

WELCOME
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the Ōākura Post



Pictured: Irene Young (left)
and Catherine Gabites.

DEC 2025 - JAN 2026

The BP Petrol Station in Ōākura is Closing



When is a petrol station not just a petrol station? When it's the BP station that has been on the main road in the centre of Ōākura since Ash Heydon bought it 75 years ago. The petrol station and Ash Heydon are practically synonymous as it was his passion until the day he died in March 2021.

His two daughters, Irene and Catherine, were then left to decide what to do with the petrol station and they have worked on that decision for the past four years. "To run a successful business you need to be committed, enthusiastic, and passionate," says Irene. "It was Dad's dream."

They want to inform the community that the BP station will close on the 31st of January 2026, and demolition of the building and removal of the underground fuel tanks will happen thereafter. This also means the mechanical workshop will also close, with its final date 29 January 2026. The entire site will be redeveloped by NPD - Nelson Petroleum, a NZ owned fuel station that will lease the site for a 24 hour self-serve fuel station.

Irene, Catherine and their brother Evan grew up in the family home directly across the street from the petrol station. "Dinner table talk was often about the business. From about age 10 we worked in the business in the school holidays pumping gas, helping Mum in the office or working the till. In those days we had to figure out how to give the right change, great math skills for children. When we were really little we would help Mum by licking stamps or rolling up magazines and putting the rubber bands around them. Our father had a strict rule about chewing gum - no chewing behind the counter or when serving customers."

"These days the traditional model of a country service station is no longer relevant. In the 60s and early 70s the station would close at midday Saturday and stay closed all of Sunday. Then because of demand it began opening seven days, 5am - 10pm, until the day Ash died. After that no one wanted to start at 5.00am so we started to open at 6.00."

"It was Ash and his loyal staff and customers that kept the business going for so long. It was

those loyalties that enabled it to continue for four more years after he died. Over the years some very loyal employees and a huge number of long time customers have felt like part of the family business. The atmosphere and Dad's way of doing things created that loyalty."

Ash's daughters know the history of the place; they were there. "The community has been well served by that business for over 75 years. It was a full hardware department in the 50s and the 60s. As well as being a fuel station and hardware store, it has been a mechanical workshop, the depot and repair base for logging operations, provided school bus services, was a general transport business, a skip bin rubbish business, car sales and even had a garden centre."

"Mum [Nona] came from a line of General Store owners, the Fox family in Ōkato, so book- keeping and running a comprehensive hardware store was in her DNA! A large range of products were available until the 1980s including bulk nails, gifts, paints, and fencing products. Our childhood memories of Dad include him in the workshop or in the shed out back fixing trucks. The shed was full of old machines that only Dad knew how to use - or to fix to get them working again. We still remember the smell it had."

"For decades people have pulled up to the workshop and asked Dad or the mechanic for a quick look at something. The AA didn't always exist as a callout service so Dad would get called at all hours to help someone who had locked their keys in the car, couldn't start it or had run out of petrol. Workshop customers have over the years enjoyed the convenience of dropping children at school then taking the car for a WOF and service while they had a coffee in the village or a short walk home. Until the 1990s many of the local farmers and residents had monthly credit accounts with us. Some were better at paying on the 20th of the

next month than others! We now only offer this service to a handful of long term customers such as the Ōākura Volunteer Fire Brigade and The New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club. These two groups have had the convenience of monthly credit accounts since the late 1960s, so over 50 years."

"During the past 70 years Heydon Priest Ltd has sponsored and supported numerous community and sporting groups, St James Church, Ōākura School, NPOB Surf Club, Ōākura Tennis Club, Kaitake Golf Club, and the Kaitake Community Sports Hub, to name just a few.

Two of the many loyal and long serving employees are Al, the mechanic, and Karon, the station manager. Each of them has worked there for 30+ years and it has a lot to do with Ash himself.

Al came up from Nelson to windsurf in Taranaki and saw the job advertised. "It's been interesting working here. I've stayed because I liked and respected Ash. He could be contrary at times but he also had a wicked sense of humour. He would rile people up and when they left we would all be laughing."

"I feel the garage is going to be a loss for the community. When people come through Ōākura, especially in the winter when it's dark, the only business open for milk or whatever has been the petrol station. It will be a change for people. I can retire in February but still have to

work. Nothing is finalised yet." An experienced mechanic like Al won't be without a job for long so we'll wait and see where to find him next.

Karon came from Australia where she was the senior manager of the biggest service station in the Southern Hemisphere. She saw this job advertised on a piece of cardboard in the window of the petrol station. Ash told her she was overqualified so paid her more. "Most people didn't see the side of Ash we did. To us he was always generous and kind. You could come to Ash any time if you had a problem and he would try to help."

"Over the years he took in lots of stray cats, had them desexed and either rehomed them or we cared for them here. For lots of young people from Ōākura, working at the forecourt was their first job. I've seen the children of old customers and their children come to the station."

"The biggest thing I will miss about the place is already gone. Ash was my Boss and family friend for 30 years. When I retire I will go traveling and hiking; I want to hike the Camino in Spain."

In October 2020, just prior to his death, Ash was presented with an award from BP for 70 years of outstanding service to the Independent Dealer Network. Dad's passion was to work until he died. His funeral went according to his wishes. His casket was carried by his family from his home across the street to the petrol station.

The police stopped all traffic on the main road. The casket was placed on the bait freezer, and the forecourt overflowed with family and the community wanting to celebrate his life. Ash was one of a kind, that's for sure, considered by many to be an unofficial mayor of Ōākura. At the end of the funeral the congregation followed the casket as it was carried to Ōākura Cemetery where Ash was laid to rest beside his beloved wife Nona.

An upgrade is needed to turn the BP into a modern service station. Upon Ash's death the family made a practical decision, one made with a lot of emotion, sad but not gloomy.

Change is nothing new to the look of the main street of Ōākura, the main road has always been changing. Those with long memories know that where the chemist is now used to be a grocery store with two petrol pumps. Houses replaced most paddocks. Nigel Newton's Butcher Shop is gone and now we have Ōākura Meat Co & Fine Foods where Vertigo Surf Shop used to be. The Mews, built in 2021, replaced a horse paddock and is the most recent big change.

We're set for another new look when the NPD opens the new 24 hour self serve fuel station. NPD is known for being price competitive and will offer 91, 95, Diesel and

NPD's 100Plus High Octane fuel. The site will be smart and new and provide people with 24 hour access to their fuel.

Elayne Kessler

For Fossils Sake

This great little local museum opened its doors to the public as part of the Arts Festival for the first time in November. Visitor numbers were impressive, with feedback from Venture Taranaki that it was great to have something different as part of the programme. Enthusiast Karl has even had a giant crab named after him after he discovered a fossilised claw never before recorded elsewhere. It's a family affair and daughter Ember and partner Ana were there on-site welcoming visitors on the day I dropped in. My 6 year old grandson was blown away to be actually holding the tooth of a Megalosaur, millions of years old. I was impressed with the depth and variety of fossils they have found, and the passion and enthusiasm they shared so generously with visitors. Thanks Karl, Ana and Ember.

Foodbank collection

Village Vibes
by Elaine Jamieson

Every year our amazing Volunteer Fire Brigade collect donations for foodbank from local homes. This year the collection takes place on Monday December 1st. Please have any donations of non perishable food items, or household necessities like toothbrushes toothpaste and toilet rolls ready for collection from 5pm on. You will hear the sirens as they roam the streets. Collections are processed by another group of locals based at the station and distributed to those in need. Please support this very important cause and help ensure a Happy Christmas for all. **If you miss the collection your donations can be dropped off at McDonald Real Estate - (next to the chemist).**

Gordie is Back, just In Time for Christmas!

From Gordie's Christmas:

Gordie the goblin could not wait for Christmas Day. He hoped there would be presents, and fun along the way. He'd build a cool snow goblin, throw snowballs with his friend, Help decorate the Christmas tree, write Christmas cards to send ...

Local author of children's picture story book Gordie's Scary Dream, Liz McArthur is excited to have released her second book, Gordie's Christmas. Aimed at 4-6-year-olds, it sees the return of the characters from Gordie's Scary Dream, namely Gordie the little goblin - "a character I hope can appeal to children of any ethnicity" - and his little spider friend and hero, Sidney. Together they navigate Christmas preparations, school bullies, and a drama involving Santa. "I do hope that this story will bring some joy to young children, wherever they are."

Gordie's Christmas is available for purchase from The Crafty Fox Co-op and Poppies Bookshop in New Plymouth. Liz is overjoyed to know Gordie's Scary Dream has made its way to children all over New Zealand and globally. It is held in the National Library of New Zealand and Puke Ariki libraries. "But the biggest thrill of all has been reading my stories to children and seeing their faces, their enthusiasm, their smiles."

Liz McArthur

BE IN TO WIN
a signed copy of Gordie's Christmas - see pg 14



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Pick out your beach reads

It's nearly summer at the Ōākura Library, and we can't wait to help you pick out your beach reads. Check out the programmes and events we have coming up for tamariki, including our much-loved Summer Reading Challenge.

Crackerjacks

Thursday 4th December 10am.
Pre-school story time. Join us for stories, rhymes, crafts and songs.
Fun for tamariki, and a great way to meet other parents and caregivers.

Holiday programmes:

Vinyl cutter activities
Wednesday 21st January 2-3:30pm. Limited spaces, booking required.
Check out our website to reserve your place.

Arts and crafts table
Wednesday 7th and 14th of January 2026
Come into the library for summer art-making fun. No booking needed!

