

# TOM *Fitzroy*

## Two different music genres and two young local emerging talents

Local resident Adam Colless who is a Year 12 student at NPBHS has had his talent showcased recently at two rock music events.

Adam is lead singer for the rock band 'Sticks and Stones' who were the Taranaki winners of Smokefree Rockquest.

As well as their Rockquest success the band also had the opportunity to play at the very successful G TARanaki.

TOM-Fitzroy asked Adam some questions about his recent experiences with both events.

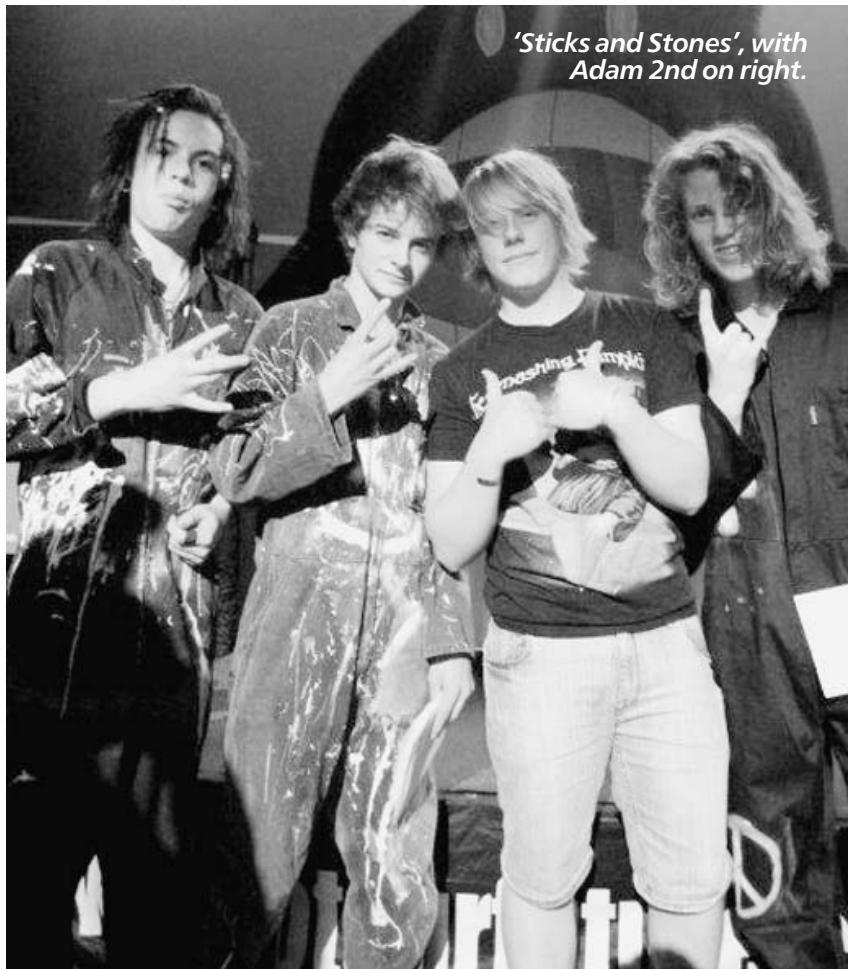
**TOM:** Was this your first experience at entering Rockquest?

This was our second attempt at the Smokefree Rockquest. We had a great time the first year we played which was last year. It was one of our first real stage and audience experiences; it really got the adrenalin pumping. It was good for this year's Rockquest because we knew how it works with sound checks and knowing when to be on stage, we were also familiar with what the judges were looking for in a band, so yes we went out and gave it our 100% top performance.

**TOM:** The other band members are from Inglewood High School so how did you end up playing in the same group and how long have you been playing together?

We all started out at The West Coast School of Rock where Callum Rutherford and Layton Otene and I already knew each other from Boys

(Continued on page 2)



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This month's TOM has hit a high note with a bumper issue on those in the community doing just that – singing or playing their way to the top of the scale. I don't think any other issue of TOM in its 10 year history has ever had such a glorious spread of music features so it is my pleasure to bring you these wonderful young people thriving, striving and achieving success in the field of music.



Sport so often dominates our everyday life and I am all for sports achievement and participation – there are so many benefits. The health benefits of being active and strong, the competitive edge, the social interaction, and the financial rewards for those businesses associated with sports and many others I probably can't think of.

When you think about it, music has a very similar profile – imagine the lung capacity of a wind instrumentalist. Music has the added benefit of lifting the soul. You could be feeling down in the dumps and then you listen to a favourite song. Before it is finished you already feel better – how good is that!

Something else that keeps catching my attention is the black and white bird down at East End beach. He makes me smile every time I see him. Isn't it funny how our attention is drawn to the odd or different? Not in a bad way but as a pique to my curiosity.

I hope you are out enjoying the spring weather and making the most of the lengthening days – I can feel the excitement building as I anticipate summer.

Kim

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High, we were close mates already. Callum later on, during the year, left to go to Inglewood and Layton soon left to go to Spotswood, so we found ourselves a band in a diverse range of schools which is great. We went to the West Coast School of Rock's first rock camp and this is where we met the meanest drummer James Drummond, who goes to Inglewood High. We were all together at this camp just spending hours of our holidays jamming together and just becoming real good mates. We used to travel out to Lepperton to James' house for our practices which involved a rotating schedule of parents driving us out with all our guitars and amps - its a lot easier to take out guitars and amps than to drive around a drum kit lol! But since winning Rockquest and finding ourselves a lot more gigs, James' mum Margi, found us a studio in the city to work in every Sunday with all the equipment we need, so we were real lucky to find this place. We've been playing together for just over a year now.

