

the Ōākura Post

FEBRUARY 2025

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Pictured: Rick Christiansen competes in the 10th Anniversary
Mike Christiansen Memorial Longboard Competition.

Summer Vibes and Perfect Waves Await

Happy New Year from Oakura Boardriders

As we welcome 2025, the Oakura Boardriders Club is buzzing with summer energy, good vibes, and the promise of epic surf sessions ahead. With warm waters, sunny skies, and the rhythm of waves at our doorstep, this is the perfect time to celebrate surfing and community at Ōākura Beach.

10th Anniversary Mike Christiansen Memorial Longboard Competition

The 10th Annual Mike Christiansen Memorial Longboard Competition lit up Ōākura Beach on Saturday, 30th November 2024 with over 50 competitors, male and female aged 16 and above, showcasing their skills on the waves.

Under a brilliant sunny sky with glassy offshore conditions providing the perfect canvas for longboarding, the event celebrated the spirit of community and camaraderie that defines surfing at Ōākura. The day was a fitting tribute to Mike Christiansen, whose passion for the sport and local beach culture continues to inspire.

Surfers blended grace and athleticism in a display that left spectators in awe. Simon Deken emerged victorious, claiming the top spot in a thrilling final that highlighted his skill, style and deep connection to the waves.

The event's success was made possible by the generous support of sponsors Glen Johns Kitchens, Luke Florence Builders, and Energy NDT (Jono Watts). Thank you for helping us honour Mike's legacy and keep the stoke alive.

A Big Thanks to NZ Community Trust

We're thrilled to announce that thanks to NZ Community Trust's generous \$10,000 grant, we've upgraded our stock of surfboards! These new boards are available for lessons and for members to shred at the local break. We couldn't be more excited to share this resource with our community.

Upcoming Events at Oakura Boardriders

Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

- Wahine Wednesdays – Weekly sessions empowering women in the waves.
- 15th Feb – OBC Grom Competition (Under 14 and below).
- 22nd Feb or 15th March – Club Champs (Under 16 to Grandmasters).
- 1st March – Club Champs continuation.

Memberships and club hire are available via our website.


Stay connected and keep up with the latest news and events:

- Website: www.oakuraboardriders.co.nz
- Instagram: @oakuraboardriders
- Facebook: Oakura Boardriders

Thanks for your support, and here's to another incredible year in the water!

OBC Team






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David Macleod
MP for New Plymouth

Welcome to 2025! I hope you managed to spend quality time with your loved ones over the break and took the opportunity to unwind and enjoy summer events and activities. We are very fortunate to live in such a vibrant region. Once again, the Festival of Lights has been an amazing spectacle and we've been spoiled for choice when it comes to live music across the region, including Ōākura. We have had a number of cruise ships visit the region and we can expect more tourists when New Plymouth hosts Americarna, Te Matatini and WOMAD in the next few weeks.

The Government has delivered a funding boost to upgrade critical communication networks for Maritime New Zealand and Coastguard New Zealand, ensuring frontline search and rescue services can save lives and keep Kiwis safe on the water. We are also supporting Coastguard New Zealand in upgrading its critical Very High Frequency (VHF) maritime radio network, replacing outdated infrastructure with modern and reliable technology.

There are positive signs that the economy is recovering. Average mortgage rates are falling, business confidence is rising, and exports in regional New Zealand are growing fast – supporting jobs and incomes across the economy.

Last year, we made tremendous progress – getting on top of inflation, supporting Kiwis with the cost of living through tax relief and FamilyBoost, and bringing a culture of fiscal discipline back to Wellington.

Now we can turn to the next phase – enabling the growth and productivity that New Zealand needs to thrive. As we look ahead, this year will have a priority focus on economic growth and health. Stay tuned for more announcements in the coming weeks.

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.

I look forward to engaging with our community this year and to continue the hard work in Wellington alongside my colleagues. I wish you all a very productive and fruitful year.

Don't forget to be sun and water-safe during these warmer months. Please remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap on those sunnies!

As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz

Follow facebook.com/davidmacleodmp to see when I'm next in Ōākura and for my regular updates from our electorate.

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Either way it's 20k

There is a 20kph speed limit when passing a school bus that is dropping off or picking up children, regardless of which direction you are travelling in.

Kaitake Community Board

On behalf of the Kaitake Community Board we extend our best wishes to everyone for 2025 and we sincerely hope that you got to enjoy a bit of down time over the Xmas/New Year period. After a very long year on the Elected Member front I must confess to have really enjoyed a self-indulgent few weeks of family and personal time.

