



T&M

OAKURA

MARCH 2019

Rueben Paterson - creator of the Golden Bearing tree chats about his sculpture with a rapt audience at Puke wai - more on page 8

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

From the Editor



This year I participated in Americarna on the Friday run to Stratford and Hawera. It's a big day with the finale being the drive through the main streets of New Plymouth.

I had on board some friends from Auckland who had never been to Americarna before so it was very interesting experiencing it from an 'outsiders' perspective. They loved it! And because they loved it, I loved it. It made me realise we can get a bit ho hum about the familiar. We can take for granted what a sensational event it is and how good it is for our whole province.

I was wowed too that after 12 years, locals still love Americarna and get out in their droves to watch, wave and wander amongst the cars - even in the rain! Through the pastoral hinterlands, farmers are sitting on their bikes watching, businesses along the route take a break and watch the cars, trucks and bikes go by - no mean feat when you consider there are more than 800 vehicles.

So it's a big thumbs up to the organisers of Americarna, the bureaucrats who let it happen, the volunteers and most of all the dedicated, passionate car mad community who give up their time and resources to bring their shining beauties to the streets and roads of Taranaki.

Take note of a submission you can make on page six concerning a shared pathway on the Kaitakes up to Pukeiti - the council wants to hear what you have to say so get online and let your voice be heard.

Kim





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Tracey Lusk dip.CIDESCO
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Baring all benefits the wider community

Last year's Braveheart Calender Girls fundraiser has raised more than \$7000 for Hospice!

Many of the community's women featured in the calender and continued to sell the calenders to raise funds for Hospice post calender production and the New Year.

Paul Lamb from Hospice expressed his gratitude below.

"I'd like to acknowledge the superb efforts in planning, producing and marketing the 'Brave Hearts' calendar and the subsequent donation presented to our organisation. I applaud the courage of all participants to step outside of their comfort zone in this way - it does seem you had many laughs and enjoyable times together in creating this publication.

A special thanks to Barbara Olsen-Henderson for leading the charge with this initiative – we place high value on our relationship with Barbara and for the fund raising support she has given Hospice Taranaki going back many years.

This year we expect to support over 650 patients and their families across Taranaki as they progress through a life limiting illness – so that is thousands of people's lives we touch helping them live every moment in ways that are important to them.

Your support and the community relationships that forms with our organisation is hugely important in us continuing to provide our work at no cost to anyone anywhere anytime.

A grateful thank you from the Hospice Taranaki team to you all."

Coastal connections morning talk

Coffee and Chat dates

The weekly Thursday morning coffee and chat at the surf club resumes 7 March. 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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Kaitake Community Board

The glorious summer weather seems to have been with us forever and has continued unabated, except for a few showers that have done little more than dampen down the dust. Everyone has been out and about enjoying our superb environment but I am sure we all feel for the farming community. The paddocks have become very brown in the past couple of weeks so some decent rain would be a great help for them. As well the Okato residents are on serious water restrictions and there is a general fire ban right around the mouna. To that end, it was a welcome feeling to wake up to some much-needed rain this morning. It does appear as if there will be more coming over the next few days. In fact, the weather event forecast is quite severe. Currently, computer models are battling it out over possible impacts on the country at the weekend so my fingers are crossed it will just bring some rain and leave all the gales out in the Tasman.

Moving on, the question of what to do about freedom camping issues has polarised our district, much as it has in other areas of the country. Our Council has been put in the invidious position of coming up with a plan to strike a balance between welcoming freedom campers, looking after our environment and being cost effective for the district's 80,000 residents. Handling the increased influx of campers from overseas, and from other parts of New Zealand, this summer has provided challenges for Council staff who have had to supply extra services to cope.

Visitor numbers to the country reached an all-time high last December with 529,300 visitors arriving on our shores. More than 110,000 of those visitors were freedom campers, mainly from Australia and Europe, who tended to stay longer. To me, this means it is a central government issue rather than one just foisted through government inaction on local councils. Bear in mind that it's often the smaller councils with the smaller rating population to pay for services in those areas of the country with the 'must see' attractions that freedom campers flock to.

