

The Live, Love and Work Ambassador



Mayor Pete with the city's trophy haul.

TOM cannot wrap up 2008 without acknowledging the tremendous impact one particular man has had on our community – Mayor Peter Tennent – although he refuses to accept any of the accolades due to him, but rather attributes New Plymouth District's successes to his hard working Council officers and community members.

Inarguably 2008 will be remembered for a very long time, perhaps forever, as the year our region won "best city" nationally and internationally. In case you've been in a time capsule, the

awards are: *The North & South Top Town Best Place to Live, Love, Work and Raise a Family*, and *The Liveable Communities Whole City for most Liveable Community under 75,000 population*, *Community Sustainability*, and *Project That Makes the Most Positive Impact in the World (Coastal Walkway)*.

At a time when the world is in the grip of a deepening recession, our region is bucking the trend and is staying positive, thanks largely to a very positive

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a peek inside

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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

I read with interest recently the ERO report for Omata School and one particular sentence caught my eye. It said, "They [the students] and their teachers were active learners." We expect that the children will be actively learning – that's why we send them to school after all. But I really like the fact that the teachers at Omata are still busy learning new skills and techniques to pass onto the community's children.

I too have decided to be an active learner in 2009. I am going to go to university (extramurally of course so I can keep working on *TOM*) to further my knowledge of journalism and hopefully learn some new skills. I know there are a lot of other adults in the community who are also continuing the quest to better themselves through education so good luck to everyone, including the secondary school leavers who are heading off in 2009 to the big, exciting world of tertiary education.

We have the final word from Harry Duynhoven this issue as he has officially been out voted in favour of Jonathan Young so thank you Harry for taking the time to keep us informed on political news and best wishes for whatever it is you plan to do in the future.

As 2008 draws to a close, I can't help but marvel at all the wonderful stories we have printed this year and they are only wonderful because the personalities in the stories are so interesting. I have every confidence that next year will be the same. So have a happy, safe and enjoyable holiday season and *TOM* looks forward to bringing you more community news in 2009.

Kim

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The Live, Love and Work Ambassador

(Continued from page 1)

and upbeat Mayor. He has been instrumental in cementing these awards for us and the accompanying recognition and pride in and about our region that we locals already knew. Now our businesses and ratepayers will reap the benefits.

Mayor Pete found out about the *North & South* award in the week of 10 October. The weather was foul. The film crew for the *Getaway* programme were in town filming a kayaking segment with the Mayor. The BBC were in town filming a reality show about a family relocating to a town in New Zealand, with New Plymouth being their first port of call thanks to Venture Taranaki and the Mayor, who had led delegations in the past to England to set up connections for families looking to relocate to the city. Then came the call that New Plymouth had won the Top Town award and more television crews were on their way.

According to *North & South* Editor Virginia Larsen, the reasons for New Plymouth's winning status were its climate, natural environment, strong economy, facilities, affordable housing, lifestyle and job opportunities, plus its developing arts and cultural scene with WOMAD, Puke Ariki, the ITU Triathlon and Davis Cup. But not least was the citizens' "can do" attitude. All of which Mayor Pete knows well. This is a mayor who is firmly in touch with what makes our community tick.

Can you believe he ditches the mayoral bed at 3am in favour of reading the morning papers?! Not long after he begins a busy day largely comprised of building networks, with meetings and functions – often involving new immigrants to the city or connecting the head students of the city's high schools, community awards and other occasions where the avenues are opened up for people to get in touch with each other.

But the Mayor refuses to take any personal congratulations for the things that have helped New Plymouth win the Top Town award. Instead he maintains that "it is just New Plymouth's time (not turn), that the platform had been set by previous visionaries (such as those who decades ago had donated money for a coastal walkway, those who had built a world class botanical park, those who had refused to sell the local bank, etc) and the fantastic Council officers. Plus the award just reaffirmed what we all knew anyway. And now we are on a roll and boy, are we rolling!" Pete laughs about being called the "jammiest mayor in New Zealand".

Hardly a month later this "jammy" Mayor was winging his way back to New Plymouth from Dongguan, China with the three awards from the Liv.Com (Living Communities) competition. These awards were launched in 1997 and are considered the "Green Oscars". No one country had ever won three awards before. Chair of the Judging Panel, Claudette Savaria, had this to say: "It is a measure of a community's determination to empower its citizens when a community can make huge gains in employment levels and development of the economy whilst still remaining highly liveable. This community has gone from one of the highest levels of unemployment in its nation to one of the lowest. This is a vibrant, thriving community with high levels of volunteerism, highly engaged and consulted community and highly innovative social solutions."

Mayor Pete says the media coverage of these awards was phenomenal and that all the judges "really got" the community spirit that exists in New Plymouth. He went on to point out that things like building little penguin boxes for Oakura Beach are what constitutes community spirit.

According to Mayor Pete, all this positive attention amounts to a likely increase in property values, the securing of big name events and an insulation of sorts from the worldwide recession.

There is one more possible award on the horizon... But first I want to know what Peter considers the highlight of his tenure as Mayor. Unsurprisingly he says it is the people. Peter has extraordinarily good people skills – whether they be child, teenager, young or old, rich or poor, all who have met him can attest to his magnetism and “humanity”. Peter says being Mayor has meant meeting people he wouldn’t otherwise have met and by this he doesn’t mean the Elton Johns of the world (who he has met), but rather the community volunteers, the worthy recipients of community awards, the little old ladies and other characters who make up the fabric of our society. He says seeing things happen and progress is what he loves and he has no time for feeling grumpy and miserable. He’d rather be out showing off the region and watching the community assets grow – the beaches, parks, walkway, the Festival of Lights, WOMAD and more. And it’s not about money.

Does Mayor Pete ever relax? Well, relaxation means time with the family and with an “empty nest” looming, there will be challenges and changes. And without his wife Rosemary’s support he wouldn’t have been able to do his mayoral job anywhere near as well, he states firmly. I think it’s great to see them out together and they always look like they are enjoying themselves.

As to that other award, Mayor Pete is a finalist in the “NBR Chivas 08 Chivalry Awards”. This is an award for a leader who demonstrates courage, spirit of adventure, generosity and bravery outside the business arena. Everyone can vote for Mayor Pete by logging on to www.nbr.co.nz/chivas

We wrap up with a big thank you to Mayor Pete for caring about what we actually feel and think and for listening to what we want in our community, then advocating so successfully for it on our behalf.

By Kim Ferens



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update from the big red truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck. The members of the Oakura Fire Brigade and their families would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

Guy Fawkes was on 5 November. Please make sure that any unused fireworks are stored safely, away from children, and remember when you use them, to be considerate of others and act safely.

There have been a few more callouts lately. As the weather warms up, be careful with barbeques, vegetation fires, etc. Make sure a hose is handy if you are lighting any fires. Be aware of the smoke and its impact on neighbours if you light a fire for a burn off. Make sure you are considerate of others at all times.

The last call out at 2am saw a woman running around the bed to check the pager message, flicking on the light and a somewhat bewildered husband, just waking, wondering what she was doing. “I am sure I was still asleep while in the process of carrying out the above act because it didn’t matter how long I stared at the pager, my eyes would not focus, so husband was sent running off down the road, siren blaring but none the wiser as to the call he was attending. And then to top it off, just as I was falling back to sleep, in he struts, wide awake, and on goes the telly in the bedroom!”

Merry Christmas

Mel Breeze (Secretary)



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Oakura Library

The last Oakura Library article of 2008 is mainly about dates and reminders.

Our final school holiday programme of this year is scheduled for Tuesday 23 December from 10-11 am. There will be story time followed by a Christmas craft, and it’s open to children of all ages. Please register at Oakura Library.

Secondly, registration for “Superheroes Read”, our summer reading programme, closes Sunday 14 December. This programme aims to keep children reading over summer. We ask that your child “check-in” with us four times between Monday 15 December 2008 and Sunday 1 February 2009 to complete this programme. You can get full details and sign-up at Oakura Library. Spaces are limited so don’t delay!

Among all the hustle and bustle of the season don’t forget to grab a book or magazine and treat yourself to some quiet reading time. *Taste*, *Cuisine*, *Next* and *NZ House & Garden* magazines always feature mouth watering, festive and seasonal recipes. Also new arrivals such as the *New Zealand Chili Handbook* and the *Grower’s Cookbook* will inspire.

More New Zealand fiction and non-fiction is arriving weekly: *Peter Peryer – Photographer*, *Matt’s Kiwi Fishing Adventures*, *Leading Lights – Lighthouses of New Zealand*, *Real Weight Loss*, *Ngaio Marsh – Her Life in Crime*, *At the End of Darwin Road* and *Edwin + Matilda*.

