

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM FITZROY

NOVEMBER 2011

LOCAL SKATEBOARDERS COMPETE AT CHEAPSKATES SKATEBOARD NATIONALS IN AUCKLAND

Left to right: Vance, Ben, Caleb, Jesse, Jamie,
Fin, Treigh and Henry.

- more on page 2



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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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EDITORIAL

I am writing this month's editorial on the silliest night of the year – Halloween. With no due respect to anyone, I cannot see for the life of me why we have adopted this stupid festivity. Surely it is time for us to grow up and develop our own traditions and festivities that aren't linked to America or ghosts or further back in European antiquity. One of my neighbours kindly (ha!) rang me to inform me it was 'that time of the year again' to which I scratched my head and asked "what time of year?" The time to get out the treats for visiting children apparently. Sorry the cupboard is bare and the door is locked and I am not going to the shop to get any treats!

So what is Halloween? Does anyone know or care or is it another lame excuse to indulge our already over indulged children?

Halloween traditions date back thousands of years and 2000 years ago Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.

Also on Halloween, it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world and people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognised by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter. What relevance does all this have to us I wonder?

Today Americans spend an estimated \$13 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday - yuck! None of my money or energy will be spent on this silly celebration. Wouldn't we be better donating the money to a low decile school so they can feed their children breakfast?

Roll on Christmas and that other over commercialised festivity we celebrate.

Kim – the Grinch that stole the fun!



COVER STORY

Local Skateboarders Compete at Cheapskates Skateboard Nationals in Auckland

The last weekend in October saw the best skateboarders in the country converge in Auckland at the 'Armageddon' festival to compete at the 2011 Cheapskates Skateboarding Nationals.

Local skaters competed at the Taranaki Regional qualifier event held at our local East End Skate park a few months ago with Vance Hoskin winning the Open Men's title and in second place Chad Hoskin. The Under 16 section was won by Finn Robertson aged 15. All three skaters are sponsored by Cheapskates and their success at this local event saw them qualify for the Nationals.

Our local Cheapskates store sent a whole team to the Nationals at the Armageddon event. As well as the competing skaters, Cheapskates store manager Jesse Smith, Caleb Smith, Henry Johnson, Ben D'Ath and Jamie Hartley all went along to work as volunteers at Nationals and film and take photos of the skaters.

Leaving early Friday in the distinctive white Cheapskates van, the first stop on the boys' road trip was at the 'Wrong' skate park in Hamilton, which Jesse tells me is one of the last remaining indoor parks in NZ. Here the boys had an hour to let off some energy and then it was off to Auckland to check into their inner city accommodation and check

TOM

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out the ASB show grounds, the venue for the Nationals. The course was set up in a huge empty hall at the show grounds and on Friday afternoon it was open to competitors to have a free skate and get used to the layout. The boys took advantage of this to check out the course.

The New Plymouth skaters competed on Sunday with Vance and Finn progressing as far as the semi-finals and Treigh making it all the way through to the Under 16 finals. Unfortunately none of the local skaters came away with a medal but all enjoyed the experience and it will no doubt be the first of many road trips for the boys.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Vance Hoskin at the "Wrong" Skate park.



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Gearing up for Summer

Mitchell Cycles are well and truly ensconced in their new premises on Devon St East. The showroom is large and bright with a great display of all things 'bikey'. Blair says almost all their stock is out on display and this includes hundreds of road bikes, comfort bikes, beach cruisers, children's bikes, mountain bikes, trailers, baby seats, helmets, clothing, Garmin GPS, bike parts and performance supplements.

Summer is the optimum time to be out on a bike and having the foreshore walk and cycle way on the doorstep is an extra incentive to get out and be active and healthy.

Mitchell Cycles caters for all cycling needs whether it is for the beginner, the elite cyclist, the older person or a child. The five staff at Mitchell Cycles are all cyclists and it is reassuring to talk to people who know their products and the sport. In stock are well known brands such as Specialized; GT; Mongoose; Haro; Cannondale; Orbea and Scwhinn.

