

# *the* Ōākura Post

APRIL 2023

## Q & A

with Constable  
Matt Stone

## Ukulele magic

Sports Hub

## Game ON

## School leaders

## TRANSPORT have your say

Photo: Zaiden helps his brother Cody on the waterslide at Ōmata School

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# Kaitake Community Board

An awful lot of awful stuff has occurred in various parts of the country since my last column, most of it having been weather generated. Tens of thousands across the North Island have been, and many are still being, adversely affected - having lost homes, possessions, livelihoods, and sadly some have even lost friends and family members. We have also been witness to the way that events such as these seem to bring out the worst and the best in people.

Here in Taranaki we escaped relatively unscathed compared to other areas of the North Island, and it was heartwarming to see folk in our local communities mobilising to help others in need. Our own Kaitake Community Board appointed Councillor Anneka Carlson was a case in point, mobilising with friends to collect animal feed and farming supplies, and essentials like canned food, nappies, baby wipes, pet food and batteries, and then loading up and driving over to Hawkes Bay for distribution. Anneka and her team were just one of a number of groups of people throughout this province who stepped up to collect and deliver much appreciated aid to those in need. A huge WELL DONE to each and every one of you.

At a more local level it is great to see work has started on the Kaitake Community Sports Hub building, with scaffolding up on the outside and construction progressing on the inside. It was a long and often frustrating process to get from the community sports hub conception to where things are at today. However, I am confident that the end product will be of massive benefit to the Kaitake community and the province as a whole for years and generations to come.

The Ōākura Cricket Club (OCC) is one of the foundation clubs of the KCSH Inc. and I was afforded the privilege of being invited to join in the 50th Jubilee celebrations for the club. Grassroots sports clubs such as the OCC are



L-R: Les Nairn, Allan Madgwick, Greg Shearer, Matt Redshaw.

the cornerstones of small communities like ours, and they provide the opportunity and the inspiration for young children to get involved in sport. They may not have a reputation for producing Black Cap national representatives, they may not have a reputation as perennial competition winners, and they may not have a world famous play venue and facilities, but what they do have is a sense of identity to, and pride in, their club, and a core of passionate administrators and organisers. They attract young players year on year to sign up and join in to play the game. This was evidenced by those who took their place at the wicket playing the game, by those retired players who spoke, and by those who were deservedly recognised with Life Membership, at the jubilee dinner. OCC Hall of Fame Life Member Inductees, Alan Madgwick, Matt Renshaw, Greg Shearer and Les Nairn

On the Council front there is a lot of public concern across the New Plymouth district, and around the rest of country too to be fair, at the requirement for increases in rates demands for the next Annual Plan period. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, news of double digit rates increase is the last thing any of us want to see or hear.

Having sat in on all the various workshops, briefings and Council meetings, and having gained an insight into many of the domestic and international financial effects and

pressures that directly impact on the services that local body councils provide, it all paints a pretty grim picture for the next rating period, and potentially for the next long term plan as well. My personal belief is that there are opportunities for Council to be more innovative and to change how they currently operate in order to do things smarter into the future. To quote Henry Ford:

"If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got."

However given the present economic climate I suspect our collective pockets are going to continue to be "squeezed" for some time to come yet.

I really don't want to finish on such a depressing note so we just need to stay mindful (and grateful) that we were largely spared from Gabrielle's fury, we live in one of the best spots in the country, and we are lucky that we live within an amazing and supportive community.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be Monday 3 April in Ōkato. May meeting is 5pm on Monday 22 May at the Ōākura Bowling Club.

Mā te wā – till next time

**Graham Chard - KCB Chair**

027 220 4549, thechardz@gmail.com

On behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and Anneka Carlson.

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**Dorothy Bowden From East Lancashire, UK**

## ŌĀKURA INDOOR BOWLS

The 2023 season is off to a fabulous start with lots of familiar faces returning for another year, and good to see a few new members enjoying the game for the first time. We started in March with a couple of club nights including 'bring a friend' and 'coach and learn'. This is an excellent way to introduce new players to the game, and allows some of the more experienced bowlers to pass on their knowledge around bowl delivery and use of the mat.

A number of exciting events this year, including our club championships, various social visits to other clubs, and the New Plymouth Centre is hosting the Nationals tournament in June. So plenty to look forward to.

