

# *the* Ōākura Post

JULY 2024



***Norton Moller***  
LEGACY pg 2

# Norton Moller - thank you for your legacy.

5 MAY 1929 - 11 MARCH 2024

You can know of someone, and then you can know someone.

Those who knew Norton, including his family, all say a similar thing - he was a gentle man with quiet determination, interesting and interested, and his commitment to community - people and place - was vast and varied.

As is often the case you wish you knew a lot more of a person before hearing it for the first time at their funeral.

Norton died peacefully at Taranaki Base Hospital with his family at his side. His death was unexpected as only five days prior he was in a business meeting with his lawyer. He was in his 95th year. "Life is for the living" he told his family.

- Born in Hawera
- Eldest of three sons
- Named Norton after his father's love of Norton motorcycles.
- Grew up in New Plymouth
- Educated at Nelson College
- Career path - learned accounting in the family business, qualified in the office of C.H. Wynyard, rejoined the family business in 1952, became general manager of the Moller company.
- Married Coral
- Had five children Catherine, Ross, Beth, Bruce and Kristina.

As a child Norton had ill health and on doctor's advice, they came to Ōākura for the sea air. This was the beginning of Norton's love for the place and a dream of being able to live here was realised in the early seventies.

Doug Hislop continues the story from here. We first met Norton and Coral in the early 70s when they were building their Terry Boon inspired house on the bare, windswept farm they bought at their end of the village. At the same time, we were building ours on a bare windswept sandhill at the other end of the village. Consequently, we both became interested in trees, something Norton took to a far more sophisticated level than I.

I had little contact with Norton until the mid-80s when our paths began intersecting more regularly. From that time onwards, I appreciated the many talents Norton had that underpinned his vision regarding the community and its surrounding environment.

Norton frequently voiced his belief that we never own the land we occupy, we are just custodians of it. His understanding, which always remained alive in his heart, originates from his long-gone tupuna Patuone of Ngāti Hao.

He didn't come from a farming background, but he understood the importance of working within the land's limits rather than just growing grass and using fertiliser to boost stock numbers. That was the accepted practice when

he and Coral bought the farm. Others with more farming experience didn't understand it when Norton and Coral began planting trees on their exposed coastal dairy farm. The response from neighbours was disbelief. The thinking of the day was to cut down trees and maximise grass cover.

The Mollers were already planting trees along the stream banks of the three streams on their property long before the Taranaki Regional Council introduced its regulatory management plan for farms in the region. They were true pioneers in this practice. That long-term commitment of over 50 years has now seen over nine kilometres of the stream banks and wetlands fenced and planted under the stewardship of Glenys Farrant. At the same time, a stunning job of transforming the 84ha property into a productive dairy unit has been carried out.

The block of native bush along the escarpment between the campground and AhuAhu Road was covenanted into the QE2 Trust and a rigorous pest control programme was implemented. Over the past 10 years, 43 bait stations have successfully eliminated possums and significantly reduced the populations of mustelids and rats. Graham Churchill has overseen the removal of numerous stoats, ferrets, hedgehogs, rats, and feral cats. The bird life in the bush areas now is impressive. Norton regularly stated that restoring the environment should be a shared responsibility between rural and urban communities. He took pleasure in the growth of volunteer trapping and planting groups that have developed here.

Norton also believed for a community to thrive, it needed appropriate infrastructure and services. It needed people of all ages, young families, retired folk, etc. He said it required people with a wide range of occupations and interests and more than anything, most importantly, it needed people who knew each other and interacted regularly. To that end, Norton supported many local endeavours in the community. Many residents are not familiar with his input. That's the way he preferred it.

About 30 years ago, he established a strategic forestry partnership with the New Plymouth District Council. The objective involved planting, growing, and eventually harvesting pine trees on the family farm located at the end of Surrey Hill Road. He concluded that a significant portion of the region's logs were being shipped abroad, leaving minimal quantities for local builders. He was very disappointed when the partnership ended and the Council sold the logs overseas 'because the price was higher'. This is an example of how Norton's engagement was often at a high level, yet he could always communicate at any level and did so frequently.

Norton participated significantly in the development of the Kaitake Community Board's Ōākura Community Engagement Project. While in the focus group, he gave freely of his time and expertise.

He took a particular interest in the Council's 2009 review of the management of the campground. At the time, the draft denied public access, leaving only the beach for walkers. He strongly supported the proposal to ensure access was maintained through the camp, that public parking outside the gate was upgraded, and the campground wasn't extended through to the waterfall. Norton understood Ōākura residents have a vested interest in the campground. He said a well-run, viable business attracted many visitors and campers would always spend money elsewhere in the community. He firmly believed in setting a limit on cabin numbers to ensure sufficient space for tenters and caravaners, as that preserved the traditional holiday experience.

The long-term future of Ōākura was always close to his heart. He was not one for too many layers between him and the community.

I asked a few people to share their thoughts about Norton. All said he was not someone who wanted to be in the spotlight or get recognition or acknowledgement, which makes it hard to write this without compromising his wishes. Here's what they had to say.

