

the Ōākura Post

MAY 2024

Medication
DISPOSAL

AHU AHU
*Bridge &
Walkway*

KRCT
release kiwi

Trust volunteers Brad Ellington and Paul Lobb keep an eye on the kiwi boxes before carrying them up into the bush to release the birds.

GENIUS
JOCKEY





Kaitake Community Board

To quote the words of the leader of the iconic A-Team John 'Hannibal' Smith "I love when a plan comes together!"

In the world of local body politics this quote is even more applicable when the plan has taken years of lobbying before it finally comes to fruition. The flip side of this however is the deep sense of disappointment felt when you are led to believe that a plan has finally made it over the line, only to have it snatched away at the eleventh hour.

Our Kaitake communities have experienced both those highs and lows recently.

After years of petitioning by a variety of community groups, local residents, and past and present Kaitake Community Boards, work on the *Weld Road Headland boardwalk construction and Whenuariki Stream bridge reinstatement* was on the cusp of finally being started. All parties concerned have been bitterly disappointed to learn, following assessments from contracted landscape architect consultants, that the regulatory arms of both the Taranaki Regional Council and the New Plymouth District Council have declared, "due to the visual effects being determined to be potentially more than minor", the law (being the Resource Management Act 1991) requires a notified resource consent process to be undertaken. The outcome of this decision means; no work can be started until autumn 2025 at the earliest, there is a likelihood of cost escalations to the project that could affect its viability, the community will continue to be without a well used and much loved amenity for who knows how long, and, there is a growing fear that this project will fall by the wayside once again. Read more about the bridge and walkway on page 6.

As to plans that have come together:

After years of planning, negotiating, fundraising, and manual labour, **the Kaitake Community Sports Hub rebuild at Corbett Park is now complete.** A small dawn blessing ceremony was conducted by Father Tom Lawn for the facility, and a public opening was held on Sunday 7 April for the wider community with a barbeque, refreshments, and sporting activities set up in the park.

The weather was great for the opening, and it was great to see the number who came along to explore the new facilities and experience the results of the work put in by Garry Carnahan and his team; work that has resulted in a huge asset for our wider community for years to come.

Those coming into Corbett Park will have noted the long overdue upgrade to some of the parking areas at the park. There is still a fair bit of work to be done, but what has been completed is a huge improvement to what was there.

A little further up the road Downer, on behalf of the New Plymouth Infrastructure Partnership Contract, has finally commenced repairs to the section of Surrey Hill Road to reinstate the section damaged by an underslip that reduced the road to a single lane. As well as the restoration of the road back to two lanes, crews will also vegetate the slip face above and around the Wakamure Stream.

We have received advice that work is about to start on resolving accessibility in and around the Ōkato Swimming Pool. As the only public swimming pool between Kawaroa and Ōpūnake it should cater for the

entire community (the aged, the very young, and disabled community demographics included) which it does not at the present point in time. This is a situation that flies in the face of the New Plymouth District Council's Positive Ageing, and Accessibility Strategies outcomes to provide access to public spaces and recreational opportunities. This work was to have started on 1 July 2023, so better late than never. However, I suppose I shouldn't get too excited until the first shovel is actually in the ground.

By the time this edition hits the street, a Public Address (PA) and sound system will have been installed, and will be up and running in the Ōākura Hall – something that has been raised as a need for the hall by a number of users over recent years, and something that should increase the utility of the facility.

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

On behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and Anneka Carlson, Appointed NPDC Councillor.



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David Macleod

MP for New Plymouth

The Prime Minister has announced 36 action points this Government will achieve by June 30. This action plan is focused on three key areas, which are rebuilding the economy and easing the cost of living, restoring law and order, and delivering better public services.

Budget 2024 will reduce wasteful spending and take the pressure off inflation. We will legislate for personal income tax relief and up to \$75 a week to help with early childhood education costs. We will rebuild the economy through measures like increasing investment in renewable electricity, and RMA reform to cut red-tape on farmers. It's only with a strong economy that we can reduce the cost of living, lift incomes and afford the public services New Zealanders deserve.

Our Government is bringing back targets to focus the public sector on driving better results in health, education, law and order, work, housing, and the environment. Having these targets will focus attention, resources, and accountability towards improving the public services that matter most to New Zealanders.

More exciting changes are on the way; we are establishing a Regional Infrastructure Fund to boost economic growth in our regions. I look forward to seeing the gains on investment here in Taranaki, and the growth that will be possible when red tape is cut. This government is eliminating barriers to make it more affordable and easier to build in New Zealand through RMA reform, the Fast Track Approvals Bill and increasing the availability of high-quality affordable building products.

david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz
(06) 759 2580
37 Gill Street, New Plymouth

Office hours:

Mon-Thu: 9am-3pm
Fri: By appointment



Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



A clear plan with specific actions and timeframes for delivery creates momentum and drives focus. As the Prime Minister has said, we are delivering big changes that are already making a real difference to the lives of New Zealanders.