It has been great during that time to receive a lot of positive feedback regarding various council initiatives that have been put in place within the Kaitake Ward over the past year. Seeing youngsters playing on the basketball half court at the Ōkato Neighbourhood Park, hearing of visitors reading the storyboard signage overlooking the Gairloch wreckage, observing the usage the new seating is getting at the Shearer Reserve, seeing walkers using the partially completed Weld Road Headland Walkway and the positive responses to the mobility friendly changing facilities at the Ōkato Community Swimming Pool tells us that

we are hitting the mark with the projects the KCB has worked to facilitate over the last 12 months.

While there have been the inevitable negative comments like - "Why is the bridge and walkway not finished?", "Why didn't you put in a full basketball court instead of a halfcourt?", "Why hasn't the Council done A, B, C, D, etc. instead of wasting money in these areas?", but on the whole the vast majority seem pretty happy with what has been done, so I am looking forward to seeing what else we can achieve in the lead-up to October local body elections.

On a slightly different tack, by the time this first edition of the new year arrives in your letterboxes most of you will be back at work, or back into your normal routine and the majority of our rangatahi and tamariki will be transitioning from holiday mode into return-to-school mode. It is timely therefore to send out a message to drivers to be careful when out on the road, and to be mindful of school pupils out and about - particularly in the mornings and afternoons.

While driving around when school buses are operating, it appears that many drivers are not aware that there is a 20kph speed limit when passing a school bus that is dropping

off or picking up children, regardless of which direction you are travelling in. It is evident that there is very low general driver awareness of this road rule, and as a result it's not something that motorists look out for. In and around our rohe, on rural roads where the speed limit is 100kph, if you do not slow down when passing a school bus that is dropping off or picking up children there are serious outcomes for those drivers who don't observe the law. You could end up being caught driving up to 80kph over the limit, and that will result in your license being immediately suspended for 28 days, your vehicle being impounded, and you will be looking at a summons to appear in court.

The reason for the need for drivers to slow right down around school buses is to keep children safe, as tragically, failure to do so has had dire consequences over the last 26 years, with 23 children killed and 47 more seriously injured.

So, no matter where you are driving, please ensure that you keep your speed to 20kph whenever you pass a school bus that is picking up or dropping off children, to make sure we don't add to that sobering statistic.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be on the 3rd of March 2025 at 5pm, in the Kaitake Community Sports Hub building at Corbett Park.

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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Wai Warrior

Residential water restrictions are here

The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned until 31 March.
Hand-held hoses may be used on the odds and evens system.

be a
**Wai
Warrior**

Don't waste our water.



Be a Wai Warrior – water restrictions in place

It's time to turn off the sprinklers and irrigation systems with NPDC's Wai Warrior summer water restrictions now in place.

Under the odds-and-evens system, hand-held hoses can be used at odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days and at even-numbered houses on even-numbered days. The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned up to 31 March.

"Summer is when our water use is highest, but our supply rivers are at their lowest. Our treatment plants can produce only so much every day, and we also want to keep as much water as possible in our rivers for the benefit of the environment," says NPDC Manager Three Waters Mark Hall.

"Gardens are where the most domestic water is used in summer and the odds-and-evens system helps ensure there's enough water for everyone, even with our growing population."

New Plymouth District's average daily use has risen a little to around 295L per person, compared to 288L in 2020/21.

"Building good habits around water is about small actions every day, such as turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or cleaning vegetables, or watering gardens only once or twice a week in dry weather," says Mark.

"Little changes can make a big difference."

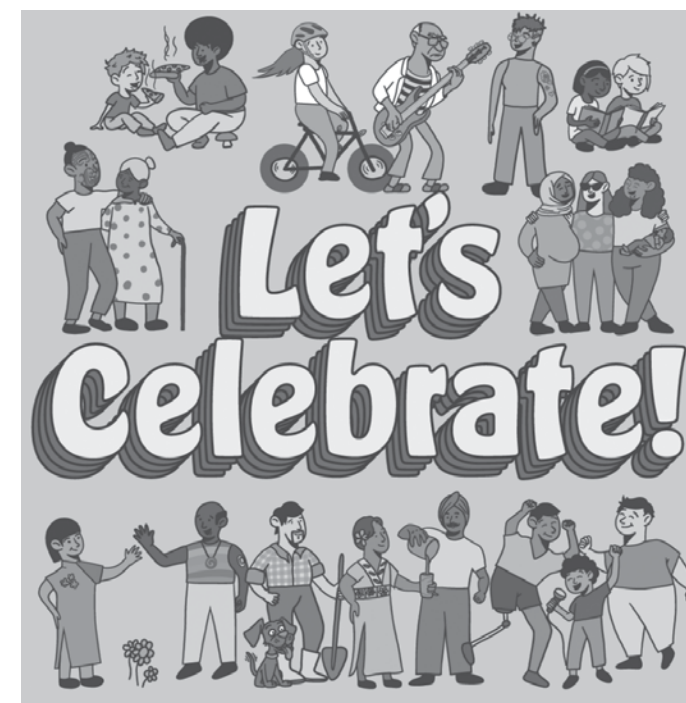
Wai Warrior tips to reduce water use around the home include:

- Water your garden in the early morning or the evening when there is no wind.
- Use a good mulch to reduce evaporation from your garden.
- Take short showers.
- Don't wash down paths and driveways – use a broom instead.
- Use a bucket and sponge rather than a hose to clean your car.

