

the Ōākura Post

SEPTEMBER 2023

ŌMATA
SCHOOL
Science Fair
Success

Eric Spencer
WINS BIG

“I love dogs”

ŌĀKURA
SCHOOL
Puanga

Photo credit: Duncan Wilson

Kaitake Community Board

Elected members and council workers were shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of NPDC Executive Leadership Team Group Manager Community and Customer Services Teresa Turner.

Teresa was renowned for her caring and compassionate nature, her vibrant fashion sense, her passion for this region, and her love of a glass of wine, and was widely respected and popular with her peers and by Council staff members alike. The thoughts and sympathies of the Kaitake Community Board are with her whanau and her friends following her loss.

Moe mai rā, moe mai, moe mai rā e Teresa

On the local scene, a year or so ago the “SLOW DOWN KIDS AROUND” traffic safety sign on the New Plymouth entry into Ōākura ‘disappeared’, and despite various investigations the ‘removed’ sign could not be located, and person or persons responsible for its removal could not be identified.

After months of work, and a mountain of correspondence between Ōākura School management, NPDC Transportation staff, and Waka Kotahi, new signage was finally approved, funded, prepared, manufactured and erected. It was a long and sometimes frustrating journey, but it was great to achieve a successful outcome and to finally have this signage back in place.

Unbelievably, within the first days of the installation of the signs – signage whose sole purpose is for the safety and protection of vulnerable children on and around our village roads – the sign on the northern side of Ōākura was vandalised, knocked down and damaged, along with a number of other information and road safety signs along the coast.

It is difficult to comprehend the mentality of those who would stoop to this level of mindless behaviour, particularly given the amount of time and effort that went into getting these signs reinstated in the first place and the intent behind them.

One can only hope that anyone who comes across information that can identify the culprits will do the right thing and pass that information on to the appropriate authorities, and that a similar action will be taken for any other anti-social or criminal behaviour that is observed or discovered; be that ‘boy racer’ activity, graffiti, wilful damage, or any other activities that inevitably result in a downstream cost to the rest of society.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the Ōākura Bowling Club on Monday, 9 October, 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.

Free bin latches!



Available now from service centres in Inglewood, Waitara and Bell Block, and the Civic Centre on Liardet Street.

Bin latches also available from Ōākura Library

Keep your bin lid closed

You can pick up a free bin latch from any NPDC Service Centre to keep your mixed recycling or landfill bin securely closed. When the truck picks up your bin and tips it upside down the weight of what's inside will force the latch open.

Make sure you have at least 2.3kg of waste in your bin otherwise it won't be heavy enough to force the latch open. If you have less waste in your bin, don't secure the latch when you put your bin out.

You can watch a video on how to attached your bin latch at

www.npdc.govt.nz/zero-waste/recycling-and-rubbish-collection

Rubbish and Recycling App

Find out everything you need to know about the NPDC recycling and rubbish collection service.

Download it for free on Google Play or the App Store.



JOIN OUR CREW.



We're seeking new recruits.

Kia ora Koutou Katoa.
We're looking for new crew members!

Joining the brigade has many benefits beyond helping your community. The Ōākura brigade has a reputation for being a tight knit team who not only have each other's backs as a crew but also support and celebrate each other through life's ebbs and flows. If you are new to the village (as many of us were when we joined) the brigade is a great way for you and your family to get to know others.

It's not all moustaches and muscles either; we come from all walks of life and every member adds something different to the brigade so we look forward to meeting you.

You'll learn a lot of new skills, be professionally trained in aspects of emergency response and never be put in situations that are out of your training level. If you are 18 years or over and you'd like to find out more, we invite you to come down to the station on Dixon St, Mondays at 6.45 p.m.

The Ōākura brigade

Ōākura Bowling and Social Club Inc

Opening Day

The club warmly welcomes any experienced and/or new bowlers to join with the members for the Opening Day roll up (all equipment provided) on Sunday 9th September starting at 1pm. This day is a great opportunity for the wider Ōākura community to experience the club's friendly hospitality and roll a few down. For those interested in playing this great game it also provides an opportunity to have any questions answered around membership and the upcoming season.

A full bar will be available and a sausage sizzle will be provided after the bowls at around 3.30pm. For further information, please contact Steve Muller on 021 169 5863.

