

Communists, Murder, Seduction. Oh My! - Arthouse Cinema Oakura Takes Off



Jenna Thomas the candy girl

There have been some very strange happenings in Oakura recently.

On a recent drive through the village I thought I saw a group of women walking in a very determined way toward the shops and carrying bright green seat cushions. Where could they be going at this time of night? It was nearly 8pm - and with seat cushions?

As if that is not strange enough, there are signs posted randomly throughout the village telling about communists, murder, sexagenarians (what are they?) and fake breasts. I am starting to look over my shoulder now, wondering what might be happening to our quiet little

(Continued on page 3)

Win tickets to the Simply Red concert with TOM!

(Details on page 5)



I always find writing my editorials difficult. My natural instinct is to share my views by conversation, as my written message can get somewhat distorted when I am restricted to a word count. I will start 2009 with a question that has been uplifted from a deck of cards called "Table Topics". This particular topic has created the most discussion in our house.

Would you like to be proudest of:

your accomplishments or your character?

If you are so inclined I would be interested in your feedback. Please indicate whether you are happy to have your comments published. Non de plumes will be accepted. tracey@thetom.co.nz

Tracey

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

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

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck!

We hope you all had an enjoyable festive season and have been relishing the nice warm weather.

It has come to our attention that some houses do not have clear numbers that can be read at the roadside. This can cause delays in responding to a call out. Please ensure the numbers are large enough to read easily and are also clear of plants blocking numbers.

We have just returned from our second recent call out to a house with a burning smell and smoke. In both cases it was due to items in the dishwasher falling down onto the element in the dishwasher. This has the potential to create a very serious situation. Please ensure you always load your dishwasher correctly and that wooden and plastic items are stowed safely.

This summer we have attended a few callouts to car accidents and to fires on the beach. If you spot a smouldering fire at the beach and it is feasible to put it out yourself, please do so. At all times commonsense should prevail and never put yourself in any danger. If in any doubt, call 111.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze (Sec)



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Communists, Murder, Seduction.

(Continued from page 1)

village. Are we going to be overrun by motorcycle riding communists with an affinity for diaries? Will we be murdered while we are doing the dishes? My apron strings are in a knot. Someone seduce a doctor, I mean call a doctor.

After many sleepless nights I went to Butlers Reef to see what all the fuss was about. Who is this Lars fellow? Why was there ukulele music and singing coming from the garden area? People were going in and coming out, some crying and others laughing. Many people were standing on the footpath looking like they had lost their best friend simply because the sign outside said "SOLD OUT."

This is not just an Arthouse Cinema. This is a movement. This is a phenomenon!

A group of Oakura film enthusiasts led by local Rose Stoddart came together to bring international movies to our doorstep. The vision is simple - to open up the minds and hearts of our community by exposure to movies typically seen only at arthouse cinemas.

Start with a short stroll from home after an afternoon at the beach. Have a sumptuous meal at Butlers Reef and grab a glass of wine and a bag of jaffas. Get comfortable in a beautiful candlelit setting with your friends and neighbours to watch a film that will move you. It really doesn't get much better than that ... until they bring out the ice cream!

You need to act quickly to get tickets. Initially seating was for 70. After selling out the first two shows and a continuing demand, tables were removed and seating was bumped up to 90. Despite the increased seating shows still sell out within two days. Tickets for the upcoming week go on sale the prior Tuesday and Wednesday. Don't tell your neighbour... you may have a better chance to score a ticket.

Something truly interesting is the diversity of people attending the films. Every showing has a very different crowd. Some have driven from as far as Stratford, Inglewood and Hawera, and many are from New Plymouth. It is obvious that Taranaki residents want an arthouse cinema.

January's movie selection was amazing, and February will not disappoint. A wonderful array of movies is planned that will be certain to broaden your mind and engage your heart. Your challenges will be beating your neighbour to Butlers Reef for tickets and explaining to your children/dog/significant other why you won't be home on Tuesday or Wednesday nights ever again!

Because the Oakura Arthouse Cinema has been such a success it has been offered a winter season hosted by Govett Brewster in April, May and June. An Italian Film Festival may be possible during those months with Vetro in New Plymouth keen to participate in an Italian food and music Extravaganza!

Tickets are only ten dollars each and can be purchased at Butlers Reef in Oakura or Crowded House on Devon Street. For more information on upcoming movies go to the website arthouseoakura.blogspot.com. Special thanks to McDonald Real Estate who made the Arthouse Cinema possible, as well as Cause and Effect Graphic Design, TSH Audio and The Most 100.4 FM.

Volunteers are needed on movie nights to fold chairs, sell tickets, and sell confectionary in exchange for a free movie bonus!