More water-saving tips for in the garden and around the home are on NPDC's website at npdc.govt.nz/WaiWarrior.

Did you know?

- The New Plymouth, Ōākura, Okato and Inglewood water supplies connect to just under 28,000 homes and businesses.
- New Plymouth residents consume about 30 per cent more water per person, per day than the national average



Neighbours Aotearoa SHARING, GROWING, CELEBRATING

We'll be sharing more details and if you're on social media, make sure you're linked up with us on Facebook and Instagram to get all the updates.

Some books we think you'll enjoy this year

Pulitzer Prize winning author Elizabeth Strout's latest novel **Tell me Everything** uses everyday language in dealing with unremarkable characters with seemingly unremarkable lives. Although this novel is about characters from her previous novels it is a standalone read. Her gifted storytelling studies and reveals her characters' inner most thoughts in a compelling way. You'll want to read her previous novels as well.

Another gem is **Remarkably Bright Creature** by Shelby Van Pelt. Although its fantastical premise is a connection between a widow and an octopus at the aquarium where she works, the themes are serious and there are some surprises. It's a simple yet beautiful novel. We loved the characters especially Marcellus, the octopus!

Several Taranaki authors have books new to our shelves:

Noted Taranaki author Airana Ngarewa's **Pātea Boys**.

Taranaki Person of the year Jacqueline Bublitz's latest novel **Leave the Girls Behind**.

Debut picture book, **Gordie's Scary Dream**, by local book lover and avid reader, Irene More, writing under the name of Liz McArthur. A wonderful read aloud about a gorgeous goblin with fun illustrations and a few surprises.

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Bryan Vickery

Kaitake Ngamōtu Ward Councillor





On New Year's Day I shared a coffee with Paul Lobb at Surf N Sip. Paul could be the Mayor of Ōākura. He seems to know everybody and has strong community connections. It was fun watching him talking to dozens of people about the village. He has a great sense of humour and enjoys banter.

He pulled out his smartphone and showed me his conceptual plan for a changing room structure (which would be near the beach) so people don't have to awkwardly get changed into their swimmers in their car. I was impressed with Paul's attention to detail. He knows the village like the back of his hand. He noted with approval a rubbish truck which had arrived to empty the bins, and he knew the state of the public amenities, and which lawns needed mowing.

He drew my attention to several crooked bollards on the grass car parks that face the beach that need straightening and replacing. Paul does pest control in the Kaitake Ranges, and recently he invited me to join him on his trapline. We are fortunate to have Paul on the Kaitake Community Board.

Speaking of remarkable volunteers, Lesley Dowding does a remarkable job bringing the Ōkato community together. I attended her Christmas Eve Carols in St Paul's Church. It was a fun evening. It felt like an episode of the Vicar of Dibley. It was hilarious and the church was packed.

During the break I walked with Julie and Belinda Martin (aka the twins) along the beach to the SS Gairloch shipwreck. We were impressed with the new information board for this shipwreck (courtesy of the KCB), and the good progress being made on the Ahu Ahu Bridge and Walkway.

And finally, bravo to Ukulele Ōākura led by Tony Hansen. Their Xmas gig at Butlers Reef (Dec 14) in front of a rowdy crowd was a hoot. Everyone loved it, and my video of it on the Bryan Vickery Media Facebook page had 7000 views. I love representing the village, and continue to be a strong voice on Council for the Kaitake Community Board.

BRYAN VICKERY | BVmedia
 E: bryanvickerymedia@gmail.com
 M: 027 449 8896
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Lesley Dowding (left) and Meg Cardiff of the Ōkato and Districts Historical Society are in period costume for a recent film I made about a photo installation at the society.

Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Club Championships

Allan Bridgeman won the senior singles championship with a hard-fought victory over Peter Radich in an exciting and high-quality final. Bridgeman's win earned him his 4th senior title in playing outstanding bowls to take the final 21-11.

The junior singles championship was won by Wayne Gray who remained undefeated throughout the round robin tournament. It was great to see several of the club juniors support this event with Sam Sutherland, Barry Watkins and Geoff Farrant all competing in their 1st junior singles championship.

Tim Ryan and Andy Shearer won the pairs championship final with a well-earned victory over Allan Bridgeman and 1st year bowler Barry Watkins. It was an even contest early, but with Shearer playing excellent lead bowls and Ryan chiming in with several, great clutch bowls the duo won comfortably 21-13.

