

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM FITZROY

APRIL 2012

THE MAGIC OF WOMAD

Getting into some graffiti artwork at WOMAD.

- more on pages 2, 3 and 4



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TOM FITZROY

TOM FITZROY is a monthly publication delivered free to your letterbox in the Fitzroy, Merrilands, Highlands Park, Strandon and Glen Avon areas.

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

EDITORIAL

How are you all coping with the new Give Way Rule? I was too young to drive when we last give way to left turning traffic so it is new to me BUT I must say it is logical. How many times have you waited to turn left only to glance in your rear vision mirror and see a non turning car approaching from behind which means you get to go first? This is all but a memory as left turners get to zip round the corner out of the way – so sensible!

As for T intersections I think I will just pray from now on!

I recently read with interest Harry Duynhoven's comments that the online rates increase survey designed by Len Houwers was not believable because the respondents were anonymous. I find this comment remarkable considering Mr Duynhoven is a frequent user of social media and the NPDC has won awards for their online status. I believe it is up to individual households to decide if they do or don't support rates increases for building projects such as the Stadium (\$28 million proposed) but unfortunately individuals can't influence the decision making process – it has to be a collective rising to gain attention. We collectively are very slack at getting out of our armchairs to support causes so Len Houwers may have to get creative to elicit any quantifiable response. If you are interested in having your say then you can of course make a submission to Council or go online and support a rate payer driven group at www.surveymonkey.com/s/npratesaction

This month we feature a great spread of surfing action – some already happened and of course much about to happen so I hope you can get out and enjoy the spectacle of the crème de la crème of women's surfing.

Kim



COVER STORY

WOMAD 2012

The eighth WOMAD in New Plymouth's Bowl of Brooklands is over and with thousands and thousands of people attending the feedback is as varied as the dress code. Some felt it was the best WOMAD ever and others left feeling a little disappointed. Comments ranged from "many of the acts sounded similar" to a "truly magical show" to "my hips are aching from all the dancing" to "I can hardly walk today" to "thank goodness I've got today off to chill" to "it was better when WOMAD was every second year".

For me – I am not a regular devotee and this is only the second time I have been to WOMAD. The experience was one to relish because I enjoyed the diversity of music, dance, art, food and fabulous weather but mostly I thought the atmosphere was amazing. Everyone was happy, smiling and having fun, especially the hordes and hordes of children – what a great place for kids to hang out and it was a joy watching them enjoy themselves.

The Batucuda Sound Machine would have to be my favourite band, Peter Lambert my favourite artist, the Malaysian Kitchen my favourite food and the Dell stage my favourite music location. I wasn't so keen on the water queues – surely there could be more free water outlets and the rubbish disposal system was weird. When you need rubbish bin attendants you know there is something wrong with the system!

After all the dicey weather of summer, the gorgeous autumn weather was something else. The last time I went to WOMAD it rained so attending in the blazing sun was my idea of a good time.

Sounds like everyone can't wait for the next one so roll on WOMAD 2013!

By Kim Ferens



Burundi Drummers.

TOM
May 2012 issue -
Deadline for copy
and ads:
20th April
Delivery:
from 4th May.



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WOMAD Magic!



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Right, one of the three Nazareth *oud* players and above, the captive audience.



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A Breakfast Invitation

SI New Plymouth invites you to its Soroptimist Breakfast
with

Guest Speaker: Toni Street



Toni grew up on a local farm and in 2001 was Head Girl at New Plymouth Girls' High School. Toni is a One News sports reporter/presenter and Saturday *Breakfast* Co-Host. "Toni's an outstanding journalist and a talented broadcaster. She's known and respected for her professionalism, energy and engaging personality."

Tickets: \$30.00 via internet banking -

Date: Monday 16 April 2012, 7am-9am

Location: St. Mary's Peace Hall, Vivian St New Plymouth – some parking on-site

RSVP: Please reply by 6th April to Dawn - email

rjmills@clear.net.nz or enquiries to Mary – Phone 06 758 9990

Proceeds from this Breakfast to the St Mary's After School Care Project and UN Women

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New Plymouth Skating Arena Upgrades with Icecourt Floor

The New Plymouth Skating Arena is undergoing an upgrade with a new high performance floor, Icecourt, used internationally for world championships in the USA and Europe. The floor provides a faster skating surface providing skaters of all skating codes with the ability to improve their skating skills with less wear and tear on their precision gear.

