

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM FITZROY

AUGUST 2011

JAGUARS IN THE URBAN JUNGLE

Kevin and Evelyn with their beloved S Type
and MK 2 Jaguars.

- more on page 2



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

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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EDITORIAL

When I was talking with Kevin and Evelyn Mills about their involvement with Jaguars and the Taranaki Jaguar Club to which they have been members for 28 years, I was struck by the longevity of their membership.



Twenty eight years is a long time to be associated with a group. It suggests passion, commitment, enthusiasm, social aptitude and a willingness to get along with people through good times and bad. Twenty eight years is long enough to have produced children and grandchildren, lose your hair, teeth and figure (not that either Kevin or Evelyn have done this!). Twenty eight years ago the cell phone hadn't been invented and the first personal computers were just coming onto the market. Twenty eight years ago you were pretty cool if you had a 'walkman' to listen to cassette music on. This device probably changed the way we listened to music more dramatically than any other device. Now we have ipods and portable music is the norm. Twenty eight years ago cafés didn't exist in New Plymouth but milk bars and tearooms did. The list could go on and on – society has changed so much in the last 28 years and social media is changing the way we interact in this present time at an ever increasing rate. Yet groups of people getting together to share knowledge and each other's company is still relevant.

I wonder what the next 28 years will bring.

Kim

COVER STORY

Jaguars in the Urban Jungle

This month the TOM profiles local Strandon couple Kevin and Evelyn Mills, whose passion for motor vehicles and in particular Jaguars and the people who drive them, has spanned many decades.

Kevin tells his story -

It all started in Hawera, as they say in the storybooks, long, long ago. 1966 to be precise. That is when I started my motor mechanic apprenticeship with Allan Dietrich Motors, a small workshop that serviced all makes and models of mainly English vehicles, specialising in Jaguars.

At this time there were a large number of Jaguars in Taranaki. I recall that within the South Taranaki area there was a regular clientele of at least ten cars. The most popular models were the MK 7, along with the MK 8 and MK 2, a solitary MK 10 and, towards the end of my apprenticeship, the Series 1 XJ6.

An interesting cross section of people owned these vehicles - farmers, a school principal, teachers, businessmen and a Golf Club green-keeper. This was a boom time in the rural districts and with so many Jaguars around my interest in owning one was kindled.

In those days all Jaguar parts were purchased through Archibald & Shorter in Auckland who were the main agents for the North Island.

It is quite ironic that when I was an apprentice I actually worked on the MK 2 we now own!

Our first venture into Jaguar ownership was a dark metallic blue 1960 MK2 2.4L manual overdrive with painted wire wheels and grey interior purchased from a dealer in Cambridge. A New Zealand-new, Christchurch car with few owners, low mileage and in perfect original condition, it was unusual for a 2.4L to be optioned with overdrive and wire wheels as this was more the norm for the larger 3.4L engine model.

We kept 'Jenny' as the girls named her for three years and one day I made the rash decision to sell her as I was working offshore and not driving her on a regular basis, a move I regret to this day.

We made do without a Jaguar for another few years and our next foray into Jaguar ownership was a 1980 Series 3 4.2L dark

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have just read the latest issue of Tom, and in answer to your editorial re 'why do people indicate when ending a passing lane?'

The answer is quite simple. It is a courtesy indication that it is the END of the passing lane so the road is going back into one lane. This is also a good indication for any cars that are 'screaming' up the passing lane to try and get in front!!!

It is NOT an indication that anyone is turning right!!

I enjoy the TOM.

Barbara

metallic green with pepper pot mags, a beautiful looking and driving car . . . but that's about all! Looks can be deceiving but that's another story.

After five years and many dollars later the said Jaguar was disposed of at considerable depreciation! And then the chosen mode of transport was of Japanese origin for the next few years.

Ten years later, having put two daughters through University and with the blessing of Evelyn, I began the search for a 'Classic Cat'. After months of looking and deliberation I finally found our present 1966 MK2 3.8L auto in, of all places, Waitara. It was in excellent original condition having had only two owners during the past 21 years, the last owner using it on the rare occasion.

I have maintained its original interior/external condition, preferring to retain its patina.

In saying that I have reconditioned the motor/suspension and auxiliary components to a stage where now it's as reliable as a modern vehicle and the only expenditure is regular maintenance. It was a pleasant surprise at the 2000 National Jaguar Rally in Queenstown to be awarded 3rd place in the un-restored section of the concours.

