

the Ōākura Post

MARCH 2025

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Pictured: Kaitake Ranges
Conservation Trust,
Sian Poitier with her kiwi
detection dog, Kiekie,
on a mission to track down
kiwi on a lovely summer day.



Oakura Boardriders Club Update

Summer at OBC

Summer is at the height of activity and there's no better place to be than at Oakura Boardriders Club! The sun is shining, the waves are pumping, and our surfers are making us proud on the national stage. Whether you're here to compete, improve your skills, or simply enjoy the ocean with friends and family, OBC has something for everyone this season. Read on for the latest updates and upcoming events!

NZ Surf Nationals 2025

Huge congratulations to our OBC surfers for their incredible performances at this year's NZ Surf Nationals!

- **Ariana Shewry** – 3rd Place, Open Women's
- **Tom Butland** – Semi-Finalist, Open Men's
- **Poppy Entwistle** – 4th Place, U18 Women's
- **Nate Florence** – Quarterfinalist, Open Men's
- **Paige Hareb** – Quarterfinalist, Open Women's
- **Thandi Tipene** – Winner, Over 30s & Quarterfinalist, Open Women's
- **Koa Gillespie** – Quarterfinalist, U14 Boys
- **Eli Smith** – Quarterfinalist, Over 30s & Semi-Finalist, Over 40s
- **Bach Tipene** – Semi-Finalist, Over 40s
- **Josh Christopher** – 4th Place, Kneeboarding
- **Roslind McFetridge** – 2nd Place, Women's Over 40s

NZ Billabong Grom Series - Events 1 & 2

The Billabong Grom Series is in full swing! At the Mount, seven young OBC shredders represented the Club. Special shoutout to:

Poppy Entwistle – 4th in U18 Girls - Events 1 & 2

Koa Gillespie Semi-Finalists U14 Boys - Events 1 & 2 and

Ben Dixon – Semi-Finalists U16 Boys Event 1

Friday Nights at OBC

OBC is open every Friday night until the end of daylight saving! Come down with some mates, enjoy a cold one, and grab a delicious burger.

Club Surfing & Junior Club Champs

OBC and Deken Waves, our club surf school, are back for Term 1! Whether you're young or young at heart and keen to shred this summer;

Junior Club Champs – March 15th (with a new U16 Girls division!)

Senior Club Champs – March 1st

New Surf Programmes!

We're excited to announce two new surf programmes:

- **Super Squad** – Led by Thandi Tipene, this programme focuses on building girls' confidence to compete at the national level.
- **High-Performance Boys** – Led by Tommy Butland, this programme will push young surfers to the next level.

Taranaki Surf Day – March 1st

We're stoked to be teaming up with Parafed Taranaki and the Halberg Trust for another epic Taranaki Surf Day on March 1st. Volunteers will be needed, so mark it in your calendars.

Massive Thanks to Our Sponsors!

A huge shoutout to our amazing sponsors who continue to support OBC and help make all of our events and programmes possible.



David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

When National came to government we promised to reduce the cost of living so that you could get ahead.

In our first year, we took decisive action to refocus the Reserve Bank solely on inflation and reined in wasteful spending, making its job of managing inflation easier. Interest rates finally came down, and inflation returned to its target band of 1-3%, reducing pressure on families and business budgets. Wages grew faster than inflation, and our tax and FamilyBoost packages started providing much-needed relief to Kiwis.

While the downward trend in inflation is a step in the right direction, it is only half the battle. Economic growth is key to improving living standards, investing in public services, and ensuring Kiwis are truly better off.

At the end of January, fast-track applications officially opened to address our infrastructure deficit, housing crisis, and energy shortage.

We are sending a clear message that New Zealand is open for business, with a new initiative to boost foreign investment, and a new digital nomad visa to attract more visitors to our shores – both designed to help grow the economy.

People are looking for a safe and stable country to do business. From 1 April, we are making our investor visa simpler and more flexible to incentivise investors to choose New Zealand as a destination not just for their capital, skills and international connections, but to build a life for themselves and their family here. It will require a minimum investment of \$5 million for a minimum period of three years.

Digital nomads often travel the world in search of a lifestyle which our region can offer and with that, they frequent the local hospitality

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Mon-Thu: 9am-3pm

Fri: By appointment



Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



scene, build new friendships and networks that will have flow-on effects. Working holidaymakers will be able to enjoy the Taranaki lifestyle while using worldclass co-working spaces like Manifold, right here in Ōakura.

The government has also invested \$5.8 million to improve water infrastructure at Parihaka, supporting the long-term sustainability and growth of this historically significant site.

We're pulling every lever to supercharge growth and get New Zealand moving forward.

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 Ōakura and for my regular updates from our electorate.



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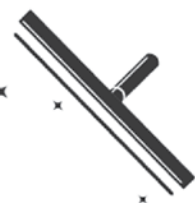
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Kaitake Community Board

Ever since I was first elected on to the Kaitake Community Board there have been a variety of initiatives, processes, and procedures that have been introduced to “make it easier” for the public to bring matters of concern to the attention of Council; however the majority ended up making a seemingly routine task anything but easy.

It has been great that more and more members of our community have reached out to me and to other members of the KCB to raise issues that have gotten under their skin so that we can work to advocate on their behalf to get those issues addressed, be they a pothole on the road, a damaged or missing signpost, a water leak, rubbish that has been dumped on the side of the road, or any number of other bugbears.

I am happy to advise that a great new mobile application has been created that is easy to access, easy to use, and that actually works. The name of this mobile app is Antenno.

