



TDM

OAKURA

SEPT 2019

*Kaitake Football Club - triumphant league winners in their first season together
- more on page 23*

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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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0800 843 866

027 4126117

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



From the Editor



As local body elections approach, I am once again struck by how community minded so many of the wider community are by putting their names forward to stand for council, regional council, wards and the hospital board.

It is also good to see a growing number of women putting their hand up. I've never supported the notion that women should be represented just because they are women, I would rather see the right person get the right job for the right reason regardless of gender. But I do think having women round the debating table and representing issues with a female perspective has to add to a solid debate and a good decision making process.

I see no women have stood for the Kaitake Community Board and the board has been adopted unopposed. I can only assume that being on the KCB isn't a job that local women aspire to.

I wish all the candidates the best of luck.

I recently returned from a brief holiday over the ditch in Oz - visiting the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

A highlight was the number of whales I saw. Most were mothers with calves and they were just lolling around with their babies. Everyone where ever we went were in awe of these magnificent creatures. I also visited a whaling station, now a museum which had closed down in 1978. The graphic images of how whales were captured and slaughtered will remain a vivid memory. I can't quite get it straight in my head that it was once ok, accepted and encouraged to kill whales. Thank goodness we can now observe these creatures in their natural habitat without fear of them being slaughtered. I just wish we saw more of them along our own coastline. Pictured left are a few of the whales I photographed in Oz.

Kim

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



Macaroni and Cheese Competition Winners Declared!

On Saturday 24 August New Plymouth restaurants competed in the first annual Devon Intermediate School Mac n Cheese Throwdown for the title of best mac n cheese. The public voted Local's Cafe as their top pick with Arborio Restaurant in 2nd place, and Deluxe Diner a close third. Celebrity judges Andrew Judd, Emma from the The HitsFM Taranaki and Madison from PIHMs voted Local's Cafe as their #1, Deluxe Diner 2nd, and Chaos Cafe third.

Over 120 people attended and the school raised around \$2000, with an event unlike any other for sunshades to cover an outdoor education space. The public bought tickets to taste and vote for their favourite mac n cheese. Many voters remarked how full they felt after only sampling five-six restaurants, but were game to keep eating and make it fair for all who entered!

"This new fundraiser will assist the school in creating a sun-safe space for the students to enjoy a wonderful outside learning area. Devon has outdoor concerts for the students in the warmer weather, and currently it's exposed. Thank you for helping us raise money for the sunshades so our students don't get sunburnt, a real health hazard here in Aotearoa," says principal Jenny Gellen.

A real community event, several area businesses helped out. Fonterra was a sponsor and provided the cream and cheese for the competitors amongst other Fonterra treats, Mitre 10 loaned out topiary to decorate the hall, and Birdie Cafe and Public Catering donated salads to balance out all the cheesy goodness. Raffle prizes were made possible by The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Gift Shop, PaknSave, The Hits Taranaki, and Nelita Byrne with tickets to the rugby and the Pop-Up Globe Theatre.

One of our celebrity judges Andrew Judd, has this to say "I'm happy to support Devon Intermediate School and this new type of fundraiser is great to be a part of from the beginning."

A few Oakura families attended and were enthusiastic about the evening. Laura McNeil (age 11) said "I thought it was a great fundraiser and a cool way to have dinner. My favourite was the Deluxe Diner mac n cheese. I also had a great time with my friends." Laura's mum Mel McNeil observed, "Loved the socialising and discussions around food and the fact that dinner was sorted!"

Sam Dixon came with his wife Megan and all their children. "For our family of six, the timing was good. We knew dinner was taken care of at a reasonable cost for all of us and that it was over early enough (6.30), so we could get home and get the kids to bed after a fun night."

Joanna Harrison (age 12) said "What a delicious and creative fundraiser!"

Emma from the The HitsFM, a mac n cheese judge said. "A great start to a tradition for Devon Intermediate School. As the word gets out, I think this macaroni and cheese competition will just grow and grow."

The official winners: Peoples choice -

1st. Locals cafe, 2nd. Arborio, 3rd. Deluxe Diner

Judges certificates - Chaos best flavour, Chaos best texture, Local's Café - best looking

George's best creative flair

Judges ranking- the winner of the BEST Mac n Cheese 2019

1st Locals cafe, 2nd Deluxe Diner, 3rd Chaos Café.

Pictured below: Joanna, Hannah, and Laura using their yellow score cards to vote for their favourite macaroni and cheese.

Bottom: Judge Andrew Judd taste testing the mac and cheese



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Henry's Heroes SPCA Fundraiser Quiz Night★

Where: Butlers Reef, Oakura
When: Tuesday 1 October 2019

Time: 6.30 pm

Bring: Gold coins for raffles

Entry fee: \$10 per person

Maximum of 8 people per team

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3rd prizes to be won!**



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Oakura Medical

This September 10th is World Suicide Prevention Day. Depression and other mental health conditions have been very topical in the media lately and it's not hard to see why:

- Approximately 1:5 New Zealanders will have a serious mood disorder (including depression), at some time in their life.
- Approximately 1:7 young people in New Zealand will experience a major depressive disorder (and 1:5 will experience some kind of serious mood disorder) before the age of 24.
- Last year approximately 650 New Zealanders committed suicide, meaning roughly 87,000 people experienced profound grief or were otherwise directly significantly impacted.

Depression and anxiety are very common especially in rural populations such as ours. Mental health conditions are reported to be responsible for – one-third

of General Practitioners workload. At Oakura Medical we have a team of experienced staff who are here to help. With the help of the local PHO, we can offer subsidised mental health consultations as well as referrals for fully funded counselling and mental health support services.

If you or someone you know is suffering from low mood or anxiety please act. The statistics speak volumes but the affects it has on our community is much more stark and personal. Depression and anxiety are conditions that like other medical conditions can be effectively managed with a holistic and wrap-around package of lifestyle, psychological and medical treatments and doesn't need to be something that defines your quality of life. If there is anything we can do to help, please contact us for assistance on the contact details below.

