

the Ōākura Post

AUGUST 2025



The bridge between reality and dream is work.

- *Jared Leto*

Seven students from various Taranaki high schools enrolled in the WITT Build a Bridge programme were lucky enough to be part of the construction of the new Whenu Ariki bridge. In partnership with NPDC and Southcoast Construction the students built the two ramps and handrails at both ends of the new bridge.

WITT has been delivering the Build a Bridge programme for five years. High school students attend classes once a week for three terms to learn about the civil infrastructure sector. During their time at WITT students get to build various structures for their communities with the support of NPDC and local contractors. Being involved in the Whenu Ariki bridge build provided the students with the opportunity to see just how many different groups are involved in such a project, as well as getting to work in such a beautiful location. The ramps were prefabricated at WITT and then transported to site. The students enjoyed spending a few days on site helping with the installation of the ramps and getting to work alongside the contractors.

Jan Kivell

Short Course & Programme Manager

NZIHT | NZ School of Engineering, Energy & Infrastructure

Some things to note:

**Te Ara Tahuri Hau walkway, Whenu
Ariki bridge and Hauranga Pā**

The height of the bridge has been raised significantly compared with the old bridge, to protect it from high tides, floods and extreme weather events. The height of the pathway was kept lower to minimise visual impact and lower the construction cost; with the expectation that during storms and king tides, waves might overtop the pathway. Users will see the warning notice at each end of the pathway "Caution in big seas".

Kaitiaki Forum members representing Ngā Mahanga and Ngāti Tairi, and Kaitake Community Board, present and past, contributed time and knowledge towards this project.

The importance of preservation of the historic Pā site and the ecosystem of the stream were realised during construction.

Photo credit: Mike Ure

Kokopu (1) captured and released during stream works. They are a protected species in New Zealand, classified "at risk, declining". They face ongoing threats to their survival, including habitat loss, introduced species, and overfishing.

Kōura (2) freshwater crayfish, are a taonga (treasured) species and are partially protected. They are subject to regulations regarding their harvest and are recognised as having an important role in freshwater ecosystems.

3. Archeologists at work after discovery of a single femur of Polynesian decent which was reburied on the pā.

Te Ara Tahuri Hau Walkway (Path of Wind changes) - translated

The changing winds can be seen as people slowly gaining understanding and finding common ground, like calmer waves meeting at the shore. The word 'Hau' connects the main winds from the sea to Hauranga, acknowledging the importance of the site and holding firm to our beliefs as Ngā Mahanga a Tāiri in respecting and protecting this place.

Whenu Ariki
Stream Bridge
- refers to this
stream connecting
(Whenu) two high
ranking ancestors
(Ariki) together.



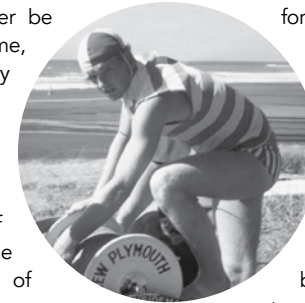
Photo of students From front left:
*Chloe Swart, Baden Graystone, Reg Russell
 (WITT Tutor), Harley Wilson, Jesse Godfrey,
 Vadam Lucas (sitting at the back on the right)
 Larkin Mills, Cypress Ryder (front right)*



With Deepest Sadness ...

Farewell to Life Member David 'Daisy' Lean

With deepest sadness, the club farewelled our beloved life member, Daisy Lean. For those who knew Daisy, he will never be forgotten. Throughout his lifetime, Daisy achieved an extraordinary amount — not for accolades, but for what he believed was right.



Among his many ventures and accomplishments, one of his greatest was organising the remarkable circumnavigation of New Zealand in an inflatable rescue boat. Daisy and his crew spent 26 gruelling

days at sea, clocking up 4,770 kilometres and ultimately raising an incredible \$545,000 for the TSB Stadium and Aquatic Centre — a brutal journey that will be remembered for generations to come.

