

# *the* Ōākura Post

MAY 2025

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COVER: Brian Clark see article on page 3



## David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

I recently met with residents and community board members concerned about the speed limits at the entry points of Ōākura. Of particular concern is children safely accessing Corbett Park and crossing State Highway 45 at the Wairau intersection. I have had similar discussions with locals in Rahotu and the wider school community has been advocating for lower speeds, improved signage and/or tighter enforcement. Both speed zones are part of my ongoing conversations with the relevant authorities and Transport Minister Chris Bishop.

Earlier this month, our coalition government released it's Q2 Action Plan for New Zealand. #1 on the list: Deliver a Budget focussed on boosting economic growth, improving social outcomes, controlling government spending, and investing in long-term infrastructure. We will have more to share about Budget 2025 in the coming weeks. Budget 2025 will be delivered on Thursday 22 May.

To help boost economic growth we're focusing on ways that we can make it cheaper and easier to build, while removing unnecessary regulations to make sure that our hard-working tradies can focus on what they do best.

As a result of huge support during the consultation process, our granny flats policy will now increase the maximum size without building or resource consent from 60sqm to 70sqm. I know this will be welcomed by many constituents who have reached out to me since the proposal was first announced.

The Government will introduce an amendment to the Building Act in the middle of this year which will exempt granny flats from needing a building consent if: the granny flat has a simple design and meets the Building

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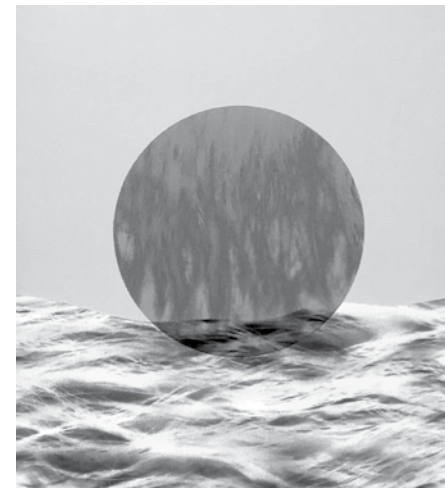
Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Code, building work is carried out by authorised building professionals, and if homeowners notify their council before they commence building and once it is completed. Law changes this year will allow an estimated 13,000 new granny flats to be built over the next decade without the need for resource or building consents.

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.



## Brian Clark: Combining Surfing and Art

Brian has been making surfboards since 1976 when he had a surf shop in San Clemente, California. He was a competitive surfer as a young teenager and selected for the US National Scholastic Surfing Team when he was 23.

The following year he married his high school sweetheart, Vincenza Mancini. (You probably know Vincenza Clark as the Senior Librarian at the Ōākura Library.) Early on they started thinking about leaving Southern California, driven by the pollution, crime and guns. After 18 years of owning the surf shop Brian sold up and they moved to NZ.

Why NZ, Brian? "We had been coming to NZ for many years for short surfing vacations. In 1995 we decided to take a longer look and came for six months, bringing along our one year old daughter. We travelled to all the best surf spots in a tiny Mitsubishi two berth van that we called 'The Turtle'. The transition to making a real move was slowed down by the birth of our second daughter, but they eventually got to NZ in 1999.

They spent their first seven years in Northland where Brian had a job already lined up shaping surfboards for Roger Hall at Surfline, a surfboard manufacturer in Ruakaka. Also during this time Brian studied art at Northland Polytech and

completed a BA degree in Visual Arts. While Brian's introduction to art was during his youth when airbrushing surfboards, he was one of the first surfboard airbrush artists to transition from resin pigment to sprayed colour in the 1970s.

At Northland he learned oil painting, printmaking and graphic design. His third year research paper focussed on the South Pacific as depicted as a 'paradise' commodity by famous artists such as Paul Gauguin.

The family had been coming to Ōākura from Northland every summer for holidays and "It began to look like a good place to live. We had a couple of American friends already living here and we decided to make the move in 2007. I continued to make surfboards — under the 'BC Surfboards' label and I worked out of Tom Smithers' factory on South Road until 2024."

For his 60th birthday he took a surfing trip along with 10 other local surfers to the Mentawai Islands, an island chain in Indonesia. "We scored the best surf trip ever, with consistently perfect waves every day." Brian continues to build surfboards now out of the Surfline factory he used to work at.

While making surfboards Brian has also been pursuing his art and participated in the

Taranaki Arts Trail for the past three years. His work tends to be thoughtful pieces that reflect the environment and the social issues that form our world today. A piece of his was selected for the Homework Exhibition 2024 at Puke Ariki. The piece was inspired by the Taranaki Maunga and used up-cycled waste from the run off of excess resin from laminating surfboards. "It was a one-off to use that resin. It was just an opportunity I had with a local manufacturer who is no longer in business. Nobody is doing coloured resin anymore because it's so labour intensive, creates a large amount of waste and is expensive to do".

"I was in the middle of relocating my business this year when I felt ill and ended up in the hospital. I had to have open heart surgery. It's now three months post op. I'm recovering very well, and expect to be back surfing by the end of the year."

Meanwhile Brian is doing art and graphic design commissioned work. He does designs for local organisations, currently designing t-shirts for Pickleball Oakura, and is looking forward to the Taranaki Arts Trail 2025.

Brian can be contacted:  
brianclarksurfer@gmail.com

Elayne Kessler



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Kelvin Perrie getting a super special treat while helping with one of the recent kiwi releases.



Sarah Campbell carrying up one of the precious boxes containing kiwi at one of the kiwi releases this year.

