

# *the* Ōākura Post

OCTOBER 2024

THE  
SINGING  
BARBER  
*pg 3*

*locals*  
*pg 4 & 5*

Arts  
TRAIL  
*pg 2*

Nurse Manager




Cover: Abi Webber, Clinical Nurse Manager  
of the Neonatal Unit. See article on page 4.



# Arts Trail Training in Progress

Kia ora Ahi Whanau!



It's that time of the year again when our talented local Ōākura artists have their studios open, from 2nd November to 10th November 2024. The idea of our open studios is to see us in action showing you how we create and also the opportunity to have a chat and purchase our art.

This year we have seven artists involved: Portia Roper, Kris White, Richard Landers, Ross Bennett, Brian Clark, Linda Barbour and Carmel Boone. On show will be mixed media work, painting, glass creations, pottery and sculpture work in a variety of mediums. The beauty of our trail is that we are in close proximity to each other.

We get great support from our Ōākura community. It's an exceptional day out and the village cafes, eateries, pub and petrol station offer the chance to stop for a break between visits. The village is always alive during this time of the year because of other activities ... Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival, Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival and the Taranaki Arts Trail. If our flags are out we are open. Call in. We would love to see you.

Kia ora Ahi Whanau!

After what seems like months of wet Monday nights the crew have finally seen some breaks in the weather which means we are able to get out and train around the village more often.

Getting out around our rapidly developing village gives us a chance to familiarise ourselves with new buildings and road changes, and get to know where we can get water and access to places in an emergency. More importantly it's another chance for us to greet our community.

We've had a number of people cautiously approach when we have been training, wondering if there is an emergency in progress. We appreciate the caution and whether it's an emergency or training, being aware of traffic speeds around the appliance and coned off areas is important for keeping us safe.

We are happy for the community to watch us train from a safe distance. We know that kids love to see the appliance lights and the crew training, and we are happy to approach you and answer any questions you or your kids may have. We may not always be able to see you straight away but feel free to wave to get our attention and someone will come over and talk to you about what we are up to.



*Photo: Setting up an improvised ground monitor*

Until we see you next time. Kia noho haumaru, stay safe. *Photo: Setting up an improvised ground monitor*

### *The Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade*

**Ōākura**   
**arts trail**

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*Ian Wallace on stage at 4th Wall Theatre performing his newly released album Shadow Box.*

# The Singing Barber

Ian Wallace, our village barber, is no one trick pony. He is also a very talented musician. He plays guitar across a range of styles, has a great voice and, as many in the village recently learned, he is a great song writer.

Ian has been performing as a soloist or with his combo Superfly locally in pubs, at weddings and at corporate functions for the past few years. He's even headlined at Xmas in the Park.

Prior to moving to Ōākura he worked as a semi-professional musician in Yorkshire for 21 years.

Post-covid he noticed a lot of angry and depressed people. Ian's thinking was "Get over it. Life's good. There's hope and better times ahead." In response he wrote a collection of 11 songs to reinforce this message and you can find them on his new album Shadow Box.

Ian recently debuted the album before a full house of 130 at the 4th Wall Theatre in New Plymouth. A band of equally talented musicians provided a full sound. Another Ōākura local Jarrod Hooper played drums, Sarah Foreman played keyboard, Matt Flower played bass while backing vocals were done by Karla Kimi and Helen Griffiths who also added fiddle to a couple of tracks.

The gig (and album) was characterised by variety. Me & you is a country flavoured, Rain & 1986 are moody tracks reminiscent of Pink Floyd, In the Night has a great western swing jazz feel while Naturally is mellow pop. Searing guitar riffs fit perfectly into rather than dominate songs. Purity of vocals is a stand out feature of Ian's album. It is easy to hear every word of his thoughtful lyrics.


A special feature of the gig was the big screen graphics behind the band that had been created for each song by Ian's 21 year old England based son Riley. These graphics plus Ian's introductions helped put the songs in a real context.

Speaking to Ian before the gig he was very nervous. "People are coming along to hear a night of totally original music. What if they don't like it?" Your nerves were totally unfounded, Ian. We loved it!! The gig rightly received a standing ovation.


Ian would like to acknowledge Brett & Raewyn of the 4th Wall Theatre (sound & lighting was 1st class), MADD Media for assisting with marketing and the many Oakura locals who supported the gig.

Shadow Box can be purchased on CD directly from Ian at the barbershop on the lawn, No4 Butlers Lane, behind the 4 Square.


*By Allan Day*




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# Abi Webber



Where are you from?

Both my parents were from London. When they wanted to leave London before I was born, they drove a main road north out of the city and straight to a town called Royston. It looked beautiful with trees arching across the road that led into the town. They decided then and there that it was where they would live and bring up a family. That's where I was born and grew up.

How did your interest in nursing come about?

I have a photo of me at about 5 years old in full nurse's dress-up (see picture). My mum said I was always playing hospital with dolls from a very young age. I loved anything to do with first aid and joined the St John's Ambulance 'Nursing Cadets' while still in school. I loved the uniform, grey dresses and hats.

My first job was a weekend job

when I was about 16 or 17 and still at senior school. I was a health care assistant in a neonatal unit. My headmaster's wife ran it and he arranged for me to meet with her and that's how I got hired.

I knew by then that nursing was the direction I would go. I used to do lots of babysitting and looking after children in my town. That led me to a children's nursing focus and what I chose to specialise in. I wanted to train in London where some of the best training hospitals are. I applied to three hospitals, one of them the well respected Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (GOS). I got accepted and started my training there for children's nursing in 1995.

As young nursing students we all lived in the same residence and I flatted with six others.

We worked hard and also had a lot of fun. I made lifelong friends, and we're all still really close.

My first job was in paediatric neurosurgery at GOS where I had trained.

What happened next?

