

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM

## OAKURA

FEBRUARY 2012

## OAKURA'S YOUNG TENNIS TALENT ON SHOW?

Ryan Waite focussed on court.

*More on page 12*



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

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

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

## E D I T O R I A L

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer — a bit of a mixed bag with sun, rain, wind, hot, cool and everything in between. So far I have only been to Oakura Beach once for a swim, probably a new record low for me.



TOM kicks off the year with a great bunch of stories, some from before Christmas and some from over the holiday period — all good reading and good images. The beach camp and the surf club carnival all suffered at the hands of the weather but everyone soldiers on.

It is always interesting to read about the local schools end-of-year award recipients and the TOM team would like to congratulate all the Omata and Oakura students on their achievements over 2011.

As you look through the TOM you will see our community has been very busy out and about and busy creating, cooking, dancing, being sporty — amazing.

If you have any interesting things to share with the community please contact me either by phone (7511519) or email me (kim@thetom.co.nz) and it can be included in the next TOM.

*Kim*

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# Slip, slipping away!



16 DECEMBER SLIP AT OAKURA BEACH CAMP –

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PHOTOS BY PAT COXHEAD



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## Mayor Harry

Before we look to the year ahead, let's take a moment to appreciate the last few weeks. Despite the changeable weather we have had great crowds at the TSB Bank Festival of Lights. People from around the region, as well as visitors to our district, have turned up to enjoy the light installations as well as the evening entertainment on three stages.

It was wonderful to see such a large cross-section of our community gathering to enjoy the summer evenings — even if some of those evenings were on the damp side! I hope you were among the tens of thousands who experienced the lights festival first hand.

Between the wet spells we have managed to find several days of hot, sunny weather so far this summer. Oakura Beach has been buzzing with people, and I was very pleased to attend the New Year's Day Carnival — what a pity the weather on the day affected the attendance for the surf club. However, once again the town has reminded locals and visitors that coastal living in Taranaki can't be beaten. Taranaki, with its wealth of beaches and parks, truly comes into its own during summer.

I hope you and your family and friends have had plenty of opportunity to kick back and enjoy this great lifestyle that we are so lucky to have.

Now with the holiday break over, our attention is well and truly focused on the year ahead. The largest project we have ahead of us is the Long-Term Plan 2012–2022, which will set the Council's 10-year plan for the district (the first three years in detail and the following seven in outline). There is going to be a lot of publicity around this as it is vital that as many people as possible read the draft plan and key proposals, and send their comments in to the Council. Many people in the community have already been involved through the Citizens' Panels and the like, so thank you to those who have helped us so early in this process. The draft plan will be released for public comment in late March so keep your eyes open for information on how you can be involved!

Be sure to get out and enjoy the summer we have left. After all, what better place to take in the last weeks of summer than in Oakura?

*Mayor Harry Duijnhoven*

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Happy New Year everyone,  
Thank you for your patience in our changeover to a new computer system. We are happy to assist you if you have any queries regarding the new website or any other issues with your account.

Puke Ariki Library now has a digital collection consisting of over 800 e-books. They are free for a 7-day loan period. You need a personal reading device, an Internet connection and your library card. Visit [www.pukeariki.com](http://www.pukeariki.com) for more information.

We had another well-attended holiday programme crafting bracelets made from aluminium can tabs and ribbon. Yes, we did have enough tabs after all, phew! Thank you to the Nanninga family

for all their help. This cheerful group loved the challenge and the finished product!

Our summer reading programme "Be a Legend" was also a hit. Well done to 35 participants who read throughout the summer holiday season.

Happy reading,

*Karen and Vincenza*



**Bracelet crafters with their finished products.**

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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# Deck the Rooms on Plymouth

Aaron and Tracey Murfitt from Plymouth Road opened their home for charity in December with “Deck the Rooms for Refuge”, a fundraiser for Women’s Refuge.

Tracey is an interior designer who runs an interior design consultancy called Heart Interiors. She is also a passionate collector of retro and vintage artefacts. Tracey collaborated with Tanya Davis from Oakura’s Flowerlounge Floral Studio to recreate a nostalgic and whimsical summer Christmas in her dining and kitchen area with summer flowers and antique retro tableware. There was no red/green or snow anywhere to be found and the theme was reflective of what Christmas time is really like in New Zealand — sunny, warm and bright (well Christmas is sometimes sunny!!). It was an inspired arrangement of flowers, cut glass, china, silver, cakes and lollies that showcased Tracey’s collection of Crown Lynn, Duraware and bone-handled silverware. For added touches neighbour Nicola Avery made cupcakes, and Tracey and her sister Amanda made toffees, truffles and toffee apples. Tanya developed the nostalgia theme further with her groupings of old-fashioned flowers (carnations, roses, stock, gypsophila, poppy seed heads, walnuts, gerberas and hydrangeas) into Crown Lynn swans, glass pillars with doilies, and stunning table centrepieces.

Tracey says the inspiration came from her Duraware picnic set — it is bright and summery and very retro. Those of us old enough to remember will know Duraware is what everyone had for picnicking in the 70’s and 80’s. Other pieces on display like the Crown Lynn, bone-handled silver service, cut glass bowls and glasses, and retro cake tins are part of Tracey’s lifelong collection of interesting retro household items. She has found these in garage sales, on TradeMe and in secondhand shops.