# The 100th kiwi was recently released into the Kaitake Ranges!

The Trust volunteers have been joining many other groups over the past few weeks to participate in kiwi releases up in the Kaitake Ranges. The last of the releases took place on 8 April with a powhiri at Butlers Reef followed by a release up Lucy's Gully. There were a couple of speakers at the event who did an incredible job thanking all of the various groups and organisations involved in making the kiwi translocations a reality... and that is a huge number of people over many years.

The Taranaki Mounga Project representative summed up the work of the Trust by saying that we have an army of volunteers working to make this happen. That's truly what the Trust has become – an army – nearly 75 volunteers from all aspects of the community working tirelessly to check traps, monitor kiwi, and help bring the Kaitake Ranges back to life.

At the same event, the Taranaki Kiwi Trust representative said that the Trust is absolutely smashing it. Back in 2018 Pete Morgan and a few others sitting around a table talked about a dream of reintroducing kiwi into the Kaitake Ranges in maybe 10 years. Then, somehow only a few years later that dream was already a reality and now with this year's release there have been 100 kiwi released into the Kaitake Ranges! I'm hearing more stories of people seeing or hearing kiwi in the ranges, but no reports yet of any sightings in backyards...

Both speakers talked to the amazing mahi that is happening here in the Kaitake Ranges (our backyard). Our volunteers are a testament to the vibrant community that we call home. Other groups across the country who are just starting out on their efforts to bring kiwi back to their areas are asking how we do it? They are looking to us as an example. The point is that we should be proud of the hard work that we have been doing here in our local Kaitake Ranges to allow kiwi to be returned to the wild and have a chance to thrive again. It's amazing that we have such a special project happening right here in our community!

Summer seems to have come to a finish quite suddenly with some heavy showers and a little reminder that life here is not just about sunny days. Volunteers are still at it and have begun to catch a few more rats and stoats. We've got a couple new volunteers joining the ranks of our army, namely Vivienne Law, Neil Farrant, and Mark Parkinson.

Unfortunately, as is the nature of volunteers, we have lost a few people. That means we need help! We need a few more people that are ready to join our army and able to spend between two to five hours once every two months checking some traps. Please get in touch with us at [morgpt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morgpt@xtra.co.nz) if you want to join us and help bring the Kaitake Ranges back to life.

Mark Danenhauer

## Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

### Champs of Champs

It was a hard day at the office for Ōākura boys in the Taranaki champion of champions with the senior and junior singles winners, Allan Bridgeman and Wayne Gray, both losing their 1st round games in exciting encounters. Bridgeman lost to fellow coastal player, Hamish Kape from Okato 21-11, and Gray was beaten by the closest of margin 21-20 by Ian Voss of Waitara.

The fours team of Wayne Robinson, Peter Radich, Aad Schrader and Don Hinton also just fell short, losing to a well-drilled Stratford-Avon outfit. The pairs champions, Tim Ryan and Andy Shearer, and the triples winners of Tim Ryan, Andy Shearer and Geoff Farrant will contest their champs of champ's games late April.

The Professional Bowling Association will again have a chapter in New Plymouth with all bowling to be played at the Paritutu Bowling Club indoor stadium. The qualifiers for the various competitions will be played over the weekends of 24th and 25th May, 28th and 29th of June and the 13th and 14th of July. It is a great opportunity to see some of New Plymouths best bowlers in action.

Adam Collins and Kurt Smith were an integral part of the winning Paritutu team in the BNZ

interclub 7s competition. The top clubs from all provinces around NZ compete against each other to find BNZ best club team. Collins and Smith played their junior and early senior bowls at Ōākura and are currently dual members of both clubs. It is fantastic to see local Ōākura boys reaching the highest pinnacle within our sport.

Ōākura finished 2nd in Club of Origin tournament played at Paritutu on the 30th March. The quartet of Pat Walklin, Adam Collins, Kurt Smith and Jim Priest were undefeated on the day but were pipped at the post by a New Plymouth team on differential. The tournament ensures that some of Taranaki's oldest clubs can once again relive their glory days. Thanks to Kevin Gray and the ex-pats from Warea for their continuing sponsorship of this event.

*The underarm bowler*

## Ōākura's Trapping Efforts: A Key to Restoring Native Wildlife

The Predator-Free programme, coordinated by the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), is a crucial initiative aimed at restoring native wildlife and plants by eliminating invasive predators from the district's parks, reserves, and walkways.

This programme, heavily reliant on volunteers, is part of the broader "Towards Predator-Free Taranaki" project led by the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC).

Ōākura stands out in this effort, with dedicated local trappers making a significant impact. Matakai Park has been consistently trapped by local trapper Graeme Churchill, also known as Quackie, who has trapped hundreds of rats over the years. Coastal traps have been maintained by local couple Libby and Clive since 2018, primarily catching rats, with occasional stoats and weasels. Tapuae is another standout site,

where local trapper Roger Cloke has recorded the capture of 1 ferret, 5 stoats, 17 weasels, 6 possums, and 178 rats since January 2023.

In addition to these efforts, TRC is continuing its Zero Possum project. This ambitious project, initiated in 2018, aims to eradicate possums between the Ōākura River and Hangatāhua (Stony) River up to the edge of the national park. The Zero Possum project employs advanced technologies such as remote reporting traps, cameras, possum detection dogs, and thermal imaging to monitor and eliminate possums. It's proving successful with the original area around Ōākura Village (south of the highway) free of a resident possum population for more than three years and fewer than 20 individuals believed remaining in the extension zone (west of the Timaru Stream).

Alongside the trap network in Ōākura's parks and reserves, residents have set up numerous traps in their backyards. NPDC's

Predator-Free Programme Coordinator, Jenaya Munro, emphasises the importance of regular trap maintenance by backyard trappers to significantly reduce the pest population and protect native wildlife. "We urge all backyard trappers in Ōākura to remember to check, bait, and reset their traps regularly. Your efforts are vital in our joint mission to eradicate pests from our beautiful landscape," she says.

