

the Ōākura Post

SEPTEMBER 2026



Hospice Taranaki Art Exhibition & Auction Fundraiser

More than 100 artists from New Zealand and Australia have generously donated artwork for this month's Hospice Taranaki art exhibition and auction fundraiser 'He Wāhi Toi', which is being held at Okurukuru Vineyard Bistro.

The meaning behind the exhibition name 'He Wāhi Toi' signifies both a safe place for artist expression and a safe place for patient care.

This one-off event, dreamt up by Wendy Fleming, has the goal to raise \$150k towards Hospice Taranaki's annual \$5million operating costs (outside of funding). Wendy's parents were both supported by hospice and due to the incredible care provided, Wendy decided to put her life on hold, and commit more than a year of her life to organise this fundraiser for Hospice Taranaki.

With help from Emma Walker (Fundraising Coordinator Hospice Taranaki), Anne McSweeney, friends and family, Wendy and her small team have been planning the logistics of the exhibition/auction and contacting artists to secure pieces of art. When Wendy has been unable to connect with an artist, she has often visited them (including outside of Taranaki) or sent them a handwritten letter asking whether they have capacity to donate a piece of work. "For a lot of artists the work they create is their main or only form of income, therefore donating a piece of work is a big commitment. I'm so humbled by the response and kindness of these artists from New Zealand and Australia".

Various mediums of art have been donated - from paintings and bone, greenstone and stone carvings, to ceramics, copper and glass sculptures and limited edition prints. "The diversity of artists and variety of art makes this exhibition and auction super exciting for both locals and for those from further afar" 100% of proceeds from the sale of the art, will be donated to Hospice Taranaki.

Wendy is also grateful to Sohnke Danger, who is donating the use of Okurukuru Bistro for the exhibition "He has been very generous - we are super lucky to have the art on show in such a beautiful space. I hope people who attend the exhibition have time to enjoy a drink or meal while there"

There are a number of Ōākura artists contributing to the exhibition, including glass sculptor Richard Landers (Pictured), who is donating one of his beautiful glass butterflies. "For the past 10 years we have run 'The Butterfly Project' where we have produced glass butterflies and gifted them to charitable organisations to auction off, enabling them to raise funds."

The butterflies, made of recycled glass, are limited edition and each is numbered and certified. The butterfly signifies peace and the journey a person may go through when facing mental or physical health challenges.

Richard jumped at the chance to support Hospice Taranaki as he has had several family members who have received hospice support and care.

Ōākura local Carla Russell, the Director of the NZ art show, has been assisting Wendy with the He Wāhi Toi exhibition by providing insight in event logistics and marketing. "What I love about this exhibition is artists from all over NZ and Australia are bringing art and the community together for Taranaki Hospice."

He Wāhi Toi Exhibition & Auction

Exhibition runs 3rd to 19th September. Entry is free and open to the public at Okurukuru (during Okurukuru opening hours).

Thursday & Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM | 5:30 PM – late, Saturday & Sunday: 11:30 AM – late

Auction bids can be made:

1. Via the online auction, which is live now, and concludes the evening of the 19th of September. View art and submit bids via:

<https://he-wahi-toi-art-exhibition-and-auction.raiselysite.com/>

2. Using the QR codes displayed alongside the art pieces at Okurukuru.

- There are some art pieces in a separate 'buy now' section - also available now online, or at Okurukuru from the 3rd of September
- To conclude the auction, a special finale gala evening will be held on the 19th of September. Due to capacity, the gala evening has a limit on attendees, however, anyone can attend the exhibition and use the QR codes or online auction to bid.

Read more on Hospice page 3.

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Letter to my sister Pip.

Dear Pip,

I loved the way you flung your head back when you laughed. A full deep belly cackle. So quick witted - it usually took me a week to dream up a comeback. I miss our daily catchups. I would hear you coming down my driveway before I saw you "Hi AAAAAAAA!" you would call out in a singsong voice. I would poke my head out the door and respond "Hi Peeeeeeeeee!"

You were such a fantastic big sister. You often told me that you were proud of me - the biggest cheerleader of my surfing and singing. And you had just bought a ukulele having recently joined my weekly group. You loved your ukulele - it has a mother of pearl owl and moon on it. And the ukulele strap has your initials stamped into the leather. I now proudly play your ukulele.

Often in the mornings when I went for a surf, you were out walking your dog Cleo. I would come back to my car to find a 'gift' on the windscreen. Sometimes flowers - just like our Dad Jimmy did. Sometimes weeds. Sometimes a random item from the beach - like a sole jandal. I miss those fun beach collection presents.

You owned so many floral dresses - three wardrobes full of them! You loved dancing and were often out at gigs throughout Taranaki - especially if they had a Spanish or Latin flavour. That's what all those dresses were for - perfect for swirling and spinning on the dance floor.