It was 1998 that I qualified as a children's nurse and shortly thereafter I met my husband to be, Colin Webber. He had come from Cornwall to



London for the weekend. I was on a night out with my girlfriends and Colin was on a night out with his friends. Three couples came out of that evening that we all met up, though we are the only couple that lasted.

Colin and I left London in 2001 to travel around the world together for several years. We sought the best of surfing and snowboarding sites — including in Indonesia, Thailand, USA and New Zealand. It was during that travelling time we got our first taste of Taranaki. We met Jono at Vertigo and was introduced to Wave Haven, where we lived for three months. Colin and I said to each other, 'You know what, this is a place we could live. Let's make it happen.'

How did you do that?

We went back to England to work — me in paediatric nursing and Colin as a construction manager — and saved our money. We got married and moved to Ōākura in 2006. We lived at Wave Haven again. We had no jobs at the time but were on the 'skills shortage list' so we were able to have permanent residency while looking for work.

There was an opening in the neonatal unit at Base Hospital so I began my neonatal career there - 18 years ago. In the neonatal unit we look after premature babies and newborn babies who need medical attention. The relationships we build with whanau are important. We walk the journey alongside the families and work in partnership to empower them to have the skills and confidence to care for their newborn baby. For the past five years I've had the role of Clinical Nurse Manager of the neonatal unit.

What else has happened?

In the midst of it all, Colin and I raised our two children, Imogen and George, now 16 and 12 years old. They both attended Ōākura Primary School; Imogen is now at Girls High and George will be going on to Boys High next year. It's a busy life between children, work, yin yoga, pilates reformer, lots of good friends, and sport. Life is definitely full in this beautiful place.

Elayne Kessler



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# Local Gloria Zimmerman Walks the Talk

From fitting clothes to people to fitting music to movement: How one local woman Gloria Zimmerman is more than passionate about keeping older adults fit, strong and resilient.

Gloria instructs strength and balance classes twice a week at the Ōākura Hall. Gloria walks the talk and her super goldcard could be the only giveaway to her 70+ years and she'd rather not talk about her age. The number of summers one has seen does not have to reflect the wellness and ability of your body. However in this situation Gloria's superpower could be her age. She has the experience and understanding of a body well lived and she will support any 'body' to achieve wellness goals.

There isn't a 'body' that cannot attend her 'Move It or Lose It' strength and balance class. All exercises can be adapted to an individual's needs, which can include chair based exercises if standing is not possible. There are exercises for people with osteoporosis and those to minimise risk of getting it. There are three levels of intensity to choose from, relatively easy for people with not a lot of fitness, go walking but don't have much balance, to those aged in their later 50s with a higher capability. Each hour long class starts with 20 minutes aerobics cardio followed by a circuit using bands, weights, medicine balls and steps, finished off by stretching. During the circuit time each activity has instructions on a card to follow, making everything super easy. Stretching time is to suit each person's level of ability. Floor or seated stretches are on offer depending on what your body can do. There is music playing throughout your workout to help put a spring in your step.

Attendees have forged strong friendships and regularly get together after a class at one of the local cafes to have a catch-up. Over the years they have formed a social committee which organises fun events and excursions. They have had theme days, mid-winter dinners, and trips away.

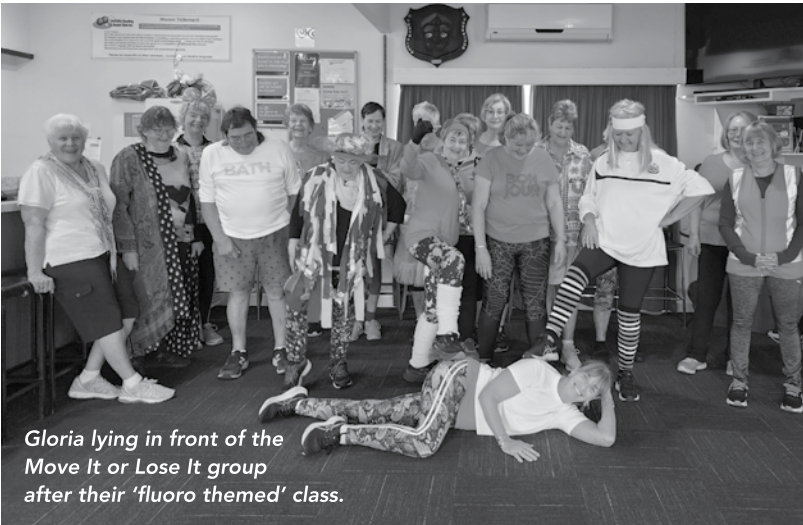
**At \$5.00 per session and first class FREE and right on your doorstep now is as good a time as any to pop along and have a look for yourself. Gloria can be contacted by email to zimmos@xtra.co.nz or 0272849111.**

Gloria Zimmerman is 'Helping you help yourself, to maintain an enjoyable lifetime'.

Gloria Zimmerman

Gloria and her husband Wayne (Zimmo) have lived in Ōākura for 42 years. They brought up their son Karl and daughter Jen here, who now return with their own children to enjoy the beach and village life.

Gloria's fitness instructor beginnings started in 1987 when Karl was three years old. Gloria's group of friends and all mums to small children felt they needed to get fit. The core group of six or more women researched all options for classes before they had the idea of running their own sessions from each others' living rooms. The rule was made that each person would take a turn leading a session and that would be when it was at their house. Gloria was the first to host the group and she had a lot of fun coming up with the routine and choosing the music to accompany it. The others loved it so much that they appointed Gloria as the permanent leader. Word got out and the group began to outgrow Gloria's living room, initiating a new venue, the Ōākura Hall, and a name. Ōākura Keep Fit started off two days a week and then added in nights.



For the day sessions they hired a child-minder at \$10.00 per hour and she looked after the children in the supper room. Soon after, the sessions were also run twice a week at Hempton Hall, Ōkato. Each session was \$3.50 or a concession card was available. It was well organised and popular.