What follows is provided as interesting information and is not an attempt to either support or oppose the concept of freedom camping and all its associated wrinkles. To contribute some hard data I have kept a photographic record of overnight campers at Corbett Park since 16 December when the amendments to the Council Freedom Camping bylaw came into effect. The park has only ever attracted a handful of freedom campers through the years, but the numbers climbed substantially last year and this year have exploded.

Last summer in the 104 days that I kept a record (from 16 January to 30 April) there were 93 overnights. The most on any one night were 7 (30 January) and there were none on 54 nights. However, there has not been one night without campers this summer. In the 69 continuous days since I began gathering data, there have been 786 overnights at the park. The most on any one night has been 21 campers (13 February) and the smallest number has been 3 (31 December).

It has been reported that there is a growing number of freedom campers who use New Zealand's beaches as a toilet during the peak summer months. Earlier this month it was also revealed that the country is flush with fake 'self-contained' bumper stickers which travellers are putting on their vehicle that has no toilet. Obviously, that isn't a Corbett Park problem, where there are very well-kept public toilets. Campers do use the toilets and rubbish facilities at the reserve and are generally respectful visitors, but

it does highlight the issue that policing any council freedom camping bylaw is a difficult and costly business.

I've banged on for years that Council needs to get the balance right between promoting the district as a destination and the community lifestyle. There is a lot of interest in repackaging Taranaki and its attractions as a superior destination with a view to increasing the economic well-being of the province. However, there needs to be some continuing focus on the tourism impacts on the community, the families, the home and property owners, the wage and salary earners who live here, work here, and call Taranaki home. It seems that sadly our country has become a victim of its own misleading marketing and promotion. And then there's all those idyllic social media posts and photos from long-gone tourists that keep doing the rounds, announcing to all and sundry what a free and easy country we are.

Ultimately it's our local residents who will notice the small things and are most affected by disrespectful behaviour or environmental concerns. They are not averse to letting the authorities know but the timeliness of a Council response when contacted could be an issue. Consequently an ongoing season-by-season review of freedom camping in the district and amending the way things are done if necessary will be the key for all (visitors and locals) to have ongoing, pleasant experiences in our great outdoors. Minimising freedom campers impact on any area in the district has to be the ongoing goal.

I read recently that our mayor is having a similar conversation, albeit from a different direction from mine. He was saying that the Mount Egmont National Park infrastructure is not keeping up with visitor numbers. He said that this is a lack of infrastructure which is evidenced by the fact there's not enough car parking and we need a shuttle bus running up there.

Growth in visitor numbers does bring its own challenges and needs to be planned for and managed carefully. Just opening the Taranaki front door and inviting everyone in isn't the whole game, only part of it.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the NPOB Surf Club at 4.30pm on Monday 3 March.

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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Reflect and Reassess

One of the unexpected positives of vacating the Government benches has been the opportunity for the National Party to reflect and reassess policy.

After the last election, our share of the vote and large number of MPs in Parliament was an indication of continued strong appeal to New Zealanders. Rather than rest on that support our approach has been to look ahead. We have taken the opportunity to talk, listen and review over the last twelve months and we're looking forward to releasing eight discussion documents on key policy areas in 2019. Those documents will show our ongoing desire to deliver for everyone on the things that matter to them. I'll be very keen to see what local people think. In the meantime, March will be a busy month in the New Plymouth electorate.

Hon Nikki Kaye, our Education spokesperson, is joining me in a public meeting on the 25th March at the Plymouth International Hotel, to discuss education and hear the thoughts of the Taranaki community. This will be highly relevant after the recent Tomorrow's Schools meeting.

Similarly Hon Paul Goldsmith, National's spokesperson for Transport and Economic & Regional Development will be here on 1 April to get an update on how things are going and where we're headed.

We've also just had the local National Party AGM and have a strong enthusiastic grassroots organisation which is ready to get out and help build a stronger New Zealand. If you'd like to be part of that you'd be very welcome to come on board.

Jonathan Young
MP for New Plymouth



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Have your say on Ōākura's newest visitor attraction – Te Ara a Ruhihiwerapini

From Maunga ki Moana, from our mountain to the Tasman Sea, we're about to take the first steps on a \$4m million trail connecting Ōākura and Pukeiti.