Playing Bowls

There is a common myth that to play bowls one must sacrifice every weekend of the season to the bowling gods. Yes, there are bowling tragics amongst us who tend to have withdrawal symptoms if an afternoon is cancelled due to inclement weather, however you can select and organise to play when and where your life schedule allows. A full programme of both club and centre tournaments are provided at the start of the season, and together with the captain and/or selectors you can choose a bowling programme that best suits your availability and lifestyle.

Special Membership Offer

Building the playing membership base is an important and challenging issue for any sporting club. The Ōākura Bowling Club is offering all first-year bowlers a package deal with the offer of \$50 fees for the initial year, club polo shirt, a set of pre-loved bowls and coaching sessions. For more info about this great offer call Steve Muller – 021 169 5863.

Club News

Well done to the Ōākura boys in winning the Wednesday interclub competition played at the Paritutu stadium over the winter break. The team of Jim Priest, Allan Bridgeman, Roy Phillips, Rex Wright and Ray Haslip lost only 1 game over the 9 weeks of competition and were well deserved winners. Steve Muller flew the flag for NZ in winning the blue-ribbon singles competition at the Sunshine Coast Winter Bowls Carnival. Playing with borrowed bowls Muller overcame a quality field to win the modified singles event at the Maroochydhore Bowling Club.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in keeping the surrounds and facilities in pristine condition over the winter break and those who helped greenkeeper Wayne Robinson with the winter green maintenance programme. A special thanks to NZ Community Trust in providing funding for the replacement and upgrade of the green irrigation system.

The Underarm Bowler



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Indoor Bowls

In August we had our club singles championship, with 14 people entered. The qualifying games were played over 12 ends with a time limit of 35 minutes, completing 10 games in section play with the top four players going through on wins - ends - points. It was even right through to the tenth round when there were still changes for about six players to get through to the semi-finals. In the end it was Marvin Clough vs Pat Walklin in one semifinal and Merv Hooker vs Greg Jans in the other. Pat and Marvin were neck and neck through the first half of the game, then Marvin dropped off a couple shots allowing Pat to end up a comfortable winner. Merv and Greg were even right to the last end when Merv managed to secure the win, thereby going into the final against Pat.

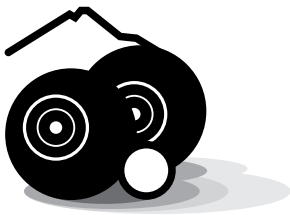
The final started off even, then Pat dropped four shots on the 4th end, giving Merv a healthy lead. Pat remained in touch until he dropped another 4 on the 8th end, with Merv leading 13-6. Pat then picked up a three and a two to pull it back to 13-11. Merv scored one on the 11th end to lead by 3 going into the last end. Pat grabbed one shot meaning Merv claimed the singles title. We only have our Novice Singles left, which is open to anyone with less than five years experience playing bowls.

On the first Monday of the month we had our annual visit to the New Plymouth Club which is always a fun social event. It is played on a progressive cards basis which is a great way to mix and mingle with other bowlers.

To round off, we wish all our championship winners the best of luck at the upcoming Centre Champ of Champion events.

The President

Every day is a
great day at
the bowls club.



OPENING DAY:
SUNDAY 9TH SEPT - 1PM

Special Offer for 1st year bowlers

- Oakura Bowling Club polo shirt
- \$50 first year membership
- Set of bowls for the 1st season
- Coaching sessions

Contact Steve Muller
(Secretary)

021 1695 863

OAKURA
Bowling Club & Social Club

Kaitake Golf Club

MENS NEWS

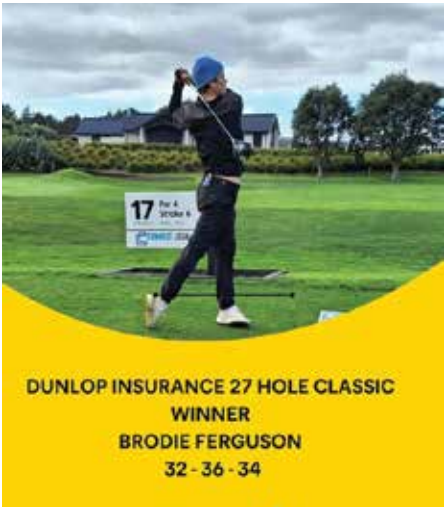
We have just finished our Club Championships and the following are our Club Champs for 2023:

Senior	Winner - Liam Harvey with Jack Van Prehn as runner up
Intermediate	Winner - Clay Jordan with Steve Thompson as runner up
Junior	Winner – Mike Hareb with Horry Hubbard as runner up
Limit	Winner – Martin Nield with Ralph Ellicock as runner up

Well done to all who entered.

