

the Ōākura Post

APRIL 2024



Kaitake Community Board

(Plagiarising, an often used meme) Getting things done within the New Plymouth District Council can be a bit like elephants mating.

There's frantic activity that takes place at a very high level.
There's a lot of screaming, roaring and stamping involved.
A lot of dust gets raised.

Nothing happens for two years,
and then you're crushed by the result.

This is the impression that is held by many in the community, and there are times I am sure when Community Board members across the district would admit to feeling the same way as well.

Why is this the case, you might ask? Well...

A number of years ago the Ōākura Community Notice Board that stood outside the Four Square was removed, and the Kaitake Community Board has been advocating for a number of those years to get it reinstated. The advent of the Community Board Discretionary Fund provided the mechanism for us to expedite that reinstatement, so we began to work through the process of making that happen. After working through the "screaming, stamping, dust raising, waiting, waiting, waiting" stages it was eventually installed – only to find that one of the keys that unlocked the notice section of the board didn't work, and the map on the other side of the board was installed without the corrections to the original draft as recommended by KCB and by local residents.

For a couple of decades now Kaitake Community Boards and resident interest groups have been raising concerns, through a raft of avenues, relating to a variety of the hazardous sections of State Highway 45 between the Hangatahua (Stony) River and Barrett Road in Spotswood. After years of campaigning we were finally afforded the opportunity to submit, through the NPDC, directly to central government via Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency - only to have our hopes crushed by the last government putting the 2024-27 State Highway Speed Management Plan on to their '2023 Policy Bonfire'.

Examples such as these, a number of long outstanding big ticket items like the Weld Road Headland Boardwalk, Inglewood's Windsor Walkway, the Waitara Coastal Walkway extension, Waitara's Te Kohia Pa development, and smaller issues like beach access, footpaths that haven't been laid, and curb and channelling that hasn't been installed - there seems to be so many things Council hasn't addressed that we feel let down by, and that's what leaves us with that 'elephant mating' feeling.

It begs the question, Why?

While with some of these issues it is a matter of priorities and back room horse trading, the reality is that many things are actually out of the direct control of the NPDC, and there are often layers of regulatory bureaucracy, interference from outside agencies and organisations, and other complex issues that impact on what the Council is working to achieve.

As creatures of statute, councils are entirely answerable to central government, and with the stroke of a pen, parliament can hand tasks to local government, set service standards, and dictate local operations, and councils are then obliged to accept these responsibilities, or be replaced by statutory managers. You may not be aware but central government does this kind of task shifting all the time. There are at least 30 pieces of legislation that confer responsibility to local government; but while central government is happy to pass on tasks it is much less forthcoming with funding, and it falls to Council to come up with the money to pay for it and all the existing stuff Council is doing already. This can only be done through rates, charges, borrowing, or by selling off assets (a la Auckland Council and its share in Auckland International Airport).

COVER PIC: Sandy Walker, Rebecca Mooney and Di Brien dress up for WOMAD.

The NPDC has been, and is currently working through the process of putting together its long term plan for 2024/34, and has committed to attempting to keep average rates increases to under 10%. Meaning, with inflation sitting at 5.6%, rates will have to go up by that percentage just so they can do what they are doing at present.

If anything new is to be added to the plan there is only 4.4% more rating increase that can be imposed before the 10% ceiling is exceeded. After that, for something else to be added something has to be removed..... as long as nothing unexpectedly breaks or falls apart – like roading, water pipes, sewer lines, etc, etc.

With this in mind the Kaitake Community Board is working to keep some key issues above the annual and long term plan funding lines. These include the restoration of the Whenuariki Stream footbridge reinstatement and the Weld Road Headland walkway project, the Ōkato Transfer Station upgrade, the Ōkato Swimming pool accessibility upgrade, accessibility improvements onto Ōākura Beach, improvements to the Corbett Park parking areas, and improvements to both the Ōākura and Hempton Halls.

