

the Ōākura Post

DECEMBER 2022

MAKERS
MARKET
IS BACK

School
LEAVERS

pharmacy
NEW OWNERS

more affordable
childcare

guide to NZ
BE IN TO WIN

FOOD BANK
DRIVE

COVER SHOT: Parklands Concrete have done an awesome job at the entrance to the golf course. Paid for through our membership - it's great to see the benefits of our subscriptions coming to fruition.

**It's full
team ahead.**

Emma has joined Powers Realty and 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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Kaitake Community Board

Ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa,

As we approach the end of 2022 I think back to this time last year when, after reflecting on what a 'hell' couple of years we had just experienced, we all had hopes for much 'smoother sailing' in the year ahead. Those hopes were quickly dashed with new COVID lockdowns, domestic and international turmoil, shortages of building materials and supermarket shelf products, and lastly increasing mortgage rates, unprecedented fuel and food price hikes, and other cost of living increases; and there does not appear to be a lot of optimism or hope out on the street that these things will improve much in the months to come.

It light of all this doom and gloom it can be easy to lose one's perspective of the good that is around us.

We live in one of the best countries in the world, and 'we' live in one of the best areas in this country, with free access to beautiful beaches, rivers, parks and walkways, and amazing folk who put an inordinate amount of time and effort into this community. Our school staff, Boards of Trustees, and various support volunteers dedicate themselves to providing services for the education and development of the young in our district. Sporting organisations across the district continue to support the health and physical well being of our community, doing so on a purely voluntary basis. It is also on that volunteer basis that our local fire brigades provide for the safety and our well being, our families, and our property. The 'staff' of these volunteer services are absolutely worthy of recognition and of our appreciation and acknowledgement - particularly given these difficult and trying times. Last, but by no means

least, our local businesses, library staff, beach camp staff, the Ōākura Hall custodians, and the many others in the community who contribute to maintaining our wonderful lifestyle and the other elements that make this place great, all deserve our gratitude.

A huge "THANK YOU!" to each and every one of you.

Each Community Board has a Councillor who is selected and appointed as the fifth member of their board. For this triennium Anneka Carlson is the Councillor who has been nominated to serve on the Kaitake Community Board. Anneka grew up, and currently lives in the Ōmata/Ōākura area, and firmly believes that she can add value to the work of the Kaitake Community Board. She knows and loves the coastal area and is very keen to support our community and provide a strong voice on our behalf at the council table.

The first meeting for the new Kaitake Community Board will be held at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm on 5 December 2022, and the election of a Chairperson and election of a Deputy Chairperson will be the first two items of business on the agenda for that meeting.

Finally, on behalf of myself, Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohia, Paul Lobb and Anneka Carlson (your Kaitake Community Board), I wish you, your friends and your whanau a safe, merry and relaxing festive season, and we hope you can spend lots of quality family time enjoying our great local environment over the coming months.

Tangohia tiaki tātou katoa, kia tūtaki ā tērā Tau Hau

Take care everyone, see you all in the New Year



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milestone projects of real action

Year 6 and 9 learners at GSNZ complete and deliver "Milestone Projects" in Term 4 to celebrate the end of their primary and middle school years, respectively.

These projects celebrate a learner's areas of passion, while leaving a positive impact on society, the environment, or wellbeing. The projects are student driven, guided by mentors, and culminate in both a written and in-person presentation to the Green School community.

Meet two of our learners who share their 2022 Milestone Projects.

Ava Gaddum,
YEAR 9 QUEST PROJECT
"Korowai Aroha - Cloaked in Love"

Ava has created sustainable clothing bundles for Women's Refuge Safe Houses. Traditionally these packages have been made from purchasing cheap, fast-fashion clothes, so Ava has worked hard to source high-quality second hand clothing to



extend the lifecycle of clothes and reduce fashion waste.

Ava says, "This Quest has been a lot of work. I have had to 'think in systems' to keep everything organised within my project. I am really looking forward to the moment I can give my packages to Women's Refuge."

Rongowhakaata Greening

YEAR 6 FOOTPRINTS PROJECT



With a love for art and drawing, Rongowhakaata is also an amazing te reo Māori speaker. With those passions and skills in mind, he is creating illustrative resources for teachers, to help increase their use of te reo in the classroom. To hear te reo being used more frequently will be music to Rongowhakaata's ears, and he believes the classroom is a great place to start!



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Foodbank Drive Monday 5 December

The Fire Brigade will be out on the streets from 6pm Monday 5 December to collect items for the Foodbank.

This year they are asking homeowners to please leave items at their gate if possible or listen out for the sirens to bring out to the crew.

They would love any non perishable items. There has been an increasing need for breakfast cereals and spreads, flour, pasta, canned goods and toiletries.

Ōākura Fire Brigade and Foodbank thank you so much for your support.



Suzanne Smithers with some of the boxes made up for families in need recently. Thanks so much to everyone that helped. Hope you all have a relaxing and fun Christmas.

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New owners for the pharmacy



It's always hard to say goodbye. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thank everyone in the Ōākura community for all the support and the kindness you have given to Jin and I for the last 13 years.

I have seen and learnt the things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but things you do for others remain as your legacy. Although there have been many ups and downs throughout this journey, especially in the last couple of years with the Covid-19 struggle, it has been a most heart warming journey.