NPDC supports around 130 predator-free volunteers who help service the district-wide trap network. To date, the programme has successfully removed more than 27,000 pests from 2000 hectares of NPDC-managed land. The Predator-Free programme not only protects native wildlife but also fosters community and environmental stewardship. The collective efforts of New Plymouth residents, particularly in areas like Ōākura, are making significant strides towards a predator-free future.

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Lynn Murray, John Sargeant, Krys Beardman, Anne Bridges

## No need to drive to town to access a justice of the peace

### Justice of the Peace at Ōākura Library

Do you need to have your signature witnessed, make a declaration, swear or affirm an affidavit? Maybe you need copies of originals certified. A Justice of the Peace (JP) is on hand to help at the Ōākura Library on Thursdays 10am - 12.30pm.

It is totally confidential, with no charge to you. In addition to being conveniently located, parking is easy and free. No appointment is needed, it's first come, first served but there's rarely a queue at the Ōākura Library. If you happen to have a short wait, there are plenty of magazines and books to browse in the meantime. What a great service!

Ōākura Library has four JPs on a roster system so there is always one who will be available on a Thursday morning. For identification they all wear IDs and sign off documents with their own unique ID number.

They are volunteers so they don't get paid. They have undergone training, including online and face to face components, to be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills. Once they are accredited they need to be re-accredited every two years by attending workshops and sitting an exam so they remain up to date. Who are these people and why do they do it?

### Lynn Murray

Lynn has been a JP for 15 years, the longest of our four JPs. When JP Service Desks were started, Ōākura was a logical spot because there were very few JPs in the community. "When working I was in a job with a great need of JPs. After retirement I have carried on working the JP Service Desks."

While Lynn doesn't actually live in Ōākura, she spends much of her time there.

### John Sargeant

John is the author of a NZ historical fiction series of 10 novels. He has been a JP for six years. "I signed up because I retired from a lifetime of work in local government and became a JP because it works with both legislation and people. I like people."

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"Regardless of the technical side of it, we help people get on with their lives." He stresses that confidentiality as a JP is critical, and that everyone is treated similarly and without judgment.

### Anne Bridges

Anne has been a JP for just over two years. She lives in Ōākura and says, "I wanted to support my own community." She likes helping people and realises documents sometimes cause stress, especially when they're needed in a short time period. She sees the library as a convenient place to see a JP.

### Krys Beardman

Krys has been a JP for over three years. Becoming a JP "was just an extension of what I was already doing in my other community service roles." She admits she was unaware of the opportunity to be a JP when younger. "I wish I'd known about it years ago. I really like being a JP and the opportunity it brings to meet a wide variety of people in the community."

She particularly enjoys her involvement mentoring new Justices and maintaining internal social media.

There are often misunderstandings about what a JP can and can't do, so here is some clarification:

### What can a JP do?

- Witness signatures on various documents, including statutory declarations, affidavits, and other legal documents
- Verification of documents, i.e. certifying a copy of a document is a true and accurate reproduction of the original
- Administer oaths and take declarations, affidavits, and affirmations.
- Confirm your identity for financial institutions and other agencies
- Sign divorce papers

### What is beyond the scope of a JP?

- Signing a will
- Acting as a marriage celebrant
- Be a power of attorney
- Be responsible for the accuracy of the documents, that onus is on the client
- Keeping any document; they are always returned to the client
- Filling out the paperwork for the client (but can help if there is a disability impairing the client's ability to fill out the document)
- Giving advice on what to do or actions to take
- For some foreign documents it is not acceptable for a NZ JP to complete the documentation. (\*See note below for the difference between a JP and a Notary Public.)

There is always a need for more JPs. In case you're interested in becoming a JP or are just wondering, here are the steps involved:

- Initially, contact your local Member of Parliament (MP) for an information pack which explains the process involved.
- From there you will be invited for an interview with your local MP, as that is who will nominate you. Next, it's a short interview with the President of the Taranaki Justices of the Peace Association.
- The nomination is sent to the Deputy Minister of Justice in Wellington, whereby the Governor-General makes the appointment in a formal ceremony in the District Court. The nominee takes the Oath of Allegiance and the Judicial Oath.

Many thanks to the JPs who serve us Thursday mornings at the Ōākura Library!

The library has a photocopy service on site. For a small fee you can copy your documents while you are there.

JPs are able to see people at home if it's not a library time, this is by appointment. Contact details can be found on the JP website.

The JP website is [justiceofthepeace.org.nz](http://justiceofthepeace.org.nz)

\*Note: JPs are volunteers who work within NZ and their services are not recognised internationally. Notary Publics are practising lawyers who can witness international documents and charge for their services.

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## Indoor Bowls

The season is well underway and it is great to see our new members coming to grips with the basics of the game. Since our opening night we have held our Coach and Learn nights which is a great way for the more experienced members to pass on their knowledge to the newer members. It is a good way in a safe environment to try a few different shots to further the development of the players. Merv Hooker our Club umpire also

takes the opportunity to remind us all about the Laws of the Game in the lead up to our competition nights.

Our first competition, the Jamieson Cup, is underway and this is played over three nights, with one game each night of 21 ends. This is a real test in resilience and consistency for all the teams with the lead able to change many times during the game. In the first round played, the team skipped by Marvin Clough had a good tussle with Jim Priest, eventually Marvin's team coming out the victors 21-14 after a strong run of ends in the closing stages of the game. In

the other game, Grant L'Ami (new to the club) played Merv Hooker and it was close all the way with neither team getting ahead by 2-3 points. Merv finished the winner after a couple of good ends. On the second night Marvin played Grant and got off to a strong start, up 15-1 midway through the game, helped by Grant's third, Peter Anderson killing the end twice. Marvin's team was a comfortable winner 26-13. After the Jamieson Cup we look forward to starting our Championship Fours.

