

the Ōākura Post

MARCH 2024

COVER ARTIST

*Malcolm
Alder*

the Doula
DIFFERENCE

Sustainable
DOCTOR

Radar Station

KCB *news*

Wāhine Waves

GOLF
BOWLS &
TENNIS

Our cover image is an artwork by Malcolm Alder. You may remember his name from the story on La Mer, a band that he is in. Malcolm sometimes comes along with his bass guitar to the weekly ukulele group. Read how you can become part of this weekly group further on in this issue.

Malcolm, tell me about this painting

My painting is in oils. It is of Lake Mangamahoe. The scene is a classic scenic shot of the lake and mountain but I wanted to paint it with an early morning ethereal atmosphere rather than a 'chocolate box' style. I got interested in oil painting as a retirement project but I dabbled a bit about 40 odd years ago when I was a student.

Kaitake Community Board

My goodness this 'new' year seems to be racing by.

To quote a well known Doctor (Dr Suess), "How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?" By the time this edition hits your letterboxes it will be March already and the end of the first quarter of 2024 will be fast approaching.

The New Plymouth District Council has been busy in this first quarter working on a Consultation Document for the public to consider, setting out the key issues and proposals to be included for the NPDC Long-Term Plan for the next 10 years and beyond – balancing the needs of tomorrow with the realities of today.

This document will recommend what the priorities should be, based on public feedback on a variety of topics and what new challenges have arisen.

Once completed, this document will be published and made available for final public comment and feedback, to ensure Council knows what you think and want, before they make their final decisions.

There is a legal requirement prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002 to provide an effective basis for public participation in local authority decision-making processes relating to the content of a Council's Long Term Plan. A Consultation Document is the way this is done.

The information a Consultation Document is required to contain includes;

- A description of each key issue with:
 - A range of options for addressing each issue
 - Implications (including financial impacts) of each option
 - Council's recommended proposal for addressing each issue
 - Consequences of proceeding with the recommended proposal on rates, Council debt, and levels of service
- An outline of the contents of a Council's Financial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategy
- Any significant changes to the way Council intends funding its CapEx (initial capital expenditure) or its OpEx (ongoing operational expenses)
- Council's financial information and proposed financial strategies
- An independent auditors report

I often hear criticism of Council regarding what they are doing, what they are not doing, what they should be doing, and disapproval at the level of rates and the idea of rates increases.

The NPDC Consultation Document, once finalised, will be the public's means of gaining visibility of our local political 'big picture', and the public's opportunity to have input into where the Council should be focusing its efforts and spending, moving into the future.

It is very easy for members of the public to become single issue focused when it comes to looking at Council. This document – for those prepared to take the time to read it - will aid in demonstrating that long term planning (and funding) is a little like a game of Tetris; moving one thing causes a bunch of other things to shift at the same time, putting something new on the board causes something else to fall off, and showing how attempting to put all the pieces in a particular order is actually a long, difficult and involved process.

As for being able to balance rates affordability with achieving the outcomes needed for our communities within the district, it has become increasingly evident that the existing local government funding model is a broken system that is neither sustainable or affordable. Therefore, until central government steps up to improve the local government funding system, Council will have to continue to operate within the current framework, and they will have to make some tough decisions to provide for growth, and to improve infrastructure, amenity and essential service delivery for our current community.

The five Community Boards across the district will continue to advocate strongly to ensure that our respective issues are given the appropriate consideration during the LTP process, and are not merely glossed over or put aside, as has occurred on many occasions in the past.

While the big picture matters can be daunting and overwhelming, it is the 'little things' that can get under your skin and eventually start to grind you down, so if you have matters that are annoying you in our part of the world please don't hesitate to pass them on to Renee, Paul, Teresa or me, and we will see what we can do towards getting the matter addressed.

In the meantime, Kia noho haumarū, a tangohia tiaki tātou katoa - Stay safe, and take care everyone.

Next meeting is 5pm, 8th of April at the Ōākura Bowling Club.

Graham Chard - Kaitake Community Board Chair
thechardz@gmail.com 027 2204549

On behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and our appointed Councillor Aneka Carlson

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Shannon assisting a new mum



Your Pregnancy Journey with a Doula



My journey into the realm of pregnancy and birth began with the arrival of my son – a moment that stirred a mix of emotions, leaving me eager for a different experience when I found out I was expecting again. It was then that I discovered the incredible impact a doula can have, working hand in hand with my midwife to transform my journey. Inspired by the care and support I received, I knew I had found my calling.

As a compassionate doula, I step into your world to provide the emotional, physical, and practical support you need during one of life's most transformative experiences. My goal? To ensure that your journey through childbirth and the postpartum period is one you'll look back on with fondness and gratitude.

To me, childbirth isn't just an event – it's a milestone etched into the hearts and minds of parents forever. My mission is simple: to infuse this moment with joy, love, and empowerment, offering you unwavering support, evidence-based information, and encouragement every step of the way.

