

WOMAD debrief

Well, WOMAD 2005 is behind us now. The gorgeous Brooklands Park and the Bowl area were basked all weekend in a golden glow, the crowds turned out and all our senses were fully satiated by Sunday night!



I have to say that WOMAD 2005 was the best organised of the four events held in New Zealand to date, but the festival was not without its critics. Some people complained about harsh, unsympathetic sound mixing (particularly on the Zoo and Bowl stages), others carped on about the predominance of reggae and "bass-boom" acts, and yet others bemoaned the lack of a real stand-out act (a role occupied by the great Salif Keita, Radio Tarifa and Lo'Jo at previous events). While these complaints were not without some foundation, they were more than balanced by the absence of long queues for the food and facilities, the sheer good nature of the crowd and the variety of the entertainment on offer. And what entertainment!

As ever WOMAD threw up some surprises – for me Australian Xavier Rudd – a genuine one-man orchestra – was a revelation. The Englishman Patrick Duff and his sidekick Alex Lee were quirky and entertaining, delivering songs that distilled the essence of Syd Barrett and the zest of The Violent Femmes. The highlights for me included the simplicity of Woodstock veteran interpreter Richie

Havens, and Palestinian oud master Adel Salameh.

By Don Lon (pictured above introducing Patrick Duff and Alex Lee).

To wrap up our feature on WOMAD we asked a few of the many locals who were seen jiving and having a great time what they thought of WOMAD 2005. This is what they said.

Shirley Fisher: Fantastic. Really, really enjoyed it. There was no stand-out performance, just enjoyed them all, plus the people-watching and special events like the hairdressers. Also all the things around it, friends and fun. Glad it's every two years as it is quite tiring.

Jen Blyde, Phil, Tania and Matthew Dickey: Fantastic. One of the best weekends of my life. Great to see a wide range of age groups there and having fun. A credit to the organisers and a fabulous showcase for Taranaki.

Christine Barrett (Omata): I thought it was great, especially the daytime as there was lots for kids to do and it was a safe environment. Good catching up with friends. Good music.

... continued on page 10

THIS MONTH



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There have been others before us!!!



PAGES 18 and 27

Look out for the Wizard of Oz Competitions.



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Are your children at risk?



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Hannah rides to the top.

tom

TOM is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from the city limits to Dover Road.

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

from **MAYOR PETE**
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

Wow! What a month we're in. The spotlight is certainly on the area, with entertainers from around the world descending on the region and the national media closely following.

On the budgeting front, it's the time when we confirm our work programme for the coming year. We have released our draft programme 05/06 document, which is Year Two of the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2004-14 (Community Plan), which was finalised by the Council last year following extensive public consultation. The Community Plan goes into detail about the work programme for the coming year and also sets out the proposed rates increase as well as an increase in uniform annual charges (UACs).

Of particular interest to residents in Oakura are the following projects in the work programme for 2005-06:

- Oakura CBD upgrade completion (\$500,000).
- Walkway Strategy (\$50,000).
- Coastal Strategy (\$300,000 over two years).
- Second Oakura water bore (\$500,000).
- Sewerage extensions/improvements in Oakura and Waitara (\$5 million).
- Okato Pool shop/office upgrade (\$15,000).

In addition we have released three other documents to the public: the proposed new fees and charges schedule for a variety of Council services and facilities, a waste management plan for the district and an assessment of water and sanitary services.

This year's process is different from previous ones due to new requirements under the Local Government Act to plan our work programme in detail for the following three years and in general for the next seven years, and to review this programme every three years.

This long-term planning is the Community Plan and we'll begin reviewing it in September this year – so if you have any ideas for projects that you'd like the Council to focus on, the time to tell us is from September as part of the Community Plan review.

And remember that if you'd like to talk with the Council about any ideas you have for bettering your community or the entire district, give me a call on 759 6060 – I'll be happy to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

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Kaitake Community Board

Taranaki – isn't it great to be a part of this place? Dozens of folk sat in my stall at Womad and raved about our province, they came from all corners of the world and were of all ages. Like many of us, I already knew how privileged we are to live here, especially on the Coast. Therefore it was pretty disappointing not to see a good turnout at the Coastal Strategy meeting at the Rugby Club recently

.Do you not have a vision for the next 20–50 years? If we don't tell the Council what we value how will they know. Its no use signing petitions if you don't understand the options. We have been challenged as a community to buy into some long-term planning for sensible development – it's much more than one rock wall, it's the future of the Coast.

This was a chance for locals to express their vision. For those of us who did, we heard a common call to retain our village feel and preserve the Coast, for more plantings and natural sand dune preservation, and the big issue is access to the coast.

As one who has ridden, walked, played and watched this Oakura beach for 60-plus years I can tell you that the beach has changed very little, but the changes that have happened have generally happened due to man, not nature. Man now has a chance to shape the future and hopefully learn from the past.

Will we learn? Or will selfish priorities shape our coastline? Will we have reserves offering all of us, along with our families, the opportunity to enjoy time out on spectacular beaches, or will they be taken up with commercial activities? Careful planning could see both flourish.

Kaitake Community Board has had a busy month of meetings – all of these issues plus speed restrictions, sewerage, cemeteries and locked gates have been hotly debated.

After a meeting with Council officers on the 23rd March we are much better informed and feel confident that all of these issues are being addressed in a very fair manner, including the locked gate drama, which I am confident will be resolved happily. I do, however, warn folk that the beach is not a highway: cars, bikes and anything else with an engine should not be on it, apart from delivering a boat or emergencies to the beach. WE ARE WATCHING.

I have said it before and no doubt will do many times again – it takes time to go through the hoops.

So glad Womad, with its colour sound and warmth, came in the middle of all of this and reaffirmed all the qualities of life in Taranaki.

Fay Looney

News from Brent Procter

The Community Board is actively fighting on the community's behalf to reverse the impending decision by Land Transport NZ (LTNZ) to raise the speed limit through the 70 kmph zone on the Western side of Oakura to 100 kmph.

We have met with both the New Plymouth District Council and Transit NZ to air our concerns and propose that the limit is reduced to 50 kmph to provide more safety for residents and users of the Wairau Road and Highway 45 intersection.

Both the Council and Transit are fighting for our cause and have submitted or are submitting to LTNZ to keep the status quo. We will request more dialogue to address speeds at both ends of the village.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this report was written, Transit NZ, having received many submissions on the subject, has decided there will be no changes to existing speed limits in Oakura.

News from Keith and Doug

Keith Plummer and Doug Hislop travelled to Opunake recently to attend a South Taranaki District Council (STDC) consultation meeting about changes to their coastal subdivision policy. The outcome was that both have sent in submissions to the STDC requesting changes to what is being proposed.

Keith and Doug take the view that the Taranaki coastline belongs to us all, just as the mountain does, and it is the STDC's task to look after it for this and succeeding generations. The Coast's outstanding natural character, high scenic values and internationally recognised surfing spots need ongoing protection through sound policy development and robust planning application.

Next meeting

26 April at the Oakura Fire Station. If you want to speak please notify Julie Straka at the Council. Issues to be addressed: coastal strategy, Matakaei Park, speed restrictions.



CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

Plunket Coffee Mornings:

Friday mornings 9.00 -10.30am at St James Church hall.

Mini Groovers:

Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall.
Gold coin donation.

St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

Monday and Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over.
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

Tai Chi for adults:

Sat 3-4pm, 454 Plymouth Rd.
Phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA KARATE

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

Senior Citizens:

Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.
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Greetings to all readers of TOM

One of the better parts of being a Member of Parliament is meeting some of the finest individuals in our community. Last year I was privileged to meet one such person, Alana Cleland who has taken into her heart and her home a young Romanian boy, Iani. Such is Alana's personal generosity that she went to great lengths under the then existing Romanian law to make an application to adopt this otherwise (except for an orphanage) abandoned child.

As anyone who has followed the path of adoption knows, even in New Zealand, decisions are not made overnight, and while Alana was completing all the requirements, the Romanian Government in their questionable wisdom changed the law so that orphaned children could only be adopted within their own country or outside of the country by their blood relatives. It was with sadness that, despite strenuous representations from our own Government, we acknowledge that we have no right to ignore or flaunt the laws of another country that we do not have a reciprocal agreement with, and New Zealand's Immigration Service could not extend Iani's visa any further, especially given the demand from Romania for Iani's return (under the Hague Convention rules).

True to Alana's wonderful character, she has returned to Romania with the intention of staying there at her own expense to continue her case to adopt Iani and, if necessary, fulfilling the Romanian citizen requirements in order to legally adopt him. I am sure that you join with me in wishing her the best in her endeavours to provide this little boy with the loving home that he may otherwise be denied. Iani could not have chosen a better mother if he tried.

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POLICE REPORT

Hello everybody.

My name is Richard Corry and I am currently looking after the Okato and Oakura area while Constable Thomas McIntyre is working in the Solomon Islands for the next six months.

I have been a policeman for six years, with all that time being spent in the New Plymouth area. I am married and we have just had another addition to our family in March, making it three kids: two boys and a girl.

Well, hasn't the weather been great – long may it continue! I notice the beaches have been well populated – a timely reminder to those of you that are frequenting the reserves and beaches to secure your vehicles as it is an ideal opportunity for those less honest than you to help themselves to your property. Put all valuables out of sight don't make it easy for these people.

This also goes for home security especially for those of you that live where you get a lot of foot traffic. Put your bikes, skateboards, surfboards and so forth out of sight or, better still, lock them in a shed.