There were many art mediums you enjoyed working with. Such a curious person who loved trying everything. You were commissioned to create mosaic tiles in a shopping mall up north. And when you were younger, you were a finalist in the World of Wearable Arts with your ostrich feather and docking ring dress creation called 'Ring Me Baby'. But your love was painting and sketching - from cartoons to landscapes and people. You were so good at capturing sunrises and sunsets and the night sky.

You were a talented gardener. And as a super spiritual person, you planned your gardening and cleansed your crystals on a full moon.

We were very different - but we loved each other's company. You were my best friend.

Your cancer was aggressive - but at first you responded incredibly well to the chemotherapy and immunotherapy. And as a result, you were being flown up to Hamilton to safely remove the areas of dead cancer which had become infected and were affecting your organs.

The night before we were due to fly, I received a call from a Doctor asking me to come to the hospital, where you were being treated for the infection. The Doctor gave us the news "We are sorry but the treatment

has stopped working - the cancer has grown again and has perforated your stomach Pip.

You will not survive surgery. You only have several hours left to live"

Just 48 years old. And from diagnosis, you battled cancer for six months. But you battled hard. So very determined to live.

Even when we were told the incomprehensible news, you asked for blood transfusions to buy you extra time, to see your son once more. And so you could talk to the surgeon the next morning, to ask for a second opinion.

That was what was so jarring. You were awake and fully able to communicate - but you only had hours left to live.

You took this time to tell us all why we were special to you, how much you loved us, and that you will always be near "Don't worry - I'll haunt you".

It was a long night but we were fortunate that our cousin Amy Julian, a nurse and also one of your great friends, took charge and came and ran your care. It was intense and confronting, but Amy ensured you had everything you needed. Including ice cream.

Dawn came - it was beautiful with reds and corals. Just for you. We all knew it was the last sunrise you would see.

The surgeon came and confirmed there was nothing else that could be done. You thanked him for all his help and support. Then you asked if you could go home.

We all looked at each other in disbelief - you were in so much pain. And there was a lot going on with your body as it shut down. How on earth would we get you home? But the Hospice team came to see you and quickly took command.

They assessed you and came up with a pain management plan, organised a hospital bed to be dropped at your house, ordered an ambulance to take you home, and scheduled a nurse to come out to provide Amy and I with a walkthrough of administering the pain medication. Within a couple of hours, Hospice organised and delivered what we believed was impossible.

Quick witted to the end, you snorted and said "You've got to be kidding!" when I told you I was going to be playing nurse to help administer your pain relief. But it was an absolute privilege to care for you.

In hospital, you were pumping pain relief at 10-15min intervals. Once we got you home, you didn't require any drugs for almost three hours. You were relaxed and peaceful while you quietly chatted to your loved ones. And you got to pat your gorgeous dog Cleo, one last time.

We administered pain relief and other



medication when required - with regular contact with Hospice throughout the night.

Then we could tell you were taking a turn. There was a short flurry of words as you said how much we all mean to you. Your last words were "I love you so much". And then you went quiet. A few hours later you slipped away. At exactly 1.11am. Your Angel Numbers.

We called Hospice and a support specialist shortly arrived. He was respectful and empathetic. He helped us lovingly bathe and dress you in one of your beautiful flowery dancing dresses. Dressed in a flowery party frock, one last time.

We are so grateful to Hospice for enabling your last wish and supporting us to help you too. Your last hours were calmly spent at home, surrounded with love.

Hundreds of people came to your cliff-top farewell, overlooking the beach where we played and sought seafood as kids. It was a magic, cloudless midsummer day of flowers, butterflies, music, your favourite Fruju iceblocks, and Taranaki Maunga on display.

Although you are gone - I talk to you all the time. And I know you can hear me - I sometimes sense you and encounter experiences I cannot logically explain. I am much more aware spiritually since your passing - you would be surprised!

Please keep haunting us Pip. We love you so much too.

Angela Lawn

What is Hospice?

Hospice provides around-the-clock support to those navigating life limiting illnesses. Services include:

- Symptom and pain management
- In-home care
- In-patient hospice care
- Equipment Support
- 24 hour advice access
- Various therapies
- Counselling
- Respite and support for impacted whanau/family/caregivers.

All core services are 100% free of charge, with about half of the funding coming from the government and the rest raised through community donations.

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Vincenza, Our Precious Local Librarian Retires

In January 2008 Vincenza took the reins of leadership at the Ōākura Library. Originally from San Clemente in Southern California, Vincenza arrived in Ōākura in 2007 in a move driven by her husband's passion for good surfing. She has no regrets about the move, loving the walkable village, beautiful beaches, trails, cafés, library, school, sports facilities and hall. Mostly she appreciates the kindness of people who have become so dear to her.

One of Vincenza's strengths (as all of our library users will be aware of) is her ability to recommend reading material, broadening her reading base to facilitate this skill. Recent favourite reads are Whistler by Anne Patchett, the Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon and anything by Louise Penny or Peter James.

Vincenza has been a consistently strong advocate for the local Library Service as well as always being such a warm and friendly face at the Library.

