



OAKURA | APRIL 2019

Bibs are out and the girls are ready for the upcoming Kaitake Netball Club season - more on page 14

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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**

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From the Editor



There can be no more poignant moment in recent times than the shootings in Christchurch. We will all remember what we were doing on the 15 March when the news sunk in that a mass killing had occurred on our shores.

I personally was celebrating my eldest son's 29th birthday with his friends and our family as we all prepared ourselves for WOMAD. In our midst was a New Yorker who was visiting New Zealand for the first time - her parents thought she was coming to a safe haven - how wrong were they. She told us of the terrorist drills they all do in school in the USA, like we do earthquake or fire drills - I hope our children don't have to do this sort of practise.

I have heard many times since that day that we all must change and I wonder why. I think it's true to say that we all can be better human beings and we can all embrace each others differences better but the inherent goodness that is in most of the population of New Zealanders is something to be celebrated not changed. We have shown the world that qualities such as tolerance, acceptance and inclusion are in our DNA - but let's be real, evil lurks even in our little piece of paradise and it always will. We can choose to embrace the good - maybe it's time to change other things like our daily news focus from murders, rapes, court reporting, brutality and the like to other positive things that go on in our country.

As I reflect on the past days, I'm glad I was too busy to watch the endless roll of news footage from Christchurch, I'm glad I have a great family and great friends, I'm thankful to have met some lovely people who are muslims and for the realisation that their faith and mine didn't stop us being friends, I'm proud of our Prime Minister and her humanity and humility but most of all I'm glad I'm a New Zealander.

Kim

Coffee and Chat dates

The weekly Thursday morning coffee and chat at the Oakura Surf Club is 4 April. It is always interesting to meet new people and share stories with members from the community. Please feel free to contact me for further details.

Tracey Lusk. p 752 7875 / 027 636 8060



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Oakura Community Action Group

Serious consideration needs to be given to the proposed 395 section subdivision that Oakura Farm Park Ltd (OFPL) is presently applying for utilising **Private Plan Change 48 (PPC48)** for Wairau Road Oakura. Should this development get final approval from the NPDC to proceed it will without question generate real challenges not only for its intended location but for the Oakura community as a whole. It is important to recognise that by default the community would have to adapt to this new environment as they went about their daily routines, living, working, driving, raising their families and educating their children, expecting to live the "village lifestyle" that until now hasn't changed much compared to what will happen should the plan change succeed. Change would be inevitable and the question that all villagers and others need to ask as PPC48 works its way through the system is "What degree of change am I willing to accept?"

We, the Oakura Community Action Group believe Wairau Estate Subdivision (WES) has the potential to create significant negative impacts for the Oakura community. It is these impacts that need to be addressed.

Oakura Community Action Group (OCAG) was formed specifically for this very reason. It is backed by a group of very passionate people who intend to have their say on community values. As a community inspired watchdog its present purpose is to question and then test the merits of the OFPL subdivision by planning for and attending the upcoming NPDC hearing now deferred until July this year. The hearing will provide the setting for the applicant (OFPL) and for those who oppose (OCAG) and any other of the original 436 submitters to present their respective arguments for and against the subdivision. During the initial submissions stages of PPC48 (round...1) 436 submitters voted "no" to the subdivision. A resounding community response was demonstrated. No submission was received that supported the development in its entirety, a very very small handful of equestrian enthusiasts were in partial support.

A private plan change can be applied for by anyone. Depending on its scale (this one is a biggie) it requires an enormous amount of administrative resources for a local body (NPDC) to process. For a community in the firing line that wishes to defend itself against that PLAN CHANGE that community has to raise its own funds to do so. Any funds raised ensures that the quality of the community's argument at that hearing will be formidable as those funds are used to pay for the technical expertise of the qualified professionals who will debate the merits of and test the claims and integrity of the applicants proposal.

A private plan change is not a community inspired initiative. It is exactly what it suggests. It is a privately conceived plan by a set of individuals who seek profit. One analogy suggests it resembles a game of "Texas hold 'em poker" where players commit to a pot until only two are left and then to see the others hand you need to pay for the privilege.

Unlike poker though, in a **private plan change** the applicant (OFPL) can keep changing their cards right up until the hearing itself.

OCAG adopts the view that Oakura has already factored in future growth. The current NPDC District Plan, the

Oakura Structure Plan 2006 and more specifically the Oakura Community Engagement Project 2014-16 contain the blueprint or framework of the communities own vision and aspirations for future development. Why should we be forced by a **private plan change** to accept otherwise? The final remark of the Oakura Engagement report states, "What good is a house if you haven't got a decent community to put it in."

OCAG is asking the Oakura community to get on board with the debate and the fundraising necessary to support our stance. As a community watchdog we need to make the developers accountable for their actions. If WES does get the permission to proceed despite our best efforts anybody who did not contribute to the debate (or the campaign) does not have the right to criticise the outcome. For any of the original 436 submitters and any other groups or individuals who could assist in any way OCAG would like you to send your email address to, oakuracommunityactiongroup@gmail.com. By joining this list we will be able to keep you informed and updated on progress and also how you can assist with preventing this unnecessary large tract subdivision in Oakura.

If you would like to donate to OCAG our bank a/c details are, Direct debit: TSB 15 3953 0887 409 00. By Cheque : Oakura Community Action Group Incorporated, PO BOX 1059 NP. Givealittle: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/oakura-help-save-our-community#>

Fun Facts

OCAG has so far raised \$10,000 from approx 60 donors. Our fundraising target is \$30-40,000. Oakura's population is approx 1400. OCAG currently has 463 members on its Facebook page.

OCAG



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Kaitake Community Board

What a summer! Nothing more really needs to be said, so onto more nitty-gritty things.