Places to find help:

Oakura Medical Centre - (06) 752 7199

Taranaki Rural Support Trust - 0800 787 254

Lifeline - 0800 543 354 or free text 4357

1737 Need to Talk? - Free call or text 1737

www.depression.org.nz www.mentalhealth.org.nz

At Oakura Medical we are committed to improving the health of our patients and the coastal population through the provision of high quality, personalised and comprehensive healthcare.

To promote topical health issues and inform the community about how we can help we have arranged a monthly article highlighting different health issues affecting our community.

If you have any recommendations about conditions you would like discussed or ways in which we can improve our service please contact Oakura Medical on the contact details below.



Oakura Medical

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We're having a real love of LEGO in the library at the moment! Notice the masterpiece below. What started as a lone endeavour then developed into a team building effort using all the library's bricks!

We also have a huge variety of LEGO books you can borrow. Below are just a few of the titles guaranteed to inspire and challenge you (or your kids!) to design, build, create and play.

- Awesome LEGO Creations with Bricks you already have
- Genius LEGO Creations with Bricks you already have
- Brick Robots
- Brick Pets
- LEGO Ideas book: you can build anything

New tech:

Our public computers have recently changed operating systems, we'll do our best to help you manoeuvre the Google Chrome systems.

Search 'Puke Ariki Libraries' in iTunes or Google Play Store and download the new app.

You can do the usual renewing, searching the catalogue and managing your account - but you will also be able to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks, visit Pressreader, Kanopy, Beamafilm and link to our social media channels- all within one place. You can load all your family's library cards and find out when any of the Puke Ariki Libraries are open.

We're happy to help you set it up, come in and see us.

Award winning titles to check out:

· 'This Mortal Boy' by Fiona Kidman wins the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Adult Fiction Book 2019 and Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2019.

"A fictionalisation of the life and death of Albert Black, who was convicted for murdering 19-year-old Alan Jacques in an Auckland milk bar and hanged in Mt Eden Prison."

· 'Better than a Bought One' a cookbook by Jo Seagar wins the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Lifestyle Book 2019.

· 'Puffin the Architect' by Kimberly Andrews wins the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Children's Book 2019. This delightful picture book "cleverly written in verse and with wonderfully detailed illustrations...is a great read-aloud book".

Happy reading!
Charlie and Vincenza



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Women's participation is vital in decision making

There has been a lot of talk about diversity, making sure the next council elected is representative of its citizens. As there are slightly more women in this region than men, it would seem reasonable that half or more of those voted in be women. One of the reasons why it has not happened in the past may be that people are unaware of the positive input women can have at a governance level.

I have heard it said that good business acumen is important to govern a local district council. This might be important if the council is a 'business' but it is not. A business wants to make money from its customers. What if the council was considered as a not-for-profit organisation, where the actions of the organisation are to serve its members (in this case citizens), at the most reasonable cost. Worldwide three out of four employers of not-for-profits are women.

It could make good sense then to have women around the council table. The international gender equality organisation Women Deliver state that, "Women have a greater responsiveness to citizen needs, increased cooperation with others and promote a more sustainable future". New Zealand has a history of women's organisations making a difference. One organisation that I have read about from Sandra Coney's writings, that I have always admired is 'New Zealand Women's Food Value League'. It operated from 1937-1948. It promoted home gardening and composting, and lobbied for state houses to have fruit trees planted in their gardens. There are bound to be many of those fruit trees still around. I knew of a very old lemon tree that existed on a backyard that once was a state house. Women's participation in governance can add another whole level of ideas to any decision making, simply because they have a whole life time of experience from a different perspective. There needs to be a good number of female representatives, because women are not a homogeneous group. Factors like age, education, rural or urban, mean women have different life experiences that lead to different priorities.

You don't have to be a feminist to vote for women, you just need to understand that the district needs women around the decision making table, because half the people that the decisions are being made for are women. There is a new voting system this year that ranks candidates. Women need to be ranked in the top five to ensure solid representation.

As Madeleine Albright said, "women in power can be counted on to raise issues that others overlook, to support ideas that others oppose, and to seek an end to abuses that others accept."

Louise James



PAULINE LOCKETT ✓
FOR TARANAKI DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Vote 1

Committed to quality healthcare for all.

Authorised by Pauline Lockett, 83a Belt Road.



Louise James for Council

Louise James

VOTE 1

Authorised by Louise James, 210A Tukapa St, New Plymouth

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to New Plymouth District Council

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staceyhitchcock@live.com



0274154233

Authorised by Stacey Hitchcock, 25 Kotare Drive, New Plymouth



Deb Tawa

FOR COUNCIL

Dedicated to progress • Committed to community

Approved by Deb Tawa, 25 Beach Street, Fitzroy, New Plymouth



CHARLOTTE LITTLEWOOD



REGIONAL COUNCIL

Authorised by Charlotte Littlewood, 8 Bright Way, New Plymouth

It's been a privilege to be your Regional Councillor for the last three years.

Vote Charlotte for:

- Environmental stewardship
- Financial acumen
- Regional prosperity

Experience:

- Deputy Chair, Policy and Planning Committee, TRC
- Director Port Taranaki, WITT Council and Chartered Member of Institute of Directors
- Masters of Finance, BA (Hons) Econ

National continues to run the ruler over policies heading into 2020

As Spokesperson for Regional Economic Development (North Island) I was excited at the potential of policy ideas launched in our Economic Discussion Document. These are practical sustainable solutions to our country's needs grounded in reality and commonsense.

Some of the proposals have generated a great deal of talk around the country:

- Ensuring that help gets to the people who need it most, by identifying wasteful Government spending and targeted Social Investment to make lives better.

Taking the pressure off taxpayers' pockets by considering new approaches to infrastructure funding and procurement.
Making it cheaper and easier for people to get things done, by repealing 100 regulations in our first six months in Government.
A tax system that incentivises New Zealanders into work, indexing tax thresholds to the cost of living and encouraging productivity and investment.
No new taxes in our first term.
Repeal the Oil and Gas exploration ban.

The last point has long been National's intention because we recognise that gas helps keeps the lights on at a price people can afford. I've stated many times that gas is an effective transition fuel as we work towards a low-emission economy. There are huge opportunities for Taranaki as we move forward, particularly around utilising the skills and knowledge of the energy sector. There will always be windless and sunless days, and days with low lake levels and gas has far fewer emissions than burning imported coal to meet our energy needs.

