



TM

OAKURA

JUNE '18

Peter Lewis of Omata lands a 27lb rainbow trout while on a recent fishing trip to Twizel, more on page 4

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TOM

OAKURA

TOM Oakura is a free monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from New Plymouth city limits to Okato.

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM? Phone **0800 THE TOM** or visit **thetom.co.nz**

Co-ordinator/Features/Advertising/Lay up

Kim Ferens
email: kim@thetom.co.nz
0800 843 866
027 4126117

Points of view expressed in contributed articles are not necessarily the views of The TOM

Oakura Community What's On

5 Elements Fitness: 5 Elements Fitness: Bootcamps and Kickboxing fitness classes: Weekdays 5-6 pm, Tataraimaka Hall. For more details contact Barney 027 7527 076, barney@5efitness.com or visit www.5efitness.com

Dancing in the Dark: Every second Tuesday from 5th June, 7.15pm. A fitness, movement class open to all. Contact Glenys Farrant 027 753 0120.

Fitness Training/Touch: Thursday nights on back field at Oakura School 5.30 pm to 6.45ish. For all age groups - gold coin donation. Contact Lara Churchill - 0275922320

Functional Crosstraining by Nakifit: Saturdays 7.40am. Ph 021 297 5465 or nakifit@gmail.com

Indoor Bowls: Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Contact Marvin Clough ph 7527531.

JKA Karate: Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm. Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm. Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Kaitake Athletics club: Meets at Corbett park at 5pm on a Tuesday evenings during term time To register - athletics nz website and search for Kaitake. Contact -Tash 0277755440.

Kaitake Netball Club - Fancy a game of Netball? Casual, no commitment, no practices, just play when you want. Sundays 2pm at the Oakura School Tennis Courts during Term 2. To register contact Toni Peacock at thowison@hotmail.com or phone 021 661 912. Check out our Facebook Page - Kaitake Netball Club.

Move It or Lose It - fitness classes: Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

Oakura Bowling and Social Club: Bowling tournaments begin September through to April with both mid-week and weekend games. For information contact Steve Muller on 06 757 4399.

Oakura Meditation Group: - Mondays 8.10pm 37a Donnelly St, ph 0272037215, email kate@shineyoga.co.nz

Oakura Playcentre: 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Kate Garner on 021-254 4769.

Oakura Pony Club: Contact Marlies Butland Delfos ph 0274595962.

Oakura Pool Club: Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm at Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Sheree 027 3444 723.

Oakura Yoga: - Shine Yoga Studio, 37a Donnelly St, www.shineyoga.co.nz for days and times, ph 0272037215.

Okato and District Historical Society: Houses a large collection of local family histories and photos in the Okato Community Trust Hall, Cumming Street, Okato. Open to public every Wednesday 10 am to mid day or by appointment. Phone Anne Bolton 7524499 or Meg Cardiff 7524566.

Okato Squash: Club nights on Mondays from 6.30pm, everyone welcome. Contact okatosquash1@gmail.com for further information.

Omata Playgroup: Meets every Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

Omata Yoga: Wednesday evenings 5.15 - 6.45pm and 6.45 - 8.15pm. Omata Community Hall \$15 per class casual rate, \$80 for 6 class sessions. Contact Annalisa Facer 027 444 8345

Oakura Tennis Club: Thursday 9.15-10.15am Cardio Tennis with Blitz Tennis at Linda Street courts, members and non-members welcome. Contact Club Secretary Jackie Mitchell 027 673 2900.

Probus Club: Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Mike Vickers ph 7527881 or Gwen Jury ph 7527783.

St James Church, Oakura: Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Tai Chi class on Thursday evenings 5.45 - 6.45 at the St James hall in Oakura. Contact Joanna on 752-1016 or 027-273-8808 for more info.

Val Deakin Dance School: Oakura Hall. and the Dance Centre in New Plymouth Phone 7527743 or email val@valdeakindance.org.nz

From the Editor



It has been a busy month in the community - lots of people doing interesting things with a community focus so I am going to call this my happy page!

I recently went along to a "dancing in the dark" session at Oakura Hall, run by a couple of local women whose aim is to make people feel comfortable moving their bodies without being judged. Funds

raised are going to suicide prevention. The session was strange but invigorating - I realised the reason I dance at all is because the song being played invokes a memory - usually a happy one. I didn't know much of the music on offer so the connection wasn't always there but it was fun just to move in the moment. See story below.

Jen Harris has got a group of women together to make Boomerang shopping bags for the village - these can be used and reused instead of plastic - what a great sustainable story - more details next issue.

Local school children have been out planting in the sand dunes at the beach.

