

# T&M

OAKURA

FEB 2017

*Toby Dixon and Ryan Gut from Kaitake Farm harvesting their fresh produce more on page 13.....*

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# TOM OAKURA

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

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## E D I T O R I A L



Well hello summer, we know you are out there somewhere!

It's seriously alarming to me that I haven't been to Oakura Beach for a swim yet.

A big thank you goes out to Doug Hislop who has written his 100th report for the TOM for the Kaitake Community Board - we can all be assured that our community is in good hands thanks to Doug and those who represent us on the KCB.

It was exciting to meet Toby and Ryan from Kaitake Farm this month - what an inspirational couple of guys they are - growing gorgeous healthy, spray free veggies. You know someone somewhere has instilled the right qualities in young people when they want to grow food and take care of the environment at the same time. Support them if you can.

Wish I could lie in the sun  
The same things as anyone  
Wish I could lie down there  
With my feet, high in the air  
(Stereophonics - Lying In The Sun)  
Kim



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Happy New year everyone!

Our Summer Reading Programme was a huge hit again this year with 40+ children participating. For our special event, Stu Duvall, children's author and illustrator, paid us a visit and entertained children and parents alike with his fabulous storytelling. We have his latest books: The Golden Spark Plug of Awesomeness and Giant Gear Stick of Grooviness. Recommended read aloud especially if you like to share stories with your children that are full of great adventures and humour.

Dr. Libby Weaver, author and nutritional biochemist, suggested some ideas to a reader (Ask Dr. Libby 7 Dec. 2016 Midweek) about how to incorporate more rest and restoration into our constantly busy lives. One of the suggestions was to READ MORE! ...." this time spent by yourself can be incredibly restorative. In the age where everything is digital you can't beat picking up a physical book, having a break from screens and introverting for a while.

Some recently published biographies/ autobiographies new to our shelves. Richie Mccaw 148, a pictorial tribute and the DVD Chasing Great, Brendon McCullum's Declared, Bruce Springsteen's Born to Run and Peta Mathias' travel memoir: Never put all your eggs in one bastard.

For loan we also have Double-Edged Sword: the Simone Butler Story, a survival story by an inspiring woman, My Father's Island: a memoir.

Also, Mauri Ora, a beautiful collection of Whakataukī (Maori proverbs) is available for loan.

Crackerjacks resumes Thursday 16th February at 10am. Join us for pre-school (babies, too) story time, song and craft. No booking needed.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body" - Richard Steele

Happy reading,

*Charlie and Vincenza*


## Santa Comes to Arden

Once again we had a great turnout from our lovely neighbours and new families that have moved into our street. This is always a special time to be able to get together for a few hours of chat and catch up with what's been happening during the year." Santa, of course, was the star attraction and this year I was able to capture my little granddaughters Riley-Jean and Penelope House and their excitement of Santa's arrival in the fire engine along with Santa's escort.

*Bernice Duff*



Santa giving away free hugs in the neighbourhood - Karen, Shannon and her girls Riley-Jean and Penelope

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# A Strong Economy for 2017

As we launch into 2017 and what will be another busy year, we can have confidence New Zealand is on the right track.

We are in capable hands with Bill English and Paula Bennett as leaders, and an energetic team of ministers and MPs behind them.

The Government is gearing up for the challenges of election year with a busy agenda and a clear plan for our country's future - building on the strong momentum we have achieved over the past eight years.

I hope you have been able to spend some time with family and friends over the festive season, had a chance to put on your jandals and enjoy a few barbies. For those that have continued to work through, I do hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and take time to enjoy some of Taranaki's fine attractions, and have time to get out and about and enjoy our summer. A special thanks must go out to all those that ensure everyone keeps safe over our summer, particularly our lifeguards, thank you for all your volunteer hours on our New Zealand beaches.

I'm looking forward to another productive year in 2017 and New Zealand is well positioned compared to most other countries.

That's no accident. It's the result of New Zealanders' hard work, backed by the National-led Government's clear plan for our country's future.

Our economy remains one of the strongest in the developed world. And Kiwi families are seeing the benefits.

Around 250,000 extra jobs have been created over the past three years and unemployment is falling. The average annual wage is now \$58,400 – up \$12,000 since we were elected in 2008 and more than double the rate of inflation, while interest rates are at 50-year lows.

The country is back in surplus and we're getting better results from important public services like hospitals, schools and social programmes.

We are seeing strong growth in sectors such as tourism, ICT, construction, and high-tech manufacturing. With Taranaki voted the second best region to visit in the world, we have definitely seen an increase in national and international tourists and this will only continue to grow.

New Zealand is also experiencing our biggest building boom – in the past five years, annual residential building consents have more than doubled. In Auckland, they have almost tripled.

We have the resilience and the financial strength to bounce back from challenges such as the Kaikōura earthquakes, and the Government will continue to support the recovery efforts.

National is committed to ensuring this stability and progress continues as we head into the New Year. I am looking forward to another great year as the MP for the New Plymouth electorate which reaches from Waitara to Opunake. Please do get in touch with me should you have anything you wish to discuss or any events you may want me to attend.

*Jonathan Young*

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# Kaitake Community Board

Well, here we are again to begin another year of Kaitake Community Board columns in TOM. I was interested to see how many I've written over the years and when checking was intrigued to see the total had reached 99. That makes this the 100th column I've put together since 2004. That's quite a milestone and certainly a copious amount of words written about KCB activities over the years. Yet I sometimes wonder if those words get read and digested that often. I still get the feeling there is quite a large number of folk out in the community that have little idea of the community board's role.

