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AUGUST 2011

# TOM

OAKURA

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*- catch up with Omata School News on page 17*



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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The TOM*

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to remember  
for September  
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## E D I T O R I A L

Recently I went along to a New Plymouth District Council policy meeting to hear a submission by a group of local residents regarding recreation uses in Oakura. It was good to see locals passionate and proactive about the future plans for the village.



I was provoked by the recurring theme of consultation and how to get input from the wider community, especially the younger people in the community. Older citizens seem to have the time and impetus to respond to requests for consultation but not the younger demographic.

I know I have received survey forms from the Council in the past and meant to respond but never quite got around to it — why is that? Partly you can blame telemarketers who bug the goodwill out of you and you simply switch off, and then I think some survey forms are just too darn long and complicated.

I certainly got the feeling from the Council policy meeting and the councillors there that they were genuinely interested and concerned to get the best result for the wider community on all issues raised, but a lack of community feedback hampered this.

So what to do?

Seems ironic that the Council pays thousands of dollars a year on consultants and they fail to represent the views of a fair spread of the community. Of course, our own lethargy must be partly to blame. We all have plenty to say if we don't like something but by then the horse has bolted and it is too late. If you have views on the fluoride issue, then get a submission into Council or on the change to rubbish and waste management, or on the location of toilets or swimming pools or other recreational ventures. Get together in groups — your street maybe or your Friday night drinks group and hash a few ideas out and get them into Council. Talk to Doug, he's a walking treasure trove of information but whatever you do, don't sit back and whinge!

*Kim*

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## Arthritis in Cats and Dogs

It is time to start thinking about the impact the colder weather may be having on the joints of your elderly cats and dogs. Arthritis or degenerative joint disease is common in both species and is often aggravated by cold weather, just as it is in people. It is caused by loss and decreased production of joint cartilage, resulting in irreversible changes and pain.

Signs of arthritis vary amongst animals. The most common are:

- thickening and swelling of joints
- abnormal joint movement
- stiffness and slowness to get up after resting
- lameness, often with loss of muscle mass
- lethargy and unwillingness to participate in normal activity
- reluctance to go up or down stairs
- reluctance to jump into or out of cars.

The diagnosis may need to be confirmed by x-ray.

Fortunately, there are a number of products available to help alleviate the discomfort of arthritic joints, including anti-inflammatory painkillers and medications that promote production of joint fluid and regeneration of cartilage. If you think your pet may have arthritis, contact Okato Veterinary Clinic for further advice.

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# Mayor Harry

You might be aware that in July the New Plymouth District Council's (NPDC) Policy Committee considered the results of the Oakura Recreation and Community Facility Study. We held this study at the request of the Kaitake Community

Board, so that we can be sure that Oakura's growing population will have the community facilities it needs in the coming years.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey forms, which were delivered to every letterbox in the town, and also a thank you to those who took part in workshops.

The results of the survey are very interesting. It found that, overall, the town is well served by existing facilities, especially in comparison to similar-sized communities in New Zealand, and given its proximity to New Plymouth. However, the survey did highlight three recommendations to address what it saw as issues in the short-to-medium term: altering Oakura Hall so that it can be used by more than one group at the same time, and to improve its heating and ventilation

undertaking a feasibility study on the development of a community multi-sport facility for a number of sport and recreation groups

installing a public toilet on the town's main street.

The Policy Committee has recommended that the study's results be considered during the public consultation for the Draft Long-Term Plan 2012-2022, and the full Council will deliberate that when it meets on 16 August.

If you can't come along to the Civic Centre for this meeting, remember that you can watch it on the Council's website at [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com) — either the live stream, or the recording at a later time that suits you.

More consultations!

We have two major consultations that have just started: The use of fluoride in the district's water supplies; and the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, which will shape the future for waste reduction and handling in the district.

You can find out more details about both, and make submissions on them, through [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com). Please make sure to have your say before the end of the month!

*Mayor Harry Duynhoven*

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**Oakura Library**

We've just received a host of new books offering strategies for saving money while living greener. A few of the practical and inspiring titles are *The Good Life: Your Guide to a Greener, Cheaper and More Fulfilling Life in New Zealand*, *Tips From Your Nana: Waste not, Want not!*, *Easy on the Pocket Vegetable Gardening: Growing Your Own Groceries* and *The Guide to Making Your Own Cheese*. *Gold Start* offers "strategies for setting up your child with great money habits for life." *To Baby with Love* features "35 gorgeous gifts to make for babies and toddlers."

