

the Ōākura Post

DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025



A unique photo of the sunset at Corbett Park.

This photo was taken by Ange Lawn at the the end of season celebration for the Kaitake Community Sports Hub clubs. The Band is On Yer Bike.

This is Toby and Sian...



Toby, Sian and their children enjoy the outdoors.

Toby featured in our July 2024 issue for his work with Restore Ōākura to protect grey-faced petrel from predators. Cam Murray, who volunteers with trusts Toby Shanley and his partner Sian Potier are involved in, tells their stories giving us insight into what it takes to be an ecological kaitiaki.

Over the past few years our community has been involved in a very significant ecological enterprise – working to make the Maunga, the National Park, and especially the Kaitake Ranges and the corridor down to the sea predator free. Kiwi have been reintroduced to the area and are breeding - a promising sign of a sustainable population. The work of the Taranaki Mounga Project and the Taranaki Kiwi Trust has been carried on by an impressive army of volunteers, supported by a cadre of dedicated professionals.

Toby is a Coastal boy – growing up in New Plymouth and then Ōākura, attending Francis Douglas College before heading off to Massey University. He recalls spending a lot of time with his dad on the Maunga, the Kaitake Ranges and in the surf: he fondly remembers the handful of times that a surf and snowboard were possible in the same day. Toby studied at Massey University initially choosing environmental engineering, but after the first year he realised it wasn't for him, so switched to ecology.

Sian was born in Waihi and moved to Tauranga. She loved horse-riding – was a show jumper - and her choice of Massey University was a given in that it allowed her to take her horse to Palmerston North. She studied zoology and ecology, inspired by a meeting with a DOC ranger while on a high school seventh form field trip.

Toby and Sian met at Massey in 2003 when they were in the same hostel. After university they both ended up living in Wellington, Sian worked for the Environment Court, traveling the country to assist in a number of hearings. The work was varied and interesting and an eye-opener, but she realised that indoor work wasn't for her. They saw a posting for a volunteer job on Raoul Island and so began their life on Islands around New Zealand. Raoul has very steep terrain so

before embarking on that venture they were given some abseiling training. It was a six month weed control job: they also used their ecological training and interests to survey marine life and bird life on the island. When that finished, needing some income, Toby went to a position on the Hen and Chicken Islands and Sian went to Kapiti Island. After a year they returned to Raoul Island – this time to a paid position working in biodiversity.

From there they moved to Motuora Island, working with the Motuora Restoration Society for three years. While they were based on Motuora Island Sian became pregnant and they had to face the decision whether or not to stay on the island and raise a child in that remote location. They decided to move to Ōkato and Toby took up a position with the Taranaki Regional Council. Sian followed as soon as her time on the island was finished.

Toby spent four years as Environment Officer with the Regional Council, then three years as Project Manager of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki project, and has for the past three years worked as a Kiwi Ranger for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust – monitoring kiwi on the Maunga and the Kaitake ranges and being very involved in translocating kiwi.

After daughter Isla was born Sian began to seek out work which would allow her to be a mum while pursuing her ecological interests. She contacted the Taranaki Kiwi Trust and let them know of her experience working with kiwi. At the same time she took on a contract involving long-tail bats in the Purangi area, a Citizen's Science project working with students to put out bat detectors and monitor bats. She had short term contracts with the Kiwi Trust, including a large scale survey of the National Park for kiwi. Sian's now the Conservation Manager for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust, works with

Save the Kiwi, and has done work with Trees that Count.

Much of Toby and Sian's work is contracts, and they formed Ahu Conservation in 2023 to facilitate that work. Their contributions to conservation work in Taranaki is legendary. Pete Morgan, of the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust said, "Toby and Sian have been instrumental from the early stages of the KRCT. Their scientific and practical knowledge has been the backbone of many of the KRCT activities. KRCT has worked with them from the start with predator trapping advice through the placement of trap lines. We worked with Toby and Sian on the original KRCT listening surveys when we detected no kiwis, indicating the kiwi population on the Kaitake range was very low or gone. In the past four years several groups have come together to re-establish a healthy Kaitake kiwi population, and Toby and Sian have played an integral role in this with KRCT and also their involvement with the Kiwi Trust."

The Taranaki Mounga project is another organisation Sian and Toby are working with. Tane Houston, the Project Manager, comments "Toby and Sian are amazing to work with and learn from. They are responsible for helping many of our growing conservationists develop valuable skills with the taiao; they are completely committed to the wellbeing of Taranaki; are an amazing and inspirational family to be around"

The Taranaki Kiwi Trust has been around for over 20 years. Celine Filbee heads up the Trust and works closely with Sian and Toby: "Sian is the Conservation Manager so she and I run the Trust together; she oversees all the conservation projects we run, including trapping, kiwi monitoring, surveying and translocation, and our environmental education programme. Toby is the Kiwi Ranger and he predominantly looks after the kiwi monitoring programme in Te Papakura o Taranaki; he also delivers much of our kiwi education work in Taranaki, assists with translocations and does all the mapping for the Trust. Collectively they are across all aspects of kiwi conservation; they both have relevant degrees and are qualified as kiwi handlers and are now very experienced."

Their time on remote islands means they have learnt many complementary skills and are very resourceful. The Trust is very, very fortunate to have such highly skilled and humble people working for it: they've played a large part in the success of the team working for the organisation. They are well liked in the community due to their personalities: Sian is outgoing and her enthusiasm is infectious, Toby is extremely passionate and diligent about his work. They both get things done!

Ōākura Boardriders is Open for Summer



New Life member and former Club President Luke Florence (right) and Current Club President Rick Christiansen (left).

After reaching an impressive milestone of over 550 members spanning all ages last year, we kicked off the season by honouring six new life members who have shown outstanding dedication to the Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) and our community. Join us in celebrating:

- Philly Butt
- Alan Crawford
- Luke Florence
- John Shewry
- Ton Deken
- Jono Heath

These individuals exemplify the spirit of our club, and we're grateful for their service.

Summer Highlights

The winter season might have been quiet, with a few of our local groms ripping in Dunedin and a proud feature of our Wahine Waves programme in Betty Magazine (grab a copy at bettyzine.com). But brace yourself, because this summer is packed with events!

- Club Nights: Start your weekend right! Join us Fridays at 5:30 pm for sizzling BBQ.
- Mike Christiansen Memorial: Celebrating 10 years of longboard shredding on November 30th. Come and honour Mike's legacy and enjoy some unforgettable surfing action.
- OBC Christmas Party: Santa is making a stop at OBC on December 20th! Bring the family and celebrate the season with us. The club will then take a break from December 20th and reopen on January 16th.

Surf Programmes

Deken Waves: Weekly lessons for kids, from beginners to intermediate shredders, are keeping young surfers stoked! Simon also offers one-on-one adult lessons by appointment—email him at dekenwaves@gmail.com to book.

Stay Connected & Share Your Shots

We'd love to see your summer surf snaps! Email them to oakurboardriders.co.nz tag us on Instagram or Facebook.

Visit our website oakurboardriders.co.nz to order merch, renew your membership, sign up for events, or volunteer on the BBQ.

Support Our Amazing Local Sponsors

A huge thank you to the local sponsors who help make all of this possible: McDonald Real Estate, Vertigo, Black Sand, Lawn Family, BTW, Boon Designs, QP Sport Protection, Southcoast Construction, Insure Taranaki, Oakura Holiday Park, Deken Motors, Set Engineering, CMK Accounts, Maiden, Coast Brew Co, Raceway Cycles, and NZCT.

Here's to an unforgettable summer of surf and community. Enjoy the waves, protect our beaches, and make the most of this season.



What's on at the library

Christmas Crackerjacks Ōākura Library:

Pre-school story time Thursday 5th December at 10am. Join us for music, rhyme, craft and, weather permitting, play time on the deck.

Summer Reading Programme:

Join us on a reading journey through the forest. Our summer reading programme is suitable for ages 5-12 and helps to curtail the summer reading slump. Children check in with a librarian three times between 27th December 2024 and 31st January 2025. Talk to your local librarian about registering. Prizes up for grabs!



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Kaitake Golf Club

MENS NEWS

The Mens Shoot final was complete with 19 qualifiers setting off in nice conditions. Hackers were quickly whittled out and the last three men standing were all left handers.

In the end the 18th was played out between Dave Te Whare and Roger Cloke. Clokey's audacious driver off the deck wasn't quite enough to steal the result from Dave who had played a beautifully steady round all day.

We had the Champion of Champions played at Westown on Saturday 16th November with Brodie Ferguson playing for Liam Harvey who is in the USA studying. Our Intermediate player was Brendan Amos and James Crighton as Junior champion.

LADIES NEWS

The 36 and 18 Hole Strokeplay and Nett Competitions were held with the Bronze 1 Division playing 36 holes and the Bronze 2 playing 18 holes. Winners were: Bronze 1 Strokeplay – Diane Jones, Bronze 1 Nett – Bob Fleming, Bronze 2 Strokeplay – Joy Greenlees, Bronze 2 Nett – Donna Sharpe.

