

the Ōākura Post

FEBRUARY 2024



Tataraimaka
HALL
100 years

The Journey
OF A WRITER

Three Waters

I remember
when

Len Jury
talks

VOLUNTEERS GO
ABOVE & BEYOND

Cover pic: 'Green Bathing' plays at 'Tunes in the Dunes'.
 Left to right: Adam Stuart - bass/vocals; Toby Alva - Guitar/vocals
 Sam Egli - Guitar/vocals; Campbell Parker - drums.

Tunes by the Dunes and Holy Guacamole

In mid January Tunes by the Dunes and Holy Guacamole held an evening of music and Mexican food at the keyhole near the beach in support of The Taranaki Retreat. (The Taranaki Retreat is a residential support space where families and individuals having a tough time can come and have some time-out, free of charge.) The event saw adults and children relaxing on picnic blankets, soaking up the vibes and having a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Organiser Evan Davies said "Many people helped make the evening such a success. Thank you to amazing crew of Tunes by the Dunes; Dan from Tool Hire Taranaki for loaning a generator; Luke from Zeal for the trailer stage; my amazing band of brothers, Stereo Streets, for always smashing it; Holy Guacamole for the beautiful Mexican food and generous support. We couldn't have done this without all of you. And to



our 'nek' level bands and performers: Hemi Coates Music from the Mons Whaler, Twin Tiger, and Greenbathing.

For the Retreat \$1000 was raised from the koha collected and Holy Guacamole's contribution, also non-perishable food items from attendees donations.

"Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event."

Kaitake Community Board

Hari tau hou ki a koutou katoa – Happy New Year everyone.

The past few weeks have been quiet ones for Elected Members, meeting wise, with a festive season break in the Council meeting cycle, and a wind down in Council officer activities (other than for essential services) to provide the opportunity for an annual leave break to recharge their batteries for the New Year.

You may not be aware, but the New Plymouth District Council Elected Members operate around a seven week meeting cycle, comprising, in order; Strategy and Operations Committee, Inglewood Community Board, Clifton Community Board, Waitara Community Board, Kaitake Community Board, Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board, Te Huinga Taumatua, Finance Audit and Risk Committee, and a Full Council Meeting.

In addition to this cycle the following meetings take place four to six times each year; the Council Controlled Organisations Committee, Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee, Sustainability Working Party, Age and Accessibility Working Party, Strategic Projects Committee, Community Development Committee and Creative Communities Advisory Committee.

Add to this Extraordinary Council and Community Board meetings, and a variety of Council workshops that are scheduled as and when required, and you start to get some idea of the meeting workload of some Elected Members. Therefore the Christmas period meeting hiatus provided a very welcome respite.

That's not to say we turn off our phones and email and shut ourselves off to the needs of our communities, because things continue to break down and issues continue to arise irrespective of the time of year or time of day, and every member of your Community Board is quite prepared to be your first point of call should you need us.

The next few months are going to be busy ones with the finalising of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan, the rate setting for the next twelve months and finalising the Councils Annual Plan, while Community Boards working to ensure that our pressing needs are not overlooked or ignored by Councillors and Council Officers.

Big ticket items for the Kaitake Community Board include the Whenuanui foot bridge restoration and Headland Walkway commencement and completion, the Ōkato Swimming Pool Accessibility upgrade, improvements to the resilience and quality of our water supply, accessibility improvements onto Ōākura Beach, provision for more activity amenities for our rangatahi, and petitioning Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to improve the safety along our stretch of State Highway 45 (an aspiration that will prove extremely challenging I suspect).

In the meantime, on behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and our appointed Councillor Anneka Carlson, I'd like to wish you all the best for a great 2024.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on Monday 26 February at the Ōkato Hempton Hall at 5pm

Tae noa ki te wa e whai ake nei – Until next time

Graham Chard - Kaitake Community Board Chair

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Spike in Ahu Ahu Bay and boatshed and winch shed



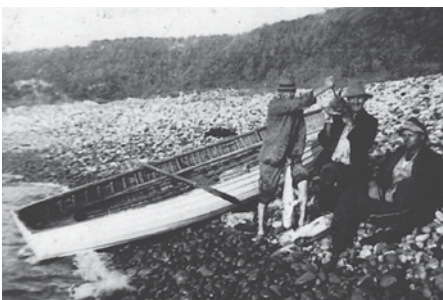
Ahu Ahu Bay looking south. Note: Thomas bach on the hill (white), the boatshed, another bach above and the spike at waters edge.

I remember when...

I was born in 1962 and raised on a dairy farm down Weld Road. During that time there were only five other properties on the road. At age 10 I got my first pony from the Gorrie family at Uriti. This enabled me the freedom to explore my local area.

What I am about to tell and show you is how I remember it during the 60s and 70s. Some of the photos are prior to this era. If history is not shared it will be lost in time.