It is not too late to come and try indoor bowls. The season runs from March to September every Monday night at 7-30pm in the Ōākura Community Hall.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the president, **Marvin Clough Ph: 021 516 279.**

# People in our Community

From East Lancashire, UK to Ōākura, is a long and arduous trip for anyone, let alone an 84 year old woman traveling on her own. That's just what Dorothy Bowden did recently when she came to visit her daughter Abi and her husband George and their two boys.

Before her trip she talked to a good friend who does a lot of traveling on her own and she got some tips: Go business class and get some help at the airport. "I was grateful in Dubai to get a wheelchair. it's so big, with miles and miles of walking. There's even a train going from one end of the airport to the other. I didn't know if I'd find my way on my own but I did, and I'll go back the same way."

This was her first time in New Zealand. "It's very different from what I'm used to. At home there are so many people living close to each other and so much traffic." She found the people in Ōākura very welcoming. When she saw something about a coffee group in The Ōākura Post, she decided to go along to that and met a lot of people.

She's made good use of the local library and walked there through Matekai Park. "It's a lovely way to walk. The last bit back is uphill and half way is a little bench. You can see the sea from there and I spend more than a few minutes on that bench on my way home."

She enjoyed visiting Puke Ariki and learning about the settlers on the boats and the journey they put up with to get here. Local meals out were all very nice. She went with her grandson to Holy Guacamole.

"I've been treated like a queen while I'm here. My son-in-law, George, brought me a cup of tea in the mornings, cooked some lovely meals and also did lots of washing up. I've been spoiled, taken all over the place." She was taken to Pukeiti and was impressed by the Maori carvings at the entrance and the beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons.

Dorothy and Abi took a road trip together. They saw the glowworms at the Waitomo caves (not as many glowworms as usual because of the heavy rains) and went to the Kiwi House

in Ōtorohanga. "I've always wanted to see Kiwis, and my grandson keeps me up to date on their release in Taranaki and the predator free initiative."

On to Rotorua with Abi. They took walks, learned about Maori culture from the signage displayed, and were thrilled to see the Lady Knox Geyser erupt at 11.30, which it does the same time every day.

Dorothy was in New Zealand for six weeks and when we talked it was only a couple of days before she was due to return home. She offered me some flapjacks that Abi had baked and her thoughts shifted to home and what she'll be returning to.

Dorothy told about attending the same school that her father attended. Her daughters, Abi and Heather, and son, Andrew, also went to that school, as did her English grandsons, which made them the 4th generation to go to that same school.

Years ago some of the country's train lines were axed and the railroads were closed. Since then volunteers have gotten together to try to reopen up these lines. "Now there's an East Lancashire Railway near my home with a steam engine that's run by volunteers. My UK son-in-law does free medical tests for the volunteers. Both of his sons volunteer, one a qualified fireman on the train. It takes just the right amount of coal to put in the train and they are experimenting with bio-fuel. The train puts on special events for the community — weddings, 'cream teas' and evening meals, Easter Bonnets, Bonfire Halloween, and Thomas the Tank Engine Christmas. Children love to hear the steam shoot out from the steam engine and to hear the ring of the bell."

"My other daughter, Heather, lives a five minute drive from me, and my son 20 minutes away so I will see them both again on my return. Ōākura is a long, long way from the UK but I hope I will be fit enough to return another day. I enjoyed every moment of my visit."

**Elayne Kessler**



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# Learn to play the Ukulele

Picture this: In 1879 after a long sea journey from Portugal, relieved passengers get off a ship in Hawaii. Happy to be on land again, one starts playing a braguinha – a stringed instrument from his homeland. Locals are entranced. Instead of cutting sugar cane, he and a furniture maker are reassigned to make ukuleles and within a few years it has become a part of Hawaiian culture. Now it's played all around the world.

The magic of the ukulele is the sweet sound and how cleverly it opens the door to being musical. Whatever your age you can be playing songs on these four strings from the get-go. It's the easiest way to learn an instrument. It's fun to do with others and you can take it anywhere!

I love teaching ukulele – and what it has become in the lives of the many people who come along to groups. Playing uke gets people singing (some say it's the singing they really love). Singing in a group is a natural high with so many health benefits. We have a good time and people make new friends.

