

the Ōākura Post

JUNE 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE
challenges

LOCAL
MARGARET

*50th
anniversary*
For Val Deakin
Dance Theatre

Kaitake
COMMUNITY
BOARD



Val Deakin (seated)
and Jane Roseman.
Photo: Roger Richardson.



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Kaitake Community Board

Anzac Day Commemorations for 2023 were noticeable for three things: the generosity of the public during the RSA's Annual Poppy Appeal, the number of remembrance services that were conducted throughout the province, and the huge numbers of people who attended the services that were held.

This was the first time in the past few years that services could go ahead without restrictions, limitations and impediments. It was great to see how the New Zealand Defence Force supported our local services, with the HMNZS Aotearoa coming into Port Taranaki, several senior officers along with many other uniformed personnel coming to attend activities in our district, and with various RNZAF aircraft overhead.

On behalf of New Zealand Military Veterans and their families, thank you for remembering them.

Not long after our local and national Anzac commemorations we were witness to the pomp, pageantry and spectacle that was King Charles III's Coronation. Whether you are a republican, a royalist, a loyalist or none of the above, it was hard not to have been impressed and moved by the solemnity, the history, the grandeur and the incredible planning and coordination of a ceremony that few would have experienced in their lifetime.

Locally you may have noticed the shift in the direction of our local streams away from flowing straight out to sea, and that has resulted in an increase in erosion along Ōākura Beach sand dunes. NPDC Parks personnel constantly monitor our streams and the Council has a resource

consent that allows them to commission contractors to alter the path of the streams in order to protect our beach foreshore. As part of this programme of erosion protection you will also see sand dune planting taking place to aid in the stabilisation of the dunes, just one of the many Council activities that directly benefit residents in this part of the New Plymouth District.

On behalf of the Kaitake Community Board I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our recent Board Plan Review Survey. The results of this survey help to provide valuable insight into the make up of our community, and the things that are important to you about the community that you live in. The information that you provided allows us the opportunity to ensure the New Plymouth District Council has visibility of your needs and desires during their planning deliberation processes.

The next meeting of the KCB will be on 3 July 2023 at 5pm in the Ōākura Bowling Club

That's all I have for this edition, so until next month,

Ka kite ano, tiaki i te katoa – See you again, take care everyone.

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 – Constable Matt Stone

Kia Ora Koutou.

I firstly want to acknowledge and thank those of you who have been reporting suspicious behaviour or concerns in the community. Even though they may be reported through the 105 online reporting system, I see all of these reports and can be aware and follow up with them if required. Please keep these reports coming through.

In the last couple of weeks I have managed to recover a vehicle that was stolen from Ōākura in early April. The offender is in custody and as a result of the investigation we were able to recover a stolen trailer and quad bike from two other burglaries from Hawera. I have evidence that shows some Ōpunake offenders steal vehicles, modify them to disguise them, and then sell them for financial gain. Very recently, I received a report from a local Ōākura member who identified a vehicle in a driveway. The male linked to the vehicle is well known to Police and is from Ōpunake. These are the sort of reports, albeit may seem minor, really do assist Police.

In other matters, some of our local convenient stores have been the target of shoplifters. Shoplifting is a crime which has increased in recent times. To support our stores I ask that if you notice any suspicious activity, whether by a person or vehicle, inside or outside the store, be sure to notify either the Police or staff at the store.

Lastly, I have spoken to some locals, particularly in summer months, about the use of the electric ride on scooters. I have looked into this matter regarding legality and use on the road. Any electric vehicle that is less than 300 watts is allowed on a road without any WOF or registration. If the scooter is more than 300 watts then technically it requires a registration and at least a learner licence to ride it. Something to think about. Ultimately, for me, can I ask that any teenagers without licences please do not ride these on the road.

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

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Why your organic social media posts are not gaining results.

BY SARAH ELLEM

Most of us look at business social channels (Facebook, Instagram etc.) to get a feel for what they do, look at pictures of products or people, find some info, read a review, or even to see what they might be like as an employer.