Perhaps the most exciting service at Mitchell Cycles is BG Fit or 'bike fitting'. This is a totally unique service to the region and owner Blair Cox is the only trained technician. Blair explains that a consultation is set up and an evaluation made to gain an accurate picture of the individual's flexibility and other physical attributes, including assessment of foot structure, knee position, spinal curve, shoulder extension, hip flexion and leg length, among others. Adjustments are then made to 'fit' a bike to these attributes because at the end of the day if you are not comfortable biking it won't be fun and you will give up. A bike fitting consultation would suit anyone - a serious cyclist who is experiencing discomfort (such as numb hands or sore hips) or someone with a few injuries who wants to get back into cycling for fun, or someone who has given up because of pain. Blair has the back up of the Specialized worldwide network of technicians, doctors and other sports practitioners to help with assessments. Once an assessment is made, the bike is adjusted to fit the specific needs. The cyclist can then ride faster, longer and in greater comfort while reducing the chance of injury.

Mitchell Cycles is bike heaven for anyone wanting to get into cycling – the whole family can come away totally kitted out and with the knowledge that any post purchase problems, questions or service can be expertly taken care of.


By Kim Ferens



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Fair for Mission Work

Members of Knox Church Fitzroy support the Barnard family as they work with street kids in Mexico City. This work can be very difficult and even dangerous at times, but the Barnard family continue to follow their hearts, and continue in faith, as they show these children love, faith and commitment. They are currently home in Taranaki for a few weeks leave, the first time home in four years, and we look forward to catching up with them and hearing of their adventures when they share with us at our service on Sunday 18 December.

A fair will be held at Knox Church, Devon Street East, Fitzroy on Saturday 3 December from 8am to noon to raise money for the work with the children in Mexico City.

This will be a major fair, with bouncy castle, face painting, lucky dips, mystery envelopes, barbecue sausages, hot food and drinks, coffee and cake, sweets, cakes, books, toys, novelties, Christmas gifts, plants, household items, clothes, white elephant – lots of bargains and a social morning out for the whole family.

Any donations of goods for the fair would be appreciated, please contact the church if you have something to offer.

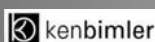
We look forward to the support of the Fitzroy and Merrilands communities in raising funds for this very worthwhile mission work as we enjoy a fun morning together.

New Plymouth Floral Art

The theme for this year's "Dimond Industries Competition" called for a design using only foliage and entitled "Daringly Different."



Left: winner of Class 1, Delwyn Andrews, and right: winner of Class 2, Lee Mather.



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mee O mi it's Time for Christmas

mee O mi in Fitzroy Village is the perfect place to do your Christmas shopping. Owner Kris Armstrong has stocked up with lots and lots of lovely goodies to delight every woman or man who is looking to wrap up the shopping in one place!

New in store is the wonderful Tony Sly pottery range. These gorgeous hand crafted earthenware dishes, jugs, platters, bowls and plates are priced from \$20 and make wonderful gifts – either Christmas, wedding, birthday or corporate. mee O mi is the only New Plymouth stockist of Tony's pottery.

Another equally delightful New Zealand hand crafted product is the Nellie Tier range of body and bath products. The beautiful lotions and creams are made to order by a group of woman inspired by grandmother Nellie Tier. The range is hand blended with vegetable oils, nut butters, botanicals and contain no parabens or sulphates. A lovely treat.

If it is all too hard to choose then take the easy option and buy a gift voucher!

Think Christmas, think birthdays, think weddings, think layby and think mee O mi!

By Kim Ferens

Christmas goodies galore –

From top: Tony Sly pottery; lollies; Rosanna china; Nellie Tier body products.

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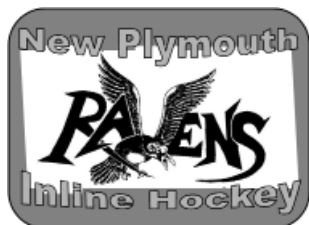
Ravens U16 Win Gold at Inline Hockey Nationals



Back row from left: William Isbister-assistant, Andy Isbister, Louis Ferens, Callum Hurley, Flynn Valentine-Robertson, Tim Craig, Cody Luckin, Josh Gibson, Julia Craig – Manager, Abel Robertson – assistant coach.

Middle row – Robbie Isbister – Coach, Greg Lockhart, Joel Scott, Ben Bailey

Front row Molly Howatson and Joseph McLay.



The U16 Ravens inline hockey team was one of two teams to win gold at this years inline hockey national championship in Hamilton in October.

The top qualifying teams from each region compete against the best teams from other regions from around New Zealand.

The Ravens U16 team went through pool play unbeaten but drew two games. They finished top of the leader board on goal differential and faced off against the U16 Hamilton Devils team in the final. The U16 players and Coach Robbie Isbister were all 'stoked' to win the final and take home gold.