The Ōākura Pharmacy wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for our staff. Each staff member has brought their traits and kept them alive in the team. Thank you for all your hard work and your service to the community.

We would like to welcome Simon and Deema as the new owners of Ōākura Pharmacy, to carry on and continue to enjoy the journey.

As for us, we will be starting our new beginning in Hamilton.

I believe I am lucky to have a community, that makes goodbye so hard. Take care and I will miss you all very much. And thank you again.

Minnie Kim

My wife Deema and I are both pharmacists and have over 20 years of pharmacy experience between us. We have lived in the Taranaki region for 6 years and now are excited to be taking the next step into business. We aim to work hard for the health and wellbeing of Ōākura and the surrounding communities.

We have a young family. Our son Hugo is 18 months old, and we have number two on the way. Family and business have made life very busy recently but having Hugo with us every step of the way has made it a real joy as well.

Everyone we have met so far has been so nice and welcoming which has made us feel at home. We look forward to meeting many more of you in the future.

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Join the crew as a new recruit

Your local crew are looking for others to join us as recruits. Being a Volunteer for the Ōākura Fire Brigade offers a great opportunity to learn new skills, help your community and also join a great crew of people who genuinely enjoy working together, supporting each other as a team.

Come down to see us at training on Monday night from 6.30 pm or flick us a message on our Facebook page if you are interested. Come down and see what being a volunteer firefighter could mean for you.

Ōākura Library Services

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

Join us on Wednesday 21st Dec at 2pm for interactive storytelling with Aviv.

BLAST INTO READING

Stop the summer slump and keep the children reading through the school break. Registrations for our summer reading programme begins 5th Dec. The programme runs Saturday 17th Dec-Friday 27th Jan 2023 and is for ages 5-12 year olds.

CRACKERJACKS

Thursday 1st Dec 10 am

Under 5's fun! Join us for a range of stories, rhymes, crafts or songs. Fun for the tamariki and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SERVICE

On site every Thursday 10am -12:30pm

Please note JPs will take a break from 22 Dec resuming on the 12th Jan 2023

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES for ages 5-12 booking essential

Wednesday 11 January 2-3pm Mountain decorating craft

Wednesday 18th Jan 2-3pm

Build and Construct. Explore Space, design your own rocket

Wednesday 25 Jan 2-3pm

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Closed Saturday 31st Dec 2022-3rd Jan reopen Wednesday 4th Jan 2023

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The Real Guide to New Zealand

By Mark Danenhauer

Can you tell a skink from a gecko? Is that a kea or a kākā? Can you spot the difference between a northern rātā and a pōhutukawa? New book *The Real Guide to New Zealand* is designed to help readers gain a basic understanding of the natural history of Aotearoa. Written by Ōākura resident Mark Danenhauer, it explains why and how NZ's natural world is unique and how people have impacted on it.



What prompted you to write this book?

I have loved nature for my entire adult life and have been fortunate enough to travel throughout the world and experience a lot of amazing places. For years I've been passionate about protecting the natural world and educating others about it. While living in the United States I wrote a book, *Jake's Nature Guide: Rocky Mountains*, that introduces the reader to all aspects of the Rockies. Upon arrival in New Zealand I eagerly explored the country and never came across a New Zealand book similar to the one I had written for the Rockies. As someone exploring and learning about the country I sought a single book I could use as a reference to learn about all aspects of the natural world, including why the country is so unique and the history of its people (and introduced species) and their impact on the flora and fauna.

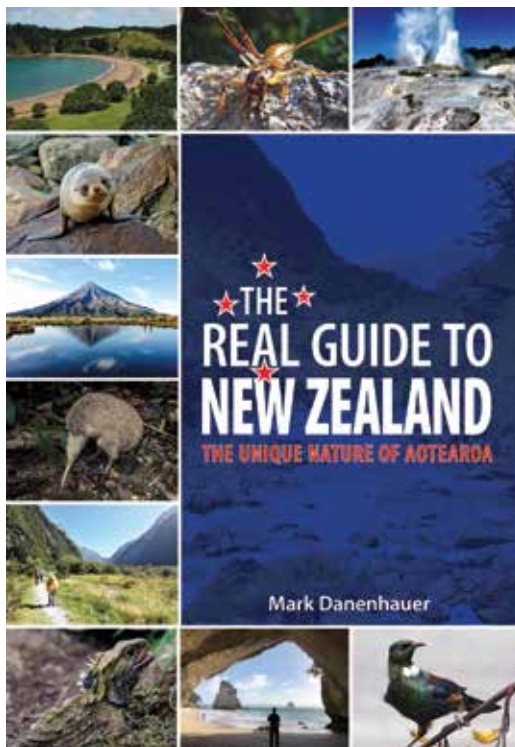
Tell us how you went about it and did you learn anything that really surprised you?

I have spent years exploring the country from Cape Reinga down to Stewart Island.

On my adventures I absorbed all the information I could. Coming from the United States of America, I was under the mistaken impression that New Zealand was a green paradise. Thus, I was surprised to learn about the heavy impact that people have had on the country. I was also shocked to learn about some of the lesser known native species such as banded kokopu that can climb up waterfalls and the four tiny native frogs that don't croak or have a tadpole stage.

