

New Look and new faces for Butlers Reef

By Kim Ferens

In February a consortium of three new owners took over the lease at Butlers Hotel. Kymon Hill is one of those owners and is the new manager.

Kymon is excited about running the pub and "... getting it back into everyone's hearts," as well as making sure the pub once again becomes the hub of the community.

Previous to taking over Butlers Reef (as it is now known and as it once was!), Kymon jointly owned and managed the Stumble-Inn Café in Merrilands. Under his management, Kymon turned the place into a phenomenally successful business. Prior to the Stumble-Inn, Kymon worked at Crowded House.

So how does a Pommie become so successful at running our pubs and cafes? Experience helps and Kymon has a wealth of this from his years of working and running bars in London and New Zealand. A trip out to New Zealand with some mates bought about a wedding and two children, and now New Zealand is home. Kymon has high standards of what he expects in a pub and a top quality service and great produce, ideally all fresh and local, are paramount.

Changes are already underway at Butlers Reef with new paint work in the bar and dining area. Behind the bar the most talked about change is the change of beer label to DB. And it would seem that DB is the beer that most people want to drink. Behind the scenes in the kitchen is a new team of chefs. Head chef is Jamie Morton from Practical Education Institute and he is busy hand preparing all the meals, sauces and dressings and using local fresh food to serve to diners. In the near future renovations (decks, moving walls) will be carried out on the



Welcoming smiles from Butlers Reef staff, Kymon Hill, Bless Hines and Jason Naumann.

bar and dining area that will enhance patrons to Butlers Reef experience.

The Bottle Shop will run as it previously did but Kymon is keen on offering good deals to local clubs and groups for their drinks needs. Plus he will deliver faster and earlier than anyone in town!

We can expect great beer and wine, great cuisine, great service, fabulous bands and music, TAB facilities, sports TV and a chirpy happy community pub where everyone goes to be involved and if anyone can make it work, Kymon can!

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

The CBD upgrade is close to completion and we can all get on with testing the effectiveness and benefits of the new layout. As with anything new, it can take time to adjust to and sticking with the familiar is often our first choice. But with a bit of time, change can be to our advantage. *TOM* is hitting the streets on this one and in a future issue we will share what the locals think. If you have an opinion on the upgrade, send us an email at info@thetom.co.nz or phone 0800 THETOM.

I can't have my turn at editorial and not talk about WOMAD. It was yet another great weekend with a fantastic line-up of artists. I'm sure the organisers are rapt with the success of the event and even the weather was on our side – amazing considering the previous days and the forecasts all predicting doom and gloom. But having attended all WOMADS since the first in Auckland, I would prefer in future that I pay more for my ticket and fewer tickets are sold (therefore fewer people).

Kim has been busy catching up with our locals and getting their stories written down. She recently spoke with Kymon from Butlers and found out about their plans for our iconic pub..., took an enchanting ride in a MASH chopper, got the low down on the Graff Caff only to find within 12 hours it had closed down!! Hope it wasn't her interviewing skills!! and muso Robin Wellaway. Peter Scantlebury updates us on the Kaitake Track developments and our clubs and groups keep us well and truly informed.

Remember to lift out and keep your *TOM* business directory – useful for finding contact numbers for our local businesses quickly.

Be good and kind – just like your mum told you and remember her this Mother's Day.

Tracey



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

It's taken a lot of hard work, but the Council's draft Budget for the 2007/08 financial year has been nailed down, and has been released for your feedback.

Because of the local government environment we work in, the first three years of our Community Plan 2006-2016 are pretty much set in stone. Even so, NPDC has managed to make some tweaks to this second year of the Community Plan in response to public feedback.

The coming financial year will see a lot of work getting done throughout the district, including major sewerage work for Oakura that will ultimately see all the town's sewage treated at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also included in the Budget is improving stormwater drainage in the town.

You can check out the draft Budget 07/08 at Council offices, the Oakura Library and on the Council's website (www.newplymouthnz.com) from 28 March, and you can send your feedback on the draft to the Council until 30 April.

To find out what the specific effect on your rates for your property is, I suggest you call us on 06 759 6060.

Even while we're working on the details of Budget 07/08, it's worth reminding ourselves that this is just one part of an effort to help ensure the best place to live, work and visit continues to get even better! There is nothing in the community that is "someone else's problem" to fix. It's up to every one of us to help drive that progress – and the great news is, it's happening!

There are many in this community doing so much more, though. People who in their own time, over many years, have selflessly worked to help others. I'd like your help to identify some of these very special folk. We're asking for nominations now for the 2007 Citizens' Awards. Please give it some thought and get your nominations in to us by 27 April.

And remember, if you have an idea you think will benefit our community, please phone me on 06 759 6060 so I can see if the Council can help you!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

tom

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HON. **HARRY DUYNHOVEN**
MP for New Plymouth

Easter is an occasion, like Christmas, when we try to be with the people we love and many travel considerable distances in order to do so.

For a while, last month, until the media started reporting fact rather than fiction, the travelling public might have been forgiven for thinking that lantern jawed men with dark glasses, wired ears, big hats and even bigger guns would be prowling the aisles of Air New Zealand aircraft. The reality is, in order to deal with any possible future terrorist threat, legislation had to be passed to enable highly trained New Zealand Police and other specialists to protect our aircraft and our passengers in flight, should the need ever arise.

These people are already trained and there are no plans to recruit or train 'air marshals' now or in the foreseeable future. So, while being an air marshal may not be a career option for young New Zealanders, plenty of other options are.

3000 Modern Apprentices have now completed their training. The Modern Apprenticeship Scheme was introduced by the Labour-led government in 2000 to improve the participation of young people in trades training. I began my working life as an electrician apprentice and have always placed a very high value on trades training, on the job.

Locally, there are some 180 Modern Apprentices in training in the New Plymouth district across 20 industries ranging from Agriculture through Boat building, Contracting, Forest industries, Printing, Sports turf to Tourism.

On April 1, the minimum wage rose from \$10.25 per hour to \$11.25 per hour. Families getting Working for Families will be getting an extra \$10 a week for each of their children. Workers will be entitled to 4 weeks annual leave, on the next anniversary date of their beginning that particular job, which brings us into line with Australia and many European countries.

I hope you, your family and friends had a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Easter.

Thanks for reading this.

Harry

Re-hash of M*A*S*H for the locals

By Kim Ferens

Local residents who live in the vicinity of Okurukuru Winery held a meeting recently with helicopter business owner Matt Newton and Winery owner Christine Hayward to discuss the affect the helicopters were having on the neighbourhood.

The Wine and Food Festival at the winery put the MASH helicopter ride business in the spotlight. On that day helicopter rides proved so successful that two helicopters flew continuously till dusk. Not long after the festival school children from Vogelstown School were given rides as part of a flight study.

All the aerial comings and goings got too much for many of the locals so a meeting was called to discuss the noisy bird and how to clip its wings!