Lynne Hepworth, the previous Principal of Ōākura School for 22 years, often witnessed first-hand Norton's commitment to the local community. She says that he always took a keen interest in the school and the projects and initiatives the students were involved in. If there were proposed plans for developments in the wider community, he was always keen to know the impact and benefit for the students. Lynne greatly appreciated and valued his insight and guidance on the school's involvement in these future opportunities. However, she wants to acknowledge his support for the school's plant propagation unit, in which he played a key role in its development. This area of the school provides a place for students to grow and nurture native plants, which in turn are planted in the school grounds and the wider community. Norton's continued support and contribution to this initiative provide opportunities for our young people to inspire and improve their community.

Paul Lobb says he was a good supporter of the Ōākura Boardriders, always paying the annual subscription and taking an interest in the club's activities. He supported the Old Boys Surf Club in the same way. Lately, Paul has been involved in the trapping programme on the Kaitakes and was part of the group that recently released kiwi up on the Davies track. The team accepted his suggestion to name one of the birds, Norton. [What a lovely gesture.]

Garry Carnachan says Norton was one of the first cabs off the rank in supporting the Kaitake Community Sports Hub and instrumental in enabling the project to get started. Garry knows he would be extremely proud of what has been achieved in providing such an excellent place for the community to connect and be active.

Stefan Kiss says he met Norton through his work as a Land Surveyor here in Taranaki and he made an immediate and lasting impression on him with his historical knowledge, wisdom, commercial acumen and strong family and community values. Mainly Stefan and Norton shared a passion for Ōākura, the Coast and the Kaitakes, and he had so many stories to draw on about things that have happened here and the people of this area.

Norton was part of that, he was one of those people who could make things happen and bring people together. He had a strong belief that people could achieve a lot by getting around a table and openly discussing, often strongly opposing views, to find consensus and solutions. He had a great way of connecting people from different walks of life, and he really enjoyed helping solve things for the community, especially for this place Ōākura which was closest to his heart.

Bob McLean, a long-time friend, describes Norton as one of life's true gentlemen. His level of generosity with his time, wisdom, and resources was exceedingly generous. He was

genuine and charismatic. When he spoke, people listened. The Moller tennis court was always a popular spot for tennis enthusiasts in the area. It offers a serene setting with beautiful gardens and abundant bird life, making it a delightful place to play.

Norton had an immense love of cricket, a game at which he excelled, playing 1st 11 cricket for Nelson Boys and Premier grade cricket in New Plymouth. His love of the game led him to assist the local Ōākura Cricket Club in getting the first artificial grass wicket in Taranaki. He also loved his rugby, and he often told us of the tactics he would use to get the remote off Coral on a Friday night.

Bob is not sure exactly how long the Butlers Pub crew have been meeting but believes it's about 25 years they have been solving the world's problems each Friday night. There is no hierarchy in that group and Norton's influence always maintained a sense of equilibrium. On some nights at the pub, laughter filled the air as someone shared a funny story, leaving Norton unable to contain his tears. His trendy dress

sense stood out as another feature, always looking extremely dapper. This reflected his inclination to stay modern and relevant. He also shared lots of stories about his travels in the early days to places more frequently visited these days. He is greatly missed by all the Butlers crew.

Norton acted as a mentor for Bob and his wife Maria when they ventured into business some 18 years ago. His advice consistently proved to be sound, and he possessed a gentle skill for guiding them towards finding a solution on their own.

Norton faced frustrations with local projects that dragged on and made little progress. He often compared them to starting as a Boeing 727 but often slowing down to the speed of a Tiger Moth.

There was no doubt he had immense pride in Coral and his family. He shared a close connection with all his children and, more recently, his grandchildren, who regularly visit the home.

Bon Voyage Nort.

## Meet Taranaki's End of Life Doula - Belinda Price

Leaving Legacies was created to fill the growing need to understand, support and care for those in and around death, dying, loss and grief. As well as the services provided by Belinda with her death doula role, she also has a specialty in capturing those special stories that make up cherished life journeys. "Everyone has a special unique life with so many precious memories that need capturing for the future generations," Belinda says. This is a really treasured part of what she does and something she loves to do. "Not only do I get to hear all about the beautiful moments in people's lives and what's shaped them but I also get to hear and capture the memories of grandparents, parents, siblings, other family members, friends and children. It really is a treasure trove of information."

These life journeys are delicately captured and turned into wonderful videos or audio stories to share around the whole family.

Belinda was drawn to create Leaving Legacies to help start what some may call uncomfortable conversations. Wanting to bridge the gap and create ease in these moments, Belinda has created a number of products to support people through difficult times. These have been creatively and sensitively designed for care and support at one of the most significant times in people's lives. The 'Knowing Me Knowing You' conversation cards and the book 'Resilient

Grieving' by Dr Lucy Hone, are now available on the Leaving Legacies website and soon to be available a care kit, 'I'm here for you'.

Belinda welcomes conversation and connection so is also part of a group that has started the Taranaki Death Cafe where people can attend a safe space to discuss all things related to death and dying. The next one is Friday 12 July from 10am at Puke Ariki Library - level one by the cafe. Facebook Taranaki Death Cafe or call Belinda for details.