One more thing, I have had a number of complaints about cars doing burnouts or speeding along residential streets in Oakura. If you see this, get a registration number and description of the driver if possible – I am more than happy to pay these kids and their parents a visit.

On that note, did you know there is enough petrol in a full tank of a Jumbo Jet to drive an average car four times around the world? Not many people know that.

On a brighter note, wasn't it good to get away with a draw against the Aussies in the cricket the other day? Long may that rain cloud follow the New Zealand cricket team around. But let's be realistic – the Aussies are ranked number one in the world and we are number seven. That's like the All Blacks playing England or Japan and we wouldn't expect either of those teams to come close to us.

Did you know that cricketer Dennis Lillee once tried to use an aluminium bat of his own design called "The Combat".

On another crime note, there were two burglaries in the Oakura area between the 12th of March (which was the weekend of Womad) and the 20th of March. Taken in one of these burglaries was a child's quad motorbike. The bike has four bald tires and is about five years old. In the other burglary a woman's black Avanti mountain bike, a woman's wet suit (a dive suit of about ten years old but in excellent condition) and a very distinctive wooden carving from Papa New Guinea (standing approximately 1.5 metres tall and about 600mm wide, it is a carving of a face and has feathers going up either side) were stolen. These items will be hard to hide and may be sold on. Somebody out there will have some information about the whereabouts of these items. Please contact either the New Plymouth Police on 759 5500 or me at the Okato Police Station on 752 4111 and quote number 050323/6077 for the motorbike and number 050323/4895 about the other items. All information will be treated as confidential.

Take care, catch you all later,

Rich



Letter to the Editor

Dear Ed.

The latest controversy with Transit (the last being the ten year fight for a pedestrian/school crossing) over their proposal to remove the speed limit signage each side of the village has thrown up a rather interesting situation. Being a regular Highway 45 commuter through the village, along with probably hundreds of others heading to the city each day, the benefits of easing off the gas as we approach the village are obvious. Full marks to the Community Board and those with a loud enough voice to be heard in resisting the faceless bureaucrat in a Transit office with his head buried in his rulebook. The Community Board and others are quite right – leave the signs alone or give some consideration to extending their location out a little further. Why? It greatly increases the safety at these busy intersections (Wairau Road and Dixon Street) and the approaches into the village. Witness the increasing number of accidents and even deaths at these busy spots over the years.

It is interesting then that with all the hubbub over the signage issue, the daily stream of commuters through to the city are required to run the gauntlet of a large number of village residents who have a total disregard for the stop signs at these intersections. We are not talking about the odd one or two lazy folk who might absentmindedly (or deliberately) slip around the corner. We are talking about a very high proportion of people exiting these roads who, in the face of incoming commuter traffic (often quite close), blatantly and with little or no regard to the safety of highway traffic (and themselves) consider it is acceptable practice to ignore the stop signs. On my commute to the city, without fail, it occurs on almost a daily basis.

So I find it all a little hypocritical for the many residents who might cry foul or who might silently agree (and I presume most of you do) with the Community Board's stance over Transit's plans, to provide little or no consideration to those beyond the signage. Highway commuters would (and should) appreciate a little more respect and consideration for their safety (and yours) and to be not frequently confronted with having to employ some form of evasive action at these busy roads.

Graham Rook

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this letter was written, Transit NZ, having received over 40 submissions on the subject of the proposed change of speed limits in Oakura, has listened to community opinion and decided to maintain the status quo. Well done to Transit NZ and to the people who used correct procedures to prove that democracy can and does work.

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HOW TO GET YOUR WEEKENDS BACK

Bernie and Amanda Smith have taken over the Oakura Lawn Rangers from April 1st and are really keen to continue to build on the professional and friendly service that Ross and Catherine Buttimore have developed. We have certainly appreciated their support and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Amanda came to Taranaki in 1975 from Scotland and has continued to live the majority of her life here, while Bernie has been in Taranaki a little over ten years. We moved with our family to Oakura (Kaitake Road) three years ago from New Plymouth, and we love every minute of living on a lifestyle block along with our five children, two cows, two sheep, two dogs & five goldfish.

Amanda works professionally in the social services sector, and has a passion for gardening presently developing a pottager garden. Bernie has had a varied work experience from roading maintenance & construction, then a complete change to an involvement in social services.

Mowing lawns will continue to be our core service, however Bernie and Amanda are keen to develop other property services, gardening, lawn care, hedge trimming and general property maintenance as time and weather permits.

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Oakura Miniature oil paintings by Joanne Wilkes

Oakura Beach access ramp

Rumours and ill feeling seem to abound in the village at the moment regarding the barring of vehicles to Oakura Beach. According to Kelvin Shooter, Manager of Parks and Recreation for New Plymouth District Council, the gate has been erected on the boat ramp because:

1. A number of incidents were reported by the public where recreational vehicles (eg quad bikes) were using the beach inappropriately (meaning the vehicles were driven too fast and in an uncontrollable manner). This behaviour was not considered to be safe or sensible.
2. Diggers and building machinery were using the boat ramp to access beach frontages, thus damaging the fragile beach system of dunes and sand layers (besides which it was illegal without consent).

Kelvin is adamant that no bona fide boaties who wish to use the boat ramp would be denied access, although someone applying to gain access to ride quads and 4-wheel drives would certainly be denied. Access is gained by paying a \$10 bond for a key, which you can get by phoning Adele at Parkscape on 759 6060.

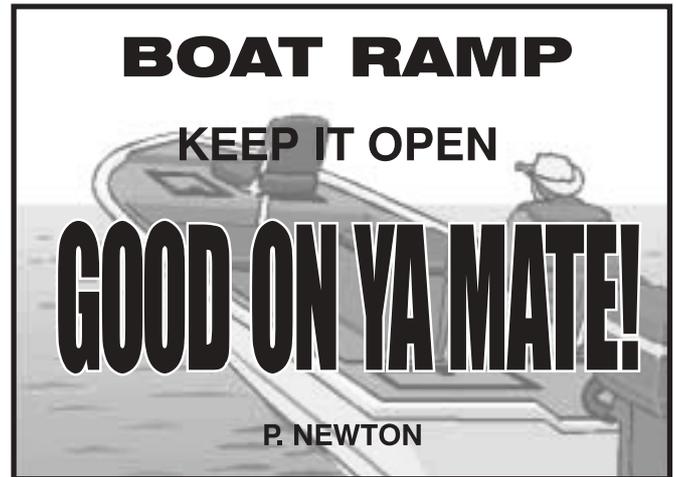
Concerns have been raised that the NPOB's Surf Club seems not to have a key (there have been reports of members having to lifted boats over the barrier arm), but Kelvin assures me that the Surf Club have five keys. The Boardriders Club also have a key.

Consultation is underway with the Kaitake Community Board to discuss whether the Council's action is the most appropriate one. I suggested that maybe the consultation should have been done initially, but Kelvin stated, "There was a need to take immediate

action." He presented the scenario of a child being knocked over by a quad bike, in which case the community would be outraged that the Council hadn't done something sooner. Other forms of action such as wardens or policing seemed unlikely to be effective. However, the action taken so far is not set in "Tablets of Stones" and could easily be revised in the near future.

Local boat owner and resident of Oakura, Mr P Newton, said he has been fielding up to six calls a day from locals angry about the decision to bar people from using the boat ramp. He says he isn't worried about the fee imposed, but feels more outraged about his privilege as a villager to access the beach when and how he likes, and that his children and grandchildren will be able to use the beach in the same manner he has for years and years. It is convenient for him to launch his small boat in Oakura as some times the boat ramp in New Plymouth is too busy to use.

By Kim Ferens



Tapuae road works near completion

Roadside earthworks at Oakura's Tapuae Country Estate are near completion.

Work on the new subdivision's main highway entrance and public roadway at the base of Tapuae Hill began in January and is recognised as being one of the larger earth-fills undertaken in Taranaki.

The many roadside marker cones that have dotted the Tapuae Hill in previous weeks were placed to protect traffic and enable

drain diggers to swing onto the highway to cut away the side of the bank to widen the road and enhance visibility coming in and out of the Estate's main entranceway. This was in keeping with Transit's specifications and has consequently been done to a very high standard, allowing for a safe turning bay and slipway as well as a seven-meter wide roadway that is curbed and channelled. All work is being undertaken by the Washers, who are developing the property into a farm-park estate.

The road coming directly off the highway is to be a short public road leading to a small car park area and walkway for people to access the Tapuae beach and stream. "We wanted people to continue to be able to have access to the beach as they have done for years and so we've provided access by installing this public road and car park," says Mrs Washer.

Property owners John and Mary Washer are pleased with the progress and time it has taken to get the work done. "We have employed all machinery operators doing the work on-site and it's been great to see these local people work as a team to achieve something of this magnitude," says John.

Things are on target to complete the majority of the earthworks before the winter kicks in, with grass pastures already being reinstated and the roadway being sealed in upcoming weeks.



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Cats around . . . *Continued from last month*

Last month we introduced you to Kate and Leroy, two cats who've made the commercial district of Oakura their home. Sadly, however, Leroy has since been run over on the main road.

Here are two more feline personalities from the main street.

Milly...

