

the Ōākura Post

MAY 2023



HŌIHO HĀPAI HAPORI

see page 3

Kaitake
Community
Board

our mayor
explains

Sports
news

Photo: Lead Kaiako Laura Menzies with her horse.



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Kaitake Community Board

The Kaitake and Ōākura communities have been leading lights over the past five years or more in the regional predator control and eradication space. Taranaki Regional Council Environment Services Manager Steve Ellis identified in 2021 that the commitment of communities was the key to success of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki Project. It was clear from the outset that the predator free "mission" was going to be a long term undertaking, an ongoing journey that would require the whole community to be fully invested then and moving into the future. It was a mission that always had the potential to be impacted on, and overshadowed by developing community complacency, competition for funding, population movement, and external pressures – and unfortunately some of these events have come to pass.

- New residents move into this part of the region who have had no exposure to, or knowledge of, this programme.
- The 'COVID years' has been a significant distraction on most of us.
- A cost of living crisis
- Councils currently reviewing their spending, has resulted in regional biodiversity group, Wild for Taranaki, having cuts to its TRC funding being seriously considered.

A falling in the enthusiasm for setting and checking of traps has occurred as a result. Doug Hislop (previous Chair of Kaitake Community Board), was a key driver in this community getting on board the predator trapping waka around this area. He has recognised the importance of supporting and nurturing voluntary efforts to maintain, protect, and enhance biodiversity in the community, and the need to keep the public engaged and enthusiastic about urban, farmland and national park trapping activity.

He has worked with Wild for Taranaki, TRC, Towards Predator Free Taranaki, and other like minded organisations, and an Ōākura Urban Trapping Refresher Day has been arranged for Sunday 21 May at the Ōākura Hall from 1pm to 5pm.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about and get involved in this programme, for those who have waned in their involvement to get reinvigorated, and for those who have continued their trapping and monitoring efforts to come along and share their passion and their experiences. I look forward to seeing you all there.

As I sit at my keyboard typing this article, Easter has come and gone, and I am in the midst of ANZAC Day preparation for the variety of services that will take place around the district. As a military veteran, I consider the commemoration of the service and sacrifices of New Zealand Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, from the Gallipoli landings in World War 1 to more recent conflicts in East Timor and Afghanistan, as a way to acknowledge kindred spirits who gave their lives defending the freedoms and relative peace that we all enjoy today, and to offer support to the families of all those servicemen.

I was privileged to be invited to participate in the Ōmata School ANZAC Service, and was moved by the reverence and respect displayed by the young pupils throughout the service, behaviour that exemplifies what commemoration stands for.

To all those who have gone before us,

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou - We will remember them

And in closing, time is still available for you to have your say towards the review and update of the Kaitake Community Board Plan. Reach out to community board members with your desires and aspirations for visibility during future Council planning activities.

The next meeting is Monday, 22 May, 5pm in the Ōākura Bowling Club.

Hei konā mai - Goodbye for now

Graham Chard - Kaitake Community Board Chair
027 2204 549 - thechardz@gmail.com

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

Community Police Officer

Kia Ora Koutou.

As you are all well aware, there has been an increase in burglaries and theft from cars in recent months around Taranaki and all of New Zealand. Unfortunately, our generally isolated areas have become more of a target, recently. I encourage everyone to park your cars off the road where possible. If you are parking on the road, remove valuables but I also recommend steering wheel locks. They're a great deterrent as many young people are attempting to steal these cars.

Most offenders are from out of our area. However, there are connections with some locals, which is disappointing. We need to be more vigilant

around security as society is changing for many reasons and ultimately this is creating more crime.

On a more positive note, I am developing a plan with the intention of being more connected with the community. I have had the privilege of attending some farm discussion groups recently, as well as the Kaitake Community Board meetings and the Oakura morning talk. I intend to attend more community groups/events and if you have any event or meeting that you would like me to attend then please touch base.

Lastly, with the recent spate of dishonesty crime, and be assured that we are apprehending some of the offenders, I am actively looking at ways to prevent these from continuing. One of these is CCTV cameras in the local villages. Unfortunately, this is not as simple as I would have hoped.

Until next time. Nga Mihi. Constable Matt Stone
Matthew.stone@police.govt.nz

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Craig Murray won the Junior Singles Championship final with victory over Ōākura local boy, Ross Buttimore. Murray's well-deserved win earned him his 3rd successive junior title. Buttimore impressed early and raced to a 6 nil lead but once Murray found his range, he stormed home to take the game 21-9.