Tracey was delighted with how it all came together and the nice comments people made about the theme. It just shows that you be inspiring without spending a fortune.

To complement the retro summer theme Shari Corbett/Dyer was on hand selling her ‘upcycled’ clothing and hand-made jewellery. The clothing is recycled petticoats, nighties and the like, to which Shari has added her artistic touch with appliquéd doilies, fabrics and lace to make them individual outerwear garments. Shari was very happy with how the day went.

Every Christmas theme needs a Christmas tree and Coastal Coatings — Aaron’s painting and decorating business — donated the 3m-high tree. Tracey and Tanya continued their summery theme by decorating the tree with gerberas, lollipops and decorations in orange, yellow and green hues to match the rest of the décor.

*by Kim Ferens*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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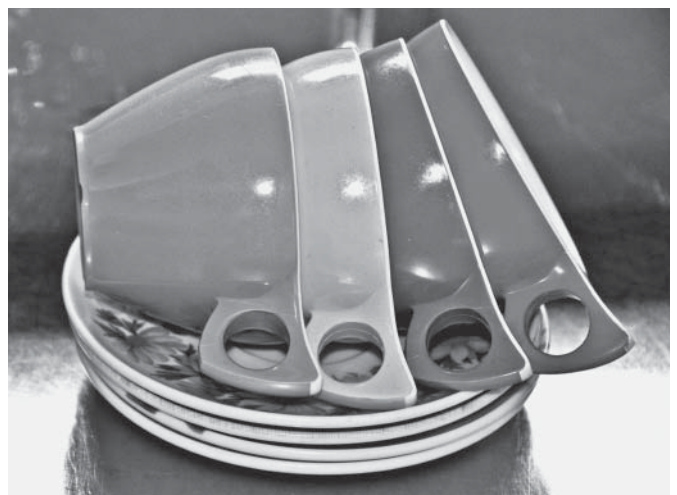
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**The superb summer Christmas theme, inspired by Tracey’s Duraware.**



**Tracey, left and Tanya, right.**



**Tracey’s Duraware.**



# Looking forward to the Year Ahead with a National-led Government

The new year of 2012 is upon us. I'm looking forward to another busy year as we focus on the issues that matter for our community, and for all Kiwis — a stronger economy and more jobs, better frontline health and education services, a safer New Zealand, and rebuilding Canterbury.

We campaigned on some important policies and our new Cabinet will get to work straight away. It's a privilege to be voted in by New Zealanders for a second term of government. National has the skills and experience to provide the strong and stable government New Zealand needs over the next three years.

The global financial environment remains stormy but National is getting its books in order. We'll halve the budget deficit next year and return to surplus in 2014/15 as promised during the election campaign.

Work is underway on extending the successful mixed-ownership model. The Government will offer a minority stake to investors in four state-owned energy companies, and reduce its stake in Air New Zealand while retaining majority control. Mums and dads will be able to buy shares in these companies. This will free up \$5 billion to \$7 billion to invest in new assets, such as building schools designed for the 21st century, while reducing debt.

As promised, National is continuing its work on welfare reform. In 2012 we'll keep building a system that focuses on what people can do. We'll provide support, training, and opportunities to get Kiwis back into work and away from long-term benefit dependence.

The Canterbury earthquake last February claimed many lives, and left so many grieving. It created widespread devastation and Cantabrians need and deserve all our support. National remains committed to rebuilding Canterbury and we'll focus the resources needed to make this happen.

National is delivering high-quality, modern public services in health, education, and law and order for families. We'll maintain a cap on staff in core government administration,

continue to modernise the way public services are delivered, and find savings to put into the frontline. That means more elective operations and less waiting in our hospitals, more opportunities for children in our schools, and better policing on our streets.

After a refreshing break with family and friends I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and continuing to build the brighter future our community and all New Zealanders deserve. I hope you and your family have a happy and successful 2012.

*Jonathan Young MP*



## Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH


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# Dance Highway 45 – End of Year Concert



Left to right, Kate McQuaig, Alana Jufferman, Janaye Sullivan, Shane Ryan, Erica Thompson, Cinnamon Danger, Kate Hilliam.

PHOTOS BY ROSIE MOYES



Alfie Luque.

Hana Barton.



Gina Fraser.



Alyssa Lamb, Chloe Goodkind, Hana Barton, Amy Parr, Isobel Goodhue, Teal Rogers, Charlotte Lamb.





# Ride and Win!

Send in your ride sharing stories (kim@thetom.co.nz) and go into the draw to win a \$30 music voucher. Liz Beck shares her story below.

Being the Council's Let's Go Travel Planner Liz is passionate about 'walking the talk' but living 27km out of town makes the usual walk, ride or bus choices tricky to commit to on a regular basis. That's where ridesharing comes in. "When I first moved into the area nearly a year ago I put a notice on Gloria and posters up in my local shops asking if anyone was interested in ridesharing and I have managed to rideshare most weeks since then," says Liz.

"The rideshare group that I share with have a loose arrangement where we send round emails at the end of the week to arrange rideshares for the following week as well as who's going to drive each trip."

Liz estimates she saves around \$85 a fortnight in petrol and she likes the way it has helped her to meet people in her community. She also acknowledges it makes her work smart as she can't always stay another five minutes to finish a task or answer an email. The only drawback to ridesharing that Liz has discovered is that she can't have impromptu drinks after work!