We had a very successful fund raising event at our club with all donations going towards Liam Harvey who is heading off to Ohio USA on a scholarship from Tiffin University. Was a great turnout of 16 teams and managed to raise over \$5,000 towards his trip.

Brodie Ferguson took out the Dunlop Insurance 27 hole Classic at Te Ngutu finishing at 4 under par, one shot ahead of Andrew Searle. Debbie



McCallum won the Women's division on countback from Holly Winter.

- 1 Brodie Ferguson Kaitake 32 36 34
- 2 Andrew Searle New Plymouth 33 34 36
- 3 Jordan Anderson Fitzroy 35 34 35
- 4 Dillin Plimmer New Plymouth 37 37 32
- 5 Liam Harvey Kaitake 38 36 33
- 6 Joseph Doyle Kaitake 40 35 33

CHIPPERS

Chippers is for 5-12 year olds and is every second Sunday at 9.30am.

Phone the office (06 752 7665) to be added to the group chat for the next chippers meeting.

Māori Language Week Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori 11-17th September

Whānau from across Aotearoa, New Zealand, including organisations, schools, workplaces and homes, are encouraged to give te reo Māori a go. The campaign has a goal of achieving 1 million speakers of te reo Māori in 2040.

Some words and their meanings:

Kaupapa - principles and ideas which act as a base or foundation for action

Whānau - extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people - the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society. In the modern context the term is sometimes used to include friends who may not have any kinship ties to other members.

Kura - school

Karanga - to call, call out, shout, summon

Kapa haka - a group or groups standing in rows to perform traditional Māori dances, accompanied by sung or chanted words

Rēwena - bread made with potato yeast, yeast, leaven

Kaiako - teacher, instructor

Rūma - room

Tamariki - children

ŌĀKURA LIBRARY

Celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori by joining us the week of 11-17th September for a range of activities. We have a collection of some of your favourite picture books in Te Reo Māori: The Kuwi series, Hairy Maclary and Dr. Seuss.

Ōākura Crackerjacks

Thursday 7 September 10.00am-10.30am. Under 5s fun! Join us for lots of stories, rhymes, crafts or songs. Fun for the tamariki and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

School Holiday Programmes

Make some noise! Wednesday 27 September 2-3pm. For ages 7-13. Are you a musician, an aspiring musician or just love to make noise? Try out our electric bass and drums in this drop-in music session. No bookings required, but there could be a waiting period. Sessions will be limited to 10 minutes per person if there is a queue.

Grass Head Pals

Wednesday 4 October, 2-3pm For ages 5-10, 15 spaces, booking essential. Craft your very own companion with a unique twist – fashion

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

The ski fields are dominating, with more action at the mountain than on court for some. The keen tennis players are still getting out on court for a social hit in-between rain showers. Our AGM and planning for our open day and some behind the scenes action happening this month, along with Monika's coaching lessons.

A date to put in your diaries is our open day on Sunday September the 10th 2-4pm. There will be games, sausage sizzle, music and some great prizes. Insure Taranaki are sponsoring three \$120 meal vouchers - become a new member on the day and you are in the draw to win a meal out at either Serial Griller, Black Sand or Butlers Reef. Yum, come along and be in to win!

We welcome Frederics Bar & Restaurant as our fourth board sponsor joining Insure Taranaki, Healthspace and BP Oakura. We receive valuable ongoing annual sponsorship from these businesses, so please support our sponsors.

Tennis competition will start up next term with juniors on Friday after school. Youth/high school kids can also play in a Saturday morning competition or Saturday afternoon competition. Contact Yifat if you have kids interested or come along to the Open Day and have a chat.

Monika is always available for coaching sessions for adults and kids, visit blitz website to book (see TOP Activities page).

Jackie

your own grass head buddy, then take your newfound friend home and witness the magic as they sprout and flourish before your eyes.