The Oakura firefighters have climbed to the top of the Sky Tower to raise money.

The Kaitake Conservation Trust have been up on the Kaitakes setting and clearing traps - very successfully (19 rats caught in one week at the top of Wairau Rd).

John and Lynda Matthews have developed a plan to "calm" traffic through Omata village (see page 11). Whether this plan is the answer to the traffic issues which face the village of Omata and road users along State Highway 45, it is very admirable that there are locals willing to invest time and money in developing strategies to meet and manage difficult issues.

The list goes on...

A shout out goes to Danger at Okurukuru for his yummy Haxon pork hock meal - a delicious and good value night out. I love the way Danger integrates our local produce (the pork is grown here in Taranaki) with his home country cuisine.

Go Oakura - keep up the good work in the community!

Kim



Letter to the Editor

I have been a resident of Oakura for more than 40 years and consider myself a "local".

There has been a lot of speculation about what the latest subdivision up Wairau Rd will mean to the village and beyond. I for one support the subdivision and think it will be an asset to the village. I think Oakura has to get bigger to prosper. Local businesses and tradespeople will benefit and local residents will benefit from more businesses in Oakura. Wouldn't it be good if you didn't have to go to New Plymouth so often?

It is very hard to buy a section and build in Oakura - there are not many options so this subdivision gives people an opportunity to enjoy the lifestyle we all currently enjoy and why shouldn't more people enjoy it?

I've wracked my brain and I can't think of too many negatives - sure there will be more cars and traffic and sure the school is already bulging at the seams - they are issues to be managed and resolved. If the council and the developer get the infrastructure right I can only see this growth as a positive thing.

Progress is something I have witnessed here in the village over the last four decades and this progress has been good for the village - that's why we are a thriving, happy and diverse village today. Stopping future development will stagnate the village. Surely we are more thoughtful and resourceful today than we were 40 years ago so surely we can be clever about how we manage our growth but stopping it is not an option in my opinion.

Over the years the arguments against growth have ranged from not letting Oakura become like the Gold Coast (when the sewage scheme was going in, and has this happened?) to present concerns that Oakura will end up like Bell Block.

So I say just as Oakura Beach changes so must the village change....

Steve Thomas

Dancing in the Dark

Local women Glenys Farrant and Michelle Beekman have started a new class in Oakura Hall every second Tuesday from 5th June at 7.15pm.

The lights are turned off, the music cranked up and participants loosely cover their eyes and move, sway or sing in any way shape or form they like - no one can see! The class is about freedom.

For Glenys the group is about getting women together who may not dance anymore and putting a smile on their faces. It's a chance to move freely and not be judged, it's a chance to meet new people, it's a chance to exercise and move the body without anybody telling you how and when to do this, it's a chance to give to a good cause - suicide prevention, it's a chance to experience freedom in movement and voice if you want to sing, it's a chance to relax and give yourself over to the music. Speaking of which, Glenys and Michelle put together a playlist of mixed genres and decades - something for everyone. It's definitely an experience not to be missed!

Contact Glenys on 027 753 0120 for more details.

Kim Ferens

Local resident is a prawn star!

Thanks to a tiny prawn, Omata resident Peter Lewis and his fishing guide Rob McKenzie aka Macca bagged the biggest fresh water fish of his life - a 27lb rainbow trout - caught with a 8lb line, a spinning rod and a prawn for bait.

The gigantic trout was caught in the Twizel canal, Central Otago, where the trout and wild salmon grow extraordinarily big thanks to farmed salmon. The wild fish hang around at the bottom of the fish pens and graze on the leftover food.

Competition is fierce amongst fisherman in this spot with dozens of keen anglers lining the banks of the canal on any given day.

Macca thinks Pete's trout is one of the biggest caught in the area, with reports of a 33 pounder as a rival.

Pete wanted to mount the fish but at a cost of \$100 per inch to mount - Pete's pocket was saved and the monster lives on digitally. The second option was to smoke the fish but the local smoker was closed so the fishermen swapped the fish for some fishing gear.

Other highlights on the highly productive fishing trip were: 15 salmon caught in two days plus a 15lb and a 20lb trout caught and released and a 13lb salmon caught and released.

More fishing adventures are planned with many more fishy stories to tell and retell!

Kim Ferens



Kaitake Community Board

I don't know where the hours in the day get to. They all seem to disappear over the horizon far too quickly than what is needed to accommodate the work the KCB is currently undertaking.

There has been many meetings, workshops and briefings since last reporting, many related to the construction of the 2018/28 Long Term Plan - the Council's 10-year strategic plan, setting out major undertakings for the next decade.