I have been tempted to part with it many times, but Evelyn, my daughters and two granddaughters won't let me.

We also have a 2005 S-Type SE 4.2 V8 as our daily driver.

This is a beautiful car in all aspects, easy to drive with performance to match, not the favoured car for many people due to its retro styling, but we like it because it's different and it matches the MK2 nicely.

Cars of all makes and models have always been a part of my life providing me with an interest and the opportunity to meet like minded people who also enjoy and use their vehicles. We are not 'nutters' just 'enthusiasts'.

I am also extremely fortunate that Evelyn approves and puts up with my interest/hobby.

We belong to the Taranaki Jaguar Drivers Club and have done so for 28 years. The Club is a smallish club with an enthusiastic group of both women and men who enjoy getting together on regular occasions for events and to share a combined passion for the Jaguar. The club has monthly outings which include such things as grass gymkhanas, a concours event, dinner outings, night trials, rallies and visiting places of interest.

If you are interested in joining the club, contact either myself by phone: 758 6963 or email kev.eve@clear.net.nz, club president Ian Paul on phone 751 4149, or email ianb-paul@xtra.co.nz, or club secretary Vic Omundsen phone 755 2873, email vic@omundsen.com.

New members are always warmly welcomed.

By Kevin Mills

A1966 beauty - the classic cat.



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TOM Winter 'Citrus Tree' Competition

Last year we held our first winter 'Citrus Tree' competition. Here at the TOM we were amazed at the bountiful harvest on some of our readers' citrus trees. We received photos of trees dripping with all manner of fruit. A 'glorious' lemon tree was the winner last year with a lime tree coming in a close second.

To be in to win next month's Fairfield's garden voucher, send a photo of your special citrus tree to jackie@thetom.co.nz by the 31st August.

With spring just around the corner there's sure to be plenty of things to spend your voucher on at Fairfield's.

Gardening didn't seem to be on anyone's mind on the last Sunday of July. The sun was out and so was every man, woman, child and their dog enjoying the weather and the last day of the school holidays. East End was buzzing with people on the walkway, at the beach, skating rink and many enjoying coffee at the Big Wave as well as a huge crowd of families at the newly renovated East End playground. The palms and other plantings are looking great and really complement the playground layout. Speaking with families using the playground, most seemed to think the council had got the mix of playground equipment right, except for a few people missing the old swings.



The popular, revamped East End playground with its planting of lush palms.

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Managing Your Money Effectively

Thoughtless spending will spell financial ruin in no time. Money management may seem a bit dry, and in difficult times even depressing, but knowledge is power in this area. Effective money management can make the difference between living on the brink of financial ruin and settling in with the knowledge that you're safe and secure.

The key to effective money management is time. The more time you are prepared to invest in managing your affairs the greater the return on that investment.

It therefore follows that the earlier you start managing your own money the more effective the process becomes. Too many people start that process too late in life. So rather than managing their money they end up trying to manage on the money they have.

In essence, any money management programme is designed to answer four questions:-

1. What are your financial goals?
2. When do you want to achieve them?
3. What funds do you have available?
4. What risks are you prepared to take to reach your targets?

Having answered these questions, speak to an investment planner and set in place your money management plan. It is essential to monitor and review progress but it can cost little and yield much.

If you want to talk to me about this, feel free to give me a call!

Michael Lay



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Fitzroy Folk Art and Gift Shop Brightens up Fitzroy

Businesses on the move and new businesses are keeping Fitzroy's main street looking vibrant and interesting. Fitzroy's Folk Art and Gift shop can't be missed with its luminescent green and black frontage. And of course being in a shiny new premise is inspiring even if they have only moved from next door. Nancy Blackstock, the owner of Fitzroy's Folk Art and Gift Shop, says the move is a positive one, as Kris Armstrong from mee O mi needed a large shop for her new homeware and gift shop, and the art centre didn't need to be so big. They both have shiny new shops now! Nancy has been into folk art and painting for more than ten years and has owned the business for almost as long.

Fitzroy Folk Art and Gifts is a creative heaven with supplies of paints, varnishes, mediums, faux finish primers, sealers,

Some eye-catching canvases.



brushes, canvasses, foils, boards and boxes of every shape and size. A unique and high quality brand of paint is in stock called Deco Arts Tradition. This paint can be used as an acrylic or with a medium, as an oil or water colour and is colour fast and vibrant. Nancy stocks a huge range of canvas sizes from the very small to the very large and they are all good quality and well constructed.