Gloria was aware that she had no qualifications for what she was doing, her career had been retailing clothing at renowned Del Free N Easy and Jean City fashion stores in New Plymouth. She did however have a background playing a variety of sports and being active. Highlights were marathon running and in 1982 with a trainer coach, reached a great goal of 3hrs 12mins in Auckland, putting her the 13th woman to finish in New Zealand. At age 50 she attended Outward Bound and competed alongside 30year olds.

This is where she believes her resilience came from to do what she does now! With all that drive and for her own peace of mind she enrolled in a course through Waikato University. It covered anatomy and physiology, and core training in all modalities. She concentrated on group fitness, gym training and then aquarobics under an Auckland aqua coach.

Gloria worked at the New Plymouth Aquatic Centre mainly in the gym, in the summer she led the Aqua programme in the outdoor

pool. In 1993 when the Indoor pool was completed aqua classes were run all year. She was switching from land based exercises to water based exercises and they are completely different from each other. Water exercise can suit a lot of people who benefit from the support water can give. Interestingly water was not something Gloria was overly fond of at that time and so she was a little surprised that she really enjoyed instructing these classes. Times were busy with work, now a team leader, and a young family at home, a decision was made to stop the Keep Fit classes.

After many years Gloria left the job with a view to assess her future. That lasted the blink of an eye when Bell Block Pool enticed her to instruct for them. Nowadays she instructs there and at Ōkato Pool during the summer season, plus works at Summerset Retirement villages each week to help the residents enjoy their exercises in the pools they have at their facilities. Move it or Lose it started for Gloria in Ōākura about 15 years ago and still going strong.

Tracey Lusk

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# Farmland Barrier Next Step in Zero Possum Project

The Zero Possum project is moving to a new phase as we work with landowners to install a high-tech barrier across 3km of Kaitake farmland.

A great crowd turned out to our open evening at Butlers Reef last month to hear all about it. There were fantastic conversations, Peggy the dog was a hit and some lucky folk even went home with spot prizes! Thanks to everyone who came and to Butlers for hosting us.

As you know, we have been working to eradicate possums in the extension zone between the Timaru Stream and the Hangatāhua (Stony) River since January 2023. So far, we have removed almost 3500 with only the most wily or lucky remaining. We're confident cameras, scat detection dogs and targeted trapping will take care of those.

Meanwhile, the original farmland area between the Timaru Stream and Ōakura River has had no resident possum population for more than three years.

Now, we're working on the design and creation of a 3km barrier stretching across 15 farms south-east of the Kaitake Range. We're installing self-reporting cameras on trees, pointing at an automatic lure dispenser that squirts a small taster of mayonnaise each evening – a favourite with possums due to its high calorie content. The cameras take a photo when movement is detected, with the footage reviewed remotely.

We want to understand the density and movement of possums and get a clear picture of what is happening at that edge of the zone. We know how to remove those possums and will do it eventually but for now gaining knowledge on how to keep them out is just as important.

We were the first in New Zealand to attempt possum elimination on farmland at such a large scale (the total area is 9500ha), so sharing what we are learning is important and one of the reasons we receive funding from Predator Free 2050 Ltd. We'll also strategically deploy self-setting traps along the barrier, which will become our main incursion response tool.

The project is extra special for Zero Possum project lead Cody Luckin, who grew up near Ōkato and still lives within the Zero Possum zone.

He says the project's success so far is super rewarding and shows what is possible. "Maybe one day we could do the whole Taranaki ring plain – from river to river. How cool would that be?"

If you have any questions or feedback about the project email us at: [pftaranaki@trc.govt.nz](mailto:pftaranaki@trc.govt.nz)

- Towards Predator-Free Taranaki





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## David Macleod

### MP for New Plymouth

New Zealand has a massive infrastructure deficit. This means that we don't have enough schools, hospitals, roads or houses to support our current population and enable future growth.

Investment is key and Budget 2024 delivered a record amount of funding in modern infrastructure, but this is only the start of our work programme to fix the deficit and enable growth.

We've just announced that our new National Infrastructure Agency (NIA) is nearly ready to go – starting on the 1st of December.

This agency will help to facilitate private investment into New Zealand's infrastructure needs, so that we can close the deficit faster.

The NIA will work to capitalise on tools such as tolling, value capture, and levies to ensure that those who benefit from public infrastructure help to pay for it.

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Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

National also campaigned on developing a 30-year National Infrastructure Plan.

This plan, to be delivered by December 2025, will outline New Zealand's infrastructure needs over the next 30 years, planned investments over the next 10-15 years, and recommendations on priority projects and reforms for both now and the future.

We need a long-term plan so that we don't fall into the haphazard planning processes that we currently find ourselves in.

We've talked a bit recently about needing more of a bipartisan approach when it comes to infrastructure investment.

This is important, as we must have a pipeline of projects that can go ahead without becoming politicised or cancelled.

Bipartisanship doesn't mean that governments in future are bound to every project, which is why we justifiably ended Labour's fantasy projects such as Lake Onslow and Auckland Light Rail. But it does mean greater consensus.

We recognise the nature of the challenging reforms we are making, which is why we want to bring people with us, so we can fix our challenges together.

Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop has recently written to the infrastructure spokespeople of each party in Parliament, inviting them to be briefed by the Infrastructure Commission on the development of our 30-year plan. While we do have differences in priorities, we all recognise that New Zealand has a severe infrastructure deficit which we need to build our way out of.



Taranaki Taku Tūrangā  
**Towards Predator-Free Taranaki**



Taranaki Regional Council

# SEEN A POSSUM?

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\*Zero Possum area only - between Oakura River and Hangatahua (Stony) River.

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STAPLES RODWAY







One of the BBQ tables recently installed into Shearer Reserve.