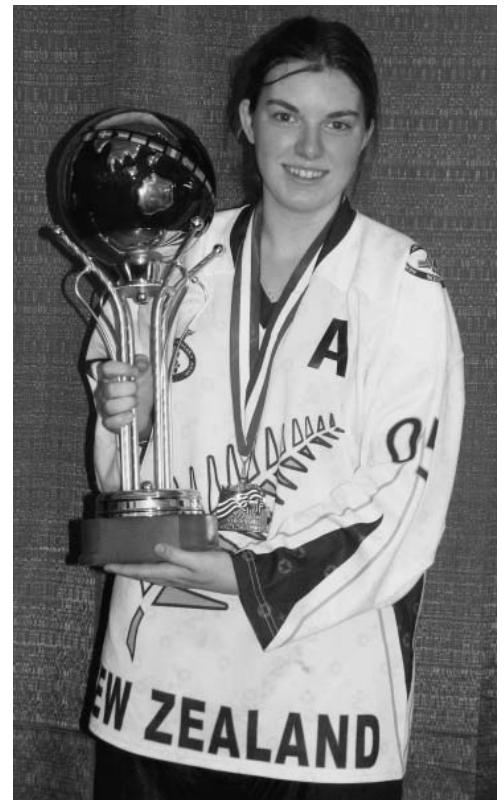
The Icecourt floor is made up of interlocking tiles creating a seamless surface and has been funded with a grant from the TSB Community Trust. Club volunteers have installed the tiles on the bigger arena and will soon complete the installation on the smaller adjacent rink. The completion will see the New Plymouth Arena provide an international facility for years to come.

The Oceania Championships return to Taranaki in April with New Zealand competing against Australia from April 13 to April 18. It is hoped that another visiting team from Asia will attend the championships as well. The event is open to the public for a small fee and spectators are welcome. There are several Taranaki skaters representing New Zealand and represent a cross section of players in each of the grades competing.

Registrations are currently being taken for the 2012 season. It is not too late to join teams. The competition season commences in May culminating in NZ National Championships held during the first week of school holidays in September/October. Experienced coaches provide excellent coaching to new comers and more experienced skaters. All ages and abilities are welcome to join in. Safety equipment can now be purchased through the club at reasonable cost. Contact ravensinline@gmail.com

The learn to skate programme allowing school groups to utilise the venue during school time has been a huge success with school children attending a five week series of sessions to introduce skate sports as part of their sports curriculum. Schools have the opportunity of booking their students into the "learn to skate" series by contacting Skate Sport Taranaki at 06 7598455. The new Skate Sport Development Officer, Rebecca Smith, works from Sport Taranaki in association with Skate Sports Taranaki and has experience in sports administration, coaching and skating. Rebecca is a current New Zealand Senior Women's representative for inline hockey and has competed in Australia and twice in the USA at the AAU Inline Hockey Junior Olympics in recent years.

Krys Beardman, Roller Sports Club



Rebecca Smith.



UGLY duck

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FRIDAY - Come for your T.G.I.F FREE Hot Roast Beef Sammies. From 5.15pm - so get in quick before they all go!

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New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

A busy month for the club with us hosting both the Taranaki Secondary School Surfing Championships and the annual TAFT welcoming barbeque for the WOMAD performers, along with many of our top surfers competing on the Surfing New Zealand competition circuit in Senior Men's and Women's, Juniors and Longboard events. The weather and swell conditions finally gave us a break and we were able to hold the Annual 70's Retro fun event on the last Friday evening available this summer.

Overall the surf has not been consistent but those who are prepared to hunt out the secret spots and be patient have been rewarded with some very good waves. With many of the recognised surfbreaks not performing it has been good, old, reliable Fitzroy that has developed the banks and produced some of the better surf around the coast. While the majority head off around the coast in search of a wave and when they find it have to share with every wannabe in town, the dedicated Fitzroy crew have been rewarded with good shape and fewer numbers to compete with.

The annual Taranaki Secondary School Champs organised by "The Coach" at Sports Taranaki and run by New Plymouth Surf Rider's Club volunteers, provided our local students with the chance to test themselves against their peers again. With large numbers entering this year we ran the competition on two arenas at Fitzroy which allowed us to get all divisions through in one day which was fortuitous as the weather again turned for the worse the next day.

It was a great event and thanks to all the volunteers who undertook the marshalling, tallying, judging and generally making the event a huge success.

On March 14th the drizzle finally cleared away and we were again able to welcome the WOMAD performers to their TAFT organised barbeque and social event. Our hosting of this event gives us the opportunity to put something back into the community that supports us so well but please note this is not a public freebie for those who want to meet and greet the WOMAD performers. It is a TAFT function for the performers on the day they arrive. It would be appreciated if this was respected by the public as a private function. Thank you for your co-operation in 2013.

1970's RETRO. At last the weather and surf conditions got their act together and we were able to make the call and hold this annual fun event where both competitors and spectators enter into the spirit and dress in what they think the 1970's were like. The competitors have 40 minutes to impress the two judges who make their own rules but come up with a fair decision in the end. This year we had our first female entry, Robyn Cox from Waitara who gave the mop-top crew a good run and was narrowly pipped for third place on the last wave of the day by Justin Crouch. Mark O'Connor took out first place with Simon Martin taking second and the best dressed award.

Numbers were down due to the clash with WOMAD but with a better summer predicted for 2013 we will again be able to hold the event in February (we hope) and attract the usual crazy crowd along.