Finance spokesperson Paul Goldsmith will visit New Plymouth on the 5th of September to present the document and gather feedback to help fine-tune our policies.

We've released a number of discussion documents this year and have had a positive response from the public in the areas of education, small business, the environment, seniors and the primary industries sector. All those documents are available online at https://www.national.org.nz/discussion_documents. We want to make sure they are as relevant as possible to your day to day and longterm needs, and would appreciate hearing your thoughts.

National is doing the work in opposition to make sure we have the policies that New Zealanders want.

Jonathan Young, MP for New Plymouth, National Party Spokesperson: Energy and Resources, Regional Development (North Island)



JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH




P 06 759 1363
E newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz
W www.jonathan.young.co.nz
f @MPjonathanyoung

Authorised by Jonathan Young MP • Corner of Gill & Liardet Street • NP

VOTE 1

RICHARD JORDAN

For Council

South West Ward

- Realistic
- Practical
- Working for your Community

1



Authorised by Richard Jordan 56 Rewa St. Inglewood

Kai Oranga skills course at Okorotua Marae - Oakura

The Kai Oranga programme aims to rebuild and re-insert knowledge that relates to traditional and contemporary food, sustainable practices, food production and management (kaitiakitanga) back into whānau, hapū and iwi settings.

Kai Oranga raises awareness of the relationship between the food that people eat and their overall health. By doing so, it links food with people's wellbeing (Rongoa).

This programme will teach you to :

- Design, plan and prepare a Māra Kai (Food Garden)
- Enhance the Mana of Oneone (Soil) by understanding the Soil Food Web and applying this knowledge through the art of compost making
- Grow Hua Parakore (Organic) kai that is nutrient dense and full of Mauri (Life Force)
- Harvest, forage, prepare and preserve Kai Rongoā (Healing Food)
- Practice observing Te Ao Tūroa (The Natural World) and enhance connections by aligning ourselves to the Maramataka (Māori Lunar Calendar)
- Exercise Kaitiakitanga by engaging in Awa (River) monitoring and local pest eradication programmes
- Create and contribute to heirloom Seed Banks
- Strengthen relationships with community by contributing to local food sovereignty
- Learn, practice and grow your Tikanga and Te Reo Māori through Karakia, Waiata and Kōrero

Full time 40 week program
StudyLink Approved
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Ends: May 2020
Weekly Classes
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Where: Okorotua Marae,
Oākura, Taranaki
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If you or your whānau are keen on joining us on this journey of hauora please contact me for more information...

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CERTIFICATE IN KAI ORANGA LEVEL 3



Kai Oranga raises awareness of the relationship between the food that people eat and their overall health. By doing so, it links food with people's wellbeing (Rongoa). This programme will teach you to grow your own health food for your whānau and your marae and pass this knowledge on to others.

TO ENQUIRE PLEASE CONTACT

Kaiako: Tara-Lee Manu
E: tara-lee.manu@wananga.ac.nz
M: 021 034 1948
Venue: Okorotua Marae, Oākura
Duration: 40 Weeks
Start Date: September 2019
End date: May 2020

Free Programme conditions apply.
Programme start dependant on student numbers.

For any further enquiries contact Donna Takitimu
(National Programme Co-ordinator: Kai Oranga)
Email: donna.takitimu@wananga.ac.nz **Mobile:** 027 649 9257

ENQUIRE NOW!



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Candidate Profile

PETER HENDERSON

TEAM PLAYER LOCAL VOICE

Vote

1NPDC SOUTH WEST WARD

AUTHORISED BY PETER HENDERSON



My name is Peter Henderson and I am an Okato farmer with a B.Hort.Sc., keen on conserving and enhancing natural resources.

Sound youth education is vitally important. I have chaired the local school BOT and currently tutor agriculture in schools and at WITT. My life experience, environment connection and farming ensure I'm a reasonable voice: sound, experienced, understanding grass roots needs. I expect transparency and inclusiveness on council.

My family and students keep me connected with young minds – debating their future vision: opportunities, sustainability, innovation and diversity for our district. I would welcome any feedback and communication via facebook.

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Kaitake Community Board

We all should know a healthy democracy depends on New Zealanders exercising their right to vote judiciously in elections. However there won't be an election for the four person Kaitake Community Board this time as the positions will be filled by the four candidates who did put their names forward.

The new board comes into effect in mid October. Below are the profile statements of the members of your next board. As they are not needed, they will not now appear in the information booklet that will be sent out with the NPDC voting papers. However we thought it would be a good idea for the community to see them. In other words to see what your board members stand for.

First however I want to acknowledge the 12 years of excellent service Mike Pillette has provided us on the KCB. He has decided not to stand again. He is retiring from his deputy principal's position at Fitzroy School at the end of the year and wants to spend some time coming to grips with retirement. He tells us he may well decide to throw his hat in the ring again in the future, but now is not the time.

Mike will continue as the coordinator of the Oākura community civil defence emergency plan, for which we are grateful. On behalf of us all Mike, thanks for your valuable and insightful input over the many years you've been involved. Enjoy your rest!

So here's your new community board for the 2019 - 2022 period.

Paul Coxhead - I am standing again for the KCB. It will be my third term on the board. For those who don't know me, I have lived in our fantastic village for over 40 years, in our present home on Messenger Tce for 38 of those years.

My wife Pat and I have been involved in many clubs and organisations over this time and I am keen to keep supporting our community.

I have enjoyed the last six years with the KCB and look forward to serving you for the next three.

Paul Veric - As a proud resident of Oākura, I am excited about the potential of contributing to our amazing Kaitake community.

Our family is firmly entrenched (and involved) in the local community. As an example I have been recently elected onto the Oākura School BOT. I will continue to champion the fantastic work of the current board and ensure:

- i) The sustainability and uniqueness of our bio-diverse environment is respected
- ii) A commitment to sensible and managed growth
- iii) KCB continue to expertly represent its constituents
- iv) We work strategically to set up our community for future generations.