Picture this: during labour and birth, I'm your calm, positive presence, ready to offer foot massages, fetch ice, or simply wipe away sweat, creating a safe, nurturing space for you and your partner to welcome your little one into the world.

And after the birth? As your doula, I'm not just here for the birth – I'm here for the entire journey, including the sometimes challenging postpartum period. Beyond emotional support, I offer practical, in-home assistance to ease your transition into parenthood.

From tackling housework and laundry to providing feeding support and preparing nourishing meals, I'm dedicated to ensuring that you feel supported and cared for during this tender time. Whether you need a listening ear, a helping hand, or simply someone to share a cup of tea with, I'm here for you.

Together, we'll navigate the ups and downs of the fourth trimester, celebrating your triumphs and offering gentle guidance when needed. Your well-being is my priority, and I'm committed to providing the personalised support you need to thrive as you embrace the joys and challenges of parenthood.


Shannon Engelbrecht



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Kaitake Golf Club

Some good weather lately and the fairways are beginning to show signs of browning off but compared to previous years we are still looking fairly green and the occasional day or two of rain does help.

With the larger numbers of players on our course across the summer months inevitably we have issues with managing slow play and golf etiquette. Our values around the culture we want in place at Kaitake are:

- It's courteous to allow faster groups through at the earliest possible time and considerate to the flow of all playing on the course, not just the groups immediately effected.
- If you are in a faster group and wanting to play through, approach the group in front in the manner you would like to be spoken to.
- A lower handicap does not give rite of passage around the golf course.
- On competition days a 4 ball has precedence over smaller groups, however if there is opportunity the 4 ball may allow the smaller group to play through. The same rules of courtesy and respect apply.

Please keep the above in mind as we play through our busier days but we do welcome all green fee players. If you are interested in becoming a member please give Denise a call at the office.

We have a few projects in the pipeline. A new shower for Ladies locker room, new patio ceiling for our deck. The steps on the 16th tee have been replaced and handrail made secure. The pond is still an issue but hopefully this will be in play soon.



SPONSORSHIP

We are still looking for more sponsors especially for our tee signs. Please contact Denise in the office Ph: 06 7527665.

CHIPPERS:

We have a new member Jamie Farquhar who has generously given up his time to look after the Chippers. The first day was on the 18th February and he is hoping to do this every Sunday at 3pm in School Terns 1 & 4. If you wish to be part of the Chippers please turn up on Sunday at 3pm, you will be more than welcome. If you require any further information please contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

We will be in touch and hopefully we can get some coaching for the kids.

New players are always very welcome. Chippers ages range from 5 – 12 years. Just bring them along with flat soled footwear, a hat and perhaps a drink. Clubs, balls and coaching are provided. It costs \$50 to join as a member for the year allowing the children access to the course at any time as long as they are under supervision.

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 here that they are more than welcome to borrow and have a go at playing golf. We need to try and promote the young kids of today to come join our club and get involved.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

All golfers the ripe old age of 50 and over may join the Taranaki Vets Golf. The sub for the year is \$10 and once a month a game is held at a golf club in Taranaki with an entry of \$10. The Host club gets \$7 and the rest is for prizes on the day. Ladies and men are all welcome. Tee times are: 9am (daylight savings). 9.30 am (rest of year) so come along and enjoy!

Ōākura Library

FANTASY AND SCI FI READERS: Will be pleased with the wealth of exciting new titles. Fourth Wing begins the Empyrean series followed by Iron Flame. Weather Woman, Cloud Cuckoo Land and Babel have also been well received this summer.

MODERN ROMANCE FICTION: The Girl on the 88 Bus, and Romantic Comedy balance heartbreak and humour.

GENERAL FICTION: Maame, Yellowface, Hello Beautiful and The Covenant of Water are thought provoking, with some interesting premises discussed.

DETECTIVE AND THRILLER: The Prisoner, The Waiter, No One saw it Coming, A World of Curiosities offer solid writing but present those twists that keep us wanting more.

NEW ADULT NON -FICTION: There's a Cure for This by Dr. Emma Espiner. Untouchable Girls by the Topp Twins. Just One More Thing by Dr. Michael Mosley

ŌĀKURA CRACKERJACKS: Thursday 7 March 10-10.30am. 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.

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Karen Danenhauer

An emergency specialist who believes that the harm we are causing to the environment is an emergency

Karen, who works as an ED doctor, became passionate about saving the planet when she first read about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — a huge patch of garbage floating in the Pacific Ocean. Her first try at fixing the environmental problem focused on plastic waste. That led her to start MamaGaia, a small business out of her garage recycling plastic. Some of you may remember when we used to drop off our milk bottle caps to Karen and she melted them down and turned them into soap dishes. (She has since sold that business.)

As a doctor working in the Hawera Emergency Department, Karen became interested in the movement within healthcare to be gentler on the environment. "It makes sense that we in healthcare should be leading the effort for a healthy environment. As our environment is damaged — by plastics, chemicals, greenhouse gases and pharmaceuticals that get into our waterways — so too does our collective health suffer. Reducing healthcare's environmental impact will help prevent bigger catastrophes for our children and grandchildren to deal with."