Antenno is free for all customers and can be download from the App Store, or you can get it on Google Play. Additionally, it doesn't ask for any personal information or login details, so it's a nice easy way to connect you with Councils in your area so you can be informed and get involved.

This free mobile app sends you Council-related notifications about the places you care about, including alerts, major water outages, roadworks, closures, Council events, rates and registration reminders, consultations and much, much more.

You can choose the places you want to be alerted about so you're not bothered with things that don't affect you. This might include your neighbourhood, workplace, or where your kids go to school. It's up to you! You can also opt out of topics that don't interest you. Each Antenno post that comes to you shows the logo of the council or authority publishing it,

so you know the source of the information.

And perhaps most importantly to some, if you spot a problem like a broken streetlight or burst watermain you can use the app to quickly and easily send reports to alert Council.

I personally discovered a really cool function of this app after receiving a call about some piles of rubbish that had been dumped in the layby just south of the Hangatahwa/Stony River bridge. I drove down to investigate, took photos of the rubbish, completed and sent a report using the Antenno app. Based on the location I provided, the report was forwarded directly to the South Taranaki District Council, the Council responsible for that area. The same thing happened with a report regarding a pothole in Midhurst that went straight to the Stratford District Council.

Since launching in December 24, over 4,000 users in the New Plymouth District have downloaded the Antenno app which replaces the 'NP in your Pocket' and the 'Rubbish and Waste' apps. 356 reports have been made by users since launch, compared to 179 reports made on NP in your Pocket app in the previous 12 months. The most reported categories include roads-footpaths-cycleways (21%), rubbish and recycling (20%), 3 waters (14%), parks (13%) and, graffiti and vandalism (8%). I know it's still early days, but given the personal successes I have experienced to date I'm pretty sold on this app.

Something this app can't do anything about, however, is the burgeoning cost of living increases, the effect this is having on the viability of a number of businesses and on the effect on household budgets. The New Plymouth District Council appears to have finally realised that the burden of double-digit rates increases is unsustainable for many in our district.

While it would be wonderful to have rates remain static, i.e. no rates increase at all, that is sadly unrealistic. The NPDC, along with other councils across the country, are being hit by a double whammy of high inflation – one example is the cost of building a bridge is now 38% more expensive than three years ago – and higher interest rates impacting on current and past borrowings. Additionally, Councils are facing new, more expensive cost pressures such as the demand for infrastructure in high-growth

areas, coping with growth in tourism, adapting to climate change and increasing natural hazards, and absorbing recent cuts to Central Government funding of significant works like roading maintenance and replacements.

To further exacerbate matters, the same inflation and interest rate impacts on the community has seen Council's income levels reduce from sources such as: carparking income, venues and events, less building activity resulting in reduced income for resource consents and building consents, and reduced Government subsidies for things like transportation. This is many millions of dollars of income that was budgeted for but now must be found elsewhere.

Council officers have been undertaking some sterling work scrutinising every budget, line by line, across all areas of the organisation to find ways to do things smarter, more innovatively or 'cheaper', to find works that could be delayed for the next year in ways that won't adversely affect costs at a later date, and to investigate every other possible cost saving measure.

From a 'back row' elected member position, Community Board members are doing their best to ensure that 'Councillor pet projects' are afforded the same degree of fiscal diligence and prudence that our hard-working Council Officers are applying to their respective budgets.

I believe that rate payers were sorely let down by Councillors with the last Annual Plan, where a universal commitment was made to a rate increase less than 10%, but the final actual 'average' rates increase that was voted through was 12.4%. I passed on that message at the last Annual Plan Workshop. We will do our best to ensure that doesn't happen again.

And on that note that is me for this edition!

The next meetings of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at 5pm, on Monday 3 March 2025, at the Kaitake Community Sports Hub in Ōākura, and 5pm, on Monday 14 April, at the same location.



**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



Bryan Vickery



Renee Hohaia



Paul Lobb



Graham Chard



Teresa Goodin

Tinder Dry Start to 2025

All fires require permits. We cannot stress this enough; we have been kept very busy with vegetation fires lately from fires that should not have been lit in the first place. We only need to look at California or Christchurch to see the devastation an out of control fire can cause.

At the time of writing this article Taranaki is in a restricted fire season - ALL fires must have a permit unless they meet certain safety requirements, this even means BBQs and pizza ovens. To see the safety requirements please go to www.checkitsalright.nz. This will tell you what you need to know to allow you to light a fire or if you will require a permit.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy the summer!

Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade



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Neighbours Aotearoa

1–31 March 2025

Let's Celebrate with our neighbours

Take part in Neighbours Aotearoa and celebrate with your neighbours!

NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA

Across the country, Neighbours are getting together to celebrate their place, support one another and share.

From small, local get-togethers, like street parties, to bigger, organised events, like repair cafes and clothes swaps, everyone in Aotearoa is invited to reach out in their communities this March. The first step might be just smiling or waving to a neighbour.

Neighbours Aotearoa (formerly Neighbours Day Aotearoa) is a community development initiative dedicated to growing, connecting and strengthening neighbourhoods across the country.

Each year in March, everybody is invited to do something small - or large! - that lets them know a neighbour that bit better. From the 1st to the 31st of March 2025, Neighbours Aotearoa encourages people to organise an activity or event around the theme Let's Celebrate

The theme Let's Celebrate offers an opportunity for people to practise aroha (generosity) and manaakitanga (hospitality) with people they want to connect with. It also includes sharing whakaaro (knowledge) and pūkenga (skills).