Wishing you joyful holidays with your loved ones. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Karen and Vincenza, and a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

Please note we will be closed from Wednesday 24 December and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2009.

Vincenza Clark

Oakura Library



Harry Duynhoven – MP for New Plymouth

Declaration Day for Election 2008 has revealed Jonathan Young as the new Member of Parliament for New Plymouth. The final vote tally is now known and this is my farewell letter.

There are several things I need to say to you who have been my constituents for what have been the most exciting and rewarding years of my life to date.

First, I want to thank all those who voted for Labour and/or for me in Election 08.

Some 4000 rural residents were added to the New Plymouth roll at the recent boundary change. Around 5000 eligible voters also chose not to exercise their democratic right to decide the future of our electorate and our nation. Given the above, and the nation-wide mood for change for change's sake, to have fallen short of Jonathan Young's total by 314 is something I am humbled by and grateful to you all for your faith and trust in us.

Second, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jonathan on his marriage and to wish him and Maura all the very best for their future together.

Naturally, I also want to congratulate Jonathan and the National Party on their campaign and to wish them well for their term in Government.

New Zealand is entering a testing time, given the turmoil in the world, and the National Government and its support parties – ACT, the Maori Party and United Future – will need all the experience and skill they can muster to bring us safely through.

Labour and its support parties worked to make New Zealand a much better place than it was when we took office in 1999. As the local Member of Parliament for New Plymouth for 18 years and as a Minister outside of Cabinet for six, I worked very hard with local councils, and business and community groups to ensure that we are indeed much better than we were.

In fact, New Plymouth is now "The Best Small City in the World in which to live, love and bring up our families" and I believe that each and every one of us can share the credit for that.

Much has been achieved over our time in Government. Every single school in New Plymouth has been upgraded. Every single roading project on Taranaki's "wish-list" has been completed, is nearing completion or has been begun. Our New Plymouth Airport has been redeveloped. Hospitals all around the country have been upgraded and added to, and new hospitals built. More hip, knee and cataract ops are funded and being performed. Prescription costs and doctors' visits have been made cheaper by far for the majority of us.

I have been supported in my work, here in the Electorate and in Parliament, by my family and a wonderful staff and volunteers. I want to thank them all and to assure them again of my great appreciation for their loyalty and hard work.

As I am no longer the Member of Parliament for New Plymouth, I shall miss it terribly. Then, and only then, shall I start thinking about "Plan B".

Whatever that might entail, I do not intend that my family and I leave the area. This place has always been home. It always will be.

And last, but far from least, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you stay safe and well and ask that you take good care of each other.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column.

All the best

Harry

Certified herbalist now seeing clients in Oakura

Annalisa Johnson is now seeing clients at Ziji Day Spa in Oakura. Specialising in biodynamic craniosacral therapy, Annalisa is a certified herbalist who also specialises in homeobotanicals, nutrition and flower essences. These modalities can help with many different conditions such as allergies, anxiety, asthma, depression, digestive problems, hyperactivity, insomnia, immune function, muscle or joint pain, and stress.

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by Jennifer Gros

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Bernie & Amanda Smith 752 7234
Lewis & Doreen Grindlay 021 907 238

Shine

Shine on this summer, with warm breeze and blue skies – add to this a healthy option and mark your calendars for Saturday 31 January 2009!

"SHINE", to be held at Oakura Hall, State Highway 45, is Oakura's first Wellbeing Event. This is a day of discovery and education with talks and demonstrations by a collection of wellbeing practitioners and retailers from the local area, and a chance for some hands on experience. Come and see for yourself what complementary therapies can do for you, your family and your community.

On show will be organic produce from Seed (Okato), along with crystals, incense, candles, EMF balancing, Spiritual readings, Iridology, Sound Healing, Shamanic Healing, Auric Magnetic Energy Healing, Creative Art and Massage, to name a few.

Experience a Chakra Balance through Sound and hear all about New Plymouth's first Colonic Hydro Therapy Clinic.

Sophia's Preschool will be providing delectable homemade treats along with drinks and refreshments.

This will be an amazing day not to be missed!

Local organisers Kate Evans (Oakura) – Holistic EMF Energy Therapist, Gaelle Kircher (Oakura) – Massage and Sound Practitioner, Ingrid Van Amsterdam (Oakura) – Auric Magnetic Energy Healer and Lisa Lister (Omata) – Shamanic Sound Therapist-Clairvoyant welcome you all to come along and immerse yourself in the peace, beauty and vibration of all that is on offer to help you SHINE!

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kaitake community board

A recent party involving a large number of youth from here and further afield got out of hand and the beachfront and adjoining streets ended littered with broken glass and the like. This resulted in a major clean-up by locals. After putting up with the noise and bad language, the subsequent clean-up was something that residents weren't particularly pleased about (to put it mildly). We all certainly hope this isn't a harbinger of "more of the same" over the summer months – the village residents don't need it!

There has also been a 33 per cent increase in the volume of refuse being placed in bins or illegally dumped on park sites across the district since mid-October. Once again, this activity increases during the summer months. Much of the refuse in the bins appears to be household rubbish, while the dumped items are mainly garden green waste or used building materials.

On a more positive note, the sewerage construction continues, albeit far too slowly for many residents whose patience has eroded over the past months. All of us are hopeful that most of the work over the summer will be well away from the beachfront and CBD. Nevertheless it will continue and there will be the inevitable delays as problems surface and have to be solved. Don't worry – there is only another year to go!

We have been encouraging people to consider getting the works done inside your boundaries soon after the contractor has installed a lateral to your boundary, rather than at the end of the project. Contractors will install the lateral to the point as close as practical but on the road reserve side of your property boundary. This location will be marked on site with a peg (or a pink mark on hard surfaces such as concrete). If left to the last minute, no doubt there will be many trying to get their connections all done at the same time and then there may not be enough tradesmen available to do the work.

There is no fee for joining the scheme, however there will be costs incurred for you to connect. These include the cost of all private drainage work within the property (including the decommissioning of any existing septic tank) and a building consent fee. The cost of the private drainage will vary from property to property, and you are advised to engage a qualified plumber to do this work for you.

The building consent application fee (along with a proposed drainage plan) is \$105 including GST. This is a discounted fee for those who elected to join the scheme at the start of the project. The standard fee of \$165 will apply to those who elect to join after the scheme has been constructed. The normal 20 working days processing time will apply to these applications. Once connected, you must pay an annual charge for the sewer service as part of your rates. Currently this estimated to be \$415 for the 2008/09 year.

All on-site drainage must comply with the Building Code (G13 or AS 3500) in respect to stormwater infiltration, venting, gully dish height, etc. If existing drainage does not meet code requirements, these must be corrected with the installation of the new on-site drainage. It is advisable that before a job is priced, the owner should investigate whether additional work is required to meet this, for example, raising gully traps set in concrete, etc.

For those properties requiring pump stations, Council's preference is that purpose-built pump chambers be installed. The installation of pumps in existing septic tanks is not recommended.

That's enough on the sewerage saga...

Recently I attended the official raising of the Blue Flag on our beachfront, along with Mayor Pete, Rob Acton, Blue Flag NZ and Jan Eriksens, President of the Foundation for Environmental Education. FEE is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education, and is the umbrella organisation for the Blue Flag programme. FEE has member organisations in 55 countries worldwide. Oakura is one of only three accredited Blue Flag beaches in Oceania – the other two are East End and Fitzroy.

On behalf of Keith, Mike and Alex, I wish all TOM readers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and plenty of time to enjoy our great local environment over the summer months.

Doug Hislop

Kaitake Community Board



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Letter to Editor

Thanks for the opportunity to put an opinion to the stoning of the river bank.

When I retired two years ago I got into the habit of a walk to the river to watch the sun come up. I had three favorite seats – all natural stone ones – on the dive platform, and mid and sea front. They were great “think” seats where I would watch the day come in. But no more. Now there are just great rocks with poor walking access.

To me the area held special significance, with the river beach being the place for many families and others to shelter if needed from the sea winds, for whitebaiting and herring fishing, for kids to swim at and dive from the rocks.

When the works started I questioned all, observed the markings on the bank and obtained assurances that the river beach would be retained, but as the rocks went further up the river I shouted “shame”.

The retaining of the sea front I have no problems with – what other successful way would there be (and stoning of the motor camp should be done sooner rather than later). But to do that to the river beach was a disaster. I do not believe the river side of the bank was deteriorating anyway and I would rather have lost or seen the community pay for the section if it ever fell away. We need the river beach back.