**TOM: You're the lead singer for the band, what kind of singing style do you think you have and do you play an instrument as well?**

I get told every time after a gig or someone in town who has seen us play, even teachers at my school call me Kurt Cobain's (Nirvanas lead singer) reincarnation, which is pretty cool because I'm a huge fan of Nirvana. The influences of my singing style are all the great vocalists of the grunge era and from the nineties, bands like Soundgarden, Smashing Pumpkins, and Tool are huge influences on our bands playing and my vocals too. Mine, Layton, and Callum's guitar and bass playing are really influenced by these bands. A couple of the judges at Rockquest said we sound a lot like the Stone Temple Pilots which makes us all very happy because that's our aim, to try bring grunge back!

**TOM: Did performing at G TARanaki come about as a result of your Rock quest win?**

No it didn't but everyone was excited to see our name in the gig pamphlets. Callum was on the Youth Council for G TARanaki where kids get the opportunity to organise big events. It's a really cool idea, and he offered to the council for us to be in the line up, also Rimu head of the West Coast School Of Rock managed to get us into the Youth Rock. The crowd was pleased to see us perform both nights, so at least we know people know who we are as a band.

**TOM: What was the G TARanaki performing experience like?**

Pretty awesome, at the Youth Rock gig we got to talk and hang with Desiree Basset and Sophia D, both girls and both are wicked at guitar, I was gobsmailed when I saw them play. The band now is so tight that we can now walk on to a stage and perform to our best each time. Winning Rockquest really has boosted our confidence in the knowledge of knowing that we are a good band and people like our music it's a really great feeling.

**TOM: Did you get the opportunity to meet any of the big names that were here for G TARanaki?**

Sadly we didn't get to meet Slash or any of the big headlining acts, but we did get the chance to hang with Desiree Basset who is a really cool and a really nice person. We also got to



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hang with a lot of New Zealand musicians like Sophia D, she was in the band Beneath The Silence who were the 2008 Rockquest national final winners, she was awesome, The Rock FM's Sunday Axe Attack host Paul Martin who is the Bass player in Devilskin, awesome local band, Paul was the man really nice guy and was keen to talk to young rockers he was great.

**TOM:** *Is music part of your future career plans?*

I would like to involve the band in my career path, we are really trying now to get our name out around New Zealand. Our goal is by the end of next year to have released an EP (album of about five songs), and have a tour to different venues around New Zealand and hopefully someone signs us along the way. But those are goals and we are focusing on school exams and all that to get real jobs as well. It is hard to be a rock star in New Zealand ha ha.

**TOM:** *Have you and the rest of Sticks and Stones got any more performances lined up?*

We do, we have got heaps of offers to play in gigs in the coming month, but we aren't exactly sure on when the exact dates are going to be set, but keep an eye out for our name on a poster. It's always awesome to see heaps of heads banging at a gig. There are also so many good young bands in Taranaki at the moment, the goal is to get the youth music scene back up again in New Plymouth, as it died down for a period of time, so the young bands of New Plymouth are bringing Youth Rock back.

### Jake Church and his Guitar

Another talented young local musician who performs in a completely different music genre is Year 12 NPBHS student Jake Church who has also experienced recent success with his music.

Jake played classical guitar as part of the 'Beathels' trio which won the Chamber Music contest. The group which included Adrian Robb on violin and Bridget McLay on flute performed a piece of music titled 'Imagined Dances' composed by David Hamilton specifically for Boys High and dedicated to the schools previous music HOD Jocelyn Beath.

As well as his Chamber Music success Jake was also invited to perform at the recent Dame Malvina Major Concert for Talented Youth.

The TOM asked Jake some questions about his recent performances.

**TOM:** *How long have you been playing the classical guitar and who is your teacher?*

I have been playing guitar for eight years and classical guitar

for four years and I am being taught by Ross Townsend and I have been learning jazz for the last two years.

**TOM:** *Who or What has been the biggest influence on your music?*

Probably has to be my guitar teacher. He has a lot of knowledge which can help my playing in every way.

**TOM:** *Have you competed at the Chamber Music contest before?*

Yes. I played in the Kristallnact quintet. We won the Taranaki chamber music last year as well.

**TOM:** *You were asked to perform at the recent Dame Malvina Major Youth Concert as a soloist, can you describe that experience.*

Well I played as the people were coming in and sitting down because G TARanaki was on the same night. It was a great experience. It was very rushed.

**TOM:** *Do you play any other instruments?*

I also play the electric and bass guitar.

**TOM:** *Are you part of any other bands?*

I am a part of the Concert band and Jazz Bands at Boys' High. I'm also in a number of jazz combos that perform at paid gigs and I also play at weddings

**TOM:** *Does music feature in your future career plans?*

I'm planning on going to Wellington University to get a Bachelor in classical guitar and maybe a dual degree in jazz. I would like to perform professionally.

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# Gardening

## TOM Garden of the Month

The first day of spring found me visiting the feature garden for this month's TOM and winner of this month's Fairfield's Garden Voucher. The weather forecast was for yet more rain later in the week but happily the day of my visit was a picture perfect spring day.

Situated in the heart of Merrilands the property lies on a ridge sloping at the front and rear. This has provided many challenges and hours of hard work for the couple in the fourteen years that they have lived here but they still have made use of every inch of the land. John and Joanne are both keen gardeners and have been involved with the Fringe Festival since its beginnings, with Joanne going on to tell me she was one of the founding members.



With the huge amount of rain we have received lately a lot of gardens are looking far from their best but like many of our regions clever gardeners this couple have made their garden work for them even when it's still "sleeping" in this less than ideal pre spring weather. John is a home hobbyist making concrete pots and garden ornaments so by using these and other garden art there are many interesting focal points and 'rooms' to create interest even when the garden isn't in full bloom. Joanne went on to say this is definitely a 'spring' garden and although it looked lovely on the day I visited I could see from viewing photos of previous festivals it was going to look spectacular in a few weeks.