Te Ara a Ruhihiwerapini will link these two popular tourist spots with a route along the flanks of the Kaitake Ranges, starting from the top of Surrey Hill Road.

The trail will be maintained by NPDC, and Taranaki Regional Council is funding it. The trail has the support of Nga Mahanga and Ngati Tairi.

The 12.2km shared trail won't be for thrill-seekers: it will be a relaxed ride, unlike purpose-built mountain biking facilities, and it's aimed at attracting families as well as casual walkers and riders.

We are planning for it to be about 2m wide with no section narrower than 1.5m, and there'll be crossings over 24 streams, some with bridges up to 12m long.

But what about other possible features? Should there be picnic spots? Places to grab Instagram-worthy photos? A car park at the top of Surrey Hill Road? Toilets?

Before we confirm a concept design we want to hear what Ōākura locals want to see. What would make this trail special for you?

We've got a feedback form online at newplymouthnz.com/HaveYourSay. Please spare some time before 20 March, and help us design a trail that locals will be proud of.

Where the name comes from:

Te Ara a Ruhihiwerapini – The Pathway of Ruhihiwerapini – is a respectful nod to local history.

The name has been given by local hapu. Ruhihiwerapini used to live in the area of modern-day Ōākura, and the area that the new pathway will go through was the route he would take when travelling inland.

Whether people walk or go by bike, Te Ara a Ruhihiwerapini will be a great addition to our lifestyle capital.

New Plymouth District Council



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HAVE YOUR SAY: NEW SHARED PATHWAY FROM ŌĀKURA TO PUKEITI

A shared pathway is being planned that will connect Ōākura with Pukeiti, starting at the top of Surrey Hill Road. It will be mostly on a paper road along the Egmont National Park boundary on the flanks of the Kaitake Ranges.

Before NPDC prepares a concept plan on the design of the pathway, named Te Ara a Ruhihiwerapini, we want to hear from Ōākura residents.

What would you like to see as part of this project? What should we keep in mind?

Please share your comments with us by Wednesday 20 March by filling in the online form at newplymouthnz.com/HaveYourSay.

For more information contact
New Plymouth District Council
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Puke Ariki Oakura Library

Well done to Elyssa (pictured below) who is thrilled with her new headphones, drawn as a prize as part of 'Out of the Book' our summer reading programme.

We had over 360 children sign up across all of our libraries and we were so impressed with the time and effort that the children put in.

For our smaller members, join us Thursday 7 March at Crackerjacks (our pre-school story time) for a relaxed half hour of rhyme, song and craft. No booking required, ideal for under 5s.

On Wednesday 13th March from 2pm-6pm come in and have your say at a drop-in session for the district wide road safety review.

The new 2019 Puke Ariki bookmarks are available now, make sure you come in and pick one up.

We always love hearing from our community – if you have any feedback, pop in and see us or connect with us on Facebook.

Ngā mihi
Vincenza Clark
Senior Librarian
- Ōākura Library



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

New Plymouth District Council



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The Spirit of New Zealand had a very special visitor

The Spirit of New Zealand visited New Plymouth at the end of February and well-known Taranaki philanthropist Dr George Mason, whose George Mason Charitable Trust has sponsored numerous students on the Spirit of New Zealand in the past decade, had his first ever visit aboard the ship!

Through the trust, George, (pictured on the left) who is now 90, has also sponsored a number of postgraduate students in the sciences and young people onto Outward Bound courses.

Knowing that George had never been on the Spirit of NZ, the ship's longtime volunteer port liaison officer for Taranaki, Ray Egaar (pictured right), arranged for George to get onboard and have a look around the vessel.

Spirit of Adventure Trust

The Golden Bearing

The Golden Bearing, a sculpture by New Plymouth artist Reuben Paterson, was the focus of two public events on Sunday 17 February aimed at children and adults alike. The event was held at Pukeiti gardens on Carrington Rd.

The action began at 10am with storytelling led by Puke Ariki's 'Discover It' children's librarians. Children were invited to bring their favourite 'Little Golden Book' and dress up in golden costumes. The mobile library was also be there and Founders Café had special golden treats.