Modestly, she is quick to acknowledge her wonderful team of librarians and volunteers, past and present. She has found working with the school a joy and very rewarding.

As she retires at the end of September she says, "I feel so fortunate to have had this dream job for 18 plus years, meeting so many wonderful people and making life-long friends." Best wishes on your retirement Vincenza. You have left a legacy and big shoes to fill!

**Village
Vibes**
by Elaine
Jamieson

Calling local makers & creators!

The Ōākura Market is back on Saturday 21 November 2026 and if you create, make, grow, or craft something special, they'd love to have you as part of this year's market. As limited stall sites are available they encourage you to book now. \$20 each. To book a stall or find out more, email: oakuramakersmarket@gmail.com



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Kaitake Community Board Meeting Focuses on Emergency Preparedness, Water Resilience and Local Clean-Up

Community update from Mike Anderson,
Chair, Kaitake Community Board

The Kaitake Community Board meeting, held on 10 August at the Kaitake Sports Hub at Corbett Park, was well attended and covered several matters of importance to local residents, including emergency preparedness, Ōkato water resilience and local infrastructure.

Emergency preparedness

The public forum opened with Ōākura Civil Defence organiser Paul Coxhead discussing emergency services and community resilience. He outlined practical questions for residents to consider, including where to go in an emergency, how to respond to different situations, and what services are available locally. A key priority identified was the need to consider backup power options, including the benefits and challenges of a generator.

Lisa Ryan then presented a deputation on emergency preparedness in the local community. Her proposal focused on funding Grab Bags for households and supporting an Emergency Community Hub, including three 55-person wheelee-bin-style emergency kits for the district.

Ōkato water resilience

Ōkato water resilience was also discussed. This has been an ongoing matter for New Plymouth District Council, water management staff, the Kaitake Community Board and Ōkato residents, so the meeting welcomed the opportunity to hear from the Water Manager and from Lyndon Devantier of the Ōkato Energy Collective.

The report highlighted major infrastructure leak repairs that have now been completed, along with further leaks on private properties. It is hoped the water metering installation process will help identify and encourage repairs where needed.

Residents were also encouraged to be proactive by installing their own rainwater tanks for non-drinking uses such as toilet flushing, laundry and garden watering, rather than relying solely on the supplied potable water network.

While these may not have been the answers some residents hoped for, the discussion underlined two practical paths toward greater water resilience: reducing avoidable water loss and increasing household backup capacity.

As Kaitake Community Board Chair, I will continue to encourage the NPDC Water Manager, through the Mayor, to investigate a secondary water source that would provide the township with greater resilience as Ōkato grows.

Roadside rubbish and community clean-up

The Kaitake Community Board is seeing more roadside rubbish and occasional illegal dumping. We will be organising a community clean-up day to help address the issue. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to report illegal dumping through the NPDC Antenno app. If you are throwing waste from your vehicle, please stop. We all have a responsibility to care for this place we share — there is no planet B.

Longer term, there may also be value in exploring modern waste-to-energy options, where appropriate, as part of a broader conversation about reducing waste and improving local environmental outcomes.

"Public decision-making should continue to be guided by reason, evidence and principles that apply fairly and equally to every citizen".

Next meeting: Monday 7 Sept 11am, Kaitake Community Sports Hub.

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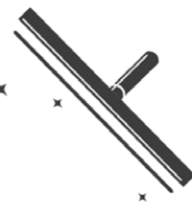
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Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



A first for the Kaitake district was held on Friday July 24th when NPC teams Taranaki Bulls and Wellington Lions squared off at Corbett Park. Following weeks of good weather, monsoon conditions prior to kickoff threatened to spoil things but didn't detract from a great game. While this caused a large number of ticket holders to stay away, the skies brightened for the game itself and 700 locals got to experience super rugby players and All Blacks go at it close up. The Hub building, renamed the David Jennings lounge for the day, was full and the covered temporary grandstand packed, buses ferried spectators to and from the village and paddock carparks and the wider community benefitted with Butlers Reef hosting a shoulder to shoulder aftermatch function. Taranaki Bulls prevailed 21 – 14 and both teams commented on the great facilities and setting for a country club, vowing to come back on a sunny day!

KCSH wishes to acknowledge and thank TRFU for choosing us to host the game, the numerous volunteers that cooked the best

steak sandwiches, manned the bar and served the VIP guests, and the many others that played a part in making the event happen. Let's do it again!

The Oakura Cricket Club is growing!

We are looking at entering a second team in the Taranaki Cricket Div 2 competition this summer and are looking for some new players. If you want to play some social cricket with some great people, enjoy the social atmosphere and the facilities at the Kaitake hub, then this is for you. If interested, go to the Oakura Cricket Club Facebook page and leave a message or contact Brett 0274701925.

Kaitake Netball Club

NP Netball Satellite Competition – Round 2 Youth Grade

Team Electric reinforced their dominance, taking out Section 2 and earning their spot to play in Section 1 in the final round. Sparks finished Round 2 with one strong win and a nail-biting draw, moving into Section 4.