If you want to know what is proposed in these plans, and if you have a desire to have your say on those plans, you can do so, either online at [NPDC.govt.nz/10-year-plan](https://npdc.govt.nz/10-year-plan), or by attending a community engagement event at Seaside Markets, Sunday 7 April, 9am - 2pm, Ngāmotu Beach. Details subject to change. See our Facebook page for updates and other event locations and dates.

That is me for this edition, but don't forget that if you have any local issues that need to be brought to the attention of Council or you just want to have a chat about what is going on locally, feel free to reach out to me or to any other member of your Kaitake Community Board. That's what we are here for.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board is on Monday 8 April at 5pm at the Ōākura Bowling Club.

Tangohia tiaki tātou katoa (Take care everyone)

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

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

Notice Board at the Four Square

To place a notice on the noticeboard drop it into the Four Square or contact Paul on 0272 444 297

POINTS TO NOTE: Notices to be A5 in size
Include posting/removal dates in the right hand corner of the notice
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David Macleod – MP for New Plymouth

It's been a busy first few months for me and the coalition Government. March 8th marked the end of our 100-day action plan focused on improving the economy, easing the cost of living, restoring law and order, delivering better public services and getting New Zealand back on track. As promised, we have delivered on all 49 actions set out in the plan.

Some highlights include refocusing the Reserve Bank on reducing inflation; starting work to reduce wasteful spending; reintroducing 90-day trials for all businesses; and repealing the divisive Three Waters legislation, to deliver on our commitment to restore local council ownership and control of water assets.

We are prioritising health by committing to five targets: faster cancer treatment, improved immunisation rates for children, shorter stays in ED, shorter wait times for first specialist assessments and shorter wait times for elective treatment. We also progressed the disestablishment of the Māori Health Authority, heralding the start of a new vision for Māori health. This change doesn't mean a reduced focus on improving Māori health. We believe in a health system

that is outcomes-focused, driven by need, and with more decisions made locally. For Māori, priorities agreed by local Iwi-Māori Partnership

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Fri: By appointment



Authorised by David Macleod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Boards will deliver far more for regions like Taranaki than directives from Wellington.

We have also begun addressing emergency housing with the introduction of a new 'priority

one' category for families with dependent children that are in emergency housing for longer than twelve weeks. We know that children in emergency housing for an extended period are most at risk of poor health and education outcomes. As with health, we will be targeting our support and investment where there is greatest need.

Reaching 100 days was an important milestone but we are only getting started. Looking ahead we begin work on RMA reforms which I, and the Environment Select Committee, will play a role in, and Budget 2024 will be introduced on May 30. Our objectives are to deliver tax relief to hardworking Kiwis, rebuild business confidence and begin to restore the Crown's finances to order.

On the local front I have been spending as much time as I can out in the community meeting with people, groups and businesses. I'm always interested to hear about the issues that concern you and to learn about some of the world class businesses we have here. Please contact my office, or if you see me around, please come and say hi.

Kaitake Golf Club

We had quite a busy period these last few weeks and some awesome weather. The fairways are now beginning to show some new growth and greening up nicely.

Our ladies shower room is complete and the patio area is all finished except for some painting touches that need to be done. The steps on the 16th top tee are all complete and looking a lot more stable.

We have had to get a whole new power board upgrade done in the Club rooms, so hopefully no more electrical issues will arise.

The pond is still leaking so no progress as yet.

We have purchased a new mower, a Jacobsen Hybrid Eclipse 360, which is making our greenskeeper's job a lot more reliable.

SPONSORSHIP

We have a few new tee sign sponsors on board and I would like to welcome Oakura Meat Co, The Four Square, and Toret Cucina Italiana, which is awesome for the Club. We only have two tee signs left so if anyone else is interested please contact Denise in the office Ph: 06 7527665.

CHIPPERS

The Chippers are progressing nicely with Jamie running the day with help from Chris Hill at Taranaki Golf Association. 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 022 677 3663.

