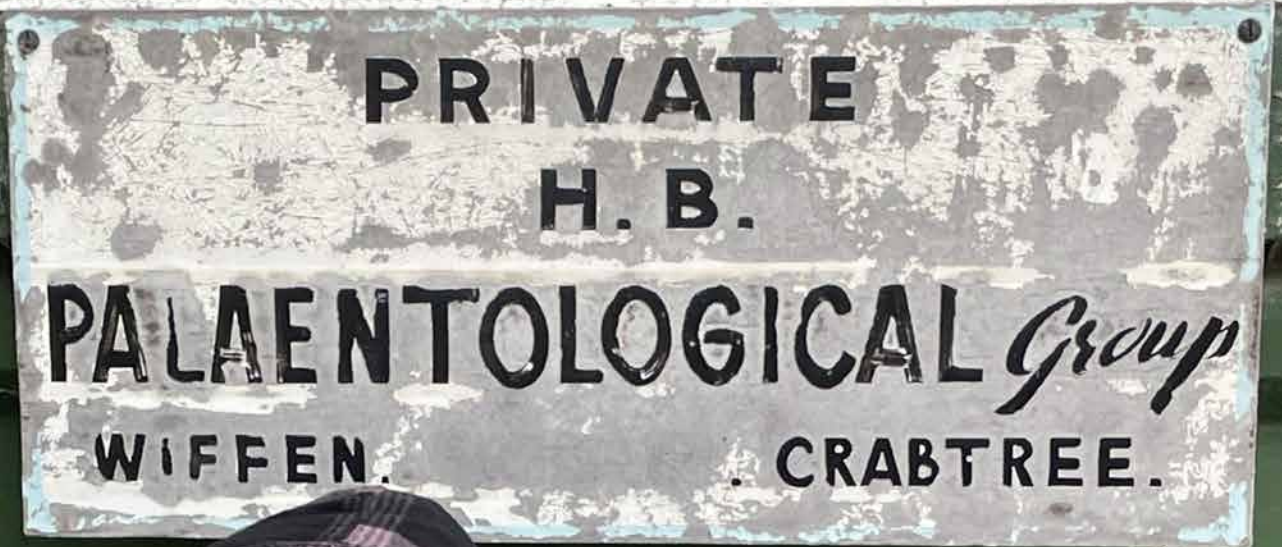


the Ōākura Post

SEPTEMBER 2025



Ember

AT THE
Hawkes Bay
Paleontology
Camp

pg 10

A popular hut on the Pouākai Ranges re-opens

The new 34-bunk Pouākai Hut is part of the Taranaki Crossing project.

A partnership involving DOC, Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (Kānoa), Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and hapū which has also seen several of tracks across Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki upgraded. The Taranaki Crossing is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund (\$16.4 million), which is administered by Kānoa. Additional funding to support the project has been provided by DOC (\$5.2 million).

The unique hut design is a result of collaboration between representatives from Ngā Mahanga a Tāiri and architects familiar with alpine hut design and construction.

Richard Buttimore, of Ngā Mahanga a Tāiri, says: "Hapū representatives have valued the collaborative partnership with DOC on the design and build of the new Pouākai Hut. "It has reflected the agreed values for this kaupapa, respecting Pouākai the tupuna, the environment and the whenua - ensuring our ongoing manaaki for the day and overnight visitors who will use this beautiful new hut. "To see the hut develop from initial ideas and plans, to now be completed and ready to welcome visitors represents a shared vision brought to reality."

Tinaka Mearns, DOC's Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki Regional Director, says the new Pouākai Hut represents a major milestone in the Taranaki Crossing project. "We're so pleased to have completed this part of the project, as it's the most popular hut in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki," Tinaka



says. "The previous Pouākai Hut was at the end of its life, and the new structure is more than double the size of its predecessor – so it's a big improvement for visitors."

Tinaka says the construction of the hut presented some challenging logistics – including the need to fly materials and tradespeople to the site. "I'm proud of the efficiency and smart thinking the project team has shown to finish the build – constructing a hut on the side of a mountain, where there's no road, is not an easy feat.

The hut is on the DOC booking system and is now available to visitors.

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Mah Jong on a Monday.

If you have ever wanted to learn how to play Mah Jong, or know how and want to get back into it, you can join with like minded people on a Monday afternoon from 1-4 pm at the Ōākura Bowling and Social Club. A game of skill, strategy and luck, Mah Jong originated in China in the 19th century and spread through Europe in the 20th century. Groups of four use a set incorporating 144 tiles with symbols based on the Chinese original. Tutor Heather Lofthouse learned to play Mah Jong in the Middle East and has returned to it in recent years, now offering her experience and knowledge to assist others to learn. Recently five of the local group took part in a Mah Jong tournament in New Plymouth. Each club has its own rules and hands. Heather is very grateful to the Ōākura Bowling and Social Club for loaning their premises as a venue. Membership of the club is a requirement to join the group, at a cost of \$40 per year. Participant Michelle says, "It's not hard but its challenging, and a good workout for the brain. I love it!"

Pride Taranaki

Coffee Group get together – Dawn Cafe 14 September 11am - 12pm.

Fancy a Curry?

For several months now this new local restaurant has been getting established. Open most days for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Curry Caffe also offers takeaways, European dishes and coffee and snacks. On the day I visited the cabinet was full of made-in-house snacks and the coffee machine was primed and ready. Owner Ash Ramola greeted me warmly and told me of his extensive experience in hospitality. His dad, Elam, is well known for running Indian themed food places, beginning in Sylvia Park Auckland and Westfield. Encouraged to eat at all the franchises, the family visited New Plymouth and liked the district so much they moved here and ran an Indian food outlet in Centre City before opening Eden Café in Bell Block. Now Ash has struck out on his own in Ōākura with a varied menu and long opening hours. Lucky us!

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Regular Event:

Crackerjacks pre-school story time Thursday 4th September 10am. Join us for stories, rhymes, crafts or songs-fun for the Tamariki and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

School Holiday Programme:

Wednesday 24 September 2-3.30pm

Got a plain T-shirt and a creative spark? Bring your own tee and join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to design and cut your very own iron-on vinyl graphic using our vinyl cutter!

We'll guide you through the process of creating a custom design, cutting it out, and prepping it for heat transfer—perfect for personalising your wardrobe or making a one-of-a-kind gift.

Suitable for ages 10+, booking required 10 spaces available

Māori Language Week:

Te Wiki takes place from 14 – 20 September 2025. Join us for a range of activities throughout the week.

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Ōākura Library Team

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Kia ora Ōākura,

It's us – the “chicken people,” Hayato and Kana. We wanted to properly say hi and share a little bit of our story.

We moved from Japan to New Plymouth in 2017 after our first son, Kirin, was born. Both of us love surfing, and after travelling to many places, Taranaki was the one that truly felt like home.

