

the Ōākura Post

JULY 2023

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Kaitake Community Board



It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through 2023 already. Leaves are dying off on the trees, winter sports are well and truly in full swing, and we recently experienced our first 'Kings Birthday' weekend in over 70 years. An extended period of settled weather has enabled locals and visitors alike to fully enjoy the benefits that our region provides, and has contributed to Taranaki being attributed with the coveted title of the sunniest province for the year to date.

Making the most of the fine weather, the NPDC/Coastal Community annual sand dune planting was conducted recently, with Coastal Taranaki School working on the beach at Greenwood Road and Ōākura School continuing their work on the Ōākura Beach. The fruits of the school pupils past labours are clearly evident with grasses from those plantings flourishing, and the work they have done, and are continuing to do, are an integral component in the protection and stabilisation of our delicate foreshore ecosystems.

Recent news of realignment work on the streams at Ōākura beach generated a great deal of email and social media commentary – some positive and some not so. As you are well aware this beach is one

- of Taranaki's most popular beaches and is used for a wide range of recreational activities. To ensure the ability for these activities to be safely conducted, work is undertaken by the New Plymouth District Council on an 'as required' basis to prevent Wairau and Waimoku streams from meandering :
- To mitigate sand dune erosion occurring on Ōākura Beach;
 - To avoid the streams undermining nearby structures including the Surf Lifesaving Club Rooms and boat ramp;
 - To stop the streams from undermining the adjacent sand dunes, road and public car parking on Tasman Parade;
 - So that Ōākura Beach can be accessed via the boat ramp by the public and the Surf Lifesaving Club;
 - To allow ready access and clearance of debris blocking the stream outlets under Tasman Parade and prevent possible upstream flooding.
- While this is an activity that comes at some cost, the resultant long term costs of not conducting this regular maintenance will be inordinately higher, and the resultant impact on infrastructure and residents would be untenable.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who took the time to make contributions for consideration into the Kaitake Community Board Plan review. The title of this document is something of a misnomer, as it is actually your plan. It's the place where you (our community) provide us (your elected representatives) with your issues and aspirations, for us to focus our efforts to effect resolution of those issues, and achievement of those aspirations. There have been a few key, common threads to the information that has been provided during the consultation and information gathering process: traffic safety, water supply resilience and quality, and, walking/cycling connectivity across and throughout this part of the district. While these threads and the issues and background associated with them will be stressed and highlighted in the revised plan, you can rest assured that every matter that has been raised will be woven into the new plan where possible.

That's me for this edition, so keep warm and stay safe moving throughout the hibernal (winter) solstice and onto the path towards the new spring growth. The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the Ōākura Bowling Club on Monday, 3 July, at 5pm

Ka kite ano, tiaki i te katoa (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.

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Cathy's Care Centre - The building phase is now complete.

Kia ora koutou katoa.


Monday 29th May was a very special early morning at The Taranaki Retreat for the opening of Cathy's Care Centre. Cathy was watching over us with the weather holding just long enough for us to have a beautiful Karakia and give special thanks to all those involved in the construction of this special building. It really has been such a monumental combined effort from start to finish to get this building over the line and we sincerely could not have gotten here without all of your support. With love, gratitude, and a huge and heart felt thank you.

Nga mihi nui the team at Cathy's Dance for Hope.

Cathys Care Centre is part of the Taranaki Retreat. The centre will be a place for families and groups to come together, along with a much needed on-site reception and administration area.

Last year a small fundraiser movie night at Everybody's Theatre in Opunake raised \$600 which has been put towards carpet for the centre.

If you would like to be added to the 'expressions of interest' list for the next fundraiser movie night please make contact via The Ōākura Post (details on inside back page).




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Local talent set to shine at Festival of Lights winter pop-up



The light installation, Te Whatawhata Ā Rangi from last year's festival, is returning.

Visitors to NPDC's TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up in central New Plymouth are in for a treat with an impressive line-up of performers and nine new light installations – including one representing the Puanga constellation.

The piece featuring beams of light that shoot up into the night sky is presented by the festival in consultation with local hapū Ngāti Te Whiti – one of the many highlights of the entertainment line-up for the 13-16 July festival.