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

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Ōākura Indoor Bowls

The 2024 season is off to a fabulous start with lots of familiar faces returning for another year, and good to see a few new members enjoying the game for the first time. We started on 18th March with a couple of club nights including 'bring a friend' and 'coach and learn'. This is an excellent way to introduce new players to the game, and allows some of the more experienced bowlers to pass on their knowledge around bowl delivery and use of the mat. A number of exciting events will be held this year, including our club championships and various social visits to other clubs, so plenty to look forward to. It is not too late to come and try indoor bowls, the season runs from March to September every Monday night at 7-30pm in the Ōākura Community Hall. If you have any questions feel free to contact the president, Marvin Clough Ph: 021 516 279

Great results for our Oceans team



Well, what a summer and great season we have had. It's amazing how fast the days fly by when the sun shines like it has. It doesn't seem like that long ago when we were rustling up the little ones to start junior surf.

Taranaki Anniversary Weekend saw the finish of our voluntary weekend patrols. If you are out swimming now please always check the conditions first and parents please always watch your children. Thanks to our lifeguards who have given up their time over the summer, always appreciated.

We have had 28 of our Oceans team (under 11 – under 14 years) travel to Mount Maunganui to compete in the four day competition, all competing hard and performing well amongst a large group of talented athletes from all over New Zealand.

Congratulations to the following who not only got through to the finals but got a placing!

Vivi Hale	1st	u14 Beach Flags
Joel Becroft	1st	u11 Surf Race
	1st	U11 Run Swim Run
	1st	U11 Diamond
Luke Mottern	2nd	u11 Run Swim Run
	3rd	u11 Surf Race

Two weeks later (at time of writing) our senior team are en route to the Mount (Maunganui) to compete at the NZ Surf Lifesaving Champs. Along with our team competing is our first Masters team in a very long time.

Although our season is now very nearly over, hopefully summer will stick around for a while longer yet. Please be safe when in the water and make smart decisions.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for what is happening over the winter months.

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



Summerset Nationals Fours and Mixed Pairs

The 2024 Summerset National Fours and Mixed Pairs tournaments were a great success with some of New Zealand's finest bowlers gracing the Ōākura green. As per the Taranaki Open 4s there was high praise for the quality of the green, the picturesque surrounds and the friendly hospitality shown by the club volunteers. Again, a special mention to Wayne Robinson whose dedication in preparing a world class playing surface has seen Ōākura

become one of the preferred places to play competitive bowls in the region.

On the bowling side the 4s team of Pat Walkin, Steve Muller, Jim Priest and Allan Bridgeman had 3 wins but unfortunately lost 2 games by 1 point which ended their tournament hopes. In the mixed pairs Steve Muller and Keiko Kurohara won 5 of their 6 qualification games only to lose in the 1st post section game to the very talented NZ reps pairing of Briar Atkinson and Kaylin Huwyler. Well done to all Ōākura bowlers who represented the club in the nationals, it was a fantastic effort and as always was played with pride and passion..

Club News

The Ōākura Bowling Club was selected as Head Quarters for the Centre 5 years and under Hugh Moss tournament played in late March. The club was also awarded sectional play in the Taranaki blue ribbon Open Centre Singles. A fantastic reward for the club confirming the

quality of the green and the commitment by all club volunteers in helping to run these events.

Steve Muller, Jim Priest and Pat Walkin won the much-coveted West End over 60 years tournament played in mid-March. In overcast and blustery conditions, the trio remained undefeated throughout the day and played some inspiring bowls to emerge victorious.

It is great to see the local community utilising the bowling club facilities with both the Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Ōākura School enjoying a day on the green.

Ōākura is proud again to partner up with the Ōkato Bowling Club for their 2-day tournament played on 6th and 7th of April. Greens at both clubs will be used over the weekend with prize giving along with the 'best feed' in town held at the Ōkato clubrooms at the finish of play on Sunday.

The underarm bowler





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Tommy, Jackie, Graeme, Gavin, Len, Grace with Georgia, Jordan, Brianna, Toni, Chris, Rachel and Sue (absent).



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Ōākura TENNIS CLUB

The Ōākura Soffe cup team has finally got their hands on the silverware after two nail biting weeks of semis and finals.

With only 4 teams in the competition making semi finals was a given but our semifinal against Waiwaka was a tight battle.