Summer Reading Challenge

Designed for school-age children, this programme invites tamariki to read 3 books and complete at least 2 of the following 3 activities to go into the prize draw!

- Re-imagine and design this book's cover!
- Rate and review this book!
- Write a different ending for this book!



This Summer Reading Challenge runs from 1 December – 31 January.
Pick up your form from the library or download it from the Puke Ariki website.
All entries go in for a chance to win a prize.

Ngā mihi
Clare Leven
Librarian - Ōākura Library



Maia Walden, Marley Ward, Will Knox, Quinn Bedwell-Curtis, Aotea Tipene, Selah Morris, Beau Mare, Emma Dixon.

Kaitake Kindergarten Tamariki Shine at Puanga Festival

At the end of October a group of lucky tamariki from Kaitake Kindergarten had the special honour of representing us at the annual Puanga Festival in Waitara. The children performed beautifully, sharing their voices and confidence with the wider community.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the tamariki had been practicing their songs and actions with enthusiasm at kindergarten — learning not just the waiata, but also the deeper meaning behind celebrating Puanga, the star that heralds the Māori New Year for many iwi across Taranaki.

Kaiako and whānau alike were filled with pride as the children took the stage. Their smiles, energy, and teamwork reflected the strong sense of belonging and connection nurtured at Kaitake Kindergarten.

This whakataukī beautifully captures the spirit of the occasion — each child representing not just themselves, but their whānau, kaiako, and the wider Kaitake community.

**“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.”
“My strength is not that of an individual, but that of the collective.”**

Ka mau te wehi, tamariki mā! You represented Kaitake Kindergarten with pride and joy.

Black Sand and Butlers Reef are winners!

Over 200 of Taranaki's Food and Drink professionals and supporters gathered one evening early in November for the inaugural 2025 Taranaki Food and Drink Awards. Our village did great!

- Black Sand Pizzeria and Bistro won the Best Restaurant award!
- Butlers Reef won the Best Regional Establishment award!
- Baked by Blanche that sells his bread at Oakura Meat Co & Fine Foods! Recognised as Outstanding Producer

Congratulations also to other locals who were finalists: Dawn in the Regional Establishment category and Mia for Best Barista at Surf'n Sip.

Up until 2022 the hospitality awards were run by the Restaurant Association of New Zealand. This year the ceremony was resurrected by the New Plymouth Club. Public nominations were held first, then narrowed down to finalists, which is when the food and drink industry participants voted.

I asked Best Restaurant winery who owns Black Sand Pizzeria and Bistro with her husband Matt, why she thought they won the award. “It's a combination of things that make for a nice space to dine in with your family and friends. It's a beautiful location, an amazing staff, and our food that are the ingredients that make it a great restaurant. Our little restaurant is a team effort from the floor staff to the kitchen. The many



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talents make it go round; we're thankful to our team for helping make it happen.”

“We really work on consistency in the kitchen, an ever evolving menu and seasonal foods. Matt and Matis in the kitchen are really talented and care passionately about the dishes they create.”

About the award and the ceremony itself she said, “We are very humbled to be voted for by our peers. It means a lot of respect in a field of awesome restaurants and it's great to be recognised.”

“It was an awesome celebration for an industry of people who work really hard - and nice to be able to pat those hard-working people on the back. Everything important in our lives is celebrated by getting together with food. It helps make those memories and becomes a strong part of a community.”

Will and Myken Rowland of Butlers Reef and winner of the Best Regional Establishment award, shared their thoughts on the win.

“It all comes down to our team. We've got an awesome team, many who have been here years and years. We work hard on filling the ‘experience gap’. People can have a \$2 beer at home but they choose to dine/drink out for the experience we create. It's so important that we recognise that and we want to give people the experience they want from us. We continually focus on creating a welcoming environment with fantastic food and drink offerings. We've had a big focus on improving the food to a high standard.”

“We are lucky to be here in Ōākura where we can have something for everyone - music, events of all sizes, 21st birthday celebrations, prizegiving events, rugby games, quiz nights - we can cater to all these events.”

“There is such history to this place, so many people have good memories here, special memories with Butlers - everyone has a connection.”

About the award and the ceremony, they said, “It was a really nice evening, lots of fun. It was awesome to be with Taranaki's fantastic service providers, eateries, cooks, baristas - everyone celebrating. With everyone in the same room, there were background conversations and opportunities to share ideas, talk about issues and also what was working really well.”

“We were surprised and grateful to be recognised. It was excetionally nice to be recognised by our peers. It was our first award, so it meant a lot.”

“We give a huge thanks to our community. Like many industries, hospitality is tough going and we've had amazing support from this community.”

Andrew Blanche, of Baked by Blanche, said on his Facebook page that winning the award was the best 53rd birthday present he could ask for. While Hawera based, he sells his freshly baked bread at Oakura Meat Co & Fine Foods each Friday. “At Baked by Blanche we work hard every day to keep the integrity of what we were founded on.” The bakery focuses on using whole grain flours and traditional methods.

Elayne Kessler

Ladies!

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Gentle support and profound transformation

- an Interview by Tracey Lusk

I talked to Ōākura local Mira Watson who offers craniosacral therapy in the village to find out what it is. Mira helps both children and adults to resolve physical and emotional issues, and reconnect with a deeper sense of themselves using this body-mind approach which is based on osteopathic principles.

Craniosacral therapy is a gentle, hands-on approach that works with the body's natural ability to self-correct. Mira describes it as "deep listening that enables the body to recharge energy and allow the nervous system to soften, feel safe and put things back in alignment." It also resolves pain and digestive issues and regulates big emotions in the process.

For children who are sensitive, ADHD, anxious or easily overwhelmed, this can be profoundly supportive. "When a child feels safe in their body, they have access to their curiosity, their confidence and their joy - safety is foundational," Mira says. "Sometimes school, noise, pressure, or simply being misunderstood can make a child's system tighten - and then they can't learn. Craniosacral therapy helps them function again fast."

For adults, sessions offer a chance to exhale. Many come for stress, fatigue, grief, trauma, headaches, neck or lower back pain, or simply the feeling of being "always on." "Craniosacral therapy gives the body permission to stop bracing. People leave feeling clearer, softer, and at home in themselves," says Mira.

Sessions are unhurried, deeply calming, and involve light touch—often at the head, shoulders or sacrum—encouraging the body to release tension and return to its natural rhythm. Parents often notice easier sleep, fewer meltdowns, less reactivity, and a softer presence in their child.

Mira has worked internationally with children and families for over three decades—from London to Mexico and Spain to Bali. She has an extensive background in trauma-responsive somatic work, and working with families from birth through to school graduation. She offers quiet, attuned one-on-one sessions locally, helping children (and parents) who may be experiencing meltdowns, sleep difficulties, anxiety, emotional sensitivity, headaches, or difficulty settling after school.


"I don't try to change the people," Mira says. "I help create the conditions where they can be more of who they already are." The same goes for families - no two families are alike, so her unique family programmes are tailor-made to resolve longstanding issues.

I asked her what makes her treatment so effective: "What matters most is presence, acceptance, and the knowing that we heal



in relationship," she says. Mira is grateful to contribute to a community that values nature, care and connection. She has clinics in Ōākura and New Plymouth, and also online.

To book a consultation:
<https://mirawatson.com/craniosacral/>
 Facebook: Oakura Craniosacral



Merry Christmas from Oakura Medical!

As the year comes to a close, we extend our warmest wishes to the Oakura and surrounding communities. Stay safe, and thank you for your continued support

Holiday Hours

Closed: Wed 24 December 2025

Reopen: Mon 5 Jan 2026

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Christmas at St. James Church

Mark Your Calendar! All Sunday Services 10am. Kids Breakfast Club December 14th. Advent Quiet Morning December 13th. Christmas Eve and Morning Services.

We gather every Sunday at 10am and this December we're opening our doors wide with even more services, celebrations, and Christmas fun for all ages!

The First Sunday of Advent on 30th November marks the four weeks of preparation as we journey towards Christmas. There is an Advent Quiet Morning, a time for prayerful reflection on Saturday 13th December from 9:30am – 1:00pm. Drop-ins welcome!

Every second and fourth Sunday our children's breakfast club meets at 9am followed by a creative interactive Sunday School led by Jo Brown. The last session this year is December 14th and all are welcome.

Our Ministry includes Revd. Joy Dale, Revd. Peter Barleyman, Heather Lofthouse, Stephanie McKellar and Margaret Bryce. While St. James is part of the Ōkato Co-operating Parish of Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians, you don't need to belong to any church tradition to feel at home here.

Christmas is better when it's shared and we would love to celebrate this season with you.

Whether you're looking for creative fun, reflective moments, carols by candlelight, or a place to feel part of a community, St. James has something for you. Please join us!

Christmas Eve

3:30–4:30pm: Christmas Crafts, Games & Creative Fun

For all ages! Whether you're young, old or somewhere in between, there'll be something to make, play, build or laugh about!

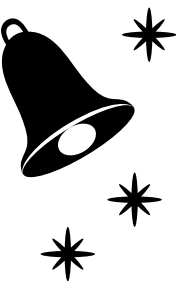
4:30–5:00 pm: Interactive Christmas Story
 A fun, lively retelling of the very first Christmas. No rehearsal needed, costumes provided, and

everyone who wants to join in can help bring the story to life—or sit back and enjoy the moment.

8:00 pm: Candles, Carols & Communion
 Beautiful music and a quiet candle glow, perfect for pausing, breathing, and finding the heart of Christmas. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine!

