

# *the* Ōākura Post

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

*Bowls*  
**TENNIS**  
*Golf*

French  
Café Band  
*La Mer*

**SCHOOL**  
**Leavers**  
**PROFILES**

Horticulturist  
**Glyn Church**  
page 5

**Beach Patrol**  
**BEGINS**  
**NOV 25**

**SPORTS HUB**  
**FINISH LINE**  
**IN SIGHT**





# Kaitake Community Board

He mihi ana ki a koutou katoa,

Every one of you will be able to recall when, at some time in your life, you encountered someone that you recognised as having some form of 'disability'. What you may be surprised to learn is that more than 30% of the New Plymouth District population experience the effects from some form of physical limitation. A person with a 'disability' is defined as someone with an impairment that affects them physically, mentally, intellectually, or sensorially. However when people with impairments face barriers in society, it is often society that disables them – not their impairments.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity recently to complete a Disability Awareness Training Workshop with the Taranaki Disabilities Information Centre Trust. This Workshop was a hands-on training course offering insight into life with a disability, how to interact and communicate with people with a disability, and providing insight into the difficulties and challenges that people with disabilities face in their day-to-day lives. The workshop's purpose was to encourage understanding, empathy and insight, and was designed to siphon the barriers that we ourselves create around disability, and to look at how workplaces and environments can better support accessibility and inclusion for those with impairments. One of the key takeaways from this training for me personally was the awareness to view Council services through an accessibility lens.

The New Plymouth District Council has a strategic vision to Provide Equitable Services for All of Our Communities, and the Council's definition of Accessibility to those services is "If something is to be accessible it is easy to reach, enter, get, understand, or be appreciated by anyone in the community. This includes people with physical or cognitive challenges, temporary injuries, seniors, young children and their carers, people with non-English speaking backgrounds, and from a range of cultures".

That definition really broadens the range of the district's population that either currently, or could, experience some form of physical limitation.

As you get older, you may need to plan for frailty or disability and how this will change your lifestyle. While disability is not always a part of ageing, changes to your body and your abilities may mean you require extra support and adaptations to make it easier for you to continue living independently. At the other end of the age scale, the very young, or those looking after those very young, could experience very different accessibility limitations.

The Kaitake Community Board has identified a variety of Council services across our rohe that fail to meet Council's own strategic vision of 'Equitable Services for All of Our Communities'. For example, the Ōkato Swimming Pool is long overdue for an accessibility upgrade, the steps down to Ōākura beach are in no way Age or Disability friendly and the

sand ramp down by the Surf Club is often impassable. The playground areas are difficult to access for elderly, or for caregivers with pushchairs who are supervising children in the playground. Community Parks have limited or no sun shading, sections of footpaths are either missing or difficult to negotiate – This is to name but a few. We will continue to advocate with Council directly, and through the Age & Accessibility Working Party, to have these and any other deficiencies addressed.

As 2023 comes to a close it is timely once again to acknowledge all those largely unsung heroes in our community who put an inordinate amount of time and effort to make this part of the district the wonderful place it is.

To the Staff, Boards of Trustees, and various support volunteers who dedicate themselves to providing services for the education and development of the pupils of the Ōmata, Ōākura and Coastal Taranaki schools – I'm certain the community appreciates all that you do, in often trying and resource stretched conditions.

To the Coaches, Administrators and Committee Members of the many sporting and recreational organisations across our part of the district who continue to support the health and physical well being of our community, carrying out their mahi on a purely voluntary basis, and to our local volunteer fire brigades who provide for our safety and well being and that of our families, and our property also out of a love for their community rather than for monetary gain. The 'staff' of these volunteer organisations are absolutely worthy of recognition and of our appreciation and acknowledgement - particularly given these ongoing difficult and trying times.

And lastly, but by no means least, to the myriad of local businesses, library staff, beach camp staff, Hall custodians, and the members of our community who contribute to maintaining the services, attributes and lifestyle that make this place great.

A huge "THANK YOU!" to each and every one of you.

Finally, on behalf of myself, Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohia, Paul Lobb, and Cr. Aneka Carlson Matthews (your Kaitake Community Board), I wish you, your friends and your whanau a safe, merry and relaxing festive season, and we hope you can spend lots of quality family time enjoying our great local environment over the coming months.

The first meeting of the Kaitake Community Board for 2024 will be held at the Ōākura Bowling Club at 5pm on 26 February 2024.

Tangohia tiaki tātou katoa, kia tūtaki ā tērā Tau Hau – Take care everyone, see you all in the New Year

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

## HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

May help in the treatment of varied health conditions

**AVAILABLE IN OAKURA - Contact Lisa Tamati**

- Health optimisation specialist
- Epigenetics certified coach
- Longevity & anti-aging consultant
- Author & pod-caster

NOW OFFERING RED LIGHT THERAPY  
FOR SKIN REJUVENATION,  
ENERGY AND WEIGHT LOSS.

MOBILE: 021 844 743  
EMAIL: support@lisatamati.com  
WEBSITE: lisatamati.com



## Oakura Makers Market

**Saturday, 2 December 2023**

**10am to 1pm**

**Oakura Hall, South Road**

**30+ Local Crafters with Homemade Gifts & Treats**

**Bake Sale • Sausage Sizzle • Coffee Cart • Movie Night Raffle**

**For more info email: oakuramakersmarket@gmail.com**





## The Val Deakin Dance School Annual Dance Recital

Will be having their annual Dance School Recital at the Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street in New Plymouth on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10 at 1 pm each day.

Dancers from the Ōākura and New Plymouth studios will be performing. They range in age from 5 to senior adults, and will be performing a range of dance types including ballet, character, contemporary, tap and ballroom. Lots of bright costumes and a good range of music will be on offer too. Tickets at the door or in advance by phoning Jane on 752 7743.

# Top year for The Ōākura Post

2023 has been a fantastic year for The Ōākura Post. We've had the pleasure of meeting and writing about many locals who so willingly shared their stories. We've connected with local businesses, old and new, and were able to share their services. Regular clubs and groups provided updates on what they're up to, and student articles from Ōākura and Ōmata schools have educated and informed us in a whole variety of ways. We collate it all to deliver it to you, the reader with the hope that you will like each and every issue.

Thank you to the sponsors who have quietly given donations to assist with running costs. Thank you for all the messages of support that we've received. We love putting this publication together and it is nice to hear that is valuable to you. We think this is a community that has a lot going on and a lot to be celebrated.

On behalf of the TOP team at The Ōākura Post, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year — and a very enjoyable summer.

*Tracey, Jacinda, Emily and Elayne*

## Beach Patrol Begins on 25 November

Voluntary weekend patrols begin this summer on Saturday 25th November and remain until Taranaki Anniversary Day, Monday 11th March. Our NPOB lifeguards will be on the beach from 1-5pm.

This summer, regional patrols (Monday to Friday) will begin at Ōākura Monday 11th December going through until Friday 26th January. Flags will be up from 11am to 7pm.

Thank you to everyone that turned up for the working bee. We got a heap of jobs done, everything tidied up and ready for the summer. Junior Surf has kicked off with again big numbers. It is great seeing all the kids running and swimming at the beach and having a good time. The weather and conditions have played ball, hopefully both lasting.

And a big thanks to all our volunteers, the club can't run without you.

Any membership inquiries or inquiries in general please email [npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz) and for updates join the NPOB Surf Club Facebook page.

If you are heading to the beach, remember swimming between the flags is the safest area to swim.



# DUCK ISLAND ICE CREAM

now available at

## SERIAL GRILLER

KILLER BURGERS

GROUND & SMASHED

## TEAM BAAS

021 444 073

**No. 1** TOP SALES OVERALL RESIDENTIAL AND LIFESTYLE SALES PEOPLE BAYLEYS TARANAKI 2022/2023/2023

**BAYLEYS**

SUCCESSOR REALTY TARANAKI LTD. BAYLEYS LICENSED MEMBER THE REAL ESTATE

### SPRING PROMOTION

LIST your property with Team Baas before 22nd December 2023 to go in the draw to

**WIN a luxury weekend for two in Taupō to the value of \$2,000\***

**HAVE LUNCH ON US!**

Have an APPRAISAL on your property presented by Team Baas between now and the 22nd of December 2023 you will receive a lunch voucher\*

\*SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLY. LUXURY WEEKEND TO BE DRAWN ON FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2023.