To get involved, visit the Neighbours Aotearoa website at neighboursaotearoa.nz, like or follow them on Facebook and Instagram, register your event on the website to get support (resources, event packs, editable posters etc) and spread the word in your local community.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW MECHANIC?

Bang smack in the middle between Oakura & Okato on the main road

Bring your car, trailer, lawnmower and maybe you need that item welded up - bring that too!

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Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust

I left town over the holidays and returned to this amazing place we call home. There’s nothing better than returning home to Ōākura after holidaying elsewhere and arriving to an amazing summer. I’m so thankful for this special place we live where we can go for a walk in the bush, hear native birds, and then pop down to the beach for a cooling swim.

Since around the start of the year the weather has been consistently hot and dry. This summer weather means that the 70 some Trust volunteers that check traps and monitor kiwi can enjoy a fantastic walk – mud free tracks, heaps of birds, and good exercise.

Volunteers have been out checking traps consistently over the past several months and after a long lull of not catching anything in traps after the 1080 drop, the traps are starting to catch pests again. The rat numbers have come back a bit, but luckily the stoats and feral cats are still sparse. The spring was a stellar one as there were very few predators around, which allowed the native birds a great breeding season.

The kiwi are still thriving up in the Kaitake Ranges and somehow we have already gotten to that point in the year where the monitored kiwi get their health checks. Experts with Taranaki Kiwi Trust, accompanied by some Trust volunteers, have begun these checks and so far all is looking good.

Several of the monitored birds have successfully completed their nests this season, which in itself is great, but these birds have been busy and many have completed two nests this year! That means some of the kiwi that have been released may have raised up to four chicks this season. We are fast-forwarding into that time of year when a heap more kiwi will be released into the Kaitake Ranges, further increasing the number of birds in the area so that the population is viable.



New Trust volunteer, Susan Eagar, learning the ropes while checking a trap in the bush.

Back before Christmas, the Trust celebrated the year with a catchup at Butler’s Reef. It was great to see everyone, share a beer, and hear about some of the incredible work accomplished during the year. Some of the top volunteers received recognition, including Trapper Extraordinaire Jackie Keenan and Kaitiaki of the Year, Mark Danenhauer. Many more locals have joined the Trust, including Susan Eagar, Vivienne Law, and James Crighton.

It’s been a great summer so far and let’s hope that It continues. Be sure to take advantage of the trails just up in our backyard and while doing so, stop for a few minutes to listen to the birds. Maybe you’ll be lucky to spot rifleman (that have been seen recently), or kiwi at night.

Gearing up for another big year.

Kia ora koutou. Netball season is nearly upon us and Kaitake Netball Club (KNC) is gearing up for another year. 2024 marked a big year for KNC as we grew from being a casual Sunday game with different players each week to having four teams entered into the Netball Taranaki New Plymouth Satellite Saturday competition, two senior and two junior teams. We had a lot of success over the season with three teams winning their grades and being promoted into higher sections of the competition. We hope to build on that again this year.



Back Row (L to R) Alana Clarke, Emma Crofskey, Sophie King, Imogen Webber, Lisa Robertson, Charlotte Haskell, Isla Reid, Abigail Walbank, Reija Treacy-Wolnik, Toni Peacock, Angela Baron

Front Row (L to R) Nina Bloor, Greer McQuay, Jenna Kensington, Michelle Bourke, Christine Egarr, Emilia Dunne, Holly Robertson

Some dates for March. (OTC - Oakura Tennis Courts)

March	What	When	Where
Sunday 2nd	Umpire Workshop	2pm	OTC
Sunday 2nd	Sunday Session Games	3pm	OTC
Sunday 9th	Umpire Workshop	2pm	OTC
Sunday 9th	Sunday Session Games	3pm	OTC
Sunday 16th	Sunday Session Games	3pm	OTC
Sunday 23rd	Sunday Session Games	2pm	OTC
Sunday 29th	Sunday Session Games	3pm	OTC

Ladies!

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



Club Championships

Briar Atkinson won the women senior singles championship in a hard-fought victory over Tina Atkinson-Watt. Briar, Tina and Jackie Moeahu joined the club mid-January and in doing so became the first female members since 2007. The arrival of the ladies is the start of a new era for the Oakura Bowling and Social Club. If water cooler whispers are correct, several established bowlers and some eager local ladies are keen to play and represent the club next season. Exciting times are ahead for the club and community.

Club Tournaments

The summer tournaments are nearing the end of the season with Ōākura finishing 3rd in the Saturday Shield, 2nd in the Avery and mid-field in the Gilmour Cup. Great work by the 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 the smooth running on match day.

Club News

Congratulations to Ōākura bowlers Kurt Smith and Briar Atkinson who represented the New Zealand Black Jacks in the Trans-Tasman series played against Australia in early February. Atkinson in the open women's and Smith in the para team both featured prominently in helping the Black Jacks hold their own against a powerful Australian team, emerging with draws in both their respective competitions.

Ōākura held off a determined Ōkato fightback to retain the annual Vic/Sam cup played under lights at the impressive Ōkato green in mid-January. The cup was played under a round robin 4s format with Ōākura winning by the slender margin of one game. A big thanks for the hospitality of the Ōkato crew, the after-game catering and entertainment was second to none. A great night.