Earlier, in 1978, Daisy also co-organised a 232-kilometre relay swim down the Whanganui River, which even involved using homing pigeons to send updates back to the Taranaki Daily News — a true reflection of his adventurous spirit and determination.

Daisy's legacy is one of service, courage, and action. He has left an indelible mark on our club and the wider community, and we are all better for having known him. Rest easy, Daisy.

"You will always be remembered".



Kaitake Golf Update

Tuesday, 8th of July saw the finals of the Ladies Club Championships being played in fine but cool conditions with the course being a bit wet in places. There were some close matches. It was good to see a few members supporting the finalists. Afterwards we had some bubbles and afternoon tea to celebrate. Thanks to our referees on the day, Diane Jones, Kris White and Mary Pettigrew. Results were: Silver Division (Handicaps 0.0 to 18.4)- Kim


Woodward beat Debra Johnson 4/3; Bronze 1 Division (Handicaps 18.5 to 29.9) – Denise Howe beat Bob Fleming 2/1 and Bronze 2 Division (Handicaps 30.0 to 54.0) Karyn Lehrke beat Donna Sharpe on the 19th Hole.

Also good to see that the new toilets on the course have been completed. Thank you to Colin Woodward and "Irish" for their work in getting these built.

Wet weather has been playing havoc with the course so some of the ladies' competitions have been postponed.

At present the course is very wet and this is impacting in the number and size of unrepaired divot damage. It is particularly noticeable on the Par 3's. Players are reminded that it is important to please replace the divots on the course.

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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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Kaitake FC Mid-Season Update

Football is flourishing in the community! Kaitake FC has had a superb first half of the season with the Juniors thriving and our Senior teams in strong positions in their respective leagues.

Junior football currently has over 140 members across 12 teams featuring girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 14. Wednesday night trainings have been buzzing with the juniors starting off at 4pm, followed by the seniors in the evening. A big shout out to the many volunteers across the community for coaching our kids. Your contribution is amazing and you do the club proud.

Over to the Senior teams, the Kaitake FC Women's team has been playing very well this season under the guidance of John Gray, sitting 6th in the League. Well done to Kelsey Husband with 13 goals so far this year, second in the running for the league's golden boot! The women have a brilliant team atmosphere and are having heaps of fun, also easily the most highly attended team for training! Keep up the great work girls.



Webber Building Kaitake FC has had a great start to the year, sitting top of the table in the Masters division. They are up for the battle and looking forward to a hard-fought run in for the title. The now famous 'HBs' have been spearheaded by Mike Maxim, the league's top goal scorer on 12 goals. The HBs are our much loved men's social team for players over 35 years old.

Cunningham Construction Kaitake FC has had a good solid start to the season in the Championship, sitting second in the league with just one defeat so far this season. It's great to see local players with lots of youth flourishing through the team under the guidance of head coach Dom Squatriti. The boys are in the hunt, led by captain Jimmy Bevington, with 15 goals and the league's top scorer. Jimmy also brought up an impressive milestone of scoring his 150th goal for the club in recent weeks.

A special thanks to everyone who attended our fundraiser Bingo night on Thursday 19th June at the KCSH, raising money to get new football goals up at Ōākura School. We achieved our goal and cannot wait to see the new facilities in use.

A big thanks for our continued support from our Sponsors - Cunningham Construction, FIVE-D, Webber Building, Butlers Reef, After Disaster, and Suchy & Co.

Keep an eye on the Kaitake FC facebook page to track our Fixtures and Results. If you are interested in playing football, regardless of age and ability, you are most welcome!

So please get in on Facebook, or email info@kaitakefc.co.nz.



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Performances will be at the Dance Centre in St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth on August 8, 9,10, 15 ,16 and 17 - but be quick as some performances are already sold out!

Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors/students and \$10 for children, with family and group discounts available.