New to our non-fiction shelves

Under the Weather: a Future Forecast for New Zealand by our own James Renwick. He knows a thing or two about climate research. He was a Lead Author in the last three Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and has been involved for a number of years with the World Climate Research Programme and the Royal Society of New Zealand's Climate Expert group. In 2018 he won the Prime Minister's Science Communication prize. It is science based, very readable, and sets out solutions for local action. For those who think a small country like NZ can't make a difference he writes: "Being small players has never stopped us on the sports field, so why should it stop us when it comes to climate change? Just as we do in the sporting arena, we have a chance here to play a key role in leading change."

A must read!

Come into the library and pick up your free bin clips for your rubbish bins. Keeps rubbish in bins on windy days!

Happy reading -

The Ōākura Library team

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& PARTICIPATING CLUBS NATIONWIDE

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STAPLES RODWAY



Eric wins big at music competition

"The New Plymouth (Performing Arts) Competitions Society celebrates, fosters and promotes the performing arts in New Plymouth. The Society aims to provide an annual festival as a forum for young people to perform in their chosen art(s). The competitions are a platform for competitors to share their talents, gain experience and inspire others in public performance." Every year, students of the Classical Guitar Studio of Dominique Blatti have been entering the classical guitar classes of the instrumental section in great numbers. This year was no different.

The Classical Guitar classes are sponsored by the Classical Guitar Studio of Dominique Blatti and Rockshop New Plymouth. Many options are offered: Accompanied performances for the Beginners, under 2 years of tuition; Solo classes for Under 12 years of age, Under 14 years of age, Under 16 years of age, and Open. Accompanied classes for the Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Open. Finally, an Ensemble class: ensemble playing is one of the best ways to improve musical skills such as keeping rhythm, playing without stopping, listening to others while concentrating on a part, learning to recognise and appreciate the different technical challenges each part has, and of course making new friends.

This year, Oākurian Eric Spencer, one of Dominique's many students, collected an impressive amount of awards, as follows:

U14 Solo - Second place, U14 Accompanied - Second Place, U16 Solo - First place, U16 Accompanied - Second Place, Highest aggregate marks, Adjudicator choice scholarship, Most promising strings player

With all those awards, Eric had to enrol the help of his sister, Mary.

Well done Eric!

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Hilary Adventure Race team

Congratulations to Owen Ellington, James Leadbetter and Jack McNeil (alternate) who've all made the Hilary Adventure Race team to represent NPBHS/NPGHS in the national competition October 2-6. It is a team of 8/ 4 boys and 4 girls. It is the toughest adventure race in New Zealand for yr 11-13 students. It is 5 days of gruelling multi sport activities.

The team is doing a fundraiser at The Good Home on Sept 12th @ 6 pm to help pay for the \$8,000 entry fee. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Tables of up to 6 - \$80 per table. To book your table contact Susie Hofmans 021 462 222 or email susie@hofmansbuilders.co.nz

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Glen Bennett – Candidate for New Plymouth

Another win for our environment and our economy

Our Government has just taken the next big steps in our plan to meet the climate challenge, as part of our work to protect New Zealand's environment and economy.

In August we announced that we're partnering with BlackRock, one of the world's largest investors in climate infrastructure and clean technology, to launch a \$2 billion fund with the goal of making New Zealand one of the first countries in the world to reach 100% renewable electricity.

This fund will help to accelerate clean energy projects like solar, wind, green hydrogen and battery storage, and attract more investment in New Zealand as a climate leader.

I'm really excited about what this means for Kiwi ingenuity in renewable energy. It shows that our ambitious climate targets have the world's attention – and that they're good for the environment, good for the economy, and will help create highly skilled jobs.

As a Government, we've taken more action on climate change in just the last six years than all other governments combined. We passed the Zero

Carbon Act, made electric cars more affordable and are experiencing one of the highest uptakes of EVs anywhere in the world, and we banned offshore oil and gas exploration to send a clear market signal that our future needs to be renewable, just to name a few examples.

In August, we also announced plans to fast-track solar and wind generation projects that would produce more power than the Clyde Dam – the country's third largest hydro dam – at a fraction of the time, cost and impact on the environment. All of these actions mean that New Zealand is now bending the curve on emissions with climate pollution falling through 2020, 2021 and 2022, with the December 2022 quarter delivering the lowest figure in at least nine years.

Now, we need to keep going. A low-emissions future is achievable for New Zealand, and with a Chris Hipkins Government we're well on our way.

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 187 Featherston St, Wellington.

MORNING TALK COFFEE GROUP

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Old southerly sea-dogs...