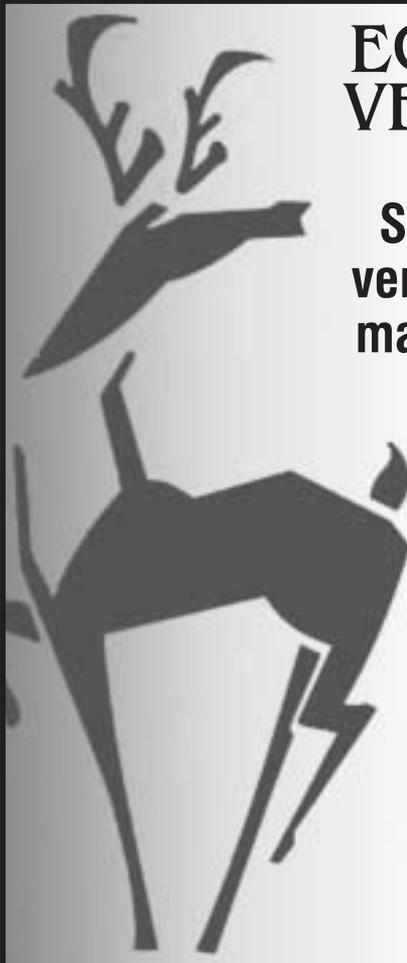
By Jennifer Gros



The lucky ones that got tickets!



Dominique Blatti and New Plymouth ukulele orchestra performing at 'Young at Heart'.



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Hi folks!

Well 2009 began magnificently with good sunshine for us to enjoy the beach and the New Year break – although now we're back into the working year with a vengeance.

Councillors and community board members are knuckling into the fine details of the proposed Community Plan 2009-2019, with the draft due to be approved in March. It'll be released for a month-long public consultation on 1 April, so keep your eyes peeled for more information on where to pick up your copy and how to have your say on this most important of all strategic plans for New Plymouth District.

Meanwhile, consultations are still running on the options for future development of the Oakura Beach Holiday Park, and our review of the district's rural landscape. Feedback closes on both of these issues on 27 February, so you still have plenty of time to read the available information and send in your comments.

With the campground review, we're looking at all of the council's services and facilities so that these areas meet the expectations of users and enhance the adjacent public open spaces. We're also looking at spreading the management costs and risks between lessees and ratepayers.

Before we go any further with firming up development plans, we want to hear from you about what you support, and if you think any of the ideas should be changed. You can read up on the various possibilities for the Oakura Beach Holiday Park at the Oakura Library, Puke Ariki or the Civic Centre, or go to the Consultations section of our website at www.newplymouthnz.com.

Also available online at the Civic Centre and Oakura Library is information on the rural review. We have written a discussion paper on subdivision and land use in the rural area and we'd like your feedback on the options we've identified:

- 1 Continuing with the current approach to subdivision and development in the rural area.
- 2 Focusing lifestyle developments more deliberately to particular locations, to protect rural character and landscapes.
- 3 Increasing controls to deal with land-use conflict, and protecting particular areas and/or natural resources from different land uses.

We've certainly got a lot of consultations under way right now, and there are many more to come. Most of our best ideas come from the community, and this council is determined to have a district where future generations enjoy the great things that we love today. So please take the time to look at the information available, and send us your thoughts on the various proposals and options available. It's only with your help that we can ensure New Plymouth District remains a great place to live, love, work and visit for many generations to come!

And if there's anything you'd like to chat about, feel free to give me a call on

759 6060 – I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent, Mayor

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Certainty, opportunity and building for a brighter future

Certainty is one of those words which is heard less often in people's vocabulary around the world these days. A solid government is one which seeks to bring certainty as well as opportunity to people. Bill English, Finance Minister, said, "The Government remains on track with its considered economic plan - based around a fiscal stimulus that is already large by world standards. Our immediate priority is to preserve jobs and then to put the economy on a more competitive longer-term footing. We have already done a lot and we're announcing more important policies – with the Prime Minister's speech outlining assistance measures for small and medium enterprises and moving through to the Jobs Summit on February 27."

The National Government is working hard to bring greater certainty into people's lives at a time when changes in the world's economies are happening rapidly.

The long term answer to New Zealand's strength is not just working to stabilise economic conditions today. Our future success is also dependent on young New Zealanders being successful in their education so they are able to become valued employees and entrepreneurs in a time where international competition for markets and income is more and more common-place.

Before Christmas, the Government passed legislation enabling the Minister of Education to set national standards. The Ministry of Education and the Minister will be talking with the sector, parents, and communities in the next six months about what these standards should look like and how they will be implemented. We want parents to have real input in the education of their children. The new Government is also focused on boosting trades training. The economic downturn has highlighted New Zealand's need for more trades people, and at present, there aren't enough trainees to replace trades people who are retiring.

We will make sure that the curriculum at all schools includes the need for students to make and do things, and we will work with schools, tertiary organisations, businesses, and Industry Training Organisations to give schools more flexibility to run trades training outside the school gates.

Before the election we announced plans to fund and open five specialist Trades Academies across the country in the next three years. These academies will give students who are great at practical work the option to become apprentices and take up a trade. We have already decided that one of these Trades Academies will be in South Auckland.

The Government is delivering on their election promises. We believe in giving our children every opportunity to learn and achieve and we will work closely with parents and the community to make this happen.

By Jonathan Young
MP New Plymouth

<p>Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth</p>	<p>New Plymouth Electoral Office 06 758 8117</p>
	<p>Wellington Parliamentary Office 04 817 8232</p> <p>Cellphone 021 242 2371</p> <p>Email jonathan.young@parliament.govt.nz</p>
<p>New Plymouth Electoral Office Electoral Agent Mrs Jan Mason, New Plymouth electoral office 06 758 8117</p>	

Recipes from Around the World

Oakura is a blend of so many different cultures from around the world that I would like to highlight a few here. This is a new column not only about food but also about where the recipe has originated. If you have a special family recipe, please email it to me, along with its history, so that we may feature it here. Send to jennifer@thetom.co.nz.