To also start conversations and get useful information to everyone, Belinda has a podcast coming out shortly called 'Dying to Know'. This podcast will include episodes with lawyers around the legalities at the end of life and life admin. An episode on assisted dying and end of life choices. A personal story on life and loss. An episode on resilient grieving with Dr Lucy Hone a discussion with Victim support around tragic and unexpected deaths as well



as what can become of you when you pass.

There are so many myths and opinions in the arena of dying so Leaving Legacies is a place to understand, seek knowledge, get support and advocacy for your wishes and share your special and unique life story. Let's start, give Belinda a call and see how she can support you and your family.

Leaving Legacies 027 314 6327  
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## Kaitake Community Board

Complaints have been made for decades regarding safety concerns with traffic on the section of State Highway 45 that dissects Ōākura, and most of those complaints seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Anyone who has driven from Ōkato to the New Plymouth CBD recently will be aware of work that is being and has been done to that stretch of road, reportedly in the interests of ‘road safety’. An unfortunate side effect of all these road works however seems to have been an escalation in driver frustration, and a resultant degradation in driver behaviour and traffic safety awareness on our roads. The symptoms of this trend have been evident with increased speed and erratic and dangerous passing manoeuvres on the open highway outside the ‘road cone zones’. Vehicles overtaking stationary school buses stopped for the purpose of discharging or embarking school children well in excess of the 20kph speed limit was a concern that was raised in a deputation at the last KCB meeting. Also of concern is vehicles speeding through, and/or failing to stop at the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Ōākura Hall.

I would strongly encourage anyone who witnesses any incident involving excessive traffic speed, a vehicle failing to stop at the crossing, or driving behaviour that you consider dangerous to record the details of the event and to report those details by email to [enquiries@npdc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@npdc.govt.nz) and cc me [graham.chard@npdc.govt.nz](mailto:graham.chard@npdc.govt.nz)

The New Plymouth District Council has no control over the state highway network, and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi appears reluctant to act on matters unless there is overwhelming and irrefutable evidence that a significant issue exists. Therefore the more evidence that can be gathered, the stronger the case that can be put to NZTA for action to be taken. The KCB can then, on weight of evidence, petition both the District Council and the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee to advocate at a central government level and push the case on our behalf.

We are in a bit of a lull activity wise, following the feverpitch of preparation, consultation and consideration of the Long-Term Plan

and Annual Plan preparation. We are now awaiting the final outcomes, however things are still happening on the operational front.

One of the examples of this work being undertaken to increase Ōākura’s water capacity with the installation of a new two-kilometre water pipe. The existing pipe is being replaced with a larger one along Wairau Road, which will help the growing town meet its water needs while improving the supply for firefighting. This \$1.6m project will take place from Pahakahaka Drive to the state highway, and stage two of the project will take place around the Ōākura Water Treatment Plant next year.

It is always great to see some tangible return into our part of the district from the rates we pay.

And finally, I attended a workshop reporting on the details of Te Matatini, the national kapa haka festival, which is being hosted at the Pukekura/ Bowl of Brooklands, from 24 February 2025 to 1 April 2025. This festival is expected to see over 2,500 competitors and support crew, and 70,000 spectators into the region, and will result in Taranaki being showcased across Aotearoa New Zealand and around the globe. It will also provide a multimillion-dollar boost to our local economy. Te Matatini will take place after Americarna, and immediately before WOMAD, so prepare yourselves; our district is going to be in for an extremely busy and exciting start to 2025.

That’s it from me for this edition, so do your best to stay warm and dry out there.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held on at 5pm, Monday, 8 July 2024, at the Kaitake Community Sports Hub, at Corbett Park, Ōākura.

**Graham Chard**  
- Kaitake Community Board Chair  
[thechardz@gmail.com](mailto:thechardz@gmail.com) 027 2204 549

On behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and Anneka Carlson, appointed NPDC councillor.

Trish Baylis  
People and Culture Associate

Toni-Anne McKerrow  
People and Culture Advisor

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STAPLES RODWAY

## Kaitake Community Sports Hub – the Rivermouth.

Following a very successful community opening on 7th April, the new Community Hub at Corbett Park is now up and running! The Rivermouth clubrooms have been busy hosting our rugby, football and netball clubs, their whanau and visitors every weekend with large numbers taking advantage of the new facilities. It’s perfect on a winter day for a warm dry place to watch games and enjoy the bar, food and company of friends.

From junior teams filling the entire space on Saturday mornings, and locals, families and players enjoying the hospitality in the afternoons, to the women’s football on Sundays, feedback from locals and guests has been hugely positive. Visitors have been awed by the incredible setting and facilities, many leaving with KCSH contact details to book in their corporate or private function.

After starting the process three years ago, the building has been entirely renovated from top to bottom with a new exterior, kitchen, toilets, bar, function area and an amazing outdoor patio right on the beach. Bruce the Builder and his team, along with contributions from numerous local tradies, have achieved amazing results in constructing a new building without taking the old one down - including upgrading to meet modern earthquake and fire standards.