For tickets phone 758 0991, text 027 694 0933 or email janeroseman@xtra.co.nz



Gerald the Giraffe - Rosanne Taylor.
Rock and Rolling Rhinos - Leanne Shaw and Catherine Donlon (left).
Zebras - Penny Dixon and Sophie van den Brand (Left). Taken in the 'jungle' outside the Dance Centre by Roger Richardson.



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Kaitake Community Sports Hub

With more than 300 junior rugby and football players wearing their Kaitake colours, Saturday mornings down at Corbett Park and the Rivermouth Hub are a visual action spectacle. Our men's Masters and Premier football teams provide a great watch on a Saturday afternoon (and a good excuse for a quiet refreshment afterwards) and the Women's football team are proving hard to beat on a Sunday morning. Get down to Corbett Park and support your local teams!

Kaitake Netball have five teams playing on Saturdays at Waiwakaiho and Kaitake Basketball club, the newest club in town have men's and women's teams at the TSB stadium. The hub has been busy, hosting after match activities for the winter teams, community meetings and private functions as well as popular and successful Bingo and Jingo fundraiser nights for our football and netball clubs.

We are hugely grateful to our latest 2025/26 sponsors – HouseMe (Gold) and Egmont Honey (Bronze). In addition, KCSH is delighted to be one of the chosen charities to benefit from the work of Keryn at Oakura HomeSewn – support our sponsors to support our kids!

KAITAKE BASKETBALL CLUB JOINS KCSH!

Kaitake Basketball Club is a newly formed sports club, with an aspiration to find a home for two long-standing basketball teams with strong ties to this community. Not only are they looking to build on the camaraderie of their current teams, in the future they hope to expand the club by welcoming additional teams, competitive, social and youth.

Women's team Kaitake BTW Bullets (formerly Hareb Deken Bullets) is a team that was formed over 30 years ago by a group of Ōākura players. Kept alive over the more recent seasons by locals Rachael Hareb and now Jennie Aitken-Hall, some of the players have been playing together for 10+ years, with multiple season wins to their name. A competitive spirit and a fun and supportive team culture has kept the players coming back year after year. Special thanks to their sponsor, BTW Company.

The men's team started out as the Caffé Blues and first won the NP A grade in 2009. Since then the team has had a couple more name changes, first going to the Westtown Warriors,

then the Proof and Stock ball club, and is now called the Smoked Meat Bulls. Over the last few years the majority of the team have been based around Kaitake so it's great that they can be part of the Kaitake Basketball Club. This year they are again playing in the NP A



grade comp. Special thanks to their sponsors, Smoke Meat Everyday / The Arizona and New Plymouth Physiotherapy.

Both teams are excited to be part of the new club and KCSH - a collective with a mutual passion for sport and the community. If you would like more information about the Kaitake Basketball Club, please reach out to: Jennie Aitken-Hall info@hallofdesign.co.nz

Coming up at the Hub

Mountain vs Surf – United by Kaitake, divided by SH45. KCSH will host the inaugural Mountain vs Surf Trophy Challenge this spring. Do you live on the mountain side of SH45 / SH3 or are you on the surf side? Teams in football, netball and touch, all ages from juniors to masters, mixed genders, pick your own mates and family. Stay tuned for more details – you will not want to miss this, it's going to be a great day and you can say you were in the first one!

Annual Golf Day: 7th November. The 2025 KCSH Golf Day is on Friday 7th November at Kaitake Golf Course. It will be a great event so get your team booked – Ambrose format,

teams of 4, prizes galore – lock it in! Limited number of hole sponsorships available (\$500/ hole - includes one team entry). Team entries \$200/team. Enquire now at admin@kcsh.co.nz.

