

the Ōākura Post

AUGUST 2024

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Cover Pic: Martin (left) with Most Successful Team Trainer shield at a NZ Boxing Championship. Pat (right) is wearing the Jameson belt awarded to the most scientific boxer at the same championship.



Congratulations Val Deakin!

There was a gathering on Saturday, June 29th to celebrate the investiture of local dance legend Val Deakin as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. As Val wasn't able to travel the ceremony was officiated by Mayor Neil Holdom who presented her with a certificate signed by King Charles and the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro, as well as pinning on her medal.

Born in New Plymouth, Val had a career overseas in England, Turkey and the USA – dancing, teaching and choreographing – before returning to New Zealand at the end of 1972 opening her own dance school and forming the Val Deakin Dance Theatre Trust. Both are still operating today! Many of her students have gone on to professional careers in dance or theatre – or have used the training they received to assist in their work and personal lives.

The investiture was held at the Dance Theatre's home on St Aubyn Street. After the official presentation, a morning tea was enjoyed by the group of celebrants.

In our online archives you can read more on Val Deakin
www.theoakurapost.co.nz. June 2023 and July 2023 issues

At the Library NOW

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Team with their trophy from the Matariki tournament:
Back: L-R Gemma Skittrup, Emily Bellringer, Nicole Lazarus, Jane Dunlop, Gina Roberts.
Front: L-R Esme Reid, Jess White, Rebecca Le Prou.

Kaitake Club Netball News

Our winter league netball is in full swing. We currently have two adult and two youth teams playing at Waiwahakaiho each Saturday. We also have social netball happening up at Ōākura School courts at 3.00pm most Sundays for anyone that is keen to come along and give it a go. All abilities welcome.

A big thank you goes out to Toni Peacock for her leadership and organisation in getting Kaitake Club netball happening on Saturdays.

Thank you to our major sponsors: Tsunami Clothing, Southcoast Construction, Ariki Gas and Plumbing, Golfzone and Craigs Investment Partners. A big thank you to our Kaitake Community Hub members for allowing our teams to come together there.

Eight of our ladies attended the Matariki weekend tournament hosted by Western Suburbs at Waiwahakaiho. It was a tough battle, with the team coming in as runner up for their grade. Well done ladies.

Prize giving for current team members will be held at the Kaitake Community Hub Saturday 24th of August 6pm. See you there.

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STAPLES RODWAY



Beth Paterson, Nurse and Belly Dancer



Beth moved to Ōākura from New Plymouth as a 20 year old nursing student, flatting here so she could live near the sea. She never left and now, many years later, she is now contemplating retirement from her nursing career. "I'm still here because it's the best place to be," she says. She met her then husband in NP, built a home in Ōākura and raised three sons together here. Now fast forward a number of years:

Beth worked in many roles as a Registered Nurse, first at Barrett Street Hospital and then the new Taranaki Base Hospital (as it was previously known), followed by District and Practice Nursing, Heart Foundation community education, and Taranaki Polytechnic as the Occupational Health Nurse for staff and students. Beth then became more interested

in health and safety and was encouraged by a nursing colleague and friend to consider gaining an added qualification in the field of Occupational Health and Safety at Massey University. It was a new career shift where Beth knew that being a registered nurse would be an advantage.

A male dominated field at the time, Beth took up the challenge. As a working mother it meant five years of extramural study to obtain the Post Graduate Occupation Health and Safety qualifications. She says she is very passionate about the health and safety of workers, both their physical and mental wellbeing, with a focus on the prevention of harm from potential risks. "I'm still working, but just," with plans she has to retire sometime soon.

Once the boys left home and Beth and her then husband went their separate ways, she began to travel. After a trip to Turkey she became fascinated with the art of belly dancing. After years of wanting to dance but not finding a dance style to embrace, she returned from Turkey wanting to learn Middle Eastern dance. She located a professional Middle Eastern dance teacher in Taranaki to teach her. At age 51 Beth started to learn to belly dance and still actively enjoys it.

Belly dance features flowing and isolated movements of the hips and torso. It's an art form for women to get together and enjoy each other's company. It keeps you flexible, enhances your mental and physical wellbeing, gives you confidence and improves agility and balance. Learning and remembering the choreographic moves and sequences is also good exercise for the brain.

Classical Middle Eastern belly dance is traditional while Tribal belly dance is a fusion form of dance created from an American style. Initially Beth's training was in classical belly dance but in recent years she's gone from classical to more of a tribal belly dance style. For her "It's about friendships and an opportunity to perform, a kind of sisterhood. It doesn't matter what size or age you are.

It's an art form about womanhood and being comfortable with our bodies. I love getting dressed in the costumes."