Finally the often windy westerly days we have been experiencing gives many of our members an alternative sport to indulge their love of the ocean in: Kite Surfing. But every sport has its hazards as Rhys Williams found out when attempting a high speed aerial and it all came crashing down ending up with a nasty cut to the neck even though he was wearing his helmet. Rhys was more concerned at losing his waterproof camera and was much relieved to have it returned after it washed up at the groyne two weeks later little worse for wear.

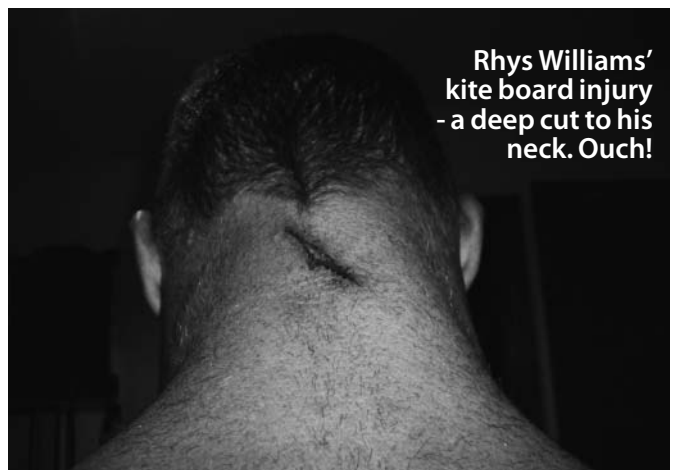
Allen Pidwell



Sean Kettle competing in the Secondary Schools U18 division.



70's Retro Champs: Jamie Andrews, Robyn Cox, Colin Scott, Charlie Roebuck, Mark O'Connor, Damien Phillis, Justin Crouch and Simon Martin ready to take to the water.



Rhys Williams' kite board injury - a deep cut to his neck. Ouch!

TARANAKI SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPS RESULTS

Under 14 Girls:

- 1 Jana O'Connor, SHGC
- 2 Mia Luond, NPGHS
- 3 Nina Anderson, Opunake HS

Under 16 Girls:

- 1 Nam Northcott, SHGC
- 2 Olivia Holdt, NPGHS
- 3 Jaz Nevin, Waitara HS

Under 18 Girls:

- 1 Hine Davis, OHS
- 2 Georgia Kennings, NPGHS
- 3 Emma Croton, SHGC

Under 14 Boys:

- 1 Isaac Kettle, NPBHS
- 2 Josh Farr, NPBHS
- 3 Dean Vickers, NPBHS

Under 16 Boys:

- 1 Te Rapai Barbarich-Love, WHS
- 2 Michael Watts, NPBHS
- 3 Toa Mac Donald, WHS

Under 18 Boys:

- 1 Sean Kettle, NPBHS
- 2 Jordan Hart, COASTAL
- 3 Josh Kettle, NPBHS

Bodyboard:

- 1 Maukino Skelton, NPBHS
- 2 Sean Pilkinton, WHS
- 3 Caine Robinson, FDMC

Longboard:

- 1 Tom Pilkinton, WHS
- 2 Ricardo Lucibella, NPBHS
- 3 Lachlan Stevens, FDMC

Team Totals:

1	NPBHS	66
2	NPGHS	38
3	WHS	34
4	SHGC	30
5	OHS	18
6	FDMC	12
7	COASTAL	8

TSB NZ Surf Festival

Entries are now open via the festival's website, www.nzsurfestival.co.nz for all the festival's surfing competitions, with the ITL New Zealand Women's Open offering women surfers the opportunity to prove themselves against the nation's best – and then the world's best women surfers the very next day in Taranaki.

Commencing on Tuesday, April 10, at Fitzroy Beach, the ITL New Zealand Women's Open will have four divisions, an Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, and the Open age division. Entry is free for all and competitors may enter in any two divisions, with age being no barrier to winning the Open and challenging the world's best, says Contest Director, Jarred Hancox.

"For the first time in history the ASP World Tour will have three Kiwi's in the 18 woman draw for the Dow AgroSciences Pro!" says Hancox.

"Local Paige Hareb from Oakura will be on form to unleash her lethal powerful surfing in front of a big home crowd and young Sarah Mason who was born in Taranaki is set to flare up her new school repertoire to wow her fans."

"National Women's Champion and Taranaki local Thandi Tipene is in fine form this year going into the NZ Women's Open which will decide who gets the wildcard into the main event. With free entry into these surf festival events it's expected there will be a solid field of NZ girls looking to join Thandi in the contest for the coveted spot. The festival is a huge opportunity for New Zealand girls to hone their skills and give exposure to the international surfing stage. We are really looking forward to an exciting week of action!"

Current National Women's Champion Thandi Tipene agrees. "This is the third year we have hosted the event here and it's very exciting that three New Zealand girls are going to be competing in an ASP World Tour event this April!" says Tipene. "That's a first for our country and a real step forward in NZ Women's surfing. I'm sure it will inspire lots of young groms to make it their future."