As for the comment, just what did the Council get wrong with Corbett Park? I am hard pressed to find a more interesting sea front park than this anywhere. I thought it had it all – river, sea, mountain views, lots of sports in the grounds, fishing, swimming, boating... I would have given it 10 out of 10.

Also could you tell us where we could research the taking of the rocks for the port expansion? That would make interesting reading.

Ian McDonald



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Waireka Cemetery enjoys a makeover

Over recent months and following my submission to NPDC in June, Waireka Cemetery has been given some long overdue attention.

First to happen was the placing of a new seat just inside the gates so visitors can sit and enjoy the scenery. For those of you who grizzled about the seat not being level – it is! I checked with a spirit (ha!) level.

A sign naming the site has been erected at the gate. This makes the cemetery look cared for and official rather than a forgotten paddock. A simple thing to have a sign, you might say, but to my knowledge there hasn't been one there before.

The road frontage has been tidied up, with a large number of straggly trees having been removed.

The sheep have been removed from the top part of the cemetery and the Council plan to mow around the headstones ten times a year. The grazer still has a contract to graze the bottom two sections. So for all those who grizzled about poo and flowers being eaten, these are now history. I just hope the mowers do not damage the headstones.

A geophysical survey has been carried out at the expense of local landowner and member of the Friends of Waireka Cemetery, Len Jury. The brief for this was to find any unmarked graves and to try to identify where the church was thought to once exist.

The results indicate that only two pits fit the size and shape of graves in the lower area of the cemetery. The survey just shows disturbance to the ground, so does not give absolute proof that the disturbance is a burial site.

With regards to the church, a feature showed up that could be a building platform that has what looks like a pathway leading to it. This could be a church or it could be a farm building, it's size being nine metres by seven metres. One conclusion could be that a farm building wouldn't have been built so close to a grave, giving weight to the theory that there was once a church here. What is interesting to me is that the location of this church (if that is what it is) is not in the position I imagined the church would be, that is, on the boundary of Gardner Road rather than Waireka Road and is a lot smaller than I thought it would be.

All in all it has been a busy year at the cemetery, considering the lack of work that was carried out in the past, and we look forward to keeping the cemetery in tip top order. Thanks needs to go to Steve McGill for his input into this.

By Kim Ferens



New signage and a freshly mown cemetery.





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APPLICATIONS FOR OUT-OF-ZONE PUPILS 2009

Omata School is a Decile 8 Full Primary School (includes Year 7/8 students). The Board invites applications from parents wishing to enrol their children for 2009. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office. The Board has determined that there are places available to out of zone students for 2009 in the junior school. Applications can be made by ringing the school office at **751 2308** or by visiting the school.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. Ballots, if required, will be held by 14th December 2008.

For an appointment or further information, please contact the Principal, Karen Brisco.

Kaitake Golf Club

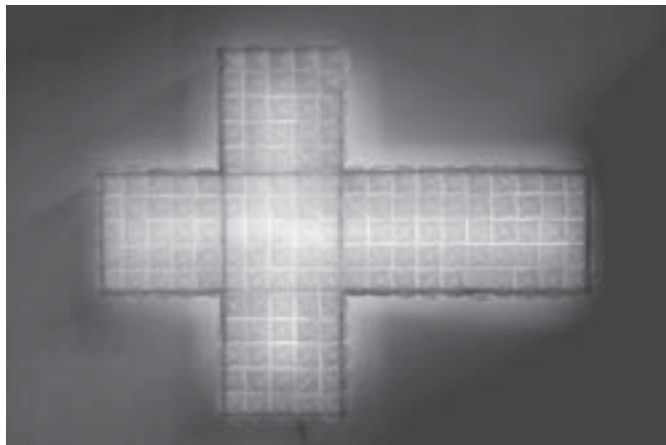


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Graduate's work a juxtaposition of order and chaos

Omata local Tammy Lewis has recently completed her Bachelor of Visual Arts at WITT. The graduates held an exhibition called *3 Scoops*, which show-cased the works of the Bachelor of Visual Arts, Graphic Design and Fine Art or Computer Graphics.



Tammy's 'Opposite Land' on display at the WITT exhibition.

For her artwork, Tammy won the Art Department Graduate Student Award. This means she has been selected to represent the Bachelor of Visual Arts in 2008 on the WITT Art Department webpages of the Saatchi website.

Tammy created a stunning piece of art called "Opposite Land" (pictured here). The artwork is an object-based installation. Tammy says she was interested in working with ideas of geometric pattern, lightness, repetition, order, containment, discipline and the memory held by the folded form. "Opposite Land" is about Tammy creating something that is contradictory to her, something that doesn't fit easily with what she sees as her personality.

The exhibit was the culmination of more than two years' work and began with Tammy exploring origami. This led to an artwork made up of boxes folded from printed images, with the idea that the treasures were on the outside of the box rather than inside. From this, Tammy's research led her to Temate Baku (meaning "box" or "jewellery box") – a Japanese architectural idea dating from the 1700s. Following the time boxes, Tammy created cubes using the folded Temate Baku method. Next she painted the paper before cutting and folding it. With the help of a computer genius who designed a computer programme to print the paper so an image could be created once the paper has been cut and folded, Tammy then made one dimensional works with the concept. Then came the idea of the two dimensional artwork.

While "Opposite Land" looks simple, it is anything but and I don't really think I can do it justice with a few words here, but if you can first imagine cutting over 400 pieces of architectural paper (a thin semi-rigid plastic). Then the individual pieces are folded – no easy task as the paper doesn't hold a memory – and glued together before being folded into the cube shape. This cube shape was chosen as one of the possible maps for making a cube. A frame including fluoro lights was made for the folded paper ensemble and then it was all put together. Tammy also made a dissertation (video) of the whole process, which shows in detail the difficulties faced in constructing the work.

Tammy says the journey has been one of torture as she is not one to pick up a ruler and draw or paint in straight lines, preferring chaos. She was stoked to prove to herself that she could do an artwork as precise and measured as "Opposite Land" – she feels that if she can do that, then she can do anything. Many people were involved and Tammy would like to thank friends and family for their input, without which she is adamant it wouldn't have come together. And "Opposite Land" is for sale if anybody would like to buy it!

I think the artwork is beautiful – simple yet complex, a strange juxtaposition, but then knowing the artist, this is not surprising. I like the fact that you can't easily see the personal journey of the artist but can interpret as you will – ego free, I suppose.

By Kim Ferens

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Oakura Pony Club News

Summer is here and with it comes competition in the form of Ribbon Days, Jumping Days, A&P Shows and in January the start of the ODE or "One Day Event" season, as well as Pony Club trials, champs and teams events.



Spotswood College team at the North Island Secondary Schools show jumping competition at St Peter's in Cambridge.

Oakura Pony Club, although very small in comparison to many other pony clubs, is very competitive and has consistently excelled in team and individual events.

Recently Oakura riders were well represented in the Spotswood College team at the North Island Secondary Schools show jumping competition, held at St Peter's in Cambridge. Thirty-nine teams competed, with schools entered from Kerikeri in Northland to Stratford in South Taranaki. The Spotswood College team was Andrea Brewster (Kennybrook Twylyte), Darelle Martin (Asterix), Anna Hinton (Sexy B) and Hayley Beekman (Espresso) – three of whom are members of Oakura Pony Club, and Darelle Martin is a member of Okato Pony Club. The event was won by Kerikeri High School, second was Springbank School (also from Kerikeri) and Spotswood College performed very well to be placed third overall, with both Andrea Brewster and Anna Hinton each winning one of their classes. In the Jigsaw competition all four of our riders cleared the Joker – the last jump in the course that is higher than all the other jumps – and by clearing this jump, the riders points are doubled.



Andrea Brewster with her mount, Kennybrook Twylyte

Oakura Tennis Club

The Oakura Tennis Club recently held a successful open day to mark the completion of the newly laid surfaces, which are proving to be very well received.

In addition to this the Club is happy to support a Tennis New Zealand Open Day on 15 February and would like to invite all those still not sure to come have a hit at the Donnelly Street courts. Keep an eye out for further information on this event.

From Junior through to Soffe Cup, Oakura Tennis Club representatives continue to enjoy success on the courts, both home and away. As the first round of competition nears its end, the Club would like to congratulate all competitors and wish them the best for the second round.

