

the Ōākura Post

JUNE 2026



Ōākura Bowling & Social Club

Champs of Champs

Jackie Moehau claimed her 10th Taranaki title in winning the women singles champions of champions. Moehau, wearing the Oakura Blue, came from 18-10 down to defeat Margy Carey of New Plymouth 21-20 in an exciting and high-quality final.



The run of near misses continued for the other Ōākura teams with men pairs champions Steve Muller and Syd Sharpe, women pairs winners Sandra Zittersteijn and Heather Lofthouse and women triples champs Kim Marsters, Michelle Walbank and Norma Nelio all losing their 1st round games in close encounters. The trio of Tim Ryan, Geoff Farrant and Mark Barraclough won their 1st game but unfortunately came undone against Stratford when the tournament moved to the indoor stadium at Paritutu due to inclement weather.

Club News

Congratulations to Ōākura bowler Kurt Smith in his selection in the New Zealand team for

the upcoming Commonwealth Games. Kurt will play alongside Mark Noble in the disability pairs team. A great achievement Kurt, the club wishes the team and you all the best in Scotland.

The highly regarded and fiercely contested Collins Trophy competition was won by Tim Ryan, Rod Smith and Gaye Holub. The trio held out the pairing of Jim Priest and Eddie Sera to take the title. Paul Coxhead, Mark Barraclough and Francey Langman finished a gallant 3rd. The tournament is open to the community and it was great to see a number of non-bowlers participating with skill and enthusiasm. Past President Mark Collins originally donated the trophy and it is fantastic to see life member and club patron Roy Phillips continuing Mark's legacy and generously sponsoring this popular tournament.

Thanks to all members who have assisted in the day to day running, green maintenance, bar and administration of the club over the past year. Without the support of volunteers, such as yourselves, the club would not be in the fantastic position it is today. Recognition

goes to Wayne Gray and his team who have excelled in providing the club a world class green. The green just keeps getting better each year. My highlights for the year were the introduction of the Barry Watkins sponsored LegAsea tournament, the Community Bowls competition played over 3 nights in late February, the welcome return of women playing members and winning the Avery interclub tournament.

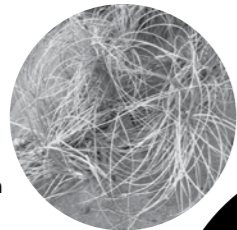
The AGM for the Oakura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30m on Saturday 28th June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving, club acknowledgements and refreshments.

Everyone is always welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club on Friday evenings from 4.30pm to 7pm throughout the winter months. There is lucky membership draw at 6.30pm and always a Friday funny presented by our resident jester, Jim Priest.

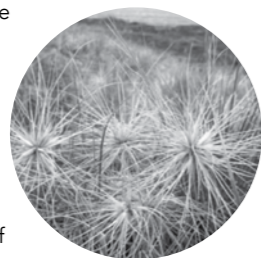
The Underarm Bowler

Dune planting

On a stunning autumn Sunday in May lots of locals turned up to meet the challenge of planting 3,000 plants in half an hour. The plants were native pingau and spinifex and the site was the main beach near the NPOB Surf Club.



As many of you will be aware this area was extensively eroded by the river making a path across the front of the beach. NPDC has attempted to address this and the planting is part of restoring the beach to its original condition. NPDC provided the plants and engaged with volunteer sites, the NPOB Surf club and local hapu to encourage people to help out. Surf Club was well represented with lots of children and families involved, as well as those hardworking individuals who I seem to see helping out everywhere in the community. Please keep off the planted areas (pathways have been left down to the beach), and remember to avoid driving over or playing on or in existing plantings. Interesting to note that further south on the beach is the original experimental dune planting that has successfully lasted and done its job of holding sand and helping to prevent erosion.



Secret Gardens

A local gardener has just had her beautiful Kereru garden at Tataraimaka added to the national website of Secret Gardens.

This group is all about sharing a love of gardening and sharing knowledge with other like minded people. As Lisa explained, the gardens don't have to be perfect, it's all about sustainability and having a source of food. Interested people can book a garden visit at participating gardens on the website and meet with the gardener who will willingly share their wealth of knowledge and experience. Empowering, connecting, transforming and supporting environmental wellbeing through stewardship. Well done Lisa!