Tony McAlevey and Andy Shearer won the Championship Pairs finals with a hard-fought win over the duo of Allan Bridgeman and

Don Hinton. It was an even contest with the McAlevey pairing securing victory 19-16.

Inclement weather saw the 2nd day of the Collins Trophy cancelled, leaving the tournament favourites, Kurt Smith and Wayne Robinson, as the team to beat as they remained unbeaten through the first four games. Posing the biggest threat to Smith and Robinson is the pairing of Roy Phillips and Jim Priest and duo of Kerry McGovern and Eric Foreman.

CHAMPS OF CHAMPS

Craig Murray has reached the final of the Taranaki Junior Singles Champs of Champs with two sensational wins in sectional play. Murray will meet another coastal player, Rahotu young gun Cam Horo, in the final to be played late in April. The club wishes Craig all the best.

The other Ōākura teams did not fare as well with Steve Muller losing his 1st round game in the senior singles and the fours of Jim Priest, Aad Schrader, Kevin Fleming, Syd Sharpe losing to a West End team in the 2nd round.

CLUB NEWS

The Professional Bowling Association will again have a chapter in New Plymouth with all bowling to be played at the Paritutu Bowling Club indoor stadium. The qualifiers for the various competitions will be played over 3rd, 4th & 5th of June, 17th & 18th of June and the 19th & 20th of August. It is a great opportunity to see some of New Plymouth's best bowlers in action.

The Underarm Bowler

Horses Helping Humans Taranaki, Hōiho Hāpai Hapori

Horses Helping Humans Taranaki, Hōiho Hāpai Hapori (HHH) is an equine assisted learning programme that helps vulnerable rangatahi (youth) gain tools to manage anxiety, anger and low self confidence. This in turn improves their assertive communication, and decision-making when under pressure; and strengthens their resilience.

From parents and support workers

"I was blown away by the transformational power of connection between the taiohi (teenagers) and their ponies. One taiohi

reflected after the programme that their pony massively helped them to manage their anxiety and was therapeutic for them." **Sophie Rice**

"The horses have so much patience and the bond they make with the kids is amazing. Learning breathing and body techniques to regulate their emotions has really helped my kids in day to day life." **Amie Snowden**

"It was very empowering as a mum to be a part of this journey with my daughter. To see her grow, have joy in her eyes and a smile on her face throughout these sessions. To see how proud of herself she was and how far she has come with her self confidence." **Kieley Williams**

We now have our own venue in Warea, and can deliver more sessions. But we need money to ensure our rangatahi receive the best possible experiences. Money will fund a kitchen to prepare kai to help rangatahi maintain focus during sessions, to strengthen the roof and create storage facilities for equipment.

Make a donation during our crowdfunding campaign (1st May to 12th May) <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-horses-helping-humans-taranaki-crowdfunding>

To refer a young person to HHH contact Lead Kaiako (Facilitator) Laura Menzies at hhhtaranaki@gmail.com



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Kaitake Golf Club

Hi everyone,

Been a busy time - especially over the Easter weekend. Weather has been kind to us and golf carts are very popular nowadays. Our two new carts have been put to very regular use.

I want to thank our volunteers who have been manning the office on a Sunday, it is very much appreciated from the Club.

We now have new golf shirts and hats in the shop. These look great in a team event when the men and ladies all have the same shirts.

There has been quite a big project with making a pond on the 6th fairway. This is mainly for water usage in the dry months as you may or may not be aware we are only allocated a certain amount of water to use on the greens etc. We are hoping this will help in the future and we are looking at a fountain or similar for the aesthetics of the 6th fairway. A big thank you to Neil Holdom for the loan of his digger which has been a huge help to create this pond.

Our Mens Locker room is nearly finished and looking awesome. A shout out to our builder Colin Woodward and his team of tradesmen and also all the volunteers for their contribution.

LADIES CLUB REPORT

Competitions for the ladies got under way in February with good numbers attending each week, both during the week and on a Saturday.

We had a team of four represent our club at the Clytie Vine Tournament held at Manaia in February. Unfortunately they were not among the winners.

Pennant Competitions are also under way. Kaitake ladies have four pennant teams competing, one from the Weekend group, one from the Mid Week group and two from our 9 Hole group. So far Kaitake White (9 Holes), Kaitake Blue (9 Holes) and the Mid Week Pennant teams have 4 points from four rounds and the Weekend team has 5 points from 4 rounds.