To that end here is a brief synopsis of what your community board is, and what it does. Community boards were established across the country as part of the re-organisation of local government 28 years ago. They are elected bodies that are both a community voice and a mechanism for decentralising district-wide services. Their task is to represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community. In our case the KCB area stretches from Spotswood, up Barrett Road and Carrington Road to the top of Mount Taranaki, then down the Stony River to its mouth and back along the coast to Back Beach. That's a fairly large area to have an oversight of, and lots of kilometres to be driven each month on community board business.

We are charged with a range of tasks, but our main work is to consider and report on all matters referred to us by the council and to maintain an overview of services that council provides in our area. That includes being in regular contact with council staff on a range of issues that arise out in the community and need addressing. To that end we are contacted continually by folk about things they have concerns about. We have other tasks though, currently we are developing a submission for council's consideration during their Annual Plan process - there are 17 things we've researched for inclusion ranging from extra fire hydrants for Oakura to security lighting for the Okato Neighbourhood Park. We are also putting together all the bits and pieces for a public meeting in Okato where we hope to learn more about the direction that community wants to develop over the next 30 years.

There has been an ongoing conversation about the reasons behind the water restrictions that began on 1 January, especially because of the wet summer we have been experiencing. In a bid to reduce the district's higher than average water use, as well as plan for increased demand from population growth in the area, the council has introduced permanent yearly water restrictions for all residential customers between January 1 and March 31 each year. The ban is on sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses, with hand-held hoses allowed only on the odds-and-evens system. That is hand-held hoses are only allowed to be used on properties with even street numbers on even calendar dates, and on properties with odd street numbers on odd calendar dates.

The council's water supply area covers communities from Urenui and Onaero in the west to Omata in the east. Inglewood, Oakura and Okato are serviced through separate water supplies but are still included in the restrictions. The council's capital works programme has increased the district's water storage capacity by about 50 per cent in the past 15 years, but the current capacity is still lower than required so the water restrictions are part of the council's strategy. The district-wide population is anticipated to grow by 19 per cent to just under 88,000 people by 2045.

This growth brings into focus the current Taranaki-wide theme of developing the province as a world class destination. With Taranaki named as the second best region in the world to visit in 2017 by Lonely Planet, tourism can only increase. Already there have been issues about the lack of infrastructure to cater for visitors, for example congested parking on Mount Taranaki and freedom camping issues along the coast. While a marketing strategy to influence visitor destination preferences and attract more of the tourist dollar is one thing, equal parts must ensure being well prepared prior to the expected visitor increases and make certain the relevant infrastructural requirements are in place. I would add to that list the inclusion of appropriate sustainability practices that maintain the quality of our environment assets and prevent threats and damage to them through increased visitor numbers. And as a final addition, consideration should be given to getting the balance right between growing a destination emphasis and providing for community needs. The amenity values of the community always deserve due consideration - after all that is what makes us who we are!

That's it for this month. My fingers and toes are still all crossed for some long sunny summer beach and tomato ripening weather.

Ka kite ano. Doug Hislop (7527324, [douglashislop@gmail.com](mailto:douglashislop@gmail.com)) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Paul Coxhead and Roy Weaver who is the council representative on the KCB.



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# SPORTS



## Club Championships

Adam Collins and Don Hinton won the Club Championship pairs overcoming the duo of Tony McAlevey and Bob Anderson to take the title. The Collins team established a game winning 17 - 5 lead after 11 ends and with the experienced Don Hinton bowling well from lead, the pair held on for a comfortable 21-5 win.

The Club Championship Singles (senior and junior) and both the Collins and Presidents Trophy are scheduled to be played over February, March and April. All members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club while watching Oakura's best bowlers in action.

## Interclub Tournaments

Strong performances over the past two months have Oakura comfortably leading the table in both the mid week Avery and Gilmour Cups competitions with a win ratio of 66% and 77% respectively.

Oakura are also positioned equal top with one round remaining in the Saturday Shield competition. With the last game scheduled at home against the powerful West End Bowling Club on Saturday 11th February, the club is in a great position to challenge for the trophy.

# Oakura Tennis Club

Competition tennis had a summer break with all teams now into round two. The Oakura Soffe cup team were leading initially but had a close loss to Pihama so finished in second place after round one. There were a few rain affected results which made the points table close so round two and qualifying for top four could be interesting. The A2 team had some mixed results and finished the round bottom of the table. They have dropped down to A3 and had a very convincing win against South Combined to start the round. This team has a lot of our up and coming junior players with 8 out of 9 boys and 3 out of 5 girls being under 15 years.

Our two midweek ladies teams are doing well with one team in top division and another in division 5.

Cardio tennis restarts with the school term on Thursdays at 9.15am with Blitz coach Matt Stringer. Junior and hot shots coaching sessions start again now the kids are back at school. Blitz tennis took a crew of eager players over to Australia to play in a few tournaments and have two days at the Australian Open. Lachie White and Beth Tverdich are two

Div 2 Interclub play saw Oakura fall agonising short by 2 points (1 game) of securing a playoff position for promotion to the Bill Smee Div 1 trophy.

Oakura also finished a very credible 3rd in the Div 3 competition. It was a great team effort by all players and the results reflect the depth of bowling ability across the Oakura club.