"What puts most people off ridesharing is the 'what ifs', but many workplaces have a 'guaranteed ride home' set up where there is a pool car to use in an emergency, but in 11 months of ridesharing I've never had to call on a system like that."

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# TOM Sports



## Fishing Report

Since my last report we have been on a club trip to Coromandel taking kayaks on a charter boat and fishing the Mercury Islands. The weather

was a shocker for our first trip with 50 knot winds and rough seas but we still caught lots of average-sized snapper in close out of the wind. The following weekend the second group went and had great weather. The group caught 20 kings and snapper up to 20lb. Just my luck to miss out on that.

We also had a float in the Santa parade for the first time and the kids really enjoyed being part of such a great event. The fishing around Oakura and New Plymouth continues to be patchy at best, some days good and some days nothing. The best fish we have had is a 4kg snapper to Bruce Howson from Oakura Beach (pictured).

There are a lot of gurnard around so I think the snapper season is running a little late but should be in full swing by the time the Kayak Classic arrives in March. If you are planning to enter, the early bird entries close 31 January. The early bird prize this year is some wonderful travel luggage valued at \$1000, thanks to Oakura Travel.

Enjoy the summer and good fishing everyone.

Cheers

*Garry Harrison*



**Bruce Howson with his 4kg snapper.**

## Oakura Pony Club

The pony club season is in full swing and in November Oakura Club held its annual Jumping Day at the Waitara Pony Club grounds. It was fantastic weather and everyone had a great day with no injuries (always a bonus when around horses!). The Jumping Day requires a lot of hands-on help, and in a small club like Oakura this means all hands on deck. Before the actual day judges, writers and administrators need to be organised, jumps and other equipment transported to Waitara, entries received and prizes and ribbons counted and prepared. Then we pray for good weather, because many riders decide on the day whether to enter and so we get a whole lot more entries if the sun shines. On the actual day there is the usual organising, re-building of jumps that are knocked down, and changes of courses as the heights go up. We also run a barbecue to feed and water everyone, and raise a little more money. The money raised from this day goes toward the everyday running of our club, keeping the lawns mowed and maintaining the arena, shed and equipment.

As usual Oakura riders did exceptionally well throughout the day. Firstly our coaches, proving that they can teach and do: Robin King came 3rd in the Hacks 1m and 4th in the Hacks 1.10m; and Lara Quinn came 5th in the Hacks 90cm and 5th in the Handy Hunter 80–90cm. Then our club members: Anna Hinton (on Sexy B) came 1st in the 1.15m and 5th in the 1.10m; Isabella Hibell (on Jiggysaw) came 2nd in the Ponies 60cm, 1st in the 70cm, and 3rd in the 80cm as well as 1st in the Handy Hunter 60–80cm. Paige Mackay (on Little Red Ted) came 5th in the ponies 70cm. Maeghan King came 5th in the Handy Hunter 60–80cm. Robin King must get a special mention here, as she not only rode two different horses on the day but was also course designer, which meant she had to regularly move from one arena to the other changing the courses (order and angle of jumps), checking everything was running well, and also helping out her daughter who rode two different ponies! Thanks Robin!

The Jumping Day requires not only labour but also financial input, with ribbons and prize money given to placegetters. This year I am delighted to thank our very supportive sponsors. Some of these companies are hassled regularly for sponsorship by small non-profit organisations such as ourselves, and we want to say a special thankyou for your ongoing support, particularly in the current depressed economic times. You're awesome, thank you!

*by Diane Alder*



**Santa parade float.**



**Mercury Island fishing charter.**



# We don't like cricket ... we love it!

Oakura's junior primary division two cricket team was caught in action at Corbett Park late last year. The nine and ten year olds were playing St John Bosco on a windy Saturday and took out a well deserved win. The team has been together for four seasons with a few players coming and going but the core of the team has remained loyal and has gone from strength to strength each year. They are coached by Greg Shearer and Nigel Barbour.

Chris Logan in action.



Max Crighton fires a ball down.



The "dead ant" team technique designed to put the opposition off!

## HRV Cup –

MID JANUARY



The Central Stag batsman Jamie How.



Gillespie showed fine bowling action.

Pukekura Park finally put on some beautiful weather so that the Central Stags T20 HRV Cup game could take place. A good crowd enjoyed the lovely evening and the CD batsmen put on a fine display of record breaking batting. They followed this up with an enthusiastic fielding display against the Wellington Firebirds.

*By Kim Ferens*



The crowd enjoys themselves in the sun.





# Oakura Tennis Club

Oakura Tennis Club currently has 130 members and with the large increase in numbers of junior players coming through the future of the club and tennis in Oakura is looking very strong.

This season started with a very successful Open Day where we had approximately 45 juniors turn up to have a hit and enjoy the sausage sizzle. The adults didn't even get a chance to get on the court!

On Mondays and Wednesdays after school there are coaching sessions for Oakura Club children taken by Wes Elder. We have 38 children involved and it is great to see the improvement in their games.

This season we have five primary interclub teams entered in the North Taranaki competition, two Junior A teams and three Junior B Teams, which is fantastic for such a small club. They play singles and doubles each Friday after school. All teams have done well in the first half of the season and it is great to see everyone enjoying their tennis. A huge thanks to the parents who help out each week and support the teams.