My recent experience as a secondary school Principal (NPBHS), as a commercial and not-for-profit senior manager, would ensure a balanced, pragmatic and a relationship based approach to protecting and advocating for our community.

Graham Chard - Local body elections are an opportunity for those with a passion for their community, and who possess strong leadership skills, to put their name forward to help shape the direction of their district.

My years of service in the New Zealand Defence Force, my experience in successful local business ownership/operations, and my involvement on Boards, Trusts, Committees and Associations displayed the passion and skills to encourage me to successfully stand in the last elections.

These attributes, coupled with what I have learnt, been involved with, and achieved over the past three years serving on the Kaitake Community Board has encouraged me to stand again. Whilst I am "male", I can assure you, contrary to NPDC Media Release of 26/7/19, I am neither "pale" nor "stale" and, if elected I commit to continue to work hard to represent you and act as a strong advocate for the interests of our community.

Doug Hislop - Representing and advocating on behalf of the community is a responsible and busy role. It involves building relationships through lots of community engagement. Having served five terms on the Kaitake Community Board, I know how important it is to listen, enquire, ask 'why' five times and always ponder, whatever the issue, is this for the betterment of the community? I believe I have a well-founded knowledge of the current challenges and issues we face, and through experience have developed a good understanding of how the council machine operates.

I recognise that opportunities for growth and development are important to our community, and believe that such opportunities must be sustainable and have environmental and cultural integrity at their core. Therefore my principles remain unchanged, to take great care of our unique environment, to get things done, and for our community to remain an engaged and vibrant place to live, work and play.

I do think recent events, although negative in their overall theme, has had a positive effect on our community. Many of our social layers are now far more interwoven as a result and that has to be a good thing. In the future more community issues are sure to arise. The KCB will continue to address them by connecting with whoever gets elected and sits at the council table or works within the council organisation.

Well that's it for this issue.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be held at the NPOB surf club on a date in late October after the elected members' swearing-in ceremony has been held.

Ka kite anō au i a kotou.

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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OAKURA 13

HALL OF DESIGN: A SPACE FOR CREATIVITY & GOOD VIBES

An inspiring shipping container transformation in the village, is a project that has been nearly two years in the making for locals, Jennie Aitken-Hall and Grant Aitken.

From selling the idea to the amazing landlords, collaborating on the meticulous design, gaining consents, and project managing the build - Oakura is now presented with a unique and beautiful structure, which is the new home of their business, Hall of Design (HOD).

So then came a stormy Saturday in August. The sky cleared, and the sun was a glimmer, as Hall of Design, Studio + Gallery officially opened its doors.

The occasion was a celebration for Hall of Designs team, clients and contractors, and supporters of the first exhibiting artist, Maryanne Shearman. The exhibition sold out in two days with seven of nine paintings being snapped up on opening night. Combine this with good vibes and happy clients, it was surely a momentous start, for both Hall of Design and Maryanne.

Hall of Design was established in 2006 and has now firmly landed in the heart of Oakura. Jennie and her team of designers create brands, publications, websites and bespoke marketing collateral and also present contemporary exhibitions, events and workshops to our vibrant village.

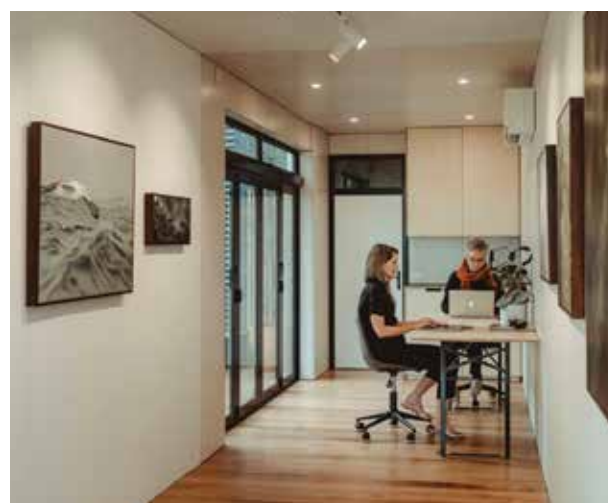
The gallery is a new component to their business, it was derived from Jennie and Grant's love of art, and a passion to present a platform for emerging and established artists.

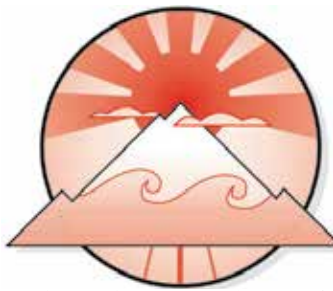
The current exhibition *Maryanne Shearman* is not to be missed. Local Oakura artist Maryanne, uses traditional oil and canvas to create absorbing modern images. Every 'snapshot-like' scene has many layers of luminescent colour, and equally as much soul. The exhibition closes 25 September with the next artist to be announced soon.

If you haven't already, pop in to view the beautiful art or for a chat with the team about your design project.

www.hallofdesign.co.nz

Facebook: @Hallofdesign.nz





Oakura School

As the weeks come and go we find ourselves halfway through Term 3 and so far it has been full of exciting opportunities. Over the past few weeks, Oakura School kids have been super active. Children have reached sports competition finals, while others have gone off to compete in maths quizzes, and many senior children have won prizes for their science work.

In the junior school, the children have had an ongoing series of lessons about fire safety. They learned to get down, get out and stay out; as well as having a fire escape plan in place at their homes and how to talk on the phone to emergency services. They found out that matches are for adults and that you should shout 'fire fire fire!' if you see a fire in your home. They also had a surprise visit from three firefighters.

The Year 3 and 4 children, as well as the rest of the school, have been learning about how to keep safe. They enjoyed their visit from the police and are looking forward to the Blue Light Breakfast coming to school at the end of term.

On Wednesday the 14th of August, two teams consisting of four people each, travelled to the Maths Spectacular Quiz at the Plymouth Hotel. The children had thirty minutes to answer questions that required good teamwork and maths and problem solving skills. In the year eight team we had: Samuel Salisbury, Allie Quinn, Catherine Rielly-Leadbetter and Katie Clough. In total they answered 12 questions, 7 of which they got correct. In the year seven team we had: Felix Field, Joanna Harrison, Fin Pendleton and Emma Jackson. They answered 12 all together and got 9 correct. It was a really tough competition, with many talented teams from other schools competing.