Made up of independents and members from each of the Netball, Cricket, Rugby and Football clubs, along with a place reserved for hapu, the KCSH Committee was formed in 2021 to undertake the project and run the Community Hub venue to serve member clubs and the wider community. In 2022 KCSH purchased the clubrooms, which were originally built by volunteers in 1972, from the original owner Kaitake Rugby Club for the sum of \$1. Ngati Tairi are mana whenua at Corbett Park which is owned by PKW through the 1881 West Coast Reserves Settlements Act and is vested in a crown lease to NPDC.

The vision is for the Rivermouth Hub to connect, activate, serve and enable our entire community, and the venue is available for community, private and corporate use. With its meeting facilities, kitchen, bar and outdoor areas, KCSH is an ideal venue for community events, that special occasion, the staff training day, or company conference. We can adapt to meet your needs, for hire enquires phone 027 563 800.

It “takes a village to build a hub” and the Foundation Membership programme has played a big role in getting our community together and on board. This opportunity is closing this month and we would still love your support as we save up to finish the details – simply go to: [kcs.co.nz/membership/foundation-member](https://kcs.co.nz/membership/foundation-member) and get your or your family or business name on the Foundation Boards and have your contribution recognised by future generations!

So there are no barriers to our young people getting physically active through our clubs, KCSH does not charge fees for junior players. To help us continue to support their future, and as KCSH is only able to serve members and their guests under the terms of our licence, we encourage locals to join up as a Social Member of KCSH to be able to come down and enjoy the social connection at the hub.

Social Members get reduced hire rates and other benefits so you can easily regain your \$40 investment in the future of our district – simply go to the Social Membership page on the KCSH website: [kcs.co.nz/membership/social-membership](https://kcs.co.nz/membership/social-membership) and help us help our district.

See you at the Rivermouth.



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# In the Winter Garden with Glyn Church.

This is the best autumn I've seen in Coastal Taranaki in 40 years, says our local renowned horticulturist Glyn Church. The reason is that we've had some chilly nights and the plants need that difference in temperature from daytime. The cherry trees in particular have been great for their red and gold foliage.

As for plants that flower in winter, in most parts of the world it's a no go season in the garden but not here. We have lots of spectacular flowering plants here such as banksia and protea, They're good coastal plants that are winter tolerant.

Then there are the winter camellias with petite flowers, including the tea plant Camellia sinensis. The flowers even smell like tea, and the Tui take nectar from those flowers. Because they flower in the cooler months they don't get petal blight that typically attacks the larger flowering camellias.

But the highlight plant for winter is Luculia. It is bold, staggeringly beautiful and has a powerful scent. It's a 2-3 metre bush in different shades of shocking to pale pink or even white.

Hellebores, the winter rose, are also blooming now in several colours. The tropical rhododendron from Borneo and New Guinea, often known as Vireya, can flower any time of year but tends to have a burst of flower in the winter. They're perfect for Ōākura since they don't like frosts.

Winter is when lots of bromeliads flower. They are also perfectly suited to the Ōākura climate and often are small enough to put in narrow gaps such as between your wall and your neighbour's. Many of them are epiphytes and will grow well in pots, but in the ground as well. They are related to pineapples. In stately homes in Britain pineapple fruit were once seen as a symbol of hospitality. People would sometimes rent pineapples when they had company for dinner and place them on the table for show. They even might have had carved pineapples on the pillars of their entry gates.

Red hot pokers (yellow also) mostly flower in middle winter and provide food for bellbirds and tūi. Everyone can plant some, placing them in several places in the garden so the birds don't fight for them.

The Kowhai tree mostly flowers in the spring but some in winter. Dragon's Gold, more of a shrub than a tree, comes from the Stephen's Island in the middle of Cook Strait so is very wind hardy. Tūi love their nectar because they flower at unusual times of the year and Kereru (wood pigeons) love the Kowhai leaves.

Pyrostegia venusta or Flame Vine, an orange climber, needs a really hot wall and will reward you with a mass of flowers in midwinter continuously for around six weeks. Justicia pauciflora or Fire Flies only grows waist high so is easy to fit in most gardens. It flowers for over two months in midwinter, and the wax-eye birds just love it and will keep coming back.

Once the shortest day is behind us we can start pruning the Hydrangeas. Winter is short, and we'll know when spring is on the way when the magnolias come out. The magnolias are the herald of spring and start flowering in July.

For an article on spring planting, watch for our September Ōākura POST.

Elayne Kessler

## DIY WEED SPRAYS

**Weed killer**  
1kg soda ash                      3 litres warm water  
2 Tbsp dishwashing detergent  
Mix soda ash and warm water. Stir in detergent.  
Spray on a sunny day. Weeds will brown off within a few hours.  
Best results when done on a HOT day.

**To kill oxalis**  
Fill a 1 litre spray bottle with white vinegar, add  
1 tsp baking soda    1 tsp dishwashing liquid  
Spray on a dry day. Repeat if necessary.  
Don't let it flower as bees pollinate them and increases the bulbs

Thank you Jean Mattingly for sharing these recipes.