Our family is from South Louisiana, Cajun country. You may have heard of our bigger cities, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge. Food is very important to the Cajun culture. It is so hot in Louisiana that sometimes there isn't much to do other than cook and visit with family and friends.

There is always a lot of family and friends around so Cajun families usually cook dishes in large cast iron pots that feed many people at once. Jambalaya is one of these dishes, a one pot main course. The word Jambalaya originated from jambon, the French word for ham. This dish is similar to the Spanish paella.

Jambalaya Serves 6 to 8

- ½ tsp vegetable oil
- 250g smoked sausage, diced (you can use chorizo)
- 250g ham, diced (or you can use good quality bacon)
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup green capsicum, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 cup green (Spring) onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 can whole tomatoes, drained
- 1 tsp thyme
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup medium or long grain rice
- 1½ cups chicken stock
- 1 kg fresh prawns, deveined

Place sausage and ham in a very heavy Dutch oven and sauté until lightly browned. Remove from pot and set aside. Sauté onions, capsicum, celery, and green onions and add the meat drippings (not meat). Cook until vegetables are tender. Add tomatoes, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes. Stir in rice.

Mix together liquid from tomatoes, chicken stock and Worcestershire sauce to equal 2 cups. Add to the sautéed vegetables. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and add fresh prawns, ham and sausage. Cook uncovered, stirring often, for about 30 minutes or until rice and prawns are done.

By Jennifer Gros

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Now enter our
competition for a
chance to go and see
Simply Red

Email the answer to the question below to [TOM info@thetom.co.nz](mailto:TOMinfo@thetom.co.nz) with your name and contact details, including address and phone number.

Entries to be in by Thursday, 12th February, 2009

"What is the name of 'Simply Red's' latest album?"



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kaitake community board

Well the summer weather has been great again this year. While the Christmas crowds have departed there are still many visitors joining with locals to enjoy our marvelous environment. There is certainly something for everyone and just about everyone is doing something. Of course we will be guaranteed further hot sunny weather as that's always the case as soon as the kids head back to school!

Recently I got to thinking about what it is that makes this place so special. Why do we all value the coast so much?

This dynamic environment is our place. The beach and surf is a natural playground enjoyed by many people in different ways. It's a place where we can get away from the hustle and bustle. We value the open spaces and the rural landscape. The proximity and connection between the ocean and national park provide a sense of the interaction between sea, land and mountain.

The vistas are superb, the air is clear, the rivers and streams and all they support are ever-present. Even the commute/drive into and out of New Plymouth with wide views of the mountain, ranges, ocean and bluffs from Highway 45 is a pleasure. This unique landscape gives many a daily inspirational boost.

There are tangata whenua links, cultural values to appreciate and sustain. We hold onto our past and preserve our local history. We are still relatively undeveloped and to a certain degree local interests hold sway over outside interests. Many of us still know most of us.

These are all values worth hanging on to and that's why you should take the time to make a submission to Council as part of a very important review currently underway. It is the Subdivision and Land Use in the Rural Area Review and it affects us all.

There are potential threats to our environment and lifestyle and the review provides an opportunity for the community to have its say. The key issues in the review relate to the impact development has on the landscape and the rural character of our community. If these future impacts are not managed carefully the character of our district will be changed forever.

Reflect on these:

- 1 Conversion of farmland into residential subdivisions brings urban sprawl with its accompanying population/development pressures.
- 2 Development has direct impacts on outstanding and regionally significant landscapes.
- 3 Development and subdivisions change the character of a rural area.
- 4 Differences in land-use that transfer to a rural area bring the potential for land-use conflict.
- 5 An increase in dwellings in a rural area means existing farming and industrial type uses are limited in their traditional operations – no more chooks or pigs!
- 6 Some decision-making may be influenced by profit motives.

If this strikes a chord with you then take the time to have your say. You have until 27 February to make a submission. You can find all the information you need on the NPDC website at <http://www.newplymouthnz.com> in the section headed "Have Your Say." Alternatively you can ring the Council on 759 6060. Ask for Jayne Beers and she will arrange to post a copy to you.

Well that's it for this issue. Ka kite ano.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080) who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Greetings for 2009

This can be such a busy time of year for many of us, easing children into their school routine, following up on new year's resolutions and tackling that never ending honey-do list.

Despite the gloomy global economic climate we have much to be grateful for. Let's celebrate the human spirit and courage of men and women past and present. Every Day's a Good Day and To the Max are a couple of inspirational true life stories and we have many more to choose.

Or else transport yourself to another place, plan a holiday or simply dream about the endless possibilities. Michael Palin's New Europe and Family OE (a really useful guide for travelling overseas with your children) might fill the bill. Cloud Garden, "...a true story of adventure, survival and extreme horticulture", is highly recommended though not for the squeamish.

New Zealander Maxine Alterio's Ribbons of Grace is a beautiful novel set in 19th century Otago in the goldfields. Although a work of fiction she "...blends historical evidence with historical imagination."

We carry a selection of tramping and surfing books and magazines. Come on in ladies for the Girl's Guide to Surfing. Here at the library you can also find all the latest information regarding the Council's campground review and survey forms as well as its review of rural subdivisions.