We have been busy gathering together all the necessary information and detail to put in our submission. By the time you are reading this we will also have made a verbal submission to Council to support our written requests.

There is not room here to provide the full content of our submission so here are the issues we submitted on. These were arrived at through requests from, and extensive discussions with many local residents and are not prioritised in any particular order of importance. They are:

Provide a funding stream to support the current Kaitake Community Board programme to make the Oakura community predator free; Undertake a feasibility study to provide a safe walkway/cycleway from Oakura to New Plymouth and link to the Kaitake Trail; Address traffic safety issues within the Okato community; Improve Oakura Beach access; Ensure Shearer Reserve is a neighbourhood playground space and public area that meets the needs of all; Institute an environmentally friendly nappy disposal service in New Plymouth; Design and complete the walkway/cycleway access connection between the Whenuariki Stream and Timaru Stream footbridges; Provide an all weather hard surface walkway/cycleway through Matekai Park; Underground the power transmission lines on Tasman Parade; Reserve parking development on Tasman Parade; Develop of an Oakura CBD local area blueprint that programmes township upgrades and enhancements that maintain amenity and rural character values; Build into the Long Term Plan a substantive undertaking about further investigations and a solution to the Okato water supply; Construct a footpath on a short section of the west side of Upper Wairau Road; and Provide Oakura Entrance Signage.

If anyone wants to access the total submission email me at the email address below and I will send you a pdf to read at your leisure.

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We learned recently that Myrtle rust has become so endemic throughout the district that it is impossible to control. It is already present here in Oakura. Because of this we believe it is important that residents fully understand the risk and implications of this. Here are the facts.

It's primarily a wind borne pathogen that has been helped along considerably through global movement of people and plants, particularly via the nursery trade. It is a wind-borne disease. On average one to two exotic wind-borne fungal rusts per annum have arrived autonomously in New Zealand from Australia since 1952. New Zealand climate and environment is very favourable: we are subject to strong prevailing westerly weather systems, and have close economic and travel ties with Australia. This incursion is very serious, mainly because of its potential widespread impact both for the conservation of threatened species and for our economy. Myrtle rust is far more widespread and mobile than kauri dieback disease and Psa-V (both of which are soil-borne pathogens).

All indigenous and introduced Myrtaceae species are at risk from Myrtle rust infection. Many New Zealand natives are members of the Myrtaceae family, including Pohutukawa, Rata, Kanuka, Manuka, Ramarama, Rohutu, Swamp Maire. Many exotic species grown in New Zealand such as Eucalyptus are also members of the Myrtaceae family as is the popular feijoa.

Myrtle rust attacks young, soft, actively growing leaves, shoot tips and young stems. Initial symptoms are powdery, bright yellow or orange-yellow pustules on leaves, tips and stems.

Spores can also be transported on contaminated clothing, insects, rain splashes and equipment. There is no known cure.

So what are the authorities now doing? They are collecting disease-free myrtle seed from native myrtle species all over New Zealand. The seed will provide insurance should species become locally extinct. This is the largest targeted seed collection ever undertaken in New Zealand. Many of the priority seed sources are on public conservation land and they are also working closely with tangata whenua throughout the country to identify specific plants important to iwi.

The collected seed is sent to the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank (NZIFSB) at Palmerston north, where they will be assessed and prepared for long term storage.

When its ready, the seed will be banked at the Margot Forde Germplasm Centre on behalf of the original guardians. The centre is an optimal seed storage facility at AgResearch in Palmerston north. It's equipped to professionally handle a large amount of seed. A portion of seed from each collection will also sent to New Zealand botanic gardens as another back up to ensure our natural heritage is preserved.



Seed collection is expected to be completed by the end of June this year, delivering the first complete collection of New Zealand's native Myrtaceae.

So what actually happens? Gradually over time (approximately 4 years) an infected tree will lose all its new and younger growth until only the canopy is left. A year later this too will be gone and the tree will be dead. There is no doubt many of the notable trees in the district will no longer grace the landscape in the not too distant future.

Also by the time you are reading this column you will have learned of the impressive project to make the Kaitake Ranges predator free. The KCB is a member of Wild for Taranaki, an umbrella group made up of a wide variety of organisations and agencies and is a community-driven response to restoring the natural environments of Taranaki. As Oakura is the closest urban area to the Egmont National Park's Kaitake Range it is most important that the community is encouraged to embrace this project and volunteer to participate. It is part of the wider initiative to do more to protect and restore the environment for future generations, and to contribute to environmental-decision making. There is serious funding available and the KCB is already working towards developing a local plan, which we hope to roll out over the next few months.