The trio of Bruce Jackson, Peter Murdoch and Ted Barrett won the Sinclair Electrical triples competition played at Rahotu on 5th January. With Jackson skipping the boys notched up four wins from four games to cap a successful day on the green.

## Bowler of the Month

This month's award goes to junior bowler Ray Haslip. As well as being selected each week across the various interclub competitions, Ray is involved in the Senior Singles and Championship Fours post sectional play and was a member of the winning Club Championship Triples team. Well done Ray and keep up the excellent bowling.

## Club News

A Graham Skellern lead team from Tauranga took out first place in the Oakura Pharmacy sponsored triples tournament played over the Christmas break. A beautiful sunny day greeted the teams and it was fantastic to see a number of new and old faces enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of the tournament. It is with sadness we mention the passing of Oakura Bowling Club member, George Barlow. George has been a member of the club for over 14 years and his presence around the club, especially on Friday nights, will be sorely missed by all.

*The Underarm Bowler*

from Oakura who went and will have some stories to tell.

Committee members having been testing their fencing skills replacing the rusting netting on the south facing fence. The poles and netting needed strengthening before we could put wind cloth up as we had a fence flattened previously before the trees were removed. Hopefully the summer weather will improve and we won't need the wind cloth but it should be up soon. Thanks to Graeme, Jaime Simpson, Sue and Rowan and Chris Edler for battling the elements!

Oakura had Graeme Mitchell, Sue Oldfield, Bailey Bruckner and Jaime Simpson represent Taranaki against Wanganui for the Christie Cup which Wanganui held onto. There is another rep fixture in February against Hawkes Bay with junior and senior players involved so good luck to all who get selected.

Any queries for coaching, private lessons or Cardio tennis contact Matt Stringer on 0220458729.

For club hire or tennis enquiries contact Jackie Keenan 7527013.



# **KAYAK FISHING CLUB**

Although summer still has not yet arrived properly, or is very slow to arrive the fishing has been good with the boats catching lots of snapper at around the 50 metre mark.

For us in kayaks at the time of writing the snapper are not always close enough for us to get to, although we have had some good days at Urenui, and White Cliffs.


We are also catching good numbers of gurnard from the port and Roger Zeiltjes landed a very nice king fish from Urenui.

Entries are now open for the kayak classic set for April 8/9th, and this year we have a \$4000 jackpot for the first angler to catch all 8 species.

Garry



**Roger Zeiltjes good sized king fish caught off Urenui**



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# GETTING WET



## Oakura Boardriders

It has not been much of a summer so far for surfers although the kites are more than happy. A lot of south west wind and cooler than normal water temperatures have made for a pretty average summer.

Our Club Friday nights have not had the all in surfing nights of recent years due to the weather conditions but we are hoping things turn and we get to enjoy a late summer. There has still been a good social turn out and the beach area has been busy with the opening of Vertigo and its associated coffee, and the pizza restaurant opening at the NPOB surf club both enjoying a hectic time. It is great to see a vibrant summer scene.

As the TOM goes to press the Surfing NZ Nationals are on at Piha. The only Oakura surfer competing is Tom Butland who came 2nd in the U18 Longboard final, and in true Piha tradition the surf was challenging, windy and far from ideal and unfortunately Tom was ousted in his other divisions in the semi finals, still good results.

History was made with Raglan's Billy Stairmand winning his 6th NZ Open title which breaks a record held by Wayne Parkes and Ian 'Ratso' Buchanan who each had five titles each.

February and March are full of contests with the start of the Surfing Taranaki Micro Groms contests, Oakura Boardriders Longboard contest and also the annual Tinnies and Twinnies contest. We also have Jonah Lake playing at the club - keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and details. Also remember Friday nights are open nights and everyone is welcome.

Brent Anderson, OakuraBoardriders.  
President: Luke Florence; 06 7527889  
Secretary: Paul Lobb ; 06 75 27556



**Tom Butland surfing his way to second in the U18 longboard final at Piha**





For the fourth year running, we have started the New Year with our Ocean Athletes & Nationals Surf Camp. The camp is all about team building and surf life saving skill development. Focusing on fun, interspersed with challenging training sessions that develop competition strategies, skill and technique, preparing our athletes for national surf life saving events. Four days of technique, strategy, competition and fun intended to set you up for Oceans 17 and Nationals, develop friendships and build a strong NPOB team.

The success of this camp is all about parents and club members coming together to feed, train and entertain our Oceans and Nationals Clubbies. The BBQ and kitchen are fired up to deliver good quality food, prepared by parents, keeping hungry bodies fuelled. We are very fortunate to have senior club members who volunteer their time to train our athletes and to put them through challenging beach sprint, flag, surf swimming, body surfing and boarding drills.

We had a great bunch of kids through the camp, putting in 100% effort. A lot of hard work and a lot of smiles and laughs.

We once again finished off the camp with Dylan

Dunlop-Barrett running The Eliminator, an incredible race, which is exhausting even to watch. Congratulations to Olly Spicer for coming in 1st place in the u14 race and Daniel Johnston in 1st place in the u12 race after pulling out a great body-surf in the final swim. Looking forward to the 2018 Eliminator!

Congratulations to Aimee Daniels and Casey Stevens who represented the Taranaki Open Team at Waimarama Beach in the 2017 New Zealand Representative Challenge, placing third. Great results girls.