"As a child I dreamed of being on stage to dance. Now it's real and to perform with the group it was necessary to overcome my shyness to perform." The group is called the Gypsophilia Tribe and has up to 15 people at a time. The group meets weekly to dance and to prepare for an upcoming show - like Dewali, Taranaki Multi Ethnic Extravaganza, Baldricks Big Day Out, Performing Arts shows, Children's Extravaganza and private functions.

Life for Beth and partner Chris involves being an active part of the lives of six grandchildren. Add to that a newly SPCA adopted kitten, Charlie (named after Beth's father). Beth does Tai Chi at the Ōākura Hall and sings and performs with the Taranaki Adventure Singers.

Considering all the activities Beth enjoys doing, there's a good chance you'll see her in the community down at the beach, at the playground with her grandchildren or at a Tai Chi class. You also might see her onstage singing with the Taranaki Adventure Singers or performing belly dancing with the Gypsophilia Tribe at some celebration.

Elayne Kessler

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Cheers to the Ōākura Rat Trappers

Did you know there are more than 400 rat traps in Ōākura village backyards, walkways, reserves and parks? The majority have been set up and are being checked by you, your neighbours, your friends and family. Villagers are checking traps in their gardens as part of their weekly chores. Local volunteers are checking trap lines in Matekai Park and Corbett Park, while Ōākura School has a trap line that students look after. It's a true community effort and it's paying off.

A few months ago we carried out our annual urban rat tracking monitoring. We've been doing this at 10 locations in New Plymouth since 2018 and in Matekai Park since 2021. We put pre-inked and baited tracking tunnels out and the next morning return to check the cards. If a rat has entered the tunnel, it would have stood in the ink and left easily recognisable prints. In Ōākura, two of the 10 cards had rat tracks this year, down from four in 2021 but up from none last year. Of course, this is just one spot on one night so it is a tiny snapshot.

The goal when it comes to rats is sustained control and we're confident we're doing that - with numbers pretty stable in the New Plymouth district over the past four years.

Our annual 5-minute bird count and the recent NZ Garden Bird Survey also help us assess the impact trapping is having and we love hearing all your stories of increased birdlife. We also keep an eye on Trap.nz, where those 400 traps are registered and the trappers record their catches.

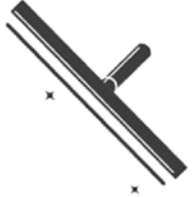
Remember, we do not have to eradicate predators completely to see biodiversity benefits. Every rat, possum or mustelid gone is one less threat to our native species. Kākā have been spotted in Ōkato, you have oi (grey-faced petrels) nesting on the coast and kiwi are starting to venture out of the national park. So well done to the rat catchers among you, keep checking your traps, keep recording your results and keep reaping the benefits!

Finally, a quick update on the Zero Possum project. It has been three years with no resident possum population in one 2000ha block of farmland. In the last 18 months, we have removed 3500 possums in the extension between the Timaru and Hangatahua (Stony) rivers. By using trapping, scat detection dogs, night hunting, trail cameras and a heap of hard work, we are on track to clear the whole 9500ha. Watch this space.

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David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

Our Government is investing in cancer treatments and more new medicines as promised.

Pharmac will receive a \$604 million funding boost to ensure more New Zealanders are able to access life-changing medicines. It's estimated that 175,000 people will benefit from the additional treatments in just the first year.

In 2023 we listed 13 cancer treatments, up to seven of those will be included in this package, the remaining six will be replaced by alternatives that are as or more effective than those originally listed. Up to 26 cancer treatments and 28 other treatments will be funded in total.

Treatments for all cancer types in the pre-election manifesto list will be covered, but also a number of others, including for blood cancers and other tumours. We know cancer affects so many New Zealanders and their families each year. Having access to these medicines will be life-changing for many; I have heard this first-hand from people in our electorate. Some of the newly funded medicines will be available from October/ November, with more phased in over the next year.

This announcement is one of many we have already made around cancer treatment. We have set a target of 90 per cent of patients to receive cancer management within 31 days of the decision to treat by 2030. To achieve this target, we have increased breast screening eligibility to 74-year-olds, funded PET scanning accessibility for prostate cancer, expanded infusion services in Whanganui, invested in a new radiotherapy machine at Whangārei Hospital, and provided an extra \$18 million a year to help people who need to travel for treatments like cancer.



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We're providing better access to more medicines, better cancer management driven by our faster cancer treatment target, and increased access to diagnostics through screening programmes.

This is an unprecedented and transformative investment in cancer and other treatments, but increasing access to vital medicines for New Zealanders is key to improving health and life outcomes.

This year, our Government announced Pharmac's largest ever budget of \$6.294 billion over four years. Actions like these reinforce that we're a government committed to delivering on health.