## Kaitake Community Board

I was approached recently and asked why the Kaitake Community Board was looking to waste rate payer money to pay for AEDs for Ōākura, and “Didn’t I realise there were heaps of them around the village already?”

That person was quite correct, there are a number of AEDs, or Automatic External Defibrillators, at various locations throughout Ōākura, including the Golf Club, Bowling Club, 4 Square, Fire Station, Surf Club, to name but a few. However most, if not all, are only accessible while the venues where they reside are open, and a need was identified for 24/7 accessible units to be made available within the village.

We identified two locations that were deemed as providing the widest community benefit, and units were purchased and installed at these locations:

Outside the main entrance to the Ōākura Hall and on the outside of the Public Toilets on Tasman Parade.

Most people will have seen or heard of AEDs, however there are many who will not be aware of their purpose, or know how they are used.

A defibrillator is a medical device utilised in emergency situations when a person suffers a cardiac arrest and their heart suddenly stops. It is used by medical professionals to apply an electric shock to a patient to restart their heart or shock it back to its correct rhythm.

An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable type of defibrillator that can be used by anybody – even those without medical training – to help someone suffering a cardiac arrest, and it guides the user through each step of the rescue process via simple audio and visual commands. If used within the first three to five minutes of a cardiac arrest it can increase the chance of survival by up to 70%. The AED analyses

the patient’s heart rhythm and, if necessary, delivers an electric shock to restart the heart or restore its normal rhythm. It will not give an electric shock unless it is necessary, so you cannot harm someone by using an AED on them in an emergency.

The ease of use, and efficacy of these devices made the provision and installation of these units a no brainer.

The other no brainer for us was the installation of more seating and picnic tables within our public recreational spaces. There are few who would question the benefits of outdoor activities, but sadly the older we get, the more we might need the opportunity to sit down and rest, to be able to take a seat available while watching the young ones ‘doing their thing’, or to be able to sit down with the whanau to eat at the park.

We had also hoped to have a community use electric BBQ installed into Shearer Reserve, however we discovered that the power supply we were going to use is not owned by the NPDC. We will now investigate the feasibility of having another power supply installed.

On the local ‘what’s up’ front, I was fortunate to receive an invitation to attend a Zero Possum Open Evening at Butlers Reef hosted by Toward Predator-Free Taranaki, where the team shared the latest results, news and future plans for the Zero Possum Project, and displayed and demonstrated the variety of possum and mustelid traps that they use and have available. The project team was justifiably proud of their total eradication of possums from the farmland between the Timaru Stream and Ōākura River. Despite a Central Government reduction in funding available to them they were up-beat about their ability to create a farmland trap barrier closer to the maunga, with tools such as self-reporting cameras, scat detection dogs, automatic lure dispensers and targeted trapping. One of the highlights for me, and for the children present who got to participate as part of the show, was a demonstration by a possum detection dog in action. I am sure that those who came along would have been impressed with the work the team is doing. For me it was a well worth while couple of hours spent.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new team member on to the Kaitake Community Board. Kaitake/Ngāmotu Ward Councillor Bryan Vickery. Bryan has taken up the appointed Councillor position on the Board and is excited to have the opportunity to learn of the needs, challenges, and aspirations of this sector of the New Plymouth District. He is looking forward to adding his weight, working with your Community Board, to make a difference within the Kaitake rohe.

And that’s me for this edition.

The next meetings of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at 5pm, on Monday 14 October 2024, and on Monday 25 November at the Kaitake Community Sports Hub in Ōākura.

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

*Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb, and Bryan Vickery (newly appointed NPDC Councillor).*



Bryan Vickery



Renee Hohaia





Paul Lobb



Graham Chard



Teresa Goodin

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## Bryan Vickery Kaitake Ngamōtu Ward Councillor



I am the newly appointed NPDC Councillor for the Kaitake Community Board, and I want to acknowledge the erstwhile leadership of Cr Anneka Carlson Matthews in this role.

I rate the Community Board and I respect the Chair, Graham Chard. Graham runs a tight ship. So tight, in fact, that Cr Max Brough jokingly says he does not need to attend the KCB meetings, such is Graham’s exhaustive knowledge of standing orders and the Local Government Act. This may be hyperbole, but Graham deserves the compliment. Furthermore he habitually attends other community meetings across the district along with Council workshops and important meetings.

I also want to affirm the Board members: Deputy Chair, Teresa Goodin, Renee Hohaia and Paul Lobb. Their collective life experience

and professional skills are impressive. The KCB has a reputation for working hard and getting things done in a modest, unassuming manner. I have enclosed their photos (opposite page) because they are important. This might embarrass them, but I think they deserve more kudos because they are the ones doing the mahi. Nothing trumps grassroots democracy and local knowledge. I intend to be their voice on the Council.

I am planning to shadow Graham (hopefully weekly) visiting Ōākura and Ōkato, plus join Tracey Lusk’s community conversations. Graham and I would love to hear from you. So please text us. I would also encourage you to come and watch future Katiake Board Meetings, when there is also an opportunity to have your say.



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# What I shop for.. it’s not just nutrition.

Nutrition is not all I’m focussed on when shopping. I was thinking about this in the supermarket the other day, price is also not the only focus. In the fruit and vege sections I am picking what I like and in season, but I choose a bunch of bananas that are small enough to put in a lunch box. The TYO (ten year old) is eating bananas at the moment so I make the most of this phase, they’re in the lunchbox everyday. It won’t last but I know at least for now he’ll have some energy to listen to his teacher. I buy a red pepper which costs about the same as a big bag of kiwifruit in the middle of winter. The FOTCH (father of the child) eats no fruit pretty much at all unless it’s in pudding so we have peppers in most of our dinner meals for the colour and flavour but also because it’s about the main vitamin C source in his diet. Vitamin C is getting more attention in our nutrition news and recent research is talking about how much more useful small doses of vitamin C over the day is compared to one big dose for all the usual things we want to look after, our heart etc.