One plant that features in many spots is the rose. Varieties are scattered throughout the garden, many as standards but climbing roses are also used to great affect. One that is going to be amazing when it blooms is a very healthy pink 'Albertine' trailing along the full length of the veranda. Joanne says one of her favourite pillar roses is 'Utersen' and she particularly likes how it keeps flowering half way through winter. At the end of the veranda the couple have recently started more climbers in pots. The perfumed evergreen climbers Pandorea and Lady Di are being trained up poles. John and Joanne saw these growing at Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast where they were planted in troughs and were trained up chains. Quite often the couple bring back garden ideas from their overseas travels. The large overturned pot at the front of the property with dozens of the succulent echeveria elegans seeming to spill out was something they saw while on holiday and decided to replicate. Also along the front wall of the property are a row of conifers with rosemary planted below. This grouping is very effective and was what first caught my eye when I was out looking for this month's feature garden.

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One sheltered area that once had a Mexican theme has been changed to feature other sun loving plants. The succulents and cacti that used to reside here have been moved to a warm spot along the north facing veranda and their old home now features lots of different plants including many types of lavender in pinks and purples as well as acacia 'limelight', Portuguese laurel and there are several teucrium fruticans in a standard shape. Planting here is both in the ground and in some of the couple's vast array of pots. Two large feature plants in equally large pots are a couple of gorgeous dwarf frangipani. Joanne says many people don't have much luck getting these plants to flower but they are fortunate to have a beautiful display of yellow fragrant blooms each year. I asked her what tricks she and John used to get the plants to flower and keep them looking so healthy and she told me they remove the plants from their pots every three years, trim the roots and return them to their pots. They also feed the plants with sheep pellets, blood and bone, and Nitrophos. When the plant is in flower it releases its gorgeous fragrance at dusk.



While we wandered around the property we were accompanied by the couple's lovely little dogs: Amy their elderly Yorkshire terrier and Ruby a six month old energetic Maltese/Shiatzu pup. Because Ruby is currently at the 'eating everything' stage John and Joanne have to be very careful with their use of sprays and anything poisonous that she might devour. It's also meant they have to be careful where they plant anything that is easily damaged and keeping it away from Ruby. Recently Ruby was 'helping' Joanne in the garden - as fast as Joanne was planting some pansies Ruby was coming behind her digging them out! With some kiwi ingenuity John has built a wonderful Ruby proof 'wall' to house their strawberry crop.





It is a series of narrow shelves built against a wall housing rows of strawberry plants some of which are already bearing large juicy fruit.

Bordering the long stretch of lawn along the northern aspect of the property the garden has a variety of trees including a lovely dogwood or Wedding Cake tree and several rhododendrons all kept at a reasonable size by careful trimming. Flowers here include daisies, roses, carnations, pansies and hellebore as well as dozens of white Christmas lilies and pink arum lilies planted along the fence line.

Joanne's favourite colours in the garden are pink and white broken up with some blue and she has very little yellow in the garden other than the dwarf frangipani and a pale yellow daisy. I was less successful in getting her to choose a favourite plant as she loves so many.

The rear of the couple's property is planted with more of a woodland feel. Passing the goldfish pond a path trails down past several rhododendrons including the rosy pink 'Fantastica.' There's also a ponga with a group of bromeliads clinging to its trunk. Other plantings down here include wisteria, day lilies, passion fruit and grapes.

Whilst John and Joanne are both very keen gardeners they said they like to be relaxed about gardening in summer and just enjoy the season. The public will have the opportunity to see the labours of all their hard work during the Fringe Garden festival in October and I'm sure many local residents as well as visitors to the region will enjoy visiting this garden and meeting its owners as much as I did.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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# hot tips from the Fire Brigade

On one of our busier days recently we had one appliance called away from a chemical spill that they were attending in the Central city area to a clothes dryer on fire in Strandon. Upon arrival at this incident smoke was seen coming from the back of a shop. A neighbouring business owner advised the brigade that the dryer was just inside the back door. He had noticed the fire from his premises. As the fire was still small, close to an exit and confined to the dryer, he felt confident to tackle it with a couple of fire extinguishers, after first turning off the power to the dryer. He had done a good job without putting himself at risk and the fire crew only needed to douse the embers with water. A check was carried out to ensure that the fire had not spread into the walls or ceiling. The smoke and debris were then removed. Fire safety information was delivered to the business affected and the surrounding properties. All in all a good result was achieved with nobody hurt and no major damage to the building or business. So let's look at what went well.

1. A 111 call was made early - even if you think a fire is out ring 111. We can check that the fire has not spread behind wall linings etc.
2. Power was turned off to the dryer avoiding the risk of electrocution.
3. Fire extinguishers were available and people knew how to use them safely. Have a look at your extinguishers and if you are unsure how to use them ring us for advice or to discuss training options.
4. The person using the extinguisher did not put himself at risk and had a clear path to a safe exit. If you are at all unsure - simply get everyone outside, shut the doors behind you to limit fire spread and call 111 from a safe place.
5. People were waiting outside the building and able to give us information when we arrived.

One thing we can learn is that smoke alarms are essential - not only to protect us when we sleep but also when we are awake. In this incident the fire started at the rear of the building and was not noticed by the occupants who were working in the front. A working smoke alarm fitted near the area of a fire will sound at the first traces of smoke alerting occupants to the fire while it is still small. This gives the best chance of everyone escaping safely and minimizes fire damage.

We recommend fitting long life photo electric smoke alarms throughout your home or business. For more information ring us at the station on 7573860 or visit [www.fire.org.nz](http://www.fire.org.nz)

## Tom Pet of the Month

### A whiter shade of black

This month's TOM pet is hardly a pet but it is a local, hanging out most often at East End Reserve where its distinctive black and white plumage catches many an eye. He or she is a partial albino blackbird and apparently they are common. As with all albinos the condition is attributed to a lack of pigmentation. Unfortunately this less than black state does make the bird an easy target for predators but hopefully hawks and the like are not too common at East End Reserve.



Blackbirds sing from a perch such as a tree and their song is rich, varied and flute-like, but usually finishes in a squeaky phrase. Their calls are loud and varied. The warning call is given with flicking wings and tail and sounds a little like "chook", and the alarm call is a loud rattle.