The mood of the meeting was one of irritation and while everyone understood Matt has a business to run, they also have a peaceful way of life to live. It was felt that the helicopter was flying too low, too frequent and always in the same flight path. Glenda Scott who instigated the meeting wanted to know what the conditions of Matt's permit allowed and if he was sticking to those conditions.

Fortunately Matt is a man intent on settling issues amicably or as he puts it, "trying to put out the fire!" So everyone left the meeting with his personal endeavour to:

- Fly at 700 ft rather than the allowable 500 ft.
- Vary the flight path so he and his pilots do not fly repetitiously over the same area.
- When carrying big groups of people, take off and land on the bottom paddock of the Winery.
- Not fly over cockies cows in the immediate vicinity of the Winery.
- Reconvene in a month to gather feedback on the new directives.

It was a pleasure to attend a meeting where everyone worked together to reach an outcome acceptable to individual interests. And while we who live in the rural coastal landscape expect and seemingly demand peace and quiet from around and above, the reality is our skies are becoming busier. Whether it's rig helicopters, dope scouting helicopters, private helicopters (Graham Symons), Yak aircraft or trainee pilots, we are having to share our landscape with more and more people.



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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

Time, the one thing busy people do not have enough of, is the first requisite for anyone considering taking on a Council role.

This past week has chewed up considerable time just doing the housekeeping roles required for the Community Board. A meeting on Tuesday, a workshop on the budget and a Council meeting took care of another two evenings, and then Doug Hislop and I attended a hearing for the Oakura sewerage scheme for most of another day.

Interestingly of the eight people who submitted, only two appeared – ourselves and representatives of the Oakura Pa Trust – although I understand a number of folks' concerns were addressed by Council staff prior to the hearing. Striped Geckos, Matakei Park and Waahi Tapu sites at Waireka Road and Corbett Park have received satisfactory outcomes in the scheme of things.

The Board's submission, prepared by Doug Hislop (forever thankful for his efforts), supports all aspects of the scheme but expresses concern over the unlikely event of overflow and its effects on our beach should all systems fail. Council engineers have listened loud and long to our "what if" concerns, responding with reassurance that the tanks designed for Shearer Reserve have all the necessary components for dealing with power failures, etc. The Commissioner will rule on the hearing in time and the next stage will proceed.

Throughout the hearing I became even more acutely aware of how cost overruns occur due to the consultation process required on all things queried. Geckos had to have an ecological report written by someone qualified to do so. Waahi Tapu sites need to be identified and circumnavigated. Not everyone accepts a sewerage pipe through their property (understandably) time moves on and costs escalate. Generally though, the scheme has been well accepted by all, thanks to the negotiating efforts of Council.

Item B2 on the Agenda, concessional leases, opened my eyes wide to the enormous amount of financial support Council gives to a wide range of sporting bodies and recreational activities, from bowling clubs to small-bore rifle clubs and everything in between: \$1,114,830 is the total.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at the Oakura Surf Club on tuesday, 8 May at 4pm.

Land supply review

This is an ongoing process to ensure that there is sufficient identified urban residential and industrial land for the next 20 years.

Oakura is taken care of in the Coastal Strategy Plan, but Okato has been identified as an area where consultation will take place so our Board has suggested an informal meeting with Council officers to discuss this process. **This will be held in Okato**

on 18 April at 7pm at Hampton Hall, Okato – if you have interests there or friends you can make aware, please do so and look for the notices at the school and locally.

Citizens Awards nomination forms are now available at Council. Kaitake Community Board would support any nominations received for folk who make a significant contribution to the well being of the NP District and its citizens over a period of time. If you know someone who quietly works in the background, unselfishly assisting others locally, please call 06 752 7125 and leave details so I can get a form to you. WOMAD heralded the first of the Autumn wet weather, albeit with incredible timing between programmes. Spirits were high for this fantastic event and the odd shower took nothing away from people's enjoyment. A huge cross section of folk sang, danced, listened, ate and drank in beautiful surroundings.



The beach saw a couple of big tides this month. More sand seems to have arrived, along with more idiots driving on the beach – THE BEACH IS NOT A ROAD!

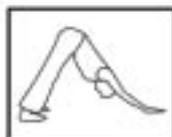
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Update from the Big Red Truck

"If you think its tough being a fire-fighter, try being a fire-fighter's wife." ~Author Unknown

Hello again from the Team at the Big Red Truck. Thankfully the year continues to be quiet. The restriction on fires in rural areas has been lifted; however we do remind all to never leave a fire unattended.

Time is marching along and the date for the 4th Annual Taranaki Toughest Fire Fighter Around (the mountain) competition on Sunday 22 April 2007 is fast approaching. As per previous years, this event is organised locally by the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade and held down at Corbett Park, Oakura. Start time is 10:00 am, and it will run throughout the day with prize giving in the rugby club rooms at ca. 18:00 hrs

The event has a number of primary aims:

- Ø To increase the level of proficiency through increased training days/nights.
- Ø To increase the interaction between the members of the 17 volunteer and 1 paid Brigade within the Taranaki District.
- Ø To bring together and acknowledge the effort of the Fire Service support personnel, primarily our wives & partners!

Though competing in the event is restricted to fire service personnel, everyone is welcome to come along at any time during the day for a gander. Many thanks in advance to Plunket who will again be running the sausage sizzle to keep the hunger pangs at bay.

Unfortunately we may soon be coming into the winter months and so it's a good time to start looking at the condition of your fire box or fire place, and to have any portable heaters serviced or checked. Also here is a reminder to check your smoke alarms and replace the batteries as soon as required.

If not already done so, look at getting the kids involved in putting together an escape plan for your home. This should include how they should get out of the house in case of a fire, and where they should gather safely outside the home. Take a few minutes to log onto www.fire.org.nz/home_kids/index.htm for bunches of info on Safety in Your Home, lots of Fire Tips and other useful information.

Finally, a warm welcome to Andrew, who as become the newest Oakura recruit firefighter.

"You know you're a fire-fighter when you really think that rusty old hydrant looks good in the garden."

~Author Unknown

Stay safe, FF Breeze



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Oakura Library

New books this month include the very popular Judy Bailey autobiography *In My Own words*, *An Inconvenient truth* by Al Gore, *Riding the Wall: Surfing Pioneers of Taranaki* by local Murray Laird, *Ines of MySoul* by Isabel Allende and Robert Harris' latest historical novel *Imperium*.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the review of the Oakura Library Opening Hours. We hope to have the new library hours finalised within the next few weeks.

It's school holiday time again! **On Wednesday 18 April at 10.30am we will have a session on creative origami for children ages 7-12.** Registrations for this session are essential – please phone the library on 759 6060 to book your place.

Happy reading

Tara Ward

Nominate an exceptional citizen for an award

Do you know a local hero?

New Plymouth District Council is searching for people who have selflessly worked for the community over a long period of time, or who have performed a heroic or exceptional act.