An ongoing issue for us all is the increasing amount of traffic on Highway 45 and local side roads. Often the speed at which vehicles are being driven and the lack of attention (and courtesy) to other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists dog walkers and horse riders causes much angst for us. We also have some quite dangerous traffic hotspots. Some examples are the Victoria Road entrance and exit point to the highway, the Corbett Park entrance, the Dixon Street exit and entrance, and the entrance to Hampton Road in Okato. In spite of the 50kph traffic restrictions through Oakura many vehicles still zoom through much faster than that and anecdotal evidence and observation indicates many of these are trade vehicles. However, our side streets are posing similar issues. There are real concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling down Donnelly Street from the school and also vehicles travelling west on Messenger Terrace down past the Wairau Road intersection and onto Tasman Parade. In most cases, these vehicles are driven by local residents. Surely these areas require all of us to play our part and be even more careful. These are pedestrian and vehicle turning hot spots often filled with children and other folk walking, playing and riding bikes. Running late for your next appointment or getting home as quickly as you can shouldn't become an excuse for not driving safely.

On a more positive note hats off to the Oakura Boardriders for holding another surfing experience for people with a physical disability. Having a disability or impairment often prevents people of all ages from participating in their social roles and being as active as others. Congratulations to the club volunteers for creating this opportunity for our disabled members of the community to experience a unique, safe and happy surfing experience.

It's commonly known that possums, rats and stoats are invading and killing our native wildlife and plants. But did you know that 80% of New Zealand's 168 native bird species are classed as being 'in trouble' or worse? Because of that, your community board is a full member of Wild for Taranaki. It is New Zealand's first regional biodiversity Trust, created in 2015 to advocate for over 40 environmental groups working within Taranaki to protect and enhance our region's unique native plants, animals, and ecosystems. Wild for Taranaki work comprises supporting and helping to grow the activities of its members, providing regional coordination, information and resources. It promotes and advocates for biodiversity protection and restoration and works hard to mobilise the wider community to become involved in the Restore Taranaki Initiative.

Roy Weaver, our appointed community board councillor, is the chair of the Wild for Taranaki board of directors and says he knows the community treasures its walkways, bush and native wildlife. He says, "There's a number of great projects

already underway for areas of Taranaki to become predator free, and NPDC already invests about \$130,000 each year on trapping and pest control in our parks and walkways."

One of the many projects to protect our natural biodiversity the community board has been involved with from its inception is the Restore Oakura urban biodiversity project. This collaborative enterprise is being led by local community champion Sam Mortenson. She is doing a fantastic job in enthusing and mobilising everyone to get involved. Our aim is to encourage backyard trapping with a target of having at least one trap in every three backyards. Currently, there are 230 traps in the village and to date, at least 260 predators have been trapped. \$10 pet-safe and child-safe rat traps are available from Oakura School. There are plans for a litter workshop in conjunction with Sustainable Coastlines, tree plantings, and a documentary screening in the works.

Sam has recently been elected to the Wild for Taranaki board so we are very lucky indeed to have such an enthusiastic, engaged resident in the village with ties to that umbrella organisation. Sam's intention is for Oakura to become the country's first predator-free area. That sounds an ambitious ideal but it is one the community board fully supports.

If you aren't already involved but would like to then check out the Restore Oakura's FaceBook page or email Sam on samanthamortensennz@gmail.com.

Also, don't forget to check out the KCB's FaceBook page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold. According to the page's insights section, nearly 700 people have clicked onto our page during the last month, so it is proving a useful information sharing tool.

Well, that's it for this TOM issue. The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the NPOB Surfclub at 4.30pm on Monday 15 April.

Ka kite ano
Doug Hislop (752 7324 and douglashislop@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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A United New Zealand

On Friday 15 March, our country was shaken to its core. An unspeakable act of violence not only tore families apart in Christchurch, but also ripped through the hearts of all New Zealanders.

The National Party stands in solidarity with the Prime Minister and the Government in condemning the horrific and violent terrorist attack.

This was not something that happened to just the Islamic community, or just to Christchurch. It happened to all of us. The values of this nation, our beliefs, our acceptance of one another, and our common values of respect have made New Zealand the type of place where people want to live, and it should, and will, remain so.

We are united in our determination to remain the type of country which accepts all people regardless of race or religion, politics or beliefs; that stands up against hate, and is a safe place.

In Taranaki, each year we celebrate the Multi-ethnic Extravaganza and WOMAD. We remember the troubled history of the Land Wars with the hope of a more inclusive future. Those things and more are part of our DNA. We have many people living here from all walks of life. We embrace the varied expressions of faith, culture, knowledge, skills and abilities that each of us brings from our unique backgrounds.

I am proud to represent the diverse community of Taranaki and my hope is that we will all stand together for a peaceful and prosperous future.

They are us. We are one.

Jonathan Young
MP for New Plymouth



JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Waireka Cemetery

The New Plymouth branch of the Society of Genealogists visited Waireka Cemetery in February.

A big thank you to Len Jury, local historian and guide for our trip to the small historic cemetery at Waireka, Omata. About 40 people turned up and car pooled on a beautiful summer evening. The cemetery looks out on a stunning view of the sea and surrounding countryside.

Len had taken the trouble to put together an information sheet on some of the occupants of the graves. It is not known however, how many are in the cemetery as many graves are now unmarked, as in the early days wooden crosses were the only marking. The cemetery land was set aside in 1847 and a church built in the grounds about 1848. It had a thatched roof and fell into disrepair following the Taranaki wars.

In 1873 130 pounds was raised for a new church (St John the Evangelist) on the main road at Omata. It was opened in 1875 but was flattened in 1894 by a strong gale and was later rebuilt and still stands today with heritage status.

One of the Waireka graves that took my attention was that of Trooper Antonio Rodriguez De Sardinha from Portugal. He served with the Taranaki Mounted Volunteers led by Captain Mace. Both were awarded the rare NZ Cross for bravery rescuing wounded comrades while under fire in the Taranaki wars. There were only 23 NZ Crosses awarded. (The Victoria Cross was only awarded to Imperial troops). In order to read Rodriguez' gravestone erected by the NZ government, I had to get between a large bush and the stone. Personally this concerned me. Should not this bush be removed or trimmed down? Also, forgive me for my political correctness here - his stone is headed "The Maori Wars". Is this a correct heading?