In the Ahu Ahu bay there stood a boat shed built and owned by Lou Goodwin on a strip of Harbour Board land about half a kilometre wide. Behind the boat shed was a smaller building where the winch was housed. Straight out from the shed in the water was a distinctive landmark which consisted of two corrugated water tanks filled with concrete and rocks. The tanks were stacked one on top of each other, with the top one being slightly smaller. Protruding from the smaller one was a piece of steel that was dragged by Nick Goodwin (Hicka) along the beach from the shipwreck the Gairloch. A D shackle was mounted in the top of the spike for the wire rope as a guide that led to the winch shed. As a kid I used to park my 12 hh pony alongside this and climb up on the top. Before my time the Ahu Ahu bay was solid rocks and large bamboo poles were used under the clinker boats to assist them over the rocks during launching.



Frank Gill, Archie Thompson and John Goodwin on Ahu Ahu Bay rocks

Perched above the sea on the high point further south was a typical kiwi bach owned by Pat and Myra Thomas. This was the go to point to check the sea for surf and fishing and shared by many. I'll never forget the day Dad acquired an old Singer Hunter car full of all kinds of paraphernalia, and he decided to take it for a run to the beach. All was going well till he decided to negotiate the hill leading up to the Thomas bach. It was steep and consisted of two worn wheel marks in the grass. With a good run on up we rocketed, things on the floor started sliding towards the back seat and stirred up clouds of dust with Dad announcing lift ya feet cause there's probably gunna be rats falling out from under the dash board. God I've never forgotten that.



Original boatshed

At night time you could see hundreds of squid boats lining the horizon, and the vibration from all those ship engines could be felt and heard when lying in bed at night. Pat and Myra's son Graeme Thomas was a keen snorkeler and I have vivid memories of him on several occasions lugging huge sacks of crayfish back along the beach from the 'boilers' remnants of the Gairloch ship wreck. Sandy, his sister, rode horses, usually race horses and they seemed so tall against my little pony.

There used to be a vehicle bridge over the Whenuariki stream (the stream that runs under the footbridge that washed away). It was built by Ron and Jim Emslie to get the cows over the stream to the other part of his farm. Someone kept cutting the fence so you could drive from Ōākura to Weld Road along the beach front. If you know where to look you can still make out the old coach road and cuttings from New Plymouth heading south along the coast. Dad



Bun Thomas

used to use this bridge to get his little boat towed by a Ferguson 24 tractor to the Ahu bay. He used to fish with Ross Priest and the snapper they caught were the same size as me as a little person. Up till just a few years ago the family still had that old Fergie (tractor). On both sides of this bridge there were two other baches, one was a little asbestos place and the other a blue corrugated iron building known as the Girls Brigade hut.

None of this remains today.

By Darryn Moeller



Thomas bach on hill looking south

Kaitake Golf Club

Hi Everyone,

It has been a very busy time over the summer months at Kaitake Golf Club. Great seeing a lot of campers and green fee players come to play the course.

We have had some very successful tournaments with the Open Xmas Hamper with 96 entries with The Glass Man as our sponsor. We had our first tournament of the year, The Beachcombers, with Butlers Reef as our sponsor with a group of 24 entries from them. It was a brilliant day with 130 entries in that tournament.

We have two more new golf carts for hiring out, which has been a great source of income for the club. We have a total of eight carts now and they come in and out two or three times a day.

We have had three Hole in Ones, Drew Cadenhead on the 9th Dec, Bruce Payne on the 30th Nov and Brodie Ferguson on the 23rd December. On that day Brodie also broke the course record of 60 gross. As this was not in a competition it is not officially recognised but well done anyway.

Congratulations to Brodie Ferguson winning the 2024 North Island U19 Boys Strokeplay, shooting an incredible final round of 66, including 8 birdies, to win by 4 shots

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Chippers ages range from 5 – 12 years. If any adults have young chippers thinking of playing golf please be aware that they can come along FREE of charge with any FEE PAYING ADULT. We have chippers clubs that they are more than welcome to borrow and have a go at playing golf. Contact the office for details Ph. 752 7665.



Left to Right: Denise Howe, Jacqui Koch, Bob Fleming, Andrea Fraser, Diane Jones and Karen Avison

LADIES NEWS

THE LONGEST DAY CHALLENGE – FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN:

Six Ladies did The Longest Day challenge which was in aid of the Cancer Society. Our team called 'Fairway to Heaven' raised over \$10,000 for the society. It was an awesome achievement and congratulations to Bob Fleming, Karen Avison, Andrea Fraser, Diane Jones, Jacqui Koch and Denise Howe. Well done to the girls who completed the 72 holes in 11 hours.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

All golfers over the ripe old age of 50 may join the Taranaki Vets Golf. The sub for the year is \$10. Once a month a game is held at a golf club in Taranaki, Ladies and Men are all welcome. Tee times are daylight saving 9.00am, winter 9.30am.



Check it's alright before you light

With a muggy, wet December a distant memory we'll soon see our region become dryer. With that in mind we remind you to check it's alright before you light. At www.checkitsalright.co.nz you'll find all the info you need to know about whether you are able to light a fire, what kind of fire you can have and regional danger levels.