As well as club competitions we have a number of members who represent Taranaki for tennis in their age group: Abby Wilson, Molly and Anna Oldfield, Bailey Bruckner, Poppy and Taylor Mitchell.

Even with injury forcing Graeme Mitchell to be sidelined for a few weeks the Soffe Cup team have had a good start to the season. The A2 team have had a consistent season remaining middle of the table of the 12-team competition. We also have two Midweek Ladies teams entered in competition.

Last year the club introduced a Sunday afternoon family fun day, which has been very popular, with children having a game and some coaching from club members and the adults getting on the courts for some doubles. Most days the ball machine is set up and this has been a huge hit with the kids and adults (excuse the pun). Burgers and sausages on the BBQ are a great way to finish the day.

The mini tennis sessions for children aged 6 to 8 years are organised through the OJSC and held at school each Tuesday lunchtime. These have been very popular. The aim is

to teach some basic tennis ball skills combined with some fun games. These lessons are organised by Sue Oldfield, our junior tennis convener, with the help of parents and we are seeing these budding tennis players go on to join our Oakura Tennis Club interclub teams.

Before Christmas Mike Roberts from Naki Racquets sponsored a tournament at Rotokare Tennis Courts where a large number of Oakura Tennis Club members entered. This was very successfully run by Wes Elder and a number of our players won prizes as below.

## GRASSHOPPERS

*Singles Winner:* Chester Oldfield.

*Singles Runner-up:* Ryan Waite.

## 10's

*Boys' Singles Consolation Plate Winner:* Charlie Waite. *Boys' Singles Special Plate Winner:* Max Shearer.

*Runner-up Boys' Doubles:* Jack Mitchell/Charlie Waite.

*Girls' Singles Winner:* Taylor Mitchell.

*Girls' Singles Runner-up:* Anna Oldfield.

*Girls' Doubles Winners:* Taylor Mitchell/Anna Oldfield.

## 12's

*Winner Boys' Singles Special Plate:* William Pritt.

*Plate Winners Boys' Doubles:* William Pritt/Thomas Skurr.

*Winner Girls' Singles:* Poppy Mitchell.

*Plate Winner Girls' Singles:* Bailey Bruckner.

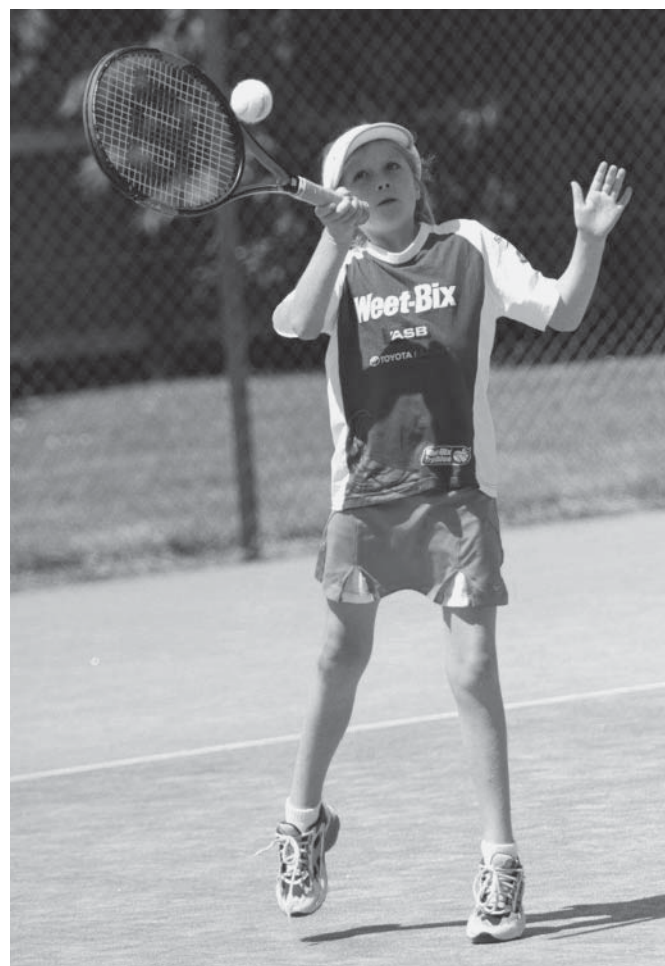
*Runner-up Girls' Plate:* Sophie Willis.

*Girls' Consolation Plate Winner:* Emily Husband.

*Girls' Consolation Plate Runner-up:* Emily Waite.

*Girls' Doubles Winners:* Poppy Mitchell/Bailey Bruckner.

*Girls' Doubles Plate Winners:* Emily Husband/Emily Waite.





## 14's

*Winner Girls' Singles Consolation Plate:* Amy Benton.