The entertainment line-up has something to suit everyone from funk, reggae and kapa haka to fire poi and DJs in the mix. The musical line up has been brought together with the support of Ngāti Te Whiti, who secured reggae heavy-hitters, The Groove Hutt featuring Luke Whaanga (Rotorua/Te Whanganui-a-Tara/ Taranaki) featuring members of Tomorrow People and Souloovus.

"After the successful debut of the TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up last year, we are excited to be back! There will be nine new light installations alongside a couple of fan favourites from previous festivals," says NPDC Events Lead Lisa Ekdahl.

While the festival is being held over the Matariki long weekend, Taranaki and Whanganui iwi mark Māori New Year by observing Puanga, which happens in June or July.

Last year's inaugural event attracted more than 15,000 people over four nights and this year the event footprint is being extended into the Egmont Street carpark, which will house two installations.

Festival organisers are also going to make it easy for people to move throughout the festival closing off a section of Ariki Street and Centre City Shopping Centre is providing free parking via its St Aubyn Street entrance between 5pm – 10.30pm each night.

"Puanga is a special time to celebrate with friends and whānau, and Venture Taranaki/ Te Puna Umanga are thrilled to support the second presentation of the Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up, as the event looks to build on its outstanding debut, encouraging visitation at what would traditionally be a quieter period for our visitor economy," says Brylee Flutey, Te Puna Umanga/ Venture Taranaki, GM Destination.

"We look forward to seeing visitors and locals alike out in force and experiencing the installations, as well as providing an additional economic boost to the surrounding CBD."

The full TSB Festival of Lights: Winter Pop-Up line-up can be found at festivaloflights.nz

FAST FACTS:

- The 2022 festival received a 92% satisfaction rate with over 15,000 event visitors.
- Puanga refers to the celebration of the Māori New Year, observed by Taranaki iwi which happens in June or July. Other iwi refer to this celebration as Matariki due to landing on the public holiday weekend in Aotearoa.
- The lighting and entertainment line-up will feature both local and national artists.
- 140,000 people enjoyed the 2022/23 NPDC backed free summer festival held in Pukekura Park.

Indoor Bowls

It has been a busy six weeks, having played our Champ Triples and Champ Fours along with a visit to Warea. First the Triples: with six teams we played a full round robin in the qualifying section, with the finalists determined by wins, ends and points. The team of Marvin Clough, Steve Muller and Marion Gray was the only team to qualify with five wins. The other finalist of Merv Hooker, Val Bridgeman and Wayne Gray were only confirmed on the final game of the section play. The resulting final game was a close affair with the lead changing hands numerous times. It was a nail biting 8-all tie on the last end with Merv just falling short with his bowl, allowing Marvin the luxury of not playing his last bowl.

The Champ Fours was played over two nights with the finalists being Merv Hooker, Bev Kirkby, Ross Butterworth, and Pat Cunningham versus Bruce Duggan, Mike Vickers, Paul Bishop, and Nev Jans. Merv's team got out to an early lead 9-1 after four ends, and continued to be too strong with Bruce dropping five shots on the 10th end which essentially sealed the win. Congratulations to Merv and team. New member Paul Bishop played well all night with some consistent draw bowls, and "Magic Mike" Vickers defied physics with a few deft touches.

We played our annual "grudge" match against Warea for the Sitter's Shield, a challenge trophy that has been contested for over 50 years. With Warea hosting, it was too much of an ask for us to wrestle the shield back, with Warea running out comfortable winners on the night. We look forward to our challenge next year, while over the coming month we continue with our Champ Pairs and Singles.

The Pres

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by going to the library catalogue, click the 'Ask to buy it' button and fill out the simple online form.

It's free to reserve a book in our libraries (Puke Ariki and community libraries) and have it sent to Ōākura Library for a fast and convenient pick up!

For efficient printing services, email your document from your phone or laptop to print@pukeariki.co.nz. You will receive a job ID number. Come in, pay and pick up your printing via our self-serve kiosk.

Happy reading - The Ōākura Library team

Ōākura Fire Brigade

Kia ora tātou.