The 9 Hole Group completed their Club Championships for 2024. Results were: 1st Division – Winner Raewyn Bishop with Kaye Cavey Runner up, 2nd Division - Winner Margaret Green with Barb Crombie Runner up.

The Ladies Shoot Out was held on Saturday with 10 players participating. A great day was had by all with Sharon Fisher winning over Kim Woodward.

At the end of October we held our annual 54 Hole Open Pairs Tournament with 72 entries. It was a very successful tournament with almost half the field coming from clubs outside of Taranaki.

We hosted "Bring a Birdie" at the beginning of November for Taranaki Golf where a new player (Birdie) played with a member of a golf club. This was played in good weather and finished off with lunch and a prizegiving.

Then came Taranaki Champion of Champions and Rosebowl which was held at the Hawera Course. Joy Greenlees won 1st Nett in the Bronze 2 Division. Prizegiving also included trophies for various competitions that had been played over the year. Much to our surprise and delight the Kaitake Ladies won the Home Pennant Trophy. This is played for over a period of seven months where once a month the top four cards are submitted to Taranaki Golf but only three count. The fourth is in case of a tie. We hadn't won this trophy since 2013. Our 9 Hole Group have also won their Home Pennant.

The 9 Hole Group held their Shoot Out with the winner being Yvonne Hildred, our soon to be 95 year old, with the runner up being Jean Keegan, Taranaki. Tee times are daylight saving 9.00am, winter 9.30am.

TWILIGHT HAGGLE – THURSDAY from 4pm – 5.30pm
7th November to 12th December 2024.

We will be doing a TWILIGHT HAGGLE for six consecutive weeks. Please take note of our first date. Non Members are more than welcome to come along and enjoy 9 holes of golf. Weekly winner, overall winner, jackpot draw and lucky draw for non-golfers. Entry \$10 per week includes a hamburger and coleslaw. Any queries please contact Karen Avison 027 665 9430 or Denis Avison 027 481 2199.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

Do you know anyone that is keen to play summer golf, come and give it a go? it's not too late to still join for the Summer period.

1st November 2024 – 28th February 2025

We are offering a special Summer Membership of \$300 for this period. Summer is upon us and we are running our summer membership again so take the opportunity and join Kaitake Golf Club. Should you want to become a full time member, \$100 will be deducted from 2025 membership. Follow us on Facebook for more information or phone Denise in the office,

CHIPPERS:

Chippers has started but due to the weather has not been regular since the start of Term 4 on Sundays at 3pm. We will inform by Facebook if cancelled due to weather. You will be more than welcome and if you require any further information, please contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

For golfers over the age of 50. Contact the office for more information.

Kaitake Community Board

After an almost 20 year wait on the part of local residents, and a 500 or more year wait for mana whenua, work has finally begun on the reinstatement of the Whenuariki Stream footbridge that was destroyed during ex tropical cyclone Dovi, and on the construction of a walkway around the historic Hauranga Pā site near Ōākura, linking Ahu Ahu Road and Weld Road.

The headland walkway project has been an emotional rollercoaster of hope, excitement, disappointment, anger, frustration and hurt over much of the past two decades for locals, visitors to the district, iwi and hapū, and Council officers alike. That this project is finally coming to fruition is testament to the tenacity of a core group of locals like Clive Neeson, Richie Shearer and Doug Hislop (to name but a few), the behind the scenes efforts of NPDC officers such as Nigel Wilson, Sean Cressy and Renee Davis, and the determination, steadfastness and hard mahi on the part of Ngāti Tairi to ensure the protection and respect of the archaeological and wāhi tapu areas that lay around that area of the coast.

I was privileged to be invited to attend a karakia ceremony, conducted by hapū representatives, held to clear the spiritual pathway to enable work to commence on that land. Archaeological and ecological briefings were also provided to personnel involved in the work, further reinforcing the sensitive nature of that landscape and the flora and fauna on it.

This ceremony took place and work on the project commenced on the 11th of November, and I attended this event on my way into New Plymouth to conduct an Armistice Day Commemoration Service in my role as President of the New Plymouth Returned and Services Association, so the irony of the timing of what took place in the shadow of the Hauranga Pā site was not lost on me.

At the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, in 1918, the guns fell silent on the Western Front, ending the 52 exhausting months that was the First World War; an appropriate time therefore to see the conflicts around this walkway settled and (hopefully) resolved.

And finally, to quote the NPDC Infrastructure Project Manager Nigel Wilson, "Now the hard work begins."

Closer to town, I was approached by concerned folk within the village regarding cars parked in the CBD area parking spaces for extended periods of time ("for days at a time") with 'For Sale' signs on them. The main concerns were that there is not enough parking in that area as it is, therefore having vehicles remaining in place for that length of time just compounds the problem.



Bryan Vickery



Renee Hohaia



Paul Lobb



Graham Chard



Teresa Goodin

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

On behalf of Teresa Goodin,
Renee Hohaia, Paul Lobb,
and Cr Bryan Vickery

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David Macleod

MP for New Plymouth

Last month I had the pleasure of speaking to the Ōākura Probus group at their monthly get together. I spoke about my journey in politics and the ins and outs of life in Parliament. It was a nice way to share some of the things I've learned and love about the role of an MP, and to reflect on the year.

2024 has been a year of delivery from our Coalition Government. Through our Quarterly Action Plans, we are making good on our promise to deliver for all New Zealanders. We have focused intensely on rebuilding the economy and easing the cost of living with tax relief measures, and we are committed to restoring law and order in our communities. We have set in motion the reversal of the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration to bolster our energy security, and the resetting of local water management policies.

Health Minister Hon Dr Shane Reti unveiled the Government's plan to transform New Zealand's health system, beginning with a much needed funding boost to Pharmac and investment in cancer treatments. The Government has set clear targets and announced investments of around \$30 billion a year in health, the highest in New Zealand's history.

Changes to the Resource Management Act and the introduction of the Fast-Track Bill will cut red tape and speed up delivery of regional and national projects of significance, including 22 renewable energy projects across the country which collectively add up to three gigawatts of generation capacity. We're also allowing trusted builders to self-certify their work, cutting red tape to make it easier/cheaper to build.

We have prioritised education with revised curriculums to make sure our tamariki gain the skills they need to succeed. I have visited all but

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

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





Authorised by David Macleod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

one of our coastal schools this year, from Ōmata to Ōpunake, and I'm impressed by the achievements, resilience and sense of community of our rural schools. These visits are an opportunity to see how things are going for our kids, teachers and support staff, and to hear about the challenges and successes which I share directly with Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education.

There's more to be done and I look forward to a very productive 2025.

On behalf of my family and my office, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz

My office will be closed from Monday 23 December 2024 to Monday 13 January 2025.



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Back on the Beach



NPOB volunteer lifeguards will be back on the beach every weekend starting Saturday 30 November from 1pm to 5pm, and will continue through to Taranaki Anniversary Day, Monday 10 March.

In addition to weekend patrols, regional weekday patrols will kick off on Monday 16 December running through to Friday 24 January 2025. From 27 January to 21 February the beach will be patrolled 4pm to 7pm Monday to Friday.

From December 1st our bar will be open every Sunday afternoon. Come along to catch up and end the weekend in style. We'll need some help to run the bar too. Scan the QR code to chip in for a bartending shift.



Thank you to everyone that turned up for the working bee, we got a heap of jobs done, everything tidied up and ready for the summer.

Junior Surf has kicked off with a bang, a beautiful day and a big turn up. It is great seeing all the kids running and swimming at the beach and having a good time. Thank you to everyone that has pitched in and helped, Junior Surf can't run without you.

Any membership inquiries or inquiries in general please email npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz, and for updates follow the NPOB Surf Life Saving Club Oakura facebook page.

And also big thanks to all our volunteers, the club can't run without you.

If you are heading to the beach, remember swimming between the flags is the safest area to swim. Enjoy the beach, stay safe and swim between the flags.

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Bryan Vickery Kaitake Ngamōtu Ward Councillor



Increased freedom camping restrictions

The Kaitake Community Board after community feedback and an extraordinary meeting, ably chaired by Graham Chard, voted unanimously for camping restrictions for Greenwood Rd, Fort St George around Tataraimaka Pā, Weld Rd and Ahu Ahu Rd. The bans were proposed by the NPDC primarily because of a lack of toilet facilities and because of the cultural significance of the site around Fort St George and the Tataraimaka Pā. It was also introduced to bring the ban in line with the council's Coastal Reserves Management Plan.

During this meeting representatives of the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association stridently opposed the bans. They said New Plymouth was the most unfriendly district in NZ because of its draconian restrictions.

The Board made it very clear they were not the problem. In fact, they were highly

valued. However, there needed to be better monitoring before more access could be granted to sensitive areas.

Recently a motorhome owner stayed illegally at Corbett Park for more than a week. This upset many locals. It took several visits from the police, an infringement notice, and visits by both security and council before they were moved on. This shows how much effort is required to enforce the rules when someone flouts them. It's never fun advocating for pragmatic restrictions; and I want to thank the Kaitake Community Board for how they handled this controversial issue.