Visit: secretgardens.co.nz

An invitation

Ōākura Playcentre invites parents and under 2s to Friday coffee.

Head along to Oakura Playcentre from 10-11am on Fridays for our Coffee hour. Enjoy a hot drink and mini music session within the safe Playcentre environment. This is open to all parents with their children, however this time is especially designed to suit the under two age group. There is no cost however a small Koha is appreciated from non-members.



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Kia ora from the Kaitake Golf Club

It's been a busy old few weeks at the course. A few wild and rainy days, but we can't complain as we had it better than a lot of the other places in the country and although the course got a bit blown around – we had very few days of cancelled golf.

In April the New Zealand Veterans Golf Association (NZVGA) ran a number of four day tournaments and Kaitake hosted one of the days of the four-day four-course tournaments. These tournaments are very popular with veteran golfers from all over the country who travel around, often in caravans or motor homes, to play many – or all – of the tournaments. The one that we were part of was no different. The week started with us playing at Waitara, then Inglewood (where the weather did get the better of us). The third course was Kaitake and lastly play was at Westown.

There were 60 "pairs" participating and the course was busy – the car park was loaded with the caravans; carts, trundlers and all means of ride-ons could be seen all over the course. It was great to see so many people coming together to enjoy the sport. A huge thanks goes to all those members who were not playing in the tournament but came along to help out and contribute to the success of the Kaitake day.

After playing the week – congratulations go to our members Nicola Avery, Brian Lewer, Francis Farmer, Julie Yardley, and Garry Rowe - who all placed in the tournament.

This month our green keeper Dom has been working on the greens – scoring them to improve the turf health and enhance the root growth - ensuring the surfaces are tip top for play over the winter.

We have a growing membership for all ages and it's heartening to see our up-and-coming juniors making their mark in the golfing community. One such guy is Leo. In the words of our men's club captain, "A quick shout out to Leo Hinton, one of the many junior golfers out on our fairways. Leo at 13 is already playing off of an index of 10.5 and recently had three very tidy rounds to come 4th in the Senior Club Strokeplay championship – seeing off a few gnarly veterans of Kaitake golf along the way."

Leo is part of the Taranaki Futures golf organisation and recently played in the Manawatu Whanganui Age Group Championships. In challenging conditions at Rangitikei, he placed a creditable 16th in the under 16 boys gross with scores of 82 and 89. He also placed 11th in the Nett round.



Leo Hinton

"Leo is the archtypical golfing grom, just about living on the course. Keep up the great play and keep on enjoying the game, Leo."

That's it from us, stay warm and dry as the winter months get closer – and remember – keep your head down and follow through.



SHE MOVES

by The Val Deakin Dance Theatre is part of TAFT Winterfest 2026. On Sunday, 28th June at 3 pm they will be dancing sections of Val Deakin's seminal work Steps in Time and also sections of Take a Seat choreographed by Fleur de Thier.



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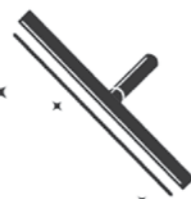


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Stories of the Past

Tales of Ōākura Whales

“On the beach at Ōākura, Taranaki” – These words are handwritten on the reverse of a stereo card, also stamped, W.A. Collis’s stereoscopic Views of Taranaki Scenery. The card is now possibly unique. Certainly no more have appeared to take the opportunity to sell at the very high price paid by the “whale postcard” collector in the South Island. W. A. Collis b.1853 – 1920 was a prominent professional photographer based in New Plymouth. Known for capturing Taranaki scenery, portraits and local history, including significant images of Parihaka and the Parihaka Incident (1881).

What is a stereo card? Some may remember a stereoscope handed down in the family. The card shows two photos set onto card with the subject about the width of your eyes apart. Viewed through a stereoscope your brain mentally forms depth.

The cards were popular 1880 to about 1910. From the 1890s postcards were becoming much more popular and sought after. Rare Taranaki postcards 1890 to 1925 can sell in the region of \$50 to \$500. Chucked out Grandma’s old postcard collection lately?

What makes this card special? This card shows two photos of a group of people, men and women standing on and around a beached whale. Six men are standing on top of the whale. Searching records, a beached whale is recorded at the Katikara river in 1893. (Metcalf p.30). Another photograph in Puke Arika produced by the same method shows four men standing on the whale. This other Collis photo shows a young man in the same clothing, and perhaps also his father, in a suit.