Earlier in the term, many senior children sent entries into the 2019 Science Fair. Children from all over Taranaki competed in challenges that included observational drawing, carrying out science investigations, scientific photography, science posters and robotics. The standard of entries was really high, so we were very pleased when many of our children took away prizes. Congratulations to them and well done to everyone who submitted entries.

Also in Year 7 and 8, there was a competition between Taranaki schools for rugby and netball. The rugby team played a close game against Auroa school, losing 32-29. They turned around their fortunes in their second game against Coastal Taranaki School, in which they triumphed and won. Over on the netball side of things we had one team go and compete in six games,



played over two days. They were all tough games but the girls developed their skills and teamwork well through these challenging games. Although they didn't win their games they gave 100% at all times.

Y7 and Y8 Inter School Rugby Team Kicking Off

Thankfully, our Year 5 and 6 netball team got into the finals for their inter school competition this year. And (drum roll please) they won the final! Congratulations to them for their great effort and thanks to all the kind people who helped with the game and a special shoutout to Mrs Zielties for organising putting together a wonderful netball day. Their score was 15-16 and that was after ten minutes of overtime!

Y5 and Y6 Netball Team - pictured top



Oakura students are clearly not afraid to get out there and enjoy all the experiences they have been presented with. And the fun experiences won't end there, what, with the cross country events and the special Bryce Jourdain scholarship which one of lucky children might be able to attend as well as an extra special school trip to the Winterfest. Also our speech competitions are coming up soon... All such amazing things to look forward to in the near future.

Jaeden Rasmussen (13yrs) and Catherine Rielly-Leadbetter (12yrs)



Enrolments for 2020 are well under way. Please ensure you are connected with us and you are fully involved in our robust transition process.

Open night was a well attended and successful evening where staff and students were able to offer a glimpse into the exciting world of learning at Spotswood College. Enrolment packs are available by request at the school office.



Upcoming Events

4th September - Course Selection Support Evening
11th - 17th September - Senior Practice Exams
18th September - IDP Day
25th September - Meet the Teacher

Uniform

It is envisioned that the new uniform will be available to purchase in Term 4.

Staff News

Spotswood College welcomes Nicola Healey to the staff who has been appointed as our Director of International Students joining us mid term and Trinity Lovell who will be working alongside students and staff in Te Waka Manaaki.

Community at the heart of who we are

Shave For a Cure Mellowpuff



Brave and bold leadership was in action with Savannah and Kobi Hislop raising funds in a variety of ways for the Mellowpuff Organisation. This included raffles, a pink mufti day and having their hair shaved in front of the school for this great cause.

48 Hour Film Festival

Four Spotswood College teams took part in the 48 Hour Film Festival where they had to plan, film and produce a 5 minute short film. Each team was given a genre to follow and a set of techniques that needed to be included. The team Flamingo Films, consisting of Maruata Ngarewa Cribb, Deon Corbett and Summah Watawari won the regional finals and their emotive piece will now go through to the nationals.

Global Citizenship

Spotswood College hosted students and staff from Hatsuchaiki High School, our sister school in Japan engaging in significant cultural exchanges and lessons that helped to strengthen our connections with each other.

Spotswood is also hosting staff and students from Dongguan High School in China for a month. This is an annual exchange which allows a strong transmission of culture and language for the learning community.



Cultural and Sporting Success

Five hours of intense chess competition saw our team bringing home 3rd place in the Taranaki Secondary School Chess Event.



Nicola Ngarewa Principal



September

- 10 Coastal Cross Country Years 4-6 1pm at Waireka Estate
- 12 Interschool Cross Country Years 7-8 1pm at Waireka Estate
- 17 Year 6 'Amazing Race' at Oakura 1pm
- 25 Taranaki Cross Country at Hawera
- 27 Music Assembly and Bronnie's Farewell 9am
End of Term 3pm

October

- 14 Start of Term 4

BoT Update

Kia ora koutou. I'd like to express a big thank you to the outgoing Board of Trustee members, who worked hard as your school representatives behind the scenes, ensuring our school's policies and key strategic planning have supported the delivery of a rich curriculum and high achievement. Bridget Eldershaw, Rachel Campbell and Hamish Logan – I wish you all the best and hope you make the most of your new free time!

I'd also like to welcome the new Board of Trustee members; Ginni Douglas, Josie Roberts and Darren James, who along Blair Withers and Bena Denton make up your new parent representatives along with principal, Karen Brisco, and staff elected member, Stuart Bennett. This team is highly skilled and friendly and I have every confidence in their ability, to govern and support the school well, bringing their expertise and ideas. I'd like to also thank all of the Omata staff for all your hard work, especially in light of the recent strikes. One of the privileges of being a board of trustee, is to observe the considerable thought and effort our staff undertake, often above and beyond, to support our children's education and wellbeing.

Let's enjoy the up coming spring holidays with some down time to rest and recuperate. With our busy schedules it's easy to forget that rest plays an important part of being able to work to full capacity and that this rest is vital especially to growing wee bodies and minds.

Bena Denton - BoT Chairperson

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Brisco Principal

The Omata Community and School Hall committee are holding a Ceilidh on Friday 18 October in the hall. This is a fundraising event to fund doors onto the orchard and the school fields. This is a family night and we'd love to see a full hall. If you have never heard of a Ceilidh then continue reading. This is to be our first ceilidh and we'd love it to become one of many.

What is a Ceilidh?

While some people are very familiar with the idea of a Ceilidh.... others are not so. Let's start at the beginning: Traditionally it is a gathering or social event, and it didn't

OMATA COMMUNITY HALL FUNDRAISER



CEILIDH NIGHT (KAYLEY)

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 7pm - 9:30pm

Tickets \$20

Pre-sale only (no door sale)

CONTACT : (06) 751 2308

CELTIC FOLK DANCE NIGHT AT THE OMATA COMMUNITY HALL, HOLLOWAY ROAD, OMATA

LIVE BAND

BYO DRINKS / SUPPER PROVIDED



necessarily involve any dancing. These days a Ceilidh is a sociable way to bring people together involving Scottish or Irish music and dance.