Hayato worked as a chef at Snug Lounge and Lemonwood Café, and after gaining NZ residency, we started Chur Chicken in 2023 at the Seaside Market – just a small gazebo and a big dream. Since moving to Ōākura last November, we've been serving from the Ōākura Hall on weekends. More recently, we've also joined LunchOnline at Ōākura School, offering wholesome, protein-packed meals to help fuel the local groms.

With over 20 years of experience in Japanese cuisine, Hayato began with traditional kaiseki, cooked for ambassadors at the Japanese Embassy in Wellington, later ran his own restaurant, and now offers private dining and wedding catering for those wanting a deeper Japanese food experience.

At Chur Chicken, we're about simple ingredients, quick service, and honest flavour. We like to keep things fun and light, but we take our food seriously.

For us, “Chur” is more than just a word – it's about connection, good vibes, and appreciating the moment. We feel lucky to be part of this amazing community and can't wait to keep sharing our love of food, surf, and life with you all.

You'll usually find us on Thursday and Friday evenings at the Spotswood College carpark, and on Saturday nights and Sunday lunch and dinner at Ōākura Hall (with online ordering available). On the first Sunday of each month, we pop up at the Seaside Market – so keep an eye out. Since our schedule sometimes changes due to weather or events, the best way to stay updated is by checking our socials:

FB: [@chur.chicken.new](https://www.facebook.com/chur.chicken.new)

IG: [@chur_chicken](https://www.instagram.com/chur_chicken)

Finally, we truly appreciate the warm support from our amazing local community.

Ōākura Tennis Club

AGM time again, any club members who want to come and join our amazing committee come along to the Ōākura tennis club Wednesday 10th of September 7.30pm.

Anyone interested in playing competitively this season get in touch. Team entries due in in October and we've always got room for more players whether it's Saturday competition, mid week ladies or juniors.

Enjoy the start of spring, courts will be getting a grooming to help with the moss.

Club History - any long term Ōākura residents that have Ōākura tennis club stories, information or memorabilia they are willing to share, please get in touch with me or Tracey at TOP. We are planning an article on the club's history.

Happy hitting

Jackie Mitchell. grazjaz@extra.co.nz

Tracey editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

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Ōākura Bowling & Social Club



The Ōākura club is breaking with old traditions and taking a step forward with the exciting introduction of the LegAsea community tournament played over several Saturday afternoons starting on Saturday 11th October. The objective of the LegAsea tournament is to offer the wider Ōākura community an opportunity to play bowls in a social environment while maintaining the competitive edge to bowls. The tournament will be open to all playing members, non-bowlers and members, friends and family and the wider community. The format will be two games of 1hr 15min triples with weekly team prizes and individual honours at the completion of the tournament. The beauty of the competition is that there is no obligation or commitment to turn up each week. Just register by 1pm on the day and drawn teams will be selected. More details on dates and format to follow in next month's TOP edition and on the Oakura BC FB page (coming soon). A big thanks must go to Barry Watkins for his generous sponsorship.

The Ōākura club is eagerly looking forward to the restoration of women members and women club champ competitions in the upcoming 2025-2026 season. The club already have several women who have signed or are keen to join the club in a full playing capacity. Club champs' day will be on the same day as the men and with the introduction of the LegAsea community tournament, the ladies will have the option of playing those Saturday afternoons in a more social environment. The club has included 5 roll-up days starting from Opening Day Sunday Sept 14th, and coaching will be available most Friday afternoons throughout October and November. Individual coaching will also be available throughout the season. A full playing programme and calendar will be available on Opening Day.

The Ōākura Bowling Club is offering all first-year bowlers a package deal: \$50 fees for the initial year, including two club polo shirts, coaching sessions, and the use of club bowls. If you are keen to learn more about the club or membership details, please contact Steve Muller on 021 169 5863.

Ōākura finished 1st and 2nd in the Wednesday interclub competition played at the Paritutu indoor stadium. The Steve Muller skipped team of Pat Walklin, Wayne Gray, and Peter Radich won 7 from 9 games to take the title. Last year's winners, Jim Priest, Allan Bridgeman, Roy Phillips and Rex Wright, were a game behind securing 2nd position. Ōākura has the enviable record of winning this competition 11 out of the last 13 seasons. A great result for the club.

The club members are keenly waiting for the arrival of the new club shirts from local apparel supplier, Tsunami. A big thanks to Paul and his team at Cunningham Construction (major sponsor) and Summit Refrigeration for their great sponsorship towards the stunningly designed shirts, a Kaitake blue colour featuring the Ōākura iconic staples of sun, surf and the Kaitake ranges.

The underarm bowler



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Indoor bowls

Our club championships are in full swing. Starting with the Pairs, the first semi-final was played between Merv Hooker and Nev Jans, which was a tight tussle being four all after eight ends. Then Nev dropped four shots with one end to play, and lost 4-10.

In the other semi-final Jim Priest played Wayne Gray, with Jim getting away to a healthy 6 nil lead. While Wayne played some good bowls he couldn't catch-up the deficit, losing 5-11.

In the final Merv and Andy played Jim and Zena, with an even start, although Jim picked up four shots on the fourth end and three shots on the fifth end. Jim then contained Merv to various single shots leading into the final end 11-5. Jim scored one shot to win the title. All around a great final with Zena Smith playing quality lead bowls.

The championship Singles was played over three nights, with points awarded for a win, ends won, and overall score. This allowed us to find the four semi-finalists being; Grant l'Ami, Greg Jans, Bev Kirkby and Jim Priest.

The first semi-final had Grant vs Jim, which was a one sided affair with Grant a comfortable winner, noting that Jim was doing his best with an injured shoulder.

Bev and Greg's game was a lot closer, with each player winning ends until it was 8-all on the last end with Greg playing a lovely bowl to end up the victor. The final had Grant scoring consistently over a number of ends, and while Greg played well, Grant played better and won 14-4.

The club had a team in the Lew Andrews tournament played over five weeks with other clubs from around New Plymouth. It is played on Tuesday afternoons and is a mixed format which means each player plays a game of singles, pairs and fours. Our team of Steve Muller, Peter Anderson, Pat Walklin and Greg Jans came away winners. Congratulations guys, a great result!

Next month a final wrap up for the season.

The President

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KRCT Update

Winter is fully here in Ōākura with a mix of cold, wet days and stunning, clear, sunny days. The down side of those spectacular sunny days in winter is the freezing cold nights and mornings that accompany them. Most people at this time of year are probably not thinking about going for a walk up in the bush, but luckily there are a lot of keen volunteers who are still spending their weekends doing just that.

We just had our annual AGM at the back bar of Butlers, which is one of the few times that more than two of us ever get together. Most of the time when we are up to Trust activities it is spent alone and the AGM is one of those rare time when we catch up with each other to share a drink, spin some yarns, and hear from some inspiring speakers about how everything has been going over the past year - the local kiwi experts Sian and Toby; Brandon Kingi and Sean Zieltjes with Taranaki Mouna Project; and Dr. Emily Roberts with Wild for Taranaki.