Is it just us or are we all a little worn out from these relentless winds of late?

Scouring South-Westerly winds and massive swells have been in full force battering our coast line. This does not make for the best surf conditions but toupee's off to the chargers who have had a crack at it out there. A few close-outs and ice-cream headaches have been dished out BUT there are always some diamonds in the trough if you're bobbing in the right spot out there! Awesome to see many of our local groms ripping it up in challenging conditions!

Let's not dwell on the depresterlie winds... summer will be here before we know it and we can start complaining about the heat and sun burn - the age-old kiwi banter at your local pub or coffee shop!

We know a few families who have snuck out to tropical climates and what a winter to do it! The Bali or Fiji escape this time of year never goes astray...in contrast heading South for some snowboarding powder action!

Surf Lessons! Deken Waves is gearing up for October Term 4 Squads and Friday Froth-out so make contact asap to dunk your grommets into the mix. It's a great time of the year to build kid's surf skills and water confidence heading closer to summer. Private lessons also available. Email Simon - dekenwaves@gmail.com

Also, The OBC Wahine Waves programme will be running surf sessions in the warmer months ahead for learners and intermediates. If you missed out last time, get in quick once this is announced through the club emails and social media. You need to be an OBC member to join the fun.

OBC WEBSITE has launched! Have a nosey at oakuraboardriders.co.nz - keep up to date with news and events in the pipeline and check out our membership details to sign yourself or the family up for some good times and a few perks along the way!

The NZ School Champs were held in Raglan early August. Some outstanding results for alot

of our local groms pushing through the rounds and some into finals. Big congrats to Skylar Mcfetridge representing NPGHS and taking away 4th place in the under 18 girls final and Nate Florence taking his first National title win in the under 18 boys representing NPBHS.

The Taranaki Scholastic Surf team of twelve is currently training and fundraising for their comp in Gisborne this September. Seven of our club groms make up this team so please hit them up with any donations or sponsorship. Good luck team!

Finally, OBC men's and women's winter sweatshirts are available for order shortly. Keep an eye on your club emails and our Instagram @oakuraboardriders for the ordering details.

Yours in Board Riding - Surf, Skate, Snow - OBC



**New sweatshirts
COMING SOON**

Cathy's Care Centre

Also known as Te Pō ki Te Ao Marama - The darkness to the illumination of light.

It is a beautiful and cherished addition to the Residential Support base at Taranaki Retreat, and is the taonga/gift that we have (for years!) longed to having available for many supported by the Taranaki Retreat. The Retreat provides a programme of care and support for individuals and whānau going through difficult times; often when it feels like the world has fallen apart. Our support includes all kinds of activities, groups and workshops. A key element is touching base regularly with a peer support worker.

Those support times require spaces that are peaceful, trauma-informed and safe. Many of us find it very hard to open up about what might be happening for us, and confidential support rooms for coaching and therapeutic work are a crucial part of that.

We are living through difficult times, and our work is under higher demand than ever. We needed more private spaces to work both with individuals and small groups. Cathy's Care Centre provides us with precisely that, along with a much needed additional accessible bathroom and a fantastic reception base, which also serves as a support room.

It's is the **community's** gift to the community **by** the community, a provision of aroha for any who need it. The concept of 'gift' and provision is therefore woven into its DNA, and you tangibly feel that as soon as you walk in. You **know** both that it has been provided through compassion, understanding and aroha, and equally that it stands for the awesome kaupapa of bringing light and hope from loss and grief - hence Te Pō ki Te Ao Marama - The darkness to the illumination of light, which represents the work that is already being undertaken in this beautiful new building, and always will be. Aroha mai, aroha atu - love given, love received.

By Jamie Allen

Tracy Malone: "I Love Dogs"

"We have always had dogs when I was growing up in my hometown, Kaitia. My father was a real animal lover and I've also always felt a connection with animals, and with dogs in particular. It's their companionship, their loyalty and that they are so unconditionally loving."

From Kaitia, Tracy slowly made her way down from the Far North, moving to Auckland and then to Ōākura, in 1999. In 2003 Tracy adopted her first dog from the SPCA, Henry, a Staffy Cross. She had Henry for 16 years until he passed away in 2019. "He was so much fun that I thought about giving back to the SPCA." Volunteer work has come naturally to Tracy. Her mother and grandmother did volunteer work for many years for the Kaitia Salvation Army and Hospice. Husband, Mark, is the Fire Chief at the Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade.

