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OAKURA

APRIL 2020

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From the Editor



This TOM gets delivered into a far different world than any of us imagined a month ago and as I sit here and put what may very well be the last TOM together for a while I feel a different level of angst than I've ever felt before. I'm sure all New Zealanders feel the same.

A community in which we are isolated from one another physically and also from our family members living outside of our home is uncomprehensible. But it is our new reality. And it is for the good of everyone we are doing so.

Spare a thought for our health workers and essential services who will be confronting this virus on the front line - I applaud you and am very grateful for your service to the nation. I'm hoping we don't need to receive any health services and I like what Dr Brad tells us on page 3 about making healthy choices - very good advice.

Take care everyone.

Kim

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

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IT FOR BUSINESS

Dr. Brad Ellington Advises

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...

We will look back on the events of this global pandemic with a similar vision as the rambling opening of Charles Dickens A Tale of Two Cities. We will hear stories of incredible incompetence but also of incredibly good decisions, we will experience fear and uncertainty but will also be inspired with stories of great resilience and compassion. Who knows how things will look in the coming months but we will emerge on the other side. There are many in the blogosphere who will tell you what is going on, what to do and what the world is going look like but they are just guessing. It is difficult to sort through all the noise out there and figure out what is the truth. We must listen to those working in health care in nations that have had a real surge in cases and learn from their experiences. What we must also do is control our individual response and conduct ourselves in sensible ways that will be in our own and our communities best interests.

This is the time to make healthier choices as an individual. If you smoke, stop or cut back. If you are overweight or in poor shape, do a bit of exercise, start with a walk, some stretches. If you drink too much alcohol consider cutting back. Eat more fruit and veggies, take vitamin C tablets. Simple, common sense changes will help you develop a more robust response to this virus and the ones that are certain to come in the future. To avoid contracting the illness and spreading it, again, it is the simple things that make a difference for you as an individual and for your community. Wash your hands. Don't sweat it if the pharmacies and groceries stores have run out of hand sanitiser as thoroughly washing your hands with soap and water is at least as, if not more, effective at destroying virus particles. The

virus enters the body essentially through the mouth, nose or eyes so avoid touching your face directly with your fingers. If you are worried about your ability to fight this viral infection than you really need to self isolate, meaning limit your social engagement, stay at home and don't come within 2 metres of anyone. Those at increased risk for becoming critically ill have other health issues, particularly heart or lung disease or are in an immunocompromised state including those who take steroid or chemotherapeutic medications.

The rest of us have the responsibility of protecting the less healthy. If you are sick, stay home and self isolate. If you have a cold, runny nose and cough etc, then STAY AT HOME, DO NOT GO TO YOUR DOCTOR OR THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT unless you are very unwell meaning having trouble breathing or chest pain. The medical centres absolutely cannot handle a situation where everyone feels like they need to be tested for corona virus. If you have symptoms, assume you have it and stay home to protect your neighbours and wider community. Treat it like any cold with lots of fluids, paracetamol and rest. The overwhelming majority of us will get it and do just fine. We need to be responsible though and not let it spread to those who are unlikely to survive an infection. Italy has learned this the hard way and now have so many sick old people that they are essentially having to decide who to treat and who to let die. A terrible situation for health care providers to be.

By doing these things we will, ideally, prevent having a surge of patients that hospitals cannot handle. The goal is to spread the cases out over the long term so that the system can manage the load. Be responsible, look out for one another, be kind, get food for your neighbours if they can't leave their house, develop healthy habits and you and the wider world will be better for it now and in the future.

The situation is constantly changing and if you have further questions or concerns go to the Ministry of Health web page.

Dr Brad Ellington



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Kaitake Community Board

Well, the warm weather has continued, WOMAD has been and gone and as I write this Easter is looming over the horizon. However, there are far more serious difficulties confronting our community at the moment. By the time you are reading this, the current COVID 19 issues will have grown exponentially. The KCB will continue to update its FaceBook page with every latest piece of official information we access, so make that a port of call when trying to find out anything about the situation.

To date this year over 1,900 people have visited our page with our biggest engagement numbers being the freedom camping issue at Corbett Park and the water restrictions in Okato. This proves it is a good port of call for updates on current issues.

We have fielded some local concerns about how many parking spaces were being included in the Oākura Mews development. There had been rumours being passed around so a consequence we put the following questions to the council.