We know that many business owners in Taranaki have found it increasingly challenging to reach their target audience through 'organic' posts alone. According to Facebook, organic reach for business pages is only around 6.4% of a page's total followers and dropping. This means that if a business has 1,000 followers, only 64 will see the organic post.

While organic content is still important, there are some key reasons why those social posts just aren't landing the way they used to back when Facebook first started. Facebook's algorithm is constantly changing, and it favours posts from friends and family over posts from businesses (it is a 'social' platform after all) and uses machine learning to adapt to each individual's user preferences. Which means if you like to watch cat videos or monster trucks, you will see more of that content.

Also, Facebook and Instagram's paid advertising options have become more sophisticated over the years, and businesses that are willing to

invest in advertising (not boosting!) have a greater chance of reaching their target audience than those relying solely on organic posts. (Boosting only increases the percentage of your existing followers that see your content, rather than introducing it to a new audience.)

Even when you manage to get a post in front of the target audience, engagement rates are declining. This is because users are inundated with content, and it has become increasingly difficult for businesses to capture users attention and encourage them to engage. (This is when you need a strong brand and clever creative). There are over 200 million small businesses on Facebook worldwide. With so many businesses vying for users attention, it can be difficult to stand out.

With all the above in mind, the key to using the Meta suite better is to use the tool as they want you to use it! Facebook is a business, just like Yellow Pages was, just like radio, billboards, Google Ads, flyers in the mailbox – they all cost money. So, if you want it to work better for your business– you might need to consider paying for it, or work hard on your organic creative, or be happy with a lower level of engagement... and that's ok too – it depends on what you're using the platform for! Paying for any advertising channel must be in alignment with your business strategy and marketing goals.

If you are considering investing in paid social media advertising or are keen on learning how to understand all this better, get tips and tricks, or get help with establishing a marketing strategy to make informed marketing decisions, contact Sarah at Baker Tilly Staples Rodway for a no-obligation chat about the various marketing services and hands-on workshops they offer.



ŌĀKURA LIBRARY FESTIVAL EVENT

No story is left untold! We're giving the kids a chance to make simple books for writing their own story in our Book Making workshop. Suitable for ages 8+. We can't wait to see you there.

ADMISSION:
\$10 per ticket, limited spaces available

DATE:
Friday 16th June 2023 3:30pm - 4:30pm

As if we need convincing that reading is good for us, according to Dr. Michael Mosley in his book Just One Thing: How simple changes

can transform your life he says, "The great thing about reading fiction in particular is that it acts as a 'whole brain' workout. When we get immersed in a good book our brains are busy imagining the settings, sounds, smells and tastes described, and this activates the many different areas of the brain that process these experiences in real life." According to professor of psychology Dr. Raymond Mar at York University in Toronto, "Reading fiction can boost your empathy and interpersonal skills because the parts of the brain that we use to understand stories overlap with the ones we use to understand other people."

Happy reading - The Ōākura Library team

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The highly regarded and fiercely contested Collins Trophy competition was won by Steve Muller and Syd Sharpe. The duo started slowly winning one of their first 4 games, but stormed home winning their last 5 to finish in a 4-way tie at the top of the leader board. After a dramatic one end shoot out in both the semi-finals and the final the Muller duo held firm, taking the title over Bruce Jackson and Kevin Fleming who finished 2nd. Allan Bridgeman and Ray Haslip were in 3rd place just ahead of Kurt Smith and Wayne Robinson. The format is a round-robin 2x4x2 pairs completion with each game consisting of 6 ends lasting 1 hour. Past President Mark Collins originally donated the trophy and it is fantastic to see life member and club patron Roy Phillips continuing Mark's legacy and generously sponsoring this popular tournament.

CHAMPS OF CHAMPS

A gallant Craig Murray lost to Rahotu young gun Cam Horo in a high-quality Junior Champs of Champs final 21 -13. Well done to Craig who proudly carried the flag for the Ōākura over the Champ of Champs final weekend. The pairs of Tony McAlevey and Andy Shearer won their 1st game but lost to a powerful Tower side in the 2nd round.