By visiting the Festival's website, the public will find further information about the other events in the 10-day TSB Bank New Zealand Surf Festival based at New Plymouth's



Fitzroy Beach and running from April 6 to 15. The event will also include surf competitions for grommets to their grandparents as well as a host of community events such as a surf film festival, a photo exhibition and a Beach Bash carnival hosted by the New Plymouth District Council.

The annual Fisher & Paykel Easter Masters competition run by the New Plymouth Boardriders' Club is now in its 20th year and will kick the Festival off on Friday, April 6. At the other end of the surfing spectrum is the Micro-Groms champs for 5 to 12 year olds which will take place on Saturday, April 7 at Oakura Beach.

Another crowd pleaser will be the Little Rocket Airshow aerial surfing competition challenging surfers to do the best air manoeuvres they can and is scheduled for April 9 at Fitzroy Beach. The prize for the champion will be a three-day coaching programme at Surfing Australia's high performance centre in NSW. The winner will be hosted by the centre for three nights and will receive intense coaching around technique, wave selection and use, time management and psychological approach.

The Dow AgroSciences Pro will then be held over a five-day window from April 11 to 15 where 18 of the world's best women surfers for the second year running will put on spectacular show of competitive surfing.

The main surf arena will be New Plymouth's Fitzroy Beach with back up arenas such as Back Beach and Arawhata Road on Surf Highway 45 available as alternatives depending on wind and swell directions.

Released on behalf of Surfing Taranaki by Adviso Media, Bruce Gatward-Cook, ph 0274 99 00 24, bruce@adviso.co.nz

Surfing's Next Generation

Women's Professional surfing will be in the spotlight in April as the Dow AgroScience Pro Dream Tour event is staged once again in Taranaki. Having this prestigious surfing event held in our province provides a wonderful opportunity for young surfers and in particular young female surfers to see what is achievable within their chosen sport.

Surfing Taranaki and the local surfing community continue to provide an environment that is particularly favourable to nurturing the growth of surfing in our province. The Surfing Taranaki Micro Groms summer series is a perfect example of this. Getting the very young involved with lots of parental support and help this competition is a wonderful pathway in which the young surfer can enter competitive surfing in a fun safe environment.

I recently spoke to a young surfer who has experienced firsthand the benefits of being involved with these and other events and how they are shaping her involvement in the sport.



Mia May Luond is a girl that loves her sports and outdoor activities, listing soccer, snowboarding, and netball and of course surfing as things she likes doing. Surfing is a relatively new sport for her, in fact it was only a year ago she first gave it a go on a friends "old little bad board". The board may not have been great but

the experience was and before long Mia May's mum Jade joined her up with the Opunake Board Riders Club. The Micro Groms series was the perfect vehicle for Mia May to get involved in surfing contests and she said it was a really encouraging environment with Jade agreeing that the whole culture of surfing in Taranaki is extremely supportive for kids getting into competitive surfing. Mia May won both of the two Micro Grom events that she competed in so this further fuelled her desire to compete in surfing. This year Mia May who aged 13 is living in our local area as she is a Year Nine student at New Plymouth Girls High and is a full time boarder which she is really enjoying. Now that she has started high school she is no longer eligible for the Micro Grom events but she recently had the opportunity to represent NPGHS in the TSSA Surfing and placed second in her age category. This event was a step up from the Micro Grom contest which were more about having fun Mia May says. However she still really loved the experience and is already entered in the TSB Bank NZ Women's Surf Festival Under 14 Girls event as is her younger sister Journey who will be competing in the Micro Groms category.

It was no surprise when I asked Mia who her favourite surfer was and she named Paige Hareb. Having a local girl on the surfing world stage has so many positive spin offs for youngsters getting involved in surfing.

This year for the first time in history it is likely that we will see three New Zealand surfers competing at an ASP World Tour competition. This will happen when Paige Hareb, Sarah Mason and the winner of the women's ITL Open event. The winner will qualify for a wild card entry and Taranaki local and current NZ Women's National Champion Thandi Tipene is a hot contender to fill that wild card position.

So if Mia May and any of the other scores of young surfers need any more inspiration to what is achievable in their surfing they will be able to see it all on show on our local beaches in April.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
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COMMUNITY MEETINGS: DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN 2012-2022

Community meetings on the Draft Long-Term Plan 2012-2022 are being held throughout the district in April.

Join Mayor Harry Duynhoven, Councillors and community board members at the following meetings to hear more about the draft plan:

- New Plymouth: 7.00pm on Monday 16 April, Civic Centre, Liardet Street.
- Bell Block: 5.30pm on Thursday 19 April, Fred Tucker Hall, Parklands Avenue.

To read the draft plan and to have your say, go online to newplymouthnz.com/LTP.

For more information contact
New Plymouth District Council
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Proposed Changes to Bail Law

We recently witnessed the street parades and interviews from those participating in supporting "Christie's Law" promoting the strengthening of bail laws. The campaign was started by the grieving parents of a young girl who was killed by someone out on bail. The response to the campaign showed the concerns of ordinary New Zealanders to the fact that those who are granted bail go on to commit further crimes while they are "liberty".