Dry pasta is all much the same but I choose the cardboard box regardless of cost in the hope that someday food manufacturers will stop packaging food in plastic; it’s a small action. The main focus in the tinned vege section is plain and no added salt. The tinned tomatoes, tomato paste etc can be chopped, sieved whatever, but plain with no added salt for me. All other options we are tempted with, added herbs, spices and garlic, just means more salt is needed for a preservative effect. The hot chilli beans I like were previously fairly low salt but I notice this has gone up. The tortillas are chosen for price and convenience. If they feel soft and floppy, I know I don’t have to heat them first before filling with the mince and veges, and they’ll roll up without splitting.

At the dairy section, I like thick yoghurt. I’d really like to buy a non plastic container but I’m not sure the waxed cardboard is compostable and they’re not my favourite flavours. Yoghurt gets a lot of mixed reviews,

it often does have too much sugar added but it is still a great source of protein and calcium especially for growing children. It’s good to compare sugar content. Cheese is expensive but is also such good nutrition in terms of calcium and protein. I choose the cheaper options of tasty cheese but check how firm it is and compare the protein content as an indicator to me that it is a good percentage milk solids and I’m not paying for a watered down version, though my current cheese favourite, Creamy Havarti, is just bought for the pleasure of eating. I don’t buy a whole lot of meat as I get family farm meat but I notice the mince is looking less red than it used to be and more speckled with white fat, which isn’t the nutritious iron and protein full part of meat. Processed meats are not big on my list but occasionally I buy bacon. I go on price but I also check the protein content and squeeze it as again, I want to avoid the ‘wet’ ones and get more of the dry matter.

Bread, wholemeal or wholegrain, just needs to have more than 5-6 grams of fibre per 100 grams. Same with cereal but this also needs to be low in added sugar. I like their ingredients list to start with ‘whole grains’.

The frozen veges are on price. I pretty much only buy peas and corn, my favourite with a meat and mash meal. Nearly half the plate can be peas and corn but I don’t buy the cheaper options as the corn is sometimes old before packaging with that starchy, hard husk texture, not sweet and juicy.

Consumers have a lot of power collectively. I noticed no one was buying the \$8+ butter on this particular day. I’m hoping we can all be savvier with packaged food and in this way get better packaging, price, quality, less salt and less processing.

**By Rosemary Law**  
Registered dietician at Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki Base Hospital

## TRC Zero Possum Project

A recent information evening at Butlers Reef saw a good turn out of locals already involved or interested in this project which began in 2018. I was lucky enough to meet Peggy, the scat detection dog who is able to assist in identifying the home range of possums by finding and lying on possum poo, enabling trap setting to be more precise than previously when dogs weren’t involved. Peggy’s reward is a bit of ball play with her owner and handler who says, “Peggy chose me rather than the other way round when I went to pick from the litter”. She is the first scat detection dog trained through the Department of Conservation, and the project was the first of its kind in New Zealand with the aim of eradicating possums from The Kaitake Ranges, surrounding farmland and the Village. You may have noticed the green Towards Predator Free Taranaki signs on many a local gate, with backyard trapping playing an important part in this project and capturing other predators such as rats as well. Volunteers have been essential in the success of this project.

## Sausages

If you happen to be at Locals night (Butlers) on Thursday at around 6pm, you may be lucky enough to get a taste of The Ōākura Meats and Fine Foods sausages. Stacey and Vaughan have been in The Village for a year in November and have gained quite a following for a range of their products. In addition to the sausages, tomahawk steak and an excellent range of cheeses are very popular. Their wall hangings have a great local theme of street names and surf breaks, and the couple have responded to local pressure to get tea towels and wall hangings produced for people to take home, instead of their asking to buy the ones off the shop’s wall. In the true village spirit they have offered free pup cups (doggy gelato exclusively made in Wellington for the shop) on International Dog’s Day, free sausages for dads on Father’s Day and free gelatos for mums on Mother’s Day this year. We are so lucky in this Village to have such generous retailers keeping up the Village Vibe.

## November Art and Gardens

It’s all happening this month -the Ōākura Arts Trail from the 2nd to 10th November, and the Taranaki Garden Festival and Fringe Garden Festival also get underway. Seven local artists open their studios to the general public showcasing a wide range of items ranging from prints to mixed media and sculptured glass. Entry is free- look out for turquoise and yellow flags at the gate. Tickets for the Taranaki Garden Festival can be pre -purchased (recommended) locally at the Crafty Fox Co-op, at I-Site in New Plymouth, and also at the gate. Entry fees range from \$5 to \$15. Fringe Garden Festival Gardens have a \$2 charge at the gate. Both garden festivals also have a range of events happening (including some concerts by local group “ La Mer”) - sustainable gardens are amongst the mix as well. No excuses not to go out and get inspired or educated, or just have your senses uplifted.

## Surf and Sip

There’s a new coffee spot conveniently located at Ōākura Beach Motor Camp, with early riser friendly hours and 7 days a week service. The brainchild of Ryan, who manages the Ōākura Holiday Park, they also offer puppccinos for the dogs who frequent the beach, alongside their owners of course. With the influx of campers over summer (around 800 mid December to mid January! ) it’s bound to be a hit. Nice to see the lovely local faces of Tanya and Sienna from Festoon brewing up a storm in a job that we agreed must have the best views in the Village.

## Dune protection

It is disappointing to see a trail bike had been ridden through and over the spinifex plantings in front of the Motor Camp. Planted by local volunteers, these grasses play a vital role in holding sand in place and helping prevent erosion of OUR beach. Lets all take ownership of preserving our foreshore.

### 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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Back row L to R: Davina Moffat, Shelley Prestney, Jane Roseman. Front row L to R: Catherine Donlon, Inge Vink, Rosanne Taylor, Karen Manu.



La Mer will be playing live.