Each week there are four ukulele groups in New Plymouth (with bass players and percussionists). I've long wanted to get a group going in Ōākura. So, on **Thursday April 6th at 1pm** there's a Ukulele Intro in the Garden Bar of Butlers Reef. Why this time? Both older people with time to try new things, and home-based parents of school age children can make it. Yes, it's aimed at adults. After the Intro

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Contact Tony 022 1840720, book in on line at [www.ukuleletaranaki.com](http://www.ukuleletaranaki.com) and visit the facebook page Ukulele Taranaki

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Work is well underway for the new sports hub

## Game on at Kaitake Community Sports Hub

If you have been down to Corbett Park recently you will have noted that the work to restore and convert the old rugby club rooms into the Kaitake Community Sports Hub has well and truly kicked off. It's all go - scaffolding is up, internal demolition work is completed, new changing rooms and showers are well underway downstairs, new windows are in upstairs, and the new roof is on.

The renovation is on track to have downstairs facilities and replacement field lighting in place by the end of April, with the upstairs work ongoing towards a mid-season gala opening day involving the Rugby, Football, Cricket and Junior Sports Clubs and the entire Kaitake Community.

Rejuvenating the building and providing a community and sport space to contribute to the physical, social, and mental health of our community has been a true example of the adage "it takes a whole village to achieve something great". Led by Bruce the Builder, our Kaitake tradies, including Surfside Electrical, Koru Plumbing, Cunningham Construction, Webb Roofing, Coastal Construction, Boon, Nagel Engineering and Sterile Welco, have all been on site in recent days. We are extremely grateful to the locals who manage these

businesses for their value in kind contributions to the project. Please support them because they are supporting our community.

While the tradies are chipping in, none of this would be possible without the massive community support to the fundraising programme. Over 100 local individuals, families and businesses have contributed almost \$150,000 through the Foundation Partner and Foundation Member initiative. Any project requires people to put their hand up at the start and we are all hugely grateful to you for your part in creating such a wonderful and important community facility. We look forward to recognising and thanking you when your names are unveiled on the Foundation Boards at the gala opening day!

And it's not too late to join the Foundation Member team during the construction phase. You can have your name or your family or business name recognised forever on the Foundation boards for your grandchildren to point at proudly as they enjoy this great facility into the future. Simply go to [www.kcsh.co.nz](http://www.kcsh.co.nz) click on the Fundraising tab, choose your level of Foundation Partnership or Foundation Membership, and complete the form – we welcome you to join the KCSH team!

## Keep your mind in the gutter

It's not everyday that we advise our community to keep their minds in the gutter. However with the recent rain events that we have been having here and around the country, now is a great time to inspect the gutters and drains around your home and business.

There is little that we can do to stop the rain (we aren't that good at dancing) but you can help to prevent any flooding that may occur around the home by making sure that your gutters and drains are clear of any leaves or debris that will cause blockages and prevent water flowing where it should.

Take care cleaning those gutters too, best done in pairs so someone can hold the ladder while you clear.

*The Ōākura Fire Brigade*

**What's on?**

**April**

**MONDAY 3**

Kaitake Community Board meeting.  
5pm Hempton hall, Ōkato

**THURSDAY 6**

Meet Constable Matt Stone at Morning Talk coffee group. 10-11am NPOB Surf Club. All welcome. Free tea and coffee, byo mug. Gold coin donation to the surf club by choice.

**THURSDAY 6**

Under-5s fun! A range of stories, rhymes, crafts or songs at the library 10 -10.30am.

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# Community Police Officer – Constable Matt Stone

## TOP asked Matt a few questions.

You have been the local police officer for three years, where were you before that, how did you end up in Ōkato?

I have had an interesting Police journey. I joined the Police at the end of 2005 and was stationed in New Plymouth. I spent most of my time on the frontline other than for some small secondments to other departments within New Plymouth. After just over eight years I decided to give teaching a go. I taught for around 4 years before realising I missed aspects of the Police.

In July 2018 I rejoined the Police, thankfully not having to be fully retrained at Police College, and was posted to Stratford. I spent 18 months in Stratford before the vacancy in Ōkato was advertised. I applied for the role and was appointed to the permanent position.

What is it about community policing that you like?

I always tell everyone I have the best role in the Police. There is huge variety of work, doing work that most other departments in the police normally look after. Although the role is far busier than I imagined, with a huge amount of investigation, I enjoy the role in such a supportive community. I have a passion for investigation of dishonesty crime and have had some relatively good success in my time in Ōkato.

I would like to have a team of police to be more active in the community and create prevention initiatives, and I believe that time will come.