The National-led Government believes that New Zealanders have a right to feel safe in their homes and their communities and we are proposing changes to bail laws to reflect that. We are looking to improve public confidence in the system and ensure that bail will be harder to get in marginal cases where the court would previously have had no choice but to release a defendant on bail. However, we recognise that a person charged with a crime has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty and these rights must be balanced against the safety of the public.

Our proposals to improve public safety fall into three categories and will be included in the Bail Amendment Bill to be introduced into Parliament later this year

We intend to reverse the burden of proof to target defendants arrested for certain serious violent, sexual and drug offences and those at the highest risk of offending while on bail. Currently, in most cases, if the prosecution opposes bail then it must prove that the defendant poses a risk of absconding, interfering with witnesses or evidence or offending on bail. A reverse burden of proof means that in order to be granted bail, the defendant (rather than the prosecution) has to demonstrate that they do not pose a risk to the public. It makes it harder, in marginal cases, for those defendants to get bail and more likely that they will be held in custody on remand until their trial.

The Bill will improve the integrity of the bail system by making it clear that bail will not be granted in return for information. In other words, bail should not be used as a bargaining chip in return for information from the criminal underworld. In addition to this the Government intends to increase the penalty for failing to answer Police bail so that it is an offence punishable by up to three months in prison. Citizens frequently voice their frustrations over the lack of accountability by repeat young offenders. The National-led Government proposed changes will see 17 to 19 year olds who have previously served a prison sentence subject to the standard (adult) tests for bail as well as enabling the court to detain defendants under 17 years of age who significantly or repetitively breach bail conditions. We are also enabling Police to uplift young defendants found in breach of court-imposed curfews and return them home or to a place where they will comply with the curfew.

Listen to any talk back radio station and you will hear the frustration and helplessness of callers who have been victims of crime and who realise that the perpetrator will probably be granted bail and be back in the community. Worse still there are those who are reluctant to report a crime for fear they will be victimised themselves. New Zealanders need to know that this government believes that public safety is paramount.

With these law changes, National is looking to build a safer New Zealand for all.

Johnathon Young MP.



Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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TOM Garden of the Month

Over the past twelve months gardeners both locally and nationally have had to deal with some extreme and at times trying weather conditions and the resulting damaging effects it has had on their gardens.

In recent times the weather 'bomb' that devastated South Taranaki properties left most local gardens a bit battered. Most of us I'm sure would agree we got off very lightly when we viewed pictures from Patea of pine trees snapped off at their base. However, not many gardeners that I spoke to this month were overly keen to have their pride and joy on display for our TOM readers after the windy battering of the 'weather bomb'. Therefore this month's TOM garden feature is not about an entire garden but instead it's the perfect opportunity to share with you a prolific walnut tree I have long admired on a friend's property. Every year I have been astounded as this tree yields literally hundreds of walnuts for the family and its two dogs to enjoy. Yes even the family's dogs are happy to see the arrival of 'walnut season.' One dog eats the nuts once they have been shelled for him but the other pooch, a Labrador, collects and shells the nuts herself.

The tree stands at the rear of the property in a relatively sheltered north facing spot in the garden. Luckily this back part of the property is large enough to accommodate this

specimen. Walnut trees get quite big and this one is no exception.

This walnut tree is left to do its own thing by its owners Sharee and Jason and seems to require no special care to produce its bumper crop of nuts each year. The trees do apparently benefit from a prune annually and a warm north facing spot is the ideal growing position. Once the nuts fall to the ground the outside husks are removed and the nuts need to dry out in the sun. Once they are completely dried the nuts can be stored in a bag with good ventilation (an onion bag is ideal) and put in a dark dry place.

Sharee says to dry the nuts out they just lay them in a sunny spot on a garden table and leave them there. The best ones are collected around the end of March. I've been the lucky recipient of these walnuts and the good ones are fantastic. As well as eating them straight from the shell last year, I used them to make a great pesto.

Sharee doesn't store any as they seem to all get eaten by the family or gifted to friends. That's one of the rewarding things about growing your own food: being able to share it with friends and family.

Sharee also gave me a simple but tasty pasta sauce recipe that she uses the walnuts in which I will share with TOM readers.

SPINACH AND WALNUT PASTA SAUCE

3 cups of fresh spinach.

2 sprigs of parsley.

½ cup of Parmesan cheese.

4 cloves garlic.

¾ cup of Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

½ teaspoon of salt.

1 cup of walnuts

Method: Put all ingredients except for walnuts in a blender to make a sauce. Chop walnuts finely and add to blended sauce. Pour over hot fresh pasta and sprinkle with more Parmesan.

The sauce freezes well.



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A nut anyone?

The owners of gardens featured in the TOM Fitzroy receive a garden voucher generously donated by Fairfields Garden Centre.