Hire the Hub. The Rivermouth Hub is THE BEST venue for your next special family occasion, wedding, 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@kcsh.co.nz

Join the Team. We would love your support in helping us provide facilities for our sports clubs, our community and especially our kids. There are many ways to support the Hub – from a social membership that allows you to bring your guests and enjoy some refreshments in the amazing beachfront setting...to donating as a community

supporter or corporate sponsor to help keep this valued community asset up and running, as well as keep it free for kids. Head to our website www.kcsh.co.nz to check out the options.

Cheers from the team at the Rivermouth Hub – your team!

Above Photo: The KAITAKE BTW BULLETS, sporting their new club uniform, thanks BTW Company and Tsunami.

Top from left: Katie O'Donnell, Amber Smithers, Kellie Johnson, Jennie Aitken-Hall, Cathy Probyn. Bottom from left: Lilly-Jo Robinson, Madeline Shearman, Cara Humphries Stonnell, Renee Owen. Absent: Ava Koch and Julia Mckie.



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Bryan Vickery

Kaitake Ngamōtu Ward Councillor



By the time you read this column nominations for the New Plymouth District Council will have closed and I will be seeking re-election for a second term on Council. I wish all aspirants good luck, especially Graham Chard. It's not easy standing for public office. It takes courage. You put your name forward, then the public determines the outcome. You need to campaign, and it can cost you thousands of dollars to advertise. In my opinion, it's important to put skin (money) in the game. Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Car company used to say: "Early to bed, early to rise, you won't get anywhere if you don't advertise."

I have represented the Kaitake Community Board for a year now. I have enjoyed working closely with Graham Chard, Paul Lobb, Teresa Goodin and Renee Hohaia. I am proud of their achievements and I unashamedly champion their ideas. I have tried to use this monthly column in the Ōākura Post to bolster their profile, including having their photos in this paper. Renee recently did excellent work to

ensure Wairau Rd will get a badly needed concrete footpath. Also Teresa worked effectively with the Ōkato Hempton Hall market stallholders to formulate exciting plans to make their future more viable and to better market them.

Recently I was privileged to film Songs of Matariki by the Taranaki Singing Venture at the Hempton Hall in Ōkato, proudly organised by local stalwart Lesley Dowding. The video has been watched by thousands of people on Facebook. On Sunday, 13 July I got to emcee the Cape Egmont Half Marathon for the third year in a row. It was a blast creating celebratory hype on the microphone as people crossed the finish line. Energy begets energy, and enthusiasm is contagious. More than 700 people took part in this event to raise money for the Taranaki Cancer Society.

One of my aspirations next year, if I am re-elected, is to lift the community profile of Ōkato and help them better tell their local stories, both in this paper and on my Facebook page.



Why vote for me? I believe in servant leadership, and encouraging people who strive to improve their community is what drives me. That more than anything encapsulates who I am and my values.

BRYAN VICKERY | BVmedia

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Ōākura Tennis Club

The courts have been a bit water logged lately but it's good to see kids and adults still enjoying a social hit when the sun is shining!

We had 23 adults and 20 juniors playing interclub tennis this season out of a total membership of around 100. Thanks to everyone for paying their subs - the majority of interclub subs go towards the regional and national tennis association with anything left going towards club power bills and the like. A big thanks to our sponsors who we rely on to help pay for balls throughout the season: Insure Taranaki, Healthspace, Heydon Priest Bp and Fredericks. Thanks to our coach Monica for supporting juniors and adults to improve their tennis skills. We appreciate being able to share the space with Ōākura School.

I would like to give a Big Shout out to committee members Graeme Mitchell, Gavin Stanley, Anne Bridges, Sue Oldfield, Rachel Volcani, Wibke Termath, Simon Spurdle, Toni Peacock, and Chris Young who have been busy behind the scenes organising interclub teams, court and club maintenance - replacing the clear light on the deck, replacing some of the exterior cladding, and scraping the moss, dirt and leaves off the courts!



The AGM and planning for next season will kick off around September and any members are welcome to join the committee.