You're from the US, what do you find fascinating about NZ's natural environment?

I find all aspects of the natural environment of New Zealand fascinating from the wild beaches to lush bush, and rocky volcanoes to heaps of rivers and waterfalls. It's taken me some time, but now I truly enjoy the



native broadleaf/podocarp bush. The bush is just so lush with vegetation, creeks and cascades, fungi and invertebrates, and heaps of birds.

What do you hope readers will take away from the book?

I want readers to understand and see the real New Zealand – both the good and the bad. The country is full of unique species that can't be found anywhere else in the world. These are the species that make the country special. Sadly, people have had a serious impact on the natural world of the country, putting many of those unique species at risk and threatening what it is that makes New Zealand New Zealand. As G.I. Joe said, knowing is half the

battle. The next step is to do something about it and make sure that we keep those special species that make New Zealand unique.

THE REAL GUIDE TO NEW ZEALAND:

The unique nature of Aotearoa by Mark Danenhauer is out now, **\$44.99 RRP** (Upstart Press). We have one copy to give away, to enter just tell us which native tree or bird species is your favourite.

Enter by email editor@theoakurapost.co.nz or in the letterbox at No4 Butlers Lane (behind the Four Square). Remember to include your contact details. **DRAW CLOSES MONDAY 16 JANUARY. WINNER ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY ISSUE.**

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Sold through Kendo online and at the club
on Friday nights.



Comp Hangs - Adam Kai Joel & Drew



Chris Faherty down the local

OBC UPDATE

Ahoy there sand dune drifters, pinot noir sipping life-stylers, sunset influencers and big-time shredders.



We hope you've been soaking up the latest seasonal sunrays, as those feisty little beams that warm your face and heart have travelled over one hundred and fifty million kilometres to reach your dial! Also, those lines of waves have pushed damn hard to reach our island, scoop you up, make you smile, then gracefully dissipate between the boulders. While I'm on a gratitude-tangent we want to thank the weather gods for a run of super-fun waves that

have helped heal a few stressed-out and over-worked humans.

OK, on a more serious note (it can happen) we have lost too many fellow surfing friends who have sadly taken their own lives recently. We want to acknowledge this and send our love to those families pushing on with an unfathomable gap in their lives. It sucks. If you have a gut feeling someone's not doing so well, break your routine and make time for a bud. It's a really tricky one as often those that seem positive, lively and laughing all the time are often the ones battling the dark cloud the most. These mind battles are far deeper and more complex than saying "Come for a surf mate, that'll sort you out" but we need a healing starting point – a surf, a skate, a good catch up at the beach, whatever it may be and now. Not next week.

Surfing comps! Congrats to local surfers that competed in the National Scholastic Surfing Championships at Back Beach in mid-October. Ripping it up with some great results, Nate Florence 4th Under 16 Boys, Kalani Watts semi-finalist, Skylar McFetridge 4th Under 16 Girls, Kai Shearer and Jordie Luke quarter finalists in the Under 14s.

Surfing lessons are all go again heading into these warmer months so if 'this is your year' make contact with local club member Simon from 'Deken Waves' to learn some invaluable skills and have a blast. Fire him a text to arrange a session 021 1229 525.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CLUB EMAIL:
oakuraboardridersclub@gmail.com
for a sign-up form.

Stay close to the source, OBC.

R&CO SKIN AND BEAUTY



Thank you for your ongoing support in
2022
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
from the team at R&CO

NPOB lifeguards on the beach with volunteer patrol every weekend from Sat 26 Nov, 1-5pm.

If you are interested in helping in any way please get in contact, all help is appreciated.

Regional / weekday patrol starts 12 December through to 28 January; thereafter the regional guards will be on the beach after school (4.30pm to 7pm) until 18 February.

Membership or general enquiries please email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz

Follow us on Facebook to stay in the loop with what is happening.

NPOB Surf Club.



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Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

Making childcare more affordable for Taranaki families

For many working families here in Ōākura, childcare is one of the biggest household costs. That's why, as part of our Government's work to support New Zealanders with the cost of living, we're making childcare more affordable for low and middle income families.

We recently announced that we're significantly expanding childcare assistance, cutting costs for working parents and supporting more children into early education. On top of this, we're further boosting Working for Families and the Best Start payment, providing more support to help ease the pressure.

These changes will kick in from 1 April next year. The exact amount families will save on childcare costs will depend on the number of hours you work, the wages you are on, the number of hours of childcare per day and the cost of your early childcare education centre.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND YOUR SCENARIO BELOW* or check msd.govt.nz

An Ōākura family with 2 parents working (80 hours per week) on \$26 per hour, \$108,160 p/y, with 2 children under 5 who will not have been eligible for childcare assistance, now will be eligible for \$252 per week.

An Ōākura family with 2 parents working (80 hours per week) on minimum wage, \$88,192 p/y, with 2 children aged 2 and 4 years, now will be eligible for \$360 per week.

An Ōākura Sole parent working (40 hours per week) on \$26 per hour, \$54,080 p/y, with 2 children aged 2 and 4 years, now will be eligible for \$452 per week.