Len mentioned a lot of interesting facts about the early settlers buried in the beautifully kept Waireka cemetery but there are also many modern graves there too. In total there are around 200 gravestones. One of the gravestone quotes that took my fancy was this: "A man is not dead until he is forgotten".

Annette Larsen

The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of the NPSG.



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Taranaki Retreat is a community-led suicide prevention initiative that provides outreach and residential support for those in need.

We're based in Omata, and work throughout Taranaki. We're always, always keen to hear from those who may need "Space to Breathe" either for themselves, or a loved-one - or just simply to have a chat by phone, face-to-face, or even by email. Find out more at www.taranakiretreat.org.nz; call us on 06 2150993 - or look us up on Facebook.

The community has expressed its heartache at the tragedy of suicide by seeking to provide better facilities for prevention within Taranaki. In early 2018 a beautiful local whānau were devastated by the loss of a loved one - Cathy Stewart. Her family, their friends and colleagues, and many members of the community poured their passion, energy and resources into visioning and fundraising to develop a beautiful Care Centre to assist the Retreat's work with our guests. Their humbling and loving mahi took the shape of a major community fundraiser (Cathy's Dance) undertaken in 2018, hosted at the TSB Stadium.

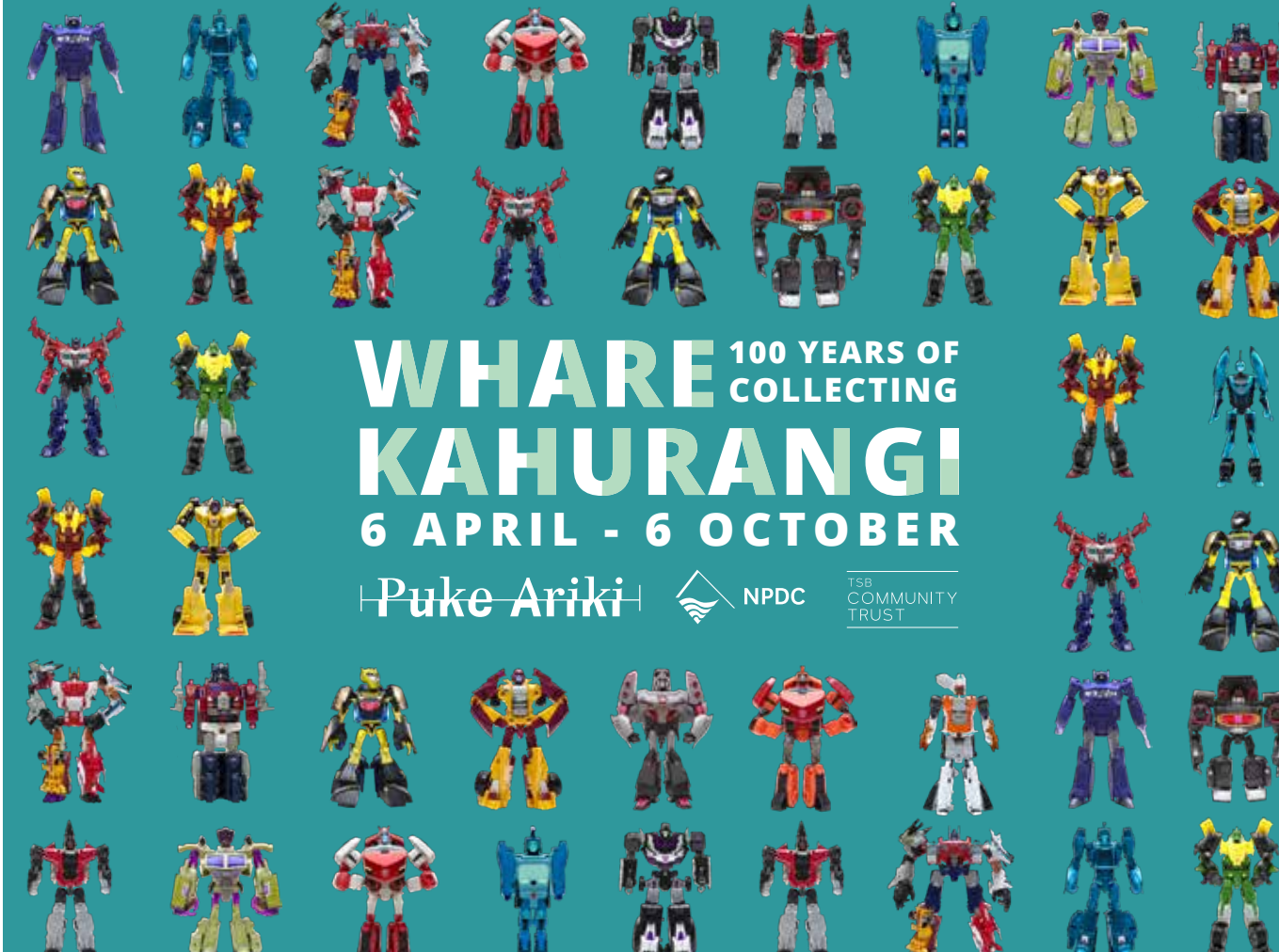
A local architect became involved with the visioning process and donated her time to develop and review the concept. The Care Centre is to be a simple, functional, welcoming, light and lovely building - which will fully complete the site - completely in-keeping with the existing facilities. We're looking forward to telling more of the story, as it develops, through TOM. We've been busy finalising the drawings and concept, and are thrilled

at all the ways in which this simple and beautiful building will improve all that we're able to offer people; people just like you and me. We are also thrilled that it will be dedicated in Cathy's memory.