### ON THE HOUSE Charity has an Over 65's Free Food Store.

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# Kaitake Golf Club

Autumn golf is upon us, cooler temperatures... shorter days.. The course is looking good now we are getting our fair share of rain to green up the course.

We had a lightening strike and one of our trees got hit dramatically. There were a couple of players on the course who were very lucky not to get hit. It left a lot of debris on the course and thanks go to the volunteers for helping clean up.



### MENS NEWS

We are in the middle of Club Champs at the moment but our Strokeplay has now been played:

STROKEPLAY & FOREMAN TROPHY RESULTS:

StrokePlay:		Foreman Trophy:	
Senior	Joseph Doyle	Senior	Tyla Judson
Intermediate	Merv Foster	Intermediate	Roger Cloke
Junior	Ian Johnson	Junior	Ian Johnson

TWO BALL BEST BALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

Mens 1st Gross    Joseph Doyle & Brook Gray  
Mens 1st Net       Bryan Lewar & Roy Avery  
Ladies 1st Gross    Debra Johnson & Sharon Adamson  
Ladies 1st Nett     Joanne Sheather & Melissa Waite

### LADIES NEWS:

On Sunday, 14th April we hosted the Taranaki Womens Golf 27 Hole Strokeplay Foursome event.

Debbie McCallum and Joanne McDonald ended up winning Gross trophy. Svala Garner (Urenui) and Annie Frame came 2nd in the Nett Competition. Shona Lee and Karen Pattison (both Westown) won 1st Nett in 27 Hole Strokeplay.

Foursomes were held at Kaitake.

2nd Svala Garner (Urenui) and Annie Frame, 3rd on countback Michelle Grant and Hari Butters (both Urenui)

4th Julie Cleaver and Lynne Newall (both Te Ngutu).

Jo Wilson-West and Lorraine Parthemore won 1st Nett at the Taranaki 18 Hole Strokeplay Foursomes that were held at Kaitake.

### 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.

## New improved timetable

Ōpunake to New Plymouth (Mon-Fri)		AM	PM
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.55	1.30
Rahotu	Plunket Rooms	7.08	1.43
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	2.35

## Southlink Coastal bus service

### ŌPUNAKE - NEW PLYMOUTH

Monday to Friday 2x Daily

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL for NPBHS, NPGHS, FDMC & SHGC boarders



SCAN TO VIEW FARES INFORMATION

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM	Friday only		PM
		Mon-Fri	Mon-Thu			
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05	New Plymouth	FDMC	4.25
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

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

Southlink Coastal service is operated by Pickering Motors Ltd with support from Taranaki Regional Council



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# Kaitake Ranges Community Trust Update

Winter is here, and for those of us volunteering for the Trust, that means days spent slowly negotiating muddy, slippery trails or when lucky a crisp, sunny day in the bush. Summertime is the easy time to get out in the bush, when the days are long, the sun's out, and the trails are generally dry. Come winter, the bush really turns on its true character as a rainforest. Those wet, cold days reveal which volunteers are really into it and which aren't.

Fortunately, the Trust has a lot of the former, volunteers who give up their time to take a walk in the bush, rain or shine, to check traps or help track the locations of the kiwi. Winter is an important time for checking traps because this is when a lot of the freely available food is running out and those predators are looking for other food sources.

In each of the last two years there has unfortunately been a death of one of the released kiwi during the winter months. Most likely, the culprit was a ferret. We are approaching that high-risk time of year again, so it's crucial that we have dedicated volunteers

rebaitting traps consistently in order to protect the precious kiwi that now call the Kaitake Ranges home.

The past couple years the kiwi were mainly located up around Pukeiti, but now, thanks to the release earlier this year, kiwi are living all over the Kaitake Ranges. Trail cameras have been spotting some of the birds near the Sefton Track, Wairau Track, and Davies Track! It's so exciting to have these birds so close to Ōākura. However, it also means that we need to be super vigilant in our trapping.

Our volunteers have been working hard, but we are stretched a bit thin and could definitely use more help! We need a few more volunteers who would be willing to give up one day (3 – 5 hours) every one to two months to check and rebait some traps. It is not a huge time commitment, but it is absolutely crucial for the protection of our beloved kiwi. We are looking for some reasonably fit people who have time, enthusiasm, are willing to learn the basics of trap checking, and are ready to join our crew of dedicated volunteers.

A huge thanks to some of the new volunteers who've joined our ranks recently: Richie Shearer, Heather Webb, and Paula Van Winkel. If you are ready to help out, please get in touch with Pete Morgan at [morgpt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morgpt@xtra.co.nz)

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SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES:

Design a t-shirt Monday 8 July 2.00pm-3.30pm

Bring along your own t-shirt and create a design with our vinyl cutter to iron on, and then embellish using fabric pens.

For ages 10-14, 8 spaces available, bookings and own t-shirt essential.