# surfshine

windows and solar cleaning



surfshinewindows@gmail.com

0210 260 6632

## Kaitake Golf Club

Hi Everyone,

We had the Mens Shootout which had a full field, unfortunately once again the weather was not kind to us. Winner on the day was Geoff Andrews and runner up was Stumpy. Well done to all who played and braved the terrible weather.

On 15th October the Ladies Champion of Champions and the Rosebowl (for the Club team) were played at New Plymouth Golf Course. The course was difficult as it had been set up to host the Charles Tour a few days later. Westown won the Rosebowl and Holly Winter from Westown won the Silver Championship. None of our girls fared very well.

### FOOS

(Friends of Ōākura School) are holding their fund raising event on Sunday 26th November 2023. They are still looking for teams to enter so if you are keen please contact Nik at nikpoulton@hotmail.co.uk or Eddie eddiegear@gmail.com.

### EX MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING

We are organising an Ex Members coffee morning which seems to be a very successful day and enjoyed by the ex members. We have run this for the past four years and will continue to do so. We have put together a history of the club which is very interesting and will add photos and information for future references.

### SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

Do you know anyone that is keen to play summer golf, to come and give it a go? Still time to get this special offer. 1st November 2023 – 29th February 2024 We are offering a special Summer Membership of \$300 for this period. Summer will soon be upon us and we are running our summer membership again so take the opportunity and join Kaitake Golf Club. Should you then want to become a full

time member, \$100 will be deducted from 2024 membership. Phone the office for more information on all categories of membership or contact the Club Captains.

### SPONSORSHIP

We are still looking for more sponsors, especially for our tee signs. If you are interested please contact Denise in the office, Ph: 06 7527665.

### CHIPPERS:

Next Chippers Day will be coming up soon Chippers will be informed in due course via group text. New players are always very welcome. Chippers ages range from 5 – 12 years.

### TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

All golfers aged 50 and over may join the Taranaki Vets Golf. Call Denise at the office 06 7527 665



## May Mita

4 May 1934 - 28 October 2023

If were to introduce you to May Mita I would describe her as an inspirational woman with a kind heart. I have had the pleasure of talking with May over the last nine years and prior to that I knew her by face and name. She and her late husband Evan were the proprietors of Butlers Reef Hotel. Those walls hold a lot of stories and people have fond recollections of those years when the Mitas were serving patrons.

I would say May was a private person because I asked to share her stories in these pages many times and each time she would politely decline. I respect her for that.

May inspired me by her willingness and ability to live independently after the passing of Evan. She worked tirelessly in her large garden and always had it looking immaculate. Not that long ago she was repainting her fence and deck. She was among a group of older adults that are great examples of 'age is just a number' and to refer to them as old or elderly could be considered condescending. For this I feel fortunate to have insight into this period of her life.

May told me all about tangi (funeral) and it sounds like the perfect way to honour someone's life. I was so enamoured by it I said I would go to her tangi when she died only to be told I wouldn't be going because she wasn't having one. May had a private funeral and a community invite was extended to attend a memorial for her at Butlers Reef back bar. It was a time for people to connect with her three sons and their families, people she truly adored and admired.

thetom.co.nz Dec 2015/Jan 2016 has a wonderful history of Butlers

Tracey Lusk



## Coastal Antennas

- UHF & Satellite installations
- HD & Digital Distribution
- Cable Runs • TV Set-ups
- Domestic & Commercial

**027 746 1313**



**JARED BARRON**

☎ 027 208 6113

✉ sales@dooreysdoors.com

🌐 www.dooreysdoors.com

ROLLER DOORS / SECTIONAL DOORS / TIMBER DOORS



**Delectable  
handcrafted  
chocolate**

MADE IN ŌĀKURA  
with local honey and  
ethically sourced cacao  
from Solomon Islands

malvachocolate.co.nz

## Glyn Church: A Flower Blooming Every Day

"One of my ambitions is to have some flower in bloom and providing colour every single day of the calendar year," says renowned horticulturist Glyn Church who lives in Ōākura. We will have a feature article in the Ōakura POST at the beginning of each season with Glyn's suggestions for the rest of us who may also like to follow that notion of a flower each day. He will be telling us which plants will flower for that season.

Glyn studied at Pershore College of Horticulture and the famous Chelsea Physic Garden in London. He and his wife, Gail, came to New Zealand in 1976. On a walk through Pukekura Park back then they spotted a little cottage that appeared empty. They sneaked a peak in the window and talked about how lovely it would be to live in that little house. Glyn was offered a position to be in charge of all the parks in New Plymouth (except Pukekura Park) and came to find out that living in that little cottage came along with the job. The cottage has since become home to Sustainability Taranaki.

Glyn and Gail now live in Ōākura up a long, winding driveway that meanders its way through numerous trees. When they bought the place in 1986 it was a Rhododendron nursery called Woodleigh Nursery. "Rhodos were becoming less popular so we started selling rare plants."

Later this morphed into a hydrangea nursery, but it took the intervention of an American TV celebrity to set that in motion. Glyn was looking for summer colour and Graham Smith, the then Curator of Pukeiti, suggested hydrangeas. "Only problem was they were right out of fashion, that is

until Martha Stewart hailed them as 'the plant of the millenium', and suddenly they were the height of fashion worldwide."

In 2011 Glyn and Gail sold the nursery, and the current Woodleigh owners remain the main specialist hydrangea nursery in the country with an extensive range at reasonable prices.

Glyn has written seven books on hydrangeas and trees. They are hard to find these days except in libraries and used book stores.

This brings us to his advice on colour in the garden for the SUMMER SEASON, which happens to be about his very own passion for hydrangeas. "Taranaki has the best blue hydrangeas in the world because of our soil. We've had experts here from France, Belgium, England, USA, Korea, Japan — all are blown away by the colour of our hydrangeas. Hydrangeas don't like to dry out and our summer climate is what they like."

"Plant hydrangeas ideally where they get part shade, part sun and good drainage. Mulch to keep the soil cool and moist. They are easy to prune but don't mind if left alone."

"Our soils are very acid with 'free' aluminium available. It is the high aluminium that makes the flowers more blue or purple. Adding lime or phosphates will lock up the aluminium and help turn them red or pink."

"If you want really good red hydrangeas, grow them in a tub or pot. That way you can control the fertilisers. Planting near a concrete path will also encourage them to go red because of the lime in the concrete."

"White hydrangeas prefer to be in the shade or they burn. The whites stay white until autumn, then change to either green or red."

The POST invites questions for Glyn from our readers. Submit them to editor@theoakurapost.co.nz and we will try to have them answered in our next issue.

**Elayne Kessler**

## HEYDON PRIEST LTD

Locally owned. Serving Taranaki for over 50 years

### JUMBO BINS

- Fast and efficient
- Reliable service
- Casual & permanent rates available



**752 7753** 

book online: [www.heydonpriest.co.nz](http://www.heydonpriest.co.nz)



**HEYDON PRIEST**

**bp OAKURA**

**Go Local Go Local Go Local**

Open 7 days - 6.00am to 8.30pm  
Call: 752 7753





# Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



## Club Championships

The hotly contested Championship Fours are down to the final three teams. The reigning champs of Jim Priest, Aad Schrader, Rod Smith and Syd Sharpe have secured finals berth and will play Pat Walklin, Kevin Fleming, Wayne Gray and Paddy Mullin in one semi-final. The winner will play the team of Tony McAlevey, Allan Bridgeman, Don Hinton and Norm Lofthouse to decide the champions.

## Club Tournaments

Ōākura has continued to punch above its weight in interclub tournaments with some great results in Taranaki's premier bowls competition, the Bill Smee Div 1 Trophy. It was a fantastic effort from the Ōākura boys,

just failing to make the finals. In 2nd Div the boys also performed well and, as always, held their own against some of Taranaki's powerhouse teams. It is great to see the club fielding two competitive teams in the interclub competitions, confirming the growing strength of the Ōākura club.

The midweek tournaments are well under way with Ōākura currently holding 3rd place in the Gilmour Cup, midfield in the Avery Shield and 1st in the Saturday Shield competition. Well done to all players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working greenkeepers and those who assist in smooth running on match days.

A slow start to the Saturday Div 1 Pennants has the Ōākura Orcas placed in the lower half of the field after 3 rounds. The Orcas face strong opposition each week from Taranaki's best bowlers and, with favourable results over the upcoming weeks, are well placed to make a push for the Top 4.