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East End Surf Life Saving Club

We have had some fantastic days of sunshine and it shows with the number of people out and about using the walkway and on the beach, with even the brave ones swimming without their wetsuits. It is great to see everyone out enjoying the sunshine and having an awesome time.

Over the last month our lifeguards have been up skilling in IRB Motor Maintenance, Marine Radio VHF Certificate, First Aid Training, and our new lifeguards have passed their exams and are now ready to help patrol our beaches.

Over the next month our senior lifeguards will be up skilling their knowledge as National lifeguards which extends their knowledge in leadership, search and rescues, helicopter rescues and advanced first aid. There is also the opportunity for our lifeguards to up skill as coaches and officials over the next month.

Our Junior Surf members will be sitting their 200 metre badge and we wish them all the best for this as we know that they can all achieve this challenge!

We invite all past members and social members to our Old Timers Day on Sunday 4th December 2011 at 2pm for a get together. Food will be provided and the bar facilities will be open.

If you are keen or would like to find out more about this event please feel free to contact Bruce Goody 0274493109, Keith Roebuck 0274846982 or Tubby Corkin.

So if you would like to come down and chew the fat, catch up with the clubbies, see how the club looks now, and have a bite to eat and a few drinks at the same time, please pop on down and enjoy the sunshine and the beach with us all, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

On Saturday the 3rd December a group of our hardy clubbies (from our junior surf team, lifeguards and our old crocs team) will be swimming 40km of the Patea River in a relay to help raise funds for our club.

This will involve 20 swimmers and 15 supporters heading off at 7am and finishing around 7pm that night. We wish them all the best in this challenge and will give you all an update on how it all went in the next TOM.

Congratulations to Joe Bracegirdle for passing his IRB Drivers Award – there is a lot of time and effort that goes into studying, learning about motors and hulls and also spending time on the water driving the IRB for this award to be achieved.

On Friday the 28th October we had our preseason get together and it was great to see our members supporting this and enjoying the evening.

We held our annual preseason working bee on Sunday 30th October and it was fantastic to see everyone turning up and helping out, so our club is looking smart and ready for the season. There were lots of tasks completed and after working hard and having a bite to eat it was time to hit the water for some well earned R and R.

It is awesome to see everyone out training hard to keep their fitness up and also it is great to see swimmers, board paddlers, ski

paddlers, canoe paddlers and IRB crews out on the water having fun and training with their team of clubbies.

Now that the sea is behaving itself a bit more our surf boat is getting its turn in getting wet and crews are learning how to row ready for the big surf.

As always our safety message is to ask you to help us help you stay safe when relaxing and swimming at the beach to please remember a few safety tips -

- Swim between the flags.
- Remember to slip on a shirt, slop on some sun screen, slap on a hat to prevent sun burn.
- If you get into trouble in the water please put your hand up.

Remember our Lifeguards are there to help you and keep you safe.

We would like to thank everyone who supports us. Your support is very much greatly appreciated as we are a community based voluntary organisation. Your support, be it in time, sponsorship or donations is what enables us to be able to provide our voluntary lifeguarding and first aid service to the wider community.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe summer.

East End Surf Life Saving Club.



The working bee in progress.

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New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

October was a busy month for the club. Not only did we have a strong club representation in the Surfing Taranaki Scholastics Team which competed in the national event in Northland, we had two teams in the interclub golfing event, hosted the penultimate round of the Port Taranaki Series, completely refurbished and upgraded our kitchen and bar facilities thanks to the assistance of the TSB Community Trust, completed our preparations celebrating the 20th anniversary of the club and managed to score a few good days surfing in amongst the 247 mm of rain that fell along with persistent westerlies.

Scholastics report from Team manager Brian Kettle -The first three days of the Scholastics competition was held at The Buff, which is 40 km up Ninety Mile Beach where the surf was two to four feet and offshore with left and right peaks. Most of the team made it through the first rounds .

The wind turned westerly on Thursday causing organisers, Surfing New Zealand, to switch the venue to the East Coast. At Rarawa Beach, we were greeted to a perfect one metre swell. At the end of the day Taranaki was running sixth with only six surfers remaining. The last day of the comp was held at Shippies - the famous left hand point break at Ahipara on the section named Pines with three to four foot waves with a light onshore with only semis and finals rounds to be surfed. We had only Sean and Te Rapai left and they both winning their semi-finals; and both finishing second in their finals pushing our team result to fourth. I don't think any of the team will ever forget the Northland experience - amazing surf environment, locals, seafood, etc.