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 do come and say hi.

Tsunami Sport Kaitake Netball Club

Connecting Through Netball

The Tsunami Sport Kaitake Netball Club is about netball, friendships, and a good dose of fun. Over the last three years the Club has been running casual Sunday games locally in Ōākura in an effort to get people back onto the netball court, which have proved to be highly successful. Over this time the Club has grown significantly and now has four teams entered into the New Plymouth Satellite competition on Saturdays. These teams consist of two senior teams and two youth teams.

A key focus for the Club is to enable people to play with their mates. To encourage people

to get back out onto the court, especially those who have dropped out of the sport due to being time poor or having work and family commitments. The Club aims to create a fun family environment and to encourage people to continue playing the game of netball for as long as possible. It is more than just the physical benefits of the game, but having that social connection (without wifi!), connecting with people at similar stages in life, and being able to build relationships within our local community for healthy minds, bodies and souls.

The Club has also had a warm welcome into the Kaitake Community Sports Hub and is now affiliated to the KCSH with the beautiful Rivermouth Clubrooms, an added bonus to being part of such an inclusive community group.

Look out for the Kaitake Netball tribe on Saturdays at the Waiwakaiho netball courts this winter, with our 3pm Sunday games at Ōākura School still running through winter for anyone wanting to have a run out on the court. Social memberships start from just \$10 for youth and \$30 for seniors. From sprightly teens to seasoned pros (who may or may not have invented netball), everyone's welcome.

Email the Club at
kaitakenetballclub@gmail.com
to find out more.

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Ōākura Indoor Bowls

The season is well underway and it is great to see our new members coming to grips with the basics of the game. Since our opening night we have held our Coach and Learn nights which is a great way for the more experienced members to pass on their knowledge to the newer members. It is a good way in a safe environment to try a few different shots to further the development of the players. Merv Hooker, our Club umpire, also takes the opportunity to remind us all about the Laws of the Game in the lead up to our competition nights.

Our first competition, the Jamieson Cup, is underway and this was played over three nights, with one game each night of 21 ends. This is a real test in resilience and consistency for all the teams with the lead able to change many times during the game. In the first round played the team skipped by Marvin Clough had a good tussle with Jim Priest, with eventually Marvin's team coming out the victors 22-17 after a strong run of ends in the closing stages of the game. In the other game, Greg Jans played Merv Hooker and it was close all the way with neither team getting ahead by 2-3 points. It came down to the last end where Merv was up one shot on the scorecard and Greg getting one shot after a close measure of the head, so the game ended in a draw. After the Jamieson Cup we look forward to starting our Championship Fours.

The President



The Sky (tower's) the Limit

On May 18th our Ōākura crew once more will be ascending the giddy heights of the Auckland Sky Tower all in the name of raising money for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ. James, Karley, Butters, Mani and possibly Ross will all be racing to the top taking in 51 floors, 1103 steps and carrying 25kg of gear, and just for extra punishment Bex will be climbing 60 flights with a heavier steel cylinder on her back.

Keep an eye out for us as we get out and about with fundraising efforts.

It's a personal cost of around \$650 each for us to attend the event so we will be instigating some community activities to help fund this. More importantly if you would like to donate funds for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ here is the link: <https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/t/oakura-volunteer-fire-brigade>.

Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



Club Championships

Tony McAlevey won his first Senior Singles Championship final with a hard-fought victory over Taranaki Junior representative player Craig Murray. It was a high-quality game with McAlevey holding off a determined Murray to take the game 21-16.

Craig Murray retained the Junior Singles Championship for the 4th season in a row as he remained undefeated throughout the round robin event. He will finish one title shy of the club legend Jim Priest who won five consecutive Junior Championships in the

late 70s. Murray made the final of the Junior Champs of Champs last year and will be keen to go one step further and add a Taranaki title to his bowling resume.

Tony McAlevey and Andy Shearer won consecutive Championship Pairs finals with a well-earned victory over the duo of Steve Muller and Rod Smith. It was an even contest early but with Shearer playing excellent lead bowls and McAlevey chiming in with several great clutch bowls the duo ended winning comfortably 22-11.

Club News

Steve Muller skipped a Taranaki Board team of Dean File, Robert Wolfe and Ian Dawson to win their section in the men's fours over the Paritutu Centennial celebrations. The Muller quartet was the only undefeated team on their green taking the prize scalps of New Zealand legend Brian Baldwin and Taranaki great Darren Goodin along the way.

The Professional Bowling Association will again have a chapter in New Plymouth with all

bowling to be played at the Paritutu Bowling Club indoor stadium. The qualifiers for the various competitions will be played over 17th and 18th May, 1st and 2nd June, and the 13th and 14th of August. Paritutu will also host the PBA finals weekend on the 30th and 31st August and the 1st of September. It will be a great opportunity to see some of New Zealand's best bowlers in action.