Once again the dizzy heights of the Auckland Skytower were conquered by some of the more agile members of the Ōākura brigade. The team of four, Andrew Butterworth, Karley

Matzeig, Manaka Cant and James Page, logged it out for personal glory and brigade bragging rights this year but more importantly were able to raise over \$7000 for Leukemia and Blood Cancer NZ.

Each carrying 25kg of full gear up 51 flights, (Manaka actually did 60 plus wore a steel tank) the Skytower challenge is run annually and together the firefighters from around the country raised a massive 1.5 Million. Thank you all for your support and donations that help make this event a memorable one for our crew.



Community Police Officer – Constable Matt Stone

Kia Ora Koutou.

I have recently been contacted by a number of residents concerned about some speed issues within the Ōākura village. The intersection outside the Four Square is one area of concern. There is limited visibility for pedestrians and motorists alike. With the 100km/h sign being so close to the intersection, speed in and out of the village is a problem. I accept that a large percentage of the traffic will be out of town motorists however I ask that, as local community members, you pay particular caution with respect to your manner of driving and speed in that area.

The second concern is the speed around and past Ōākura School. The new speed limit is 30km/h enforceable by Police. The reason for the speed limit is purely the safety of the school children. I ask that no matter how late you are or if you are in a hurry, you maintain the 30km/h speed limit.

I have also been made aware of the odd incident of undesirable behaviour on Ōākura Beach. I ask that all users treat other users of the beach with respect. This means that if you are using some sort of mode of transport on the beach, that your speed and movements are safe. Remember that the beach is considered a road under the Land Transport Act and there is also a bylaw in place. I don't want to ruin people's fun; there should be no need to do this if everyone is respectful.

To finish on a more positive note, the weather in the last couple of weeks has been outstanding. It has been great seeing people out and about enjoying the sunshine with a smile on their face. Smiles create a great feel within the community.

Take care and until next time,
Nga Mihi Matt

Matthew.stone@police.govt.nz



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SIGN LANGUAGE




sleep, asleep, nap
moe



holiday, vacation
hararei



eat, food
kai



birthday, happy birthday
huritau

Glen Bennett – MP for New Plymouth

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Helping with health costs by removing the \$5 co-payment for prescription medicines. This will help an estimated three million Kiwis.



Permanently cutting the costs of public transport for young Kiwis. We're providing free fares on buses, trains and ferries for kids aged 5 to 12 and half-price discounts for those aged 13 to 24.



Reducing the cost of early childhood education for parents by extending 20 hours free ECE to two-year-olds.

This will save families money and reduce barriers for working parents to take on more hours if they can.



Reducing power bills by making homes more energy efficient. We're helping to reduce power bills by hundreds of dollars a year through the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.

This practical cost of living package will help to make things a bit easier for households by reducing or removing some of the costs they currently face. Millions of Kiwis will pay less as a result.

Glen Bennett

MP for New Plymouth

06 757 5662

glen.bennettmp@parliament.govt.nz



Keeping Ōākura safe with solutions that work

Making sure that Ōākura is a safe place to live, work and raise a family is a top priority for me. To support this, we're focused on putting in place practical solutions that work to keep people safe.

New Zealand has seen an unacceptable spike in ram raids and other retail crime. While those numbers are trending down, we need to continue to support Police to prevent crime and keep communities safe. We recently announced that we're more than doubling investment into the successful Retail Crime Prevention Fund. This will ensure that retailers, like dairies, can continue to get support for practical security and safety measures such as CCTV systems and strengthened glass.

We're making sure that Police have the tools and resources they need to do their job properly, and we've delivered New Zealand's largest ever Police workforce. Here in New Plymouth policing district, we've seen Police numbers increase by 13% since 2017.

We recently announced changes that will improve victims' experiences and fix some real and immediate issues within the court system. These include giving sexual assault victims more control in court processes around name suppression and greater legal protections for victims of sexual and serious violence, especially for children. Since coming into Government in 2017, we've doubled the amount of investment for Victim Support and tripled the amount of investment into the Victim Assistance Scheme.

These are tangible things that will change victims' experiences for the better.