Christmas Morning

9:30–10:15 am: Family Festive Celebration
 Carols, joy, celebration, and community as we welcome Christmas Day together. Bring your family, bring a friend, or simply bring yourself.



Left to right - players and their caddies. Debra Johnston, Nicola Avery, Janice Farrant, Kris White, Julie Yardley, Bob Fleming.

Kaitake Golf Club

Recently the Taranaki 9 Hole Champion of Champions and Open Tournament celebrated 25 years of inclusion into the provincial programme which was held at Fairfield, Hawera this year. Fairfield is a course not a lot of our 9 hole players have competed on over the last few seasons, so well done to those who went down.

Kaitake Champion Kaye Cavey was placed 3rd = in the C.O.C Gross and 3rd in the Open Senior Section. Raewyn Bishop who had a blistering 43 Gross placed 1st in the Open Senior with Jenny Clarke a 4th. Well done players. Next year this event will be held at Manukorihi.

On the 15th of November our Ladies Strokeplay Champions played in the Champion of Champions, Rosebowl and Top Club along with the men at Manukorihi Golf Club. While none of us came away as Champions there were some good results. At the prizegiving we were delighted to be announced as the winners of the Home Pennant Trophy. This is a Taranaki competition held once a month for seven months where our top 4 cards are forwarded to TaranakiGolf to be recorded. So congratulations to all our ladies who participated in this competition over the year. This is the 2nd year in a row that Kaitake 18 Hole Ladies have won this trophy.



Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Interclub Competitions

Ōākura bowlers continued to punch above their weight in holding their own against some of Taranaki's powerhouse teams in the 1st days of Taranaki's premier bowls competition, the Bill Smee Div 1 Trophy. The club was well placed going into the last round of the day, only to come up against a strong West End team and unfortunately lost all 3 of their games. Ōākura also fielded an 8-player team in the 3rd Div interclub with the boys winning 5 from 9 games, a fantastic effort especially from the Kerry McGovern fours team of Kevin Fleming, Barry Watkins and Mike Yardley who were undefeated in their 3 outings.

The midweek tournaments are finally under way with the Ōākura teams starting well in all competitions. Thanks to Paul Coxhead and Sandra Zittersteijn for their tremendous work in team selections, the players who keep turning up each week, the hard-working green keeping crew and those who assist in smooth running on match days.

A solid start to the Saturday Div 1 and Div 2 Pennants competition has the Oakura Orcas and Oakura Sharks both placed midfield after 2 rounds. The Orcas and Sharks face strong opposition each week from Taranaki's best bowlers, and with more good results over the upcoming months, both teams are well placed to make a push for the title.

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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Club News

The Ōākura women 4's just failed to make Ōākura bowls history when they lost to Paritutu in the final of the HTL Group women's centre fours. Competently skipped by Jacki Moeahu, the team of Tina Atkinson-Watt, Alesha Quay and Sandra Zittersteijn were trailing 14-2 but stormed home to draw level at 14-14 at the finish of the allotted ends. An extra end was played, only to see the brave Ōākura team lose by 1 shot in a close measure. Well done girls, and I'm sure future success is just around the corner.

The Ōākura team of Steve Muller, Jim Priest, Barry Watkins and Denise Heaven have started the season in excellent form, winning the Taupo Bowls Classic played in Taupo mid-October. The tournament was over 2 days with teams from around the North Island competing and enjoying the beautiful Taupo weather. The quartet survived some early scares during qualifying on Saturday, however won 4 from 4 on Sunday to hold off several talented teams and take home the trophy.

LegAsea Community Bowls

The MJ Marine sponsored LegAsea community bowls tournament has finally hit the ground running with two excellent and sunny afternoons play during October. Jim Priest, Wayne Gray and Meagan Breedveld were winners on day one with Jackie Moeahu, Geoff Farrant and Mike Yardley taking the honours on day two. The tournament is open to all playing members, non-bowlers and members, friends and family and the wider community. The beauty of the competition is that there is no obligation or commitment to turn up each week. Just register by 1pm and drawn teams will be selected on the day. December dates are Saturday 6th and 20th.

The Underarm Bowler

David Macleod MP for New Plymouth

If you're taking a stroll out to Ahu Ahu Road along the beach, standing knee-deep in the water helping tiny surf-life-savers-in-training stay safe on a Sunday morning, or grabbing a coffee and watching the waves roll in, you already know how incredible our country is.

We want to make the most of it and share it with others from overseas. Tourism is vital to our economy – it has consistently been one of New Zealand's biggest exports, and that's why we have been so focused on helping our tourism sector get back on its feet.

Tourism spending is up 34% since the election, and we are nearly back to pre-COVID levels, exceeding all expectations.

In New Plymouth, Womad Aotearoa received \$68,000, Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival \$40,000, Feastival \$22,750, NZ Tattoo and Arts Festival \$21,000, Coastal Five \$20,000, and Taste and Tales \$7,500 from the Regional Events Promotion Fund this year.

We are also investing in a \$40m events attraction package to secure large-scale international events for the country, alongside a further \$10m fund to support new and existing events.

Last month we announced that we are building two new routes in the Ruapehu to Sea cycle trail – which will help attract tourists and create jobs.

We've also made it easier for Chinese visitors to travel to New Zealand – which will help our hospitality sector to grow.

And in some very exciting news Michelin is coming to New Zealand – which will boost our hospital ?hospitality sector, create jobs and showcase the great food and wine New Zealand has to offer. Tourism New Zealand expects the arrival of Michelin to bring up to 36,000 more international visitors. That means more people in our cities and regions, supporting small businesses, jobs and regional economies.

When we back tourism we create jobs, help companies to expand, and grow the economy.

david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz
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37 Gill Street, New Plymouth

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

National NZ REPRESENTATIVE
Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

Along with tourism, we are starting to see some positive signs in the economy – business confidence is up, job ads are up and building consents are up.

These are all good signs that our economic plan to balance the books, cut red tape, build infrastructure, and grow trade is starting to take effect.

Also starting to take effect is the holiday season. The sun has already given us a taste of warm days to come, the sea isn't freezing, and I hope you are planning to get out and make the most of our beautiful region and enjoy time with your families.

Have safe, happy and relaxing holidays, and I look forward to popping into Ōākura for a cuppa and a chat soon. Please keep an eye out on facebook.com/davidmacleodmp for details of my next visit.

Cheers, David

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Tina Strachan - email: info@tinatravels.co.nz
PH 021 752 709

Great to see some sunshine at last as summer season is underway at the Hub.

Playing in TCA Senior Div 1 this year, the Ōākura Cricket team had a winning start, narrowly defeating NP Marist by 2 wickets. The team is looking super sharp in their new Tsunami uniforms and with Bryn and Brett on form after their recent NZ Masters Cricket tour to India, winning 5 out of 6 games, (Bryn 159 runs and Brett 11 wickets). This could be OCC's year!

OJSC cricket is also underway and keep an eye out for Kaitake Athletics Club providing great Sunday afternoon fun and games for the kids in term 1 – everyone is welcome, and the Hub will be open to support with refreshments and food available.

The KCSH annual golf day fundraiser held on 7th November at the Kaitake Golf Club was an enormous success. The sun shone, 24 teams played their best ambrose and the steak sammies went down a treat. We want to thank all those that supported this major Hub fundraiser and particularly our Golf Day sponsors – CMK accountants, Shining Peak, Oakura Meat Co., BTW, HouseMe and Flow Master Plumbers. Everyone went home happy with their entry fee value back in Shining Peak product and an Oakura Meat Co. BBQ pack, so dinner was done – we will see you on November 6th next year for more fun!

Coming up at the Hub

Sunny Sundays are back by popular demand – keep an eye out for the blue KCSH flag flying at the Corbett Park gates from 4pm on sunny Sundays and drop in for refreshments and food. There is no better place to enjoy a Sunday afternoon than on the Rivermouth Hub patio – join up as a Social Member so you can sign your friends in and WOW them; simply go to <https://www.kcsh.co.nz/membership-sponsorship-donations/social-membership> and join the Hub crew.



Photo: Karl Watson, Angus Fisher, Peter Grylls and Stefan Kiss

Kaitake Rugby Club is looking to put a senior side on the pitch again in 2026 in the TRFU Div 2 competition. Whether you are a past player or keen to play social rugby for the best little club with the best clubroom in the country in 2026, then come down for a drink and a sausage roll at Kaitake Community Sports Hub at 7pm on Wednesday 3 December.

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

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Laura and Tom in Portugal this year on a visit to the same town where they first met.

Annual migration of Kiwi - Austrian duo.

Good news for local food lovers — Holy Guacamole will be back on the Ōākura beachfront this summer. From mid-December, Laura and Tom will be setting up in their usual spot down by Tasman Parade, ready to serve their much-loved burritos, nacho bowls, and other Mexican goods.

After spending the European summer in Austria, the Kiwi-Austrian duo is excited to return home to Ōākura for another season of delicious food, good vibes, and local community spirit. Their annual migration between Austria, Indonesia, and New Zealand has been a perfect blend of work, travel, and adventure.

Meet Laura and Tom. Laura Bell grew up on an organic farm in Austria, where her parent's focus on homegrown ingredients and healthy cooking

shaped her passion for food. She went to a Montessori school and then to a gymnasium (primary school) with English as the language of learning – something special in Austria. She began to study architecture, but the thought of a career in an office wasn't appealing so she pursued graphic design, art and illustrating.

With this background she's built a creative career as an artist, illustrator, and now published children's author with her first book out in 2024, hopefully soon there will be an English translation.