Thank you to all our voluntary lifeguards for patrolling the beach every weekend, particularly to those who came down over the Christmas/New Year period. Please help out lifeguards do their job and always swim between the flags. Weekday patrols are between 12-7pm and weekend between 1-5pm.

It's great to see everyone down at the beach, even when the sun isn't shining. There is a great vibe with Pekaren Pizza in the Surf Club and Vertigo under Boardriders. Always someone about to have a chat.





Happy New Year and welcome to the 2017 golfing season. The Kaitake Board would like to extend a warm welcome to members returning and to the new members who have joined Kaitake Golf Club recently.

Over the holiday period the course has been well used by members and visitors to the area. An external EftPos machine, installed before Christmas, has proved very popular for green fee players.

### Beachcombers Tournament

Once again The Beachcombers Tournament has proved a popular way to start the year attracting a field of 97 players. Thank you to the Butlers Reef Hotel in Oakura for their generous sponsorship.

Men's Winners included; Gross Division 1 – Ben Kennedy (Houhora); Carey Hobbs (Manukorihi), Division 2 - Roger Cloke (Kaitake), Craig Waite (Kaitake) Division 3 - Robert Fraser (Manukorihi)

Nett Division 1 - Guy Lennox (Waverley) Division 2 – Richard Gooch (Kaitake) Division 3 – Greg Jans (Kaitake)

Stableford Div1 Richard Pepperell (N.P) Nathan Russ (Waitara) Div2 Raymond Lewis (Tumahu) Steven Koha (Kaitake) Div 3 James Crighton (Kaitake) Peter Spurway (Westown)

Women's Division – 1st Gross Somporn (Aew) Kretschmar (Westown); 1st Nett Denise Howe 1st Stableford Kim Woodward (Kaitake) Sally Kwon (Kaitake)

### 2017 Twilight Golf

The weather is certainly favouring golf this year. Twilight continues to attract good numbers of players. Tee off between 3.00 – 6.00pm  
Two Divisions - players and non-players. Barbecue and bar facilities are available.

### Chippers

The first day for this season will be Sunday 29th January 10.00am – 12.00 noon. Chippers range from 5 – 15 years and are beginner golfers. The annual membership for Chippers remains at \$40 for 2017. This includes regular free coaching by Domenico Squatriti, Chippers Convenor, supported by Taranaki Golf. The membership allows access to the course with an adult. For any further information please contact the office on 752 7665

### 2017 Season Openers

The Men's programme has already started with the Summer Cup. Opening Day for the Midweek 18 hole Women is Thursday 9th February when they play for the Summer Cup. Midweek 9 hole Women start 9th February Opening Day Stableford. The Weekend 18 hole Women start the year on Saturday 11th February with the Garcia Trophy Challenge.



Sally Kwon, Karen Avison and Margaret McDonald

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# Local Artist's Retrospective Exhibition - A Sense of Place

A retrospective exhibition that spans over 50 years of Margaret Scott's painting career will open at the Percy Thomson Gallery on the 3rd of February. There are over 70 original paintings in this exhibition, including the first ever piece that she painted in 1963 as a teenager - with food colouring and white shoe polish.

"I was really desperate to start painting so this seemed to be the best option at the time," says Margaret "and it did convince my father to go and buy me oil paints." It is amazing that this work has survived all these years.

Other early work represents the variety of styles that Margaret has experimented with over the years. The cubist period in the 1980's was a particularly exciting development for her.

When gallery director Rhonda Bunyan initially approached her, Margaret had put together a list of a 100 paintings, many of which she intended to borrow back from the original owners. However Rhonda and Margaret have had to seriously prune back this number because of the size of some of the works, and to avoid overcrowding on the walls.

"Ultimately the decision is Rhonda's as she knows how she wants the exhibition to look," says Margaret.

A feature of the exhibition is a triptych called 'Tropical Garden' which is nearly four metres long and will take up an entire wall in the gallery.

Margaret really enjoys painting the flowers that grow in the natural setting of her garden, with large flowers in the front, receding to the larger foliage of tropical plants in the background.

The exhibition which opens at 7pm on Friday 3rd February and will run until the 26th of February.



## MARGARET SCOTT

*a Sense of Place*

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# Smell Good Naturally

Are you comfortable putting harmful chemicals on your body to look and smell good?

It's a problem that Amanda-Jane Healy faced when she went from being a Wellington lawyer to a rural Taranaki mum.

She made lifestyle changes and began looking for practical, truly natural solutions to everyday problems. One of those little everyday problems was body odour. The ingredients in the deodorant and antiperspirant products she was buying troubled her, but she couldn't find a natural alternative that worked. So she decided to do something about it. After much research and many "willing human" trials over a number of years she had made a natural deodorant that really worked. Last year she started the Free Range Company, selling Free Range deodorants exclusively online from [www.thefreerange.nz](http://www.thefreerange.nz).

Free Range deodorants are a range of luxurious deodorant creams built on an organic base, free from aluminium, synthetics, gluten, dairy, soy, and nasty chemicals.

"Unlike antiperspirants which use chemicals or metals to block the pores and stop you sweating, our deodorants deal with the odour issues effectively, allowing your body to function naturally," she says. "There are no hidden surprises. It's natural confidence in a jar!"

Free Range deodorants are certified organic by AsureQuality NZ, and certified cruelty free by Cruelty Free International. Amanda-Jane says she wanted independent verification from both organisations to provide her customers with assurance that what they are buying has ethical integrity.

