



TDM

OAKURA

FEB 2016

OAKURA BEACH NEW YEAR CARNIVAL

Local band, *The Blistered Fingers* rocked us into the new year.

More photos on pages 11

(COVER PHOTO BY ROSIE MOYES FROM 'PHOTOS FOR YOU')



Leo Baas

Lifestyle & Rural Specialist



TSB Realty



leo.baas@tsbrealty.co.nz

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TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

THE TEAM

Co-ordinator/Features:

Kim Ferens
06 751 1519
0274 126 117
kim@thetom.co.nz

Advertising:

Kim Ferens
06 751 1519
0274 126 117
kim@thetom.co.nz

Graphics:

Ron Stratford, 751 9233
ronstratford@gmail.com

The TOM Group Ltd
22 Sutton Rd, RD4, NP

Email:

kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone: 0800 THE TOM

www.thetom.co.nz

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

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM?

Phone 0800 THE TOM or click "contribute" at www.thetom.co.nz

TOM dates to remember for March issue:

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EDITORIAL

I hope everyone had a relaxing and happy Christmas and New Year break.

I went to Oakura Beach between Christmas and New Year for my first swim of the season - the water was freezing - I couldn't get in further than my belly button. I haven't had a chance since to try again but I'm hoping the water has warmed up. Just wish I was a kid again when the water temperature didn't matter - I remember swimming in the sea in October!

It looks like the Beach Carnival was a great day out for the thousands who turned out so congratulations and thank you to the organising committee, volunteers and locals who all helped make it a great day - no rain helps too!

I've recently been in Auckland and it was stinking hot up there. It made me appreciate once again how lucky we are to live here. If you go to the beach in Auckland (one of the many) they are packed. We have so many beaches to go to and they are never overcrowded (except NYD!) - yeah for beaches!

Here's to a happy and prosperous 2016!

Kim



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Mayor Andrew Judd

Hello everyone!

I hope you all had a relaxing New Year and have eased into what will undoubtedly be a busy 2016.

At the Council we have restarted our regular six-weekly rounds of community board meetings, standing committee meetings and Council meetings.

You're very welcome to take part in these meetings – you can follow the debates by turning up to a meeting or watching a live stream (of a standing committee or Council meeting) via the web, or make a public comment on a topic of importance to you, or make a deputation on an item on the meeting agenda.

I encourage people to get involved in local government as it is feedback from residents that helps the Council to focus its energies on the areas that are important to our communities.

You can get involved as an individual, or as part of a community group or organisation.

If you want to speak at a community board, committee or Council meeting but you're not sure what to do, please get in touch with us at 06-759 6060 or enquiries@npdc.govt.nz and we'll help you out.

Also, you can contact directly any community board member, Councillor or myself if you want to talk through an issue. All of our contact details are online at newplymouthnz.com, under The Council and its People, so please get in touch if you want to talk to someone one-on-one.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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Puke Ariki
MUSEUM LIBRARIES TOURIST INFORMATION



Oakura Library

Happy New Year!

We've been a very busy library this summer. Our summer reading programme ended on a high note with a popular pirate show finale. We had weekly visits from 40 children and even those initially reluctant children showed enthusiasm with regular library check-ins. Thank you to Caitlyn for helping us out with this programme.

Crackerjacks will resume Thursday February 18th at 10am. Join us for a fun-filled pre-school story time.

If you are stuck on what to read pick up a copy of our Great Summer Reads or follow the link on our library catalogue.

Some examples of the titles listed getting great reviews are: Cecelia Ahern's *The Marble Collector*, Kate Atkinson's *A God in Ruins*, and Jojo Moyes *After You*. Some are perfect for lazy days: Janet Evanovich *The Scam*, John Grisham *The Rogue Lawyer*, or Nicholas Sparks' *See Me*. Others are ideal for when you crave a meaty, thought provoking read. Geraldine Brooks *The Secret Chord*, Vida Vendela *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty*, Chigozie Obioma *The Fishermen*, or Anne Enright *The Green Road*.

Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is a very clever dystopian novel that stays with you long after you've read the last page. I'm in awe of the premise of the novel and her grasp of the human psyche.

For all the *Star Wars* fans we offer graphic novels and young adult novels to read the iconic stories as well as the *Lego Star Wars* books.

Our meeting room is available to the community for free bookings. It is a quiet, light filled room off the library ideal for book groups etc.