Well...this past year was a very good one for the Trust and more importantly for the taonga in the Kaitake Ranges. 101 kiwi have now been released in the Kaitake Ranges and they are absolutely thriving. The monitored birds show that they are breeding...once, twice, and some even three times in a season! Each time they have one or two eggs, which means a few pairs may have raised six chicks this past season alone.

Further evidence of the thriving population comes from the extensive network of cameras in the Kaitake Ranges. In June 2025 kiwi were detected on 21 of the 65 cameras in the Kaitake Ranges with a total of 42 kiwi images captured, compared with June 2023 where kiwi were detected on only 5 of the cameras with a total of 9 kiwi images.



Oscar Anderson is one of the many new volunteers helping bring our native bush back to life.

Over the past year around 80 volunteers have been checking over 800 traps and caught just shy of 1,200 predators. That incredible mahi by your neighbours is bringing the Kaitake Ranges and our community back to life.

I now take for granted seeing tui chasing each other around in my backyard and kereru flying around. Visitors always remark on how

special it is to see these taonga. On top of those 'common' native species, we also now have this growing population of kiwi up in the ranges, little penguins nesting down at the beach, and now there are even some oi/grey faced petrels nesting in the cliffs around the local coastal areas, including in the bush at Corbett Park!

All of these taonga wouldn't have a chance without us, as they would be easy prey to predators. Trapping is important, both up in the bush and down in our local community. Unfortunately, trapping can't do it alone. Kiwi and grey faced petrels are also vulnerable to dog, cats, and people. The Ōākura community is collectively working to restore the native species and we all need to keep it up. Please do your part by trapping in your backyard and keeping pets under control in sensitive areas.

Huge thanks to all of the dedicated, passionate volunteers who give their time to take a walk in the bush to rebait and check traps, especially the core group who've been doing this for years...you know who you are.

Thanks.



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David Macleod
MP for New Plymouth

By now you will be aware that we are proposing to replace NCEA with
new national qualifications to ensure New Zealand students have the
knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

We want every New Zealander to reach their full potential and
contribute to a thriving economy- and that starts with our students.

The evidence shows that NCEA in its current form is not consistent
across schools and is hard to navigate.

To recap, we are proposing a qualification that is internationally
benchmarked, easier to understand, with clearer vocational pathways,
has a focus on foundational skills, and is more consistent in how we
assess students.

Under the changes, NCEA Level 1 would be removed, allowing Year 11
students to focus on preparing for their main secondary qualifications
in Years 12 and 13. A new Foundational Skills Award will recognise
literacy and numeracy at Year 11.

The existing NCEA Levels 2 and 3 would be replaced by two new
qualifications: the New Zealand Certificate of Education for Year 12,
and the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education for Year 13.

Assessments will move from a fragmented standards-based system
to a subject-based approach, and each subject will have internal and
external assessments that add up to a total of 100 marks, and align
with a grade of A, B, C, D. Students will be required to take English
and Mathematics at Year 11, along with at least five subjects in Years 12
and 13, needing to pass at least four to gain each certificate.

The new curriculum will start to be introduced at the beginning of
2026, the Foundational Skills Award in 2028, and the new certificates

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Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

in 2029 and 2030 for Years 12 and 13. Consultation on the proposal
is open until 15 September, with final decisions due by the end of this
year.

These bold education reforms are about raising achievement, and
our new proposed national qualifications are designed to ensure our
children are getting the skills and knowledge they need to set them up
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Developing New Zealand's future talent is a key part of our plan to
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Karl, Ana, Ember and Nova at Maungataniwha

For Fossils' Sake: Unearthing the Past, One Adventure at a Time

At For Fossils' Sake, fossil hunting isn't just a hobby – it's a family mission. Based in Taranaki. Karl Raubenheimer - self-taught Paleontologist, with partner Ana Harrison and daughters Ember and Nova, explore riverbeds, beaches, and bush tracks together, driven by curiosity and a shared love of our country's deep geological history. Our excursions are hands-on and muddy, often with kids in tow, as we uncover ancient stories preserved in stone.

Karl Raubenheimer grew up in Zimbabwe, Africa. After spending his school days learning the art of snake breeding and hawk training, his move to New Zealand was no doubt going to find him doing something interesting. He soon discovered the science of fossils and fossil hunting. Fast forward 20 years and Karl has just recently had a new species of fossil named after him, a giant crab (the biggest in the world), Pseudocarcinus KarlRaubenheimeri. This accolade has gained international credit, and we now work with museums finding fossils from around the country (and hopefully further afield in the future!). Ana is a Preschool teacher whose passion is nature and education for sustainability for children. She now creates fossil videos and hosts workshops with Karl with the intention of sharing information about our local fossils. Ember (10) and Nova (6) are both pupils of Ōākura School.

This journey took another exciting turn when we began retracing the path of legendary paleontologist Joan Wiffen – the woman who first proved dinosaurs once roamed New Zealand. Inspired by her discoveries, we set out to follow her path. Finding this area took a few years of work and research. The Dinosaur Valley, as we call it, is on private land in Hawkes

Bay. Karl's knowledge and experience with fossils allowed our family entry and we were able to explore this huge expansive and incredibly special place. The land is protected under a QEII covenant and the owners and managers are working to restore what used to be forestry to native forest. Their reforestation efforts are incredible, with thousands of kiwi, a breeding programme, and protected nurseries that are raising near extinct native plants such as the Kakabeak.

During our last trip to Dinosaur Valley, Karl found what appears to be the jawbone of an ancient marine reptile. Not to be confused with dinosaurs, marine reptiles such as Mosasaurs and Plesiosaurs swam in the oceans while Dinosaurs walked the land. This is a very exciting find as Joan Wiffen (in the 1970's) was the last (and only) person to find a fossil of this kind.

There are not many experts in New Zealand who can correctly identify what species of marine reptile this could be, so we have had to go further afield. We are now working with a Paleontologist in Chile whose expertise in South American dinosaurs could help us understand more about the specimen. Interestingly, many of New Zealand's dinosaur species are closely related to those found in South America – evidence of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana that once connected our distant lands.

Using the MakerSpace at Puke Ariki, we were able to get this fossil 3D scanned and sent to Chile for further identification, a feat that in Joan Wiffen's day wasn't possible. In fact, Joan had to pack her fossils in a suitcase and travelled to Australia and America to find specialists who were able to prove that she really had found a dinosaur bone.

The work Karl and our family do with fossils is engaging, historically and physically. We travel to remote and beautiful parts of our country to find fossils of rare and extinct creatures. Our rural Ōākura home hosts a workshop/museum of fossils from around New Zealand. We are opening this up as a place of interest during the Taranaki Arts Trail - an exciting opportunity to explore some of New Zealand's finest fossil specimens up close and learn more about the prehistoric creatures that once called this land home.

Soon we will be offering field fossil excursions and workshops for children, so watch this space!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqH5-5rfqDIXsPHRvX41WQ>
<https://www.forfossilssake.com/>

Written by Karl and Ana



Some local Taranaki crab fossils on display, all found by Karl.