## Club News

Congratulations to Kurt Smith and Craig Murray in making the Taranaki Representative teams for the upcoming games against Whanganui played at Stratford. Both Smith and Murray are playing great bowls and well deserving of

higher honours. The club wishes the duo all the best and great bowling.

The club has been the recipient of a very generous Aotearoa Gaming Trust grant towards the purchase of 10 sets of coloured community bowls. A big thumbs up to all the funding organisations who 'walk the talk' in their support of local communities and organisations.

The Taranaki Open fours is scheduled for play late January with the club securing a round of sectional play. It is another feather in Ōākura's cap and recognition must go to greenkeeper Wayne Robinson and his helpers in preparing a world class green. All members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club while watching some of New Zealand's finest bowlers in action. Playing dates are from the 15th to 19th January.

The club has entered three teams. The teams are: (1) Jim Priest, Pat Walklin, Steve Muller and Wayne Robinson; (2) Bruce Jackson, Craig Murray, Wayne Gray and Kevin Fleming; and (3) Tony McAlevey, Bob Anderson, Rex Wright and Peter Radich. Good bowling to all.

*The underarm bowler*

## Community Police Officer – Constable Matt Stone



Kia Ora Koutou,

You may not have seen me around the village as frequently in the last few weeks, I apologise. I have completed a short secondment in New Plymouth but am now back full time on the coast.

As we fast approach the festive season it brings a whole lot of variables to the community. With an influx of people into the area it means the roads are busier leading to more congestion in

areas on the coast. I ask that we remain patient and don't take unnecessary risks.

Unfortunately, this time of year leads to more theft type crimes. Vacant houses or cars with valuables on the roads are a target for thieves. Please be security conscious, locking house, vehicles, removing valuables from sight. If you have security cameras, make sure they are charged and working.

For businesses, be aware of who is inside your store and monitor their behaviour. If people appear suspicious, it may be worth approaching them, in twos if possible, to deter them from any inappropriate behaviour.

When swimming at the beach or river this summer, I ask that you all take care of each other. Monitor young children, don't go in the water if you have had too much to drink.

I have also noticed, particularly in the last few weeks in New Plymouth, that people are drinking and then driving, believing they are fine to drive but then exceeding the legal limit. If you are not sure whether to drive or not, then I suggest you don't.

Lastly, enjoy your time with family and friends over the summer and festive season and I'll be in touch again in the new year.

**Ngā Mihi, Matt**



kitchens by  
**glenjohns**

**06 759 0940**

[www.glenjohns.co.nz](http://www.glenjohns.co.nz)

SHOWROOM: CORNER ELIOT &  
LEMON STREETS, NEW PLYMOUTH





From left to right, Angus Thorpe in front, Janick Wipper behind, Luke Barrett, Noah Stanley, Colin Faragasso, Ziv Carmi, and Ana Shlosberg.

# Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

The season is underway with a couple of rounds played so far.

Juniors we have 2 teams entered. Ōākura Rangatahi in youth grade have had a draw and a win so far and Ōākura Big Shots in green grade are sitting top of table with two wins so far.

Midweek ladies are just getting into it with a team in section 1 and 3.

Sumpter Trophy A3 started off with a good win against Stratford but Waiwaka were dominant in Round 2. Our Softe and A4s level 1 players are playing between both teams depending on availability and opposition each week. Softe have started strong with a 13-3 win against Stratford. Chris Davies, Len Adamson and Rachel Volcani won 3 out of 3. They then beat Waiwaka 10-6. The first injury of the season went to Douglas Rennell who will be gutted to blow a knee in his first game of the season! Hard luck Doug and speedy recovery.

The A4 team had a tough job against Huatoki who have not fielded a Softe team this season

but opted for top level A4 instead. Miller Ferguson recorded the 1 win. They had a close match against Waiwaka for Round 2, coming away with a 3 all draw. Thanks to the people who helped out to fill teams the first week! It was good to see some locals help out, Brian Husband, Nick Loveridge-Ester and Chris Ferguson.

Well done to all the kids who played in the Taranaki Primary Schools Tennis Championships. Congratulations to Luke Barrett who won the Intermediate Championship and will compete in the Central Intermediate Tournament in Palmerston North.

Congratulations also to Janick Wipper who won the Consolation prize for the Intermediate division and to Colin Faragasso who won the Junior Consolation prize.

Saturday tennis competition finishes on the 9th December so the courts will be available at the weekends for the rest of December and January for those enjoying some casual hitting.

The ASB Classic in Auckland in early January is a good Christmas present for the tennis enthusiasts! Wozniacki, Coco Guaff, Felix Auger Aliassime are just some of the big names in the draw.

**Happy hitting - Jackie**

## ŌĀKURA LIBRARY

### EVENTS

**Mr Wolf and the Enormous Turnip with storyteller Aviv Liron.**

Wednesday 20 December 2-3pm

Aviv will bring this story to life with his magnificent storytelling and wonderful props. Don't miss out! No booking required.

### Bookmark Competition

Theme: Design a bookmark from your favourite story. Entries must be submitted by 5pm 31 January 2024.

### 3D Design and Print Your Own Keyring

Friday 12 January, 1-2.30pm

A beginner class in design skills using Tinkercad. For ages 10+, 4 spaces, bookings essential

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### Scrabble Club

Every Monday 1:30pm  
(excluding public holidays)

Do you love word games? Come and join a game at scrabble club. Play with friends, family, or a friend you haven't met yet! No booking required, just turn up and give it a go.

#### Ōākura Crackerjacks

First Thursday of the month,  
10.00am-10.30am

Last session 7 December. Crackerjacks will resume 1 February. Under-5s fun! Join us for a range of stories, rhymes, crafts or songs. Fun for the tamariki and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

#### Justice of the Peace

Every Thursday, 10am – 12.30pm.

Last session 21 December. JP services resume 11 January. Do you need to have your signature witnessed, make a declaration, swear an affidavit or affirmation, or have originals or copies certified? A Justice of the Peace will be on hand to help.

#### Holiday Hours:

CLOSED  
23 -26 December 2023

RE-OPEN  
27 -29 December 2023

CLOSED  
30 December 2023-2 January 2024

RE-OPEN  
3 January

**Happy Holidays from the team -  
Ōākura Library**

  
**My Muscles**  
massage therapy

Therapeutic,  
Relaxation, Pregnancy  
& Sports Massage

Text Alexia today  
021 414 76904

4-97 Plymouth Rd, Koru  
[www.mymuscles.kiwi](http://www.mymuscles.kiwi)

## MORNING TALK COFFE GROUP

Come along to the NPOB  
Surf Club. Every Thursday  
from 10am - 11am.

Any enquiries  
call Tracey 752 7875

Last session for 2023 will be  
16 December. Starting again  
Thursday 8 February



# Kaitake Community Sports Hub – we are nearly there!

The Kaitake Community Sports Hub rebuild project down at Corbett park has the finish line in sight.

The new accessibility ramp was recently completed thanks to Rodney Martin and his team at Earthworks Taranaki and looks great. The rock, gravel and grasses fit perfectly with the beach environment and the ramp a massive improvement on the unusable and now closed ramp that ran onto the beach.

The upstairs is well underway with Bruce the Builder leading a team of local subbies to rebuild the kitchen, toilet, bar, and lounge areas. The new field lights in storage and ready to go up when the ground hardens sufficiently, leaving just the fit out and patio areas to complete before the community can get in there and enjoy an amazing facility.

**STAGE 1. COMPLETED.** Renovate downstairs. Extensive foundation, earthquake and fire compliance work along with 6 changing rooms and 2 new shower blocks including safe, separate change and showers for women.

**STAGE 2. COMPLETED.** Construct weatherproof skin. New roof, cladding, windows, doors, exterior paint. The building is now weatherproof with a new outdoor veranda on the north end overlooking the river mouth.

**STAGE 3. 70% COMPLETED.** Renovate upstairs. New floor and ceilings completed. New toilets, kitchen and bar area, and wall linings underway.

**STAGE 4. 80% COMPLETED.** New field lights. We have purchased new, modern LED lights, drivers and poles and stored these for summer installation.

**STAGE 5. 60% COMPLETED.** Fit out and ground works. Storm water and access ramp are completed, tables, chairs and kitchen appliances

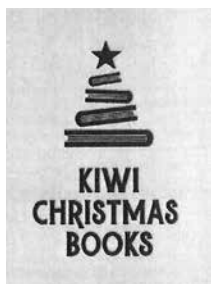


have been purchased, leaving carpet and vinyl flooring, new patio, and security system still to do.