NOTICE OF AGM

The Ōmata Community and School Hall. Tuesday 18 July 4pm at the hall.
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Margaret Maria Hautorokawawikomokomo Sullivan

PART TWO

Last month we talked about your training to become a cultural monitor. Have you completed that training?

Yes. I was awarded a certificate of completion signed by the programme facilitator and by a representative of the Ōākura Pa Trust.

Now we're back together to talk about your memories of growing up in Ōākura. First I must correct an error in that last article: your mother was a Taiake Whanau from Waitara and your father was from County Cork in Ireland.

Where were you born and what was your first home?

I was born in New Plymouth and my first home is the one where I am today — in Ōākura.

You're now 74 years old. What was it like being a child growing up in Ōākura in the early days?

Everywhere was our playground, no safety rules. Everybody looked after everyone else. Everybody mixed, everybody was part of a big family. There were lots of big families in those days. There were only three or four Maori families but we didn't think of colour in those days. We didn't use the word Pakeha. We were brought up as children, regardless. A solo father of two pre-school children lived across the road. While still in their night wear the kids came to our house for breakfast every morning. Mum washed them and fed them, then sent them home before the father even knew.

The wash house had an old copper that needed boiling water to wash the clothes. Sunlight block soap is what we used. Sometimes we would go to the river; that was our other washing machine.

Ōākura was rather natural in early days. It was like out in the wops until it got popular with the New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club and the beach. The original Surf Club was over the road from today, on land that my father and uncle inherited. It was then gifted by them to the Club.

When there were horse races on the beach, my brothers used to piggy-back and pretend to be a horse in the races.

You went to Ōākura Primary School. What was the school like then?

I enjoyed my school days, walking to school in all weathers. There were only about four rooms, a large field for rugby, cricket and softball and a tennis court. We used to go skating on the tennis court and netball was popular.

On to Okato College (now Coastal Taranaki School). What was that like?

We took George Dukes' bus to and from Okato. The girls' winter uniform was like a heavy tunic with three pleats in the front and three in back. We used to keep the pleats in by putting them under the mattress so they were pressed by morning. The summer uniform was

a grey pinafore, white socks and a small white sun hat. We had to have the right shoes and socks. The boys wore high socks and I used to wear my brother's socks rolled down so the grey and maroon bands around the top didn't show.



You've had a variety of jobs once you finished school. What was your first job?

I went to help my grandmother on the farm in Onaero.

And later?

Later I was a machinist and hand embroiderer at Classic Fashions Limited in New Plymouth. We made all sorts of accessories to fashion like bows, buttons, and shoulder pads, and I embroidered little flowers to go on clothing. A lot of it was for export overseas. I did training and passed my machinist and handwork certification.

Then I worked at a condom factory [she says with a twinkle], Young's Rubber at Port View near Back Beach. We processed by-products from the freezer works into condoms. The company changed hands several times over the years and is now known as Natural Lamb New Zealand. I was there for 25 years.

I delivered mail for Pete's Post, riding on a scooter, and was a gardener and caregiver for local people. I worked for Parliamentary Services, starting out in an office in the shed at my home and then having to move to a bigger space in Waitara. I dealt with resource consents, succession orders when there was a death in the family, and allotments of lands to sort out.

You have an extraordinary garden. What makes it so special?

I throw it all in together, mix my flowers and vegetable. Some flower plants are good for vegetables because they keep insects away. My grandmother said the flowers make the vegetables come up sweeter. Brightly coloured ceramic creatures make a show in the garden, and also might hold a plant up that might be falling down. I recycle everything; if a pot gets cracked I lie it on its side and put a plant in it.

I notice the beautiful pounamu you're wearing around your neck.

It was given to me by my son and his wife as a Mother's Day gift and I wear it with heartfelt love. It was carved by Brett Phillips of Hokitika, a registered Nga Tahu carver. The three lines across it represent where you came from, where you are now, and where you are going (my past, present, and future). I've been spending time lately going through and organising old photos that have been kept in bins. There are ones from Dad's side (Coastal) and Mum's side (Waitara), school ones of my brothers and ones of my son when he was little. I'm writing a family tree really, without actually writing a family tree.