**The President**





## What a Weekend at the Junior Club Champs!



Weld Road was firing and delivering perfect peeling waves into the bay for our Junior Club Champs. Over 60 young shredders—boys and girls from ages 2 to 15—competed for their age group titles, best wipeout, gnarliest peel, and, of course, the coveted prize bags.

The push-in division had the crowd on their feet, cameras at the ready to capture those golden moments for the fridge at home. Both the girls and boys showed off a summer of dedication, proving that every opportunity in the water has paid off.

The development of our junior surfers is something we're incredibly proud of—a

testament to the hard work of our committee, surf coaches Simon Deken at DekenWaves, and more recently Thandi Tipene leading the girls, and Tommy Butland with the high-performance groms. Our programmes are thriving, from club board use to coaching, and it shows—while the town club junior champs had only managed just 11 entrants, we had over 60! The success continued at the Primary, Intermediate, and High School Champs, where our young surfers made their mark.

A massive thank you to our competition committee—Chris Faherty, Jono Watts, and Catherine Gillispie—along with everyone who helped make the day a success. Big shoutout to our incredible sponsors: Vertigo, Rip Curl, Wahine Waves, and Chur Chicken!

Looking ahead, next year our groms will be ripping in style with brand-new rash shirts,

thanks to the support of BTW, Surfside Electrical, Emma Taylor Powers Realty, and R&Co Beauty. Look Good, Surf Great!

A huge congratulations to all our competitors, we hope you had an epic day. Bring on next year!

### WINNERS:

- U10 Boys: Mikey Christiansen
- U12 Boys: Clarence Faherty
- U14 Boys: Koa Gillispie
- U12 Girls: Isla Priest
- U14 Girls: Lyla Termath
- U16 Girls: Ava Curd
- Boogie Boarding: George Webber

## Paint and Sip fundraiser

The Ōākura Brigade Sky Tower team is 8 strong this year, and to help raise our target of \$15000 for Leukemia and Blood Cancer NZ we are holding a Paint and Sip evening at Butlers Reef on Friday the 9th May.

Join us for a fun night of painting and sipping on your favourite drinks with friends. Guided by our very own artist/firefighter Ross Bennett, you'll come for the painting, stay for the laughs and leave with an abstract masterpiece (or the best looking stick figure you've ever seen).

All art supplies, a welcome drink and nibbles supplied. Tickets available on eventbrite.

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## Bryan Vickery Kaitake Ngamōtu Ward Councillor



My Facebook page Bryan Vickery Media Taranaki tells you everything you need to know about me, including what type of leader I am. It is 100 percent not-for-profit. In March and April, cumulatively my edited videos had more than 240,000 views. My media platform celebrates the beauty and diversity of Taranaki.

Highlights included an inside tour of the Women's Rest Rooms (opposite Centre City), local author Liz Fry "A Heart That Broke Free," Hawera Repertory Society's play "Anzac Sisters," New Plymouth Little Theatre's play "Agatha Crusty," Cue Theatre play "Proof," disability advocate Shane Emeny's "Walking in the Face of Adversity," the Stratford Arboretum, Graham Chard talking about Anzac Day, and Eddie Sera's petition to lower the speed limit into Ōākura.

When I got elected onto Council in late 2022 I decided to continue my media platform, as my way of giving back to the community, but without any financial sponsorship. Previously I had six generous sponsors. As an elected councillor I also chose not to claim mileage or expenses. I did this because I am able to, and because I believe in servant leadership. It's an absolute pleasure to represent the community.

I have a monthly column because I believe in shopping locally. I also recognise the importance of the Ōākura Post. It connects the community. I love championing the mahi of the Kaitake Community Board, and I rate the leadership of the chair Graham Chard. Uplifting the community and fighting to make it better is what drives me.



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## Easter Bunny comes to Butlers



Butlers Reef was a buzz of activity and excitement as Kaitake Kindergarten held an Easter Egg Hunt.

There was a lot of excitement as families arrived for the hunt, each child got an Easter basket and they were ready to hunt for the eggs. Once the hunt started there was no shortage of eggs and the children quickly filled up their baskets.

This was such a fun time, parents relaxing, children and adults playing, eating Easter eggs and pizza for dinner..... a perfect evening. The Kindergarten is very lucky to have the support of Butlers who enjoy hosting our family events. This is such a safe environment

being fenced so everyone can relax and enjoy themselves. Powers Reality and Butlers donated the eggs for the hunt, thank you very much for your support.

There was a surprise visit from Easter Bunny, he was enormous and we loved him. He was so friendly and he had a basket of Easter eggs and gave them out to anyone that wanted one. The children had lots of stories for him and he just loved to listen to these.

This was a great addition to what has already been happening at Kindergarten; there has been a lot of Easter art and Easter dancing happening, and now we have had an Easter egg hunt.

Caption - Beau Freeman, Sam and Kat Brophy enjoying their time with Easter Bunny.

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# Kaitake Community Board

A great deal of frustration is felt in communities all across the district at present over a raft of issues, and I have been approached by many from here in the Kaitake rohe expressing their own feelings of frustration over issues such as:

The antisocial behaviour of 'rough sleepers' in the CBD, and their impact on business trading, on business owners and staff, and on the safety of those members of the public prepared to brave the walk through where they position themselves, this has become a hot topic in social and print media in recent times, and in turn has generated a flurry of election platform promises and posturing among current Councillors that has done little to resolve the immediate problems and symptoms.