I began volunteering with the New Plymouth SPCA Centre in 2005 and have maintained a consistent relationship since then in a variety of volunteer roles."

Most Friday afternoons, you can find Tracy at the shelter preparing and feeding the dogs their meals and getting the breakfast ready for the next day. She might be putting out fresh water, playing ball with a dog or cleaning up the yards - on 'Poop Patrol', it's called.

Over the years Tracy's been involved in numerous SPCA fundraising activities. She helps with the annual SPCA pool party that's held at the New Plymouth Aquatic Centre at the end of the season for the outdoor pool. The dogs are the last ones to use the pool before it gets cleaned for the following year. "There isn't the argy-bargy you might expect. The dogs just love it!"

Shortly after Henry died, Tracy organised a quiz night at Butler's Reef in his memory. The Ōākura community was generous with donations for raffles and spot prizes, and over \$1400 was raised for our local SPCA.

Following Henry, Tracy and Mark adopted Bella, an older dog - a 'frosty face'. When Bella died they fostered Scotty, another Staffy Cross.



That turned out to be a 'Foster Fail' as they ended up keeping Scotty and adopting him.

They've fostered several puppies, offering their time and love and an opportunity for the dog to be in a home environment and learn socialisation skills. In exchange the SPCA covers all the costs for the dog while being fostered. "Fostering is rewarding for both you and for the dog. If you're thinking of adopting, it's a good way to try it and see if it's right for you. Puppies are great fun, and also full on."

Their dog, Scotty, is now little more than a year old and still being trained. Tracy and Mark walk him around Ōākura and enjoy talking to other dog owners. They will say that they know the dogs better than the people. A favourite walking route is Tapuae Beach. It's known as a dog beach and the dogs there seem to get on well, but it would also be nice to have a fenced dog park in our area.

Tracy wants to acknowledge her employer, Rachel Hooper at McDonald Real Estate, who allows her the flexibility to attend to any urgent dog needs that might arise. The SPCA is always in need of old towels and blankets, and these can be dropped off to Tracy at the local McDonald Real Estate office (across from the Four Square).

If you would like more information about the SPCA and its services, look on the website www.spcan.zl/centre/new-plymouth-centre or their facebook page SPCA Taranaki .

Elayne Kessler

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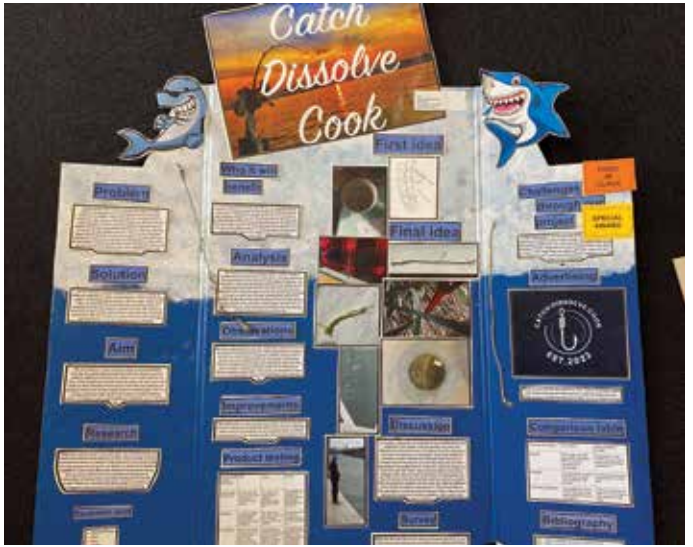
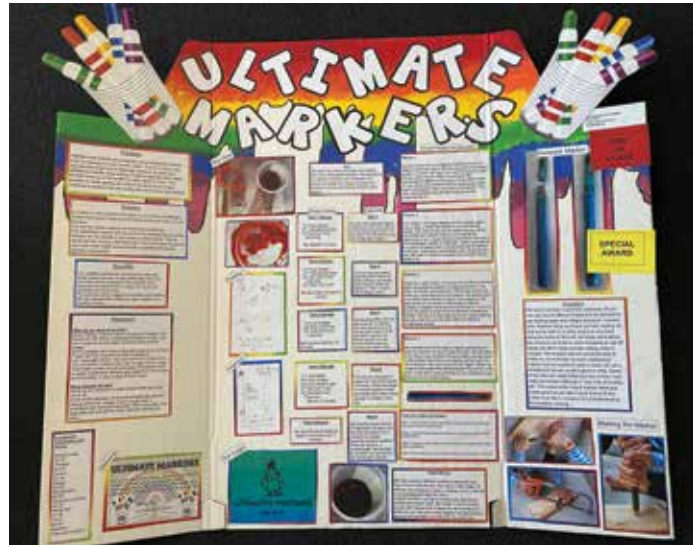