Did you always want to work in the community - where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small farming community on the Canterbury plains in a little place called Windwhistle. I spent 18 years on the farm before my parents built in Darfield.

These small communities are what I know and enjoy. Since being in the Police, the Ōkato post has always appealed to me, and I'm glad I made the decision to apply for the role. The best, and most important part, is that my family love living in the community also.

When did you decide on police as a career?

Ever since I can remember, I only ever wanted to be a Police Officer. I'll admit that joining the police at 22 years old, I was a little naive for the role. It wasn't necessarily what I expected it to be but I still enjoyed aspects of the role. Since returning to the Police, I'd like to think I'm more mature, (some my question that), but I understand what our processes are trying to achieve etc. I really enjoy almost all aspects of the role.

How would you describe being a sole charge policeman?

A sole charge policing role means you're required to do frontline work, community policing and traffic enforcement. From attending family harm events and traffic crashes to attending school and community events and meetings, working with people to improve aspects of their lives by doing agency referrals etc, investigating crimes in the community from wilful damage, assault and theft/burglary among other things. There is also the need to enforce traffic as there are speed issues in all small towns. It's a full on role which can be extremely rewarding.

Tell us something about your job that we may not know?

Part of my role is that every shift I work, I am then on call through the night until the next day. Although it stops me being able to have a quiet beer after work, I do hope the community appreciates I'm not too far away in the middle of the night if they ring 111.

**Ōakura locals come and meet our Constable. A chance to hear what he has to say. NPOB Surf Club 10am Thursday 6 April. Tea and coffee provided, BYO mug.**



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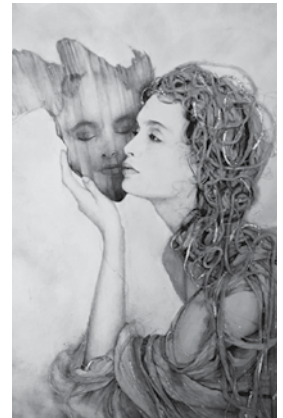
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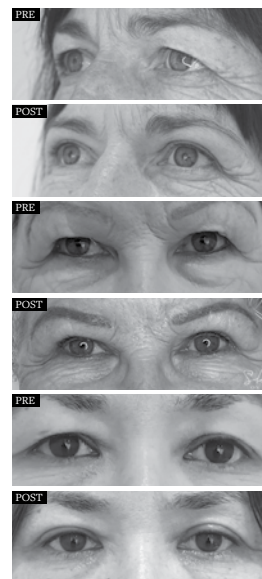
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## Have your say on the future of transport in Taranaki

Are you a bus user or would like to start using public transport? Is road safety and how speed is managed something you want to talk about? Or do you want more opportunities for walking or getting out and about on your bike?

Taranaki Regional Council has launched a wide-ranging community conversation giving everyone in the region the chance to have a say on the future of transport with the views helping to shape public transport, cycling and walking, road speeds and safety.

Head to [trc.govt.nz/transport](https://trc.govt.nz/transport) to comment or take part in a survey from 15 March to 30 April. There is one \$200 Prezzy Card up for grabs for those taking part.

### The road ahead: Putting together a plan for transport in Taranaki

- March-April 2023: Feedback sought on public transport, cycling and walking, the long-term vision for transport and road safety and speed management
- October-December 2023: Public consultation on district councils' speed management plans and Better Travel Choices for Taranaki strategy.
- January-March 2024: Public consultation on Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).
- March 2024: Hearings to finalise RLTP.
- April 2024: RLTP submitted for approval by Waka Kotahi.
- 1 July 2024: RLTP comes into effect.




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## Easter

RUN HUNT WIN!  
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# NIGHT DASH

Sunday 2nd April / Corbett Park

Ticket info



Get your \$10 adult 18+ ticket registered now.

Search "Easter Night Dash Taranaki"

Online entries: [www.tinyurl.com/ycks4crr](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycks4crr)

## ALL WELCOME!

For one night only, Corbett Park becomes a hunting ground with 1000 hidden eggs containing over \$2500+ in prizes!

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Effpos entries on the night also available.

# Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

## Supporting families and businesses

As I travel around the New Plymouth electorate, I drop in and catch up with small business owners wherever I am. They always have a lot to share and I take those issues and ideas directly back to Wellington. I have been to 'Lemonwood Eatery' and 'Four Square' Ōkato, before that I visited 'Kitchen Table' in New Plymouth. Ōākura, I am due to see you again soon.