For many ladies, 9 o'clock Wednesday mornings have become a regular tennis fixture. This is a fun, friendly morning where all abilities join together for a social game at the Donnelly Street courts, followed by coffee. New faces are always welcome, for just a \$2 cost to non-members.

For further information on any of the above call Club Captain, Kevin Walden on 752 7817.

The Oakura Tennis Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all sponsors, both past and present. Your support, which is of great value in maintaining a successful club, is greatly appreciated. The Club would like to thank the following contributors: **Hareb Deken Motors, Jacinta and John Hurley of Shell Garage, Devon Medical Centre, Anne Wilson of McDonald Real Estate, Clayton and Shae Matchett, and Ahu Ahu Beach Villas.**

Jack Smithers, Captain of NPBHS Soccer Team

Congratulations to Jack Smithers, who was chosen to captain the New Plymouth Boys High School soccer team this past season. He is graduating in December and plans to go to Otago University next year to study surveying. Jack has enjoyed his last season as captain and found it a great opportunity to lead by example. Being captain was not only about leadership, but was also about having good communication on the field and looking after the younger players on the team. He liked having more responsibility, and when the team did well, it seemed like even more of an achievement.

Under Jack's leadership, the NPBHS soccer team did quite well, finishing 20th in the country. Their biggest win was against rival Francis Douglas Memorial College with a score of 4-3.

Jack also plays tennis for the Oakura Tennis Club and plays social cricket.

by Jennifer Gros



Oakura Sports Profile

Sponsored by



Miaana Walden

In 2003 Oakura School girl Miaana Walden featured in *TOM* as an aspiring netballer. Five years later *TOM* is again proud to bring you the continuing story of this very talented, intelligent and gracious teenager.

Hardly a week goes by without Miaana's name popping up somewhere in the local papers, what with her pursuit of excellence in tennis and netball. She has been in the headlines recently for winning the Taiohi Kotiro (Teenage Girl) Taranaki Maori Junior Sportswoman 2008 due to her high level of achievement in these two sports. Miaana was nominated for this award by Mrs Cleaver, one of her teachers at New Plymouth Girls High School.



Miaana, 11yrs old at Oakura School.

Miaana says it was exciting to win the prize and receive the trophy as she is only the second person to win it. On receiving the award, Miaana gave a speech that was so moving it had her mum Deneille in tears in the front row! Miaana is very appreciative of the wonderful support her parents Kevin and Deneille give her in all her sports.

Miaana's first love is netball and this year she was named for the New Zealand Maori under-17/19 Aotearoa Netball team, which toured to Adelaide, Australia for the International Netball Championships. The Aotearoa Maori team played seven matches, beating Australia in the semi-finals to face and lose against the New Zealand Secondary School team. The Aotearoa team members were selected from the local teams within the iwi. Miaana has also been in the New Plymouth Girls High School Premier 1 netball team for three years and was Vice Captain this year. The Premier 1 team won the Secondary School Regionals and was also placed in the top four in the local adult grade competition. Miaana has also been a Taranaki Rep player since Year 7 at Oakura School and was the captain of the under-17 team. She was also named 2008 Player of the Year in this team.

Miaana says her love of netball has come from her first and most influential coach, Susanne Wearne. Miaana says she loves

the intensity of netball. She mainly plays Centre position and as Centre she does a lot of running around, which she also loves. Preseason training for the 2009 year has already started, with a training academy underway.

Miaana plays in the local Hareb Deken Soffe Cup tennis team as their number 4 player and last year the team were serious contenders for a finals placing but just missed out. This year the Team has started very promisingly. Miaana is also in the New Plymouth Girls High School tennis team and is also a Taranaki Rep Tennis player.

Miaana says she is "quite competitive" and she thanks her dad Kevin for giving her the mental toughness that helps her in her individual sport of tennis and team sport of netball. She is also self-motivated and thrives on pushing herself physically and mentally. Time out from sport – and there isn't much of this, with most weekends spent playing tennis and weekdays spent practising and keeping fit – Miaana likes to just hang out with her family – which often means a gruelling run along Oakura Beach with mum and dad!

This year as a student at New Plymouth Girls High School, Miaana won the top achievement award in Maori for Year 12 and also the top speech award in Maori (I'm sure this will come in handy for all the future award speeches she'll have make!). Next year it is back to school for Year 13, then Miaana would like to go to university and possibly do something in commerce, but she isn't too sure yet.

It was an absolute pleasure meeting and interviewing such an outstanding athlete, of whom we can all be proud.

By Kim Ferens



Miaana with her Junior Maori Sportswoman trophy

Rep cricket players named

Boys from Oakura do well again . . .

Under-13s - Cameron Meads, Jack Wagstaff.

Under-14s - Mason Farrant, Thomas McDougall.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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GETTING WET!



Another year is nearly past and we are looking forward to a great summer.

Taranaki surfing has once again shown it is in good shape. Our surfers have had a strong year on the competition front and there's been good administration on the organisational front. Surfing Taranaki being accepted into the "Sports Future" programme and the "Surfers Ball" were particular highlights of the year.

Environmental and planning battles are being waged continually across New Zealand as more and more surf spots come under threat from coastal development, and nowhere is this more evident than Taranaki. We are lucky to have people passionate enough to fight these battles and they need all our support if we are to continue to have access to the great surf spots on this awesome coast of ours.

The biggest surfing news for New Zealand this year, and for Taranaki and Oakura in particular, has been Paige Hareb's push for a position on the Women's World Circuit Tour (WCT). This is Paige's first attempt at qualifying through the World Qualifying Series (WQS) and she has had an awesome year and is on the verge of qualification.

The WCT is made up of the ten qualifiers from the previous year, the top six WQS qualifiers and one wildcard. As we go to press Paige is sitting in seventh place on the WQS – just one place outside the cut-off, but there are potentially four surfers above her on the WQS who can re-qualify through the WCT, so all going well she should be on the WCT next year. This will be New Zealand's first woman surfer and only the second New Zealand surfer to ever achieve this. Paige faces a nervous wait, as do all her supporters. But either way, best of luck to her for 2009.

The Boardriders Club have started the summer off with some open nights and learn-to-surf evenings, which have been outstanding successes. Some new members and especially younger kids have been very enthusiastic, and although I have been away, I hear we have some keen young prospects locally who could be challenging the establishment in the surf in years to come.

We hope to see a big improvement from the young ones this summer. There is a full summer of competition both locally and nationally so get out there and give it a go.

The Club will be open most Friday evenings for a bit of socialising and the Club boards are available for use, so come on down and show your support.

Upcoming contests are the Port Taranaki Summer Series, Taranaki-wide and coming to all the local beaches, so keep eyes open for dates that will be advertised locally (the Boardriders Club notice board being one place). The Opunake Classic will be held on 3 January – entry forms are available from Vertigo. The Nationals are being held at Piha this year from 10 to 18 January, followed by other contests on the Corona Series, with advertising posters available in all the NZ Surf mags, so if you are keen, there is a full summer of surfing to be had.

Over Labour Weekend the Honalua Taranaki Longboard contest was held at Fitzroy, with a strong local contingent making their presence felt. Chris Davies and Brian Clark dominated the senior

divisions and Tyler Anderson (the youngest competitor in the event) made it to the quarter finals of the open division. This was more a fun event, with some great live music all weekend and a great friendly vibe with a laid back feel, and surfers from all over New Zealand once again enjoying what Taranaki is known for – great surf.

Anyone interested in the Club and our activities can contact the Paul Christophers (President) on 027 406 5654.

On behalf of the Oakura Boardriders Club, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Open Day



'So easy'.

'This is how you do it Dad!'.



Brian Clark 'Honalua Longboard Seniors Winner'.

New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club

Things are definitely happening out here at New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club.

We have just had our Open Day and it was great to see so many new families coming along for a look at what we do down here and how much fun we have doing it.

On the weekend of 29 November the beach patrol began with our very conscientious lifeguards. They make sure that you can have an enjoyable but safe time in the water.

And finally we are all frantically getting ready for our annual New Year's Day Carnival. Each year this just gets better and better, and this year will be no exception. There will be plenty of live entertainment, music, the legendary Miss Taranaki pageant, IRB and helicopter rides, lots of food and drink, a great playground for the kids and a nice spot for Mum and Dad to sit on the beach and relax while you watch the entertainment.

So have a safe and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at the carnival and at the beach this summer.

Nicky

NPOB Club Coordinator

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Paradise on the point

From farm paddock to paradise, Norton and Coral Moller's seaside garden is worthy of *NZ House & Garden*.