Other lines on sale are a range of gifts and paintings priced from \$3 to \$100 as well as Nancy's amazing 'moebius' knitted scarves.

Fitzroy Folk Art and Gifts is best known for craft classes and the new premises is well suited to small to largish groups of keen craftspeople. Over the years Nancy has held many different classes, depending on what people are 'into' at the time but a strong following of folk art painters continues to exist.

New classes coming up are a 'scratch art' class with Australian Janice Timmins in mid to late September. The art form starts with a black background and an image is 'scratched' into the board – very effective. Book early!

Resin pouring, transferring and moulded hearts are some other classes on offer. These are taught by Donna O'Donoghue who visits the shop regularly. On display in the shop are some clever but simple canvasses decorated with serviettes – great for gifts or to brighten up a small space. Nancy runs classes for this art form.

Nancy says she can offer her customers small class sizes which make an ideal learning environment and maximum time with the tutor and she is also willing and able to get in any product no matter how unusual for her customers. Nancy also paints folk art commissions by request.

Fitzroy Folk Art and Gifts are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am till 3.30pm.

By Kim Ferens

Nancy in her new premises.



mee O mi Opens for Business



**mee O mi
- looking
good!**

**Below -
invited
guests enjoy
opening
night at
Fitzroy's
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SPORTS



Skate Programme Offered to Taranaki Schools

The New Plymouth Roller Sports Club and Skate Sport Taranaki have teamed up with Sport Taranaki to bring an exciting and innovative skate programme to school students in the Taranaki region.

Students will learn basic skating skills during a five week programme with class or school groups travelling to the rollersports arena in Strandon.

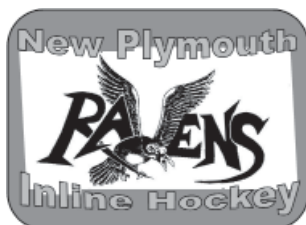
The New Plymouth Rollersports Club has been offering an in-house, inline hockey school league to teams since 1997 and has taken the initiative to develop the new skate programme with focus on: teaching students to skate; promoting safety; providing the students with a great aerobic activity; introducing an activity that can be done alone or with others; allowing students to develop their self-esteem, while mastering a new skill.

Skate Sport Taranaki is proudly committed to promoting skating as a fun activity for all ages that can lead to participation in a life-long activity with the opportunity to develop skills that can lead to representation in all skating codes available.

The programme will be coordinated by Pat Lee, who is employed by Sport Taranaki as the Skate Sport Development Officer. Pat, who comes from a background of representing the USA for Inline Hockey, has also been working with club players and recently hosted a school holiday camp attracting participants from Taranaki and Wellington over a five day period. Club players are also benefiting from the knowledge and skill Pat has brought to Taranaki. After returning from the Czech Republic in June, Pat has been re-appointed as the New Zealand Senior Men's coach for 2012 and will also work with other coaches to develop the sport further. The New Plymouth Roller Sports Club offers four different skating codes; inline hockey, roller hockey, artistic and more recently, roller derby.

The club has been successful in being awarded as the venue provider for the Oceania Inline Hockey Championships in April 2012, with New Zealand team trials in December and training camps in February and March. Anna Carrington, Julian Beardman and David Carrington have been appointed as coaches for representative teams in 2012 in the 12 & Under/ Junior Women, 14 & Under and Veterans grades respectively.

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getting WET



New Plymouth Surf Rider's Club

Ten days of stormy weather certainly disrupted most surfers' winter surfing, but in between the gales and thunderstorms some still managed to find a secret spot that offered them good rides. These are posted on various facebook pages for their mates to share. Here's hoping the worst of winter has passed and we can get some more consecutive days of surfing as we did at the beginning of last month.

On shore the club has been busy with the annual Surf Quiz night and re-planting of the storm damaged dunes at Fitzroy.

Our Surf Quiz was again hosted by David Farr and assisted by serving wenches Edwina and Patsy who kept the mulled wine flowing. Six teams had entered but unfortunately



The Groms team at the Surf Quiz Night.



Wacky serving wenches, Patsy and Edwina.