The AGM for the Ōākura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday 30th June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving, club acknowledgements and refreshments.

The Club would also like to thank the New Zealand Community Trust and Aotearoa Gaming Trust for their continued financial support throughout the year. Key projects where this funding has been allocated include the purchase of a new ride-on-mower and 10 sets of new coloured club bowls for use in social and community events.

The underarm bowler

Expo on Ageing Well

Come along to the TSB Stadium on Monday, May 6th from 10:30-12:30.

Sport Taranaki is hosting a FREE expo & forum all focused on Ageing Well. There will be stall holders to talk with regarding services for healthy ageing in North Taranaki as well as things to learn about and try.

There will be some smaller talks/workshops around Dementia, Social Connection and making the most of your phone, including using it for your medical records. Some sessions are interactive, so please wear comfortable shoes.

There is plenty of parking at the stadium. Bring a friend and enjoy a morning out together.

For more information please contact Hilary at Sport Taranaki on 021 480 180



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What is pickleball and why has it become so popular?

Pickleball is a combination of three other sports: tennis, badminton and table tennis. It's played on a badminton sized court with an approximate tennis height net. Usually played in doubles, it makes the court size manageable. There are a lot of rapid volleys back and forth, sometimes with a bounce and other times on the fly, that's the exciting part and causes lots of laughs.

Pickleball in Ōākura recently celebrated its 5th anniversary, being one of the very first places to play pickleball anywhere in New Zealand. It was brought here by someone who visited the U.S., tried it out and thought it would be a good community activity. She went to the Ōākura Hall to assess whether one or two courts could fit, and was blown away to see lines from two old badminton courts already painted on the floor.



Karina Walters and Merv Foster

A badminton court and a pickleball court are roughly the same size. Those lines on the Hall floor were remnants from earlier days when badminton was played prior to the ceiling being lowered and making it unsuitable for badminton. A pickleball 'lob' can be high but not as high as when hitting a badminton birdie.

The ball in pickleball is a wiffle ball (hard plastic with holes in it). The paddle has a short handle and a surface made of graphite or carbon fibre. The size of the court, the light weight of the

paddle and the wood floor surface at the hall make the sport a lot gentler on the joints than tennis, so many former tennis players have switched to pickleball for that reason. It's also suitable for people of all ages.

When some of the Ōākura regulars were asked why they thought the sport has become so popular, here's what they had to say:

It's easy to play, you can pick it up quickly... It's a blend of other games that you may already have experience with...Because it's so much fun...It's good for movement and mental health...It's welcoming (especially the group in Ōākura)...It's a sport rather than an exercise... It's exercise that doesn't feel like exercise.

It's social and suits all lifestyles - you're able to go away for a holiday and nobody is dependent on you to make up a team....You can play at any age.

It's easier than tennis and a good alternative if you've been a tennis player. The court is smaller so less to cover, the paddle and ball are lightweight so the ball is easier to hit.



How to safely dispose of unused medication

As the autumn weather has driven me indoors more lately, I've been eyeing the clutter that has accumulated on most of our horizontal surfaces. Autumn cleaning is calling!

One of the areas I have definitely been a bit slack has been with medications...looks like I have some calcium tablets from 2008 and some promethazine from 2003! Unlike with my old teddy bear, there's no sentimental value here and it's really time to part ways with these long-expired medications. But how does one safely dispose of unused meds?

Don't do this...

Recently I asked a handful of my patients what they do with their leftover meds and my jaw dropped when 1/3 of them confessed to throwing them in the toilet! I didn't go on (too long) about the ecosystems that could be affected by this. There have been studies showing fish reproduction and behaviour being altered by exposure to seizure medications and hormones. It would be impossible to know all the effects of medications that get into our wastewater, but I highly doubt good comes from it.

Here's the best way

Take them back to the pharmacy! Every pharmacy can accept unused medication, which then gets collected and incinerated. This is the best

way to make sure that your unused medications are disposed of safely, with no chance of causing harm inside your house (think pets or small children) or outside your house.

What should we be extra cautious with?

Antibiotics! Only very rarely should there be antibiotics sitting in peoples' cupboards. Bacteria are getting smarter and becoming harder to fight. This happens when we haven't quite completed treatments for infections, used them for the wrong reasons (against viruses) or not disposed of them properly. Most of the antibiotics in use today are from the last century – very few new ones are being developed. So, we're fighting bacteria with our old, "rusty" weapons from the 1900s, and we're aiming them at the wrong targets too often "ie viruses". So the bacteria are just learning from our mistakes and adapting. It's enough of a threat that the WHO listed antibiotic resistance high on their list of Top 10 Threats to Global Health.

I really appreciate knowing that through the pharmacies our unused medications can be disposed of for free. There's one area of my house decluttered! If only there was such a service for disposal of old textbooks!

