

the Ōākura Post

MAY 2026

Soffe Cup Winners

Left to right - Toni Peacock,
Gavin Stanley, Graeme Mitchell,
Luke Barrett, Taylor Mitchell,
Jackie Keenan and Brianna
Mathews. Absent Sue Oldfield
and Cooper Ferguson.



Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Champs of Champs

Jackie Moeahu is looking to add another centre title to her already excellent credentials in reaching the champ of champs women's singles final. Moeahu, representing the Ōākura blue, will play Margy Carey of New Plymouth to see who will be crowned the new women champion of Taranaki.

Kim Marsters, Sandra Zittersteijn, Michelle Walbank and Meagan Breedveld punched well above their weight in reaching the semi-finals of the women fours champ of champs. The Marsters skipped quartet played tremendous bowls throughout the day, defeating strong teams from Inglewood and Stratford and only to be stopped by a well-drilled Paritutu team in a high-quality and exciting semi-final.

Junior single club champs Geoff Farrant and Alesha Quay played well in their games, with both only just falling short to talented bowlers from Manaia and Stratford respectively. Pat Walklin also lost a close encounter to an informant Bruce Colgan from Westend in their 1st round men singles match.

Congratulations to all the Ōākura representatives and good bowls to all the Ōākura players in the upcoming Pairs and Triples champ of champ competitions. It is worth noting that the Ōākura club draws their teams from the board for their club champs and does the club proud when mixing it with the powerful self-picked club champion teams from other Taranaki clubs.

Club News

Wayne Robinson, Steve Muller and Rod Smith won the annual umpires triples tournament played at the picturesque Pihama club mid-March. The trio were the only ones undefeated throughout the day and prevailed against some talented teams to take the title.

The Professional Bowling Association will again have a chapter in New Plymouth with all bowling to be played at the Paritutu Bowling Club indoor stadium. In a new format, the qualifiers for the various competitions will be played over the weekend of the 30th, 31st of May and June 1st. It will be a great opportunity to see some of New Plymouth's best bowlers in action.

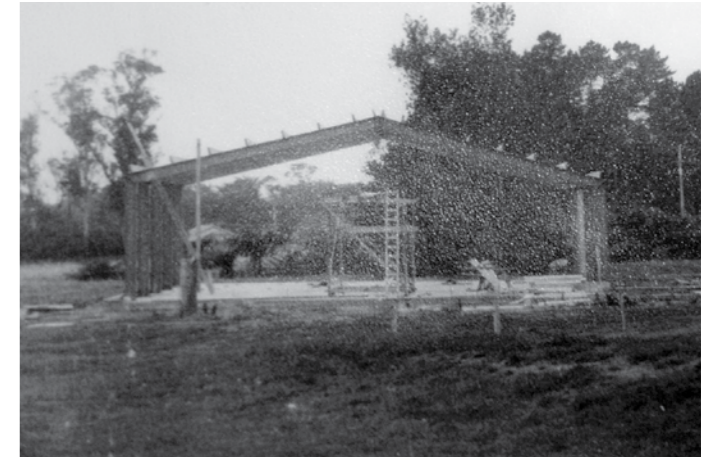
The AGM for the Oakura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Saturday 27th of June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving, club acknowledgements and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club on Friday evenings from 4.30pm - 7pm throughout the autumn and winter months. There is a lucky membership draw at 6.30pm and, who knows, we may even tempt you to take up this great game.

The underarm bowler



Kia ora from the Kaitake Golf Club



A walk down memory lane. The evolution of the clubhouse.

The original Weld Road clubhouse photo taken around 1936. The current clubhouse construction in 1971 and lastly, a more familiar sight – what it looks like today.

The weather was very kind to us over March, only cancelling one competition day, so the golf has been well contested for both men and ladies. Sunny days give us great run with the ball and there have been some tremendous scores hitting the leaders' board. Already this year, the men's jackpot (this is where a player gets two 2s in a round) has been won 4 times – congratulations to Aaron Hine who has won this twice – so far. I'm sure we'll see his name on the leader board again.

Congratulations also go to Kris White who won the Taranaki Golf Over 50s tournament played at Inglewood in March - with a gross 85, net 62 and 43 stablefords. Kris swears blind that she had to show her passport, birth certificate and drivers licence to prove she was old enough to be eligible to play in the competition – apparently a true story.

The men have nearly finished their pennants for the year, with the ladies halfway through their pennant competition. Our 9 hole ladies have two teams in pennants and Monday 30th March saw them go head-to-head, with Kaitake Blue, coming out on top at the end of the day.

The ladies club hosted a Past & Present Members morning tea. It was a nice morning with 20 past members attending. They were able to have a tour of the course to note the changes since they had resigned. For most this was the new on-course toilets, the lake on the 6th hole, a garden on the 16th hole, and new stairwell access to the 16th top tee. It was a morning enjoyed by all and there was even some putting on the practice green.



We are considering moving to having sanded greens and are looking to give an initial "dusting" of sand on the greens to improve surface condition. Looking forward, a decision will be made on best means to start changing the greens substructure including best time of year and contract resource.

The materials for our new shed have been delivered and the ground cleared – so watch this space for the construction phase happening soon.

That's it from us – and remember – keep your head down and follow through.



BMX Worlds a first for Eli

In July 2026, Brisbane hosts the UCI BMX Racing World Championships. Thousands of elite riders from across the planet will battle it out and 12 year old Eli - Elijah Saseve is going to be one of them.

Tell us a bit about the event - where, when, how long, format...

The event is being held at the Sleeman BMX Track in Brisbane Australia. This is the 1st Worlds event I will be attending. It runs from July 17th – July 25th 2026. I will be racing on one day of the event.

What is the fundraising to cover costs for?

The fundraising will be going towards costs such as: a NZ uniform, race registration, race insurance, flights, accommodation and new/spare tyres for my bike.