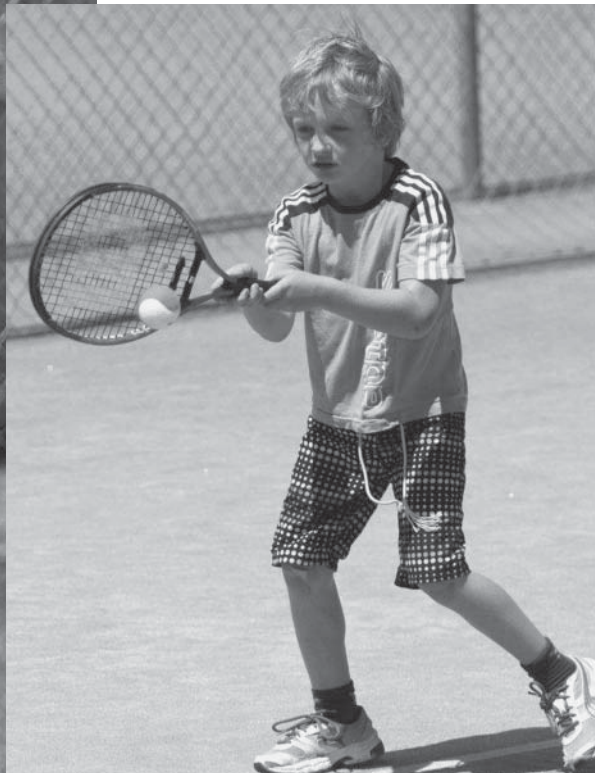
*Winners Girls' Doubles:* Amy Benton/Holly Pearson (Huatoki).

We are lucky as a tennis club in Oakura to have continued support and cooperation from Lynne Hepworth and Oakura School. The proximity of the school to the tennis club makes it accessible for school children to join and take part in tennis for Oakura, so we have a thriving club that will continue to grow.

Thanks to our dedicated committee who support the club and help things run smoothly. Also a large thankyou to our sponsors who continue to support tennis in Oakura year after year.

We welcome any new members and encourage any enquiries to Jackie Mitchell (Secretary) or Sue Oldfield (Junior Convener). You can check out our Facebook page Oakura Tennis Club Inc. for any updates and club news.

*Rebecca Scott, Media Liaison*



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# GETTING WET



## Oakura Boardriders Club

Ho Ho Ho!

Now that the jolly fat chap in the red suit has been and gone and we have seen the New Year in in whatever state, it's time to get yourself in that cool clear water! The Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) has launched into 2012 in usual form, although due to inclement weather on New Years' Day one of our traditions of years past was missed this year: that of suitably unattired members, sunnies on upsidedown, paying the clubbies a visit during their post-carnival celebrations. This usually results in a return visit from the clubbies (not to be outdone). I am sure 2013 will see a return to true form.

The weather has been rather damp to say the least, but 2011 expired with excellent surf on the coast. Rocky Point showed form for all the blow-ins, as did Stent Road, and Rocky right before the doctor started to blow (south easterly). On Monday, 2 January I was part of a paddle out in remembrance of the late TK Wano at Stent Road. The large contingent of surfers who gathered to pay their respects to TK were welcomed by his twin brother Whareoka at Chris Luke's residence. We then suited up and paddled out in a 2m swell and onshore winds to form a circle out in the bay, before most catching a wave in. Now even though it was totally onshore and pretty rough I watched at least half a dozen guys surf the place to within an inch of its life. A fitting tribute to one of the province's sons. He will be missed.

The OBC clubrooms will be open on Friday evenings for members and friends to visit throughout the daylight saving months. We have a range of surfboards and wetsuits available for use, so come along and give it a go.

Children's surf lessons will start in February to coincide with the return to school. To register your interest contact Phil Butt or Gary Bruckner. Lessons range from beginner to intermediate levels. This year we would like to see more of our junior members compete in the town club's summer series, and the micro-groms competitions organised by Surfing Taranaki and hosted by the province's boardriders clubs.

Along with the best clubroom location in the country (just ask the Mounties, or anyone from Whanga) we also have the basketball half-court, with a ball available at the club, a brand new top-of-the-range table tennis table, and a dart board all the way from London for members' use. Now I know that in previous years the competition on the table tennis has been savage. The ladder has been resurrected from the basement, and there are some undeserving names on it, so why not come along on a Friday evening and show us your backhand smash! All that and the barbie just waiting for you to whip up some culinary delights. Just ask me, I know!

With the tragic drowning at Fitzroy Beach and the rescue of two boaties by two surfers at Patea in January it's a timely reminder that the ocean can be a dark and dangerous place.

Always take time to check the conditions before ripping into it. Now I know a lot of surfers who love big surf, it's all a confidence thing; if you feel that you are up for it, get out there but don't take to the waves expecting that someone will come and get you if you get into difficulties. Surfing is basically an individual sport, yep, sometimes there are packs of them out there, but when it comes down to it basically you are on your own, so always surf within your capabilities and take responsibility for your own safety.

There you go, that's an old salty's safety tips. The Boardriders clubrooms are available for hire for any form of function — weddings, birthday parties (although we stipulate no 18th birthday parties), staff functions, corporate functions (such as away days), and even funerals (no charge). Contact Paul Christophers on 027-752 7126 or 06-752 7126.

We have plenty of Boardriders stuff for sale, t-shirts, 20th Anniversary books, DVDs (available on request from Doug Hislop) and 20th Anniversary t-shirts. Contact one of the committee members.

And there you have it. May the wind be offshore, the swell straight and the sun shining.

*Paul Christophers* I.P.P.O.B.C; O.B.L.