Could you please let us know what the accurate position is regarding:

How many on-site parking spaces are being provided in the development?

What is the number of planned commercial premises?

Will they be one or two-story premises?

If they are to be two-story what is the council's ruling regarding parking if the second story is a separate commercial entity, either rented or otherwise?

It would also be useful to understand the council's long term plans to address the chronic lack of parking spaces in the Oākura CBD.

Here is the reply we received from the Council.

Thanks for getting in touch following your conversation with an Oākura resident about the Mews Development taking place and availability of parking spaces. I trust the information below and attached will enable you to answer the questions you have received from residents.

Attached is the Planners Report and Decision for the Mews Development, along with the Proposed Site Plan which details where the commercial and townhouse buildings will be positioned, and their assigned car parking spaces.

A total of six car parks have been allocated to service the commercial buildings in this development and will be situated on the north side of the site. A further 12 car parks will be constructed, these will service the six townhouses to be constructed at the rear of the site. These car parks will be within the double garages which will be situated in the basement area of the townhouses. The attached plan details exactly where the allocated car parks will be within the site.

To address your other queries on the development:

- There will be two, two-storey commercial buildings and these will be positioned at the front of the site. The Planners report details this further, but in summary, the intention is to have four tenancies in one building and six in the other. There are six three-storey townhouses proposed for the rear of the site.

- The number of car park spaces required for a premises is determined by assessing the activity and floor areas of a premises, against the relevant District Plan rules, policies and objectives. The Mews development currently provides more than the required number of car park spaces, providing 6 spaces when the minimum number to provide is 3.4 spaces. The following

summary explains how this has been determined:

As a controlled activity, the Operative District Plan requires parking to be provided for 5% of the Maximum Peak Number (MPN) of vehicles. The total floor area of the commercial buildings in the Oākura Mews Development is 1,217m², this translates to requiring 5.6 carparks per 100m² of floor area. Based on 5.6 carparks per 100m² of floor area, means that the MPN of vehicles for the commercial buildings is 68. As a controlled activity the required number of carparks required is 3.4 for the Oākura Mews Development (based upon 5% of 68). As a controlled activity land use consent could not be refused. The applicant is providing six carparks which is in excess of this controlled activity standard.

Please also note that NZTA gave written approval to the proposal, NZTA is responsible for the operation of the adjoining South Road (State Highway 45).

Your query about parking in Oākura and long term plans for this, has been forwarded onto the Policy and Transportation teams.

Well, that's it for this issue.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board is postponed. Please be careful out there. Kia tupato i te wa e haere ana. Ka kite anō au i a kotou.

Doug Hislop (752 7324 and douglashislop@gmail.com) on behalf of Paul Coxhead, Paul Veric, Graham Chard, and Amanda Clinton-Gobdes who is the Councillor representative on the KCB.



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Rachel Hooper – Sales Consultant	027 235 5284
Tracy Malone – PA to Rachel Hooper	06 752 1340
Michelle Gilbert – Administration	06 752 1340
John McDonald – Systems Manager	06 757 3083
Blair Burnett – Rural Sales Consultant	021 190 7728
Daniel McDonald – General Manager	06 757 3083

Covid19

There is a great deal of uncertainty stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak. What we do know is the effects of the virus on Taranaki, New Zealand, and the world will be long lasting. I hope you have been able to keep safe.

The coronavirus has been a real wake-up call.

Many years ago a Civil Defence assessment rated a pandemic as the number one risk to Taranaki. This was when everyone assumed a volcanic eruption, or tsunami were the big threats. We have now seen something of the disruption that can be caused. And thankfully the thought and preparation put into work like the New Zealand Influenza and Pandemic Action Plan in 2006 has meant we are better placed to deal with the effects today.

We have also re-learned the value of the basic health precaution of washing our hands. Every flu season we are told to wash hands, cover coughs and sneeze carefully. Now we have been shown dramatically how important it is to take those simple preventative measures. The early introduction of flu vaccinations this year is to be welcomed.

There is a wealth of information on the special COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/>. I strongly urge you to check that regularly and make it your primary source of information. There have been plenty of rumours and ill-informed commentary, but you can be assured the Ministry of Health has the most up to date information and best quality advice.