Recently I filmed 86-year-old Meg Cardiff and Lesley Dowding, stalwarts of the Ōkato and Districts Historical Society. They were in period costume and explained (with narrating aplomb) twelve (massive) historical photos, which lined the fence of their History Rooms in Cumming St to commemorate their 30th year. These recently installed photos are brilliant.

I also filmed short conversations with local artists Richard Landers, Brian Clark and Linda Barbour who were part of the Taranaki Arts Trail. Richard Landers' moveable glass work the



Wave is mesmerising. We had nine local artists in the Arts Trail: Jana Branca, Rob Wright, Belinda Lubkoll, Carmel Boone, Linda Barbour, Brian Clark, Richard Landers, Kris White and Portia Roper. These artists are amazing, and we should be justifiably proud of them.

BRYAN VICKERY | BVmedia
E: bryanvickerymedia@gmail.com
M: 027 449 8896
Bryan Vickery Media Taranaki

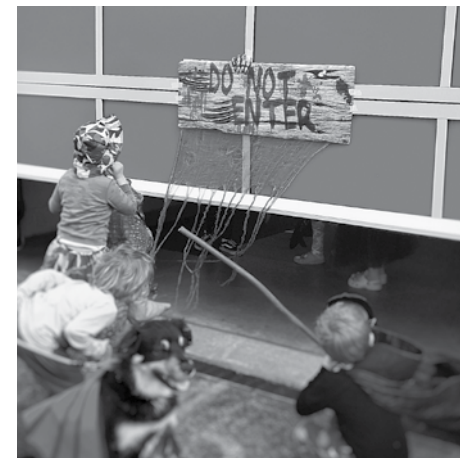
Massive Halloween turn out at the Fire Brigade

We were absolutely spooked by the community turn out to our Halloween night at the station - you guys all looked amazing! It was a pleasure to host you all, we hope you enjoyed the haunted firehouse and hot sossies. With well over 300 ghosts, super heros, witches, and zombies invading the station we will be sure to hold the event again next year.

Food bank drive coming up...

On the 2nd December. So remember to place any donated toiletries and non-perishable food items in a bag and pop them at the end of your drive. We will be around to pick them up - starting at 6pm, I'm sure you will hear us!

The Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade



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	Friday only		PM
		Mon-Fri	Mon-Thu			
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05	New Plymouth	FDMC	4.25
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08	New Plymouth	NPGHS	4.40
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18	New Plymouth	SHGC	4.45
Oākura	Oākura Hall	11.50	5.20	New Plymouth	NPBHS	4.55
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30	New Plymouth	Egmont Street	5.05
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40	New Plymouth	Liardet Street	5.08
Rahotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45	New Plymouth	Spotswood College (pick-up only)	5.18
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58	Oākura	Oākura Hall	5.20
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00	Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	5.30
				Pungarehu	Town Hall	5.40
				Rahotu	Four Square	5.45
				Ōpunake	Dreamtime	5.58
				Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.00

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

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Club Championships

Congratulations to Wayne Robinson, Peter Radich, Aad Schrader and Don Hinton who won the coveted and hotly contested Championship Fours. The Robinson quartet was undefeated throughout sectional play and emerged as the sole qualifier claiming a dominant and well-deserved victory.

The club Pairs and Singles championships will also be played throughout December and all members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club while watching some of Ōākura's finest bowlers in action.

Interclub Tournaments

Ōākura has continued to punch above it's weight in interclub tournaments in holding their own against some of Taranaki's powerhouse teams in the 1st round of Taranaki's premier bowls competition, the Bill Smee Div 1 Trophy. The standout result was in the Pairs where Craig Murray and Bob Anderson defeated a strong Tower team. A great win for the boys.

The midweek tournaments are well under way with Ōākura currently well placed in the Gilmour Cup, Avery Shield and Saturday Shield competitions. Well done to club captain Wayne Gray for his tremendous work in team selections, the players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working green keeping crew and those who assist in smooth running on match days.

A solid start to the Saturday Div 1 Pennants has the Ōākura Orcas placed midfield after three rounds. The Orcas face strong opposition each week from Taranaki's best bowlers and with more good results over the upcoming months are well placed to make a push for the Top 3.

Club News

A big welcome to Barry Watkins and Sam Sutherland who signed up as the club's latest 1st year bowlers. Just a warning, once bowls is in your blood it is there forever. Also, a warm welcome to new member Tim Ryan. Tim adds quality and experience to the clubs' bowling stocks and is already proving his prowess on the green.

Congratulations to Kurt Smith and Craig Murray in making the Taranaki Representative teams. Smith and Murray are playing great bowls and well deserving of higher honours.

Twilight Bowls

The club is establishing a business house bowls concept/model which will be played over three Friday evenings 14th, 21st, 28th February 2025 starting at 5.45 pm. The concept is to encourage local businesses and 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 with 2 x 45 minute games each evening with an entry fee of \$5 per person per night. Teams can be made up from businesses, sporting clubs, families or just 3 mates or friends. A full bar will be available with a complementary sausage sizzle each night. Great prizes will be awarded each night with the champion team announced on the 28th February.

Entries are limited to 14 teams so get in early and starting organising your team. For further information or to confirm your entry contact Steve Muller - 0211695863.

The underarm bowler

The Val Deakin Dance School Annual Recital

December 7 and 8 (at 1 pm both days) at the Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street in New Plymouth.

The Recital has a very wide range of music and dance, with performers aged 4 to experienced adults. Ballet, character, contemporary, comedy and tap are a few of the genres on offer. Exciting lighting and colourful costumes complete the theatrical experience – suitable for audiences of all ages. This is a chance to see some delightful children from Ōākura and Ōkato as part of the cast.

Tickets are available at the door or by phoning 752 7743.

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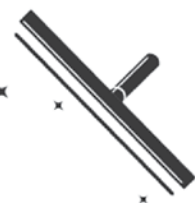
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Countdown to Christmas and the New Year!

December 2nd is Foodbank Collection evening. Have your contributions ready for the Ōākura. Volunteer Fire Brigade to collect -listen for the siren as they go street to street. The Volunteer brigade is supported by a bunch of locals who will be ready to pack those much needed boxes as the items roll in. Let's make this a happier Christmas for families in need.

Ōākura School's last day is December 19th, closing at noon, so please slow down around the Village and keep an eye out for children. After Christmas many will be out and about on their new bikes, scooters and skateboards for the first time after Santa's been, so be especially cautious then.

Beach Patrols will operate every day over the holiday period on the main beach in front of the Surf Club. Please swim between the flags.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Doctor's Surgery - closed from 2pm Christmas Eve through to Monday 6th January

Pharmacy - closed Christmas and Boxing Day, 1st and 2nd January

Library - closed 25, 26 and 27 December and 1, 2 and 3 January



Four Square - closed Christmas Day

Butler's Reef - closed Christmas Day.

Oakura Meat and Fine Foods Company will be closed Christmas and Boxing Day and Monday 30th December.

The Bach - Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Dawn will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

High Tide - closed Christmas Day.

Surf'n Sip Oakura - closed Christmas Day.

Black Sand Pizzeria - closed Christmas and Boxing Day

Toret La Cucina - closed Christmas and Boxing Day

Oakura Fish and Chips - closed Christmas Day

Serial Griller closed 22 - 28 Dec. Then open 12pm - 7pm, 7 days a week for all of January.

All of the above will operate on their normal hours and days when business resumes. Contact them directly if in doubt.

Happy Christmas everyone. Look out for each other and keep safe this holiday season.

Pickleball for the First Time

"I'm a virgin pickleballer" replied Dave Marshall when he showed up at a recent Thursday morning pickleball session.

"I just want to watch for a while," he said, looking just a tad intimidated. After a bit he commented that it wasn't what he expected. "It's faster than I expected. We used to play padder tennis when we were kids and that was a lot slower."

"I found that the standard of play was higher than I expected and there were a lot of older folks really hitting the ball. Once on the court though I was surprised at how quickly I picked it up and slotted into a groove."

"It might be difficult to go into that situation if you hadn't had experience with rackets sports. The other players were really helpful to teach the boundaries, rules and scoring but it would take a few games to understand it all."

With the numbers that show up these days, a timer is set for 10 minutes; when the bell goes off those who have been sitting out get a turn to get on the court and play. "Sitting out for 10 minutes means a chance to talk with old friends or meet new people. Playing for 10 minutes means you get a good heart rate going without being stressed. The size of the court and playing doubles means you aren't putting too much pressure on your joints. My tennis elbow didn't flare up afterwards."

"It's not often at my age you get to have a primary experience and on this particular day I had two — pickleball and ukulele, both fun!"

With David's feedback in mind it has got me thinking about a beginners' session (at this stage looking at a Sunday morning) for adults who have never played before. It would be a time to learn the court boundary lines and the rules of the game, and then have practise time (using our equipment) without any pressure. Watch for an announcement at a later date, or contact me with your thoughts. Facebook Oakura Pickleball or 027 937 7173

Elayne Kessler



David Marshall (left) and fellow pickleballer Lindsay Stone.