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Kaitake Community Board

My last column mentioned concerns that had been raised regarding the speed and dangerous driving habits of drivers on and around the State Highway 45 pedestrian crossing in Ōākura. I found it quite ironic therefore to discover that the Ministry of Transport have gone out for public consultation on a draft Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024.

The Minister of Transport has signalled the Government's vision for a land transport system that boosts productivity and economic growth to allow us to get to where they want to go, quickly and safely.

Why is the Government making a new Rule for setting speed limits? The Government has stated that it is committed to reversing the previous government's blanket speed limit reductions, and they want to ensure that economic impacts, and the views of road users and communities, are considered alongside safety implications when speed limits are being reviewed.

The most significant differences proposed under the draft rule are:

- Road controlling authorities (RCAs) are required to undertake a cost-benefit analysis on proposed speed limit changes.
- Roads outside school gates will need variable speed limits during drop-off and pickup times by 31 December 2027.
- The consultation requirements are strengthened, while acknowledging local authorities are also bound by the principles in the Local Government Act. The draft Rule includes a requirement for RCAs to use reasonable efforts to consult specified groups, including persons that use the roads for which speed limit changes are proposed.
- Speed limit ranges for different types of roads are included in the draft Rule.
- Makes it easier to set speed limits of 110km/h on certain expressways.
- The draft Rule requires speed limit reductions on certain types of roads to reverse by 1 July 2025.
- The Government is focused on improving road safety by targeting the highest contributing factors in fatal road crashes such as alcohol and drugs, and directing investment toward road policing and enforcement, which is one of the most important tools for improving road safety.

There are a number of aspects to what has been proposed with this draft Speed Limit Rule change that raised concerns with us, and that we do not consider to be in the best interests of the safety of the members of our community. A submission has been drafted and submitted by the Kaitake Community Board, to bring our concerns to the Ministers attention, and to highlight the longstanding roading concerns that exist along the section of State Highway 45 that sits within the Kaitake Rohe [boundary, district, region, territory, area, border (of land)].

Another consultation that has been taking place in recent weeks concerns the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) Land and Freshwater Plan, where the TRC is working on how to improve water quality and protect Taranaki's rivers and streams in the short, medium and long term. The eight different areas that feedback was being sought on were: E. Coli, Sediment, Nutrients, Animal Effluent, Water Quality and Water Allocation, Earthworks and Land Disturbance, Stormwater and Wastewater Discharges, and How Farm Practices can help Water Quality.

I went along to the Hempton Hall in Ōkato to the first of 16 drop-in consultation sessions held around the region to identify the process the TRC was using to engage with our community, and to hear the input and feedback from our locals on that process.

This session was surprisingly well attended, given the initial scepticism around the traps that were clearly evident; a scepticism that stemmed from past experiences in this space. However, many of those who came along appeared to leave relatively happy that their opinions and concerns appeared to be acknowledged and taken on board by TRC staff. It's been said that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating', so it will be interesting to see if the shape of the final plan actually does take into account the information provided during these sessions.

Finally, NPDC Parks and Open Spaces staff have been conducting their annual planting programmes in the Kaitake rohe. Paul Lobb and I went along to some of the locations to join in with school pupils (who actually did the majority of the donkey work) planting thousands of baby plants on beaches and river banks.

One of the schools was Ōākura Primary, which worked on its local beach, and Council staff commented on how impressed they were at both the speed and quality of their work.

So what do these kids do when they are on a beach, they have shovels in their hands, and the job they were brought to the beach to do is done?? They dig holes of course. And dig holes they did, with some of them more than chest deep! Two huge thumbs up to all concerned! Our rohe is all the better for your efforts.

And that is me for this edition.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at 5pm, on Monday 26 August 2024, at the Kaitake Community Sports Hub in Ōākura.

Graham Chard - Kaitake Community Board Chair
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On behalf of Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb and Anneka Carlson, appointed NPDC councillor.

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Kaitake Golf Club

Hi Everyone,

The course is in great condition. With all this rain we are having it is greening up the course nicely. Our pond is full again and so far, no more leaks. There's still a bit of work to be done on the 6th fairway but hopefully over the next few weeks it will be back to normal and looking tidy.

We are very fortunate to have a few more sponsors on board which is a bonus for the club. Ryman Health has taken a Silver sponsorship as has Specsavers which has also given the members special discounts on their eye tests and glasses. Coastal Construction has done quite a bit of work on the 6th tee and they have also come on board as a tee sign sponsor. If there is anyone else out there that would like to sponsor/advertise please get in touch.

CLUB NEWS:

We have just completed Club Championship Finals and the following are the results:

Mens Senior	Liam Harvey won against Joseph Doyle
Mens Intermediate	Brendan Amos won against Steve Thompson
Mens Junior	James Crighton won against Frank Regan
Mens Limit	Martin Nield won against Norman Lofthouse
Ladies Bronze I	Jacqui Koch won against Kris White
Ladies Bronze II	Karen Lehrke won against Karen Wallace

It was a very exciting day which started off with a few showers but ended with sunshine.