For delicious new recipes we have new cookbooks by your favourites chefs: Jamie Oliver, Jo Seager, Julie Le Clerc, Rick Stein, Annabelle Langbein and Master Chef, Brett McGregor.

*The Honey Prescription* and *The Guide to Making Your Own Cheese* will inform and inspire.

The School for Young Writers is offering a creative writing competition for teenagers. Entry forms are free and available here.

*Hunger Games*, *Kite Identity*, *Alone*, and *Spud* are just a few of the suspenseful, fast-paced teen series on offer at Oakura Library.

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*Karen and Vincenza*

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# Kaitake Community Board

Our column once again deals with a lifestyle issue confronting our community.

Last year the Kaitake Community Board (KCB) convinced Council that it should forego the Oakura Beach erosion study planned, and instead use that targeted funding to research and implement a different study to identify what types of demand the Oakura community will have for future recreational activities, and appropriate locations for these activities. This was a direct request taken from the section of the Oakura Structure Plan entitled 'The adequacy of recreational facilities in Oakura.'

Our rationale was that much (if not most) is already known about the effects of wave swash and backwash energies and the consequent relationship with erosion issues on the Oakura beachfront. After all there have been 10 commissioned reports in the past 30 years on the issue. The KCB believes a further study of beachfront erosion issues would add little, or no, new knowledge to what is already known.

Thankfully, in our view, the decision makers agreed and undertook the subsequent parameter development for a recreation study, tendering process, selection of a preferred independent consultant and data gathering exercise.

With the advent of a sewerage reticulation system there is a distinct possibility of rapid urbanisation in Oakura — some data indicating it could become the fourth or fifth biggest urban centre in Taranaki within 20 years.

This study is the very first step in a process to ascertain and ensure (hopefully) that as the demand for new dwellings in Oakura and for lifestyle development within the rural area grows, the area's recreational facilities match that growth adequately.

Meeting the future needs of the community in this regard is critical so the identification of public demand for the types of recreation facilities and the identification of appropriate locations is a particularly important issue.

The study, entitled the 'Oakura Village Recreation and Community Facility Study' has now been released. The independent study set out to collect and analyse data to identify recreation activity and community facility demands, and also identify development options for the future.

What is now required over the balance of 2011 and early 2012 is engagement with and within the community. There needs to be dialogue and consultation based on the initial broad brush approach set out in the study. Everyone needs to have their opinions and ideas heard before the Council's 2012/2022 Long Term Plan is signed off in mid-2012.

The Long Term Plan will strongly influence (determine?) the shape of our community for the future so having your say is a very important issue. While the KCB will make every endeavour to consult with you all it is still necessary for residents to be proactive as well. I would urge all interested parties to read and discuss the document and let their feelings be known. Board members are available to attend any meetings or discussion groups on the subject too.

This is an excellent strategic planning opportunity for our community so please don't be a bystander. Non-engagement followed by grizzles after the event just won't cut the mustard.

Ka kite ano

*Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson, who is the Council representative on the KCB.*

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# Referendum 2011

This coming election you will not only have to decide which political party and candidate will best represent your views, but also which electoral system is best for New Zealand.

In 1996 when the first election held under mixed member proportional representation (MMP) produced a close and indecisive result there was much criticism of the system because it resulted in two months of negotiations to form a coalition government. Then it saw a spate of defections (or “party hopping”) by Members of Parliament (MP’s). After years of First Past the Post (FPP) where election results were almost “cut and dried” on the day, the indecision after the 1996 election left New Zealanders asking whether MMP had been the right choice. It became difficult to find anyone who would admit to having voted to change the electoral system.

Criticism of the voting system is nothing new. Reform debates were discussed as early as 1878. The catalyst for the 1996 change was the result of the criticism of FPP after the 1978 and 1981 elections, in which the party with the most votes overall lost to the party that won the most seats. Supporters of a third party saw a Parliament of quite a different composition to what voters appeared to want. For instance, Social Credit won over 20% support in the country, but only secured 2% of the seats in Parliament.