What sort of funding are you looking for?

I am reaching out to my local community to see if anyone has any jobs that I can do for them. I am determined to raise as much of the funds

myself with a bit of help from my mum and dad. I am also open to sponsorship in the form of business logos being put on my race gear.

How long have you been involved in BMX?

I started riding when I was 3 years old. My first bike after a strider was a Micro Mini BMX, I couldn't even touch the ground when I would ride it. I joined the New Plymouth BMX Club and started racing at 4 years old.

How did you get into BMX seriously?

I really just love being on my bike and racing. I discovered that I was pretty good at it and went to my first National event at age 5, racing in Rotorua.

What do you like about it?

I just love racing with my mates. It is a competitive sport and I am quite competitive. It pushes me to get faster and do better.

Why would you recommend it as a sport?

If you love riding a bike then it is a lot of fun.

What has been a highlight?

My highlights to date are: getting NZ3 one



year and then Oceania 03, and now qualifying to race at Worlds for NZ.

What are your future aspirations with BMX?

To finish in the top 16 at Worlds

Is Taranaki a good place for BMX?

Yes, we have a good track in Bell Block and a good committee that is focused on seeing kids have fun on their bikes.

Anything else you would like to add?

Just that any help would be much appreciated to help me reach my goal and represent NZ.

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Phone/ text me on 021 1055 988 or email us at mnsaseve@gmail.com



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Stories of the Past

Ropata Ngarongomate (Ngarongomati) - Ariki.

Tapuae, Okurukuru and Ōmata.

Ropata Ngarongomati – Ariki.

Also known to Europeans as Bob Erangi. Readers will remember the map of farms on the Plymouth and Hurford Roads. (Ōākura Post October 2025) and the article – Legend of Swindletown. Part of the map shows the name ROPATA NGARONGOMATI on a 360 acre block of land, corner of Plymouth Road, SH45 and up to Tapuae River bridge.

Use of the name here would not mean ownership of the land but the land belonging (let's say stewardship) to the people for whom Ropata Ngarongomati was the Ariki, nor would it imply this was the total of the land under stewardship of Ropata.

Ropata was born in the Ōmata/Tapuae area about 1822. Okurukuru was also used as a locality he was writing from. He was the brother of Meri e Motu, wife of Wellington Carrington, New Plymouth surveyor. Their marriage is recorded as the first in St. Mary's Church in New Plymouth in 1844. Ropata was educated perhaps in a Pakeha mission school as well as having a Maori education possibly by his father, family and their Tohunga. Ropata was also educated in Pakeha ways possibly by Wm. Crompton at his school. This was a few metres along from the entry into Okurukuru winery next to SH45 towards New Plymouth. Certainly Carrington was responsible for Ropata gaining his surveying skills. His surveying attributes were used for the surveys at Akaroa in the South Island, Wellington and in Otago, working with Wellington Carrington as a member of Carrington's survey teams.

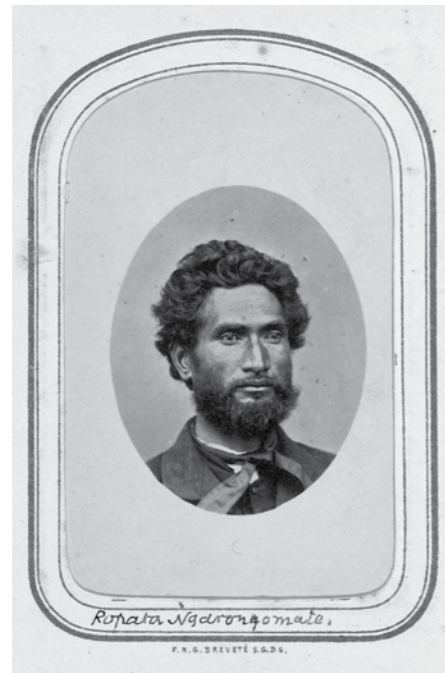
Firstly, let's look at the qualities of an Ariki. (Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand).

- 1. Heritage** – the first born male of the first born male tracing back many centuries, in some instances recorded back to the gods of Māori on the first canoes.
- 2. Tapu** – sacredness. Great tragedy will befall the person(s) causing death of an Ariki.
- 3. Mana** – great authority within the hapu. His word was the final word in a dispute.
- 4. Ihi** – excellence
- 5. Wehi** – Awesome power, inherited from ancestors and the gods.

Ropata Ngarongomati was such an Ariki, a paramount leader in Māori society.

He is recorded as tall, well built, and having a bold, determined expression of countenance. (Obituary 1885).

"We are friends of the Pakeha and have derived great benefits for our Hapu. We live here in peace". This was in a letter of 1860 from Ropata to the disaffected Māori approaching New Plymouth to destroy the settlement. Māori, including Ngatiruanui and Taranaki south of the Ōmata block, had lost land to settlers taking over their land. Payment of money agreed to be paid for land and the building of roads and whare had not been forthcoming.



The Taranaki tribal land once stretched from Ōpunakē to Mōkau. (Ref. "The Kaumatua of Kawhia Harbour" by Rev C.H. Schnackenberg, 1932). Kaumatua - Both male or female: Acknowledged for knowledge of tribal history and traditions, as well as particular decision making. (Kaumatua: Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand).

The later northern boundary was the Herekawe stream just south of New Plymouth.

Ropata Ngarongomati facilitated the sale of the Ōmata Block to the Government. Te Atiawa opposed the sale claiming right of conquest. Taranaki, fearing attack by Te Atiawa, changed the time of the signing of the sale documents to the evening. It is written that Te Atiawa were so incensed they threatened to burn the Ōmata Pa while the signing took place. A fire was seen but later ascertained that only one person was involved burning one whare. He was captured and brought to Ropata for punishment.

On the day before the Battle of Waireka, March 1860. Ropata attached a notice to

the doors of Rev. Brown's and Rev. Gilbert's homes. As they were church ministers, he had placed them under TAPU. One of those letters, once in St. Mary's Church, was recently removed.