Locals continuing to be burdened with the risk to life and limb due to our road safety and traffic speed issues, with little more than a lot

of head nodding going on in various corridors of power following Eddie Sera's great work highlighting the matter.

The 'lake' and stagnant water pond on the foreshore at Ōākura Beach, continuing to create problems and angst by those impacted by it, despite receiving messaging from a variety of quarters that it is going to be resolved.

Paul Lobb did point out to me, however, how picturesque it looks early in the morning.

The well utilised pathways in Matekai Park becoming increasingly more difficult to use due to them turning into a mud bath when it rains, and the 30 year old bridges that were programmed to be replaced a couple of years back repeatedly being put onto the backburner generate frustration, particularly while millions are being spent elsewhere in the district on what are perceived to be vanity projects.

The lack of available parking in Ōākura, particularly since the approval by Council of the Village Mews development without the provision of customer parking, and the issues that are created as a result of many of the businesses and their customers.

And probably the most impactful issue for many at present – the level of rates bill increases the community is in for, particularly






given the current cost of living pressures that many are under at the moment.

While we have managed to achieve a few 'wins' with projects and improvements that we've advocated for on behalf of our residents, more often than not the Kaitake Community Board experiences that same level of frustration that you do.

Frustration that some Council processes seem to operate at glacial speed, with the absolute lack of fiscal prudence that is applied to many of the areas of spending within Council; at the glaring lack of strategic vision that is applied at times within decision making processes; and seeing really great Council employees, who work hard to do the best job they can for the ratepayers of the district, being hamstrung by systemic organisational bureaucracy! That's just the nature of politics, I guess!

And on that note, that's me for this edition.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be on Monday the 26th of May 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](mailto:thechardz@gmail.com) 027 2204 549

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





Irene Van Dyke spent a few hours talking about her career and encouraging our juniors.

## What's happening at the Rivermouth Hub?

With daylight saving ending we farewell the athletics and cricket club seasons and our Sunny Sundays at the end of March. Ōākura Cricket stepped up a grade this season and did well with a mid-table finish. Kaitake Athletics, fresh out of the blocks after a long recession, was a huge success with between 50 and 100 juniors running, jumping and throwing on Sunday afternoons before enjoying our famous Beach Burgers with the families in the Hub. See you all next summer!

Winter sport is back and all three Kaitake Football teams started with home games on Saturday April 5th – the Masters cleaning up with the Premiers and Women both having draws to start the season. With around 130 junior football players and 6 junior rugby teams, Saturday mornings at Corbett Park are going to be the place to bring your coffee next term.

Netball, in only its second season back from a recess has continued to grow with five teams donning Kaitake colours this year – including two youth teams. Our Netball crew had a special treat on Saturday 5th April when Irene Van Dyke, the most capped international player in the world, spent a few hours talking about her career and encouraging our juniors. Selfies and autographs with our 2-time Commonwealth Gold and World Cup winning legend were the call of the day - smiles all round, including IVD who absolutely loved the hub and our kids.

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This year KCSH welcomes the newly formed Kaitake Basketball Club to the whanau! With senior men's and women's teams and a view to youth teams in 2026, the addition of basketball now sees the Rivermouth Hub providing facilities for seven of our local clubs!!

**And ... it's all FREE FOR KIDS!** KCSH makes use of the hub facilities FREE for our kids and helps more than 300 of our young people enjoy the physical and social benefits of sport through cricket, athletics, rugby, football, netball and OJSC activities.

Your support through our annual \$40 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP will help us keep our 'free for kids' approach - especially parents of our juniors, please help us provide for your child - just go to the Membership tab on the KCSH website and join the KCSH team – then bring all your friends and family down to the Hub and enjoy all it has to offer!

**HIRE US!** The Rivermouth Hub is THE BEST venue for your next special family occasion, work meeting, workshop or conference – the wow factor setting will be a special treat for your guests. Discount rates for members. Enquire now at admin@kcs.co.nz

**A Date for your diary,** Friday 7th November KCSH Golf Day @ Kaitake Golf Course – ambrose format, teams of 4, prizes galore – lock it in!

## Kaitake Golf Club

Hi Everyone,

We have had the course double drilled on all mown fairways by one of our Sponsors JFM Contracting. We have seeded certain fairways which we managed to get funding for seed, and with the amount of rain it was perfect timing to encourage growth. The golfers are loving the fact that there is placing through the green.

Our steps on the 16th tee have been completed and are looking good and turf will be going on the steps to avoid slipping. A big thanks to our local builder Colin Woodward.

The Club has purchased a second hand Jacobsen Tri-King Tee & Surrounds mower

from Rangitikei Golf Club as our previous surrounds mower needed urgent replacing.

The Mens pennants went through to the quarter finals but unfortunately did not qualify. The Ladies midweek, weekend and 9 holes are all doing well and hopefully will get through to the finals as well.

We wish to welcome two new tee sign sponsors, Lee Webb Roofing, 15th Tee with a sign out at the front of the car park, and our other sponsor, for the 11th Tee, is Port Taranaki which was part of the proceeds of the very successful fundraising day that they had here.

Over the last six weeks Nicola Avery has been running our Quick Six Golf for new players with help from Chris Hill from Taranaki Golf. This has been very successful and this week we had a Rules & Golf Etiquette evening. We will continue to support these ladies over the coming months and help them to move on to playing either 9 or 18 holes and obtaining a handicap.

Once again Kim Woodward will be hosting a Pink Ribbon Lunch at the Club supporting Breast Cancer. This will be held on Thursday, 22 May. We are looking forward to a good attendance at this event.