We thank Port Taranaki, Surfing Taranaki, New Plymouth Surf Rider's Club, Waitara Boardriders, and Thandi Durham for a great deal on accommodation.

Round five of the Port Taranaki Series was held in one metre rather soft waves at Fitzroy on the last Saturday of October. Results were:

OPEN - 1st Jamie Andrews, 2nd Tom Smith 3rd Sean Kettle, 4th Conan James.

U18 - Mahorahora McLeod, Eli MacDonald, Toa McDonald, Josh Kettle

U16 - Sean Kettle, Te Rapai Barbarich-Love, Toa McDonald, Isaac Kettle

U14 - Te Rapai Barbarich-Love, Adam Clegg, Isaac Kettle, Daniel Farr.

U12 - Daniel Farr. Reef Matthews, Sonny Martin, Joel Clegg.

An exciting development for the youngest surfs (the micro groms) is that we are planning a series of monthly competitions over the summer months to culminate with the National Micro Groms to be held at the Taranaki Surf Festival in April in conjunction with the Women's World Championship Tour. Stay in touch with both our web site and that of Surfing Taranaki.

With the assistance of the TSB Community Trust we have successfully completed the first stage of the club upgrade making the best surf rider's club in the world even better. Our kitchen and bar facilities have been completely renovated and new bi-fold doors and windows installed along the frontage. An interesting historical footnote came to light whilst preparing for our 20th anniversary is that when we installed the first set of bi-fold doors in the late 1990's they were the largest of their type in the country.

Which leads us to the weekend of November 5th which will have seen members celebrate 20 years of existence. Look forward to a comprehensive report in the December TOM-Fitzroy.

As this newspaper reports not all our activities are directed at surfing and two NPSRC teams competed in the inaugural inter-club golfing competition hosted by Oakura with 24 teams of four competing. The rules of golf and especially how they are interpreted can lead to varying degrees of winning. New Plymouth clearly won on the NET score but was narrowly defeated by Oakura when handicaps were included. In 2012 New Plymouth will host the tournament and claim home advantage.



Craig Tito "supervises" Simon Martin, Gary Foster, Brian Cole, Steve Croton and Horse McLeod in stripping out the old bar.



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TOM Garden of the Month

This month's TOM garden was recommended to me by a friend of the owner. Well specifically it was the generosity of Nora the garden's owner that her friend was full of praise for and as I was to find out on my visit to this lovely compact garden the praise was well deserved.

The garden is tucked down the end of a driveway and whilst it is a small site all available space is well utilised. The garden can also be totally shut off making it private as well as a safe place for visiting grandchildren.

Nora and her husband Brian moved to the property four years ago and in those four years have changed the garden completely to suit their needs. These changes saw over large trees removed, fencing added and the raised gardens in the patio area were modified to allow a space for outdoor seating. There is a large well established magnolia in this area and Nora says she is grateful to the person who planted this beautiful tree as it works perfectly in the garden, giving shade in summer and letting winter sun into the conservatory when it is most needed. Nora says she has been a gardener most of her life and remembers at age five or six trailing her father in his vegetable garden from which he kept the family fed.

Although Nora's garden is compact there is plenty to look at. A variety of pots running along a south west wall hold a wide range of plants including a healthy cobra lily with its distinctive flowers hidden under the foliage. Raised gardens along the back wall have growing in them trees such as rhododendron, magnolia, and pittosporum. Nora says all these trees are heavily pruned to keep them a manageable size for the section.

Flowers and shrubs cover the ground below the trees and again Nora has a wonderful variety. There are poppies, winter rose, cinerarias, clivias, hollyhocks, delphinium, iris, hostas and forget me not, to name a few. Nora says as we walk around "it's an old lady's garden" and that is certainly part of its charm. In one area Nora has ponga logs of varying heights standing upright and planted in the top are fuchsias which when they get established will flow over the ponga top.