The Taranaki Open was a resounding 'thumbs' up for the Ōākura club with all visiting players lavishing high praise on the club for its magnificent green, picture perfect surrounds and friendly hospitality. Such lofty praise could not be reached without the volunteers who generously give their time throughout the week. The club would not be able to service events such as the open without your support and assistance. A special mention goes to green keeper Wayne Robinson and his team in providing a world class playing surface for all

to enjoy. A fantastic effort by all and a great result for the club.

There were mixed results for the Ōākura boys with only one team qualifying for post sectional play. The team of Pat Walklin, Peter Radich, Wayne Gray and Bob Anderson reached the last 32, only to be narrowly defeated by a talented team from Ōpunake.

The underarm bowler



A big thank you to all of our lifeguards

For their dedication and hard work. Your commitment to keeping our beach safe, giving up your time on weekends, is truly appreciated!

For the rest of the season patrol hours will be:

Weekends: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, up until Taranaki Anniversary Weekend.

Always remember to swim between the flags. If you're swimming outside of patrol hours when flags aren't up, please check the conditions beforehand, never swim alone, and parents, always keep a close eye on your children—stay within arm's reach. The beach environment is constantly changing, so be aware of the conditions at all times.

Sunday Junior Surf is back after a break for Christmas and the New Year. It's fantastic to see so many kids enjoying the beach! A massive thank you to everyone who helps out - your support is what makes Junior Surf possible.

Sunday Sips is in full swing! Join us every Sunday from 4:30 pm to wrap up your weekend with a beer and burger after a hot day at the beach. Everyone is welcome!

In mid-January, NPOB hosted the Taranaki Junior & Senior Champs, making for a huge weekend. It was fantastic to see new faces taking on their first carnival and some familiar faces returning to show the younger ones how it's done!

Oceans 25 was 20 February in Mount Manganui. A big shout-out to all the coaches, managers, and parents for their hard work in getting the kids ready.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy.



NPOB Surf Clubs Tribute to Vaughan Garrett

NPOB Life Member, SLSNZ Life Member and 21 Club Member #725

Vaughan tragically passed away on 9 February while doing something he loved, working on his new section - his latest project that filled him with so much joy.

On Wednesday, 12 February NPOB Surf Club members gathered on the main beach to honour an incredible Life Member. As a tribute, at 6pm they had a 'Push the Boat Out and float' out the back. All club gear—boards, skis, canoes, and especially his beloved IRBs—made it to the water in his honour.



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Ōākura
Tennis Club



The soffe cup team started the new round off with three close wins 7-5 against Waiwaka SOSC, Stratford and Huatoki. Waitangi weekend meant we had our top man and two top women away so it was always going to be tough against 2nd place Rotokare who had their top women in action and top NZ player Ajeet Rai playing doubles. Luke Barrett has been playing well at number 1 when Graeme Mitchell is unavailable and beat Cole Hareb, with Gavin Stanley and Rachel Volcani winning the combines to get us another 2 points for a 9-3 defeat. Overall we have jumped up to third spot with 41.5 points, half a point ahead of Stratford/Okaiawa 41 with Waiwaka leading on 69 points, Rotokare 50, Huatoki 33, Pukekura 25.5 and Waiwaka SOSC 22.5. With Waiwaka, Pukekura and a bye to come, the team will be hoping for a full strength lineup to clinch a playoff spot!

Wilson Trophy is off to a good start beating Rotokare 7-5 (losing 11-1 to them in round 1) and Huatoki 9-3. Rotokare are well ahead on 81 points with Ōākura second on 52 points, Huatoki close behind on 50, Waiwaka 46, Stratford 43 and Hawera 39. With three games to play before semi finals the team will be hoping to retain their second place.

Both Midweek ladies teams are coming 4th out of 8 teams in section 1 and section 2 with some close match ups.

There are rep fixtures a plenty with junior quad in Palmerston North mid February, junior no 1s, seniors hex and Manawatu fixtures in March as well as the New Plymouth Open in April. Good luck to Ōākura juniors Angus Thorp, Noah Stanley, Luke Barrett, Ana Shlosberg, Miller and Cooper Ferguson playing in the Quad tournament in Palmerston North.

Coaching and Junior teams are back into the swing of it with some hot days on court!

Keep cool!

Jackie

Mira Watson has a passion for helping people thrive

Mira moved to NZ and has made Ōākura home. Her life experience has seen her develop a global career that supports neurodivergent children and their parents.

What is it that you do?

I help people re-establish their soul connection and relate to others more fully. I show parents how to support their children's souls and individual talents.

What does that look like?

That looks like people doing the things that they love and that make them happy, and feel interconnected with each other and nature. Especially allowing children to be who they are and to follow their own curiosity and innate interests. Parents being present with their kids, giving time to play with them, appreciate what they're expressing, and feel connected. I mostly work with parents - which automatically helps the children. Each relationship is individual and I support each adult to trust their inherent knowledge and wisdom in relating to their child.



How do you help?

I offer in-person craniosacral sessions in the village.

I tutor children (6-11years) and teens with ADHD, Asperger's, Tourettes and High Sensitivity so they like themselves and learn better.

Parents can learn Somatic Parenting to understand their differently wired children and boost their social and academic development

by applying for my online programme - the Raising Sensitive Children Academy. I work with parents globally so being online is essential. Small groups of parents learn the steps to then put into practise with their families. At the same time I'm supporting and assessing some of the children (those who need it) individually by doing their schoolwork online with them. My next programme starts in April (30% discount for locals!).

How did you become interested in this field?

I was failing at school when I was nine or ten. I was diagnosed as high-functioning Asperger's when I was nine and am highly sensitive. Looking back, the problem for me was too much 'noise' (noisy, smelly, a lot of movement) in the classroom.