A New Crop of Crop Swappers in Ōākura



Ōākura Crop Swap was one of those original vibrant hubs—active from around 2014 to 2019—where locals gathered monthly to share fruit, vegetables, plants, baked goods, gardening tips, and whatever else was in abundance. After several quiet years, it's now enjoying a well-deserved revival, thanks to the efforts of Adam Harris alongside Diana and John Williamson, who together have breathed new life into the movement.

Some of us remember those early days fondly and are thrilled to see the spirit of sharing and connection returning to Ōākura stronger than ever. The current gatherings bring fresh ideas, practical knowledge, and a reinvigorated sense of community to the monthly meetings held at the Ōākura Hall.

Why come along? Crop Swap isn't just about produce, it's about people. Whether you bring something or not, you'll leave with something valuable: some produce, a sense of connection, shared learning and a feeling of belonging to something important. You'll meet other locals with similar interests, discover seasonal foods you might never have tried, pick up gardening wisdom and even find inspiration to start something new at your own home. It's a place where abundance is shared, not sold, and everyone walks away enriched.

Here's how it works:

3.00

Arrive and set out what you are offering on the table.

3.15 - 3.30

A guest speaker shares some practical and interesting information from their expertise or experience. (The August meeting featured a mushroom grower and September will showcase someone who grows banana plants.)

3.30

Each person gets a chance to talk about what they brought, then everyone is invited to take what they want from the table.

4.00

We pack up, and head home with treasures in hand.

A gold coin koha is appreciated to help cover the Hall cost.

For more information, contact Adam Harris: adam@frankandfearless.com







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The start of the 2024 Cape Egmont Half Marathon

Bryan Vickery Supporting Ōkato

If you live in Ōkato, then this edition of the Ōākura Post, which has been delivered to your household, is courtesy of me, Cr Bryan Vickery. Why? Because it's an awesome newspaper and I am passionate about promoting community connections in Ōkato.

In fact, next year I am sponsoring talented journalist Taryn Utiger, who lives in Ōkato, to curate more local content into this fine newspaper, with copies available from the local Four Square.

More than a year ago the Kaitake Ngāmotu Community Board voted for me to be their NPDC Councillor when Cr Anneka Carlson Matthews stepped down after she had her baby. I have enjoyed working with board chair Graham Chard, and board members Teresa Goodin, Paul Lobb and Renee Hohaia.

If you have read previous editions of the Ōākura Post you will know that I unashamedly support the KCB. They work at the grassroots and do the hard mahi. I call them my bosses. I am their foremost lobbyist and speak on their behalf on Council.

My professional background is radio journalism and regional TV presenting. For many years I was a Newstalk ZB reporter, with a particular interest in the New Plymouth District Council. Before that I was a high school English and History teacher. I am best known for my not-for-profit popular media platform, Bryan Vickery Media Taranaki Facebook page. I do positive videos that celebrate community, and I love filming nature, especially Taranaki Maunga.

The stunning photos of the two Coastal Clydesdales, Classic and George, and their expert driver, Glenys Putt, and the handlers (horse



whispers) Jasmin Kemsley and Jade Pearce-Young, and those seated in the carriage, Lesley Dowding, Nicci Richards, Meg Cardiff, Aaron Bosch and Gail Church are all community stalwarts. It's people like them that makes Ōkato a unique and vibrant town.

It's selfless people like them that work with the likes of NZ Volunteer Firefighters, Lions, the Wednesday Market stallholders at Hempton Hall, Ōkato & District Historical Society, Age Concern, reading groups, exercise groups, St Paul's Church the list is endless. They make a place special, and I tip my hat to them.

I am thinking of people like Jessie-Anne Clements, she's with Ōkato Lions. The Lions Club are unsung heroes.

Jessie-Anne wants to spruce up the town notice board to make it more presentable and weather proof. We are working on how Lions and Council can better work together to enhance the townscape.

My extra responsibilities on Council include working with the Friends of Pukekura Park, Heritage Taranaki and the Taranaki Media Archives. My edited videos of milestone events in Ōkato, such as the 2025 Anzac Day march and service, and the past three Cape Egmont Half Marathons (which I emceed), have been archived with the Taranaki Media Archives for posterity. Other videos include the 2024 St Paul's Community Christmas Carols, the Ōkato Historical Society promotion, Songs of Matariki at Hempton Hall, the Ōkato Cemetery in the lead up to Anzac Day; and to my chagrin, footage of when I got lost by the Pyramid Stream and was forced to sleep rough overnight.

In closing I want to acknowledge Nicci Richards. I first met Nicci when I emceed the Taranaki Emergency Services Ball to raise money for the Taranaki Retreat. I love her vision for Ōkato and I am looking forward to supporting her upcoming fundraising ball at the Hempton Hall.



1

1 & 2. The Coastal Clydesdales, Classic and George, driver of the Clydesdales, Glenys Putt and handlers Jasmin Kemsley (blonde) and Jade Pearce-Young (dark hair).

3. Photo of the rundown 'Lions Ōkato Notice Board.

4. Nicky Smith, the organiser of the Cape Egmont Half Marathon

5. (standing in front of the fence) Lesley Dowding, Meg Cardiff, Gail Church, Aaron Bosch and Nicci Richards



2



3



4



5



Players from Kererū, Tūi and Diamond teams: **Front row (left to right):** Grace Crowley, Heidi smith, Brianna Caruana, Jessica Stones, Jenna Kensington, Laura Buttimore, Kiri Bailey, Chrissy Egarr. **Middle row:** Nina Bloor, Julia Darling, Toni Peacock, Jess White, Courtney Coster, Michelle Bourke. **Back row:** Thandi Tipene, Margaret Samson, Angie Barron, Taylor Mitchell, Desiree Nell, Emma Crofskey, Sarah Mako, Greer McQuay, Alana Clarke, Micah Lindsay-Brown, Gemma Skittrup.

Kaitake Community Sports Hub Mountain Vs Sea – United by Kaitake, Divided by Sh45

KCSH is hosting an inaugural Mountain vs Sea Trophy Challenge at the hub on Saturday 1st November. Enjoy a mix of social and competitive games, including football, grass netball, beach tag, and 3x3 basketball.

The BBQ will be sizzling, the bar open, and prizes awarded for best team uniforms – so start planning. More details coming soon – don't miss it!

Tsunami Sports Kaitake Netball News

Tsunami Sports Kaitake Netball have had a stellar season, with all five teams now in the final Championship Competition round. After round two, Sparks and Electric were promoted to Youth Sections 2 and 3, while Tūi topped their section to move up to Senior Section 1. Diamonds had a great round, winning all five games to stay in Section 1. Kererū had a mixed season with both wins and losses.

In week one of the Championship round, Sparks, Electric, and Kererū all won their games, while Tūi faced Diamonds in Section 1 – a great sight with both top teams on court in their Tsunami Sports Kaitake Colours. Despite

strong defence, full-court pressure, and sharp shooting on a windy day, Diamonds won 37–16. Tūi were missing key players, including shooters, but will relish the challenge of Section 1.