Elayne Kessler

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TOI COMMUNICATIONS

The Val Deakin Dance Theatre Belongs to Taranaki!



Photo by Fiona Clark, shows a rehearsal of the new work Twilight choreographed by Evgénia Plotkin Mihailov. Dancers: left to right: Jane Roseman (on floor): front row Inge Vink and Catherine Donlon, back row Shelley Prestney, Josie Pepperell and Davina Moffat. One of the dancers, Christine Coppell, is absent.

Last month we featured an article about how Val and Jane brought dance to Taranaki 50 years ago. They are now celebrating this accomplishment with a performance entitled Belonging.

The performance will be a celebration of its 50 years of presenting a huge variety of works by acclaimed international choreographer Val Deakin, 50 years of entertaining and enriching the community with dance, and 50 years of providing a performance outlet for dance students from dance schools throughout Taranaki. It is a celebration of 50 years of Belonging to Taranaki.

The programme for the performance will include parts of Steps in Time, which is one of choreographer Val Deakin's most memorable works. She created it to celebrate the centennial of New Zealand Women's Suffrage in recognition of women and the many roles they can take in life. Val was awarded a Suffrage Centennial Medal for her work for women and for this work in particular.

Other works on the programme will include a dance based on the myth of Narcissus, set to the exciting music of Astor Piazzola, and two comedy dance duets, Roadrunner and Tricks for Two.

A new work on the programme, entitled Twilight, was created for the Dance Theatre in late 2022 by Israeli dancer/choreographer Evgénia Plotkin Mihailov, who lived in New Plymouth until recently. This work explores the idea of identity and belonging — to a country, a place or even an idea — and this will be its premier performance. The dancers had input into the creation of the work so it speaks strongly to them and will surely resonate with the audience as well.

Another new work, Devon Street, will feature scenes and themes from New Plymouth's main street that you will undoubtedly relate too. The music was especially composed for this piece by New Plymouth resident and musician Larry Henry. He says he wrote one of the musical themes when inspired by the magnificence of the ocean and the sun above the ranges at Ōākura.

The Dance Theatre is fortunate to also have the musical talents of Dominique Blatti (Ōākura local) and Julian Raphael playing a selection of classical guitar duets.

The ten dancers that make up the Dance Theatre will be dancing in these celebration performances: Jane Roseman, Shelley Prestney, Inge Vink, Davina Moffat, Donna Kelly, Catherine Donlon, Christine Coppell, Laura Sommerville, Rosanne Taylor, Josie Pepperell. They all live in Taranaki and have mostly been with the company for upwards of 10 years. They range in age from 18 to 71. Though they may have 'day jobs' (such as teacher, physiotherapist, accountant, psychologist, petrochemical engineer), they have worked for many years to learn and perfect their dance craft. Only Josie, the youngest dancer, is studying dance at AUT full time. They rehearse several timers per week to improve their performance and hone their skills.

Performances will be held at the Dance Theatre's historic home, the Dance Centre, located at 306 St Aubyn Street.

Friday	7 July	7.30pm
Saturday	8 July	2.30 and 7.30pm
Sunday	9 July	2.30pm

TICKETS
\$25 adults, \$20 seniors/students,
\$15 children (under 15)
Purchase from Piano Works or by phoning 06 752 7743.

The Dance Theatre is extremely grateful to the TOI Foundation and the NPDC Creative Communities Scheme for sponsoring this anniversary programme. Thank you also to the many local sponsors who have helped the Val Deakin Dance Theatre over the years to reach this milestone, and who have conveyed a sense of belonging by their support.

Note: There will be an opportunity to informally meet and talk with the dancers following each performance.

by Elayne Kessler

APOLOGY

The Ōākura Post would like to apologise to Val Deakin for the misspelling of her name on the front cover of the June issue. This was only on the paper copy as we could rectify it for the digital version. Sorry Val.