Karen and a few others in Hawera Hospital have formed a 'Green Team' and undertaken a couple of projects, initially with support of a dedicated Taranaki DHB sustainability leader, though that position no longer exists. The Green Team raised money and had a couple of garden beds built, maintained by volunteers and intended for patients and their whanau. "We encourage recycling by providing not just the usual bins for the normal recyclables, but also bins for PPE, soft plastics and single-use instruments. We promote the judicious use of antibiotics and put up

posters around the hospital to heightened awareness for both medical professional and patients."

Last year Karen had an incredible opportunity to take a three-month sabbatical from her job as an emergency doctor at Hawera Hospital and decided to do a deep dive into 'green healthcare'.

"I spent this time meeting with experts abroad and learning what different healthcare systems around the world are doing to lessen our environmental impact. My hope was to meet some allies in this field, and learn as many tips as possible that we could implement here. It was so inspirational and motivating! For months ahead of the trip I looked for contacts in countries where there might be a strong sustainable programme. I attended the CleanMed Europe conference remotely, which had an amazing platform and made it easy to connect with other conference 'attendees' from all over the world".

Once on the trip, one contact led to another for Karen. "I visited the Health Care Without Harm office in Brussels, and they put me in touch with an interesting group in Nepal working on hospital waste. Then that group in Nepal put me in contact with a nutritionist in Singapore that had a lot of useful insights."

Karen documented her fascinating sabbatical in a blog post on her ongoing blog (www.SustainableDoctor.co). You can follow where she went, what she learned and the people she encountered on the way. It's an interesting and insightful read with photos. The title is 'Sustainable Healthcare Around the World' and you can read about Karen's findings in Iceland, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Madagascar, Nepal and Singapore. She was impressed with the reusable canisters containing autoclaved suture kits in a Nepalese Hospital and an effort to reduce the use of non-sterile plastic gloves elsewhere.

"With this blog, I aim to make the transitions easier — to educate and energise others and to help cure what ails our planet." In addition to tips for the workplace, Karen also provides tips for the home.

"I want to give practical tips on what we can do in our practices to become sustainable." In the blog Karen notes that the healthcare sector has immense purchasing power — allocating over 10% of the gross world product. "That's a huge amount of potential clout if we can harness our collective influence to push for better environmental practices."

Along the journey Karen managed to be joined by her Dad, several longtime friends, and even her husband, Mark and their children at various points. Returning to Madagascar and catching up with the people she and Mark worked with when they were in the Peace Corp 25 years ago was special.

"I've come back from that trip with renewed energy and determination to make a difference in the field of sustainability.

I'll be speaking at several national conferences including Aotearoa NZ Emergency Medicine Conference in NP in March and NZ Women in Medicine in Wellington in May. As an emergency room doctor I'm trained to recognise and treat emergencies, and this is an emergency if I've ever seen one!"

Originally from the US, Karen spent seven years in Germany as a child when her father worked for the US Army as a dentist. She lived in Italy for a year as a high school exchange student, and in Madagascar for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Karen arrived in NZ with Mark and their young family in 2015. They had contemplated making that move for a decade, intrigued by NZ's natural environment and a desire to get away from the rat race of American life. When there was an opening for an emergency doctor in NP, Karen got the job and they moved here. They settled in Ōākura at the recommendation of a medical colleague.

Originally Karen had a two year contract, but they liked it here and have stayed. The children were 6 and 8 at the time they arrived. Karen says, "I can't imagine a better place to raise children." Now the boys are 14 and 16 and they also have a foreign exchange student from Germany living with them for the year.

Elayne Kessler

New Volunteers join the local Fire Brigade



John and Brady training with blacked out masks. Say hello if you recognise them around the village.

We've had a great response to our call for volunteers with four more of the local community regularly turning up for training now. Although everyone starts out as an observer it's not too long before our new volunteers can look forward to heading off to the seven day recruit course to be put through their paces.

Which is exactly what two of our members tackled late last year, and so we welcome Brady Cameron and John Tooman to the rank of Firefighter. Now official members of the Ōākura brigade, both Brady and John have past military experience so we can look forward to some pretty sharp drills! Brady knows his way around water and with extensive experience in the maritime industry, these days he can be found bringing ships into Port Taranaki. John on the other hand prefers sturdier ground as he lends his practical knowledge to the building industry as project manager at Icon Construction.

Welcome lads!

Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



Club Championships

The senior singles club champs are down to the semifinals with Kevin Fleming playing Tony McAlevey and Rod Smith taking on Craig Murray. All players will be seeking their 1st senior singles title and we wish them good bowling.

Jim Priest, Aad Schrader, Rod Smith and Syd Sharpe won the highly coveted fours championship over the Tony McAlevey skipped team of Allan Bridgeman, Norm Lofthouse and Roy Phillips. It was an exciting and close game with Priest playing some great clutch bowls over the final few ends to hold out the gallant McAlevey foursome to win 22 – 15.