Ōākura had lost Taylor Mitchell to university but otherwise we had an almost full strength side for the semi final.

Trailing 5-7 after singles and doubles, a semi final win looked unlikely. However, winning 3 of the 4 combines matches drew us level 8 matches all. Crucially, while the 4th combines match was a loss, players Chris Davies and Len Adamson managed to snare a set in this match, resulting in an overall set countback win 19-18 to Ōākura. Finals, here we come!

Ōākura had the luxury of extra players for finals day so we could field a strong team and give many who had contributed some court time.

The final was held at Rotokare with quick, skiddy conditions from the overnight rain for the first singles at 9am.

Rotokare was the favourite having qualified top during the qualifying rounds, with only 1 loss (ironically to Ōākura on a countback).

The Ōākura men dominated their singles with 3 wins from 4. Tommy Avery, Daniel Lewis and Gavin Stanley all won their singles whereas Rotokare women dominated with Toni Peacock the only woman to chalk up a singles win for Ōākura.

Scores were tied up 4-all after singles.

In the doubles the men held up the team again with Jordan Fleming and Tommy Avery beating Blair Crowley and Cole Hareb 6-4, 7-5 and Graeme Mitchell and Gavin Stanley having a nail biting close win 6-0, 4-6, 10-7.

The women's doubles went Rotokare's way with Chris Davies and Toni Peacock having a tight battle but going down 5-7, 4-6.

Combines started with the score sitting at 6-6.

Jordan and Sue Oldfield had a tight battle with Blair Crowley and Karen Cranston, losing in a tie break. Tommy and Jackie Keenan won 9-6, so again scores were level at 7-7!

Exciting stuff for the last 2 combines games to play and some nervous supporters on the sideline! Graeme Mitchell and Grace Kelly had a convincing 9-0 win so it was just up to, you guessed it, Len and Chris, to either win the match or at least get 6 games for Ōākura to win the Soffe Cup.

Len and Chris were down 5-8 with Len serving and match points against them, but a few nervous shots and a few deuces later Len clinched the game. We won the next service game to go to 7-8 but lost the next game after a marathon of deuces for Rotokare to seal the win 9-7, but we had done enough to win the tie and the cup, 19-18 on sets countback!

The first time ever Ōākura has won the Soffe cup trophy! A few of us remember losing in a countback to Rotokare a few years ago so it felt good to finally get our hands on the silverware. A big thanks to all the players who fronted up over the season: Jordan Fleming, Tommy Avery, Graeme Mitchell, Daniel Lewis, Gavin Stanley, Len Adamson, Simon Spurdle, Cooper Ferguson, Taylor Mitchell, Sue Oldfield, Jackie Keenan, Rachel Volcani, Grace Kelly, Chris Davies, Toni Peacock, Brianna Mathews, Wibke Termath.

Jackie



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A First Time Visitor to Ōākura

A friend from Denmark, Jane, came to visit recently, my first overseas guest since before COVID and her first time in New Zealand. I'd forgotten how much fun it is to show someone the sights of our region when they've never been here before. There are so many places to see and special events are always happening.

I picked Jane up at our 'new' airport. It's impressive, has ample amenities and beautiful displays of Maori art. I was able to meet her as she came through the arrival gate and give her a welcoming hug right away (unlike other airports I've been to that have strict security rules requiring you to wait at some distant spot). After an appreciative look around the airport we walked to my car. What? No need to stop to pay at a machine! The first two hours of parking are free at our airport and the exit gate recognises the license plate of the vehicle you drove coming in. The exit gate automatically goes up, easy peasy!

Heading for home in Ōākura, we made the 'mandatory' stop at the honesty box avocado stand (They are delicious and such good value.) The next stop was Poppa's Peppers for a tasty bag of capsicums, again \$5 for the honesty box. Jane mentioned that they have things like that in the countryside in Denmark for spring new potatoes or summer strawberries.