# Dance Theatre and Live Music

Connections is the name of the exciting new programme that the Val Deakin Dance Theatre will be presenting in October – connections between people, connections to place and time, connections to music and connections to times past, present and future.

A new connection for the Dance Theatre will be to have live music played by New Plymouth based French café band La Mer. Formed in early 2022, they have secured a strong following already. All five members are well known musicians. Dominique Blatti's seductive vocal is backed by Bernie Schmid's lively gypsy guitar; Malcolm Alder on double bass adds sassy toe tapping rhythms; Helen Griffiths creates vibrant flurries on her violin while Aason Bosch's piano accordion provides that distinctive French café feel. They add a certain 'je ne sais quoi' to the new work, entitled Café La Mer. Set in a Parisian street café in the 1950's, the piece has a variety of dance and music styles weaving the interactions and connections of the different people visiting the café.

Two very different works by choreographer Val Deakin ONZM explore connections of people to the land, the environment and to each other. There are sections from the lovely, lyrical and humorous Reflections (set to music by Chopin), and heartfelt and joyous segments of her equally wonderful work For Roberto. This was originally inspired by a poem from 10 year old Roberto written during the war in Yugoslavia, a sad reminder that things haven't changed much for children and others suffering in war zones around the world.

The final work on the programme is the premiere of a work by Christchurch based choreographer Fleur de Their specially commissioned for the Dance Theatre. This romp to an eclectic selection of music is entitled Take a Seat and the dancers do just that – and so much more!

The dancers for the programme, aged 6 to 70+, include some of the Dance Theatre's most experienced and remarkable – Jane Roseman who has been dancing with the company since it's inception in 1973, and the multi-talented Shelley Prestney, Davina Moffat, Inge Vink, Donna Kelly, Laura Sommerville, Rosanne Taylor, Catherine Donlon, Karen Manu and Christine Coppell. Mervyn Chivers has brought his delightful sense of theatre and humour to many productions with the Dance Theatre and elsewhere and he is joined in Café La Mer by newcomers Jeff Richards (new to the Dance Theatre but not to dance, he is quite the tango dancer!) and Lachlan Wimsett. Children Anna Bliss and Ethan Richards will complete the talented cast.

Major sponsors for this programme are The Toi Foundation, Creative Communities Scheme New Plymouth District and Taylor Dental. The Dance Theatre is very grateful to them for helping bring this production to fruition.

Performances will be at the Val Deakin Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street on:

Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 pm

Friday, October 18 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 20 at 2:30 pm

Tickets are available from Pianoworks, by phoning 06 758 0991, or at the door if not sold out. Don't miss out on this entertaining connection.

Val Deakin Dance Theatre Trust

## Connections

Tickets: from Pianoworks or Phone 06 758 0991

**Dance Centre**  
306 St Aubyn St, New Plymouth

**Friday**  
11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30pm

**Sunday**  
13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2:30pm

Val Deakin Dance Theatre

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Dominic Widdicombe, Jardin Matheson, Alex Johnson and Eliysah Smith-Phillips.



Cross country participants having fun on the course.



## 2024 Taranaki E-Pro8 Champions

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 E-Pro8 team of Dominic Widdicombe, Jardin Matheson, Alex Johnson and Eliysah Smith-Phillips who recently won the Taranaki E-Pro8 Challenge. The team competed against other schools from around Taranaki, completing a number of technology challenges. This is the 2nd year running that Ōmata has won the Taranaki Year 5/6 E-Pro8 challenge.

## A Race to Remember

By Olive Glasgow

On the 30th of August we braved the cold and the mud. Energy was buzzing as we set out to participate in this year's cross country.

Eight year olds and over headed on their first journey to create memories. We are lucky to get the privilege to use the Waireka property next to the school. The energy at the start and finish line is always buzzing as everyone gets cheered home. It is a real tribute to the attitude of all students that they want everyone to have their best race.

On the 3rd of September Ōmata held the years 4-6 coastal cross country with Ōākura, Coastal Taranaki and Ōmata going head to head. They ran a gruelling 2.5km course through a 25 metre long knee deep ford. Everyone was cheered home in high spirits.

The 5th of September was the full primary cross country with years 7 and 8 from Ōākura, Coastal Taranaki, Mangorei, Puketapu, The Seventh Day Adventist Christian School and Ōmata. The children took part on an extended 3km course with a huge hill to tire us out at

the start. Everyone finished strongly with some very intense and tight sprint finishes.

Congratulations to all the children who participated and gave it their very best.

A very special thanks to John and Lynda Mathews for lending us their beautiful land to race across. Thank you to Mr Bennett and Mr Kelly who put in the hard mahi behind the scenes to make this all possible.

## Coming up

### October

- 14 Term 4 begins
- 16 Ukulele and Marimba Festival at TSB Stadium 7pm
- 25 Teacher Only Day
- 28 Labour Day holiday
- 31 Puanga Kapa Haka at Waitara Memorial Hall 1:10pm

### November

- 6 Y1/2 Ball Skills at Ōākura
- 7 Y3/4 Ball Skills at Ōākura

# Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

## Membership

Building the membership base is an important and challenging issue for any sporting club. The Ōākura Bowling Club is keen to secure the club's future in partnership with the Ōākura community by offering new opportunities and avenues for all bowlers to enjoy this great game. The club has recently purchased 12 sets of new, modern coloured bowls for social bowlers and to use in community events. Similarly, the club has available a range of newer bowls suited to the modern game for those 1st year bowlers wishing to start bowling but not quite ready to outlay their hard-earned cash for a new set of bowls. The club has several fresh concepts/ideas on their wish list to implement for the upcoming season such as Friday afternoon bowls, the inclusion of women's bowls and a twilight/business house competition.

## Friday Afternoon Bowls

Every Friday afternoon is a bowls evening. Weather permitting the green will be available most Fridays from 2pm throughout the season for those bowlers wishing to have a social roll-up or for the more serious bowler to hone their skills. Club bowls, club equipment and coaching will be available if required and the bar will be open from 4.30 pm.