The father is standing in the same manner in each photo. From this, I believe it is the same whale. The next stranding was in 1895. The photographs show the whale from the right (6 men), the other from the left (4 men), with

Katikara river mouth and hill at right.

In 1894 it was decided to move the bones and recreate the whale. The whale was identified as a Blue Whale.

Are you sure it is the same whale? This has been a matter of conjecture after showing the photos in recent days to a few people. Amazingly for our times, but not in the 1890s, some of the men are wearing suits! Some three piece. It was decided to make the Whale a feature at Pukekura Park. (“Pukekura Park” – Alan Metcalfe). The bones had bleached white from exposure to the sun at a local farmer’s garden. It was found on moving the bones to New Plymouth, the bones had become very brittle and unsuitable to recreate a skeleton.

The bones, however, were put on show as a feature at Pukekura Park. In photos the jawbone is shown behind the Rotunda. Other bones are also shown on Cannon Hill, as it was known then. A cannon can be seen on the top of the hill. It was used in the late 1830s by Dicky Barrett, the whaler, successfully stopping an attack by the Te Atiawa on the Taranaki Māori in a pa, a short distance from Paritutu. The bones, that would be now 130 years old, have since deteriorated and virtually disappeared. It is now accepted it is the same whale.

The next whale is recorded in the Daily News 28 May 1935 page 6. (under the heading WHALE AT OAKURA (Stuff – Puke Arika). The whale is identified by Mr. W.W. Smith, (see “White Kiwi” at end of article). An amateur but outstanding entomologist, he was regarded as second to none, including professionals, in New Zealand. He identified the whale as a Bottlenose.

Mr. Smith said the Bottlenose is comparatively rare in New Zealand waters. Its usual habitat is the North Sea. This whale bore testimony to

many a grim encounter as many scars mark the carcass. Its death had apparently been caused from a large deep gash in its side that suggested an attack by a swordfish. The last attack was very recent as several wounds were still bleeding when it was found.



A third whale (Blue) beached below the cliffs at Okurukuru. The newspaper article and photo for this is dated 4 July 2014. DOC Ranger Callum Lilley said it was an opportunity to get a closer [look] at the largest specie on earth. The Blue whale was estimated to eventually weigh 100 tons. It was blessed by local Māori but, due to its position at the time and condition, there was no possibility of recovery. It had been dead for some time and seen floating out at sea. There is a photograph in the Taranaki Herald of the whale on the beach at Tapuae, perhaps later swept along the shore a little further to below the difficult to access cliffs at Okurukuru.

I leave it to a reader to one day prove how many whales have been stranded between the Katikara river and Herekawe Streams.

White Kiwi

A kiwi house was built in Pukekura Park under the direction of Mr. Smith curator 1908 – 1920.

Smith was the first to breed kiwis in captivity. Much to his surprise he also bred white kiwis, the first known in New Zealand. This was due to a deficiency in the diet of the mother. The young Kiwis quickly reverted to their normal brown after a few weeks, on a normal Kiwi diet. (Ref. Metcalfe)

Credits and references - My thanks to Mr. Mike Gooch – Puke Arika Research centre, Mr. Robert Hall – family farmed in the Katikara area - for their assistance with this article. Mr. Alan Metcalfe’s excellent book “The History of Pukekura Park”.

Kaitake Community Board

The May 11th Kaitake Community Board meeting was very productive with the public forum allowing input from two local representatives one, advocating for lower speed limits on rural roads, in particular Koru Road, and secondly a request for Kaitake Community Board support for the prioritisation of underground reticulation/ services rather than overhead lines and poles.

In response we have NPDC placing vehicle monitoring on Koru Road and a letter has been drafted in respect to power cables and placement designation. Stay tuned.

Thank you people so much for presenting these concerns so that we can forward to the correct channels for their action.

A presentation followed concerning NPDC Taranaki Lawn and Sports Field Network Plan and its progress including current

engagement activity with clubs, schools, and stakeholders, and to outline the next steps in developing a coordinated regional approach to planning for lawn and sports field spaces.

Kaitake Community Board feedback on the use of chemicals on lawns and sports fields was noted and the ongoing development of the Network Plan team has been advised.