"These people are the lifeblood of our district," says Manager Community Development Bry Kopu.

"No community can do without the people who give of their time and effort month in and month out, or who have been responsible for a significant act that has greatly benefited members of the community.

"These people are people to be proud of and who are great role models for others. So if you know anyone who deserves a Citizens Award, be sure to nominate them!"

Nomination forms are available from Monday 19 March at the Civic Centre, the Community Development Office in the TopTown Cinema 5 complex, and the Inglewood and Waitara service centres.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 27 April, and the awards ceremony will be held on 12 July.

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Creative Watercolour Techniques: 9 June, 9.00am - 4.00pm - \$120.00

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Cystitis – a burning issue

A burning sensation when passing urine is one of the symptoms of cystitis (a bladder infection). Cystitis occurs when your bladder becomes inflamed with bacteria that have gotten into the bladder from the urethra (the small tube leading up to the bladder).

Even though under normal circumstances our bladder copes with these bacteria with its own "self defence" mechanisms, in some people an infection can still occur, most commonly in women and children, probably because they have shorter urethras.

"Apart from the burning feeling, some other signs of cystitis are a need to pass urine often, passing only small amounts of urine at a time, producing discoloured and smelly urine, or passing blood in urine," says Catherine of Oakura Pharmacy.

Help in the form of urinary alkalinisers, such as Ural & Citravescent, is available from Oakura Pharmacy for women who suffer from cystitis. These medicines can help to ease the burning when you pass urine. However if your symptoms don't go away within 24 hours of using these medicines, you would need to see your doctor, who may prescribe a short course of antibiotics.

Because urinary alkalinisers may react with other medicines, it is important to discuss this with your pharmacist if you use any other medicine.

Sometimes an infection in your urinary tract can be more serious. "If, in addition to the common symptoms, you also experience fever, confusion, pain in the lower back or lower stomach, unusual vaginal discharge, find blood in your urine or are pregnant, you must see your doctor immediately," advises Colleen.

Water is very helpful if you get cystitis – drink lots of it. "Products containing cranberry juice concentrate can also help relieve these problems," adds Colleen.

For more advice and information on cystitis and urinary tract infections, have a talk to Colleen and Catherine at Oakura Pharmacy and get your free copy of the Self-Care fact card on *Cystitis*.

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ASD – Please be patient with my limited vocabulary

"It's hard for me to tell you what I need when I don't know the words to describe my feelings." This is a quote from Ellen Notbohm's book, *Ten things every child with autism wishes you knew*. Ellen has a child on the autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and has written this book from the individual with ASD's perspective.

Ellen goes on to say the individual may be hungry, frustrated, frightened or confused but at that point in time the individual with ASD may find that finding the words to express how they are feeling is beyond their ability. It is useful to be alert for the individual's body language – withdrawal, agitation or some other sign that something is wrong. She explains more using the individual's voice:

Sometimes I may sound like a little professor quoting scripts from books or movies often beyond my developmental age. These are messages or 'scripts' I have memorised as I know when someone speaks to me they expect me to reply, and using this 'script' may hide my language deficits. This type of speech is called 'echolalia'. It doesn't mean I understand what I am saying and I won't necessarily understand the context or terminology of what I am saying. What I do know is that giving a verbal answer will get me 'off the hook'.

It can be useful to teach individuals with ASD 'scripts' that they can use when they need to, as this may help some of the anxiety associated with social situations. It is also important to remember that an individual with ASD will probably struggle with their language when they are stressed or their senses are overloaded. This is often when the 'behaviour speaks', and maybe the individual hits out or runs away. Behaviour is often a form of language in itself, although teaching the individual to express him or herself in a way others will understand, such as oral language, will of course help all involved. This is not always easy and while they are learning to express themselves verbally, it is up to us to read their body language, and by doing this we may be able to defuse a situation before it happens.

Next month I'll write about the fact that lots of individual's with ASD are 'visual learners', and that when they are stressed it may be easier for them to understand a 'visual' as opposed to a verbal instruction.

Karen

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On The Corner

- a musical profile

By Kim Ferens

Oakura's Robin Wellaway is the creator of the jazz band "On the Corner". On the Corner is famous for its Friday night spot at Matinee, Devon St West, where the band has been holding the floor for the last eighteen months. Now you have to be good to be still playing at the same spot for that length of time! In fact the band has a regular group of followers, not least of which are many locals from Oakura.

Inspiration for the bands name came from the illustrious Miles Davis who decades ago produced an album called 'On the Corner'. Robin liked the name plus the music and when he first set up a band in Christchurch just over 10 years ago he named it 'On the Corner'. The band name moved with Robin to Dunedin then on to New Plymouth.

The line up of musicians are Robin on alto saxophone, Ross Halliday on guitar; Paul Adams on bass keyboard and Phil Cook on drums.

Last year tragedy struck the group with the sudden and untimely death of band member Bill Hartigan. Fortunately the group had recorded a live album at Matinee two weeks before Bill's death so now they have his musical legacy by way of a CD. This CD will be on sale later this month at the bands gigs or at Matinee. Robin says the CD showcases 'Bill at his best'. Following this tragedy the multitalented Daniel Hales took over the drums for three months before going off to Jazz School in Wellington. Now of course it's Phil.

One interesting thing about the group is that they are all itinerant music teachers. Robin teaches at three schools- New Plymouth Girls High School, Francis Douglas and Opunake High School. Paul is the Head of the Music Department at Inglewood High School. Ross tutors guitar through private lessons and is himself, Berklee Music College, USA, trained. He also teaches at New Plymouth Boys High School and Francis Douglas. Phil travels to Auckland to teach in schools there two days a week and teaches three days a week in New Plymouth.

Another interesting fact is they all play in other bands for which I'd have to cut down a forest to name all the bands and venues that they play in and at!

The style of music 'On the Corner' is playing for its audience at Matinee is best described as contemporary jazz with a fusion of all sorts of styles from rock to funk to traditional. Robin says they would play an even mix of traditional jazz and the fusion jazz mix plus any requests that fit in the genre.

On the Corner also play at weddings, birthdays, company functions, private functions or festivals. They go anywhere around Taranaki and have their sights on jazz festivals around the country.

For a Friday night wind down, head down to Matinee between 5.30 and 8.30pm and listen to Oakura's saxophonist in action with his band 'On the Corner'.



Phil Cook, Ross Halliday, Pau Adams and Robin Wellaway.



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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

Ride! Ferris Wheel to the Modern Day Delta

Abram Wilson
(Dune/Elite)

Ride! Ferris Wheel to the Modern Day Delta delivers on the promise shown by New Orleans-born, London-based composer, trumpeter and vocalist Abram Wilson's Dune debut, *Jazz Warrior*. While his debut was undoubtedly a fine album, in retrospect, it seems to have been more of a showcase for Wilson's broad stylistic range, rather than a cry from his soul?