Upcoming Dates:

Sat 6th September - Final Competition Game

Sat 13th September - Closing Tournament and Prizegiving 6pm at the KCSH

Sat 20th September - Taranaki Champs (Winner gets promoted to Premier 3 for 2026).

If you haven't yet, head to the courts at Waiwhakahi on Saturday to watch our teams in action.

Oakura Cricket Club Update

Summer – and cricket season – is nearly here. In early October, club players Brett Cursons and Bryn Leadbeater head to India with the NZ Masters Team for six games in Delhi and Bhopal against top over-40s – a great warm-up for the season.

We're always looking for players – whether you're new, returning, or a casual cricketer.

The season starts in early November, so come along and join a great bunch of guys having fun chasing a ball around a field. Contact Brett via our Facebook page: facebook.com/oakuracricketchub. Fingers crossed for a brand-new pitch this year – watch this space!

Ambrose Golf Day

The 2025 KCSH Golf Day is at Kaitake Golf Course on Friday 7th November. Teams of four, \$200 per team. Prizes for Longest Drive, Nearest the Pin, and plenty of spot prizes. Mass start at 12 pm, lunch included, with prize-giving and auction to follow. Limited hole sponsorships also available (\$500 including team entry) – book early. Email: admin@kcsch.co.nz

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STAPLES RODWAY

AI: Helper or Hazard?

The year 7 and 8 students from Ōmata entered the Elemental group Science and Technology Fair. This year the essay topic was 'Is AI helpful or detrimental'. Here is Olivia Watkins winning essay as well as the prize giving results.

Did you know that A.I has been around for hundreds even thousands of years! Artificial Intelligence has actually been around since the Ancient Greeks. Surprisingly they used a type of A.I called automatic maids' and flying pigeons' as a replacement for their servants. They created the first robot over 2,500 years ago. These servants were used to pour wine and dilute it with the right amount of water. A.I or Artificial Intelligence these days is a computer system that is able to perform things that would mostly require the human brain and human intelligence. Tasks such as art design, data analysis, fraud detection, diagnosis, finance and so much more. There are many things to consider when deciding whether A.I is beneficial or detrimental to humans, let's consider some facts, negatives and positives of A.I, so you can make up your own mind about whether it is something that is beneficial or detrimental to our world.

A.I is really helpful to doctors and nurses in hospitals. Artificial Intelligence can be used to diagnose diseases. Tools that A.I uses include advanced machine learning algorithms. A.I can be used by medical professionals to diagnose health problems by analysing patient information. Artificial Intelligence can do this by identifying patterns to predict the issues and what they may develop into. This helps humanity by diagnosing diseases quicker so that the doctors and nurses can get onto it to prevent health problems.

Artificial Intelligence can also be used in space exploration. This is very helpful to astronauts as this can prevent further complications from happening. It was first used for space exploration in the late 1950s, A.I was used on a NASA spacecraft as an advanced algorithm to detect any problems on board. It can even predict any future complications such as extreme temperatures and orbital debris. As Artificial Intelligence has evolved it can be used in many different ways on spacecraft. A.I can even simulate humans flying in the spacecraft to go beyond where humans can safely explore space, this can improve further space knowledge.

Artificial Intelligence can predict natural weather disasters. Weather disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcano eruptions and so much more. A.I does this by studying large amounts of historical data and A.I based methods to scan for changes in photographs. Artificial Intelligence can not yet replace meteorologists with this task, but some A.I generated weather forecasts are more accurate than human intelligence ones. The upside of A.I powered forecasts is that it takes less human hours of work, and allows for evacuation of people in advance of significant weather events.

Weak A.I is the most used type of Artificial Intelligence today, but there are many other useful types of A.I. These include Weak A.I, General A.I, Super A.I and Generative A.I. Weak A.I is a type of A.I that is specifically programmed to only do one task. Weak A.I could be amazing at chess and win every game but would not be programmed so therefore it would struggle at problem solving because that A.I does not know enough to be good at it. General A.I is a more intelligent type of Artificial Intelligence, unlike weak A.I this sort of A.I takes information from the internet and has the ability to adjust to different situations. Generative Artificial Intelligence is a type of A.I that creates new content and designs, apps like ChatGPT, Copilot, Grok, Grammarly and Gemini all use generative A.I. Super A.I (in my opinion) is the best type of A.I. Super Artificial Intelligence is an overly smart kind of A.I that surpasses human intelligence in most ways, it is the smartest type of A.I. There is huge potential for Super A.I to make some really positive impacts and be very beneficial for humans in the future.

I think that one of the worst things about Artificial Intelligence is that it can take people's jobs. Research shows that by 2030, 300 million jobs could be taken over by A.I globally. This includes careers like transportation, manufacturing, customer service and office administration. That means 23% of the world's jobs can be taken hold of by A.I, another detrimental aspect of A.I is that data and security can be at risk with Artificial Intelligence. For example, A.I can accidentally leak some important information if a certain workplace does not have proper access controls. By 2050 it is predicted that around 20% of people will sadly not have jobs because of Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence sometimes isn't great for humanity, this is because it can also create fake news and generate fake images, this can lead to people thinking the wrong things. A.I takes information from the internet whether it is right or wrong. Artificial Intelligence doesn't know if the things on the internet are an opinion or a fact. This is how A.I creates fake news on most occasions. When A.I programmes generate pictures they use the data that they are trained on. With generated images there is a risk of misinformation (information that is incorrect and spread without bad intent), artists describe A.I generated images as fake and sucking the lifeblood from living artists.

One of the most detrimental things about A.I is that scammers can use it to hack and scam you. Scamming can be a very dangerous thing. A.I helps scammers by using the spear phishing attack. The spear phishing attack is a method used by scammers that targets specific

individuals with their interest. It slowly gains their trust and then scams them. Another way that scammers can utilise Artificial Intelligence is by cloning different voices. They can even make A.I to do voices of their family members and friends. Scammers can call and voicemail while using the A.I made voice to trick victims into thinking that they are in trouble or need financial help. This can be very dangerous and lead to people going completely broke.

However there are some really great things about Artificial Intelligence. Such as: A.I saves time, it doesn't make human errors and also huge amounts of information can be accessed quickly. A.I typically saves lots of time for companies and humans in general. Fun Fact: did you know that Hiringa (a company that makes hydrogen which they then turn into energy to fuel trucks, cars and other vehicles) uses A.I, instead of having a human sitting there all day to buy energy at the cheapest time possible in the day! Another great thing about Artificial Intelligence is that A.I doesn't make human errors, human errors are common mistakes like forgetting tasks, making mistakes due to lack of time, shortage of sleep and misplacing items. A.I can even help reduce human errors for humans themselves, since A.I doesn't have an opinion it isn't prone to biases or human judgement, not even the most intelligent type of Artificial Intelligence has its own opinion. When you're using A.I huge amounts of information can be accessed quickly, A.I can search the whole internet and look for the specific keywords that you searched up, then it summarises all the information into the main points. Artificial Intelligence can find information within milliseconds, this makes it easier to ask Google anything and get a more helpful answer.