By Karen Danenhauer MD



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An impression of the proposed walkway around the Ahu Ahu headland

New bridge and walkway planned for historic Ahu Ahu

Plans for a new bridge and walking and cycling path to protect the historical Ahu Project headland are being progressed.

The project combining a new footbridge to replace the bridge destroyed during ex-tropical Cyclone Dovi in 2022, and a path supported by a new rock embankment allowing people to pass around the headland at high tide, has been delayed due to complexities of the Resource Management Act.

"It's a complex project, building a hard structure in a sensitive coastal environment, and required extensive technical input," said NPDC Project Manager Lead Sean Cressy.

"We know there's widespread community and hapū support for a new bridge and walkway, but we have to go through the legal consent process like everyone else and this has taken longer than expected. The Resource Management Act requires us to ask for public feedback and we're working to meet its requirements".

"We are geared up and ready to deliver the project as soon as we can, but it could still be next year before it all comes together. It's been

a long haul, and we acknowledge it's frustrating for everyone so thanks for bearing with us," said Sean.

The plan for the bridge and pathway is being tied together as they make a great route that will help protect the historic Hauranga Pā site that NPDC is required by law to protect.

The construction window would be tight to protect the penguins and other wildlife, but NPDC is working with Taranaki Regional Council on ways to get construction moving quickly without disturbing the wildlife should resource consent be granted.

Hauranga was one of the largest pā in the Tataraimaka district and is recognised as an important boundary marker between the Taranaki tribes to the south and Ngāti Te Whiti to the north. It held significant strategic and symbolic importance to mana whenua before and after European settlement and remains an important marker of whakapapa today.

In recent years, it has been a popular link for walkers and cyclists between the Timaru and Whenuariki streams, and this has damaged the site and exposed and damaged archaeological artefacts.

Ōākura Tennis Club



Good luck to the junior teams finishing off their competition finals. Hopefully next month we'll have some good team pictures to go with their results from the season.

Taranaki Tennis held their prizegiving with some silverware coming home to Ōākura. The club might have to find a cabinet to put it all in!

Luke Barrett won the under 12 cup for the second year in a row. The Ōākura Soffe team won the Soffe Cup and the Team of the Year Cup.

Congratulations to Angus Thorpe, Anna Sholsberg and Luke Barrett who represented Taranaki in the junior reps. Brianna Mathews played in the Taranaki Senior B rep team and Taylor Mitchell in the Taranaki Senior A rep team.

Jackie

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Empowering Community

Introducing Manga Hapahāpai – The Confidence Centre

We're thrilled to unveil an exciting addition to our community - Manga Hapahāpai / The Confidence Centre. Designed as a hub for anxiety support and empowerment, Manga Hapahāpai is a brand new Taranaki innovation - a symbol of hope, resilience, and collective strength in tricky times.

So, what exactly is Manga Hapahāpai (literally - the 'tributary that raises us up')?

Part of Taranaki Retreat's Waimanako support hub, it's a place where individuals can find understanding, support, and resources to navigate

the challenges of anxiety; (including social anxiety, generalised anxiety disorder - and... that horrible churning that won't go away...) with a special focus and heart for our rangatahi. Whether you're grappling with overwhelming emotions or a concerned colleague, friend or parent seeking guidance, Manga Hapahāpai is an in-community peer-led provision.

Our approach is holistic and inclusive, reflecting the diverse needs of our community. From support groups to calming activities like colouring and writing, our aim is to create a welcoming and safe environment where individuals and whānau can connect, learn, and grow together.

This new service will go live very very soon - and we want to invite you to be a part of our journey. We're hosting a special Launch Night event on **Friday, May 3rd, starting at 5:30 pm**. Join us at Waimanako - 33 Devon Street West, New Plymouth (head into the arcade past the Shampoo Shop and Fit Fresh) for an evening of celebration and gratitude.

Here's what you can look forward to:

Check out this custom-made support space: Come and find out first-hand about Manga Hapahāpai's support model, programmes and vision for the future.

Awesomely: Local artist Caz Novak has generously gifted a fantastic print, which has been beautifully framed and will be auctioned on the night.

Refreshments and Music: Enjoy some delicious free treats and uplifting tunes as we come together to mark this milestone.

Free Gift: Take home a pressie to remind you of the warmth and support found at Manga Hapahāpai.

Meet and Greet: Connect with others involved in this important work and build some new connections.

Book Corner Donation: Bring along a book (or several!) to donate to our book corner - because books can be such a source of comfort and inspiration.

Window of Support: Leave your mark on the space by adding your handprint and a message to our window (for koha).

Can't make it to the evening festivities? No problem!

Manga Hapahāpai / The Confidence Centre will be open during the day for anyone who wants to drop by and take a look around - from 6th May. We welcome you to explore the space at your own pace - give us a call on 06 2150993 and make a time to find out more.