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Funding was applied to Te Manawa Active Aotearoa which was successful, and therefore we have managed to purchase six new sets of Junior Golf Clubs. Hopefully the first Chippers day will be 20th October 2024. For any further information please contact the club or Jamie on 022 6773663.

New players are always very welcome. Clubs, balls and coaching are provided. It costs \$50 to join as a member for the year allowing the children access to the course at any time as long as they are under supervision. If any adults have young chippers thinking of playing golf please be aware that they can come along FREE OF CHARGE with any FEE PAYING ADULT.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

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

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The New Sauna Project in Taranaki



What is 'The Sauna Project'? It's simply the beauty of the contrast between the heat of the sauna and the cold of the ocean.

In Scandinavian countries similar projects and sauna clubs have been around for 10,000 years. Jeff Gorringer is the man who has brought a mobile sauna business to Taranaki. "While it's not a traditional part of our Kiwi culture NZ is perfect for it. We're surrounded by coastline and rivers, and sometimes have less than accommodating weather."

Jeff was introduced to his own sauna experience in 2019 by a Raglan friend who had one in his home. It was an event that made him think something had changed within him. "It felt like a natural high and a release of stresses and worries. It also provided clarity of what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to share this experience since it was so beneficial to me."

After his own first sauna experience Jeff attempted to build a sauna and share it with friends. That original one ended up as firewood and Plan B was formulated. In early 2022 he approached The Sauna Project in Waihi where a couple of guys were building mobile saunas and hosting sauna experiences at Mount Maunganui and Waihi Beach. Their long term visions and values aligned with his own and he invested in having a sauna built for Taranaki. After 12 weeks he drove it home and learned all about the new sauna.

When Jeff started up in April this year he offered free sessions for two weeks, then it was literally 'full steam ahead'. For now the sauna is set up on various days at three coastal sites: Ōākura Beach (Shearer Reserve), Ngamotu Beach (as part of the Seaside Market) and East End Beach. The days and hours change so checking the website is the best way to know when and where you can book a session, prices and special events. Generally the maximum number of guests at one time is nine but there

is seating capacity for 12. Private sessions are available upon request.

Sessions last one hour with several breaks for cooling off. Jeff tells the guests that it is their session and they can do it as they like. Cooling off breaks are up to them so they can run into the sea, go under the cold beach shower or stand in the rain (if it happens to be raining). "The experience is personal, different for everyone."

Guests wear togs. The sauna is a 'device free place' and no one fusses about leaving their phone outside when Jeff tells them the heat will damage it. This sauna is a traditional one, different from the ones that people have in their homes. It is a hotter, wood fire sauna, typically running at 85-90 degrees celsius. He introduces the infusion of water and essential oils using the afguss technique which is about circulating heat throughout the sauna with the waving of a towel, combining heat with kinetic energies to the body.

There are many claimed health benefits of a sauna such as reducing blood pressure, igniting the immune system, and promoting cardiovascular health. Group saunas like The Sauna Project promote community gatherings for health and well-being. When mostly strangers are together in the sauna at any one time, social interactions happen and the sounds are not unlike what you hear in a vibrant pub or club.

Jeff lives in Ōkato with his family. They looked around NZ for nearly eight months before they decided on Ōkato as the best place to raise children. It reminds Jeff of how he grew up rurally on a grain farm in Katikati in the Bay of Plenty. His previous jobs included growing maize for animal feed and being an auto mechanic, life is different now.

'It's an experience, not a product' is Jeff's sauna mantra.

For the most current information and booking details, look at the

website: www.thesaunaproject.co.nz or email Jeff: taranaki@thesaunaproject.co.nz

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New Exhibition at Puke Ariki

Art lovers are in for a treat at NPDC's Puke Ariki latest exhibition showcasing the work of local artists.

Works by more than 70 emerging and established artists will feature in Home Work Maunga Auaha: Taranaki Art 2024 in the downstairs gallery at Puke Ariki Museum, with works selected by a panel of judges from more than 200 entries from across Taranaki.

This is the fourth exhibition in the museum's Home Work series, held every two years, and a chance for new artists to show their work alongside more established artists. For some it will be the first time they have had the opportunity to show their work.

The selection panel included Lisa Reihana CNZM and Michel Tuffery MNZM, and Justin Morgan of Puke Ariki, and the exhibition is curated by Natasha McKinney.

Home Work makes an important contribution to our district's arts landscape, supporting local artists to present recent work that reveals the rich diversity of creative practice amongst the many artists who call Taranaki home.