Well, that's it for this TOM issue.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the NPOB Surf Club at 4.30pm on Monday 25 June.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop (752 7324 and dougashislop@gmail.com) on behalf of Mike Pillette, Paul Coxhead, Graham Chard and Roy Weaver who is the Councillor representative on the KCB.



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Daniel McDonald - General Manager	06 757 3083
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Rachel Hooper - Sales Consultant	027 235 5284
Blair Burnett - Rural Sales Consultant	021 190 7728

Gas is our friend not our enemy

National legislated for tax changes that would put \$1,000 a year into the pockets of most middle income earners. The Labour Government told the public that they'd be giving those up in exchange for extra health and education spending, but there's no universal cheaper doctor's visits, their 1800 extra police officers have been delayed and watered down, and instead of tax cuts, increased fuel taxes have us staring down the barrel of record petrol and diesel prices.

If you live in Auckland add another 10% on top of that with their regional fuel tax. From my perspective, the country is losing traction from the amazing progress we made over the last nine years of National. Coming through three massive earthquakes, Pike River and the Global Financial Crisis, and still giving those living on benefits the biggest increase of support in over 40 years is no mean feat. Added to Superannuitants seeing increases double the rate of inflation meant we achieved some of the highest levels of seniors support in the OECD. Things have changed in nine short months. Business confidence is still dropping, nowhere more pronounced than in Taranaki where the Government announced it will not support new offshore petroleum exploration any more. I think that was a very wrong decision.

The International Energy Agency, which the New Zealand Government pays an annual levy of \$150,000 to support, says gas as an energy source will increase by 40% in the next 20 years, and must do so to support the growing energy demand of the planet, particularly in supporting the variableness of renewables. They said "The role that natural gas can play in the future of global energy is inextricably linked to its ability to help address environmental problems. With concerns about air quality and climate change looming large, natural gas offers many potential benefits if it displaces more polluting fuels. This is especially true given limits to how quickly renewable energy options can be scaled up. The flexibility that natural gas brings to an

energy system can also make it a good fit for the rise of variable renewables such as wind and solar PV."

Though the Prime Minister has said hydrocarbons are "not our future", I hold to the view that gas has a strategic part to play in an integrated energy system that supports variable renewables. I wonder without the backup that gas offers, whether renewables would be so readily adopted. There will always be windless and sunless days, and days with low lake levels. Gas covers these insufficiencies and enables us to utilise them without the fear that we will suffer blackouts. Gas is our friend, not our enemy and has a very important part to play in a renewable future.

Transpower's "Energy Futures" paper on a sustainable energy future for 2050, released last month sees gas as a viable part of that future, because of that reason. Their caution is that the move to renewable generation represents a concentration of risk, because substantially growing demand is being met from increasingly intermittent energy sources. Gas de-risks that move. As West Aucklanders recently learned in April, most Kiwis have a zero tolerance for power cuts, and come the day when gas may be gone through lack of governmental support for their industry, and renewables can't deliver the electricity we need, we will burn coal. We did that when the Pohokura, Kupe and Maui fields couldn't supply gas for a variety of reasons as cyclone Gita swept through Taranaki. Huntly burnt coal to keep the lights on, and I suspect when people want light, heat and energy – it will happen again.

I present an alternate view than that of the Government. I see gas as the enabler of the future, not the enemy of the future, that deserves support not stigmatisation. I hope they change their mind – so much depends on it.

Jonathan Young
MP for New Plymouth



JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Puke Ariki

Oakura
Library

Join us for AdLib, Puke Ariki's first ever Library Festival from Friday 22 June to Sunday 24 June. It's a manic weekend celebrating libraries, liberty and literature. Free activities, workshops, storytellers and more, for adults and children are being held at Puke Ariki and at all the community libraries. For all event details please come on in and pick up programme or visit our website pukeariki.com. This is a perfect way to celebrate the winter solstice!

Many of you have visited our libraries and used Ancestry.Com Library Edition. But did you know that there are many other free databases in our e-resources collection that you can use without visiting the library - just log in with your library card. A few of these database gems are: ANZAC Pathfinder which lists useful resources for this topic, Australia/New Zealand Points of View contains resources that present multiple sides of current key topics, Careers NZ, and Kete which is Taranaki's online digital archive of current and historical local events, people, places and experiences. You can also access a large selection of recent local and international newpapers for free!

For the children we have young adult and children's magazines on Cicada or Flipster, and AnyQuestions.co.nz is a wonderful homework resource.

To view these databases and more go to pukeariki.com. Go to libraries, then e-resources and voila!