During the winter, blackbirds can often be heard quietly "singing to themselves" within undergrowth, this is called sub-song. Later, in the spring and summer, the male blackbird sings from a prominent song post. When the breeding season is over, the male blackbird will stop singing and will not be heard properly again until July, hence our gardens being very tuneful at present.

The blackbird feeds on insects and earthworms taken from the ground either by probing the ground, such as a lawn, or noisily turning over leaf litter with its bill.

The blackbird often runs across the garden, pauses briefly before taking some food, then runs back to cover. Unlike the song thrush it rarely eats snails, though there are increasing reports of blackbirds stealing snails that song thrushes have cracked open.

More unusual food has included blackbirds taking tadpoles, newts, and small fish. In the autumn they will often spend much time eating berries and windfall fruits (e.g. apples), which they will aggressively defend from other birds.

The blackbird will feed off the ground or from a ground table, taking sultanas and raisins, and kitchen scraps.

By Kim Ferens



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## Jazz lovers, young and old, well catered for at local jazz club

The New Plymouth Jazz Club recently moved to a new venue at the New Plymouth Club on Gill Street. I went along to the August club day and spoke with President Keith Cramer about the club and how the move has been received. It seems the new venue is proving popular with both performers and the audience. Club days which are held on the third Sunday of each month have recently seen from 90 to 100 people attend.

Jazz has a strong following in our region and the Taranaki Jazz Club which was formed in 1995 does a fantastic job of bringing to the club's audience, Jazz musicians from the local area, all over New Zealand and when possible performers from overseas covering a range of Jazz styles. For instance the club will be hosting Australian band 'Dixie Jazz' next August and they also have plans in hand to bring two top NZ Jazz icons to the club next year.

As well as catering to the needs of the many Jazz lovers in Taranaki the Jazz Club fosters emerging young local talent in a variety of ways.

One way this is done is the annual High Schools' day held by the club which will take place this year on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. This is a chance for the schools from the region to showcase their students' talents. Having attended this event over the last few years I can say it's a fantastic afternoon of music not to be missed.

Another way the Taranaki Jazz Club helps foster young local talent is with a scholarship to assist Taranaki musicians under 21 who plan to study music at tertiary level. This is in the form of two \$500 grants.

In August when I visited the club ex local musician William Sklenars was performing on double bass along with two friends Reece McNaughten on drums and Jake Baxendale on sax. All three are studying at the NZ School of Music in Wellington. William has been a recipient of the Jazz Club scholarship twice and I chatted to him, Reece and Jake about their studies and their music.

It had been a busy weekend musically. As well as the Dame Malvina Major Youth Concert on Saturday night the region had again successfully hosted G TARanaki. However there was still a good sized crowd at the Sunday afternoon performance at the Jazz club to see the 'William Sklenar Trio' perform. William had come back home for G TARanaki and had tied in the gig here at the Jazz club as part of the weekend. He says the Jazz club has been really supportive of him and his studies. He is currently in his third and final year at the New Zealand School of Music where he is majoring in jazz performance. Before University William attended New Plymouth Boys High School where I remember seeing him give some very strong performances at various school events on bass guitar but these days he says he predominately plays double bass. His tutor in Wellington is Paul Dyne.

Back in Wellington William and Reece have a band called the 'Street Beat Orchestra' and they play clubs in Wellington including regularly at a cocktail bar called 'The Library'.

It soon becomes apparent when talking to this talented trio that their lives revolve around all things music. I asked them what plans they had after finishing their degrees and all plan to travel to Berlin to perform as they went on to tell me that

today Berlin is musically like the "New York for young people." It was very exciting listening to all their plans and to hear of their successes. In Williams's case the support and encouragement he received at school as well as from things like the scholarships from our local Jazz club have all played a part in his musical journey which is continuing to evolve.

Without doubt we will hear more of William's musical success in the future and it's encouraging to know that groups like our Jazz club are playing a part in fostering the talents of our young local musicians.

*By Jackie Tomlinson*



*William Sklenars on double bass and Reece McNaughten on drums and Jake Baxendale on sax.*

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## Success continues in Combined Martial Arts for two young locals

Two young local martial arts exponents recently gained wonderful success in the discipline of Combined Martial Arts. I first met Sean Hone and Liam Parkes about a year ago when their goal was to achieve grading in black belt. The boys, both now aged twelve, graded for their black belts ten months ago but the process is a lengthy one and it was only at the end of last term that they found out that they had been successful. I chatted with them and their instructor Paul Urbahn about what was involved in the process of attaining their black belts.

There are several aspects to the grading and their technique is looked at in different situations. One of these is when they spar against senior opponents. In this situation the boys went from one opponent to the next without breaks, sometimes facing two people at once. Another task is to break boards with their feet, this is all done while being assessed by Master Woo. As well as the actual 'fighting' the boys also have to write an essay about their journey from their beginnings in Combined Martial Arts through to the grading for their black belts. Paul says even after they have completed the grading the boys were still being assessed by him to check that their attitude and commitment were still consistent with being a black belt. He went on to say that both boys displayed wonderful attributes and there was no question they were ready. I asked Sean and Liam what it meant to them to reach this level in their sport. Sean said for him "It means I'm a senior, with others looking up to me and that I can be a role model and instruct others in CMA." Liam agreed and said "It means I now have more responsibility and other people doing CMA look up to me."

As well as their grading success the boys also competed at the National Tournament where Liam won the Fair Play award and Sean was awarded third place in Division 3. The boys are currently the youngest members of the local Combined Martial Arts group to have been awarded their black belts, however there is another young girl in the club keen to break that record! The TOM will keep an eye on this motivated group of youngsters and report on their ongoing success.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Liam Parkes (left) and Sean Hone.



Liam Parkes breaking a board at his black belt grading.

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# Waiwaka Tennis Club - Do It Now!