The item on our agenda for approval was to provide a new iPad for The Ōākura Post (TOP) from the Kaitake Community Board Discretionary Fund which was unanimously voted for as we all agree this publication is a great community advisor and has good honest local news at its heart and must be supported.

The Discretionary fund is provided once a year from NPDC rates and allows each community board in the NDPC area an opportunity to spend these funds directly back into the community which provides them and as such we the KCB disperse these funds carefully and directly into our beloved Kaitake Ward.

Which leads me into the next topic which is our long term plan. Together we can make a difference into our future so these are the questions we need to ask you and we really need your honest response:

1. What do you love about living here.
2. What are the other aspirations you would like to see for the Kaitake Ward
3. How would like to see the Kaitake community discretionary fund spent
4. Where would you like to see us in 2036 and beyond. What’s your vision?

We hope to have a survey available for you all to respond to. However right now the KCB needs to get your feedback so we can focus on the top six items that come back to us from our great community.

We must engage with you all so if your organisation, club, sports group, church, Iwi or social gathering has something to discuss, we are open, non-judgemental and will act on your behalf.

There will be an array of avenues to follow this process, however direct is best - call me.

Next meeting: June 8 at 11am - Hempton Hall, Ōkato.

Mike Anderson

Chair Kaitake Community Board. Mob: 021752496 Email: Mike.Anderson@councillors.npdc.govt.nz

An Ōmata story of injustice and honour

By Mckayla Munro, Year 8

As part of our recent ANZAC study our class looked into the story of George Bollinger, a local man who fought at Gallipoli in World War 1.

In 1914 New Zealand was pulled into World War One because we were under the British Crown. The war began after Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Serbia on June 28th, and a furious Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Britain joined the war because they wanted to protect Belgium from Germany, who many people saw as the “bully” of Europe. Because New Zealand was part of the British Empire, New Zealand soldiers travelled halfway across the world to fight in the war.

When the New Zealand soldiers arrived at the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Turkish soldiers already knew they were coming. After facing the rough conditions of the sea, the soldiers were pushed onto a small rocky beach instead of the place they were supposed to land. They were caught in a terrible crossfire as they climbed out of tiny boats and tried to reach the shore. Blood and water mixed together to make the sea turn red as waves crashed over the bodies of fallen soldiers and washed them onto the warm sand. The soldiers had to crawl and struggle up the steep rocky hills while gunfire rang in their ears. They dug trenches into the hard ground while bullets flew around them, making it easy to be killed.

George Bollinger went to Gallipoli to fight for New Zealand. George faced hardship, death, and more suffering than anybody should have to go through. He watched his comrades drop dead in front of him, but he still had to keep pushing on. Disease spread quickly through the trenches, and George had to spend

days surrounded by sick and dying soldiers. The smell of decaying bodies became unbearable. George and his brother Herman were separated in the trenches and had no way to communicate, so they never knew if the other was alive or dead. Exhaustion was unavoidable because soldiers were constantly under attack and rarely got enough sleep. Food was limited, and most of it was probably canned food. Many soldiers also suffered from dysentery, which made conditions even worse.

George was wounded in action and sent back to New Zealand after being stitched up. But when he returned home, the Ōmata community became suspicious of him and his family because his father, Max (Maximilian), had moved to New Zealand from Germany in the 1870s. Some people in the community believed the Bollingers could not be trusted and accused them of secretly supporting Germany. A group known as the “Anti-German Women’s League” spread cruel rumours about George and his family. George was even denied a promotion because of his German ancestry. Even though this was unfair, nobody else had experienced what George had gone through. Nobody else had to kill innocent people or watch their friends die beside them. George put his life on the line again and again for New Zealand, and that showed the kind of person he really was. He should not have been judged because of where his family came from.

George decided to return to war to prove his loyalty. Sadly, he was killed in action in 1917. George did not deserve to die. He was only trying to prove that he could be trusted and that he was a true New Zealander. George showed incredible bravery during long and brutal battles. However, because of their

German ancestry, George and Herman’s names were left off the Ōmata cenotaph for nearly 100 years. This was deeply unfair because both brothers were born and raised in New Zealand and were part of the Ōmata community. Leaving their names off the cenotaph was disrespectful to the sacrifices they made.