### CHIPPERS:

The Chippers has now finished and will resume again in term 4. You will be more than welcome and if you require any further information, please contact the office or Jamie on 022 6773663.

### TARANAKI VETS GOLF:

All golfers over the ripe old age of 50 may join the Taranaki Vets Golf. Once a month a game is held at a golf club in Taranaki with an entry of \$10, Ladies & Men are all Welcome.



## Ōākura Tennis Club



Taranaki sent an A and B team to Manawatu for reps with Taylor Mitchell and Jackie playing in the As and Brianna Mathews playing in the B's. The As lost 15-9 with 5 matches being lost in close super ties and the Bs won 13-11. It was good to see some of our Taranaki up and coming juniors representing Taranaki.

The Hex in Wellington was another very tight close encounter, with Taylor and Sue Oldfield part of the Taranaki team. Taranaki was the previous winner so went as the top seed with Wairapa and Wellington in our pool. Taranaki had a convincing win against Wairapa 15-1 but had a close battle with Wellington. Matches were tied 8-8 but we won on a count back. We then played off for 1st and 2nd against pool B winners Manawatu. It was another 8-8 draw with Manawatu winning by 1 set. So close!

A2 had a close semi final battle with Waiwaka at home the same weekend Soffe were playing their last round match. It came down to the doubles and Waiwaka managed to clinch the win.

Soffe held onto 4th spot for playoffs. Having our top two men Graeme Mitchell and Luke Kerr out with injury and Taylor ineligible wasn't ideal for semifinals. Cooper Ferguson had a good singles win and Sue and Jackie also won to level us 3-3 after singles. Waiwaka claimed all 3 doubles matches to win 9-3. Rotokare had a convincing win over Stratford/Okiawa in the other semi and went on to beat Waiwaka 10-2 in the final.

A great season with few if any rain offs. Juniors turn next month!

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## New Zealand Falcon Sightings at Ōākura

I asked Al McDougall to share his story with the wider Ōākura community as apparently there have been a number of sightings of these birds recently. In his own words...

I saw them first one morning about a month ago on our deck that leads into Matekai Park. We have a very large pohutukawa and equally large cabbage tree that sit beside the deck. I went out to fill the Tui feeder and there was a commotion in the cabbage tree. Suddenly a bird flew out of the tree about six feet from me. As it flew away I saw the distinctive tail and bright yellow/orange legs and I thought "bugger me, that's a falcon!". I've only seen a falcon in the wild once before in Picton about four years ago, but once you've seen one you don't forget them. As I excitedly told our guests Sue and Derek from Ireland how rare it was to see one here, Sue said, "Look it's back." Sure enough there was a small falcon (I later learned that the males are about half the size of females) in the flowers of the cabbage tree rummaging around. I managed to get a couple of close up photos before it flew off again in response to a call from a larger falcon I saw circling above the tree (now I know that was the female).

I thought "What a treat, I probably won't see another one for another 23 years." Then a week later as I was heading out of the front door to the beach I heard a distinctive cry and looked up to see a falcon flying towards one of the tall Norfolk pines that rise up above the Matekai Park forest. It landed on the very top of the tree and sat there as the larger female flew around it, calling and flapping her wings in some kind of attention seeking display. After about a minute they both flew off, and while I heard them calling for a couple of weeks I haven't seen them since. Hopefully they will be back again soon.



New Zealand Falcons are near threatened. They fly at high speeds and catch live prey using their talons. As they nest on the ground or in rocky outcrops nests are vulnerable. Maybe this pair is a result of some of the great trapping locals have done and continue to do.

According to TRC there are at least three pairs that they are aware of in New Plymouth so we are lucky to have this one in the area.

## The Most FM


This is an independent radio station with strong local links. Playing alternative music with 60% Kiwi and lots of locally recorded music (which they are very proud to support), they have recently upgraded their system with a repeater frequency at 107.4 FM for our coast, 100.4 FM in town or streamed on mostfm.com.

The station was formed in 1995 when a small group - including local resident Richard Shearer - bought the assets of the student radio station that was part of The WITT School of Journalism. Richie and Alan Day are also trustees of the station, overseeing operations and sourcing funding. They host their shows voluntarily, alongside locals Ross Bennett, Paul Christophers and soon Peter Baber. Crez Holmes of Ōkato is the only paid announcer. Jen Harries helps out with sales and promotion.

They also promote live music and I've been to see a number of great musicians in the past at Butlers Reef and they have a play space near their New Plymouth studio. In addition to this they have a strong connection to WOMAD, M.C.ing one of the big stages and hosting a breakfast. If you listen to their shows three months prior to WOMAD you will hear music from the artists who are coming to New Plymouth.


If you are keen to keep this amazing radio station playing they accept donations, have a GIVE a Little Page, or advertise with them.

Give them a listen – you won't regret it.



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## Ōākura School

Last month, the Year 7s and 8s started their snorkeling training at the Aquatic Centre with Rachell. Students wore snorkeling gear and dove down to the bottom of the outdoor swimming pools in preparation for their upcoming camp. They also went to Ngāmotu beach to continue training for their trip to Goat Island.

Meanwhile, the Momona team participated in a junior triathlon that covered multiple different sports into one event. Students started by biking a lap around the top field on their own bike. Next, they ran another lap around the field before finishing by swimming either a length or a width of the school pool. Friends and family cheered for them as they crossed the finish line on another amazing day.

Swimming sports was another fun event that was held at the Ōkato pool. Years 5-8 students raced each other for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings, as well as House Points and the year 8 Swimming Cup. The finished house flags were waved through the air by the house leaders as students swam in competitive and non-competitive races throughout the day. Overall, everyone who came along had an amazing time even if they didn't swim on the day.