Happy reading,

Karen and Vincenza

Oakura Ladies Book Club

The December meeting was also a lovely Christmas party hosted by Suki Bishop. Book club members and their guests brought beautiful desserts. Sue Oldfield's mulled wine was very special and so was her mother Margaret's homemade mince pie. The party had special meaning for everyone as we bid farewell to one of the founders of the club, Beth Plonk. Members signed a book by Jane Dove Juneau and gave it to Beth as a parting gift. We all exchanged ornaments for the Christmas tree and had a wonderful time being together.

Book Review by Suki Bishop

The Oakura Ladies Book Club read *The Book Thief* in December and everyone loved it. We highly recommend it because of its creative use of colours throughout and the beautiful way it is written. It painted a view of life in World War II Germany from the perspective of a little girl, Liesel Meminger, who grew up with books as her refuge from the real world. *The Book Thief* is Markus Zusak's second novel and although a long read at 550 pages it is written in a simplistic and quirky style that soon captivates the reader. Narrated by Death, the book slips backwards and forwards in time. This makes for an interesting take on a story that is so heart rending it had quite a few members of the club in tears. "*The Book Thief* is perched on the cusp between grown-up and young-adult fiction and it is loaded with librarian appeal. It deplores human misery. It celebrates the power of language." NY Times Review



Beth Plonk with her gift from the club.



Sue and Margaret helping themselves to ?? Is that punch girls?

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Container of aid went to Zimbabwe

What a Christmas present for the struggling orphanage and people of the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe who were the focus of our recent aid project. At a critical time for the nation, the 40ft container of aid sent by our local community went as promised to the destination . . . and to the people who were supposed to receive it - this alone is a miracle!



Emthunzini Wethemba Childrens' Home with Rev Ndoda, pictured left, and a couple of very happy boys sorting out the large donation.

One of the wonderful aspects of this aid project run by New Zeal Church in Oakura and Okato is that against all odds, 100 % of what was given to the people of Zimbabwe was received by the people of Zimbabwe - this at a time when aid is being rejected due to political hindrances.

There were no funds taken for administration or costs incurred here in New Zealand.

The container of aid varied from food and medical supplies to new underwear and bedding. The response to us from Zimbabwe was one of exceptional gratitude.

"Reverend Ndoda and the hospital stated that this was the largest single donation they had ever received. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH. You have made a difference and showed the love of Christ in a way that few people ever can. God made sure the donation arrived at a very important time - e.g. when the eyes of the whole international community are on Zimbabwe and people's hearts are very tender at the moment. This is the largest Christmas any of these organisations have received."

- Pastor Sarah Nyathi of Zimbabwe:

Our heart-felt thanks to all of those individuals and businesses who gave so freely to this project. Giving to people in need can bring such a sense of satisfaction.

Mt 25:40: ". . . whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for me."

Pastor Kevin McFetridge

New Zeal Church Oakura & Okato

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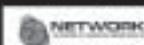
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Oakura Pony Club News

This is the busiest time of year for horse and pony riders. Oakura Pony Club has an exceptionally high percentage of riders who compete regularly in a number of different types of events.

There are several pony club Team Events held over the season where riders from Taranaki represent the region nationally. In December Oakura Pony Club entered two teams of six riders in the Area Dressage event that was held in Waitara. There seemed to be hundreds of riders there so it was a great achievement for the teams to be placed first and third overall.

The riders for team one were Catherine West, Amber Parkes, Anna Hinton, Nina McLean, Jessica Knudsen and Georgia Ferris. For team two they were Bronte Alder, Lauren Moorby, Tara Harvey, Kelsi Bolstad, Jordan Giltrap and Paige Mackay

Oakura also sent two teams to the Area Games event held in Opunake just before Christmas. The top five teams go on to compete in the Zone Games event and our teams came in second and fourth overall. Representing Taranaki from Oakura for team one will be Amber Parkes, Anna Hinton, Jessica Moorby and Catherine West. For team two they will be Bronte Alder, Nina McLean, Georgia Ferris and Lauren Moorby.

The North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Championships were held at Cambridge in January. A team was chosen through trials and three of the six riders selected were from Oakura Pony Club: Andrea Brewster riding Kennybrook Twylyte in the Senior ring, Anna Hinton riding Oddspot in the Intermediate ring and Jess Knudsen riding Run the Risk in the Junior ring. The team placed 6th out of 33 teams, and this is the first time that a North Taranaki team has been placed for many years.

Oakura Team member results at the champs were:

AM3: A. Brewster (Kennybrook Twylyte) 3rd Senior ring; Accumulator: A. Hinton (Oddspot) 3rd Intermediate ring; AM3 2 phase: J. Knudsen (Run the Risk) 5th Junior ring; AM4: A. Brewster (Kennybrook Twylyte) 5th Senior ring; Jigsaw: A. Brewster (Kennybrook Twylyte) and A. Burton (Classic Ransom) 4th Senior ring, A. Hinton (Oddspot) and H. Trott (Prince Ransome) 8th Intermediate ring.

By Diane Alder



The Oakura Pony Club dressage teams.