In 2018, Ōmata students began investigating this injustice after Ms Brisco received a call from School Kit about the tragedy. In 2019 a group of students continued researching the story to learn more about George and Herman. They contacted many different people and eventually found the Bollinger descendants, who shared valuable information about the brothers. The students then approached the New Plymouth District Council and convinced them to add George and Herman Bollinger’s names to the cenotaph. A ceremony was organised to mark the engraving of the brothers’ names on the cenotaph and the four students, Charneé, Kyrane, Charlotte, and Vaydin, who spoke about their research at the ceremony. The Bollinger descendants attended and were incredibly grateful to finally see their great-great-uncles honoured properly.

Today, George and Herman Bollinger’s names are on the cenotaph where they belong. Their story teaches us not to judge people because of their background or ancestry. George and Herman showed courage, sacrifice, and loyalty to New Zealand, and their bravery will always be remembered.





It's great to see the winter sports teams back at Corbett Park on Saturdays and Sundays. The hub rooms are open for a social catch-up after matches, so come on up – all welcome!

Kaitake Rugby Club kicks off another season.

It's looking like another awesome year ahead for Kaitake Rugby Club - we have eight junior teams playing and are stoked to have a senior team back on the park in Division 2. We are also super excited to be hosting the Taranaki Bulls at Corbett Park in July.

Junior rugby kicked off on 1 May, and most of our kids got the chance to play at Stadium Taranaki. The weather was beautiful, and it didn't take long for the competitive juices to kick in, but the best bit was seeing the smiles on all the kids' faces.

A recent training was exciting because it was 'merch night', where we got to give every player registered at the club an awesome new hoodie thanks to the support of our fantastic sponsors. We have been lucky to be supported by some amazing local businesses including: Taylor & Askew Realty, 4 Square Ōākura, Arke, + More Accounting Advisory, Craigs Investment Partners, Biz Stats Ltd, Josh Johnson Rehabilitation, Handy Rentals, Tsunami Sport, Butlers Reef, and the Devon Hotel.

On the senior rugby front, it has been great to see Kaitake back in Division 2 and picking up two great wins! The challenge, though, is that we are still light on playing numbers. The culture is fun, and we are super lucky to have three ex-internationals in the team, so come and join us if you're keen (6pm every Thursday at Corbett Park).

Follow Kaitake Rugby Club on Facebook to stay in touch with all the local rugby news.

Tsunami Sports Kaitake Netball Club

Kaitake Netball Club teams have been putting in some pre-season training with the winter season upon us. It has now kicked into gear, starting with the Opening Tournament on 2 May, which served up sunshine, sideline cheers, and some seriously sharp netball. Woohoo and Kererū were on fire, each pulling off a clean sweep of three wins to take out



Section 3 and Section 9.

A huge well done to both teams - what a way to open the season.

Our Diamonds sparkled with two wins and a draw, while Kea and Electric each notched up two wins and one loss. Sparks grabbed a solid win too, rounding out a day full of grit, goals, and good vibes. With the season officially kicking off on 9 May, there's plenty more action ahead.

Sunday Casual Session Games kicked off on Mother's Day, 10 May. If you feel like a game of netball, get in touch. We organise through a WhatsApp chat group. Sundays, 3pm at the Oakura School courts.

Kaitake FC Season Update

It's been an exciting start to the season for Kaitake FC, with our senior teams already making their mark and our junior grades off to a fantastic beginning across the club.

Our senior men's and women's squads are now well under way, with strong numbers at trainings, great team culture building, and plenty of positive momentum both on and off the pitch.

The Cunningham Construction Men's Champs team enjoyed a huge result recently, defeating Peringa United AFC in the Duff Rose Bowl quarterfinal to progress through to the next stage of the competition. It was a strong performance from the squad and a great reward for the hard work being put in throughout the season so far.

Our Contact Energy Women's team also put in a determined effort in the first round of the Duchess Cup against Moturoa. After an intense and closely fought match finished 2-2 at full time, Moturoa narrowly took the win in a penalty shootout. The performance showed the resilience and growth of the squad, and there is plenty to be excited about moving forward.

At junior level, we've had a really positive start to the year, with great enthusiasm, strong

participation numbers, and fantastic support from families and volunteers across the club.

Director of Football Billy Charlton has also been busy delivering coaching and skills sessions for our junior players. These sessions are focused on player development, confidence, and helping young footballers continue to grow their game in a fun and supportive environment. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates, which will be announced soon.