Thanks to a variety of grants, massive community support and the generosity of local trades and businesses, we have raised over \$1m to get this far. All contributions will be recognised on the Foundation Membership boards to go up in the new clubrooms and your name will forever be celebrated for supporting this key community project.

There is still (limited!) time to join the Foundation Membership wave. We still need more funding to complete the final fit out details so if you can, please join all our other community members that have supported this project. Head to [www.kcsh.co.nz](http://www.kcsh.co.nz) click on the Fundraising tab and then follow your nose! We'd love to have you on board!

## Book donations please



Kiwi Christmas Books is a nationwide organisation that collects brand new books to gift to New Zealand children in need at Christmas. Book donations collected in Taranaki are gifted to Women's Refuge in New Plymouth. Unfortunately, one of their busiest times is Christmas, and your donations make a huge difference!

Picture books, chapter books, fiction, non-fiction - we'd love them all. Please make sure they are

brand new, not books that have been sitting on a book shelf, even if they haven't ever been read, as they often have pages that are turning brown.

If you don't have time to go to a bookshop to purchase a book you could contact local New Plymouth author Helen Griffiths on <https://rumpusbooks.co.nz> and purchase a copy of her book *Treasure Beyond Measure* or her latest publication *Ross the Cat*. She will collate the books for me to collect from her on December 11th. Make sure you tell her the book is for Kiwi Christmas books when you order!

This year, donations can be brought to me down in the Penguin New Entrants classroom at Ōākura School either before or after school, or dropped at the Ōākura library. Last year we donated over 50 brand new books as a community, and over 300 New Plymouth wide - let's see if we can beat that total this year. Feel free to call in and see me if you have any questions.

DONATIONS CLOSE DECEMBER 11TH.

**Julie Salisbury - New Entrant Teacher Ōākura School**



WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER  
IF JUST ONE PLACE DID IT ALL  
**STOP LOOKING  
YOU'VE FOUND US**

**TOPPRINT**  
[www.nakiprint.co.nz](http://www.nakiprint.co.nz)

• GRAPHIC DESIGN • PRINTING SERVICES • BRANDED APPAREL  
• PROMOTIONAL • BANNERS & FLAGS • & MORE  
(06) 754 4980 [sales@nakiprint.co.nz](mailto:sales@nakiprint.co.nz)



**SURFSIDE  
ELECTRICAL**

Your Local & Registered Master Electrician  
Residential • Commercial • Professional advice • All your electrical needs

**CONTACT**  
027 873 7433 / 02 SURFSIDE  
[surfsidetaranaki@outlook.com](mailto:surfsidetaranaki@outlook.com)  
@surfsideelectrical

**MASTER  
ELECTRICIANS**  
Electrical Contractors Association of NZ





# OAKURA MEAT CO.

- & FINE FOODS -

Bringing back the "Old School Butcher"  
so you can buy only what you need.

ORDER YOUR HAM, SIDES OF SALMON,  
DUCK & TURKEY READY FOR XMAS  
BEFORE THE 10TH OF DECEMBER

OPEN TUESDAY – SUNDAY 9am - 6pm  
1139 South Rd (behind the bottle store)

Ph: 06 752 1157 Email: [info@oakurameatco.nz](mailto:info@oakurameatco.nz)

- Quality fresh cuts of Beef/Lamb/  
Free Range Pork/Chicken
- Quality NZ Cheese  
& Cheese Tastings
- Hand Made Sausages made  
on site
- Award winning NZ made  
condiments
- Mokau Butchery bacon and salami  
sliced to your requirements
- Scooped Gelato (including a  
special dog Gelato - created by us)
- Gift Vouchers
- Personalised service and  
recommendations
- Gift Baskets etc and Premium  
Platters available on request

Please follow us on Facebook and  
Instagram to keep up to date on new  
products and specials



## DEAN BROWN

Plumbing  
Drainlaying

Commercial & Residential

**(06) 753 9797**  
**M: 021 457 046**

[DEANBROWNPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DEANBROWNPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM)



**PICKERING MOTORS LTD**  
*WE GET AROUND*

**Friendly services for all  
your transportation needs.**

- Bus Charters
- Minivan Hire
- Trailer & Horsefloat Hire
- Scaffold Hire
- Coastal Bus Services

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:30am-5pm. Sat-Sun: Closed  
PHONE: 06 761 8363 or 0800 22 11 20  
AFTER HOURS: Tracey 0274 900 556 or 06 761 7053

11 Tennyson Street, Opunake  
[pickering.motorsltd@gmail.com](mailto:pickering.motorsltd@gmail.com)

# Oakura Pharmacy

Caring for the coastal community

## High quality health products, advice, and support to all.

It has now been a year since we took over the pharmacy and what a year it has been! We welcomed our second baby boy to join our other three babies: our first son, our Japanese spitz dog and the pharmacy. We are truly blessed to work with such great people. Alexia, our technician, and Karyn, our retail assistant, are very skilled in their respective roles and great fun to work with each day.

We are proud to have supported several local organisations and we hope to be in the position to do more in the future.

I am growing (attempting) a moustache for Movember to show my support for Mens health in our community.

### Viagra consultations.

If you're a male aged between 35 to 70 you can come in for a free, discrete, and confidential consultation. After taking your blood pressure and asking you a few simple questions you may qualify to buy Viagra.

- Antibiotics for urinary tract infections
- Emergency contraceptive pill (free for people under the age of 25)
- Blood pressure checks
- Melatonin for people over the age of 55

### New 'Natio' range in-store.

Check out our wide range of high quality makeup and skin care at a reasonable price.



With Christmas around the corner, we have a new range of gifts for all ages.

Thank you for all your support over the year. We look forward to many great years to come.

*Simon & Deema*

1132 Main South Road, Oakura 4314  
Phone 06 752 7557

R & CO  
SKIN AND BEAUTY



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for all the support throughout 2023, we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

*Best wishes from  
Renee, Emma, Roka & Amy xxx*

1136c South Road, Oakura, Phone 06 752 1374

EXPAAAA -  
AAAA -  
AAAAA -  
AAAAAN -  
DING THE  
POSSIBLE

Exhibitions  
Cinema  
Events  
Gallery Store  
Monica's Eatery

Open seven days : 10am — 5pm  
42 Queen Street  
New Plymouth  
Aotearoa New Zealand

[govettbrewster.com](http://govettbrewster.com)

GOVETT -  
BREWSTER  
ART  
GALLERY



# BTW



CREATING A BETTER FUTURE

CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS

WWW.BTW.NZ / 0800 289 787

SURVEYING.ENGINEERING.PLANNING.ENVIRONMENT

## ŌĀKURA FIRE BRIGADE

### Let's not embarrass ourselves by letting off gas

Walking around the village over the past sunny weeks it's noticeable that the pleasant smell of nature's blossoms is quickly being replaced by the delicious aroma of BBQs sparking up. There's nothing like scraping off the fat from March 2023 and chasing the spiders out of the burners to summon the warmer weather, but there is one last trick to perform before you are truly ready to cook into the long balmy evenings - the gas leak check.

This is very easy to do yourself, simply turn on your gas (and keep the burners on to burn off the gas flowing through), squirt or even brush on a mixture of dishwashing liquid and water to each of the fittings along

the gas hose - if it bubbles you have a leak. The leak is usually fixed by tightening the connection - no bubbles no troubles!

Let's not embarrass ourselves this summer by letting off gas in front of your guests, tighten up your leaky hoses.

#### Foodbank Drive Monday December 4th

The Fire Brigade will be out on the streets from 6pm Monday December 4th to collect items for the Foodbank. Leave items at the gate if possible or listen out for the sirens to bring out to the crew.

NEWTON  
*Gordge*  
JOINERY

KITCHENS • DOMESTIC JOINERY • COMMERCIAL JOINERY



67B BREAKWATER ROAD, NEW PLYMOUTH • PH: 06 751 5065 • EMAIL: designs@newtongordge.co.nz

## Workshop

### Social Media Basics

A hands on, one-on-one, 'how to' workshop.

This Workshop is registered with the Management Capability Development Fund.\*

\*For information and T&C's, email:  
nicole.colless@bakertillysr.nz

 **bakertilly**  
STAPLES RODWAY





**Kupa Butler**

- A. Spotswood College
- B. One of my lasting memories of being at Ōmata School was when we were on camp at Vertical Horizons and Mr Bennett challenged me

to see who was the best archer. He said that if I win then I didn't have to do home learning for the week. With motivation like that, of course I won.