I was lucky enough to be given a tour around the 5-acre garden by Coral recently – lucky because the roses were flowering exuberantly and I love roses. Coral has rose specimens that are more than 25 years old and have canes as thick as a child's arm and are as tall as an adult. As for the "Wedding Day" climber – it wasn't quite out in full bloom but the evidence was there of a spectacular flowering to come.



Ally in the garden.

Coral tells me that the farm paddock was turned into a home and garden about 37 years ago and various features have been added and blown away (by Cyclone Bola and last year's tornadoes) over the years, including the tennis court, the duck pond, the arbour with formal garden and buxus hedges, the orchard, vegetable patch and watermelon patch. Vegetable gardening is something Coral does as a trend but it is an activity that gives her enormous pleasure.

The garden is laid out with sweeping lawns (which take about a day's attention with ride-on and push mowers to get under control) and borders with mixtures of perennials, roses, wild flowers, annuals and natives. What catch my eye are the groupings of species – the Kauris, the renga rengas, the hydrangeas, the roses and the clivias. One sentinel Kauri is nearly 40 years old and has survived the indignity of having its top cut off. The drive up to the house is lined with cherry trees and under-planted with shade lovers like hostas and white hydrangeas. Other plantings are dramatic with magnolias and hydrangeas.

Wildlife is prolific in the garden. Tuis, bellbirds, kingfishers, quail, the occasional pigeon and common garden birds are all frequent and welcome visitors in the garden. Not so welcome but very prolific are rabbits. The destruction they cause was very evident during my visit, with holes in the lawn and garden, plant damage and droppings everywhere. Norton has some pet ducks on the pond that he feeds daily and also a pet blackbird that waits every morning for breakfast. Coral thinks these younger birds get more attention than her!

This expansive garden is largely taken care of by Coral and Norton. They also have a handyman – Eddie – who does the heavy work and spraying. There is also the occasional seasonal worker or workers, like the English couple who work in the feijoa orchard and are taking advantage of the adjacent surf. In winter Coral gets in a pruner to prune and fertilise the roses.

Coral says she doesn't have a favourite part of the garden but rather enjoys the different flowering times, like the flowering of the magnolias, the hydrangeas or the roses.

The Moller's garden is a sensory treat and is in one of the most picturesque spots you could imagine.

By Kim Ferens



The pond..

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Introducing Spam Allstars

Spam Allstars
(Introducing/World Music Network/Southbound)

music review

by Don Juan

Introducing Akim El Sikameya

Akim El Sikameya
(Introducing/World Music Network/Southbound)

One of the World Music Network group (which also release the marvellous Rough Guide discs), the "Introducing" series launches the recording careers of previously unknown or underrated artists. "Desert blues" band Etran Finatawa, one of the outstanding acts at WOMAD 2007, was one of their major finds. However, if there is any justice in the world, Akim El Sikameya and Latin jam-band Spam Allstars could well be the next breakout acts for this adventurous little label.

Paris-based Algerian Akim El Sikameya has a rare voice, rich and unsettlingly androgynous – listeners may believe they are hearing a woman sing! El Sikameya's voice is in the classical counter-tenor range, think Little Jimmy Scott or Antony & The Johnsons for reference points. However, once the surprise factor has subsided, the quality of the voice, the musicianship and the material all shines out. *Introducing Akim El Sikameya* works in a similar vein to other Arabic-Iberian crossover acts like Radio Tarifa or El Lebrijiano, but Akim also brings gypsy jazz, chanson and other unrelated styles into the mix. Voice and violin to the fore, Akim is supported by a small, superb acoustic group that includes accordion, drums, guitar, double bass and other string instruments, with guest horns deployed on some tracks, including the effective muted trumpet on "Ya Waadi". The lively opener "Chouia L'Mon Coeur" and "Sa Majesté Lila" are among the many standout tracks to be found on *Introducing Akim El Sikameya*.

The Spam Allstars is a Miami-based collective that mashes up various Latin styles with funk, hip-hop and hints of jazz, all delivered with a great sense of fun. Guest artists may include members of Phish, James Brown's band and Afrobeat group Antibalas, but *Introducing Spam Allstars* is very much the brainchild of DJ Le Spam (Canadian Andrew Yeomanson) and his freewheeling, multi-kulti crew. I have been a fan of Spam Allstars since I heard their "Ochimini" over a year ago (on a Latin-focused "Rough Guide") and my admiration for this tight band has only been enhanced since then. "Campanario 64", "The Robots Attack" and "La Mareada" are some of the outstanding tracks and Spammers flutist Mercedes Abal, guitarist Adam Zimmon, trombonist Chad Bernstein and percussionist Lazaro Alfonso are impressive throughout!

by Graham Donlon

Mr Donlon has been writing music reviews for well over thirty years. He hosts the near-encyclopaedic radio show, "Music Without Frontiers" every Sunday between 10am and 1pm on The Most (100.4 FM). Miss it at your peril! He strongly denies all rumours of biting dogs.

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Art and the word

Visitors seeking that special place to lay their weary heads will find a restful and nurturing retreat at *Sarah's B&B* at 239 Ahu Ahu Road, Oakura.

It's immediately obvious on pulling up to the private entrance to *Sarah's* that this is no ordinary retreat. A curved fence of giant faded driftwood creates an ingenious seaside feature in a native garden around the private patio at the entrance. It's a contemporary, capacious and comfortable haven.



Sarah at the front door of the B&B.

Art and books are prevalent at *Sarah's*. The only daughter of artist, Michael, and poet and author, Elizabeth, Sarah Smither's B&B offers a rare chance to commune in a quintessentially Taranaki environ with fine paintings and to escape into a wide-range of stunning short stories, poetry and novels, courtesy of her talented and famous parents.

A distinct advantage of staying at *Sarah's* is the total privacy afforded the guest. The B&B is located in a separate wing, added on to the family home by Sarah's partner Kevin, and its own vehicle entrance ensures independence and the confidence that no one will be disturbed by comings or goings. *Sarah's* also offers lucky guests home baking on arrival, a barbecue to use and the option of amazing meals on request.

Sarah encourages guests to pick their own level of hospitality for their stay. Guests can borrow fishing rods, surfboards and beach towels to head to the sea for a spot of fun and fishing. Sarah will cook fresh caught fare on request. At low tide it only takes 20 minutes to walk along the beach to the village where restaurants, bottle store, crafts, pharmacy, hair stylist and beautician amenities are available. For a small fee Sarah offers the convenience of a pick up and drop off service for guests who want to imbibe and relax while dispensing with the hassle of finding a taxi or dial-a-driver service.

Sarah Smither is a down-to-earth host who raises her two boys in a world edging on paradise. She is greatly hospitable and even brief conversation reveals her to be well-travelled, interesting and highly artistic. *Sarah's* will fulfil all criteria for the more discerning traveller and offers the addition of a private and beautiful space for guests.

By Hilary Bennett

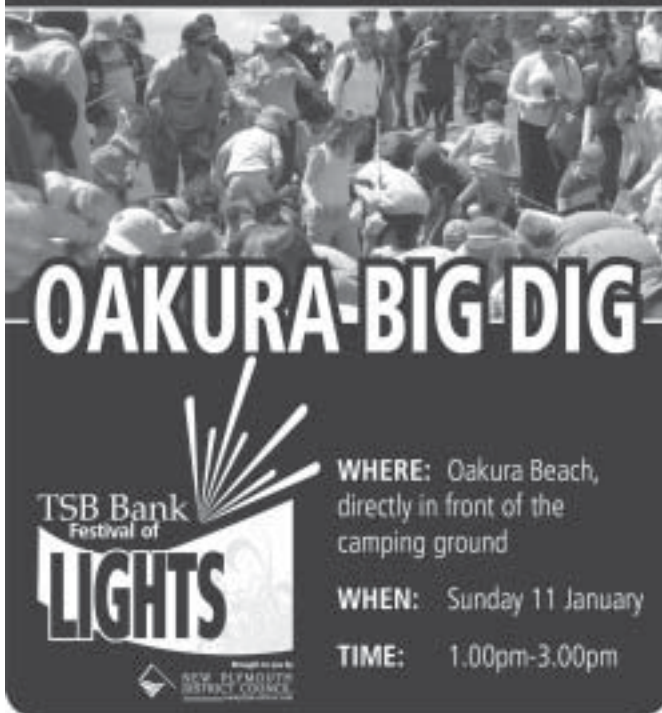
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Deb Jackson from Egmont Venison gave me a venison loin and some patties to sample last week and they were amazing. I cut the loin into steaks and lightly oiled them with avocado oil before barbequing them, and the family loved it. The venison was melt in the mouth tender and it had a subtle gamey flavour – a definite hit for future barbeques. The teenage boys gobbled up the patties for breakfast with equal relish!