Another cat who's made the vicinity of Heydon Priest's and the Crafty Fox her home is Milly. A fluffy grey old dame whose favourite haunt is underneath the Malaysian Carriage restaurant, she's been described as the smoochiest of the cats in the area. Though she's only been around for twelve months or so, she also seems to be the unofficial boss: "She's got age on her side, or should I say 'maturity'," says John from the Crafty Fox. He thinks she was probably left behind when someone moved away and she survives on a diet of scraps from the Carriage and catfood from generous cat lovers. But she is in need of a permanent home, so if anyone is looking for an amiable feline companion, John says she'd make a fantastic pet.

Bob...

Bob, so named because like a bobcat he has no tail, enjoys a leisurely life down at the Four Square. He arrives in the storeroom out the back each morning for his breakfast and spends an hour or so socialising with the staff before curling up in an empty box to sleep the day away. He re-emerges about half an hour before closing time and then goes outside when the store is locked up. You won't see him in the store at all though – conscious of hygiene issues, Jimmy has trained him to stay out back and Bob doesn't show the slightest interest in the world beyond the storeroom door.

Bob is pretty sanguine by nature. He barely twitched a whisker when Jimmy lifted his box down from on top of a very high pile for me to meet him. And even though I gave him a pat, his eyes remained tightly closed in deep slumber – he was just a glossy black ball of fur curled as tightly as possible into the small space of the box.

Bob turned up at the Four Square about eight years ago, one year after the Lims started business. He had a collar when he first arrived but he didn't seem to belong anywhere and no one came looking for him, so Jimmy thinks that, like Milly, Bob was probably left behind when his owners moved.

A quick word in closing...

As we mentioned last month, these cats are the lucky ones among those who have been dumped or left behind in the commercial district and the people working there can't feed every cat! If you suspect a cat is stray or if you are unable to continue caring for a pet, please contact the SPCA on 758 2053 as they may be able to find a home for them.

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Oakura Library seems to be getting busier and busier with each month that passes. With parking at the door and the library hours remaining the same during school holidays (hours used to be reduced), the library is very accessible. Now that daylight saving has ended and the evenings are closing in earlier and the weather is cooling, a good book or two is essential. Each Monday new titles are put on display for one week, so keep an eye on the display for new reading material. Included are non-fiction and fiction titles from both junior and adult collections, a teenage book or two, magazines, plus a picture book for the younger children. Literally, something for all ages.

Among this month's new adult fiction are the latest offerings from Wilbur Smith and Sarah-Kate Lynch. In *The Triumph of the Sun*, Smith centres his story around three British men fighting for survival when they find themselves caught up in a holy war. Sarah-Kate Lynch in *Eating with the Angels* offers us another comical love story combined with food. Those who have read *By Bread Alone* will know how well Lynch combines these topics.

Looking forward to the school holidays, Oakura Library will again be offering holiday activities for children and running a pick-the-winner competition as part of the popular New Zealand Post Children's Book Festival. Call in at the library or phone 759 6060 for details.

Happy reading

Brenda

The library bus is on the move

Puke Ariki launched its brand new mobile library bus on Tuesday 29 March with a four month trial of an extended service that will include current urban locations and new district-wide rural stops.

The colourful new vehicle replaces the aged and increasingly unreliable former mobile library bus that serviced New Plymouth residents for over twenty years. Acting manager of Puke Ariki, Maria Ramsay, is pleased to see the new bus on the move. "With the new vehicle we will be able to provide a greater service and increase our effort to serve the ratepayers and library users of the whole district.

"We consulted with many groups and organisations district-wide, including schools, the Positive Aging Forum, Grey Power, rest homes and the Community Boards to ensure the eventual outcome was relevant and responsive to wider community needs," she said.

Mrs Ramsay is supportive of the new timetable, which also includes stops at over a dozen rural schools, a playcentre and kura kaupapa Maori. "The service will offer children, their families and the local community regular access to the Puke Ariki library collection and encourage them to become library members at the same time."

A new feature of the service will have members of the Discover it! team travelling with the bus at intervals during the school term to read stories and present activities to children using the service.

Mrs Ramsay is keen to reassure current users of the urban service that they will not be missed out on the new timetable. "The review process provided us with important information and statistics that showed some regular stops had very low usage, while other places where there was no service could be well patronised. With the exception of three under utilised stops, the only difference for urban users now is the bus will visit them on alternate weeks."

Bookmarks showing the new timetable will be available at all libraries in the district, on the mobile library bus and will be sent through the rural delivery network. Puke Ariki is one of few libraries in New Zealand that still provides a mobile library service. Enquiries about the new timetable can be directed to Puke Ariki via the New Plymouth District Council Call Centre on 759 6060.



Happy Librarians, Annette (left) and Glenys.



Glenys and Annette, the mobile bus librarians, are really excited about the bus and say it has given them fresh motivation to work. Glenys has been a mobile librarian for over five years and Annette is the relief librarian. The exterior of the bus is very eye catching with the Puke Ariki artwork on the sides and inside it is a very inviting space to browse and read books. Glenys aims to increase issue from 60,000 per year to 70,000–80,000 issues! So come along and support this wonderful new bus, servicing our rural areas. School children are being welcomed aboard at Omata School along with locals. On Hurford Road the bus will park outside the Pepper's property.

Fortnightly rotation of stops

Week One starting 7 April:

Thursday	9.45 am – 10.30 pm	Rangiatea/Kura Kaupapa Maori
	10.45 am – 12 noon	Omata School
	1.30 pm – 2 pm	Hurford Rd
	2.30 pm – 3.30 pm	Hurworth Road Hall

by Kim Ferens

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WOMAD debrief

... continued from front page

Howard Reid: *A bit too loud. Mixing on some stages not too flash. Otherwise this old chap enjoyed himself.*

Dianne Brien: *Absolutely excellent. Organisation was brilliant, couldn't fault it. All went hummily along. Best three days of music I've had in my life. What stood out for me was Yair Dalal and the Asmar Ensemble, Les Yeux Noirs and Xavier Rudd. Pleased it is every two years and not yearly.*



Doug Hislop: *Great acts, great venue, great weather and a great audience. Everyone from 5 to 75 contributed to building the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There has been talk of making the next one bigger and putting it on every year but having attended both WOMADs for the full three days, I personally believe it has grown big enough and it would be a mistake to have it annually.*

Christine McLean (Omata): *It was great, very good. All the different cultures and the atmosphere, everybody in a good mood were all highlights for me. So good to see people from all walks of life enjoying themselves.*

Now how about the Bowl stage? I think everybody agrees that, for an event like WOMAD, the distance between the artists and the crowd is too great. Did you read Grant Lookers letter to the editor in the *Daily News* with his suggestion of concreting the bottom of the lake, which could then be emptied for concerts and filled with water for other uses. Something to think about. If you have any comments, email us - oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz



Left and below: Susie Freeman "auditions" for the Easter Island performers, Ballet Folclorico De Kari Kari.



Lots of stalls, atmosphere and good, old-fashioned sunshine helped to create an amazing festival, with something for everybody.



It's a rule! Joe Wagstaff NEVER shares balloons at Womad.



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For local artist and graphic designer Ché Rogers the recent Womad festival was yet another success. Working as a freelance graphic designer, Ché submitted a design for Womad's advertising just days before the deadline. Not only did his design image become the face of Womad, now he's landed a job working for T.A.F.F. (Taranaki Art Festival Foundation), the organisation behind Womad.

Though Ché is fairly new to Taranaki, his success is not. Locally he's already had a solo exhibition at Kina, with another one coming late next year, and you can usually find some of his work there.

Ché works primarily on wood canvas, integrating a wide range of collected images from old books, digital prints and his own photography, and often mixing elements of his graphic design training. He uses a variety of underlining themes – some signify pop culture or mass media, others the ecological relationship with the land. However, Ché says it's not about the statement, it's the process he enjoys.

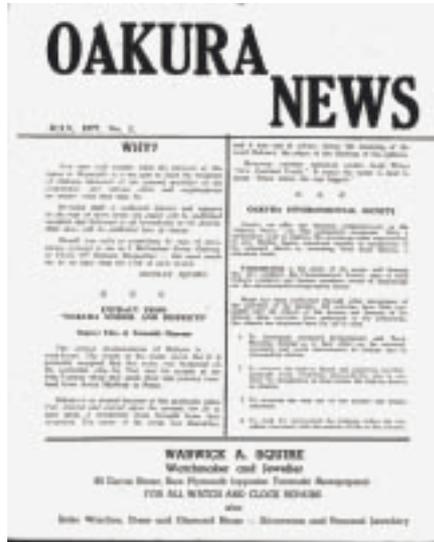
In addition to his new job, Ché also has a studio in Okato and if you'd like to see some of his work, you can contact him there on 722 4303. Keep an eye out for Ché Rogers because I'm sure there'll be more successes to come.

Below: a thought provoking montage of New Plymouth's shoreline from Ché Rogers.



We are not the first!

In July 1977 Dudley and Patricia Squire printed the first edition of the *OAKURA NEWS*. The newspaper was intended to "...keep the residents of Oakura informed of the general activities of the community and various clubs and organisations..." The newspaper was printed in the Squire's basement on an 80 year old hand-fed platen, letterpress printing machine, using Linotype cast metal slugs that were composed by Terry Foster in his Bulteel St garage. This Linotype machine was also very old (about 50-60 years old). The pages were printed in A3 format, with each piece of paper being put in and taken out of the press by hand, then folded and collated. All this was done at 6 McFarlane St and then delivered by the Squires to Plymouth Rd through to Ahu Ahu Rd free of charge. Dudley recalls "...delivery around the rural areas was very difficult with two young children in the back seat, me driving and Tricia jumping in and out at each farm gate..." Dudley and Tricia did all the advertising, news items, collating and editing. About 800 copies were produced which took about 10-12 hours to produce and 4-5 hours to deliver. The paper grew within a few months to an 8 page production but then ceased when the family moved to New Plymouth. Regular columns appeared from the Oakura Environmental Society, the Indoor Bowling Club, St James Church Guild, the Women's Division, Playcentre, Kaitake Rugby Club, Cubs and Scouts, the Netball Club, Oakura Young Wives, Oakura Senior Citizens, Oakura School and the Oakura Lions Club.