She picked up the travel bug in 2016, with an exchange to Bali and a trip to Australia. Bali was where she got hooked on surfing, and she wanted to move to a country with good surfing. She returned to Bali several times, and one year she went to Ericeira, Portugal for the Austrian surfing champs: Yes Austria does have a surfing championship! Laura finished 2nd. In the few days before the championships she met Tom in the surf and they moved between continents together ever since. They celebrated their engagement at the Ahu Ahu villas in 2021 and got married the same year in Laura's hometown Graz, Austria.

Tom Bell grew up along the coast at Pungarehu and went to school there before it merged with Rahotu school. He attended Ōpunake High School, where he was involved in surf lifesaving, leadership roles, and the Hillary Challenge. His love of the ocean led naturally to surfing, and later to an interest in the environment, which he explored through a double major in Earth and Environmental Science at Massey University.

He's played rugby all his life – along the coast and then at Massey University; but never considered coaching until recent years, when the opportunity presented itself in Austria to be part of the Austrian National coaching team.

Laura worked a season for Cathi and Isaac in the Holy Guacamole food caravan. Cathi and Isaac's lifestyle between NZ, Austria and Indonesia was something Tom and Laura admired from the time they first met in 2018: the same kiwi-austrian mix and love of surfing. They'd become good friends and even lived next door to each other in Ōākura. In 2024 the opportunity to buy the business came up and they started running Holy Guacamole.

A Life Between Continents. During the European summer Tom coaches rugby and this year he played for the Austrian national team in their win against Slovakia. He also teaches English in Austrian schools. Laura continues her art and illustration work, along with social media and book projects.

When they return home each summer, it's time to fire up the grill and get Holy Guacamole rolling again. This season they plan on doing: the Seaside Market with breakfast burritos, wedding catering, business functions and they plan to be open an extra day – Tuesday Tacos over the summer school holidays.


A conversation with Cam Murray



The Ōākura Brigade would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our most colourful past members, Terry Griffiths (Griff).

Terry was larger than life, hugely community focussed, dedicated beyond measure to our brigade and certainly never short of a joke. Flintstonian in stature and nature, Griff was a very popular figure around the station. He remains part of our brigade from his gifting of the 'Griff Award' which is awarded each year to the Firefighter's firefighter - a peer reviewed award that's reflective of Terry's values of making the brigade a better place to be.

Terry left this world as he lived it - in a glossy coat of fire engine red, and as always, giving us a reason to smile. We extend our condolences to Terry's family.



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Ōākura Tennis Club

The tennis season is off to a flyer with awesome sunny weather and some post tennis dips in the sea to cool off.

The tennis club has had a spruce up thanks to funding from the Toi Foundation. Thanks also to Shaun Churchill and Chris Davies for doing the mahi with a much needed exterior repair and painting, and the deck clear light has been replaced.

Juniors have gotten under way with two rounds being played so far. We have four junior teams - an Ōākura Kauri team in youth A, Ōākura Totara and Ōākura Mana Wahine in youth B, and Ōākura Kowhai in green grade.

Seniors have a Soffe, Wilson and two midweek ladies' teams. Our section 1 midweek ladies are sitting on top with 3 wins and a loss so far. Section 2 has also had a strong start with 2 wins from 2. Wilson trophy has had a couple of tough losses with lots of tie breakers. Soffe has had a few close games being tied up after singles, and so far things have gone their way for 3 wins from 3 and currently sitting second on the table.

Seniors rep tennis had a few Ōākura members in the team against Palmerston North.

Enjoy the courts and the ocean.

NPOB Patrols are Back on the Beach!

Our volunteer lifeguards will be back on patrol every weekend from Saturday, 29 November, 1 PM – 5 PM, right through to Taranaki Anniversary Day, Monday, 9 March.

Weekday regional patrols will also run:

- 15 December – 23 January: 11:30 AM – 7:00 PM (Monday–Friday)
- 26 January – 20 February: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Monday–Friday)

Congratulations to Our New Lifeguards!
A huge 'well done' to our newest award recipients from the November exam: Archie Widdicombe, Amelia Ander, Lacey Peacock, Ruby Peacock, Lyla Termath, Isla Gilchrist, and Erin Grendon.

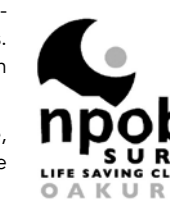
Congratulations also to Jared Coster for being signed off as an instructor, and a massive thank you to Ang Veric for preparing the squad so well.

Sunday Sips
Sunday Sips are underway!
Join us every Sunday from 4:30 PM — the bar is open, and our Oceans crew has the BBQ sizzling. Everyone is welcome.

Junior Surf
Junior Surf has kicked off with an awesome turnout and great weather so far. Thank you to everyone who has jumped in to help — we simply can't run the programme without our amazing volunteers.

Need Info or Want to Join?
For membership or general inquiries, email: npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz
For updates, follow the NPOB Surf Life Saving Club Ōākura Facebook page.

Beach Safety Reminder
If you're heading to the beach, always swim between the flags — it's the safest place to swim.
And finally, a huge thank-you to all our volunteers. Our club wouldn't run without you.
Enjoy the beach, stay safe, and swim between the flags!



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 school lunch spotwood	5 school lunch spotwood	6 oakura hall
7 oakura hall	8 oakura hall	9	10	11 spotwood	12 school lunch spotwood	13 oakura hall
14 oakura hall	15	16	17	18 spotwood	19 spotwood	20 oakura hall
21 oakura hall	22	23	24	25 festival of lights	26 festival of lights	27
28 Rock of the Island	29	30	31			

Our busiest season is coming! We'll be updating our schedule, so make sure to follow us on social media for the latest info. Merry Christmas!

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HOW TO ENTER.

Answer the question with your name and contact details. Drop into the 'TOP PRIZE DRAW' box at Four Square Ōākura, or email to editor@theoakurapost.co.nz. Winners drawn midday Christmas Eve.



Rick Christiansen with Life Members John Quilter, Pete Day and Brian Clark.



A season full of waves, wins and energy.



It's been another epic AGM and season review for the Oakura Boardriders – a season full of waves, wins, and the unmistakable energy that makes our club so special. From groms finding their feet to seasoned surfers sharing their wisdom, our community continues to thrive both in and out of the water.

Growing Strong

Membership numbers keep climbing, with 157 memberships this year – including 118 families, 10 individual members, and 29 new sign-ups. When you count everyone in those family memberships, that's an estimated 588 people flying the OBC flag! It's awesome to see the next generation of surfers joining the lineup alongside familiar faces.

If you haven't joined yet or need to renew, it's quick and easy – just head to oakuraboardriders.co.nz/membership.

Celebrating Legends

This season we were stoked to award Life Memberships to three legends of the club: Pete Day, John Quilter, and Brian Clarke.

Each has played a huge role in shaping the OBC story over the years, and their passion continues to inspire. It's a testament to the incredible people who make up our whānau.

Programmes That Make a Difference

Our OBC programmes continue to go from strength to strength.

- Deken Waves Learn-to-Surf saw 45 groms develop their skills over two terms.
- Wahine Waves welcomed 40–50 women, including mother-and-daughter duos, for another season of confidence, connection and fun.
- High Performance Groms and the Young Female Athlete Programme both helped our rising stars achieve standout results at Surfing NZ events.
- We're also proud to support the Art of Surfing with Matt Scoringe, helping bridge the gap between grassroots passion and competitive excellence.

Competitions and Community

From the MC Memorial Longboard Comp's 10-year anniversary (with 60 competitors!) to packed Club Champs and Junior Champs, the stoke was strong all season. Highlights included Ariana Shewry representing NZ at the World Junior Surf Champs, Fraser Brown reaching the finals at the Primary School Champs, and

Poppy Entwistle and Koa Gillespie showing huge promise on the Scholastics stage.

A special mention goes to our Disabled Surfing partnership with Halberg and Parafed — with 30 participants (and one dad catching his first wave in 25 years!), it's a reminder of the true power of surfing to bring joy and inclusion.

What's Coming Up

Club night is each Friday so grab your mates and come down for a relaxed evening of good vibes, BBQs, and cold drinks. Want to lend a hand behind the bar or on the tongs? Jump on the Friday Night Bar & BBQ Roster at oakuraboardriders.co.nz/friday-night-bar-bbq-roster.

And keep an eye out for the upcoming 3x3 Basketball sessions in Shearer Reserve – a fun new way to get the community together off the sand and into some friendly competition.

Big Thanks

Finally, a massive thank you to Rach Hareb, Carla Russell, Colin Webber, and Kate Whittaker who are stepping down from the committee after years of amazing service.

Here's to another incredible season ahead — see you in the surf for the MC Memorial on December 6th!

Oakura Boardriders Committee

THANK YOU COASTAL TARANAKI

With the festive season just around the corner, we want to give a huge thanks to our awesome community for all your support through 2025. We really appreciate your loyalty and love being part of such a great area!

We will be closing 4pm Fri 19th Dec - 8am Mon 5th Jan

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Introducing the Kaitake Community Board



Paul Lobb
I've lived in Ōākura for over 45 years and most of my life in the NPDC area. My wife Kathy and I have four children and ten grandchildren. I love the sea and began surfing in the mid-1960s. I'm one of the original members of the Oakura Boardriders Club. This last year I have also enjoyed playing the game Pickleball. I retired in 2020 after nearly 50 years in agricultural research. During my career, I managed a team of scientists, which involved overseeing and maintaining a multimillion-dollar budget. I volunteer with the Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust, where I check traplines and assist with health checks and monitoring of kiwis. You can contact me by email: paul.g.lobb@gmail.com or call me on 0272 444 297.