Children Ceilidh, old people Ceilidh, people with disabilities Ceilidh. It is an inclusive past time. It's fun. It's good to stimulate your blood flow and coordination. It makes you more attractive (probably!).

How do you pronounce the word?

For those unfamiliar with a Ceilidh, just the thought of asking about a Ceilidh can be a little daunting! How do you pronounce it? Simply put, it is said, "Kay-lee" or 'K LEE'. It is a Gaelic word meaning a gathering. To Ceilidh you will need: some coordination, a sense of fun and a bit of energy (various dance intensities for different energy levels).

Why might I choose to go to a ceilidh?

A Ceilidh is much more than simply enjoying Gaelic musical heritage. It is a great way to get people up and dancing. It is a fantastic way to meet people and interact in an informal way. See ad in this issue for ticket details.

For any queries please contact myself Tracey Lusk 752 7875 or the office at Omata School 751 2308

Predator Free by 2050? Only One Way to Find Out

Amelie Henderson Year 7 - Omata School won First Place at the Science and Technology Fair 2019 with this article.

Is Taranaki going to be able to pull their act together and get rid of predators? That is the question that everyone is asking. Some think that it is a dream, but I think it is a reality. Predator free Taranaki is a plan to get rid of all predators by 2050, and they are starting in Taranaki. This is an important cause because otherwise all our endemic species will be gone from the face of the earth, and we will never see them again. We don't want that do we? The government is planning to eliminate predators in Taranaki, and then spread all over New Zealand. If we stick to the plan, then it should all work out. But they have a bad starting point to work from. According to Taranaki Taku Tūrangā (2019) it is a fact that 81% of our birds, 88% of our reptiles and 72% of our freshwater fish are endangered. If we don't stop this soon, then all of our species will be gone. What I will be explaining to you is how the tech is improving slowly and we should have a pretty good chance at making effective traps soon, how people actually want Taranaki to be predator free, so therefore will work towards doing just that, how the government has it set that they are going to make us predator free, how the endemic species are breeding so the predators will have a hard time killing them all, how there are things like Zealandia and the Auckland Islands that are sanctuary's for the endemic species, and finally how people have been working at making us get rid of predators for a long time and how we can just team up with them.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 is that it is a known fact that technology is improving over the years, and in a few generations, it will probably be nearly smarter than mankind itself. So why couldn't we use that technology to eradicate the predators? Dr Elaine Murphy has invented (with the help of technology) the 'Spitfire'. This is her latest design. It is a machine that you attach to trees and it sprays a toxic waste that the predator consumes by grooming themselves. It only needs to be refilled every hundredth time. This is an ingenious design because it is not time consuming and no birds and plants can get caught in it. Where as with the traps we have now, birds or insects could get into it and die. There is sure to be more designs like this coming through over the next few years. This gives scientific evidence that we will get rid of pests eventually because of all the technology we have and we are using to get rid of pests, therefore this is the first reason why predator free could be a reality.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 is because people actually want to make Taranaki predator free. There have been things made like clubs for country people to get rid of their predators. It is where people from the Taranaki Regional Council will come and help you set up traps on your land and every once in a while they will come and check the traps and clean them out. There are also schools fundraising by selling traps to locals and then using the money they get to help the endemic species they have in their bush by buying tracking tunnels and traps and things to attract the special birds, bugs and reptiles. This will make a difference by attracting the special species by making them feel at home. They will also be getting rid of the pests by buying traps and tracking tunnels. They are also spreading the word that endemic species need help and there are ways you can do it. They are almost telling others that they need to make a stand against

predators. It isn't just the fundraisers spreading the word though. It is the people signing up to do the country club for eliminating predators to. It is in the news, so people think they want to do it and sign up as well. This will make predator free Taranaki a reality because people all over the country will band together and put out so many traps that the pests won't be able to live till 2050.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 is because we know how stubborn kiwis are, and we won't be giving up soon. We always follow through with what we decide to do, and we don't stop. There have been many times when we have had to stick up for ourselves and follow through with what we believe in. We are trying to eliminate one of our greatest enemies, predators. Since the government made the announcement that they had started up predator free 2050, everyone has stuck to it. Like the Nina restoration group. They are a 10 year old group this season and in those 10 years, the year 7-13 students from Hurunui college who make up the group have learnt an impressive array of kiwi handling skills. Also St Andrews primary school plans to trap predators and feed rescue raptors. They have become a kiwi bank predator free school. This will make Taranaki predator free by 2050 because if we stick to the plan and be as stubborn as we usually are, the predators will have a hard time surviving when we work at it.

The fourth reason that Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 is because the animals are breeding. They are having babies and then those animals are having babies and so on. This makes it hard for the predators to catch them because if they are breeding then the predators will not just have to kill them, but their babies as well. Dr pitman has been researching how to help endangered species breed, and has found out a lot. He says that it has been hypothesised that kākāpō have a diet that helps them to produce fertile eggs that produce their babies. If the Kākāpō keep doing this, soon they will not be extinct any more. This is going to help Taranaki become predator free by 2050 by having the nearly extinct birds, bug and reptiles breed more of themselves so it won't be so hard to save them from extinction.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 because people keep coming up with places like Zealandia and the Auckland islands. They are sanctuary's for the endemic species. Zealandia is situated in wellington, and is entirely predator free, with walls built around it so no predators can get in. It is a sanctuary for all endemic species, specialising in what they want and need. It is also built right next to peoples houses and back yards, so the people will be pleased when they see the species in their yards, and will want more. There is also a place called the Auckland Islands, which is an island made entirely for the really endangered species. It is surrounded by sea, so no predators can get into it. This makes it a safe place to keep all the endangered species. It is a place were you can normally spot the Kōkako, the Saddleback bird and the Kākāpō. It has all types of plants and trees that the species need, and every once and a while the scientists come over to check how they are doing. This will make Taranaki predator free by 2050 because if we make a sanctuary for the species then they will be safe from the predators and have some time to rest and breed. They will become less and less extinct and they will be able to be released back into the wild. The predators will keep getting cornered if we keep making places that exclude them and they will soon be gone.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050 because there have been people working at the Taranaki predator free goal for ages now.