An excerpt from a letter written by Ropata to Sir Donald Mclean, Governor of New Zealand 19 March 1860 (a few days before the Battle of Waireka 31 March 1860.) says, "So you should be careful of your firm friends, one can't tell about them. I know the nature of the people. In my view, the eyes in front are watching, while the eyes at the back are sleeping. But in time they will watch out too. So be careful."

Earlier he had said, "Listen I have no idea about this, my only intention is to stay at peace, to live peacefully on the land. But I continue to take care of Okurukuru."

I would think the figures for the total of Māori advancing on New Plymouth would have been recorded by Ropata. Similarly the report on the tremendous numbers of stock, horses, farm carts, implements etc. captured/removed from the Ōmata farms would also have been recorded by Ropata Ngarongomati. His ARIKI status perhaps afforded him safety whereas any other Ōmata Māori would have been immediately despatched.

In his later years he was employed to record the arguments of both sides, both within Māori and Māori/Pakeha in land disputes and to report back to the government.

This a very simplified story of conditions and situations during the time of Ropata Ngarongomati. Further reading is encouraged to better understand the times, situation and outcomes.

Note: In 1858 Rev. C.H. Schnackenberg farmed on Hurford Rd, Ōmata.

PHOTO CREDIT: [Ropata Ngarongomate]. Mantell album 3. ca. 1860-1880. Mantell, Walter Baldock Durrant: Family photograph albums. Ref: PA1-o-328. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

Oakura School pupil's photo. (TOP November 2025, page 18) Name omitted – Second girl of second row of pupils. Sandra Tito. Sandra excelled in English and Mathematics. Some may remember Trevor, Sandra's young brother.



Winter sport is now underway for both senior and junior sports teams at the Hub – head down to Corbett Park on a Saturday or Sunday to support our teams!

Kaitake Athletics – Season Wrap-Up

As another fantastic season of Kaitake Athletics comes to a close, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fun, energetic, and rewarding few months for our tamariki and whānau.

Week after week, it's been awesome to see the smiles, determination, and growing confidence of all our young athletes as they gave everything a go, whether it was sprinting down the track, mastering field events, or simply enjoying being active with friends.

A huge thank you must go to our incredible volunteer parents and supporters. Our club simply couldn't run without your time, enthusiasm, and willingness to jump in and help wherever needed. From setting up equipment to running events and cheering from the sidelines, your contribution makes all the difference.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Kaitake Community Sports Hub for their ongoing support this season. The weekly burgers and bar were a real highlight and helped create a great community atmosphere for everyone involved.

Although the season has wrapped up, we'd love for you to stay connected. Please follow our Kaitake Athletics Facebook page for updates, news, and information about upcoming events and next season.

Thank you again to everyone who made this season so special, we're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Tsunami Sports Kaitake Netball Club

As the netball season has not yet started, the teams have been busy with some pre-season trainings and getting to meet or acquaint themselves with their teammates. A recent visit to The 19th was lots of fun, with some promising golfers in the mix. A nice addition for our girls this season is to have the NPGHS gym available for bookings on Tuesday nights with the Club covering this cost. This has been great to brush off a few off-season cobwebs and get some game time under our belts.

We welcome our four fabulous coaches back onboard for another year, Chrissy Egarr, Angie Barron, Lisa Robertson and Melissa Waite. They do a wonderful job looking after and developing our youth and we are excited to see them show their skills on court this year. We also are thankful for our sponsors Tsunami Sports, Craigs Investments and our new sponsor arké for supporting our season.



Master Netball Team Photo from left to right: Nicole Christophers, Heidi Smith, Toni Peacock, Nina Bloor, Michelle Bourke, Esme Reid, Micah Lindsay-Brown, Gemma Skittrup, Kendra Holdt

We had a team enter into The Taranaki Masters Competition on the 28th March in Stratford which was a mix of players from three teams, and they left with winning medals. Well done girls

DATES TO NOTE:

Sunday 26th April:	3pm - Sunday Social Netball Begins at Oakura School Courts
Sat 2nd May:	Opening Tournament
Sat 9th May:	Winter Season begins.

Battle at the Beach - Friday 24 July 2026

Tickets are now on sale for the blockbuster Yarrows Taranaki Bulls NPC preseason match against the Wellington Lions at Corbett Park on the afternoon of Friday 24 July. If not sold out – tickets and hospitality packages are available on <https://trfu.co.nz/pages/battle-at-the-beach>.

Don't miss out on a great afternoon out with food, refreshments and top rugby on display right here in Ōākura!

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

Photo caption correction for April issue. Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Jimmy Fastier (not Kurt Leuthart), Kaitake Rugby Club Chair Jono White and Taranaki Rugby Academy Manager and Ōākura local Teihorangi Walden from Left to right.

Ladies!

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Representing Taranaki on the global stage

Green School New Zealand students are continuing to expand Taranaki's global footprint, with five high school learners recently selected to attend the prestigious Villars Institute Fellowship in Switzerland.

The achievement follows their recent participation in an international education conference in Shanghai earlier this year, signalling the school's growing presence within influential global forums.

Sophie Perrett, Samantha Perrett, Zac Schoonover, Siena Schoonover and August Nichols will travel to the Swiss Alps in June, as the first New Zealand students to attend the globally respected Villars Symposium. The event brings together emerging young leaders from schools around the world to engage directly with leading scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs and educators. Together, they'll discuss real-world solutions to complex world challenges from sustainable economic systems, to social and environmental change.

Head of Green School New Zealand, Nigel Barrett, says the selection achievement reflects both the calibre of students and the school's global outlook.

"This is an outstanding achievement for these students and a powerful example of what happens when young people are encouraged to think beyond borders."