Mike Anderson
Born and raised here in New Plymouth, I love to surf, ski and play guitar. My wife Ingrid and I live on a coastal lifestyle block and enjoy life in Taranaki paradise immensely. Working all over the world in the drilling industry has exposed me to many varied cultures and lifestyles. Land drilling rigs tend to be in the worst places.

Through this journey I have come to deeply cherish our beautiful country. We must strive to protect and nurture all that surrounds us and that is what has driven me to put my hand up for community board representative. Call me on 021752496 or Mike.Anderson@councillors.npdc.govt.nz



Teresa Goodin
I grew up on a dairy farm in Rahotu and moved back to the coast 18 years ago when I became a parent. I lived in Ōkato for 5 years and I have been living in Ōmata for over a decade. I live with my son Seb, a keen kickboxer and budding personal trainer and martial arts coach. My passion is natural health and holistic wellbeing. I specialise in Esoteric Hypnosis and Native Flower Essence Therapy and I create botanical incense. I'm also a Buddhist Chaplain trained to provide spiritual care during end of life and palliative care. I have a background in economic development, project management, event coordination, strategic planning, fundraising, promotion and the arts sector. You can contact me on 027 4543585 or email at Teresa.Goodin@councillors.npdc.govt.nz



Kerry Vosseler
I'm Kerry Vosseler, I live and raised my kids in Ōākura. I ran Green Ginger Cafe in Ōākura before setting up Chaos Cafe in New Plymouth, which I ran for 20 years before selling two years ago. After watching Council decisions affect locals and businesses with zero consultation, I decided to stand up for the stakeholders —us, the ratepayers. I was elected to NPDC in the recent election and put my name forward as Council rep on the Kaitake Community Board. I intend to put the same energy in our community as I did in my business. We are incredibly privileged, Ōākura is an amazing place to live...lucky us! Feel free to call or txt 027 2012831 or message my FB page, Kerry Vosseler For The Future.

The inaugural meeting for the new Kaitake Community Board will be held at 11am, Monday 1st December at Kaitake Community Sports Hub, Corbett Park, Ōākura. At the inaugural meeting the new board will elect a chairperson and deputy chairperson. Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome deputations from the public. Please contact a board member if you would like to speak to us at a meeting. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@kaitakecommunity) to stay in the loop about the Kaitake Community Board and our up-coming meetings.

We currently have a vacancy for one more board member and a bi-election will take place over the next few months to fill that position. If you are passionate about our community and want to make a difference we encourage you to put your name forward.

KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD BI-ELECTION TIMELINE:

Nominations opened: Monday 24 November 2025

Nominations close: Monday 22 December 2025

Voting documents delivered: Friday 30 January 2026

Voting Day (voting closes): Tuesday 3 March 2026



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Middle School at Green School New Zealand is where students build confidence, resilience, and curiosity as they prepare for their Diploma years and beyond. For Years 7-9, our vibrant, supportive community guides learners to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Empowering Independent Thinkers

"Middle School is a time to find your own voice," reflects Charlie Maddox, Head of Middle School. "We invite students to ask questions, explore ideas, collaborate, and trust their own thinking. It's about helping them discover the joy of learning for themselves." These years are also a time of profound growth. "Students are crossing the bridge from childhood to adolescence," Charlie adds. "Supporting them socially and emotionally is as important as academic learning. This is when confidence, self-belief, and resilience take root." Our Koru Wellbeing programme anchors this journey, fostering wellbeing, resilience, and a growth mindset. Through weekly Cocoon sessions and daily check-ins, students learn strategies to thrive both personally and academically, guided by experienced Anchor Teachers.

Strong Relationships at the Core

Relationships form the foundation of Middle School life. "As educators, we walk alongside learners," Charlie explains, "we purposefully create spaces and opportunities to navigate these pivotal years with confidence." Relationships are central to development at this stage. Opportunities to work together, collaborate, share, and actively listen are embedded in everyday

life, helping students grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

Learning by Doing. Growing in Knowledge

Middle School learning is alive. In Hikoi (outdoor education), students climb, navigate, and develop physical fitness while applying literacy and maths skills to meaningful, real-world challenges. Interdisciplinary studies connect learners to local and global environmental issues, giving context and purpose to learning. Through Tūhura (project-based learning), learners pursue projects that ignite curiosity and creativity. They research, design, and create in ways that are meaningful to them, developing critical thinking, collaboration, and self-expression —essential skills for a powerful Quest project in Year 9.

A strong focus on Proficiencies, Maths, and Literacy ensures that each student builds a solid foundation. Thanks to small class sizes, specialist teachers with deep subject knowledge, and a school-wide culture of trusting teacher-learner relationships, data shows us that students make excellent progress. Every lesson responds to individual needs, creating a personalised and empowering learning experience.

Year 9: The Year of Flourishing

Year 9 is the pinnacle of Middle School, when everything comes together and learners flourish. Their Quest projects are self-directed, passion-driven initiatives addressing real-world environmental or societal challenges, culminating in TED-style presentations to the community. "This is the year where learners truly come into themselves," says Charlie. "They leave Middle School confident, capable, and ready for high school." At Green School, learners are encouraged to explore, take risks, and grow in an inclusive and inspiring environment. In this spirit, Middle School isn't just preparation; it's where students begin shaping the world with intention, care, and confidence.



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2025 Year 13 School Leavers Profiles

1. Highlights/memories of being a student at Green School
2. What are your aspirations for the future? Next move?



Haka

1. My time at Green School went by very fast. I remember walking into the studio classroom in mid-April of 2022 and seeing tents being put up inside the classroom, and from there I was thinking, "what is happening in here, and where is their uniform?" because my normal used to be perfect single file desks in a line and a whiteboard everyone looked at to take notes from, with students dressed the same. With that moment and many unforgettable friendships, one of my favourite highlights was realising how every day brought something unexpected, creative, and meaningful, experiences that shaped me far beyond the classroom.

2. My aspirations for the future are centred around stepping into the health field and making a positive impact on people's wellbeing. I'm deciding between studying Health Science at the University of Auckland leading into medicine or nutrition, or Applied Science (Medical Imaging) at UCOL, Palmerston North. Alongside my studies, I hope to travel and experience more of the world. I want to build more independence and develop meaningful connections with like-minded people who inspire me, challenge me, and help me grow.



Amelie

1. I have had many highlights. It's hard to summon just one, however if I must choose, I would have to say our school trips. I have fond memories of trail mix and long walks, chats around the fire being a favourite, and

the blisters from hikes. Baking brownies in the middle of nowhere, cooking sausages, recording the sizzles of each one on my digital camera. I think there is nothing that brought us more together than the times we spent on hikes and trips and all we really had was each other for entertainment and company.

2. I have many goals for the future, next year I am heading to Victoria University of Wellington to study a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and Literary and Creative Communications. I hope to study abroad in my second year and earn a certificate in yoga, so I can teach alongside studying. Once I graduate, I look to go into the field of journalism to publish the stories of others doing great things for the world.



Lachlan

1. My biggest highlight was the out of school experiences with my mates.

2. Next year I am going to travel to America and volunteer at the summer camps. I will also do lots of work on my fitness in the gym. For the years to come I want to do further study to become a P.E teacher.



Xuan

1. A highlight from my time at Green School has been the friendships I've built and the Rotorua trip with Whaea Charlie in 2024.

2. My plans for the future are to attend a University in America, prioritise my health, family, and friends, and travel to meet new people and experience different cultures.



Lewis

1. Some of my favourite memories from school were all the outdoor adventures we did, especially going down to the river. I enjoyed getting out of the classroom, being active, and just hanging out with friends in the outdoors. Those moments were fun, relaxing, and they are something I'll definitely look back on.

2. My next step is moving to Auckland to start Uni, where I'm doing a Bachelor of Global Studies. I'm really excited to learn more about the world, meet new people, and see where that takes me when I'm done. At the same time, I'm going to keep working on my music production, making tracks, experimenting with sounds, and working with global artist. It's something I really enjoy, and I want to keep growing in it alongside my studies.



Ariki

1. I enjoyed hanging out with friends and playing sports. A highlight was the Auckland University trip, and the Taranaki Maunga climb with the other Year 13s.

2. Plans for next year are looking forward to getting into the world of work.



Jack

1. I liked hanging out with friends and summiting Taranaki Maunga with the Year 13s and Matua Damian.

2. Studying psychology at Victoria University.



Harvey Brignall-Smith

HS NPBHS.

HL The memories will be lifelong. All of them fun, but a few that stick out more than the rest, such as camp in Wellington. Another was going to Tech especially food tech because you get to take the food home. I really liked hosting assemblies. The pool here is fun to play in. I'll miss the bamboo and the hide and seek game at the end of the year.

FA In high school I hope I'll make a lot of friends. I'm not sure what I want to be when I grow up but I hope it will be fun and include studying and working overseas, preferably in Japan. I will miss Ōmata but I'm looking forward to high school where memories will be made and added to those from Ōmata kura.



Tristan Brignall-Smith

HS NPBHS

HL Some favourites are from Wellington camp like the tree course at Adrenalin Forest and the selfie challenge. Another is a flax art piece I helped to make that is displayed in the Len Lye Centre. When it came to weaving the flax together it was relaxing in the peace and quiet of the room. I very much enjoyed the science fairs, and swimming and I am so grateful that Ōmata kura has a pool.

FA I don't have any specific aspirations. I hope to find them when I get into high school but I would like to go to university overseas, hopefully Canada or Britain. Then to find a career that lets me travel globally.