C. To get better at basketball and get into more Taranaki teams in the future.



**Alex Chesterfield**

- A. I'm not sure yet, as we are moving to Nelson at the end of the year.
- B. I like that I get free time once I have done my learning. Ōmata has the best devices because

we have Macbook Airs. We have such a cool classroom with a kitchen that we can use for learning and lunch.

C. I am really interested in coding so I want to be a hftp otherwise known as a hacker for the police. It's like coding but you can change things on one computer that will change it on every computer.



**Eldon Cortes**

- A. Spotswood College
- B. I remember when handball was my favourite game, I was the handball king. I also remember when I played volleyball for the

first time and I couldn't stop playing after. I will always remember my friends and all the good times we have had.

C. I want to have a YouTube career. I also want to get really good at volleyball and join a team in high school.



**Ben Coutanche**

- A. NPBHS
- B. The friendships that I have made along the way and the teachers. There are lots of good people who know how to make everybody feel good

about themselves.



**Monte Fisher**

- A. Spotswood College
- B. I remember the first disco, I won a prize for the best break dancing. I remember my first time playing volleyball. My team won

and was the best in the grade. I want to keep playing volleyball at high school. I remember getting to support younger kids on the bus and being the bus monitor. That was a big, important job.

C. Hoping to get a well earning job and hoping for a great future!



**Ruby Gargan**

- A. NPGHS or Spotswood College - undecided.
- B. My main highlights are the learning opportunities that we had outside of the classroom like the rippa

rugby tournament, Vertical Horizons camp, NYLD, PCT challenge, Taranaki Athletics Champs, Coastal Athletics and many more fun activities. Our class was about getting on with each other and not mattering who you chose to hang out with. We were encouraged to take every opportunity and always try our best. We would mainly spend lunchtimes playing taniwha down at the courts or playing ditch or touch.

C. Having a stable career that I enjoy. Continue to play sports and keep fit as well as making some good friendships.



**Charlie Gibson**

- A. NPBHS
- B. I remember going to the Vertical Horizons camp in Korimako and having a great time! I loved all the extra sports tournaments like rippa

rugby, volleyball and inter-school as well as all of the amazing extra opportunities that we have in Ruru. I'm going to miss the amazing class culture of Ruru and everybody being friends with everyone.

C. I see myself being a very good motocross and mountain bike or dirt jump rider in the future. I would love to become an oil rig engineer and own a Dodge Demon.



**Zaiden Graves**

- A. Spotswood College.
- B. Going to Wellington camp, getting to play handball with all of my friends and when Eldon taught me how to play volleyball.

C. Possibly joining the NZSAS.



**Lincoln Hudson-Bool**

- A. NPBHS
- B. Going to Wellington camp was a big highlight for me, hanging out with my awesome teachers and friends, and having all of the sporting

opportunities like the Taranaki Athletics Champs in Inglewood and Inter-school rugby, which we came second in. The PCT challenge was also fun.

C. I would like to be a rugby player for the Taranaki Bulls or the All Blacks. If not, then I want to be a sparky or qualified builder.



**Ellie Jackson**

- A. NPGHS
- B. I am going to miss my great friends, especially the year seven ones that I'm leaving behind. I will remember my e-Pro8 team (both years) in which

we did fairly well. I will definitely remember the amazing stellated dodecahedron that my friends and I made. There have been so many opportunities in Ruru. I have been part of many great teams with talented people. Science fair with Lily and Peyton was a highlight of year seven. Thank you to Mr Bennett for putting up with my arguing with his advice on my writing.

C. I want to move to Wellington and study to be an architect, and write in my spare time.



**Hayes Lee**

- A. Francis Douglas Memorial College
- B. I will always remember the amazing teachers that I have had and the amazing relationships that I've made with them. I also

remember winning a lot of money from the Science Fair with Ryder. I also really enjoyed



inter-school and the PCT challenge. I've really enjoyed how many different opportunities I've been able to have while at Ōmata. I also remember when Mrs Glasgow was ready to fight off the dog that was at the school when we were playing jail.

C. I'd like to go to Otago University and become an engineer of some sort.



**Reed Perrett**

A. NPBHS

B. Accidentally scaring the little kids as a lunchtime ambassador.

Having good jokes with Mr Williams. I will remember making huts

and setting traps for anyone who broke in. I will remember when Hayes and I hid up in a tree because we thought we were going to get told off.

C. I want to be a professional gardener in the future.



**Ryder Perrett**

A. NPBHS

B. Wellington camp was a fun and great highlight for me, hanging out with my favourite teachers and friends. I loved all the fun opportunities

like the Taranaki Intermediate Athletics, PCT Challenge and the inter-school sports. I enjoyed all of the funny teachers, especially Mr Williams and Mrs Glasgow. Ōmata school was just a great place for me.

C. I would really like to be a sports coach. I would like to be like Paul Tito and become a professional coach and inspire people to play their very best. We need to get more girls and ladies to play rugby and other sports too.



**Mika Richardson**

A. Spotswood College

B. My highlights are having lots and lots of amazing learning opportunities inside and outside of school like the

Taranaki Intermediate Athletics champs, the PCT Challenge, Palmerston North Young Leaders Conference and many more learning opportunities and fun events. One of my favourite things about being in Ruru is how well we got on with each other and it didn't matter who you hung out with. We had lots of big class games at lunch time and during class like jail, wah, cops and robbers, ditch and many others. One of the key things in our class culture was having a go at everything and just putting yourself out there. Our teachers Mr Williams and Mrs Glasgow are very encouraging and enthusiastic when it comes to giving things a go and even though we are a busy class they always seem to have time to fit in more activities for us students to make school that little bit more fun.

C. Having a good career, focusing on myself and sports and giving everything a go.



**Emilio Romero-Young**

A. Spotswood College

B. The big day out in 2022 going to the pools and movies and eating an excessive amount of salty popcorn.

C. I'd like to own a Supercharged Honda Civic and become a billionaire.



**Lucas Skittrup**

A. Francis Douglas Memorial College

B. I really enjoyed going to Vertical Horizons in Year 5, especially the flying kiwi. Having awesome teachers every year that I've been

at Ōmata School.

C. I look forward to playing rugby for Kaitake in the future and owning my own dairy farm.



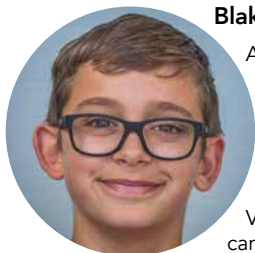
**Lilla Thomas**

A. Spotswood college

B. In year five camp at Vertical Horizons I kept talking in the cabin when we were meant to be going to sleep until my cabin mates

told me to be quiet. I will never forget being in Ruru. It has been such an incredible class with awesome teachers and we have so many amazing opportunities and I have grown so much as a person. I will always remember my inspiring teachers and the tuakana teina.

C. I want to get better at my dancing and swimming and become an engineer.



**Blake Thomson**

A. NPBHS

B. Making the e-Pro8 grand final in 2023 and being a part of the winning team. Vertical Horizons camp was awesome too. Being part of a

PCT team in Year 7 and always playing the parachute game in Room 4 with Mrs Norris. I've always loved being able to do all the awesome sporting opportunities including the inter-school rugby final where we nearly took out the Taranaki trophy.

C. To keep improving my basketball and try and get into the Taranaki Airs.



**Peyton Valentine**

A. Sacred Heart Girls' College

B. When I came to Ōmata School when I was 5 I instantly knew that I would love it. Going to Vertical Horizons camp in year 5 was so fun and I will always remember being in Ruru. It

has been such an awesome class and having all the amazing opportunities has made me more confident throughout being here. I will never forget how much fun I have had here and I am going to miss my classmates a lot.

C. My dream is to become a Silver Fern but I would love to be able to help people who struggle with learning as a job.



**Jana Whitehead**

A. Spotswood College

B. I will remember how Mrs Norris would always ask for our burnt chips on Fridays.

The Wellington camp, Vertical Horizons camp

and all of the other amazing opportunities that we've had in Ruru. Our Te Ara Taiao roopu, all of the jail games, jump jam sessions, productions as well as all of the teachers. Other highlights include Mrs Madden playing the guitar at assembly and we would all sing along and being a member of the kapa haka roopu.