Home Work Maunga Auaha: Taranaki Art 2024

6 July – 10 November

Downstairs Gallery at Puke Ariki Museum

See Home Work Maunga Auaha:
Taranaki Art 2024 | Puke Ariki for more information.


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Adam Portraiture Award Winner

By Elaine Jamieson

To win the Adam Portraiture Award was not the goal for Maryanne Shearman, to paint a painting that needed to be painted was. Maryanne paints because she loves to paint, and says in many ways she feels guided to capture an essence or life force, a mauri, and convey that message through her work. Inspired by painters Goldie and Lindauer, she feels honoured that her work will now be hung in galleries alongside those inspirational painters.

She has enormous respect for Tuhi-Ao Bailey, the subject of her painting, and has followed a very collaborative and respectful journey with her to achieve the artwork that is “Tuhi-Ao”. Maryanne is often led by a series of events or messages which feed into a finished work. This process is her favourite part of a new piece, and the creation of Tuhi-Ao was no exception. She feels at times she is channeling a message that needs to be sent, and is comfortable with the reality that some will get it, and some won’t. She was moved by the fact that the judges saw in her work the struggle of the prophet, that she had captured the grief and the hope that Tuhi-Ao personifies as a voice for her land, her whenua, and her people.



Maryanne Shearman

She likes to find what is beautiful about people and capture it, the process being very important to her, and she is constantly striving to achieve excellence in her work. “Tuhi-Ao” she says, “has a story in her eyes and carries her kaupapa in her body.” Maryanne will continue to paint what she feels needs to be painted, even though winning the award has attracted potential buyers and requests for commissions. The painting now belongs to the New Zealand Portrait Gallery. It is alongside others on the Adam Portraiture nationwide tour and will be in Taranaki at the Percy Thompson Gallery, Stratford from 30th August (opening night) through to 13th October.

Maryanne and her family moved to Ōākura from Wellington 10 years ago, after visiting

the area in a bus. Husband Gareth is a builder and they have three children and two lively dogs and can often be found down the beach walking the dogs, swimming or in Gareth’s case, surfing.

I asked Maryanne to give us an insight into her life in Ōākura and what is special to her.

What do you love about Ōākura?

“I love living in Ōākura because of the beach, the river and the walking distance to school and shops. I looove the paemaunga, Kaitake and Pouākai and the view of Koro Taranaki. I love my neighbours and the growing diversity of the village.

Is painting a job or a hobby for you?

I would say painting for me is several things- a job, a hobby, and a calling, (or a way to outwork my calling!). Every day, every year it looks quite different, depending on what else I’m giving my time to”.

What is your favourite book?

My favourite book is Te Paipera Tapu (Bible in Te Reo Māori).

A favourite album?

One of my favourite albums is Mōhau, a gorgeous gospel album in Te Reo Māori.

Glossary of Māori words

Kaupapa – purpose
Wero – challenge.
Tangi – cry, mourning
Whenua – land.
Paemaunga – mountain range

Mr Whippy

If you feel a bit nostalgic when you hear “Greensleeves” sounding out on village streets on Friday evenings, you are not alone. In the 1960s and 70s Mr Whippy drove around New Plymouth streets with their special brand of Snowfreeze or soft serve ice cream, and the same signature tune. New owners Brent and Carolyn have relaunched the business, dormant for 15 years, and will be in Ōākura Friday evenings (weather permitting). Listen out for the signature tune and grab a soft serve complete with flake and sprinkles, just like in the olden days.

Nature watch

Look out for Little Blue Penguin- Korora- prints on the beach, webbed feet close together making a beeline from sea to shore. These little native birds, only 25-33cm tall, come ashore to nest undercover of darkness around about now to November. By day they will be out fishing and feeding or in their burrows tending eggs or chicks. Often they will return to the same spot they were raised to breed. You may also see baby seals, particularly after stormy weather. Mother seal may bring them ashore to rest and return for them later. Best to give both a wide berth, snap on your dog’s lead to save them stressing or attacking birds or seals, and don’t try to feed them.

Cemetery

The Ōākura cemetery has been extended to accomodate approximately 20 more burials. Cemetery plots maintained by NPDC are only sold as required and may not be purchased in advance. However, more than one plot can be purchased at the time of a bereavement. See more at Burial procedures (npdc.govt.nz).

Ōākura School principal settling in

It’s been a full on first term at the school for new principal Dave Smith, getting to know kids and teachers at the school. Father of two, Eden (8) and Louie(5), Dave and wife Katie moved to Ōākura three and a half years ago. Dave enjoys spending time fishing, diving and rock pooling with his family at Ahu Ahu Road beach.