Taranaki Maunga inspired collage Wednesday 17th July 2.00-3.00pm

How does living by Taranaki Maunga inspire you to make art? Come to the library and create a collage to share your ideas.

For 5-12years, 15 spaces, bookings essential.

Crackerjacks - Thursday 4 July 10am

Under-5s fun! Join us for a range of stories, rhymes, crafts or songs.

Fun for the tamariki and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

Taranaki Art Exhibition

Home Work Maunga Auaha: A show for all ages. Taranaki Art 2024 will put the spotlight on our creative people, our places, our issues and our identity. Will be at Puke Ariki from 6 July 2024 and closing 10 November 2024. Collectively, these artworks aim to represent the art scene in Taranaki.

The Ōākura Library

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**David Macleod**  
*MP for New Plymouth*

Budget 2024 was delivered at the end of May, and as promised it's fiscally responsible and delivers on key coalition Government commitments. It represents a new era of careful spending, lower taxes for hard-working New Zealanders and a reprioritisation of funding towards the frontline.

One area we have committed to is infrastructure for growth. We're determined to address New Zealand's infrastructure deficit with record investment and a coherent pipeline of projects. We're committing \$1.2 billion in the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to support our regional economies, and \$2.68 billion in roads, rail, and public transport. The Pothole Prevention Fund will fix our broken roads, with Taranaki receiving \$58,417,460 over the next three years to repair and prevent potholes, at an increase of 43% from previous government funding.

Within infrastructure, we're also investing \$1.5 billion in school and kura property and \$140 million for an extra 1,500 social housing places, delivered by community housing providers.

We are continuing to support New Zealand in adaptation and emissions reduction with \$2.6 billion of funding toward climate change initiatives such as continued investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure. A further \$200 million will also be invested in flood resilience infrastructure through the RIF.

Last month, Resources Minister Shane Jones announced the Government will be removing the ban on petroleum exploration beyond onshore Taranaki as part of a number of changes to deal with New Zealand's energy security. It's imperative we keep the lights on, particularly during peak electricity demand or when generation dips because of more intermittent sources like wind, solar and hydro. Opening New Zealand

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

**Office hours:**  
Mon-Thu: 9am-3pm  
Fri: By appointment



**National** 

Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

**Ōākura Barbershop** A busy place on a Saturday morning, Ian, the owner was talking through the techniques he was using on a client to a watchful Meihana. Meihana is a local 16 year old on work experience placement as part of the Barber course he is undertaking at WITT. The year long course is followed up by a one year apprenticeship placement. Meihana has done haircuts on a wide range of different age groups, and describes Ian as "real nice, easy to talk to and really patient."

**High Tide gallery** This month featuring photography by well known local Fay Looney. The art on display which is also for sale is fade and weather proof, making it suitable for both indoors and outdoors.

**Butlers Reef** Butlers Reef have put out a call for any and all old photos of Butlers Reef/Oakura Hotel so they can collate it all together for everyone to enjoy and reflect on. You can send through any and all photos and/or stories to butlers@butlersreef.co.nz

**Village Vibes**  
by Elaine Jamieson

**Coastal Dippers** Sixteen Ōākura residents braved the chill on a beautiful clear June morning to celebrate mid winter with a swim. With not a wetsuit in sight all managed to stay in for at least a few minutes. The sea temperature was 15.3, air temperature 8. One swimmer was heard to say that it didn't get better the longer he stayed in, as he was promised. Home for a hot shower and coffee was next on the cards. Well done all you first timers, see you next year!



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# Ōākura School

## Donations wanted for School Gala



Ōākura School Gala Committee, would LOVE to take all your second-hand items (in good condition) off your hands for our White Elephant/second hand stall.

We need to start this collection now and are looking for clothing, homewares, books, accessories etc (nothing too oversized).

Also, if you are a business and would like to donate raffle items, sponsorship or prizes for the games etc we would love to hear from you.

Jane James 027 632 9969

We are also in need of some storage space to keep the items until the gala day and are hoping someone might have the perfect shed or space for us!

Contact Amber Smithers on 027 241 5536 if you have items to donate or a storage place that could be used.

Gala Day is on Saturday 2nd November, 11am - 3pm.

## Volunteers Help Protect Petrels from Predators



A camera set up by conservation volunteers to monitor a grey-faced petrel (Ōi) burrow near Ōākura is showing just how vulnerable the sea birds are, with a plethora of predators visiting the site.

Restore Ōākura comprises a group of local volunteers set up to trap predators in their back yards and around the coastal community. The volunteers' collective effort can be traced back to 2019 when Toby Shanley from Restore Ōākura heard the distinctive call of the grey-faced petrel and did some investigation, subsequently finding several of the sea birds and a burrow.

*Pictured to the left: Toby Shanley in the Pouakai Ranges.*

A donation from Ōākura local Norton Moller allowed the installation of further traps to protect the burrow and a section of the coastal walkway from Ahu Ahu Road to the Ōākura campground where the seabirds were seen.