His delightfully entitled second recording, though, comes from a far deeper well. This is an album that seems to draw inspiration from the more soulful side of the legendary jazz bassist/composer Charles Mingus, vintage Chess blues and the work of funky New Orleans street bands like The Dirty Dozen Brass Band.

Also incorporating elements of soul and R & B, *Ride!* is a concept album that tells the story of a fictional jazzman called Albert Jenkins, who leaves the security of the small town he grew up in and gets ensnared by the well-known pitfalls of the fame game.

The sound is deliciously 'bottom heavy', featuring a conventional rhythm section augmented by low brass, with two reeds, guitar, harmonica and Wilson's trumpet weaving their magic over the rhythm bed. There are no 'big names' on offer here, but the playing is utterly fantastic throughout. Superbly supporting the leader are Nathaniel Facey and Patrick Clahar (reeds), Errol Linton (harmonica), Giorgio Serci (guitars), Michael Mwenso (trombone), Andy Grappy (tuba), Ben Burrell (piano), bassist Neil Charles and drummer Shane Forbes. Watch out for these players – they are musicians you will definitely hear more from in the future!

My standout album from last year, Dwight Trible's *Living Water*, put a modern spin on the seventies 'cosmic jazz' of Pharoah Sanders, Lonnie Liston Smith and the like, but while *Ride!* references even older styles, it is looking like a serious contender for the 2007 album of the year! I am biting my tongue desperately trying not to utter the word 'masterpiece'. It really is that good!

Hop the Fence

Lipbone Redding
(BePop/Elite)

And now for something completely different! A singer/songwriter with a voice that evokes memories of a younger Al Jarreau and at times also brings to mind early Tom Waits, Lipbone got his name from his ability to mimic the sounds of keyboards, drums, bass, trumpet, and most of all, the trombone!

With only string bass (Jeff Eyrich) and drums (Rich Zukor) in support of Redding's guitar and voice-instrumentals, this is a unique and intriguing album and one that would confound most people in one of those 'blindfold tests'.

With the exception of a bluesy reading of the Merle Travis standard "Sixteen Tons", everything here was written by Lipbone, with the standout tracks being the entertaining "Dogs Of Santiago", "Love Is The Answer" and the eerie "Indian Rose". If *Hop the Fence* wasn't so undeniably musical, Redding would run the risk of being dismissed as a novelty act. So, truth really is stranger than fiction then?

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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The Vinaigrettes

There is a saying about being "as drunk as a monkey". Well this month you can get your hairy little primate fingers around a bottle of the latest special from the Four Square and drink until you can no longer swing from the vines.

This month we're showcasing the Monkey Bay range of wines. This is a relatively new brand of wines and as the picture on the label suggests, lots of fun may be had in the jungle after drinking some of them.

These wines come from the Marlborough region of the South Island, and from Gisborne and Hawkes Bay. The name comes from an explorer of sorts who swore he saw a monkey in the bay (he was probably hit by a stray coconut while sailing around the sounds!).

The sauvignon blanc has a real fresh zesty finish with lemon and grapefruit flavours. The chardonnay is a blend of grapes from the Gisborne area and Marlborough, so the flavour is quite complex with citrus and stone fruit aromas. These wines are ideal for late summer and early autumn. You are best to drink these now and don't be too fussy about the food you serve with it.

The other wines, including the merlot and rosé, are new and again will suit barbecues and afternoon entertaining. We haven't really looked at the rosé market in this column yet. Monkey Bay is giving it a go and their one isn't too bad. This particular wine is made from red grapes pressed lightly. Rosé



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is lovely in the afternoon to early evening with tapas or platters of nibbles. I would go as so far as to say that there is nothing nicer than a sweet chilled rosé on a hot summer afternoon. It has a crisp acidity to quench your thirst and is deliciously dry, and not as sweet as it looks. If rosé were a person, it would be the exuberant friend who gets on with everybody and is terrific fun to be around. Rosé offers instant gratification. It doesn't need cellaring or maturing and is such a pleasurable, uncomplicated drink. Rosé may be pink but they have brawn.

Don't monkey around this month. The price is great – RRP \$14.70, but this month on special for the exceptional price of \$9.99.

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Casino Royale



Long awaited the new Bond, Daniel Craig, is a great success taking 007 back to its origins. Bond is darker and more mysterious although still with fast paced action, beautiful women and plenty of money. A must see global gamble.



The Queen



This acclaimed film is set in the period following Princess Diana's death as Queen Elizabeth II deals with the fallout. Helen Mirren won the Oscar for Best Actress and it was well deserved as this fictional account gives a real insight.



The Guardian

Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher lead in this tale set in the elite Navy Coastguard rescue unit. Both men have their own issues to resolve and the background of the sea rescues makes for an exciting well filmed movie.



Happy Feet

From the makers of Babe the kids have been waiting for Happy Feet. These Antarctic penguins have plenty of songs and moves and follows the story of Mumble as he finds his groove. Good fun for all and you may even take up tap.





By Kim Ferens

The MASH helicopter you might have noticed buzzing around our skies over the summer has its home at Okurukuru Winery, where it rests in a purpose-built hangar when it's not in the sky.



The MASH chopper (or "BELL 47 3B1") is part of Matt Newton's Precision Helicopter Company.

An airfield at the winery was approved by Civil Aviation last year and scenic flights, adventure trips, weddings and heli-dining have been on offer as a result. Matt feels it's the perfect location for the venture, being close to the city and with easy access to the beautiful coastline, mountain and ranges.

The MASH chopper was built in 1967 and was one of about 6000 built. Its features include the distinctive Perspex bubble, which gives the same effect as a wide screen LCD colour TV! Under the bonnet (actually I didn't see a bonnet or even a motor, cylinders or petrol tanks – they probably are there, but I was too excited about going in the helicopter to even notice!) it has a 6-cylinder turbo-charged Lycoming engine, which according to Matt makes it a "grunty beast"!

The prototype Bell 47 was built in 1935 and first model was sold in 1947. Helicopter technology hasn't changed dramatically since. The MASH chopper has the reputation of being very reliable and you can see why when you are flying around in a 40-year old machine that is still functioning perfectly.

The MASH chopper ride was my first ever helicopter experience and I had a perfect day for it. When I got the shaking under control and whipped out my camera, I was able to take some wonderful photos through the bubble. It was so quiet up there!

Helicopter and flying get Matt fired up. He has been flying since he was 17 years old. At 20, Matt went to the Nelson Aviation College to get his helicopter licence and he has been flying helicopters since. He flew first for Brett Emery, then as an on-call rescue pilot, and then a fulltime rescue pilot before setting up his own business, Precision Helicopters. The company comprises three helicopters, four fulltime pilots, three ground crew/load masters and one office person.

Tourism and adventure heli-work knocked on the door when the Last Samurai movie was being filmed in Taranaki. Matt assisted with scouting for locations and ferrying Tom Cruise around. The main component of Matt's business is agricultural and oil industry work but the Tom Cruise experience left Matt with the urge to get into tourism and adventure flying, hence the MASH chopper business at Okurukuru.