Charlotte Connolly

HS Spotswood

HL I get emotional thinking about leaving Ōmata School next year. One highlight was being one of the main writers for The Oakura Post, with my co-writer Charlot Fisher. The Taranaki Science and Technology Fair was also a highlight as I won a special prize for my scientific project Rail vs Road. I have created very special memories over the past eight years. Wellington camp was epic and amazing due to the very hard work that our teacher, Mrs Glasgow, put into it. I shall miss these teachers that really pushed me and helped me find what I loved. Letting me embrace the person I am and want to be. I have made amazing friends that will stick with

2025 Year 8 School Leavers Profiles

We asked the leavers three questions

HS - Which High School are you going to next year?

HL - Highlights/ Memories of being a student at Ōmata

FA - What are your future aspirations?

me through high school, I shall miss my peers when they head off to other schools or move.

FA I would like to pursue my dream of being a writer or journalist. I have always had a passion for writing and it would be great if I could do what I love for my job.



Myah Fahey

HS Spotswood

HL One of my favourite memories was being able to speak at the kiwi release that we held at school. This was so special for me because not everyone gets the chance to get as close to a kiwi as we did. Another that will stick with me is Wellington camp. Thanks to our teacher Mrs Glasgow this was such a special time for everyone and everything was so fun. From just sitting at the dinner table laughing and making new friendships to being 20 metres up in the air. This has definitely been the best 8 years of my life. I will miss the school culture. Last but not least Te Ara Taiao was so awesome to be a part of, thanks to Jane who taught me everything I know about planting and caring for plants.

FA I am inspired to be an author or a vet.



Charlot Fisher

HS Spotswood

HL Wellington Camp, Te Ara Taiao, writing for The Ōakura Post, and Vertical Horizons. The reason Wellington Camp stood out to me is because my teachers made sure that I was comfortable and safe and that we made the most of it. Te Ara Taiao was amazing because we got to help the environment and meet new people by doing a wide range of activities from planting, to making musical instruments, releasing kiwi and much more. Writing The Ōakura post articles with my co-writer, Charlotte Connolly, gave us the opportunity to interview different kids from our school. It was special to see it published for everyone to read and see. Having an amazing group of people by my side to get me through the hard times is something I will miss. Vertical Horizons camp, where we had the opportunity to try new things such as the cat walk, the flintstone car race, mud runs, raft building, raft race, spotlight and so much more.

FA To be a teacher and specialise in art, a journalist or reporter. Hopefully going to University to get a Teaching or English degree.



Taj Gargan

HS New Plymouth Boys

HL Some good memories are Wellington camp, Interscholar sports and PCT (Police Competency Test). Rugby sevens was really fun, even though we lost all of our games, it was cool to be involved in playing rugby with all my friends. I will miss all the fun lunchtimes with my friends.

FA To get an apprenticeship in plumbing.



Cruz Gyde

HS New Plymouth Boys

HL Camp, interschool sports and rugby sevens. The Big Day Outs and the lunchtime games of rugby and basketball were fun. All the memories as a kid growing up won't leave me. The cross countries and triathlons were always fun to have a challenge with your mates. On hot summer Fridays there was reward hour and that held the most joy when I was a little boy.

FA To have a trade and to keep up my rugby to hopefully become a successful footy player.



Riley-Jean House

HS NPGHS

HL My biggest highlight from the 8 years I've been here are starting in Kiwi and meeting new faces. The sporting opportunities like PCT (Police Competency Test) athletics, AIMS games and interschool swimming. Another highlight was Wellington camp. After camp everyone had become closer together and I'm sad to see that end. I'm going to miss helping the little kids, all my friends that I've known for a very long time and I'm sad to leave them but I know that I'll meet heaps more people as my world gets bigger.

FA I want to save up and go to Uni. I want to travel the world before I start my job. I'm going to work really hard in what I do.



Lennox Hudson-Boo

HS New Plymouth Boy's

HL Being a student at Ōmata School gave me heaps of opportunities. Some of my favourites were Wellington camp and AIMS games. I have lots of

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good memories at Ōmata School with all my mates. I will miss having all the opportunities to build and create cool stuff.

FA Being a pro mountain biker would be awesome. It would be great to get sponsored one day. I would like to work in the mines in Australia for 2 or 3 years to get some money. Get qualified as a plumber or fitter welder.



Piper Johnson

HS New Plymouth Girls

HL My biggest this year would have to be AIMS games! I have also enjoyed many sporting opportunities this year: football

tournaments, rippa rugby tournaments, running events like Taranaki cross country, athletics events, PCT, rogaining and orienteering, touch and indoor netball. Some of my friends and I got into the Rangers CDL football team. The team culture at Ōmata and especially in Ruru has been amazing and everyone is so supportive. A favourite thing to do with my class was to play basketball against the boys, we would cook them. I will miss all of my friends so much, some I have known since kindy. Good luck to everyone going to high school in 2026!

FA Go to Uni to study physiotherapy, and maybe take a business class. I want to be a sports physio for the All Blacks, and specialise in muscular skeletal cases. I will eventually open my own business. I'm also going to be a marathon runner, and Nike will sponsor me to run all over the world.



Blake Lawn

HS New Plymouth Boys

HL One of my favourite memories is all of the sports opportunities that we get to enjoy. At bigger schools, you are competing with hundreds

of other students for the same place in a team. At Ōmata everyone gets a chance to be involved just to make a team! Some of my favourite sports and extra activities I had a chance to be involved in this year included kapa haka, basketball (in which we won the league), interschool football, rugby 7s, volleyball, and the Taranaki Science and Technology Fair in which I got \$350! Good Luck for all the future Year 8's!

FA Become an engineer or a race car/rally car driver.



Rio Lucas

HS Spotswood

HL Ōmata School has been a blast, everyone was so nice and Wellington Camp was one of the funnest things I have ever done at school.

Te Ara Taiao was awesome, working with Jane and the others to make our planet better was epic. Winning the basketball season in 2025 was so cool and making so many friends who supported each other when we needed it. Mrs Glasgow and Mrs Baker were so nice and made learning fun, I will miss Ruru and all the fun memories I made there.

FA Working with animals in some way.



Ellie Skittrup

HS Sacred Heart

HL The opportunities and the friends that I made this year have created some of the best memories. It's

going to be hard to leave all the friends I made. I have been at Ōmata for 6 ½ years and not one of them was bad. Wellington camp was one of the best times of my life because the teachers made it so no one would be uncomfortable.

FA To be a hairdresser. I also want to be a dancer.



Sade Smith-Phillips

HS Morrinsville High School

HL Wellington camp and all the fun activities that we did.

One thing that stood out was going to Parliament (The Beehive) and watching all of the questioning happen. The MP's were acting like 5yr olds, fun times. Other highlights this year would be Te Ara Taiao, where we were involved in Sustainable Backyards and learning to take care of the native ngahere and support our native kiwi by being involved in a kiwi release at our school. We named one kiwi Atawha, meaning courage or kindness in Māori.

FA To work as a zookeeper but before that I want to travel to places. I would like to go to Japan.



Noah Stonier

HS New Plymouth's Boys'

HL Ōmata School has brought many laughs and friendships into my life. Not only do we get heaps of learning opportunities, there have

also been sporting opportunities, like PCT (Police Competency Test), Coastal athletics, cross country, triathlon, interschool sports, volleyball, Kaitake Cup, Methanex Year 7/8 Maths Quiz (which our team came second in), Taranaki Science and Technology Fair, the science quiz and our school basketball team who won the league. They have all been a blast and have taught me valuable life skills. This time at Ōmata School has been the best 8 years of my life and I will severely miss the teachers, the property, the culture and all the good friends I have made and will hopefully keep. Thanks for so many awesome schooling years Ōmata, I will deeply miss you.

FA I either want to be an Engineer, Architect or a professional sports player. I hope to attend either the University of Auckland (Waipapa Tuamata Rau) or Victoria University of Wellington (Te Herenga Waka)



Tavish Thomas

HS Francis Douglas or Spotswood

HL Ruru is my favourite class in terms of class culture because everyone is friends with everyone. Adrenalin Forest at Wellington camp was an

amazing experience. I learnt so much about my strengths and weaknesses. Some of the opportunities I have had in Ruru were Science Quiz, Maths Quiz and the Kids Lit Quiz. I will miss this school that I have been at for the past 8 years but I am excited for high school.

FA To be a civil engineer, project manager, structural engineer or an architect.



Harper Valentine

HS Sacred Heart

HL Ōmata School has been the best 8 ½ years ever. When I first started I only had two people I knew, but a week after there were

so many people wanting to be my friend. Ōmata School has so many opportunities. Some things I got to do were PCT, interschool, Kaitake cup, touch and more. My favourite part of being at Ōmata School definitely has to be Wellington camp. I loved Adrenalin forest. I went up to level 4. I have pushed myself and done things I never thought I would do. I am scared for next year but there are things waiting around the corner for me to discover.

FA To work at a clothes store like Glassons and flat with my friends. And when I have enough money I will travel and buy my own house.



Bella Vincent

HS New Plymouth Girls

HL One would definitely be Wellington camp. It was so awesome getting to know everyone better and explore the city and do new

things. AIMS games was a great experience going up and competing against lots of different people on a higher level. Interschool netball was really competitive and it was really nice to hang out with everyone on the team. I'm going to miss everyone once we all go off to high school and do our own thing.

FA After high school I want to go and travel with Piper for 9 months before going to university somewhere.