During the 2011 election, New Zealanders will again have a choice as to whether they want to change to another voting system or remain with MMP. Granted it is early days yet to have a lengthy discussion of the relative merits of the various systems — especially with the Rugby World Cup close at hand — but I feel that it is timely to give you a brief outline of the alternative choices to MMP that you will have available to you in the referendum on the voting system.

Each voting system will result in 120 members of Parliament.

## FIRST PAST THE POST (FPP)

Each electorate, including the Māori electorates, elects one MP.

Each voter has one choice.

The winning candidate does not have to get more than half the votes.

## Preferential Voting (PV)

Each electorate, including the Māori electorates, elects one MP.

Each voter ranks the candidates — 1,2,3 in the order they prefer them.

The candidate who gets more than half of all the first preference votes wins.

If no candidate gets more than half the first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest number “1” votes is eliminated and their votes go to the candidates that each voter ranked next.

This process is repeated until one candidate has more than half the votes.

## SINGLE TRANSFERRABLE VOTE (STV)

This voting system is used by many district councils during local body elections.

Each voter has a single vote.

Voters rank the individual candidates — 1,2,3 in the order they prefer them.

There are a minimum number of votes that a candidate needs to get (known as a quota).

Those that reach the quota from first preference are elected.

If there are still electorate seats to fill after first preference votes are counted, a two-step process follows.

First, votes the elected candidates received beyond the quota are transferred to the candidates ranked next on those votes. Candidates who then reach the quota are elected.

Second, if there are still electorate seats to fill, the lowest polling candidate is eliminated and their votes are transferred to the unelected candidates ranked next on those votes.

This two-step process is repeated until all the seats are filled.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBER (SM)

Each voter gets two votes.

Each of the 90 electorates elects one MP. The other 30 seats are called supplementary seats.

The first vote is to choose the MP the voter wants to represent the electorate they live in. The candidate who gets the most votes wins. They do not have to get more than half the votes.

The second vote is for the political party the voter chooses. The share of the 30 supplementary seats each party gets is about the same as its share of the party vote. For example, if a party gets 30% of the party vote, it will get about 9 List MPs in Parliament (being 30% of the 30 supplementary seats) no matter how many electorate seats it wins.

This makes SM different from MMP, where a party’s share of all 120 seats mirrors its share of the party vote.

The above outlines are very broad and will be explained more fully by the Electoral Commission in the months to come. However I believe that an early consideration of the alternatives will make the decisions less complicated when the time comes.

To read more about the referendum, go to [www.referendum.org.nz](http://www.referendum.org.nz)

*Jonathan Young MP*

<p><b>Jonathan Young</b> MP for New Plymouth</p>  <p><b>National</b></p>	<p>For constituent appointments, please contact my Electorate Office in New Plymouth</p> <p><b>NEW PLYMOUTH OFFICE</b> Corner Gill &amp; Liardet Sts PHONE: <b>06 759 1363</b> FAX: <b>06 759 1364</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE HOURS</b> 9am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday</p> <p><b>EMAIL</b> <a href="mailto:jonathan.young@parliament.govt.nz">jonathan.young@parliament.govt.nz</a></p> <p><b>Electorate Agent</b> in New Plymouth Jan Mason <a href="mailto:jan.mason@parliament.govt.nz">jan.mason@parliament.govt.nz</a></p>
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# Winter Health with Seed Organics

With the increase of colds, coughs and flu at this time of the year it's a good idea to boost our immune systems with some good, old-fashioned natural herbal remedies.

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Keep snug everyone,

*Jacqui*





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## Kaitake Golf Club

Your report this month comes from the course committee and the greenkeeper.

As you all well know the weather gods in recent months have been giving us a bit of a hard time. About six or seven months ago a tornado whipped across the course and took out numerous trees, then a few weeks ago we had extremely strong easterly winds that also rearranged the trees on the course with tree debris. On top of that we have had weeks of heavy rain that has soaked the course. Despite all of this, due to a very dedicated band of volunteers we have managed to keep the course open and in reasonably good condition. Without these volunteers after the wind-storm we would not have been able to open the course for one of our major open tournaments. We really do rely on work like this being done by volunteers — whether you are a member or not there is always something that can be done on the course that will be appreciated by all golfers. So if there is anyone out there who thinks they can help us in some way, e.g. mowing, spraying or just generally tidying up, please contact a course committee member or Domonic the greenkeeper.