We have just completed applications to two major grant-making bodies, seeking assistance with the full cost of the build and equipping of Cathy's Care Centre. We're hoping, by the time of the next publication, to have some exciting news to share with you. For the moment - we'd like to express our aroha and deepest thanks to all who made Cathy's Dance possible; and to encourage anyone who needs a listening ear, right-here, right-now, just to reach out. We are always keen to hear from you.

Arohanui - Jamie Allen






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Puke Ariki


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Coming up at the library in April we have our Easter school holiday activities, including a 'make your own bunny plant holder' and a visit from Mr Yipadee. Spaces will be limited, so do let us know if you will be coming.

Do you enjoy reading and talking about books? Our book group meets here at the Library the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

We provide the venue and the books and we welcome new members, it's a great opportunity to meet and chat with like-minded bibliophiles.

We have some new titles in:

Barbara Kingsolver's latest novel 'Unsheltered' is a wonderful metaphor for current world politics and the state of our planet. Engrossing and ultimately positive.

A powerful and brutal story of suspense set against a formidable landscape, 'The Lost Man' confirms Australian author Jane Harper, is one of the best new voices in writing today.

We also have many award winning titles available:

'The New Animals' by Pip Adams is the Ockham NZ book awards winner for fiction and Elizabeth Smithers won the poetry category with 'Night Horses'.

Winner of the 2018 Costa Novel Award is Sally Rooney for 'Normal People'.



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New Plymouth District Council

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2018 is author Anna Burns for 'Milkman'.

The Pulitzer Prize for fiction 2018 is 'Less' by Andrew Greer.

Also, opening at Puke Ariki on 6 April is 'Whare Kahurangi: 100 Years of Collecting' which celebrates a century of collecting Taranaki history and will definitely be worth a visit!

Happy reading!

Charlie and Vincenza

'You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book' Dr. Seuss'

Coming Up at Ōākura Library



Easter Craft

Wednesday 17 April

10am - 11am

Suitable for children aged 5 - 12.



Mr Yipadee!

Tuesday 23 April

9.30am - 10.20am

Live music, singing, dancing and musical comedy. Suitable for children under 10.



Comic Book Day!

Saturday 4 May

1pm - 4pm

Join us at Puke Ariki for three hours of comic book fun. Suitable for children aged 8 and over.



What's On

Pick up a free What's On guide from the library to see what's on across Puke Ariki and the community libraries.

Little Stones - Care and Education for Under Two Year Olds

For many families early childhood education and care is a reality, meaning the decision of when and where to enroll your child is inevitable. Living rurally or out of the bigger city centre, options become more limited. It is our understanding that currently between Opunake and New Plymouth the only option families have for children under the age of two is either private care such as a friend or family member or in-home care provider. Even these are limited.

During term two Okato's Stepping Stones Early Childhood service will be expanding, opening the doors to a newly built house and enrolling children between 5 months to 2 years of age. It is important to us that this environment is conducive of a home away from home. Knowing just how important these first years of life are we will be keeping our numbers low to provide a space that feels like a second home for children and their families.

The two ECE qualified teachers and owner have been working away behind the scenes getting policies, furniture and resources ready. It is our hope that we can help make this decision for some families that little bit easier once we are open. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or enrolment queries.

Details:

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5 months – 2 Years

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Little Stones – Infants and Toddlers Coming Soon

A small home like environment is what two qualified, registered, early childhood teachers hope to provide for our youngest citizens.

Opening during Term Two, we will be joining the existing Stepping Stones centre in a separate newly built house.

Enrolling ages 5 months - 2 years - Maximum of 10 Children

For enrolment interest and questions please contact:
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(Examples of resources and furniture we have already purchased and words from our centre philosophy)



We are a small family owned ECE Centre in Okato who are seeking 2 new team members to join our Team

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- A fully qualified ECE and registered teacher for a One Year Fixed Term Contract to cover Maternity Leave (32 hours per week)
- A fully qualified ECE and registered Teacher for 3 months from July to late October 2019 (20+ hours per week) - This position may also suit a beginner Teacher

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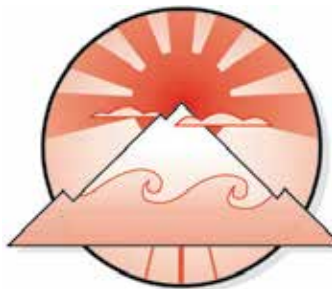
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Oakura School

Oakura School Houses

Our house colours are the names of important local sites in Oakura. These stories were gifted to us by our local marae, Ngāti Tairi.

Each panel has three elements and they are tied together along the top with the pattern that is also on our school kapahaka uniforms. This is a representation of Oakura-matapu, our local awa (river).

A parent, Hailey Foster-Ander, worked with our art leaders and senior students to design these panels for our school production in 2018, 'Te Wheke – What's in a Name?'. The artworks were inspired by a range of contemporary Māori artists.



Patuha

Patuha is the name of one of the first chiefs who arrived in Taranaki. He named the highest peak in the Kaitake Ranges after himself. He is known as the kaitiaki (guardian) of the peak and his mana remains on this peak. The three elements of this artwork are the silhouette of the Patuha peak, the taurapa (stern) of Patuha's waka (canoe), and the forest on the peak.

Koru

Te Koru is the name of a high ranking chieftainess who constructed and put her name onto Te Koru Pa, where her people and descendants lived. Koru Pa is one of the best preserved Pa in Aotearoa. This artwork illustrates the gate at Koru Pa, a ta moko of a wahine (woman) and the rocks from the stone walls that are so well preserved.



Wairau

Wairau is the name of a stream that runs through Oakura. Wai means water and rau means leaves.

Many local streams originate from springs in the ranges and connect together. This artwork is a stream running from the peaks of the Kaitake Ranges intertwined with leaves, out to the moana (ocean).

Matekai

Matekai Park, a recently created reserve sits in the middle of Oakura. The stream that runs through our school's Envirocentre is the Matekai Stream. Matekai means to be hungry or starving, kai meaning food. The elements of this artwork are the trees and bush of Matekai Park that provide food and protection for the endangered gold striped gecko.