Nearly thirty years on, I can't help but marvel at how radically the essence of our community has changed. I'm not suggesting it was better then or better now, but when I think about the type of news that is printed in *TOM* today, even though much of it still comes from community groups and clubs, it couldn't be more different than in 1977. Why? Let the *OAKURA NEWS* tell you:

"...1977 is Plunket's 'Focus on Family' year and it is appropriate to note that a man was elected President of an Auckland Sub-Branch. He is a father of two young children who felt that bringing up children and caring for them was very much a shared responsibility and he saw no reason why he shouldn't lead a sub-branch in that area. Oakura fathers – where are you?"

On 26th September sixteen women from the Oakura Young Wives club went to Michael Groves' fabric shop and he showed them "... the new season's materials and gave several hints on how to mix and match two or three of them to advantage... after an hour of him showing us round he gave us the run of the shop..."

"The Cubs had a successful father and son night where the dads taught the boys knotting".

The St. James Church Guild had a bazaar on the 1st October, "... realising over \$800, which was quite a surprise as we thought that the number attending was down on last year..."

Oakura School sent out "... a reminder that our annual cabaret will be held on the 11th March at 8.30 pm in the Oakura Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 a double."

Haven't times changed from when the village was more actively a community? You could have a good night out for \$7.50, when dads worked and went to Cubs and mums went to Playcentre, the Young Wives Club or played a community sport?

AU REVOIR! CIAO BABY! HOORAY! TA TA. CHEERIO THEN. SEE YOU. JUST YOU BEETLE OFF THEN, WE CAN HANDLE IT BY OURSELVES NOW. ADIEU CATHERINE! BYE-BYE! SEE YOU THEN, CJ. GOODBYE!

TOM farewells Catherine Jones

After many issues of hard work and dedication, our right hand *TOM*girl has decided to leave the *TOM* team to pursue other interests.

I approached Catherine approximately three and a half years ago with the offer of a job on the paper as co-coordinator/manager. She saw the potential and value of keeping the community informed and so we continued with what Sue Pritt and I had started. At that stage we were a four-page publication and all the work (excluding the printing) was done solely by ourselves and of course, any willing children who would help with delivery, with an icecream as remuneration.

We saw *The Oakura Messenger* grow to include the Omata community, which we felt also needed specific recognition outside of the New Plymouth area. From there we increased the number of pages published, eventually arriving at the 28 pages printed now, along with the bumper 40-page issue at Christmas time.



In October 2003, *The Oakura Messenger* became "*TOM*" and we designed tee-shirts (which are still available for sale), the aim of which was to brand the publication and, more importantly, to have a design that could go anywhere.

During that time and until now we have gathered more willing, community-minded people to the team to help with layout, story writing, advertising and delivery – this means we can continue to focus on delivering a paper that has something for everyone.

Thanks Catherine – you've taken us a long way.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Kim Ferens into her new role as the *TOM* co-ordinator.

Tracey Lusk

Some comments from the team:

- TL "Karen was great, we'll never be able replace her."
- BW "Didn't she leave last year?"
- RS "Oh yeah, she's the spunky blonde one who stripped at the Christmas party, right? Wow!"
- KF "Who? . . . So, there's a vacancy then?"
- TL "She just doesn't realise what a jungle it is out there."
- MC "She'll be sorely missed. Do we get to share her pay?"
- LN "She was a whizz with that broom, but it looked painful"

SEE YOU. DON'T FORGET TO WRITE. SURE YOU WON'T STAY? OK THEN, BYE! AU REVOIR! CIAO BABY! HOORAY! CHEERIO THEN. SEE YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, WE'LL BE ALRIGHT, OFF YOU GO

HASTA LA VISTA. FOR GOD'S SAKE I WISH YOU'D JUST GO! BYE! AU REVOIR! YES, OK WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH!

KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

As the sun sets earlier and earlier in the evenings now, we can reflect on a wonderful summer term at Kaitake Kindergarten. Both the Beachies and Alpiners groups had outings to the Ahu Ahu Beach and rock pools and these were a superb success. It is great for the children to experience the different environments in our local community and with the awesome parental support we had on these trips, the children got to see all sorts of wonderful creatures living in their normal habitats as well as enjoy some fun beach activities and a picnic morning tea.



Max Chughton has a lucky find.

The teachers talked to the children about the importance of conservation of our environment and after looking at the creatures in their buckets or hands, they were encouraged to return them to the rock pools. Eager to keep the beach clean, many of the children picked up bits of rubbish they found and were commended for their efforts.



Ben, Claudia, Rebecca, Jacob R and Jacob F have fun on a log.

Following on from the trips there has been a focus on the sea and sea creatures during the sessions. The children have been sharing stories about the sea and some wonderful artwork has been produced. The accompanying photos illustrate the fun the children have had.

Also during the hot weather there has been a focus on water play and sandpit water play, which the children always enjoy. Adding waterfall ideas has extended their play and lots of avid construction has taken place.

Welcome to the new Kaitake Kindergarten Committee for 2005, which already has lots of great ideas for fundraising to increase and improve the resources at our kindergarten. It is always great to get so much support from the parents of children at the kindergarten and the teachers do appreciate the extra help during session time, at committee meetings and fundraising events as well.

Until next time...

Catherine Keenan, Kaitake Kindergarten Committee

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Mini-groovers

Mini-groovers is a music and movement group held every Tuesday during term time at the Oakura Hall, Surf Highway 45 in Oakura. The sessions start at 10 am and run for 35-40 minutes. (A gold coin donation each week is appreciated to contribute to running costs and hall hire.)

Music is a great way to teach children so many things, such as rhythm, counting, colours, parts of the body and of course the animals and their noises. The sessions are run by eager, enthusiastic and energetic volunteers, who do a mixture of songs ranging from simple finger counting songs and good old nursery rhymes, through to boogieing down to the Wiggles and Hi-5.

Mini-groovers has been running for over five years now and has grown into a very popular and fun time for all children aged 0 to 5 years. We have some wonderful props that the children use with the music each week including ribbons, wooden sticks, beanbags and of course our huge parachute.

During each term we try to have different themes and this term has been no exception. We had a morning of Maori songs and dances where the children wore headbands in a Maori theme and used poi in their dances and we also had a special visitor the Tuesday before Easter, who surprised the children with some special treats.

So come along and boogie at Mini-groovers.

OAKURA PLUNKET

Coffee mornings are running on Friday mornings during term time at the St James Church Hall on the corner of Donnelly Street and Surf Highway 45 in Oakura. We usually get together at 9 am and finish around 10.30 am. There are lots of toys for the children to play with and the parents can enjoy a cuppa and a chat. Please feel free to ring Claire White 752 7229 or Catherine Keenan 752 7034 if you would like to know more.

The Oakura Plunket Committee has kindly donated a filing cabinet to the Plunket room co-ordinator at Plunket House in New Plymouth, which was greatly appreciated. The Committee and volunteers will be organising the food stalls at the upcoming Fire-fighters games being held at Corbett Park in May so come along and support the locals at this event.

Catherine Keenan, Oakura Plunket Committee

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Oakura PLAYCENTRE



Before (above) and, well not exactly "after", but the Oakura Playcentre building renovations are slowly getting there.



Do renovations ever end? It can seem as if they go on forever – work is still continuing on our building. We are all thrilled to be getting an updated, modern building, but we are all sad that we have not been able to have any normal Playcentre sessions so far this year. However, work should finish in the next few weeks and we will be open again next term, starting on Monday, 2 May. The delays have meant that our re-opening party planned for 2 April had to be postponed and will be rescheduled.

Playcentre has organised for a Red Cross Comprehensive First Aid Course (16 hours) to be held at the Playcentre on 14 and 21 May at a cost of \$72 per person. This is open to all in the community, so if you are interested please call Sue Oldfield on 752 7715.

Does anyone have a comfortable old chair suitable for breastfeeding Mums to use that they could donate to us? If so, please call Mandy on 752 1292. It would be greatly appreciated.

Playcentre is open to all children aged 0–6 years, and we're normally open every Monday and Wednesday during term time from 9 am to 12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term, no matter how many sessions you come to, and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292.

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TUESDAY 31 MAY	Entertaining with Ease with <i>Aaron</i> (PIHMS)
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Oakura mini-athletics

Each Monday night over the summer, about 40–50 children converged on Corbett Park to attend mini-athletics. The children are aged from 2–7 years and participate in activities ranging from running/relay events, throwing/catching and ball skills, high jump and obstacle courses.

The idea of forming an athletic club for young children came about from a group of mothers having a conversation while pushing their children on the swing at Shearer Reserve. From this the club was formed and this season became part of the Oakura Junior Sports Club. Initially we were able to get started with the generosity of Sport Taranaki who supplied us with equipment for our first season and a grant from the NZ Communities Trust has gone towards purchasing athletics equipment.