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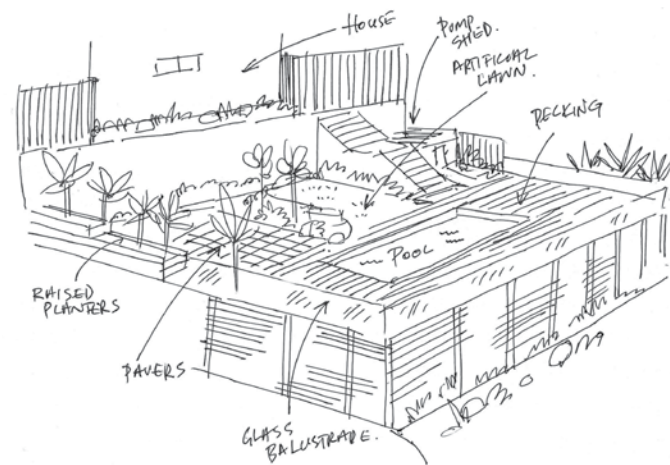
Growing up in New Plymouth, from a family of builders, Duncan gained a huge amount of knowledge. After successfully renovating and landscaping all his own homes he enjoyed a change of direction with a two year stint in an Auckland landscaping firm.

Life's too short not to follow your dreams so when he and his family moved back to New Plymouth in 2022, he decided to turn his passion into a profession.

Whether he's creating an ad campaign or a gorgeous entertainment area, he believes that great design means achieving a perfect visual balance, combining soft and hard materials, visual weighting and colour.

Sketching and concepting also helps with his decision making and cements the overall design direction.

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The Oakura News 10 years ago

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JULY 2003

Coastal Schools' Education Development Group

The Minister of Education, Trevor Mallard, has signalled a review of schooling, to include Pungarehu, Warea, Newell, Okato Primary, Okato College, Oakura and Omata schools. The reference group of representatives from the area has been selected to oversee the process and represent the community's perspective.

Each school has 2 representatives and a Principal rep from the Primary and Secondary sector. Other representatives include, iwi, early childhood education, NZEI, PPTA, local politicians, Federated Farmers, School's Trustee Association and the Ministry of Education in the form of a project manager.

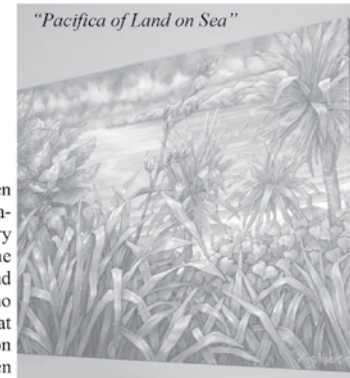
In general the objectives of the reference group are to be a forum for discussion of issues with the project manager. There will be plenty of opportunity for the local communities to have input.

The timeframe is to have an initial suggestion from the Project Manager by September 2003. Consultation will follow until December with a preliminary announcement from the Ministry of Education in January 2004. Further consultation will follow with the Minister's final announcement likely in June 2004. This will allow for any development needed to be carried out by the start of the 2005 school year.

The positive outcome from a review is that we continue to offer quality education for the children of our communities for the next 10 to 15 years as the demographics of our communities are changing.
Nick Barrett, Omata B.O.T Chairperson

Local artist exhibits in Florence

Local artist Caz Novak has been invited to exhibit at the International Biennale of Contemporary Art in Florence this year. The invitation came via email and was quite a surprise to Caz, who immediately emailed back that they must have the wrong person - but, no! Her work was chosen from her website, and she was then required to submit five photographs of further work for the final selection process. Having been selected, Caz was informed that she may exhibit up to three paintings on a 3x 2m wall space. Caz has completed her work "Pacifica - of Land and Sea", a large diptych celebrating the NZ coastline and its native plants. (continued on page 3)



the Oakura Messenger

This month

tom was there!
Puke Ariki
Pictures on page 13



Card from the Queen for Sam and Tess Dobbin
Page 22



Which way is up?
Page 5

Our very own Pukekura Park?
Page 11

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

OAKURA
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period: May 2003 - June 2