In the afternoon Paterson himself was on hand to share the story behind his sculpture, and how and why he created it. A few dozen people came along to enjoy the talk.

Gold-bearing trees featured in the mythologies of a broad range of early civilisations and Paterson has also drawn on his Māori heritage (Ngāti Rangitahi, Ngāi Tuhoe) as a reference point. The work is a result of a three-month residence with the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in 2013. It has featured at the Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park and will also be seen at WOMAD in March.

The Golden Bearing will remain at Pukeiti until early March.

Pukeiti is open daily and entry is free. See www.pukeiti.nz. Along with Tūpare and Hollard Gardens, Pukeiti is owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council on behalf of the people of the region.

Hello from the Big Red Truck!

We'd like to firstly thank the TOM for giving the crew at the Oakura Fire Station space in this fine publication to help us keep in touch with you. Our main role as firefighters is to protect the life and property in our community, so keep an eye on this column for tips to keep your family and your property safe from harm. It also gives the brigade a chance to let you know what's happening in and around the station and let you know of any events coming up.

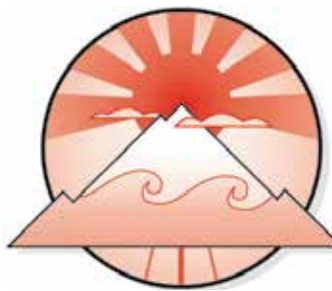
Speaking of events, did you know that 2019 marks the 50th year of the Oakura Fire Brigade? We'll be marking this special occasion in November so we'll let you know more about the public events to celebrate this closer to the time.

Ever wanted to poke your nose around the station? Curious about becoming a volunteer? We are having a Brigade Open Day on April 6th between 10am and 2pm so come on down and meet the crew and have a look around, families welcome.

Also remember that there is a current fire restriction in Taranaki. That means no outdoor open fires please unless you have a permit. Go to www.checkitsalright.nz to find out the status around Taranaki or apply for a permit.

There is often confusion as to what you can have and the website above outlines the rules around fires. Generally, as long as you are on private land, have water accessible and are 3 meters away from buildings or hedges, you can still have gas BBQ's, wood fired pizza ovens, charcoal BBQ's, chiminea's, cultural fires less than 2 square meters, braziers less than 0.5 square meters. No fires on the beach please, we know that's a part of the coastal lifestyle, but its public land and it's too risky in this dry season.

That's all from the crew on the Big Red Truck this month. Keep enjoying that summer!



Oakura School

It's 2019, back to school for a year of surprises and new beginnings. This year we have a number of new staff joining us at Oakura School. To welcome them we started school with a

wonderful pōwhiri and now all the teachers are in the classrooms doing an amazing job teaching the children.

We really appreciated their patience, while we asked them a few questions about themselves.

Mrs Page

Mrs Page is joining us in the Penguin Room, teaching our new entrant children. We asked her to describe herself in three words. She answered that she is kind, friendly and organised. An ideal teacher! We asked her what made her decide to be a teacher and she replied that she loves to work with children.



Mrs Knapp

Cheryl Knapp is doing a great job in the senior school, teaching in Room Ten. Previously, she taught at Sherwood School and she says if she could describe herself in three words they would be kind, funny and respectful.



Mrs Batley

Mrs Batley shared with us what she enjoyed the most when she was a kid and went to school. She told us it was most definitely reading time, although her favourite subject to teach is maths. Mrs Batley is teaching in Room Eight.



Miss Buick

Miss Buick is very kind and loved

meeting all the friendly staff and children when she arrived. When we asked her for something fun about herself she said I honestly have the fluffiest cat alive. She became a teacher because she loves to see kids understand things and comprehend the things she's teaching. Mrs Buick is teaching in Tawa Room.



Mrs Nightingale

Mrs Nightingale is originally from Stratford. We asked her what she liked about Oakura School and she said she is really enjoying getting to know the children. Mrs Nightingale is working in Room Four.



Miss Bain

Miss Bain says that her favourite subject to teach is writing. Her advice for the kids was to never give up, keep persevering and try, try, try and, if all else fails, try again. Mrs Bain is teaching in Room Three.