Replanting the dunes are from left, Mayor Harry, Doug Hannan, Daisy Day, Jana O'Connor, Shaz O'Connor and Brian Clark.



the teams from Opunake and Oakura had to withdraw at the last moment due to a sudden change in circumstances. Teams consist of five members, one of which must be a Grom (under 18) and at least one other a Femme (non male). This year the Groms, led by Simon Martin, put up their own team and gave the seniors a fright by placing a narrow second. Also prominent were The Poms who showed the traditional English fighting spirit by never giving up and putting in a pretty good result.



The Montgomerys, hard at work on the dunes.

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First place was taken by The President's Five, ably led by President Mark then closely followed by The Groms, The Raggedy Rascals, led by Marc Wheeler, and The Poms.

The big ten day storm did not cause as much damage to the fore dunes as did the July 2008 storm, but the dunes still need more protection so in a continuation of the planting initiated by the World Championship Tour girls in 2010, and with the generous assistance of the Taranaki Tree Trust, TRC and NPDC, who supplied 600 pingao and spinifex plants, about 30 volunteers took to the task on July 24th at 10 am. Many hands made light work and by 10.45am the job was completed.

Planning is well underway for our 20th anniversary celebration over the weekend of November 4th-6th.

Allen Pidwell

Fitzroy Lifeguard to Share Surf Life Saving Skills in Pakistan

An initiative between Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Pakistan Aquatic Life Saving or PALS sees one of our Fitzroy lifeguards bound for Pakistan in November this year. Katie Watts and nine other experienced NZ lifeguards including one from East End have been selected to travel to Karachi to share their expertise with Pakistani lifeguards.

PALS are the only surf lifesaving organisation in Pakistan and since it was founded in 2002, NZ Surf Life Saving has been involved in its on-going development. In 2004, 130 PALS lifeguards were trained and qualified to SLSNZ standards. They now patrol a large stretch of the coast bordering the Arabian Sea.

Karachi is one of the world's largest cities with a population of 18 million people. On weekends and holidays people flock to the beach in their tens of thousands. The general population that uses the beach is quite different to Kiwi beach goers. Most are poor swimmers, lack water safety awareness and with a culture that sees people swimming in clothing unsuitable for water activities, there is a huge risk of drowning. This is especially so when the sea conditions they swim in are much like our local west coast beaches where surf conditions can change quickly, resulting in large surf and powerful rips.

Whilst having trained lifeguards on the beaches has made a huge difference to the drowning toll which has been reduced from more than 220 to fewer than 10, there are still many more lifeguards needed for the volume of people using the beaches.

The trip Katie and the other NZ lifeguards are making this year will see them taking the Pakistani lifeguards to the next level in their lifeguard training as well as starting any new recruits on the path to becoming lifeguards.

Some of the other things PALS has also requested the 2011 delegation from SLSNZ does are things like, teach the teachers so that they can implement beach safety classes in schools, do coastline risk assessments to advise local government and ensure high standards are maintained in instruction and exams.

Katie went on to say the way they run the training has to be innovative as many of the trainees are illiterate and know very little English. Translators are used to deliver the instruction into the various dialects spoken. The training is described to the NZ lifeguards as challenging and where "acting skills are more useful than electronic media". The whole experience will be a far cry from teaching lifeguarding in NZ. The NZ lifeguards will stay in a modern part of Karachi and then will be bused out to beach huts for two and three day stays. The beach huts are very basic and Katie says they have all been warned that everyone gets sick



Katie Watts, off to Pakistan.

at some stage or as their supplied information describes, "most kiwi digestive systems will fail at some stage during the tour". Security will also be a priority with the kiwis always having to travel in groups.

With these sorts of challenges and the trip being entirely self funded, I asked Katie what made her apply to go to Pakistan and she said, "I just saw it on-line and thought it would be a really good, different, new experience. It will also be great to help out the lifeguards over there who are trying to make the beaches safer." Katie has spoken to a lifeguard that has done the trip and she says it sounds like it's a really rewarding experience. He describes how the PALS lifeguards are really innovative making do with the limited resources they have. They do things like making their own rescue tubes out of bits of whatever they can find. The training also provides them with good employment opportunities as once trained they can be full time paid lifeguards. Some have found work as swimming pool lifeguards in Dubai hotels. The lifeguards in Pakistan are in most cases very poor and Katie has been told they love to get kiwi lifeguards' t-shirts, so she has already put the call out to her Fitzroy club members if they want to donate any for her to take.