The teacher was very grumpy and when she spoke angrily I couldn't hear what she was saying. When I got a private tutor (my parents knew I was smart) I mostly got A grades.

At just fourteen I started teaching other children in the lunch breaks. Through my own learning experience I realised that being "stupid" at school is not to do with the children. It's to do with the way they're being taught. I became an agency tutor for children with special needs whilst studying Anthropology at King's College Cambridge and during my Masters and Postgraduate degrees in London at SOAS.

After several years of tutoring kids who were supposed to fail in subjects ranging from maths, English and Science to languages (I'm trilingual - English/German/Spanish), I realised

that I must be doing something a bit different with them. Their self-esteem sky-rocketed and they got A grades just like me! I left academia and spent a decade trying to figure out what I was doing so that I could teach parents. Lengthy anthropological research I conducted in Mexico showed that cognitive development in kids has a lot to do with their parent's quality of attention ie: presence (having calm and settled parents allow children to feel safe with them, and can take in their communication). I trained in craniosacral therapy, postgraduate trauma resolution, somatic experiencing, Family Constellation. I became a yoga teacher, dance teacher and studied nervous system regulation. I lived in Indonesia and worked with parents from the original Green School in Bali right from the year it opened through to graduation. I went on to develop a proven method where I teach parents how to connect with their children to create safety, resolve behavioural issues and accelerate their development. I call it Somatic Parenting.

What brought you to Ōākura?

Intuition and visions of trees brought me to New Zealand. I started out on a farm in Urenui and then the doors opened in Ōākura and I walked through. It feels like home, I have found people so welcoming here. I love the proximity to nature, the beach, the mountain and the space. People relate to me on the face-to face level that I need and feel comfortable with. I've longed for this my whole life.

I'm so happy and grateful to be here and I'm available to encourage children, parents and anybody who wants to be themselves and thrive.

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www.mirawatson.com
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ATTENTION: Parents of children with BIG EMOTIONS

MORNING TALK COFFEE GROUP

Come along to the NPOB Surf Club
Every Thursday from 10am - 11am

**Any enquiries call Tracey
027 636 8060**

Kaitake Golf Club

Both Men and Ladies are back into competition mode and enjoying the beautiful weather and summer run of your ball. Great scoring out there on the course and we have had a couple of Hole in Ones. The course is starting to brown up and the greenkeeper would like some rain but we are all enjoying the sunshine at the moment. At long last the pond is starting to look good and there are no more leaks.

QUICK SIX has started again with the first session 18th February ending on the 25th March. Any queries please contact Nicola Avery 021311898 or nicola@theglassman.co.nz.

If you miss out on this time please let Nicola know and she can put you down for a future session. This is a very popular and successful group which has resulted in new members to the club who are now playing in our weekly competitions and doing very well in the process.

TWILIGHT GOLF

Given the success of Kaitake Twilight Golf in 2024, we are excited to announce that the team is inviting you all back in February and March for an enhanced competition.

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 gives 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 – 021 810 937

CHIPPERS:

The Chippers resumed at the beginning of Term 1 on Sundays at 3pm. We will inform by Facebook if it is cancelled due to weather. Contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

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

Margaret Bryce

Chiropractic

Do you sometimes feel your body is like a cage to the real you?

Do you crave freedom to move smoothly like a few years ago? Do you know a child who just hasn't been right since an accident or a stress, whether large or small? Or since a difficult birth? Maybe you're that child, just older now and not free yet.

Hi, I'm Margaret Bryce the Chiropractor who talks about subluxations.

A subluxation is a situation in your body where your brain has lost control of the movement of a vertebra in your spine. What chiropractors do is find your subluxation, gently get it moving and keep it moving so your brain can run things properly again. Many people don't know that movement in your spine is essential for your brain to work at its best.

Three years ago, we shifted back to Taranaki from Auckland, after 25 years there (I know!).

I used to practise in New Plymouth on Coronation Avenue for 12 years, before my husband David became a Christian and wanted to attend Bible College in Auckland. We are ecstatic to be back, so pleased to be in the Ōākura area now, on the corner of Plymouth and Koru Roads - you may know the house, I believe it had a gym in it at one stage. We go to St James' Church in Ōākura now and we love the community feeling here.

More than 100 years ago, my grandfather, Allan Bryce, trained in America for two years and became one of New Zealand's first chiropractors in 1921. My father, John, trained in America for four years, and my sister, Wendy, and I trained in Melbourne for five and a half years. I'm a bit old-school!

When you come to me to have your spine checked for subluxations, I do a thorough history and examination and decide whether I need to send you for x-rays so we can see clearly. The first time takes about an hour, I don't do any adjusting of your spine that day.

Usually, my examination is \$120 but I'm opening just 14 appointments for \$30 which we'll give to World Vision.

If you are ready to have your spine checked for subluxations, call me now, 020 413 67678. Leave a message and I'll get back to you so we can make a time to chat properly about what's going on for you.

Love, Margaret Bryce

www.brycechiropractic.co.nz
chooselifechiro@gmail.com



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Dust off your boots, the 2025 season is fast-approaching!

We'd like to welcome all new and returning players and families to Kaitake FC. Although we are a relatively new club, we are growing fast. The club is entering its 6th season and only two years after bringing juniors to the club with one U13 team, we are hoping to expand on the seven junior teams we had in 2024. Additionally, we are expanding our player skills development programme and so far have over 50 juniors enrolled. Watch this space for more information on the development programme.