The duo of Tony McAlevey and Peter Radich played great bowls, winning through to the quarterfinals of the delayed Xmas Centre pairs. They lost 21-17 to the eventual winners, West End, in a close and exciting game.

CLUB NEWS

Ōākura completed an unprecedented 4-peat in winning the Club of Origin tournament played at Paritutu in April. The two Ōākura teams capped off a memorable day, with both teams playing some terrific bowls. However, bragging rights go to foursome of Eric Foreman, Spud Andrews, Kurt Smith and Alan Bridgeman who remained the only undefeated team in their section and going on to win the trophy. A great effort from all of the boys. The tournament ensures that some of Taranaki's oldest clubs can once again relive their glory days and rekindle old friendships. Thanks to Shorty Sanger, Kevin Gray and the Warea Bowling Club for their continuing sponsorship of this event.

The AGM for the Ōākura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday 25th June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving, club acknowledgements and refreshments.

As this will be the last column for 2022/2023 season, thanks to all members that have assisted in the day-to-day running, green maintenance, bar and administration of the club over the past year. Without the support of volunteers such as yourselves, the club would not be in the fantastic position it is today. Recognition goes to Wayne Robinson and his team who have excelled in providing the club a world class green. The green just keeps getting better each year.

Everyone is welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club on Friday evenings from 4.30pm to 7pm throughout the winter months. There is a lucky membership draw at 6.30pm and who knows, we may even entice you to take up this great game.

The Underarm Bowler

Indoor Bowls

The season is well underway and it is great to see our new members coming to grips with the basics of the game. Since our opening night we have held our Coach and Learn nights, which is a great way for the more experienced members to pass on their knowledge to the newer members. It is a good way in a safe environment to try a few different shots to further the development of the players. Merv Hooker, our Club umpire, also takes the opportunity to remind us all about the Laws of the Game in the lead up to our competition nights.

Our first competition was the Jamieson Cup and this was played over three nights, with one game each night of 21 ends. This was a real test in resilience and consistency for the all teams, with the lead able to change many times during the game. A team getting out to a healthy start in the first few ends can readily be hauled back in by the third quarter. On the final night the team of Marvin Clough (skip), Peter Anderson, Bruce Duggan and Marian Gray were up against Greg Jans (skip), Nev Jans, Zena Smith and Val Bridgeman. This was essentially the final with Marvin's team getting to a solid start having picked up a five on the fourth end. The teams continued to trade ones and twos with Val and Zena laying a good foundation for Greg, while Bruce and Peter were making a good impact for Marvin. Marvin's team was up three points leading into the final end and managed to hold for the win, winning the overall competition with three wins.

Next up is our Championship triples which will be played through May.

The Pres

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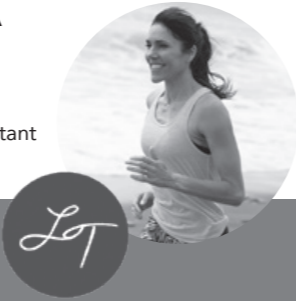
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Jane and Val celebrate 50 years of dance

Val Deakin could have started a dance company almost anywhere in the world but she wanted it to be here in Ōākura. This is the story of how Val Deakin and Jane Roseman brought an exceptional level of dance instruction and performance to New Plymouth and the village of Ōākura.

Val grew up in New Plymouth and learned dance as a child with a variety of teachers. She did very well at sport in high school, but seeing her first full length ballet changed her focus to dance. When she was 17 years old and at the Hawera performing arts competitions the judge, Colleen Julius, asked Val if she wanted to dance, and Val went down to Wellington to study with Colleen. There she danced with others who said they were going to England to dance, so off she also went to study at the Arts Educational School in London. That was the start of a career that took her to England, Turkey and the USA.

In 1967 Val was invited to New York to be a ballet mistress (in charge of rehearsals and classes) for the Manhattan Festival Ballet and to study with Margaret Craske, a well respected and exceptional dance teacher. She later got a job teaching dance with the National Ballet School in Washington DC. During those years Val studied, danced and worked with many illustrious names in the dance world. If you are a follower of dance you will recognise these names: Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, Ninette de Valois.