Matt Newton in control.



Below: View of the coast from the M*A*S*H chopper.



Precision Helicopters offers hunting, tramping and scenic tours to locations people may never normally visit. So if you have a desire to get airborne and see the countryside, contact Matt on 752 3291 or Okurukuru on 751 0787, or visit www.precisionhelicopters.com.



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Lucy's Gully tracks open to all

Many of you will remember reading in the September issue of *TOM* about the proposals from the Department of Conservation regarding the Waimoku and Sefton tracks. DoC is withdrawing the clearing of either track and thereby formally closing it.

Since then a group of 15 or so interested persons has reopened the existing Okato Development Trust (ODT) and joined in a volunteer conservation management contract with DoC for 10 years (renewable to 20 years) for the management of the Sefton track. DoC will maintain the Waimoku track.

The all local group of volunteers agreed on a day (24 March) that was fortunately excellent weather and 10 of them spent about five hours clearing the track with scrub-cutters, machetes and a range of horticultural implements. The workday was safe and efficient with plenty of camaraderie. The next thing is to reinstate the sign identifying the Sefton track.

The ODT is now interested in maintaining the track for the foreseeable future and to do this we need to meet annually and assess the requirements. The public will be updated of developments through *TOM*. If any reader is interested in the programme, feel free to contact Peter Scantlebury, ODT chairman, on 752 7334. In the meantime, enjoy the walk.



Volunteers on site (from left to right): Peter Scantlebury, Rex Bridgeman, Joy Redshaw, Rhys Vickers, Rob McGregor, Bryce Vickers, Vaughan Redshaw, Matt Redshaw.

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- ✘ 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.

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News from Stu and Hayley

Well our first Christmas back in New Zealand for three years proved to be a lot of fun, culminating in our wedding on Friday, 5 January at Ngamamuku Gardens followed by the reception at Hayley's parents' house. The day was just how we wanted it – absolutely perfect – even the Taranaki weather came to the party! A big thank-you to all those who helped make the day what it was (Ngamamuku Gardens, Flower Lounge of Oakura, Ash from Heydon Priest and many more) Also, a big apology to any Oakura residences who were kept awake by our celebrating – sorry!

Hayley looked stunning in her wedding dress, which fortunately fitted (it didn't in July!), as did the three bridesmaids in their green Thai-silk dresses. The groom and groomsmen didn't look too bad either!

We are now back in Bogota, Columbia working hard, but are fortunately finally starting to see some of this beautiful country. At 2600 metres above sea level, Bogota has a temperature pretty similar to a New Zealand spring all year round. One hour's drive, however, in almost any direction and you'll find yourself in a hot, dry climate. Not to mention clean, fresh air! Unlike myself, Hayley's Spanish is coming along well and she is now starting to engage in conversations with the locals. However, her recent attempt at ordering a breakfast went slightly astray when, instead of asking for scrambled eggs, she kept asking for scrambled testicles – a very puzzled look crossed the waitress's face! Eggs and testicles in Spanish are apparently very similar words!

We talked ourselves recently into going to the final bull fight of the season here in Bogota. While I have a certain amount of respect for the skills that were on display, it is probably not something we will choose to do again. Viewing a bull being tormented, stabbed and worn down by apprentice matadors, before being finished off by the superstar matador, did not really inspire much applause on our part. Put the bull in there with the golden boy right from the start, would probably be a fairer contest! Fortunately for us the 10,000 matador-worshipping Colombians who packed the arena, were probably unable to tell whether Hayley's yells of "Go on, get him!" were directed at the bull, or at the Matador!

We escaped Bogota this weekend just past, as Mr. Bush was in town for six hours and the city went mad with riots, tear gas and a ban on the sale of liquor. A number of the children in my class (American Embassy kids) got to meet him and came to school this morning showing off their presidential candy. While Bogota erupted, we enjoyed a peaceful weekend in the outdoors, staying in a beautiful cabin on the shores of one of the nearby lakes.

Next weekend we have a public holiday and are heading about eight hours north to San Gil for some white-water rafting, canyoning and parasailing – should be a lot of fun. In Easter we are heading to Solento in the coffee region, then working our way up to Medellin, the home of one of Colombia's more famous names, Pablo Escobar, and now the plastic boob capital of the world – not that I'll be looking! From there we are flying to Cartagena on the Caribbean coast and then heading to Santa Marta and into the Tayrona National Park. In July we are going to head south and if time permits hopefully cross into Ecuador for a while.

We have decided that living in a city like Bogota is not really for us – too much noise and pollution. So in August we are heading back to Myanmar to take up a year contract at our old school. We will write again soon and keep you posted.

Take care
Hayley & Stu



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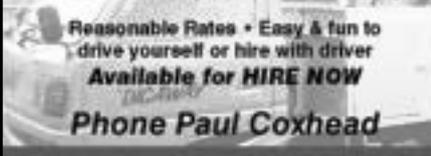
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Vanessa's way to the Olympics

By Anne Stembridge

It has been a rollercoaster ride for Oakura's Vanessa Way since quitting her job three years ago to focus on her dream of competing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The former Air New Zealand flight attendant remains cautiously optimistic of a spot in New Zealand's dressage team although her advanced mount, Winters Realm, sustained a leg injury at the beginning of the year - dealing a major blow to her quest.

"I haven't given up on the Olympic bid but at this stage am being realistic as it all depends on the horse. He badly bruised his hock - the most important part when it comes to dressage," says Vanessa.

She is relieved her 10 year-old chestnut gelding has just been given the all clear from a Massey vet although he has recommended not starting training for another month.

"All going well Winters Realm will be back competing in July."

Her next major hurdle is gaining a certificate of capability from the Federation Equestrian International at the CDI (Concours de Dressage International) competition in Australia in October to qualify for Olympic selection.

Competitors will have to guarantee they can reach the semi-finals at Beijing before being considered.

Vanessa has been a member of the Dressage New Zealand senior development squad for about three years and in that time has received coaching from internationally renowned dressage experts Klaus Balkenhol and Isabell Werth, well known German equestrian Michael Putz and top UK dressage rider Carl Hester.

Olympic equestrian Heelan Tompkins has taught Vanessa the importance of the "power of the mind" when competing and she has learnt to cope with the pressure.



Vanessa competing on - bay, KH Arvan and chestnut, Winters Realm.

All competitions so far have been stepping stones to achieving her targets and latest wins include the 2006 World Challenge, this year's North Island and NZ Championships and most recently the prestigious Horse of the Year title at Hastings in March.

Another barrier facing Taranaki's leading dressage rider is the enormous cost involved with the sport so any spare time is spent training horses for clients throughout New Zealand and giving riding lessons to help with expenses.

She says a recent stroke of luck has been a job offer with Carl Hester in England next year and she has started preparing her horses for the move as horse management is different in Europe.