"At Green School, we believe education should prepare learners to engage meaningfully with the world's biggest challenges. Being invited into a forum like Villars places our students, and by extension Taranaki and Aotearoa, within an influential global conversation."

Following the multi-day symposium, students enter a mentorship programme and gain access to a global network that includes research collaboration, publication opportunities, and continued engagement with thought leaders focused on sustainable futures.

Head of Learner Experiences and Wellbeing at GSNZ, Di Hoskin, says the global trajectory of these learners is intentional.

"We are so proud of these students. After attending the EiM WorldWide conference in Shanghai, their acceptance into the Villars Fellowship further highlights their curiosity, courage and readiness to step confidently into international spaces," Hoskin says.

"These opportunities allow our learners to represent New Zealand values on a global platform, connect with peers who care deeply about the future of our planet, and return home with ideas and networks that benefit our own community."

The selection reinforces Green School NZ's growing global footprint, positioning its students as contributors, not just observers, in international conversations about sustainability and leadership.

As they prepare for Switzerland in 2026, Sophie, Samantha, Zac, Siena and August look forward to not only representing their school, but Taranaki and Aotearoa New Zealand on a respected international stage.

Green School New Zealand's High School Diploma (Advanced) was recently accepted for University Entrance by Universities New Zealand - Te Pōkai Tara. 2026 Enrolments now open

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Ōākura Crop Swap

An Ōākura Crop Swap is held the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Ōākura Hall from 3 to 4 p.m. I attended the March Crop Swap with our surplus of rather hot, red peppers. As others arrived they introduced themselves, and contributed to the spread on the table that included lemons, feijoas, herbs, beetroot, tomatoes, seeds, spinach and a rather nice packet of crisps! More than just a swap, this group talks about the opportunities for community connection, the sharing of tips and ideas for processing and using produce, and on occasion a guest speaker is invited to talk about a topic of interest.

At 3.30 On the dot we all got to choose from the variety on offer. I scored some lemons, spinach and the crisps. Pack up was at 4pm -truly an hour well spent. Everyone is welcome to bring something to swap,

just turn up with your garden produce, pantry items you want to pass on, baking, jars, whatever, and see what's on offer while making new friends. Entry is a gold coin koha/donation.

Village Vibes
by Elaine Jamieson

Catch the Connector

The recent global fuel issue was all the encouragement I needed to catch the bus to work last month. This service is provided by the TRC and a new timetable has just been produced. You can catch it at 7.30 am at the Ōākura Hall and then catch it home around 5pm. No parking fees either! If you want to purchase a Bee card which you swipe when you get on and off, you can do so at the I Site in Puke Ariki museum or online for an initial purchase price of \$5. You then

load your chosen amount onto the card. Alternatively you can use cash. For more information on routes, costs and times go to <http://tepahi.govt.nz/> or call into the I Site.

Firefighters Sky Tower Stair Challenge

Donate to the Team

Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade is taking up the challenge

As May approaches, some of our local firefighters are preparing once again to take on the annual Firefighters Sky Tower Stair Challenge on 23 May, raising vital funds for Blood Cancer New Zealand.

This year Ōākura is represented by Bruce, Ian, JT, Noah, and Mani, alongside Luke who will be climbing with Squad 51 as a non-firefighter. Together, they'll be pushing themselves to the limit for a cause that impacts thousands of Kiwi families every year.

Nationwide, fundraising has been a little slower to gain momentum this year, so community support means more than ever. From 30 April, Farmers New Plymouth will be backing the team, with customers able to donate directly instore to the Ōākura firefighters at the checkout.

You'll also have the chance to support the team in person on 16 May when they'll be stationed outside Farmers in full gear, joining a wider fundraising effort and bringing a bit of firefighter spirit to the streets.

Every donation, big or small, helps make a difference. Let's get behind our local crew as they take on this incredible challenge for a truly meaningful cause.

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/t/2026-oakura-volunteer-fire-brigade>



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Kaitake Community Board

The last Kaitake Community Board (KCB) meeting was held at the Kaitake Sports Hub on the 13th of April 2026.

The public forum was attended by two parties:

The first request was for a drinking water fountain to be installed at the Ōkato swimming pool. After a well presented verbal request, the topic was open to discussion. It was unanimously agreed to investigate the options through the correct channels at council to begin the process for installation.

The second request was from the Tataraimaka Coastal Care group for assistance in funding, planning and consultation to begin an ongoing upgrade to the area known as Fort St George (Tataraimaka Pa site) at Lower Pitone Road. A report was submitted and a lengthy discussion revealed that the Coastal Care group was well supported in their activities and progress has already been made at the site with planting and wind shelter fencing installed. The issues included coastal erosion, high tides, vehicles on dunes and beach, illegal dumping of rubbish, fires and broken glass. The KCB all agreed to review an application for NPDC help and funding from the discretionary fund. This report has been logged with a project manager to begin the process through the correct NPDC channels to provide assistance.

I wish to thank both groups for taking the time to come to the meeting and present their issues for the KCB to consider. This is what we need, "We cannot try to fix what we don't know about".

Activities discussed included the continued abuse of the Big Belly rubbish bins in several places around the Kaitake ward but of most significance in Ōkato outside the Four Square and by the café. It has been noted at least one resident placing their household rubbish in the bin daily. Sometimes the bin is jammed with bottles or cans but is not full so the indicator does not alert NPDC parks.

We need your help to stop this and here is how:

- Get the NPDC Antenna App downloaded onto your phone for free. Any issues or illegal activity you may witness please anonymously send in a report and add a picture if you can. The NPDC team directly responsible for the issue will process and take the appropriate action through the correct channels. This app works really well and already several items reported have been attended to this year, so give it a try. This App can be used for all sorts of issues or concerns and helps us prioritise response by the correct appropriate channels.