Grey-faced petrel colonies are dispersed across coastal North Island, but Taranaki's only other confirmed mainland colony was at Rapanui, a predator fenced area near rural Tongapōrutu,



Grey-faced petrels spend most of their time at sea where they are fast and graceful, soaring on the sea breeze Toby explains.

"Returning to land they are clumsy and slow and nest in burrows so they are really vulnerable to predators."

Every two weeks a volunteer checks the approximately 2km trap line. The hard work paid off when a chick successfully fledged in 2023.

"The increase in trapping through the local Ōākura and region-wide Predator Free Taranaki programmes meant mustelid numbers are being knocked back which could be why we're seeing an increase in coastal birds coming back to the region," says Toby.

"We are doing further monitoring around the coast to see if birds are coming in at night and it's looking promising. But the protection needs to continue and grow. They need ongoing protection in order to help them survive and thrive."

Toby is asking people to help by keeping their dogs in sight and under control when walking them along the Taranaki coast. Cat owners can have their pets spayed and keep them indoors at night.

People can get involved by setting traps in their back yards or volunteering for a local trapline. Volunteer at: [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

Grey-faced petrel (Ōi) New Zealand Birds Online [nzbirdsonline.org.nz](http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz)

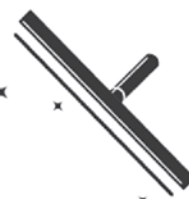
June 16 - 24 was Te Wiki Tūo ā-Motu, National Volunteer Week where those who give their time to the community and environment are recognised – like the Restore Ōākura volunteers. Toby, along with other volunteers from Restore Ōākura, set about protecting the birds by installing traps around the area.

Proof of the birds' vulnerability came when the group installed a trail camera to monitor the burrow. What they saw came as a shock: a ferret, stoats, a dog and, most recently cats, visited the burrow with the nesting adults inside.

In 2022 a ferret killed a chick in the nest before it could fledge.

"All these different visitors to the same burrow show just how in danger these birds are," says Toby.

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## Kaitiake o Ngāhere

Ōmāta school is privileged to have a Key Native Eco System on site. Every second year we take time to study the ngāhere (bush) as part of our rich curriculum studies. We have again had guest visits from Dr Emily Roberts from the Taranaki Regional Council to enrich our learning. Different classes have focused on different aspects of science for their learning about the ngāhere. We asked some classes about their experiences.

Tūi have been learning to identify and locate invasive plant species. They then made a plan and held an action afternoon 'weed busting' which meant removing all of the tradescantia. The class has identified an area to focus on to fully eradicate the invasive species and then transplant seedlings from other areas in the Ngāhere to improve that area.



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Tūi on thier weed busting mission with Dr Emily

Piwakawaka loved exploring the bush around their classroom on the Bug Treasure Hunt. Dr Emily described the habitats of the pūriri moth, wētā, kihikihi (cicada), pūrātoke (glow worms) and a variety of spiders. As scientists they observed closely and noticed similarities and differences.

The Korimako students have also been looking at the important role of invertebrates in our ngāhere. How they decompose organic matter, help to maintain the health of the soil, act as pollinators, and even provide food for reptiles and birds. The students did a rubbish pickup within the ngāhere and then examined the rubbish they found. While we believe the majority of the rubbish found was not the result of the Ōmāta tamariki, it was a timely reminder for us all to ensure our rubbish is disposed of properly.

In Kiwi the new entrants to our school learnt about different minibeasts. They now know that to find out what kind of creature it is they just need to count its legs and body parts. They also learnt to look for clues to figure out what minibeasts are living in our ngāhere.

Ruma Pūkeko have also been searching for minibeasts around the bush and orchard. They

found holes in trees where the tree weta hide during the day. They also discovered the Puriri moth's whare in the Puriri tree. It has beautiful pink flowers that bloom all year long.

In Ruru we used citizen science and technology to further explore the biodiversity in the ngāhere. Identifying plant species as well as invertebrates allowed us to locate a wide variety of native species suggesting a very healthy eco system. You might also be interested in using the App 'Seek by iNaturalist' to assist with identifying flora and fauna in your own back yard or when you are out exploring Aotearoa.

## Coming up

### July

- 4 Y7/8 Indoor bowls tournament
- 5 End of Term Two
- 22 Start of Term Three
- 31 3D Conferences

### August

- 1 3D Conferences

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# Stories of Ōmata

McKELLAR'S TRACK. GEORGINA BURNE HETLEY NEE MCKELLAR

## The International Award Winning 'Omata' Artist.



*Loranthus adamsii*, The Native Flowers of New Zealand.  
Part I, Mrs Charles Hetley 1887. Pukeariki, New Plymouth Council.



*Metrosideros florida*, The Native Flowers of New Zealand.  
Part II, Mrs Charles Hetley. 1888

The McKellar family, moved from Battersea, London in 1832 to the Portuguese Island of Madeira, about 740 km southwest of Portugal, for the health of Georgina's father. After his death, Georgina's mother, Annette, and her 10 children and two servants emigrated to New Zealand, arriving 2 December 1852 at New Plymouth. They settled on 50 acres of land at Ōmata on the corner of Beach Rd (McKellar's Track), Ōākura side, and SH.45. They named the farm Fernlea. With the McKellar family were the Mace and Rodrigues families.