Interclub

The Gilmour Cup and Avery Shield midweek tournaments are nearing conclusion with Ōākura holding 3rd place in both competitions. Well done to selector Paul Coxhead and with the aid of some favourable results over the last round we just might see some trophies heading back to Ōākura.

Inclement weather cancelled the last game of the Saturday shield competition, leaving Ōākura's title chances 'stalled in the gates' as they finished runner up to debutant entrants Urenui. Thanks to all bowlers who assisted both on, around and off the green.

Club News

The Taranaki Open was a resounding "thumbs" up for the Ōākura club with all visiting players lavishing high praise on the club for its magnificent green, picture perfect surrounds and friendly hospitality. Such lofty praise could not be reached without the volunteers who generously give their time throughout the week. The club would not be able to

service events such as the open without your support and assistance. Well done to all. A special mention goes to green keeper Wayne Robinson and his team in providing a world class playing surface resulting in the awarding of post section play at Ōākura. A fantastic effort and great result for the club.

There was a mixed results for the Ōākura boys with only one team qualifying for post sectional play. The team of Pat Walklin, Jim Priest, Steve Muller, Wayne Robinson and super sub, Geoff Farrant reached the last 32 only to be narrowly defeated by a combined team from the Manawatu region.

Congratulations to Craig Murray and Kurt Smith in making the Taranaki representative teams that will take on the rest of New Zealand mid-February. Well-deserved guys and all at the club wish you great bowling.

The underarm bowler



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Oakura Meat Co & Fine Foods

When Vaughan and Stacey's Ōākura property sold in 2022 they could not believe their good luck when a building lease became available that would fulfil a dream they held for many years. They were both wanting a customer focused food outlet. Not only was it in the heart of the village, it could not have been a better fit for the space they would need to operate a butchery, fine food store and ice cream parlour 'It might be the only butchery in NZ, or the world!, that sells rolled ice cream' they laugh, some may even question whether it could work - Well I can tell you it does! As I sat outside on the deck with Vaughan and Stacey to hear their story there was a constant stream of gelato and sorbet-licking customers filing out. Here it should also be mentioned there is a doggie gelato on the menu, especially created by Stacey who may be a little bit besotted with dogs. While some carried on their way, others stayed and sat at tables or on beanbags, enjoying the peaceful outdoor space. Set back from the road behind Butlers Reef bottle store it's a great place to sit and relax.

Vaughan wanted to bring back the butcher shop of his younger years growing up in Wanganui and where his dream to be a butcher was founded because he loved seeing beyond the counter and through the glass paned wall to watch the butchers preparing meat. At 16 years of

age he left school to start his butchery apprenticeship in the New World supermarket. He left Wanganui to chase waves in Ōākura and continued as a supermarket butcher. He loved working with meat but he didn't see any customers and this was what he really wanted. To say that he now is loving going to work every day is an understatement, I don't think anything could wipe the smile off his face.

Ōākura Meat Co stocks meat products locally and from a Wanganui abattoir supplying Angus Pure meat and spring lamb, Mokau butchery for bacon - everything is individually weighed, cut or sliced to order and wrapped in brown paper, just like the old days. You can buy only what you need, even the eggs can be bought singly. Vaughan is quickly getting a name for himself for his handmade sausages, with his flavours changing daily. They are so popular that parents have commented that their sausage averse children are now huge fans. I also learned about a meat Swiss roll. Having grown up on a farm I don't remember ever having a Swiss roll - layered sausage meat, mince and stuffing rolled up, coated in breadcrumbs and sliced ready for frying. I also had never tried a fried saveloy until Vaughan mentioned one of his customers cooks them that way, so I can say "I do like a fried sav".

Stacey has a background in customer focussed jobs and loves being in the shop serving their customers. The fine foods that have been selected by Stacey or from customer suggestions is extensive. Take some time to browse the shelves because there are a lot of interesting products. Along with cooking condiments of flavoured oils, black garlic, kelp salt, Israeli couscous, maple syrup, there are chocolates, lollies, crackers, cake mixes, granola, cheese, aioli, pesto, satay sauce, smoked salmon, cured meats to name just a few. One product caught my eye, Tipl jars of dried fruits and spices and all you have to do is add your choice of alcohol or soda water.

If you're in a hurry and need to place an order for pick up you can give them a call or contact via social media.

If you have yet to check Oakura Meat Co & Fine Foods pop in and you'll receive a warm welcome. There is some customer parking out front as an added bonus.


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Neighbours Aotearoa

The month-long celebration Neighbours Aotearoa returns for 2024, running from the 1st to the 31st of March, and encourages people from right across the country to organise activities or events with their neighbours. Whether it's a friendly wave, sharing tea or hosting a neighbourhood party, there are many ways, big and small, to get involved in your community.