We are also excited to announce plans for Kaitake FC junior tournament teams. Over the coming months, selected junior players will have opportunities to represent the club at tournaments outside the region. Billy Charlton will work closely with our junior tournament team coaches to identify and support players for these squads, creating exciting development pathways for our young footballers.

There is plenty happening around the club, and we're looking forward to continuing to build on the strong start to the 2026 season. Thank you to all our players, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who continue to make Kaitake FC such a special community club.

Upcoming Events at the Hub

- Friday 24 July: Battle at the Beach - Taranaki Bulls NPC preseason match vs Wellington Lions.

- Friday 6 Nov: KCSH Golf Day (alternate date Fri 13 Nov).

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

Photo

Backrow: Rupert Stanning, Charlie Bridges, Ryan Lovell, Josh Sweetman, Whiskey, JP Le Prou, Jono White, Aaron Coveny, Stephen Knox, Craig Johnson, Bryce Robins, Blue Haddock, Hummid Marsh, Nathan Potts

Front row: Tama, Isaac Cook, Matt Jochen, Te Mauri, Manawa Rihari, Chris Masoe

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David MacLeod MP for New Plymouth

Kia ora,

For places like Ōākura, conservation isn't an abstract concept. It's the tracks you walk, the beach you swim, fish and surf at every day, and, for many, at least part of why you choose to live here. That's why the Conservation Amendment Bill announced by Minister Tama Potaka matters.

what makes places like Ōākura special, the system is being brought into line with the realities of today, and the needs of our future generations.

Cheers, David

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

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Fri: By appointment

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Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

National Volunteer Week

It's National Volunteer Week 14th- 20th June 2026 and we would like to thank the 11 fabulous volunteers who generously give their time to Ōākura Library throughout the year.

They are passionate advocates of literacy and supporters of all our libraries. We applaud their dedication.

The self-made Library books programme has now closed. We look forward to having our young authors' and illustrators' books catalogued and available to borrow in the Library next month.

Check out this year's new bookmarks! As always, they too are children's creations.

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brendan.clough@bakertillysr.nz



Supporting the People Behind Taranaki Business.

At +MORE Taranaki, business is personal. Directors Paul Duynhoven and Nathan Vazey are proud to support local businesses with practical advice, trusted relationships, and a genuine understanding of the region they call home.

Together, Nathan and Paul bring decades of experience across commercial, agri, business advisory, payroll, and accounting services, helping businesses of all sizes navigate challenges, identify opportunities, and plan for long-term growth. Whether you're running a farming operation, growing a local business, or just starting out, the team at +MORE Taranaki is here to help.

"Our goal is to build strong relationships with

our clients and become trusted advisors they can rely on," says Nathan. "No business is too small or too large - we're here to support people at every stage of their journey."

What sets +MORE Taranaki apart is their focus on people, community, and practical support. Both Paul and Nathan are deeply connected to the region and passionate about seeing local businesses thrive. Nathan is involved in the Ōakura community through the school board and Kaitake Rugby Club, while Paul's long-standing ties to Inglewood and the wider Taranaki community have helped him build strong relationships across the region.

"We genuinely care about helping our clients succeed," says Paul. "Taranaki is built on strong local businesses and good people, and we enjoy being part of that journey with our clients."

The team offers support across accounting, tax compliance, payroll, business advisory, succession planning, and strategic growth, tailoring solutions to suit each client's individual needs and goals. They are

approachable, down-to-earth, and focused on delivering advice that is practical and easy to understand.

With a strong background in the rural and commercial sectors, +MORE Taranaki understands the realities of running a business in the region - from seasonal pressures and cashflow management through to planning for growth and the future.

Their focus is on helping clients make confident decisions and build sustainable businesses for the long term. As part of the wider +MORE network, clients also have access to additional expertise, specialist support, and broader business connections when needed, while still working with a local team that understands the Taranaki way of doing business.

To help local businesses get started, +MORE Taranaki is offering a free one-hour consultation for new clients wanting to discuss their business, goals, or future plans.

If you're looking for a local team that understands Taranaki business and is ready to help you grow, Nathan, Paul, and the team at +MORE Taranaki would love to chat.



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Big decisions can be overwhelming, and business ownership can feel lonely at times. We're here as your sounding board, offering practical, expert financial advice tailored to your situation.