We as a government are committed to supporting businesses throughout this challenging time. We're focused on the bread and butter issues that matter most to New Zealanders. That's why we're taking a range of actions to reduce cost of living pressures on Ōākura families and supporting communities as they recover and rebuild following the recent extreme weather.



We're further boosting Working for Families and the Best Start payments, providing more support to help ease the pressure on whānau. On top of this, we're making childcare more affordable for many low and middle income families. From the start of April, childcare assistance was significantly expanded, cutting costs for working parents in New Plymouth and across the country.

Main benefits have increased by the rate of inflation, meaning a family on a benefit with children receive an extra \$40.86 a week and a sole parent will receive an extra \$31.83 a week. Tertiary students also see a boost, with those receiving student allowance or student loan living cost payments getting around \$20 extra each payment.

This package of support follows our recent decision to increase the minimum wage by \$1.50 to \$22.70 an hour from 1 April, as well as cutting the cost of petrol and making public transport half price until the end of June – and permanently for Community Services Card holders and tertiary students.

These measures won't solve everything but they are practical steps that we can take to support Kiwis. Of course, there's still more we can do and we've indicated that bread and butter issues like the cost of living will continue to be a major focus for our Government.

The recent extreme weather events have put further pressure on the people here. We're committed to supporting Kiwis through the response, recovery and rebuild – and we're in a strong position to do so.

The latest numbers show that, thanks to our careful management of the economy, New Zealand is well positioned to tackle immediate challenges and to build back better, safer and smarter.



Glen at Lemonwood Eatery in Ōkato

We have already announced a cost of living package that supports around 1.4 million New Zealanders – with pensioners, students, parents, and those on main benefits receiving a boost to their income from the start of this month.

For people here, their superannuation has increased. A couple who are both aged over 65 receive \$102.84 more in total a fortnight and a single person living alone receive an extra \$66.86 each payment.

## ŌĀKURA LIBRARY

We have some wonderful children's programming going on this month.

**Self-made library books - 27 March-23 April:**  
Back by popular demand! Do you dream of being an author or illustrator and finding your book on the library shelf? Come into the library to register and pick up your exercise book. Spaces are limited.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES:

**Beat Sabre - Wednesday 12th April, 2-3pm:**  
The virtual reality experience combining cool neon visuals and energizing music. For ages 7-12, bookings essential

**Slime - Wednesday 19 April, 2-3pm:**  
Get gooey with slime. Try out our recipes and discover what makes slime slimy. For ages 5-12, bookings essential

### NEW Hoopla Database:

Providing: e-books, audiobooks, comics, TV, movies and music. All free with library membership. Check it out on Puke Ariki's website for sample of titles.

### Crackerjacks - Thursday 6 April, 10-10.30am:

Under-5s 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.

You may have seen the recent stuff article: 'Dyslexia-friendly books added to shelves of New Plymouth district libraries'. Ask the librarian to see our collection.

Happy reading,

**The Ōākura Library Team**



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# Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Steve Muller won the senior singles championship with a hard-fought victory over Pat Walklin in a high-quality final. Muller's win earned him his 3rd senior title but victory was never assured until Muller sat out the Walklin shot bowl on the 20th end for 3 shots to take game 21-19.

The junior singles championship is down to the final with Craig Murray playing Ross Buttimore. Murray is aiming for a 3-peat and Buttimore will have to be at his best to usurp the incumbent champion. It was great to see a number of the club juniors support this event with Wayne Gray, Norm Lofthouse, Paul Christophers and Adam Radich all competing in their 1st junior singles championship.

## INTERCLUB TOURNAMENTS

Ōākura has won both the Gilmour Cup and Avery Shield midweek interclub tournaments in convincing style. Ōākura was front runner in both competitions throughout the year and a solid final round ensured the trophies will be heading back to the coast for another stint in the cabinet. In the Saturday Shield competition, Ōākura finished a credible 3rd as Waitara claimed the title with incumbent holders Inglewood finishing 2nd. Congratulations to the players in all competitions and to selector Paul Coxhead for orchestrating excellent victories in the Avery and Gilmour competitions.