Blake Williams

HS Francis Douglas

HL My favourite memories have mainly come from Ruru. The academic and sporting opportunities such as the Science and Technology Fair where I won a

few prizes, the Methanex Maths competition, Epro8 and more. Sporting opportunities such as the PCT challenge, interschool in Hawera, rugby sevens, the basketball team who got first in our division and more. I really enjoyed Kapa Haka where we were fortunate to enter the Puanga festival in Waitara and have Whaea Wharekuka teach us all about kapa haka. She even taught me whaikorero and I got first in the whole competition.

FA To be a professional sports player, specifically rugby and at least make it to the NPC. My other job could be anything to do with building. Good luck to all the year 8's in their future opportunities and strive for your best.



TE KURA O OAKURA
OAKURA SCHOOL

2025 Year 8 School Leavers Profiles



Noah Stanley is going to NPBHS because they have a wide range of sporting activities and a good academic turnout. He is looking forward to all the sporting events and learning. He enjoyed the people at Oakura School and all of the sporting events and opportunities, and his highlight for year 7/8 was participating in AIMS Games. When he is older, he says he wants to be a surgeon or a professional sports player.



Parker Barron is going to Spotswood College because it isn't as strict as other schools. He is looking forward to hanging out with old friends and making new friends. He enjoyed the fact that Oakura School is easier than high school and his highlight of year 7/8 was having Maori Ora time (structured free time). When he is older, he says he wants to be a bike shop worker.



Ross Southam is going to Spotswood College because he says he sees himself there. He is looking forward to the different subjects he can choose from. He enjoyed being an ICT leader at Oakura School and his highlight of being a year 7/8 was having Ms. Long as a teacher in year 7. When he is older, he says he wants to be a firefighter.



Saxon Town is going to NPBHS and is excited because most of his friends are going and his brother is going there too. He is looking forward to exploring the campus and the area around it. He enjoyed hanging out with all of his friends he made on the way and the teachers and his highlight of year 7/8 is going to the skate park and the beach. When he is older, he says he wants to be a flight attendant.



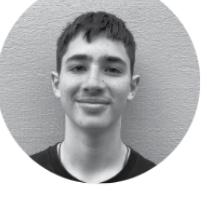
Seth Brown is going to Francis Douglas Memorial College because his mum told him to apply and he got in. He is looking forward to playing with the rugby teams. He enjoyed school lunch time and his highlight of year 7/8 was moving on from year 7. When he is older, he says he wants to be an engineer or a builder.



Sofia Silcock is going to NPGHS because of the good sports options and the chance to try new things. She is looking forward to making new friends and meeting new people. She enjoyed everything at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was participating in AIMS Games, athletics and getting her excellence badge. When she is older, she says she wants to be an interior designer.



Summer Kurta is going to Spotswood College because her sister is going too. She is looking forward to being close to Spotswood College because it is easier to get there from home. She enjoyed having a lot of friends at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was participating in AIMS Games. When she is older, she says she wants to be a McDonalds worker with her friend Cierra.



Tawhiri Bailey wants to go to NPBHS because it sounds like a good school and has a good reputation. He is looking forward to playing basketball with his friends and in a team. He enjoyed making new friends and connections at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was being a head pupil. When he grows up, he says he wants to be a civil engineer.



Zoey Kerr is going to NPGHS because she says it's the right school for her. She is looking forward to seeing most of her friends there. She enjoyed being with all her friends at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was participating in AIMS Games. When she is older, she says she wants to be a lawyer.



Eamonn Prasser is going to NPBHS because of the sporting opportunities. He is looking forward to participating in more disc golf tournaments. He enjoyed playing the new disc golf course at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was putting in the disc golf baskets. When he is older, he says he wants to be a military drone pilot.



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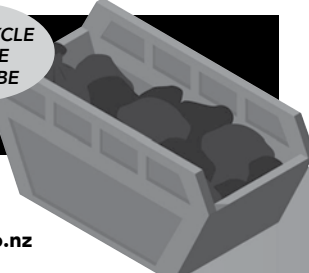
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Ilse Van Hyfte is going to NPGHS because there are lots of opportunities there. She is looking forward to being in all of the different classes. She enjoyed going to Camp Vertical Horizons with her friends and her highlight of year 7/8 was going to Coastal Athletics. When she is older, she says she wants to be a scientist or an animator.



Kuini Shewry is going to NPGHS because it has good sporting opportunities and her friends are going too. She is looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. She enjoyed how everyone was very friendly to her at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was being head pupil. When she is older, she says she wants to be an athlete, architect or olympic runner.



Aggie Boon is going to Nga Tawa because it is a horse riding school. She is looking forward to meeting new people and using the horse riding facilities. She enjoyed hanging out with her friends at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was the rippa rugby tournament in 2024. When she is older, she says she wants to be an athlete.



Cierra Jones is going to NPGHS because there are lots of opportunities. She is looking forward to trying new subjects. She enjoyed having Summer as a friend at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was AImS Games. When she is older, she says she wants to be a farmer or McDonalds worker with her friend Summer.



Indy La Franchie is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because it is a smaller school. She is looking forward to the camps they have there. She enjoyed going to AImS Games and it was her highlight of the year too. When she is older, she says she wants to be a marine biologist.



Lennox Kurth is going to Spotswood College because it is both a well established school and it is co-ed. He is looking forward to the subjects that they have. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends and participating in the opportunities at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was doing art for Puanga and painting the house flags. When he grows up, he says he wants to be a private military corporation/missionary.



Arya Pettit is going to NPGHS because she is athletically strong and her friends are going too. She's looking forward to a fresh start at a new school. She enjoyed snorkeling at the port in preparation for the end-of-year camp and her highlight of year 7/8 was doing cross country. When she is older, she says she wants to be an engineer.



Clarence Faherty is going to NPBHS because he wants to play sports with his friends who are also going. He is looking forward to being part of the surfing team. He enjoyed having long playtimes at Oakura School and his highlight of the year was participating in AImS Games. When he is older, he says he wants to be a professional surfer.



Isla Priest is going to Parndana in Australia because she says it would be a good opportunity for lots of things. She is looking forward to making new friends overseas. She enjoyed all of the fun days at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was road patrol reward day. When she is older, she says she wants to be a graphic designer.



Leo Hinton is going to NPBHS because there are good sporting opportunities. He is looking forward to playing sports for his school. He enjoyed tech at Devon Intermediate and his highlight of year 7/8 was participating in AImS Games. When he is older, he says he wants to be a professional cricket player.



Asher Rogers is going to Spotswood because it is the closest option. He is looking forward to art, languages and music. He enjoyed doing calendar art and his highlight for year 7/8 was going to tech at Devon Intermediate. When he is older, he says he wants to be a game developer.



Coco Tapara is going to NPGHS because her friends are going and there are lots of opportunities. She is looking forward to meeting new people and hanging out with her current friends. She enjoyed being around fun people at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was AImS Games 2024. When she is older, she says she wants to be an athlete.



Israel Fakavamoeanga is going to NPBHS so that he can take every given opportunity to boost his academics. He is looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was meeting Heath Reyes-Lam (student). When he is older, he says he wants to be a lawyer or a pilot.



Louis Lapko wants to go to NPBHS because he says it's one of the best schools. He says he is looking forward to all of the sporting opportunities. He enjoyed playing sports at Oakura School, and his highlight of year 7/8 was playing for the interschool rugby team. When he is older, he says he wants to be an engineer.



Ava Ingram is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because her friends are going and she thinks it will be better to go to a smaller school. She is looking forward to all of the new opportunities she can try and the new friends she can make. She enjoyed feeling like everyone at school was one big family and her highlight of year 7/8 was getting her excellence badge. When she is older, she says she wants to be a psychologist or an architect.



Elise Lewis is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because it is a small, catholic school and her friends are going too. She is looking forward to high school and making new friends. She enjoyed all the amazing opportunities and facilities and her highlight of year 7/8 was being a head pupil and going to AImS games. When she is older, she says she wants to be a teacher or a doctor.



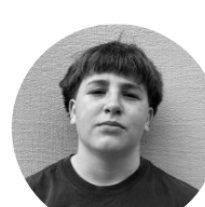
Jesse Tscheuschler is going to NPBHS because of the opportunities they have there. He is looking forward to taking robotics classes and using the robotics kits. He enjoyed the Epro8 competitions and his highlight of year 7/8 was getting second at the Epro8 Grand Finals. When he is older, he says he wants to be a software developer.



Macy Hart is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because it is the smallest school. She looks forward to making new friends and playing sports. She enjoyed staying in class the whole day and her highlight of year 7/8 was participating in AImS Games. When she is older, she says she wants to be a hairdresser.



Ben Hawkes is going to Spotswood College because it has good opportunities. He is looking forward to making new friends. He enjoyed interacting with others at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was meeting new people. When he is older, he says he wants to be a builder.



Ellie Kearns-Grieve is going to NPBHS because it has lots of opportunities. He is looking forward to meeting new people and playing sports. He enjoyed all the opportunities at Oakura School and his highlight for year 7/8 was participating in AImS Games and other sporting events. When he is older, he says he wants to be a marine biologist or a professional sports player.



Joe Verić is going to NPBHS because it is the best for him. He is looking forward to the athlete development program. He enjoyed participating in AImS Games and his highlight of year 7/8 is sporting. When he grows up, he says he wants to be a professional sports player.



Madison Peacock is going to NPGHS because her parents told her to apply. She is looking forward to making more friends. She enjoyed participating in sports events at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was participating at AImS Games. When she is older, she says she wants to be an athlete.