At the previous meeting on March 16th we discussed activities including the roading issues; investigating a dog friendly walkway in Ōkato; actioning an extension of the Ōākura foreshore walk/cycleway; Mace Track improvements; financial assistance for "Ōākura Post" (TOP) publication and finally speeding issues in the villages. These discussions were reviewed in the April meeting and the strategic planning project manager brought us up to date on the status of progress.

Discussion around the speed zoning throughout the Kaitake ward recognised historic requests to extend the 50kph zone from the Corner of Victoria Road and SH45 through to the substation to the West. This request has now been filed with Chris Bishop (MP for

transport) via Mayor Max's office. It all gets quite complicated once logged with NZTA as they have their roading models. The previous KCB chair offered all the documents dating back about 15-20 years which we, the current KCB members, are reviewing. Other areas discussed included Ōkato south end entry and the SH45 and Hurford Road intersection.

At the March meeting the KCB members voted unanimously to provide a significant portion of funding from the discretionary fund for the "Wild for Taranaki" instigated dog proof fence in Corbett Park. Part funding from a third party had already been provided. The fence project is now underway and may be able to be completed prior to the upcoming Oi/Titi Grey Faced Petrel breeding season.

Further discussion ensued and included assisting The Ōākura Post with some funding from the current discretionary fund to ensure this valuable community publication has Kaitake Ward coverage and continues into the future.

Our big focus this year is the KCB community plan for the next three years. The team has been attending informal meetings at Dawn Cafe and attended an NPDC workshop on how to engage better with the community through clubs, groups, schools and business owners etc. The question we were asked to consider was "Do you see your community in 2036 and what does it look like?" We need your views, please, one and all.

The Kaitake Community Board was well represented at the Rahui Section 186A coastal shell fish closure and we were all well enlightened by the presentation and concerns for opening up these reefs for shellfish collection later this year. Some very candid discussion followed the presentation and we all realised that unsustainable harvesting can no longer be tolerated.

We all need further educating about our impact on the environment. If you see illegal harvesting take a photo of the car number plate and report it to the Fisheries Officers. The hotline is 0800476224 (08004poacher).

The next KCB meeting will be held at Kaitake Sports Hub on the 11th of May at 11am. Your input is valued, call, email or turn up to our next meeting and have your say.

If you wish to talk or make a presentation please ask prior to the meeting and please keep it within 5 minutes. If you wish to attend and support us we would be thrilled – the more the better.

**Mike Anderson – Chair,
Kaitake Community Board.**



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So that's a wrap on the 2025-26 season.

Our volunteer lifeguards packed up the flags on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. If you're heading down for a swim over the off-season, please always check the conditions first — and parents, keep a close eye on your children.

A huge thank you to all of our lifeguards who have generously given their time over the summer. It never goes unnoticed, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

A small crew of NPOB guards also helped out at the Weet-bix Kids TRYathlon at the end of March — it was awesome to see so many young kids around Taranaki getting out there and giving it a go! And great to see NPOB lifeguards in the water keeping them safe and reassured.

We wrapped up the season with our annual prizegiving — a fantastic turnout and a bit of organised chaos, just how we like it.

- Volunteer of the Year: Jared Coster
- Club Person of the Year: Annabel Burley

It's been a great season, with so many people stepping up and getting involved. Our club thrives because of our community — thank you for being part of it.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page NPOB Surf Life Saving Club Ōakura for updates over the winter months.

Finally, another massive thank you to our active volunteer lifeguards — we wouldn't be a club without you!

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House of Representatives

Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

Kia ora,
When I wrote this at the start of April, we'd just had a sunny long Easter weekend and daylight savings had finished. It was a welcome break from Wellington which is busy enough during an election year, let alone one where we are responding to an international fuel crisis.

I don't know what the fuel situation will be by the time you read this. But what I do know is that we cannot control global oil prices, and we cannot control conflict in the Middle East. What we can control is what we do about it- and it is our responsibility as a Government to do so in a careful, deliberate, and measured way.

That is why every decision we are making is guided by a clear principle - support must be targeted, temporary, and timely. It would be easy to turn on the firehose and splash cash around, but doing so would only drive inflation higher and leave the very households we are trying to help worse off for years to come. Responsible government means helping now without creating bigger problems later.

To ease the pressure of rising fuel costs, 143,000 families are receiving targeted fuel support for low to middle income working parents with a further \$50 boost per week for up to a year.

We also announced that home and community support workers would also receive a temporary mileage rates increase by 30 per cent, from 63.5 cents to 82.5 cents per kilometre, to help ease the pressure of rising fuel costs. This increase will remain in place for up to 12 months, or until the price of 91 octane petrol falls below \$3 per litre for four consecutive weeks.

Our focus is on dealing with the impacts of the conflict on New Zealanders and ensuring we minimise that as much as possible. That means ensuring we maintain the fuel we need to keep the economy moving through our National Fuel Plan, and providing targeted, timely and temporary support for people most under pressure from rising fuel costs.

The months ahead may be unpredictable, but New Zealanders can be reassured this Government has a plan and is acting - carefully and decisively - to support people through and protect New Zealand's future.

Cheers, David

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Two Grandsons: Could this Become a Business Some Day?

Fynn Collier and Mack Looney, two 20 year olds, have been friends since they both started at Ōākura School. They've recently done a lot of traveling and surfing together and are now back at home wondering what's next.

Via an informal network of friends and acquaintances of older people, the two of them have been helping with chores that have become too difficult for ageing joints.

Fynn says, "We like older people and they seem to like us a lot. I've known Margaret Evans since I was 3. I love her. I've cleaned her car, stacked firewood and generally been a substitute for her grandson, Chester, when he's away."

When Margaret's husband Roger Thompson needed help digging up a part of their garden and moving gravel, Fynn asked his mate Mack to work with him to get the job done. Mack was happy to help out.

Glyn Church happened to talk to Roger about gardening work that needed to be done on his large property, and it had become too much for him alone. He was also having a problem with his pond filling up with sediment and the pump had to be dug out. Roger put him in touch with Fynn and Mack who could do the heavier aspects of the work.