Mrs Salisbury

We asked Mrs Salisbury about any advice she had for struggling children and she replied that in Room 6 they believe in having a growth mindset. She believes that children will succeed if they always have maia (confidence). She replied that children will succeed if they always have maia (confidence). advice Mrs At Oakura she is enjoying welcoming community hard-working

Great Salisbury! School the

and children.

The Oakura School community is very happy to welcome these wonderful teachers to Oakura School and we wish them the best for 2019. It's going to be a cracker!

Written by Jaeden Rasmussen (12 yrs) and Catherine Rielly-Leadbetter (12yrs)



Room 6 they believe in having a growth mindset. She believes that children will succeed if they always have maia (confidence). She replied that children will succeed if they always have maia (confidence). advice Mrs At Oakura she is enjoying welcoming community hard-working



Coming Events

March

- 5 Class Swimming Displays
- 11 Taranaki Anniversary Day
- 12 R6 Swimming Display at Aquatic Centre 9:30-10:30
- 18 Y7/8 Athletics at Okato -postponement day 19th
- 20 Y5/6 Athletics at Okato -postponement day 21st
- 22 Ceilidh Night (Celtic Barn Dance) in Omata Hall 7 -9:30pm
Omata Community Hall Fundraiser
Limited to 100 tickets, all ages welcome
Tickets \$20 each BYO drinks, supper and entertainment provided
- 26 Weetbix Tryathlon

April

- 2 Y6-8 Swimming Sports at Bell Block pool
- 3 3D Conferences -school finishes at lunchtime
- 4 3D Conferences -school finishes at lunchtime
- 11 ANZAC Commemoration 1:30pm all welcome
- 12 Term ends 3pm
- 29 Term 2 begins

Lead Ambassadors

We are pleased to announce Charlotte Butler, Annabelle Joyce, Vaydim Noonan and Cooper James as our 2019 Lead Ambassadors.



BoT Update

At the end of 2018 we had ERO visit the school for the regular review and the final report is available online www.ero.govt.nz. All the discussions we had with the ERO team were very positive and the report makes for great reading.

Headline news at the end of the year was teachers' strike action. I am proud of our staff here at Omata and also the Board for getting behind this, as I feel the big education picture is not being seen by many. Yes the headlines read and focused on pay, but bigger issues weren't highlighted as much. Teacher numbers: who is going to be there to do the job for what may well be our grandchildren? As always you need to turn to page 3 for the real

story behind the headline and get informed on the on-going issues that face the profession.

Student achievement, setting goals, targets and reviewing data, is something the Board and management are continuously working very hard on to get the best outcomes for all students. The learning support programmes, coordinated by our SENCO, Bridgit Barleyman, comes to mind as being a great example of the help we provide for learners; with fantastic results coming forward in the literacy and numeracy reports at our last Board meeting.

Hopefully you all had the opportunity to get along and see the amazing show in December, 'Omata in Wonderland', what a wonderful evening. We are looking forward to working with our two new staff members and having a brilliant 2019 year as our roll steadily grows.

Hamish Logan BoT Chairman

Welcome to Omata - Laura Jensen



I have moved from Palmerston North, where I grew up. I was previously teaching year 3's at Fairfield School in Levin. I love teaching drama. In my free time I like to do yoga, go swimming, skiing and walking. I am enjoying Omata School and teaching the year 1's and 2's in room 5. I like how the children at Omata never give up and always give things a go. I am excited to live

in the Taranaki area and explore all the wonderful things this region has to offer.

Welcome to Omata - Reece Williams

Having grown up in Omata, I am excited to be teaching collaboratively with Jemma Glasgow in the Year 7 and 8 class at Omata School.

I have taught in a few schools around the country including Highlands Intermediate and Spotswood Primary. I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Omata and have been kindly welcomed by the whole community. I look forward to sharing my passions of history, reading, sport and student led-learning with the students.



**Ngā mihi nui
Karen Brisco - Principal**



SPOTSWOOD COLLEGE

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngāmotu

Welcome back to another fabulous year at Spotswood College. The year has started off with some well designed activities that helped us to reconnect and prepare for the exciting curriculum changes.