While watching Wimbledon on tv I didn't spot Chris Young, Matt Stringer or Andrew Hood in the crowd but I know they enjoyed some of the real thing!

Jackie Keenan

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Olive's Branch Rongoā and Welsh Healing Clinic is set in Ōākura, and offers healing in ancestral wisdom, spirit-led practices and deep connection to Wairua (Spirit) and Whenua (land).

I was born in Wales and was from the age of four taught by my grandmother the traditional understanding of plant medicine, connection to spirit, land and healing. I learnt that healing is not just physical; it's emotional, spiritual and cultural and all must be brought into balance and alignment for healing to occur, bringing peace to the physical symptoms we experience that often some other medicines can find difficult to shift, both mentally and emotionally.

After coming to Aotearoa in 2001, I was taught Rongoā Māori by my then mother-in-law, Kuia Olive Bullock, and her sister, Aunty Sue Jones, where my knowledge and understanding of plant medicine and Wairua was enhanced every day for six years.

Today, Olive's Branch Rongoā clinic brings together traditional healing that includes, mirimiri/romiromi (light and deep tissue massage), honohono (energetic alignment and spirit guidance), and Rongoā Rākau (the use of native and herbal medicine to restore wellbeing).

My practice weaves together the ancient threads of Welsh and Māori traditions, supporting people to reconnect, release and restore health.

I offer release for people of all ages who may be experiencing chronic illnesses, musculoskeletal injuries, arthritis, or want pregnancy support. I use a range of health knowledge such as craniosacral treatments, and haemata (accupressure).


I was the Kaimirimiri (massage and healing person) for the local Kaitake Rugby Team for the past three years, supporting the team with their physical injuries on and off the field. I teach in a few local schools, passing on the ancient medicines that help whanau and support guardianship of the land, as well as seeing clients one-to-one in my clinic based at No4 Butlers Lane.



OLIVE'S BRANCH RONGOĀ

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The 'Black House' in the circle.

In 1951 the Smith family purchased the black cottage at 26 Tasman Parade. After 74 years, it's changing hands. The cottage has been a wonderful and much-loved family asset, always maintained as a seaside bach. Now it is the end of an era, the close of a significant chapter in the lives of three generations of the family.

The cottage has an interesting history. It was owned by two nuns in 1935 when the late Norton Moller, aged about five and suffering from consumption-like symptoms, spent his winter there on doctor's orders. The fresh sea air was considered the ideal cure for him.

Later the nuns sold it to a Dr Yagoosh from New Plymouth, who in turn sold it to the Smiths in 1951. Back then, Tasman Parade was a rarely metalled track, and the circle was a lupin-infested paddock. All the cottages there were on the Shearer farm with owners paying only a small annual rental. Arthur Smith set about rectifying that. He arranged for the land to be surveyed into sections so that the owners could purchase titles from the Shearers. At a later date the bach owners donated the grass space in the circle to the Taranaki County Council for a public reserve.

The Smiths spent many happy summers at the cottage while their children - Jan, Joy and Peta - were growing up. It was often said that the £350 outlay was the best money the family ever spent

In 1970 Peta and Doug Hislop moved in soon after they married. Doug, a mad-keen surfer, turned the garage into a backyard surfboard factory, shaping many boards for other surfers.

When Peta and Doug moved to their home in Mace Terrace the cottage became the seaside bach again, welcoming a wider group as the next generation began arriving. All the grandchildren, spread far and wide, came for many years to have fun-filled beach holidays.

When Arthur retired and he and his wife Nan sold up in Hawera and moved to the cottage permanently for the rest of their lives. In 1991 Matt's mother Jan moved in and lived there until her death in 2021, after which Matt and his wife Jan took up residence.

Through Norton's recollection the cottage's history can be traced back for at least 90 years, and it's likely it stood in that spot in the circle even longer. Now, as Matt and Jan prepare to move on, it's clear the greatest legacy left by Arthur and Nan are the happy memories shared by so many over so many years.