C. My dream job would be in the Department of Conservation and work with Te Ara Taiao, or a marine biologist.



**Lily Williams**

A. NPGHS

B. I will remember all the different types of opportunities that we had. I will remember the Te Ara Taiao group that

I was a part of and all the

different activities that we did. I loved our class culture and how we would get put into different groups for learning in class to get to know the other members of the class and being pushed beyond our comfort zone. I will remember the amazing time that we had at Vertical Horizons camp and how everyone got in trouble for ding dong ditching at night. I will also remember the Taranaki rippa rugby tournament and how I was in an all girls team and we had such a great time.

C. I hope to make the netball A team at Girls High and after high school to hopefully play goal defence for the Silver Ferns. For a job I would like to be a vet or have something to do with coaching or teaching sport.



**Leon Zawodny**

A. Francis Douglas Memorial College

B. I will remember getting to go to the PCT challenge and getting to go to camp. They both took a lot of effort but they were lots of fun.

C. To have enough money to be lazy.



# Ōākura School 2023 Yr 8

## School Leavers Profiles

By Ana (age 11), Jane, Lyla and Rhema (age 12 years)

AIMS Games is an interschools sporting competition for year 7 & 8 students.  
NPBHS - New Plymouth Boys High School. NPGHS - New Plymouth Girls High School.



**Scarlett Andrews**

Scarlett is going to NPGHS and is looking forward to trying new things. Her highlight from Years 7 and 8 has been the AIMS Games 2022. At AIMS Games she played netball. She enjoyed meeting new people and strengthening her bond with her teammates. Scarlett's leadership role has been a leader for Patuhā House.



**Isabella Boon**

Bella is going to be attending Nga Tawa Diocesan School. She is looking forward to being able to have her pony at school. Her highlight from Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games. She liked it because it was really fun. Bella was a house leader for Koru House and her advice to future students is to take all opportunities offered.



**Monet Christiansen**

Next year Monet will be heading off to NPGHS. Her highlight of years 7 and 8 is all of the opportunities that she has been given and she says that years 7 and 8 has many ups and downs but to never give up. She is a Matekai House leader and she is excited for all the freedom and experiences she thinks high school will provide.



**Sam Archer**

Sam is going to NPBHS and he is excited to do more sport next year. His highlight from Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games 2022. At AIMS Games he played football. Sam is planning on being a pilot when he is older. His advice is to always be honest and do your best.



**Miro Brebner**

Miro is going to NPBHS next year. His highlight of these past few years was the 2023 interschool competition in which he played rugby. His advice to younger students is to try your best. Next year in high school he is looking forward to different sports opportunities. Miro helped out around the school by being a sports leader.



**Evelyn Colgate**

Evie will be going to Nga Tawa Diocesan School next year. Her top moment in Years 7 and 8 was interschool netball. She enjoyed it because she had lots of fun. She is a house leader for Koru and her advice is to try all the opportunities that come your way. At high school she is looking forward to all the new chances and opportunities.



**Phoebe Bennett**

Phoebe is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College and she is excited for all the different subject choices and opportunities. Phoebe's favourite part of Years 7 and 8 has been AIMS Games 2022. At the games she really enjoyed working with her teammates. As a Year 8, Phoebe's leadership role was a student mentor.



**Olivia Cavey**

Olivia is going to NPGHS next year. Her highlight of Years 7 and 8 was kapa haka rōpū because she enjoyed learning about Māori culture. Olivia was an art leader and she recommends younger students becoming one too. In the future Olivia wants to become a teacher and her advice for younger children is to work hard and make good friends.



**Ethan Court**

Ethan will be going to Spotswood College next year and is looking forward to the new subjects on offer. His highlight of year 7 and 8 was making all of his new friends and getting to know them. He was an ICT leader. Ethan encourages everybody to keep their head down and work and you will get the reward later.



**Sienna Bennett**

Sienna is going to Spotswood College and is wanting to be a vet when she is older. Her highlight for Years 7 and 8 was the AIMS Games because she got to go to the Mount and she thoroughly enjoyed her time there. Sienna was an art leader and she believes that you should take all opportunities and try everything.



**Jude Chambers**

Jude will be attending NPBHS. His favourite part of Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games 2022 in which he played rippa rugby. He was also a sports leader and his advice for younger children is 'When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade'. He is also looking forward to new sport opportunities next year.



**Chase Davies**

Chase is going to NPBHS. His favourite time of Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games 2022 - having a week away from home while playing with his mates. This year Chase was a sports leader and his advice for future students is to try your best. In the future Chase wants to become a mechanic. In high school Chase is looking forward to having different teachers for different subjects.





**Zac De Buisson**

Zac is attending NPBHS next year. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was playing interschool rugby, which was hard. In Year 8 he was a sports leader. At high school he is looking forward to all the rugby opportunities. His advice for the future Years 7 and 8's is to have fun and never give up.



**Owen Dicky**

Next year Owen will be going to NPBHS. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games when he played football because he got a week away from home to play his favourite sport. He was a sports leader and he aspires to be a professional football player when he grows up. Next year, Owen is looking forward to meeting new people.



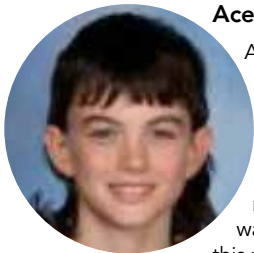
**Georgia Dinnison**

Georgia will be attending NPGHS next year. Her favourite part of Ōākura School was all the sporting events because they were really fun. In Year 8 Georgia was a house leader for Patuhā. Her advice for younger students is to always be your best self. Next year, she is looking forward to changing rooms for different subjects.



**Raffie Emans**

Raffie is attending Spotswood College next year. Her highlight of her intermediate years was AIMS Games futsal because it was an exciting new experience. In her eighth year at Ōākura, Raffie was a student mentor and when she grows up she wants to be a vet. Next year at high school, she is looking forward to new experiences.



**Ace Findlay**

Ace is attending Spotswood College next year. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was working alongside so many nice people. He was a sports leader this year and enjoyed helping kids get sports equipment at break times. He wants to be a pro dirt bike rider when he is older.



**Solae Hareb-Hine**

Solae is going to NPGHS next year and is looking forward to all the choices on offer. Her highlight in Years 7 and 8 was the AIMS Games - playing 3 v 3 basketball. She was Head Girl 2023 and when she is older she wants to be an architect. Her advice is to always try new things and you might end up loving them. Next year, she is looking forward to all the new choices.



**Lily Hawkes**

Lily is going on to NPGHS. She is looking forward to all the new opportunities. Her highlight in Years 7 and 8 was Coastal Cross Country because she really enjoys running and challenging herself. This year Lily helped around the school by being a sports leader. She would like to be a farmer when she is older.



**Xavier Healy**

Xavier will be moving to Australia next year for high school. His highlight of intermediate years was technicraft, as "it was great fun". This year Xavier's leadership role in the school was as an art leader. His dream job is to become an animator. Next year, he is looking forward to being able to have more opportunities at high school.



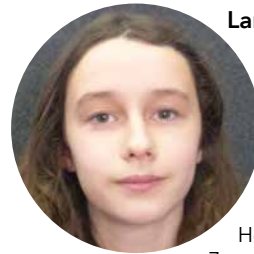
**Quinn Henwood**

Quinn is heading off to NPBHS next year. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games football. This was because he loves this sport and it was a fun week off school. This year Quinn was a sports leader. In the future he wants to work as a landscape architect. His advice for younger students is to take all opportunities given to you.



**Maisie Hinton**

Maisie will be attending NPGHS. During her time at Ōākura her highlight was AIMS Games netball because it was a good challenge. In Year 8 at Ōākura School she was a student mentor and when Maisie grows up she wants to be an interior designer. Her advice for younger students is to have fun and next year she is looking forward to different learning opportunities.



**Larissa Hocking**

Next year, Larissa will be going to Spotswood College and she is excited for all the new experiences that will be on offer. Her highlight for Years 7 and 8 was going to Tech at Devon Intermediate because it was a different experience to Ōākura School. She was a student mentor in 2023 and is wanting to be a zoo keeper when she is older.



**Charlie Jensen**

Charlie will be attending Spotswood College in 2024. He is excited for all the new learning opportunities that he will take part in. He is also looking forward to making new friends. He has helped around the school as an ICT leader. His advice is to always get good friends to keep you happy and thriving.