The TOM is always on the lookout for a special garden to feature each month so if you know of a garden treasure in our local area we would love to hear from you. Phone Jackie 7585442 or email jackie@thetom.co.nz

Keep in mind that it doesn't have to be a huge garden or one that is of 'festival' type standards. Often the quirky and unusual are some of the most interesting gardens we have shown you. Many of the gardens were recommended by you, our TOM readers. We love being able to share these treasures with everyone as often they are tucked away unseen except by a lucky few.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Sea Weed Gatherer

The big full moon tides recently affect our beach landscape and also provided a boomer 'crop' of kelp after being washed ashore. Here local lady Jackie is busy collecting a couple of supermarket bags full of this nutrient rich ocean bounty which she would be putting straight on the garden.



Jackie the seaweed gatherer.

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Living a Sustainable Life

Like many others, I noticed the full page newspaper advertisements warning about the implications of the proposed Food Bill. These advertisements were placed in the paper by local woman Barbara McPhillips. Knowing very little about the bill I went along to meet Barbara to find out more and also what drove her to run the campaign of informing others. For twenty one years, Barbara and her husband Bruce have lived at their Smart Road property and for the last seventeen years Barbara has grown and sold organic produce at Smart Organics. Before coming to Smart Road Barbara and Bruce were dairy farmers. When dairy farming, Barbara says she felt caught in a regime that is considered the norm but it's not. She says she found it an all-embracing lifestyle and one that she wasn't entirely happy with in regard to the use of sprays and other chemicals. She went on to say, "I have always been anti spraying." So coming to their two acre property in Glen Avon was the ideal time to put her ideas about chemical free growing to good use. However, growing and selling her organic fruit and vegetables is just one facet of this advocate of the sustainable living life.



Currently Barbara is extremely busy as she campaigns with other concerned New Zealanders about the new Food Bill, a bill which in her opinion if passed, could have a far reaching impact on growers like herself as well as countless others involved in selling any food products. It's a complicated subject and Barbara says she was amazed that she only really found out about the bill "by accident." This is remarkable she says, particularly as she is a grower and seller of organic produce as well as the fact that she runs a commercial kitchen where she produces a myriad of chutneys, jams

and the like. If it hadn't been for a concerned friend emailing her about the bill she says she was completely in the dark. When she first received the email she actually thought it was a joke but decided to investigate further, and the more she found out the more concerned she became. Barbara is not alone. When I interviewed her, 40,000 people had signed an online petition about their concern about the new Food Bill and Barbara doesn't doubt there will be many more that will sign once they have more information. It's the spreading of information that has been at the forefront of Barbara's campaign. She realises that the average New Zealander or for that matter politician is not going to be prepared to plough through the hundreds of pages that make up the bill so she has made it her business to do just that. As she has gone through the document with a fine tooth comb, almost every page has highlighted paragraphs or notes attached which indicate an area of concern. These concerns she has brought before various MPs and in the full page public advertisements I mentioned earlier. This stance has seen Barbara called a 'scaremonger' amongst other things, a term she refutes as she insists her agenda is really getting information out there and getting people to look into the implications for all New Zealanders of the proposed bill.

It is apparent that this issue has been all consuming for Barbara but she says she knows the process of submissions and the like as she was very involved in the campaign to stop the fluoridation of our water.

I was curious about what drove her to be so passionate about these issues and she described to me one incident that she had with seed growing from a genetically modified plant. The seed simply would not grow its own kind; the silverbeet plant would come up but then just keep turning to seed. This had a profound effect on Barbara and she is committed to keeping her own property free from contamination of GE plants as well as keeping her own seeds and encouraging others to do the same. This practise is one of the things that Barbara is concerned could be potentially threatened by the bill and she understands Kaye Baxter of Koanga Seeds got her lawyer to check out the proposed Food Bill and the lawyer said "That she should be very concerned." Barbara also explained how easy it is to lose a 'seed chain' and that to be a sustainable gardener you need and want your own seeds.

Growing things has been a lifetime passion for Barbara. At school she was involved in the school garden and her family lived next door to a nursery so she was always collecting plants. Barbara started the organic garden when the youngest of her five boys left home to go to university and she now devotes the bulk of her time to growing her organic produce, processing some in the form of pickles, chutneys and jams as well as selling fresh produce. The day I visited Barbara she had bags of fresh mesclun bagged up ready to sell. I have to say it put its supermarket counterparts to shame. Colourful, fresh and without spraying or chemical washing it was also very reasonably priced. As well as the basics like cabbage and broccoli, silverbeet and a variety of herbs there's the gorgeous mesclun mix and kale. Plus fruits like citrus, pear, nashi, figs and guava. A relatively new addition is pinenuts. It was a surprise to hear that Barbara grows her own sugar cane and to complete the picture she has a tea from a camellia type tree. With three quarters of the two acre property in fruit, vegetables and herbs



you would think Barbara would have little time for much more, but indeed she has. There are three bee hives on the property that she tends and the shop is open every afternoon except Sundays. I asked Barbara how she manages all the work and she said at the moment she just has a student come in the mornings to help and her husband takes care of all the maintenance work around the property. In the past Barbara has had WOOFERS (Workers from all over the world who come to organic farms and basically work for board and food) working on the property. This is another thing that could be adversely affected by the new Food Bill she says. Although the perception is that organic farming is lot more work than current growing practise, Barbara begs to differ and the proof she says is that she almost single handed manages the property. To control weeds that have got away on her she stomps them down and then 'cooks' them under polythene. Organic sprays are also used to control unwanted pests and plants.