Egmont Venison is a local business located at the top of Surrey Hill Road, owned by Bruce and Deb Jackson. The business has been in existence about 10 years. Bruce used to be the Moturoa butcher and then one day Steve Novak and Dave Thompson asked him to do the processing of farmed deer for the 'White Cloud' business. They carried out this processing in the building behind the Oakura butcher shop (now Snickerdoodles). The Jacksons took over the business and now they sell only wild (feral) deer. Today it is exported to America, Australia and Asia as well as supplying the local market. Locals can also buy it direct from the premises.

Egmont Venison has several shareholders who are heli-operators, responsible for the hunting of the wild deer. This is definitely not a random hunting experience. Every deer shot is fully traceable, even to the GPS coordinates of its location. There is a mountain of paperwork to accompany the 90-odd deer processed each week. The grade, quality, all by-products (including bones and skins) and shipping details are all carefully recorded and overseen by MAF. Deb says the business is very well regulated to ensure that only top quality and safe product is sold on the market.

The range of products include loin, French rib, leg, topside, scotch, stirfry, mince, casserole, shoulder, osso bucco, shanks, patties and sausages made to order.

The Jacksons invite everyone up to Egmont Venison to purchase this gourmet product and Deb has only one piece of advice for cooking venison – Do Not Overcook It! Venison is very lean and can easily dry out so it is perfect for a quick barbeque.

Egmont Venison is open 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday and note that there is no EFTPOS. Phone ahead on 06 752 7553 if you have a specific order.

By Kim Ferens



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Oakura Cemetery - natural burial area

New Plymouth District Council is seeking feedback on a proposal to establish a natural burial area in an undeveloped section of the Oakura Cemetery.

Natural burials differ from traditional casket burials in that embalming fluid is not used, the casket is made from readily biodegradable products and burial is at a metre deep with a tree planted at the site. No headstone or memorial would be erected and over time the burial area will develop into natural bush. Burial location is recorded through a global positioning system (GPS) coordinate.

One section of the Oakura Cemetery is ideal for this type of burial because the terrain in this area requires expensive terracing to develop it into a traditional style cemetery.

In addition, the development plan for the cemetery also proposes to increase the number of traditional casket burial sites in the top flat area and bottom flat area of the cemetery – either side of the natural burial area - and establish a road access. This development of both the traditional and natural burial areas would increase the cemetery's capacity of traditional casket burials to more than 100 years.

We would like to hear from you if you have any comments to make toward this proposal. Please write to us at New Plymouth District Council, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4342, or email us at enquiries@npdc.govt.nz, by 31 December 2008.

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Go Green with Blue

Think globally, act locally – and do it blue!

Waste Management's popular blue wheelie bins are being joined by a blue option for businesses. The new blue front loaders are available for commercial use and are already proving a hit!

Words Jolene Stockman

All Taranaki people have access to recycling facilities - kerbside collection is available free through the council but if you want commercial recycling options, or the convenience of a blue bin, Waste Management can help.

Blue bins provide mixed or co-mingled recycling, meaning all your recycling (glass / plastic / cardboard / aluminium) goes in the same bin.

Businesses can utilise a range of options, including flexibility in collection, numbers and types of bin, and recycling with the new range of blue front loaders (that can be used for all recyclables except glass or cans).

Cardboard-only bins are available, or if you have the space, Waste Management also offers a loose cardboard collection.

With more individuals and businesses looking to go green, and the *Waste Minimisation Bill* imminent, now's the time to take advantage of Waste Management's recycling options.

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Freshly Roasted in New Plymouth

Deck the Halls - a designer's passage!

It's hard not to notice the elegant, slim, monochromatic sign fronting the empty lot on the main street of Oakura. Similar in style to the designer herself, the sign announces Jennie Aitken-Hall's business, where she and husband Grant Aitken will also build their future home.

Hall of Design, currently based at 128 Devon Street East (above Pumpkin Patch), has been operating since June 2007 and, with a growing client list, is rapidly expanding into a business with a reputation for innovation and well-researched ideas.

Design is literally putting its stamp on all aspects of 21st century life. "I am dedicated to sustainable design, unique and perennial ideas. I believe graphic design is still generally underrated and that many people don't realise the huge impact it has on society. I think design in general mostly flies under the radar, but it actually is the wrapping paper of society that helps to form new and positive perceptions of how people view themselves and their environment," says Jennie.

Jennie loves the simple and naïve composition of historic design and is very nostalgic with her designs, which draw on the inspirational memories of her clients and herself. She is a collector of old magazines and books and spends time every couple of months rummaging around second-hand stores.

"I pull, rip, watch, listen, hear, touch and smell a carnival of ideas until I find the perfect ride!"

The marks of Jennie's originality can be seen in designs around the region. Most recently her Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival motif brought a fresh Pacific feel with ultra feminine pink and purple hues to the iconic tourist brand. And in contrast, the weird and wacky brand of the Taranaki YOUTHFEST attracted record numbers of young people to the two-week celebration.

"I find inspiration all around me. From the patterns in nature, to music, other art, conversation, food, drink... everything! Inspiration is everywhere; it's just a question of channelling into my design," she says.

"I was quite young when I started drawing and making things in my Dad's workshop. By the time I was eight I was the family's repairer of jewellery and broken toys. I always had to take things apart to learn how to put them back together again. I wanted to do creative things with everything, but schools in those days never really encouraged students in that direction. Consequently, I was always in trouble for doodling or doing other kids 'balloon writing' for their project headings." Graphic design wasn't pushed as a career option in the early 1990s and Jennie found herself a bit lost after she left school. She enrolled in a tourism diploma and although she was accepted twice for design school, she declined both times as she wanted to work fulltime to cover her fees in the future.

Over the past five years Jennie has received critical acclaim for her design of all of the Puke Ariki exhibition brands. She has also nearly completed a diploma in interior design. The success she has had exemplifies the breadth of skills needed to encapsulate an entire look and bring the colours and feel of a show together, including the design of banners and advertising, and the creativity of producing memorable and unique merchandise.

"I think my favourite was the *Golden Needle* show we brought from Kunming in China. The design of the colour wheel was so simple and breathtakingly beautiful and it just fitted together perfectly. I also loved my colouration of *The da Vinci Machines* show - it was very strong, definitive, fresh and alive. It had to represent the power of da Vinci the genius and his designs that continue to work to this day."

"I am proud each time I make a client happy or get invited to be part of a bigger team with other creatives. Everyday with design is a highlight for me. I always want to create beautiful things. It is so rewarding and enjoyable and I couldn't imagine doing anything else!"

By Hilary Bennett



Jennie sharing her portfolio.



Oakura Journalists 2008



2008 has seen the development of a Year 8 journalist group at Oakura School. This group of enthusiastic writers – Jahla Tran Lawrence, Jessica Clark, Max Hardie Boys, JG Coughtrey and Grace Hoskins have worked throughout the year to submit articles to *TOM*. They have kept our community informed about all the events and activities that students at Oakura School have been involved in.



Journo's, Max, Grace, Jessica, Jahla and JG.

They have developed a wide range of skills, from photography to interview techniques, and have made an important contribution to our school community.

They are also currently working on a year book for their fellow Year 8 students.

The *TOM* thanks these talented and hardworking students very much for their interesting contributions and maybe one day they will be back writing for us.

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Oakura Wizards 2008



Wizards. Back - Lycia and Abby. Front - Abigail and Patrick.

Oakura School is fortunate to be part of an ICT contract called the Taranaki Waka Cluster, which is a three-year contract involving four schools – Welbourn, Fitzroy, New Plymouth Girls High and Oakura.

Led by two very capable IT teachers from New Plymouth Girls High School, Melinda Stevenson and Kim Jennings, throughout the year these schools have been working together to develop the use of ICT across their schools.

Part of this contract has been the development of ICT Wizards. Each primary school has selected a group of students with an interest and aptitude in computing to be the Tech Wizards for their school. These students help teachers and students to gain new computer skills, learn new programmes and look after ICT resources.

This year's Wizards at Oakura School have been Patrick Costelloe, Lycia Moyes, Abby Wilson and Abigail Cullen. They have attended workshops at New Plymouth Girls' High School to work with their Tech Angels, learning new skills and being involved in a variety of challenges and competitions.

Recently they have been rewarded for their efforts by winning the Taranaki Regional Council Freshwater Movie Competition for primary and intermediate students. They will receive their prize of \$500 worth of native trees for the school at the opening ceremony of the Freshwater Science Conference on Monday 24 November.