Andrea Jarrold has been running Quick 6 sessions for new golfers over the last few

weeks, which has been successful with about 16 ladies attending. We also held an evening to go over some basic rules and etiquette for these ladies. Hopefully we will see some of these ladies join our club.

Our ladies like to get out and about to play in various tournaments. This year two of our players headed to Feilding recently to play in the annual Feilding Classic which is played over two courses, Rangatira and Feilding.

Three teams headed out to Inglewood to play in the Over 50s Tournament only to be greeted by 7 degree temperature, cold wind and showers. It was the first taste of winter and it was a bit of a shock to the system. Karen Avison and Helen Beaurepaire teamed up with two Inglewood players and took the top placing. Janet Dingle also won a prize in her division.

*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 a 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.
Phone the office to be added to the group chat for the next chippers meeting.

OFFICE CONTACT
Denise 06 7527665



ŌĀKURA LIBRARY

Comic Book Day

Saturday 6th May 9.30-11.30am:

A celebration of comics. See our fantastic graphic novel collections, try out some comic crafts and pick up a free comic book.

Crackerjacks - Thursday 4 May, 10-10.30am:

Join us for pre-school story time, rhymes, song, games and craft.

Mother's Day 14th May:

Treat that wonderful, nurturing Mum, Nana, Auntie, caring friend to some peaceful reading time and a cuppa.

Suggested titles:

FICTION:

Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes
Thursday Murder Club series by Richard Osman

Orphans by Fiona McIntosh

The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth

No One Saw It Coming by Susan Lewis

Bad Day at the Vulture Club by Vaseem Khan

NON-FICTION:

Wendy Nissen's My mother and Other Secrets
Michelle Obama The Light We Carry:

Overcoming in Uncertain Times

The Ōākura Library team

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OBC Membership grows to over 500

It's been a massive summer for the Ōākura Boardriders Club, our membership grew to over 500!!! Simon Deken from Deken Waves coached over 50 grommets how to shred safely on the local beach. Wahine Waves, a surf programme for women was kicked off at OBC. We continued to support our high performing competitors and most importantly we came together as community, enjoyed a beer and burger and shared stories about our adventures in the ocean.

Some highlights include Ariana Shewry representing NZ on the world stage, Kalani Watts and Skylar McFetridge epic results on the NZ un18 tour, new groms on the tour scene Ben Dixon and Caden Watts, and of course Tom Butland consistently ripping it up all over NZ!!

The OBC surf team travelled to Whangamata in March to compete in the NZ Club Champs. The OBC team was made up of 8 competitors, which battled it out as a tag team and individuals to finish 3rd overall in NZ and named the top club. Congratulations to Simon Deken, Tom Butland, Bach Tipene, Ariana Shewry, Skylar McFetridge, Kalani Watts, Nate Florence and Jeremy Curd for representing the club and our community.

The Junior Club Champs were held at Weld Road. It was a great family day with over fifty competitors ranging from 5yo to 14yo. Congratulations to all the kids that got in the water and competed, and there were some amazing performances which truly highlighted our groms' progression and talent.

Congratulations to following Champions:

Under 14 Boys: Ben Dixon	Under 14 Girls: Darcy O'Sullivan
Under 12 Boys: Koa Gillispie	Under 12 Girls: Lyla Termath
Under 10 Boys: Levi Fox	Under 10 Girls: Indy La Franchie

Unfortunately our work with the Parafed Taranaki and the Halberg Trusts with Disabled surfing has been rescheduled to November.

A massive thank you to our sponsors for supporting our Club. Without you we would not have the resources to support the community in the way that we do.

Enjoy the rest of the fine weather and track the socials for everything OBC and updates on the MC Memorial LongBoard Comp.



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Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

Lifting incomes and backing Ōākura workers

It's been a real pleasure talking with a number of you at the Seaside Market and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards about our recent changes to lift incomes and to provide extra support to workers and families. These measures won't fix everything but they will help to ease some pressure and I wanted to make sure people here in New Plymouth have heard a bit more about this cost of living support.

From 1 April, over a million Kiwis started receiving a bit more in their pocket to help make ends meet. This included an inflation-adjusted lift for superannuation, benefits, veteran's pensions and student supports, benefiting many in our community.

People in New Plymouth should be confident that they can get ahead and create the life they want for themselves and their families through hard work. But right now, as global inflation is causing costs to rise around the world, it can feel pretty tough.

To support those workers who are really feeling the bite from the rise in the cost of living, we've increased the minimum wage by \$1.50 to \$22.70 an hour. This will see a fulltime minimum wage worker earning an extra \$60 a week before tax.