We are an inclusive, community-focused club that strives for personal growth and skill development for each player while working together in a team and having fun. Players turning 16 or older in 2025 are eligible for the Senior teams (Men's competitive, Men's social, and Women's competitive). Players turning 10-15 in 2025 (born between 2010-2015) are eligible for the Junior teams.

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KEY DATES

Pre-season started 5th February for the Men's teams and 13th February for the Women's team. Our Junior Summer Academy starts 5th March and runs for 10 sessions.

Junior Muster: Sunday, 2nd March 4-6pm

- Fun kick around in small sided games
- Sausage sizzle
- Learn more about the club and our kits

Registrations are open for all teams for the 2025 season - Men's Competitive, Men's Masters, Women's Competitive, and Juniors (ages 10-15). Please go to the Kaitake FC website for the link to register - www.kaitakefc.co.nz.

For any queries or additional information, please contact the club at info@kaitakefc.co.nz.

Happy kicking!



Family Pack

500g Free Range Diced Chicken

500g Premium Mince

6x Beef Patties

6x Beef Kebabs

\$45

The Trifecta

(something for dinner, lunch & Breakfast).

2x Pure Angus Sirloin Steaks

4x Sausages

4 Slices of Mokau Butchery Bacon

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2 UP Pack

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2x Lamb Loin Chops

2x Chicken Schnitzel

\$30




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Toret will close its doors

On the 8th of March the lease for Toret Cucina Italiana will run out, and the restaurant will close its doors.

I asked owner Nicolo what are his plans for the future? I'm going to be working at a local restaurant, then planning on bringing back Toret in a new shape and form.

What are the highlights of your time running the restaurant?

Winning a hat at the good food guide 2024.

Any idea who will take over the lease after you?

No idea, hopefully someone with as much passion for food and hospitality as we did.

Anything else you would like to say?

Thanks to the Ōākura village for supporting us over the last four years. It has not been easy, but I wouldn't change it! Make sure you keep supporting local businesses and small eateries, every single dollar makes a difference in a small business pocket!!

Ciao!

How lucky we have been to have a quality restaurant such as this on our doorstep, and there is still time to take advantage of that before it's too late.

Congrats Butlers Reef

And the accolades keep coming - Butlers Reef has been named as one of the top 50 Gastropubs in New Zealand for the second year running . They are pretty stoked with this award as it is really a peoples choice - the selection is based on votes received. After a hectic summer of bands over the holiday period, the Sunday afternoon music sessions are back. From 3pm to approximately 5.30 pm you can sit back in the shade of a tree and enjoy the ambience. Kids and even the family dog are welcome with plenty of bits and pieces for the littlies to play with provided. Great to see locals supporting the musicians, and the pub on the Sunday I visited, had a great relaxed friendly vibe and their fries are pretty good too!



Ben Shewry's Book Launch at Back Sand

This Waitangi day we were immensely honoured to be asked by world famous Ben Shewry to host a lunch for his latest book tour. For people who may not know, Ben Shewry is actually from Taranaki and has the restaurant Attica in Melbourne - Best Restaurant in Australia and a decade on the World's 50 Best. His new book 'Uses for Obsession, A Chef's Memoir' is very cleverly written with stories that people who can't even boil an egg will enjoy! To host Ben and his family, friends and adoring public was a thrill, to say the least. His connection to Taranaki is felt throughout the book and goes to show what a special place this area is and the ability it has to produce some amazing humans - Shelly and Matt Brock.

A new chairperson for the Taranaki Regional Council

Craig Williamson is the new chair of Taranaki Regional Council.

At the Ordinary Council meeting councillors unanimously elected Mr Williamson to replace Charlotte Littlewood, who recently announced her resignation as chair. He took over with immediate effect.

Mr Williamson has been a councillor for almost 15 years and represents the New Plymouth Constituency.

He says it is a privilege to take on the role of chair.

"I look forward to leading the Council as we build on the progress of the last couple of years. My focus will be on continuing the kaupapa and ensuring we work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for our community."

South Taranaki Constituency councillor Neil Walker remains deputy chair, while Mrs Littlewood will stay on as a councillor until the next local body elections on 11 October 2025.






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Roger Thompson, an Interesting Local



Roger building a seesaw play structure for goats

Roger is the white haired man you often see in the mornings at one of our local coffee places. “I have five places to go to, and for a small village that’s quite unusual: High Tide, Dawn, The Bach, Surf and Sip, and Four Square.” About once a week he makes a plan to meet somebody. Otherwise he walks out of the house and says, “Where will I go for coffee today?” The weather affects his decision. He doesn’t like sitting inside and almost always sits outside.

He started this routine well before he moved to Ōākura. He became a telecommuter in 2000 and if he didn’t go out for coffee he’d be sitting at his computer all day. It became the way he started his day then and has continued to this day.

Appropriately, we are doing this interview at an outside table at one of the above mentioned coffee shops. Several passers-by say good morning, and one of Roger’s neighbours picks up his empty cup and offers to buy him a refill. It’s such a nice village we live in!

Roger always brings The Daily News with him — to read and do the puzzles. If somebody’s there he’s happy to have a conversation. It doesn’t take much to get Roger talking — about virtually anything because he likes to chat and knows a lot about a wide variety of topics.

Roger grew up in a middle class area in the outskirts of London.

At university he was studying science when IBM came calling looking for potential programmers. Roger said, “What is programming?” and took the job. At that time IBM had its lab outside Winchester in an enormous park outside a little village. “My commute to work from home in my village to IBM was through a hole in a fence to the park.”