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Oakura School Year 8 Leavers 2008

Oakura School farewells 29 students this year and we asked them each three questions:

- 1 *What school are you going to next year?*
- 2 *What was the highlight of your time at Oakura School?*
- 3 *What are your aspirations for the future?*



Miriam Stewart

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The 2008 production, J Rock and being a sports leader
- 3 I want to be a visual artist or to do something in music



Abigail Cullen

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 The 2008 production, J Rock and camp
- 3 I want to be a vet



Lauren King

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Camp, J Rock and sports
- 3 I want to be a vet or a doctor



Jahla Tran Lawrence

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 J Rock, 2008 production
- 3 I want to be an interior designer or a choreographer



Abby Wilson

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Camp, J Rock and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be a computer designer



Patrick Costelloe

- 1 FDMC
- 2 Camp and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be an engineer



Max Hardie Boys

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Rep soccer and camp
- 3 I want to be a brain surgeon



Taelor Palmer

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Camp, Russell Laird's visit
- 3 I want to be a welder



Dylan Burrows

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Interschool rugby and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be a musician or a pro skater



Cameron Meads

- 1 FDMC
- 2 Milo Cup cricket
- 3 Sports journalist or drummer



Hannah Sarten

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Cross Country and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be a pro BMX rider



Kyle Cox

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 J Rock and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be a police officer



Jesse Grayling

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Sports activities and camp
- 3 I want to be a skater or a soccer player



Stefan McIntyre

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Camp
- 3 I want to be an archaeologist



Thomas McDougall

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Winning the Milo Cup
- 3 I want to play for the All Blacks or Black Caps or be a sports journalist



Mason Farrant

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Being Head Pupil, camp and interschool
- 3 I want to be a lawyer



Jessica Clark

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 J Rock, the 2008 production, being Head Pupil and being with friends
- 3 I want to be an interior designer



Oakura School Year 8 Leavers 2008



Finn Robinson

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Camp, skating at school and Russell Laird's visit
- 3 I want to be a pro skater



Lycia Moyes

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Camp, J Rock and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be an interior designer



Sean Kelly

- 1 FDMC
- 2 Sports and camp
- 3 I want to be a sports teacher



Niko Mead

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Interschool rugby
- 3 I want to get sponsored for skateboarding or I want to be a musician



Matthew Everest

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Basketball, J Rock, camp and interschool sports
- 3 I want to be an NBA star or to do something in basketball business



JG Coughtrey

- 1 FDMC
- 2 Winning the debating cup
- 3 I want to be a lawyer



Alex Clifton

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Camp, 2008 production and J Rock
- 3 I want to be an architect



Grace Hoskins

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 J Rock, camp, 2008 production, sport and being a sports leader
- 3 I want to be a hairdresser or a kindy teacher



Renee Landers

- 1 Sacred Heart
- 2 J Rock, 2008 production and being a head pupil
- 3 I want to be an interior designer



Natalie Plonk

- 1 I am going back to America
- 2 New friends, cross country and the 2008 production
- 3 I want to be a musician or a zoologist



Jess Knudson

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Camp, J Rock and sports
- 3 I want to be a vet or a doctor



Keegan Bruckner

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Camp and interschool sports
- 3 I want to be an engineer



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Supergroove and Elemeno P coming to Butlers Reef



Supergroove.

There was much excitement from the teenagers in my household when I said Supergroove and Elemeno P were coming to Butlers Reef and that I had been given the opportunity to speak to one of the band members.

I admit to being a bit ignorant as to who these bands were, but a quick internet search filled in the blanks. The only name I had heard of was Che Fu so I arranged to speak with the distinctive lead vocalist of Supergroove. My teenagers were more familiar with Elemeno P so it seemed a good choice to get them up to speed on the lesser known group.

Funk band Supergroove have been around since the early Nineties and were hugely popular in New Zealand in the mid-Nineties. Their first album, *Traction*, released in 1994, went triple platinum. Their second album, *Backspacer*, went gold in 1996, but despite the success, or perhaps even because of it, the group disbanded in 1997 due to creative differences.

Che Fu had left Supergroove before the release of *Backspacer* to pursue his love of hiphop. He received great critical and popular acclaim and has recorded four solo albums. This year, in an effort to promote glass recycling, Che Fu recorded a single about recycling with a group of school children, including a group from Fitzroy School.

Supergroove regrouped last year and Che Fu says it is really good being back together in what he calls the "Mature Gentlemen's Club!", by which he means they are all a bit older and possibly wiser now. The Butlers Reef gig is part of the "Rock 'n' Roll Caravan Summer Tour" and features a forty-foot 1960s Crusader caravan. The caravan has had a make-over care of Elemeno P's Scotty Pearson. When I asked Che about his contribution to the make-over, he said his DIY skills were a bit "shabby" and that he is more suited to changing channels on the remote control though he did get involved when it came to picking the colour scheme.

The tour features at least two new songs from Supergroove – "The Bow Breaks" and "Dig In". The new songs are the result of four days of writing in Neil Finn's studio in June of this year. Che describes them as new sounding songs with no formal genre. The group will also be playing the old favourites but with a reinvigorated output. Che credits his musical inspiration in part to his musical upbringing. Dad, Tigilau Ness, is one of New Zealand's founding reggae artists and his mother is a music teacher. Che, who is father to four children (aged 9, 6, 4, and 4 months) himself, says he has enjoyed rap music since he was young and likes listening to any "good music". By "good" Che means having good base. Che carries around a phone recorder so that when inspiration hits him he can record it.

After the Caravan Tour, Supergroove have plans to "maybe drop a single release". But in the meantime Che plans to have "a great time working with the band and hanging out with Scotty (Pearson) and performing on stage together with Elemeno P".

By Kim Ferens



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omata school news

Coming events

December

- 9th Parent Help morning tea – 10:30am
- 10th Junior production *Babushka* – 7pm
- 12th Senior production *Time Trek* – 7pm
- 16th Big Day Out
- 17th Year 8 presentations – 1pm

Finish 2pm

With 2008 well and truly near its close, we look forward to a very busy December with our productions and end of year events. It has been an exciting year as staff have explored the new NZ Curriculum, developed our Bush Council, enjoyed our new library and classrooms, and really explored the concept of 'Learning to Learn' with our students, who now have a greater sense of ownership of their learning.

Last term we had a visit from the Education Review Office (ERO) and our report is now available for viewing online at www.ero.govt.nz. We invite you to take a few minutes to read through the independent review of our school.

We live in exponential times – the world, the economy, technology and even information is changing at a pace that is often hard to comprehend. While we cannot know what the future holds for ourselves and our students, what we do know is that there will be change. Preparing our children for their futures has never been more challenging and exciting. We need to engage with the hearts and minds of our students, to model and foster values and respect, to have students take responsibility for their actions, and to give students the skills and desire to continue to learn.

In partnership with our parents and community, we need to grow "good people" who will connect with and be actively involved in shaping positive futures for themselves and others, people who will be prepared to take responsibility and look at the world with wonder.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

With these thoughts, I wish families a fun and festive holiday season and we will see you all back on Monday 2 February 2009.

Kind regards

Karen Brisco, Principal



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Omata School leavers

This year Omata School farewells 13 students from our school. We asked them each three questions:

- 1 What high school are you going to?
- 2 What was a highlight at Omata School?
- 3 What are your aspirations for the future?



Regan Jeffery

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Friendly teachers who are great and supportive, and going to the 2008 Young Leaders Conference in Wellington where we heard from people with disabilities and what they have made of their lives.
- 3 I would like to become a professional film maker or a pilot.



Andrew Hinton

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I have been at Omata for three terms and I have enjoyed using the laptops.
- 3 I would like to work in a café making coffees.



Jamie Barrett

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Most of my time at Omata was cool. I like the bush and it is fun to build huts in and run around in it. No other schools I know have bush like ours.
- 3 I would like to go to university and learn computer programming.



Cameron Barlow

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 There are nice kids and teachers and environment at Omata, and I loved the gala days.
- 3 I like building things, so maybe a builder or designer.



William Jones

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 I like the facilities at Omata such as the computers, and everyone is friendly.
- 3 I want to become a chef or do something with food.



Louis Ferens

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 I enjoyed the Auckland camp and being a lead ambassador.
- 3 I want to go to university and do something in sports.



Bodean Davis

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 I have enjoyed meeting friends and staying with them till high school. I also like the big grounds and bush area.
- 3 I want to go to university and do photography.