**Based on the above assumptions needs 9.5 hours of childcare per day and 47.5 hours per week, and not eligible for any subsidy under current settings and eligible for various level subsidy rates under new income thresholds.*

Childcare assistance has been neglected for more than a decade, since income thresholds were frozen by National in 2010. I'm really proud that the changes we're making will see thousands of parents given back the choice to do what's best for their family.



Glen Bennett
MP for New Plymouth

Contact our friendly team:
glen.bennettmp@parliament.govt.nz
[f/glenbennettlabour](https://www.facebook.com/glenbennettlabour)


 **Labour** 

Authorised by Glen Bennett MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

These next steps build on the work that our Government has already done to ease cost of living pressures on New Zealanders in the face of global inflation, including our cost of living package which includes half price public transport, fuel tax cut and more.

We're also taking action on supermarkets to make sure Kiwis are paying a fair price at the checkout because we're fed up with supermarkets earning \$1 million a day in excess profits while people are paying a premium for the basics.

At a time when families are feeling the cost-of-living spike, our Government is investing in what matters most. We're now taking the next step to make sure childcare is within reach for parents and that families here in Ōākura have more support to cover other costs.



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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Allan Bridgeman, Andy Shearer and Syd Sharpe won the triples championship final over the Steve Muller skipped team of Kevin Fleming and Roy Phillips. It was an exciting game with Bridgeman playing some great clutch bowls over the final few ends to hold out the gallant Muller trio to win 23 – 18.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Ōākura has continued to punch above its weight in interclub tournaments with some great results in the 1st round of Taranaki's premier bowls competition, the Bill Smee Div 1 Trophy. It was a fantastic effort from the Ōākura boys with the pairs combination of Tony McAlevey and Jim Priest making it 2 wins and a draw from their 3 games. In 2nd Div the boys also performed well and, as always, held their own against some of Taranaki's powerhouse teams. It is great to see the club fielding 2 competitive teams in the interclub competitions, confirming the growing strength of the Ōākura club.

The midweek tournaments are well under way with Ōākura currently holding 1st place in the Gilmour Cup, 2nd in the Avery Shield and running midfield in the Saturday Shield competition. Well done to all players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working green keepers and also those who assist in smooth running on match days.

A solid start to the Saturday Div 1 Pennants has the Ōākura Orcas placed midfield after 3 rounds. The Orcas face strong opposition each week from Taranaki's best bowlers and, with more good results over the upcoming months, are well placed to make a push for the Top 3.

The Ōākura Bowling Club is still offering all first-year bowlers a package deal 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 – Match Convenor 0211695863.

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to Kurt Smith on making the Taranaki Representative team for the upcoming games against Whanganui. Smith is playing great bowls and well deserving of higher honours. The club wishes Kurt all the best and great bowling.

The Taranaki Open fours is scheduled for play late January with the club securing a round of sectional play. It is another feather in Ōākura's cap and recognition must go to greenkeeper Wayne Robinson and his helpers in preparing a world class green. All members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club while watching some of New Zealand's finest bowlers in action. Playing dates are from the 16th to 19th January.

The club has entered 3 teams. The teams are: (1) Jim Priest, Pat Walklin, Aad Schrader and Wayne Robinson; (2) Alan Bridgeman, Bruce Jackson, Bob Anderson and Kevin Fleming; and (3) Steve Muller, Kerry McGovern, Craig Murray and Peter Radich. Good bowling to all.

The Underarm Bowler

MORNING TALK: Last day will be Thursday 15 Dec.
Resuming Thursday 2 Feb 10am - 11am.



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Kaitake Golf Club News

Hi Everyone,

Not much has been happening in the last month. Our path is progressing nicely but held up due to weather. We are just putting in drainage that has needed attention. Our 16th tee has recovered well after being out of action for two weeks.



Our monthly Sunday Haggie has been started and another one coming up. We try to have one every month depending on tournaments etc. The BBQ will be on and the bar open afterwards. Please come along as we are trying this initiative to encourage a bit more mingling between the members.

The office will be open on Sundays until the end of the year so if you want to come along there are plenty of carts to hire out now we have our two new carts.

Clay Jordan, Club President

MENS REPORT

The B.P. sponsored Shoot Out went very well, including the women having theirs on the same day. Men's - Ian Johnson and Brian Lewer coming up the 18th with Ian (previous sponsor) being the eventual winner. Ladies' winner was Deb Johnson, definitely a family affair. Well done. Huge thanks to Bob McLean of BP Powderham and Moturoa for his sponsorship which this tournament relies on.

Congratulations to Neil Farrant on his HOLE IN ONE on Saturday 7th September 2022 and to Bob McLean on having a HOLE IN ONE on Saturday 5th November 2022 on the 4th tee.

Senior Pennants are doing well at the moment, sitting in 2nd place with one round to go.

Jack Van Prehn has been selected to represent Taranaki in the Senior Mens Interprovincial team, a great achievement for you Jack. Well done.

A superb day at the Quadrangular today for both our teams. Ladies Taranaki women's team won the Sybill Green Salver trophy beating Manawatu/Wanganui 5.5 to 2.5 well done to the Taranaki representatives.