Glyn's neighbour Colleen stopped by while they were at Glyn's. She has a tree she'd like

felled because it has become a hazard and they agreed to help her.

Me: I had 4 cubic metres of firewood delivered and dropped in my driveway. After moving and stacking three wheelbarrow loads, I realised I would have a hard time doing it myself and my car would be destined to live on the street for a long while. I asked Glyn who had been helping him recently. He put me in touch with Fynn and Mack who made light work of stacking the firewood and had time to stay and chat afterwards about the adventures they had while travelling.

Word of mouth could spread easily amongst the locals in their 70s, 80s and 90s about these two young men who get on so well with the older age group. Fynn and Mack joke half seriously about starting a business called "Two Grandsons".

They think about starting their business doing any gardening or gardening-connected work, and with a focus on their intergenerational approach. They talk about learning from a very young age to be respectful of others, and especially older people. Ōākura is home to a significant number of older people who once could do all their gardening work themselves and now find their joints and muscles are happier having some help doing the heavier stuff. While there are challenges with growing older, there are also opportunities to bridge



Mack Looney (left) and Fynn Collier.

the gap with younger people. Mixing up the ages can provide awesome experiences for everyone.

A future Ōākura Post might tell whether Fynn and Mack actually go ahead with the "Two Grandsons" idea. I hope they do.

Elayne Kessler



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Hayden Shearman

The Well Nest

Hayden, what inspired you to set up a gym in the village?

I have to give a big shout out to Jase and Julia Casadio who ran the Solid Casa gym from their place, and when they moved to Perth they asked me if I wanted to take it over and set up a gym of my own. Six months later The Well Nest was born! With no gym this side of New Plymouth, I saw a massive need. And, as a parent, I understand that time is so precious. Having a gym in the village can save families precious hours each week. You can basically get a workout done here in the time that it takes to drive to town and back.

What's your background? Did you always work in fitness?

My athletic background is in competitive running. And I've also done triathlon and grew up surfing and skateboarding. In 2012 I launched my running coaching company TempoFit in Auckland, mostly coaching adults initially, but since then we've expanded things with TempoFit Kids here in Taranaki with as many as 200 kids running with us each week. I also do TV commentary and ground announcing for athletics and triathlons all around the country and I head up the charity Run For Your Life that does schools programmes and the Whānau Run events. So life is full with lots of fun and meaningful work!

You said that you've set up a running group for children. How successful has that been and how is it structured?

TempoFit Kids runs across five locations in Taranaki, with one in Ōākura and another in Ōmata. The idea is to help kids aged 5-13 learn to move their bodies confidently through foundational movements like drills, jumping and throwing, and of course running and sprinting. We want kids to get fitter and faster, but most importantly we want them to have fun while they do it— planting seeds for a lifetime love of movement.



I have read that you have circuit sessions. Do you also plan individual programmes for people?

Yes, we have a couple of fun class options that are free for members to attend and \$15 for casuals (Tue 5:20pm and Fri 9:30am).

We use these classes to coach members through new movements and how to use the equipment safely and confidently. Without big weight machines, The Well Nest relies a lot on free weights and cable machines for which technique and a little education goes a long way. I also offer personal training and programming, which is great for those who want a more individualised approach and accountability or have specific needs like injury recovery, weight loss or athletic performance.

What hours are you open?

The gym is open for use 6am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.

What's the most satisfying aspect for you of running the gym?

It's so nice seeing the Ōākura community come together for fitness and to improve their lives. All the members are so supportive and friendly. Although I am starting to wonder if the main attraction for many of the members is our new cute kitten Daisy who happily sits on the row machine while you row or on the bench press while you're lifting weights!

Anything you would like to add?

If you're looking to advance your fitness, come on in for a chat. We're a gym for every body shape and every age and fitness level. Movement is medicine and, as humans, it's what we're designed to do every day.

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As told to Elaine Jamieson by Hayden Shearman

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Coming Up

May

- 5 Home and School Meeting 3:15pm
- 20 Year 5/6 Ripa Rugby Tournament in Inglewood
- 25 School Photos

June

- 3 Y8 to Young Leaders' Day in Palmerston North
- 5 Y1-6 'Puss in Boots' NZ Playhouse Theatre visiting

Earlier this year we wrote about our Tūrangawaewae, the place we feel connected to. Here are Frankie and Rachel's favourite places.

The Dusty Moon Dune

By Frankie Murray

Cliffs tower above me. The sand is swirling at my feet.

Waves are crashing on the rocks. The sound of seagulls echoes above me. My tūrangawaewae is the howling sands of Back Beach.

The moment that stands out most vividly is eating oily fish and chips on the grassy deck. All I can taste is the sandy chips in my mouth, and there is always a seagull trying to snatch our food.

A scene that feels almost frozen in time is collecting mud from the mud banks and making mud pillows with my siblings. One of the worst things about Back Beach is getting sand in your eyes and in your mouth from rolling down the sand dunes, and hearing all the scary stories people tell.

This is my tūrangawaewae because it makes me feel happy and connected to the place.

The Best Little School in the West

By Rachel Jackson

The place where each plant, flower, desk and wall holds decades of memories. Green field

stretching out, swinging ropes always stuck on the wood beam above, nestled within a ring of trees. Everything hidden behind a small empty road littered with houses, soon to be full of cars to pick up the kids filing out through the gate.

The big tree. The tree that stretches high into the sky rising high above all the others. Standing upon the branches looking down at the screaming juniors below while the wind tugs at your hair and clothes. Still pushing and pulling at you like it's trying to take you down itself.

The afternoon games of jail. The best time of the day as the class files out to fill the long green field that seems to go endlessly, competitive spirit buzzing in the air as one kid shouts at another to pass the ball, the boys never listen, thinking they can handle it on their own.