Senior Grade.

In Section 1, Diamonds claimed 1st place with Tui close behind in 3rd. Woohoo secured 4th in Section 3, Kererū placed 4th in Section 6, and Kea finished 5th in Section 8. Many of these teams have stepped up from lower sections

and are thriving with tougher competition and it's been great to see the growth, grit, and enthusiasm. The month of August and first week of September is our Competition Round. The Championship Round consists of five games.

Best wishes to all teams, especially Tui and Diamonds who are eyeing the top of Section 1 and the chance to challenge the winners of Hāwera and Stratford in the Taranaki Champs for a coveted spot in the Prem League. Please come and support ours girls, every cheer on the sideline helps.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Jingo fundraiser.

Kaitake Football

Though most teams finish by the end of August, our Boys and Girls CDL Pre-Academy teams and our Master's and Women's teams have key competitions in September.

Women's and Masters Teams Make Plate and Cup Finals at Stadium Taranaki on these dates:

Saturday, 12th September

Men's Masters Cup Final - Kick Off TBD

Sunday, 13th September

Women's Plate Final - Kick Off TBD



Oakura Fire Brigade Honours Night

What a fantastic evening celebrating the people who make up our Ōākura Fire Brigade.

Our biannual Honours Night was held at Okurukuru Winery, and it was a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate another year of service, and recognise members of our brigade.

A huge thank you to Danger and the team at Okurukuru for looking after us so well and for a fantastic meal.

We also want to acknowledge the incredible support crew behind our firefighters — our wives, husbands and partners. The hours, call-outs, training, interrupted dinners and missed family time don't just affect the person wearing the uniform, and we are incredibly grateful for the support you give our crew.

A special mention also goes to our Life Members who joined us on the night. Your years of service, commitment and contribution have helped shape the brigade we are today.

And, of course, congratulations to this year's award recipients:

- Rod Evans Junior Firefighter – Under 5 Years: Bruce Tait
- Roy West Senior Firefighter – Over 5 Years: Mark Town
- Griff Award – Sheldon Pritchard
- Frank Day Cup – Brigade's vote: Ross Bennett

Honours Award List

• John Tooman - 3 Year Certificate for 3 years service • Brady Cameron - 3 Year Certificate for 3 years service • Karley Maetzig - 5 Year Medal for 5 years service • Andrew Butterworth - 5 Year Medal for 5 years service • James Page - 5 Year Medal for 5 years service • Ian Leppard - 5 Year Medal for 5 years service • Lizzie Beveridge - 2 Year Silver Bar for 7 years service • Manaka Cant - 2 Year Silver Bar for 7 years service • Rebecca McDonald - 2 Year Silver Bar for 7 years service • Sheldon Pritchard - 2 Year Silver Bar for 11 years service • Roger Duncan - 2 Year Silver Bar for 13 years service • Ross Bennett - 2 Year Silver Bar for 19 years service • Seamus Breeze - 2 Year Silver Bar for 21 years service • Mark Stewart - 2 Year Gold Bar for 29 years service • Christopher West - 2 Year Gold Bar for 45 years service

Special Awards

• Mark Stewart - LSGC - 2nd Clasp for 29 years service

We also said goodbye to James Page, who has been with the brigade for over 5 years. Your commitment to the brigade hasn't gone unnoticed in the community and we're going to miss the energy you brought to trainings, the sky tower team and to every call you attended.

Here's to the people, past and present, who continue to make Ōākura Fire Brigade such a special part of our community.



*Thank you
so much Ōākura*

Oakura Meat Co & Fine Foods had their last trading day on Sunday 23 August. Vaughan and Stacey have given three years of wonderful genuine service which will be missed. They say "with our lease coming to an end this is the right time to move on to some exciting new opportunities". They have this message to share.

Thank you Ōākura: To the Hub, the Pub and the Clubs. To the mums, the kids and the dads. The Kaitake community and the staff that have worked here.

Thank you for your encouragement and custom. To be able to provide the finest meat, gelato, produce and condiments, from sausages, patties and tomahawks, and quality products on our shelves, this was for you.

Vaughan and Stacey

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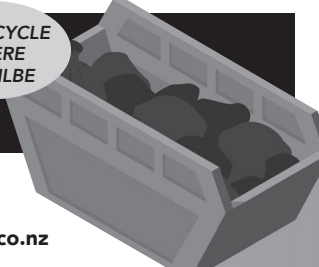
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Oakura Bowling and Social Club

Club News - The club welcomes any experienced and/or new bowlers to join with the members for the Opening Day roll-up (all equipment provided) on Sunday 20th September starting at 1pm. These days are a great opportunity for the wider Ōākura community to experience the club's friendly hospitality and roll a few down. Open Day also provides an opportunity to have any questions answered around membership and the playing programme for the upcoming season. A full bar will be available and a sausage sizzle will be provided after the bowls at around 3.30pm. For further information, please contact Steve Muller on 0211695863.