## CLUB NEWS

Ōākura was announced as HQ for the Taranaki Bowls Men's Centre singles completion played over the Taranaki Anniversary long weekend. It was an honour for the club to host such a prestigious event and a well-earned recognition for the tremendous work of green keeper Wayne Robinson and his team. Unfortunately, a heavy lunchtime downpour on Monday saw the final transferred to the Paritutu indoor complex where Dean Elgar won his 7th open singles title. Well done to all the volunteers who assisted over the weekend and, with the Nationals Fours awarded to Taranaki next season, we can expect to see some of the country's best bowlers in action at Ōākura next summer.

Ōākura is proud again to partner up with the Ōkato Bowling Club for their 2-day tournament played on 15th & 16th of April. Greens at both clubs will be used over the weekend with prize giving along with the "best feed" in town to be held at the Ōkato clubrooms at the finish of play on Sunday.

The highly regarded and fiercely contested Collins Trophy competition was played at Ōākura on the 25th and 26th. The format is a round-robin 2x4x2 pairs completion with each game consisting of 6 ends last approximately 1 hour. Past President, Mark Collins, originally donated the trophy with the concept that the teams consist of a senior player with a junior and/or non-player.

*The Underarm Bowler*



**Trish Baylis**  
People and Culture  
Associate



**Toni-Anne McKerrow**  
People and Culture  
Advisor

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*Stumpy, Craig Waite, Alan Bennett, Craig Murray, Clokey & Tubs.*

## Kaitake Golf Club

Hi everyone,

We have had a very busy time over the last few weeks. Mellowpuff eventually happened and was an awesome day with 144 players. This was a fundraising event for Cancer with auctions items and Mellowpuff we were able to raise over \$30,000 which is a great amount to raise. We look forward to them coming back to Kaitake Golf Club.

We also hosted the Port Taranaki tournament which started with thunder and lightning, but cleared up so play was delayed by an hour. Once again this was a fundraiser for Hospice which raised an awesome amount.

If anybody out in the community wants to host a fundraising day we are always keen to host and work in with you to help these events happen. Contact the office.

Kaitake Golf Club and five other clubs have had their course rated, which is usually done every two years. Not much difference in our course rating and our slope rating has just slightly changed.

\$5.00 WEDNESDAYS is still a very popular day for golf with golfers coming from near and far. This is open for non-members. Contact the office

### LADIES CLUB NEWS

Competitions for the ladies are now under way with good numbers attending.

One team of four represented the club at the Clytie Vine Tournament held at Manaia on 15th February. Unfortunately, they were not among the winners.

Both Mid-Week and Weekend Ladies had a good start to their respective pennant seasons with first round wins.

The Ladies 54 Hole Tournament is coming up on 26th & 27th October 2023 which is always around the same time as the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival. If anyone in the community would like to sponsor or donate anything towards this tournament it would be greatly appreciated. Contact the office

Kaitake Quick 6 is still going strong and coming to a close but we have had an awesome turnout and we will be looking at doing this again nearer the end of the year. If anyone is interested in joining our next Quick Six please contact Andrea Jarrold.

**Janice Farrant**  
*Ladies Club Captain*

**GREEN FEES:** Non-member \$25.00 per round.  
Nine hole \$15.00. Cart cost 18 holes \$30.00  
and Nine holes \$20.00 - bookings essential.

### TARANAKI VETS GOLF

All golfers over the age of 50.

### VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for volunteers to help on the course. Are you retired and looking for something to do. You do not have to be golfer so if you are interested please contact Denise in the office or our Greenskeeper Dom Squatriti 027 608 3853.

### CHIPPERS:

5 - 12 yr olds:  
Every 2nd Sunday at 9.30am.  
Contact the office.

**OFFICE CONTACT**  
**Denise 06 7527665**



## End of duty

So that's a wrap for the 2022-23 lifeguard season, our volunteer lifeguards packed up the flags on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. NPOB were also guarding at the Taranaki Tri Sunday 26 March at Ngamotu Beach.

Our Oceans team were finally back at the Mount after several years of Covid disruptions. Oceans 23 had a new look this year, rebranded as Oceans - Festival of Junior Surf Lifesaving. Oceans has been going for over 20 years and SLSNZ know kids participate for lots of different reasons and want the event to keep growing and getting better so junior members, parents and volunteers want to keep coming back. The NPOB team of 20 athletes had a great time and would head back tomorrow if they could. Special mention to Vivi Hale, who won Gold in the u13 Female Beach Flags and to Janick Whipper, Rafferty O'Sullivan and James MacDonald who won Bronze in the u11-12 Male Board Relay.