We have rolled out BYOD across the whole school ensuring equitable access to all students and ensuring no year level is disadvantaged. We have over 500 devices that are able to be loaned out during the school day. All classes are available through our online platforms at all times so students can progress their learning.

Our wide ranging innovative literacy, numeracy, impact inquiry, pop ups and STEAM courses are underway with courses in place



like Dystopian World where students creatively write pieces that they then use the technology to design graphics fit for publication; Crime Bytes where psychology, maths and science is combined to investigate criminal patterns and behaviour and real crimes are solved; and Takutai where students use latest architectural technology to design and create environmentally sound buildings for the Taranaki coastline.

Lastly a huge congratulations to following students who achieved outstanding results last year:

Jai Tarn - OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP in Painting
Ronan Avery - SCHOLARSHIP in Chemistry
Ashlan Stening - SCHOLARSHIP in Design
Paris Brown - SCHOLARSHIP in Painting
Amber Donald - SCHOLARSHIP in Painting

Students At The Centre Of Learning Orientation

The term begun with 3 days of orientation where students had the privilege of hearing from TED x future focused speakers Connor Eagar, founding member of Naki Bots and Adnan Belushi innovator and entrepreneur and owner operator of Johnson Corner. Students also took part in a range of inquiry and design thinking activities in preparation of the new curriculum. And of course had some fun based on connecting, strengthening and inspiring each other including our inaugural wave to 2019 and mini Spotty Idol.

Spotswood Sizzling Summer BBQ

This opportunity for new students and families to connect with staff was a great way to begin to strengthen our partnership

between home and school. Great food and entertainment was enjoyed by those who attended.

Cultural And Sporting Success

Congratulations to Spotswood College pair Meli Naborisi and Keegan Joe, pictured bottom photo, who won gold in the NZSS Senior Boys Beach Volleyball event, only a week after winning the National U19 Beach Volleyball title at the same venue.

Congratulations also to Erin Metcalfe pictured below as she comes out of the water, who won the trophy for the first U16 swimmer home from a 3.6 sea swim in the recent Flanagan Cup.

Congratulations to Tenaya Richardson who placed first in the mixed TSSSA long board surfing competition.

Sports / Clubs 2019

Are well and truly underway with a large number of students, staff and community members in to help boost our co-curricular participation and competition. We have a wide range of activities on offer and invite other members of our learning community with great ideas on offer to organise a meeting through the school office so we can continue to grow and support our young people and each other. To ensure our young people have a balance between on line and off line time as well as sports and clubs we have a wide range of active movement courses on offer and a creative and energising wellness centre.

Reminder school finishes at 2.00pm every Wednesday with a wide range of clubs and sport practices available for students to take part in.

Nicola Ngarewa
Principal



Coast to Coast-gutsy girls

Amy Cunningham and Anne Carrington took on New Zealand's legendary multisport adventure race, the Coast to Coast, on 8th and 9th February.

Amy, from Oakura, and Anne, also from Taranaki, ran, cycled and kayaked 243km across the South Island from Kumara on the West Coast to New Brighton (Christchurch) on the East Coast over two days.

Competing against the likes of Richie McCaw, Amy and Anne placed 6th in their category and 60th overall. Like Richie, they completed the event in tandem, meaning they each had to do the entire course whilst staying within 50m of each other at all times and paddling the 70km kayak leg in a tandem boat.

"It was an incredible experience and a great challenge to take on. We'd both ran marathons and did a lot of trail running before signing up, but needed to learn to road cycle and whitewater kayak pretty quickly."

"243km is a decent distance, but it's totally achievable. One of the highlights was the 30km mountain run up Goat Pass in the Arthur's Pass National Park.

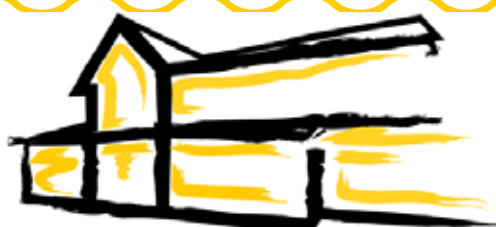
The views were spectacular. You're literally running up a river bed, jumping and clambering from boulder to boulder as you try to navigate up and over a mountain (with very few track markings!). There were about 30 river crossings, some of which were pretty fast flowing and sometimes up to our armpits!"