“In 1974 IBM Invited me to go to California for 18 months and then it became long term. Silicon Valley hadn’t been invented.” After retiring from IBM in 1991 Roger did a stint working as a contractor in Rome, learning just enough Italian to get by.” While he was in Europe he decided to go see his old and dear friend Margaret who was living in England. He hadn’t seen her for ages and by that time they had each been married and divorced and were single.

Roger returned home to California and in 1997, after a few years of “to-ing and fro-ing” Margaret joined him there and later they moved to Boulder, Colorado. When Margaret’s daughter moved from England to Ōākura to work as a doctor, that was the beginning of spending Colorado summers in Boulder and NZ summers in Ōākura (no winters at all!). After about 14 years of that they decided they had to live in one place or the other. Without much discussion they knew it would be Ōākura and made the move in 2019, just before COVID hit, and here they have stayed.

Roger keeps busy with hobbies, mainly enjoying landscaping and woodworking, often combining the two. When he and Margaret first moved into their Ōākura house the land was a bare, sloping section. Roger has done a lot of construction and turned the section into a well designed, lovely garden full of the steps, pathways and planter boxes that he’s so skilled at creating, and the plantings are growing well.



Roger has built all sorts of wood things for family and friends. He’s made numerous benches and tables, a ‘Little Free Library’ at the corner of McFarlane and Messenger Terrace, various outdoor structures for the Taranaki Retreat and play structures for pet goats. This past year he was given 120 year old rimu wood from an old deck that was being replaced. He is keen on recycling old wood and he turned that rimu into a beautiful garden bench.

For several years he had his woodworking machinery in their attached garage. Margaret was bothered by the noise and dust, so Roger put together a prefab shed that he now works out of.

Although he is slowing down Roger is always willing to lend a helping hand with small projects.

Elayne Kessler

Matekai *bird watch.*

"Keep an eye and ear out for the beautiful native Kārearea (New Zealand falcon). A possible breeding pair has been spotted twice in Matekai Park last week, and their calls have been heard almost daily. Let's watch and listen for these incredible birds!"

- Al McDougall

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Dr Jill Devlin is an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialist who has devoted the last 15 years to serving women of all ages.

Practising at Taranaki Base Hospital since 2020, Jill is now available for consultations within her own practise, Honour Women's Health, two days a week by appointment only.

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Ōākura School



Pare Matapū

Last year Ōākura School was invited by NPDC to take part in an art project celebrating Te Matatini Kapa Haka Festival.

Guided by artist Haoro Hond, students Madison Chapman, Jane Willets, Ziv Carmi, Lyla Sheffield, Matilda Kitson, Nevaeh Hooper and Rhéma Shearman created works resembling tāniko patterns inspired by the school's kapa haka attire.

Their finished piece, named Pare Matapū, symbolises the joining of two surfaces, commonly seen in whareniui (meeting houses) where the wall meets the roof or the ridge beam connects both sides of the ceiling. It also references the Ōākura River, named after ancestor Ākura-matapū.

On Monday 10 February a powhiri was held at the neighbouring Ōākura Library to bless the artwork, which now adorns the front windows of the building.

The original artworks are currently on display at Puke Ariki, part of an exhibition called Ngā Pare Whakatikitiki: The Adorned Lintels.

This project beautifully embodies our school values of Manawanui (Determination), Whānaungatanga (Relationships/Connectedness), and Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship). The students showed Manawanui through their dedication and creativity, bringing their artistic vision to life. Whānaungatanga is reflected in the collaboration between our students, artist Haoro Hond, and the wider community, strengthening our connection to local stories and traditions. Finally, the artwork itself represents Kaitiakitanga, as it honours the history of Ōākura and its people, preserving the cultural narratives that shape our identity. We are incredibly proud to see our tamariki contributing to this legacy, leaving a meaningful mark on our community.



Cooling off in style



Pirikahu and Rosie enjoying swimming lessons



During the hot summer months Ōmata School children have been cooling off in style. Ōmata has always had a pool even before I started school, but it only got heated a few years ago. Over the break many families bought a key and spent time relaxing and swimming in the pool. So when school started this year we were able to wash away the heat and get focused for learning by taking a dip.

All classes are lucky to have swimming instruction with teachers and also a swim coach, Kate Cleland, to perfect their technique and practice vital survival skills.

Ōmata has even more opportunities and are involved in the Beach Education programme which is a step up from the lessons in the school pool. It is a great opportunity for us to learn how to be safe in the ocean and it is a great day of fun. Mrs Baker commented that all sports are great, but swimming is the sport that could save your life!

By Charlotte Connolly



HR Workshops

Learn valuable skills that will benefit you and your team!

Employment Basics - Thurs 13th March

Performance and Behaviour - Thurs 27th March

Frontline Leadership - Weds 16th April & Thurs 1st May

Find out more on our Facebook or Eventbrite page

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Introducing Irene More

The storyteller and author of Gordie's Scary Dream.

Join us at Ōākura Library as special guest storyteller Irene More reads her picture book Gordie's Scary Dream. We'll have crafts and fun activities. No booking needed.

I am Scottish and have lived in the New Plymouth district for more than 40 years, over 20 of them here in Ōākura (the best place to live!). The Ōākura library is one of my favourite places - I belong to the book club there - and the librarians are some of my favourite people. They supported and encouraged me throughout this project.