He has taught at St Josephs Stratford and Highlands Intermediate. His focus is on easing the load on teachers so they have more time to actually teach and making sure children at the school get the best opportunities to learn and grow. A big part of that is ensuring they are happy. As Dave says, “If they aren’t happy they won’t learn.”

Farewell Festoon & the return of Victor Higgins

As we bid a fond farewell to Festoon we welcome back Victor Higgins. Victor (formerly a popular staff member of Lemonwood cafe) is excited to be adding ‘The Bach on Surf Highway 45’ to his existing management roles of The Hi Fri and The Bach on Breakwater. With plans to open around August 10, Victor will be on deck and is already looking forward to reconnecting with everyone. He loves the village vibe and sense of community in Ōākura, and his friendly hugs will be on offer. I asked Victor if he ever gets a holiday – “I had 5 weeks off in March to see mum in England and help her celebrate her 70th birthday” he says, “plus a little visit to New York thrown in.”

NPDC extending kerbside collection to businesses and community groups

NPDC’s residential kerbside collection of recycling and rubbish is being extended to businesses, schools, clubs and community groups from 1 November.

From today, groups and businesses that generate waste volumes comparable to a residential household, can apply to opt into the new service.

“We’ve heard from business groups that businesses in our CBDs need another waste management option as they often don’t have room for a skip or generate enough waste to fill one, and can’t get a recycling service for their waste,” says NPDC Manager Infrastructure Rui Leitão.

“We know that other community organisations, such as clubs, community groups and schools, can be in a similar situation so we’re offering our standard kerbside bins to any of them who want to opt-in. The more of them who sign up, the more recyclables we’ll be able to divert from the landfill.”

Businesses and community groups will need to either be in New Plymouth’s CBD or an existing collection area. The organisations will be invoiced quarterly, and they can opt-out at any time. There is no deadline for applying to opt-in.

The Council will need to review applications for those who opt in to ensure they are suitable and meet the criteria for a kerbside collection.

NPDC’s Zero Waste initiative is working towards having no waste. More information and the opt form are on our website at npdc.govt.nz/BusinessKerbsideCollection

**NPDC**

BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS: OPT-IN FOR KERBSIDE RECYCLING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

From 1 November, NPDC will be providing a kerbside recycling and rubbish collection service for businesses, clubs, schools and community groups that:

- Generate a similar volume of recycling and waste as a residential household.
- Are in an existing collection area or New Plymouth's CBD.

This is an opt-in service. You can apply for this service now through the application form on npdc.govt.nz/BusinessKerbsideCollection.

More details about the service are on the [webpage](#).

Contact NPDC
P: 06-759 6060 E: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

More information: npdc.govt.nz

 [NewPlymouthDistrictCouncil](#)  [@NPDCouncil](#)

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

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18
Oākura	Oākura Hall	11.50	5.20
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40
Rahotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00

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

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Coastal bus service

ŌPUNAKE - NEW PLYMOUTH

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FDMC & SHGC boarders



SCAN TO VIEW
FARES INFORMATION

Friday only		PM
New Plymouth	FDMC	4.25
New Plymouth	NPGHS	4.40
New Plymouth	SHGC	4.45
New Plymouth	NPBHS	4.55
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College (pick-up only)	5.18
Oākura	Oākura Hall	5.20
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






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Crop Swap comes to Ōākura

“Toha atu, toha mai – I share with you, you share with me.”

Just under 10 years ago, Franziska von Hunerbein set up a crop swap in Merrilands Taranaki.

Her aim was to encourage sustainability, exchange resources and share abundance. She has just handed over the project to Sustainable Taranaki and from small beginnings there are now 37 groups in North Island and 7 in South Island.

A crop swap enables excess food to be shared (not wasted), links people together to share knowledge and develop friendships. Seasonal variation brings different abundance and swappers may bring a variety of goods from eggs, pickles, jams and cakes to fresh fruit and vegetables. Some groups bring crafts, homemade soaps, egg boxes and jam jars as well as gardening and nature magazines. Sprouted beans, bamboo canes, seeds and plants are welcome.

Excess produce can be recycled- fruit bottled or made into jam or cakes and herbs dried.

Other produce can be given to the local Kai kitchen, foodbanks or rest homes/schools.

A crop swap is led by a few interested people and usually occurs monthly. Some use their own home/garden or a local hall. Swappers arrive with their produce and fill tables up. After time to view the goods and chat to others the swap starts with a quick description of the goods brought. The aim is to give generously and take mindfully ensuring everyone has a chance to get some produce.

Once everyone has taken their fill, excess is distributed locally, the venue tidied up and everyone goes home with their goodies. Money is not exchanged although a koha may be requested to cover hall hire.

Locals Adam Harris, and John and Di Williamson felt inspired to re-start the Ōākura Crop Swap in March this year having attended Merrilands Crop Swap.