For a small site there is a wide variety of fruit trees including feijoas, plum (which she hand pollinated), lime, mandarin, as well as blueberries, berry delight, passion fruit and a healthy grape vine that is shared with the neighbours. She has also espaliered apple and camellia trees. The north side of the property is also where the couple have built raised vegetable gardens. These have been well thought out so that every part of the garden can be easily reached by Nora without stretching. Growing here are cabbage, silverbeet, carrots and a large healthy crop of broad beans. Nora explained that bumble bees are needed in the garden for broad beans to be successful. The bumble bee's tongue



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is extra long and that is needed to get into the deep flower of the broad bean for pollination. It is adjacent to the lush broad bean plants that the 'engine room' of the garden exists. It is here a small glasshouse sits which Brian and Nora bought with them from their previous home. Brian carefully dismantled and then reconstructed the glass house in this sheltered corner of the garden and it is in here that Nora grows a multitude of seedlings for her own as well as friends' gardens. Nora says that her glasshouse is not for 'staging' displays of flowers and the like but it is a work room from which she gets great satisfaction from growing plants that she can use and share with many of her friends. The day I visited she had started pricking out some zinnia plants into single cell trays and there was a large tray of marigold seedlings set aside for a friend. Sharing plants



and cuttings is a common practise amongst all the gardeners I have met but Nora certainly goes a step further with the help of her wonderful little glasshouse where she grows dozens of plants simply to give away.

While Nora enjoys her garden and growing plants in the glasshouse she says she is not a slave to it. A keen water-colourist and baker she says the garden can manage being neglected for spells of time which allows her to paint and fill the cake tins with home baking. This balance of life-style allows Nora to enjoy her beautiful garden but not to the exclusion of her other interests. Brian and Nora have thought about and successfully planned this garden so that it is both manageable and enjoyable for them now as well as in the years ahead.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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'Kiwi Icon' a Winning Subject for Local Artist at WOW

The Taranaki Fashion Art awards and World of Wearable Arts (WOW) in Wellington have been staged in recent months.

Both of these inspirational events featured winning garments from people in our local area. This year Fitzroy resident Anne Aitchison had her entry accepted into the prestigious WOW event and she went on to place as runner up in the Kiwi icons section with her beautiful work entitled 'I Wool Survive'.

Anne has been successfully involved with the Taranaki Fashion Art Awards for around ten years with daughters Isabel and Lucy often modelling her garments at the awards. More recently she has also sent entries to the WOW event for consideration, five times in fact with an entry being accepted only once before this recent 2011 success. Anne says on reflection she learnt something each time she sent an entry to WOW. She went on to say "I doubt that my first entry would have even been taken out of the box." She explained that unsuccessful entries are given general critical feedback of where their garment fell short. Things like the use of embellishment or the balance of the garment are commented on and an area Anne says that is extremely important is the ability of the garment to stay intact and in good condition after the numerous times it will be handled and modelled at the WOW event.

Fifi Colston, the invited guest speaker at the judges forum the day after the WOW awards, explained this well. Fifi is an author, artist, the 'Good Morning' craft presenter and experienced WOW entrant. In her speech that gave all manner of advice to WOW entrants she said, "Hot glue is no substitute for epoxy resin and epoxy resin no substitute for rivets...." Anne agreed with this advice explaining the quality of work required by WOW rules out to a large degree things like hot gluing as it just doesn't last; the entries must be able to endure. Anne's entry used no hot glue, epoxy resin or rivets; instead it was a sewn garment using both machine and hand stitching. With WOW having 14 shows over two weeks to an audience of 30,000 people the durability of an entry is vital. Anne's garment is to be kept for a year by WOW and may be displayed in the WOW museum in Nelson so again the quality of the workmanship must be of a high standard.

The 'Kiwi Icon' section in which it was entered was for work that celebrated New Zealand heroes, heritage and icons. Anne says her garment, 'I Wool Survive' was a tribute to the endangered native birds of New Zealand and the iconic woollen blankets. 'May they all live on'. These old blankets which are experiencing a real revival and



Anne Aitchison.

reappearing as cushions and throws in many leading gift shops, were hunted down by Anne in second hand stores for her to make her garments from. The pieces included a cape, dress, necklace and beak like hat all crafted to have birdlike characteristics.

When asked how long it took to make the outfit Anne told me she had no idea, but one miscalculation saw her having to redo all the 'feathers' which adorn the bottom of the dress and the entire cape. She explained, "They were too fine and so we redid them."

With the help of husband Laurie and plenty of late nights working on it, the entry was finished, packed up and sent off to Nelson. Once in Nelson all the garments are looked at over a weekend and the successful entrants notified about a month later. With the standard of work submitted being world class and with a third of the entries from overseas, many of whom are full time artists, Anne says she was just really happy to hear that her entry had been accepted into the competition. To that end she says when she was awarded a prize she couldn't believe it. She explained "It was a really big deal to win a prize." The honours however didn't stop there for this talented local. Anne was one of three New Zealand entrants to be invited to an event that is held for the international contestants the day after the awards are organised. Having the chance to get together and meet the inspirational international artists and gallery owners including the two American women who won the supreme award and the runner up to the supreme award was wonderful says Anne.