Tim Ryan continued his sensational form to team up with Wayne Gray and Geoff Farrant to

win the triples championship final over a Bruce Jackson skipped duo of Andy Shearer and Ray Haslip. The Ryan trio repelled the gallant Jackson team and held their nerve to take the title in the closest of finishes 20-19.

Club Tournaments

The summer tournaments are well under way with Ōākura currently holding 2nd place in both the Avery and Saturday Shield and running mid-field in in the Gilmour Cup. Well done to selectors Paul Coxhead and Wayne Gray, all the players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working green keepers and those who assist in smooth running on match day.

The Oakura Orcas and Oakura Seals finished a credible mid table in the Saturday Div 1 and Div 2 Pennants competitions. It was a good effort by the club as they face strong opposition each week from Taranaki's best bowlers.

Club News

The Summit Refrigeration Bowls3five tournament was a great success with a full green of 14 teams. The event is a real melting pot with social bowlers, club bowlers, NZ representatives and a sprinkling of interclub teams all enjoying a great day on the green. The trio of Jim Priest, Jimmy Quay and Roy Phillips took line honours, closely followed by a Steve Muller skipped team of Meagan Breedveld, Rod Smith and his visiting grandson Hadley.

Congratulations to Ōākura bowler Kurt Smith in winning the New Zealand open disability pairs final. Smith teamed up with Teri Blackburn to emphatically capture the title 21-15. Smith's confidence will be sky high when he joins his New Zealand team mates for the TransTasman campaign to be played against Australia at the impressive Naenae stadium in Wellington later in February.

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 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 three 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 start organising your team. For further information or to confirm your entry contact Steve Muller - 0211695863.

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A black and white photograph of Emily Bennett, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark top. She is standing outdoors with trees in the background.

Emily

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Accurate Payroll is Important

Payroll can be perceived as being as simple as calculating the hours worked multiplied by the hourly rate and deducting taxes. However, a recent global payroll survey found that more than 40%* of employees have been affected by an error in their pay in the last 12 months, with 18% experiencing at least three mistakes within that same 12-month period.

Accurate payroll is essential for employee well-being, legal compliance, and maintaining your company's reputation. As New Zealand embraces more flexible and variable working arrangements, the complexities of applying the Holidays Act correctly have only grown.

Issues and Their Implications

A poorly thought-out payroll process, inaccurate record keeping, or below-par systems can increase risk of miscalculation, which can lead to unforeseen costs that small businesses can't afford to take. Some common issues include:

- **General Miscalculations:**

Failing to pay the correct hours or neglecting to compensate an employee for a public holiday they are entitled to can result in a complaint to the Employment Relations Authority (ERA). Complaints may trigger a comprehensive investigation into your business, with the ERA reviewing all payroll calculations made under your management. This process can lead to substantial costs, including legal fees, penalties, and the expense of the investigation itself.

- **Incorrect Annual Leave:** A payroll system configured to record only total weekly hours and days worked, rather than the hours worked on each day, will lack the detailed data required to accurately calculate leave entitlements. For example, annual or sick leave calculations are impacted by employees with variable work schedules. This could potentially cause significant issues with systems or record keeping not complex enough to account correctly for it.

- **Incorrect Termination Pay:** An employee's termination pay is a lump sum payment and



Shannon Goodwin

needs to be taxed accordingly. Some payroll systems will do this for you, and some will not. If you do not take the time and care to ensure this is processed correctly, the employee will be taxed incorrectly, potentially leading to animosity towards the business and, at worse, legal action.

Further consequences could also include: Increased scrutiny from Inland Revenue, challenges with employee morale and retention, damage to the business's reputation, as well as personal grievances or other legal disputes raised against the employer.

What Can Prevent this From Happening?

No payroll system is perfect, and they are only as good as the information entered into them; this is why relying solely on your payroll system is a risk you cannot afford to take. The phrase "you get what you pay for" rings true when it comes to payroll too. Investing in a system best suited for your business, comprehensive training on this system and guidance from a professional can save your business from costly errors.

Although implementing a more comprehensive solution may require an upfront investment, the long-term gains in accuracy and compliance significantly outweigh the initial costs and mitigate any risks.

Final Thoughts

As a business owner you often wear many hats, but payroll is one area where specialised knowledge is essential for operation. By building a support network of trained staff

and expert advisors, you can confidently handle payroll challenges. Surrounding yourself with professionals who specialise in payroll can provide crucial guidance on complex scenarios - like applying tax to a one-off bonus - ensuring accuracy and reducing stress with your payroll.