To conclude, A.I has been around for thousands of years. As it has become more advanced it has become a powerful tool that has the potential to change the world for the better, making our lives easier, safer, and more exciting. But like all powerful tools, it also comes with risks. We need to use A.I wisely and not take it for granted. Make sure it's fair and safe, and think about how it affects our jobs and our privacy. As A.I continues to improve, we'll have to figure out how to balance the good things with the challenges it brings. The future of A.I is exciting, but it's up to all of us to make sure that we use it responsibly so that it doesn't get out of hand.

By Olivia Watkins, Year 7, Ōmata School

References: Bennett, Emma (Powerco, Executive Manager), personal communication, 22 May 2025. Duff, Regan (Generative A.I Integration Consultant), personal communication, 10 June 2025. Widdicombe, Charles (CFO Hiringa Energy), personal communication, 13 May 2025. Beyond Science : Artificial Intelligence (2025), Twinkl. Cronin, Aimie (2018) Connected, Level 4 Emotional Robots.

<https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/advantages-disadvantages>

<https://teague.com/insights/kids-and-ai>



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Significant increase in local house fires.

Over the past few months the brigade has attended an unprecedented number of property fires in both the Ōākura and Ōkato areas. Although there is no specific pattern to these fires, we are fortunate that all those within the houses had been alerted and were able to swiftly leave the property.

You would have heard of others around the region that have, sadly, not been able to escape their properties. As a community we must look beyond the tragedy of an event and think “how could I protect my family? ”

We cannot emphasise enough to please, please ensure that you have working smoke alarms throughout your home - one in each bedroom, one in the lounge, hallway, laundry and if possible a heat sensor in the kitchen. Also, just as important is having 2 -3 ways to escape your home and a safe meeting place (generally a letter box is great). Practise this escape plan with your kids. Do not ever, ever return into a burning house. It's not nice clean flames like they show on TV, you will be overcome by poisonous smoke.

And lastly please be aware of parking over hydrants. At one recent house fire we attended on Messenger Terrace a vehicle was parked on top of the hydrant. Fortunately we were able to locate the owner but it delayed our water source to the appliance and used up valuable time.

Picture above right: Cars parked over hydrants on Messenger Terrace.





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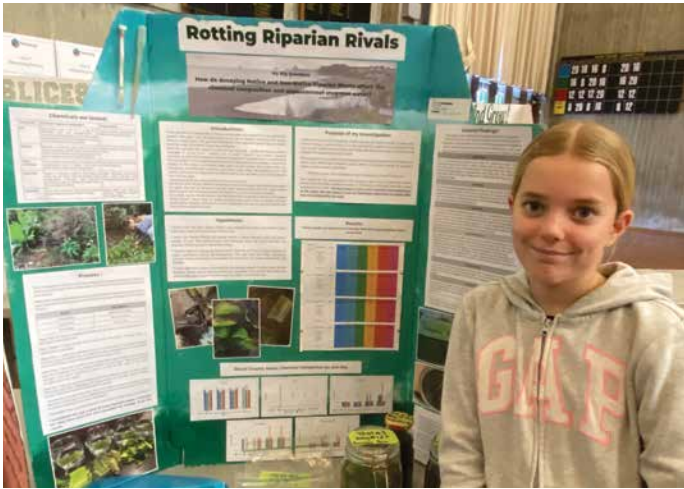
Dr Jill Devlin is an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialist who has devoted the last 15 years to serving women of all ages.

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Photos of Ōākura students by Lennox Kurth, Heath Reyes-Lam & Lynley Stringer

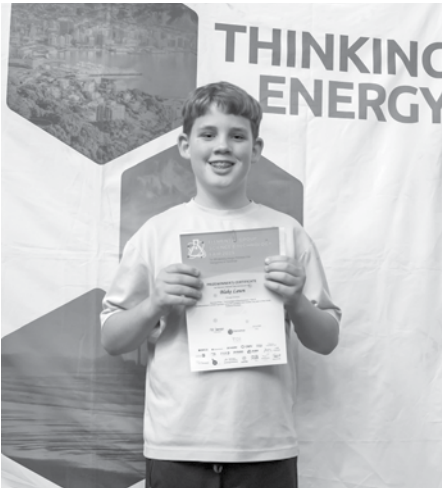


Elemental Group Science and Technology Fair Prizegiving Winners

- Technological Development**
- YEAR 7**
1st - Olivia Watkins, Florence Wylde and Penny House. 3rd - Dominic Widdicombe.
- YEAR 8**
2nd - Blake Lawn. 3rd - Noah Stonier and Blake Williams. Merit - Harper Valentine and Bella Vincent.
- Scientific Investigation**
Merit - Lennox Hudson-Bool and Taj Garga. Merit - Lachlan Beard and Connor Schadt.
- Scientific Journalism**
1st Olivia Watkins. 2nd Rachel Jackson. Merit -Harry Hargrave. Merit -Tyler Hargrave. Merit - Penny House. Merit - Mckayla Munro
- Scientific Observational Drawing**
2nd Blake Williams. 3rd Noah Stonier. Merit - Lennox Hudson-Bool. Merit -Dominic Widdicombe.
- Advertising Poster**
Merit - Dominic Widdicombe.
- Water Rockets**
- YEAR 7**
2nd - Dominic Widdicombe.
- YEAR 8**
3rd - Lennox Hudson-Bool.



Olivia, Florence, Penny and Blake collect their first place awards for Technological Development.



- Special Prizes**
- Blake Lawn - Worley Premier Prize for environmental engineering.
- Blake Lawn - Seis Momentum Ltd Prize for projects that tackle any part of the earth science process.
- Dominic Widdicombe - Ara Ake prize for projects that show creative use of energy.
- Dominic Widdicombe - Parkwind prize for best project exploring renewable energy.
- Dominic Widdicombe - Primo Premier prize for best project that creatively communicates Science or Technology.
- Piper Johnson and Riley-Jean House - Hiringa Energy prize for the best use of hydrogen or renewable energy.
- Piper Johnson and Riley-Jean House - Ara Ake prize for projects that show creative use of energy.
- Eliyah Smith-Phillips and Cruz Gyde - Taranaki Rugby Union prize for the best project in sport.
- Charlotte Connolly - Elemental Group prize for scientific endeavour.
- Rio Lucas - Araxada Ltd prize for scientific endeavour.
- Rio Lucas - Skin Expert Centre prize for health related produces.
- Jardin Matheson - Ara Ake prize for projects that show creative use of energy.
- Lachlan Beard and Connor Schadt - ICS Labs prize for scientific endeavour.
- Mckayla Munro - Yarrows Bakery Employees Charitable Trust prize for the best project related to food.
- Noah Stonier and Blake Williams - Energyworks/Taranaki Foundation sponsor prize for scientific investigations/technological developments that best show a novel demonstration of the industrial application of science or engineering.
- Harper Valentine and Bella Vincent - Primo prize for the best project that creatively communicates science or technology.