To further back workers, we've also made changes to safeguard subcontractors who are often the first to miss out in the event a construction company becomes insolvent. We believe everyone should have confidence that they will be paid for their hard work. I spoke about this when I attended the Taranaki New Zealand Certified Builders Association Apprentice Challenge last week. It was a fantastic event sponsored by ITM New Plymouth. The apprentices were given identical plans for a child's playhouse. They had from 8am till 4.30pm to complete the build, which was then assessed by the judging panel. The challenge is a celebration of local building talent and recognises the



critical role apprentices play in the future of New Zealand's building and construction sector.

Michael Craig won the challenge for the second year in a row, and is off to the national finals in Christchurch in May -Adan Larsen Builders definitely know how to train them!

I'm also really pleased nurses in aged residential care, hospices, home and community support services, will start receiving up to 15% more in their take home pay. This boost follows the recent historic pay increase for hospital nurses which made our nursing wages competitive with Australia.

These increases, as well as the additional 32 new health sector roles added to the Straight to Residence pathway of the Green List, will help to keep nurses in important roles here in New Plymouth. All good news for everyone in our Ōākura community to help prepare our health system for the coming winter.

Ōākura fire brigade

The brigade is growing in terms of skill and numbers. This month we celebrate Mark Town who has progressed to Senior Firefighter. Lizzie Beveridge, Karley Maetzig and Andrew Butterworth who have passed their drivers courses recently and welcome aboard to John Tooman and Brady Cameron who have started their recruits programme.

Meanwhile we have a number of the crew ascending and descending the stairs at Back Beach in training for Auckland's Skytower Challenge next month. If you wish to support the team raise funds for Leukaemia and blood cancer research, you can donate here: <https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/t/oakurafirebrigade>

Until next month, stay safe and take care.

An advertisement for Newton Gordge Joinery. The top half features the company logo 'NEWTON Gordge JOINERY' in a stylized font. Below the logo, the text 'KITCHENS • DOMESTIC JOINERY • COMERCIAL JOINERY' is displayed. The bottom half of the ad shows three images of modern kitchen interiors with white cabinetry and wooden accents. At the very bottom, a dark grey banner contains the contact information: '67B BREAKWATER ROAD, NEW PLYMOUTH • PH: 06 751 5065 • EMAIL: designs@newtongordge.co.nz'.

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 Senior Stylists, Shearyn and Tracey.

Shearyn loves working with long blonde and copper tones, she also likes to mix it up and have fun with creative colours. Shearyn is bubbly and upbeat, always making her clients feel relaxed and pampered.

Tracey enjoys creating beautiful, natural, lived in styles. If you're after a low maintenance look created by a stylist who is easygoing and chilled out, book in with Tracey today.



Shearyn (L) and Tracey (R), Maiden Senior Stylists

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Inflation is eroding our standard of living and ability to get things done.

We realise the costs of running a household or business have gone through the roof with fuel, food, rent and interest charges skyrocketing. And now Council is proposing a 12.5% increase in rates effective 1 July 2023 and many people are upset.

We owe our people an explanation and so here it is.

Council's costs are different from household expenses. We are exposed to interest costs but our cost correlation to the consumer price index (CPI) pretty much ends there because we largely operate in the construction space, which is tracking at more than double CPI's 7+%. We build and maintain roads and those costs increased 18% last year. We are building a thermal dryer as a critical part of our wastewater treatment plant. It is built almost entirely out of steel and concrete, again materials which are tracking well above our national inflation rate.

So, as we face these increasing costs, we have looked at what projects we can delay and what areas we could cut and here is where things get hard.

When council finalised its long-term plan back in 2021, we decided to tackle the backlog of deferred maintenance on our water, wastewater and storm water networks as well as lifting investment into our local roads. Previous councils had not been spending enough to adequately maintain this core infrastructure

and so we increased local taxes to bring them up to standard over the next decade.

Now inflation is eroding our ability to bring these critical community assets up to spec. Had we continued with the programme of maintenance we envisaged when inflation was tracking at 2.5% the rate increase in July would have been 20%, and we knew this would be too much for our community to handle.

Faced with difficult choices we have worked to strike a balance and ensure we don't allow assets to be run down while trying to soften the sting of the real costs of replacing concrete pipes, renewing roads and delivering services for our people. If you think about the real choices we face there are only a few options. To adequately maintain our assets, we have to significantly increase taxes to cover the costs. If we keep tax increases down the assets deteriorate. The only other options for keeping downward pressure on rate increases are cutting services and/or increasing our productivity.