Jane's first experience with dance was folk dancing with her grandparents. "I thought everyone danced," she says. She went on to do modern dance training and it was that modern dance teacher who suggested she should study ballet. While studying at the School of American Ballet, the Director of the National Ballet saw her dance and offered her a job. Only 16 years old at the time, she went off to Washington DC to join the National Ballet, the youngest member ever contracted by that company.

Val was teaching in Washington and it was suggested to Jane that she do classes with an excellent teacher named Val Deakin. Val's first look at Jane made her exclaim, "This black spider is all over the place, I have to give her help."

For two years they worked together in a small dance company Val started in Washington doing summer dance performances in the parks. Even then Val said, "One day I'm going to live on the beach."

In the meantime, Val's mother, Mabel Ellis, moved from New Plymouth to Ōākura and built one of the first architecturally designed houses in Ōākura that wasn't just a bach.

All the time that Val was overseas she would come back home as often as she could to visit her mum. On one such visit in 1972, feeling overworked, Val made the decision to stay in NZ and came to live with her mother in Ōākura. Mabel searched the newspaper for houses for sale (that's how you did it in those days) and found two that were available. One was unaffordable but the other was a less expensive bach on Messenger Terrace with a view of the sea. Mabel said she could see it in the tea leaves in her teacup that this house was meant to be, and Val bought it. It's one of the original baches in Ōākura

At that point Val wrote to Jane and said, "I'm starting a dance company here, would you like to come?" That sounded like a big adventure to Jane. In 1973 she got a six month working holiday visa and assisted with teaching dance and performing. She extended her stay for another six months. She found the work fulfilling, and she was learning all that went into putting on a performance. Val was multitalented; she learned dressmaking from her mother and theatre lighting and scenery design from others. She shared those skills with Jane who describes those early days living in Ōākura and working here as "a great learning experience". A few years later Jane became a NZ citizen and has been here ever

NOTICE OF AGM Ōākura Bowling and Social Club Inc

Members and the general public are invited to attend the AGM to be held in the Clubrooms at 1160 South Road Ōākura at 1.30 on Sunday 25th June 2021.

M S Muller - Secretary

since, teaching and dancing with the Dance Theatre that Val started.

Val and Jane have taught dance in the Ōākura Hall since that time in 1973. Jane teaches the classes for children which take place in the Hall on Friday afternoons, pre-school children at 2.45 and ballet for 5+ at 3.30. Students they have taught as children frequently come back as adults to see them as friends or to bring their children for dance classes. Having studied and worked with the most prestigious of dancers and dance companies, the level of skill and expertise they have brought to Ōākura is astonishing. There are many special things about dance for Val and Jane. They view dance as being all about expression; they have no exams or competitions, only performances. Older dancers are appreciated as much as the younger ones. "Dance is for all ages."

Like everyone else who has lived in Ōākura for a long time, they have seen enormous changes over the 50 years they have lived here. Chatting with me triggered memories of when goats were often tethered to be lawnmowers for the baches on Messenger Terrace. [Tethering goats like that is now illegal.] Val would go along and give them water regularly. They took their own pet goats with them for walks along the beach. They still love being near the sea and the black sand beach, and can be seen walking their little Maltese dogs along the Ōākura River end of the beach.

Age and health issues have recently necessitated that Val step back from the majority of work. While Val is no longer teaching, she still comes to the classes and oversees the instruction, adding her wise comments to improve a dancer's position or posture.

In June there will be a 50th anniversary party for all those involved with the Dance Theatre, those both on and off the stage. (Contact Jane for more details 06 752 7743). On 7th, 8th and 9th July there will be performances with some of Val's terrific ballets and some new works by other choreographers. See below for tickets.

by Elayne Kessler

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7 JULY | 7.30 pm

8 JULY | 2.30 pm & 7.30 pm

9 JULY | 2.30 pm

Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

Meeting the climate change challenge

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing Taranaki and recent extreme weather events up and down the country have only emphasised the importance of taking action now.