At the time of writing, our senior team are competing at the TSB Nationals in Christchurch, and our IRB team have North Islands and Nationals at Whangamata in April.

So while summer is finishing up and the club quiets down over winter, we are looking ahead to the 2023-24 season with a few new initiatives. To stay up to date with what is going on follow NPOB Surf Club on Facebook and npobslsc on Instagram.

Remember if you are out in the water now, please make smart decisions. Check conditions before you go in, don't swim alone and always keep your kids within arms reach.

Finally a really big thank you to our 55 active volunteer lifeguards, you are all appreciated! We wouldn't be a club without you.



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**L-R: Claire White, Abigail Poole,  
Roseanne Donovan, Karen Dannenhauer**

## Ōākura TENNIS CLUB



### The joys of ladies midweek tennis

*By Karen Danenhauer*

It's a Sunday afternoon, and as usual I'm checking the weather reports to see if my Monday tennis fix is likely to proceed tomorrow. Ōākura has two teams in the Ladies Midweek league; we are 'Ōākura 2' in Section 3, currently in 5th place among 7 teams in this section.

Like many of us who play Ladies 'Midweek' tennis on Mondays, I took a 20-year hiatus from tennis to get educated and raise kids. Since starting up again a couple of years ago, Monday tennis is truly the highlight of my week. It's a blast to travel with the team to rural clubs and play our 3 matches before sitting down with the opposing team over a shared lunch, or host other teams at our own tennis

club. We feel very hardcore playing in the crazy conditions that Taranaki throws at us – blistering heat, sudden showers and wind that can quickly shift the ball from your forehand to your backhand before you can react.

I'm proud to be a part of this formidable team, relieved I'm not looking down the barrel of Claire White's powerful forehand, or trying to evade Abigail Poole's wall-like presence at the net. Rachel Deegan has a backhand slice that leaves our opponents regularly bewildered and Chania Hattle hits solid winners from the baseline. We look to Roseanne Donovan for strategy and her Jedi-mindgames that leave the opposing team wondering what went wrong for them. I seem to have a lot of lucky rim shots, and contribute the healthiest dishes to our shared lunches.

The juniors tennis season is coming to an end with the junior club champs before the end of term. **Contact Yifat 022-3237210** to enter.

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# Ōākura School



**Introducing our 2023 Lead Ambassadors - L-R: Lily Williams, Blake Thompson, Kupa Butler and Hayes Lee.**

## Ōmata Takes Part

On Friday the 3rd March the sun shone down on Ōmata School as we held our annual triathlon. It was great to see the enthusiastic support from whānau, as friends, parents and grandparents gathered to cheer on the athletes. The triathlon consisted of lengths of our school pool, biking or scooting around the lower court as a junior, or the rugby field as a senior, running around the soccer field and finishing with a dive on the waterslide and a well-deserved iceblock.

Tuakana teina was shown as junior children were given an older buddy to help them around the course. Before the race, we asked some of the younger students what they were most excited for. Many answered biking and swimming. Now that the event has taken place, we asked the students what they enjoyed the most. In Kiwi, we interviewed two students, Ella and Reece. Ella said her favourite part was the biking and the waterslide, while Reece said he loved the slide and the iceblock afterwards.

The Ōmata triathlon is a great way for students to bond and assist each other. We know that everybody enjoyed it a lot, and cannot wait for the next one!

**Ellie Jackson and Phoenix Ardell**

UPCOMING AT ŌMATA SCHOOL	
APRIL	
3	ANZAC Commemoration 2pm
4	Y6-8 Swimming sports at Bell Block pool
6	Term one ends
7	Good Friday

## Beach Clean Up

Ōākura School's annual Beach Clean Up was held on the 27th of February. On that day, all of the tamariki (children) of Ōākura School went down to Ōākura Beach for half of the day to pick up any rubbish that had been left lying around and put it into a plastic bag to help keep the Ōākura environment clean. The whole school worked hard so that everyone can enjoy living and visiting Ōākura.

## Head Pupils

This year we have four new Head Pupils: Taya Kurta, Graysen Mottershead, Solae Hareb-Hine and Fred Tarrant. Our intrepid reporters have interviewed them so that we can all know a little bit more about them.

Taya has wanted to be a Head Pupil since being a little girl, as she looked up to them when she was younger and saw them as her heroes. She thinks that having to run assembly has been fun. Also, she is proud that the head pupils have done their first fundraiser: **Black and White for the Bay**. For this, students and teachers wore black and white to school and donated a gold coin to help schools affected by the terrible cyclone recently.