Happy reading,
Charlie and Vincenza

Ngā mīhi

Vincenza Clark
Librarian- Oākura



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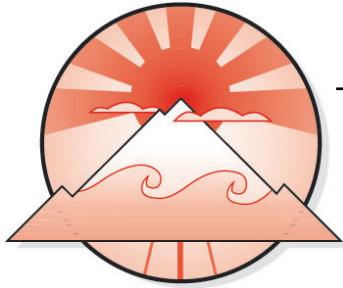
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Oakura School

Year 5 & 6 Interschool

Winter Tournament

Term 2 is a busy time for our Year 5 and 6 students as they compete in five fixtures for the winter interschool tournament.

Two weeks ago the teams travelled to Spotswood Primary School to play netball, rugby and football.

All of the Oakura teams won their games by quite a big margin, although the Spotswood teams also played very well. The final scores were 10-8 for netball, 4-1 for football and 86-10 for rugby. Both schools played well, showing perseverance and determination.

Last week the year 5 and 6 teams hosted another interschool fixture here at Oakura School against St Joseph's School. They were extremely tough games for both sides. There were two netball games, a football game, a rugby game, a chess game and a basketball game. It was great to see so many our students participating in a range of sports.

Our students made the following comments. Fin said that his team played really well and that it was fun, and also a really tough match. Stella Henwood also said that her netball team played very well in a tough and fun game. Liam McQuaig, who played rugby, said that the team played pretty well, but our defence could have been better, and that we need to practice more. He also said that he really enjoyed the game. Helena Rollins also agreed that her game was difficult and fun.

Passion Time

At the start of Term 1 the intermediate school teachers introduced a new subject called Passion time to senior students. Passion time is basically a time to select learning about something that you are passionate about, either independently or in a group. The activities that students have chosen to learn about so



far include sports, art, photography, sewing and movie making, to name a few.

Passion time helps us develop independent learning skills that we will need in the future, especially the thinking we have to do to plan our Passion Time projects. There are many finished products including sewn pillow cases, painted rocks, creative movies and lots of charity work.

Owen and Kalani worked together to develop their skills on the guitar, in which Owen said, "I enjoyed playing music and combining songs." Both Kalani and Owen said that they felt that they had created a great guitar melody and that they were really proud of it. Lalie, a year 7 student, made a movie with her three other friends, Maja, Gemma and Katie. Lalie said, "I enjoyed spending time with my friends and expressing myself on camera." She also felt that the film was of high quality and that their team worked well together.

Movement Madness

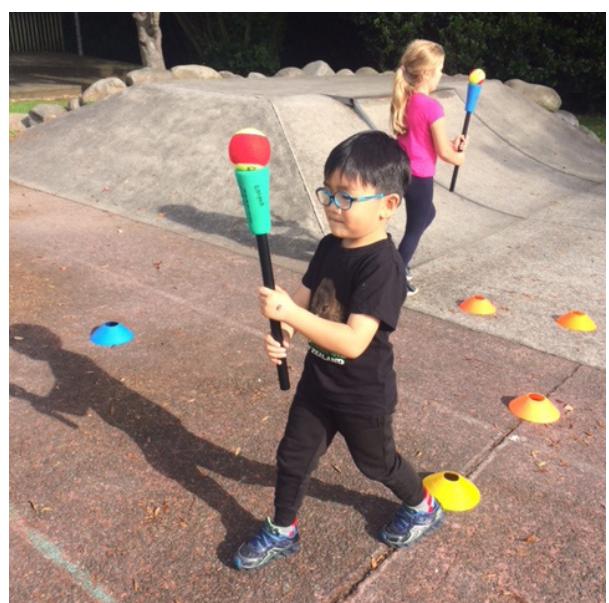
Every year, our year 1-4 students take part in Movement Madness, hosted by Omata School. Movement Madness is an opportunity for our students to take part in a fun afternoon of activities that include a range of movement, but also a great time for them to interact with students from other coastal schools.

The teachers from both schools mixed students together into groups, and off they went! There were a lot of games, such as a game called Helicopters which is a tag-like game, except you have pool noodles to tag students with. Another one was Bucket Towers, where students build towers with buckets, Ella Hendrix said, "It was a very tricky game." But with teamwork, Ella and three other Omata students built the highest tower.

It seems like the Oakura School students really enjoyed this opportunity, commenting, "It was magnificent and awesome!"

Connor Day (age 11), Samuel Hemara (age 12), Mack Looney (age 12)

bottom left year 5 & 6 basketball in action, bottom right Annawee Yimpoonsap and Zive Carmi at Movement Madness.