This place is my Tūrangawaewae because of the connection, leadership and the feeling of safety when I stand within those walls. The place that holds memories for thousands of people. I always had someone to fall back on. From the big tree to the afternoon games. From year one to year eight. It will always be a favourite part of my childhood memories.



TE KURA O OAKURA OAKURA SCHOOL

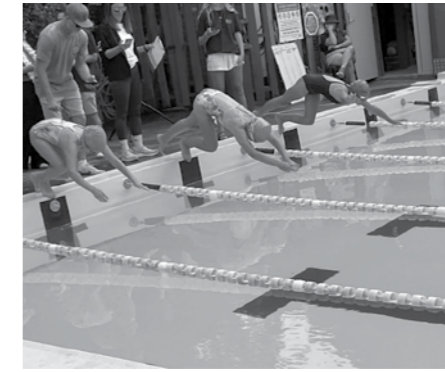
Oakura's 2026 Swimming Sports

On Wednesday, March 11th, the quiet town of Okato was woken up by the sound of cheering, splashing, and fierce school spirit. Students from Years 4 to 8 headed to the Okato Pools for our annual swimming sports, and the conditions couldn't have been better, a bright, blue-sky summer day that had everyone itching to get in the water.

The competition wasn't just in the water. It was in the stands! House points were up for grabs for the best house chants, and the volume was deafening. Each house brought their own energy to the poolside.

Patuha kept the rhythm with their iconic "Patuha Clap," making sure everyone knew they were the ones to beat.

Koru went bold, saying their "solid gold" status and making it clear they were aiming for the top spot.



Wairau showed off their values, chanting about being brave and kind, though they still promised to "take away the grin" of their competitors!

Maitaki focused on teamwork, with a chant that had everyone reaching for the sky.

Once the chanting died down, the focus shifted to the pool. We saw some incredible talent across all age groups. Students competed in freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke, with some races coming down to a fingertip finish. Whether it was the Year 4s completing their first big race or the Year 8s powering through the lengths, the effort was 100% across the board.

The highlight for many, was the house relays and the boogie board races. The relays are always a nail-biter. The boogie board race added a bit of fun and chaos to the day, with plenty of splashes and laughter.



Overall, the day was a huge success. It wasn't just about who touched the wall first. It was about the "give it a go" attitude that Oakura students are known for. Every swimmer who jumped in earned points for their house and contributed to the atmosphere.

A big thank you to the teachers, parents, and Okato Pool staff for making the day possible. Go Patuha, Koru, Wairau, and Maitaki!

Levi and Lola



Oakura Tennis

Congratulations to our junior teams for another season of getting on court and competing. In all sport, competition changes the dynamic, and tennis teaches invaluable skills when stepping on court in competitions. Youth A was won by our team of Noah Stanley, Angus Thorp, Aidan Peacock and Fred Carter. More on all our amazing juniors that played competition tennis this season next month.

Congratulations also to players who competed in the NZ masters team event over Easter in Auckland. Sue Oldfield and Rachel Volcani came second in the 50+ age division in a Taranaki team. Chris Davies also competed in a mixed team.

The club was saddened to hear Vicki Haylock passed away on the 7th April. Vicki was instrumental in moving our junior coaching to an online system with Anne Bridges. Oakura Tennis enjoyed having Vicki as a member and gained from Vicki's amazing skills through Blitz Tennis. Once Vicki became involved, the organising of coaching became a breeze and so many young players benefited from this.

Vicki was organised, efficient and made a system that worked. She didn't have to do this, but she did it with a smile and a generosity that is so typical of Vicki. Blitz Tennis continues on today.

We thank her and send our love and thoughts to John, Caitlyn and Rebecca.



Kaitake Kindergarten Families Celebrate Easter Together at Butlers Reef

Kaitake Kindergarten families recently came together for a joyful Easter celebration at Butlers Reef, creating a memorable evening filled with laughter, connection, and community spirit.

The event was well attended, with many families making the most of the opportunity to gather outside of the kindergarten setting. Children were delighted to receive Easter eggs, adding a touch of magic to the occasion, while families enjoyed sharing a relaxed dinner of pizza together.

A highlight was announcing our Easter raffle winners. Three lucky families went home with prizes of delicious Easter eggs and treats, bringing smiles all around. The raffle was a meaningful fundraiser, with proceeds going towards new furniture for the kindergarten—an investment that will benefit all tamariki.

Events like this play an important role in strengthening the kindergarten community. Bringing families together in a social setting helps build relationships between parents, children, and teachers, fostering a sense of belonging and connection. For children,

seeing their friends and their families interact in a different environment reinforces friendships and supports social development. For parents, it offers a chance to connect, share experiences, and feel more involved in their child's learning journey.

The evening was a great example of how simple gatherings can have lasting positive impacts, creating shared memories and strengthening the supportive network around the kindergarten.


Kaitake Kindergarten would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our hosts Myken and Will from Butlers Reef and all the families who attended and supported the event. Your enthusiasm and generosity continue to make these occasions special and help enrich the kindergarten environment for everyone.



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Annual General Meeting

Sunday 17th May 2026
12pm - 4pm online via
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Agenda items of interest

- Ratification of draft charter (Māori Reservation)
- Voting in of trustees

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Back in the day, we think this is in Wellington

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	COMMENTS
May 1925	Helen R. Harris	51 Telford St. New Plymouth	Pres. of the first branch of W.D. F.U. in New Zealand.
1925			After the conference of the Farmers Union of New Zealand in 1925, I received a letter from Mrs. G. G. Jackson, first Dominion secretary, telling me that the W.D. F.U. (as it was then called) had been formed and asking me to try to secure as many members as possible for the new organisation. The best way to do this seemed to be to form a local branch. Accordingly I formed the Oakura Branch in the September of that year, under the auspices of the local branch of the Farmers Union. I was elected president, and held that office for the following ten years, and represented the branch and later the Provincial Executive, at conferences, during that time. I was elected a Dominion vice-president, under Mrs. G. K. Wilson, when the Housekeeper scheme was inaugurated. I was active in carrying out that work in North Taranaki. Provincial Executives not yet having been formed, the scheme was operated

Celebrating 100 years

Rural Women New Zealand - Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

Rural Women New Zealand, originally known as the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union (WDFU), was founded in July 1925. During a Farmers Union Conference in Wellington, at that time, 16 women decided to form a rural women's organisation to improve support systems for their fellow rural women. One woman, Helen Harris who lived and farmed on Koru Road, Ōākura, was invited to join the organisation.