Upgrade Update
Page 23

Club News
Page 24

FROM THE ARCHIVES

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]
OCTOBER 16.—Dr. Wanstall gave an amusing entertainment in the Oakura schoolroom on Tuesday evening last, consisting of readings and recitations. He started with a piece from Shakespeare. This was followed by an amusing recitation about a cow waiting till the pail was full of milk before she kicked it over. Another amusing piece was "The Merchant of Venice," by Thomas Ingoldsby. This was well appreciated. Dr. Wanstall then called on some one to sing, to fill up the interval, but no one responded to the call, for Oakura does not boast of many singers. The second part was commenced by Dr. Wanstall reciting "The Execution," another of the Ingoldsby legends. He then gave "The One-Legged Goose," which was very amusing, and the audience were convulsed with laughter with the part where the doctor and the gentleman go to the farmyard with the cook after this strange animal. During another short interval, Dr. Wanstall said he thought that a violin solo and a song would have filled up the gap, when our local violinist said if he had known the doctor would have wanted it he would have brought his instrument and have given the audience a few tunes. The third part commenced with a piece called "For two heads are better than one." It went to show how a countryman lost his money by getting into the company of two thieves. It was a very amusing piece, and the doctor was cheered several times. He also told us of a fiddler who played for him sometimes, who could only give one tune. This, however, he thought should not reflect on the local gentleman, for he felt sure he could play more. The fourth and last part commenced with the "Vulgar boy." This was also very amusing, and the general remark amongst those present was that Dr. Wanstall must have an exceeding retentive memory. The doctor is very amusing himself, and his recitals are well delivered. A vote of thanks passed to Dr. Wanstall, and Captain Mace, the Chairman, brought the entertainment to a close. The doctor remarked that he was pleased that so much attention had been given to him, for it showed his recitals were appreciated. He also thanked them for their attendance.
I was glad to see the room so full, and I feel sure Dr. Wanstall will return home much better satisfied than he was at the last recital he gave in this locality, for I think the doctor "cleared" his doekins this trip, that they only got christened on the road during the last.

TARANAKI HERALD, VOLUME XXXVII,
ISSUE 82, 18 OCTOBER 1888



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Green School New Zealand wins education architecture award

Green School New Zealand was honoured to recently win a top architecture award for its Kina building at the Western NZIA Local Architecture Awards.

The awards, run by Te Kāhui Whaihangā New Zealand Institute of Architects, honours the best new architecture across a range of categories and regions. Both Green School and fellow Taranaki primary school, Puketapu, were among the award-winners, who will now be put forward for further recognition at the New Zealand Architecture Awards.

The Kina's sustainable and biophilic philosophy was praised by judges, with its organic, circular shape intended to create a safe and nurturing environment that enhanced cognitive function and emotional wellbeing. Head of School, Caroline Rennie, said "We have moved away from boxed style buildings and into spaces where our learners feel they belong, they have ownership not only of their learning, but of their space, place and identity."

Rennie explained that the school had relentlessly sourced materials ethically and sustainably to create a design that had a light footprint on the whenua while inspiring joy and a sense of magic in young Green School learners.

"To achieve this, we carved out time to have intentional conversations with our school community about the impacts of every decision – a real challenge – and we would like to acknowledge the mahi of learners and staff in supporting this process."

Along with Rennie, Green School founders Michael and Rachel Perrett acknowledged and thanked all those involved in the Kina's creation, including local teams, BOON and Livingstone Building, whose efforts were integral to its completion and award recognition.

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OAKURA. TARANAKI HERALD, VOLUME XXXVII, ISSUE 82, 18 OCTOBER 1888, PAGE 2

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Cultures in our Kura

Our school has a range of different cultures. Having overseas students and families is great for the school as they bring different cultural ideas and grow the understanding about other cultures. It helps students to understand and accept different religions and celebrations. In this month's article, we will look at just some of the cultures represented in our kura/school.

Fred was born in NZ but all of his relatives are in the UK. His family partake in some British traditions, such as they sing Christmas Carols every year and they have eggs and soldiers every Easter. They also have a roast meal every Sunday. Fred thinks that having multiple cultures in our school is great.

Lyla was born in New Zealand, but all of her relatives live in Germany. In Germany Lyla says they celebrate Christmas on the 24th and that the 25th is just like a normal day. She says another tradition they have is to make these sweet honey cakes called lebkuchen, which are similar to gingerbread. They also traditionally eat a goose for Christmas lunch, as to a typical roast.