By prioritising payroll accuracy, you not only safeguard your business from potential risks but also build a foundation of trust and loyalty with your team. If you are concerned about any of the above, here are some ways the Payroll Team at Baker Tilly Staples Rodway can help:

- **Payroll Review** - we will review your payroll data for any red flags and things that might need attention.
- **Payroll Support** - we can be available on an as needed basis for those tricky payroll issues that don't happen very often.
- **Payroll Processing** - we can also do full processing for you and take all the stress out of it, and you don't need to worry about it.
- **Payroll Implementations** - if you think your payroll system needs upgrading, we can help you evaluate and migrate to a new system that will best suit your needs.

If you'd like to chat to us about payroll and any issues or queries you have, please Email Shannon (Shannon.goodwin@bakertillysr.nz) for a no obligation chat.

*The Impact of Payroll Mistakes | Global Payroll Report 2024 | Remote

The Val Deakin Dance Studio

Classes for pre-schoolers, children, teens, adults and seniors start from February 10th at the Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street in New Plymouth.

Classes are held in ballet, jazz, tap and contemporary dance for various skill levels. Contact Jane Roseman 027 6940 933 for registration or information.

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Kaitake Golf Club

Hi Everyone,

Saturday 9th November saw the annual match between the Bush vs Beach played out. The centre line of SHW-45 continuing along Devon St in town created the divide between the teams. The outcome was a win to the Bush with an average stableford score of 33.3 vs the Beach's 32.3 points.

The Taranaki Champion of Champions competition was played over two rounds on a fine but breezy day at Westown. Kaitake was represented by Brendan Amos (Intermediate) and James Crighton (Junior). Many thanks to Brodie Ferguson who stepped in at the last minute as the Senior golfer to allow Kaitake to enter the Vin Young team event.

The Kaitake Club Xmas hamper on Saturday 7th Dec, had 74 entries with Alan Crawford

first for the Seniors and D'Angela Squatriti, once again 1st for the Junior men and Angela Hickman first for the Ladies division.

We had the Beachcombers tournament sponsored by Butlers Reef with 110 entries and Kerry Soffe first for the Senior, James Crighton first for the Juniors and Tomoko Higgins first for the Ladies.

TWILIGHT GOLF

Given the success of Kaitake Twilight Golf in 2024, we are excited to announce that the team are inviting you all back in February and March for an enhanced competition - details will follow soon, but meantime the start date is set for Thursday 13th February 2025.

With regards to Sponsorship, a few players from the Pre Xmas Twilight 2024 expressed interest in sponsoring \$100 towards the Weekly Jackpot, so if you are interested please read on.

That \$100 gives your business:

- Naming rights for that week
- Advertising on the weekly flyer

- Social media and email coverage
- Option to fly flags on the day or display vehicles or goods to promote your business
- Not to mention voiced on the day of the competition

We trust you agree that \$100 is great value.

If you would like to discuss options, please either e-mail, text or call James Crighton to express your interest.

E-Mail – jamesecrighton@gmail.com

Cell – 021 810937

CHIPPERS:

The Chippers will resume again at the beginning of Term 1 on Sundays at 3pm. We will inform by Facebook the first Sunday and also if it is cancelled due to weather. You will be more than welcome. Contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

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

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Chutney and Tunes

If you buy a jar of yummy homemade jam or chutney from the little green stand on Dixon Street (and, yes I have and all have been very yummy!) you are helping to support the Taranaki Harmony Chorus, which is a not for profit registered charity. Any standard jam jars you have to spare are also welcome - drop them at the stand. Nothing is wasted and any surplus is shared with other locals doing charitable work in the community. Another Win Win!

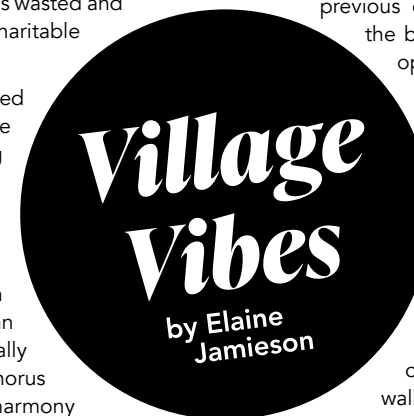
This fundraising idea came from Fy, who wanted to find a way to use up excess garden produce and avoid waste. She is also selling sheep dag wool which makes a great biodegradable weed suppressant and also helps keep gardens hydrated. Funds raised are shared; some go towards sheet music, costumes, coaching fees and flights for the Measure 4 Sound Quartet (a four part harmony group which sings in American Barbershop style). This group competes nationally once a year. In addition, the Taranaki Harmony Chorus loves to encourage women to learn to sing in harmony and welcomes women of all ages and vocal ranges to learn to sing capella - no music reading skills required - you can learn by ear. Members come from all around Taranaki to rehearse together at the Mamaku Centre in Inglewood on Wednesdays at 7pm. If you would like to try this singing group out they are having a 'Come Sing with Us' evening on Wednesday 12th February at 7pm.