We want everyone to enjoy a safe summer so remember to check it's alright before you light.

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Melissa Browne: The Journey of a Writer

Creativity seems to be in Melissa's DNA from birth and then influences throughout her life from people and events spurred her on to becoming a writer. Some of those influences are highlighted in this article.

Melissa grew up near the Waitomo Caves in a little town in the heart of the King Country that was so named because it had been the Māori King's territory during the NZ land wars. It was a semi-rural community where Te Reo Māori was compulsory in the school and political action was encouraged.



"My grandmother was an inspiration, very eccentric and super intelligent. She challenged convention and wrote a book on the history of the Bible from the perspective of an atheist. She was an environmentalist and an avid reader, always challenging us (my sister and two brothers) with thoughtful questions. She gave us books such as the collective works of Shakespeare and all of David Attenborough's books, each one annotated with her own notes. She was unusual — 102 when she died in 2019."

"I've also always been a reader which is a big part of writing. We had no TV and went to the public library every week. We children each got to check out 10 books every week."

"I have loved writing right from the get go," she says, and remembers in year 3 reading her work to school assemblies. For a school assignment as a teenager she read *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton. She became obsessed with the coming of age characters and social injustices. "I read it 21 times." That was the beginning of an affinity for the underdog and for flawed characters. She tends to look at what's behind the facade that drives people. In the 4th form (year 10) at age 14, she wrote her own novel based on *The Outsiders*. It was handwritten (no computer then) and she still has it.

She read *The Handmaid Tale* when she was 15. It made her angry, and has prompted her to write about the experiences of women. Motherhood and issues around the identity of women have appeared in much of her work and social injustice is an ongoing theme.

Her first partner was from the Māori royal family and for a number of years she was part of that full immersion family. She earned a degree in NZ History and English from Waikato University in 1992. After a stint teaching secondary school English/History and the obligatory OE, she moved to Auckland. She taught at the RNZ Navy and AUT until she "threw it in and moved to Kawhia to be a writer full time. That was in the days when creative endeavours qualified for a reasonable benefit."

Back in Auckland in her mid-30s she met her now husband Mark and moved out with his community at Muriwai northwest of Auckland. She and Mark regularly came to our Taranaki coast for holidays. She knew Taranaki as a place with a creative community and felt grounded here and Mark liked the surf. They eventually moved from Auckland to Okato in 2011 and then to Ōākura five years later.

Continuing to write while balancing young children and work was hard. It wasn't until her musician/poet brother Ddub was diagnosed with cancer in 2019 and sadly died within a few months that she "started to push more seriously." During a final TV interview Ddub said, "For anyone thinking about a creative dream, don't put it off. Do it now." At that point Melissa took the brave step of applying to the prestigious writing programme at Victoria University. In 2019 she was accepted at Victoria, which meant driving to Wellington every week in 2020. She earned a Masters in Creative Writing and had amazing experiences with other writers. "Their feedback helped me think about what I really wanted to say."

Her completed thesis was a collection of integrated short stories: two of the stories were produced and read on air by Radio NZ with actors, and two were published in *Turbine*, the Victoria University Press journal.

Over the years Melissa has had many published successes and literary awards "that have been confidence boosting". Her first successes were in poetry, and she placed in a number of poetry competitions between 2002-2005, leading to publications in various anthologies. More recently she has placed or awarded Highly Commended in the Ronald Hugh Morrieson awards, twice for poetry and once for short story. She has had work published in 'a fine line' NZ Poetry Society journal, the Edinburgh University Press Katherine Mansfield Society journal and *Takahē*, the NZ literacy journal. In 2018, she performed alongside Elizabeth Smither, David Hill and Michelle Leggot as a speaker at the Puke Ariki ADLIB Literary Festival.

"While publications provide a boost, it's easy to get writing-unfit," suggests Melissa. "Just like if you're not running regularly it's hard to get back into it. That's not going to happen to me. This year I'm going to write my novel. The characters live in my body and they come out if I make the space for them. Self-doubt and fear get in the way of making that space. I like to write in the dark, from 10pm to 3am. The Masters programme taught me the joy of writing rather the angst of exposure and worrying about who's going to read it."

Like most people in the creative arts, 'a day job' is necessary so her earlier degree in English and history has been helpful. Melissa is usually writing teaching full or part-time while she continues writing. Fortunately she enjoys teaching and has taught high school, tertiary at WITT and is about to start teaching at Inglewood High School this coming term. "Teaching has always inspired me to write," she says.

Melissa lives in Ōākura with her husband, Mark, and their two sons 14 and 11. Because writing is so solitary she also needs connection to other people, and she'll be striving for her ideal work balance of 80-20 (teaching - writing), being sure to also get family and friend time in the mix.