As I chatted to Anne about her experience at WOW she was full of praise for the organisers who she says are approachable and friendly. This is a huge event on the NZ event calendar and looking through the programme at the entries from this year it is hard not to be inspired and in awe of the artists and their work. What is amazing though, are the people who manage to put together entries while still doing their 'real job'. Anne is one of those people and is a full time teacher at St Josephs at Waitara. Her creative energy has seen her class of five year olds create with some help a piece which they entered in the adult section at the local Fashion Arts awards. Whilst working full time puts constraints on the time she could work on her WOW entry, Anne says having the support of whole family is invaluable. Both her daughters modelled at the 2011 WOW event, sadly not their mother's entry, but Anne says the model that did wear her work along with the fantastic choreography showed the outfit to its very best.

What really amazes me about the artists that enter these events is how they manage to think of something new each year, in particular something that hasn't already been done. I asked Anne, who by the way already knows what she will make for her 2012 entry, where she gets her inspiration. She went on to tell me she often just sees something and gets inspired or she will think of a quirky name for an entry and work from that. It all sounds too easy but you only have to look at these fine pieces of wearable art to know it is anything but easy.

Anne calls her wearable arts work 'a hobby' and she is reluctant to take on the title of artist. However when the 2011 WOW judges, which included fashion designer Trelise Cooper, artist Nigel Brown and the founder of WOW, named her as runner up in the 'Kiwi Icons' section at WOW this year, the time may have come for her to deservedly claim the title of artist.

By Jackie Tomlinson



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Wearable Arts Success for Local Cousins



The talented cousins - on the left, Poppy aged 10 and Sassafras aged 13 years, on the right.

Two talented young Fitzroy cousins recently were winners at the Daily News Fashion Art Awards. Sassafras Marshall-Johnson won the Students' Nature's Living Magic category and Poppy Marshall-Kirby the children's 'Recycled' category.

Poppy, a year six student at Fitzroy Primary School, found her inspiration from discarded baling twine on her Nana and Poppa's farm when creating her garment for the recent Fashion Art Awards.

Her successful entry which

she modelled herself is the third time that she has entered in the Fashion Art awards; it also saw her win the Recycled section at the recent Fitzroy School Wearable Arts. The outfit, which consists of a wig, bag, skirt, top and gumboots has either been made from the twine or in the case of the gumboots and bag covered in the twine. Poppy plaited and knotted the baling twine to create the skirt and top and used a hot glue gun when making the wig, bag and gumboots. The koru design on the back of the top was held together by wire that Poppy threaded through the plaits of twine.

When not creating wearable art, ten year old Poppy likes singing, art, netball and swimming. With summer just around the corner she is also joining Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club. Next year Poppy is off to Highlands Intermediate where she will no doubt be keen to follow in the footsteps of her cousin Sassafras who has won the Wearable Arts awards in both Year 7 and this year as a Year 8 student.

Thirteen year old Sassafras is somewhat of a wearable arts veteran, first entering the Fashion Art awards when she was in Year 5 at Fitzroy Primary School. A book that she always read when she was younger called 'Tane's Tears' was the inspiration behind her winning entry this year.

Working on the outfit for five weeks prior to the awards, it took a mammoth effort to put together her entry which included a cloak, skirt and top. All the pieces are covered in long curling wood shavings, some of which are dyed and patterned into a large koru over the cloak. Whilst the idea, design and bulk of the work was all her own, Sassafras enlisted the help of her parents with some of the preparation. Her Dad Chris created long curls of wood shavings with a hand planer and Mum Janine helped with the batik of a koru on the fabric which lined the cloak. Sassafras says she had lots of burnt fingertips as she spent hours using a hot glue gun to attach the wood shavings to the costume. The family washing machine is also still recovering from the onslaught of dye and wax from the batik work. All the hard work was worth it though as the finished outfit is truly beautiful and the cloak could easily grace the wall of a home as a piece of art.

I asked Sassafras what her other interests were and she told me she really enjoys reading, art, and drama and hopes to pursue acting as a career in the future. She says it was fun modelling her garment and she used drama skills to help showcase her work realising it was important to 'sell' the garment to the judges and audience.