We took a detour to Te Rewa Rewa bridge and I was soon reminded of how curvy our roads are. Jane is prone to motion sickness and was already a bit queasy from her flight, so from then on I tried to take our winding roads a bit slower than my usual. Fizzy ginger beer and Sea Legs helped her quite a bit. Meanwhile, the bridge was looking majestic and clean after its recent paint job.

That evening my daughter, Leah, Jane and I went to Toret's for a fine Italian meal. It didn't disappoint. Two of us had Tortelloni Kumara and the other had tomato-eggplant-ricotta salata. Both dishes were scrumptious. Thanks

Nico. It was a warm evening without wind, perfect for an after dinner stroll to the beach to watch the sunset. Jane liked the busy, clean and peaceful beachside campground and was interested to hear how these kinds of campgrounds throughout New Zealand are popular with both Kiwis and visitors.

In the morning we set off early to the Lake Rotokare bird sanctuary near Eltham. Since it's a predator-free sanctuary, we were warned at the entry sign not to bring any critters with us inadvertently. Press the button and one set of gates open; when those close you press a button for a second set of gates to open — and you're in. It's a calm place with a flat path around the lake. The birds are friendly, seemingly accustomed to people. While an easy walk, you get a feel for the bush with its tall native tree ferns and vines that twist and tangle around everything. A few people were camping in a designated area with access to basic facilities. Freedom camping is allowed and not abused.

We drove on to Hawera for the Egmont A&P Show. This was 'the real deal' agricultural show that has been held since 1883. This year's theme was 'No. 8 Wire', showcasing Kiwi ingenuity. Highlights for us were the sow judging (the biggest pig we'd ever seen), the sweet faced alpacas, the wood choppers doing their amazing thing on shelf-like structures they build, and the power tug teams with leaders shouting instructions and a strategy that was beyond our comprehension. We missed the sheep shearing competition (held the previous day), but enjoyed the food trucks and the brass band entertainment.

Pretty tired, we walked to our car — getting a good view of Mt Taranaki on the way — and we hurried off to New Plymouth in time to see the cars on display in the CBD for Americana. No further description of that event is needed; it's a totally unique experience. The polished and babied cars are quite amazing. For an expat like me, I remember those big cars from the time I was learning to drive and failed my driving test because I could barely see over the steering wheel. We enjoyed some food and drink from the food stalls and rested in the shade.

On the way home we stopped at Countdown to pick up dinner supplies, including two kinds

of kumara for Jane to try and a tub of Kapiti ice cream. We popped into the Beach Road Creamery to grab a bag of fresh, local salad mix grown at the nearby Kaitake Farm. Jane was impressed by the fresh produce and the fresh milk machine.

The next day was Sunday, Farmers Market morning in Huatoki Plaza. The French pastry chef who creates magnificent delicacies was sold out by 10.00am. Instead we walked to Ozone and tried their 'cold brews', different, strong and very good.

Fully charged, we walked on the Coastal Walkway and admired the sea and the sculptures along the way. At the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery we had free admission, me because I'm local and Jane because she used one of my Friend of Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre guest passes. We watched Len Lye kinetic sculptures be activated and they were spectacular as always. Disappointing for us, the rest of the art gallery was closed for preparation of an upcoming opening of new exhibits.

Pukekura Park was next on our agenda and we had a stroll up to the Bowl of Brooklands and then around the lake. The park is awesome and beautiful wherever you look. As a concert venue Jane thought it looked like it would be exceptional, and we locals know that it is.

Heading back to Ōākura I was reminded that Jane (not me) wanted to climb Paritutu before she left our area. She did it in record time. Whew! That was amazing.

At home we baked zucchini bread with some of the abundant courgettes from my garden that's well-nourished by our rich volcanic soil and my composted goat poo. Jane walked down to the beach and had a quick swim, fulfilling her wish to at least dip her toes in the sea. In the morning she packed some of the homemade courgette bread to take on the next leg of her time in NZ and she flew to the South Island.

There were so many other places I would have liked to share with my visitor but a three day stay was way too short. I expect Jane will be returning to NZ in the future. This is a spectacular place we live in and it's great fun to show it off to visitors.

