 per year, or services that keep failing.

Local voice will always be crucial. Sub-regional advisory panels and consumer forums are a new feature of the bill. This means that councils in Taranaki have a way to be heard in a particular geographic area. New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom is on the working group to ensure local voice in the Three Waters reform.

There is one final misunderstanding to be cleared up. The reforms are for Council water services only, which cover 81% of the population. They do not affect households who collect water off their roof, or rely on septic tanks to handle wastewater. As many as 75,000 small privately owned water networks like this are unaffected.

It's full team ahead!

Emma now has some extra firepower on the team. Meet Renee and Alex! As always, Team Taylor is driven by great results and providing the highest quality service for their clients. If you want to join Team Taylor's long list of happy clients call Emma on 027 379 7148 or Renee on 027 902 6591.

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NPOB kicks off the season



Not long now before hopefully another great summer is upon us. It feels like it has been a long winter.

Our lifeguards are in the process of getting refreshed to be ready for volunteer patrol which will start end of November and continue every Saturday and Sunday thereafter until Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. The beach will be patrolled from 1-5pm. We are always looking for extra lifeguards, if you can help in anyway please contact us. Regional Guard (mid-week patrol) will start the week prior to Christmas.

To kick off the season we are having a working bee Saturday 29 October at 10am. We want to hit the ground running with the clubrooms and gear shed spic and span and ready to go.

Friday night 4 November we will have the bar open and we will be hanging around to help and answer any questions about the season. Andrew from Tsunami will also be there with the NPOB Tsunami clothing for everyone to have a look at, work out sizing etc.

Junior Surf will start Sunday 6 November, 9am for information on junior surf with a 10am start; thereafter every Sunday 10am to midday. Sessions start at 10am sharp with a briefing in front of the surf club (beach side). Please ensure you arrive 15 minutes prior to get organised so you are ready to go by 10am. In the meantime keep up the swimming (or start) and get out on and in the water when you can.

Follow us on Facebook to stay in the loop with what is happening - NPOB Surf Club. Membership enquiries please email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz

Dates for your calendar:

WORKING BEE	Saturday 26 October @ 10am
INFO EVENING	Friday 4 November @ 5pm onwards
JUNIOR SURF	Starts Sunday 6 November @ 9am for info and 10am for start

TARANAKI LIFEGUARD DEVELOPMENT EVENTS 2022-23

LIFEGUARD EXAMS

- 12th (Camp day) and 13th (Exam day) at Ōpunake
- 16th/17th/18th of November (following completion of LG Camp)
- 8th/9th/10th December
- 25th/26th January 2023

CREWMAN'S COURSE

- Saturday 3rd December, NPOB SLSC

FIRST AID COURSES (Provisional)

- Refresher Course #1 – Sunday 13th November – Red Shed
- Surf First Aid #1 – 19th and 20th November – Red Shed
- Surf First Aid #2 – 17th and 18th December – Red Shed
- PHEC & 2nd Refresher – TBD based on demand

PATROL CAPTAINS COURSE

- 26th November, Fitzroy SLSC

TARANAKI SPORT EVENTS 2022-23

JUNIOR SURF EVENTS

- NPOB Junior Surf Carnival – Sunday 20th November – 9:00am start
- East End Junior Surf Carnival – Sunday 18th December – TIME TBA
- Fitzroy Junior Surf Carnival – Sunday 22nd January – TIME TBA
- Taranaki Junior Surf Champs – Ōpunake Sunday 5th February – 9:00am
- Twilight – 10th of February at NPOB (Rescue Events) – 5:30pm
- Donut Invitational – TBA

SENIOR SURF EVENTS

- East End Long Distance Event Friday 25th November – 5:30pm
- East End Stan Bridger Carnival 27th November – Time TBA
- Taranaki Senior Champs – NPOB Beach 11th and 12th of February 8:30am
- East End Twilight Competition Friday 3rd March East End – 5:30pm
- End of Season Competition – March 19th Fitzroy Beach – 10:00am

IRB EVENTS

- Ōpunake Centenary Event – 4th February - time TBA
- Taranaki IRB Champs – TBC

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



OPENING DAY

A beautiful sunny Taranaki afternoon welcomed in the opening day roll-up and the start of the Ōākura Bowling Club 2022/2023 season. It was terrific to see new faces alongside the usual suspects enjoying the friendly banter around the green and later in the club rooms. The club warmly welcomes three new members, Mike Yardley, Adam Radich and Wayne Gray to the playing roster and wishes them great bowling for the upcoming season. As per Club tradition, Roy Phillips (club patron) delivered the first jack of the day while Alan Bridgeman (life member) rolled down the opening bowl to begin the season. A big thanks to green-keeper Wayne Robinson and his team for preparing a world-class playing surface and to Rod Smith and his crew of workers for their contribution to the upgrade of the green ditch and banks.