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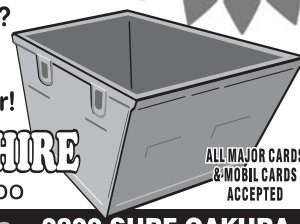
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Children enjoying the mud slide.

## Xmas Party

On Sunday, 4 December Arden Place had their annual Christmas Street Party/Barbecue. The weather being a bit wet and breezy did not hamper the spirit of the season although it had to be largely held inside. It was nice to meet and welcome new residents and catch up with the existing street families. Santa arrived on the smaller fire tender to the delight of the children, from where he gave them lollies. Santa also stayed on and had barbecue dinner with everyone.

*Bernice Duff*

Arden Place, Oakura



The Arden Place party goes.

### Dog Grooming @ the Pet Parlour

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Saturday mornings

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9.30am Ballet for children

for information/registration ..... **ph 752 7743** (after 9.30am)

## 2011 Year 8 Awards

At the final assembly for Oakura School the following awards and cups were presented to Year 8 students.

**ARTS** This award is given to the pupil who shows a great deal of talent in either the visual arts or the performing arts. This year we looked mainly at the visual arts as well as at someone who took a lead role in our senior production. This student has been a very committed and enthusiastic art leader and she has an amazing talent in the visual arts: **Grace Powell**.

**CITIZENSHIP** This award is for a pupil who relates well to their peers, teachers, members of the community, visiting groups and also the younger members of the school. Our school prides itself in having students who all meet these criteria, but this student is one who always offers to help. She can always be relied on to help and does so with enthusiasm and a smile. She was a welcome committee leader who always used her initiative and had great organisational skills: **Georgia Crabtree**.

**MUSIC** This is awarded to a Year 8 pupil who shows high ability in the musical performance area. This student has performed extremely well in music examinations this year and is quickly becoming an accomplished piano player: **Kelsey Husband**.

**SPORTS** This is awarded to a pupil who shines in the sporting field, representing Taranaki, North Island or New Zealand. This student is accomplished in many sporting fields. He has been chosen for this award because of his regional and national achievements in running events. He is a dedicated young sportsman with a very promising future and we look forward to following his achievements in the future: **Angus White**.

**DILIGENCE** This is awarded to a student who produces quality work, has excellent work habits, always completes work on time, takes great pride in their work, and is committed to any extra responsibilities given. The student chosen for this award has shown a consistently high level of motivation and perseverance across the curriculum. He is goal driven, self-motivated and sets himself very high standards, which he works hard at to achieve. His work is always original and well presented and it shows the extra commitment that he is prepared to put in to achieve excellence: **George Tvrdeich**.

**HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT** This award is normally based around road patrollers who always fill in, are responsible in their role, and are extremely committed to the job, and also those students who have contributed to our mediation programme. This year it goes to a student who is been both an effective road patroller and student mediator: **Megan Vickers**.

**GOOD ATTITUDE** Goes to a student who always has a positive attitude towards their work and the way that they tackle any challenges. This year it goes to a student who has a great attitude towards everything she does. She is caring towards others and is always determined to give things her best. She has a kind and bubbly personality and gets along with every age group. She is a wonderful role model for others and is deserving of this award: **Dione Riley**.

**DUX:** This is awarded to the Year 8 pupil who had the highest academic achievement this year. All standardised test results are added up and an average is calculated to attain the highest scoring pupil. This student has consistently scored in the top percentile of students of his age in all our national standardised tests, and has performed well in the ICAS tests this year. He shows high academic ability across the curriculum: **Angus White**.

### WINTER CUP WINNERS

**Rugby:** Daniel Barron for his interschool and Ross Brown rugby involvement.

**Netball:** Kelsey Husband for her overall commitment and skill level.

### SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

**Athletics Boy:** Nick Wilson

**Athletics Girl:** Paige Burrows

**EQUESTRIAN:** Molly Lumb

**DEBATING:** George Tvrdeich for the highest scoring speaker over the competition.

**SPEECH:** Liam McBreen, who also represented the school and won the Taranaki Toastmasters competition.

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# Trained Truffle Makers

Just before Christmas, three groups of Year 7/8 children from Oakura Primary School walked the 100m to the home of Barbara Olsen-Henderson (owner of Bach on Breakwater Café & Restaurant) for cooking lessons.

For three afternoons in a row, my kitchen was alive with high-spirited girls and boys in 'pinnys' who were up to their elbows in cake crumbs, glacé fruits and chocolate. Peta Hislop ably assisted me who, by the way, whips a mean bowl of cream. She has clearly built up her whipping arm from 45 years of being a teacher.

Chocolate Truffles were the order of the day, with each group using the fudge brownie made by the class of the previous day to make our delicious Christmassy confections. Whilst the 'Number Ones' were stirring the hot chocolate and cream into the brownie crumbs, the 'Number Twos' were (carefully!) chopping up glacé cherries and apricots. When they had all rolled their mixtures into balls, I couldn't help but make comparisons between the sometimes rough and ready results of some, with the immaculate truffles made by Angus and his partner. There was much licking of spoons and bowls at this stage.

Next I had the children stuffing their glasses with chunks of Wonder Cake and raspberry jelly ready to be transformed into trifle. I had made a beautiful big trifle to the cold-set stage, which I demonstrated finishing off with strawberries and cream. They are all now Trained Trifle Makers and ready to make the Christmas Trifle for the family this year!