The deodorants are produced right here in Taranaki, in dedicated premises certified for organic production.

"We are aiming for zero waste and have integrated the production into the rural landscape with the waste water feeding the orchard and waste cardboard

and paper being composted on site," Amanda-Jane says.

"It's a work in progress but it is pretty exciting. Even the deodorants are packaged to promote reusing and recycling. The courier bags can go out in the normal recycling run."

She says the deodorants come in a jar and you only need to apply a half-pea sized dab under each arm. "Because you use so little, some customers consider the Deluxe jar 'the jar that never ends'! It also makes it very cost effective when the Deluxe jar lasts at least four months."

"We have been thrilled with the support that we have received locally and from New Zealand health and wellness professionals."

Free Range deodorant comes in four formulas. The 'Sensitive' formula is scented with lavender for sensitive skin and pregnant mums. 'Active' the unisex formula is for those on the move and has a citrus and mint scent. The 'ManPlus' formula is boosted with tea tree for extra odour control, and balanced by mint and cedarwood. 'Super Sensitive' is for those who find deodorants (especially natural ones) cause skin irritation, with significantly less sodium bicarbonate and extra essential oils for odour control.

If you want to keep up with the Free Range story check them out on Facebook and Instagram @thefreerange.nz – Amanda-Jane would love to hear from you!

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HOUSE OF TRAVEL



# Kaitake Farm Gets Growing

On the warm verdant slopes of the Kaitake Ranges a growing project is evolving. The sustainably managed plot of land is the brainchild of two ambitious young men - Toby Dixon and Ryan Gut.

They have called their project Kaitake Farm - the name being significant because Kaitake means 'source or abundance of food' and this is what they hope to produce - an abundance of food for the community. Kaitake Farm is situated on Murray and Gay Dixon's property where once an organic kiwifruit orchard flourished. The health and condition of the soil is in part due to the care Murray and Gay invested in it. The boys actively cultivate less than a hectare and their efforts are bearing fruit. They now supply vegetables to Francois at High Tide Cafe and for Oooby veggie boxes and just in the last few weeks have set up a stall at Beach Rd Milk Co with veggies flying out the door.

Inspiration for the farm came from a biodiversity course at Roebuck Farm run by Jodi Roebuck, Omata where the boys met. Ryan has a farming background and Toby is a surveyor. Toby grew up in the village and has great memories of the lifestyle his parents provided for the family. Both boys love good healthy food and say they are addicted to

growing quality produce. They are learning as they go along and the trial and error method seems to be working. Two pet pigs named Steve and Allen have joined the farm and get to indulge in the abundance of produce as do the chooks. Kin & Co provide the farm with scraps for compost so the farm is a village effort!

On offer at the moment in the garden is: carrots, beetroot, kale, silverbeet, lettuce radishes, cucumbers, zucchini, Florence fennel, basil, coriander and greenhouse heirloom tomatoes. These tomatoes are grown on Koru Rd from Koanga Institute seeds and taste delicious. As with all veggie growing, it is seasonal so the range will change with the season and availability.

Toby and Ryan are loving their stand at Beach Rd Milk Co. They love hearing from their customers who frequently pop messages in the honesty box and they say they are open to any suggestions or ideas. Contact Toby on 0273116196 if you would like fresh veggies supplied to your business or home or call into Beach Rd Milk Co for a selection. Kaitake Farm can be found online on Facebook and Instagram @kaitakefarm.



Above, Toby and his pigs Steve and Allen, top left the produce stand at Beach Rd Milk Co and bottom left the abundant garden at Kaitake Farm



## Head Pupils 2016

Our head pupils have had a very busy, and successful year in their duties. They represented our school with great confidence and maturity at the 150th Jubilee, speaking to a large audience effectively, as well as perform as part of our Kapahaka roopu. They have been great ambassadors to our school, always showing respect, honesty and perseverance in a range of situations.

Eva Hilliam, Quinn Jackson, Ariana Shewry, Robbie White

## Cups

We'd like to acknowledge all students that have received cups throughout the year. We awarded these cups to the following students:

### Swimming Cups

Girls champion - Ariana Shewry, Boys champion - Robbie White

### Winter Sports Cups

Netball - Taylor Mitchell, Rugby - Tysen Sullivan, Football - Jack Husband

## Speech Cup

Brodie Ferguson, who represented the school at the Lions Speech competition, and won, as well as at the Pukekura Toastmasters, which he also won.

## Debating Cup

Our highest scoring speaker across 2016's Year 8 debates was Katelyn Haire.

## Athletics Cups

Girls champion - Eva Hilliam, Boys champion - Tysen Sullivan

## The Novak Cup for Visual and Performing Arts

Bella Tran Lawrence.

## The O'Rourke Cup for Sporting Achievement

Tysen Sullivan.

## The Wiki Keenan Memorial Trophy

Quinn Jackson.

## Samantha Woods Trophy for Diligence

Taylor Mitchell.

## Citizenship Cup

Robbie White.

## Cunningham Cup for Academic Excellence

Abi Connelly.



## A New Garden Plot for Oakura School

Raised garden beds have recently been constructed at Oakura School. They have been situated in a central part of the school so that everyone can help with the maintenance and also keep an eye on the progress of the plants. This new area will provide an opportunity for our older and younger students to work together during their 'buddy class' programmes to develop a garden plot of edible produce.