Ōākura bowler Kurt Smith has won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Smith teamed with Hasting's Mark Noble to make the final of the Para men's pairs. Smith began his bowls journey at Oakura with close friend Adam Collins in 2015 and both players currently represent Oakura in a number of interclub competitions and Bowls Taranaki centre events. Smith won the

Taranaki junior singles in 2020 and has been a regular member of Taranaki and New Zealand representative sides in the years following. Congratulations Kurt, the club is very proud of your achievements.



Kurt in action at the Commonwealth Games

Club Bowls - Friday afternoons from 2.30pm will be available throughout the season (weather permitting) for those bowlers wishing to have a social roll-up, coaching or for the more serious bowler to hone their skills. Club bowls and equipment will be available and the bar will be open from 4.30 pm.

The club is also looking at introducing a club day on selected Wednesday afternoons for all members who wish to play in an organised but social competition. Dates to be confirmed within the playing calendar.

Women Bowls - On the back of last year's success, the club is eagerly looking forward to consolidating both the women's playing membership and playing programme in the upcoming 2025-2026 season. Women club championships will run alongside the men's and in conjunction with the LegAsea community tournament, Friday evenings, Wednesday afternoons and at centre events. There are plenty of bowling options to suit all levels of bowlers. The club would love to hear from any ladies interested in joining as either playing season or social members.

1st Year Bowlers -The club is offering all first-year bowlers a package deal with the offer of \$50 membership fees for the initial year, club shirt, free coaching sessions, and the use of club bowls for the first year.

If you have any questions or require further information around the above concepts, membership or the upcoming season, please do not hesitate to call Paul Coxhead 027505520 or Steve Muller 0211695863.

The Underarm Bowler

Our Library - A Little History...

Ōākura Library is unique as a branch library in the New Plymouth District because it is the only combined school and community library. Prior to the combined library that we have now, the Oakura school library was housed in a classroom. The Community Library was at the Ōākura hall in a little side room and was only open for restricted hours, staffed by volunteers, and used a limited book supply from the National library service.

In the late 80s the school teacher's house became vacant and a discussion about how

best to utilise it resulted in the Goldsmiths and other school committee members approaching Lester Barker (then Manager of the National Library Palmerston North Office). They proposed a combined school and community library which was enthusiastically supported by Barker. The Community Board agreed to contribute funding from the County Council and the Education Board agreed to the house being used for this purpose. An "Oakura School and Community Library Establishment Committee was set up" and by 1990 the

opening of the Library was celebrated. The establishment committee put in many hours meeting and hands on renovating and altering the house, with stock from the City Library swelling the collection.

by Elaine Jamieson

(Acknowledging Brigette Hegner Freeman for providing details of this history, an Establishment Committee member and volunteer at the Ōākura library till recent times).

Oakura Tennis Club



This month we share tennis member Sue Oldfield's experience playing at the July World Tennis Masters in Rome

"I played singles against a Canadian in the 1st round and won. Playing in 35 degree heat, you had to get your hydration and ability to cool down in changeovers to perfection. Clay court in the heat also gave a very high bounce.

I played doubles later in the day, playing with Agi (NZ 1st in 50s). We got the first set but then went down against a very skilled

American team. They got us with their 'I' formation.

Lastly I played mixed with Gavin McCoy from NZ. We lost to Australians and finished at 10pm. The bounce was completely different, balls heavy and a lower bounce.

Amazing players to watch, having phenomenal games. Some ex pro tour players. Rome is beautiful and the tennis clubs are amazing, all with swimming pools, lovely restaurants, bars and Padel courts."

Tennis Club AGM Wednesday 16 September 7.30pm at the tennis club. Any members wanting to come join the committee or have some input are welcome or send us your ideas/thoughts.

Jackie



Sue Oldfield right

Oakura Bowling & Social Club inc

1st Year Membership Deal

- 1st Year Membership - \$50
- Free Club Shirt
- Use of Club Bowls – for the 1st Year
- Free Coaching Available

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Steve Muller 021 169 5863 or Paul Coxhead 027 505 0520

Anyone can just roll up ...

The Oakura Bowling and Social club is pleased to announce the continuation of the LegAsea community bowls tournament, sponsored by Barry Watkins of MJ Marine Services (fishing charters). The tournament will be open to all playing members, non-bowlers and members, friends and family and the wider community. The beauty of the competition is that there is no obligation or commitment to turn up each week. Just register by 1pm on the day and drawn teams will be selected. Dates and information to follow in the next edition.

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

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A subluxation is when your brain has lost control of a spinal segment through some stress or other. It can mess with your body's communication. My job is to find out what's not working in your spine and gently get it working again so your brain can run your body better. **My examination fee is \$120, but I'm opening 7 exams for \$30 each, which we'll give to World Vision. Call me now.**

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As Kiwi As

Get ready for a fun-filled celebration of all things Kiwi at the Val Deakin Dance Theatre's upcoming programme, As Kiwi As. This lively production will take to the stage at the Dance Centre on September 18, 19, and 20, featuring both matinee and evening performances.