If the 2008 Olympics do not happen, her medium class horse - KH Arvan is a strong contender for the 2010 World Games in Kentucky and a possibility for the 2012 London Olympics.

The 34 -year old has specialised in dressage since 2000 - after breaking her back in five places and losing her horse, Roman Abbey in a horrific fall while eventing at Taupo nine years ago.

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Denise Ries



Harcourts

Greetings all

What a great last two months! The fishing has been absolutely excellent with both surfcasters and kayakers all getting good amounts of fish and all good sizes.

As the February weighmaster's report was unavailable at the TOM deadline we can't give you the results, but we can tell you that at least 100 fish were weighed in during February. It is hard to guess at this stage who would have the February Fish of the Month as there were many close in weight – we'll let you know next month.

The last big event the Club was involved in was the NZ Angling & Casting Association Nationals, hosted by NP Surfcasting Club in mid-March. What a blast! (See the report below.)

April will see the inaugural "Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic" being hosted by the OS&KFC. With a good number of entries in so far and excellent prizes up for grabs, this will be a highlight of our year. The Competition runs from 21-22 April. Entry forms are available from our club members or you can enter online at www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz

Tight lines

Debbie E

NZ Angling & Casting Association (NZACA) Nationals

As mentioned above, the NP Surfcasting Club hosted the NZ Angling & Casting Association (NZACA) Nationals on 21-24 March. OS&KFC put an excellent team together, with five in the casting section, 13 shore fishers, and five in the boat section (in which kayakers were eligible). The NZACA AGM was held on the first day to get the business done. The next day we were off to the Manukorihi Sports ground for the casting comp. Our Club took our new shade marquee and many commented that it looked pretty good along with our stylish team shirts.

The casting competition tested distance and accuracy. These were collated and translated into points. All our casters did well, especially Debbie Edgecombe and new junior member Cane Barrett. Next day we were all up at 3am to take our respective fishing spots for the day – and what a long one it was! The weigh-in for the shore section was from 6-10pm. Lots of fish were weighed in. Our members all got at least one fish and the kayakers in the boat section did well too. The second day was a latter start with an earlier weigh-in time, but alas, the fish numbers were well down on the previous day. However OS&KFC member Peter Florence got a snapper a bit over 8kg from his kayak and NP Surfcasting member Dave Carol got the heaviest snapper of the competition, a bit heavier than Peters.

We all had a good time and are looking forward to some of our members going up to the next NZACA Nationals at 90-Mile Beach next year

Cheers

Grant M, OS&KFC Captain



OS&KFC results from the Nationals

- Peter Florence & Tony Hurring – 3rd in the Boat Teams' section
- Peter Florence – 2nd heaviest snapper of the competition
- Debbie E – 1st in the Ladies' Individual Shore section, 1st in the Ladies' Teams Shore section, Premium Award – Top shore Angler in the Ladies' section (combined fishing & casting points), runner-up in the Ladies' Casting competition with 145 points.



Debbie E with the NZACA Top Ladies' Shore Angler Cup.



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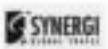
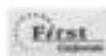


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Coastal Karate Update

Early March saw some members of Coastal Karate's Oakura and Opunake Dojos attend a week of training and competition at the JKA Australasian Karate Seminar and Champs in Taupo. The week consisted of three days of very challenging instruction in the lead up to the two days of championships with competitors from Australia and New Zealand. With over 250 attending it was a large event, attracting a number of competitors who attended the World Champs held last year in Australia.

Coastal had some great success, with Australasian titles going to:

- Aaron Cole (Oakura) – gold medals in both the Kata and Kumite for Brown Belt under 150cm
- Niall Cole (Oakura) – silver medal in the junior Brown Belt Kumite
- Connor Anderson (Oakura) – gold medal in the junior Brown Belt Kata and the JKANZ trophy for merit
- Ingrid van Amsterdam (Oakura) – bronze medal in the Brown Belt Kumite for over 170cm.

Great results and well done to all those who participated from Coastal.

The following week saw Connor Anderson and Max Hardie Boys grade to Black Belt under the tutelage and scrutiny of Shihan Takahashi from Japan. Congratulations to you both and to all JKA Coastal Karate members who successfully graded. Well done!



Manu being graded.



Medal winners, Australasian Championships Taupo.

Oakura Tennis Club

What a great end to the great season the Club has had across all levels and ages. As this goes to print, the top A2 team is preparing to play in the final of the Wilson Trophy against Matapu. So far this season the team has won both rounds of competition and their semi-final against Manaia. A win should confirm the promotion to the top level grade tennis in Taranaki, which is the Soffe Cup. This would be a great achievement as it would be the first time an Oakura team would compete in this division.

The second A2 team played very well after promotion from the A3 level, and will remain in this grade at the start of next season.

A number of Club members have been involved in the New Zealand and Taranaki Masters' events, held in February and March. In Wanganui in the NZ Masters, Chris Davies and Val McLoughlin won gold, and Liz Ritchie and Derryn Northcott won bronze, both in doubles play. In the Taranaki Masters Jill Barron and Val won gold and Chris and Derryn won bronze. Chris also added a silver in the mixed doubles. It was rumoured that the post-match function was as good as the tennis!

The ladies' midweek teams still have two weeks to go and juniors finish this weekend, so hopefully there will be some results to place in the next issue of *TOM*.



New Black belts, Connor Anderson and Max Hardie Boys.

From the Kaitake Golf Club . . .

Warmest greetings.

The Club is rolling along nicely at present. New members are most welcome as usual. Kaitake Golf Club Course will be open to all on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as will the stableford tournament to be held on Easter Monday. Easter Saturday is Club Day.

The club-house will be closed on Good Friday but refreshments will be available on the Sunday and Monday.

In future we hope to publish our results in *TOM*.

Raewyn Hawker

Secretary/manager

GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Another busy month has shot by and with the end of Daylight Savings plus a spell of bleak weather, I'm really hoping we haven't seen the end of summer yet!

The annual Club Champs were held on Taranaki Anniversary weekend. There was with a good turn out of kids camping on Oakura Beach on the Saturday and we had a great social night at the clubrooms on the Saturday night. A band rocked into the small hours, helping to get everyone ready for a move to Arawhata road at Oaonui and good 4-foot surf on Sunday for the Under-16's and above. It was a great weekend all round and it was really good to see some new faces and some keen Under-12s. With some parental support these kids are the future and by the looks on their faces, they were loving every minute of it.

There was some great competition in all divisions, especially in the Masters and Legends, who gave it everything. Some close finals show the old guys still love getting out there.

The Men's Open final came down to a shoot out between two of New Zealand surfing's young guns. Local Tyler Anderson took the title for 2007 and Keone Campbell took 2nd place this time. Hamish Christophers came 3rd after taking 1st place in the Opunake kneeboard contest the day before and Gary Bruckner came 4th.