As house points start to rack up, students are working harder and harder to keep their placing on the leaderboard. Almost every event held at Ōākura School is a chance for students to collect house points for their houses so their team can get 1st place. Students can also work hard in class and get 'Be Our Best' cards which get counted shortly before assembly. Every 'Be Our Best' card handed in counts as 1 house point towards the leaderboard and students can win free Subway lunches on Friday among other yet to be known awards when cards are drawn from containers during assembly every fortnight.

Written by Jesse Tscheuschler

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# Stories of the Past

As shared by Len Jury

## A Road of Yesteryear.

### Dirt road in the 1930s

*Sylvia Haldane nee Taylor penned*

I was born in 1929, my parents lived in the last house of Hurford Road. House! well, they always referred to it as the "bach", three rooms, no electricity, kerosene lamp and candles, only tap was outside on the tank, the black stove had a compartment on the side for heating water, all water we used was thrown outside, no drains etc. The tin bath hung on a nail on the kitchen wall. The copper was in the paddock, it needs little imagination the number of trips my mother made carrying buckets of water! I slept in a cot until I was seven, it was made of iron, it must have been larger than today's cots.

The metal road stopped short of our boundary. Our car was big and square, fabric sides and roof, which was tied on with ropes. I well remember the day the rope broke and the roof flapped behind.

The bush had been felled on the farm of 250 acres, ragwort and blackberry grew rampant. Dad had only seven cows which he drove to Urenui to winter in his first year. Being accustomed to stoney river beds, they all walked into the river and drowned.

Our neighbours the Walsh family were modern, electricity, radio and even a bath! I was always welcome, Mrs Walsh never seemed to mind an extra mouth to feed, even though they had

six children. When it came time for me to start school one of the Walsh boys came with me on my pony, I never mastered the art of horsemanship. The Hurford school was beside the hall, the playground eventually became the hall's parking site. We used to walk across to the hall for singing, and concerts were held there. Also card parties, - euchre was played; 20 - 24 tables which spilled out into the main hall. A huge open fire was always burning and huge black kettles provided cups of tea. Dances were held, - the 'girls' wore beautiful long frocks. I remember wondering if I'd grow up and have a lovely frock. The men stood at the end of the hall, single women sat down one side, and the marrieds on the opposite side, no chance of hanky panky in those days.

New neighbours moved opposite us, Morris and Ivan Rea, they were excellent musicians, also

sang and yodelled - I spent many hours there. Their bach had half wooden and half dirt floor and they only cooked on an open fire, also not even a tank - their water came from a spring twenty metres away. They often played at dances and often missed the cream lorry at 11am the next day, but nobody seemed to care. By now the road past us was metalled. After eight years my parents built a new house and the following year a cowshed with electricity!. No more a petrol engine to milk the cows.



POSTCARD CIRCA 1908: Dirt road in early 1900s showing horse and gig.

### Dirt Road even in the 1950s

*Ian Sargent wrote*

The Sargent children were born during or just after 'The Great War' of 1939 to 1945 and our dad worked in an essential industry, part of the United Kingdom's food basket. Dick was a cheese and butter maker and was seconded to Kaimata to keep the Dairy Factory functioning and Gertie's role was to keep the manager functioning. Dad had previously managed at Tokaora, Manutahi, Kahui Road, and post Kaimata chose to take on the position as General Manager, Oaonui. This was a role that he must have fulfilled well, as when I chose to work in Opuake I was impressed by the number of locals who remembered our parents with affection.

Working at the processing end of dairying was not Dick's primary goal. Dad wanted to be a farmer, a primary producer and would have loved to have farmed with his brother Frank, but this was not to be as Frank was killed in Italy in 1944. The small property at Kaimata was to have been the start of a joint venture and it was not the way Dad had envisaged. The sale of that property helped our parents purchase 100 acres at the top end of Hurford Road, just one farm below Carrington Road. They wanted land close to New Plymouth, close to schools for the children. Land in those days, as now, close to New Plymouth was expensive. Hurford ticked the price box but it was under developed and run down with poor fencing, much gorse, blackberry and ragwort, no buildings and the metal road ended one farm away. Offsetting all this were magnificent views of the North Taranaki Bight with the backdrop of Pouakai ranges and towering mountain, all this on a good day. On bad days were the Southerlies, Westerlies, very low cloud, rain and mud. Getting the property producing any income was a major hurdle that was stressful in every direction. In the early stages, work on the farm progressed during the off season and days off from factory work. I have a vague recollection of Dad returning home unrecognisable, as he had been spreading Basic Slag by hand. He was covered in a dark grey layer of slag.

I am sure that many times the challenge seemed to be just too much, but they battled on.

A house was found at the New Plymouth Gasworks for sale by removal. The Gasworks were being demolished to make way for the Centre City shopping complex and the reorganisation of the rail yards in that area. It duly arrived at the top of

Hurford Road on the back of a truck and in two pieces, minus the roof. The biggest obstacle was getting it past the Hurford Road Dairy Factory, which was at the bottom of a gully beside a stream. Once the house was put together on tall piles, the task of roofing, lining and making it liveable began. It was a 'character building' experience, but that was not the end as a milking shed needed to be built with necessary infrastructure.

I started school at Oaonui and we moved onto the farm in about 1952 when I became a 'bus boy' travelling to Omata School by school bus. The farm continued to progress and improve.

Team Mum and Dad needed transport suitable for collecting supplies from The Farmers Co-op in New Plymouth but did not have 'overseas funds'. A 'state of the art' Bradford Van was the only option. It was new and cheap, a 3-cylinder multi-purpose vehicle that could carry a family of six, a dozen, or more young calves, and bags of fertiliser. A real beast that pattered along, boiled, got the 'shimmies' but generally served the purpose.