We have to be focused on doing the right thing for the health of New Zealanders. Most importantly this is a time for us to pull together and support each other: check on your family members and neighbours, especially if they're elderly, and remember to keep up the health precautions.

As always if there is anything I can assist you with, please phone my office (06) 7591363 or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

Jonathan Young

MP for New Plymouth

National Party Spokesperson: Energy & Resources

National Party Spokesperson: Arts, Culture & Heritage

National Party Spokesperson: Regional Economic Development (NI)

JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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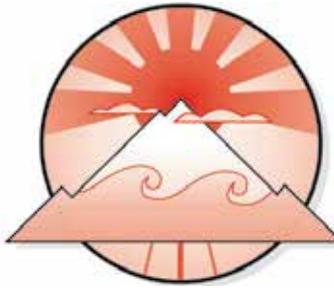


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Oakura School

She enjoyed seeing students taking on challenges and overcoming them, she rated the experience eleven out of ten and appreciates the parents who helped out.

Vertical Swimming

In week five of this term, the Years Five and Six students went to a camp at Vertical Horizons, near Inglewood. They took part in a range of exciting activities,

such as the flying kiwi, the mud run, the catwalk, archery, raft building/racing, going down a hill in grass karts, kayaking, climbing a climbing wall, abseiling, looking at glow worms, singing and roasting marshmallows over a fire.

The children reported back that the food on camp was good, especially the mac and cheese and it's scrumptious addition of tomato. The kids we interviewed all said the water at Camp Vertical Horizons didn't taste good, but on further questioning they were talking about the lake water and not the drinking water (why would you drink water from a man-made lake that people and eels swim in?) See next photo for an explanation as to why they may have tasted the lake water.



Sadly, as one child stated, Camp Vertical Horizons was actually not vertical but mostly horizontal. Other than that the kids had a highly enjoyable time and would suggest that others visit this wonderful local facility.

Upon arriving back to school, we interviewed the teachers who went on camp and asked them these three questions: What was your favourite part of camp? Out of ten how would you rate your experience at camp? Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mrs Salisbury (teacher of Room 6) said that:

Mrs Zieltjes (teacher of Room 7) said that:

She enjoyed watching all the students just have a good go at all of the activities while having a good time together, she rated the experience ten out of ten and states she and the other year five and six teachers are lucky to have Vertical Horizons so close to Oakura here in Taranaki, so the students can enjoy the unique experience of camp and she loved seeing the kids out of the classroom.

Mrs Batley (teacher of Room 8) said that:

She enjoyed seeing all the children supporting and helping each other, she rates the experience ten out of ten and said that the camp has amazing opportunities for the students to take on new challenges and they should all be very proud of themselves and she enjoys seeing the kids support and help each other.

In summary, everyone enjoyed the year five and six camp and wishes to go again.

Recently, on a Wednesday, the years four to eight students went to the Okato Pool for swimming sports. Every child swam for their houses (Matekai, Patuha, Koru and Wairau) and got points for their houses. The weather was cloudy with occasional showers but the sun came out later in the day. Perfect for swimming. The winning house was Wairau, with Matekai coming close in second, Koru in third and Patuha coming last. The points won between houses was closer than in other years, with all the teams getting over two hundred points. Everyone had fun and did their best and the teachers really enjoyed seeing all the kids supporting each other, enjoying the events and having a good time.

We are very happy to have such a great school where we get to do such great activities with such great friends.

By Aiden Hocking (12yrs) and Lincoln Phillips-Lim (12yrs)



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- April
- 28 Term 2 begins (Tuesday) Possibly Life Education all week
- 30 EPro8 Challenge Y5/6 9:30am, Y7/8 5pm
- May
- 5 Home and School Meeting 3:15pm
- 6 PCT Challenge Y7/8 teams at TSB Stadium
Y1/2 Movement Madness 1pm start
- 7 Y3/4 Movement Madness 1pm start
- 11 Kaitiaki Community Board Meeting in Omata Community Hall

Self Portraits

Our portraits were designed to use imagery to tell the viewer more about the person, their interests, hobbies and passions. All of our portraits turned out very differently and are a reflection of our individuality.