Natasha Jackson – Deputy Principal

Surf Competition Fitzroy Beach 6th March

What a fantastic day was had by 14 Year 7 and 8 students who represented Oakura School in the Surf Competition run with the support of Surfing Taranaki and the NP Surfriders Club.

A fabulous effort by all Oakura students who participated today. You all did Oakura School proud.

Year 8 Boys - Anaru, Jack, Otis and Kalani represented our Year 8 Boys. Jack, Otis and Kalani made it through to the semi-finals and Kalani continued onto the finals which saw him come away with second place.

Year 7 Boys - Gabe, Liam, Jason, Meihana and Kai represented out Year 7 boys. Gabe, Liam and Jason made it to the semi-finals where they competed against each other. Gabe and Jason went onto the finals which saw Gabe come away with first place and Jason fourth place.

Year 8 Girls - Ruby and Ariana were our only Year 8 representatives and both girls made it all the way through to the finals where Ruby came away with second place and Ariana third place.

Year 7 Girls - Maia, Sasha, Chloe represented our Year 7 girls. Sasha and Chloe went on to the semi-finals.

Thank you to our wonderful parent support of Jonno Watts, Rachel Shafer, Sarah Ashworth, Katrina Snowden, Angela McQuaig, Rachel Shearer and Amanda Down. We appreciate you getting behind our students and our kura.

Cheryl Knapp - Teacher

Ladies!

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Coming Events

April

- 11 ANZAC Commemoration 1:30pm all welcome
- 12 Term ends 3pm
- 29 Term 2 begins

May

- 7 Home and School Annual Meeting 3:15
- 8 Year 1/2 Movement Madness with Oakura @Omata 1pm start
- 9 Year 3/4 Movement Madness with Oakura @Omata 1pm start
- 21 Year 8 to Young Leaders' Conference in Palmerston North

Home and School

Who we are and what we do:

A friendly group of people who meet once a term (unless we are planning something special) to discuss ways we can fundraise for school and support school events.

Our meetings run for approximately an hour. We donate all our funds to the school to purchase items such as iPads, games, reading and maths resources, books for the library and classrooms, sports, music, playground and art equipment, or anything else the children need to assist with their learning. Most recently we have purchased lego robotics for the senior class and more marimbas for music lessons.

How can you help?

- Come along to our meetings. We always welcome new members and new ideas. Meetings take place once a term for just one hour in the school staffroom and are advertised in the school newsletter.
- Add your name to the lunch baking roster, where you would provide 24 pieces of home baking once a term to be sold for Friday lunches.
- Add your name to the Friday lunch roster to help prepare and serve the lunches.
- Help out at fundraising events - many hands make light work.

If you are unable to attend meetings but still wish to

contribute, you can go onto our 'Friends of Home and School' list to be contacted about upcoming events and help out when you can. Please feel free to contact the people above or Bronnie in the office if you would like more information. Your support makes a big difference.

Sophie Fleming - Chairperson

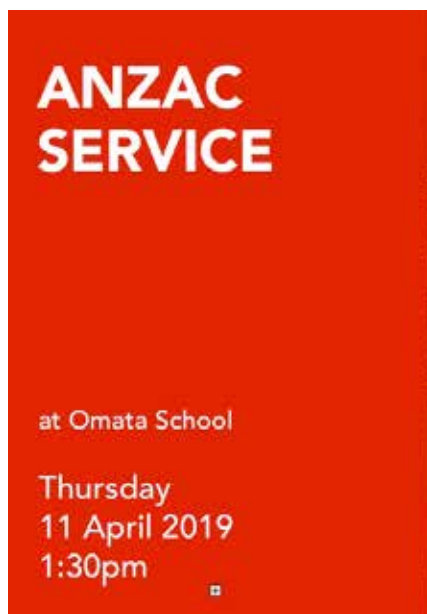
Pump Track

Thanks to Bruce Neale and his team of parent and student helpers who got a pump track made last year. Children are enjoying bringing their bikes to school and challenging themselves around the track. Great for improving coordination, aerobic fitness, strengthening muscles, general wellbeing and learning to manage risk. Concentration and determination are evident as they hone their skills.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Brisco - Principal

Below Ollie and Olive having fun tearing up the track during break times!



the art of **bang-on** precision.



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Te Kura Tuarua o Ngāmotu



I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the students, staff, BOT and wider community for their efforts and energies to ensure the roll out of our new curriculum supported with BYOD has been so successful!

The Board of Trustees is currently working to align our vision with our new direction.

We connect, we strengthen and we inspire each other 'to achieve personal excellence and to build a better world for tomorrow (under review).

The full draft strategic/annual plan is available on our website or by requesting a copy at admin@spotswoodcollege.school.nz. Your feedback on this is very welcome.

Connecting and strengthening each other is highly valued at Spotswood College. Term 1 has been purposefully designed to ensure we have strong respectful learning relationships within our community. Learning Advisors would have made contact home to introduce themselves as a critical mentor for your young persons success with their learning this year. While we had also planned on having Student Led Individual Development Plans this term, due to the announcement of the proposed secondary teacher strike action our date has now been changed to Wednesday 15th May.

The emphasis for the IDP will be around setting learning goals for the year and tracking progression around our core learning competencies and achievement. What this means is that teachers will regularly be completing competency reports. Our core competencies are: inquire, collaborate, communicate, engage, create and plan. These skills are crucial for the future workforce and successful life-long learning, they will be a key feature of our learning programs. Coupled with Achievement reports with Junior and Senior assessment information we will be encouraging students to self-reflect on their learning via a learning blog which all students are expected to have.