By Elayne Kessler

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



Summerset Nationals Fours and Mixed Pairs

"Destination Ōākura" is the catch cry for some of the best lawn bowlers in New Zealand as they contest the 2024 Summerset National Fours and Mixed Pairs tournaments in Taranaki late February. The Ōākura Bowling and Social Club has been selected as one of the host venues, including the well-earned privilege of hosting post-sectional play in both events. Ōākura greenkeeper, Wayne Robinson, has prepared one of the finest greens in Taranaki and the club is looking forward to not only treating the contestants to a world class playing surface but also showing the players and spectators some great coastal hospitality. All members of the

community are welcome to come on down and enjoy watching some of New Zealand's finest bowlers in action. The club is situated behind the Ōākura hall.

Playing dates for the tournament are as follows:

- Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February - Qualifying – Men's / Women's Fours
- Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February - Post Section – Men's / Women's Fours
- Monday 26th February and Tuesday 27th February - Qualifying – Mixed Pairs
- Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February - Post Section – Mixed Pairs

Club Championships

Steve Muller, Rex Wright and Rod Smith won the Triples championship final over the Alan Bridgeman skipped team of Andy Shearer and Syd Sharpe. The Muller team took an early lead and repelled all that was thrown at them by the Bridgeman trio, and held their nerve to win 21-13.

Several new faces have emerged from the qualifying rounds in the Senior Singles championship with Rod Smith, Kevin Fleming, Paul Coxhead, Craig Murray, Bruce Jackson, Steve Muller and Tony McAlevey qualifying for

the knockout stage. Great work guys and good bowling for the next round.

Interclub

The Ōākura Orcas finished 2nd in the highly competitive Barry Agnew 1st Div pennants competition. Languishing in last position after 3 rounds, the Orcas produced some inspiring bowling to take maximum points from the final 4 rounds and power home for a well-earned result. A great club effort and well done to all the participating bowlers.

The midweek tournaments are nearing the finish with Ōākura currently holding 2nd place in the Gilmour Cup, midfield in the Avery Shield and 4th in the Saturday Shield competition. Well done to all players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working green keepers and those who assist in smooth running on match days.

Club News

It is great to see the wider community utilising the bowling club facilities over the past months with numerous groups and business hiring the venue and enjoying the fun and entertaining aspect of playing bowls.

The underarm bowler

Community Police Officer – Constable Matt Stone



Kia ora koutou,

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and you are managing to spend some quality time with family and friends in the sun.

It's awesome seeing some great crowds

at Butlers Reef enjoying the many concerts over the summer. I thank those that attended that made them successful events without need of much Police involvement.

A couple of reminders moving forward: The electric motorbikes being driven around

Ōākura need to be below 300watts, otherwise they require a registration plate. My main concern with them is that if they are above 300watts, which I believe they are, just like a car shouldn't be ridden on the road/footpath by children. I see it as a safety issue, sorry. I have also noticed motorised pit bikes popping up in the village with kids riding on the footpaths etc. Although, I don't want to be the fun Police, I do ask that parents monitor this. Can they be ridden off the road, thanks?

Thank you to those good samaritans who cleared up the glass and rubbish left around the Surf Club on New Years Day. Unfortunately, there were 6-8 Police Officers who babysat 200 kids for 4-5 hours. A reminder that if your

child is 17 years or under, they are not allowed in a public place with alcohol, opened or unopened. I will admit that most of the kids at the Surf Club were really respectful, just willing to chat to Police and follow instructions. I love seeing teenagers that can strike up conversations with adults, it's a credit to them.

However, this incident tied up a large number of Police Officers, meaning it pulled resources that couldn't help elsewhere. If Police did not attend, I hate to think about the damage that may have occurred in the area.

Thanks for your time, I'll see you on the road.

Ngā Mihi, Matt



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Volunteers go above and beyond



Toby Shanley - right (Kaitake Ranges Kaitiaki of the year for 2023) and Paul Lobb with one of the kiwi being monitored in the Kaitake.

Summer is upon us! I always feel like nothing compares to the fantastic sunny, warm days that we get at this time of year. The sun's up early and there are just so many fun things to get outside and do from the beach to the Maunga, and the Kaitake close by. The problem is really deciding what to do, and you know you have to take advantage of those days because tomorrow may be a rainy day.

Trust volunteers have been sneaking away for holidays, but still getting out to check their trap lines and to see how our local kiwi are doing. The crew checking on the kiwi has found that many of the birds have successfully bred and hatched chicks! Those newly hatched chicks are incredibly vulnerable to predation by stoats and feral cats. Once they are large enough, they are able to protect themselves from stoats, but in the meantime those precious chicks need help. That is where the trapping comes into play.

Volunteers have been diligently checking and rebaiting traps over the past few months and have been catching more stoats than ever before! Last year's record high of 78 stoats over a few months was surpassed this past December alone when 88 stoats were caught...leading us to Stoat-a-geddon this year! This is by far the most stoats caught since the Trust has been extensively trapping. Big props to John Freeman who recorded 10 stoats on his line and Jackie Keenan who got 7 on hers.

The bad news is there are a ton of stoats out in the Kaitake now when kiwi chicks are vulnerable. The good news is that the extensive trapping networks is catching a lot of them. This is the time of year when juvenile

stoats are leaving their burrows and dispersing to find new territory, so it's normal to see a lot. We just need to all do our part by trapping around our property, whether you live up near the Kaitake or in the village.