Each session the groups are taken by a parent. Part of our success has been the enthusiastic participation of parents and grandparents. Some have been able to lead a group, others help in setting and packing up, while many have enjoyed watching their children develop some key skills in athletics. Each night ends with a fundraising sausage sizzle. The sausages are kindly donated by the Oakura Four Square and Richmond Meats. Thank you to our other sponsor, Tasman Toyota, who donated hats.

The 2004–2005 season finished on Taranaki Anniversary Day and the 2005–2006 season will begin at the beginning of November. Notices will be in *Tom*, Oakura School newsletter and outside the Four Square.

By Jo Hill




Kate Evans
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OAKURA school news

Head Pupils

The Head Pupils of Oakura School for 2005 are Olivia Thame, Toni-Ann Plaizier-Rielly, Dylan Bennett and Jake Andrews. All are 12 years old and are in Year 8.

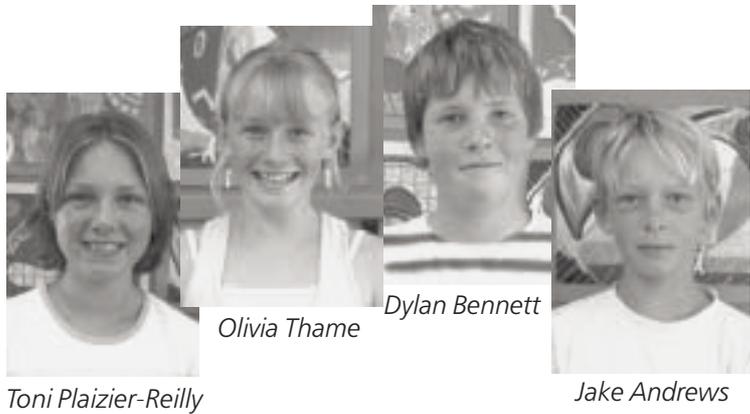
The children were asked to give a brief profile of themselves:

Olivia: I really enjoy dancing. I also enjoy tennis and netball. I love to listen to music, read and try new things. When I leave school, I would like to study animal psychology and set up my own business, but I would like to be successful in whatever I do. I hope to be a good role model to the younger students and set a high standard for the pupils at Oakura School. I have achieved many awards for jazz dancing and in 2004 I received a Distinction in the Australasian Writing Test.

Toni-Ann: I play the keyboard, touch rugby and netball. I hope to become a teacher after going to secondary school. This year, I would like to develop by having more responsibility, gain respect and have fun as a head pupil. I have been playing the keyboard for four years and have won the Most Conscientious Pupil award twice and been runner-up once at my music teacher's competitions. I enter keyboard competitions every year and have won many placings. In 2004 I was in the Year 7/8 speech finals and Year 7 debating team.

Dylan: I like to go canoeing and play polo, cricket and rugby. I enjoy music, playing the guitar and surfing with my friends. I would like to learn about photography and making films so I could become a film director or photographer. As head pupil, I am looking forward to greeting special guests and going to meetings. I would like to thank everyone who voted for me as head pupil, the teachers who elected me, my friends and God.

Jake: I enjoy most sports but particularly soccer, surfing and golf. I like reading a good book and socialising with my friends and family. I enjoy relaxing and watching TV. When I leave secondary school, I would like to get a degree in zoology, then go on to help endangered species or be a zookeeper. As head pupil, I want to gain the experience and skills of being a leader that will help me later in life. I will continue to support and help Ms Hepworth and the staff to make Oakura School a great place to learn, with emphasis on respect, honesty and perseverance. I like to set goals for myself and achieve them, for example, being elected as head pupil, representing Taranaki in soccer and participating in all school activities, both sporting and academic.

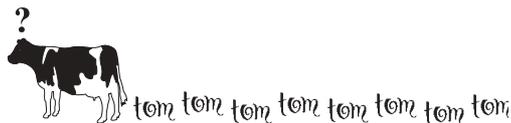


Toni Plaizier-Reilly

Olivia Thame

Dylan Bennett

Jake Andrews



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OMATA school news

The first term has flown by and there is so much happening at school this month. Take a drive by and check out the new classroom, which will be finished in time for the start of next term. It is looking fabulous and has spectacular views!

All classes are now into a science study of "the Rocky Shore". This fabulous weather has made adventuring to Kaweroa rock pools a very pleasant experience for parents and children alike. Classes had pre-visits by Kevin Archer from the South Taranaki District Council and were ready to fossick around, identifying and observing the plant and animal life. I was pleasantly surprised to find the rock pools teeming with life. Comforting to know our local environment is in such good shape.

In the junior rooms, technology focuses have seen trips to McDonalds to see the production line process and to Jones and Sandfords to see the construction process. Applying what they had learned about these processes resulted in an amazing production line for healthy hamburgers, complete with packaging and creative chair building thanks to the help of many parents.

Enjoy the holidays with your children and we look forward to our integrated topic "Road Sense" next term.

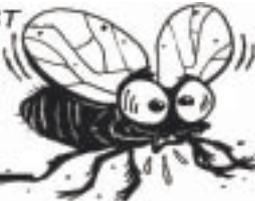
Karen Brisco



Daniel O'Keefe cracking the kina code



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The Wizard of Oz Show



The Yellow Brick Road leads to New Zealand this April . . .

Children are invited to join Shakey the Scarecrow, Shiney the Tinman, Scarey the Lion and their friends from Oz in their adventures down the Yellow Brick Road as *The Wizard of Oz Show* travels around New Zealand during the April school holidays.

"As with all our shows, this one too is highly interactive. Children can look forward to participating in lots of activities with their favourite characters," programme coordinator Christerine Laul says. "Altogether, there's heaps of music, dancing, singing and fun at *The Wizard of Oz Show*... and lots of interesting characters like Glinda the Good Witch, Munchkin Dixie and Funny Bunny.

"Our shows are really about inviting kids to get up and move around, to really relate to our music and to laugh and have a good time", says the Scarecrow with a trixie smile.

The Wizard of Oz Show was billed by the media as "one of Australia's top children's shows". Through more than 480 performances around Australia, a full scale musical, fundraisers, hospital visits and an Annual Wizard of Oz Festival, the cast have thrilled easily over 500,000 people. They were invited to celebrate 100 shows in Sydney at the prestigious Carols in the Domain.

Children are invited to come to the show dressed as a fairy, munchkin or any of their favourite Oz characters and have a fun time. Shakey the Scarecrow and some of his friends will be available for a short while after shows for photographs and autographs. For more details of the show, visit:

www.thewizardofozshow.com.

Show details:

Friday, 22 April, 10 am Wanganui War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Royal Wanganui Opera House 06 349 0511

Friday, 22 April, 4 pm New Plymouth – TSB Showplace

Bookings: Ticketek 06 759 0021 or www.ticketek.com

Tickets: \$12 adults @ kids prices. babes in arms below 12 months are free. Transaction fees apply. Duration: 1 hour + 15 minute interval

Two gift vouchers with two admissions per voucher are available to lucky readers who can answer this question:

"What colour is the Brick Road in the Wizard of Oz Show?"

Email oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

or send your answers to

Kim Ferens, 22 Sutton Rd, RD4, New Plymouth

by 20 April with your name, and phone number.

HAVE A GO AT THE WIZARD OF OZ COLOURING COMPETITION ON THE TOM KIDS PAGE, OPPOSITE

FireLines

Hi from the guys in the Big Red Truck.

Things have been relatively quiet over the last few weeks, with just a couple of calls to back up New Plymouth. But you never know what's around the corner.

The big event coming up is our second annual TFA (Toughest Firefighter Around) on 1st May. Last year was a great success, with competitors from all over Taranaki, and this year promises to be bigger and better. Come down to Corbett Park and have a look – kicks off at 10.30 am.

Unfortunately we are losing the popular Ross Buttimore for a while, as he and wife Catherine take a well deserved extended holiday. Among their plans is to be at Anzac Cove for the Anzac Day celebrations (one of my dreams of things to do). All the best guys, have a good trip and carry the flag high.

LADIES, GIRLS (over 16) and GUYS we need new fire-fighters! So please come and have a look and talk to the team any Monday night.

Next month we hope to do a feature on female fire-fighters and how they handle the job, either as a career or as a volunteer.

Until next time, stay cool.

BRT

PS: Did you change the batteries in your smoke alarms when daylight savings ended? We will come and do it for you if you would like.

TOM extends humble apologies to Enamel Jeweller, Sally Laing and Suzanne of Alleycat Studio for getting their phone numbers wrong in the TOM Directory.

The correct numbers are as follows:

Sally Laing Enamel Jeweller 752 1277

Alleycat Pottery & NZ Crafts 752 1001

The mistakes were, of course, acts of journalistic espionage. The culprit has now been apprehended and summarily dealt with in an extremely unpleasant manner.



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TOM KID PROFILE



Name and age: Mia West, 6 years.
 School and teacher: Omata School, Mrs Herbert.
 My favourite food: Chocolate, feijoas, pineapple and carrots.
 My favourite activity: Playing with my friends.
 My favourite game/sport: Swimming, gymnastics, playing snakes and ladders.
 Best movie: Scoobie Doo 2.
 My Pets: Two cats called Bobo and Meisha.
 Exciting place or activity been to or done recently: Going to Womad for three days with Mum.
 When I grow up I am going to . . . : Work with 'The Lion Man'.

Q: Why are you jumping up and down?
 A: I just took my medicine and it said to "shake well".