One of the highlights of the day was the influx of new non-playing members looking forward to enjoying a social game of bowls and to using the club's facilities. It is fantastic to see the local community supporting their local club and there is a standing invitation for all Ōākura residents to "come on down" and try this great game.

TOURNAMENTS

Most bowling competitions begin in October, with Paul Coxhead organising the teams for the mid-week competitions of Avery and Gilmour, Jim Priest and Steve Muller selecting the Shield teams and new club Captain, Kurt Smith, overseeing the Summit Refrigeration sponsored Pennant's competition. The organisers and selectors, who are an important and key cog within the club who graciously

volunteer their time to ensure that not only all competitions run smoothly but importantly juggle weekly selections to provide a game for all bowlers. Well done to all the guys for keeping up the enthusiasm and dedication needed for these roles.

November bowling action will see Ōākura field talented sides in both the Division 1 Bill Smee and Division 2 interclub competitions. The Bill Smee is Bowls Taranaki's premier interclub event and it is terrific to see an Ōākura team take on the best bowlers in the province.

CLUB NEWS

Great news on the signage sponsorship with BTW, Smiths Sparky Services, Turners Cars, Summit Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Central Turf, Jean Sandel, Z Petrol, Butlers Reef, Raceway Mowers and Cycles, Bayleys Taranaki, Craigs Investment Partners and the Ōākura Medical Centre/Skin on 45 all recommitting their support to the club in the upcoming season. It is fantastic to see the above organisations getting behind their local bowling club and we encourage not only members but the wider community to utilise their products/services wherever possible.

Building the playing membership base is an important and challenging issue for any sporting club. The Ōākura Bowling Club is offering all first-year bowlers a package deal with the offer of \$50 fees for the initial year, club polo shirt, a set of pre-loved bowls and coaching sessions. For more information about this great offer please call Steve Muller – 0211695863.

The Underarm Bowler

Eleven artists join the Ōākura Arts Trail

It's that time of the year again when our local Ōākura artists open their studios and welcome visitors. This is taking place at the end of October and beginning of November. We have eleven artists taking part in it this year. As usual the variety of talent is great... painters, glass makers, sculptors, jewellers and potters.

We welcome two new artists to the group, one being Beth Armstrong. Beth is a textile designer and water colour artist. She is inspired by nature and her designs are reflective of her love and appreciation of all things botanical.

Beth came to New Zealand in 2005 from the Shetlands in the far north of Scotland. She was instantly intrigued by the beauty of our native flora.

Our second artist is returning after a few years break from our trail. Suzanne Bloc-Jorgensen is a well known potter. She was taught by her parents who were amongst the first professional potters in New Zealand. Suzanne has been a potter for almost forty years and her trade marks are birds, animals, the nikau and seashells.

At The Vineyard Bistro @ Okurukuru an exhibition of the artists' work will be on show. We mentor and encourage our young up and coming local Ōākura artists and will have their work on show with us in this exhibition.

Everyone is welcome to join us on our opening night at The Vineyard Bistro @ Okurukuru, 6.30pm Wednesday 26th October and enjoy the great food and drinks prepared by Danger and his team.

Find us on Facebook Ōākura ARTS TRAIL



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Science Fair Success for Year 7/8

Congratulations to the students of Ruru who all participated in various categories in the WITT Taranaki Science and Technology Fair.

Special congratulations to the following prize winners:

ADVERTISING POSTER

Ellie Jackson - 2nd, Jana Whitehead - Merit, Millie Stonier - Merit

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM

Year 7 - Ruby Gargan - 2nd, Lily Williams - 3rd, Ellie Jackson - Merit, Lilla Thomas - Merit, Lily Bell - Merit, Kupa Butler - Merit, Hayes Lee - Merit

Year 8 - Jack Widdicombe - 2nd, Daniel Pardington - Merit, Millie Stonier - Merit, Lucas Alford - Merit

SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING

Mika Richardson - Merit, Ruby Gargan - Merit, Jack Widdicombe - Merit

TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Keshia Fever and Ella Phillips - 1st prize, Amelia Prestidge and Millie Stonier - 2nd prize, Lucas Alford & Yuta Saito - Merit

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Peyton Valentine, Lily Williams and Ellie Jackson - Merit

SPECIAL PRIZES

Keshia Fever and Ella Phillips - First - Venture Taranaki prize for the most promising commercial idea - Fonterra Trophy for the best project in Year 7 & 8

Amelia Prestidge and Millie Stonier - Second - Venture Taranaki prize for the most promising commercial idea - Beca Prize for a creative project that best illustrates the concept of 'making every day better'

Lucas Alford and Yuta Saito - Are Ake prize for projects that show creative use of energy

Peyton Valentine, Lily Williams & Ellie Jackson - 2nd - LabwareHouse Ltd prize for best project involving New Zealand flora and/or fauna.