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ŌĀKURA SCHOOL

Puanga

Silently, the glistening star of Puanga shines in the night sky like a spotlight, lighting up the sky.

Silently, winter settles in.

Silently, the icy morning breeze blows over the tamariki, whānau, and kaiako.

Silently, the lanterns glow in the inky darkness.

Silently, I make a wish under the Puanga star.

Silently, I stare at Puanga in the infinite sky.

By Ti Tawhiti Rūma

Last term at Ōākura School, we celebrated Puanga by holding a dawn service, which tamariki, staff, and whānau could come to. It began at 6:30 in the morning. The tamariki made lanterns to hold during the ceremony, in which they could put a little light. There was waiata and karakia. The school even supplied delicious kai for breakfast. Some classes wrote poems to celebrate the event and some of these are included in this article.

Matariki has also been celebrated throughout New Zealand recently, which some people mistake for Puanga since they are both star related, but in fact, they are two different things. Firstly, Puanga is not in the Matariki star cluster and arrives earlier than Matariki. Puanga is a single whetu (star). In some places in Aotearoa, you can't see Matariki but you can see Puanga as it rises higher than Matariki. They can both be seen just before dawn.

Puanga represents celebrating the preparation of the māra (garden), and growing and harvesting. Matariki is connected to health and well-being and is often viewed as a sign of good fortune or health to come in the following year.

The Puanga ceremony at our kura was a great event that many tamariki and whānau came to. The service started with everybody gathering in the library car park, before a group of senior students did a karanga to call people onto the field, where we gathered in a circle. Tane Manu from Ngāti Tairi told us about the importance of Puanga in relation to the environment, birds and trees. Some of our students shared some of their writing that they had written with us, our kapa haka group sang our new waiata and we all sang our school song. We then moved back to the senior court and Pohutukawa Centre where we had breakfast. A group of younger students recited a karakia before we ate. Lots of people enjoyed the breakfast and having the opportunity to catch up with friends and family.

Overall, Puanga is a great time to celebrate, and everyone had a great time at the dawn service with delicious fried bread, beautiful waiata, and being able to see Puanga. Puanga is a time to reflect on the past, remember loved ones and look forward to the year ahead. For people that might not know much about what Puanga is, it's great to learn about this amazing tradition and to be able to have the opportunity to celebrate.

At our kura, different ways the tamariki have celebrated and learned about Puanga and Matariki were by reading stories, accessing a number of resources and always doing a buddy (older students working with younger students) activity across the school; for example, making kites, doing artwork or making lanterns for the Puanga celebration.

Bright yellow stars twinkling in the black inky night sky as if they are smiling towards me.

The warm bright yellow glow of lanterns lighting the way as they were stars in the cold night sky.

As I see Te Ra rising up, I'm excited to start a new day and I feel a happy yellow spark in me.

The wheat is getting ready to make the warm delicious rēwena bread.

The yellow vegetables are ready for harvesting, corn, potato, and kumara.

As we sit next to the fire, the cold air blows the yellow sparks up to the sky and the flickering fire seems to come alive as I dream about the past.

Yellow lighting us up from the inside making us happy to be with our families and remembering loved ones that have passed.

By Rewarewa Rūma.

Puanga is a time to celebrate the Māori New Year.

Under the stars, we shine our lanterns brightly. A special time of the year.

New Zealand's unique culture.

Gathering together with our whanau and friends.

Matariki is a group of seven stars to light our journey.

By Miro Rūma

Written by Paige (12) and Lily (12)



Science Fair Success

Each year Ruru students enter the Witt Taranaki Science Fair. This year for our efforts, perseverance and originality of ideas we received 43 awards. Some of the prize winners shared what their technological development projects were.