The Taranaki Men also won the Shand Cup beating Manawatu/Wanganui 7.5 to 0.5 well done to the Taranaki representatives with 4 of the Taranaki representatives from Kaitake Club Golf being Jack Van Prehn, Joseph Doyle, Liam Harvey and Brodie Ferguson which is a great accolade for our club. Well done to everyone.

The Women's team won the trophy last in 2014, and in its 37 year history Taranaki has won it four times.



Neil Farrant with his HOLE IN ONE trophy

\$5.00 WEDNESDAYS is still a very popular day for golf with golfers coming from near and far. This is open for non-members but they are now \$10.00 entry which includes Twos, so bring a friend and come along and enjoy this beautiful course and weather.

Roger Cloke, Club Captain

LADIES REPORT

The 9 Hole Ladies First Division Club Champion is Margaret Mills who went on to place 2nd at the Taranaki 9 Hole Champion of Champions at Manaia. Kat Novak is the 2nd Division Club Champion.

Our 9 Holers cleaned up at the 9 Hole Taranaki Open held in conjunction with the Champion of Champions. 1st Angela Hitchman, 2nd Margaret Mills, 3rd Coraleen Le Breton and 4th Jo Wilson-West.

Our 9 Hole Ladies also got 1st in the Taranaki Home Pennants, this after winning the 9-hole Interclub Pennants earlier in the year. An extremely successful 2022 Year for our 9 Hole Ladies.

'Spring Back to Golf' is on Friday mornings at 11am for any learners who want to get together and play 9 holes.

Looking forward to good golfing, in good health and good weather over the summer.

Kim Woodward, Ladies Club Captain

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

For golfers over the age of 50.

CHIPPERS:

Chippers ages range from 5 - 12 years.

**FOR MORE INFO CALL THE OFFICE
06 752 7665**

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

The tennis season is now in full swing and interclub is well underway, with the six adult and two junior Ōākura teams off to a good start.

Remember Senior Club nights are on Thursday nights from 5pm, and adults and families are welcome to pop along for some informal matches on Sundays from 3-5pm – you just need to have enough experience to rally.

Coaching is again proving very popular with the students at Ōākura School and beyond, and new coach Jordan Fleming is enjoying working with many of the younger children, freeing up more time for Monika to offer private lessons. Jordan is also making the most of his Coastal connections, with Blitz Tennis now offering coaching at Ōmata School, Okato Tennis Club, St Joseph's School Opunake and Auroa School.

Coaching isn't only for the children though, with more adults getting involved; including a new group called "Rusty Racquets" on a Thursday morning, for people who haven't played tennis for quite a while and who want to get back on court in a fun and relaxed environment.

The Ōākura Tennis Club courts are open during the evenings and School Holidays for members to use – and the fee is only \$20 pp for children and \$30 for adults to join the Ōākura Tennis Club as a social member and have year-round access to the courts.

Senior Interclub: Jackie 027 673 2900

Junior Interclub: Yifat 022 323 7210

Family Sunday Tennis: Toni 021 661 912

Membership: Gavin 027 776 4166

Coaching: Vicki 021 172 0622
www.blitztennis.nz

Swing free.



Jordan and Monika at a coaching session

MAIDEN.

The Hair Boutique & Maidenhair are moving to The Village Mews in late December.

We would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and thank our clients for all their support.

We can't wait to see you in the New Year and show you our beautiful new salon 'Maiden'.

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- A. What school are you going to in 2023?
B. Highlights/memories of being a student.
C. What are your aspirations for the future?



Keshia Fever

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** I will never forget my time as a Yr 7 & 8 student. I have built many strong friendships. We've had so many opportunities such as the Wellington Camp, run revolution, passion projects and Coastal Athletics. I was encouraged to push myself and to be more resilient. Moving to Ōmata School has been one of my best choices.
- C.** I've always wanted to learn more about farming and the science behind different types of farming. In the future I also want to get involved in some sporting opportunities like volleyball or horse riding. I'm also wanting to be able to progress with my running ability throughout high school.



Daniel Pardington

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** I remember thinking I was the same age as Mrs Norris because we had the same birthday. My favourite memory was the Vertical Horizons camp. Wellington camp was almost as good. My favourite sport was Monday basketball. I remember jumping up, grabbing the rebound, passing it to Jasper who took off down the court and almost scored a layup on the wrong hoop.
- C.** I will try to continue to make the Taranaki basketball team like I did this year and hopefully make it into the NBL. If I'm not successful, I will try to work somewhere that I am interested in and that pays well.



Lucas Alford

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** I have really enjoyed the passion projects because it is student-led and you get to basically follow your passion, taking it as far as you want. I have also enjoyed the VLN online learning that I have participated in this year, as well as all of the amazing opportunities that I've had at Ōmata School.
- C.** To get a plane licence and fly small aircraft. I would also like to fly big model aeroplanes with jet engines and also have a dairy farm.



Jenaya Collett

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** I remember on my first day of school, my Mum and I built a castle out of blocks and looked around the school, then it was time for my mum to leave. Let's just say I didn't like my mum going. I will always remember our epic Jail games. I will also remember how many groups and sporting events I got to attend; my favourite being the PCT (Police obstacle course).
- C.** I hope to go forward to grow as a person, mature and find who I really am and have great friends I can trust and be around when I fall.