Waiwaka Tennis Club swings into action with its Senior Open Days and Junior registrations at 1:30 pm on Sunday 19th September and 26th September. All interested players and existing members are welcome. The Senior Open days are for senior grade competition and social players, with Junior registrations also being taken on those days for those keen and energetic youths.

Any school age players and/or their parents wanting to pop down to the courts and get information on making an early start to the season, or new prospects wanting to have access to the courts for the September school holidays for example, are most welcome to turn up to the courts from 1:30 pm till around 4 pm on either of the above days, and ask for a Club official. The US Open will have been decided by then, so use this as your inspiration to start your tennis.

Junior Club days start on Wednesday 13th October at 4pm. All current junior members, new players, and those new to the sport are asked to attend. Parents and caregivers most welcome. The Club will be providing free group coaching to all junior members on Junior Club days. These sessions are grouped and graded by age and ability.

For any juniors or seniors wishing to give tennis a go, or develop their existing skills in a supportive and fun environment, then the Club environment is the ideal forum. Waiwaka Tennis Club has resident coaches that are Tennis New Zealand registered and certified, who provide free coaching on Junior Club days, and offer additional tuition to groups or individuals of ALL ages and ability, Seniors included.

The Club will be fielding junior and senior competition teams, and also holds Club afternoons, evenings, and smaller midweek groups (subject to interest). Membership entitles players to court access at all times, subject to competition fixtures.

So, pick up that racquet and come on down to Waiwaka Tennis Club, Chilman Street, Lower Merrilands. For any enquiries, please contact Bob Momich on 758 4044 (ah), 021-1400151; or for Juniors only contact John Sims on 758 1026 (ah).

Bob Momich



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# The Tasman Club

The Tasman Club is a non profit sports and social club, situated at 35 Octavius Place, New Plymouth and we want you!

We offer a wide range of sporting activities from lawn bowls, indoor bowls, and pool. Plus social interests like cards and Mahjong clubs. We are family orientated and always welcome new members. Look us up on our facebook page. Search: Tasman Club, for all upcoming events and activities. Or come down on our Friday social nights after 5pm for a quiet drink and a cheap yet delicious meal. Contact us on 06 758 5186 leave your details with a message if no reply.



**Overview:** The Tasman Club was founded on 30 September 1950 by returned service men of New Plymouth. They were joined by the Commercial Travellers club with the common interests of friendship, sports, competition, socialising and community spirit. The club still holds these values in high regard today. The club will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 30 September 2010 and any old and current members with their families and friends are invited to come and celebrate this very special occasion. Details will be posted on our facebook page very shortly or contact the club directly on 06 7585186.

We are looking for other clubs, sporting groups or organisations currently without a home to join us at our Octavius Place clubrooms. We request that you submit to us your contact details and a brief overview of what your group, team or organisation does. We are also always open to new members and promote that we are a family friendly club. Come see for yourself Friday nights after 5pm on our official social night. We have a licensed bar and provide cheap and delicious food.

Our Clubrooms are always available for hire when not in use for everything from private parties, business functions and seminars, Christmas parties and more. Contact us and book now for the coming end of year festivities.

# GETTING WET!



## New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

Late winter and early spring surf conditions have been normal with the usual mix of days of junk waves messed up by the on-shore westerlies interspersed with some great conditions bought to us by the off-shore south-easterlies when Fitzroy has produced some great days.

Not all the big days have been kind to everyone and those less adventurous have sought out smaller waves at such breaks as "Boulders" (Bolter's Bay).

The Club has been busy with our first Surfer's Quiz night held during August. Quiz Master David Farr kept the six teams (and supporters) of five honest with a mix of questions that suited all ages and genders. Each team had to consist of at least one "Grom" (under 18) and one female, plus three others and we were pleased to welcome a strong team from the Oakura Board Rider's Club who were narrowly beaten for first place by "TEAM CAMPBELL."

Such was the success of this most enjoyable evening another is being planned for the long warm evenings of summer.

The final round (of three) of the Port Taranaki Winter Series was held on Saturday 4 September in miserable surf conditions which saw two boards snapped by the gnarly surf. Postponed from the previous weekend it was essential that the series be completed as Surfing Taranaki is using the results as a base-



Team Campbell.



Team Oakura.



Team Kettles.

line to select the 2010 Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Team which will compete in the Surfing New Zealand National Scholastics in October. Prior to the national event all team members will be put through the three-day High Performance Coaching course conducted by HPC Australia featuring Australia's top high performance coaches. This course is proudly sponsored by the Southern Trust, although attendees are required to pay a small portion of the total cost.

*Results from the final round and over-all series standings are:*

### Results winter third series 4 September 2010

#### Junior Girls

- 1 Claudia Fleming (NP)
- 2 Lydia Walsh (NP)
- 3 Emma Croton (NP)

#### U14

- 1 Mahorahora McLeod (Waitara)
- 2 Te Rapai Barbarich-Love (Waitara)
- 3 Isaac Kettle (NP)
- 4 Toa McDonald (Waitara)

#### U16

- 1 Josh Kettle (NP)
- 2 Sean Kettle (NP)
- 3 Eli McDonald (Waitara)
- 4 Brodie Arbuckle (NP)

### Winter Series Overall Winners 2010-09-05

#### Junior Girls

- 1 Lydia Walsh (NP)
- 2 Claudia Fleming (NP)
- 3 Emma Croton (NP)
- 4 Eloise Stevens (Oakura) / Nam Northcott (NP)

#### U14

- 1 Mahorahora McLeod (Waitara)
- 2 Isaac Kettle (NP)
- 3 Te Rapai Barbarich-Love (Waitara)
- 4 Toa McDonald (Waitara)

#### U18

- 1 Matt Smith (NP)
- 2 Eli MacDonald (Waitara)
- 3 Brodie Arbuckle (NP)
- 4 Tom Pilkington (NP)

#### Open

- 1 Jeremy Grainger (NP)
- 2 David Farr (NP)
- 3 Tyler Anderson (Oakura)
- 4 Keone Campbell (NP)

#### U16

- 1 Josh Kettle (NP)
- 2 Sean Kettle (NP)
- 3 Eli McDonald (Waitara)
- 4 Mahorahora McLeod (Waitara)

#### U18

- 1 Eli McDonald (Waitara)
- 2 Matt Smith (NP)
- 3 Mark Parthemore (NP)
- 4 Jordan Hart (NP)

#### Open

- 1 Keone Campbell (NP)
- 2 Jeremy Grainger (NP)
- 3 Sean Kettle/ Tom Smith (NP)



### The Taranaki Scholastic Team has been named and is:

U14 Girls - Nam Northcott (Sacred Heart).