Just a reminder to all of you who are playing the course in the wet conditions prevailing at the moment, pitch marks on greens and divots on the fairways are easily made, so please repair any damage you cause and remind others of their obligations as well.

As I said before the weather conditions have made it hard to keep the course in good condition but it is now playing really well and we are fine-tuning the course for upcoming club championships that begin late July.

Talking of club champs it is always noticeable that there is a lot more practising being done at this time, and I would like to point out that there is a specific practice area to the right of the 18th fairway behind the 17th green. Please use this area if possible, but if you are playing the course for practice once again remember your pitch mark and divots.

I would like to advise locals that the club parking area, behind the clubhouse, that used to be a dumping area for landfill has now been closed. Having said that, we are still in need of good landfill/top soil at times so if you have a home project coming up that may require dumping landfill and you think it may be useful to us please ring Dom the greenkeeper to make arrangements for its placement.

Recent notable events on the golf scene include the completion of the men's Top Dog competition, which was won by Roy Spence and Isaac Quintus.

The Subway Ambrose tournament was held on Sunday, 17 July in glorious conditions. Twenty teams entered and the tournament was won by a team from the Tumahu Club. The club says a big thank you to David and Glenda Howse from Bell Block and The Valley Subway for sponsoring this popular event. We have also had two hole-in-ones on the

9th hole during the weekend of 16/17 July. Barry Davies holed out on Saturday then Bill Honeyfield repeated the feat on the Sunday during the Subway tournament.

Here's hoping for some better weather and good golfing to you all.

*Gavin Benton*

Course Committee Convenor



## Fishing Report

The weather stopped play on all but one weekend in June, and what a weekend it was! Flat seas and lots of hungry big snapper were caught, including this monster caught by top local sparky Darryll Senior. Darryll was fishing with Paul Gibson on his boat



**Darryll with his whopper snapper.**

just off Oakura Beach and caught lots of snapper and blue cod with the odd shark thrown in for good measure.

The cold snap of the last week or so will slow things a bit but some big moochers will be feeding in close especially just after a storm, so if the weather lets you get out and give it a go the fishing can at times be very rewarding in midwinter.

Cheers,

*Garry Harrison*

# Oakura Pony Club

Pony clubs in Taranaki and the rest of New Zealand have wound down for winter, with horses turned out and resting, and riders and parents pursuing other sports. To celebrate the end of our season we held a gymkhana, which is a mini-competition just for Oakura Pony Club members. We had three guest judges, local 'horsey' ladies Jean Cook, Karen White and Tara Harvey. We had a really good turnout, with almost all of our club members riding. Jean, Karen and Tara had their hands full judging the flat classes, split into junior, intermediate and senior groups. They did an awesome job, and all the riders went home clutching a handful of fabulous ribbons.

Our annual end of season dinner and prizegiving followed the gymkhana. Thank you again to the Hinton family who hosted the dinner, it was so awesome of you to open your home to us all again. The following prizes were awarded:

The Ward Trophy, for helpfulness and good attitude, to Molly Lumb. The Cooks Cup, for special achievements outside Taranaki, to Catherine West. The Wickham Challenge Cup, for improved horsemanship and achievements, to Bronte Alder. The Kaitake Challenge Cup, for excellence in horsemanship, to Anna Hinton. The Quinns Cup, for dedication to a goal, to Paige Mackay. The Dickey Cup, for excellence in show jumping, to Georgia Ferris. The NP Vets Most Enthusiastic Rider trophy to Charlotte Procter. The Oakura Challenge Rosebowl, for overall excellence, to Anna Hinton. The NP Vets Most Improved Junior was shared by Isabella Hibell and Maeghan King, the NP Vets Most Improved Intermediate to Jordan Giltrap, and NP Vets Most Improved Senior to Nina McLean.

Pony Club Attendance trophies were also awarded to Isabella Hibell and Kate Logan in the Junior group, Molly Lumb in the Intermediate group and Anna Hinton in the Senior group. Top Turn-out for the Season awards went to Isabella Hibell and Kate Logan, Junior; Molly Lumb, Intermediate; and Catherine West, Senior.