Talking to Sassafras about the awards night she says while she thought she was in with a good chance of winning her category, it was a real highlight and honour winning the 'Directors Choice' award as well.

Her winning entry really showed a talent and skill level well beyond her years and I'm sure we will be seeing more amazing entries from this talented teen at the Fashion Art awards in the future.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Sassafras with her costume 'Tane's Tears' and the trophies she was awarded for 1st place in the Students' Nature's Living Magic section as well as 'Directors choice'.



Poppy modelling her winning entry in the Children's Recycled section at the Fashion Art Awards.

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Fanzone is popular at Sporty's

Over the Rugby World Cup a uniquely Kiwi fan zone was created at Sporty's Bar in Fitzroy by Brooke the publican. It goes without saying that Sporty's was popular over the World Cup with many locals getting together to watch the games. One particular local really got into the spirit of it – Paul Spiers. No one in Sporty's holds it against Paul that he is Australian, even so it did provide plenty of entertainment for diehard Kiwi's who love nothing better than to rib an Aussie. Fortunately Paul, or Doog's as he is known,



Doogs relaxing in Sporty's fan zone.

can give as much as he takes. He provided Aussie shirts for the entire bar staff to wear much to Brooke's horror who refused to don the gold and green. Brooke got to work decorating the fan zone with lots of newspaper articles featuring whimpering Aussie's, crushed Aussie's, hurt Aussie's. He also found an old armchair, black and white television (still working) a chilly bin, Aussie balloons and flags. The piece d'resistance was a local mannequin dressed in Aussie rugby garb who really took a beating when the All Blacks beat Australia but nothing a bit of Kiwi ingenuity couldn't fix! I call that going the extra mile for your loyal customers – building them their very own 'happy place'!

By Kim Ferens

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2011 a Stellar Year for Musician, Jake Church

In 2010 the TOM reported on several musical successes that New Plymouth Boys' High student Jake Church had experienced. As we catch up with this talented guitarist a year later it is apparent that this was just a foretaste of the success that he was to experience over the last twelve months.



When I spoke with Jake it was two days after he had been named as the NPBHS Performing Artist of the Year. This award, he says, is so far the highlight of 2011 for him, a year when he has experienced huge success in a variety of music genres both within and outside of the school environment. With a list of almost twenty different performance highlights for the year it makes for impressive reading. To illustrate the diversity of Jake's talent we can look at a sample of his winning performances from that list. Jake played rock guitar and won the Smoke Free Rock Quest, Taranaki Regional's with the group 'Living Lightly.' They went on to place 8th nationally. He played jazz guitar and won the NZ Secondary Schools National Jazz competition for best combo with the group Me Llamó Estaban. Playing classical guitar, Jake won a gold for a solo performance at the National Concert Band Festival. As already mentioned this is just a small slice of the success he has experienced in 2011. As the academic year draws to a close Jake recently found out his audition for the New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University was successful and he will be one of only six guitarists selected to study classical guitar at the NZSM in 2012 where he plans to complete a Masters degree and hopefully a Doctorate studying classical guitar which he says is his passion. With members of both his rock and jazz bands all heading to Wellington to study next year as well, it is likely Jake will continue to perform in these various genres while studying classical guitar.

In the meantime to round off the year he has also been selected as one of only six finalists to perform in the Muriel May competition.

2011 has truly been a stellar year for this talented musician.

By Jackie Tomlinson



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New Plymouth Boys High School

This month the school would like to pay tribute to the Year 13 group and all the boys leaving school this year.

They are a very talented group, from the artistic talent of Finnbar Porteous to the academic brilliance of George Zhang, Chaz Hall and Ben Grant.

We acknowledge the sporting talent of the teams such as –

Rugby: Mitchell Brown, Isaac Robinson, Matthew McDonald, Lachlan Bunn.

Cricket: John Dixon, James McDougall, Mark Martin Jackson Braddock-Pajo.

Football: Chad Jones, Robbie Wood, Matthew Lamb, Michael LaHood, Isaac Bailey, Matt Sanger.

Hockey: Alex Iveson, David Avery.

Basketball: Matt Wallace, Lockie Fenwick, Lewis Ormond.

Hillary Challenge: Edward Lawley, Billy Rodenburg, Darren Alexander.

We also note the sporting talent of individuals such as –

BMX: Jayden Davy.

Cross Country: Chaz Hall.

Golf: Jay Maaka.

Squash: Jerome Salle.