Campbell Fraser

- A.** New Plymouth Boys High School.
- B.** Some of my favourite memories would have been being a member of the Te Ara Taiao Group which has been filled with so many opportunities that other kids and adults haven't experienced before. Another favourite memory would be the recent ePro8 challenge, which was awesome fun!
- C.** When I am older I would like to either become a pro gamer or become a detective. Both sound amazing to me.



Callum Matheson

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** Going to Wellington camp and doing all the fun activities like Adrenalin Forest. I also liked Vertical Horizons and doing the high ropes course and shooting slug guns and doing archery.
- C.** I want to be a chef because I like to cook pancakes and bacon, and I also like to cook dinner with Mum or Dad.



James O'Neale

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** Going to Vertical Horizons and staying up late playing cards. Going to Wellington camp and being woken up at whatever time, Blake and I were sitting at the back of the bus on the way down playing Clash Royale.
- C.** I'd like to be a diesel mechanic



Jasper Kiu

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** Going to Wellington camp making new friends and seeing them push themselves past their limits.
- C.** I'd currently like to be a pilot but I haven't thought about it that much yet. I would also like to be a videogame streamer.



Indy Gyde

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** All the great times that I had with my friends and all of the fun games that we played. I enjoyed the fun learning that I did too.
- C.** I want to be a professional boxer for NZ and a great basketball player in the NBA.



Yuta Saito

- A.** Spotswood College.
- B.** Playing jail in the afternoons. I like to be competitive and it's always a great feeling to score the tries.
- C.** I'd like to be involved in coding related jobs, as well as learning more about computer programming.

COMING EVENTS

Optimistically we hope these events might be able to proceed, however they may be subject to cancellations or postponements.

DECEMBER		FEBRUARY 2023	
15	SCHOOL FINISHES 12PM	2	SCHOOL STARTS FOR STUDENTS 9AM
		6	WAITANGI DAY
JANUARY 2023			
30	STATIONERY SALES AND ENROLMENTS 8AM-12PM		
31	STATIONERY SALES AND ENROLMENTS 8AM-12PM		



Amelia Prestidge

A. New Plymouth Girls High School.

B. I have enjoyed doing passion projects because you get to choose what you want to do and you can follow your passion. I have been inspired by writing this year, because you were able to add personal voice to it. Another highlight was when Millie and I won 2nd place in the Science Fair and we did really well at making our aeroponics tower. I have improved a lot on my art skills and have pushed to become better at art and to try and use different art styles.

C. I don't know what I want to do in the future but it would definitely be something to do with art and design. In the future I will most likely be a designer or an artist. I could also make anime graphic novels because I love anime too (so many opportunities it's hard to decide).



Olivia Prestidge

A. New Plymouth Girls High School:)

B. I have loved the opportunities of being a Lead Ambassador. The best thing that I have been involved in is the ePro8 competition that we came first in. Passion Projects have been an awesome activity because I can do whatever I enjoy and turn it into a learning opportunity. A new world of design has opened up for me this year.

C. To become either a designer or a teacher because I love teaching people and I love designing new things and creating new products that people will love. Ōmata School has had a big impact on my life. I also want a gun licence so I can go hunting whenever I want to.



Ella Phillips

A. Spotswood College.

B. Some of my most treasured memories are my friends that I made during my time at Ōmata. Especially during my time as a year 8, throughout this year everybody in Ruru has grown together and we have all become tight friends. Even people that in the past didn't exactly see eye-to-eye with each other. I'm always going to remember the 2022 WITT Taranaki Science and Technology Fair that Keshia and I entered and won many awards.

C. I want to keep my current friendships flourishing even while I make new friends at Spotswood College. I am hoping that I will have the option to have vocal coaching and one day become a professional in performing arts (dance, drama, singing).



Jack Widdicombe

A. New Plymouth Boys High School.

B. There are lots of highlights of my time at Ōmata. The cross country course, going to AIMS games, the games of jail in the afternoons, The Wellington camp, Adrenalin forest with the massive ziplines, being able to bring food to school that we could cook in the kitchen. Having so many great influences in Ōmata to follow and be friends with.

C. I would like to improve my running and sports so that I can do something with sports when I am older. I would mainly like to improve my football so that I can play in a professional team.



Millie Stonier

A. Spotswood College or New Plymouth Girls High School. I haven't decided yet.

B. Being part of the Te Ara Taio group and learning to track kiwis up at Pukeiti Gardens. Also going to Wellington camp and being able to face my fears while we were at Adrenalin Forest. I will miss the super supportive environment at Ōmata and the amazing class culture in Ruru.

C. I would love to be able to do something with horses when I am older. I would also love to do something to do with farming because I love getting out on the land and getting my hands dirty. Or possibly something to do with architecture and design as I am interested in the whole process when you design a house.



Blake Hill

A. Spotswood College.

B. Going to Wellington camp is a highlight because it was so fun and exciting. My favourite activity was Adrenaline Forest, it helped me overcome my fear of heights. Another highlight was when I was in year 6 and we went to Vertical Horizons. There were so many different memories there with the flying kiwi, grass karts, catwalk, mud run, bottle shooting, archery and boat race.