Each group was noticeably different from the others. The first group (of which half were boys) made the best looking truffles and were generally rather messy; the second group, who appeared to be a slightly younger lot of girls, were really focussed and finished early enough for me to read them the story from which I got my cat's name – "Miss Bundle Sweet Cosy Joy"; the third group, who appeared to be mainly older girls, never stopped talking and we used up every last minute simply getting the basics done! If there were to be a prize for talking Megan would have won it by a country mile.

At 3 o'clock they walked back to school clutching their boxes of truffles, half-made trifle and grubby aprons. A most enjoyable set of lessons, which I'm quite keen to repeat.

*Barbara Olsen-Henderson*

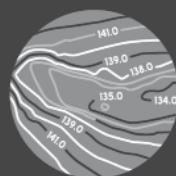


Barbara with her truffle makers.

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## COMING EVENTS

### February

- 14 Information Evening and Community BBQ  
5.30–7.30pm
- 15 Rocky Shore Visit R1 and 6
- 16 Rocky Shore Visit R3 and 4  
Playgroup starts 9–11am
- 17 Rocky Shore Visit R2 and 5
- 20 Years 5–8 Campout at school
- 28 Home and School Annual Meeting, 7pm, all  
welcome
- 29 R6 Swim Display (Aquatic Centre)

### March

- 1 Playgroup 9–11am
- 7 Years 1–6 Swim Displays
- 12 Taranaki Anniversary Holiday

## 2011 CUP WINNERS

Congratulations to these 2011 Cup Winners:

Community Cup for Arts and Culture: **Mia West.**

Home and School Cup for Sporting Excellence:  
**Braden Farmer.**

Staff Cup for Responsibility: **Evie Lindsay.**

Principal's Cup for Leadership: **Michael Anderson.**

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence:  
**Charlotte Jones.**



2011 cup winners Michael Anderson, Braden Farmer, Mia West, Evie Lindsay and Charlotte Jones.

## NEW LEAD AMBASSADORS

We also welcome four new Lead Ambassadors for 2012: **Javani Boyce, Ruby Crawshaw, Fabian Johnson and Jessica Whittle.**

## BETWEEN THE TIDES

If you went to school in New Plymouth you probably will remember studying the Rocky Shore with the customary class visit to Kawaroa Rock Pools. I still have vivid memories of scuttling around the rocks, collecting, observing and sketching. Such trips are indelibly inked in our memories of school; they were fun, highly engaging and interesting educational experiences.

These days we refer to these experiences as being 'authentic' learning opportunities. To engage students in learning-by-doing is generally considered the most effective way to learn. Students pose questions, investigate, draw on experiences and research, and are active participants in the learning process by writing, discussing analysing and evaluating information and experiences. Our rich science unit, *Between the Tides*, will involve the students in many opportunities to learn and think deeply. Should be fun too!

Regards

*Karen Brisco*

# Piano Pieces de Resistance

Itinerant piano teacher Diane Dravitski always concludes her teaching year with a piano concert at Omata School and the 2011 concert was awesome. Diane has been teaching the piano for 22 years and in 2011 had 18 students learning at Omata School.

The gathering of family and friends enjoyed a piece or two by each student and music rang out from the piano, including *Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells*, *Feeling Spiffy*, *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*, *Tarantella*, *Wanna Leave You Blues*, *In Dreams* and *River Flows In You*.



Miles Wagstaff.



Luisa Williams.



Diane awarded her students a certificate and for the first time, two trophies. One for the Best Performer of the Year went to Hayden Whyte from New Plymouth Boys High School, and the other for Diligence went to Mia West.

Diane says the concert is a good opportunity for her students to perform in front of an appreciative audience and to play the pieces they have been learning.

by Kim Ferens



Mia West receiving her diligence award.

## Green Fingers in the Skurr Household

Oakura School ran its gardening competition again last term and this time 12-year-old Thomas Skurr won the senior section; last year his sister Samantha came first. It seemed to me that there had to be a secret to their success and I had to investigate!

The competition was to grow the best vegetables in an area of land approximately 2m square. Students were encouraged



Thomas tending his garden.



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to grow tomatoes, lettuce, beans, carrots and potatoes and, of course, anything else they would like to add. Thomas dug over his area and added compost and sheep pellets to the soil (hmmm... so is the success due to the preparations?). Thomas says he also planted petunias, sweet peas, marigolds and basil. The basil and petunias help the tomatoes, sweet peas help the beans, and the marigolds attract beneficial insects. So is companion planting the answer? Thomas also invested in a slug and snail trap, filling it with his dad's beer. The slugs drop into the trap. He says they caught "heaps". Finally I ask how he maintained the garden and Thomas says he added his magic and secret liquid fertilizer... ahhh, so that's the answer! A plastic dustbin of last year's rotting manure and seaweed made to a secret recipe! So now I know the secret to his success! Or maybe it's the combination and the hard work maintaining it.

Thomas says they enjoyed his potatoes from the garden on Christmas Day and the lettuces are yummy. He is looking forward to the tomatoes ripening (shouldn't be long now).

What a fantastic opportunity for the children. Thank you to the teachers, Ray Priest and others for organising, for visiting homes in their own time for the judging, and for encouraging the younger generation to take pride, interest and enjoyment in growing and eating fresh produce.