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The selection criteria for the trip to Pakistan mean that only our most experienced lifeguards with a wide range of lifeguarding and surf sport expertise are selected. Katie for instance, along with her IRB partner Emma Crofsky have been the SLSNZ Womens IRB Champions for the last six years. It's wonderful to see that she and other experienced lifeguards from around New Zealand are happy to share their skills and experience with lifeguards in Pakistan in their quest to make their local beaches safer for their people. Currently Katie is fundraising to help cover the costs of the trip and last week held a quiz night at the Fitzroy Surf Club.

If anyone would like to offer sponsorship or make a donation towards the costs of the trip, please contact Katie by email katie_watsy@hotmail.com

By Jackie Tomlinson



Surf Life Saving Pakistani style.

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Re-awakening of the artist within

Shirley Peck and her husband Graham moved to New Plymouth from Auckland four years ago to be closer to their daughter and her family. On moving to Taranaki, Shirley says she quickly became involved in the local art scene. As well as doing something she loves, it has also enabled her to make new friends and settle into life here. When not painting, travelling or delving into local history with the group she and Graham belong to, Shirley indulges her love of baking. Recently she and Graham joined a 'foodies' group. But it's art that keeps Shirley busiest and she explains how her involvement began many years ago as a young woman.

"Although I have had a lifelong love of drawing there was an incident when I was in Form 2 at school that made me realise I might have some talent. One day in my maths class I was secretly sketching my maths teacher instead of doing maths. He caught me, looked at my drawing and told me to correct and finish it and see him after school. When he saw it, he said it was very good and asked if he might keep it!"

This awakening of talent however was left to lie almost dormant during her high school years. Shirley's mother insisted she take commercial courses at school, but once a week Shirley also took an art class. With the encouragement of a supportive teacher this helped to keep her artistic side satisfied. The real turning point came when Cora Neilsen, a Dutch artist, invited her to come and learn to do portraits in charcoal. Shirley says "we would draw from a live model for three hours and at the end the model would choose the work they liked best as their payment. I lost a few works that way".

Another source of inspiration was attending workshops by artists such as Ben Ho, Brian Millard, and Merv Turner.

Water colours and pastels are her two favourite mediums to work in, the latter being her choice when doing portraits. Flowers are a favourite subject matter because she says, "I love the beauty of nature and seeing the touch of God in it. My art is from the heart."

When doing portraits, Shirley works from the subject's photo, and the day I visited she had just received back from the framers a lovely portrait of a young Indian man who had been a waiter on a cruise ship that Shirley and husband Graham were holidaying on. He saw some of Shirley's work in charcoal and asked if she could do one of him.

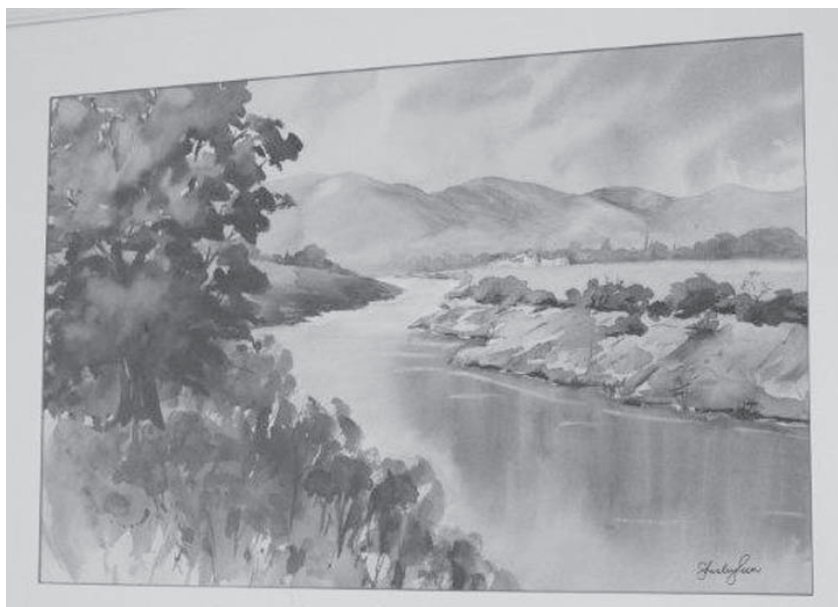
Shirley explained to me that she isn't an artist than can paint/draw to order, "But I got on really well with the young man and chatted at length to him about his impending arranged marriage". This she says made doing the portrait easier and his warm personality shows in her work. Animals are another favourite subject matter for her art and she showed me a lovely framed picture of a rabbit that she has painted. Clevedon artist Suzy Kirkcaldy taught Shirley how to draw animals at a workshop she ran at her old home on the beach. Here, Shirley says, they drew a stuffed deer head in the morning session and then in the afternoon Susie bought in the family pets, two rabbits and a dog to model.