Ladies' coming of age

The Kaitake Weekend Women's Golf Club is celebrating its 21st Anniversary on Sunday 29th March 2009 at the Kaitake Golf Club. We would like to see as many as possible past and present members attending this function. We will be playing nine holes of golf followed by lunch. If you are interested in coming along please contact Kris White 7527601 or email kris_m_white@hotmail.com.

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Greetings all.

The recent warm weather and warm water have brought about a surge in the numbers of fish caught. After a disastrous winter of hardly any fish we are starting to even it out now and are all looking forward to the next few months of good days out on the ocean and beaches.

Kayakers have been having a whale of a time getting good amounts of Tuna, Snapper and Gurnard. In December one of our Kayakers, Tony Hurring, caught the first ever Hapuka. It tipped the scales at 10.695 kg and was a real goody as both Tony & Pete have been trying to get one from the Yak for quite some time. An albatross was also quite interested on that day, staying with Tony and Pete for the whole day while being hand feed bits of bait (an easy feed).



Kayaker, Tony Hurring with the club's first ever, weighed in Hapuka)

With good low tides in mid January, Surfcasters have been getting out too, and caught quite a few Trevs and Kahawai around Corbett Park. Shane Dunlop got a good Snapper that weighed about 3 kg out of Puniho Road.

The Wilson Cup-11 Taranaki Surfcasting Clubs competition was held on the 18 January in hideous conditions at Turangi Road, Waitara. Four keen landies went from our club and caught a whole lot of baby sharks. No fish were weighed in at the weighin.

We are all looking forward to the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic on 4 and 5 April. Special guest Bill Hohepa will be attending and will be out on the water with the Yakers filming for the upcoming series in September. Tickets for the comp are available now. See www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz

Also coming up in April is the NZ Angling & Casting Nationals that will be in the Coromandel. A good number of Kayakers from our club are going and a few of our Surfcasters should do really well and bring home some of the silverware.

Tight lines
Debbie E

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders

We hope everyone has been enjoying their summer. There has been good weather and plenty of waves around so there's no excuse for not spending some beach time.

The Opunake Classic was held in atrocious conditions on 3 January at Arawhata Road. A big and stormy surf greeted a full field of some of Taranaki's best surfers. Locals Mark Braddock and Tyler Anderson are worthy of our congratulations. Mark made the over 35's final and Tyler made the Open and U18 finals. The Opunake Classic is Taranaki's longest running contest and we thank Opunake Boardriders for another great day.

The Surfing NZ National Surfing Champs were held at Piha the second week of January. This is a huge event that has divisions in every age group for longboarding, kneeboarding, bodyboarding and also for the first time stand up paddle surfing.

The surf was big for the first two days, then small and wind-affected for the remainder of the week. This made for really challenging conditions especially at certain tides. A small right hand bank in the middle of the beach saw the end of most goofy footers' chances, with the small full waves just too hard to get good scores on.

Taranaki surfers struggled in the conditions. The U18 trio of Michael Mallalieu (3rd U18's) Tyler Anderson and Mark Parthemore got through some tough heats to keep the flag flying. Jarrod Hancox got 2nd in the over 28's - all was not lost but tough conditions saw many of New Zealand's best not even getting through a heat. As they say "that's contest surfing."

Since the last issue of the TOM it was confirmed that Paige Hareb qualified for the Dream Tour. Our best wishes go out to Paige for this year and all of her supporters will follow her progress with keen interest.

At present Paige is based on the Gold Coast preparing and training for the first contest at Snapper Rocks in early March. Before she left Oakura the Boardriders had an evening with Paige and a large group of kids came down to meet her.

Paige had a pile of posters that she signed and gave to the kids. She also presented one of her boards to the club. She signed it and wrote a notation on it as a remembrance of where it all started. The board will have a place of honour on our wall.

Remember kids, New Wave is running some fun twilight contests over summer with Ocean and Earth and Vertigo adding some good prizes too. Keep your eyes open, enter and have some fun. Call in to New Wave or Vertigo for the upcoming dates. A surfboard was a prize at the last comp at Fitzroy.

In March there will be a Party Night with a band so keep a look out for the date, to be announced soon.

By Brent Anderson



Paige signing posters.



On behalf of the club, Paul Lobb gladly takes one of Paige's boards off her hands.

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NPOB Surf Lifesaving Club

Hello Oakura, happy New Year from your surf lifesaving club, New Plymouth Old Boys.

A big thank you to the wider Oakura community for their generosity and acceptance of our New Years day carnival. It was the most successful event in recent memory and will ensure Oakura beach will continue to be safely life guarded.

On that note, the summer to date stats show 755 hours of voluntary patrol, with David Bryan, Matt Konzett, Caitlin Coughtrey, Paula Martin and Bridget Billing completing 32, 31.5, 31, 31 and 30 hours respectively. There have been five minor rescues, and in excess of 400 preventative actions carried out by patrols. These actions have helped to keep Oakura Beach safe this summer. We thank beach users for their sensible activities and for swimming between the flags.



The IRB getting some air on New Year's Day.

On the surf sports front, New Plymouth Old Boys enjoyed its first carnival win in several seasons, beating our nearest rivals East End by 102 points. Several events are coming up in late January and Old Boys will aim to continue this success.

At the core of these successes are local surf stars Ayla and Dylan Dunlop-Barrett, Glenn Anderson (Surf's Richie McCaw) and Jaime-Lee Reynolds who have all gained selection for the open Taranaki Surf League Team. Caitlin Coughtrey, and Casey Stevens have been selected for the under 19 team.