Students At The Centre Of Learning

Spotswood College was delighted to host Robett Hollis, internationally acclaimed speaker, entrepreneur extraordinaire, innovator, creator and LinkedIns top 3 most influential NZer,

Robett worked with us to share the message of yes to success, as part of a National High School Tour. We support the campaigning to inspire the young people of our country to be brave, get out there and 'smash the tall poppy syndrome' for a bigger and brighter future

Community At The Heart Of Who We Are - Community Connect Courses

Each Friday afternoon junior students take part in a community connect where they contribute towards strengthening our community sharing skills with our treasured elderly, cleaning and caring for our community, volunteering for local causes, caring for young people, animals, and other great acts of kindness and service. This is an ongoing opportunity so if you have a great cause you would like to be a part of then please contact us at admin@spotswoodcollege.school.nz and or 06 7512416.

Global Citizenship - Multi Ethnic Extravaganza

Our exchange students supported the colourful and vibrant Multi Ethnic Extravaganza.

This was a wonderful celebration of diversity that Spotswood College is proud to celebrate.

As a continuation of this work we have Kyotango school from Japan visiting us on 22nd March for one week and our Students from the Culture is the Widening of the Mind Pasifika course are organising a cultural event on 24th May

Cultural And Sporting Success

Congratulations to Roan Upson and Harry Younger who placed



first in the TSSA Tennis Doubles and Oliver Hill first in B Grade single and Hugh Avery who was placed second in the Grade B singles. An outstanding day on the courts.

Congratulations to our touch team that was placed third in the TSSA Touch Tournament.

Athletics Day and Special Olympics 2019

Thank you to the year 13 students and staff who successfully co-ordinated a wonderful Athletics day 2019 - The winning house for Athletics 2019 was Moturoa.

A huge congratulations to our students and staff in Te Waka Manaaki who continued to thrive on the track and field at the Special Olympics day.

Nicola Ngarewa
Principal



Presidents News:

There has been quite a bit of activity happening on the course lately and it will look quite a bit different next time you have a round here. So come on out and check out our progress.

We have removed all of the pine trees as part of the project with Sole Logging as the contractors.

This includes some next the 6th green, those along the right hand boundary of the 5th hole, left hand fence line of the 14th, big tree in between 14 and 15, some by the 12th hole and the line of trees in between 1st and 8th. We will replant some of those areas in due course with natives.

Reasons for removing the trees were they were becoming troublesome to our green keeper and his staff in terms of roots at the base, some of the trees were becoming hazardous to the neighbouring farm property and a few have been causing our 12th and 16th green to be in the shade for large parts of the day which has been detrimental to those greens.

We could also like to mention the Okato Lions are having an agility run on Easter Sunday 21st April and although the course will be closed for that day please get in contact with them if you're interested in participating. Volunteers to help on the day would also be appreciated if anyone is available.

Womens Division News

Currently there is a lot of work being done on Kaitake Golf Course with some of the old pines being felled and the greens being dethatched. While trying to adhere to the normal programme as much as possible, some changes are being made to accommodate the rough conditions. Some National Competitions have been rescheduled hoping that the course conditions will more favourable later.

9 Hole Update:

2019 and the 9 hole girls are certainly ready for their annual challenge - with numbers steady there is plenty of competition on offer. The top 4 players in division 1 continue to jostle for the number 1 spot - alternating between 1st and 4th is Margaret Mills, Raewyn Bishop, Pat Wilcox and Jo Wilson-West. Coming up to meet these players with continued excellent play is Christine Alexander, Coraleen Le Breton, Jean Keegan and Lorraine Parthemore. Staking their ground and not to be pushed out is Yvonne Coxhead, an absolute veteran when around the greens. May the competition continue. Top marks to Lorraine Parthemore with a Nett differential in LGU 2 whilst the course is on log lockdown by coming in with a -5.1 on the Back 9 and also Margaret Mills with a Nett differential in National Home Links Sue Bunt Slaver with -3.9.

2nd Division players also continue to push the field forward with Yvonne Hildred, Shirley Aspinall, Val Soffe, and Margaret Briscoe showing the section just how dominant they are with their experience. Hard to beat when giving strokes to these girls. 9 Hole Pennant - after 2 rounds White Team in front on 4 points and Blue Team yet to score (bit of a change from last year !! but given the experience in Blue they will bounce back).

Coming up in April is the "Cooper Challenge". This competition is supported by Doreen Cooper, a life member who has campaigned very successfully for both 18 and 9 holes respectively.

Along with her beloved husband Jack (deceased) they continue to be part of special memories of Kaitake Golf Club. Thank you Doreen for your progressive involvement in the Ladies sector both 18 and 9.

Results: The winners of the Flo Green Memorial were Noreen Potts with Barbara Crombie runner-up.

The Weekday and Weekend Pennant teams have played 3 rounds of Taranaki Womens Pennant competition. The 18 hole women have yet to manage a win at either during the week or at the weekend.

Coming up in April - Kaitake are hosting 9 hole pennants on Monday 9th April and the 18 hole pennants on Sunday 14th April. Visitors are welcome to see the Taranaki competition. Looking ahead to the end of the year, the Women's Committee have decided to contact all ex women members to come for morning tea and a chance to catch up with old friends. If you would like your name to be included phone Andrea 7514234 / 0273587001 or phone Denise in the office.

The Women's Committee extend a warm welcome to women wanting to join a club to play golf regularly or prospective players just wishing to give golf a try. If you want to talk to anyone about joining or learning to play golf, feel free to phone Andrea Jarrold on 7514234 or 0273587001 or talk to Denise in the office.

Club Captain Report:

The Kaitake 1 Pennant team are doing reasonably well and if they win this week will qualify for the quarterfinals. Kaitake 2 Pennant team still have a mathematical chance to reach the quarter finals. So good luck to the boys.

Stokeplay Champs has now been moved to start on the 27th April 2019 and the following 3 weeks after and this was moved for course maintenance and tree removal and give the Men better course conditions once all tree removal and also with the greens just been scarified much better playing conditions.

Paul Manu won the Dick Keenan Nett Trophy congratulations to Paul.

We have the Mixed Canadian Foursomes on the 5th May 2019 and welcome all players to this event.