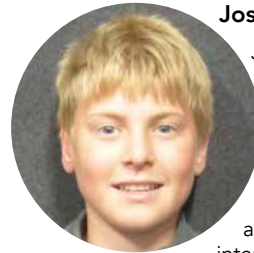
**Arthur Johnson**

Arthur is planning on going to NPBHS and is looking forward to all the new opportunities. His highlight from Years 7 and 8 was playing futsal at AIMS Games 2022. He had the big role of house leader for Patuhā. Arthur would like to be a mechanic when he's older and his advice is to always be your best self.



**Taya Kurta**

Taya is going to be attending Spotswood College. She's excited to try new things and have more opportunities. She really enjoyed AIMS Games 2022 because she got to do something she really loves. This year, Taya has had the role of head pupil and she has worked very hard to make the school a safe place for everyone.



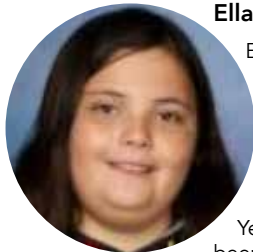
**Josh La Franchie**

Josh will be going to NPBHS. He's excited for new sports opportunities. He loved going to AIMS Games 2022 and participating in interschool rugby. As a Year 8 Josh was a sports leader. He is planning on being a marine biologist when he's old enough. His advice is to be your best self.



### Daisy Lash

Daisy is going to be attending NPGHS and is looking forward to new classes and sport opportunities. A favourite experience from Years 7 and 8 has been AIMS Games. She liked AIMS Games because it was a really good experience. Daisy was a sport leader and is planning on being a marine biologist when she is older.



### Ella Manning

Ella is going to Spotswood College in 2024. She is excited to spend more time with her best friends. Her highlight from Years 7 and 8 has been going to the library and doing work in the Enviro Centre. Her leadership role has been an enviro leader. When Ella is older she wants to be a cat breeder.



### Paige Manning

Paige is going to NPGHS and is looking forward to making new friends. Her favourite thing she's done in the past two years has been all the sport events and opportunities. Paige was a media leader and her advice to other students is to try your hardest.



### Connie Matheson

Connie will be heading off to Spotswood College and is looking forward to all the music opportunities there. Her highlight for Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games where she played futsal. This was her highlight because she got a week away with her friends. She was a Wairau house leader for 2023. Her advice for younger students is to always be your best and never give up.



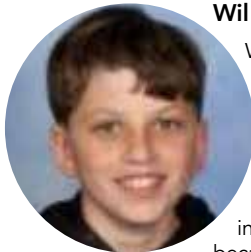
### Livia McGregor

Livia is heading off to NPGHS next year. This year, Livia was a manukura leader. She enjoyed playing netball at AIMS Games 2022. 'Have fun' is Livia's advice for future students of Ōākura School. She is looking forward to meeting new people in high school next year.



### Will Hackling

Will is going to Spotswood College next year. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was inquiry and learning about insects. Will was an envirokura leader and when he grows up he wants to be a spray painter. His advice for younger students is to work hard and next year he is looking forward to making new friends.



### Wil McQuaig

Wil is leaving to NPBHS next year. This year Wil was a sports leader. His highlight of 2022 and 2023 was helping out in the Enviro Centre because he loves being outdoors. When Wil gets a job in the future he wants to be a farmer.



### Graysen Mottershead

Graysen is going to NPBHS and is looking forward to meeting new people. His highlight for Years 7 and 8 was rugby because he got to travel. He was 2023 head boy. When he is older he wants to be in the navy. His advice is to take all the opportunities that life offers.



### Ava Musker

Ava is going to attend NPGHS next year. She liked playing ripa rugby in 2022 and she said that it was fun. Her advice for all students is to take all of the opportunities that are given to you.



### Rafferty O'Sullivan

Next year, Rafa will be going to NPBHS and he is excited for all of the sport opportunities on offer. His highlight for Years 7 and 8 has been working with all of his friends. He was a sports leader in 2023 and wants to be a builder when he is older. His advice is to be your best self and try your best.



### Gabrielle Robinson

Gabby will be attending NPGHS. She is excited to meet new people and make new friends. Gabby's highlight from Years 7 and 8 was AIMS Games, as she found

this to be lots of fun. She has been a sport leader and her advice is to always have fun.



### Briley Rowe

Next year Briley will be attending NPBHS. He is looking forward to a change of school. His highlight of Years 7 and 8 was travelling to the local skate park with Mr Smith as a part of an organised trip. This year Briley's leadership role was a student mentor. When Briley grows up he wants to be an architect.



### Dylan Simmonds

Dylan is heading off to NPBHS next year and he is looking forward to meeting new people. He enjoyed playing ripa rugby at AIMS Games 2022. He would like to become a contractor when he is older. His advice for younger students is to give everything a go.



### Eric Spencer

Eric will be attending Spotswood College and is looking forward to all the new subjects. His highlight for Years 7 and 8 was when he participated at AIMS Games in futsal. He was an art leader this year and would like to be a surgeon when he is older. His advice is to take as many opportunities as possible and try your best.



### Occy Tapara

Occy will be attending NPBHS in 2024. He is looking forward to the new school and experiences. Occy has really enjoyed learning with his friends and he has also been a sports leader for our school. He is hoping to be a mechanic in the future.



### Fred Tarrant

Fred is going to NPBHS and he is looking forward to meeting lots of new people. His favourite experience from Years 7 and 8 was playing futsal at AIMS Games. He really loved the experience and spending time with his friends. Fred had the role of head boy in 2023. He would like the job of an engineer in the near future.





### George Thomson

George will be going to NPBHS next year and is looking forward to all the sports opportunities. His highlight was AIMS Games 2022 where he played football. He was also a sports leader in the year 2023.



### Eddie Thorp

Eddie will attend Spotswood College in the coming year. He is looking forward to the challenge that secondary school will bring. He really enjoyed speeches in 2023 and he came third at our school competition. He has been a manukura leader and is hoping to be a prosecuting lawyer. He believes that if you stay smart you stay strong.



### Ollie Tito

Ollie will be attending Auckland Grammar School next year. He is looking forward to playing rugby there. He is planning on being a rugby player when he is

older. He played rippa rugby at AIMS Games, though he missed school. He has helped around the school as sports leader.

### Mahine Toscani-Piper

Mahine will be attending Spotswood College and is looking forward to more independence as she gets older. She was a manukura leader for 2023 and would like to be an engineer when she is older. Her advice is to have fun and don't grow up too fast.



### Lusea Wallace

Lusea is going to NPGHS and is looking forward to the different subjects and opportunities on offer. Her favourite experience from Years 7 and 8 was English. She enjoyed this because she found it enjoyable and fun. She also helped around the school as an art leader.



### Marcus Whatt

Marcus will be attending NPBHS and is looking forward to all the new opportunities on offer. His highlight for Years 7 and 8 was the science quiz at this year's science fair, because he won and is really proud of himself. He was an ICT

leader and would like to be a scientist when he is older. His advice is to be your best self and try not to get in trouble.



### Mason Williams-Hoskin

Mason is going to be attending NPBHS. He is looking forward to having more subjects to choose from. He really enjoyed technicraft at Devon Intermediate. For his leadership role he was a sport leader. He wants to be a palaeontologist when he is older.



### Janick Wipper

Janick is going to NPBHS next year. The highlight in Years 7 and 8 for him was all the sport activities because he loves sport and playing with his friends. He was an enviro leader and would like to be a professional sevens rugby player one day. His advice is to never give up on your dreams, no matter how hard it is.

**McDonald Real Estate Oakura** has all your real estate needs covered.

**Rachel Hooper**  
Residential + Lifestyle  
027 235 5284  
rachel.hooper@eieio.co.nz

**Robyn Burnett**  
Residential + Lifestyle  
027 414 0733  
robyn.burnett@eieio.co.nz

**Blair Burnett**  
Rural + Lifestyle  
021 190 7728  
blair.burnett@eieio.co.nz

**Jodie Dahlkvist**  
Property Management  
027 666 0464  
jodie.dahlkvist@eieio.co.nz

**eieio.co.nz**  
06 752 1340

**McDonald REAL ESTATE**  
MIRENZ LICENSED REAA 2008 LIMITED

100's of Properties, One Address... **eieio.co.nz**

**Professional Property Management**  
Let me manage your rental investment...

- Legal tenancy agreements
- Reliable rent collection
- Financial management reporting
- Regular property inspections
- Repairs and maintenance service

**Jodie Dahlkvist**  
Property Consultant - McDonald Real Estate Ltd  
M. 027 666 0464 O. 06 757 3083  
E. jodie.dahlkvist@eieio.co.nz  
LICENSED REAA 2008

**eieio.co.nz**

TRUSTED IN TASMANY SINCE 1912  
McDonald REAL ESTATE

**Are you looking for care or support in your own home?**

Some of our services include:

- Convalescing
- Post operative support
- End of life care
- Companionship
- Dementia aid
- Post natal support

*We tailor our services to meet your needs - contact Milly Carr*  
**Phone: 027 320 1414 Email: milly@cherish-respite.com**

# Local French Café band La Mer



Formed in early 2022, local French Café band La Mer has secured a strong following already. All five members: Aaron Bösch, Bernie Schmid, Helen Griffiths, Dominique Blatti and Malcolm Alder are well known musicians: two of them, Dominique and Malcolm, are Ōākurians.