Q: Who invented mini skirts?
 A: Seymour Legg

Did you know?

The human eye sees everything upside-down, then the brain turns it right side up.

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Meningococcal disease

The meningococcal B immunisation programme has started in Taranaki and free vaccinations are now available at Oakura Medical Centre.

The Medical Centre began vaccinating preschoolers on Wednesday 23 March, following every family receiving an information sheet detailing the programme. Families who did not book into the immunisation clinics on 23, 30 and 31 March, but who wish to have their preschoolers immunised, will need to ring the Centre and make an appointment. Anyone who has concerns about the immunisation programme or the disease can ring and speak to any of the nurses at the Medical Centre. Three shots are considered the required dose and are given at six-weekly intervals. Below is some information from the Taranaki District Health Board.

The meningococcal B vaccine became available for preschoolers on 15 March and youth aged 15–20 not currently at school on 15 March and from 9 May vaccinations will become available for school aged children at school. The MeNZB™ vaccine has been manufactured to internationally agreed standards and contains no live bacteria. According to Gail Geange, Project Manager of the meningococcal programme, the vaccination will be effective for a “few years”.

Since 1991 there have been more than 5,600 reported cases of the disease with 227 deaths. On average there are 400 cases per year. Taranaki has had 102 reported cases since 1994, and one so far this year. The meningococcal disease rates in Taranaki have been consistently below the national rate since 1996. The national rate has been falling since 2001.

Eighty out of 100 cases occur in people aged 0–19 years. Seventy-five percent of all meningococcal cases are caused by the group B strain. For every 100 children who get the disease:

- ⊗ all will all spend between 2–50 days in hospital;
- ⊗ 4 will die;
- ⊗ 5–20 will have severe brain damage, lose limbs or suffer deafness;
- ⊗ 25 will suffer long-term learning or psychological effects;
- ⊗ 60 will survive unharmed.

Risk factors include household crowding, smoking, people less than 20 years of age and in particular those under 5, Maori and Pacific Islanders. These risk factors do not mean others will not get the disease.

By Kim Ferens

A healthy respect: MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

I was brought up during the fifties and sixties with a healthy respect for the attendant dangers of otherwise helpful medicines. While I remember my parents telling us stories of what life had been like before the wonder-drug penicillin put an end to the threat of death from pneumonia and how wonderful it was to have that constant fear removed, I also know that we joined the short queue of kids who were not going to have the vaccinations that the majority of children received during our schooling.

Well, maybe we were just lucky not to get german measles or polio as we grew up, or maybe sufficient others had the vaccinations for us to benefit from herd immunity (if enough people in a community are immunised against an infectious disease, it can be difficult for the microbe that causes the disease to be communicated among those not immunised). But it is a fact that vaccine manufacturing quality control then was not what it is today and vaccinations were not without their own accompanying dangers.

Vaccines contain killed or weakened (“attenuated live”) microbes that can’t cause the disease but can still fool the immune system into making the disease-preventing antibodies. Nowadays, with the required quality-control measures in place for relevant manufacturers, it would be very rare for a vaccine batch to be contaminated with living, disease-causing organisms or for problems to occur with the process of attenuation. One former worry also appears less likely: the controversial possible association of the preservative thiomersal with autism has been thoroughly investigated and no such association has yet been found.

The more I read about immunology (a subject about which comparatively little was known in the fifties and sixties), the more convinced I am that the robust health and strong immune systems my siblings and I enjoyed were influenced by those before-dinner raw carrot sticks, daily salads and other aspects of the healthy diet we received.

We are currently in the middle of a dangerous epidemic. Herd immunity against meningococcal disease in New Zealand is a desirable goal, and that means we need as many babies, children and young people as possible to be immunised. Scientists have estimated we need an 85–90% immunisation rate to achieve herd immunity.

Apart from this immediate action, we as parents are also in a position to improve the underlying immunological health of our children, so that epidemics of other infectious diseases are less likely to occur in future. Whatever you decide to do about the vaccination of your children, it’s worth bearing in mind the boost that a healthy diet and enough sleep and exercise gives to a child.

There were no fast food outlets other than fish and chips when I was a child. Nowadays it can be a blessed relief for harried and stressed

parents to access highly refined pre-prepared food for their children and it is easy for the children to access it for themselves. One thing we can all do is to re-prioritise home cooking from scratch instead of buying pre-prepared foods (pies, pizzas, cakes, biscuits). We can keep unrefined products (wholemeal flour, brown rice, raw sugar) at the front of our pantries and plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables in our fridges, use them in everyday cooking and baking, and teach our children to cook with them. Chomp that carrot every night while you're preparing dinner, and hand out chunks to the kids. I've found that a nice stick of raw carrot goes quite well with a pre-dinner chardonnay of an evening . . .

Some facts on meningitis:

·“Meningitis” is used to describe any infection of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Many different organisms can cause this disease: viruses, bacteria, parasites.

·Viral meningitis is less dangerous than bacterial meningitis – there is vomiting, headache and fever and you should quickly see your doctor, but associated death is rare.

·Parasitic (amoebic) meningitis can occur when you put your head under the water at the hot pools. This also requires immediate medical attention to prevent nasty sequelae (sometimes death).

·The form of meningitis that is currently in the news in New Zealand is bacterial meningitis, caused by the meningococcus bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* (this form of meningitis is known as meningococcal disease).

What about the unwanted side effects of this vaccine?

Here are the facts:

- There is always a chance of some sort of reaction to a vaccine.
- The risks from the disease are much higher than the risk of a serious reaction from the vaccine.
- Similar vaccines have been used overseas. The Norwegian NIPH was chosen to help develop our vaccine because they developed a vaccine against a different strain of the organism causing group B meningococcal disease 20–30 years ago. This vaccine has been used for many years in Norway – serious reactions to it are unlikely and there have been no long-term adverse effects in children.
- Mild reactions to the vaccination that may occur include temporary redness, pain or swelling at the injection site, headache, nausea, muscle/joint pain, slight fever or drowsiness.
- If a serious reaction occurs (a high fever – this is very rare), contact a doctor, drink extra fluids and take paracetamol.
- Everyone is required to wait for 20 minutes after receiving the injection to check for an allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). The first signs are a skin rash and dizziness. This is very rare and there are drugs to treat it safely. Anaphylaxis can also occur with some medicines, foods, bee stings, etc.

By Antona Wagstaff, B.Pharm

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Kaitake Rugby Club

The 2005 season has started with a huge pre-season win against a "struggling-for-players" Spotswood United on Saturday 20 March.

This season is set to be a bumper one for Kaitake – with a coach combination of Bruce Jackson and Bruce Sutton, and a strong line-up of new players, Kaitake are aiming higher than the second place they achieved last year.

Here is the start of the draw. All games are played at 1 pm, Saturdays. We hope to see your support on the sidelines this year – it's going to be worth it!

Sat 16 April vs SPOTSWOOD 1pm, Home

Sat 23 April vs CLIFTON 1pm, Home

Sat 30 April vs BELL BLOCK 1pm, Away

Sat 07 May vs STRATFORD 1pm, Home

Kaitake Rugby Club Committee

Chairperson – Phil Thomson

Secretary – Tanya Farrant

Club Captain – Les Nairn

Committee members –

Lionel Megaw, Graeme Churchill, Blue Haddock, Peter McBreen, Jeff Clement, Rob Pompey.

Clubrooms: ph 7527780.

HANNAH SARTEN Number One

You may remember Oakura School student, Hannah Sarten, who featured in the December Issue of TOM. Hannah competed at the BMX National Championships over Easter and is now no.1 in NZ for the 9 year girls age group. She also won a team medal when the Taranaki team came 2nd in NZ for the Superclub Series.

Hannah has also been invited to join the NZ CRUPI BMX team for next year's teams' racing and which also leaves for Tamworth, Australia soon, in order to race against the Aussies at a meeting where our NZ mighty 11's and senior test teams will be competing for trans-Tasman trophies and money. Manufactured in the USA, Crupi is one of the world's best brands of high quality BMX frames and components.



Two "nutters" take on the Kawekas

On 26 and 27 February Scott Parker and Campbell White took on the Kaweka Challenge and conquered it. They won the open men's pair's section in an amazing time of 7 hours and 8 minutes. This is the highest mountain race in New Zealand and has five different courses.

Scott and Campbell entered the 'Silva' two-day course, which involves following tramping tracks in pairs with a map through short snow grass, sub-alpine scrub, rocky scree, beech forest and mountain streams. The course is 41 kilometres long and ascends over 3,000 metres to Kaweka J – the highest point in the Kaweka Ranges and the Hawkes Bay (the Kaweka Ranges are located just off the Napier/Taupo Rd).

This year's event attracted a record number of entries and enjoyed the best conditions for competitors ever in the sixteen years the event has been held. Another Taranaki man, Neil Higgins, was competing for a record fifteen times.

So do you have to be "nuts" to do such a gruelling adventure sport? Neither Scott nor Campbell could come up with a convincing reason to do such torture to oneself other than the need to get "super fit" to beat Graham Mitchell. And you do have to be "extra fit" to compete? They both trained for more than sixteen weeks prior to the event, doing over 300 minutes a week in training and topping off the week with a big run in the weekend (maybe to the summit of Mt Taranaki).