I have always had an interest in writing for children and on retirement I took the opportunity to start fulfilling my ambition. I sent this story to a couple of publishers but was unsuccessful. At that point I began to



Crackerjacks
pre-school story time:
Thursday 6th March
10am-10.30am at
Ōākura Library.

take my first steps towards self-publishing. I decided to write under the pen name of Liz McArthur, my grandmother's name. I used it because both of my names can cause problems (Irene/Eileen/Ivy? More/Moore). Her name is much catchier than mine, and I hope,

easier to remember! It is also a tribute to my grandmother whom I had a lot to do with in my life (she lived to be 100!). I know she would have been thrilled.



I had my book launch at Poppies Bookshop in New Plymouth and The Crafty Fox Co-Op also has copies available for purchase. I am so appreciative of their support. I'm proud to say that my book is a wholly New Zealand production, printed in New Zealand.

The story, aimed at four to six year-olds, concerns Gordie, a young goblin, who has a scary dream and believes that nobody can help him. But ... it turns out that an unlikely hero is at hand. I specifically chose a goblin as my main character because I wanted one that could appeal to all children of any ethnicity. I hope that a child to whom the story is read will be able to relate to Gordie when he has his scary dream and realise that ultimately, it's only a dream, and they don't need to be afraid.

Emily Bennett

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Stories of the Past

As shared by Len Jury

Kakaramea to Ōmata in just 150 minutes!



It was love at first sight. A man and his manor. Regrettably Wayne lived in New Plymouth and the two-storey mansion not very near, actually 100 kms away. The old home built in 1885 faced demolition, forlornly waiting for the wreckers. But love always finds a way especially for this man with vision and determination.

Firstly the overbridge at Normanby, then the rail bridge at Tariki. At New Plymouth, the wrong time, 3pm and the schools were out! The pilot driver, intent on delivery, drives onward down the one-way system out to Ōmata with orange lights swirling, leading the way. Easy as, you might say, except there were three trucks in convoy. The trip all in 150 minutes and then at Ōmata and only then did the challenges begin.

Built in 1885 by the Pearce family, the old two storey home caught the eye of New Plymouth banker, Wayne Mackay. The moving company saw the challenge as an everyday event,

The site and access had to be made ready. Central House Movers did this as part of their assignment. The piles had to be EXACTLY in place. There were no dramas with traffic officers and police. They had worked together before and each, especially the movers, knew exactly what was needed.

Three trucks? There was no need to remove the roof but around the house, by chainsaw the top floor with huge cranes was neatly balanced until the sawing was finished. At this stage nerves started. With great relief the top floor was ever so neatly lifted and swung in the air. Just so neatly it was placed on the first truck. Many wheels and each with interdependent jacks to lift over obstacles on the trip north. Even more delicate when the truck was on a lean of the road camber. Even more of a challenge if one side was a little off onto the softer road verge.

Immediately the ground floor was lifted onto truck No.2. Again, placed ever so neatly for balance to be perfect. Truck no.3? The lower floor extended out to take in the facilities such as the kitchen. This also had

been sawn from the home and in its turn placed ready for the trip.

No dramas? The Normanby overbridge proved no difficulty at all. The Tariki overbridge needed railways to supply a person to guide the trucks up and over the lines. No problem, efficiently manoeuvred up and over on the side layby, except the railway guy was late! The time lost was ever so frustrating as everyone waited and waited, and everyone knew it could not be made up.

The roads did not really cause any problems until reaching Plymouth Road in Ōmata. The road, was narrow and then narrower due to the Lawsoniana trees growing out over the road, on both sides. Out came the trusty chainsaw again and the convoy could move on. Arrival? Easy you drove onto the waiting section. Cranes removed the sections and ever so neatly placed

the top on the lower, the lower perfectly placed on the waiting piles. The joins came together as if there had never been a cut. The trucks backed out. The quote was the price no add ons, such as unexpected extra fees to be met.

Once again Wayne was back into action. Some doors and windows were aged and needed replacing, floorboards too. Sarking removed from the walls and new lining installed. For Wayne new challenges, they were not something you rolled into town and bought the exact measurements from the local building supplies company. Replacement boards were not of the needed width and thickness. Nor were they Rimu or Tawa timber. Nor were they neatly surfaced. To meet the standards Wayne required, it became a passion to acquire, mould and surface. Friends, neighbours and all aware of the difficulties rose to the challenge. News quickly spread of timber, windows, a banister to be created and polished for the beautiful curved staircase.

Time became an issue not only in time available but time to complete a special task. Perfection took love, care and time. Immersed in his task at hand, time melted away. Precious time as minutes became hours, time he could not afford as his new job managing a Rest Home business already took 50 hours each week.

Today, resplendent in white, in breathtaking glory a new two storey home sits challenging the future. The sun beats in on the veranda, a veranda that gives views out over a beautifully created lake specially planted for peaceful reflection. Out over to the Taramaika point with the beautiful views and hues of the setting sun. Out over Ōākura and over the ships passing on the sea. Over to SH45 and traffic to watch without the noise. In the background is Taranaki Maunga, Pouakai and Kaitake ranges.

Has Wayne nearly finished his dream, his love affair, you may ask? Knowing Wayne there will always be that challenge to improve a majestic proud home, just a little more.

TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings
Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Art Classes - 1-12 yrs

Messy + sensory playgroups, after-school art classes, workshops. Process over product, always. Booking essential. Contact Franzl at imagineplayinspire@gmail.com

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: taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School - Ōākura Hall

There are no longer classes on a Tuesday afternoon but there will be an adult ballet class on a Friday morning at 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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