U14 Boys - Toa McDonald, Te Rapai Barbarich-Love, Mahorahora McLeod .(Waitara High) - U16 Girls.

Eloise Stevens (Sacred Heart).

U16 Boys - Josh Kettle, Sean Kettle (NPBH), Eli McDonald (Waitara High).

U18 Boys - Toby Watt (Opunake High), Matt Smith (NPBH).

U18 Girls - Kendra Hartley (NPGH), Casey Stevens (Sacred Heart).

Reserve - Michael Watts U14 (NPBH).

Team Manager - Brian Kettle.

Flying at Fitzroy.



García carves at Fitzroy – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

1

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The council has had all that they wanted, of a lot of things they had - and a lot more than they needed - of some things that turned out bad.

Now what they thought they wanted - from a lot of wants they had - was much more than was needed from some things we thought were mad.

I tried so hard to warn them, of their imprudent wants and needs - and watched them come out fighting to explain their thoughtless deeds.

But I won't spend unwisely, on those many things so grand, - and much less on those wants, that you would reject out of hand.

I won't squander all your money, and much more than you have - on ostentatious projects that will surely turn out bad.

Now the time has come around again for you good folks out there - to eject some of those reckless councillors who frankly do not care.

And if you vote astutely then you will clearly see, - how we can change this madness with sound democracy.

I might be in New Plymouth or Waitara or Oakura by the sea - and wherever you might look - you might get a glimpse of me - and if you vote 'Vic Curtis' then you will plainly see - that together we can quickly change this mired bureaucracy.

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and have  
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NPDC Candidate

Authorised by Vic Curtis - 5 Arden Place - Oakura

# Choosing to home educate

For many years the perception was that people who chose to home school their children were alternative or on the fringe. However, the reality today is that more and more people from all walks of life are 'opting out' of the school system. They are choosing to take complete responsibility of their children's education and doing it at home. In North Taranaki there are approximately 50-60 families home educating their children.

I spoke with a family in our local area that has chosen to home school their three children. It was the school holidays when I visited the family and just like their school counterparts they were on holiday too. Winter bugs had struck and the youngest Rosie aged seven was a little under the weather but Molly aged twelve, Jack aged ten and mum Debra were all keen to share their experiences of home schooling with me.

I asked Debra how she and husband Graeme came upon the decision to educate the children at home and she said at the time Molly was eight and had been at school a couple of years and to put it quite simply just wasn't happy there or doing as well as they knew she should be. After much deliberation the catalyst for change came when Debra's friend took her own child out of school to home educate. The couple then decided that they would also try it for a year and see how things went. They felt it would be a good time to regroup as a family and spend lots of quality time together.

The process to allow you to home school your child in New Zealand requires families to apply for an exemption and to show how they plan to meet the educational needs of each child in the family; once they have the exemption they can then legally educate their child at home.

Molly was eight and Jack six when the family took them out of school and started home education. I asked them what the advantage of learning at home was. Jack explained it well when he said, "Your mum knows what you are like and how you learn." Molly agreed and said that she felt she learnt more at home and liked being able to do lots of different activities and sports. However, next year she is going to face some new challenges experiencing school life again as she has decided she'd like to attend a high school for her secondary education. This will also create challenges for the family as a whole as no longer will they be able to take their school away on vacation with them and their life will revolve more around a school calendar.

Debra went on to say although it can be tricky meeting all the different educational needs of the children, "The biggest benefits have been being able to gear the programme to the kid's individual needs, being together as a family and spending lots of family time together."

As far as disadvantages go regarding home education the family



*Jack, Rosie and Molly.*

agreed these seem to be few and far between. In summer Jack apparently gets up very early to get started on his days' work in order to get it done and free up the rest of the day. A typical day of home education for the family gets underway around 8.30 am and they work through until about 12.30 pm. Debra plans lessons using New Zealand curriculum books but it is up to each individual educator how they deliver their own programme.

The family's afternoons are filled with a myriad of different activities including things such as sewing and art classes, golf, turf and inline hockey, jujitsu, guitar, keyboard, netball, as well as getting together with other home schooled families. Socialisation is always something that seems to be mentioned around the topic of children being home educated. It was certainly apparent that these children have ample opportunity to socialise not only with their peers but with people of all ages.

The home school movement is strong in Taranaki and the 'North Taranaki Home Educator Group' organises many activities for its members. A newsletter is put together each term which outlines all the terms' events. The group also has its own library set up in a member's home.

Some of the activities that the children participate in are ones run in schools, things like the Newspapers in Education, the Surf Life Saving Beach Education programme as well as organised trips to the Art Gallery and Museum. The group even has a yearly camp held at Vertical Horizons.

Debra commented here that with so much on offer they have to watch that they don't become too busy and that sometimes it's good to just do nothing!

Some schools are also very welcoming to home educators and Molly attends Devon Intermediate for technology classes as well as playing in the school Netball team. Jack, who is very keen on science, has visited a lab at NPBHS with other homeschoolers.