Farming was a learning experience for all of us. Mum helped with the milking in the morning and the children learned to get themselves ready for school. We were involved in the shed at some stage of the week, health and safety not being the thing it is today. We were familiar with warm, squishy poo when we helped bare foot. Cows were known by name or number and I have fond memories of one particular big, red girl. Cherry was the only cow I could walk up to in the paddock and hop on her back for a wee ride. Cherry would always lead the herd to the shed.

I did think I would go farming but my parents had the wisdom to suggest a more general education would be to my advantage. The end result was being accepted into the School of Pharmacy in 1961 and formally registering as a pharmacist in 1965.

**Credits for for the article:**

1930s: *Sylvia Haldane nee Taylor. Omata Village - A retrospective published 1964, editor Russell Prout.*

1950s: *Ian Sargent - article supplied for TOM magazine.*

**Postcard photo pictured on left page:**

*This postcard shows the burnt off bushes settlers established their farms. This photo is typical of the countryside including the top of Hurford, Carrington and Plymouth roads around Taranaki Maunga at that time.*



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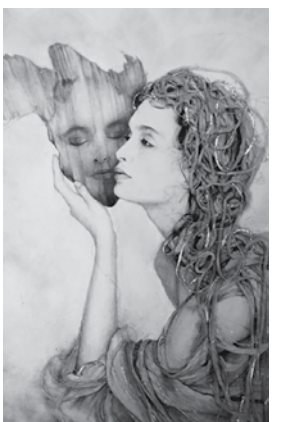
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# Being part of something better for our future

By Charlotte Connolly and Charlot Fisher

## Nga Manu Takutai - Shore birds

The Ruru class has flown into its Nga Manu study by working with Dr Emily Roberts. We learnt that there are over 80 species of shorebirds that breed in Aotearoa. New Zealand also breeds most of the world's penguins. Fairy terns are the rarest breeding bird in Aotearoa, New Zealand. As scientists, we took a field trip to Tapuae to discover more about our Manu Moana and Manu Takutai or Seabirds and Shorebirds. Working with Dr Emily from Wild for Taranaki, Jane and Luana from Te Ara Taiao, we investigated the nesting areas for Tūturiwhatu/Dotterel, Oi/Grey-faced Petrel and Kororā/Little Blue Penguin. We looked at the vulnerability of Tūturiwhatu/Dotterels and investigated the range of footprints that we could find in the sand. One of the focus' of our field trip was to measure, track and identify each footprint. We spotted a wide range of species.

Tapuae is a great place for walking your dog. Our learnings indicate that it is really important to keep dogs on a lead at certain times of the year when these threatened and vulnerable species are nesting. We will be making signs to inform the public of how they can better protect our Manu. It was tricky to find the dog rules for Tapuae beach. Most people won't know that they need to keep their dogs on a lead between August and April and keep them away from the vegetation where the birds are nesting. If everyone helps to do this, we might all be able to see increased bird life at Tapuae.

## Atamai and Mahaki - Our special Kiwi release

Another exciting thing that Ōmata School has had the privilege of being involved in with our native manu is holding a kiwi release ceremony. As part of this students suggested names for the two kiwi to be released. One is now named Māhaki which means humble and the other Atamai which means intelligence. There were several organisations who have supported our journey and involvement in returning Kiwi to the Kaitake ranges, so we took the opportunity to thank them.

Ōmata School would like to mihi to Taranaki Iwi and Ngati Tairi. Thank you for your leadership, for sharing your tikanga and mātauranga with us. Walking beside us and sharing their knowledge helps us understand how important it is to protect and respect our environment.

We would also like to mihi to Taranaki Mounga and the Kiwi Trust. For over 10 years, they have worked so hard to bring kiwi back to our mounga, providing spaces for kiwi to flourish and making a real difference to our environment and our community. We are very lucky to see the results of their mahi and to learn from what they do.

Our school is proud to be working alongside the amazing people who go behind the scenes and who make this all happen. Helping our native manu repopulate.

## May

- 1-5 Life Education
- 19 School Photos
- 20 Y8 students to Young Leaders in Palmerston North
- 27 Hall Committee AGM 2pm
- 30 NZ Playhouse Y1-6 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf'

## June

- 2 King's Birthday holiday
- 17 Y6 Swim Safety at the Aquatic Centre (3days)
- 19 Puanga 6:30am
- 20 Matariki holiday
- 27 Term 2 ends

# 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

### Oakura Bowling Club Mahjong Group

We meet each Monday from 1pm at the club. All welcome including beginners. For more information contact Heather 021617894

### 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

### Indoor Bowls

Enquiries to Marvin Clough 752 7531

### JKA Karate - Jim Hoskin 752 7337

**Justice of the Peace** - Lynn, Anne, John, Krys. Ōākura Library Thurs 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 Classe** - 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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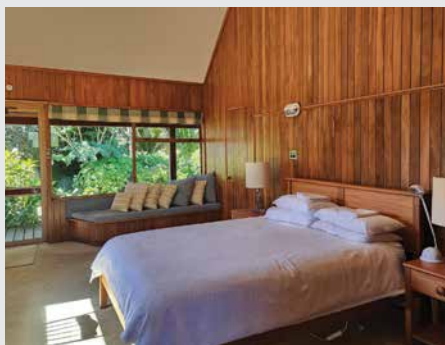
Articles & advertising bookings 12 May.

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**Jodie Dahlkvist** - Property Manager, McDonald Real Estate  
Phone 027 666 0464 Email: [Jodie.dahlkvist@eieio.co.nz](mailto:Jodie.dahlkvist@eieio.co.nz)



*jdl*

**JODIE DAHLKVIST**

• PROPERTY MANAGER •

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