There have been businesses at it for longer than we have been alive. Like DOC, they have been working at this goal for ages. They have been putting out traps, improving ways to trap them, and initially looking after the nearly dead species. There have been other companies working on this as well. Like the kiwi conversation club. They have been sending out magazines and working hard to get more people to join. Everyone is trying to make a difference in the world, and working hard to get this dream accomplished. This will make predator free 2050 possible because if there are people and businesses working on this already and that means that we can join with them and help to accomplish what they have already started.

Taranaki will be predator free by 2050. Technology is improving. People want this to happen. We are stubborn. Animals are breeding. Animal sanctuaries are helping the species and businesses are already doing this so we can just help them. People all around are wanting this to happen, and if we all band together, it might just work. For a final remark, I ask you, do you remember when you used to go outside and hear the birds chirping? And do you go outside now and hear almost nothing? I ask you, is this really what you want?



Opening Day

The club warmly welcomes any experienced and/or new bowlers to join with the members for the Opening Day

roll up (all equipment provided) on **Sunday 15th September at 1pm**. Opening Day is a great opportunity for the wider Oakura community to experience the club's friendly hospitality and for those interested in playing an opportunity not only to roll a few down but have any questions answered relative to the game and upcoming season.

A full bar will be available and afternoon tea will be provided after the bowls around 3.30pm. If you require further information please contact Steve Muller on 0211695863.

Playing Bowls

There is a common misbelief that to play bowls one must sacrifice every weekend of the season to the bowling gods. Yes, there are bowling tragics amongst us who tend to have withdrawal symptoms if one afternoon is cancelled due to inclement weather, however you can select and organise to play when and where your schedule allows. A full program of both club and centre tournaments are provided at the start of the season and together with the captain and/or selectors you can choose a bowling program that best suits your availability and lifestyle.

Special Membership Offer

The Oakura Bowling Club is offering all first-time bowlers a package deal with the offer of \$50 membership fees for the initial year, club polo shirt, use of new club bowls and free coaching sessions.

Winter Interclub Tournaments

Congratulations to the Oakura team of Roy Phillips, Jim Priest, Peter Murdoch, Colin Roberts, Paul Coxhead and Alan Bridgeman that finished 2nd in the Wednesday fours interclub competition played in the stadium over winter. Oakura teams have an enviable record in this competition with 9 titles and 2 runners up over the past 13 years.

The Oakura (under 10 years) team of Kurt Smith, Bob Anderson, Paddy Mullin and Steve Muller finished mid-table in the very competitive Thursday night competition.

Club News

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in keeping the surrounds and facilities in pristine condition over the winter break and those who helped Wayne Robinson with the winter green maintenance program. With the right weather conditions, the green will be at its playing best for the upcoming season.

The Vic/Sam trophy between Okato and Oakura is scheduled to be played on Sunday 29th of September at the Oakura green and clubrooms. It's great to see two coastal teams kicking the season off together.

The Underarm Bowler

Every day is a great day at the bowls club



Special Offer for first year bowlers

- **Oakura Bowling Club polo shirt**
- **\$50 first year membership**
- **Set of bowls for the 1st season**
- **Coaching sessions**

Contact Steve Muller (match convenor) - 0211695863



Presidents News

Things very quiet at the golf club at the moment. Weather hasn't been great so not much golf happening. Spring is round the corner so hopefully the weather will be kinder to our golf and we can get our summer handicaps back on track.

Our Mens Club Championships have now finished and a huge

congratulations to our winners and commiserations to our losers. The Ladies are going to start their championships next week so good luck to all the players.

Still a lot of work happening around the course, the 16th pond seems to be getting bigger and we have a few Muscovy ducks which we have acquired from a neighbour so the pond is starting to look very aesthetically pleasing nowadays.



Good golfing everyone and please coming along any time if you just want to come and try out golf. Give Denise a call at the office.

Clay Jordan - President

Womens Division News

For those playing golf the signs of spring are very welcome. The days are definitely getting longer and once we get past the rain and wind we can look forward to the days being warmer. Bring it on!

Winter takes its toll with illness and wet days but, with a bit of juggling, the competitions are being completed.

Congratulations to our Women's Top Dog winners. Helen Beaurepaire and Mary Barrett won the Weekday Division and Janice Farrant and Dianne Meagher the Weekend Division. September is Club Championships for both the 9 hole and 18 hole women with the finals being held on the 10th and 28th September respectfully.

The Kaitake Women's 72 Hole Matchplay Foursomes is a tournament much anticipated by many golfers both near and far. This year the dates have been moved to coincide with the opening of the Taranaki Garden Festival in order to attract more visitors from outside Taranaki. The organisation is progressing well and we are looking forward to a successful two days.

Feel free to phone Andrea Jarrold on 7514234 or 0273587001 or talk to Denise in the office.

Club Captain Report:

Matchplay Finals have now finished with the following results:

SENIORS: John Haylock & Jono Heath, Winner: John Haylock

INTERMEDIATE: Roger Clocke & Grant Hildred, Winner: Grant Hildred

JUNIORS: Wayne Gray & Alan Bennett, Winner: Alan Bennett

LIMITS: Martin Nield & Bill Honeyfield, Winner: Martin Nield

Congratulations to all the winners. Well done to all the boys. Weather wasn't the best but a good game by all.

All very quiet with the Men at the moment. All our major competitions have now been played so everyone settling into getting their handicap back on track with Spring around the corner. Weather beginning to warm up and looking forward to some sunshine.

Course is looking in great condition with a lot still happening around the course.

Club Captain - Tubs

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 (Under 12 yrs old)

Next Chippers Day will be Sunday 8th September 2019 and every fortnight after that.

Kim Woodward and Dom Squatriti along with Paul Haskell and Andrew Seale ex professional are usually there helping with the kids. Very much appreciate all the help and encouragement they give the kids.