OMATA SCHOOL

June

- 4 Queen's Birthday holiday
- 11 Central Football lessons for junior classes
- 11-12 Rei Hendry Specialist Art lessons
- 12 R3 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Visit 11am
- 13 R4 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Visit 11am
- 13 R7 Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Visit 1pm
- 15 Y5/6 Omata v Lepperton 1pm at Omata
- 18-22 Kiwi Competitions online

July

- 6 Music Assembly 9am
- Term two ends 3pm

BoT Update

2018 has seen Omata start with a very positive roll of 152 showing us that our community is continuing to grow and this has built to 160.

With summer now well behind us and the pool closed, we thank Rachel Campbell for caring for the pool over the summer months. It is truly an asset to the school and wider community, being able to teach water safety to our children in our back yard is a privilege.

The dropping of National Standards is a hot topic at the moment, but the amount of misinformation around testing and reporting has been a concern. Having no reporting on National Standards does not change our assessment procedures. We will still be using the same raft of robust assessments. BoT and parents will still receive clear reporting on where students are at. If you have any concerns around this please don't hesitate to contact the school for clarification.

Last term the board confirmed the 2018 Annual and Strategic Plans and Stuart Bennett also presented a literacy report of assessment showing where our students are at, what has been achieved, along with targets for all students across a range of different cohorts for the remainder of the year. The Board has committed funds to employ a teacher part time over terms two and three to do the 'Quick 60' reading programme with several groups of students.



We thank our Home and School group for providing the extra funds to purchase more reading books and for their contributions to fund classroom activities, orchard plants and a new climbing rope. A community working together and making things happen!

Hamish Logan BoT Chairman

ANZAC

Thank you everyone who came to our commemoration last term, particularly our special guests: Commander Graham Emmerson, Mr Pat Murphy and Mr Bryce Gordon. It was a special occasion where the students were very respectful of the significance of the commemoration.

Karen Brisco

Principal

**pictured below: Commander Graham Emmerson, his wife Sarah and their granddaughter Myah.
bottom is Mr Bryce Gordon**





in

Greetings to the Oakura
and Omata community,

Outstanding Student Achievement

Mostyn Lee – Top Scholar NZ for Sculpture On the 2nd of May Mr Upson travelled to Wellington to attend the New Zealand Top Scholar Awards Ceremony. These

Awards recognise the top students from across the country from 2017 N.Z. Scholarship examinations.

The Top Scholar Awards ceremony was initiated by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) in 1991 and is hosted at the Beehive. Top Scholar Awards recognise the highest achieving student in an individual Scholarship subject.

From the 2017 Scholarship examinations Mostyn Lee from our school was the Top Scholar in N.Z. for sculpture. This was not only a huge achievement for Mostyn but also a fabulous acknowledgement for Mr Upson (HOF Art) and his team of Art Teachers. Our congratulations to Mostyn and Mr Upson for a stunning achievement



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Ryan Clough - NZ Kayak Team

Ryan is a member of the N.Z. age group Kayak team who recently competed at the Asia Pacific Regatta in Adelaide. Ryan won five medals: Gold in the K4 500, Gold in the K4 1000, Gold in the Mixed 200 Relay, Silver in the K2 500, Bronze in the K1 1000. Congratulations Ryan, we are very proud of you.

Aidan Zittersteijn - Commonwealth Bronze Medalist

Congratulations to Aidan (Class of 2017) who recently won a Bronze Medal in Lawn Bowls in the Men's Pairs category. Aidan represented the Cook Islands and was therefore a member of the very first Cook Island Team to win a Commonwealth Games Medal - well done Aidan.

School Ball

Once again we have had a highly successful School Ball with our students dressing behaving and socialising as highly confident self-managing young adults. Special thanks to Mrs Cast and the Ball Committee for their fabulous organisation.

Next month read about our trip to Japan.

We appreciate your support and your feedback.

Mark Bowden
Principal



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Road realignment proposal

John and Lynda Matthews have come up with a proposal to "calm" the traffic flow through the most densely populated section of State Highway 45 in Omata village. The couple would like to see the village return to a safe, tranquil place.

Their proposed realignment takes the road from approximately Beach Rd corner to the left through land currently owned

primarily by Mr Withers, exiting back onto State Highway 45 at the Sealy Rd corner. The proposal will be presented to the Council at their LTP meeting as a submission.

In the meantime the community needs to get together informally and formally to discuss and debate the merits/non-merits of the proposal with thought given to especially, the long term implications of traffic flows through the area. Sub divisions and expansion in the greater area of Omata and Oakura will all have an impact on traffic density and safety issues.