This year's theme 'Growing Together' is about connecting, nurturing relationships, sharing, and encouraging aroha where you live. It's about growing skills, networks, memories, participation, and fostering a beautiful neighbourhood.

Now in its fourteenth year, Neighbours Aotearoa is dedicated to growing resilient and supportive communities. Starting in 2009 as a one-day event, the initiative is now running for a full month for the second year in a row, creating a movement of people nationwide who are working through small and big acts to connect neighbours. Over the past five years more than three thousand people have organised an activity for Neighbours Aotearoa. And those are just the ones we know about!

In 2023 alone, over six hundred people from the top of the country to the bottom registered an event, activity or intention, with everything from sausage sizzles, street parties to a skateboarding competition.

Each region has a dedicated Community Connector to support people planning activities for their neighbourhood, Taranaki has the help of Cass Gray. "My role is essentially to spread the word about Neighbours Aotearoa to the Taranaki community, as well as provide free event planning resources - such as downloadable invites, event toolkits, name stickers etc. I can also help those that need it to register their events on the Neighbours Aotearoa website, or just have a general yarn about any ideas you may have".

To find out more about Neighbours Aotearoa and to register your event visit their website www.neighboursaotearoa.nz or contact Cass direct via cass@neighboursaotearoa.nz



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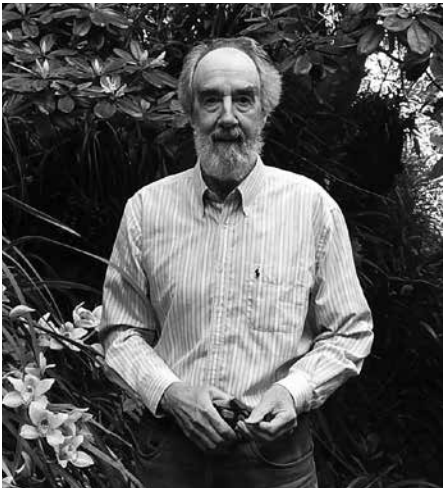
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GLYN CHURCH

A Flower Blooming Every Day in Autumn

I introduced Glyn in the December 2023-December 2024 issue of the POST as an internationally well-known horticulturist who lives in our midst. He said, "One of my ambitions is to have some flower in bloom and providing colour every single day of the calendar year." In that issue you told us about hydrangeas for colour in the summer months. Now Autumn is upon us. What do you suggest for colour for this season?

Every year I'm puzzled and surprised at how pink Camellia flowers blend with the yellows, golds and scarlets of autumn colour.

Camellia sasanqua flower in the fall. The pure white double one is called Moonlight, a soft pink is Plantation Pink, and a richer cerise colour is one called Hiryu.

Most plants with autumn colour are big trees but there are several smaller shrubs which have good leaf colour this time of year, namely Clethra alniifolia which has bright butter yellow leaves.



Plectranthus Mahonii Autumn

Even better is the hydrangea from Alabama called Hydrangea quercifolia, or the Oak Leaf type. The big white blooms turn pink this time of year, and the leaves turn burnished reds and purples. Lots of Hydrangeas have a change of flower colour this late season. White mop heads are some of the best, turning green in shade or even pink or red in the sun. Too much sun and they burn to a crisp.

There's one outstanding variety called Hamburg, a deep blue version which turns red wine colour now. When the flowers change colour at autumn time, they are called 'antique' because they have that aged look. Cut stems of flowers now, rip all the leaves off and place them in a vase of water. At the end of the week, throw the water away, and now you have dried flowers which should last all winter, or maybe till Christmas.

The evergreen Hydrangea - Dichroa versicolor flowers in autumn, producing dozens of brilliant blue blooms in round domes. Another stunning shrub flowering now is Plectranthus mahonii with rich purple blue spikes of flowers. Plectranthus are soft stem shrubs which love to grow in shade. There's heaps of them in Pukekura Park, growing under the shade of big trees.

Another splash of colour comes from the Prairie daisies. If you want to see some fabulous examples, take a trip up to Pukeiti



Dichroa

and head for the Keiller Garden past the the hybrid block. Up there you'll see fabulous daisies in all shapes and colours, everything from pale blue, cerise and navy blue Michaelmas daisies, on to the lemons, golds, oranges and burnished reds of the Rudbeckia and related herbaceous perennials.

'Swamp daisies' also flower now. Ligularia have big round leaves and bright orange or yellow flowers. These are unusual because they will grow in damp and shady places, unlike most daisies which demand full sun.

By the way, 'fall' is an old English term meaning leaves fall. Autumn by comparison is a French or Norman word. At my school we were told not to use Americanisms like fall, not knowing it is old English.

Glyn, we received a couple of questions for you following the article in our Dec/Jan issue.

When is the best time to prune hydrangeas?

Wait for midwinter, best not to touch them now.

Why don't my hydrangeas bloom?

Most likely reason is pruning too hard. They produce flower buds over winter, and pruning too hard removes these flower buds.