We appreciate the 'Friends of Oakura School' Committee who have supported us by fundraising for this worthwhile project. It has allowed us to take an under-utilised space and turn it into an outdoor shared learning space, where life-long gardening skills can be developed. Thank you to Jeremy from 'Pritt Landscapes' for designing and constructing this area.

*Lynne Hepworth*  
Principal





## Coming Up February

- 1 Stationery sales  
8am-12pm
- 2 School starts for students
- 6 Waitangi Day holiday
- 7 R6 Swimming at Aquatic Centre starts
- 9 Information Evening 5:30-7:30
- 28 Swimming Display Day

## March

- 3 Teacher Only Day
- 7 Home and School Meeting 7pm
- 13 Taranaki Anniversary Holiday

## What's on Top?

Tēnā koutou e hoa ma

It was wonderful to end 2016 on such a bright note with our fabulous show. We owe a debt of thanks to the talented students and supportive, staff, parents and even an ex-Omata student (thanks Ruby), who made this special event possible. The feeling around the school, while the production was going on was electrifying. Despite the best efforts of the weather to dampen our spirits, our resilience and persistence ruled the day and gave us one of the best shows ever. Particular appreciation to Jan Aiello, Pat Murphy and the Year 7 and 8 students who co-wrote the production, Raeleen Luckin who choreographed the dance and a special mention to Lochi Smith and Ben Andrews who designed and built those incredible sweeping machines!

We acknowledge the families whose youngest child left Omata last year. Thank you all for your time, energy and commitment to the school in whatever way you have been able to contribute. Also to all our leaving

students; all the best for the New Year at your new schools. We wish you well on your life-long learning journey. We will listen with interest to hear of your future achievements. I hope that our vision of having you become a responsible learner has set you up to be confident and resilient and will encourage you to make the most of the opportunities to learn, participate and enjoy your high school years.

We cannot underestimate the importance of resilience and how we can help our children to build this up. To negotiate life's ups and downs, disappointments and stresses, resilience is what gets us through. Building resilience is something we work on throughout our lives. Parents, you have the biggest role to play in helping your children develop resilience and we can support you with our everyday interactions and modelling. Inner strengths and confidence come from watching how those around us handle challenges. We are the people that model this for our children by showing empathy, remaining calm, being patient, listening, thinking through problems, staying positive, being involved, and taking responsibility for our actions. No pressure!

## Principal Prize Winners 2016

Congratulations to these recipients:

Community Cup for Arts and Culture

- Awa Lewis

Home and School Cup for Sporting Excellence

- Connor Eldershaw

Staff Cup for Responsibility

- Rockco Lister

Principal's Cup for Leadership

- Tim Hobson

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence

- Tim Hobson

*Ngā mihi na*

*Karen Brisco*



Awa Lewis, Connor Eldershaw, Rockco Lister, Tim Hobson



# NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O NGĀMOTU

## Student Leaders for 2017

The following senior students have been given responsibilities by staff to ensure the effective running of the school.

### Drew Wood

Drew is Head Boy for 2017. He is an accomplished musician and a member of the NZSS Brass Band and is aiming to pass level 2 NCEA with Excellence.



### Qingfeng Du

Qingfeng is Deputy Head Boy. He is the top academic student in Yr 12 with 1st in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. He is also a musician and plays football.



### Corrigan Millar

Corrigan is Head of Barak House. Corrigan was awarded most conscientious student at Yr 12 and is a keen rugby player.



### Calum Sutherland

Calum is Head of Syme House. He is a member of the successful Hillary Challenge adventure racing team and 1st badminton team. He is aiming to pass level 2 with Excellence.



### Dom Barry

Dom is Head of Donnelly House. He is aiming to pass level 2 with excellence, and is a level 3 football referee and a member of the cross-country team.



### Joby Hintz

Joby is Head of Hatherly House. Joby is a member of the snowboarding team which achieved 2nd place in North Island event.



## New Staff in 2017

Ms Helen Sutcliffe - Teacher of English

Mr Allen Jones - Teacher of Technology

Ms Hannah Clark - Teacher of Social Science

Ms Tania Moore - Teacher of English

Mr Nick Creery - Teacher of Learning Support

Ms Catherine Beaton - Teacher of English (part-time)

Mr Finn Peters - Teacher of Social Science

Mr Jamie Stones - Teacher of Health and Physical Education and Hockey Development Officer

Mr Mick Curry - Football Development Officer

Mr Josh Hamilton - Teacher of Mathematics

## 1st XI Cricket Team

Congratulations to the following boys for their selection in the Super 8 side who travelled to Hamilton in late January.

Caleb Frewin (captain), Quinn Mills, Liam Nelly, Sebastian Lauderdale Smith, Jordan Gard, Ben Frewin, Jarrod Ritson, Zac Betteridge, Jack Parker, Nathan Trumper, Oliver Burbidge, Ryan Gilmour, Mitchell Proffit

Non travelling reserve:

Wiremu Andrews

The pool consisted of GBHS, HBHS and PNBHS.



## Ryder Hall

The school's main assembly hall, Ryder Hall is being re-roofed during Term 1. This will provide some disruption to school assemblies during this time. Starting from Friday, 10 February, the school will then operate assemblies in the gymnasium with Years 11-13 on a Friday and Year 9 and 10 on a Monday. Students and parents will still be able to gain access to the Clothing Shop via the entrance adjacent to Ryder Hall.