We had a very successful Corporate Day with our main sponsor **Tasman Toyota**. We do rely on our sponsors and are pleased to welcome them to their Corporate Golf Day. A full field for all and great prizes for the lucky winners. A big thankyou to James Crighton and his team of helpers. A very enjoyable day had by all. Good food supplied by L'Epicure with a BBQ and beers half way round which was well appreciated.

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New Members Welcome:

New golfers are encouraged to give "golf a go" there is still plenty more days of golf to go and beautiful weather at the moment so come take advantage of this weather and get out into the fresh air and enjoy a leisurely walk and great exercise round the golf course.

Age between 19-35 years of year - This is a good opportunity to join at a very special rate. Already many have taken advantage of the new \$10 rate per years of age membership fee to become a full playing member. For example if you are 22 the membership fee will be \$220 per year.

Kaitake Golf Club Chippers

Chippers Day is Sunday 24th March 2019 and every fortnight after that. Look forward to you all coming back and hopefully some new chippers as well. See you all then.

Dominic Barson golf professional tries to come one Sunday each month courtesy of the Taranaki Golf Association and offers additional coaching. We have so many keen chippers out there and it is so awesome that they are joining up for this year.



New players are always very welcome. Chippers ages range from 5 – 12 years. Just bring them along with flat soled footwear, a hat and perhaps a drink. Clubs, balls and coaching are provided. It costs \$40 to join as a member for the year allowing the children access to the course at any time as long as they are under supervision.

Volunteers Welcome:

As part of the ongoing renovations to bring the Kaitake Golf Club into the modern era, all of the Pine trees around the course are coming down. As the trees were planted in the early years of course construction, they have grown to a height where it's now considered a health and safety issue.

While there is no value to the club in timber, the volunteer members are pitching in to procure fire wood and pine cones for sale, so that the club can proceed with future improvements to attract new members.

Should anyone wish to help the club with the major task of clearing the course, or should you wish for some cheap fire wood, please call Denise at the club on 067527665.

The Kaitake Golf club house has had a complete makeover, now an extremely pleasant wedding or function centre for the local Oakura community.



Club Championships

It was third time lucky for Kurt Smith as he overcame a determined Rod Smith in winning the Junior Singles final 21 - 13. The game was played in a great spirit and the quality of the bowls was exceptional. Well done to both bowlers.

Bob Anderson won the final club championship with victory in the President Trophy (handicap singles) over a gallant Peter Murdoch. Anderson consistently harassed and nudged the kitty throughout the tournament and was a well-deserved winner.

Congratulations to all Club Champions and the club wishes them success as they represent Oakura in the Champion of Champions series played over April. For further information and dates visit Bowls Taranaki website <http://www.taranakibowls.co.nz/>

Interclub Tournaments

The Wanderers competition has started with Oakura off to steady start with a 55% win-ratio. With 4 more rounds to go the boys are in a great position to challenge the competition leaders and retain the trophy they won last year.

Club News

All members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club on Friday evenings from 4.30pm till 7pm. There is a full bar available, a weekly membership draw and as always someone entertaining the crowd with a Friday funny or humorous story. The club is situated directly behind the Oakura Community Hall.

Well done to the club in being selected to host the Taranaki Saturday Shield final. It is a tremendous tribute to the hard work and effort the greenkeepers (Wayne Robinson and Alan Bridgeman) put in in producing an excellent quality green worthy of hosting an important centre event.

A big thanks to Rod Smith, Mike Vickers and all volunteers who assisted in the maintenance working bee around the club during March. Rod and Mike do a fantastic job around the club in maintaining the surrounds and clubrooms in such a pristine condition. Great work boys.

The Underarm Bowler



Dr Susan Oldfield
MBBS DipOBG DFFP MRCP FRNZCP MACNEM
27 Ballance St | Vogeltown | New Plymouth 4310
Ph: 0204 168 0542 | Fax: 06 753 0052
drsusanoldfield@healthspace.nz | www.healthspace.nz



In 2016 Jen Harries and I had the idea of trying to start some local netball games right here in Oakura. The idea was for it to be low key, no commitment but we wanted to give the local Mums the opportunity to give it a go. So many people still love the game of netball but due to family commitments, time pressures and the fear of

not being good enough or playing after not playing for so many years was enough to put most women off joining a netball team.

After a year of saying we should do something, we found out that there was a Kaitake Netball Club (KNC) which was still operational, although had been laying dormant for a few years whilst the then team club members were busy raising their young families. So we teamed up with the Kaitake Netball Club and introduced the Sunday Session games in 2018. Within a couple of months we had almost 90 people who had expressed their interest whom I had put onto our database. The games were held over Term 2 although due to its popularity continued into Term 3 as well. It ran very simply, if you were available and wanted to play you simply added your name to the list for that Sunday, then we would ensure we had enough people turning up for a game. We even had some Germans and Americans play who had never played the game before but very much enjoyed their chance to participate and learn about the game of netball which is such a strong and popular sport for our NZ children. We had people play who hadn't played since school and we had people play who had played quite a bit of netball so we really did have a big range of people.

We also had enough interest to enter 2 teams in to the Puanga Festival Netball Tournament in Waitara at the end of October, taking out 1st and 3rd place and provided a great opportunity to enter a Kaitake team into a local district competition. The organisers of the festival were so welcoming and it was nice to be able to support the festival. Jen Harries kindly organised our Kaitake Netball Singlets with the help of Jennie Aitken-Hall who designed our new logo. The singlets looked fantastic and it was great to see us identified as belonging to the KNC.

This year we have had some changes on the Committee. After a long standing and great effort we had Jo Hill step down from Treasurer, and Claire Florence step down from Secretary, both after 10 years on the job. And Bob Fleming who was the Chairperson has stepped down from the role although still remains as a valued committee member. So a big thank you goes out to those lovely ladies for their time and input given to the Kaitake Netball Club over their tenure and we look forward to continuing to work with and learn from Bob as we go. We welcome Jennie Aitken-Hall as the new Secretary/Marketer, Jen Harries as the new Treasurer/Marketer, and myself as the new Chairperson. Thanks ladies for coming on board, lending your time and expertise, I am sure we will have lots of fun along the way.