Earliest image we have - circa 1935



The cottage is the furthest right one, circa 1949



Circa 1951

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

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David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

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

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



Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Taking Over Parliament Experiencing The Halls of Power as a Youth MP by Jasper Rhodes.

Parliament isn't a place you'd expect teenagers to run. But for three busy days, that's exactly what happened. I recently took over the Halls of Power alongside 122 other young leaders from around the country. We participated in a 'mock parliament', if you will—but one with a purpose far beyond political education.

Youth Parliament is a triannual programme that supports and develops New Zealand's future leaders and politicians. Though this three-day event is the highlight, my role spans most of the year. It is such a rare opportunity to represent my peers, my school, and the young people of the New Plymouth Electorate at a national level, and have our voices heard. In the debating chamber, I had the privilege of taking the seat of my selecting MP, mentor and friend, David MacLeod.

If you've heard anything about New Zealand's Youth Parliament recently, chances are the word 'censorship' has appeared. For much of the event, the House was divided. One side claimed that the Ministry of Youth Development censored their speeches; the other side thought differently. Adult politics is brutal, but Youth Parliament came very close to this brutality, and in many cases overtook it. In my opinion, this conflict diluted a key purpose of the event: to excite young people about politics. I fear this division scared many of us away from it.

Amidst the drama, positive experiences and outcomes were had. I had the privilege of co-chairing my Parliamentary Working Group on online safety, which is like a select committee. The mutual respect we had for each other proved that unity did exist at Youth Parliament, despite what was often portrayed in the media. Eleven of us worked together towards solutions on how our generation can be better protected from the threats of the online world. We presented our recommendations to MPs, and senior officials of departments, including the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Internal Affairs.

The voices of young people are too often neglected when making decisions that affect them. But the recommendations we provided will be used by the Government to actually influence policies and decisions.

These three days were a true taster of politics. We debated, networked, had media interviews, and worked until midnight on our proposals to Government. A challenge, yes, but above all, an honour and a thrill.

It was admittedly a powerful feeling sitting in a room with the country's current leaders, and many of its future ones. It is this generation that will one day lead Aotearoa, and, if the last week is anything to go by, I'd say the future is in pretty safe hands.

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

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

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Stories of the Past

As shared by Len Jury

Bird of the week.

As a youngster I collected birds' eggs, as youngsters did in those late days of the 1940s. These were easily accessible in hedges around the farm but painful as you worked your bare arm towards the nest. Sleeves catching on the thorns of the boxthorn hedge did not help the mission. Your bare arm as you wriggled it into the hedge sometimes startled the poor old sitting mum. In those days thrushes and blackbirds were, as now, plentiful. It was an acquired skill not only robbing the nest but avoiding the inevitable scratches which turned septic and painful. Next was the "blowing" of the eggs, removing the yoke without breaking the shell, again another but delicate acquired skill. The eggs were threaded onto a cotton to show to admiring visitors.

Then, from the city (Lower Hutt) came cousins who took exception to my prowess. I could not understand their displeasure. I was not depleting numbers as it was easy to see the usual numbers were growing. However, my excitement of achievement waned and soon stopped. I would be devastated if such a practice was indulged today. My interest has turned to recognising different bird species around our home, our farm of the past and in our small locality.

Firstly, the flocks of starlings making so much noise in the local mainly macrocarpa trees, a cacophony that could be easily heard half a kilometre, perhaps a kilometre, away. Not only was their presence easily heard, there was also the scene of the filth splattered on the ground left behind after a night roosting. Another disgusting habit was their disease-ridden pollution of water troughs. Then the annoying habit of building nests in sheds, even above ceilings. They snuck through little holes, ever so small, to build nests. The chicks as they grew were forever clamouring louder and louder with their food demands, like spoilt children. I have no time at all for starlings as I view them as disease ridden pests that spread salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli and other diseases that can affect the health of humans, livestock and pets. Just google "Starlings" to understand the evil picture. However, there is nothing evil about Fay Looney's great photo of a murmuration of starlings in flight on the cover of June issue of "TOP"(The Ōākura Post). That is a memorable work of art.