Congratulations, Thomas. Thanks to Fairfield's Garden Centre you will receive a voucher.

Congratulations to all who took part in the competition. You are all winners as you are able to enjoy your own lovely fresh vegetables and salads. Well done to you all.

By Rosie Moyes



Coastal Young Farmers has just hosted the National Bank Coastal Young Farmers hosted the National Bank Young Farmer Contest 2012 at the end of last year (17th Dec). This completed a successful year for the new group that has only been running for 6 months. They have had great reviews for the district final; not only from the contestants themselves, but the other organisers and the public; giving praise on the quality of the modules as well as the standard to which the contestants had to reach. Mentioned too were the different modules and how each of them tested the contestants; allowing each one to show different strengths.

Following the practical day they held a quiz night where after a series of industry, world and agricultural questions as well as an impromptu speech the winner of the District Final was found. First place went to Cameron Shaw from the Palmerston North Massey University Young Farmers. Second Place went to Dougan Butler from North Taranaki Club both will be competing in the National Bank Young Farmer Contest Taranaki and Manawatu Regional Final in March 2012. Their very own Daniel Fisher and Sam Lawn came 3rd and 4th respectively.

They would like to thank everyone who supported them with the day.

Coastal Young Farmers is still welcoming new members so if you are interested in finding out more or want to see what is involved; you are more than welcome to come along to our monthly meeting held the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Stoney River Pub at 7.30pm.

Alexandra Lawn

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# Fitness Mentor Takes on Train Wreck!

Estelle Williams from Oakura, a training fitness mentor, rang me late last year to ask if I knew of anyone wanting some personal training sessions. She needed to undertake a project to help with the practical side of her qualification. I gamely suggested myself, knowing full well that I offered a 'challenge' with my body and its various injuries and fitness level. Six weeks later Estelle is gamely struggling on with me!



Estelle in her studio.

The interesting, though slightly disturbing, thing about our aging bodies is that they do pick up injuries like a train rushing through a swarm of bees, and mine is no exception. This has put me off exercising but the realisation has been hitting home that doing nothing is not an option either. Gently chugging away at it is a much healthier option, so thanks Estelle. You can hardly go along to the doctor and weep and wail about all your aches and pains and expect them to fix you without helping yourself, so that is my mission.

Estelle calls her new business Functional Fitness and it is a women only studio based in her home, where you can be assisted to improve your fitness, strength, posture, blood pressure and lifestyle. Estelle has been working one-on-one with me, which is important to me because with my long list of injuries it would be easy to do further damage. Personal trainers are not a new concept and Estelle is not trying to reinvent the wheel but she is trying to help me (and others) reach my individual goals, which I set realistically rather than optimistically.

Estelle combines a very pleasurable mix of warm-ups, compound exercises, stretches, cardio and massages. What I like about Estelle's fitness approach is that most of the work is done at home at your own pace and with small life changes. So far it is working for me, getting out most days for a short walk, tennis or swimming, and I have noticed an improvement in my cardiovascular fitness level. I am taking dietary changes slowly rather than drastically with the hope that I can trick my body (and mind) into thinking nothing has changed! I know from vast experience that diets do not work, with most people putting on all the weight they lose plus more.

Estelle has done her training through MAX International College for Fitness Professionals. It's a double diploma that covers Fitness and a Business Diploma, and is

internationally recognised in NZ, Australia (it's an Australian private college), Europe and USA. Just as importantly, Estelle has a great personality and is very passionate about helping other women reach fitness and health goals.

Christmas, holidays and visitors are always good excuses for procrastination when it comes to exercise and eating habits but this year I decided that I was driving the train and not someone else, and I could make small changes while still having a few treats — something Estelle is completely onside with — and it worked. No extra kilos over Christmas and motivation to get out and be active!

Estelle would love to hear from you if you would like help with making changes to your lifestyle and need a wee bit of help. Phone her on 06-752 1001.

by Kim Ferens

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### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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### 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.

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### Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

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### Move It or Lose it, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays 9.30am.

Contact Gloria 752 7442.

### Oakura Pool Club

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

### Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

### Omata Playgroup

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

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am–2pm

Tuesday 5.30–7pm

Wednesday 3–6pm

Thursday 5.30–7.30pm

Friday 9am–12noon

Friday 4.30–6pm

Saturday 10am–4pm

Sunday 3–5pm

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

Ladies' Midweek Competition

Club night

Juniors' private coaching

A-grade players' practice

Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members

Junior Competition

Soffe Cup and A-grade Competition

Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

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

### St James Church, Oakura

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

### St John's, Omata

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

### Val Deakin Dance School

Saturday morning ballet classes are held at Oakura Hall. Pre-school students from 9–9.30 and a Basic Ballet class for children aged 5, 6 and 7 from 9.30–10.45 am. Contact Val Deakin or Jane Roseman on 06-752 7743.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.co.nz

### Yoga

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

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### HOUSE SITTERS

RESPONSIBLE mature couple in late 20's keen to house-sit. Happy to look after pets. Call Alice Cook 0274-922 512 or 06-752 7343.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

DOMESTIC Cleaner required for one morning or afternoon (4 hours) per fortnight. Central Oakura address. Please phone 06-752 7165.

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