The attractiveness of the Sunday Session Games was and still is; No practice! No weekly commitment! Just play when you want to play! It doesn't get any easier than that.

This year you do need to register with the Kaitake Netball Club to become a member. It is a small fee (only \$20) just to make

sure those on our list are keen to play and to go towards any club costs. If you were unable to make the registration night but are keen to join, then please contact me.

2019 Sunday Sessions Season Term 2 & 3 Sundays at 3pm
Oakura School Courts \$20 Registration fee
We welcome all levels of players.

We do have a Facebook Page – Kaitake Netball Club
Once you register you will make it on to our database/email list.
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions

Ph: 021 661 912 or email: thowison@hotmail.com

Toni Peacock (Chairperson)

**On behalf of The Kaitake Netball Club Committee
pictured below the committee past and present.**



As summer draws to a close it's a time to reflect on how busy it has been for the boardriders club with the nationals, grommet

comps and social events. The boardriders also recently hosted a disabled surfing day. This is an annual event and the boardriders really enjoy hosting it and giving back to the community.

March saw a long flat spell however the water was warm, clear and also coincided with very low tides which meant that we could go and inspect the reefs for marine life. It wasn't all flat however with a very memorable swell that pulsed through on Taranaki anniversary with many spots seeing all time conditions!

Keep an eye out for Paige soon as she will be competing in her first world surf league competition on the Gold Coast. We all wish her good luck!

Eli - Oakura Boardriders Club





Oakura Tennis

After a very hot start to the tennis season -watermelon strawberries and pineapple were definitely the favourites! -the temperature is now perfect for tennis!

Platinum grade (the new Soffe with 4 in a team) started well with 5 points from week 1 and 4 points from week 2 and were top of the points table on 9 points with Pukekura on 5 and Huatoki on 4 but the last few rounds saw Huatoki and Pukekura claw their way back so they finished all tied up on 15 points. Only 2 other clubs entered this grade so was a short season and days were shorter too with only a singles and a doubles.

The platinum Team comprised Graeme Mitchell, Andrew Hood, Brady Simpson, Sue Oldfield, Sammy Lewis, Len Adamson and Simon Spurdle.

Gold (A2) had a first round tough match up against Rotokare which comprised a lot of their Soffe cup players. Although we lost 12-4 their were a couple of close tie breakers that we lost that would have made things interesting. The following week we played the other Rotokare team and managed to come away with a win 10-6. This was followed with a bye and a loss to Pukekura 10-6 and a loss to South combined 12-4. Their are 2 rounds to

play and we have struggled for players in the rounds since Xmas so our placing has slipped from 4th to 6th. The new format has seen Rotokare and Pukekura put their Soffe cup team in this grade so they are well ahead on the points table with 52 and 51 points with 3rd, 4th and 5th tied up on 26 points and we are on 22 points.

Silver (A3) won the first game of the season by default. Then suffered a loss to south combined 11-5 and then came away with a close win 9-7 over Pukekura. Waitara have been strong all season and soundly beat us 12-4. We are currently sitting 4th on 37 points behind Waitara on 51 and 2 south combined teams on 45, Pukekura on 25 and Huatoki on 12 with semis and finals to be played the last 2 weeks in March.

B grade have started with a bye and then a draw with Pukekura followed by a win against Rotokare and two draws against Rotokare green with a 13-11 doubles tie break loss what a nail biter! Next time Noah and Ryan! And a draw with Rotokare white.

The junior grades had a rain off in feb but are well into the swing of things. Oakura Hardhitters are sitting 4th after a loss, a rain off and 2 draws. The Oakura Drop Shot Divas have had 3 draws and a loss so are improving in leaps and bounds from the start of the season. The Oakura Cool Cucumbers are sitting second after 2 big wins and a draw. The Oakura spin masters are also sitting second after a win and 3 draws with only 2 points between them and first and third 2 points behind.



Midweek ladies and women's 8 team have been enjoying some court time (and the lunch after!). Their are always gaps to fill if anyone is interested in playing on Saturday or Monday's !

Cardio tennis Thursday's and senior coaching Fridays with Jaime Simpson are running again with Jaimee taking 1 week off to attend his sisters wedding in beautiful Wanaka. For any queries on coaching check out blitztennis.co.nz.

Junior Club champs are underway with finals booked for Sunday 7th May and a BBQ at the club house to finish off the season. Come down and watch the up and comers in action! Make the most of the sunshine and the warm sea before the winter blankets come out!

Jackie Keenan 0276732900



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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

Body Transformer: 2 x ladies group sessions at 6pm every Tuesday & Thursday evening from my home studio in Koru Rd, Oakura. 2 x 1 hour sessions at Oakura Hall 6am on Monday & Wednesday. Boxfit class 6am Friday morning. ph Joe on 021 110 1215

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.

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



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Daniel McDonald – General Manager	06 757 3083

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 Sunday School - St James church: Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am. Contact stjamesoakura@gmail.com

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.

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 Lions Club: continues to have activities in Oakura, as well as Okato. Meet on the first Wednesday each month, except January, at the Hempton Hall, Okato at 7.00pm, and we do appreciate enquiries from people seeking membership or assistance for funding, projects etc. Contact John Hislop Ph 06 7579696

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.

Pickleball Oakura: Come along and give Pickleball a go. Oakura Hall Thursday mornings 9.30am and Wednesday evenings 7.15pm. Contact Elayne Kessler at ekesslernz@hotmail.com or ph 0279377173

Probus Club: Meets once month at Oakura Bowling club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Brenda Ryan ph 7511633.

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

St Patrick's Church: Cummings St, Okato, weekly Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6.00 pm

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