We had our annual Christmas catchup at Butlers Reef at the end of 2023 where a big crew of volunteers took time to catch up over a beer and hear from some speakers about the latest happenings in the Kaitake.

Some of the more than 70 Trust volunteers go above and beyond and were recognised for their contributions. The Trapper Extraordinaire was awarded to Bryce Vickers for being the top trapper for 2023. Bryce, a long-time member of the Trust, was one of three volunteers to record over 100 catches during the year. The other award given out was the Kaitake Ranges Kaitiaki of the year, which went to the deserving Toby Shanley. Toby has been actively involved with the Trust and the local area for years now. He checks a couple trap lines in the Kaitake Ranges, has set up some traps along the coast for a grey faced petrel nesting site, and has done a ton with releasing and monitoring the kiwi in the Kaitake. Great work Bryce, Toby, and everyone! If you are ready to get on a trap line contact Pete Morgan at morgpt@xtra.co.nz

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

Taranaki Dance Legend Val Deakin has been Honoured this New Year.

Val Deakin has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to dance. Val, at 88 years of age, has dedicated her life to performing, teaching and choreographing dance in New Zealand and internationally.

The New Zealand Order of Merit is part of the NZ royal honours system for people in any field of endeavour who have rendered meritorious service to the Crown and nation and have distinguished themselves by their talents and contributions.

We're very proud that Val, a longtime resident of Ōākura, has been recognised.



New dance class for adults in Ōākura Hall

Jane Roseman of Val Deakin Dance School will be teaching a new class for adults in Ōākura Hall on Friday mornings at 10:30 am. It will be basic ballet plus moves from other types of dance – all levels of experience welcome. Contact details on the TOP Activities page.

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- **Gift Baskets** - Stacey can personalise the perfect basket to suit your Valentines taste (or we can supply the basket so you can make one up yourself).
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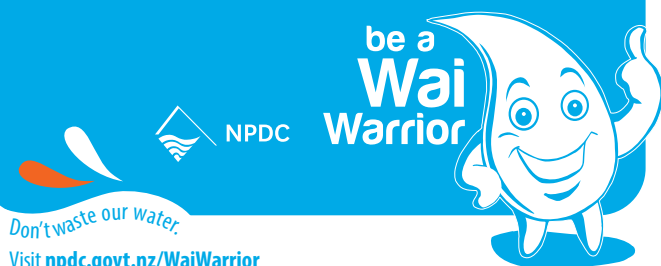
Local mature woman available to house and pet sit.

References available, please contact Christine on 021 0295 4415

Wai Warrior

Residential water restrictions are here

The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned until 31 March. Hand-held hoses may be used on the odds and evens system.



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Tataraimaka Hall Centennial 24 February 2024

2024 marks the 100 years since the Tataraimaka Hall was built.

In June 1923, the Tataraimaka district had decided they needed to build a hall, as at the time the school was the only building suitable for social occasions and they had to send the children home, which interfered with their schoolwork. The Tataraimaka Hall was designed by A.O Penwarden and H.C Riley donated the land. Within a few months, many people had volunteered their time and contributed to the building of the Hall, with the opening on the 22nd August 1924.

When visiting my nana, Marie Richardson (nee Fleming), I asked her about what she could remember about what events happened in the Tataraimaka Hall. There were many dances, with a three-piece band up the front with Myra Thomas involved. The Tataraimaka Hall was the centre of the community where many meetings were held for the Patua Factory, Euchre card playing parties, indoor bowls, table tennis, gatherings that included wedding receptions, farewell parties and 21st celebrations. She also mentioned the famous Christmas parties for the children.



Now in 2024, the Tataraimaka Hall continues to be used by different groups including the 5 Elements Fitness group, a gymnastics group, wedding receptions, 21st parties and social events for local residents.

The Tataraimaka district is holding a community event on the 24th of February to celebrate 100 years since the Tataraimaka Hall was established. Throughout the day, a range of events will be held to suit all ages. The celebrations will kick off at 11am with a family picnic.

Laura Richardson

11am - 2pm kids games and picnic - bring a picnic rug and lunch. Historic information and 1924 sign unveiling.

5.30pm - Adult 'Bush vs Beach' challenge.

6.30pm - Potluck Dinner - bring a dish ready to eat, BYO drinks, plate, cutlery.

Music and socialising to follow.

Free event. All welcome!

For more information visit the Facebook event page or Peter 027 3192 631



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Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year for 2024. Tennis competition stopped early December and doesn't restart until the end of the holidays so not a lot of action to report on. Soffe team did have a close win on countback against Rotokare who are sitting well ahead on the table with 78 points. We are 1 point ahead of Waiwaka with 64 points and Stratford is on 11 points. A4's have had a couple of draws and a few losses so hoping for some more points next round. A3 Sumpter team have had some good wins and a few losses. In the juniors the Ōākura Bigshots Green Grade team (Noah Stanley, Ruby Peacock, Ziv Carmi and Colin Faragasso) went through unbeaten, except for one week when they had to default, and won their term 4 competition. Congratulations and good luck up in Youth grade in Term 1. Ōākura Rangitangi team - Angus Thorpe, Ana Shlosberg, Aidan Peacock and Marcel Saquesin - in Youth grade are sitting in the middle of the pack after 4 wins, a draw, 1 rain out and 1 default.