BJ Monk, David Bryan, Paula Martin, Eilish Hurley, Eloise Stevens, Sean Kelly and Ollie McCullough have been selected for junior (under 16 and under 14) Taranaki teams, earmarked to be stars of the future.

With the business end of the season approaching, including the I.R.B Nationals in Oakura in early April, these early successes and our strong representative showing have set a solid platform for some great results in the near future.

On a festive note the surf lifesaving club bar will be open from 5pm to 7pm on Friday evenings and 3pm to 7pm on Sunday evenings, so please feel free to drop in for some quiet beverages and to make your face known to the club.

Once again thank you to the Oakura Community for its continued support.

Cheers

New Plymouth Old Boys SLSC

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1 tbsp 100% Kiwi Olive Oil
800g Frozen Peas
Tussock Lemon Infused Olive Oil to drizzle*

1. Preheat oven to 220C and bake tomatoes on a lined baking tray for 12mins or until tender.
2. Place pepper on a plate and press both sides of beef into, to coat.
3. Heat oil in a large frying pan over med-high heat and cook beef 4-5 minutes each side for medium or until cooked to your liking. Rest for 5 mins.
4. Cook peas in large saucepan of water for 3 mins, drain and reserve 2 tbsp of the cooking water.
5. Place peas and cooking water in food processor and process until smooth.

Divide smashed peas among serving plates. Top with beef and serve with the tomatoes. To finish drizzle with Tussock Lemon Infused Olive Oil

Hot tip – when cooking steak, the best flavour is achieved when the meat is at room temperature.

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'No Quarter' rocks Festival of Lights and the Beach Carnival

Recent standout performances by Oakura band *No Quarter* have people talking. Since outstanding performances in January at the Festival of Lights in Pukekura Park and at the Oakura Beach Carnival the band is quickly turning heads.

Michael Muggeridge (lead), Matthew Everest (rhythm), Keegan Bruckner (bass) and Cameron Meads (drums) comprise the band. *No Quarter* knows how to rock it out – they infuse their own metal sounding riffs into such classics as "Wipeout" and "Freebird". One can also hear the influence of Iron Maiden, Jimi Hendrix, and Joe Satriani.

The emphasis is on an instrumental sound though they are not averse to belting out some vocals. At a recent performance of "Little Wing" one listener, hearing them play it for the first time, shook his head said, "Jimi Hendrix would be proud. I can hardly believe I just heard them play that".

What really turns heads is that the band has a combined age of only 53! They are not musical geeks either. Cameron and Matthew represent Taranaki in age group cricket and basketball. Cameron and Keegan have been a rugby backline combination for years. Michael is a keen skateboarder. They are very "Oakura" - three live only a couple of doors away from each other in the same cul-de sac and one closer to the beach.

Since first playing together at a school gala, the band has been getting gig requests on a regular basis, raising the bar with



No Quarter rock at the Oakura Beach Carnival.

each performance. Their most recent performance at the Festival of Lights was a standout. *No Quarter* opened for the Wellington based group *Odessa* who were blown away by their performance and led the requests for an encore!

No Quarter will be performing at Americarna, and may even feature a guest appearance by Shaun Preston! Keep an eye out for the Americarna programme, and other performances by *No Quarter* in the near future. You will be able to say that you "knew them when..."

By Jennifer Gros

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Out and About in Oakura Over Summer



Santa visiting Minigroovers.

Jack Husband at Oakura Miniball.



Lewis and Erika Thompson enjoying the carnival.



Crowds at the Beach Carnival.



Arden Place Enjoys a Visit from Santa

A time to meet and greet new and old residents of Arden Place and Shearer Drive at the annual Street Party was held on Friday 12 December. Santa arrived with a sack of sweets for the children of both streets. It was an enjoyable night for everyone. As always it was a good chance for the locals to catch up and enjoy a lovely barbecue dinner.

By Bernice Duff



Arden Place and Shearer Drive children enjoy a precious moment with a very busy Santa.



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Dance Highway 45 Does the Cat Walk

Fashion was the focus in December. Dance Highway 45, owned and led by Raeleen Luckin, took over Oakura Hall with fashion from local shops. Dancing students modeled clothing from Vertigo in Oakura, JK Kids Clothing and Fairy Britches, both in New Plymouth. The fashion show was something a little bit different for the students. They had a lot of fun "strutting their stuff" and showing off some hip hop dance moves on the catwalk. The audience enjoyed the fashion show and had nothing but positive feedback about how professional it was. For Raeleen it was about "providing an opportunity for the students to perform to a supportive audience. Seeing their faces light up when they hit the stage was a real buzz!"

Raeleen has been dancing since the age of four doing tap, jazz and ballet. She competed in her first competition at age five, and continued competing until the age of 17. She has been teaching dance since she was 15 years old. At the age of 16 she started her own dance school and taught in the Oakura Scout Den. Those 20-30 girls have now grown and have families of their own.

Raeleen is well-known by parents in this area and is highly respected as a dance professional. She went to Teachers College in Palmerston North and taught aerobics for several years. On her return to Oakura she began her dancing school once again. She and husband Dee are both originally from Okato and are both teachers. They have been married for nine years and have two beautiful children, Keeley (7) and Cullen (5).