Unfortunately Dom Squatriti will be stepping down as his son has been selected for the Taranaki Soccer Rep team. Therefore we are looking at any parent that would be keen to come along and head the chippers every second Sunday. Please give this your consideration as it is very important to encourage our kids to take up any form of activity and this is a great way to introduce them to the world of sport.

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.

If any adults have young chippers thinking of playing golf please be aware that they can come along free of charge with any fee paying adult. We have chippers clubs here that they are more than welcome to borrow and have a go at playing golf. We need to try and promote the young kids of today to come join our club and get involved.

Dry Firewood For Sale: \$80.00



Pine Cones For Sale

\$5.00 per sack or
\$20.00 for 5 bags.

Please call the office:
06 7527 665 or
Denise 0279194607

New Sponsor: We would like to welcome Jason and Melanie Clout of Sigma Finance Services Ltd as a new sponsor to our Club. Please remember that we rely on our sponsors so please be loyal to them as they are to us and mention that you are a member of Kaitake Golf Club.

Venue Hire:

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

We have L'Epicure as our caterers and they are doing extremely well with club and outside catering. Consider your next function at Kaitake Golf Club. We have a projector and screen which is available for powerpoint presentations etc.

Great venue for any type of function.
Contact Denise 06 7527665 or email kaitakegolf@xtra.co.nz

**Coastal
Gib Stopping**

Glenn Bartley
smartleynz@gmail.com
0275 245 745



Oakura Tennis

Tennis season is firing up with the tennis club AGM this month.

Competition teams are entered by the end of this month so get in touch if you are interested in joining a team. We have a couple of Monday

midweek ladies teams and several combined men's and women's teams on a Saturday.

There is a tennis muster on Wednesday 18th September 3pm onwards come along and brush off the cobwebs and see what's on offer. A great chance to chat and find out suitable teams and coaching groups for the kids and parents for the fourth term.

Aims games are on this month -good luck to Daniel Lewis who is competing for Frances Douglas school. Cardio tennis will start again next term.

See you on court.

Jackie Keenan

Secretary 0276732900

Email grazjaz@xtra.co.nz

Website for coaching/lessons www.blitztennis.co.nz

**Oakura Tennis Club
Pre-Season Muster!
Wednesday 18th September 2019
3pm onwards**



[Calling all budding young tennis champions!](#)

Come and find out about the 2019 Blitz Tennis Coaching program and Interclub team options for your budding tennis star!

All standards and ages very welcome!
Fun games and sausage sizzle
Rackets available at club
Any queries – Tash 0277755440



Hola everybody

Well what a great August it has been! Plenty of waves to be had on the beach. Good to see all the grommets making the most of the shifty sand banks. We have Matt Scorrington from

the Art of Surfing here this weekend to provide training and direction for our up and coming little rippers. Once you've learned the basics of surfing, it's easy to stop progressing. Without knowing what you're doing wrong or how to improve, you can spend years surfing at the same level. Matt uses his skills and knowledge from being a top surfer on the world stage. Matt uses finely-tuned video analysis to quickly pinpoint ways to improve the young surfer's technique. Such a fantastic initiative from the club to help all these keen young surfers.



Always good to watch the world surf league Tahiti competition at this time of year. Huge swells have been hitting the reef at Teahupo'o providing some crazy barrels for the worlds best to showcase their skill over the deadly reef. The online coverage is superb but not the best for productivity at work that's for sure.

With September here we start to think of longer days with daylight saving coming up and the start of golden hour drinks on the deck. The bar will be open on Friday nights from October the 4th. These nights are an awesome way to catch up with everyone and great way to support the club. As always, the BBQ will be flaring up the best burgers in town. Bring ya families down and enjoy yourselves.

Niwa Shewry is currently in the States fine tuning his skateboarding skills. Most people would have seen Niwa ripping apart the bowl which is always so awesome to see the kids utilising the bowl on a daily basis.

It's the best time of year to do it all, whether you Surf, skate or ski/snowboard, it's all about creating the stoke, and what our club is all about.

Adios amigos Ricko

Contact: President: Luke Florence 027 493 0819
John Shewry 027 252 9190 with any queries.

Pictured above: Kalani Watts ripping up Oakura and pictured right Niwa Shewry who is fine tuning his skateboard moves in the States.





Top Class Soccer Club

As the soccer season comes to an end, local men's football club, Kaitake fc, celebrates a successful season that was unexpected to say the least.

As a newly formed team, the aim of this season was to have fun and field enough players each week to compete in the Taranaki Men's Division 1 league. However, the club and its location enticed some top class players such as ex professional, Paul Cunningham (Oakura), who played most recently for Team Taranaki and striker, James Bevington (Okato), who was one of the regions top goal scorers in 2014 & 2015. Along with ex semi-pro coach Billy Charlton (Oakura), the team turned out to be unbeatable and have gone on to win the league and Challend Trophy. Not only that, they are also in the Cup semi-final looking to complete 'the domestic treble', which is 3 trophies - League, Nimmos Cup and Challenge Trophy.

The club was set up by local residents as a way to continue playing the sport they all love whilst not sacrificing family time but it has become so much more than that. Club Chairman, Mike Maxim explains: "the club has really brought the community together.

Local businesses such as Butlers Reef, High Tide, Vertech, Cunningham Construction and BTW have all been pivotal in helping us get going. We've also seen crowds of 200+ at some of the nail biting games which is incredible to see from such a small village. We hope that by having an adult soccer team in Oakura, more children will be enticed to play soccer at all ages. We hope to also add a woman's team in the near future but would need more volunteers to make that happen."

Let's see what next season brings! Visit their Facebook page for more information on how to get involved and upcoming fixtures. [Facebook.com/kaitakefc](https://www.facebook.com/kaitakefc)



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

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

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

My name is Sue Maxwell and I have been house sitting for the last two and a half years around the New Plymouth area.

I am recently retired and enjoy short or long term stays.

I am interested in new places to house sit from late October as my current term of 17 months finishes then.

Having been a dog owner for many years, I am happy to look after pets.

I am able to provide references and can be contacted on 0272408125

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 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 7.30pm. 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 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, weekly Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6.00 pm

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. and the Dance Centre in New Plymouth Phone 7527743 or email val@valdeakindance.org.nz