Graysen says being a head pupil has been great so far and he wants the tamariki to be inspired and reach for their goals and maybe even become a head pupil like him one day. Graysen wants to make a school a fun place to be, where anyone can enjoy themselves while learning at the same time.

Fred wanted to take on the responsibility of being a head pupil and challenge himself, as he looked up to the previous head pupils and wants to be an excellent role model, just like they were. He hopes that the tamariki will look up to him and learn from him. Fred says the first couple of weeks being head pupil were great and he looks forward to continuing and doing more work for other children.

Solae was inspired by head pupils when she was younger and wanted to be a leader and influence others to never give up and to believe that anyone can achieve anything if they work hard. She says being a head pupil is just like she imagined and, like all the other head pupils have also mentioned, it has been fun to run assemblies. She looks forward to running and organising more projects and events.

## Meet the Ōākura School reporters for 2023

As we are new reporters for our school, we thought that we would introduce ourselves.

My name is Paige and I grew up in Auckland for several years and when I was between the age of 7 and 8 I moved to Taranaki, which is when I started going to Ōākura School. Recently, my whānau (family) built a house near Ōkato on a lifestyle block. One of the reasons I wanted to write for The Ōākura Post was because I love writing. I haven't always loved writing and it used to be one of my least favourite subjects. However, when I was in Year 6 my teacher inspired a love of writing in me.

I am Lily. I was born in Wanganui and moved to Taranaki when I was eleven years old. I have become one of the reporters this year because I wanted to help Paige with her job. I like being a reporter because it is always good to help your friends, and it is cool to see my writing in The Ōākura Post. One of my favourite things in the world is show horses. I love going to horse shows and have won a lot of prizes so far.

**By Lily Hawkes and Paige Manning (age 11, age 12)**

# 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

### JKA Karate

Jim Hoskin 752 7337

### Justice of the Peace

**Julie, Estella, Anne and Lynn**  
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 027 937 7173 or Vincenza  
027 739 6574

### 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

### Running for Kids

TempoFit Kids - get fitter and faster and  
have a blast along the way! Wednesdays  
at Corbett Park. 3:25pm 8-11yrs, 4:10pm  
11-14yrs. Hayden Shearman 027 483 5942  
tempofit.org/tempofit-kids

### Tennis Club

Coaching for all ages and levels,  
go to [www.blitztennis.nz](http://www.blitztennis.nz)  
All other enquiries contact  
Jackie 027 673 2900

### Tai Chi Classes

Every Monday 9-10am at Ōākura Hall.  
Judi 027 268 2601. Just come along or  
contact: taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com

### Val Deakin Dance School

Ōākura Hall Tuesday 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 Hall

### 5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

Monday to Thursday 5-6 pm,  
Barney 027 752 7076 barney@5efitness.  
com or visit [www.5efitness.com](http://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 Community Church meeting

At Hempton Hall on Sunday mornings  
10.30am - all welcome.  
Contact Nicky 027 497 3764

### Okato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

### Okato Lions Club

John Hislop 022 565 8929

### Okato Squash Club

Monday nights from 6.30pm. All welcome.  
Ladies morning Friday 9.30 -11am.  
Rachel 020 4092 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 Wednesday of each month,  
4.30pm-6.00pm, okatocp@gmail.com

# TOP Information

## The Ōākura Post

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It's not always easy finding the right hairdresser for you, it comes down to a number of factors, including style and personality. For some of us, it can be a long time spent in the chair and at the basin so having a professional who is also going to be easy to pass the time with is important too.

At Maiden, we are proud to have a team of eight stylists, ranging in styles, personalities, expertise and experience levels to suit your hair goals and needs. Over the coming months, we will be introducing you to our team so you can get to know us a little bit better.

This week, we are introducing you to our Salon Managers and Premier Stylists, Angela and Loren.

Angela is your go-to stylist when you love a more natural, lived in look. Ange is sweet, genuine and she enjoys chatting with fellow mums and making them feel their most beautiful.

Loren is the stylist you need if you want your blond hair dreams to come true. All about getting that perfect tone for you, Loren is also incredibly genuine, warm and welcoming, Loren loves a good yarn and has a wicked sense of humour.



Angela (L) and Loren (R), Maiden Salon Managers and Premier Stylists

Text 027 276 5158 to book your appointment.

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