The ASB tennis classic has served up some great tennis. Coco Guaff prevailed in 3 sets against Elina Svitolina in the women's final.

Personally I was going for the Mum over the young but a great battle. The women's doubles finals was also a great battle with the number 2 seeds taking out the top seeds 10-8 in the super tie. As I write this I am looking forward to watching the men's and hoping the great weather continues so the tournament can continue to attract high quality players.

Locally Luke Barrett has been doing well in national tournaments with runner-up results in both the Tennis Central Boys Open Regional Finals and the National under 12 doubles. Len Adamson and Gavin Stanley both competed in the Taranaki Senior Open where Gavin came runner-up in the Open Men's Singles consolation plate and they teamed up to win the Open Men's Doubles. Noah Stanley teamed up with Hadley Erb from Pukekura to win the under 10 Doubles Taranaki Junior Tournament. Goodluck to Len Adamson and Chris Davies who are also competing in the Senior Nationals.

Graeme Mitchell Club president and Hayden Young Insure Taranaki drew the prizes from paid members. Congratulations to our meal voucher winners sponsored by Insure Taranaki. Marcel Spencer and family get to dine out at Black Sand, Claire White won the Butlers Reef meal voucher and Julia Darling gets to enjoy Serial Griller. BP Oakura also sponsored two free WOFs which went to the Ferguson Family and Peggy Kleinsorge. Enjoy and big thanks



Graeme Mitchell (left) and Hayden Young

to our sponsors for supporting this: Insure Taranaki, Oakura BP, Serial Griller, Butlers Reef and Black Sand. Thanks also to Healthspace and Fredericks who also sponsor Ōākura Tennis Club.

Enjoy the summer days...

Jackie



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Oākura School

2023 – It's a Wrap

2023 ended in a whirl of events and fun for our students, whānau and community.

The Momona te Whānau (yr 0-3) shared their dance performance with many whānau, and the Gecko and Penguin Rooms shared some Christmas carols with their families. It was so good to see our youngest students dancing with such joy and courage.

Students from the Kiri te Whānau ended their term 4 dance learning with the Dance Connexion with a performance for the rest of the school. They learnt a range of dance styles in a short time and some of them really stepped outside of their comfort zones.

The year 8s from the Wakamure te Whānau organised and held their annual Fun Run event, a day of fun and games for the whole school. These students, along with the year 7s, also ran a Market Day fundraiser to help with their Camp Wellington trip. The camp was a huge success and enjoyed by all students and the parents that came to help.

And to the finish the year, we farewelled our year 8s at the Leavers' Graduation assembly, as they move off to their respective high schools. As well as being a milestone for these students, it was a bit of a milestone and record for our kura. We said goodbye to our largest group of year 8s ever, 51 students, as well as 26 whānau. Many of the whānau of the students leaving have had over 10 years association with Oākura School, with one family starting their school journey with us 19 years ago. It goes without saying that the success of education for our young people comes down to the partnership between a school and their families, of which ours is particularly strong when you see the outstanding students that we send off to high school.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the Year 8s cups and prizes for 2023 at the graduation assembly:

O'Rourke Cup for Sporting Achievement
Ava Musker

Novak Cup for the Arts
Mahine Toscani-Piper

Music Cup – Positive Attitude & Achievement
Eric Spencer

Wiki Keenan Trophy for Kapa Haka
Eddie Thorp

Samantha Woods Trophy for Diligence
Georgia Dinnison

Citizenship Cup
Georgia Dinnison

Cunningham Cup for Academic Excellence
Marcus Whatt

Natasha Jackson - Tumuaki



Congratulations to these 2023 cup winners. From left:

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence - Ellie Jackson / Lilla Thomas

Ōmata School Cup for Environmental Action Kaitiaki Taiao - Reed Perrett / Jana Whitehead

Community Cup for Arts and Culture - Peyton Valentine

Home and School Cup for Sporting Excellence - Ryder Perrett

Staff Cup for Responsibility - Hayes Lee

Principal's Cup for Leadership - Lily Williams



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The 'Hoary Chestnut'

I'm supposed to be writing something about Ōmata? Yes, I have basically lived in Ōmata all my life but I went to Ōākura school for seven years. I think I should be able to add in a note or two about Ōākura don't you think? Then there is Koru, Kirihaui, Hurford Rd, Sealy Rd, Barret Rd, McKellar's Track and Allen Rd. It is really up to you, your suggestions, your episodes, experiences and YOUR photos.