Gymkhana Overall awards went to Kate Logan for Junior Flat class, and Isabella Hibell and Kate Logan for Junior Showjumping. Jordan Giltrap won the Overall Intermediate class, and Maeghan King won the Intermediate Showjumping. Senior Overall Flat class was shared by Anne Hinton and Catherine West, and Anna Hinton won the Senior Showjumping.

During Queen's Birthday Weekend we held a short working bee to store away for winter some of the jumps and poles. Thanks to the TSB Community Trust we will be carrying out various repairs and renovations to the shed and arena over winter. This will include a sprinkler system for the sand arena to prevent our sand from blowing away, and also so that our instructors can see while they are teaching on dry, hot summer days.

Our AGM held no big surprises with Kellie Divane

continuing as president, Libby Hinton continuing as treasurer, and Diane Alder continuing as secretary. Paula Harvey has resigned as head coach and will be replaced by the very able Denise Paterson.

We will be starting our new season in August. If you are interested in joining the club at that stage please contact Diane Alder on 06-752 1008. All current members will be notified of our first rally by email as usual.

*by Diane Alder*



**Karen White judges the Intermediate Flat class at our end of season gymkhana.**



**Anna Hinton and Catherine West share the winning ribbons for the Senior Overall Flat class at the gymkhana.**



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# DUNE PLANTING

In conjunction with the Taranaki Tree Trust and The Oakura Boardriders a beach planting was carried out on Sunday 30 July at Weld Rd. A large group of locals turned out to help with the planting of 1000 spinifex and 185 pingao plants. The area planted included the sand dune from the Weld Rd car park back towards Oakura. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed by all following the planting.




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# Music to Our Ears

Left to right Kima Costelloe, Bailey Bruckner, Margaret Green - teacher, Tessa Keenan, Ruby Ruakere and Samantha Meads all proudly displaying their trophies and certificates)

Local piano teacher, Margaret Green, is very proud of her students who have gained recognition for their efforts at the Modern School of Music's 21st annual competitions.

The NZ Modern School of Music competition is run by music teachers, and impartial judges from outside the area are brought in to judge students from all around Taranaki.

At the end of August, 11 of Margaret's students will sit music exams and they are all working hard towards this goal. Margaret has 22 students and all of them apart from Ruby Ruakere live in the village. Ruby attends Omata School.

Margaret says she finds her students very stimulating and enjoys every minute of her teaching. Some of her students have gone on to pursue music as a career. Margaret gets a great thrill from receiving emails and letters from past students who keep her up-to-date on their progress either musically or in general. Margaret has been teaching for 40 years.



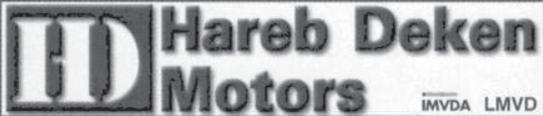
## TROPHY WINNERS

- Modern Piano, 9 years and under - Ruby Ruakere.
- Keyboard, 10-12 years - Bailey Bruckner.
- Classical Keyboard, 10-12 years - Bailey Bruckner.
- Highest Aggregate Points, 9 years and under - Ruby Ruakere.
- Most Promising Student - Ruby Ruakere.

## CERTIFICATE WINNERS

- Duets, 12 years and under (second place) Kima Costelloe and Tessa Keenan.
- Sight Reading, 12 years and under (third place) Tessa Keenan
- Test Piece (first place) - Samantha Meads

*By Kim Ferens*



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## Oakura Boardriders



The clubrooms.

Finally some snow, and plenty of surf around for those who can't get away for a tropical break. With all the rain and bleak weather in July I bet many were wishing they could!

The club longboard contest was run in early June in good contestable waves at the beach. This became a bit of an Anderson affair with all three making the final, the other spot being taken by Chris Davies.

Club Open Champ Tyler Anderson added the longboard title to his list, with Chris Davies making a late charge on his last wave getting him up to second place, Brent Anderson third, and Connor Anderson fourth. 2010 Club Longboard Champ Brian Clark was away for the weekend and wasn't missed at all!!