Ōākura School

With Market Day coming up soon, Ōākura School has been hard at work preparing their businesses and learning all about entrepreneurship. Students have been working on budgets, loans, costing and pricing, and even doing market research - surveying other classrooms and publishing Google forms. It is going to be an awesome Market Day this year.

We also had the classroom and school Epro8 competitions. Groups made massive, intricate machines using kits provided and attempted to get as many points as possible in the little time they had.

Ōākura Idol auditions have started as well. Kids of all ages are coming up with creative and funny ideas in an attempt to win this year's show. Head pupils Tawhiri, Elise, Jude and Kuini are this year's judges, with Tawhiri commenting, "This year's talent shows are amazing and interesting."

Written by Jesse Tscheuschler, Heath Reyes-Lam & Lennox Kurth

And we can't forget about the Taranaki Science Fair that almost every school senior attended. Some amazing ideas were showcased and some students even brought home cash prizes worth hundreds of dollars!

As always, this month has been super busy and super exciting, and there is still more to come.

Written by Jesse Tscheuschler, Heath Reyes-Lam & Lennox Kurth

Stories of the Past

by Len Jury and of the present by Richard Boon

An old postcard started it all. It is inscribed, "The New North Egmont Mountain House. A. Boon."

The postcard photo showed a clarity that surpassed those of other postcard photographers of the time.

The Mountain House was opened in October 1912, but who was A. Boon? A surname well known in Ōākura, Stratford and New Plymouth, Puke Ariki had the postcard but no other postcard examples by A. Boon? No details of this photographer in Stratford?

But wait – The story leads from Etruria, Staffordshire, England to here, Ōākura. It is the Ōākura story of Josiah Wedgwood, Charles Darwin and Barry Boon. This has to be a great story.

Barry's cousin George John Wedgwood Boon was mayor of Stratford 1957 – 1971. Asking Barry the significance of the Wedgwood name he commented, "It's just an old name passed down through the generations."

Josiah Wedgwood (1730 – 1795) produced the famous Wedgwood pottery sought by the upper classes and the Royal families of Europe of the time. Each had their own style. He was a pioneer of the Industrial Revolution and made his fortune from the industrialisation of the pottery industry, and he was also a brilliant entrepreneur and humanitarian for the abolition of slavery.

Charles Darwin is a grandson of Josiah Wedgwood, as is Thomas Wedgwood, pioneer photographer. Most will know Charles Darwin and the publication of his theory, "On the Origin of Species." The reason for the evolution of this theory is a fascinating story of its own. Darwin spent nine days in New Zealand on his famous two year voyage around the world on "HMS Beagle" collecting species and proving his theory. He married into the Wedgwood Family.

Thomas Wedgwood is famed for his experiments in photography. This included the first transfer of photo images to pottery which continued the world dominance of the Wedgwood pottery of Staffordshire.

Alfred Boon was a descendant of Josephiah Wedgwood Boon from Staffordshire who, with his family, settled in Stratford, Taranaki. The A. Boon, who photographed the Mt. Egmont scene used for the postcard was Alfred, Barry's grandfather.

Alfred and John Walters Boon, set up Boon Bros. in 1895. At one stage in the 1930s

the construction company employed over 200 people and had sawmills in the King Country. Boon Bros. built many houses and landmark buildings throughout the region including NPBHS and parts of NPGHS, the Nurses Home, St Andrews Church, the State Theatre, Mayfair Buildings, the Pukekura Park Memorial Gates, the Patea Hospital and the Stratford Mountain House.

Remember when you decide to throw out grandma's "old stuff" such as postcards, newspaper cuttings and old family letters,



The postcard of the new North Egmont Mountain House

there is probably a great family story hidden in there.

Barry, grandson of Alfred, and son of Ronald Alfred Boon, attended New Plymouth Boys' High School and was Head Boy in 1951. There have been three Boon head boys in the wider family since and today, with a smile he shares, at 92 he is the oldest living NPBHS Head Boy.

It was not only academically that Barry was an outstanding achiever in his youth. He was a gifted piano player and success in sport was also a big part of his young life.

His family extoll Barry for being thoughtful, sociable and approachable. And the children seem to have followed in the footsteps of their parents, both in sports and academically.

Andrea studied at Otago, and is a double professor in both Neurology and Physical Health at the Mayo Clinic in the United States, which is one of the leading hospitals in the world. She played hockey for Otago and is a keen single figure golfer.

Lisa studied law at Victoria, and after a career as a Crown Prosecutor, was briefly made a Kings Counsel and then quickly elevated to the High Court as a Judge sitting in Christchurch. Lisa played hockey for Wellington and is married to ex All Black Jon Preston.

Geoff is a secondary school teacher in Upper Hutt, having attended Otago and Victoria Universities. He was a member of the winning 1984 Otago University Challenge team and

still plays Golden Oldies Rugby. He was also a keen mountain climber.

Richard is now based in Ōākura after nearly 30 years in the UK. He qualified in Law and Accountancy from Victoria and Canterbury Universities and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. He worked as a global fund manager in London and New York and in private equity. He specialises in real estate and is a listed company director in the UK. He played cricket for NZ Universities and NZ veterans and is a member of the MCC.

When I asked Barry his advice for students today he gave a simple answer, "Do whatever you do well." On a choice of career?, "FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS." To fill in some of his sporting achievements I also interviewed Richard.

We are all greatly inspired by the lives of our parents. This is our story.

In tennis Dad played in the national U18 championships at the age of 13.

By 15, he was the Taranaki representative to play an

Exhibition Table Tennis match against Victor Barna (Hungarian/English representative) who was five times world singles champion!

In 1950 he played half back in the NPBHS First Fifteen, coached by JJ Stewart who would in later life coach the All Blacks.

He then went to Victoria University in Wellington to study Law encouraged by his Latin master at Boys High.

While completing his degree he was named a Double NZU "Blue" in Golf and Tennis, and was nominated for but narrowly missed out on a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

By 1954 he was Wellington Tennis Champion, playing seven seasons as number 1 in Wilding shield and ranked ninth in the country. After finishing playing, he spent 25 years serving on the NZ LTA and as a family I remember hosting some of the world's best Davis Cup players including the Armitraj brothers from India.

Dad's success against the very best in his field was more remarkable considering he was a strictly seasonal weekend sportsman, playing tennis in summer and golf in winter. He told the press "he played sport for its enjoyment, but with a strong ambition to win". That is also why he found his métier in litigation.

He married Sue (Wanda) Lois Watkins in 1959. Mum had received an Honours Degree in Home Science at the age of 19 and was working as an Industrial Chemist at Griffins. Remarkably (65 years ago) she was earning



The engagement photo of Barry and Sue

more than the 26 year old law partner at Chapman Tripp.

Like many talented women of that period, she sacrificed her own career to ferry us from sports practices to Scouts and Guides, speech and drama, music and swimming lessons. Typical of her stoic selfless generation, she also endlessly volunteered to help others, setting up a school lunch programmes, running a bottle recycling business to fund the scouts' new premises or helping dementia patients.