The Open Women's title was won by Lucy Brankin, with Anita Crawford in 2nd. Anita also took 2nd place in the Under 18's at the Opunake kneeboard contest the day before. Lucy had also been competing at the Taranaki Surf Life Saving champs, picking up a couple of titles there too – a busy weekend for the girls.

The Under 16's, Under 14's, Under 12's also saw some serious competition – the honours are held in high regard and everyone wants the rock trophy! See the results below.

The Taranaki Scholastics surf team has been named for the contest to be held in Gisborne in the April school holidays...

Surfers: Keone Campbell, Tyler Anderson, Michael Mallalieu, Tom Smith, Connor Anderson, Chad Jones, Casey Stevens, Anita Crawford

Body Boarders: Simon Bennett, David Lee, Sean Parker, Mathis Smith.

Knee boarders: Beate Weir, Angie Sturzaker, Steph McKenzie, Jordan Cooksley, Hayley Walsh, Roydon Stewart, Colton Healy

Team management: Tony Smith, Jan Anderson, Murray Weir, Dianne Weir

Four surfers have made the finals of the Volcom VQS series to be held in Raglan, where a trip to the International final in California is up for grabs. Good luck to Tyler Anderson, Keone Campbell, Michael Mallalieu and Anita Crawford.

The Taranaki juniors have been travelling to the Billabong Grom comps in the NPSR-sponsored van. The comps have again seen extremes in conditions, with Whangamata and Mt Manganui having under 0.5-metre surf and Piha the other extreme with 3-metre waves, 35-knot onshore winds and periods of torrential rain. Tyler Anderson made a good showing with a 3rd place overall in Piha, where fitness also played a big part when heat after heat required paddling marathons back out after riding a wave. Michael Mallalieu and Tom Smith made the quarter finals.

Raglan hosted the last of the Corona Crown Series, with some good waves and surfing going down. Locals Simon Deken and Tyler Anderson progressed through a few rounds. Jarrod Hancox from New Plymouth was the only Taranaki surfer to get into the top 16 and attain an invitation to the Super 16 shootout held in Piha, which was won by Bobby Hansen, with Maz Quinn in 2nd and Daniel Kereopa 3rd.

Paige Hareb is continuing her assault on the Australian contest circuit. As we go to press, we've just heard that Paige Hareb has just made the Under 18's final of the WQS Hot Tuna Central Coast Pro, coming up with a 4th place finish... awesome result!

The next Pro Junior is at Raglan and Paige will be home for that and hoping for a solid showing on home ground.



Mens' Open Winner Tyler Anderson gets the big shake from Paul Christophers.

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2007 Oakura Boardriders Club Champs Results

FINALS

Under-10 Boys' Bodyboarding

1. Jack Davies

Under-12 Boys' Bodyboarding

1. Keegan Bruckner

Under-14 Boys' Bodyboarding

1. Tobias Looker
2. Mitch Walker

Under-12 Girls' Bodyboarding

1. Lauren King
2. Lucy Kettlewell

Under-14 Girls' Bodyboarding

1. Georgia Kettlewell

Under-10 Boys' Surfing

1. Lachlan Stevens
2. Jack Davies
3. Jess Grayling
4. Ben King
5. Alex King

Under-12 Boys' Surfing

1. Keegan Bruckner
2. Max Hardie Boys
3. Felix Page
4. Toby Brankin
5. Lachlan Stevens

Under-12 Girls' Surfing

1. Eloise Stevens
2. Lauren King

Under-14 Boys' Surfing

1. Connor Anderson
2. Jackson Braddock Pajo
3. Toby Brankin
4. Seth Marshall

Under-16 Girls' Surfing

1. Lucy Brankin
2. Casey Stevens
3. Eloise Stevens

Under-16 Mens' Surfing

1. Tyler Anderson
2. Oliver Brankin
3. Kaye Mckee
4. Max Lumb

Under-18 Mens' Surfing

1. Keone Campbell
2. Josh Hollis

Masters (age 40+)

1. Brett Hollis
2. Troy Reid
3. Dr Brent Anderson
4. Mark Braddock

Grandmasters (age 45+)

1. Brett Hollis
2. Gary Bruckner
3. Chris Davies
4. Brent Anderson

Legends (age 50+)

1. Chris Davies (on count-back)
2. Crawf
3. Mike Hareb (on count-back)
4. Merv Foster

Open Womens'

1. Lucy Brankin
2. Anita Crawford

Open Mens'

1. Tyler Anderson
2. Keone Campbell
3. Hamish Christophers
4. Gary Bruckner



Open women Winner Lucy Brankin with proud parents, Tom and Louise.



Under 10 finalists, from left: Jack Davies, Ben King, Lachlan Stevens, Jess Grayling, Alex King.



Under 12 Finalists, from left: Felix Page, Max Hardie Boys, Keegan Bruckner, Toby Brankin, Lachlan Stevens.



Legends winner Chris Davies being congratulated by El Presidenté, Paul Christophers.



Under 16 finalists, from left: Tyler Anderson, Kaye McKee, Oliver Brankin, Max Lumb.

Mini-Athletics

Thanks to all the helpers on our recent competition night and congratulations to the children for all their effort on the night. It was a busy night and you all coped extremely well. You are all champions!

Below are the results for the 6 and 7-year old girls and boys. More results to follow next week.

SHOTPUT

7-year old girls

- 1st – Kelsey Husband
 - 2nd – Madeline Parker
 - 3rd – Julia Crighton
- ### 7-year old boys
- 1st – Sam Poles-Smith
 - 2nd – Thomas Skurr



6-year old girls

- 1st – Poppy Mitchell
 - 2nd – Siani Tran-Lawrence
 - 3rd – Emily Waite
- ### 6-year old boys
- 1st – Jakob Roper
 - 2nd – Hayden Benton

HIGH JUMP

7-year old girls

- 1st – Kelsey Husband
- 2nd – Madeline Parker
- 2nd – Ruby Bell



7-year old boys

- 1st – Thomas Skurr
- 1st – Sam Poles-Smith



RUNNING

7-year old girls

- 1st – Kelsey Husband
- 2nd – Madeline Parker
- 3rd – Ruby Bell

7-year old boys

- 1st – Sam Poles-Smith
- 2nd – Thomas Skurr



6-year old girls

- 1st – Penny Johnson
- 2nd – Maisie Jones
- 3rd – Eva Davies

6-year old girls

- 1st – Maisie Jones
- 2nd – Penny Johnson
- 3rd – Poppy Mitchell
- 3rd – Kate Logan
- 3rd – Emily Husband

6-year old boys

- 1st – Hayden Benton
- 1st – Jakob Roper

Last Monday was our final session, which included a family fun night with free ice-blocks and sausages to top the night off. Thank you to all the children for their wonderful participation and for the parents for their support!

The season starts again in November so we will be in touch before then. Have a great winter sporting season, whatever that may be.