In the past when we have asked our community what service level cuts they would accept to keep rate increases to a minimum there hasn't been a willingness to accept reductions in the services we deliver.

Over the next 15 months we will be developing our next long-term plan and we don't expect to have seen the end of the current inflationary cycle. At council we will be looking to lift our internal performance, working to maximise government investments in our public assets and collaborating with our key contractors to ensure we are paying fair prices and receiving value for the public funds spent on their services.

But the reality over the coming years will come down to the following;

You get what you pay for. If we do not adequately invest in our public assets, they

will degrade. If we cannot cope with these cost increases, we will have to identify services currently available that we are prepared to reduce or cut. If it sounds like an unsustainable long-term prognosis, that's because it is.

A key issue relates to councils covering the cost of investments in roads, water infrastructure and related public facilities that support growth in housing, commercial and industrial developments, while central government gets the vast majority of the cash resulting from developments. How? In the form of GST, company taxes and PAYE from everyone involved, all the way through, from the earth movers to the roading contractors, developers, to the builders, plasterers, painters, joiners, roofers, appliances sales and landscape gardeners. As an example, a \$650,000 new build home on a \$350,000 section will net the government around \$300,000 in various taxes over the following 12 months. Council gets the benefit of a new ratepayer contributing around \$3000 a year.

We have raised this year after year, attempting to bring some sanity to a set of rules developed in the Beehive which see rates and council debt increase while the tax take in Wellington soars. Then the politicians pat themselves on the back when announcing new government investments in our region which we have to practically beg for. We have asked Government to allow us to retain the GST they charge on our rates (the tax on a tax) to allow us to invest more into our local roads and water networks but they steadfastly refuse to even consider it.

We will continue to advocate for a fairer system and plan to raise these issues going into the general election later this year in the hope the major parties are prepared to do some listening and tackle some of the big issues facing our country during their next term in government.

Neil Holdom,
New Plymouth District Mayor

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Ōākura TENNIS CLUB



The season has ended with mixed results for Ōākura. Finals day was rained out so were played on the Sunday instead. This weather was typical for the season with at least four weekends affected by rain and a number of defaults resulting in limited game time. Hopefully next season teams get more consistent play.

Our Wilson Trophy Insure Taranaki team qualified top in pool play with 141.5 points ahead of LDV Design Rotokare on 130 points. The finals went all Rotokare's way except Luke Barrett pulling off the only win over Elijah Short 7-5 6-4. Despite the final result it was an excellent effort by the team to qualify top during the season.

In the fours competition our Ōākura 3 team (Team Ferguson) played in the final after qualifying second in section play during the season. Unfortunately they couldn't convert on finals day, losing a hard fought tussle with Rotokare. Miller won his singles and combined with brother Cooper to win their doubles. Miller had a dominant performance. Cooper had a close singles match but came up just short. In doubles Miller and Cooper were a set down, came back in the second set and then won super tie break 10-7.

Congratulations again to our two teams that made the finals and thanks to all the other Ōākura teams that competed this season.

A big thanks to our season sponsors Insure Taranaki, Healthspace and Heydon Priest.

The senior end-of-season break up was enjoyed by our members thanks to Kaitake Golf Club for hosting a fun afternoon of golf followed by a meal at Butlers.

As I write this the junior members are competing in the club champs. Good luck to all competitors. I will report back next month with results.

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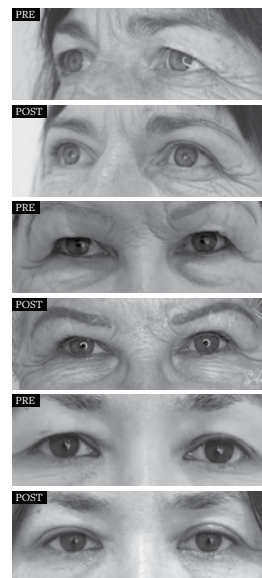
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Ōākura School



New Classes and Class Names at Ōākura School

At Ōākura School we are fortunate to have five new ruma (classrooms), Tī Tawhiti, Hīnau, Rewarewa, Kahikatea, and Miro. These modern classrooms are nice places that help students learn better and keep them less distracted by annoying noises. The builders have worked hard to make sure that they all have good lighting, temperature, and sound to make it easier to concentrate and learn. As well, we have a great new learning space outside the new classrooms.

We have new names for all our classrooms. They are all named after rakau (plants or trees). These rakau have been planted all around our school so that you will be able to find them if you have a look around our kura.