Finally - we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has played a part in bringing Manga Hapahāpai to life. Your support, generosity, and dedication have made this a reality, and we are truly grateful. Don't forget to join us on May 3rd as we celebrate community, connection, and the power of hope.

Arohanui, Team Taranaki Retreat

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) article in the April edition says the KCB members along with the general public find it frustrating dealing with the NPDC.

Prior to the formation of the NPDC Ōākura was an autonomous self governing community under the realm of the Taranaki County Council. Our rates were low because we didn't have councillors or mayors. We had community committee members who were all volunteers, free, and no elections, savings. If we didn't need it we didn't have it, we don't have a Wind Wand or a Kinetic Art gallery. Ring a bell? No, we don't have a Carillion either.

When the NPDC was formed from the New Plymouth City Council (NPCC), Taranaki County Council, Clifton County and Inglewood Borough the senior Officers of the NPCC must have seen Ōākura as a cash cow as they designed a differential rates system with not one category for residential properties but two categories - properties in an urban situation and in a rural situation. The rate in the urban situation was twice that of rural. The urban properties were in New Plymouth, Waitara, Inglewood and Ōākura.

I was one of four volunteers to prepare a submission for the Ōākura community. We thought we should be rural. In the urban category we were faced with a 228% increase in our general rate. As a committee we didn't think of the one thing that made us rural, we

were on septic tanks. That would have only put our rates up by just over 100%. I came up with figures based on the Council report that is if we paid the same general rates on our land value as the urban areas we would pay 85% more per head of population than New Plymouth and heaps more than Inglewood and Waitara. The Council then decided to increase our rates over five years to 85% of the full urban rate. Just as well we didn't think of septic tanks because our rates only went up 40% in the first year. After two years the Council removed the two categories which is what they should have done to start with.

The KCB article mentions outstanding work including footpaths that haven't been laid. There are quite a few in Ōākura, most are not a problem because the berms are flat. If a pedestrian requires a mobility scooter or wheel chair etc, then to travel from west Ōākura to the shops they have to go on the land side of Tasman Parade because there is only one footpath. Continuing on Messenger Tce there are foot paths both sides until Pitcairn St. Then there is no foot path on the land ward side to McFarlane St. The berm is too rugged to use a mobility scooter on. It's only 200 metres long and should have been built years ago. Meanwhile Council forces are replacing a foot path on the west side of Brooklands Road, New Plymouth and that is kilometres long. We're still being treated as a cash cow.

Tony Hutchins

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Kaitake Golf Club

We had a busy period over the Easter weekend. Autumn golf has arrived. While temperatures are cooling and daylight hours getting shorter our course has been very playable.

MENS NEWS: While we are talking about good rounds, Brodie Fergusson, back from his Christchurch base for family time over Easter, dropped in a casual score of 59 for a round at Kaitake.

The men's Kaitake course record stands at 63 shot by Euan Ritchie in 2010. To qualify for a course record the card must be entered during a tournament and completed under 'play the lie conditions'. Notwithstanding, it's a stunning round of golf from Brodie.

We have our annual Two Day Two Ball Best Ball tournament coming up at the end of May. The weather was not kind to us last year and we had to cancel one day, fingers crossed for better weather this year.

Congratulations to the following trophy winners for the first quarter of this year:

Mike Hareb for taking out the Summer Cup with 44 Stableford points. Cameron Shutter for the Alban Reid All Irons with 46 Stableford points. Dan Keegan for the Keenan Dick trophy with his Nett round of 61. Cameron Shutter also struck the Jackpot which is getting two Twos in the one round

LADIES NEWS: Some of our ladies played in the Taranaki District Strokeplay championship with Julie Yardley getting 2nd Best Nett in the Bronze Division and Dawn Stolz 3rd Best Nett. They are both relatively new players.

Recently three teams of ladies and two individuals played in the Over 50s and Teams Tournament at Inglewood. One of our new players, Jo Gernhoefer, carded a 61 nett to win the Over 50s, while Diane Jones won the 1st Division Stableford and Kim Woodward won the 2nd Division Stableford. One of our Kaitake teams (which included Kim Woodward, Philly Mullin, Donna Sharpe and Mary Pettigrew) were placed second on a countback in the Teams Event.

Congratulations to Jean Keegan (one of our 9 Hole Ladies) who achieved the ultimate in getting a Hole in One on the 4th.

CHIPPERS: The Chippers have finished for Term 1 and will resume in Term 4. We will let you know before Term 4 when Jamie will be starting Sundays at 3pm. All will be more than welcome and if you require any further information please contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

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

Office - Denise Howe 06 752 7665



Jean Keegan - a Hole in One on the 4th

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More Kiwi Released

The past week or two, at the time that I am writing this, have been super exciting for anyone interested in the Kaitake Ranges. About 36 kiwi were released into the bush over the past couple of weeks off the Davies, Wairau, and Lucy Gully tracks! That's right, you read that correctly, 36.