Since moving to Taranaki Shirley has joined the local Society of Arts and the Stratford Art Society. Her involvement in these groups sees her painting and drawing several times a week. It's wonderful to see that after so many years of her artistic ability being kept on hold during her younger days, she is now able to let it blossom in her life, both for her own and others enjoyment.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Shirley Peck with one of her beautiful paintings, and below, another stunning landscape.





Out of the Fire

New Plymouth Potters' 38th annual exhibition opened at The Real Tart Gallery on 5 August and their guest selector and exhibitor this year was Robyn Lloyd, ceramic artist and weaver.

Robyn was born in Rotorua and currently resides in Te Mata, Raglan, where she specialises in the fusion of pottery with harakeke. Her early childhood was spent in Ethiopia, where she developed an appreciation for hand-worked clay pottery, burnishing and primitive firing techniques. In 2005 Robyn completed a Certificate in Raranga through Te Wanga o Aotearoa under the guidance of Heeni Kerekere, an extremely talented and creative weaver. Her journey into clay began via one of the modules - kete taha - the weaving around hui (gourds). When she couldn't find a supply of hui, she explored making them out of clay. This led her to enroll in the distance learning Diploma in Ceramic Art through Otago Polytech which she completed in 2008. During this course she explored the possibilities of working with both mediums, developing a way of integrating a plait around the neck of her vessels, and later to using the korowai method (stitches) to expand her pots using harakeke, artist wire and feathers. She has pioneered the creation of kete that are part clay, part harakeke.

Her pieces are highly burnished before being carved with designs evocative of her New Zealand roots. She has experimented with primitive firing techniques that do not require expensive glazes or a high-firing kiln.

Over the weekend Robyn held a hands on workshop when she demonstrated her specialised techniques on coiling delicate gourd-like pots. The pots were burnished, dried and then black fired. As aspects of her ceramics style are also evocative of traditional ceramics in other parts of the world, her workshop increased our awareness of different cultures represented within New Zealand's immigrant population



Robyn Lloyd's hand-worked clay pottery.

while increasing appreciation for traditional New Zealand craft.

The exhibition of work by the New Plymouth Potters will be on display until 4 September. The members also wish to acknowledge the Lion Foundation for their grant towards the exhibition and workshop.



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Emerging Artist... Michael Roberts

The death of an elderly relative early this year proved to be an unexpectedly powerful inspiration and catalyst for local artist Michael Roberts' paintings, currently featuring in an exhibition at The Ink and Anchor Tattoo Art Space.

I met with Michael to discuss his art and the unique inspiration behind his current work in the exhibition. In 2010 Michael says he was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to hold an exhibition at the Ink and Anchor Art Space by Amanda Keat and Paul Gledhill.

'Uncle Bill' as he was known to Michael and his family died earlier this year. Whilst not blood relatives, Michael says they were like family to the elderly man who led a somewhat reclusive life, and upon his death they had the task of sorting through the 90 year old's home, which contained a lifetime collection of personal effects. It was a mammoth task and it revealed that Bill had made the study of natural health remedies a life-long obsession. Books on alternative health treatments and astronomy were stacked almost to the ceiling in places. Although they numbered in the hundreds, all had margin annotation and marks throughout, indicating they had been read and studied cover to cover by Bill. It was, Michael says, a rare insight into what Uncle Bill held most dear. Remedies and exercises to preserve vision and hair were two subjects featured in many of the books; interestingly the 90 year old didn't wear glasses and had a full head of hair.

Michael has incorporated much of what he discovered about his 'Uncle Bill' into his striking art work. Many of the works are painted over old paintings found in the house and feature 'old school' figures of men and women reminiscent of the 40's and 50's. Using mixed media the works are a wonderful reflection of what was in Bill's books and his beliefs pulled together with a very modern twist and interpretation. Michael's artistic eye saw potential in many of the household effects destined for the bin. He says he rescued some 'crusty' old roller blinds to the amazement of his family who thought he was crazy for keeping them. These blinds became the canvas for several works including one of my favourites featuring eyes.