The Hon Damien O'Connor MP, Minister of Agriculture & Trade, spent some time in Taranaki last month. Together we caught up with farmers and hung out in a woolshed. The conversation was dynamic and politics for me is about leaning in and having the tough conversations. We talked about carbon sequestration, soil mapping and compaction, wetlands and the climate challenge.



Meeting the climate challenge has always been a priority for our Government and we've taken a range of steps to reduce New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions – and it's making a real difference.

The most recent data, released earlier this month, shows that the country's emissions are starting to decline. While it's encouraging to see that our actions are paying off, we need to keep going. We

need meaningful action to increase renewable energy, such as wind and solar generation. That's why we're making changes to RMA (Resource Management Act) decision-making to expand New Zealand's renewable electricity infrastructure more rapidly by cutting red tape.

We also need to back Kiwi businesses to run on, and make products with, renewable sources of energy. Moving away from fossil fuels is good for



our environment and helps local businesses maintain their competitive advantage in a world that's increasingly demanding higher levels of sustainability in the products they buy. That's why our Government has stepped up with funding to help businesses reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and slash emissions faster. The latest round of projects we're supporting will reduce carbon emissions by 38,354 tonnes each year, which is equal to taking 14,200 cars off the road – that's more than the total number of cars in Wanaka.

When Damien came to our region, he reiterated that we as a Government are committed to working in partnership with our primary producers. We have so much work to do together - ensuring our primary sector is supported, while we address the challenges of climate change. We can do this together and we will!

Picture to the left: Hon Damien O'Connor Minister of Agriculture and trade, visiting Taranaki.

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB



Tennis has slowed down with competition season ending but there have been a few rep games. Luke Barrett played for Taranaki in the teams event in Wellington at the end of April.

Taranaki beat Hutt Valley 7-4, Kapi Mana 8-4 and lost 8-3 to Wellington in pool play. They played Manawatu for 3rd and 4th playoff with a 6-6 tie, then going Manawatu's way on a countback.

Graeme Mitchell played in the Manawatu rep fixture which was rain delayed earlier in the season. After a week of rain it was a relief to have clear skies. The As played at Pukekura and came away with a 16-8 win. Graeme played an

S3 Kurt Amey and managed to come away with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 win. He teamed up with Blair Crowley in doubles for a 6-3, 6-3 win. The Bs played at Huatoki and won 19-5.

The juniors club champs have also been delayed, so hopefully we have some results to report next month.

Keep hitting between the rain showers.

Jackie Keenan

Margaret Maria Hautorokawawikomokomo Sullivan

Margaret got her name from her father, Jack Rangi Hautorokawawikomokomo Sullivan and her mother, Margaret Maria Sullivan (a Cotter, from Cork County, Ireland). Margaret and her three brothers (two now deceased) are direct ancestral descendants to Ngati Tairi Hapu, Ōākura Pa.

She was born in New Plymouth 74 years ago and has lived her entire life in Ōākura – in the same house built 75 years ago. Wairau Road was a dirt road then and there was a one-lane bridge at the bottom of Wairau Road and Messenger Terrace.

Her dad went to Ōākura Primary School and then later so did Margaret and her brothers. They went on to Ōkato College (now Coastal Taranaki), taking the George Dukes bus to and from school each day, she recalls. They were brought up speaking English as there were very few Maori families around. "Dad wasn't allowed to speak it at school, got hit with the ruler. Just English."

"Life in the early days was fun. We spent a lot of time with family and friends, out and about. Our playground was the beach and the bush, which was great. But first there were chores and homework to do. My jobs were to wash the clothes, do the gardening, and help Mum in the kitchen while the boys did the outside work. We had a large vegetable garden and shared the food with whoever needed it. We had sheep, goats, chooks, rabbits, dogs and cats; most of the time we took in animals that needed a home."

There will be more to tell about Margaret and the work she has done throughout her lifetime in a subsequent article that will appear in the next issue of the POST. Meanwhile we fast forward to April when Margaret completed and passed a three-day workshop to become a Cultural Monitor with her Ngati Tairi Hapu, Iwi, Ōākura Pa.