## Upcoming Events:

Swimming Sports - Friday 17 February

Hamilton Boys' High School Exchange - Monday 20 - Tuesday 21 February

Parent/Group Teacher Interviews - Friday 3 March

Athletics Day - Thursday 9 March

Work Day - Friday 10 March







# Spotswood College

New Year Greetings – welcome to the 2017 school year.

Welcome to you all as we begin the journey of 2017. We particularly welcome students and their whanau who have just joined our Spotswood College Community. We are looking forward to getting to know you and to work in partnership with you as you learn, achieve and develop to be the very best you can be.

The beginning of the year is always an exciting time when goals are set, resolutions made and strategies put in place. Absolutely central to the success of these plans is the learning partnerships that we foster between home, school and student. At our school we build these partnerships through our ETŪ programme. ETŪ means to stand-up, stand tall, to focus on learning and to work with others in unity to build a strong and vibrant learning community where individuals can thrive and develop to be the best they can be.

ETŪ focuses on three key areas:

E – Education

T – Taking Part

U – Unity

ETŪ is founded upon highly effective and respectful relationships which enable us to achieve our individual and corporate goals. The following values are the basis of our relationships:

- Respect
- Co-operation
- Care for one another
- Courage
- Honesty
- Responsibility

When individuals embrace ETŪ and the underpinning values then our vision... “Developing young people of good character with the skills and knowledge to contribute to the increasingly complex and connected global society” will be achieved.

## Year 8-9 Transition

We have been working with Year 8 students for almost eight months to assist their confident transition to high school. We encourage parents to be particularly vigilant during the first few weeks of school to ensure children feel comfortable in their new learning environment and settle easily into their learning routines. Please contact us early should any concerns arise.

## Top Scholar Awards – Year 9/10 2016

Top Year 9 Scholars for 2016 were: Yulan Imhasly, Sam Skinner, Kobi Hislop, Poppy Richards, Daniel Williamson, Sophie Hill

Overall Top Scholar for Academic Excellence in Year 9 for 2016 was: Emily Law

Top Year 10 Scholars for 2016 were: Keegan Joe, Harry Younger, Larissa Wilkinson, Gemma Clarges, Tane Whitehead, Phoebe Pepper

Overall Top Scholar for Academic Excellence in Year 10 for 2016 was: Roan Upson

## Terms and Holidays 2017

**Term 1** Monday 30 January – Thursday 13 April (11 weeks)

Waitangi Day Monday 6 February

Anniversary Day Monday 13 March

Good Friday Friday 14 April (falls in term vacation)

Easter Monday Monday 17 April

Easter Tuesday Tuesday 18 April

ANZAC Day Monday 25 April

**Term 2** Monday 1 May – Friday 7 July (10 weeks)

Queens Birthday Monday 5 June

**Term 3** Monday 24 July – Friday 29 September (10 weeks)

**Term 4** Monday 16 October – Friday 8 December (8 weeks)

Labour Day Monday 23 October

We look forward to keeping you informed of our activities and progress through 2017 in our monthly TOM updates.

If at anytime you have any queries regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to a great year.

*Mark Bowden*

*Principal*



Year 9 and 10 top scholar recipients

# Sefton Ridge Track 10 years On

Some of you will remember the 'hoo hah' that erupted when DOC announced the closure of the Sefton Ridge Track in the Kaitake Ranges. Well, that happened 10 years ago!

Because of the public outcry at the suggested closure, DOC agreed to a public meeting to offer an explanation for their reasoning and I suspect to gauge the strength of the protest to the closure.

Those most incensed by the proposed closure soon formed a nucleus and organised a leaflet drop around Oakura and outer district and a few letters to the editor appeared in the Taranaki Daily News. By meeting time people were frothing at the mouth.

The Oakura Surf Club was the meeting venue and it was packed. The meeting was orderly and after hearing DOC's explanation that the cost of 10 years maintenance on the Sefton Ridge Track would be \$22,000. The Waimoku track would be maintained.

Those opposed felt the \$22,000 cost was 'over the top' for what is required to maintain a track for 10 years. Most importantly those that use the Lucy's Gully for a walking, bush experience enjoy the aspect of doing the loop, up Waimoku and down Sefton Ridge or vice-versa. Those opposed to the closure felt DOC had not given this aspect of the equation enough weight.

The meeting ended with quite a gap between what the public wanted and what DOC had essentially decided, albeit DOC agreed to reconsider their strategy and revisit budget cuts in other areas. They would meet with the organisers of the meeting in due course. DOC called another meeting in the Surf Club to offer the protest group a compromise:

That the group organise themselves and register with the Companies Office, with an official name, President/Chairman, Secretary and committee, then DOC could look at a partnership with this new group which would be tasked with the job of maintaining the Sefton Ridge track.

DOC would remain in control and would inspect the track, allowing it to remain open if maintenance was satisfactory. So the challenge was set!

Matt Redshaw, Rex Bridgeman, Peter Scantlebury, Peter Morgan, Martin Rook, Spencer Guthrie, Bryce Vickers and others soon convened their first meeting and quickly formed the nucleus of the 'Okato Development Trust'.

Why the Okato Development Trust you might ask? In the agreement that DOC had sent to us, it stated that we needed public liability insurance of \$1M and this cover would cost around \$300 per annum. None of us had expected to do the departments work and have to pay this sort of money for the privilege! Step up Martin Rook. Martin was a Trustee of the inactive Okato Development Trust and had just started steps to wind it up. The Trust had \$1,500 to its name and he had pondered what should be done with the money. His suggestion to us, was

for the group to take up the name of this trust and the benefits would pass over. Bingo, the insurance money was sorted for the initial period and the name was adopted.