Those 36 birds join the kiwi that were released over the past few years, many of which have been successfully breeding. Thus, our local population of birds may number somewhere around 80 or 90 now. That is a good number of kiwi that are now calling the Kaitake Ranges home.

It has been a long road to get to this point with a huge amount of mahi being put forth by many different groups, including ours. Trust volunteers have been checking traps in the bush for years now. Some of the volunteers like Bryce Vickers, Marty Moeller, and Rob McGregor have been part of the Trust since the beginning. At that point a small group started the Trust in order to keep the trails from Lucy's Gully open, and now the Trust has about 100 members who check traps and monitor kiwi all over the Kaitake Ranges.

Trust volunteers like Jackie Keenan, Kelvin Perrie, Carlos Reid, John Freeman, and Daryl Gibson have slogged up and down the tracks clearing traps all year long. All of the volunteers have been instrumental in helping control stoat numbers so that a kiwi population can thrive here.

A number of volunteers including Jenny Ellington, Paul Lobb, Rachel Law, Claire White, Steve Leach and Luke Peacock were fortunate to be part of the release and even carry the boxes holding the birds up into the bush. Such an amazing experience to be part of, and fantastic knowing that those birds are now in the bush living their best life. A friend, who didn't know the release happened, even said that she thought she heard a kiwi calling on the night of the release from her house!

Hopefully, the rest of us will soon have that same experience. The trapping is in place to control the stoat population, which poses a threat to newborn birds until they are about 1.2 kg. However, another serious threat to the birds, now that there are so many of them and they'll be expanding and possibly even moving out of the bush, are our dogs. Dogs pose a serious threat to all kiwi, including adults. If you live near the bush, please be sure to get your dog through a kiwi aversion training so that we can keep these precious manu safe. Contact the New Plymouth DOC office to see when the next one is taking place.



Sian Poitier of the Taranaki Kiwi Trust holding one of the birds about to be released near Lucy's Gully.

The next time you take a walk or run up in the Kaitake Ranges think about the kiwi that are around now. Please get in touch if you are keen to help out and get on a trap line.

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust



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Ōākura School

Kia ora e te whanau, Marley and Bellah here.

In this edition we are going to tell you about some recent changes at Ōākura School.

Mrs Jackson

The first thing we'll be talking about is Mrs Jackson's poroporoaki - farewell. We've loved having Mrs Jackson at our school for the last ten years. She has brought smiles to our faces and tried her best to make this school better for everyone. She has organised lots of outdoor and indoor activities for years 0 to 8. We thank Mrs. Jackson for all she has done for us.

We have asked some of the teachers to tell us about Mrs. Jackson and what she has done for our school. Here are some of their answers.

What has Mrs Jackson done for our school?

The teachers we interviewed said she always put the welfare and learning of the children first, looking for ways to make our school better for everybody and that she does a fantastic job. They also talked about how our school and grounds look amazing, thanks to the team she leads and works with, and how the school is set up for future growth. Mrs Jackson cares for all the ākonga and staff as well as the whole school environment. She supports everyone, including whānau and our community.

Does the mood change when Mrs Jackson is around?

The kaiako all said yes, and that the mood lifts and becomes lighter, that Mrs. Jackson is lots of fun, she enjoys a good laugh with the teachers and the students. They all mentioned that she is a very positive person with lots of energy.

Is Mrs Jackson a fun person to work with?

The kaiako talked about how kind and fun Mrs Jackson is, and how she wants everyone to be happy at our kura. Mrs Jackson has a good sense of humour and understands that none of us are perfect. They also identified how she works so hard for the school.

The staff added that Mrs. Jackson has given so much of herself to this school over the past ten years, we have been so lucky to have her.

Here's what Mrs. Jackson had to say about her time at Ōākura School.

How have you looked after our school?

Mrs Jackson said that she works hard to make sure that Ōākura School is the very best school, working to make sure that we have good, kind teachers, by looking after the resourcing to run the school effectively and looking after the



property. She said that the most important part of her job is looking after the students though, and making sure our students leave the school being confident, kind and caring learners who try their best in everything they do.

Have you enjoyed your time at Ōākura School?

Mrs Jackson said, "Of course!" She said that she feels incredibly lucky to have worked here at such a high achieving school, with all the great students, teachers and families she has worked with and met in her time here. She said that she has loved being part of the education of so many of our ākonga. Another thing Mrs Jackson said is how awesome it has been to teach and work with her own three children whilst she has been at Ōākura School.

Please describe Ōākura School in your own words.

The students are well supported by their whānau and the kaiako are amazing, therefore we have the best students in the land. Mrs Jackson said the 'whānau feel' of Ōākura School is pretty special. She loves how parents help and support so much with learning and activities, how the year 8s look after the younger students and show so much leadership around the school, and how caring the kaiako are. She said it's a pretty magical recipe for the tamariki of Ōākura

Editor note - Mrs Natasha Jackson has been Acting Principal and prior to that Deputy Principal.