Elayne Kessler

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Calling all good blokes – they need you! BBBS has a goal that they have set out to achieve: to have at least 12 men sign up to become mentors in 2024. With 70% of their waitlist being boys, the need for positive male role models is an increasing demand they aim to fulfil.

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Together, we can achieve this goal of at least 12 more deserving young boys around the maunga having a positive male role model

in their life – someone to offer support, friendship, and fun!

Phil Dickey, an Ōākura local, volunteers as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters. He's been paired with his Little for over a year, and one of their cherished activities is fishing. Whether they're surf casting at Ōākura Beach or Corbett Park, they enjoy spending time down at the water together. Whatever they reel in, Phil's Little takes home and cooks up for his family.

Get in touch with the team at BBBS today for more information:

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The siren is back in action



The fire brigade crew dress up 'loud' to celebrate the return of the hooter

You may have noticed the silence over the Jan-Feb period, not that we didn't have call outs but our siren was out of action due to maintenance. We realise that may be music to your ears. We understand, it could play a nicer tune like the ice cream van but at least it's not quite as bad as a 5 year-old with a recorder.

What it did mean for us was that we needed to be super vigilant, relying on our phones and pager system to pick up any call outs. At times, this system can be affected by delays and signal variation. We had to have these devices with us 24/7 to receive alerts and there is no doubt reverting to this system affected turn-out numbers and time to station.

So we know it's not the most popular member of the village but if the last two months proved anything, it's that the siren is by far the best way to get more of us to the station faster. To celebrate the return of the 'hooter' the crew spent an evening at the Ōākura Bowling Club, and the dress up theme? Loud of course!

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Community Police Officer – *Constable Matt Stone*

Kia Ora Koutou,

I want to start this post by giving people an awareness of some problems occurring in the area from Jans Terrace West. There have been some thefts occurring over the last month or so, some from cars. I was lucky enough to apprehend one offender, who was from out of town, which I hope could be a catalyst for the thefts to stop. I encourage you all to report even the most minor of thefts or similar incidents.

Another area of concern is around the school pedestrian crossing on South Road, Ōākura, at the Hall. I ask that you all slow down in that area, including up Donnelly Street, particularly at school drop off and pick up.

It will only take one mistake to cause a tragedy in the community.

Lastly, I am finishing my post as the Ōkato/ Ōākura police. I start a new role in Hawera at the end March. My family and I have loved our four and a half years on the coast, made some great friends and loved the community. It will be sad to leave the area but we are excited about our next chapter. Thank you for all the support over the last few years.

Nga Mihi
Matt



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School Holiday Programmes

OUT OF THE BOX - Wed 17th April 2-3pm

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ANZAC LANTERNS - Wed 24 April 2-3pm

Create upcycled lanterns to commemorate ANZAC day. Ages 5-12, bookings essential.

To book please call 06 759 6060, pop in, or book online using the book now button to reserve a space.

CRACKERJACKS - Pre-School Story Time - Thursday 4 April 10am
The Ōākura Library



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Ōākura School

Kia ora e te whānau, Bellah and Marley here. These last few weeks at Ōākura School have been busy. Many events have happened and our students have participated in a range of really fun learning experiences. In term 1 of each year, our school and teachers plan lots of interesting outdoor education learning experiences for us. This happens in term 1 to make the most of the good weather and also so that we can build friendships and connections with our teachers and classmates.



Momona te Whānau Triathlon

The first thing that we will be talking about is the Momona te Whānau Triathlon. All of the tamariki did very well and arrived at the finish line with smiles on their faces. It was really lovely to see so many whānau at school supporting their tamariki too. The ākonga/students ran, swam and cycled, even though some of them weren't so keen, but they still gave it their best. We interviewed some students who participated in the triathlon, Aisha Glover and Emilia McKinley. Aisha said, "I liked the swimming part, I also liked the biking, but I didn't enjoy the running part. I can't wait to do it again!" Here's what Emilia



Sailing at the New Plymouth Yacht Club

had to say: "I liked the biking, the running, and the swimming, it was all really fun."