I have always been interested in the "Garden Birds of the week" to survey. In your garden or seen from your home, there are a surprising number of different species. I note a number, and I am sure you will nod your head as you recognise your friends. Let's start with the Blackbirds. Blackbirds as they spy an emerging worm and inch it from the ground is a fascinating exercise to watch. Similarly, a Kingfisher perched on a powerline many metres above the ground dives downwards onto an unsuspecting beetle. Goldfinches (their young look like a sparrow). Greenfinch, Fantail, Native Pigeons, Pheasants, Pukeko, Quail, Mynas, Magpies, Sky Larks, Rosellas, Tui, Domestic fowl and Bantams, Pigeons, Sparrows, Hedge Sparrows, Starlings, Swallows, Yellow Hammers, Waxeyes, Paradise ducks, Geese, Seagulls, Mollymawks, Spur wing Plover, Kingfisher, Chaffinch, Skylark, Harrier Hawks, New Zealand Falcon, Teal and Mallard ducks and the little black rubber duckies, Scaupe, like a child's toy, dives and then shoots to the surface within seconds.

Then the moreporks with their distinctive calls at night. I have only seen morepork once and it was a VERY scary encounter. A pair was sitting on a branch above, their big black, outsize eyes swivelling as they watched my cousin and me below. It was an unnerving concentrated stare. We did not stay to watch but a quick exit back to the paddock above deemed a very wise thing to do. Even a Bittern I have once seen in a creek standing with its outstretched beak in the air like a leaf of a reed, except it was different. It immediately flew away, and I have never seen one since.

I am sure you can add others to this list.

Each species has a special trait, particularly to the many who enjoy watching our birdlife. The bird I admire is the spur-winged plover. Whenever a hawk appeared the plover pair would immediately engage slashing with their wingtips as they rolled to attack time and time again. Unfortunately, horses and sheep do not leave the taller patches of grass for them to take turns to nest.

A visitor from Singapore was enthralled to look down upon Hawks as they flew past, rolled, glided, soared and dived using the airwaves as part of their daily patrols for prey. These patrols follow the same pattern day after day until a kill is made. For a few days they will fly just over the same spot, I guess to catch another there, a rather fruitless exercise.

Not fruitless when they attack a baby rabbit that hunches down in the paddock instead of speeding for cover. It's a prime example of 'I can't see therefore I can't be seen'.

There are birds not in the garden and recognised as not special to New Zealanders. Illustrated is a notice printed on cotton 90 years ago reiterating a Conservation Act of 1922.