Ōākura School Values

The next thing we will be talking about is our school's values. As most people in the community know, our three values that have long been a part of our school culture and student learning are:

Honesty – Pono
Respect – Whakaaro Pai
Perseverance – Manawanui

Recently Jennie Aitken-Hall has created some visual designs to represent our values. We also went through a consultation process with Ngāti Tairi to ensure that the designs uphold and enhance their values. We were able to make some small adaptations to make this happen. We would like to thank Jennie so much for her contribution and the time she spent in the last few months to develop these amazing designs. We are incredibly grateful for her mahi that will have a long standing impact and place within the culture of Ōākura School. The designs have now been used to create window manifestations in our new classroom block and these have been a really positive improvement to our school property.

HONESTY - PONO

The Takitoru design, based on tukutuku panels, represents the importance of being open and trustworthy in our relationships. It shows the importance of a two way conversation and ongoing communication.

RESPECT – WHAKAARO PAI

The Purapura Whetu group of stars represent connection, collaboration and respect. It is about people and a growing community. To grow together and thrive, you must respect one another. The top star in the design represents Puanga.

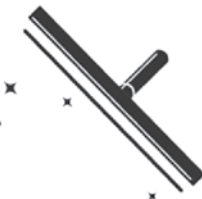

PERSEVERANCE – MANAWANUI

The Pātiki pattern, that is likened to the flounder, portrays favourable time and abundance, which requires perseverance. It also represents hard work and commitment, being able to rise to challenges and having a sense of productivity.

Thank you Jennie Aitken-Hall!

**Bellah Peters and
Marley
Gonzalez-Prado
(age 12)**





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Coming up

May

- 7 Home and School meeting
3:15pm
- 8 Parent Literacy session
3pm
- 22 Movement Madness
Y1/2 1pm
- 23 Movement Madness
Y3/4 1pm

June

- 3 King's Birthday
- 4 Teacher Only Day



Rich Learning at Rotokare Reserve

Recently our Te Ara Taiao Rōpū was invited to stay overnight at Rotokare reserve. Rotokare is a pest free area inland from Eltham. It has 8.2km of fencing around the reserve, keeping all native wildlife within the fence safe, and making it a great place to see native birds thriving in the wild.

There are approximately 300 kiwi in the 280 hectares, so that gives you a chance to see one if you go wandering through the bush at night. Rotokare was first built in 1870 and was completely pest free from 2004. Rotokare is open 24/7 so you can go in at any time. You can also camp there in tents and motor vehicles. There are two walks that weave through the native bush and ecosystem.

Our Rōpū visited the reserve with other Te Ara Taiao leaders from Ōākura School and Coastal Taranaki School. We camped out overnight so that we were able to be there in the dark in the hopes of spotting a kiwi or two.

As darkness settled in, we donned our warm clothes and red light headlights. White light would scare the kiwi so it was important to have the correct equipment.

We were lucky enough to hear kiwi and learned to distinguish between the male call and the female call (the female is more shrill and raspy).

The gentle rustling of leaf litter is what gives a kiwi away as being close by. We kept quiet and were fortunate to spot several kiwi out and about on their evening feeding adventures. We were also treated to other nocturnal animals including Glow worms, Eels (Tuna) and Weta.

Together with the other schools, we spent time planning our next environmental action for our local Rohe (area). We would like to thank Jane Dobson Bowden who is our Kairuruku (Co-ordinator) for giving us all such a rich environmental learning experience.

Amber Haldane and McKenna Bray (Year 8)



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Hector Edwards Gray

Last month in the "Letter by Alberly Bayley" he mentioned Hector Gray. Hector was born in 1885 in Otago, and moved to Normanby, Taranaki showing great promise as an athlete excelling as a sprinter and hurdler. He was selected as a representative for New Zealand in a team to go to England but his father refused permission for the trip due to his young age. His father, even though a noted horse-breaker and trainer, did not encourage, even frowned upon, Hector becoming a jockey. It is said that Hector delivered newspapers on horseback on a circuit of 20 miles! In 1902 Hector was involved in riding work for a nearby horse trainer. At a race meeting at Patea he rode three winners. It was only then his father learned of his fledgling jockey.

He relented but Hector had to do an apprenticeship with a stable in Taranaki. The stable chosen was of trainer Jervis George of Omata. Hector flourished and on completion left for Auckland.

By 1911 he was the leading jockey in New Zealand with 64 wins.