Whether you are in the trades, property development, professional services industries or an agri contractor, keeping on top of finances, tax requirements, and business growth can feel overwhelming. We give clear, practical advice so you can focus on growing your business and getting to where you want to be faster.

Proudly supporting Kaitake Junior Rugby this season is another way we stay connected to the local community and the people behind local business.

We're now welcoming new clients and offer a free one-hour consultation.

Call Paul or Nathan for a coffee and chat to find out more.

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Gill Gibbon, Our Very Own Star

"My Mum was very keen on theatre so I was exposed to theatre as a young child in the UK. I was involved in acting and singing whilst at school and college but there was a lapse of almost 40 years before I saw a call on Facebook for Little Theatre auditions for the Full Monty. They were looking for people with a Yorkshire accent."

So in 2021 Gill began her connection with the Little Theatre when she won a part in The Full Monty, cast as Linda, Gerald's wife. Since then she has been involved in almost every Little Theatre production, performing, painting sets or being the 'props' mistress'. In the recent show, Call Girls, Gill played Rose, a sweet but ditzy and slightly forgetful resident of the Beach Haven retirement home. After finding out that the home is at risk of closure, Rose and her friends came up with a hilarious plan to help raise the funds to save it.

"Rose was a character close to my own family. I used my mum as the role model for her mannerisms and actions. Jimmy Carrick wrote Rose through the lens of someone with the beginnings of dementia and Alzheimer's, but her character changes throughout the play as

she finds purpose and rediscovers connections with others. She was a wonderful character to develop."

A comment on facebook by someone who saw the show twice says it all, "It was fantastic. Rose was a loveable character played by Gill. Well done to all the cast, however a special shout out to our very own star!"

The show is finished now and the stage was struck (taken down, in theatre talk). It felt like 'home' to Gill for three months and now it's no longer there. "It's always a little sad when a production ends." The next Little Theatre production will be The Vagina Monologues, written by Eve Ensler and running August 5-15.

If Gill isn't performing (or even if she is), she'll be helping with set painting, props, and creating 'smoke and mirrors'. She says there can be no 'dead stage' [nothing happening] for more than 60 seconds between set or costume changes. That may mean wearing layers of clothing that can be quickly peeled off, or little bits of clothing cleverly hidden. "That's what we call theatre smoke and mirrors." She's passionate that set painting and scene changes bring realism to a production.

The Little Theatre has a long and wonderful history. It is the oldest continuous running theatre in NZ. It runs three main shows a year and can also be rented out to community groups such as singer songwriters, improv and dance groups. There's a lot happening all the time. It's a charitable trust, supported by grants and ticket sales. Gill says, "During this time of economic hardship, when people choose to spend their money at Little Theatre, we try hard to make sure they have a hilarious and entertaining evening. To make people laugh and take them out of their lives for a few hours is something very special. It is a privilege for us to do this, and we have a very loyal audience."

Obviously the theatre is a big part of Gill's life, but she also has a part time job working as a teacher aide at Oakura School. "Along with the classroom teachers, I'm there to support children's learning, well-being and social inclusion. My role allows me to stay alongside the children as they go right through their school years. It is a massive privilege to build these unique and long-lasting relationships. I've been doing it for seven years and I love it."

Tickets for Little Theatre shows are purchased through iTicket. Call Girls was sold out for every performance and I missed out. I won't make that mistake again.

Elayne Kessler



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STOP. DROP.

Kia ora koutou, Pipiri (June) is here welcoming in winter.

May was glorious, giving us a welcome break across the country after all the flooding and power cuts of April. Many people have had a reminder of something pretty simple. However once it disappears from the news, we tend to forget about it, until next time. So let's talk GET READY.

As we know, when things go wrong they don't politely schedule it for a convenient time. 2020 taught us a lot, mostly that when people panic they don't buy logically, they buy toilet paper and flour.

We've seen it plenty of times on the response side too—what starts as a normal winter storm turns into people being stuck at home longer than expected, or dealing with no power and no easy way to get warm, cook, or charge a phone. From personal experience, being stuck in an unexpected snowstorm with no power and closed roads for five days was only fun for the first half day. It didn't take much for things to shift from cute fluffy snow to genuinely difficult. Thankfully, here in Ōākura, snowstorms are low on the list of weather events, but we do have other weather events we need to prepare for.

GET READY!