**The Crop Swap happens on the 3rd Saturday of the month
3-4pm in the Ōākura Hall and everyone is welcome.**

Spare produce is given to St James' church
Kai cupboard in Ōākura.



RIP RUGBY AIMS GAMES TEAM UPDATE

Taranaki Bulls Family Pass raffle
Congratulations to Jennifer on Jans Tce, winning ticket was drawn by Helen @ Oakura School Office – big thanks to all those who supported the raffle!

Firewood Fundraiser
One Trailer load (2-3m³) of seasoned pine available for sale **\$250** - free local delivery. (Currently rain wet - all good to go for 2025 winter)

**Contact Shylah 022 647 7277
or Jono 027 224 4295**

When your life can explode
You hear the gruff noise of a toad
Your house grows mould
Your family goes cold
My prediction a letter comes
says eviction

Your pretty hair
makes nothin fair
Your very rare life
will always dare
but you never care

**Poems submitted by 9 year old
Reggie Emans. A Student at
Ōākura School.**



Pictured: Back row, left to right: Karen Brisco (principal), Karen Clark, Archie Widdicombe, Emily Widdowson, Keith Manukonga, Sharron Steen. Front row, left to right: Liam Prestidge, Phoenix Ardell, Olive Glasgow, Aayla James, Paige Henderson, Daisy Denton-Giles.



Coming up

August

- 5-7 Taranaki Science Fair
- 8 Y5/6 First Aid Course
- 14 Y7/8 Methanex Mathematics Competition
- 16 Taranaki LEAD Conference Year 7
- 21 Y7/8 Inter-school sports day
- 23 Y5/6 Chess Tournament 9am
Y7/8 Chess Tournament 1:30pm
- 29 Ōmāta Cross Country 5-7 Years 1:45pm
- 30 Ōmāta Cross Country 8-13 Years 1pm

September

- 3 Coastal Cross Country Year 4-6
1pm @ Waireka
- 4 Y7/8 E-Pro8 Competition 5pm
- 5 Coastal Cross Country Year 7/8
1pm @ Waireka

Weaving our Story

A new artwork created by students now hangs in the reception area, weaving together the original story of how the area of Ōmāta was named with the current learning of the students. A long time ago, a chief had a son called Ōmāta who loved to go fishing. Sadly, he died, and the chief gave his son's name to this area. We extend our gratitude to Matua Keith Manukonga for sharing the story of Ōmāta, enabling us to connect deeply with this whenua, at a time long before European settlement and the establishment of the school in 1853.

In collaboration with Karen Clark from KarenNZ Kitz in Waitara, students prepared harakeke (flax) and designed a weaving piece that highlights the significance of fishing to the chief's son. The use of the kupenga weave (fishing net weave) also symbolises the importance of collaboration, which is a key skill for the students to learn. The weaving skills required were quite technical at times, and the perseverance needed is visible when you peek at the back of the artwork, where every little end of harakeke has been neatly tucked in by students' hands to achieve a tidy finish.

The final piece was blessed and installed with help from our Ngati Tairi whānau from Ōākura Pa, Sharron Steen, Cathryn Buttimore and Matua Keith, marking an exciting and important culmination of this project.

Ladies!

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Stories of Ōmata

ŌMATA/ŌĀKURA to the OLYMPICS! As shared by Len Jury

The Boxing Champions – Tom Ryan and sons Martin and Pat.

The Ryans farmed on Sealy Rd., Ōmata.

Tom Ryan's son Pat won selection to represent New Zealand at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Pat's brother Martin had been his coach and trainer for much of his boxing career. Martin had also represented New Zealand in overseas tournaments. Their father Tom, his boxing ability was spoken of in hushed tones. No one in New Plymouth picked a fight with Tom Ryan! In 1932 he won the Taranaki Featherweight title. His father, Martin, was a 6ft wild Irishman from Tipperary where most disagreements were settled with bare knuckles.

Both Martin and Pat won the very prestigious Jameson Belt* for the most scientific fighter on numerous occasions. At Ōākura School, there were a few who picked on a much smaller Martin and rued, with bloodied nose, their foolishness. Martin's best ranking was No. 2 NZ Featherweight title in 1962. In 1965 he started the Ōākura Boxing club. Within 10 years Martin turned out 24 National title holders, three Oceania representatives, and Pat for the NZ Olympic team. As trainer/coach Martin was awarded the Pivac Cup in 1970 with his team having the most wins in Taranaki for the season. Another Ōākura Olympic Boxer, David Jackson initially trained by Martin competed at the 1976 Olympics and won his first round. These games are noted for the mass walkout of many African Teams drawing attention to apartheid in South Africa.