C. I want to be a lawyer because I enjoy hearing both sides of a story and I love talking to people.



Reuben Kung

A. Spotswood College.

B. Going crazy in front of the whole school doing Jump Jam. Having great fun at Tech in the performing arts class. Presenting my speech to the Pukekura Toastmasters. Being able to bring my guitar to school.

C. Being a musician, I love Rock n Roll. I don't know if that's a promising career but I haven't really considered the future so it's more of a dream. My path is undecided.



Ayana Johnson

A. Kapiti College.

B. The best memories I have had at Ōmata school is the Wellington camp because I got to try a lot of new things. My favourite part at camp was the rock climbing and Adrenalin Forest because you got to go really high and the ziplines. I will miss all the memories from being in Ruru.

C. I want to be a teacher so I can teach dyslexic kids about how awesome it is to have a dyslexic brain. Having dyslexia needs to be seen as a gift and I'd like to help kids in need.



Carter Parkinson

A. Spotswood College.

B. I remember when we were at Vertical Horizon and Blake was drinking water and he started to choke and got a bleeding nose. I also remember there was an earthquake when we were in Room 4. It felt like it was right under me.

C. I'm not sure yet. I am thinking about maybe being a panel beater.



Sanoe Bristowe

A. Spotswood College.

B. I will take all of the awesome memories and all of the sporting opportunities that I've had at Ōmata School with me. All of the relationships that I've had and the connections that I've made.

C. I would like to commit to being in the Silver Ferns Netball team, and I have a strong passion for horse riding.



Ōākura School

2022 Yr 8

School Leavers Profiles



Scarlet Aitken

New Plymouth Girls' High School is where Scarlet will attend high school. Scarlet loves working with lots of different people and enjoys being a Head Girl. Scarlet hopes to be an interior designer as a future career.



Corey Barrett

Corey has really enjoyed running a beach clean-up with his friends as part of earning his Citizenship Excellence Badge and they were pleasantly surprised that there wasn't much rubbish on our beach. Corey loved helping make a Puanga artwork with his fellow art leaders. New Plymouth Boys' High school is Corey's choice of school for his secondary years.



Ryder Barron

Ryder can't wait to start the new year at New Plymouth Boys' High School. Ryder's favourite subject is science and he hopes to be a tradie when he's older. Ryder really enjoyed running a mountain bike maintenance day with a couple of fellow sports leaders.



Orr Carmi

Orr is really excited about attending Spotswood College and learning lots of cool new information. Orr loves working with younger students and being a wet weather buddy (a wet weather buddy is someone who hangs out with the juniors on a rainy day). Orr is a very creative person so it fits that her favourite subject is art.



Freddie Chambers

Freddie is looking forward to going to New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023. Freddie greatly appreciated all of the sporting opportunities at Ōākura School, i.e. AIMS Games. He hopes to be either a professional athlete or a designer when he grows up.



Livy Churchill

Livy is sad to leave Ōākura School but is also really looking forward to starting at New Plymouth Girls' High School in 2023. Livy loved the PCT (Police Competency Test) Challenge and Camp Wellington. Livy loves music and is helping with the music and sound effects for the upcoming school performance.



Bodhi Danenhauer

Bodhi is excited about going to Spotswood College and finding out about the range of new opportunities they may offer. Bodhi is quite an accomplished chess player and really enjoyed the Chess Power tournaments he has competed in. He also liked judging the Ōākura Idol this year along with the other head pupils.



Jayden Dellow

Jayden can't wait to go to Spotswood College and make lots of new friends next year. Jayden really liked making friends and a bug hotel with the other Envirokura leaders. One day he'd like to be a pilot and travel the world.



Benjamin Dixon

Ben is looking forward to going to New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023. Ben's favourite subject is P.E. and he thought the AIMS Games were a great sporting opportunity for him. Ben loves surfing and wants to be a professional surfer one day.



Emilia Dunne

Emilia Dunne plans to attend New Plymouth Girls' High School in 2023. In Emilia's time at Ōākura School she really enjoyed playing netball at the AIMS Games in Tauranga. She also loved participating in athletics events when earning her Sports Excellence Badge.



Luke Eager

Being involved in writing and performing in this year's school performance has been one of many highlights of Luke's time at Ōākura School. In the future Luke hopes to be an actor. Luke Eager will attend New Plymouth Boys' High School.



Sophie Faragasso

Spotswood College is Sophie's choice of high school in 2023. One of the highlights of her school years at Ōākura School was going to Camp Wellington in 2021. Sophie's dream job is to be an actor when she gets older.



Jessica Field

Jessica Field wants to be a doctor, specifically a heart surgeon as her future career. The best thing Jessica has done in her leadership role as an art leader has been completing the Puanga art for the school Puanga celebration this year. New Plymouth Girls' High School is Jessica's choice of high school.



Chloe Fisher

Chloe is looking forward to going to Spotswood College in 2023. Chloe is really wanting to be an architect and wants to study it when she leaves high school. Leading basketball workshops with younger students has been one of Chloe's most enjoyable credit in working towards her Sports Excellence Badge.



James Garner

James plans to attend university to study to be a cardiac surgeon in the future. When working towards his Sports Excellence Badge James enjoyed organising and playing a teacher versus student football game. James has chosen to go to New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023.