The retro frames, mirrors, suitcases and blinds certainly complement the stunning paintings well.

Michael says putting the exhibition together was a good challenge and being a 'typical boy' he left a lot to the last minute necessitating a few all night painting sessions. Once the work was complete he says he was really nervous on the morning of the exhibition opening. His exhibition

followed the hugely successful Mikaere Gardiner (Eno) exhibition. This added to his initial apprehension which proved unfounded as the people attending the exhibition opening night were really impressed with what they saw; many of his works selling quickly. Michael's return to painting comes after being overseas for six months. Although he hadn't really been involved with art since he left school, Michael says it was a subject he loved and did well at through to his seventh form year at NPBHS, where he found the art teachers provided him with great guidance and inspiration.

Michael is now considering what direction he wants to take with his art and is considering doing further study. Whatever creative path he chooses to take I will certainly be looking out for any future exhibitions this local artist holds and will be interested to see from where he draws his next inspiration.

Michael Roberts' art exhibition runs until Wednesday, 17 August at the Ink and Anchor Tattoo Art Space, 206 Devon St East.

michael.brent.roberts@gmail.com

By Jackie Tomlinson



Above, Michael at the opening night of his first exhibition. Below, some of Uncle Bill's old books which inspired the artworks.





New Plymouth Boys' High School

The school is very proud of the following boys:

The In-line hockey team are National Champions for 2011 and Greg Lockhart was named player of the tournament.

Liam Parkes and Sean Hone both gained black belts in Combined Martial Arts.

Jerome Sale won the Taranaki Squash Tournament and Robert Butt and Anthony van Kookken won other grades.

Jake Church won gold in the NZ Chamber Music competition.

The 1stV basketball team go to the Nationals at the end of August as one of the favourites for the title.

Pun Thepkunhanimit, a Year 9 boy, is the National U15 Badminton Champion.



Greg Lockhart – Player of the Tournament at the National In-line Hockey Championships.



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Jake Church, gold medal winner in the NZ Chamber Music Competition.



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There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight

Rod Andrew's Australian Dixie Street Jazz Band is coming to New Plymouth.

The Band is a thoroughly decent, well-ripened bunch of larrikins who formed an ensemble from some of the best traditional jazz musicians in Australia. When piano, sousaphone, banjo, drums, trombone, trumpet and reeds get together, the result is the nerves in your feet twitch whilst some rare musical gems from around 1900 simply grab your whole body and give it a good shake. The musicians bring to their performances ample quantities of good humour which overflows to their audiences, young and old.

The music for this tour was selected for its diverse mix, easy

listening and danceability. Tempo's change from ballads to marches to ragtime and stomps. The repertoire highlights the 1900-1930 Golden Years of early jazz, featuring classic compositions of Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver and Louis Armstrong. In addition, rare tunes seldom performed dating back to 1900 expand on this wonderfully rich repertoire.

Add to this some fine Australian compositions of Ade Mondsborough, Bob Barnard, Roger Bell and Alex Frame and you have an event to remember.

This jazz is gloriously inclusive, absolutely fun to perform and fills the halls with colourful sounds of yesteryear.

The Concert:

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TOM PET OF THE MONTH



Asterix sunbathing.

Asterix is passionate about stones and when he is chasing stones he is in 'dog heaven' says his owners.

If visitors come round to visit, in order to get attention, Asterix will find a stone and take it onto the trampoline where he will proceed to bounce it and chase it around, making him a firm favourite with children with all his antics.

When I visited Asterix and his family, I was pleased to see he had made a full recovery from some nasty injuries, sustained during an attack by a Labrador while out walking on our coastal walkway a few months ago. A neighbour cycling by at the time of the attack helped Asterix's owners to rescue him from the labrador's jaws.

Happily this plucky little fellow has healed up well and is back out enjoying the beach and coastal walkway with his family.

Name: Asterix

Age: 10 years

Breed: Toy miniature poodle

Personality: Asterix is an intelligent, affectionate and loyal wee dog. He loves people and always likes 'to be in on the conversation'.



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NEW PLYMOUTH

Izzy's Pie Shop and Café

Owners of Izzy's Pie Shop and Café in Strandon are delighted with the progress the shop has made since they took over eight months ago. Grace and Craig Huffam say sales have picked up dramatically and they are now selling a wider range of everyday food.