Cultural monitoring is the observation of any alteration to the natural environment. This could be a subdivision or any alteration to a waterway or a coastal area. The Cultural Monitoring Protocol has been developed to ensure that the discovery of koiwi and



artefacts whilst undertaking earthworks are culturally protected.

Margaret describes her workshop: The workshop was presented in both English and Te Reo Maori. It was very intense at times. The main workshop took us back to our elders from the past who have passed on a lot of information through their stories. There was always food and music. Culture is very deep within a Cultural Monitor.

Before we enter a site, we are blessed by our hapu to proceed forward. Respect for elders is a great way to start as we move towards the sites and development, moving as a group. We meet the developers who we will be working side by side with. We put on our safety gear and continue to work closely with the digger operator. We are watching all the time. The digger lifts some of the topsoil as we watch all the dirt movements and look for any objects that may come up. After the topsoil is cleared the digger goes down 150-200mm. We are watching for Wai Tapu, stone Maori Taonga, and other early history items like pieces of plates or bottles. If anything is

found, the digger operator will stop until we have checked it. If it is a Maori item we stop all work and have a blessing with water. We take photos and record the item, and file a report to our Hapu / Iwi for further identification. Then work can resume.

Becoming a Cultural Monitor has been new learning for Margaret, which she has enjoyed very much.

Elayne Kessler



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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 Premier Stylist and Extensionist, Lesley-Ann and Senior Stylist and Extensionist, Jemma.

Lesley-Ann is passionate about keeping the integrity of your hair at it's very best. If you're after long (natural or extensions) beautiful, healthy hair, with a side of excellent conversation, Lesley is your lady.

Jemma loves to get creative, she is the Queen of colour corrections, funky rainbow colours and loves to do a cheeky blonde or two as well. Jemma is cool, calm and collected.

Text 027 276 5185 to book your appointment.

MAIDEN.

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Lesley-Ann, Premier Stylist (L) and Jemma, Senior Stylist (R)

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L to R: Jess Fancy of Taranaki Kiwi Trust holding Katie the kiwi and Fiona Gordon of Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust holding Raumahora at Ōākura School.



Some local Trust volunteers made signs to remind the community not to take dogs up into the bush of the Kaitake Ranges in order to protect the kiwi.



A crowd of people, including many Trust volunteers, wait to enter the marae for the blessing before releasing some of the kiwi into their new home in the Kaitake Ranges.

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

Over the last three years the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust has been lucky to be part of the exciting release of kiwi into the Kaitake Ranges. This past April another group of 10 adult kiwi were released into the Kaitake Ranges, bringing the total to 30 birds released! Some members of the Trust managed to attend the releases along with students from local schools and many others.

The current population of kiwi in the Kaitake Ranges is unknown, but it's definitely more than just those 30 that have been released. Each of the past two years many of the birds bred and successfully fledged chicks. The chicks are not being monitored, so the actual number of birds is unknown. There could be around 50 kiwi in

the Kaitake Ranges at the moment. Hopefully, the pairs will keep breeding and the population will soar. A pair can have two clutches a season with two eggs at a time, showing how quickly the population can grow.

The release of these taonga species into the bush in our backyards is exciting and a conservation success! Volunteers of the Trust have been working for years checking hundreds of stoat traps up in the Kaitake Ranges in order to make it safe for these native species to be returned here. These birds still face threats though. A stoat can kill a kiwi chick (thus, the importance of the stoat traps). Adults can protect themselves from stoats, but not from larger mammals such as dogs, ferrets, or cats.

The previous 20 birds were released on the Pukeiti side of the Kaitake Ranges, but this last group was released closer to Ōākura off the Davies track. The close proximity of these birds to Ōākura means it's absolutely crucial

that dogs are kept out of the area. Kiwi have a strong odour that a dog would quickly pick up on and could easily kill one of these precious birds. DOC does offer a dog aversion training, which will teach your dog to avoid the scent of kiwi. If you live in the area, please sign up for one of those. Some volunteers made signs that are now at some of the trailheads as a reminder.