Big summer ahead for Zero Possum project

Nick Heslop, Towards Predator-Free Taranaki programme lead

All we want for Christmas is to get to zero possums.... oh, and maybe some sunshine!

Towards Predator-Free Taranaki doubled the size of our Zero Possum project back in February 2023 when we received funding to extend it to the Hangatāhua (Stony) River. We've since removed more than 3,500 possums from the extension block and we're now down to the last wily possums. Our goal over the next few months is simple; track them down, remove them from the landscape and ensure that none come back into the areas we have cleared of possum populations. We're using detection dogs to sniff out the possum scat (poo) and follow up with night shooting and targeted traps. It would be great to get to zero (or close to it) by the end of summer. We are also checking potential incursion points along the Hangatāhua and making sure we strengthen defences at those locations. We're

also planning to complete the 3km farmland barrier of self-reporting cameras on farmland southeast of the Kaitake Range, which has been on hiatus during calving season.

We mean it when we say this couldn't have happened without the support of the coastal community. Farmers have let us come and go as needed — on a couple of properties we've removed up to 200 possums so they have got to know our mugs pretty well! People in and around Ōākura and Ōkato are trapping in their backyards and on their properties, as well as maintaining trap lines in reserves and parks. It's a true community effort, with groups such as Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust, Taranaki Mounga Project, Taranaki Kiwi Trust and others doing stellar work in the community, on the maunga and Kaitake Range. A special shout out to schools who have enthusiastically embraced trapping and learning around biodiversity and the predator free kaupapa. Tamariki just "get it" and we see plenty of adults getting on board as a result.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. While we will have a couple of weeks off, you can still report possum sightings 24/7 at www.trc.govt.nz/possum. This intel is so valuable to us, please take a few minutes to let us know if you see or hear one. It could just make the difference in getting to zero. See you in 2025!





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Hope you all have a Safe, Fun, and Merry Christmas. All the best for 2025!

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Kaitake Ranges community Trust Update



John Freeman and Murray Dixon

Happy summer! By the time you are reading this you are probably thinking about Christmas, summer, hanging out at the beach and relaxing. Well, the Trust volunteers will get a break from life, but I bet those traps will still be getting checked. Late spring/summer is a super fun time to get out and explore the Kaitake Ranges because it means dry trails, long days, and an abundance of birdlife, especially if early or late in the day.

Over the past little while I've been blown away by the birdlife in the bush and even around home in Ōākura. I recently took a short trip to Colorado to visit family and was shocked at how quiet it was when I went for a walk or stepped outside. Granted, it was autumn, but still the lack of wildlife was very noticeable.

All of our trapping here in the Kaitake Ranges and backyards around the community is making a big difference. Over summer, volunteers will still be checking traps and monitoring kiwi. The Trust volunteers are made up of some people that have been checking traps for many years and some that are new and still learning the ropes. It's great to see that there are always a couple newbies willing to put their hands up and do their part.

Two of the Trust volunteers who truly personify the dedication and passion of many of the volunteers are John Freeman and Murray Dixon who have been checking traps for over four years now. During that time, these two have given up five hours once a month to walk the Wairau Track and a management track that makes a loop. They check about 70 traps on the walk! Some days they will pull out over 30 rats and a few stoats from the traps, but recently they've only found one or two. Over the year these two regular guys have pulled out hundreds of predators from traps in our backyard bush. Fantastic!

The Trust went from a ragtag group of guys maintaining the tracks up Lucy's Gully to a group of 75 volunteers who maintain about 15 trap lines, regularly check over 800 traps, and monitor kiwi. We are always looking for new people to help out with checking traps – no experience required, just a desire to help out and moderate fitness level.

Contact Pete Morgan if you're ready to do your bit at morgpt@xtra.co.nz



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2024 Yr 8

AIMS Games is an interschools sporting competition for year 7 & 8 students.
NPBHS - New Plymouth Boys High School. NPGHS - New Plymouth Girls High School.



Talia Antill

1. Spotswood College
2. I've definitely gained plenty of memories, one of my best was all the basketball games we got to play.

I loved doing kapa haka,

winning athletic categories, school lunches and I just enjoyed the class culture. I will miss all my friends that are going to different high schools. I reckon we have the best teachers out here in Ōmata!

3. To be a Sparky or a music related job. I want to travel the world before I come back to NZ for my job. I want to follow my dreams, enjoy life and continue to play basketball in high school.

Phoenix Ardell



1. Spotswood College
2. One of my lasting memories would definitely be Wellington camp where so many fun times were had and new friendships were made. There are so many academic and

sporting opportunities, in Ruru especially. One of my academic opportunities was the Methanex Year 7/8 maths competition in which my team came second. Another thing was the epro-8 challenge. A few of my favourite sporting events were the Police Competency Test (PCT) challenge, Coastal Athletics Day, basketball and winning the Year 7/8 Boys Volleyball competition. I think we have the best opportunities and teachers at Ōmata School.

3. To be a mechanical engineer or a business analyst.

Cameron Baxter



1. New Plymouth Boys' High School
2. I will always appreciate all of the extra opportunities like Wellington camp, PTC (Police Competency Test) challenge, Epro 8 and

sports teams that we get at Ōmata, especially in Ruru. It is awesome because of the culture, meaning anyone can be friends with anyone. The teachers at Ōmata are actually the best. They are always looking out for everyone and provide the right learning at the right level.

1. What school are you going to in 2025?
2. Highlights/memories of being a student.
3. What are your aspirations for the future?

3. To be an engineer or mechanic of some sort and continue playing basketball and riding motocross.

Mckenna Bray



1. Sacred Heart Girls' College
2. My very best memories of my life are at Wellington camp last year where we travelled around the CBD looking for

little landmarks, when we went to Adrenalin Forest and I went to level 4 - 20 metres in the air, and at Fergs Kayaks rock climbing and rollerblading. I really enjoyed the extra opportunities like PCT, Athletics at Inglewood, AIMS games, the track relay (which my team won), Taranaki cross country, the maths competition, science fair, interschool sports, Te Ara Taiao and so on. I will really miss all my awesome friends and this small school that I have been a student at for 8 years.

3. I want to become some sort of scientist, particularly an astrophysicist.

Mica Clement



1. I am going to be at Home School next year.
2. I loved camp. All the activities were fun. I especially loved Adrenalin Forest. All the trees at Ōmata School are the

perfect climbing trees and I've loved climbing them.

3. I'm not sure what I'd like to do in the future. I am pretty keen to go sky diving and bungy jumping. I am keen to help out in the community and make the world a better place.

Martin Dalgleish



1. Spotswood College
2. I really enjoyed seeing everyone grow in their own ways. This class's personality will always shine bright despite any rocky road

we face. I have a LOT of good memories at Ōmata, thank you teachers and students! Thanks for the camp! That was amazing! And good luck in 2025, year 7s!

3. I feel that I could find a job that will support and encourage others, or something like that, might be fun!



Daisy Denton-Giles

1. New Plymouth Girls' High School
2. Ōmata School is a very safe and welcoming place where you can make friends with anyone. Everyone is so friendly and the class

cultures are all unique. I have made so many happy unforgettable memories like Wellington camp and all of the sporting and academic opportunities like Kid's Lit quiz, Epro 8, interschool sports, Jump Jam, Te Ara Taiao and there were also opportunities to get a lead role in the school production.

3. In the future I want to get a degree to become a surgeon, something medical related or a teacher. I would like to play netball, basketball and volleyball through high school.

Olive Glasgow



1. Sacred Heart Girls' College
2. Some of the best memories were Wellington camp last year, we became so close with each other. Some

of my favourite academic opportunities that I've taken part in this year are the Taranaki Science and Technology Fair, Methanex maths quiz, Science Quiz, EPro8 to name a few. So many sporting opportunities too, including Inter school sports, athletics and lots more. We get to lead movement madness and support the younger children in different ways. In Year six we travelled to Vertical Horizons for three days and did things we would have never done. Every second year we had a campout on the school field where we went for an early morning swim, played spotlight, had a blindfolded bush walk and team building activities. One highlight of camp out in year 7/8 is cooking your own dinner and dessert on an open campfire. Ōmata is so special.

3. I would like to travel the world and get a job. My ideal job would be a teacher or some sort of medical profession.



Amber Haldane

1. NPGHS.
2. The memories at Ōmata School are unforgettable. Everyone is friends in Ruru, boys and girls. All the opportunities are amazing from athletics,

netball, basketball, touch rugby, ripper rugby, PCT challenge to Epro8 and Kids lit quiz. From 3 days and 2 nights at Vertical Horizons to 5 days and 4 nights at Wellington camp. Jump Jam is amazing, leading or just dancing.

3. I want to become a Vet.



Paige Henderson

1. Spotswood College
2. I've created countless, unforgettable memories especially from Wellington Camp.

It was an experience consisting of five action packed days fueled by adrenaline, where anything felt possible. Over the years I've grown close to friends and we built a relationship full of comfort and trust. Together we have achieved so much, whether it was projects like the weaving group, sports competitions or academic milestones. I'm incredibly grateful for all the fun I had. It's shown me that school can be enjoyable and fun, no matter the challenges.