Barbara's shop is a wonderful treasure trove of organic foods and other products. There are shelves lined with a huge array of beautiful preserves and an area for living plants for sale as well as fresh produce, dried goods and organic skin care to name a few of the products on offer. Customers to her shop are she says likeminded and honest so she has developed a wonderful relationship with those that shop there.

There isn't a lot of spare time for this busy local but when she can Barbara enjoys craft work and tramping. She would love to climb Ruapehu to see its glaciers. However spare time is scarce and when I met her, the 'battle' was not yet won in regards to stopping the new Food Bill so Barbara intended to continue to spread the information she has and encourage the politicians to be informed and honest in regards to this controversial bill.

The complexity of this issue is such that I can only present an overview of what Barbara believes are the faults within the proposed bill and why she is choosing to oppose it. Anyone wanting more information she says should contact her directly at barbara@smartorganics.co.nz. I came away from meeting Barbara more informed, both about the Food bill as well as what is achievable for anyone wanting to live a sustainable life.

By Jackie Tomlinson



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Plan with Foresight, not Hindsight

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Having a plan in place to such an event, provides some security. It doesn't have to be expensive but can give great "peace of mind" to your family.

One of the most important ways we can help protect our families is to provide them with the information they need to make wise and informed decisions regarding what they have worked hard to acquire. Failure to plan in advance too often can and does result in unnecessary hardship on those left behind. Proper planning should not be seen as optional, but as critical.

Nothing ever stays the same. We should constantly review our situation and make the changes that we feel we should. That is partly why I have elected to change my business and plan more for my future. I am on a different horizon now, and thinking with foresight.

Change is good!



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TOM Pet of the Month

Name: Rosie.

Age: Three years old.

Breed: Miniature Schnauzer.

Colour: Black.



It has to be said that Rosie cannot be strictly called a 'local resident.' However she is most definitely a born and bred 'Fitzroy' girl as she is one of local schnauzer breeder Shirley Crisp's dogs.

Rosie is a ball of energy and has personality in bucket loads. She is a real charmer with gorgeous eyes and an affectionate nature.

Rosie just loves people, other dogs and life in general. On the day I photographed her on Fitzroy beach she was busy making friends with everyone she met so getting her to sit still long enough for a photo was by no means easy.

Rosie, like lots of schnauzers, is definitely a vocal wee thing. She is a fantastic watch dog at home alerting the family to any visitors but equally vocal about anything else that she isn't quite happy with!

Unlike her owners, Rosie loves that her home life is extra busy at the moment with the family home being renovated. It seems the team of Clelands Construction builders have a new best 'mate' every smoko and lunch time when Rosie joins them for company and any snacks heading her way. Having the family's eldest son home at the moment is also going down well with Rosie and she happily follows him around their rural neighbourhood as he works on various neighbours' properties.



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Do you have a story you'd like to share?

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FITZROY CLUBS & GROUPS

East End Indoor Bowling Club

Meets in the Community Hall Sackville St Fitzroy at 7.30 pm every Monday evening. New members are very welcome. Please phone Betty Death 757 9968.

Exercise to Music.

Fridays 9.30am-10.30am (for everyone 50+). Te Henui Church Hall, Henui St, Fitzroy. Contact Sonia for more details 06 759 8918 or Gloria 06 752 7442.

Fitzroy Outdoor Bowling Club.

Season opening on Sunday 18th September. – two club days per week – Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. New members welcome – both men and women. Join our friendly members who play on two greens with an upmarket clubroom and fine facilities. Contact the president Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or the secretary Sherrylle Watkins a/hrs 755 0125 or Club Pavilion 758 9062.

Fitzroy Scout Group.

For boys and girls from age 5. Keas meet on Tuesdays from 5pm - 6.15pm, Cubs meet on Mondays 6.00 - 7.30pm, Scouts meet on Mondays 6.30 - 8.00pm at The Scout Den, Clemow Road Fitzroy (near Lake Rotomanu). Visit us to see what we do. The first term/part term is free! For further details contact the following: For Keas (years 1-3) phone Karl 06 755 2177 or 027 257 5910. For Cubs (years 4-6) phone Cory 06 759 9312 or 027 291 7334. For Scouts (years 7-10) phone Vinnie 06 755 0328 or 027 486 6210. Or email: fitzroyscoutgroup@xtra.co.nz

Fitzroy Mahjong Group

At Beach Street hall lounge room, every Saturday 1-4pm. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy Mahjong, cup of tea & biscuits. There will be a small prize for hand of the day. \$3 each. Note: There will be a break from 3rd December and restart 4th February 2012. For details phone 7581957 or 7575913.