After 40 consecutive seasons of interclub golf, Dad was as tough as teak when it came to competition, whether on the links or a grass court. I can remember his grace, always,

under often the most fierce of pressure. In all aspects of his life.

Some of his scalps included Bob Charles in an U21 competition, the year before Charles went and won the NZ Open as an amateur. In the Freyberg Rosebowl interprovincial golf he beat five times NZ Amateur champion Stuart Jones, and in a Wilding shield tennis match at Stanley Street he beat Auckland and NZ's number one ranked Davis Cup player Lew Gerrard.

He also managed to balance his sporting pursuits, legal practice and a family of four children. At work he specialised in planning law and litigation and advised Petrocorp on the Maui gas field and won the resource consent for the Motunui synthetic fuels plant.

Boon Brothers was finally sold to Carter Holt in the 1980s with Dad and Terry pursuing professions and their middle brother (Peter) quite keen on horses. Still, family connections with the construction industry remain. Terry is a Taranaki legend and one of the country's most eminent architects while Tom, son of the late former All Black Roger, is the CEO of Taranaki Pine.

Dad retired in his late 70s after 15 years with the Police Complaints Tribunal and our parents returned to Ōākura to rebuild the family beach house on the same site in Jans Terrace where our grandfather had built in the 1940s.

Our summer holidays growing up in Wellington were always being packed into the EH holden station wagon and the drive back to Ōākura beach for the entire summer school holidays. With no devices as distraction, the quickest route to the surf was straight down the bank in front on a cardboard box. That wouldn't pass health and safety muster these days. Or down to the camp store for a 5cent mixture through the ghost track of bamboo that fronted the few Jans Terrace seaside hilltop houses back then to Tasman Parade.

Mum passed away in 2018 at 85, months before their 60th wedding anniversary. Dad played golf up until the age of 89, amazing the Kaitake locals by frequently shooting his age.

Of his eight adored grandchildren, three have attended Ōākura School. Till recently he has been an active member of the St James Parish and every Thursday he still has lunch at the Stumble Inn with a few old mates. He maintains his mental agility with cryptic crosswords and his Friday night Butler's crew kindly visit him at home every couple of months. He manages to still make his own breakfast – always Weet bix, piled high with milk and cream. Always keen to support the farmers, and it seems to be working.

My siblings and I are grateful for the amazing community care he receives and to have inherited these genes.

Richard

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Contemporary Art is for Everyone

Elaine’s story is another interesting one of how someone from afar ends up living in Ōākura.

Elaine was born in Taiwan to Chinese parents. When she was three years old her father left the family to attend graduate school in the U.S. Two years later he graduated and the family joined him to live in Oklahoma, then in North Carolina.

Elaine grew up in in North Carolina, attended university at UNC-Chapel Hill, and as a young adult moved to San Francisco to attend drama school at The American Conservatory Theater.

“I loved living in San Francisco. After figuring out I didn’t have what it took to suffer for my craft and be an actor, I started working in non-profits. My last role there was as a programme director of training for Active Voice, a group that developed nation-wide engagement campaigns for social justice documentary films. I joined several organisations, including Friends of the Urban Forest, an Asian Pacific Environmental Network. I made many friends through my job and various activities.”

Husband to be, Rick, was a volunteer taking phone pledges for a local public radio station (NPR), and that’s where they met. “Rick was a huge fan of New Zealand and talked about it as soon as we started dating. He’d been visiting NZ regularly since he was 18 and loved the country.

Elaine and Rick came to NZ for their honeymoon and Rick was ready to move. Elaine, more reticent, recommended that they come visit again. “We’d have to come back a few times before I decide to move,” she insisted. They had two more visits, one with baby Helena, and moved about a year later.

Rick had a job in Auckland so that’s where they first settled, but he always wanted to live in Ōākura to be able to surf and ski. Elaine suggested they try it for three years and then decide. “I wasn’t sure about moving to this province because there were very few

people of colour. Now, after living here for 13 years one of the things I love is being part of the Chinese Association of Taranaki. We get together for cultural celebrations like the Harvest Festival and share moon cakes. We just had a fun Dragon Boat Festival with cultural performances and yummy Chinese food.”

“In addition to the Chinese Association of Taranaki, living in Ōākura allows me to be part of many different communities, Ōākura Village, the Art Gallery community, my daughter’s school — all making me feel at home and safe. This is important because during COVID there was anti Asian sentiment when some people were calling it the Chinese Flu. When that happened it was hard feeling safe as a Chinese woman.”

“When I started working at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery I immediately loved it. We built a house in Ōākura - where else could I work in a world class art gallery as the Coordinator of Public Programmes and still live on a beautiful lifestyle block?”

To hear Elaine describe her job, it sounds super interesting and rewarding. “I develop public programmes that facilitate a deeper understanding of the exhibitions and for the Gallery’s institutional focus on being tangata tiriti. For example I might organise workshops based on a current exhibition, or a programme might be tied to being a good treaty partner such as for Parihaka Day and Te Wiki o Te Maori (Maori Language Week). I also develop the Monica Brewster Evenings, monthly discussions featuring invited speakers from across the national and global creative sector.”

“I love figuring out and developing programmes to let the public engage with contemporary art because contemporary art is for everyone. Sometimes people walk into a contemporary art space and find it unfamiliar, confronting and



uncomfortable. But it’s a great way of working out what happens in our everyday lives — complicated, beautiful, messy and mysterious. Contemporary art is a great manifestation and pathway to understanding ourselves and that’s why I love my job. My co-workers are a smart, funny, warm group of people from all over NZ, Australia and the UK. It’s also wonderful to meet and bring in amazing thought leaders, writers, and artists who share their practice or be part of a panel discussion.”

Remember ‘baby Helena’ mentioned earlier in this article? Helena, is now a teenager keeping her parents busy with her many activities and achievements.

Rick was recently made redundant from his job and Elaine says, “Though there are jobs in his field in Australia, we want to stay here in Taranaki. We love it here.”

Elayne Kessler



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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 - 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 - Okato Community Market - Crafters, Growers, Makers. Every Wed. Hempton Hall Okato 4-5:30pm.

Ōkato Tennis Club okatotennis@gmail.com

TOP Information

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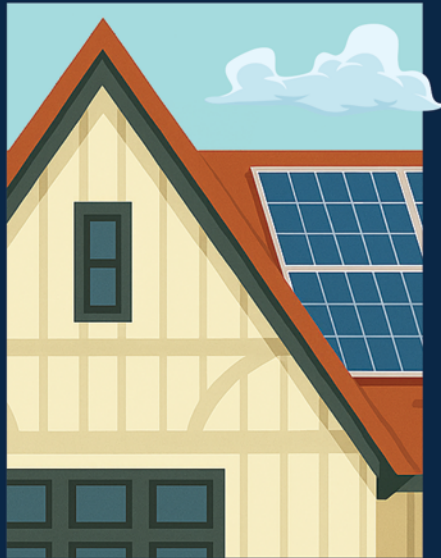
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