Vivi Hale

New Plymouth Girls' High School is where Vivi Hale will go to high school next year. Camp Wellington was one of Vivi's highlights when attending Ōākura School. Her future job aspirations are to be a sports psychologist.



Charlotte Haskell

Charlotte is disappointed about leaving Ōākura School but is happy to go to New Plymouth Girls' High School next year. Charlotte enjoyed working towards achieving her Cultural Excellence Badge this year. When she is an adult she would like to be a Graphic Designer.



Isaac Hubbard

Isaac has decided to attend New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023. During the past year Isaac has made a bug hotel in the Envirocentre with a few of his peers. In the future, Isaac hopes to study carpentry and become a builder.



Chili Kearns-Grieve

As an adult Chili would like to pursue a career as a professional athlete. New Plymouth Boys' High School is Chili's choice of secondary education next year. This year he was one of 2022's Head Pupils and he enjoyed leading assemblies the most as part of this leadership role.



Max Kurth

Once of Max's most memorable and enjoyable times at Ōākura School was attending Camp Wellington in 2021. Spotswood High School is Max's choice of secondary school. Max would love to be an architect when he is older.



Xavier Leach

Xavier really enjoyed participating in music in the arts programme in his intermediate years.

He also took part in a Chess Power competition which he had lots of fun in. Xavier is going to Spotswood College for his high school years.



Emma Lee

One of Emma's greatest contributions as a year 8 student was when she ran a food drive with one of her peers. She loved participating in the PCT (Police Competency Test) Challenge as a Sports Leader. Emma will attend New Plymouth Girls' High School next year.



Henry Martin

New Plymouth Boys' High School will be the secondary school Henry attends in the future. When Henry is older he is very keen to be a digger driver and operator. Henry really enjoyed representing Ōākura School and competing in surf competitions over recent years.



Cole McNeil

Cole contributed to the school community by running a football shoot out for younger students in earning his Sports Excellence Badge. New Plymouth Boys' High School will be Cole's choice of high school. His favourite subjects are mathematics and P.E because he enjoys them and thinks they are fun.



Leon Mitchell

Leon has decided to enrol at New Plymouth Boys' High School for high school. The highlight of Leon's Ōākura School years was his Vertical Horizons Camp in year 5&6. Leon ran football games for students whilst earning his Sports Excellence Badge.



Samuel Quinn

One of Sam's favourite things he participated in at Ōākura School was the winter sports interschool tournaments. He was also one of the few year 7&8 students to go to the PCT (Police Competency Test) challenge which he also really enjoyed. Sam will attend Spotswood College.



Holly Robertson

Holly Robertson is happy to be attending New Plymouth Girls' High School for secondary school. When Holly grows up she would love to be a nurse or a professional equestrian.

Holly's favourite thing during her time at Ōākura School has been being a role model for the younger students.



Miri Sandbrook

Miri's highlight of her years at Ōākura School has been writing articles for the Ōākura Post. Spotswood College is where Miri will go to high school. Her favourite subject is either reading or writing.



Finley Sheffield

Finley is looking forward to attending New Plymouth Boys' High School next year. Finley is aiming to study at university to be an aeronautical engineer in the future. His favourite thing that he's done at Ōākura School has been working with the year 1 and 2 students and supporting their learning.



D'Angelo Squatriti

The highlight of D'Angelo's school years whilst at Ōākura School was competing in the AIMS Games football tournament. When D'Angelo is an adult he wants to be a professional footballer or an army officer. D'Angelo has enrolled to attend New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023.



Hannah Stanley

Spotswood College is Hannah's choice of high school. Whilst earning her Citizenship Excellence Badge her favourite credit was running a Pyjama Drive. The highlight of her time at Ōākura School has been Buddy Reading with the younger students.



Reija Treacy-Wolnik

Reija is very excited to be going to New Plymouth Girls' High School. When Reija grows up her preferred profession is to be an actress. One of Reija's most enjoyable activities to earn a credit towards her Citizenship Excellence Badge was participating in the 40 Hour Famine.



Seth van der Merwe

Seth has decided to attend New Plymouth Boys' High School in 2023. Maths is one of Seth's favourite subjects at the moment, he really enjoys it. The highlight of Seth's Ōākura School years was both his Vertical Horizons and Wellington Camp.



Abbigail Walbank

While at Ōākura School Abbi has had lots of great times with one of those highlights being Camp Wellington. When Abbi grows up she has decided that wants to be a naval aviator. Abbi will go to Spotswood College for high school.



Caden Watts

Caden has enrolled at New Plymouth Boys' High School for next year. Caden's favourite subject at the moment is P.E and he is very good at it. As a credit towards his Sports Excellence Badge Caden set up an obstacle course for the year 3 and 4s with some of his friends.



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On behalf of the team at The Ōākura Post have a TOP Christmas and happy holidays.
Our best wishes for 2023.



GOT A STORY - email us or post to TOP Mailbox
No4 Butlers Lane. Ōākura 4314

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

Silver and Enamel Jewellery Making Classes with Sally Laing

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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

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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A full-page background image showing a sunset over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. Several people are silhouetted against the bright light as they walk along the sandy beach. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

we love it here.

Ōakura Beach



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