Fitzroy Men's Probus Club

Meets in the Beach Street Hall, Fitzroy, at 10am on the second Tuesday of every month (except January). New members welcome. Please phone Ian Raine 06 757 5825.

Fitzroy Senior Citizens Association

Meets at Beach St Hall on Monday and Thursday at 1pm for euchre.

Meets at Beach St Hall on Thursday 1pm for indoor bowls.

\$2 entrance fee, includes raffles and afternoon tea.

New members welcome so please come and join our friendly group. For more information ring Rob 753 7132 or Rita 753 3425.

Fitzroy Womens Probus.

Beach St Hall, meet 10am 1st Wednesday of each month. New Members welcome. Phone Margaret Stening 757 8890.

Freemasons Worldwide

Are ordinary men in the community, 21 years and over, of all religions and backgrounds, who share a concern for human values, moral standards, and the rights of individuals. Meeting monthly in Fitzroy. Phone Roger Marshall, 06 759 1755.

New Plymouth Chess Club.

Every Tuesday 7.30 pm. Clubrooms: 11 Gilbert St (next to Model Trains). For further information contact Errol Tuffrey 758 2626.

New Plymouth Floral Art Club.

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month. Venue: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Henui St. We have two meetings, one during the day, the other at night to cater for working women. Further information from: Shirley 758 9090 or Beryl 751 0309.

New Plymouth Pakeke Lions

Meet on the last Monday of the month at the Fitzroy Golf Club, 11.30am. Contact President David May 758 4427.

New Plymouth Potters

Meet every Thursday between 10am - 4pm at the Te Henui Vicarage, 288 Courtenay Street. Monday evening classes for members, 7-9pm. Tuesday evening open classes 7-9pm. We welcome new members. Contact Gail Ph: 753 6207. The Te Henui Vicarage Gallery is also open on Saturday and Sunday 1-4pm.

New Plymouth Toastmasters Club. The Speechcraft Course commences Thursday 17th May, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pavilion at Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698. Building Confidence, Speaking Skills and Self Esteem.

Rotary

Meets every Wednesday night at 5.15pm at the Beach Street Hall. Enquiries to the Secretary, Ross Smith, phone 758 4194. Email: rossandanne@slingshot.co.nz

Santa Rosa Country Music Club:

Meets every Friday night 7.30pm until 10.30pm at the Fitzroy Hall Sackville street Fitzroy. Entry is \$3.00 for Members. Non members, \$4.00. Supper provided. Contact John Lancaster 021 265 9230 or George Whittaker 06 756 7670.

Sit and be Fit.

Tuesdays 9.30am-10.30am (this class exercises in chairs), Te Henui Church Hall, Henui St, Fitzroy. Contact Sonia for more details 06 759 8918 or Gloria 06 752 7442.

St. Bosco Indoor Bowling Club.

Meets in the Community Hall, Sackville Street Fitzroy at 7.30 pm every Tuesday evening. New members welcome. For further information please contact Con Coulton 758 0351.

Taranaki Model Powerboat Club

Holds a Club Day on the 1st Sunday of every month (weather permitting) at Lake Cowley, just before the Go cart track in Waitara. Contact John Nicholls on 769 9166 or 021 299 4168.

Taranaki Radio Control Car Club.

Off-road racing: Club's dirt track by Lake Rotomanu, 2nd Sunday of every month. Contact Greg Mawson, ph 753 7471. On-road racing: contact Selwyn Duthie, ph 06 765 8108. Indoor racing: contact Tracy van Beers, ph 751 1093.

Taranaki Seniors Tennis.

Meet every Sunday morning at Rotokare Tennis Complex, Walsh Road - off Omata Road, 9 am till 12 noon. Everybody over 35 years of age most welcome. We have social and competitive levels and a good off court social programme for all to enjoy. Come and give it a go. Good exercise and friendship. Please phone Beth at 769 5566.

Tasman Club

Situated at 35 Octavius Place, New Plymouth. Tasman Clubrooms are available for hire. Further information phone 758 5186 clubrooms.

The New Plymouth Croquet Club has started their summer season and invite you to join them, 9am Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday with our Twilight games starting again 5pm 9th November and every Wednesday throughout daylight saving. Golf Croquet does not require muscle or stamina just cunning and good sportsmanship. Give Barbara a ring on 7582710 for more details.

TSB NP Contract Bridge Club

Plays Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs at 7.20pm and Friday afternoons from 12.45pm at 70 Hobson St. Ph the President 758 8985 or the Secretary 759 0258.

U3A New Plymouth.

For the regular notice of U3A New Plymouth meeting: please note the Secretary's phone number has changed. It is now 753 3574. It is worth noting that you do not have to have had a university education to join.

Victoria League Bridge Club.

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