The tamariki of Ōākura School have been learning about their class's rakau names, and we have interviewed some of ākonga from across the school about their new class names. They told us some information about their class rakau.

First we interviewed Isla from Tōtara Ruma and she told us that the Tōtara tree can live up to 1000 years. It is the tallest, the strongest and people use its wood to make carvings, boats and houses. The totara tree has bright red berries, which are edible!

Eden, from Nikau Ruma, told us that there is a flower part of the Nikau tree that is edible and can be cooked and eaten like cauliflower. The heart of the developing leaves (called rito) can also be eaten raw, but taking the shoots kills the whole tree.

Nathaniel, from the Kawakawa Ruma, said that the kawakawa tree leaf is a heart shape and some caterpillars like to eat them which make holes. A kawakawa can grow up to 3-4

metres tall. The tamariki of Kawakawa Ruma have been making art out of kawakawa which the tamariki enjoy doing.

Braxton and Della, from Karaka Ruma, told us that the karaka tree grows orange berries which are very poisonous, and only kereru can eat them. Karaka can grow up to thirty metres, but it takes a long time so you will have to be patient.

Elise, from Miro Ruma, said that people can use miro trees to help sick people as medicine. Also, people can use miro as an insect repellent. It only takes 2-5 years for the Miro tree to grow up to 25 metres tall.

Reggie and Frankie, from Kahikatea Ruma, told us that the kahikatea tree is an important source of wood for making tools. Also, dye and food can be made from its berries. It can grow 60 metres tall, although some grow up to 90 metres, which takes around 25 years.

Max, from Rewarewa Ruma, learnt that the scientific name for the rewarewa tree is 'Knightia Excelsa' and the common name is 'New Zealand Honeysuckle'. The rewarewa honey is the best tasting honey in the world! The rewarewa tree grows up to thirty metres high and is commonly found on the North Island.

We are also very proud of our new classroom signs and all the students love their new ruma and their new ruma names and look forward to continuing working in them for the exciting year ahead.

By Paige Manning and Lily Hawkes (age 12)



We will remember them

Each year Ōmata School commemorates the ANZAC soldiers with a special ceremony at school. Ruru students recently learned of the story of George Bollinger who was a local soldier in World War 1. Phoenix Ardell has retold some of his story.

An Ōmata Story - George Bollinger

George Bollinger was an ANZAC soldier at Gallipoli in WW1, 1915. His story and that of his brother, Herman, is significant to Ōmata. George's father, Max, migrated to New Zealand from Germany in the 1870s. Max was married to Margaret Sproule. Soon Max officially became a New Zealand Citizen, so if he had children they would have the same rights. Max and Margaret ended up having seven more children, one of them being George who was born on the 10th of April 1890. George's family lived in Ōmata. He was working in a bank when the war broke out on the 4th of August 1916. He signed up to go to war nine days later. Having mixed feelings about what he was about to go into, he wrote about how hard it was to leave the country.

He landed at Gallipoli on 26th of April and was on shore by ten that morning in the middle of intense fighting. George was angry that Britain was endangering New Zealand soldiers because they couldn't get enough of their own. In July, George got sick and spent a month in hospital on the island of Lemnos.

When he returned to battle in early November two of the men that he had looked up to had been killed. The ANZAC soldiers were finally evacuated in December.

At the beginning of 1916, George returned to New Zealand as an officer, one of only six soldiers to be promoted. In April he was sent to the Trentham Army Camp to train new soldiers. When word of George's promotion spread people were outraged, this couldn't be happening. They said that George was a German, not a loyal New Zealander. A woman in the Women's anti-German league explained how "She had sons in the front lines who didn't want to be led by Germans bearing German names". Affected by the things that people were saying, George volunteered to go back to the war to prove that he was loyal.

He left New Zealand in August 1916, headed to France and the Western front where he was shot in Messines. A few days later on the 10th of June 1917 he died. In Ōmata where the Bollingers lived, there is a war memorial in front of the church listing all the men from the area who went to fight and did not return. George and Herman's names were left off the list.

In 2019 Ōmata School students made this right by going to the RSA and through official channels. If you visit the memorial today, you will see the names of George and Henry Bollinger, who loyally made the ultimate sacrifice for New Zealand.

Phoenix Ardell (Year 7)



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 752 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 Maimoa Club - after school care

Monday to Thursday 3pm to 5.30pm
Bookings essential through Facebook
@oakuramaimoaclub or by text to
022 323 7210

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

Ōākura - 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
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: taranakitachichuan@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

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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