Opening the programme is Val Deakin's much-loved Forever Bubbles — a heartwarming journey into the lives of New Zealand women in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. With the music, fashion, and household inventions of the era, this nostalgic piece explores what has changed over the years... and what has stayed so familiar! A true feel-good favourite.

A special excerpt from Flashback, also choreographed by Val, brings her charming Oamaru set Edwardian-era piece into the present day with a modern twist.

Adding plenty of laughs and Kiwi spirit, Christchurch choreographer Fleur de Thier's new work Ka Pai celebrates the quirks and humour of rural New Zealand life. Featuring familiar music and plenty of fun, it's sure to have audiences chuckling — and maybe even joining in!

Tickets go on sale in September at www.valdeakindance.org.nz

Don't miss this entertaining celebration of dance, music, and everything that makes us proud to be Kiwi — a show the whole family will enjoy!



Stories of the Past

Omata Schoolboy Receives International Recognition.

Stephenson Percy Smith.

Smith went to the school of W. M. Crompton. The school was on the seaward side, just along from the junction of Plymouth Road and SH45, Ōmata. At the same he took art lessons from John Gully, the celebrated artist of South Island scenery and owner at one stage of the Ōmata Store.

Three of Gully's paintings sold for \$60,000 to \$80,000 plus each. In 1854 Smith was home working on the family farm, but he had a passion for native flora and fauna. The opportunity to join the provincial survey department as the first cadet under Octavius Carrington was the opportunity to further that passion. Two years later he had become an assistant surveyor. The survey expeditions often involved long periods of isolation in the bush and brought him into frequent contact with Māori.

Excursions climbing Mt. Taranaki in 1857 with five friends, F. Murray, J. McKellar, A. Standish and W. Hursthouse, sometimes including Smith, born 1840 and only aged 17 – 19. On the top of Mt. Taranaki they discussed their next trip. On 4 January 1858 four of the group left New Plymouth on an epic journey overland to the Mokau River. At Mokau, Māori told them of caves which seemed to be wondrous places with many large Moa bones (Waitomo?). From Mokau they set off across to Lake Taupo, then to Rotorua to see Lakes Rotomahana and Tarawera. They then travelled down to Wanganui before their return to New Plymouth. They walked 500 miles (800Km), canoed 46 miles with the help of Māori paddlers and a further 60 miles by horseback. The trip took them seven weeks.

A very similar trip to Taupo was undertaken by Whiro from Tapuae, one of the first Māori to reach Taranaki. Dr. Dieffenbach, in 1839 setting out from New Plymouth, was the first European to climb Mt. Taranaki and made a similar trip to Rotorua. Dieffenbach was not a medical doctor as claimed by A.I, Google and Te Ara. A letter in Puke Ariki by Dr Dieffenbach refutes this medical assignation. In his case his Doctor of Philosophy caused confusion for Māori wanting treatment for wounds incurred in a Māori tribal battle.

His diary tells of hardships in travel and the hospitality of the Māori people. The group visited the lakes and the terraces 28 years before the 1886 Mt. Tarawera Eruption. The terraces were known as "The Eighth Wonder of the World". They were New Zealand's first major tourist attraction.

There are some further excerpts from his 1858 diary of the trip :

Thursday 14th January On arrival at Lake Taupo they were greeted by waves 5ft high. Food was always a challenge throughout the trip. Smith remarked the four ducks they shot were much larger than the common English kind. They were very wild and it is only with



Painting by Stephenson Percy Smith Showing influence of John Gully

the greatest difficulty we could get near them.

Sunday 17th : A group member found something to eat. He got some fern root which we cooked, and it was not too bad. It tasted like tough new bread. The view of Lake Taupo was a magnificent view; it looked very beautiful in the sunshine. We entered the celebrated pa of Te Heuheu and found two children playing in a house. Te Heuheu was away at church. They did not seem to be the least surprised at our appearance but answered all our questions in a plain and distinct manner, which, to tell the truth, I think rather mortified us. They seemed to hold white people very cheap.

Monday 18th This morning we breakfasted off the whitebait or inanga, which is so common in Taupo, and is very nice fried.

Tuesday 19th We went to visit some hot springs which came from the earth in about 500 places. The odour from them is very disagreeable.

Thursday 21st On arriving at a settlement, we saw a man delivering a forceful speech to a sullen-looking woman who sat peeling potatoes. When we asked what was happening, we learned she was a heathen he was trying to convert. I thought it a rather strange way to go about it. His speech lasted about half an hour, until he had exhausted himself. Afterwards, we stopped at a house the local people had assigned to us. As usual, it soon filled with people who came to stare at us and comment on us. They watched everything we did and pointed it out to their companions.