Martin in one of his best early wins, defeated the New Zealand and Australian fly-weight champion, Dick Orbell. In one championship in Invercargill the local commentator noted there were 13 titles and 4 of them were won by one club in a township of 300 people, Ōākura! Trainer Martin Ryan!

For 30 years after retiring from the ring, Martin qualified and was a Referee and Judge, officiating at 20 National Championships. In 1981 Martin qualified for Oceania Continental and in 1982 as an AIBA (International Boxing Association) judge. He judged at the Commonwealth Games in both Edinburgh and Auckland.

Frankie Cunningham from England counts himself lucky to have met the two brothers. At 19, he was a runner-up at the British

Championships, and he had won "loads" of regional titles. "Pat put the finishing ingredients that helped me to make me a champ".

Pat, he further comments, was big on technique. He had me travelling round gyms to get the best sparring. "He was a good padman, very calm, cool and collected in the gym and in my corner." Martin helped arrange the best bouts and entered me in the right tournaments to get me to the top ranking in New Zealand as quick as possible.



Cunningham gives his thanks to Pat, Martin and their wives, Heather and Brenda. With them I got to see a lot of New Zealand. In later years he told how lucky to have been trained by Pat and used successfully a lot of his coaching methods in England. In his ultimate accolade "If I ever win the lottery, I will bring a boxing team over to New Zealand.... it's a beautiful country. A wee bit of me will always be Kiwi".

Pat commented "we used to pack out the Ōākura Hall. With Frankie fighting, it would be chocka – block. Pat went on to say with a wry smile "That was until the Fire Brigade rang us and warned, for safety reasons, to limit our numbers".

Pat won four successive New Zealand titles, two in the bantam weight followed by two in the feather weight as well as the coveted Jameson Belt. Internationally his greatest achievement was winning Gold at the Oceania championship in Tahiti. His career 105 wins and 8 losses. His biography notes weight – 57 Kg. Pat's trip to the 1972 Olympics (Munich) was the pinnacle of his career, regrettably, he returned without a

medal. Not bad for a lad with innocent Choir Boy looks. The writer went on, "He is far too quick, clever and strong".

In the 1960's there were 16 or more boxing clubs in Taranaki, New Plymouth, Fitzroy, Ōākura, Tataraimaka, Ōkato, Rahotu, Ōpunake, Patea, Hawera, Normanby, Eltham, Stratford, Midhurst, Inglewood and Waitara. A Taranaki newspaper article reporting on a tournament in Hawera noted many hundreds of enthusiasts were present! The growth of boxing at that time was due to Martin and Brenda Ryan's enthusiastic promotion of the sport not only in Taranaki but later throughout New Zealand and on the world stage. Later Martin was awarded Life membership by New Zealand Boxing Association. Brenda was also congratulated in the citation for service.

Martin was President of the New Zealand Boxing Association 1977-78. He was New Zealand Council member. After retirement from the ring Pat began coaching and refereeing and held official positions in boxing for several years. Tom, Martin and Pat worked in the timber industry for many years. Tom and Martin

in the Timber Mill at Ōmata, Pat for Henry Brown and Sons in New Plymouth.

This year despite worldwide concern about head injury, in the 2024 Paris Olympics there are 249 boxers, 125 male, 124 women competing.

*The Jameson Belt was looked upon as the Pinnacle of a boxer's career. First awarded in 1927 and annually. In 2018 packed in a very large, tagged Courier box it disappeared and has never been seen again.

Photo caption

Back row. G.MURPHY. P.RYAN (N.Z. Bantamweight Champ.) J MURPHY

Middle row. D.DREWERY, R.RANGI, A.CLOKE, O. JOHNS, I.DREWERY, C. RANGI, R.CLOKE, R..JACKSON (NZ Junior Champ)

Front Row. D.JACKSON (N.Z. Junior Champ), C.FARRANT (NZ Junior Champ), MR. M. RYAN (Trainer), MR. T. RYAN

(President), M. APIATA (NZ Junior Champ), K.HUNT and R. Jackson (NZ Junior Champ).

NZ Junior Champ of a weight division.

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

Kaitake Social Netball - Sundays 3pm during Term 2 & 3 Oakura School Netball Courts Contact Jenna 027 489 4929.

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

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 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

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

St James Church

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

Strength & Balance on the Library deck (school term only) Monday 10:30
Jane 06 752 7743

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

Te Reo Māori Lessons

Toni 021 661 912 thowison@hotmail.com

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

www.theoakurapost.co.nz | editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

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Advertising:

advertising@theoakurapost.co.nz

Design/Layout: Emily Bennett

Proof Reader: Elayne Kessler

Founded in Ōākura, NZ - 1st June 2020

ISSUE: No. 46

September Issue

Delivered and online 30 August.
Articles and advertising deadline 12 August.



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