The Taranaki Champs were held over the weekend of June 19 at Fitzroy, unfortunately not in ideal conditions. Very stormy 4ft onshore waves greeted a good turnout of competitors. By the time the semi-finals and finals were contested the tide was low and conditions were at their worst. A lot of luck was needed at times to get through heats, as Fitzroy's Luke Kerr will agree. He sneaked through heat after heat, ending up in the final. Unfortunately Oakura Club Champ Tyler Anderson was knocked out in the semi-finals along with last year's champ, Kane Rowson. Club member Eloise Stevens finished third in the Women's division.

The finals ended with the husband and wife team of Bachelor and Tandi Tipene being the Open Men's and Women's Champs for 2011. The finals were a one-move affair in the atrocious conditions with Batch showing total commitment to just edge out Jarrod Hancox in second place, Conan James third, and Luke Kerr fourth in the Men's Open. In the Women's Open it was Tandi Tipene first, Bronte Mannix second, and Eloise Stevens third.

In Labour Weekend in October it will be our 20-year anniversary. Keep this in mind, more info will be communicated closer to the time.

Paige Hareb has had a busy month with a trip to the ISA World Surfing Games in Panama with the NZ team where she placed seventh — by far the best of the Kiwis whose overall team placing was ninth. Paige then headed for Biarritz in France for the Roxy Pro. In average conditions she started well with a win over Stephanie Gilmore and straight advancement into the third round, but unfortunately she couldn't move on. There is only one more World Tour Contest for the girls so she will be hoping for a good result there. It's the USA Open at Huntington Beach, which is not known for good surf so she will have to battle hard. Good luck.

The completion of the Roxy Pro in Biarritz is the crowning of the youngest women's World Champ with Carissa Moore taking second in the contest, which was enough to give her the world title for this year. Stephanie Gilmore won the contest but after holding the world title for four years had to hand it over to the new champ.

Well, that's it for another month. Remember Gary Bruckner is running kids' surfing/lessons. Contact Gary on 06-752 7474 directly or via a committee member.

*Brent Anderson*



Connor Anderson, longboard finalist – 4th



Brent Anderson, longboard finalist - 3rd.

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

Civil Litigation

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Chris Davies, longboard finalist – 2nd.



Tyler Anderson, longboard champ.



Longboard finalists.

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# TOM Garden of the Month:

## TREVOR AND JUDE'S GARDEN

Trevor and Jude Morris built their home on Koru Road 11 years ago. Jude remembers the first time she saw the section. It was in torrential rain, wind and fog. She was pleasantly surprised to see the expansive sea views when she and Trevor returned later.

Trevor and Jude designed the section to be a low maintenance garden. The first project to tackle was the shelterbelt of native trees and shrubs around the boundaries to protect their home and garden from the strong southerly winds. It was a mass planting exercise with griselinia hedges, banksias, ornamental grasses and native trees lancewoods, kowhai, puka, matai (black pine), puriri and even a kauri tree.

What immediately struck me was a whole spectrum of different greens around the garden from variegated bright yellow through to dark reddish-greens. Trevor and Jude have cleverly taken into account the colour and height of the adult plants, which now form a banked hedge of colour.

Their garden is an ongoing project. They have recently planted an orchard with lemon, grapefruit, apple, pear and mandarin trees. When time allows Trevor likes to work on his veggie garden, the area edged beautifully by a mature rosemary hedge. He is growing potatoes, cabbages, broccoli and spinach, to name just a few. At present one bed is planted out with lupins, which send out nitrogen as they grow.

As we chat a tui sings out. Trevor remembers that when they first moved in there was little bird life; the introduction of the natives has encouraged much wildlife.

I drive past Trevor and Jude's home most days and something that has always struck me is the lovely lush lawn, something that Trevor has worked hard to maintain. He admits that he is always learning, such as cutting the lawn to the weather conditions — longer in the summer, shorter in the winter. He has even cut a cricket pitch into the lawn — great for when the grandchildren visit!

Trevor and Jude's garden is skilfully nurtured, and I love to see it as I drive past. Trevor and Jude receive a \$12 gardening voucher courtesy of Fairfield's Garden Centre.