Madison was born in England but she moved to South Africa before she was one year old. She lived in South Africa until she was eight years old. Both of her parents speak fluent Afrikaans. In her house they have traditional South African carvings. One of her family's favourite foods is the African food Biltong.

Mahine was born in Australia. Her mum is from Brazil and her dad is Māori. Her relatives live in NZ and Brazil. Mahine has been at Ōākura School since she was five years old. Her family does a range of traditions, such as after New Year's Day in Brazil it is a tradition to party for three



Cultural Display

days. They also eat traditional foods such as pao de queijo which is bread and cheese and brigadeiro (Brazilian fudge).

Ziv was born in Israel and moved to New Zealand when she was three and a half. All of her relatives are in Israel. We asked Ziv about some of her family's traditions and she said that unlike New Zealand culture, in Israel they have New Years in September. Instead of Christmas they do Hanukkah which is when they light a candle each day for eight days.

Israel was born in NZ. His mum is Māori and his dad is from Tonga. Israel says the population and landscape in Tonga is much different to New Zealand. All the fruits grow better in Tonga. A traditional drink from Tonga is called Otoi which is made up of mango, shredded coconut, apple and a few other fruits. The temperature in Tonga varies between 26 and 23 degrees Celsius.

This is just a small sample of some of the cultures at our kura/school. We think that having so many different cultures and traditions is great for our school. Ōākura School has many cultures that help the school grow in diversity. This helps all the students grow a greater understanding of different cultures.

**Lily Hawkes (age 12), Phoebe Bennett (age 12),
Evelyn Colegate (age 13) and Taya Kurta (age 13)**



Our National Anthem

**By Ethan Withers,
Piper Johnson and Bella Vincent**

Every week we stand and sing our national anthem, but do we know what it's about? We decided to go deeper to find out more.

Thomas Bracken was a poet, journalist and a politician. He first wrote the anthem in 1876. Then in 1878 Thomas H Smith did a translation into Te Reo Māori, but the meaning was slightly different to the English version. 101 years later it became the official national anthem in 1977.

One of the lines we became interested in the meaning of was: 'Guard Pacific's triple star from the shafts of strife and war'.

Ocean waves crashing down,
Mountains are our guardians now.

We unite against one,
Nature's song we belong.

Triple star shine so bright,
Seasons change all year round.

Aotearoa loves our sports,
Rugby fields, and netball courts.

Fish and chips on the beach,
What a lovely meal to eat.

Pohutukawa blows in the breeze,
Come to see New Zealand please.

By Harper Valentine (Year 6)

There were no explanation notes that were left from Bracken's poem. Many people believe that Pacific's triple star actually refers to the North, South and Stewart islands. The other lyric that caught our interest was 'from the shafts of strife and war'. Originally we thought this was associated with the world wars, however it was written prior to the world wars. This led us to think it was referring to the land wars which

White mountains stand before us,
Birds sit on the Pohutukawa tree.

Waves rise from below,
Crashing on the shore.

We are one,
We are New Zealand.

Kia kaha, be strong,
Be brave and fight on.

We belong on the land of the long white cloud,
Together we are one.

We are New Zealand,
This is Aotearoa.

By Connor Schadt (Year 5)

happened in New Zealand from 1845 to 1872, which ended four years before the anthem was written. Once again we can not be entirely sure that this is the case!

After doing our research we brainstormed all the things that make New Zealand so unique and special. We then put ourselves in Bracken's shoes to have a go at writing our own anthems.

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

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

Scrabble - Ōākura Library

Mondays 1:30pm - just turn up.

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](http://valvaldeakindance.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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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 Stylist, Manaka and Emerging Stylist, Chloe.

Manaka (aka Mani) is super creative and our texture queen. Manaka loves anything edgy, think mullets and rainbow colours. Mani also loves a natural lived-in blonde so is abit of an all rounder on the floor.

Chloe is an absolute natural in the salon and is in her final year of training. Chloe has excelled in all of her training units and loves doing everything - smoothing treatments are a fave.

Text 027 276 5185 to book your appointment.




Manaka, Senior Stylist (L) and Chloe, Emerging Stylist (R)

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