In her own handwriting in a record book Helen wrote that in 1925 she was asked "...to try to secure as many members as possible for the new organisation. The best way to do this seemed to be to form a local branch. Accordingly I formed the Oakura Branch...I was elected president and held that office for the following 10 years."

It has now been a century that Rural Women New Zealand has been strengthening, supporting and connecting rural people and their communities. Here is some of what they're currently about:

- They support local communities, people in need and nationwide projects through community service and charitable work
- They provide opportunities for leadership by rural women on social, economic, equality and environmental issues at all level of decision-making
- They celebrate rural success, nurture and encourage rural resilience, and connect and support rural communities.

I met with Jo Morgan, now Chair of Rural Women Taranaki and also Chair of her local branch, Tumahu on Puniho Road along the coast. She arrived to meet me with two things I found of note: a carry bag that said "Farmers, we've got your back" and a blackberry and apple pie for me that she baked with berries grown on her farm.



Shirley Read (left) our Regional Leader and Elma Honeyfield, life member of both North Taranaki Provincial and Motouui Branch and treasurer for both. Elma was also celebrating her 90th birthday that day.

Jo's mother belonged to Rural Women, as did her nana and auntie. "It's quite a generational group," Jo says. "My mother used to talk about what she did as a member of Rural Women, and it peaked my interest." Jo first joined in 1998 when her eldest son was just three weeks old.

The Taranaki-wide group meets bi-monthly and has presenting speakers. Jo's branch meets once a month in each other's house and they often have guest speakers as well. She says she has a wonderful team and they are all about connecting with what's happening in their rural communities, especially as related to rural women and children.

Currently they are involved in an important project with Professor Jackie Benschop, a veterinarian and epidemiologist researching leptospirosis (lepto) disease, something crucial to farmers for protecting cattle, pigs, and humans.

The first celebration of the Centennial year of the Rural Women of Taranaki kicked off in Stratford in July 2025. The second celebration was held in November 2025 with a lunch at Okurukuru, a beautiful setting on a beautiful day, and a fitting venue that is only a few kilometres from where the first branch of Rural Women was formed in 1925.

At that event a speech was given reminding those present of the background of the organisation. "New Zealand was just recovering from World War 1 when economic conditions deteriorated and conditions in the rural society also worsened. The women and children were suffering from a lack of facilities, services and the loneliness of isolation."

The final Centennial celebratory event for Taranaki will be a "High Tea" 15 May 2026 at the Tairoa Lodge in Hawera. The theme is **"Together we honour our past and look forward to a vibrant future."**

If you would like more information about Rural Women or want to join a branch, see their web page or contact Jo Morgan, morgl@xtra.co.nz As Jo says, "It's a very special organisation to belong to."

Elayne Kessler

TOP Activities

Ōākura

Ōākura Hall Bookings
Vicky Jury 027 215 2465

Adult Ballet Class - Friday 8:45am - 10 am. Register your interest for adult tap class. Jane 027 6940933 or janeroseman@xtra.co.nz.

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. Contact Heather 021617894

Dancing in the Dark
Glenys Farrant 027 753 0120

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 - Tues 5.30-7pm, Thurs 6-7.30pm. Jim Hoskin 022 601 3070.

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 & Thurs 9-11am, Wed 7.30-9pm, 10am-12pm most Saturdays. All skill levels 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 - Ōākura Bowling club, 3rd Friday of the month 10-11.30am. Contact Brenda Ryan 757 3537 or 027 748 9698

TempoFit Kids Run Club - run club, Friday 8am 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: taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School - Children's ballet class. Tuesday 3:30 to 4:30pm. For ages 5 -9. Contact janeroseman@xtra.co.nz

Sunday Waves - 5Rhythms Dance Class
SUNDAY 10.30-12 fortnightly - Oakura Hall.

Beginners welcome. A fun somatic practice without steps... Mira 02108090172/ Dance5R@mirawatson.com

Dance 5Rhythms
MONDAYS 5-6.30 fortnightly - Corbett Park Hall. No experience needed. A free movement dance practice to increase somatic connection, co-ordination and joy. 02108090172 / Dance5R@mirawatson.com

Kaitake Golf Club - Wednesday Open Casual Haggie Competition. \$10 non-members \$5 members. 8am to 1pm open to everyone. Phone Penny 7527665

Tataraimaka Hall

5 Elements Fitness Sessions
5pm -6pm everyday. Barney 027 752 7076 barney@5efitness.com or visit www.5efitness.com

Starts Term 2 - 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.

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

Editor: Tracey Lusk
06 752 7875 / 027 636 8060 editor@theoakurapost.co.nz

Advertising:
advertising@theoakurapost.co.nz
Design/Layout: Emily Bennett
Proof Reader: Elayne Kessler

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Andrew Faleatua
Simon Ingram
Len Lye
Machine Listening

Yuko Mohri
Aura Satz
Rachel Shearer
Weather Cry
YoungEun Kim

Curator:
Anna Briers

42 Queen Street
Ngāmotu New Plymouth
Aotearoa New Zealand
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Aura Satz, *Sirening (as a verb)*, 2026.
Still from multi-channel video installation
HD and 16mm, duration variable.
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