By Rosie Moyes



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## OAKURA SCHOOL DISCO

Oakura School rocked to the music at the disco 'Dress to Impress' in Oakura Hall on 13 July. DJ's Kath Te Ua and Raeleen Luckin took to the stage to entertain Oakura School students with great music, games and a whole heap of fun! This disco had everything from a snack bar to dance competitions.

Oakura School has had many successful discos in the past and this one was one of the best yet. We had a great turnout with just over 240 students who came all dressed up from monsters to divas. This was truly a night to remember. Thankyou Raeleen and Kath for choosing great music for everyone to dance to and coming up with great games for us to play while having super fun. Thanks again!

*by Paige Burrows (12 years) and  
Atalya Fakavamoeanga (12 years)*

**Middle and senior school  
students shuffle to The Party  
Anthem.**



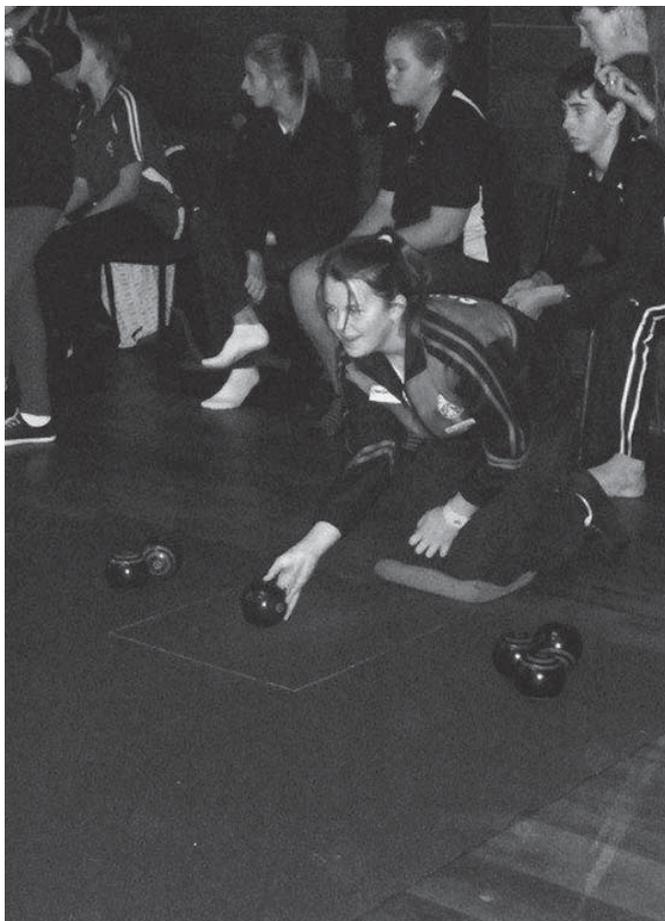
## KEEPING FIT, HAVING FUN

The Year 7 and 8's of Oakura School are keeping fit, while having a whole lot of fun!

Zumba, a recently introduced fitness programme, has taken the Year 7 and 8's by storm. Every week we are lifting our fitness levels. This new programme is a great way for us to have fun, get healthy and learn some cool new dance moves.

Zumba is a great way of getting fit, with music and dancing to the rhythm. This is not only a fitness programme, it's a lot of fun and we love it!

*by Paige Burrows (12 years)*



**Charlotte Procter plays her bowl.**

## Bowls Competition

Oakura Year 7 and 8 students were very lucky this term to have the Oakura Indoor Bowls team teaching them how to play indoor bowls.

This led up to a competition for intermediate students held at the Hempton Hall, Okato on 7 July. Twenty students from Oakura School were selected to represent the school. All throughout the day the scores were very close and that is what made it a great day. One of the Oakura teams (Oakura 1) came in fourth place but St Josephs Opunake won the trophy.