Travis Jeffery

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I enjoyed the Lake Whakamaru camp in Year 6 with all its activities.
- 3 I want to go to university and do PE.



Jack Wagstaff

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 I enjoyed the Auckland camp and having access to computers.
- 3 I want to be a professional coach or play sport.



Caddison Murfitt

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 I like all the friendly people at Omata School
- 3 I want to be a welder.



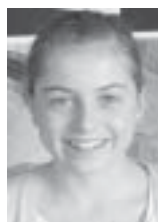
Laura Anderson

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I enjoyed the Young Leaders Conference and being a lead ambassador.
- 3 I want to be a journalist.



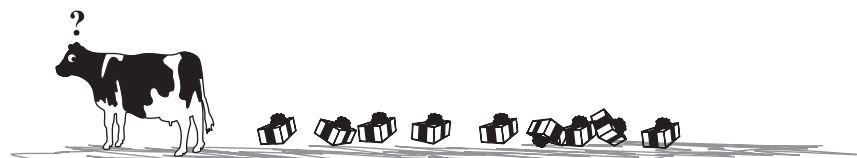
Candyce Shotter

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I like that everyone is so friendly and close and I have enjoyed doing 'buddy class' work, with the interaction with other kids.
- 3 I want to be a fashion designer.



Natasha Quinn

- 1 Sacred Heart
- 2 I started at Omata at the beginning of the term and I have found everyone is friendly and the school is so small. I have enjoyed being an ambassador and going on Chaddy's Charter.
- 3 I want to be a beautician and maybe go to Palmerston North to train.





Oakura Playcentre's AGM with a difference

There has been a lot going on at Oakura Playcentre lately! Not only have the children been having fun playing and painting, but they have also been baking scones, planting spring flowers, and much more. In October and November, the children visited the Oakura Fire Station and Pukeiti Gardens, and created a giant footprint painting together.

The Playcentre mums have been quite busy as well, having held the Annual General Meeting last month. For something a little different, they decided to host a progressive dinner for the AGM this year. Each mum brought a dish to one of the houses. The dinner started at Belinda Tran-Lawrence's home with an Asian theme including Chinese dumplings and Vietnamese spring rolls. The dinner progressed to Sue Oldfield's home for some European delights including a beautiful onion soup and steak fondue! Once the AGM formalities were complete, everyone progressed to Jennifer Gros's home for dessert. A few of the highlights were the apple cake, pavlova and pecan pie. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this enjoyable night.



Playcentre Mums at the AGM progressive dinner. Pictured are: Vanessa Burton, Michelle Berridge, Jo Syme, Kate Evans, Davina Johnson, Maryanne Rossiter, Jennifer Gros, Fy Tait, Robin Green, Belinda Tran-Lawrence, Sarsha Hood, Sue Oldfield, Megan Dixon.

There are many plans in the works for the Oakura Playcentre this coming year. There is new playground equipment being ordered, as well as a remodel of the kitchen.

A Christmas party is being planned for the children, complete with Santa, presents, a shared lunch and a Christmas craft.

If you and your child are interested in Playcentre, please join us on Mondays and Wednesdays from nine in the morning until noon on Donnelly Street next to Oakura School.

By Jennifer Gros

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Baby boom

Oakura has been booming with babies in the past few months. Here is a small selection of Oakura's latest bundles of joy, with more to come in later issues.



Pearl Shearer.

Pearl Shearer was born on 12 November 2008 and was 7 pounds 6 ounces at birth. She is sister to big, big brother Max and big brother Ed. She is the beautiful daughter of Richie and Becs Shearer.



Katie McKenzie.

Catherine (Katie) Lindsey MacKenzie was born on 8 October 2008, 9lbs 6oz. She is the little sister of big brother Henry and big sister Charlotte. She is the lovely daughter of Lorraine and Jonathan MacKenzie.



Caitlin Fleming at 2 days old

Caitlin Patricia Fleming was born on 14 October 2008, 7lbs 11 oz. She is little sister to big sisters Alice and Grace, and big brother Benjamin. She is the sweet daughter of Marie and Nick Fleming.



Cooper and Miller Ferguson.

Miller John Ferguson (5 lbs 2 oz) and his twin brother **Cooper Leroy Ferguson** (7lbs 11oz) were born on 18 November. They are the little brothers of the very proud big brothers, Fletcher and Brodie. Proud parents are Leanne and Chris Ferguson.

By Jennifer Gros

Leaders for NPGHS

New Plymouth Girls High School has selected a number of ex-Oakura and Omata Year 13 students as their leaders for 2009.

Thais Farrant

Thais Farrant has been chosen as House Leader for Kurahaupo at NPGHS. She is a former Oakura School student who credits the primary school's structure and many opportunities for leadership as a huge influence on her now. She is thinking of going to teacher's college in Palmerston North when she finishes high school. She plays netball and basketball, and is very interested in drama and the performing arts.

Stacey Fletcher

Stacey Fletcher has been selected as a Year 13 Student Representative Leader at NPGHS for 2009. She was also an Oakura student, where she says she made a very tight knit group of friends. Everyone was really close at Oakura School and they have stayed together through high school. Stacey hopes to attend Auckland University on graduation from high school.

Sarah-Jane Ferens

Sarah-Jane has been selected as Peer Support Leader in Year 13. This entails working with Year 9 and junior students, and building positive relations between senior and junior students. It will involve running peer support groups and organising the junior peer supporters. Sarah-Jane hopes to be a positive role model. Sarah-Jane was an Omata School student and says that because Omata is such a small community and school you receive a lot of support and encouragement from everybody. She says she also had a lot of opportunities at Omata that she doesn't feel she would have had at another school. After finishing Year 13 Sarah-Jane is thinking about doing a business degree at university.

Bradie Niederberger

Bradie has been selected as Deputy Secretary of the School Council. This means Bradie will be on the School Council and will be working on relationships between the year levels, and between students and staff. Bradie is an ex-Omata School student who thinks Omata definitely enhanced her leadership skills by offering more opportunities for leadership. She also received a lot of support from the school community. Bradie hopes to be a good role model for the younger students and to achieve her full potential. She also wants to have a year full of positive experiences and to gain many varied life experiences.

Melissa Harvey

Melissa Harvey has been selected as Performing Arts Leader for Drama and Dance. As a former head girl at Oakura School, Melissa is not new to leadership roles. She started at a young age doing drama and dance as well. Melissa hopes to go to Victoria University once she graduates, and plans to pursue architecture, performing arts or journalism. She also enjoys playing social basketball.



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kaitake kindergarten

Kaitake Kindergarten has had three student teachers this year. Sammy Everest has just completed the WITT National Certificate in Early Childhood Level 5. Leanne Blank and Jemma Barnes have just completed the first year of the University of Canterbury Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood).

Here is what they had to say about their experiences:

Some subjects we have covered this year are child development, theorists, Treaty of Waitangi, Te Reo Maori, Te Whariki, Bi-culturalism and multi-culturalism. These topics have helped us learn how to work with children, how to deal with difficult situations, about different play experiences for children and how to interact with parents, families and staff members, which has given us more self-confidence. We would like to thank the Kindergarten's team and families for allowing us to come into their centre and learn about the children and the centre's philosophies. We have thoroughly enjoyed our year here. The children and teachers have been awesome.

The Kindergarten Community has greatly benefited from having Leanne, Jemma and Sammy at the Kindergarten in 2008. They have enhanced the programme that we have here and extra adults are always beneficial when working with children. Many of the children have built lasting relationships with these students. The teachers and parents wish them all the best for the future and their studies.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Kaitake Kindergarten.

Kris Roper



Sammy helping Koby with his sewing.



Jemma helping Fenton with his sewing,



Leanne helping Carl with (yes, you guessed it) his sewing.

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders club. 7.15pm to 8.30pm. Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380

Country and Western Club

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

Farmers Market Taranaki

Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am noon. Currie St, New Plymouth.

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Una Shotton, phone 751 0971.

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.

Oakura Art Group

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

Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2306 for next session date. All parents and preschoolers welcome.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street
Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months held at Attendees Homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett 752 1132 or Claire Fiorance 752 7889 to find out where.

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 and 4th Sundays of the month.

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church Weds 9.30-10.30, 10.30-11.30am and Fri 9.30-10.30am Ph Joanna Smith Holley 752 1016 for details.

Volkswagen Club

Events Range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing of good family times and knowledge.

Contact Bryan Goodhue the EI Presidente 752 1290, email podsnaill@xnet.co.nz. www.taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.00pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome.
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