The birds that get released are all given names. Some of the birds from previous years were named Ash, Lewis, Miyagi, Aroha, Ngapikitanga, Puriri, Hiwi, and Spencer. One of the birds this year was named McGregor, after one of the founding members of the Trust who has spent years clearing trails in Lucy's Gully and then trapping. The Trust would be nowhere if it weren't for the dedication of those original members including Rob, Marty, Bryce, Tuck, and others. We all owe you a big thanks and a beer.

SIGN LANGUAGE



cold, winter
makariri, hōtoke



rain
ua



coat, put on (coat)
koti, kuhuna (te koti)

The new ukulele group is a happening thing!

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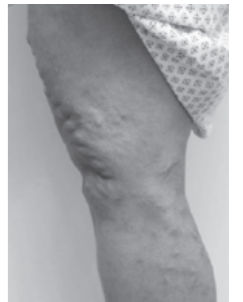
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Kia ora koutou.

This month the crew provided fire cover for Powerco as they conducted testing on a new system to assist with identifying and isolating power remotely. We were treated to a tour of the substation on South Road to understand the potential risks and help us formulate a local risk management plan.

What should you do if you find yourself trapped in your car with wires down over your vehicle?

If you can, reverse your car out from the wires and move it 20 metres away. Then you can safely leave the car.

If you can't move it, then stay in your car until the local power authority can confirm the power is isolated.

If you must leave your vehicle NEVER touch the ground AND your car at the same time. Take a small jump from your vehicle and land with your FEET TOGETHER.

SLIDE your feet (DON'T LIFT THEM) in small shuffles until you are 8-10 metres away from the lines.

Always treat wires as live, stay 8-10 metres away, stay in the vehicle unless it is absolutely necessary to leave, if you do leave always keep your feet in touch with the ground and each other.

Take care, Noho ora mai.



Photo: Robert Wagstaff



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OBITUARY: On the Death of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of Common Sense who has been with us for many years. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in or out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults not kids, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate: teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch: a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. It declined even further when schools needed parental consent to administer aspirin to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion: his daughter, Responsibility: and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights and I'm a Whiner.

Author unknown

Shared by Mary Grylls

Poem

Women on the Land - City Nurse to General Hand

Forget the romance of life on the land
Companionship means 'lend us a hand'
Forget about baking and things that will last,
Just stand in that gateway, don't let the bull past.
Forget about the laundry and hanging out the clothes,
Just hold that rope taut or everything goes.
Forget about outings and things that will please,
The weather's just right - we'll cut down those trees.
Forget about parties, the shearing gang's coming,
Cook pizzas and pies and everything yummy,
Then out you must come to yard those 'sweet' lambs,
Make sure you don't bruise them, they're gold in our hands.

Haymaking and silage demand the best weather,
So forget about swimming or a doze in the heather!!
A lovely wet day - freedom at last,
Better get the bills paid, the 20th just past.

Darkness descends, surely respite is at hand,
But no - it's the coughing of the the possum brigand,
Get out the guns — hold the torch right there,
Damn it we've missed it!! With bodies quite bare,
A trek through the roses is really not fair.
Victory!! At last we return to our beds,
But alas the hens are awake in the sheds,
Morning has broken, sleep has been banned,
Now we must go and develop the land.

By a Farmers wife

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ŌĀKURA SCHOOL

Top 8 Best Places to Visit in Ōākura.

There are a lot of beautiful, entertaining places to visit in Ōākura and so many things that you could do. Looking for a haircut? Wanting to go for a surf? Feel like having a pizza night? You could do all three right here in Ōākura! Maybe these aren't your thing? Well, that's okay, because we have our top eight places to visit in Ōākura, which are all entertaining and for everybody to enjoy. What's more, they're not just our ideas, as we have gone around to ask other tamariki at Ōākura School what their favourite places to visit are, and have included what the majority thought.