Self portrait by Haruna Saito



Self portrait by Emma Marchant



Principal Snorkelling

Year 7/8 students are involved in a program called 'Experiencing Marine Reserves'. This programme aims for students to take

positive action to improve their local marine environment. As part of the programme we have been learning to snorkel at the Aquatic Centre and then having a go at Ngamotu. In December we will have the opportunity to travel to Goat Island Marine Reserve for an exciting marine experience. Thanks to Elvina Van Der Leden from EMR <https://www.emr.org.nz/>

*Ngā mibi nui
Karen Brisco Principal*



A huge thank you to all of the parents and students that joined us on our well-attended parent meet teacher picnic. This was a great way to connect and learn more about each other as a learning community.

Staff News

A huge congratulations to staff member Link Abrams who we are delighted to announce has been appointed as the Assistant Coach for the Taranaki Mountaineers.

Students At The Centre Of Learning

As a celebration of senior students who received NCEA Levels 1 and 2 with an excellence endorsement, students were invited to a luncheon where they were acknowledged and inspired to set high academic goals for the year ahead and beyond. Students who achieved NCEA Levels 1 and 2 with excellence enjoyed a luncheon together where they were also able to put some solid plans in place for further success this year and beyond. These students will be awarded the academic excellence badges at the end of term assembly.

Congratulations to:

Rachael Clarges, Esther Cocker, Kayi Erol-Watt, Jacky Li, Reuben Neilsen and Tarryn Tyler-Cassatt - Level One Excellence. Kohana Clothier, Rohan Crookbain, Esmeralda Dalgleish, Ido Doron, Michael Gibbon, Zsuzsi Hazag, Kobi Hislop, Liam Houghton, Yulan Imhasly, Emily Law, Cara Moffitt and Sam Skinner - Level Two Excellence.

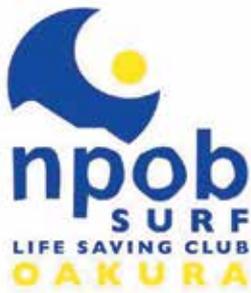
Congratulations of Keeling Aspeling, Caleb Phillimore and Corban Churchill who have been placed in the Taranaki Futures and Learner me Launch Tech Academy where they will be given the chance to get a great start in the technology industry.

Community At The Heart Of Who We Are

Students were treated to a visit from NZ Film Director/Producer, Kiel McNaughton as part of the promotion of his latest movie, The Legend Baron of To'a.

Kiel's critical message to us was if you want to continue to see movies made in NZ, it is important that we support these films in the cinemas.

*Nicola Ngarewa
Principal*



Another surf season done and dusted. Taranaki Anniversary Weekend saw the finish of our voluntary weekend patrols. If you are still swimming please always check the conditions first and parents please always watch your children.

End of February we had 34 of our Oceans team travel to the Mount to compete in the four day competition. We had great team of kids and supporters, a huge effort from the whole team competing hard in huge surf on super hot days all contributing to NPOB coming in 7th = overall.

Special mention to our medal winners:

Tiani Kensington 2nd u14 Female Sprints 3rd u14 Female Flags
 Ethan Peacock 1st u11 Male Board 3rd u11 Male Surf
 Maia Dinnison 3rd u11 Female Surf
 Ethan Peacock, Henry Martin, Keziah Fakavamoenga, Maia Dinnison 1st u11 Mixed Beach Relay
 Ruby Newton, Oskar Kleinsorge, Sam Corlett, Tiani Kensington 2nd u14 Mixed Beach Rela.

Congratulations also to those that made finals, a great achievement in itself, Danielle Tewhata, Duncan Poole, Ethan Peacock, Keziah Fakavamoenga, Henry Martin, Ben Helms, Eva Martin, Hayley Tewhata, Kate Sousa and Oskar Kleinsorge. We also had a lot of quarter and semi-final appearances which is a great effort amongst such a large group of talented athletes from all over New Zealand and even Australia.

Two weeks later our senior team headed over to the Gisborne to compete at the TSB NZ Surf Lifesaving Champs. Another great competition, again amongst some amazing athletes from all over NZ. Our small team from NPOB competed well and competitively with rain on Friday & big surf all weekend.

A special congratulations to Jordan Grylls for her 3rd placing in Female Open Flags along with a handful of finals from Jordan and also Ellie Dinnison & Holly Horo.

Our last National event of the year the BP IRB Nationals has unfortunately been cancelled due to the coronavirus. This is really disappointing for our team, however priority obviously is everyone's health. The silver lining being that they get another year to practice.