In the last two issues of The Ōākura Post I am most impressed with our young people and their pen portraits of their future goals. All we wanted to do was escape school. For me to play rugby. We had great teachers Mr. Harper, Mr. Cassells - a strict stern disciplinarian, Mrs Cassells - a warm, kind hearted soul but a teacher who actually taught, and Miss Storer.

Miss Storer came a year after I left the primers. At school we went through various fads, like playing marbles, bull rush, fishing for butcher boys and then autographs. Remember we were not even 8-year olds, autographs were basically signatures, sometimes with a little poem or ditty. Miss Storer did one better, she wrote a one line message "Do little things well and the greater will follow". It made a long-lasting impression and I recommend it to our school leavers going onto college and into the future. Another one? Yes, from my mum who lived by it, into her nineties "if it's going to be, it is up to me!"

But what about the 'Ōākura Hoary Chestnut'? Ask your oldies about 'hoary chestnuts' they can tell you some of their own.

So everyone, how did Ōmata get its name? Ōmata - Ō = the place of Mata = The quartz rock. The Rock stood on top of a larger ordinary rock just out to sea where the Waireka-Nui and Waireka-iti streams fell down the cliff into the sea when the tide was in. It was not large, about three metres tall. It had small particles of quartz embedded in it. Today it now lies hidden among the other rocks of the shore. The 'hoary chestnut story' was that several young men pushed it off as its footing became more precarious. I do not believe this just because of its size. I think it was natural erosion over time of the relentless pounding of the sea. NOR do I recommend a walk along the coast to find it. The sea can be very nasty when you don't want it to be.

Ōākura? This is the old 'hoary chestnut' of a number of versions of this beautiful beach.

Kura for red. Red feet running over the burning hot (iron) sand of the beach is one legend that is passed down. Anyone who has been on the beach on a hot summers day will know this. The second is the beautiful red sunsets over the west. In these the O means 'over'. Two very abridged stories.

As a teenager at the Ōākura and Districts Young Farmers Club (do such clubs exist anymore?) we were given a talk by the then Director of the Taranaki of the (then) Taranaki Museum, Rigby Allen. His has a much more lyrical story of Māori. One of the canoes of the 'Great Fleet' from Hawaiki stopped off at the Ōākura river mouth for a chief and his people to settle. The chief died, probably of old age. The custom and lore was 'as he came by the sea, he shall return by the sea'. 'Oa' in this context per te Reo 'Lore and Customs of Māori' is as described by Rigby Allen. The body of the chief accompanied by much grief of his people was placed in a canoe with his red cloak and pushed out to sea on the outgoing tide.

The red cloak, Kura, is of huge significance. The cloak was made of the feathers of l'iwi, a little bird of beautiful red plumage of Hawaiki. The cloak signified sacred protection associated with the Gods of Māori and was often worn in dangerous situations. Even in battle the killing of a chief wearing his cloak would unleash huge retribution and wrath of the Gods. In Hawaii over a million feathers of this bird would be used to make a cloak plus the back feathers and the yellow feathers of juvenile l'iwi for the foremost chiefs. The cloaks became highly prized and sought after by the European traders moving into the Pacific. The poor bird was almost hunted into extinction. The birds are now common. Another 'Hoary Old Chestnut'?

Len Jury

PRIZE TIME - Tell us where McKellar's track was and go in the draw to WIN A BOX OF CHOCOLATES.

Submit your answers to
editor@theoakurapost.co.nz or text to 027 636 8060

Stories of Ōmata shared by Len Jury. If you have your own stories to share please send to us and we will pass them on to Len. Len said he would welcome these but don't expect immediate publication. I know Len has 40 potential articles on hand, BUT he says "yours maybe better than his!"

Million-dollar fixes coming for NPDC's three waters networks

NPDC is getting on with fixing the district's plumbing with close to \$12m of planned repairs on our water, wastewater and stormwater networks due to kick off in the coming months.

The work is part of NPDC's \$248m investment to improve our water infrastructure in the 10 years to 2031.

"Some pipes are old and due for replacement and regular inspections have identified others as being damaged," says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom.

"It's vital we continue investing in maintaining critical infrastructure to keep sewerage in pipes, great drinking water for our kids and minimise flooding damage through good stormwater to help build towards the vision of being a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital."

NPDC will be spending \$5.3m on water pipes, \$4.3m on wastewater pipes and \$2.1m on stormwater pipes across the district up to the end of June next year.

The project for Ōākura:

- Replacing 1.3km of water main pipes along Wairau Road, Ōākura as the existing pipe is reaching the end of its life. The new pipe will accommodate future growth in the area and provide capacity for fire demand.

Keeping on top of repairing damaged and leaking pipes is vital to prevent other, often more serious issues such as pipe collapsing, and creating holes on a busy road or car park, as has happened in other parts of the country.

Fast facts

- The \$248m to invest in fixing the district's plumbing is part of our current 10-year-Plan 2021-2031.
- There are 800km of pipes in New Plymouth District.
- NPDC's four water treatment plants supply about 28 million litres of water per day to just under 28,000 homes and businesses.
- NPDC collects, manages and disposes of stormwater run-off from around 6,600ha of urban area in the district.
- On average, NPDC handles 25 million litres of wastewater each day, looking after more than 25,850 properties in the district.