I wondered if the family was interested in knowing how the children compared academically with their school-going peers and how did they assess how the children were doing. Debra says, "You assess the children daily. It's almost a sub conscious thing." She learnt to trust her own judgement on this when she spoke with an assessor from the Ministry of Education who was doing an ERO report on the family in the early days of their home schooling. He encouraged her to trust her judgement of where the kids are at. By choice, however, they participate in more formal assessments as well such as the Australasian exams done in schools and testing such as PAT tests administered through the Home School group. These check things such as reading levels and comprehension.

Obviously educating children at home isn't for everyone but there are a growing number of families that have found it to be a rewarding and valuable experience for the entire family. It was great to be able to get a glimpse of that lifestyle through this local family.

*By Jackie Tomlinson*

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# New Plymouth Boys' High School

NPBHS is delighted with and very proud of the success of the following boys:

**Science Fair Winners:** Miguel Sanchez, Jacob Manning, Blake Malley, Hamish Sturmer, Mason Woods, George Mohi, Tristan Hodge.

**Science Quiz Winners:** Alan Ansell, Adrian Robb, Kodie Murray, Aaron Jackson

**Maths Festival winners:** Matt Currill, William Challacombe-King, Jake McComb, Teague Harvey, Akmmil Smith, Tom Spencer, Ethan Taylor.

**UNSW Science Exam: Distinctions** – Alex Fraser-Chapple, Paul Stephenson, James Innes, Jayden Cameron, Simon Jones, *High Distinction* – Alan Ansell

**Basketball:** 1st V – winners of Super 8 Junior Team – Taranaki Secondary School Winners.

**Concert Band:** Winners of National Festival and Gold Medal winners

**Cross Country:** Matt Baxter NZ U16 Champion.

**Hockey:** Alex Iveson MVP Super 8.

**Adventure Racing:** Billy Rodenburg, Edward Lawley, Darren Alexander, Liam Paterson 3<sup>rd</sup> in Tangaaroa Challenge

**Get to Go Winners:** Orin Burmester, Matt Furze, Hamish Sturmer, Tom Spencer

**In-Line Hockey:** 2nd in Nationals

**Golf:** Jay Maaka and Sanjay Modgill win tournaments

**Rugby:** 1st XV win over Napier Boys High School

**Skiing Winner:** Jackson Braddock

**Snowboarding Winner:** Henry Johnson

**Go-Karting:** Mitchell Baker 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nationals

**Surfing:** Josh Kettle and Michael Watts made the semi-finals in the Nationals.

**Karate:** Sam Church - Kenpo Black Belt.

**Politics:** Gareth Power-Gordon representing Taranaki/King Country in Parliament

**TV Star:** Zac Bunyan stars in TV2's "Just the Job"

**Radio Hosts:** Listen to Jaz Simpson and Shane Reid every Wednesday from 4 – 6 pm on 104.4FM. They are "Amped on Air" playing the music you love to hear.

**The Combined New Plymouth Girls' and Boys' High School Concert Band** was outstanding at the National Concert Band Festival in Hastings. The band of 35 won a Gold Award as well as the Robert Lutt trophy for the best performance. It was the first school to win the trophy and we are justifiably proud of our musicians. The school runs an excellent programme for musicians.

**The latest Tiger Jacket recipients** excelled in Sport, Drama and Singing.

Dylan Haggart, Ben Caskey, Brad Carter, Jordan King, Chaz Hall, Jamie Hatch, Lachlan Bunn, Matthew Sanger, Mitchell Brown, Alex Iverson, Sam Mitchell, Logan Rei, William McBride, Robbie Wood, Jay Maaka, Edward Lawley, Aled Jones, Michael Lahood, Darren Alexander, Lachie Fenwick, Matthew Wallace, Wade Stafford, Lewis Ormond



*Black belt, Sam Church.*



*Alex Iverson, MVP super 8 hockey star.*



*Radio hosts, Jaz Simpson and Shane Reid.*



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# Combined High Schools Concert Band capture gold and elusive trophy

There seemed to be countless music events occurring over August but one significant one on the High School calendar was the National Concert Band Festival.

Concert bands from all over New Zealand converged on Lindisfarne College in Hastings to compete at the festival and amongst those attending was the Combined Senior Concert Band from New Plymouth Girls and Boys High Schools. The band has 35 members with students from both schools as well as three teachers who play instruments.

Music HOD at NPBHS Mr Don McLaurin is the band's conductor and he and NPGHS Music HOD Mrs Rose Loveridge and Itinerant music teacher Mr Stewart Maunder are band directors.

The Concert band's performance at the festival was the culmination of weeks of rehearsals and commitment from the students and the staff from both schools. Their hard work was rewarded as they received a Gold award for their overall performance but more importantly the Robert Lutt trophy for the best performance of a single piece. There were thirty concert bands from throughout New Zealand as well as a band from Australia entered in the festival. Winning this trophy was especially exciting as it has in the past only ever been won by adult bands and never before by a school band.

To celebrate the band's success on their return to Taranaki a social evening for students, staff and their families was held at NPBHS. At this evening the principals from both schools spoke about how proud they were of the students. NPBHS principal Mr Michael Mc Menamin talked about the vision he has for the school's music department and the direction he hopes to see it take.

The students' families were treated to a performance of the musical pieces that the band played at the festival. These included Fanfare for the Third Planet, Bolero, March of the Belgium Paratroopers and Pulsation.

A fantastic performance was enjoyed by all present and it wasn't hard to see why they had come away from the Concert band festival as winners.

It was also yet another opportunity to celebrate the wonderful things that some of our talented local people are doing.

By Jackie Tomlinson



*The band performing for parents and friends.*





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# Mangorei School - The Purple Haze and the Golden Tree

Joel Glynn is a Year Seven student at Mangorei School. As well as having an active interest in sports, he also is a talented writer.

This is Joel's story. He entered it in the Taranaki Childrens Book Festival and got into the top six finalists in Taranaki. His inspiration was the festival's logo which was a nikau palm with a purple mountain in the background.

Deep, deep in the south pacific lies an island thousands of kilometres from the mainland. This island is known to exist, but it is believed to be barren and bereft of human life, so aircraft don't fly over, ships don't pass by and its location has been forgotten.