As we baton down the hatches for the winter months (and coronavirus...) keep an eye on our Facebook page for what is happening over the coming months.

Stay healthy everyone, eat well, keep fit and take care. And of course don't forget, if you are swimming, don't go alone and check conditions first.



Club Championships

Kurt Smith won the Junior Singles Championship final with a 21 - 9 win over Paul Coxhead. The game was played in great spirit and the quality of bowls was exceptional. However, Smith did not have it all his own way in the semi-finals with a close and exciting victory over first-year bowler Craig Murray 21 - 20. Murray had the more fancied Smith down 20 - 9 but could not find that elusive point to secure victory. In the other semi-final Coxhead had a tight tussle with Rod Smith wining 21-18. It was fantastic to see the all the juniors in action - the future of Oakura bowls is in capable hands.

Congratulations to all Club Champions, 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 - www.taranakibowls.co.nz

Interclub Tournaments

The Wanderers competition has started with Oakura off to steady start with a 50% 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.

The Rahotu Bowling Club centennial 2-day tournament was played in March with the Oakura team of Jim Priest, Kerry McGovern, Wayne Robinson and Steve Muller finishing fourth with 4 from 5 wins. It was a great tournament and well done to the Rahotu Bowling Club for organising a very successful weekend.

Collins trophy

The highly regarded and fiercely contested Collins Trophy competition will be played at Oakura on the 3rd and 10th of May starting at 11.30 am. The format is a round-robin 2x4x2 pairs completion with each game consisting of 6 ends (apx 1 hour). Past President Mark Collins donated and sponsored the trophy with the concept that the teams consist of both a senior player with a junior and/or non-player. The competition is open to all club members and any new bowlers who may want to try this great game. For further details contact Steve Muller on 0211695863.

Club News

The Okato Bowling club will again partner with Oakura in the running of their 2-day tournament over the 18th and 19th of April. Both Okato and Oakura greens will be in use over this weekend with prize giving and post-match celebrations at the Okato club rooms from 3pm onwards on Sunday 19th. It is a great opportunity for the community to enjoy the hospitality of both clubs and watch quality bowls played in a friendly but competitive environment.

The Underarm Bowler

A sustainable journey

Sustainability is important to us.

From choosing sustainable paper, printing and business practices through to selecting promo products with good eco-credentials and working with local suppliers and partners, we consider sustainability in every step of the design process, even our giveaways.

We've been fortunate to be involved in some great local sustainability projects.

From protecting kiwis to the new zero waste project - The Junction. We've also initiated our own zero waste project reusing old billboards and signage and turning them into satchels.



Kermit hit the nail on the head when he said it is hard being green.

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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

Dancing in the Dark: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays till November. Contact Glenys Farrant 0277530120

Inferno 45: 4 X Bootcamp fitness Monday & Wednesday 6am Tuesday & Friday 9:30am. Boxfit class Friday 6am. All 1 hour sessions. Oakura Hall. Contact Graeme on 021 536 990.

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 Ranges Conservation Trust: Contact Pete Morgan - morgpt@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 3725 182

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

Oakura Tennis Club: Cardio Tennis and coaching recommencing in term 4. 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 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 9.15am and Wednesday evenings 7.30pm. Contact Elayne Kessler at ekesslernz@hotmail.com or ph 0279377173

Probuss 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 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

St Paul Carthew Street Okato: Morning worship 10am 1st and 3rd of each month. Sunday school available. Hall hire contact Lesley 7524545. Tuesday Plunket. Pew for you Thursday church open to community no service, quiet candle reflection. 6pm-7pm Winter hours.

St Patrick's Church: Cummings St, Okato, Saturday Vigil 6:00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays and on the alternate weekends at St Martins, Pungarehu 8.30am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. For further information contact Catholic Parish of New Plymouth 7573682

Tai Chi Classes - every Monday 9-10 am at the Oakura Town Hall. Gentle, slow movements with breathing and Qigong exercises also. Contact Judi 027 2682601 or taranakitaichichuan@gmail.com or just come along.

Val Deakin Dance School: Oakura Hall preschool classes - Friday 2.45pm, over 5's at 3.15pm. Phone 7527743 or email val@valdeakindance.org.nz

Coastal Connections morning talks Coffee and Chat dates

The weekly Thursday morning coffee and chat at the Oakura Surf Club. 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