Olive and Peyton won first prize for their 'Ultimate Markers' project. "We found out that there are 36000 tonnes of plastic waste created by whiteboard markers each year. We designed a non-toxic, eco-friendly whiteboard marker. We used bamboo for the casing, wool and an edible ink that took some time to perfect."

Kupa scored second place with 'Wairakau', a composting spray designed to break down food waste faster to reduce the impact of carbon emissions when food waste is shipped from Taranaki to Hamilton to be disposed of. 'Wairakau' broke down the compost up to 30% faster.

Hayes and Ryder took out third place and several special awards for creating a dissolvable fishing line. Their research showed that a fishing line takes over 600 years to dissolve, so their aim was to create a product that would dissolve much faster. They used flax fibres to create traces that were strong enough for fishing and were to dissolve within a month, a much more environmentally friendly way to fish.

Paige's ideas called 'Small Birds Revenge', aimed to solve the problem of larger birds taking all the food from smaller native species. Paige constructed a bird feeder from wire, steel and wood that can be installed in anyone's

garden to encourage increased bird life. Daisy and Talia focused on assisting the elderly with their idea called 'MitLits'. The team knitted specially designed mittens that can be worn whilst reading to prevent joints in the hand from becoming sore due to chilly weather.

PRIZE WINNERS INCLUDED:

Observational Drawing

1st - Ryder Perrett
Merit - Mica Clement

Scientific Photography

Merit - Kupa Butler

Advertising Poster

Year 7
3rd - Phoenix Ardell
Merit - Olive Glasgow, Paige Henderson
Year 8
3rd - Ryder Perrett
Merit - Kupa Butler, Ruby Gargan

Scientific Journalism

Year 7
1st - Paige Henderson
2nd - Annie Hickson
3rd - Liam Prestidge
Merit - Talia Antill, Phoenix Ardell, Mckenna Bray, Olive Glasgow, Addi Miller
Year 8
1st - Lily Williams
3rd - Ruby Gargan
Merit - Ellie Jackson, Hayes Lee, Ryder Perrett, Lilla Thomas

Robotics

2nd - Lincoln Hudson Bool / Alex Chesterfield

Water Rockets

3rd - Riley McIntyre / Liam Prestidge

Scientific Investigation

Merit - Addi Miller / Amber Haldane, Emilio Romero-Young / Eldon Cortes

Technological Development

Year 7
2nd - Talia Antill / Daisy Denton-Giles
3rd - Paige Henderson
Year 8
1st - Peyton Valentine / Olive Glasgow
2nd - Kupa Butler
3rd - Hayes Lee / Ryder Perrett
Merit - Lily Williams / Hadlee Munro

Special Prizes - (Year 7-13)

Monte Fisher / Riley McIntyre - Yarrows Bakery Employees Charitable Trust Award

Charlie Gibson / Lucas Skittrup - New Plymouth District Council prize awarded for projects which demonstrate a circular economy approach

Olive Glasgow / Peyton Valentine - Taranaki Regional Council prize for the best project demonstrating some aspect of environmental science

Olive Glasgow / Peyton Valentine - IOT Taranaki Outstanding Tech Award

Lincoln Hudson-Bool / Cam Baxter - New Plymouth District Council prize awarded for projects which demonstrate a circular economy approach

Hayes Lee / Ryder Perrett - Venture Taranaki prize for the most promising commercial idea (1st)

Hayes Lee / Ryder Perrett - Port Taranaki best prize for maritime science

Allura Valliant / Annika Valk - Independent petroleum laboratories prize for entries with outstanding experimental techniques

Lily Williams / Hadlee Munro - Arxada prize for best entry showing scientific endeavour

Leon Zawodny / Tyler Tate - Curious Minds prize for the most engaging communication of science

Leon Zawodny / Tyler Tate - ACA prize for the best study or innovation in material durability (including corrosion or mitigation)

COMING EVENTS:

September

- 1 Ōmata 8+ year old Cross Country
- 4 Y7/8 AIMS Games this week
- 6 Y4-6 Coastal Cross Country
- 7 Y7/8 Full Primary Schools' Cross Country
- 20 Music Festival 5:30pm at TSB Stadium
- 22 End of Term 3

October

- 9 Term 4 begins

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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 021 169 5863

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

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 Ōākura Hall. Visit their Facebook page: Mini Groovers - Ōākura.

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: 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

Contact Colin Tyler 027 5421853 - Meet at Hempton Hall first Wed of the month.

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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