Our year 5 & 6s have been on their biennial camp to Vertical Horizon. They left school on a Monday morning, full of excitement and with a little bit of apprehension too. The ākonga/students were split into activity groups where they did a range of challenging activities, such as the Flying Kiwi and the Zipline. In some of the activities they had to work in teams to make the event successful for others. They also did the traditional mud run, campfire and visit to the glow worms. Haile Gonzalez-Prado said that camp was really good and that his favourite challenge was the catwalk. He also really liked his cabin group and the tastiest meal for him was the Macaroni Cheese. Elsie Nightingale remarked that the camp was really fun but that she didn't like being woken up so early. She thought it was good that each cabin had their own bathroom. Lots of year 5 & 6 parents went on camp, they also had a really good time, although they were a little bit tired when they returned to school on Wednesday.

The last event we will be sharing with you is about the Learn to Sail experience that our Year 7 and 8 students had last week. Over two days the students went sailing at the New Plymouth Yacht Club. The morning groups had less wind and less challenge with the sailing, but the afternoon groups had an

awesome time out on the water. The students learnt about parts of the yacht, teamwork, and how to read the wind. Lila Watts remarked that she had fun despite there not being a lot of wind. Ruby Peacock said that it was a really good opportunity to learn how to sail and that it was fun.

We think we are pretty lucky that our students have so many opportunities to be in the outdoors and play and do lots of different activities in term 1. Thank you teachers!

Bellah Peters and Marley Gonzalez-Prado
(age 12)

MORNING TALK COFFE GROUP

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

Any enquiries
call Tracey 752 7875

Its been a long journey but we are there

Kaitake Community Sports Hub invites you to join us for the community opening of the fully renovated and refurbished facilities down at the Rivermouth on Sunday 7th April from 2pm to 5pm.

The building is looking amazing so come on down and enjoy having a look around and sharing what it has to offer the Kaitake community.

The fields will be set out with gear for young and old to play some informal games of touch, cricket or football with mates or simply enjoy some food and a drink and the incredible views from the patio.

Some really cool KCSH merchandise will be available to purchase and a final chance to join the huge number of community members and businesses that have helped create this wonderful facility by becoming a Foundation Member and to have your contribution recognised on the Foundation boards to be placed in the clubrooms.

Exciting times at the Rivermouth
- see you there.

See advertisement
on page 9.





Fire pit preparation for camp fire cooking



Enjoying the camp experience



Camp Out at School

On the 29th of February Ōmata school had their first school camp out in four years. Bright and early, students from years 4-8 showed up with bags and camping essentials, excited for a night away from home. Soon enough it was time to put up tents. Decorations were added in hopes of winning the tent decoration contest. Fairy lights, bean bags and even a giant teddy bear were used to try and win over the judges.

The weather was scorching, so after the hot tent set up it was time for all things water. We started on the water slide pulling some mean tricks and tumbles before heading to the pool for a free swim.

After cooling off, it was time to get dressed in non-flammable clothing for dinner. Excitingly,

Ruru students got to cook their own dinner over a camp fire. Students made their way to the fire zone with all their essentials for cooking a well balanced meal. The fires crackled and smoked as children had to wait for the flame to go down before they could cook their dinners. In this process some groups got too impatient and tried to start which led to a few burnt sausages and burnt out fires. There were many different dinners being eaten around the fires, everything from nachos or hot dogs to burgers and chips, plus a little roasted sweet treat or two to finish off the meals.

After a dishes dance party, lots of giggles and a whole heap of full children, everyone was ready to get into the evening activities. A thrilling blindfolded walk through the bush, team building activities with Mr Kelly, an intense game of spotlight and a very interesting walk through the school bush with a very special guest, Dr Emily Roberts, to see a wide variety of native creepy crawlies in the Ōmata ngahere (forest/bush).

The Ōmata school camp out was a truly amazing opportunity for all who attended. It helped to build our friendships, it taught us a huge amount about our local biodiversity and we made life long memories. Camp fire cooking for dinner was a highlight.