Lifesavers

I had a chat with Isla, one of the Ōākura beach paid summer lifeguards. It was a pretty awful day, windy and cold with only a few surfers in the water but the Patrol was still in full swing. Alongside four other part and full time life guards, she has patrolled the beach from Monday to Friday over the school holidays, with the Surf Club volunteers taking care of the weekend patrols. Previously a volunteer lifeguard herself, she says the main focus of her role is prevention - educating people to be aware of the rips on the beach and encouraging people to swim between the flags. Every day the life guards patrolled from 11am to 7pm, with an information board advising beach goers of conditions during those times. She really enjoys her job and says people are generally cooperative, which helps. Thanks Isla and all the other lifeguards, both paid and voluntary, for keeping us safe in the water over the summer.

Simon and Deema, Ōākura's Pharmacists

Simon and Deema have had a whirlwind couple of years since they decided to take over Ōākura's pharmacy. Deema had worked for the previous owner, so when they were given the heads up that the business was coming up for sale, they snapped up the opportunity. Deema was expecting their second child Milan at the time, with toddler Hugo already on the scene. Village life, the beach and the wonderful local school were strong drawcards for the family. After a fair bit of searching they purchased a house in the Village six months ago, so they can now walk to work. Both pharmacists, Simon occasionally swaps roles with Deema and minds the boys, both appreciating a change of roles. Simon says the clientele out here are the nicest he's ever had to deal with, and I said it's great to have a pharmacy where the friendly and obliging staff and owners greet you by name when you walk in the door. Win Win!



Ōākura Crop Swap

Summer is generally a time of abundance in your garden, and what better way to exploit that than to head to Ōākura's Crop Swap? It's held in the 'supper room' of the Ōākura Hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 3-4pm. Adam Harris and John and Di Williamson have been instrumental in resurrecting the Crop Swap initiative in our Village, and are keen to let people know that it's not just about swapping fruit and veg. People bring plants, baking, tins out of the cupboard they won't use and even empty jars that can be useful to people who like to bottle and make chutney and jam. It's all about community gathering and sharing, meeting people who live in our lovely village and sharing bounty. Arrive as near as you can to 3pm with your offering and then everyone participates respectfully and mindfully in the sharing process. Any leftover items go to the Community fruit and veg sharing stand at the Church across the road so there is no waste. What a brilliant addition to Village life. Come along and check it out In February, even if it's just for a look.

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Season in full swing

...Along with summer and a bit of wind.

Thank you to all our voluntary lifeguards for patrolling the beach every weekend. Please help our lifeguards do their job and always swim between the flags.

PATROL HOURS:

- Weekdays from 4:00 pm to 7:30pm.
- Weekend patrols 1:00pm to 5:00pm, until Taranaki Anniversary Weekend.

Join us every Sunday from 4:30 pm for Sunday Sips. Relax with a beer and burger after a hot day at the beach.

Our annual Oceans Camp took place in early January, focusing on team building and the development of surf lifesaving skills. The camp combines fun and challenging training sessions to develop competition strategies, skills and techniques, preparing our young athletes for both lifeguard duties and surf lifesaving sporting events.

The camp's success is thanks to the parents and club members who came together to feed, train, and entertain the Oceans kids. It was a great experience for everyone, filled with hard work, smiles and laughter.

We wrapped up the camp with the Dylan Dunlop-Barrett Eliminator, an intense race that's exhausting to watch. Congratulations to Daisy Lash and Janick Wipper for winning the female and male categories.

Enjoy the rest of the holidays, and remember – always swim between the flags.



Well done Ōākura you've reached a new low point

Now as sarcastic as that title sounds it's actually great news! You have all been doing an incredible job in keeping your homes, your family, and your community safe over 2024. In fact so good that we only recorded around half as many incidents last year than we normally would. This really shows the positive effects of the school firewise programme, the care you take on our busy roads and the watchful eye you keep on our natural environment.

A massive thanks from our crew to yours for a much safer 2024, let's see if we can continue the trend for the upcoming year.

See above infographic for incident figures.

Holli Marshall and Her Love of Horses

"This is such a magical place. In Ōākura you are able to have horses, you can ride to the arena, have a lesson at the arena and then ride to the beach afterwards. Where else in the world can you do that," says Holli Marshall.

Holli has been a professional horseman her whole adult life. Her passion has always been teaching. She has been coaching hunters and jumpers for over 30 years and has been teaching in Taranaki for 18 years.

Holli grew up in California and began riding at a young age. She rode with Scott and Nora King at Banner Farms in Bakersfield, names that mean something to those in serious riding circles. She babysat for their son, Kyle in exchange for riding lessons.

Since 1978, at age 18, she started giving lessons in Southern California. She began a stable that trained hunter and jumper competition horses, and also had a riding lesson programme specialising in preparing riders for competitions. It was long hours of work and much time away from home, so with two young sons at the time she and her then husband moved to Colorado for a simpler way of life.