Mid 2007 the documents were signed and the first working bee was organised. About 10 people turned up with weed eaters, secateurs and pruners. Five began from the top and worked down and the others began at the bottom and worked up, from memory we met about 1.30 and one lovely wife arrived with lunch and a drink, which was shared on a land mark occasion.

Since that time the group have a meeting once or twice a year and go through the formalities of election of officers etc and to discuss maintenance on the track. From the beginning, Bryce Vickers has been invaluable as he walks/runs the track frequently and carries secateurs to clear the track. Thus the track remains in top condition.

After a couple of years we felt we could add value to our responsibilities, so approached DOC to start trapping stoats, rats, weasels etc. Soon we were in control of six stoat trap boxes, with them all being recorded by GPS positioning and were requested to record all kills and in which trap.

The group were soon looking at ways to increase the number of traps, not only because of the number of kills but also the degree of interest that the trapping had created.

Four years ago a class from Oakura Primary School were looking for a project and approached us. The children made up 20 new stoat boxes, then the kids, adults, teachers and members of the Kiwi Trust went up the Sefton Ridge track, placed the boxes and recorded their positions. Bryce has been maintaining and recording the kills in each box. Periodically the school has a day trip to replace the eggs and clear the traps.

After 10 years the contract has expired and the Okato Development Trust is in negotiations with DOC to renew the agreement, albeit with some changes. We feel confident that DOC will drop the necessity for us to carry the insurance. We have become aware that around the country the Department has been entering into partnerships with community groups that are deemed low risk, hence the insurance requirement isn't applied.

A couple of years back we applied for a special grant from the TSB. During this process we were shown that the intent and objectives of the Okato Development Trust deeds did not match our activities and our application was declined. We have set about changing the deeds and while in the process, decided to change the title of the group as well, which better represents the work we do. We hope the title of Kaitake Ranges Conservation Trust will be accepted and can be used on the pending contract with DOC.

While maintaining the track is our primary goal, the



trapping activity has added a great deal of interest. To date we have caught over 600 vermin. Over the last couple of years we have averaged 72 rats, 16 stoats, 3 weasel, 2 hedgehogs, 2 mice and 1 cat.

Bryce Vickers is the backbone of the track and trap maintenance and recording with Martin Moeller helping out more recently. They have noticed a trend of high catch rates of stoats in October and are interested to see how big an effect the recent 1080 drop has on the number of predators caught.

Peter Morgan, our President, volunteered to help DOC with a kiwi listening operation they undertook to help establish whether there are wild kiwi still alive in the Kaitake Ranges. Unfortunately no kiwi were positively identified. Our group would like to see kiwi back in the our area.

Another goal is to restore the Davies track from the trig down to Boars Head Mine and onto Weld Road. DOC maybe more receptive to this now, as we have proved ourselves as a solid organisation, with a 10 year track record. In saying that we realise this would treble the amount of track we would be caring for and we may need a few younger muscles on the job.

We feel our efforts have been well worth while as the amount of use the loop tracks get is substantial. A good indication of this was that through the spring months, the track was muddy in many places created by hundreds of feet.

Well that's a brief rundown of how and why the Okato Development Trust started, the inclusion of the traps, a few bumps along the way, where we are at now and the direction we'd like to take for the next stage.

*Rob McGregor*



Left to right - Sefton Ridge maintenance team - Matt Redshaw, Spence Guthrie, Bryce Vickers, Martin Moeller, Rex Bridgeman, Rob McGregor

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**5 Elements Fitness:** Bootcamps and MMA fitness classes: Weekdays 5-6 pm, Tataraimaka Hall. For more details contact Barney 027 7527 076, [barney@5efitness.com](mailto:barney@5efitness.com) or visit [www.5efitness.com](http://www.5efitness.com)

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

**Functional Crosstraining by Nakifit.** Saturdays 7.40am. Ph 021 297 5465 or [nakifit@gmail.com](mailto:nakifit@gmail.com)

**Indoor Bowls.** Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

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

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

**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 7.40am, 371 Donnelly St, ph 0272037215

**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 Robin King ph 751 0300.

**Oakura Pool Club.** Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

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

**Okato Squash.** Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

**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.

**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.

**Pippi's PT and circuit training,** every week day morning 9.15 -10.15am and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5.30 - 6.30pm. Teenage crossfit/boxfit sessions on Tues and Thurs 4.15 - 5.15pm. More details call Pip 022 104 1851.

**Probus Club.** Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Barry Goble 752 7254, or Betty West 752 7816.

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

**St John's, Omata.** Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

**Val Deakin Dance School.** Oakura Hall. Monday afternoons, Pre-school dance classes 3:30 - 4pm. Beginners' Ballet dance class 4 - 4.45pm. Contact Val on 752 7743. Also classes for pre-schoolers to adults in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and ballroom (beginners to advanced) at the Dance Centre in New Plymouth. For more information phone 7527743 or email [val@valdeakindance.org.nz](mailto:val@valdeakindance.org.nz)

**Volkswagen Club.** Regular events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: [kirk@taranakivw.co.nz](mailto:kirk@taranakivw.co.nz) and Secretary: [bryan@taranakivw.co.nz](mailto:bryan@taranakivw.co.nz)

  
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