Readers, continue to send your queries for Glyn to editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

Elayne Kessler

Oakura Crop swap on Saturday 16th March 3-4pm

IN THE OAKURA VILLAGE HALL
(access via side door to kitchen/mess hall).

Please bring koha to cover hire of club room.

Bring fruit, vegetables, home baking, preserves, crafts, seeds and plants to swap with others.

Crop swap will run every 3rd Saturday
3pm with swap starting 3.30pm.



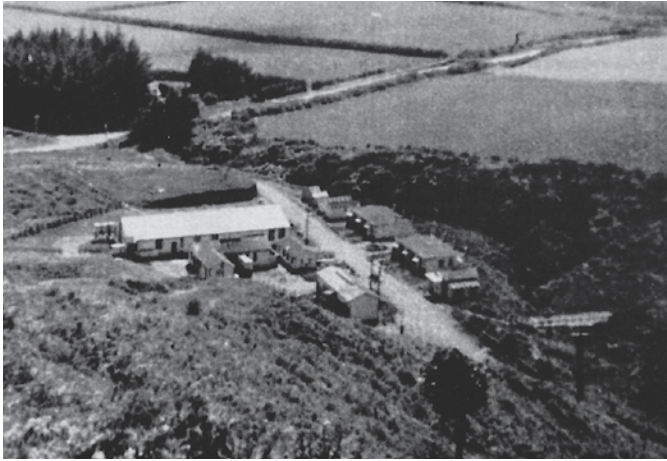


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Radar Station - Sefton Bridge



Unit 11 was built by Boon Brothers from New Plymouth on Sefton Ridge. The Radar station was run by an airforce personnel of 70. The Radar itself was 15 feet high. It was used to pick signals from Japanese war ships out in the Tasman Sea. The Radar had a generator shed up by it to produce power. The 70 personnel lived in the area of Ngamamaku Gardens (that Tony and John purchased in 1986). About 40 airforce women worked at the Radar site. The rest were men.

Sefton Ridge was named after family who used to own the hill as a run off farm. The Sefton

Airforce planes (Hudson bombers) were sent from the airforce runway at Bell Block to have a look.

In 1945 the unit was disbanded and sent to Te Rapa. Only the wooden Radar tower was left. The tower was pulled down in 1955-56. The truck shed was left behind and the house that Tony and John lived in. The airforce camouflaged the site to make it look like a hostel. Butlers Hotel in Ōākura became the place for airforce staff when off duty.

By Robert Hall

family farmed on Ahu Ahu Road where Barry Bishop is today.

The Radar staff were under strict instructions not to talk about the Radar site or tell anyone what they are were doing there. The radar site was guarded 24 hours a day. The Radar did pick up four signals from a Japanese war ship and this information was relayed back to Wellington, NZ.

Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

Congratulations to Luke Barrett, Anna Shlosberg, Angus Thorpe, Cooper and Miller Ferguson who represented Taranaki in a recent rep fixture against Eastern and Whanganui. Luke and Anna competed in the under 12s Eastern rep fixture where they tied on games and won by 1 set overall. Angus Thorpe played the Whanganui rep fixture under 12s where they won 8-4.

Miller and Cooper Ferguson competed in the under 16s grade with a 7-5 loss to Eastern.

Len Adamson and Chris Davies competed in the seniors national tournament held in Auckland with Len and his partner from Auckland getting a bronze medal in the doubles.

Junior competition has kicked back into gear and seniors are into it with a couple more rounds before playoffs. Midweek ladies are also back into competition and coach Monika is back on court coaching.

Hope everyone is enjoying some court and beach time while the sun is still shining!

Jackie

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Local Wāhine Amy Hart catching a fun peeler



Surf coach Simon Deken of Deken Waves putting Wāhine Waves attendees thru their paces"

Ōākura Boardriders - Wāhine Waves

There are more than 500 members of Ōākura Boardriders, however only a handful are women who surf. So, to encourage women in the surf, Wāhine Waves, an initiative of the Ōākura Boardriders Club (OBC), has been running this summer, and is in its second year. Wāhine Waves is a series of fun and free 'learn to surf' events for women who wish to try surfing, or for those who perhaps surfed years ago and are keen to get back into the water. In one Wāhine Waves event, there was a woman in her late 60s reliving her longboard dreams after decades out of the surf!

Wāhine Waves events consist of a surf lesson coached by Deken Waves, followed by nibbles and a couple of glasses of bubbles up at the OBC club rooms. This year, each attendee received an OBC Wāhine Waves logo T-shirt and a tote bag containing amazing treats from sponsors.

As well as enabling confidence in the water, the events allow many mums, and work busy wāhine (women) to remember the importance of

ensuring they prioritise themselves and their own happiness too. The grins and the pride of the attendees as they catch waves for the first time has been a huge buzz to see!

The events are run and supported by legendary female Ōākura Boardriders volunteers and are free, thanks to the huge generosity of this summer's sponsors. Hopefully, if sponsorship is gained, Wāhine Waves will be back next summer too, upping the stoke in the water for women.