## Women Bowls

The club is keenly interested in providing opportunities for women to be more involved

with playing and participating in bowls. For those ladies interested in playing either in a social format or in interclub/club competitions, the club would love to hear from you, listen to your ideas and work together to create future bowls opportunities for women within the club's playing framework.

## Twilight Bowls

The club is establishing a business house bowls concept/model which will be played over three Friday evenings during February and March. The concept is to encourage non-bowlers from the Ōākura and surrounding communities to enjoy a fast-paced bowls format in a relaxed and social setting. The format will be Bowls3five triples with 2 x 1hr games each evening. Teams can be made up from local businesses, sporting clubs, families or just three mates or friends. A full bar will be available with a complementary sausage sizzle each night.

## 1st Year Bowlers

The Ōākura Club is offering all first-year bowlers a package deal of \$50 membership fees for the initial year, club polo shirt, free coaching sessions and the use of club bowls.

If you have any questions or require further information around the above information, membership or the upcoming season please do not hesitate to call Paul Coxhead 027505520 or Steve Muller 0211695863.

## The Underarm Bowler

# Ōākura Tennis Club

Planning for the tennis season is underway with the tennis club AGM in September.

The Sofie cup competition will change to three men and three women this season with one point for each singles win and two points for doubles and a combined win. With competition starting at 9am and everyone only playing a singles and a doubles or a combines the tennis day should be shorter. A2 and A3 will also follow this format.

Hopefully this will enable a few keen tennis players back on court for some competition without taking up much of their weekend.

Juniors interested in tennis this summer are invited to come along to our Junior Muster on Friday 18th October 3-5pm. There will be fun games, food, and racquets will be available. All are welcome. Come and have some fun. Registrations for coaching, interclub and/or social sessions will be available or just have a chat to a committee member to see what suits your child. Any queries for juniors contact us - Gavin Stanley 027 776 4166

Adults interested in playing this coming season get in touch with Jackie on 0276732900 or email grazjaz@xtra.co.nz

# Indoor Bowls

Our final club championships for the year were the Novice singles, which were open to players with less than five years experience. We had a good turnout with six people entered on the night. There was a round-robin section with the two highest winning players going through to the final of 12 ends. After some close games Paul Coxhead and Andy Marshall qualified through to the final. Paul scored on a couple of ends, but it was Andy who played consistently good bowls that won on the night. This is the second year running that Andy has won, well done!

It had been a busy couple of weeks with Central Division and North Taranaki Champ of Championships events. Congratulations to Merv Hooker, Steve Muller and Val Bridgeman who won the CD Champ Triples. They had some lucky escapes having to score six shots on the last during pool play to win one game, and regularly having close games, although remained true to form taking out the event. Marvin Clough also did really well to win the NT Champ singles playing up against Waitara, FrankleighStar, Hillsborough and Merrilands in the final. Marvin led most of the game although he let the Merrilands player win a couple of ends on the trot, so he was one point down going into the final end, where he managed to pick up three shots and win the game.

We had a fun visit to the FrankleighStar Club (played in the Spotswood United Rugby Clubrooms) and had some good games and a lovely supper.

We finished the year with our closing night, which involved fun games and a couple of drinks.

This will be my final indoor bowls article for 2024, we'll be back in March 2025 and welcome new members.

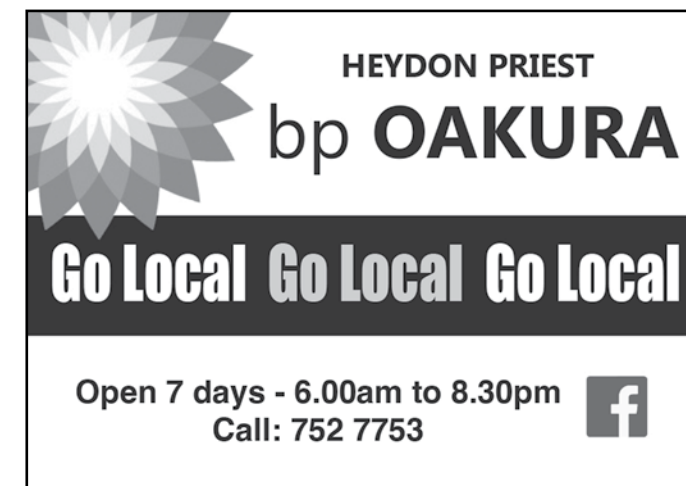
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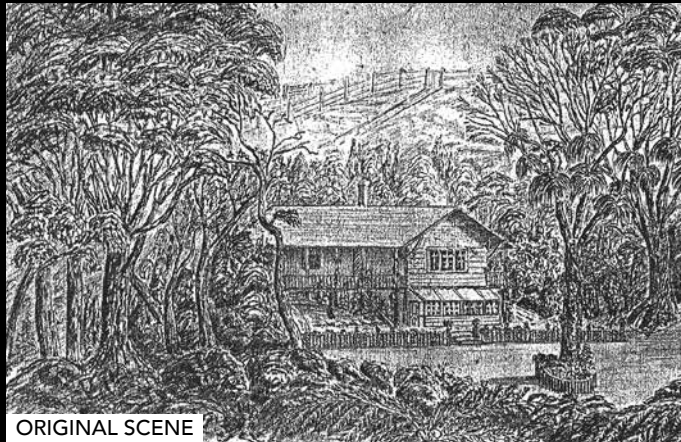
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# Stories of Ōmata

As shared by Len Jury



ORIGINAL SCENE



MODIFIED SCENE

## Omata Buried Treasure.

I wonder how many know the whereabouts in Ōmata of Hare's corner. The corner has seen, unfortunately, at least one death and multiple spectacular car crashes by speeding drivers. Extensive damage suffered by the vehicles is even more spectacular by the descent of vultures ripping the cars apart for wheels, tyres and internal vehicle parts.