3. I plan to attend university, I'm unsure what I would like to study. For now, I'm focused on enjoying high school and making even more friendships along the way.



Annie Hickson

1. Spotswood College
2. Over the incredible eight years I have spent at Ōmata school I have collected so many memories including fun, laughter

and joy. I am especially grateful for Ruru who has given me many leadership opportunities such as: Te Ara Taiao leader, Kapa Haka leader and a part in the production. Wellington camp was exhausting but honestly incredible. I learnt to open up to so many more people outside of my friend group simply through us all being 20 metres off the ground in trees!

3. I would like to graduate high school and then go to university and study something in health or art. I would like to grow my current hobbies and get into a good netball team at Spotswood College.



Charlie Hill

1. Spotswood College
2. I've collected many memories. Some of them are fun, some of them are academic like when I got the best opportunity

and went to the Taranaki science quiz at

Highlands. At the Wellington camp, I got to hold a press conference with Paige in the Beehive conference hall where they did the Covid announcements and some of us saw Christopher Luxon too! Ōmata School gave me the best six years of my life.

3. I want to be able to move forward with science and look more into my interests with it.



Anakin Hull

1. Spotswood College
2. One of my favourite memories was going to the Wellington camp in 2023. My favourite part was when we

went to the Water Park at night and I hung out with my friends. This made me face my fears by going on the hydroslide and I made a lot of good memories from that experience. I loved playing soccer in Hawera and I loved doing the Police Competency Test which was full of a range of activities. I'll really miss this place.

3. In the future I want to be a highway unit for the Police to help people.



Aylah Hull

1. Spotswood College
2. A favourite memory I experienced was at Wellington camp in 2023. When I first had a go on the flying

foxes, something metal came down from the top and hit me on the head. Also a great experience was being in the 'Rapping Rats' with my friends in 2022. We would spend every lunchtime on the deck making up songs, then presenting them to the school on the climbing wall. I was also in other groups such as a band, another singing group and a fashion walk club. My favourite thing about Ōmata School is being able to hang out with anybody at any time.

3. My future plan is to either be a therapist or a Fashion Designer in Italy.



Aayla James

1. Sacred Heart Girls' College
2. One of the main highlights was at the 2023 Wellington camp. I was afraid to swing on one of the high flying foxes even though

I knew I was safe. I wouldn't move until Ruby came along and pushed me down. Another memory I can think of is when most of the year 8 girls came up with a bunch of different games. Big shout out to our teachers for being really supportive and making learning fun. They always got involved in things and put the last few puzzle pieces together to make Ōmata School what it is today.

3. I plan on going to Porirua for a while so I can train and become a Police Dog Handler. I want to have two German shepherds and travel the world making memories.



Maia Kung

1. Spotswood College
2. One of my favourite memories was Wellington camp because of all the amazing activities. I

also remember how high

I went at Adrenalin Forest. I was very proud of myself and had a great time! I enjoyed the opportunities of playing volleyball and at the tournament last year we came first out of all the year 7s and won the shield.

3. My goal is to become an artist and do painting and maybe on the side be in some productions.



Riley McIntyre

1. Christ's College, Canterbury
2. I remember Wellington camp and how going to bed was really funny because we heard other people

down the hall getting

into trouble for getting up to mischief. I'll remember how it was really easy to make new friends after my Year 8 friends left. It's really awesome how there are so many cool opportunities.

3. During high school I'm going to get into the First XV rugby team and win lots of prizes in rowing. After high school I'm going to go to university to study engineering and mechanics and I'm also going to work my way up the rugby ranks or the rowing ranks until I'm the All Black captain or get a rowing scholarship.



Addi Miller

1. New Plymouth Girls' High School
2. I've been at Ōmata school for five years and it has been one of the most fun-filled and amazing experiences of my life!

I've had so many awesome opportunities and experiences that have left me with long lasting memories. Some of the opportunities include: Te Ara Taiao, Netball, Volleyball, Basketball, Science Fair, Vertical Horizons camp in 5-6, Wellington camp in 7-8, Garden Club, Rippa Rugby, Jump Jam, Kids Lit Quiz, Kapa Haka. One of my absolute favourite memories is going to Wetā Workshops in Wellington when I was on camp. For such a small school Ōmata is so great and I will never forget the amazing teachers and friends.

3. I'm not 100% sure on what I would like to be doing as a career when I'm older but I really hope that I'm doing something meaningful. I just want to be happy.



Hadlee Munro

1. New Plymouth Girls' High School
2. I remember starting Ōmata School and walking through the orchard and having all of these girls wanting to be friends with me. I've

had many sporting opportunities at Ōmata like: Rippa, Touch, Netball, Basketball (our team made the final), PCT, Science Fair, Jump Jam, Cross Country. I will always remember the amazing teachers, and the amazing bonus with all the younger kids. I will definitely remember how competitive our game of Jail was in Ruru and Vertical Horizon Camp when I said I was going to pack my bags at 3am!!

3. I would really like to be a year 0-1 teacher.



Ella Murphy

1. Spotswood College
2. I will always remember and love playing Jail with messy mixed teams, which was always fun. I have

always loved playing Taniwha with all my friends on both top and bottom courts. In year 7, I got into the PCT team at the TSB Stadium where we did some challenging physical activities.

3. I want to try and get better at basketball and make more Taranaki teams. I want to follow my dreams in basketball and try for the WNBA.



Liam Prestidge

1. New Plymouth Boys' High School
2. My favourite parts were all of the opportunities both for Academic and Sports such as the Kids Lit Quiz, E-pro

8, Taranaki Science and Technology fair, PCT challenge, interschool sports and Volleyball tournaments. Aside from the out of school events there have also been school run events for people to take part in like: Jump jam, Te Ara Taiao, Weaving in Waitara with Karen Clark. One of the best highlights was the Wellington camp. It has been absolutely amazing being an Ōmata School student.

3. Being an Electrical Engineer. Attending Massey University in Palmerston North.



Kaira Rangi

1. Spotswood College
2. I will always remember having the best time, going to camp in Wellington, hanging out with my friends

and playing Jail with my class. I have loved playing volleyball with my team. Being at Ōmata School has been the best two years and the best school I've been to, I've made so many memories with my teachers and friends. I love how much

time I've had with my teachers. I love having Jan as our music teacher and learning new things with her. I would even love to stay back another year so I can go back to Wellington camp again. Most of all I loved all the opportunities that I had at Ōmata.



Tara Reynolds

1. New Plymouth Girls' High School
2. One of the many memories that I will always have and cherish is playing jail most afternoons. Another

favourite is Wellington camp. I really enjoyed the Adrenaline Forest course. I remember getting stuck on the giant flying fox. I was terrified even though I knew I was safe and Mrs Glasgow said she would film me but I had to jump. Then she said "3...2...1..." and I jumped and I ended up loving it. I'm going to miss all my year 7 friends and my teachers so much. Out of all the schools I've been to, Ōmata has been my all time favourite. I've made a lot of nice, caring friends. I've enjoyed all the opportunities like being a part of the Te Ara Taiao and the Kapa Haka Rōpū. Thank you.

3. When I am older I would like to be an architect. I absolutely love the idea of designing houses and outdoor spaces.



Colton Simons

1. Spotswood College
2. I will always remember how we took every game we played so seriously, especially boys vs girls.

Wellington camp was my favourite camp because every day was packed with fun stuff like Adrenalin Forest, the hydro slide at the swimming pool and even the catered dinner. The PCT challenge was one of my highlights because I got to try something new.

3. I would love to be a police dog handler for the New Zealand Police Force; if not I would be a deep sea fishing deckhand.



Tyler Tate

1. Spotswood College
2. My years in Ōmata have been so special with all the opportunities we've had and all the friends we made.

My best memories are all the places we've gone: the swimming pool, the beach, tournaments such as the football tournament when we got into the semifinals, the volleyball tournament that the boys won. I think the best memory is when we went to Wellington, having lots of fun doing activities like rock climbing, roller skating, swimming and walking around Wellington City looking for landmarks and buying food.

3. When I'm older I want to be a chef cooking for heaps of amazing people.



Annika Valk

1. Spotswood College
2. The teacher aides helping me and making my learning enjoyable.
3. Doing what I love and helping humans and animals and living in the

Netherlands.



Archie Widdicombe

1. New Plymouth Boys' High School.
2. Some of the main highlights have been Wellington camp, Adrenalin Forest and run revolution. I enjoyed all the extra

opportunities that I've had like volleyball tournaments, Epro8, PCT and weaving in Waitara. I will miss the class culture that we have in Ruru and the teachers pushing you to your limit. Ōmata School extended my learning.

3. I hope to go to University and get degrees in some area of engineering or whatever I want to do in the future. To get into a top team at NPBHS.