In Colorado she worked for a family who had four children and 18 horses. In addition to training the children for riding competitions, she was in charge of keeping their horses fit and ready for moving cattle at the family's 40,000 acre ranch.

This enabled a wonderful way of life for Holli's two sons - a life of driving jeeps, fishing, and being active in sport. It was a busy and fun growing up time for them. Still Holli wanted them to know the NZ way of life and

culture that their Kiwi father had known. They moved to Ōākura in 2006, soon after settling in NZ and when the boys were in their teens.

Since moving to NZ she has been teaching kids and adults who usually have their own pony or horse and most have a competitive focus. "I love teaching riders who have a focus towards competition riding. The kids typically start at a riding school, go through pony club, put a horse in their paddock and 'get the bug' to compete. That's when they call me."

Holli is a judge at various riding competitions. "There are a lot of horsey people in this area," she says. "Two Olympians have come from Ōākura, Heelan Tompkins and Mathew Grayling in a Three Day Eventing, and many other highly competitive riders are from this area."

Holli acknowledges that she couldn't make a living solely with her horse work so in 2011 she started the first pet sitting service in Taranaki: Pet Sitting Plus. She visits your pets in their home or paddocks while you are at work or away. The Pet Sitting Plus website provides information on the services provided, the prices and how to contact Holli.

Between teaching, pet sitting and also driving the school bus route from Coastal School to Pungarehu Holli is kept busy and content. She's happy for you to contact her if you're interested in finding out about upcoming horse events. Email holli.petsittingplus@icloud.com or look at the pet sitting website. **See advert on facing page.**

Elayne Kessler

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INTERlaced:

ANIMATION
& Textiles

7 DECEMBER 2024 —
27 April 2025

The first major exhibition dedicated to the reciprocal relationship between animation and textiles. Artists featured in this exhibition explore embroidering with projected light, quilting celluloid films and weaving digital tapestries. The work of renowned experimental animator Len Lye (1901-1980) plays an important connective role in this exhibition. Nesting Len Lye's animated films in a broader field of media artists, Interlaced unfolds the capacity of textile patterns and forms to make visible animating forces and to reanimate intergenerational cultural memory.

Curator: ALLA GADASSIK

IMAGE CREDIT: Jennifer West, *Orange Haze Film Quilt* (2023) (detail). 35 and 70mm filmstrips, inkjet print on clear film, ink, dyes, volcanic ash hand-made dye, permanent marker, moth wing, thread, Plexiglas. 134 x 84cm. © and courtesy the artist

LEN LYE
CENTRE
GOVETT -
BREWSTER
ART
GALLERY



Photo caption From left Mica, Olive, Liam, Paige, Annie, Mckenna and Amber

Congratulations to all our year 8 leaving students, we wish you all the best at your respective high schools in 2025. You will always be 'Ōmata kids', holding a special place in our hearts. We look forward to hearing of your future achievements with pride and interest.

Well done to our 2024 cup winners

Community Cup for Arts and Culture - *Annie Hickson*

Home & School Cup for Sporting Excellence - *Amber Haldane and Mckenna Bray*

Staff Cup for Responsibility - *Liam Prestidge*

Principal's Cup for Leadership - *Olive Glasgow*

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence - *Paige Henderson*

Ōmata School Cup for Environmental Action Kaitiaki Taiao - *Mica Clement*

Coming Up

February

- 4 Term 1 starts
- 6 Waitangi Day
- 11 Y 7/8 Beach Education
- 12 Y 5/6 Beach Education
- 13 Information Evening
- 28 Ōmata Triathlon



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Stories of the Past

As shared by Len Jury



But let Syd Sharpe continue as he was born on the family farm in Koru.

"I was named Syd for my Uncle Sidney, who drowned in the Waikato River a few days after I was born. I was also given the name of my grandfather Malcolm who had died a couple of years before. Dairy farming in the family started in 1898 when at the age of 16 my grandfather James Malcolm (known as Malcolm) went farming at Kahui. He married Constance Grace Ericsson in 1904. The story is told that her father was such a big man, two waistcoats were made into one for him! At the time he was the lighthouse keeper at Cape Egmont. My grandparents purchased their farm on Plymouth Rd around 1920. My father, John Clifford Sharpe (Cliff) born 1913 was the sixth child of twelve. Dad and brothers Reg and much younger Syd worked the land with their father. The main activity during those times was clearing the endless blackberry, fern and ragwort weed. This was mostly done by horse drawn mower, by hand or with a scythe. They raised pigs and sold the weaners at Newton King's saleyards for 9 to 10 shillings each. They had dairy cows and the cream from the milk was sold to the creamery on Koru Rd a short distance from the Kirihaui Road corner. The cream was delivered by horse and cart. Weaner heifers were purchased for £10 (\$20) each. Cows not required were sold to Borthwicks for £1 pound 10/- each.