In the last eight months Izzy's Pie Shop and Café has increased the range of pies it sells from 22 flavours to 27. The new flavours include a creamy chicken mushroom and bacon pie, curried sausage, chicken and vege, potato top and a savoury pie.

The bigger pie menu isn't the only new item on offer, Izzy's now have a chicken and chips option, a convenient 'On Toast' menu (mince on toast, bacon and eggs on toast etc), American hotdogs, wedges, and 'soups of the day' over winter.

Since taking over Craig and Grace have rebranded the shop and the branding is clearly visible from the road, the inside has been painted, the seating refurbished and the Café table layout improved.

The introduction of the popular loyalty card 'Izzy's Pie Card' means customers who use their card get their 10th pie free.

Customers now have the option to 'text ahead' or ring to ensure their favourite pie or other food order (such as toasted sandwiches, burgers or soup) awaits them when they walk in the door. \$5 combos are popular too, such as a pie and a drink; chicken and chips (snack pack); chicken burger and chips, with more specials in the pipeline.

Cakes and sandwiches as well as the pies are all made on the premises daily and Craig says people enjoy his food because it is "Everyday food for Everyday people". "We reduced the fat in the pies by draining it off when cooking the meat and are looking at adding healthier options to the menu".

Grace and Craig come from a nursing background and have combined their love of helping people with their love of food in the Café.

The extended family helps out the busy couple, caring for their two preschoolers Jack (nearly 3) and Oscar (15

months) as Grace and Craig spend long days at Izzy's, but seeing people come back day after day and the positive comments make it all worthwhile says Craig.

Izzy's Pie Shop and Café is open all day, 6 days per week 8am to 5pm, and customers can now dine in as well as take their food or coffee away.

Izzy's also does catering for functions or office shouts and now has a selected group of outlets selling their pies in Egmont Village and Stratford, and the 4 Square in Fitzroy.

Try Izzy's Pie Shop and Café, 487 Devon St East, Strandon. Text ahead on 021 2575 841.

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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.

Fitzroy Outdoor Bowling Club. Season now open and new members welcome – both men and women. Join our friendly members who play on two greens with an upmarket clubroom and fine facilities. Contact President Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or Secretary Sherylle Watkins 755 0125.

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 Ashley on 06 7583918 / 021 292 2686. For Cubs (years 4-6) phone Cory 06 759 9312 / 027 291 7334. For Scouts (years 7-10) phone Vinnie 06 755 0328/027 486 6210. Or email: fitzroyscoutgroup@xtra.co.nz

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 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.

Mahjong. There will be Mahjong starting at the Beach Street Hall, lounge room, on Sat 12th March, 1pm-4pm then every Saturday. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy Mahjong, cup of tea and biscuits. There will be a small prize for hand of the day, \$3.00 each. For details phone 758 1957 or 757 5913.

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 Croquet Club
Winter months at New Plymouth Croquet Club Rooms, East End Reserve. *Cards & Rummy* every Friday afternoon starting April 2nd, 1pm - 4pm, \$3; *Mah Jongg* every Saturday afternoon starting May 7th, 1pm - 4pm, \$3; *Winter Croquet* will start on Wednesday 1st June, new members welcome, \$3 session. Please ring Barbara 758 2710 for more details.

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 7pm-9pm. Thursday evening open classes 7pm-9pm. We welcome new members. Contact Gail, ph: 753 6207. The Te Henui Vicarage Pottery is also open on Saturday and Sunday 1pm-4pm.

New Plymouth Swords Club - Fencing. At New Plymouth Boys' High Old Gymnasium, off Hobson St. Every Monday night of school term. Juniors 6-7pm. Seniors 7-9pm. For more info contact: John Calcott, Ph 753 9186, jcalcott@paradise.net.nz

New Plymouth Toastmasters Club. Speechcraft Course. Commencing Thursday 15th September, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivion, Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287, or Shirley 752 3698.

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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 at the Fitzroy Hall, Sackville Street Fitzroy, at 7.30pm till 10.30pm. Information regarding club please ph 021 265 9230 or email lancasters@xtra.co.nz. Entry \$3 non-members, \$2 members. Supper provided.

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.

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

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. Monthly meetings are held at the Trinity Church Hall, 8 Henui Street, Fitzroy at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month (except January). Contact the Secretary, 752 3801, for more details - never too old to learn.

Victoria League Bridge Club. Very social bridge, every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm. Phone 757 5913 for more details.

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