The Kaweka Challenge was a real adventure for them both. They each had to carry packs weighing about 8 kg with all their food, water, clothing and camping gear. The night on the Ranges saw them both feasting on delicious pasta, thankfully heated on their little burner (many of the competitors ate their food cold). The best food to take is nuts – Scott rated brazil nuts as his favourite, while Campbell preferred pecans! One of the highlights of the Challenge was being greeted at the top of the Kaweka Ranges by competition officials dressed as angels with a sign saying "HEAVEN". Must have felt like it too – reaching the top!!

Now there's nothing holding them back as they set their sights on doing the solo classic – the same course but in one day and on your own – rated for the "super fit" only!

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Greetings fellow fishos

We are well in to the autumn feel as we approach winter. However, this is a great time to catch fish. We have been lucky over the last couple of weeks with the south-easterlies as they generally keep the sea flat and are good for surfcasting. The wind is

behind you and the water is still relatively warm and quite clean. A wind eddy forms between about Pitone Road and the Tapaue, which creates very nice fishing conditions, especially in the morning.

As far as the fishing in March went, we were all talking about the 15lb snapper Debbie caught during the Sutherlands Sports Tri Comp – this was a beauty. Debbie won the \$100 voucher for the day with the best fish, weighing in at 6.835 kg. She is also in the running for the \$400 custom rod or reel for the heaviest snapper for the competition, but there are four more days to go over the next four months.



Debbie Edgecombe with "the big one".

Members have been catching snapper from Timaru Road to the Tapaue, mainly at low tide and all have been over the 1 kg mark. There are still kahawai and a few trevs around with pilchards and squid doing the damage.

If you are keen on becoming a member, phone one of our club contacts below. We can help you with knots, casting, baits and more importantly "Spots".

That all for now

Bruce Madgwick

O S C

Club contacts:

Gary Harrison 752 7055

Bruce Madgwick 752 7712

David Politakis 758 8528

Debbie Edgecombe 75 27425

Club days for April:

Twilight Fish Anywhere – Thursday, 19 April

Start fishing at 5pm if you wish. Weigh in at 8.30 pm at Grant's, 118 Croydon Road.

Sutherlands Sports Tri Comp – Sunday, 24 April. Weigh in at 5pm at Grant's, 118 Croydon Road.

Oakura Surfcasting Club are the hosts.

Oakura Pony Club News

The Pony Club season is fast coming to a close. Only a few competitive events remain to be held around the province over the next couple of weeks. Oakura Pony Club held its closing rally for the season on 9 April at Graham and Lorraine Rooks property at Ahu Ahu Rd.

It has been quite a successful season for Oakura Club members both at Pony Club level and at New Zealand Equestrian level. Our senior riders performed well for the Taranaki team at the North Island Pony Club Dressage Championships at Taupo recently, with Abby Wright and Amber Parkes being placed and Sammy Everest being placed fifth in the championship test. The Taranaki team was placed sixth overall in the competition, a very good result. The North Island Pony Club Show-jumping Championships at Cambridge also produced good results. Oakura riders included in the North Taranaki team at this event were Claire Hinton, Amber Parkes and Sammy Everest. Claire was placed in the senior ring with Sammy receiving the Best Individual Riding Style award in her intermediate class. The team was placed 16th out of 42 teams at this event.

At New Zealand Equestrian level, Tania and Mathew Dickey, Kimberly Winks and Sophie Anderson have consistently been placed at these profile show-jumping events. Mathew unfortunately suffered quite a serious injury at a recent event and will be sidelined for some time. We wish him a speedy recovery. These riders also competed at the recent Horse of the Year event at Hastings. The competition was held in atrocious conditions, with Kimberly winning the 1.25m class and Sammy fifth in her 1.10m class. Each class had 110 competitors entered.

At a local level, the North Taranaki Pony Club (an affiliation of Okato, Oakura, New Plymouth and Waitara Pony Clubs) recently held their end of season Cups Day interclub competition at the Waitara Pony Club grounds. This competition involved individual dressage, show-jumping and games events and a turnout event. Riders competed for individual honours in each discipline and also for an aggregate score. This is a great competition for our junior and intermediate riders. Stand-out performers at this event and generally though-out the season were Jessica Knudsen, Anna Hinton, Kelsey Bolstad, and Carolyn Beekman. Many of the senior group are concentrating on the Taranaki Area One-Day Event series and trialing for the Taranaki representative team for the National Horse Trials Champs competition on 21–24 April at Palmerston North. Taranaki won this event last year and have a strong group of trialists again this year. We wish Abby Wright, Tara Harvey, Lauren Rook, Mathew Thomas, Claire Hinton, and Sherie Holdom all the best in the trials.



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GETTING WET!



NEWS FROM THE LIFEGUARDS

The New Plymouth Old Boys surf lifesaving patrol has lowered its flag for the last time this summer after another busy and successful season. The wonderful late summer days attracted many people to Oakura beach over the holiday and weekend periods. The fine weather coupled with the warm water temperature ensured the local lifeguards were busy right up to the last patrol.

However, the summer arrived three days too late for our traditionally successful New Year's Day Beach carnival. The rain on the day did not dampen the spirit of the Club members and supporters who turned up early on New Year's Day, many with sore heads, to set up for the festivities. Midge Marsden entertained and delighted those who braved the day. And as usual the Miss Taranaki beach contestants were the highlight of the carnival.

The Club had some fantastic success at this year's National Championships held at Mount Maunganui in March. Ayla Dunlop-Barrett was selected to represent New Zealand for her swimming talent and Gareth Goodin also made the national team for his speed and power on the beach.

Next year our Club will be hosting the National Surf Lifesaving club champs. This will be a fantastic event and a great opportunity for Oakura to see some of the country's finest lifeguards battle it out for New Zealand supremacy in our own back yard.

Surf lifesaving is widely known as a healthy and fun organisation. If you're keen to join in with Club activities, train as a lifeguard or just be part of a successful and rewarding club, come on down and make yourself known.

NPOB Surf Club would especially like to thank our local sponsors and the community for the wonderful support you have given us this past summer. The awesome local support we get is well appreciated by all Club members, who are proud to return the service of ensuring your beach is safe.

Bruce MacDonald,

Club Captain, NPOB Surf Lifesaving Club

Oakura Boardriders

Wow. What a summer we've had and it keeps on coming. Warm water, plenty of swell action and heaps to do on land as well. And there's more to come yet. Unfortunately, the deadline for *TOM* was right before the Club Champs at the beginning of the month, but we promise a report on that with maybe a few photos for next month's issue.

The Club has hosted several coaching sessions lately for the grommets, with a good keen crew taking part. The kids are getting so much better at a younger age now. We will probably have a couple more sessions before winter sets in, so if you are interested keep your eyes on the Club's noticeboard and check out our website that Wade Lobb has been taking care of – www.oakuraboardriders.co.nz

Lot's of club members have been involved in the Coastal Strategy meetings happening around the place. The New Plymouth District Council is keen to hear any ideas on how we think the Taranaki Coast should look in the future. The more input the better and now is the time to do it. Contact a committee member or the Council direct if you want your voice to be heard.

Our members have had more success in the competitive arena. Chris Davies won the half century division at the Easter Masters after winning the 50's longboard title at the Taranaki Longboard champs a couple of weeks before. And Paige Hareb has kept her momentum going after her success at the Nationals, placing in finals up and down the country almost every weekend.

Paige is training hard for the upcoming National Scholastic Champs being hosted by our Club here in Taranaki from 25 April to 1 May. There will be teams from right around the country sampling our waves and hospitality for the week. The clubrooms will be open every evening after the competition with video of the day's action and refreshments. If any of you are available during the school holidays to help with our food stall at the competition, it would be most appreciated.

Finally, lets hope our good run of surf and weather continues until the top tow opens. Come down to the Club and check it out – we are always keen on new members.

NEW OWNERS NEW MENU



The Raw Tasman Café now has new owners, bringing to Oakura a new night-time menu, plus a wider range of daytime food.

In addition to the normal evening takeaways of fish, chips and burgers, we are now providing a new smorgasbord syle menu, with dishes like:

FISH PIE, LASAGNAS, CURRIES, ROASTS and OAK HILL POTOTOES, etc.

We are also continuing daytime café food from 8.30am, with cooked and continental breakfasts, lunches and snacks, such as:

FRENCH TOAST, BACON & EGGS, MUESLI, etc., along with delicious PANINIS, SANDWICHES, MUFFINS and great tasting COFFEES.

Enjoy here by the sea, or take away

Call in or phone 752 RAWT (752 7298)

Oakura Boardriders Club 2005 Championships Results

Boys under 10 surfing

1. Toby Brankin.

Boys under 12 surfing

1. Connor Anderson, 2. Jackson Braddock Pajo, 3. Thornton Davies. 4. Mitchell Walker.

Boys under 14 surfing

1. Tyler Anderson, 2. Connor Anderson, 3. Oliver Brankin, 4. Thornton Davies.

Mens under 16 surfing

1. Keone Campbell, 2. Tom Dobson, 3. Cam Stewart, 4. Nick Moses.

Mens under 18 surfing

1. Keone Campbell, 2. Tom Dobson, 3. Cam Stewart, 4. Damon Braddock.

Mens Open 1. Simon Deken, 2. Regan Brien, 3. Ton Deken, 4. Glen Johns.