Emily Widdowson

1. Boarding at Sacred Heart
2. I have so many memories at Ōmata. Some of my favourites are Wellington camp and we had so much fun on the bus. Volleyball I

will carry on into high school and keep getting better at it. My friends are so positive and fun to be around so I enjoy school that much more. Exciting opportunities like Te Ara Taiao, ripper rugby, Inter school, Epro8, weaving in Waitara ... I am so grateful for these AMAZING chances that will stay memories.

3. I'm very passionate about being a marine biologist and going to Uni to specialise in sharks.



Hall of Design has always been more than just a gallery; it has been a space where creativity, inspiration, and collaboration have come together, in the heart of Ōākura.

Gallery Owner/Director, Jennie Aitken-Hall shares, "Over the past five years, our gallery has played host to incredible artworks, late-night installations, unforgettable opening events, and so many moments of inspiration and pride. Now, as we embrace new opportunities, the time has come to say farewell to this cherished space with one final celebratory exhibition."

"We have loved sharing art with our wonderful community, in this welcoming space. While it's always hard to let go of

something so special, this is a decision filled with excitement, as we look to the future. Hall of Design isn't closing - just the gallery space. We're evolving to focus on new projects and aspirations."

THE FINAL EXHIBITION

SUNDAY, 8, to SATURDAY, 21 DECEMBER

To celebrate the gallery's success, Hall of Design is thrilled to announce a very special exhibition, *One More Time*. This encore event will feature works from the extraordinary artists who have exhibited with Hall of Design over the years. These artists are not just collaborators, but also friends; Jennie and her husband Grant Aitken, have valued the moments spent discussing the work of these artists, understanding their creative processes, and connecting them with art enthusiasts and collectors.

When asked to be part of this final show, every artist was eager to join. It's a heartfelt tribute to the creativity and collaboration that has made Hall of Design such a vibrant part of the Ōākura community.

FEATURED ARTISTS:

- Jordan Barnes
- Alana Clarke
- Elliot Collins
- Graham Kirk
- Peter Lambert
- Brooke Lean
- Abbey Looker
- Vicky Lord
- Anneke Moore
- Paul Rangiwhia
- Maryanne Shearman
- John Shewry

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HALL OF DESIGN?

While the gallery doors will close after *One More Time*, Hall of Design continues to thrive, and all design services remain available.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Creative Direction
- Brand Strategy and Design
- Environmental Graphic Design
- Spatial Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Publication/Book Design
- Curatorial Services
- Project Management

Jennie says, "As the team at Hall of Design embark on new ventures, we remain dedicated to delivering creative and innovative strategies and designs, and we will continue to support our clients in new and meaningful ways."

www.hallofdesign.co.nz

FOR SALE

STUDIO/CONTAINER WITH LAND LEASE AND CONSENTS

The studio/gallery building with land lease is now for sale, offering an exciting opportunity for the space to transform and continue to inspire.

Enquiries to: info@hallofdesign.co.nz



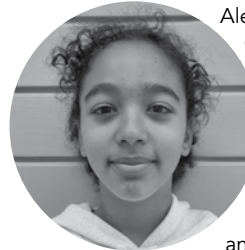


Ōākura School 2024 Yr 8

School Leavers Profiles

By Bode Poulton and Sadhbh Treacy Wolnik

*AIMS Games is an interschools sporting competition for year 7 & 8 students.
NPBHS - New Plymouth Boys High School. NPGHS - New Plymouth Girls High School.*



Alessia Albamonte is going to NPGHS and she is looking forward to learning new things. Her highlight from year 7 and 8 was Camp Wellington. She enjoyed the activities and hanging out with friends. Alessia's leadership role in 2024 was student mentor. When Alessia's older she wants to be a zookeeper.



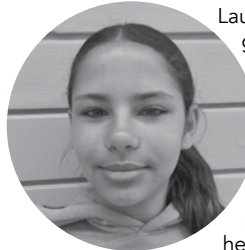
Amelia Ander is heading off to NPGHS in 2025. She is looking forward to having a variety of different teachers. She enjoyed tech at Devon and Camp Wellington because she found it fun and learned new things. Amelia was a sports leader in year 8.



Nate Down is going to NPBHS. He is very excited to make new friends and have more sporting opportunities. His highlight of year 7 and 8 was Camp Wellington. He found that he enjoyed the activities. He was a sport's leader this year and his advice for people is to take every sporting opportunity there is. Nate wants to be a professional rugby player when he's older.



Evie Fenning is excited to go to NPGHS because it's a bigger school with more people, you can make new friends and have more opportunities. She loved doing sports in her last year of Oakura. Evie was a sports leader this year. Evie wants to be a McDonalds worker or a veterinarian doctor for bigger animals such as horses, cows and even safari animals. Her motivational words are "don't drop out of high school".



Lauren Gammon is going to NPGHS because that's where her older sister went. Although coming late to Oakura her highlight was playing games with her class. She works on the Oakura Post as part of her leadership role. Lauren wants to be a lawyer when she is an adult. Her advice is to not be mean but be funny-mean.



Ella Long is going to be a year 9 at NPGHS in 2025. She's excited to be with her friends again at school. Her highlight in her year 7&8 was camp Wellington because it was her first time in Wellington and it was a good experience. She was a sports leader this year.



Lacey Peacock is off to NPGHS. She is looking forward to making new friends and learning new subjects. Lacey loved Camp Wellington because she got to do ziplining. She also liked Aims Games because she got to go on holiday to play netball and she loves netball. Lacey was a Wairau house leader. Lacey wants to be a GK in the Silver Ferns netball team one day.



Ana Shlosberg is heading off to NPGHS next year. Her highlights of year 7&8 are Camp Wellington and AIMS games. She enjoyed doing stuff that she didn't usually do in Wellington and she enjoyed getting to bond with her netball team mates. She was a head pupil in 2024. Ana's piece of advice was to try everything and put 100% into it.



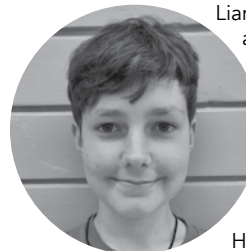
Lyla Termath is going to NPGHS next year. She is looking forward to the variety of subjects and meeting new people. Her highlight of this year was Aims Games in Tauranga. Her reason being she loved playing netball. In Lyla's last year of Oakura School she was a head pupil.



Josh Walbank is going to Spotswood in 2025. He's looking forward to making a motorbike Spotswood. His highlight was Camp Wellington. He liked seeing a leopard at the zoo. Josh was an art leader this year and in the future he wants to be an architect.



Jimmy Winsloe is going to NPBHS. He is excited for the sporting opportunities and seeing his mates. Jimmy really enjoyed Camp Wellington. He liked how he was off school doing fun things with his friends. Jimmy was a sports leader for 2025. In the future he would like to become a farmer or a lawyer.



Liam Kilian is going to a high school all the way in Texas so he's not quite sure what high school he is heading to just yet. His highlight of his senior years was Camp Wellington. He liked the idea of sleeping in a cabin with friends. Liam was an envirokura leader.



Ziv Carmi is going to be a junior at Spotswood College in 2025. She is excited for the fresh start of joining a new big school. Her highlight of year 7&8 was this year's production. She loved production because she got a lead role and she found it fun to try something new. Ziv enjoyed being a manakura leader. When Ziv grows up she would like to be an interior designer.



Madison Chapman is going to Spotswood College. She is excited for the wider variety of classes. Her highlight of year 8 was the observational drawing. She liked this because she felt challenged and won first place. Maddie has participated in our community by being an art leader and has helped make the backdrop for the production.



Ethan Gammon is going to Boys' High. He likes the class options and he likes that he is going to be with his friends. Ethan has only been here for 2 terms but in that time he really liked meeting new people. He was a sports leader. He is looking forward to growing up so he can be a model, tax lawyer or a dentist.



Tom Hale is heading off to NPBHS in 2025. Tom's highlight of intermediate was this year's AIMS games. He liked it because the competition was good and he got to spend the whole week with his friends which was very enjoyable. Tom was a sports leader and he is going to be a professional football player when he is old enough.



Neveah Hooper is going to Spotswood College 2025. He's looking forward to seeing some old friends from last year. His highlight was generally being a year 7 because it was all a new and exciting space. Neveah was an ICT leader when he was a year 8.



Matilda Kitson is going to NPGHS next year. Having a timetable, catching the bus and performing in the school play next year for Girls' High are some things that Matilda is excited for next year. Her highlight at Oakura School was camp Wellington. She enjoyed doing lots of activities and hanging out with her friends every day. Matilda also loved doing the projects as an art leader. Matilda would like to be in the music industry and start up her own salon. Matilda has a quote that she would like to share: "It does not matter if you are liked by everyone because you won't like everyone."



Max Looney is going on a new adventure at NPBHS. He's excited for the sports and learning opportunities Boys' High has to offer. His highlight was going up to Aims Games and competing for Oakura School as the vice captain in football. Max spent his time in Year 8 as a sport leader. Max wants to excel and be an engineer when he's older. His advice for everyone is to work hard to succeed because you will always get a good outcome.



Bode Poulton is excited to start his new year at Spotswood College. He is most excited for the new environment that he will be learning in. His highlight at school was going on a 5 day trip to Camp Wellington. He found that going to Camp Wellington helped make deeper connections with his friends. He helped do team events as a house leader. When Bode is older he wants to be an architect or a forensic scientist, he also says to focus on school and be kind.