Swimming: Martin Weir.

Skiing: Jackson Braddock-Pajo.

Surfing: Josh Kettle.

A significant number of boys are leaving school having excelled in cultural pursuits such as –

The musicians: Jake Church, Jessie Watts, Matt Lamb, Robbie Wood, Shaun Burton, Jacob Tomlinson.

Singing: Maikeli Dennis.

Composition: Jacob Tomlinson.

Acting: Billy Smith.

Social Media: Mitchell Keast.

Radio and technical skills: Sam Adlam.

Astronomy: Adam McLoughlin.

Photography: Jay Rodger.

Oratory/Kapa Haka: Cyril Panoho, Jaemyn Toa.

We pay tribute to our leaders –

BOT Representative: Kyle Gillespie.

House Leaders: Darren Alexander, Lachlan Bunn, Josh Girvin, Edward Lawley.

Head Boy: Isaac Robinson.

All the boys will be remembered for their achievements and contributions to the school. They are now part of the history of the school, and we honour them.

Michael McMenamin



Jay Rodger, photographer.



Head Boy 2011, Isaac Robinson.

Ten Years for Rodney

Rodney's Tyre Service in Strandon is in party mode – they have been in business for ten years this month! What an amazing achievement – the last few years have not been easy in the difficult economic times we live in.

Rodney O'Keeffe, owner and manager of Rodney's Tyre Service, puts his success down to a few simple elements: his loyal customers; his family and mates; other local businesses who support him; and good old style service. How does Rodney define 'good old style' service? Giving customers what they want at the price they want it and with a bit of humour thrown in. It's about building up good relationships he says and being confident in the product you are selling. Rodney can't thank his customers enough for their support over the last decade. One mate high on the thank you list is retired postie Wayne Hardy. Wayne is the inviting voice you hear on the answer phone and has been known to even record radio commercials for Rodney!



Left to right: Rodney, Jayden and Royden.

Rodney's Tyre Service sells Korean tyres called Hankook's and these are available from budget tyres right through to ultra high performance tyres. Rodney has confidently sold this brand for ten years and says the company looks after him and he is made to feel part of the team. Not so long ago he went on a trip to Korea to see the tyre plant and research and development centre – he has seen the product from concept right through to end use.

Rodney has been in the tyre industry for 30 years having worked on the road fitting truck tyres.

Rodney's Tyre Service is more than just a place to buy tyres; they have one of the most up to date wheel alignment

machines in New Plymouth and the expert Royden to work it. Good wheel alignment is important for even wear and tear on tyres and the car and also for a smooth ride and fuel economy.

Also on hand to give you a bit of cheek is Rodney's son Jayden who has been working in the business for five years. Between them all they will sort out your tyre and wheel issues and have you on the road. As one customer said to me "Rodney is a great little bloke!"

Rodney's Tyre Service has easy street access and parking, a large waiting area, friendly staff, high tech equipment and top quality product. Call in and congratulate the team on their ten year anniversary and make sure you give them some cheek!

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By Kim Ferens



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You may have savings that you could dip into. Other people may think that WINZ or ACC will fully come to the rescue but if you think that, think again.

Income Protection is a type of insurance cover that replaces your income if you're unable to work due to sickness or injury. Alternatively, if your biggest concern is covering your mortgage payments in the event of accident or sickness, then Mortgage Protection could be of interest. Some mortgage protection policies also include a Redundancy option which will meet your mortgage payments if you are made redundant.

Ask yourself how long you would be able to survive if your income stopped tomorrow and see how little it would cost to protect you, your most valuable asset.

New Plymouth Potters

New Plymouth Potters held a very successful Market Weekend on the 29th and 30th of October when many bargains went out the doors. During the Garden Festival week some of our experienced potters demonstrated a variety of hand building and wheel work techniques to a number of people who visited the Te Henui Vicarage Gallery. They were also able to purchase pottery made by members of the New Plymouth Potters. The visitors strolled around the Vicarage and grounds and learnt about the history of this wonderful stone building, dating back to 1843. If you have not had the opportunity to visit this lovely historic building, the New Plymouth Potters will be holding another Market Weekend on the 3rd and 4th of December. A wide selection of unique handcrafted pottery will be on sale, including outdoor pots, sculptures, tiles and domestic ware. They are also open every weekend between 1pm and 4pm. Everyone welcome.

Market day.



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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 Te 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 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

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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 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 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

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.

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.

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.

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

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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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