Monday 25th "We passed a large boiling pond about 40 feet in diameter: the water in the middle was springing furiously upwards, sometimes to the height of 10 feet and at others only three. After passing this we turned a corner and the beautiful White Terraces burst upon our view. We seemed all at once to have entered fairyland. We walked upon what appeared to be white marble, before us were dozens of marble baths and terraces. We ascended the terraces to a large basin at the top, the water of which

was too hot to hold one's hand in: "It is a most beautiful blue", (19th century Hoyte and Blomfield paintings of the White Terraces show the beauty of the blue, perhaps azure blue). Smith continues: "I think the best idea given of the Terraces is to imagine an immense surf of 60 feet high just after it has broken and is all foam. The Terraces (Tarata in Māori) are, I believe, composed of white siliceous deposit. The visit to the Pink Terraces resembles the white but with the colours more varied."

They also passed some splendid jets of water shooting up to a height of 30 feet." (L.J. Pohutu Geyser?) Unfortunately, the beautiful Pink and White Terraces were destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886. (There has been a discovery since of part of the terraces under the water early in 2011 but the terraces are 2 metres under silt and 60 metres under the water of Lake Rotomahana).

In 1859 he was employed as a surveyor with the Land Purchase Department. He took part in numerous surveys from Waiuku of 1864 to the layout plans for Rotorua in 1880. In 1888 he became Commissioner of Crown lands, 1889 Surveyor General of New Zealand and Secretary for Lands and Mines. He held these positions until his retirement on 30 Oct. 1890.

During his career he used the opportunity to collect and record information about the traditional history and culture of the Māori people which was to form the basis of his later career as a Polynesian scholar of international fame. In his retirement years he co-founded the Polynesian Society of New Zealand in 1892. Smith was amongst those who feared Māori was a dying race. He hoped to interpret and preserve the traditional knowledge of Māori. Indeed, just the opposite, in the last 100 years there has been a massive resurgence in Māori and knowledge of Māori.

Smith was also one of the historians who created and believed in the great migration of Māori from Hawaiki. This theory of a mass migration has proved incorrect. His career had brought him into frequent contact with Māori, and his familiarity with their language and culture. This he used as a basis for articles and books for 30 years for the society. Some of his interpretations have been challenged by later scholars and other historical research. Then again, perhaps new discoveries in the next 100 years will once again rewrite New Zealand history.

Reference: "An 1858 Journey into The Interior" by S. PERCY SMITH.

A challenge to walk even with the roads of today. Descriptions of the trip were published in episodes, then much later as a booklet by The Taranaki Herald in 1953.

Description of the Pink and White Terraces eight years before they were obliterated from the New Zealand landscape.

(Ropata Ngarongomate went to same school and became a surveyor).

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STAPLES RODWAY

Own some bitcoin or other crypto? This update is for you!

Earlier this year Inland Revenue issued a reminder that crypto investors need to ensure they are meeting their tax obligations. While none of the underlying tax rules have changed, what has shifted is the visibility of crypto assets and Inland Revenue's enforcement capability.

Key points for crypto investors:

- Crypto is taxable – Inland Revenue treats crypto-assets as taxable property. Any realised profits from selling, trading or exchanging crypto are generally taxable and must be returned as income.
- Significant activity in New Zealand – Inland Revenue has identified around 355,000 New Zealand crypto users across 57 million transactions, with a total value of approximately \$36 billion.
- Increased data and tracking – Inland Revenue now has access to significantly more information, including offshore transactions through the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF).
- Active compliance programme – Inland Revenue is already matching this data to tax returns and has started contacting taxpayers where discrepancies are identified.
- Common misconception addressed – Inland Revenue has been explicit – crypto transactions are not invisible and blockchain activity can be traced.

Inland Revenue has data and intent to enforce tax payments

From a practical perspective, this is less about a change in law and more about a shift in enforcement. Historically, crypto has operated in a space where compliance was inconsistent, in part due to limited visibility. That position is now changing quickly. Inland Revenue has both the data and the intent to follow up. For many investors, the key risk is not aggressive tax positions, but incomplete records or a misunderstanding of what constitutes a taxable event (for example, crypto-to-crypto trades or use of crypto to purchase goods are both taxable events).

What you should be doing

If you have any crypto exposure, we recommend:

- Ensuring all transactions are captured and valued correctly.
- Reviewing whether past returns include all crypto-related income.
- Addressing any errors proactively before Inland Revenue does.



Early review is generally preferable to responding to Inland Revenue queries after the fact. Making a voluntary disclosure in respect of incorrect or non-disclosed historic transactions can mean that shortfall penalties of up to 100% of unpaid tax can be eliminated.

Email daimon.stewart@bakertillysr.nz or call 06 757 3155 if you have any questions relating to tax on crypto investments, or need advice on making a voluntary disclosure.

Daimon Stewart



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Kia ora from the Kaitake Golf Club



Gill Hurley and Bob Fleming – at the Ladies Bronze 1 Club Championships.

Lots of golf happening at the club over the last month with only a few club days needing to be rescheduled due to rain and wind.