Summer 2024 Wāhine Waves sponsors – Toi Foundation, Taranaki Realty, Deken Motors, Craigs Investments, Down to Earth Organics, Mint Mortgages, Cracker and Graze, The Virtue, Wella Hair Professionals, and Vertigo.

Ange Lawn

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Ōākura School

We welcome our new kaiako/teachers to Ōākura School

Lynley Stringer

Whaea Lynley is currently teaching in Rūma Kōwhai, a year 7 & 8 class. Whaea Lynley has been teaching for six years. Whaea Lynley is a multi talented teacher who has taught a range of year levels throughout her teaching career. She is looking forward to teaching algebra to her ākonga/students in Rūma Kōwhai. Her first impression of Ōākura School was that it is a lovely kura/school, with good values. Whaea Lynley started teaching in Brisbane, then moved to Auckland and then moved to Taranaki. She has taught part time at our kura for the last two years. Whaea Lynley lives locally, her boys come to our school too.



Jess Coombes

Miss Coombes teaches year 7 & 8 students in Rūma Rima. Miss Coombes has been a teacher for 12 years, but has also done lots of travel too. She said she is looking forward to going swimming and having outdoor adventures in Taranaki. We asked her what her first impression was when she first came to our school and she said that it's warm, welcoming and that it is a beautiful property with heaps of nature. Miss Coombes has taught in Queenstown, Japan, Bali and Canada. She came to Ōākura because of the beautiful places and the outdoors. Miss Coombes was born in Auckland and grew up in heaps of different places, but mostly Queenstown and Dunedin.



Dale Smith

Mrs Smith is the kaiako/teacher in Rūma Miro with a year 4 & 5 class. She is an experienced teacher who has worked most of her career in Auckland. Mrs Smith said that she is looking forward to getting to know all of the students, teachers and whānau of our kura, and learning more about the history of Ōākura. Her first impression of Ōākura School is how it's beautiful, tidy and that students and staff are really friendly. Mrs Smith started her career teaching in South Africa. She has moved to Taranaki because she wants more of a relaxed lifestyle and to be closer to family.



Becky Gooch

Whaea Becky teaches the year 3 ākonga/students in Rūma Kawakawa. This is the second time Whaea Becky has taught at Ōākura School. Whaea Becky said that she is looking forward to having a new class full of great kids in 2024. Her first impression of Ōākura School was how beautiful it is and that we are very lucky to be part of this great school. Whaea Becky taught in Room 8 in 2022 then went over to London to relieve. She also is an ex-student of Ōākura School, Mrs Taylor was her teacher when she was in year 7 & 8. When Whaea Becky qualified she got excited when she saw a job advertised at Ōākura School, applied for it and joined the team again.



Charlotte Lester

Miss Lester is teaching year 1 & 2 students (which she is really happy about) in Rūma Tōtara. One of the things Miss Lester is looking forward to is teaching close to the beach and using our local environment in learning. She appreciates how everyone loves to swim and go to the beach here. Miss Lester has been teaching for five years at two different schools before here. She taught a year 1 & 2 class down in the South Island and year 5 & 6 students in Marton. Her reason for moving to Taranaki is because her partner got a job at New Plymouth Boys' High School. Miss Lester was born in Timaru.



Strength & Balance

Mondays 11–11.45am on the deck of the Ōākura branch library (weather permitting).

Supported by Sport Taranaki and led by Jane Roseman & Lucy Weeks.

No cost, just show up in comfortable clothes and shoes.

Contact Hilary at Sport Taranaki or phone 021480180



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Introducing our 2024 Lead Ambassadors



From Left: Daisy Denton-Giles, Paige Henderson, Olive Glasgow & Liam Prestidge

Coming Up

March

- 5** SWIMMING DISPLAYS:
10am Kōtare
11:15am Korimako
2pm Tūi
- 6** SWIMMING DISPLAYS:
10am Pīwakawaka
11:15am Pūkeko
2pm Kiwi
- 11** Taranaki Anniversary Day
- 12** Teacher Only Day
- 18** Y7/8 Athletics at Ōkato
- 20** 3D Conferences 12pm -7:30pm
- 21** 3D Conferences 12pm-7:30pm
- 29** Good Friday

April

- 1** Easter Monday
- 2** Easter Tuesday
- 9** ANZAC Commemoration 2pm



Do you know who any of these pupils are?

Stories of Ōmata

AS SHARED BY LEN JURY

A Human Head

Have you seen Māori pounder stones with carved human heads? A creative head and face and pounder section with two raised lines, one each side. Evidently a unique special flax pounder made only by Te Atiawa hapu of Bell Block area. Could possibly be found Ōmata and Ōākura, perhaps for trading? Have you seen one in any of our localities? Perhaps found in one of our streams. This one found at Ōmata, now in Puke Ariki.