The 70km kayak section down the mighty Waimakariri River was not for the faint hearted. Paddling hard for 6+ hours is no easy feat, but add to that some challenging rapids, bluff turns, submerged boulders and a 35km isolated gorge, this leg is what typically puts off most competitors. The ladies described it as being "a bit hairy but certainly got the adrenaline going."

Amy and Anne, now living on Waiheke Island and in Auckland respectively, are now planning their next adventure, maybe further afield this time. "We'll definitely do Coast to Coast again too, it was such an awesome event to be part of and you get to experience some stunning, completely untouched parts of New Zealand. We'd recommend it to anyone wanting to take on a good challenge - definitely one for the bucket



Photo below: Amy and Anne after crossing the finish line and reaching the East Coast at New Brighton, Christchurch. Thei support crew for the event, Valerie Grimba and Steve McClory, were dressed as Forrest Gump.



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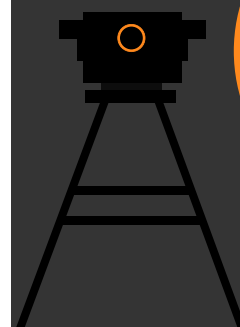
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Presidents News

We've had plenty of awesome weather lately and we've had a huge increase in green fees which is great for the club. We've had 13 new members since the beginning of the year which is very encouraging for our club. A big welcome to our new members and returning members. We are doing a lot of

improvements within the clubrooms and also on the course. We have had the tree loggers in and removing trees which are a health and safety issue either overgrown or disrupting the greens which will be a minor disruption in the next few weeks but needs to be done. We will replant with natives.

We had a very successful wedding last week at the club and we do encourage anyone to come and have a look at our clubrooms for hire.

We have had a few outside Clubs visiting lately and once again would like to encourage any other clubs to come visit as our members are always keen to visit other clubs.

Womens Division News

The Women's Opening Day competitions celebrating the beginning of the season and were held on Saturday 2nd February and Tuesday 5th. The Jocelyn Garcia Vase played for on the Weekend Opening Day was won by Kay Cavey and Karen Wallace with Jacqui Koch and Diane Meagher runners up. The Summer Cup played for on the Midweek Opening Day was won by Deborah Johnson.

Once the Opening Day competitions are complete the 2019 programme is underway. The next week saw Jacqui Koch and Allie Cooper-May win the Monnie Hannan trophy. This was a significant win for Allie as she has only joined Kaitake after joining the Quick 6 beginners group last year. Well done, Allie. Runners up were Janice Farrant and Diane Meagher.

The finals of the Askew Plate was won by Sally Kwon with Kaye Cavey runner-up and the Fougere Cup was won by Joy Greenlees with Noreen Potts runner up.

The Taranaki Weekday and Weekend Pennants have started. The Weekend team has played two rounds while the weekday pennant team has played one. Both are off to a slow start with neither managing a win. Early days.

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 boys Pennant teams have both had a win at Waverley so are now on the points board. The Foreman Trophy was played and Kaitake had two teams entered but unfortunately didn't win but played very well. Congratulations to Manukorihi for their win. We had a very successful Mitre 10 Tradies Day very wet but had great fun throughout the day. A huge thankyou to our sponsors Mitre 10, Metalcraft & Tasman Toyota who sponsored the HOLE IN ONE. The prize being a Toyota Hilux but no winners this time.

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 February 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

Kaitake Golf Club, your local club, situated on the Main South Rd, 1km south of the Oakura village, is keen to acquire more local volunteers. And you DON'T have to be a golf member to be a volunteer. If you would like to share your past skills or just be that helping hand, the club would love to offer you that breath of outdoor fresh air and the close companionship of other likeminded mates. There are numerous tasks and projects that the club preforms weekly, so whether you're skilled or not, you will mould into their team.

The club house recently received a face lift internally with new paint, carpet and caterers to attract community functions such as funerals, weddings, meetings etc. The course has undergone major improvements to not only attract new members but new residents to the district.