Science Fair winners

Get your garden fix at Ōmata School

The Ōmata School edible food forest will once again be open for the Sustainable Backyards Trail, held during October and November. The school garden club has been putting in the mahi alongside parent leader, Jacqui Clement in preparation for opening to the public.

Learners involved in the garden club participate in a wide range of activities including planting, maintaining garden beds, pruning, weeding, making clay ornaments and making sour dough and preparing and cooking fruit and vegetables grown in the orchard.

This will be the third year that the Ōmata School orchard will be open for the Sustainable Backyards Trail, which is part of the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival. People can visit gardens where owners and groups share their sustainable practice. At Ōmata students will be giving tours of the food forest, discussing compatible planting and giving demonstrations on how to build a bumblebee home. Students will also be showing visitors how to make delicious smoothies using plants that some may consider weeds from the garden. There will be plants grown in our school orchard, for sale.

If you are interested in popping along to take a tour with the students from the garden club, the orchard will be open on Saturday 29th October and Saturday 5th November between 11am and 2pm. It will also be open for tours on Wednesday 2nd and Friday 4th of November from 1:30pm - 3pm.

By Campbell Fraser (Year 8)

Spring Poetry

A trickle of rainbow fell from the sky

Seedlings become skyscrapers
of green

Trees, once a blank canvas

Now an array of colours

New life sprouting

Farms at their peak

Colours rise from below

As I sit in the pureness

Charlie Hill - 10 years

As winter retreats into the mountains

Something wonderful fills the air

The earth blooms with life

Chicks chirping in the background

I spy a tree, leaves green and growing

The world is full of bees

I ask myself, "What is this?"

But now I know

For this.....

This is SPRING

Piper Johnson - 10 years



Ōākura School

AIMS Games

The AIMS (Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools) Games in Tauranga is an annual sporting competition that brings sportspeople from different schools across Aotearoa together. These games were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, so it was even more exciting for students from Ōākura School to be able to compete this year.

The AIMS Games has over 10 000 competitors this year, playing in 24 different hākinakina (sports). Ōākura School sent its largest team ever, over 50 rangatahi (young adults) to compete in basketball, mountain biking, rippa rugby, netball, football, futsal and gymnastics.

Parents have been major supporters in ensuring that these rangatahi can compete in the AIMS Games. Many have volunteered to be coaches, have co-ordinated a range of fundraising events, and organised accommodation, travel etc. And on the sideline at the games, they have been encouraging and supportive.

One of the highlights of the week was the Opening Ceremony. Held at the Baypark Arena, thousands of students enjoyed the music of Georgia Lines and Mitch James.

The competition was extremely tough for our teams, especially when the weather was cold and rainy. Some teams came from schools with over 1000 students to select their teams from. Students that compete in the AIMS Games are very often the sportspeople that go on to represent our country at international events, and even the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

Throughout the tournament, our Ōākura School students showed such perseverance and good sportsmanship. Even with heavy losses in some games, other teams and coaches commented on how well our students represented Ōākura School with their spirit and respect for others. This experience certainly has helped develop strength and resilience in students that have competed.

Natasha Jackson



Māori Language Moment at Ōākura School

Within the week of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, we were able to come together as a whole school and celebrate the Māori Language Moment on Wednesday 14th Mahuru/September. We reorganised our kapa haka time with Matua Clive so that we could sing our school waiata/song at the appropriate time. It was great to have some whānau join us in the celebration and be able to acknowledge this moment with our whole school participating.

We also ran a number of other learning and kaupapa for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. One of the most enjoyable parts of the week was when kaiako/teachers visited other classes to read pukapuka/books to students. We also celebrated by learning a new kiwaha (idiom) each day across the school and shared these with whānau so that they could use them at home too. Ākonga were rewarded with trying particularly hard with their te reo by being given tokens. Tamariki that earned 3 or more tokens then had a shared morning tea - milo and cookies on Friday morning. These were just a few of the extra language activities students took part in during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

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
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

Oakura - St James Church

Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 10.00am

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

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

Okato - St. Paul's

Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 10.00am
Mid-week Service - Pew for You, every 3rd Thursday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm
okatocp@gmail.com

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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