There are two carved rocks - petroglyphs at Ōmata and possibly unique to Taranaki, possibly in design unique to Aotearoa. These large andesite rocks have very distinctive patterns. Images recorded by Nigel Prickett (1981) and Roger Fyfe (1989) of Taranaki Museum. Reason for these carved rock designs have been lost in time, perhaps hundreds of years. Suggestions as to purpose range from - Boundary markers, Fishing grounds, Marked for death of a chief or warriors or a location of religious significance. A Māori friend told me Māori did not have boundary lines like we use on a map.

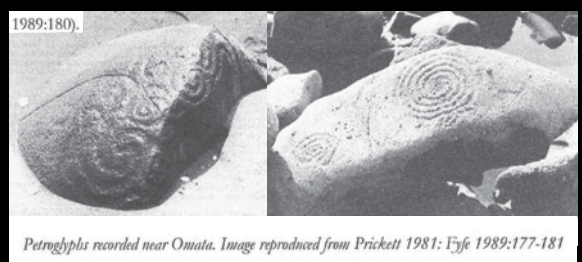
And McKellar's Track? Now, such an unimaginative name 'Beach Road' on your way past Ōmata into New Plymouth. McKellar, a young woman, lost her husband due to an accident about a year after marriage. Next month perhaps an article about Annette McKellar? Copyrights however can be tricky. They just take time. An inspiring story of a young lady from Ōmata who achieved fame and was acknowledged with major awards in New Zealand, Australia, France and England.

In coming months 'Who do you think you are?' Not really but school jubilee photos 'who is this?'. In some photos the pupils are not named. Dig those photos out. I hope more class or school photos than published in the excellent commemoration booklets are available? This photo of a class(es?) at Ōmata School of 1936. Somebody must be able to recognise their grandmother or grandfather?

In the 1950s I played for the Kaitake 9th grade team. Bet some good stories are waiting to be told of the Kaitake rugby club teams playing on Ken Marsh's 'flat?' Paddock across the creek from the old cowshed by SH45. Send in your stories as they are very welcome. One player in the First Juniors (under 21 years of age), who played on the wing we called, the 'fastest man in the west'. No, it wasn't Roy West but very few could beat Roy either. Regrettably this man died in a car accident at the river bridge by the Patua dairy factory. Can you tell us his name?

Yep, box of chocolates for the winner of the draw to this question. Email to editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

There was no winner for our last issue. Good luck this month.



Petroglyphs recorded near Ōmata. Image reproduced from Prickett 1981: Fyfe 1989:177-181



NPOB team of 27 super keen 10-14 year olds compete at Mount Maunganui.



NPOB team of 27 super keen 10-14 year olds compete at Mount Maunganui.

Weekend Lifeguards on the beach until Taranaki Anniversary

Mid week lifeguards have now finished for the season, weekend volunteer lifeguards will be on the beach until Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. A big thanks to all our lifeguards, giving up their time and helping out over the weekends.

If you are swimming when the flags aren't up, please check conditions first, don't swim alone and parents please always keep your eyes on your kids and within arms reach. Always

remember the beach continually changes as with the conditions.

Taranaki Junior and Senior Champs were held early February at East End. Juniors put in a great effort and came away with first place.

At the time of writing, Oceans 24 has just started. NPOB has a team of 27 super keen 10-14 year olds competing at Mount Maunganui. A lot of time and hard work has gone into their training, not only by them but also by their

coaches and managers.

Mid March sees our Senior team of seven head to Mount Maunganui for Nationals, again a lot of hard work has been put in by everyone in preparation.

Check out our Facebook page for updates.



Ukulele in Ōākura

Nearly a year ago I thought I was starting a ukulele group that would become a little musical community – meeting regularly and people starting to get to know each other. That's the way other groups have happened. I soon realised that there is probably only 1.5 degrees of separation in Ōākura – ie many people already knew each other. Newcomers joined too, and were welcomed. People have



learned songs in different keys. We can play Latin rhythms, pick out melodies and play riffs. There are some good singers and harmonies

are coming on, and sometimes Malcolm (Alder) joins us on bass. Making music is so good for your soul!

If you can play ukulele already you might like to join us at 1.30pm on Thursdays in the garden bar at Butlers Reef.

If you'd like to learn ukulele, Tony is running an 8 week beginner class (\$15 per class) starting Thursday 4th April from 12.30 - 1.30pm at the same venue. Ukuleles provided if need be. Limited to 10 people.

Call Tony on 0221 840 720 to book in.

Tony Hansen

MORNING TALK COFFE GROUP

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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

Oākura - St James Church

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

Sunday School - St James Church

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

Surf Lessons

Deken Waves Surf Coaching. Group & Private sessions available. Contact Simon: 021 122 9525 dekenwaves@gmail.com

Running for Kids

TempoFit Kids - get fitter and faster and have a blast along the way! Fridays 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. 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: taranakitachichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School - Ōākura Hall

Tuesday afternoon - Pre-school dance classes at 2:45, ballet for 5+ 3:30 to 4:15. 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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