This is where we often fall short in a weather/environmental emergency.

- No working torch (or no idea where it is)
- Phone battery already low when the outage starts
- No spare batteries in the house
- No way to heat food or water
- Relying completely on "we'll just wait it out"
- Assuming roads / shops / services will stay accessible

Tips to organise your basic emergency kit. Check off these basics!

- Torch (tested, not just owned)
- Spare batteries
- Power bank / phone charger
- Bottled drinking water
- Non-perishable food
- Warm layers / blankets
- Basic first aid kit
- Battery radio or a way to get updates if phones go down
- Extra toilet paper, nappies etc.
- Gas for the BBQ (always use outdoors)

If you've got that sorted, you're ahead of a lot of situations
As always, we're here for emergencies. If in doubt, call us out.



Nga mihi, Ōākura Fire Brigade.

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TE KURA O OAKURA OAKURA SCHOOL

Life Education

Life Education has come back to Oakura school. With Harold the Giraffe kids learn about things like mental health and well being, dealing with bullying, and staying fit and healthy. The lovely instructor Megan takes the lessons and makes everyone have a great time (including the teachers).

Year 7 & 8 Margrett

The year 7s & 8s are competing in a competition for a horse head called Margrett. Every Friday they play a team game and the winner gets to

take the trophy back to their class. The class to have it at the end of the term gets a big prize like free time. Kowhai was the first class to win it, then Rimu, and after that Puriri went on a winning streak and still hasn't lost it since.

Sand dune planting

On Thursday the 30th of May, 18 students went to Ōākura beach. They planted hundreds of spinifex plants in the dunes. They planted them to protect the bank from erosion. The organisers from the New Plymouth District Council were impressed about how quickly and enthusiastically the students got the job done.

Science experiments in the classroom

This past couple of weeks we have been working on some science experiments. The kits have been provided by House of Science and are renewed every three weeks. Most recently we have been doing experiments on magnets like measuring magnetism and learning about compasses. This is perfect leading up to the Taranaki Science Fair later in the year.

By **Levi Bridgeman and Lola Cardenas**

Our Coast, Our Community:

Recent Meetings Show Passion for Protection

Over the past few months, the coastal community has come together in force to talk about the future of our coastline. There have been seven meetings held in Ōākura, Ōkato, Ōāonui, Ōpunakē, at the Cape Egmont Boat Club, and at the Ōpunakē Boat and Underwater Club. At each gathering, there was fantastic turnouts with a wide range of voices – from hapū and marae representatives to recreational fishers, divers, boat club members, and local residents.

What stood out most was the passion and care everyone has for our coast. People shared their concerns about the health of the ocean, the changes they've seen over time, and the need to protect our reefs and seafood for future generations. There was a strong sense that the status quo isn't working, but doing nothing isn't an option either. The community wants a fair, enduring solution that keeps our coast healthy and abundant.



Next Steps: Building a Sustainable Plan Together

Looking ahead, a keen group of volunteers are moving forward with a plan that puts community voices at the centre. The next phase will include more meetings to help shape a sustainable management plan for our coast. These meetings will focus on key topics like proposals for extending the rāhui (temporary closure), new tools for long-term protection, compliance and education, and governance and involvement.

Draft dates for upcoming community meetings include:

28 June: Ōākura: Sustainability tools

26 July : Cape Egmont: Compliance & education

23 August : Ōpunakē: Governance & involvement

There will also be collective meetings later in the year to confirm the direction and sign off on the final plan. Everyone's input is valued, and all perspectives will help inform the way forward.

For updates, information, and ongoing discussion, please join the **Ki Tūa – Beyond the Rāhui Facebook page**. This is where updates, news, meeting details, and ways to get involved will be shared as we work together for a sustainable, thriving coastline.

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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 @oakuramaimoaclub or by text to 022 323 7210

Ōākura Crop Swap - 3rd Saturday 3-4pm

Ōākura Village Hall. Contact Adam Harris adam@frankandfearless.com

Ōākura Walking Talking Group
Every Monday 10am. Meet in the carpark next to the skatepark on Messenger Tce. Phone Mae 027 314 2995 or just turn up.

Pickleball Ōākura - Ōākura Hall - Tues & 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

Playcentre 37 Carthew St. Mon and Thurs 9am-1pm during school terms. okatoplaycentre.org.nz

TOP Information

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