Raeleen teaches dance and drama at Oakura School and at other Taranaki primary schools along with music teacher Jan Aiello. This will be their tenth year working together directing and choreographing productions.

Dance Highway 45 offers classes for children aged 4 and over in both jazz and hip-hop. A beginning tap class for ages 7 and over will also be offered this year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in jazz, hip-hop or tap contact Raeleen Luckin at 7527761.

By Jennifer Gros



Pictured performing are:
Duchesne Alder, left and below, Ellie Tvrdeich and Adam Johnston.



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DOC/NPDC summer guided walks

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Check out the great NPDC/DOC summer walks on offer this summer. Many of them are just down the road.

The Department of Conservation has organised three popular walks this coming month. Check out the internationally significant Te Koru Pa, explore the site of the old gold mine at Boars Head Mine, and enjoy spectacular views of the coastline along the White Cliffs Walkway and Paranihi, Taranaki's first marine reserve.

Te Koru Pa

Location: Car park end of Surrey Hill Road, Oakura

Join this DOC guided walk to view an internationally significant Maori heritage site. See evidence of pre-European settlement of Aotearoa/New Zealand including natural and artificial defences, rare stone-faced scarps and rua/food storage pits.

Date: Wednesday, 11 February.

Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Meeting point: Car park at the end of Surrey Hill Road, Oakura.

Length: 1km

Grade: Easy/Medium

Boars Head Mine

"There's gold in them thar hills." Well that's what early settlers thought when a lump of quartz was found on Oakura beach in 1868. Join DOC staff on this popular walk that explores the site of an old gold mine and hear stories of the Taranaki gold rush. Wear sturdy footwear.

Date: Sunday 15 February

Time: 10am to 1:00pm

Meeting point: Top of Weld Road, upper car park

Length: 1.5 km up a steep hill.

Whitecliffs Coastal Walk

Join DOC staff and learn about biodiversity on land and in Paranihi, Taranaki's first Marine Reserve. Walk through farmland and scrub and enjoy spectacular views along the coastline before returning along the beach.

Date: Sunday 8 March

Time: 9am to 3.30pm (The bus will leave at 9am)

Meeting point: Bus Centre, Ariki Street.

Length: 5.7 km

Grade: Hard

Bring a gold coin donation for the bus and your own food, water, hat and sunscreen for the walk. Bookings are essential as numbers are limited.

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Oakura local Allen Juffermans owns and runs a company in New Plymouth that is in the business of land surveying, resource management, environment planning and land development engineering. The company has four professional staff that hold relevant university degrees. The staff consists of Allen, Jeremy McMillian, Hadleigh Brien, Keith Preston and Shaun Smart, a student from Otago University over the summer, and Maree Lloyd who handles the office administration duties.

Allen is a local coastal boy who was brought up in Warea. He completed a Bachelor of Surveying degree at Otago University before working in the Bay of Plenty where he became registered. In 2002 Allen came here to work in Taranaki.

I asked Allen why he chose surveying, wondering how one decides to become a surveyor. It seems it was the pull of working outdoors in something that didn't involve milking cows. Allen laughs at the irony now as he is stuck indoors most days doing paperwork. The allure of the outdoors does get the better of him every now and again and he escapes to do site work.

Juffermans Surveyors is the company to call if you want guidance and assistance in developing a subdivision or in a land development project. Juffermans will assist from start to finish - at the concept stage, the design, the installation of services, roads and driveways, boundary positioning and completion certificates. They are comprehensive Resource Management Act experts and liaise with council staff on all their projects.

To date key projects have been the Mangati subdivision, Dolphin Parade and Marlin Tce, and Wanaka Bay Retirement Village, all in Bell Block, Estate Grove in Inglewood and Paradise subdivision in Oakura.

Other areas of expertise within the business include topographical surveys that define land contours and features and they can also take care of sewerage easements for those who need them in Oakura.

Allen is often seen around Oakura with his two children in his orange VW Kombi. He enjoys being part of the VW Club with their wonderful focus on family activities. Allen sponsors the Music Without Frontiers show presented by Graham Donlon, on air from 10.30am to 1pm Sundays on frequency 100.4FM.



Allen Juffermans with his two children and his VW Kombi.

For professional help with land development or sewerage easement issues contact Allen at 7590904 or after hours at 7527382 or have a look at the Juffermans website at www.juffermans.co.nz

By Kim Ferens

V Dub Club Christmas camp at Oakura Beach

Wow, it was a hot and stuffy weekend in November for all those V Dubbers who were at the VW Christmas camp at Al and Jan's Oakura Beach camp. Boy oh boy did we have fantastic fun anyway!

We made a Christmas tree out of driftwood and had a big dig in the sand to find some hidden bamboo (buried too deep I might add). We had egg and spoon races, sack races and all sorts of weird VW related activities. Then we had a terrific, marvellous, swell, humongous water fight that brought cooling relief.



Santa cruises into the VW Club Christmas bash.

We toasted marshmallows on the bonfire, sang the odd Christmas carol and read Christmas stories by fire light. Santa and his helper came on a well-decorated dark blue trike bearing gifts for the children.

Most of us braved the swell, even though it was still a little iceberg-like, to start the new season's beach swimming. Bring on the waves!