Following further successes in NZ he moved to Australia and won the Essendon Stakes and The Sydney Cup. However, Gray attracted various suspensions including two years for inconsistent running. The win in the Essendon Stakes was a bitter blow for the Australian horse racing fraternity. Gray had never seen the horse or the course. He was up against some of the best jockeys and horses in Australia. His horse, Wallolo, was 20-1 in the betting. Despite the odds the master jockey brought his horse home first. Only three days later he rode Wallolo to victory in the Australia Cup. He finished third in a warm-up race for sprinters in

the leadup for the Sydney Cup. Gray, the owner and trainer earned suspension for two years, for race fixing. Gray pointed out rather pointedly, it was asking a stayer to beat the best milers in Australia over their own distance. A ridiculous situation. At the end of this ban he returned to New Zealand to an unexpected hero's welcome. (Trans-Tasman rivalry?)

Two of New Zealand's most famous racehorses at that time were Desert Gold and Gloaming. Both horses had a winning sequence of 19 races. Gloaming was only beaten four times in New Zealand. On three of those four occasions he was beaten by a horse ridden by Gray!

TARANAKI STAKES. Gray was on Desert Gold lining up beside Gloaming. Two of the other horses set off at a pace they surely could not hold. Gray tucked in behind them on the rails, moved out. Gloaming's jockey sensing an opportunity moved up behind the leaders. Gray on Desert Gold, suddenly as the leaders slowed, took the lead. Gloaming, momentarily caught behind the tiring leaders could not get out to catch Desert Gold. The race was Gray's by half a length.

He continued winning, including the premierships in 1918, 1919 and 1921.

That year he left for England. He also raced in France and Belgium and rode over 100 winners in his two-year stint.

Within two years of his return, he was suspended again, but this time for life. In his mid-40s his suspension was lifted, and he resumed riding three months into the season. After such a long layoff he stunned racing enthusiasts with 75 winners and took the title of Champion NZ jockey for the sixth time. The next season he rode 116 winners being the first time a New Zealand jockey had ridden more than 100.



Gray was one of New Zealand's greatest riders ever to climb into a saddle. He achieved 919 wins in New Zealand, a record not to be eclipsed for many years. Fitness, strength and good judgement of pace are listed by contemporaries as reasons for his mastery. Careful study of the opposition also played a part and even a walk around the course to check for wind direction.

Hector Gray won a reputation for being an especially crooked rider at a time when the racing industry was neither clean nor well policed. Friends claimed he was victimised by those jealous of his success and his skills or smarting of their losses on their "sure to win" horses. He is also remembered as by far the most successful rider of the time.

"Perhaps in 1900 as a young teenager he already had the ambition for his future success. Trained at OMATA" – Len Jury.

Citations: John Costello, Sporting Legends. "Genius on Horseback" in SPORTING LEGENDS. Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Based on article by Harold Lipscombe, 1931.

Thanks to Mike Gooch and Rachel Sonius, Taranaki Research Centre, Puke Ariki. For their assistance with the background.

NOTICES

Ōākura Crop Swap every 3rd Saturday 3pm with swap starting 3.30pm.

Ōākura Hall side room (access via side door on right). Please bring koha/money donation to cover hire.

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

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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

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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

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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
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Ōākura Yoga - Kate Evans 027 203 7215

Pickleball Ōākura

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

Playcentre

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

Pony Club

Tracey Mackenzie 027 319 0238
traceymackkyle@gmail.com

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

Probus Club

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

Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni 021 661 912 thowison@hotmail.com

Oakura - St James Church

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Sunday School - St James Church

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am.
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tempofit.org/tempofit-kids

Tennis Club

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The Coastal Dippers - Mon-Fri 7.00am, Sat & Sun 8.00am. Turn up in front of the Surf Club for a quick sea dip. Facebook or Kama 027 769 1101

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

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Gymnastics Group for children - 5-7 yrs

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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 begins Term 2 - Wednesdays 10.00 -11am. Rachel 020 4092 5243

Okato St. Paul's - Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 10.00am

Mid-week open church - Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm, okatocp@gmail.com

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

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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Pungarehu	Opposite Town Hall	7.13	1.48
Okato	Carthew St. (opp. Sinclair's)	7.25	2.00
Oākura	Oākura Hall	7.35	2.10
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	7.50	2.25
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	7.57	2.32
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	8.00	2.55

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM	Friday only		PM
		Mon-Fri	Mon-Thu			
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New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08	New Plymouth	NPGHS	4.40
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18	New Plymouth	SHGC	4.45
Oākura	Oākura Hall	11.50	5.20	New Plymouth	NPBHS	4.55
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30	New Plymouth	Egmont Street	5.05
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40	New Plymouth	Liardet Street	5.08
Rahotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45	New Plymouth	Spotswood College (pick-up only)	5.18
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58	Oākura	Oākura Hall	5.20
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00	Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	5.30
				Pungarehu	Town Hall	5.40
				Rahotu	Four Square	5.45
				Ōpunake	Dreamtime	5.58
				Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.00

*Spotswood College - AM drop off only & PM pick-up only

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