MY NAME IS JAMES RIELLY-LEADBETTER, I GO TO OAKURA SCHOOL, AND I AM ONE OF THE PATROL LEADERS AT FITZROY SCOUTS.

I, along with two other Scouts from New Plymouth, have been selected as three of only 36 Scouts and Venturers from New Zealand to attend the 2019 World Scout Jamboree to be held in USA.

In order to attend, we have to raise \$7,500 each, which covers the 12 adventure-packed days, as well as the plane flights both ways, and all our food and accommodation. The course is being run at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, a world class facility located in West Virginia.

I feel it would be an amazing opportunity, as we will be meeting and interacting with 40,000 Scouts from around the world.

So what makes this experience so special? We will be experiencing some incredible adventures including rock climbing, mountain biking, zip lining, white water rafting and much more, plus we will be part of programmes emphasising leadership and cultural understanding. On a day to day basis, we will be experiencing different cultures from all around the world and working with the 5 core values of Scouts, which is Adventure, Friendship, Leadership, Service and Sustainability.

Over the next 18 months we will be working hard to fundraise, with a variety of activity sausage sizzles, selling pies and cookies, bingo evenings, bob-a-job etc. It is a large sum to raise, so if you have any jobs you need doing, I would be keen to hear from you. I will also be selling pies and cookies around the village at different times, so if I knock on your door, you will know what it is all about.



IF YOU HAVE SOME JOBS YOU WOULD LIKE DONE AROUND YOUR SECTION, OR ARE KEEN TO ORDER PIES OR COOKIES, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH DAVID ON 0276 758 378.



Interclub Tournaments

Oakura convincingly won the Thursday Wanderers competition with an outstanding win-ratio of 84%. Well done to the selectors Roy Phillips and Brian Wickham and all bowlers who participated in this competition.

Club Championships

Bruce Jackson combined with Andy Shearer to capture the highly coveted Collins Trophy. The Trophy was played over 2 days with the duo edging out Alan Bridgeman and Ray Haslip in a golden point playoff end to secure victory.

Jim Priest won the President's Trophy singles competition in a hard-fought win over Alan Bridgeman 21- 18. It was Priest's second singles title for the year endorsing his position as the club's premier singles bowler.

Club News

The club finished the year off in style with a fancy dress fun day social competition. It was a great success with the outfits certainly outshining the bowls played on the day (see photo). Perhaps, a few of our bowlers had a yearning for the theatre in their younger days. See if you can spot Wally!

The AGM for the Oakura Bowling and Social Club will take place at 1.30pm on Sunday 10th June. Club awards will follow the AGM along with prize giving and club acknowledgements.

My highlights for the season would be the winning of the mid-week interclub Gilmour and Wanderers Cups and the Saturday

morning pennants Div 2 competition. Achieving 2nd place in our group of the interclub Premier Trophy competition was also an excellent and well-earned result. As club Captain it was promising and rewarding to see a number of Oakura bowlers participate and perform to a very high standard in both the Bowls Taranaki Centre and the Champion of Champions events.

As this will be the last column for 2017/2018 season, thanks to all that have assisted in the day to day running, green and surrounds maintenance and administration of the club over the past year. The club is a great asset for the wider Oakura community and everyone is looking forward to September when the bowling action returns.

The Underarm Bowler

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Winter has well and truly set in now and the thicker wetsuits are being brought out of the closet. Although it is cold it means we have plenty of swell on tap but finding a sheltered spot out of the wind is another thing all together. There are a few "diamond in the rough" days which keep us all motivated despite having to endure the ice cream headaches.

As most of you will have seen the Oakura community skate park is well underway and getting closer and closer to completion. We are hoping that this will be completed in July/August and open for the community to come and enjoy. There is no doubt that it has been a labour of love but this will all be forgotten when the first wheels touch the concrete, cheers are heard and smiles are seen!

It has been a busy period on the competition front with Paige Hareb (pictured right) making history by being part of the World team who won the founder's cup at Kelly Slater's surf ranch. She was ripping and instrumental in the team winning the title! It was then a quick turn around and off to Brazil. Paige was up against some tough competition yet again and unfortunately was unable to advance despite surfing really well.

A big congratulations goes out to Ariana Shewry who has just been named in the NZ surfing team. Ariana will represent NZ in the under 16 division at the ISA World Junior Surfing Championship being held at Huntington Beach, California in late October. It is good to see that all of her hard work and dedication is starting to pay off. We are very proud to see our club members on the world stage.

If you have questions about anything to do with the club please see below contacts.