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Stay safe in the water this summer

Regional Guard are on the beach 11.30am to 7.00pm up to Friday 26 January, and then 4.00pm to 7.30pm Monday to Friday from 29 January through to 16 February. Our volunteer weekend guards will be on the beach every weekend up to Taranaki Anniversary Monday 11 March 1-5pm.

As always, a big thanks to all of our lifeguards, giving up their time and helping out over the weekends. This season we had three new lifeguards get their lifeguard award with hopefully a couple more to follow.

Remember - swim between the flags, check conditions before going in, never swim alone and if in doubt, stay out. Parents, keep an eye on your kids and within arm's reach. The beach continually changes as with the conditions.

Junior Surf on Sunday mornings is in full swing with 170 U14 kids registered this season. Sunday sessions start back after the Christmas

break Sunday 26 January, 10am sharp. Thanks to Don Harvey's family supporting our Junior Surf families with Don's subsidy again this season. Thanks also to our coaches and parents that help out, we can't run it without you.

We had our inaugural Adventure Race fundraiser on New Years Day, thanks to the Lash family for organising. It was a great day!

Our 2024 Oceans Camp was again another great success, with 31 kids attending (9 to 14 years old). Three days of full-on activities including beach and water sessions, team building and finishing off with the famous (or infamous) Dylan Dunlop-Barrett Eliminator. Congratulations to Grady O'Sullivan and Vivi Hale for taking out the top spots. A special mention to the kids who did the Eliminator for the first time. It is a super hard event and they should be proud of themselves. Overall, a massive effort was put in by all the kids and the confidence and skill

levels of everyone improved. A great couple of days with a bunch of fun, fit, healthy and general all-round good kids. The effort they all put in was amazing.

Carnivals are in full swing now for Juniors, Seniors and IRBs, finishing up with Oceans end of February, Seniors mid-March and IRBS end of March. Good luck to everyone competing.

Anyone wanting to get involved, please follow us on Facebook, NPOB Surf Club, email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz or check out our new website npobsurflifesaving.co.nz



Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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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 - 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
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. Adult classes, Fridays 10.30am.
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 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

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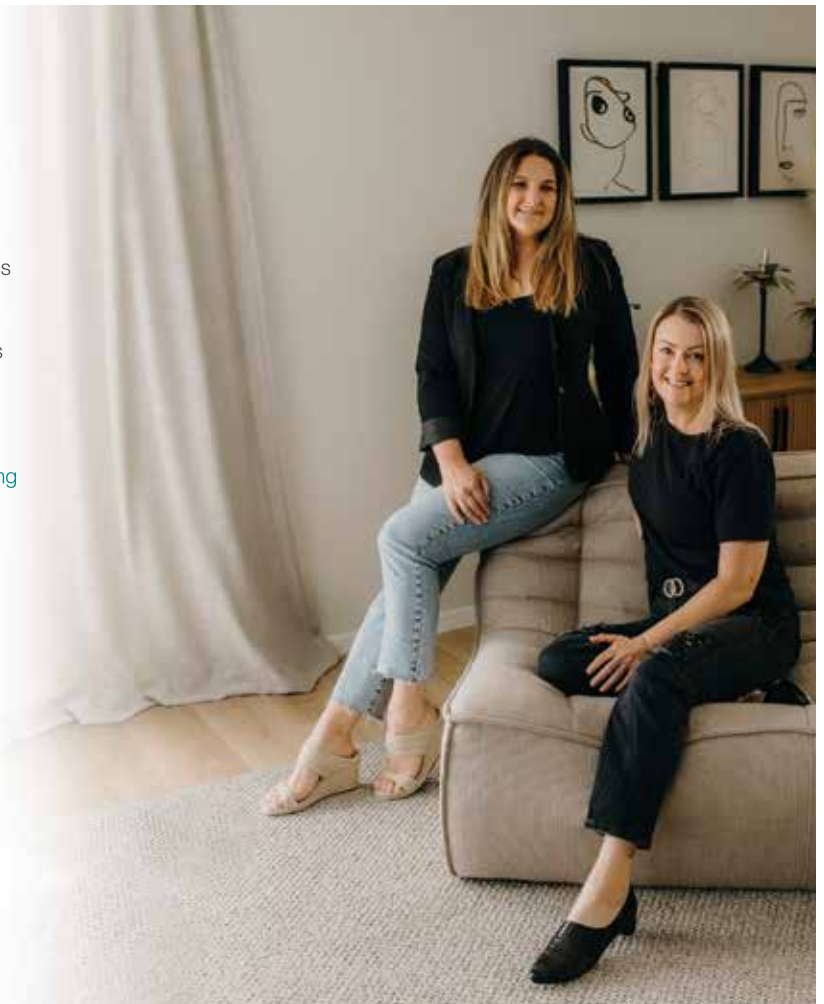
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