Dominique's seductive vocal is backed by Bernie's lively gypsy guitar; Malcolm on double bass adds sassy toe-tapping rhythms; Helen creates vibrant flurries on her violin whilst Aaron's piano accordion provides that distinctive French Café feel.

With a repertoire stretching from France eastwards, they play well-loved gypsy swing classics from the French Chanson, blending in elements of Roma music and the unmistakable catchy beats of Charles Trenet, heart felt songs from Edith Piaf, and laid back melodies of Django Reinhardt amongst others. Their experience is extensive and they have featured in festivals and headline performances at venues in Taranaki, Hamilton, Whanganui and the South Island.

## The formation of the Group

Aaron and Bernie met at the Taranaki Swiss Club and have been playing together Swiss/

German folk music for some years. Malcolm joined them after meeting Aaron through the SingerSongwriters to bring a more jazzy style of music. The trio then looked for a singer to join the band. It was Malcolm who approached Dominique and when an instrumentalist was required, it was Dominique who introduced Helen to the group. Now La Mer was ready for anything.

## Malcolm Alder

Words and music are indeed lifelong passions of Malcolm Alder. A career as an English teacher saw him finding magic in language whilst the double bass became his expressive force, firstly through Blues music and then onto Jazz. From New Zealand's lively stages to distant shores, Malcolm's seasoned talent graced diverse bands, captivating audiences with his remarkable skill. Drawing from a wealth of experience, Malcolm's jazz-based style effortlessly melds with the style of La Mer. Malcolm weaves intricate basslines that guarantee to get toes tapping.

## Dominique Blatti

Born and raised in the French part of Switzerland, Dominique started learning the

classical guitar at aged 9yrs. She attended the Music Conservatory of Geneva briefly before emigrating to NZ with her parents at 18 years of age. Dominique has been teaching and performing classical guitar full-time for over 20 years. She founded and conducted a variety of guitar ensembles, and has enjoyed performing in several collaborations, including string quartet, duets with flute, cello, recorder, violin, voice and guitar. She is the founder of the Taranaki Classical Guitar Summer School with the next event taking place 15-20 January - check website [www.taranakisummerschool.com](http://www.taranakisummerschool.com) for all details. She is the co-founder and co-director of the NCMA Classical Guitar Festival. Although she can sometimes be seen picking up her guitar in the band, Dominique adds classy authenticity with her French vocals.

In October La Mer hired a van and headed to the South Island to take part in the Akaroa French Festival. They performed on board the ferry both ways to pay for the crossings with a great scheme called 'Bands On Board' offered by the Interislander. On their way back to Picton, La Mer toured and played in Christchurch, Kaikoura, Blenheim, Takaka (in the renown Mussel Inn), Nelson, then finally Moutere, in the oldest pub of NZ, the Moutere Inn. "It was a wonderful experience and an absolute blast! We've laughed A LOT, travelled A LOT, squeezed A LOT of gigs into a week at some fantastic venues, met A LOT of new people and made A LOT of great memories", says Dominique.

At this years Garden Festival La Mer had two garden performances, in Hawera and Lepperton, under perfect blue sky and bright sunshine to appreciative audiences.

## Coming up

La Mer will be performing at Shining Peak Brewery on 10th December, from 4pm, and other local gigs which will be advertised on their FB page. There are tours planned for the North and South Islands in 2024.

Hear them on Youtube La Mer Menilmontant Follow on Facebook@La Mer Music or contact Dominique [dominiqueblatti@gmail.com](mailto:dominiqueblatti@gmail.com)

Be U Mind Body Spirit  
Liz Wilkinson  
Ph 021 274 8822  
[www.beumindbodyspirit.co.nz](http://www.beumindbodyspirit.co.nz)

- \* Qualified Multidisciplinary Health Practitioner
- \* Holistic Wellbeing Coach
- \* Workshop Facilitator
- \* Energy Medicine - Nutrition - Massage - Guidance
- \* Distributor for a variety of Health Products

**Sinclair**

Electrical & Refrigeration Ltd

**MASTER  
ELECTRICIANS**  
Electrical Contractors Association of NZ

**OPUNAKE 761 8084 • OKATO 752 4084**  
[sinclairselect@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sinclairselect@xtra.co.nz)

- Electrical & refrigeration specialists
- All wiring for cowsheds & houses
- Refrigeration for milk vats
- Milk cooling solutions
- Aircon & heat pumps



**FRIENDLY PROMPT SERVICE**

**COLOURplus**



# 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 - Bootcamp fitness

Mon and Wed 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.

**Be U Mind Body Spirit** - BeYOUnd Physical class. Exercise for the energy systems. Low impact, for all levels of fitness. Mon & Wed 6.30pm. Thurs 9.30 am. 021 274 8822

### Ōākura Maimoa Club - after school care

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

### Ōākura Yoga - Kate Evans 027 203 7215

### Pickleball Ōākura

Ōākura Hall - Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 9.15am. All skill levels welcome and equipment is provided. Elayne 027 937 7173 or Vincenza 027 739 6574

### Playcentre

14 Donnelly St. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - noon during school terms. oakura@playcentre.org.nz

### Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238  
traceymackkyle@gmail.com

**Pool Club** - Meets every Wednesday night 7pm over winter commencing April at Butlers Reef. All welcome. For more info call Margaret 027 232 1899

### Probus Club

Meets once a month at Ōākura Bowling club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month 10-11.30am. Contact Brenda Ryan 757 3537 or 027 748 9698

### Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni 021 661 912 thowison@hotmail.com

### Ōākura - St James Church

Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 10.00am

### Sunday School - St James Church

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am.  
stjamesoakura@gmail.com

### 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](http://www.blitztennis.nz)  
All other enquiries - Jackie 027 673 2900

### Tai Chi Classes

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

### Val Deakin Dance School

Ōākura Hall Tuesday afternoon - Pre-school dance classes at 2:45, ballet for 5+ 3:30 to 4:15.  
val@valdeakindance.org.nz  
752 7743 or text 027 694 0933

## Tataraimaka Hall

### 5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

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

### Gymnastics Group for children - 5-7 yrs

Tuesdays after school at the Tataraimaka Hall for basic level gymnastics sessions. Rose at [rosem@realfoodnutrition.co.nz](mailto: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 open church** - Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm, okatocp@gmail.com

**Te Ruru Market** - crafters, growers and makers. Wednesdays, Hempton Hall, Okato, 4-5:30pm

# TOP Information

## The Ōākura Post

**Editor:** Tracey Lusk

06 752 7875 / 027 636 8060  
editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

**Advertising:** Jacinda McCallum  
advertising@theoakurapost.co.nz

**Design/Layout:** Emily Bennett

**Proof Reader:** Elayne Kessler

Founded in Ōākura, NZ - 1st June 2020

ISSUE: No. 40

**FEBRUARY Issue**

Delivered and online from 26 January

Views expressed in The Ōākura Post are not necessarily those of the The Ōākura Post

[www.theoakurapost.co.nz](http://www.theoakurapost.co.nz) | [editor@theoakurapost.co.nz](mailto:editor@theoakurapost.co.nz)

This page is kindly sponsored by the Norton Moller Family, trading as Ōākura Farms Ltd

Beautifully curated art, designer fashion,  
and boutique homewares.  
A unique store for you.

oame

1136a South Road, Oakura, New Zealand  
inbox@oame.store - 0204 00 66 398  
www.oame.store



CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWL  
17 DEC

ROCK THE BOWL / 29 DEC

DIRE STRAITS LEGACY  
3 JAN

MATCHBOX TWENTY  
2 MAR

WOMAD / 15-17 MAR

npeventvenues.nz