Masters

1. Brett Hollis, 2. Brent Anderson, 3. Glen Johns, 4. Mike Hareb.

Grandmasters

1. Chris Davies, 2. Brett Hollis, 3. Brent Anderson, 4. Mike Hareb.

Legends

1. Chris Davies, 2. Alan Crawford, 3. Mike Christiansen, 4. Paul Lobb.

Surfing-Girls under 12

1. Casey Stevens, 2. Elle Stevens, 3. Lucy Brankin, 4. Olivia Chitty,

Womens under 16 surfing

1. Paige Hareb, 2. Anita Crawford, 3. Lucy Brankin, 4. Casey Stevens.

Womens Open surfing

1. Paige Hareb, 2. Lyndie Foster-Page, 3. Anita Crawford, 4. Genevieve Smithers.

Girls under 10 Body boarding

1. Lucy Kettlewell, 2. Molly Lumb, 3. Miriam Stewart.

Girls under 12 Bodyboarding

1. Elle Stevens, 2. Molly Lumb, 3. Taryn Page, 4. Olivia Chitty.

Boys under 10 Bodyboarding

1. Ricky Ricitelli, 2. Toby Brankin

Boys under 12 Bodyboarding

1. Mitchell Walker, 2. Jackson Braddock Pajo, 3. Max Lumb

A special thank you to our sponsors:

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APRIL CHECKLIST

Vegetables
 Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, spinach, radish, swedes and turnips.

Flowers
 Continue planting spring bulbs.
 Dead head roses as autumn flowers finish and give existing roses a side dressing of fertiliser.
 Lift and divide crowded perennials.
 Plant pots with autumn and winter flowering annuals such as pansies, primulas, polyanthus, stock, antirrhinums and bulbs.

To conserve water in the garden
 Water only when the plants start to droop.
 Water for optimum benefit – a quick, light sprinkling encourages roots to stay near the surface of the soil where they are likely to dry out. It is far better to soak the soil, perhaps a couple of times a week.
 Mulch already wet soil to prevent evaporation.
 Install an irrigation system with an automatic timer – such systems water plants with the minimum of waste.

I remember when...

Peter and Fay Newton



Peter and Faye recount life in the Oakura village as "The Good Life". Oakura in the sixties, seventies and eighties was a good place to bring up a family, it was a good place to be in business, it was a good place to socialise, have fun and enjoy life. Everyone knew everyone else and everyone helped each other.

Peter's mother, Mrs Jean Newton, owned the fish shop, which she had started in the late fifties. Peter and Faye bought the business in the early sixties. It was hardly a thriving business, but with loads of hard work and billboard advertising, the Newtons made it flourish. The fish and chip trade was a totally different operation then than it is now. The Newtons say their fresh fish trade was bigger than their cooked trade. Peter would buy the fish straight from the fishermen, even dealing with them at 11.30 pm when trawlers came into port to shelter in rough weather. He liked to select the last catch of the day. The whole fish was then filleted at the shop. Customers could pick a fish that was so fresh it was still flapping! The fresh fish was advertised on a sign on a trailer out the front of the shop. It was put out in the morning and coasters going into town would see that fresh fish was coming in and on their way back would stop and get their fish. Fresh fish was more affordable then too.

Crayfish were one of the shop's specialties. Peter would buy coal sacks of crays (or catch his own) and sell the sack full in 1-2 hours. The price was about 60 cents a kilo! They would sell the crays around the mountain and supply to hotels. The export of crayfish wiped out the local market and pushed the

price through the roof. Another of their specialties was paua fritters made in the "paua fritter factory" out the back. Special freezers were installed to hold the product. All the chips were handmade and if chip supplies were running short then Peter would whistle in the kids to put the potatoes into the peeler machine. The trimmings from the fish were made into "pussy cubes" and sold as pet food.

Out the front a restaurant of sorts existed with four tables and sixteen chairs. One of the most famous visitors was Len Lye, who came in with Sir Russell and Lady Matthews, John and family. The family would come in every Sunday evening for a fish dinner, bringing their own bottle of wine. Many locals had standing orders prepared every week for them. One coast family would have an order of 25 pieces of fish! Another local, Clifford Johnson, would be the last customer on a Friday evening and Peter's mum would make him a special batch of scones. One of the more colourful locals was Mike Apiata, who had a dog whop wore saddle bags (for the fish and chips maybe!). The dog would also pull a little purpose built cart.

Life in the fish shop was very busy – being open seven days a week for seven years and over the twenty years the Newtons were in business, they received only a handful of complaints and most of them were in one night due to a dodgy batch of fish. Both Peter and Faye say they worked extremely hard but they wouldn't change a thing. It was a good life, where their customers were also their friends. When the fish shop partially burnt down in the early days, many locals turned up with trailers and shovels to help clean up the mess. Peter recalls looking out the kitchen window of his house (up Donnelly Street) and seeing flames shooting 20-30 feet into the sky. The cause was thought to be spontaneous combustion.

The Newtons had a bit of a farm going on around the shop with a bull calf tied up out the front to eat the grass. (He would bellow when he'd run out of grass and Fay would go out and move him!) Dozens of ducks and chooks roamed around the back of the shop. They sold the business to Neville Shotter in mid-eighties.

When the family wasn't flat tack in the fish shop, they enjoyed being involved in the community. Peter was on the Fire Brigade, involved in Boys Scouts and school rugby, and belonged to the Golf and Indoor Bowls clubs. Faye remembers the start of the Oakura Playcentre. The old Moturoa School building was relocated to the Donnelly Street site. Oakura School headmaster, Mr John Parkinson, and his wife Jeanette were the driving force behind its beginning. Fay became one of the Playcentre's supervisors. Many cabarets were held to raise funds for the Playcentre. These were a highlight on the social calendar. The times were good and many life-long friends were made. Children and now grandchildren enjoy the pleasures of living in a beachside village.

Things have changed over time. Faces aren't so familiar anymore. Rules are changing though bureaucracy still is an ass – Peter gets very hot under the collar when mention is made of the gate barring uninterrupted access onto the beach for boats. Free access is something everyone should be able to enjoy. Town planning over the years has yo-yoed all over the place and the fish shop location bears this out. The Medical Centre, Green Ginger Café and Fish Shop are all situated at three different distances from the road. Where these premises were placed depended on which town plan was in place at the time. Hopefully careful thought will be given to any further developments in Oakura, because the last thing the Newtons want is a bustling Gold Coast scenario for their little village!

By Kim Ferens

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The Adventures of
KOREAN KELLY

How can I describe the feeling of coming back to New Zealand after time abroad? The first bite of the first mince pie from the first local dairy you set foot into. The feel of grass and the prickle of Onehunga weed on the base of your heel as you sink your feet into the first patch of pollution-free paddock. The salt and oil of fresh fish and chips wrapped in last week's newspaper. We don't realise how lucky we are.

I reflect a little when I visit Pitcairn Street. I read the newspaper and hear snitches and snatches of gossip as I walk the streets. I will admit that it's a pleasant relief to be able to understand the people speaking me, instead of having to strain my ears and reply in a warbled mixture of Korean and English. I appreciate what it means to be one of four million people living in a remarkably unpopulated country, capable of yawning in the morning without your neighbour hearing you. I also enjoy being on an open road and not seeing a car for miles on end. Being able to go snorkelling and collect a crayfish or two for dinner, instead of looking out on the open port of Incheon in dismay at the dim water and sheen of oil floating on its surface.

My brother Shannon and I decided to make the most of our country's omnipresent nature and headed into the National Park for a few days. After a night of DJ-ing in town, I think it was the silence that hurt Shannon's ears the most. We made our way up Mangorei track to Pouakai Hut, somewhat disappointed by the lack of birdsong, but happy at DOC's efforts to decimate the population of stoats, weasels, possums, cats and dogs. It's at this point that I prayed we don't follow

the lead of many other overdeveloped countries and let our greed be the complete ruin of our native fauna. I think of the Korea that was, with its tigers, bears, wolves and teeming bird-life. Comparing it to the pigeons, mosquitoes and flies of today, I really hope our country is beginning to see the light.

We arrived to magnificent weather, great company and a clean hut, woke early the next day and set out through Ahukawakawa Swamp to Holly Hut. The swamp is incredible. Again I imagine a time of moa and birds aplenty – hopefully doing their part to eat away the constant hum of flies and sandflies that surrounded us, and we ventured into the upper reaches of the Stony River. We spotted a trout and a few pools of freshwater crayfish. My mind wandered back to the river that flowed past my school in Korea. The constant flow of city run-off, ice-laden in winter and an odorous trickle in summer. Again I count my blessings.

Eventually we made our way down the Stony River, nature's awesome power showing itself in the form of a great rockslide, having completely changed the riverbed and seemingly devastated the trout population. I hope they come back.

We are lucky in New Zealand. It's not too late to stop ourselves from becoming like Korea and saving too little of our land too late. May we continue to teach our kids the wonders of conservation.

Annyonghi keseyo
Kelly

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I have a number of national and international buyers still looking for Oakura properties in the full price range \$200,000 through to \$700,000.

If you, or anyone you know, is thinking of selling, please feel free to give me a call.

Properties For Sale by Anne



51 Messenger Tce, Oakura

Modern, beachfront home. Leasehold.
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Contemporary beach style home, 4 bedrooms, private and sheltered. Close to main beach.
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1154 South Road Section

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17A Record St, Fitzroy, NP

4 bedroom
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28 Dartmoor Ave, Westown, NP

1920's Character Californian Bungalow.

Sold by Anne

118A Wairau Road, Oakura - Lifestyle home, large section, low maintenance, 4 brms, ensuite.

Thought for the Month

"If you spend all your life laughing and joking, you will have no time for a serious illness."
Michael Levy

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