In 8th place is the Ōākura Beach campsite. This is a great place to visit during the holidays, especially in summer. It is right next to the beach, which is a great place for surfing or

swimming. There is also a playground within the campsite, as well as a kitchen, laundry, toilets and a showering area. Make your trip to the campsite a fun, wholesome experience that you will never forget.

Next is Serial Griller. Serial Griller is an amazing fast-food restaurant that serves different types of burgers. What's more, it is located in a train that has been turned into this cool restaurant beside the gas station in Ōākura. There are plenty of delicious burgers and sides. Looking for somewhere to eat out? Choose Serial Griller.

Sixth is ŌākuramatapuAwa (Ōākura River). This beautiful awa is great for swimming, kayaking, and when in season, whitebait fishing. Corbett Park is beside it as well, so you can also bring your kids to play there. If you ever want to go kayaking and don't know where to go, Corbett Park is a good choice and will make your experience more enjoyable than just going to any other river.

In fifth place is the one and only Butlers Reef. Butlers Reef is a restaurant where you can get a variety of delicious meals from burgers and ice cream sundaes, to steak and wine. There is so much delicious kai served there and it is so enjoyable for the kids and a good fun night out for adults. Dine at Butlers Reef, you won't regret it!

Fourth is Ōākura Beach. There is a huge variety of things that you can do at Ōākura Beach, such as admiring the beautiful sparkling view of the waves and blue sky, as well as swimming, surfing, parasailing, playing beach volleyball,

body surfing, sunbathing, or simply building sand castles - the choices are as limitless as your imagination.

In third spot is a life-changing pizza experience that is named Black Sand Pizzeria and Bistro. Black Sand is a pizzeria with many different varieties of delicious pizzas. It is located right next to Ōākura Beach, which gives the pizzeria an amazing ocean view. If you are lucky you might get to sit by the windows! Black Sand for a pizza on Friday night is the way to go.

In second place is the Ōākura Four Square, great for ice creams after school and buying mince pies or chicken and chips. The Four Square also has a huge lolly section that every kid loves to buy from ... and don't forget about the pastry department! Yum, YUM, YUM!!

In first place as voted by all the students was ... the Ōākura skatepark! The skatepark is an awesome place with a huge skating bowl, playground, ramps and basketball hoops. The skatepark is a place where all the students of Ōākura School just like to hang out. The skate park is suitable for all ages and anybody is sure to enjoy it and have a full fun experience.

Ōākura is an amazing place with a lot to offer to any visitor. From its beautiful beach and river, to its delicious food spots to hang out at, to fun activities for the kids and adults alike... this place has it all. Whether you're a local or a visitor, you're sure to find something to enjoy. So, come and visit this beautiful and exciting place for an experience you won't forget.

By Paige and Lily.



Protecting te Moana is a win for everyone

As part of a school wide inquiry called 'Manakitia i te Moana', Ōmata School has been researching and visiting our local marine reserves and rocky shores under the expert guidance of Dr Emily Roberts, from the Taranaki Regional Council.

One part of the focus has been the difference in biodiversity observed in a marine reserve environment and a non marine reserve environment. We are incredibly lucky that right on our doorstep we have the Tapuae Marine Reserve. Marine reserves are an important way to create increased biodiversity, protect from overfishing, protect endangered species and ensure sustainability in our oceans.



Ruru class took a hikoi to the pristine environment of Tapuae last term. It was incredible to see a large range of species thriving on the Papa Taniwha reef compared to other areas of the rocky shore around Taranaki. We found a large amount of biodiversity within the various zonations of the reef. Species observed included the red beadlet anemone, mottled brittle stars, chiton (Rainbow, Green and Snakeskin), golf ball sponge, cushion star and many, many more.

Some important messages that we have for our community after undertaking this

research about marine reserves is that if you are exploring the rock pools make sure that you place the rocks back in the way that you found them. Take only photos and leave only footprints; Marine reserves are a no-take zone so leave everything else as you found it. Overfishing can severely damage ecosystems, therefore fishing only for what you need is important. If we all take care of Te Moana, future generations will be able to experience the same thriving environment.

*By Liam Prestidge and
Charlie Hill (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 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 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

Ōakura – 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: 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

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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