Rose, Jo, Melissa and Jackie.

Milo Have-a-go Cricket

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OMATA school news

Transition to School

"Starting school for the first time is a huge step for child and parent and having just been involved in a Transition to School professional development course where both early childhood educators and year 1 teachers attended, it was interesting to compare the two different curriculums and learning expectations. There is often concern from parents about how to prepare their child for school. An interesting point was made at the course that you don't need to practice being 5 years old when you are only 4 years old. While some thought starting school was like landing on another planet, I disagreed when it comes to starting at Omata School. Six new 5 year olds began at the beginning of this term and they have transitioned smoothly and happily with the programme set up to achieve just that."

Viv Norris - New Entrants teacher

From the Principal

A school wide focus for us this year is to expand access to technology and information through the development of a school network and the purchasing of more laptops for students. In a pilot programme last year, Julie Herbert introduced our new pod of 6 ibooks to her year 2 students. It proved to be very successful in teaching students problem solving and information skills. The students in other rooms are now getting the chance to have more access, but of course six laptops plus 2-4 PC's does not go far. The Board is hoping to gain some sponsorship from prominent local companies to increase the number of pods we have. Meanwhile staff are going to be developing skills and researching good practice, classrooms are getting wired up and we will be entering a new phase of sharing information with the Ministry of Education and each other via our computer network. Many exciting teaching resources are readily available on the internet now and we are keen to have safe, fast access for staff and students.

We now have a buddy school in Plymouth, England, Glen Park Primary School and some of our students will be writing letters, emailing buddy classes and having pen pals which will be really interesting. Check out the Glenpark School website at www.glenpark.plymouth.sch.uk This term has flown by with short weeks and only nine weeks. Wishing you all a happy Easter and holiday break and we will see everyone back at school on the 23rd April

Karen Brisco



Above: Kaitylin Hastie and Ollie Scott get to grips with the parachute.



Right: Nicholas Holt with the pod of new computers.

Below: Nicholas Harrop on the new i-book.



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Kaitake Kindy

A bus trip to Brooklands Zoo proved the perfect opportunity for the kids from Kaitake Kindergarten to practice their favourite song. You'd have to pity the bus driver but the children certainly enjoyed singing *The Wheels on the Bus* in the appropriate setting.

At the Zoo the children learned about the different animals, what they ate and where they lived. Monkeys swinging from trees, crowing roosters, inert guinea pigs and energetic bees making honey and building hives captivated the youngsters till morning tea. Suitably refreshed, the children made a bee-line to the playground until it was time for the return trip and another verse of their favourite song. But as well as being fun the children also used the experience as a learning exercise, painting images of the animals they saw. The pictures are on display at the Kindy.

Although the days are getting shorter, the children have been making the most of the last of the warm summer weather. The children have been encouraged to play in the cool stream of the sprinkler's spray – but not before they get themselves changed into togs. Robyn and Eleanor say this helps the kids to learn about being responsible because they have to find their togs and towels and get themselves changed.

While their bodies are cooling down, their minds are hotting up with a new friend the skeleton. The children are learning about the skeleton and organs and if the questions are anything to go by, Kaitake could be a breeding ground for medics of the future.

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Oakura Playcentre

Q: What happens when you cross a fireman with a playcentre parent?

A: You get the fire-truck to come to a session!

Playcentre is a family/whanau co-operative that depends on the willing contribution, many skills, time and enthusiasm of its members. For this reason it is no surprise that four of our families are also involved in the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade.

During one of our fire drills, we had an evacuation in which the fire-truck responded to complete the process. Can you imagine the excitement on our children's faces when 'the big red truck' came through our gates? The Fire Brigade checked our smoke alarms, fire alarm and emergency exits to make sure they were all operating as they should. When this was complete the kids had an opportunity to play on the truck and squirt some water. Thanks Guys!

Playcentre is a great way to meet people in your community, make friends and learn about children. Our session times are: Mon & Wed 9am – 12pm. For more information, phone Melissa Newton on 752 1056.

Playcentre parent and Station Officer, David Rielly with his son, James.



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OAKURA school news

Congratulations to the four students selected as head pupils for 2007: Hannah Andrews, Lucy Brankin, Dom Squatriti and Rhys Vickers. These pupils will lead school assemblies, chair school council meetings, greet visitors to the school, speak at school functions and take on the very important role of being role models for all our pupils.

Early in March we held our annual Beach Clean Up Day. The pupils from our school have been providing this service to the community since 1972. This year we joined the New Plymouth District Council for their Sea Week Beach Clean Up. The day was very successful, with a large amount of litter cleared from the beach and river area. Our pupils finished the day with a swim in the river and a barbequed sausage, cooked and supplied by the Friends of Oakura School Committee members. Thank you to the Oakura Four Square for donating the bread.

The school's annual visit to the Oakura Marae was unfortunately unable to be held at the Marae because of bad weather. However, we carried on with the planned activities on the school grounds with a Powhiri for our new families. Two of our senior pupils took on leadership roles in the Powhiri – Niko Mead spoke on behalf of the Tangata Whenua and Samuel Newman spoke on behalf of the visitors. The rest of the morning the pupils took part in flax weaving activities in their 'buddy' groups.

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St James Church Oakura:

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

Kung Fu:

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

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

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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.

Yoga:

Tove Jensen-Munroe. Ph 752 1350, or email tovisma@mac.com for weekly morning class schedules & bookings.

Oakura Meditation Group

Zen Bhuddist based - all welcome. Ph Tove Jensen-Munroe 752 1350. Email tovism@mac.com for details. Monthly, evenings.

Oakura Art Group

Tuesdays 9.45am to 12 noon, February to late November
St James Church Hall.
Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

Senior Citizens:

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

Fridays 6.00pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club. All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
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31 McFarlane St

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39 Wairau Rd Oakura

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1349 Main Rd Oakura

5 bdrm brick home on 2½ acres with expansive seaviews and large utility shed. \$649,000

Tui Grove, Oakura

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16 Fox Street, Okato

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6 Lydford Place, NP

Very tidy, 4 bedroom home with fabulous tandem garaging plus! Offers over \$285,000.



224a Tukapa St

Tucked away down this driveway on Tukapa St is a large immaculate 4 bedroom family home with 2 living areas and swimming pool. Secluded section surrounded by mature trees.



460c Devon St West, NP

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12 Govett Ave, NP

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69 Fulford St, NP

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48b Nevada Drive, NP

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Tui Grove, Oakura

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130b Wairau Rd, Oakura

963m², flat section, with 3 choices of building plans, \$185,000. Motivated vendor says "sell now".

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Properties Sold by Anne

33 Old South Road Okato, 70a McFarlane St Oakura, 44 McFarlane St Oakura, 213 St Aubyn St NP, 122a Clawton St NP, 446 Barrett Rd NP, 130 Wairau Rd Oakura, 2 Okato Sections Sold Subject to title, 13A Turehu ST NP.



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