New tee signs will be proudly displayed around the course to bring them into the new era.

Contact Denise at the club on 06 75 27665 to find out more.



Busy times continue at the surf club.

We have had our local Taranaki Champs for both our Juniors and Seniors. Both good carnivals with our Juniors finishing up second club overall.

The beginning of February our Oceans had a small crew head over to Whangamata to compete in the Eastern Region Junior Champs. We had some great conditions and our kids performed really well, definitely a good taster before heading to the Mount.

By the time The TOM arrives in your letterbox our Oceans' 19 team would have travelled to Mount, competed and travelled home. We have 26 athletes competing this year, a great bunch of kids who have shown a huge amount of dedication and motivation. Watch this space to see how they get on.

A few weeks down the track and our Senior team will also head over to the Mount for their Nationals, March 21-24 March - possibly competing while you are reading this! Good luck to all of you, you have had a great season so far.

Our sport season then finishes off with our IRB team competing in Dunedin April 6-7. Handy for Zoe & Tessa who are at university in Dunedin, no so handy for the rest who live in NP and Oz. Mikey & Lachie are aiming for their third consecutive age group title win and are hoping to impress the NZ selectors for the 2020 NZ IRB team.

Finally, our lifeguard patrol finishes up Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. We can't thank our lifeguards enough, for giving up their weekends to patrol the beach and keep us all safe. It is great to see so many people swimming between the flags, making their job a little easier.

Please stay safe swimming, check the conditions before you go in and parents please always watch your kids in the water.

Our Nip Nips (under 7's) had their very own ribbon day, pictured below, which they loved! They competed for ribbons and certificates and the opportunity to stand on the podium. It was a fantastic morning, filled with a whole lot of super cuteness.





Club Championships

Adam Collins, Wayne Robinson, Andy Shearer and Kevin Gray retained the highly coveted fours club championship with a comfortable win over the Steve Muller skipped quartet of Kurt Smith, Paul Coxhead and Roy Phillips. The game was played on a Friday evening and both teams thrilled the crowd with great entertaining bowls. However, the Collins outfit played true to their favourites tag and held firm to close out the game 23 - 11.

Jim Priest won the senior singles titles with a hard-fought win over Steve Muller to secure victory in the championship singles final. In blustery and difficult conditions Muller took an unexpected early lead but Priest stormed home for a well-earned and convincing 21 - 9 win.

Rod Smith has made it through to his first junior singles final. He will play either Kurt Smith or Paul Coxhead who will battle it out for a place alongside Smith in the final. Good bowling to the final 3 contestants.

Interclub Tournaments

In a tense and hard-fought final round of the mid-week Avery Cup, Oakura won 3 from 4 games to dramatically win back to back titles in the narrowest of margins over a gallant Fitzroy. Congratulations to all the players and to selectors Roy Phillips and Ted Barrett for orchestrating an excellent victory.

A successful weekend was in order for the two Oakura teams contesting the highly competitive 2day Inglewood classic fours (Spurdle) tournament. The Adam Collins led team of Tony McAlevey, Wayne Robinson, Kurt Smith and the Jim Priest skipped quartet of Alan Bridgeman, Bruce Jackson and Steve Muller both finished equal 2nd on 46 points. However, a greater points differential saw the Collins team take bragging rights and overall second position. It was a tremendous effort by all the players and a great result for the club.

Club News

Special thanks go to Mike Vickers, Rod Smith, Paul Coxhead and Bruce Jackson for their great work in maintaining the surrounds of the club throughout the year. The surrounds are always presented in fantastic condition and enhance the enjoyment of playing bowls at Oakura.

Oakura has received praise from a number of the games' stakeholders relevant to the high quality and good performance of our green. Congratulations go to the greenkeepers Wayne Robinson, Alan Bridgeman and their helpers who do a fantastic job every week.

Thanks to the Central New Zealand Zephyr Club members who utilised the club facilities for their yearly get together. Paul Coxhead prepared and cooked a very successful hangi and I believe there was plenty of reminiscing of the good old times over a few ales and wines.

The Underarm Bowler

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. And 2 x 1 hour sessions at Oakura Hall 6am on Monday & Wednesdays. 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

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



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