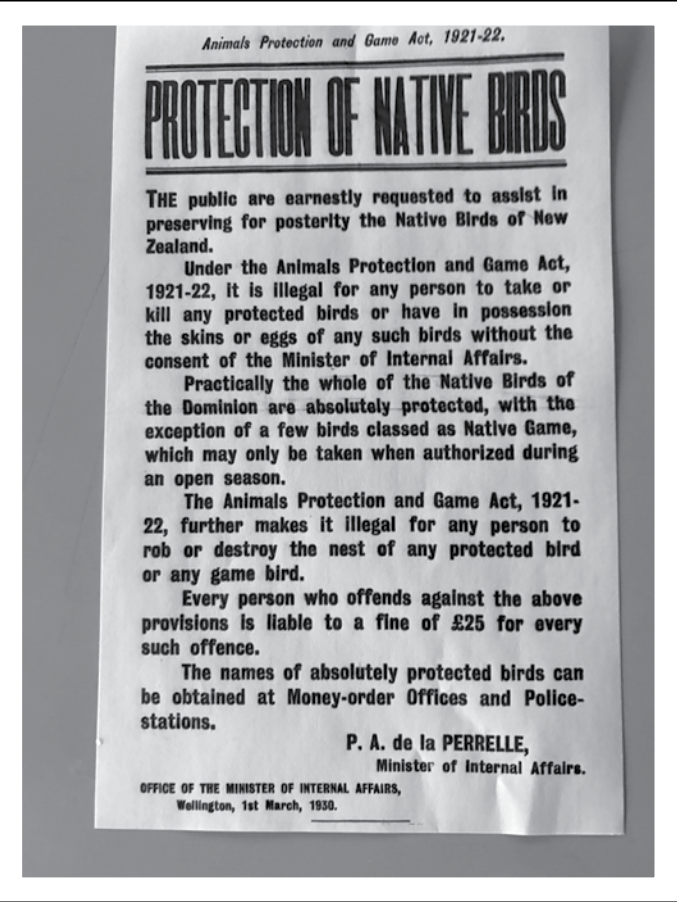
I regret to say when I was not even a teenager, I was aware of a neighbour trapping 'possums in the ranges and bringing back kiwi that had been caught by the leg in a trap. He assisted their recuperation, but I know there were some released with a stump of one leg. After visiting friends at Uruti in Young Farmer days and hearing kiwis, my memory of the same bird calls at night was clear. I still feel sickened.

A few decades ago, as the President of an international organisation with members in over 50 countries, one of my roles was to visit their conventions around the world. In Asia they particularly took great pride and beaming smiles to recognise me as "Kiwi". I was only the second President outside of North America in over 60 years from the foundation of the organisation. At these conventions not only was the New Zealand flag honoured but it was also introduced, with no prompting from me, as the "Kiwi" flag.

Another instance I find particularly tragic involved family members in the late 1800s. A family letter was sent from the wife of the head lighthouse keeper at a very isolated lighthouse in Fiordland recording how the Government supply boat had not brought food supplies "for a year" due to the weather and sea conditions. The writer also records how it was no problem as there were plentiful numbers of kiwi and other native birds I will not name, and vegetables for their food. Yes, mention was also made of the hordes of mosquitos.

Today I am proud of the efforts of our farmers and other property owners in Ōmata, Koru and Ōākura, from the ranges to the sea, encouraging native bird numbers. They have each fenced covenants, which remain in perpetuity, with the assistance and encouragement from the Department of Conservation, New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council. These areas of native bush and wetlands will not only benefit our native birds, flora and vegetation, but our own future generations. These areas now form a corridor for birds to follow to feed as the seasons change.

I must commend our schools for their efforts to identify our native birds and trees and plant these and native vegetation as part of the studies of their pupils' education.



Lastly my heartfelt congratulations to the local conservation groups and organisations over the years for their unstinting efforts to successfully re-introduce Kiwi to the Kaitake ranges. "Ka mau te wehi!", That is outstanding!

I salute everyone who has contributed. I also know that many youngsters, will even in 70 years' time, have that great inner feeling of warm pride, not of "I was" or "I did" but "I am part of that!".

Ngā Mihi

Len Jury.

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Puanga at school

On Thursday 19th June (6:30am) many families joined us for our annual Puanga celebrations. It was a special way to come together as a community - beginning with our hikoi, gathering in warmth around the fire-pit, and sharing kai together.

Although Puanga (Rigel) remained hidden behind the clouds, we were grateful the rain held off, allowing us to mark this important time of reflection and renewal.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who gave their time and energy to help make the morning a memorable occasion.

A special thank you to Home and School for supplying and organising our breakfast. You all did an amazing job to cater to such a large group. Ka pai.



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 Franz 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 - Tues 9.15am, 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

Adult ballet class on a Friday morning at 9:15am, ask us about adult Tap classes. 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

St. Patrick's Catholic Church - Saturday Vigil Mass @ 6pm. 36 Cumming Street.

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

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