It was awesome to see so many VWs there (and non V Dubbers). Thanks a lot to Al and Jan who made our day.

See you at the next VW event!

By Hamish and Isabel Goodhue

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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.

To discuss your waste management solution, call Shane Robbertsen 757 8381.



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What's On

February

- 10th Parent Information Evening and Community BBQ 5:30pm-8pm
- 12th Junior Beach Education at Oakura
- 13th Senior Beach Education at Oakura
- 24th Home and School Annual Meeting 7pm
- 26th Senior classes camp-out at school
- 27th Senior classes activity day

March

- 3rd Room 6 Swimming Display at Aquatic Centre 9:30am-10:30am
- 4th Rooms 1-5 Swimming Displays, 1pm R2&3, 1:30pm R1, 2pm R5, 2:30pm R4
- 31st Interviews (school will close early)

April

- 1st Interviews (school will close early)
- 9th Term One ends

Babushka and Time Trek – School Productions

Last year for the first time Omata School had a senior and junior production. All the children from the three junior classes performed in *Babushka*, a Russian folk tale about Christmas. All the students in the three senior classes performed in *Time Trek*, a *Dr Who* inspired time trip through three decades of music in New Zealand. It included the era of Pioneering, the What Now era of the 70's and the Big Day Out of the 21st century.

There is something about children performing that is incredibly moving, charming and inspiring. Jan Aiello and Raeleen Luckin had the doubly challenging task of putting on two separate performances and still achieved wonderful results from the children. All seats were booked out on show night. There was hardly a dry eye in the hall as some parents saw their off spring singing and dancing in front of an audience for the first time. Whether it was the cutest little five year old angels or 12 year old Neil Finn and Bic Runga impersonators, it was two wonderful evenings. We all look forward to the next concert.

Year 8 Prizegiving

Thirteen students were farewelled at Omata School's final assembly of the year. Each student has left a positive mark on the school. Pat Murphy, Year 7 & 8 teacher and Deputy Principal, paid tribute to every one of the students individually in the assembly and it was obvious he had formed a close bond with the 13 students.

Four deserving students received achievement cups this year. The recipients were:

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence: *Laura Anderson*

Home & School Cup for Sporting Excellence: *Jack Wagstaff*

Principal's Cup for Leadership: *Louis Ferens*

Staff Cup for Responsibility: *Regan Jeffery*

Community Cup for Arts and Culture: *William Jones / Candyce Shotter*.

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The Villagers.



The C'mon cast led by Tui.



Recipients of the Omata Cups – Jack Wagstaff, Louis Ferens, Laura Anderson, Candyce Shotter, William Jones and Regan Jeffery.



The cutest little angels.



Room 3 on stage as the early pioneers.



Room 6 rev it up at the Big Day Out.



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GARDENING WITH ROSEMARY HERB Your February Checklist

Vegetables:

Continue planting lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnip and leeks. Spray at the first sign of caterpillars or whitefly with a general garden insecticide such as "Target", or "Nature's Way Insect Spray" for organic gardeners.

Flowers:

To ensure maximum growth and flowering, deadhead to extend flowering. Feed with Thrive soluble Fertiliser or Lush Liquid Fertiliser. Water regularly to keep plants growing. Mulching will help conserve water.

Fruit Trees:

A summer pruning of stone fruit trees following the harvest of crops reduces the risk of silver leaf disease later in the season.

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Oakura Playcentre Hosts Christmas Party

December was a very fun time for the children at Playcentre. There were lots of creative crafts and a wonderful Christmas party, complete with Santa.

The Christmas party was very special because entire families came and the children really enjoyed having everyone there.

It was a lovely outdoor barbeque and everyone brought side dishes and desserts to share. It was great catching up with each other's families.

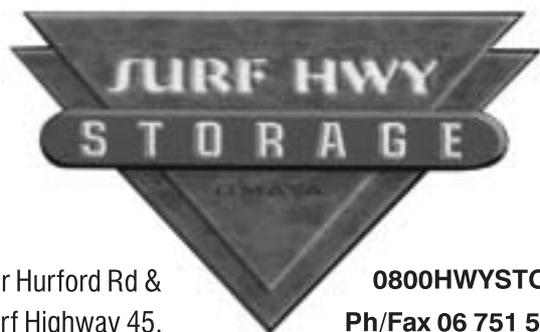
Term One has just begun. We would love to see some new faces! If you and your child are interested in Playcentre please join us on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am until noon on Donnelly Street next to Oakura School. Our activities include scone making, play dough, painting, dance, drama, outdoor play, collage, sand and much more!

By Jennifer Gros



Sunny Evans in his "I Love Santa" shirt!

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TAI CHI

ANOTHER modified Tai Chi class is being offered in Oakura. This is a programme to prevent falls for people aged over 65 (or 55 if Maori or Pacific Islander). The classes will run twice a week for 20 weeks and at no cost to participants from the 4th February. Phone Jenny Gibson, 759 0930 ext 710.

UKULELE

GROUPS - Kids/Youths/Adults, ring Dominique 7527400 if you are interested.

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WOOD Splitter - Petrol driven, towable wood splitter. Phone 752 7899.

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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 Shotter, 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 Florance 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 El Presidente 752 1290, email podsnail@xnet.co.nz. www.taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga
Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.00pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome.
Phone Sarsha 752 7977.