Annie Hickson and Addison Miller (Year 8)

Coming up

April

9 ANZAC commemoration 2pm

12 Term 1 ends

29 Term 2 begins

Life Education truck

May

7 Home and School meeting 3:15pm

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Stories of Ōmata

AS SHARED BY LEN JURY

Those were the days!

Reminiscences - Earlier days of Omata by ARB Albert Bayly (2/7/1895 - 15/10/1988)

Before going to school and during my early school days Mr Jervis George (Jerry) a resident of Omata was a racehorse trainer. Among his patrons were Mr Newton King and Mr Alex Alexander. Living with and working for them was Hector Grey later to become one of New Zealand's finest jockeys. Jervis's son, Ernie and Hector used to exercise the horses by walking them around the roads, each riding one horse and leading another. Quite often they would arrive in the school lane at the 11a.m. playtime and allow the horses to eat some grass. We kids would go out to the fence to talk to them, to admire them and get to know their names. Among them were 'Paritutu' belonging to N.K. I'm not sure but I believe he was a New Zealand Cup winner. Another was Mr. Alexander's 'Crown Pearl' a very classy sprinter. Mr. George Snr was succeeded in business by his son Ernie who later handed over to his son, Leo. The latter married Miss Lena Barry a sister of Mrs. Maurice Morris (Florrie). Among our recent visitors at our recent reunion were Ida, daughter of Ernest, and June, Leo's daughter as well as Jack, Leo's brother. (George). The George family were always regular attenders at the Omata dances and euchre parties. My Grandfather, Albert, once owned 'Crofton' for many years home of the Luxton's and on it he had a training track for the racehorses he owned at one period.

Mr. Jesse Jury must have owned one of the first horse mowers in Omata and so cut the hay for many people. He was very good with horses, although he always carried a whip, I never saw him use it. Probably cracked it now and again to wake the horses up a bit. (Note the steel wheels with cleats).

Mr. Tom Hart also a good horseman and cutter of hay and oats etc. With a block dray and a three-horse team he used to haul stone and shingle off the beach in front of his farm. He must have been one of the first in Omata to own a gramophone and on two occasions came down at night and gave kids a concert, then at least seven of them. Later increased to nine.

At one period when we lived on Hurford Rd, five of us rode horseback to Omata School. Mr. Bill Loveridge whose farm was on the corner of the Main and Hurford Roads was notable for his stack building and his two-handed expertise in grass seed sowing. Mr. Charles Emeny next door to the Loveridge's was also a stack builder. A regular attendee at St. John's Church and the gravedigger at the Waireka Cemetery, Mr. Fred Seemark Snr, a wonderful worker as surface man for the Omata Riding of the Taranaki County Council. He was a wizard at cutting thatch either in the swamps or streams or along the beach and in thatching the farmer's hay and grain stacks. And this in the evenings after a day's work on the roads. John Mace was notable for growing carrots and supplying them to all the racing and livery stables. Of the latter there were five of them. John Mace and his wife Dinah (nee Penwarden) were the parents of eleven children.

And another nice thing about the wonderful recent Re-Union was that we were allowed to kiss the girls - taboo in former times.

(1959 Letter sent after Omata School 1958 Jubilee).

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Ageing Well Expo & Forum

May 6th
10:30am-12:30pm

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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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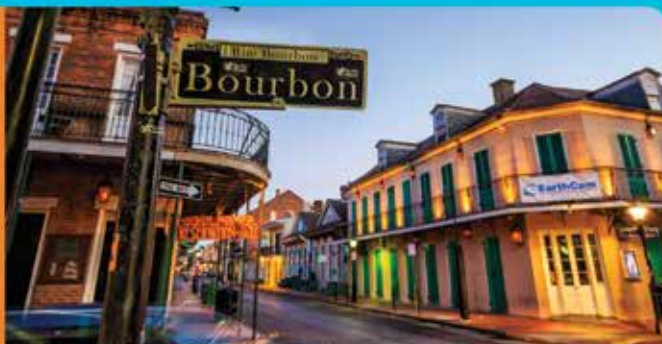
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