From a distance you would see a harsh, rocky terrain shrouded in a purple haze. In the centre is a dark, daunting mountain. Nothing grows on the mountain. It is a craggy, grey, lifeless place.

If you were to look closely you would see that there is one place in between the gloomy mountain and the empty sea where the sun shines upon a single tree. The circular area of warmth spreads in all directions away from the tree. The golden glow of the sun breaks through the dim haze and vibrant, noisy, life bursts out. Here, seemingly far from the grasp of the mountain, lies a small settlement undaunted by the darkness around them.

This settlement is bountiful and the people are happy inside their shining habitat. The people who live there call it simply Home.

The people of Home are not alone on the island. There are others outside the circle that would rather turn to near barbarism than live a healthy life in the tree's radiance. The people of the circle feel pity for the Mountain Men and leave gifts of food and clothing for them.

Under a thatched roof in Home, dwells a boy named Jimi. Jimi was so excited. His life was about to change for ever. He had seen thirteen summers and he was about to complete his manhood ceremony. For the start of the ritual he had climbed the Golden Tree to test his perseverance. Next he went hunting and made his first kill; this tested his bravery. The third and final part of the ritual was to leave his first introductory gift to the Mountain Men to show his generosity.

As he stepped out the front door, with his woollen jersey wrapped around a bundle of food, he felt nervous and shaky as he strode on wobbly legs along the path with his father. They walked in silence.

As he came to the edge of the circle his father left him and Jimi started to make out eyes peering at him through the mist. He was so curious he forgot his fear and dived into the purple haze. Before he had taken more than a few steps he realised he'd knocked a young Mountain Man over.

As he helped the boy to his feet he saw that the boy was of a similar age to him. They exchanged a smile, but no words. Jimi tentatively held out his offering. The young Mountain Man nodded and smiled, took the gift and vanished into the mist. Yet somehow Jimi knew that he hadn't seen the last of this strange looking boy with clear steady eyes and a ready smile.

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*Supreme Award goes to Carolyn Walsh and Greg Hepworth for these beautiful bowls.*



*Fiona Tunnicliffe's rhino.*

## New Plymouth Potters

New Plymouth Potters Inc  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Member's  
Exhibition at Real TART

Gallery was opened on September 3rd by guest exhibitor and judge, Fiona Tunnicliffe. Fiona is a well known NZ potter based in the Waikato where she teaches in her own studio, as well as tutoring students of Otago Polytechnic's Diploma in Ceramic Arts. The exhibition includes selected works of local potters, and features some fine examples of Fiona's work. The winners were: new member and novice exhibitor, Inas Kadhim; Merit Award, Linda Barbour; and Supreme Award, Carolyn Walsh and Greg Hepworth.

Over the weekend, the club hosted a workshop for local potters at their Vicarage workrooms where Fiona shared some of the techniques that she uses to create her unique animal sculptures. Her decades of experience as a potter and tutor were clearly evident as she demonstrated some of the ways she challenges the limits of the medium. The workshop was a wonderful opportunity for potters to refine their hand-building skills and develop their creativity.



*Four legs each.*



*Fiona demonstrating to a fascinated audience*

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## Grandparents Day at Merrilands Kindergarten



*Hard to say who's having  
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On Thursday 26 August a Grandparents' Day and community lunch was held at our Kindergarten. Grandparents were invited to spend the morning or afternoon with their Grandchildren to enjoy watching and to get involved with their play. Families from both sessions and those on the waiting list joined us for a Community Lunch which was held between sessions. Everyone bought food to share and a wonderful time was had by all who attended.



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Authorised by Pauline Lockett, 83A Belt Road, New Plymouth

# Local eXposure:

By Rebecca Cowley

## A great, sunny start to spring



Above, left to right:  
Gabrielle and Paddy Devine  
enjoy their play time in the  
sand with Tess Bowling  
down at Fitzroy Beach. Early  
September provided some  
days of extra warmth with  
great waves and brave  
beach goers returning to  
the beach for swims in the  
sea.

Gabrielle is busy  
making her  
Fitzroy  
sandcastle.



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Authorised by Shaun Biesiek, 50 Lismore St,  
New Plymouth (sponsored by Finance Guy)



## Celeb Spot



National icon,  
comedian,  
entertainer,  
television  
personality Te  
Radar visited  
New Plymouth  
recently as a  
guest of The  
Taranaki  
Chamber of  
Commerce. He  
is spotted  
lunching at the  
Devon Hotel  
with Sandra  
Lewis – Judging  
Facilitator from  
the Chamber.

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## CLUBS & GROUPS

### East End Indoor Bowling Club

The 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 the President Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or the secretary Sherylle Watkins 755 0125.

### Fitzroy Scout Group

For boys and girls from age 6.

We meet on Mondays 6.00 – 7.30pm 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 if your child is under 10 years: ph Cory 06 759 9312 / 027 291 7334 or 10 years + Craig 06 755 2013  
fitzroyscoutgroup@xtra.co.nz

### Mahjong

2010 Summer Season started on Sunday 29th August and then alternative Sundays 1pm-4pm at NP Croquet Club Rooms East End Reserve. \$3.00 per day includes tea & biscuits. Small prize for hand of the day. Phone 757 5913 or 7581957 for more details.

### 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 Pakeke Lions

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:lancasters@xtra.co.nz) entry \$3 non-members \$2 members. Supper provided.

### Taranaki Jazz Club

Meets every 3rd Sunday in the New Plymouth Club Auditorium, Gill Street, 4pm to 7pm. Admission \$15, Students \$4.

### Taranaki Model Powerboat Club

Holds a club day on the 1st Sunday of every month (weather permitting). It is held 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.

### TSB NP Contract Bridge Club

Contract Bridge Club plays Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs at 7.20pm and Friday afternoons from 12.45pm. 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, Phone 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.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM with any changes to your listing

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