In 2025 Rhema Shearman is going to Spotswood. She says that meeting new people is something that she is excited for. As a lead role in production Rhema really enjoyed doing stuff away from class and got to do things that she found fun. Rhema was a Manukura leader, which involved leading Kapa Haka and doing art projects, and that's only a few things she did for our Kura. She says that "The hardest hikes lead to the best views".



Lyla Sheffield is going to spend the next 5 years at NPGHS. She thinks the new change and opportunities will be good for her learning. Her favourite moment of year 8 was production. She found being a lead role fun and a new challenge to take on. Lyla has worked on being an art leader this past year at Oakura. She wants to learn to be an architect.



Angus Thorp will be headed to NPBHS in a few months. Angus says that he is quite excited for the variety of subjects. Camp Wellington was his favourite thing of year 7 & 8. It was his fav because of the activities, especially the Adrenaline Forest. Angus was a proud leader of Matekai house. He says to take every chance you get.



Sadbh Treacy Wolnik will be a year 9 student in 2025 at Spotswood College. Making friends, learning new stuff and having a fresh start are exciting things for high school. Her favourite thing in the two last years of Oakura school was AIMS games. Sadhbh loved bonding with her teammates and socialising. Sadhbh enjoyed helping the school house Patuha like making chants and school activities. She wants to be a teacher in the future and help people who are struggling.



George Webber is going to Boys' High next year. He is excited for the sports opportunities and going on school trips. George loved the Adrenaline Forest at Camp Wellington. He liked being a sports leader this year.



Josiah Wiggins is going to Spotswood for year 9. He's excited for the sports. He liked being part of the Inter-school rugby tournament and representing Oakura school. Josiah was a sports leader for the last term.



Luke Barrett is heading off to NPBHS next year. He says that he's super excited for the ADP (Athlete Development Programme). He liked AIMS games where he competed in his favourite sport, tennis. Luke was a sports leader in 2024.



Jane Willetts is going on an adventure to NPGHS. She is one of the lead roles in the production for Girls' High next year so she is very excited for that. In the last two years of Oakura School her highlight was the production because she got time out of class and she improved her acting skills. Jane was a leader of art doing many projects for her school.



Lucas Hanson is starting the new year at NPBHS. He is excited because he is going to board at Boys' High. He most enjoyed Camp Wellington as a senior because he found it lots of fun hanging out with friends. Lucas spent his time as one of the most important roles, a head pupil. When Lucas is older he wants to spend his time as a farmer.



Marley Gonzalez Prado is going on a new adventure to NPGHS. She is excited to meet new friends in a new environment. Her highlight at Oakura School was chilling with her friends at lunch times. Marley was a media leader. Marley wants to be a flight attendant when she is older.



Brennan Leach is excited for a new sports adventure when he leaves to NPBHS. He loved staying in a house with his friends for a whole week playing football for Aims Games. Brennan was a head pupil in 2024.



Thomas Martin is going to NPBHS next year, 2025. He's excited for the rugby that Boys' High has to offer. His highlight was Inter-school rugby. He liked it because they improved over time and he felt that they were very good. He was a sports leader in year 8. He wants to go to France and play rugby then come back to NZ and become a lawyer. He says that if you ever get knocked down, get right back up.



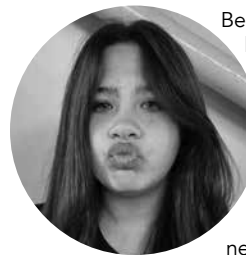
Aidan Peacock is excited for the new year as he is going to NPBHS. He is excited for ADP (athlete development program). His highlight of 2024 was Inter-school because he got to play rugby which he enjoys. Aidan was a sports leader which he liked because he is particularly sporty.



Ruby Peacock is going to go to Girls' High next year. She is very excited to continue her journey with her friends. Her highlight was this year's Aims Games, where she enjoyed being with her friends and playing sports. She spent a good amount of time as a sports leader. When she's older Ruby wants to do anything to do with sports.



Nixon White will be attending Boys' High for 2025. He is ready and excited for the sporting opportunities that NPBHS has to offer. Nixon's highlight for year 7 & 8 was Camp Wellington and Aims games. Nixon especially enjoyed Camp Wellington because he was around his year 8 mates and got to enjoy many activities with them. He was also a sports leader. When Nixon is older he wants to be a professional rugby player. His advice is to do rippa rugby for Aims Games because you will definitely enjoy it.



Bellah Peters is starting her new year at NPGHS. She is excited to try and make the volleyball team. Her Oakura highlight was Camp Wellington because she slept next to all her friends and enjoyed activities with them. Bellah was a media leader in Year 8.



Koa Gillespie is going to NPBHS next year. He is very excited for the surf team Boys' High is offering. Koa's highlight of year 7 & 8 was Camp Wellington, he said he really enjoyed everything there was to do and he can't choose just one of activities. Koa spent his time this year as a sports leader.



Jackson Burnnand is excited for the football season at Boys' High School next year. Jackson's highlight of his Oakura intermediate years was AIMS games because he was away from school for a week competing in football with his friends. He was an ICT leader doing many computer projects as a Year 8.



Lila Watts is going to NPGHS in year 9. The sports sound very exciting for her next year. Her highlight of year 7&8 was our production In Our Hands. She liked it because it was fun and she was able to hang out with her friends that aren't in her class. Lila also enjoyed working with little kids as a student mentor.

Tran Lawrence: The latest segment in an adventurous life.



You used to live in Ōākura. How long did you live here and when did you leave?

My wife Belinda, now going by the name of Rose, and I lived in Ōākura for over 20 years. Without a doubt, there's no better spot to raise a family than in Ōākura. We started our business Taranaki Outdoor Adventures, raised our three children there, and made a lot of friends.

Ōākura was always a special place for us as all our kids went to school there. We were involved with playcentre and I volunteered with the Fire Brigade for many years.

We have since sold our lovely home and started to follow our love of travel.

What have you been doing since then?

Lots of different stuff. I did some research expeditions with NIWA on their vessels to the Auckland Islands, helping out with deploying underwater cameras, fish surveys and even retrieving tsunami buoys off the coast of the South Island for the Bureau of Meteorology.

I was also fortunate enough to spend some time in the Fiordland around Dusky Sound as a photographer and crew for the business Pure Salt.

In 2022 I got a job as an underwater photographer in Rarotonga, Cook Islands for six months. That opened my eyes to some amazing job opportunities out there.

While in Rarotonga more recently, I was contacted by a resort to help out in Tonga. They were short a skipper for the whale watching season. This worked out really well as I had always wanted to learn more about whales, first hand rather than from a book. It would be a great opportunity to learn about whales so said I said "yes!" We ended up on a remote island called Uoleva in the Ha'apai group (a part of Tonga) for two months.

I was both skipper and photographer and got to learn a lot about whale behaviour and also about people and the way they wanted to swim with whales. Some people had swimming with whales on their bucket list; they had always wanted to swim with whales. Those people often cried through their masks when they got in the water. It is, without a doubt, an amazing, life changing, and for many a spiritual experience.



You and Rose recently came for a visit to Ōākura. How was that?

It was lovely to come back and catch up with friends. It was different - a lot more coffee joints - but the people were just as wonderful as ever. The weather was good and I was able to go for some dives.

An interesting part of coming back to Ōākura — we thought that stage of our lives was over but we felt connected and now think of returning

later in life because we have so much history and know about the place and the people.

What's next for you?

We're empty nesters so for now we want to travel and learn as much as we can.

We are off to Borneo in a couple of weeks and plan to see orangutans and visit the rain forest before traveling up through South East Asia. I want to go back to the refugee camp in Malaysia where I spent two years with my family when I were about 3-4 years old. It's meant to be one of the top dive locations of the world now. For me it's more about just completing that circle. After Malaysia we'll slowly make our way through to Viet Nam and visit family there.

I know you have an interesting story about coming to NZ as a refugee from Viet Nam. That's not for this article and it's been written before. How can our readers find out about that?

Stuff article, January 24, 2017: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/88685735/30-years-after-his-astonishing-journey-to-NZ-refugee-Tran-Lawrence-is-finally-happy-in-his-own-skin>

Just google Tran Lawrence

Can we view some of the underwater photography you've become known for?

My website: www.oceanprotagonist.com

Also facebook and Instagram: [oceanprotagonist](#)

Elayne Kessler



This is the 50th issue of the Ōākura Post - TOP!

I'm excited to share the milestone with you all.

I do commend all the generous community minded people responsible for its longevity and continued success. May you have a wonderful holiday season and get some time to reflect on the memories you have made for yourself and for others. See you back here with the February 2025 edition. **Tracey**



Emily

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REALTY

The Bach on Surf Highway 45

A Conversation With Victor Higgins about Legacy, Community, and Culinary Excellence

You've been open for four months at the Baby Bach in Ōākura. How's it going?