1921 was a very tough time for my Dad and Mum and family as their home burnt to the ground. It was rebuilt a year later at the cost of £620 pound, the equivalent now of \$92,295. However, inflation to build the same size house today would more likely cost about \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Granny Sharpe (I think) wrote the family diary in which she wrote about growing spuds (potatoes), swedes and parsnips. This was done to break in much of the land and help feed the family of 14. Hay was carted by horse and cart to the haystack. Using hayforks the hay was pitched to the top. There was no electricity, phones or tractors.

Dad married Grace Huffam in 1937 and remained working on the farm. The writing in the diary changed and no mention was made of the tragic deaths of my uncle, grandfather and later my sister Shirley who died at eleven years old from a burst appendix. I was thirteen but didn't attend her funeral and her name was never mentioned again. It was probably just too painful for my Dad and Mum. My brothers Colin and Kevin were born while we lived on Plymouth Road.

The family farm was put up for sale in 1953 after the death of my Granny Sharpe. Dad wanted to buy it but unfortunately, even after all his hard work with his father and brothers, it wasn't to be and was sold out of the family for £900 pound. There followed a communication breakdown between him and his siblings.

After the sale my Dad and Mum worked on the Blakeley Estate dairy farm at Tataraimaka. At fifteen, in 1953, I was removed from school to help on the farm milking 140 cows through an eight aside walk through milking shed. Milking started at 5 am and was usually finished around 7.30 am.

Milk was put into 25 gallon (110 litre approx.) milk cans and rolled on edge of base onto a trailer and taken to the factory by tractor. There were 10 to 12 cans and they were extremely heavy.

Back then farmers needed to be a jack of all trades. You needed to be fit and kept in good health, a problem solver, an engineer, and an animal health expert and there was really no such thing as "Health and Safety", it was called being careful. People did what was required to make a living and to feed their family. This still applies in 2024 but now there is greater communication and education about health and safety and how to look after the environment for the next generation coming through. After all, we are all only caretakers of the land."

The lady pictured above is Syd Sharpe's grandmother when she was a young lady.

From Gretna Green to Koru.

The Horse-Riding School owned by an upper-class gentleman, son of a Church of England minister, is beguiled by a young lady (or was it vice versa) to whom he is giving riding lessons. The affair leads the couple to travel over the border from Grantham, England into Scotland to be married, a true "Gretna Green" marriage. Soon after, they travel to London, board ship and sail to Australia. The "gentleman" left behind his wife and seven children. He wasn't a convict although perhaps he should have been. Paradoxically in Australia today to have a convict in your heritage is akin to having Royal blood. Just before arrival in Tasmania the baby is born. It is about then problems set in.

To have the baby christened the couple had to show they were legally married. The Scottish marriage papers were presented. At that time Australia would not recognise marriages of Scotland if the couple were not of Scotland! No problem, the couple married again in Tasmania. The family later headed to South Australia and settled north of Adelaide. The situation is a little unbelievable as they moved to a sheep station. Sheep stations there can be of many hundreds of hectares or, in some cases, a thousand or more. With such large stations we have a reverse problem. Farms are so large that families are very isolated. Due to this, in some situations, two families could only marry members of the closest family, there was no one else! The next station could be 25 or more kilometres away! A few generations later, the Sharpe family arrived in Koru.

TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings
Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Bowling and Social Club

Bowling tournaments September through to April. Both mid-week and weekend games. Steve Muller 021 169 5863

Dancing in the Dark

Glenys Farrant 027 753 0120

Golf - Practice net. Non members welcome. Clubs and balls can be supplied. \$5.00 WEDNESDAYS. Casual competition for non-members. 8am to 1pm open to everyone. Denise 752 7665

Inferno 45 - Bootcamp fitness

Mon and Wed 6am. All 1 hour sessions. Ōākura Hall. Graeme 021 536 990

Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

JKA Karate - Jim Hoskin 752 7337

Justice of the Peace -

Estella, Anne and Lynn
Ōākura Library Thursdays 10am-12.30pm.

Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

Pete Morgan 027 372 5182
morgpt@xtra.co.nz

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

Morning Talk - coffee group

Thursdays 10-11am at NPOB Surf Club. Free tea/coffee. Tracey Lusk 752 7875

'Move it or Lose it' - Strength and Balance Fitness Classes Ōākura Hall, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am. Contact Gloria Zimmerman 027 284 9111

Mini Groovers - Music Group

All parents welcome with babies/under 5's. Every Tues during term time 10-11am at the Ōākura Hall. Visit their Facebook page: Mini Groovers - Ōākura.

Ōākura Maimoa Club - after school care

Monday to Thursday 3pm to 5.30pm Bookings essential through Facebook @oakuramaimoaclub or by text to 022 323 7210

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

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