Luke Florence. President. Any questions. 0274930819
 John Shewry. Skatepark & fundraising. 0272529190
 Colin Webber. Bookings. webzy70@yahoo.com
 Anne Bridges. Membership. 0272431766. anne.bridges@xtra.co.nz

Eli



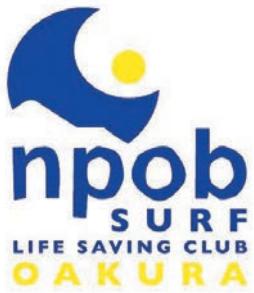
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Congratulations to Mikey Watts and Lachie Stevens who have been selected for the High Performance IRB New Zealand Squad.

They will now be competing in the Australian IRB Championships, held on 13-15 July at Thirroul Beach in New

South Wales before all the crews come together for the final selection of the World Championship New Zealand team in August.

Good luck guys!

Brothers represent Taranaki

Two Oakura brothers - Oscar and Jago Robertson will shortly represent Taranaki and New Zealand in basketball.

Oscar is 17 and a prefect at NPBHS. He is captain of 1stV basketball team at school and captain of the u19 Taranaki team. The u19's are going to Nationals in early June.

Oscar is in the u19 New Zealand squad and is hoping to make the team that will go to the u18 Asia Qualifiers (the top 4 teams from this will qualify for the World Cup). To top this off Oscar is also in the Mountainairs team.

Jago is 13 and goes to NPBHS. He is in the junior basketball team. He is also part of the New Zealand u14 team which is going to Melbourne, Australia on June 8 to compete in the Nunawading Tournament. Jago trains with Ngāmotu Hoop Club which has been amazing in getting his skill levels up - there have been many early morning trainings.

*pictured right are Oscar and Jago
pictured below is Cooper Fale (also in NZ u14 team and
lives in NP), Josh Reeves (coach at Ngāmotu Hoop Club and
assistant NZ coach) and Jago.*



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Oakura Tennis Club

We finally have a nip in the air so bring on the snow so we can hit the slopes! The wet Taranaki weather has been challenging for those wanting to hit some balls, when the sun comes out grab a racquet and go for it! The Linda street courts are a good option over winter if the school courts are flooded.

The tennis competition season has ended but our ladies eights team continues once a month and we still have junior coaching and cardio sessions weekly so come and join us if you want to keep your eye in.

Matt Stringer our club coach has departed back to his homeland –England. He has taken his Taranakian girlfriend with him so we might see him back here one day! Matt's enthusiasm and energy for tennis will be missed by the school children, the cardio ladies and the committee. He is always reliable and keen no matter what the weather! We have had some extremely windy and sometimes wet cardio sessions that have been fun and left us energised after feeling frustrated with the weather. You need a bit of hardcore if you live in Taranaki to enjoy the winter ahead! We wish Matt well and look forwards to seeing him back here one day so we can get him surfing!

A farewell for Matt was held at the Goodhome with the other clubs in town and we had a surprise farewell with the school kids after his last session (see photo below).

Jaime Simpson is our new coach who will carry on with this terms activities – kids coaching, cardio and any private or groups lessons.

Our junior teams welcomed a few newbies in the orange grade – smaller court and low pressure balls and they quickly got the hang of serving and how to score with some parental guidance on the sidelines! A big thanks to the parents for giving up your Friday evenings to help get them started! We had no teams that made the final this season in the junior grades but several teams were promoted up a grade during the season. The B Grade was popular with parents and siblings being able to play in a team of 4 that is played from 3-5pm on a Saturday afternoon.
Keep hitting.

Jackie Keenan Secretary phone 0276732900



Sky tower challenge a success

Oakura volunteer fire brigade raised \$1987 in May when three of the crew climbed to the top of the Sky Tower - 52 floors!
Times:- Dave Reilly 23 minutes, Sheldon Pritchard 17.01 minutes and Fergus Robertson 12.52 minutes.

The guys said the event was great fun. The trio travelled up on Friday 18 May and raced on Saturday. Dave was in his own race group and Sheldon and Fergus in the same race group. There was a great mixture of shapes and sizes, old and young, and fast and slow and it was really well organised.

Fundraising began outside the Four Square with a stair climbing machine, followed by bingo at Butlers and bacon butties and coffee at Ozone coffee. A very big thank you goes to Oakura Four Square, Butlers Reef, Ozone Coffee, TOM magazine and everyone who put their hand in their pockets for a very worthy cause - Leukemia & Blood Cancer NZ.

The hope is to go up with a bigger group of stair climbers next year.



Above, Dave Reilly, Sheldon Pritchard and Fergus Robertson celebrate a very good effort - well done boys!

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