*by Megan Vickers (12 years)*

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## COMING EVENTS:

### August

- 16 R5 and R4 Govett Brewster visits
- 17 3D Conferences
- 18 3D Conferences  
School finishes at 12pm both days  
Playgroup 9–11am
- 21 Icon photography  
Book your family in for a photo
- 23 Clean Up Omata afternoon

### September

- 1 Playgroup 9–11am
- 2 Omata School Cross-country
- 5 (Postponement day for Omata Cross-country)
- 6 Years 4–6 Coastal Cross-country
- 7 (Postponement day for Coastal Cross-country)
- 8 Years 7–8 Coastal Cross-country
- 9 (Postponement date for Coastal Cross-country)

## SPORTS

Participation in sports teams has grown over the last few years to the point that we have over 80% of students in teams throughout the year. At present 90 students play football, 18 basketball and 8 netball. In summer we have children playing cricket and touch rugby.

I believe this participation impacts positively on the students and families. As well as being exercise for the body, it is great for social and mental development.

Learning to be part of a team, learning about rules, having a shared responsibility for the game and the outcome helps students develop many capabilities that are required for living. Participating and contributing, relating to others, managing themselves and thinking are all enhanced through students' involvement. Being responsible for turning up to practices and games, and being a team player helps students develop positive attitudes and values that they carry with them into their adult lives.

Parents have a great opportunity through sport to model their values to their children. Don't miss this chance to show respect, integrity and perseverance when next your



Braden Farmer reflects after another wet, muddy game of football.

child's team takes to the field or the court. Celebrate and strive for the wins and take the losses. Learning about winning and losing is a natural part of childhood experiences and through the primary years children also learn about the meaning of cheating and fairness.

If families play plenty of games with young children where they have experiences of winning and losing (like snakes and ladders), it is good practice for when they play other games that they may not win as often.



Olivia Eldershaw blocking the goal.

## LEARNING WITH IT

The introduction of our four pods of six iPads this term is proving to be exciting for teachers and students as they discover the learning opportunities available. Technical barriers are taken away with iPads and they are magic in the hands of children. People who shy away from other forms of technology for fear of getting stuck or making a mistake and messing it up are loving the no-fuss access to amazing apps that engage children in practising skills and being challenged to push their learning further. The iPads have homes in Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 5 but are accessible for other rooms on request.

We acknowledge the generous support from a TSB Community Trust grant and the Home and School, which helped purchase 24 iPad2s.

Thanks also to all our families for the support given to our teachers and the school. It makes the world of difference when parents at home back up our expectations and standards at school. We are looking forward to a busy and hopefully sunny Term 3.

*Karen Brisco*

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# TOM baby

TOM BABY OF THE MONTH



Welcome to the Dickey family, Jen and Ian and their delightful boys, Joel and Owen. Joel is three years old and Owen, eight months. They moved into their new home on Plymouth Road last month. Jen and the boys have already got stuck into Oakura life by attending the Playcentre, where they are all eagerly awaiting the completion of the new wooden pirate ship.

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### Gardening with Rosemary Herb August Checklist

#### Flower Garden

Plant new season's roses in rich, well-drained soil with plenty of compost.  
Complete rose pruning in time for spring growth.  
Plant new perennials.  
Lift and divide clumps of existing perennials.  
Plant trees and shrubs now to maximise spring growth.

#### Lawns

Evenly apply lawn fertiliser to stimulate new growth.  
Moss can be a problem in poorly drained or shady areas of lawn. Rake the area thoroughly and apply a solution of Sulphate of Iron (10g per square metre) to kill moss.

#### Kitchen Garden

Prepare the garden for spring planting. Add generous amounts of compost. Now is the time to add lime if necessary.  
Plant new citrus and deciduous fruit trees.  
Prune passionfruit vines and feijoas to encourage new growth and fruiting.

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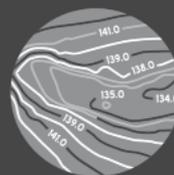
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### OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

#### Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8.00pm. Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd. Ph 752 7816.

#### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

#### Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

#### JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

#### Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

#### New Plymouth Toastmasters Club

Speechcraft Course. Commencing Thursday 15 September, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivion, Pukekura Park. All welcome.

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Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698.

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#### Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

#### Oakura Tennis Club

Always open to new players. Contact John Hardie Boys 06-752 7592.

#### Okato Squash Club

Ladder league Monday nights 7am start ph Chez 752 4097 for more details.

#### Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

#### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

#### Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am

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14 **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** Ph 021 118 8406, to be added to the weekly notification list.

#### Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

#### St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

#### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact Brian Goodhue, the El Presidente 752 1290, email podsnail@xnet.co.nz

#### Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

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