Blake Hanson is going to NPBHS because they have a commercial kitchen that he can use. He is looking forward to practicing his cooking skills. He enjoyed tech at Devon Intermediate and his highlight of year 7/8 was hanging out with friends. When he is older, he says he wants to be a professional chef.



Grayson Manning is going to Spotswood College because it is a good school for him and it is a co-ed school. He is looking forward to learning Japanese. He enjoyed going to the library near Oakura School and his highlight for year 7/8 was participating in tech at Devon Intermediate. When he is older, he says he wants to be an actor or voice actor.



Jude Brown is going to Francis Douglas Memorial College because he got accepted and thinks it is a good school. He is looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. He enjoyed being a head pupil at Oakura School the most and his highlight of year 7/8 was going to tech at Devon Intermediate. When he is older, he says he wants to be an actor.



Maxi Wahlen is going to NPBHS because it has a lot of opportunities to better his education and sports. He is looking forward to all of the opportunities and sports teams they have to offer. He enjoyed going to AImS Games and it was his highlight of the year too. When he is older, he says he wants to be a lawyer/professional surfer.



Bruno Whatt is going to NPBHS because there are lots of opportunities and it has a good reputation. He is looking forward to going to high school and being able to choose his own subjects. He enjoyed the way teachers teach different subjects and his highlight of the year was having leadership roles, like ICT. When he is older, he says he wants to be a judge.



Harry Brown is going to Francis Douglas Memorial College because it is religious. He is looking forward to technology classes and all of the sports activities. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends every day and his highlight of year 7/8 was playing for the interschool football team. When he is older, he says he wants to be an anaesthetist.



Julian Lee is going to NPBHS because it has good sporting teams and opportunities. He is looking forward to playing sports. He enjoyed hanging out with all of his friends at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was being the oldest. When he is older, he says he wants to be an NBA star/businessman.



Milan Down is going to NPGHS because it has lots of opportunities in sports and education. She is looking forward to making new friends and boosting her knowledge (and also the tuck shop). She enjoyed being a sports leader at Oakura School and her highlight of year 7/8 was going to TOPEC. When she is older, she says she wants to be a lawyer or KFC worker.



Charlie Boon is going to NPBHS because it is a good sports school with good sporting opportunities. He is looking forward to playing rugby with his friends. He enjoyed getting Subway on Friday and his highlight of year 7/8 was having Ms. Gooch as a teacher. When he is older, he says he wants to be a professional rugby player.



Heath Reyes-Lam is going to NPBHS because he wants to further his education in computer science, etc. He is looking forward to making new friends. He enjoyed getting to know all the people when he got here and his highlight of year 7/8 was getting 2nd in the Epro8 Grand Final. When he is older, he says he wants to be a Stock Broker/Film Producer.



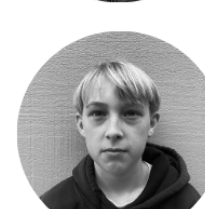
Karvah McFetridge is going to NPBHS because it has lots of activities and sports opportunities. He is looking forward to making new friends with all of the people there. He enjoyed hanging out with all of the friends he made at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was going to tech at Devon Intermediate. When he is older, he says he wants to be an entrepreneur.



Millie Coomey is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because she says it is a good high school. She is looking forward to the sporty opportunities. She enjoyed participating in Market Day at Oakura School, and her highlight of year 7/8 was going to TOPEC. When she is older, she says she wants to be a professional horse rider.



Chloe Milestone-Webb is going to Sacred Heart Girls' College because it looks like a good school and it has cool competitions. She is looking forward to going to the same school as her friends and also the sports. She enjoyed hanging out with her friends the most at Oakura School and her highlight of the year was AImS Games and the sporting competitions. When she is older, she says she wants to be an architect.



Hudson Davies is going to NPBHS because it has the subjects that he wants. He is looking forward to all the new opportunities they have available. He enjoyed playing with all of his friends at Oakura School and his highlight of year 7/8 was doing food tech at Devon Intermediate. When he is older, he says he wants to be an architect.

The Ōākura School Concert



(Lanky) Billy Kingston standing behind (Little) Bobby Drake at far lefthand side of photo were the stars of the concert. Kirihaui School - Oakura, Koru and Kirihaui Schools Jubilee Booklet – 1957.

It was the highlight at the end of the school year, about 1950.

Parents sat quietly, us kids in front on the bare wooden floor of the Ōākura Hall. Little voices murmured in excitement. The ‘big’ girls shushed us quiet. Some of the detested ‘monitors’ were called. Parents endured hours of their darling’s practices. The same proud parents now sat in trepidation of THE performance. There were the choirs from each school room, the primers (Miss Storer – Teacher), standards 1 – 3 (Mrs. Cassels and Mr. Cassels), and the big kids Standard 4 – 6 (10 – 12 years old). The mouths of the boys mimicked the words they had ‘forgotten’ to learn or couldn’t sing in tune. The Scottish and Irish dances, the music solos including the unexpected bagpipes we covered our ears in astonishment at the strange noises and in even more astonishment was one of the older boys in a ‘dress’. One of the girls did a tap dance, another the Highland Fling. Their dress and performances were spellbinding, even the boys had to admit, and everyone clapped enthusiastically.

Between acts there was the inevitable murmur, “That’s my Edith, isn’t she clever!” The next parent nodded in charming agreement, others glad they weren’t asked. Group performances all received audience-wide applause.

You could feel it in the air, the last act, what would it be? The excitement, the anticipation, even us kids didn’t know what was coming.

The curtains opened wide. Everyone sat in stunned silence. Two of our young lads sat on stools wearing boxing gloves. Everyone was incredulous, a boxing match. On one side sat

Billy, even as a primer he was tall, very tall, gangly tall. On the other sat Bobby, short, a little kid but very quick.

The referee brought the boys to the front of the stage and as he introduced them lifted an arm. Billy’s arm reached higher than the referee, Bobby’s not much more than the referee’s waist. The audience could not believe their eyes. The referee was a local well-known boxing champion.

The round started, and the two boys jabbed at each other. Bobby ducked under Billy’s high punches, but Bobby’s arms were too short. Neither hit the other. Even in the first minute Billy was starting to tire. Their excited classmates yelled encouragement.

Then it happened, again no one could believe their eyes. Billy stood there, his arms sagging, his legs wide apart. It happened so suddenly, no one had seen this happen before, Bobby ducked through the wide gap between Billy’s long legs. The audience roared in laughter. Billy, bewildered, swung at empty air. We kids called out in great excitement, “Billy behind you!” Billy swung around, stood for a moment, a moment too long and Bobby shot back between Billy’s legs and dashed behind the curtains around the stage. All in the audience were laughing. In our excitement we yelled for Billy to look behind the curtains. As he did, Bobby’s head popped out further along. Now in a fervour we shouted to Billy, Bobby’s hiding place. Billy whipped open the curtains, but Bobby was not there! Bobby had scuttled behind to another gap and out popped his head. The crowd roared with laughter. Billy spotted Bobby and again whipped the curtains

open. The phantom Bobby had disappeared. This happened again and again.

Billy’s spindly legs were becoming very tired. He swung around hearing Bobby’s voice, but too quickly. Billy tripped and crumpled to the floor. Bobby stepped out, Billy didn’t move. The referee raised Bobby’s arm, Billy scrambled to his feet, the referee raised Billy’s arm. They both had big grins. We kids all clapped and cheered, Billy and Bobby, they both had won. With excited chatter we agreed this concert was the very best ever!

Brimming with excitement, we asked, “Please Mrs. Cassels, can we do it again next year?”

It was never to be.

Back row- Unknown (1), Kevin Green, Neil Staveley, Brian Irving, Brian Green, Brian Herbert, Pat Rail, Trevor Green, Unknown (2), Alan Smith, Bruce Young.

Next row - Yvonne Benton, Jenny Dean, Margaret Payne, Barbara Donald, Judith Hill, Beryl Young, Neville Price and Ed (Teddy) Morris.

Next row (seated) - Elaine Green, Lorraine Ryan, Sue Elliot (3), Barbara Marsh, Jennifer Hodge, Beverley Green, Pat Staveley and Jennifer Winderborn.

Front Row - Leslie (Do) Smith, Joe Hoskin, Sefton Mounsey, Allan Lay, Robin Winderborn, Lennie Jury, Eric Hodge and Murray Pease. Brian and Trevor Green are twins.

Unnamed children, do you know who they are? Please get in touch.

1. **Christiansen? Kirihaui Rd? (Christensen?)**
2. **Lived in one of the cottages to the right of the old Oakura Surf Club Building? Way?**
3. **Next to Sue Elliott? Faye?**



Kirihaui school photo 1929 taken by Robert Wells (story in November issue).

TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings
Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Bowling and Social Club

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

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

Gym Classes - Fun & friendly community circuit training sessions at The Well Nest gym Tue 5:20pm & Fri 9:30am. Tempofit. org/gym Hayden - 0274835942

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 @oakuraimoaclub 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, Sat 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 10am, Every week. Sunday School Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 9am Breakfast club & 10am Sunday School. stjamesoakura@gmail.com

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

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: taranakitaichuan@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 Bowling Club - Friday Twilight

Bowls during Daylight Saving, all welcome. Club opens 5:30pm, starts 6pm. Supper \$6. Sandra 0274662129

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.

St. Paul’s - Sunday Service 10am 1st and 2nd Worship Service. 3rd Sunday 10am – Communion Service, 4th Sunday at 7.00pm. Open church for silent reflection – Pew for You, 3rd Wednesday of each month

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

The Ōākura Post

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