Georgina at age of 34 on 2 March 1856 married Charles Hetley in the first St. John's Church (built in the 1851 in the Waireka Cemetery). Their first home was named Brookwood. This was on the right hand side travelling from Ōākura between Waireka Rd. West and Hurford Road. Unfortunately, her husband, Charles Hetley died from a tree felling accident less than a year later in 1857. Georgina was left with a 7-week-old son and moved back to the family home at Fernlea. Brookwood evidently was leased To Rev. Brown, or Parson Brown as he was affectionately known to both Māori and settlers. Brown within a few months purchased and extended the buildings on the property. He was residing there at the start of the 'Battle of Waireka'.

During her artistic career Georgina wrote of nostalgic memories of the view from the Pouakai ranges. "The town of New Plymouth lay far away in the distance, but we could not see it, it was hidden by the smoke of the burning bush." Later Georgina wrote, "The beautiful forest with its flowers and ferns is fast disappearing before the tide of cultivation, and many will only be known by their dried and shrivelled up remains."

After moving and receiving expert tutelage in Auckland, Hetley won prizes for her studies of Native foliage with the NZ Art Students' Association in Auckland. Her paintings of indigenous flora took first prize at the 1885 NZ Industrial Exhibition in Wellington. A few years later Georgina won much praise for her book, 'The Native Flowers of New Zealand'. This was earlier published in three parts in 1887-8 and as a single volume in 1888. She was given free rail travel and free passage by the Union Steam Ship Company for her trips to paint New Zealand flora such as native ferns, flowers and fungi. A commitment was made by the New Zealand Government for copies of her book to be purchased for all public schools and libraries. A French version was published in 1889.

On her return to New Zealand, she held a major exhibition in the Auckland Museum of 150 NZ flora paintings in all.

Georgina died in Auckland in 1898. Contemporaries remembered her as a forceful personality, single minded in the pursuit of her goal to paint New Zealand's indigenous flora before it was destroyed by the advance of cultivation.

Thanks to Mr. Mike Gooch, Research Centre, Pukeariki, for his help putting this article together. Citation. June Starke. 'Hetley, Georgina Burne', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography (1993). Writer's local knowledge of the area and farm.

*Metrosideros florida* also known as *Metrosideros fulgens*, scarlet rātā, rātā vine and akatawhiwhi. Climbing Rata (akatawhiwhi).

This tree vine is a native of New Zealand mainly in coastal and lowland bush of the North Island and the west coast of the South Island. Flowers mainly in autumn and early winter. The main stem grows up to 10 metres long and 10cm or more in diameter. The roots penetrate and cling to the trunks of host trees. (Wikipedia)

*Loranthus adamsii* - Climbing Rata, (Extinct but not). One of the few paintings of this plant, once claimed as the only painting of this rare plant. Even today it is claimed that only 6 exist.

## 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.

#### 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

#### Ōākura Crop Swap

3rd Saturday 3-4pm  
Ōākura Village Hall. Contact Adam Harris adam@frankandfearles.com

#### 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

#### Ōakura - 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 breakfast run club every Friday 8am before school at Ōākura Hall, 8-13yrs. Hayden Shearman 027 483 5942 tempofit.org

#### Tennis Club

Coaching for all ages and levels.  
All other enquiries - Jackie 027 673 2900

**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: taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com

#### Val Deakin Dance School - Ōākura Hall

Tuesday afternoon - Pre-school dance classes at 2:45, ballet for 5+ 3:30 to 4:15. Adult classes, Fridays 10.30am. val@valdeakindance.org.nz  
752 7743 or text 027 694 0933

### Tataraimaka Hall

#### 5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

Monday to Thursday 5-6 pm, Barney 027 752 7076 barney@5efitness.com or visit www.5efitness.com

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

Tuesdays after school at the Tataraimaka Hall for basic level gymnastics sessions. Rose at rosem@realfoodnutrition.co.nz

### Okato

#### Okato Community Church meeting

At Hempton Hall on Sunday mornings 10.30am - all welcome.  
Contact Nicky 027 497 3764

#### Okato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

**Okato Lions Club** - Contact Colin Tyler 027 5421853 - Meet at Hempton Hall first Wed of the month.

**Okato Squash Club** - Monday nights from 6.30pm. All welcome. Ladies morning 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

**Editor:** Tracey Lusk  
06 752 7875 / 027 636 8060  
editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

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

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advertising@theoakurapost.co.nz

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**Call Jenny for Curtains 027 314 7710**



## Meet the new owners of Golden Homes Taranaki!

Casey and Jenny are excited to announce they have turned their long time dreams into reality.

We have worked in the industry for a combined 20+ years, most of those have been living and breathing the Golden Homes brand, which has given us the knowledge and expertise to build beautiful homes for our clients.

Visit us at our showroom 15 Northgate, Strandon for a free design and build consultation.

**Locals that love what they do!**

Casey Plummer - 027 279 8075

Jenny Thomson - 021 626 834