At the end of July we held our Mid-Winter Tournament. This was run in a Canadian Foursomes format. There are many different types of “foursomes” but this particular one is where you play in pairs. Both players tee off and then you select the preferred ball. This ball is then played by both players – alternative shots are played till the ball is in the hole.

This was a club day so all players were members, and we had a great turn out of 58 players on the day. Congratulations go to the partnership of Lina Tung and Dan Fanthorpe who came out on top on the day with a memorable 66

nett. Congratulations also to Gill Hurley and Stephen Lucas running a close second with a nett 70. Brian Lewer and Nicola Avery did not embarrass themselves either, coming 3rd with a tidy 71 nett.

Our ladies Club Champions in our Bronze divisions were also contested for in July. Congratulations to all our finalists – with Bob Fleming taking out the Bronze 1 division against Gill Hurley. Unfortunately due to an injury, Karyn Lehrke was not able to play our Bronze 2 division final so our Club Champion in this division was Kat Novak – congratulations to her.

The last weekend in July saw 12 Kaitake Ladies travelling to Taupo to compete in an annual 2-day-2-course tournament. It’s always challenging to play on another’s course and I can safely say that for me – the sand bunkers were the winners on the day! But obviously not for Kris White and Nicola Avery who came third over all – some mean feat when there were over 110 players from around the country. Sharon Fisher and Donna Sharpe also placed. Congratulations to these ladies for playing so well. It was a great couple of days away – despite the cold and a little rain.

That’s it from us, stay warm and remember, keep your head down and follow through.



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Yuko Mohri *Decomposition*, 2022. Fruit, speaker, cable, wood, computer, dimensions variable. Installation view in Art & New Ecology, The 5th Floor, Tokyo, 2022. Image: Naoki Takehisa. courtesy of the artist, Project Fulfill Art Space, mother's tankstation, Yutaka Kikutake Gallery, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, WHITE SPACE

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Feedback Update Ahead

The feedback that is coming in on these issues is in favour of an ATM in the village, lowering the speed to 40km, and having a pedestrian crossing near the Four Square. Keep sending in your thoughts and if you have reasons why these things should stay as they are I would like to hear that too.

editor@theoakurapost.co.nz
or text 027 636 8060.

Oakura School Presents

The Colour Quest

Oakura Town Hall
6:00pm September 22, 23, 24
Matinee 1:00pm September 22

A vibrant story of art, colour and self-discovery, where one young person learns to embrace every emotion and uncover who they truly are.





TE KURA O OAKURA
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Interschool Sports Finals

On Friday 7 August, our year 5/6 interschool teams all competed in the division 1 interschool finals at St. Joseph's in New Plymouth. We were in the finals for each sport - football, netball, and rugby, which was an amazing achievement.

All three finals were great games that went down to the wire. In football we came up against a very good Fitzroy team. They scored early and we equalised through Dylan Pettit. It finished a 1-1 draw so it went to extra time. Unfortunately it wasn't our day and Fitzroy took it out and won it in golden goal 2-1.

Our netball girls took on Woodleigh, a team who we had beaten in the round robin match. Woodleigh started really strong and in the last quarter we were 6 goals down. We came back to nearly win, but ended up losing a thriller by just 1 point.

Stratford was our opponent in rugby. We scored first but then fell behind for the remainder of the match. We never gave up and got within 3 points of the win, going down 27-25.



A huge thank you to our coaches and supporters who helped us have such a successful season.

EPRO 8 -

Jack Batley, Tristan Barlock, Rory Heath and Sam Maetzig have won the Oakura School EPRO 8 competition. Nearly 100 students competed in teams of 4 to race the clock. EPRO 8 is a science and engineering competition where teams of year 7/8 students compete against each other in design and build challenges.

Team captain Sam Maetzig had this to say. "Building gets hard because it is difficult to read the instructions and the mental ability has to be very high. You need to use your mind so that's where the imagination comes from. Using it is all good but I often find it difficult as the build becomes complicated. You really have to read the instructions and do the building correctly. It does get a little tough but you have to actually work together like a team."

School Production - The Colour Quest

In week 10, Oakura School will be putting on a production at the Ōākura Community Hall. The Colour Quest tells a story of a young girl who learns to embrace many different emotions to uncover who she truly is.

Our year 4-8 classes have been busy rehearsing and learning their dance routines for the show, which will be performed over three nights in late September. Students have also been making and painting props. We are very lucky to have Raeleen Luckin and Mr. Rudman working with us to put everything together. Tickets go on sale soon!!!

By Levi Bridgeman



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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 8.45-10.15am at Ōākura Hall. Judi 027 268 2601. Just come along or contact: taranakitachichuan@gmail.com

Val Deakin Dance School - Children's ballet class.Tuesday 3:45 to 4:30pm. For ages 5 -9. Contact janeroseman@xtra.co.nz

5Rhythms Dance Class
SUNDAY 10.30-12 fortnightly - Oakura Hall. Beginners welcome. A fun somatic practice without steps... Mira 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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