Victor: It's been wonderful welcoming regulars and meeting new people. For me, it feels like coming home. I've come full circle from starting my journey at The Bach on Breakwater to Lemonwood Eatery, and I missed the familiar faces and the vibrant energy of the village when Lemonwood closed.

Why is the Ōākura location called the "Baby Bach"?

Victor: The name reflects its relationship with the original Bach on Breakwater. The Bach will be 18 years old this year, it was the culture and the food that gave birth to the second branch The Bach on Surf Highway—it's like the "mother" that supports the "baby" and so the nicknames "Mother Bach" and "Baby Bach" just felt natural.

How did your journey with The Bach on Breakwater begin?

Victor: I met Rahul, the owner, over seven years ago when he was a chef in Auckland. He moved to New Plymouth to become head chef at The Bach and invited me to join him as

the maître d for evening service. It was an easy decision because Rahul is a good friend, he's incredibly passionate about food, his staff and supporting our local community.

What was the inspiration behind opening a second Bach in Ōākura?

Victor: We've always been sentimental about places and people and we wanted to expand to cater to our growing customer base, but for me, it was also about returning to a special community. This café feels more intimate, with spaces that flow beautifully between indoor and outdoor seating. There's a spot for everyone, and people can enjoy their meals or coffee without feeling rushed.

Tell us about the food at The Bach. What makes it special?

Victor: We are very serious about the quality of our food. We want the Bach to be a café that's value for money for the community. Almost everything is made in-house, from sauces and relishes to cakes and slices. We cater to a variety of dietary requirements and our menu has remained consistent for 18 years and now includes a variety of seafood options, which

are incredibly popular. Our top dishes include the Pesto Pile Up, Fresh Fish, and Brunch Stack. We've also ensured all our lunch options are available as takeaways, which customers appreciate.

How has The Bach contributed to the community?

Victor: We believe in giving back to the community. During the COVID pandemic, we provided \$5 meals to essential workers and have since donated thousands of vouchers to hospital staff, \$10,000 to Marfell School, and \$3,000 to Napier during the floods. Rahul's generosity and community focus earned him the title of New Zealand Citizen of the Year for Taranaki.

What's Rahul's vision for The Bach's future?

Victor: Rahul dreams of expanding The Bach across Taranaki to give loyal senior staff opportunities to transition into ownership roles. He wants to help them achieve the lives they've always dreamed of—just as The Bach has done for him.

Any final thoughts about what makes Baby Bach unique?

Victor: We love its smaller scale and the cozy vibe it offers. It's a place where people can relax and take their time, enjoying delicious food, great coffee or even a glass of wine! That sense of comfort and community is what makes Baby Bach—and The Bach as a whole—so special.



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Stories of the Past

As shared by Len Jury

Omata Berridge Lady Laughs Last!

WILY WOOLLY WOWSER WHEEDLES WEAK WOMEN. (Brisbane edition of Truth, 1914).

The Berridge family arrived at New Plymouth in 1852 and purchased 77 ½ acres at Ōmata, located between Hurford Rd and Sealy Rd. By 1855 John Berridge was a Commissioner for the Sixth District Roads area which included Ōmata and Tapuae. In 1862 he was elected without opposition to the Taranaki Provincial Council as a member for Ōmata. William, with his father John purchased four more properties but by 1879 New Zealand was suffering a severe economic depression. Returns for farm products fell by 23% between 1874 to 1880. The Berridges, unable to pay interest due on their mortgages, were forced into bankruptcy.

In 1903 Clara Berridge, after her bankrupt husband William Berridge's death, later married a bigamist calling himself Benjamin Enroth. The family home in New Plymouth "The Grange" was on a large section below Parker's Gardens, a popular visitors' destination 1950 – 1960s famed for their outstanding Begonias.



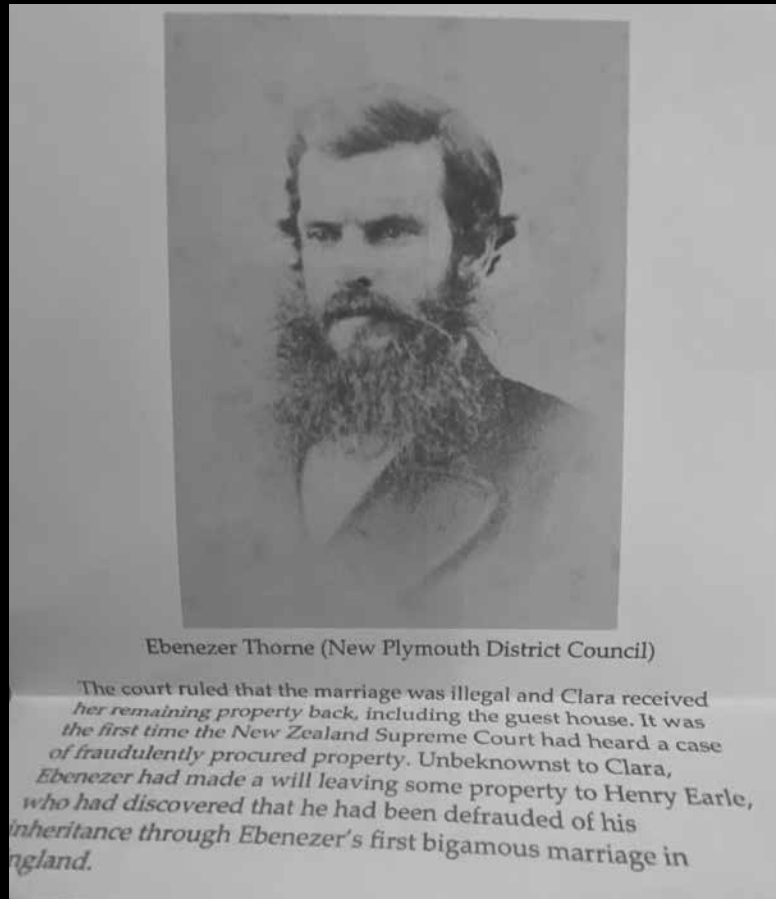
The Berridge family. Rear: Arthur Berridge, Katy Berridge, May Berridge, William Berridge Jr, Nellie Berridge. Front: John Berridge, Clara Berridge, Norman Berridge & William Berridge Snr.

As William had died a bankrupt, she rented a house and following the death of her mother in 1894 she used her inheritance as part of the purchase money along with a mortgage to buy it. She ran the house as a boarding house and provided some nursing services as well.

In 1906 Benjamin Enroth was one of her boarders and has a very colourful history. He was born in Devon, emigrated to Queensland and became a public figure in Brisbane - also a wheeler, dealer, author and embezzler.

His true name, Ebenezar Thorne, first married Kate Hooppell in 1872 in Plymouth, Devon and they emigrated to Brisbane in 1875. Kate died 1892. Thorne was very active in city affairs and named the Brisbane suburb, Carina, for their daughter Kate.

Kate became a talented chemist and invented an apparatus, a micro-meter to treat tuberculosis. Interestingly, Kate used asbestos as the distilling agent!



Above picture from court files at New Plymouth District Council. Pukeariki now hold these files

In 1893 Thorne married Sarah Mahood. Deserting her in 1903 he travelled to England to promote one of his books. He bigamously married a rich widow in Exeter, Devon in 1904. She died in 1906 without making a will. Her estate was estimated about £10,000. Taking as much of this as possible, he left England. It is at this point Ebenezar Thorne changed his name to Benjamin Enroth to escape detection by the widow's son who had been deprived of his inheritance. Enroth an anagram of Thorne.

Enroth was a very persuasive man. A quick read of a passage in one of his books proves this beyond doubt.

Then it was to New Plymouth to take up residence with Omata's Clara Berridge at her boarding House. After Clara declined a marriage proposal, he left but soon after returned and he bigamously married her in 1907. Clara, unaware of the situation or his past, transferred her property to Enroth, but he died in 1911, leaving Clara a life annuity and the property equally to his daughter, Kate in Sydney and his stepson in Exeter, Devon who was pursuing him for his inheritance.

Subsequently there was a Supreme Court case in 1914. Clara sued the Public Trustee and successfully regained her property. This was New Zealand's first court case of acquiring property by fraudulent means.

The Brisbane edition of 'Truth' followed the daily proceedings using headlines such as Thorne's Turpitudes - Matrimonial Masterman's Mendacity.

Thus Omata's, Clara Berridge, had the last laugh.

NOTE: Thanks to Philip Duke and Puke Arika for most of the material for 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. 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: taranakitachichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School - Ōākura Hall

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

Tataraimaka Hall

5 Elements Fitness Bootcamps and Kickboxing Fitness classes

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

Gymnastics Group for children - 5-7 yrs

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

Okato

Okato Community Church meeting

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

Okato and District Historical Society

Meg Cardiff 752 4566

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

Okato Squash Club - Monday nights from 6.30pm. All welcome. Ladies morning 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, 3-4:30pm

Ōkato Tennis Club

okatotennis@gmail.com

TOP Information

The Ōākura Post

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

Advertising:

advertising@theoakurapost.co.nz

Design/Layout: Emily Bennett

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