Today it is known as Hurford Rd corner. About 100 years ago Hurford Rd continued through the metal dump there, then towards the sea in a straight line over the top of the hill a little to the right of the present SH45. Many would have noticed the ripple in the paddock by the road as the old Hurford Rd continued down to Waireka Rd West. A new boundary fence meeting Waireka Rd West marks a section of the old road. The top of the SH45 hill lays claim as the highest point New Plymouth to Ōpunake and beyond. SH45 is that State Highway 45 or Surf Highway 45?

A much more illustrious history belongs to the adjoining land including a? buried treasure. A new entrance from SH45 is close to a possible entrance to a cottage recorded as 'The Swiss Cottage'. This cottage illustrated here is from Rev. T. Gilbert's 1861 book, Settlers and Soldiers, a rare book occasionally offered in book auctions. There is a copy able to be seen in Puke Ariki. The cottage in the lithograph appears to be quite substantial. About 50 years ago I met one of Gilbert's grandsons and was given a copy of the original drawing of the Swiss cottage. The cottage belonged to Jabez Gibson. In 1865 the owner of the land was Thomas Allen and the hill up to the meeting of Hurford Rd was known as Allen's Hill. A skirmish upon such a small piece of land adjoining the old Hurford Rd became one of the most decorated for the English soldiers and local militia at the time - two Victoria

Crosses, the highest English army award (only English soldiers could be considered) and a New Zealand Military Cross in one short skirmish. This cross was awarded to New Zealand forces and was the equivalent to a Victoria Cross. One of these Victoria Crosses was part of a collection of Victoria Crosses in India. The circumstances in each case were the saving of a wounded comrade under heavy fire. Speculation as to the exact place of the Battle of Allen's Hill has always intrigued me. I wonder if the name is more a general name of the area. Certainly, the bullets I dug up as a youngster from a track around a hillside 100 metres towards the sea have all been identified of that time.

Readers will be fascinated to see how much of the scene has been modified. The original shows a much more typical Taranaki bush scene. The reason for the changes is very simple. The book was published in England and was to be used to encourage more settlers to come to New Plymouth. To this end the drawing was altered to show a much more sedate English 'like home' garden scene. The Swiss cottage was some metres down the slope from SH45 towards the swamp at the bottom of the hill, but the exact location has never been found.

When the settlers were driven from their homes in 1860 there was little time to gather up anything other than their bundled clothes and bedding into the carts taking them to the safety of New Plymouth. Items of value such as silver, were quickly buried (the buried treasure) for safe keeping in the nearest swamp for collection later. Silver tarnishes but does not deteriorate like metals in use at the time. I am sure most of those families have since retrieved their silver 'heirlooms'. This house had a line of Elm trees leading to it, perhaps the access from the Hurford Rd. A few can be seen in an aerial photo taken early in the 1950s but the trees are no longer. I remember them and wondering why these obviously English trees were growing there. Elm trees were decimated by a fungus disease

in the 1960s. They almost became extinct right around the world, they were beautiful large deciduous trees with leaves turning bright yellow in the autumn.

Did I ever hunt for the treasure? As a youngster the swamp consisted of reeds, bullrushes (rauipo) and rusty old stinky, stagnant water. Venturing in, the level of the squishy orange mud quickly reached the calves of my legs. In panic, reaching dry land was more important. Today the swamp has become a beautiful area of native trees, ferns and pongas. Yes, you are quite right, I did have visions of eels around my toes. Then I didn't know about the treasure and logically it would not have been buried on the other side of the swamp.

Across the road readers will see the 'Brighton Place' sign advertising superior horse food. The house there is about the position of Rev. Thomas Gilbert's home - Brighton Place. Gilbert was formerly the Pastor for the General Baptist Church, Ditchling, Sussex. The name Brighton Place was possibly named for his early home in Sussex. The outside wall timber was removed for use as part of the blockhouse on Allen's Hill. The hill is now owned by Dave Jennings. Rev. Gilbert's wife was a sister to the owner of the Swiss Cottage. Rev. Gilbert In his book lamented the war as an example of the English lack of understanding of Māori custom and land heritage. Perhaps it was also the lack of payment for road building close to Hawera and Ōpunake to members of the Ngati Ruanui and hapu of Southern Taranaki?

The photo of the house late 1930s(?) shows very little difference. However, I am not certain the house was still lived in at that time. A much more substantial home was built in front about the 1930s. You don't forget the presence of a well, as most often in those times dug close to or under the house, nor do you forget the stern lecture given about wandering.

**My thanks to Rachel Sonius, Information officer. Puke Ariki, New Plymouth for help with this article.**

## 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

## TOP Activities

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

### Ōākura Walking Talking Group

Every Monday 10am. Meet in the carpark next to the skatepark on Messenger Tce. Phone Mae 027 314 2995 or just turn up.

### 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, 10am

**Strength & Balance** - Ōākura Hall, in the supper room (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  
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## Join us for our State of the Nation market update

Mark Lister, Investment Director at Craigs Investment Partners will share his thoughts on the latest economic and market developments, and what this means for investors:

- What the US election might mean for markets
- Where the economy is headed as we look toward 2025
- How far and how fast interest rates will fall
- The outlook for shares, fixed income and other assets
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Limited spaces available. Register below to secure your seat.

### NEW PLYMOUTH

Thursday 17 October 2024  
5.30pm - 7pm

The Devon Hotel  
390 Devon Street East  
New Plymouth

**RSVP by email or scan the QR code**

**E:** [newplymouth@craigsip.com](mailto:newplymouth@craigsip.com)

**P:** 06 759 0015



**Mark Lister, Investment Director**  
Craigs Investment Partners

**Can't attend or missed the event? Contact the Craigs New Plymouth branch for more information.**

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