Charlie and Vincenzo

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National - Looking Forward to a Busy Year

Happy New Year to everyone! Well the year is now well and truly underway, with many of us now back to work after some incredible weather in Taranaki over the holiday break.

It has been a good time to get out and about in the province, with so many great events and places to go with family and friends.

I'm looking forward to another busy year, and although Parliament does not begin again in Wellington until February, this month is most certainly busy with local projects and meetings, constituency work and the ongoing business to attend to with the Select Committees that I Chair.

As an MP, one of the most important things to me is supporting families and households. I know the issues that matter to our community are a stronger economy and more jobs, better frontline health and education services, and a safer New Zealand.

Jobs and wages are growing – 34,000 new jobs in the past year with a further 195,000 people expected to be in work by mid-2020. Wages are growing considerably faster than the cost of living and the average wage is expected to increase \$6000 to \$63,500 within five years.

Our economy is performing solidly with economic growth over the next few years expected to average 2.7 per cent a year.

Reduced ACC levies, with more to come, are helping businesses and households, as is the roll out of ultra-fast broadband and investment of billions in roads, schools, and hospitals.

Businesses are confident and hiring more staff and more Kiwis are voting with their feet and either staying in New Zealand or coming home.

We're continuing to see improved results from our public services in areas that really matter – such as better health care, lower crime, higher educational achievement, and more New Zealanders moving off welfare into work.

We've fulfilled our promise of returning to surplus in 2014/15 and we will continue to focus on keeping a tight

JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

Office hours 9am - 4.30pm Mon-Fri

A: Corner Gill & Liardet Streets

P: 06 759 1363

E: newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

W: www.jonathanyoung.co.nz



National
www.national.org.nz



rein on spending, running surpluses, and paying down debt.

Around 750,000 children under 13 now have access to free GP visits and prescriptions, paid parental leave went up last year and will increase again in April, and our HomeStart programme is helping young Kiwi families buy their first home.

The Korean Free Trade Agreement, signed last year, is helping farmers and businesses and next month (February) we will sign the Trans Pacific Partnership – New Zealand's biggest ever free trade deal – worth around \$2.7 billion to our economy by 2030.

After recharging the batteries I'm heading into the 2016 parliamentary year focused, energised, and full of ideas to keep Taranaki and New Zealand moving ahead. I want this country to seize the many opportunities available over the next few years to get more jobs and higher wages to support New Zealanders and their families.

nickiprocter

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Kaitake Community Board

Well the summer holiday weather turned out to be a cracker. There was very little rain in December and January (through to the 18th as I write this) has been the same. Of course we all know we are obviously guaranteed further hot sunny weather, it's always the case as soon as the kids head back to school! While the crowds have departed there is still a pretty large cohort of locals enjoying our superb environment in many ways. Let's hope the summer weather lasts past WOMAD and through to Easter and beyond!

The Community Board and Oakura Focus Group await with much interest the feedback from the discussion document we put together and sent out to the community in the last TOM. The document has been developed to find out local residents' ideas about how you think our community should evolve over the next twenty or thirty years. The Council has already planned for Oakura to accommodate significant growth, putting in the sewerage scheme was part of that plan. This is an important opportunity to have your say!

The District Council is thinking long term and has adopted a Strategic Framework to help guide district-wide development over the next 30 years. The framework is supported by eight key directions that will steer development. Our document focus is on those directions and we have put our indicative ideas on maps and posed a number of localised questions to get you thinking. The key directions and our accompanying questions and maps are:

ENVIRONMENT (Oakura's natural features)

What is the priority for biodiversity access and enhancement?

Where do you want development on the coast and how do you want it to look?

What parts of the coastal area would you like to protect from further development?

Are there views to the ranges that should be identified and protected?

DESTINATION (Where do visitors fit into the local scheme of things)

What sort of multi sport facility is required? Is indoor space required? What is the spectator requirement? Should there be a health and well being hub as part of this facility?

What process is required for the site selection?

How can public places be made more accessible, safe and welcoming to all?

Have the correct shared pathways been identified?

COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS

Oakura is made up of many attributes that contribute to a strong local community. Strengthening and connecting local communities ensures they become successful, safe and liveable environments for residents.

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GROWTH, INDUSTRY AND TALENT (We lumped these three directions together):

Are the locations for residential growth in the right location

to provide for the next 10 years of growth? What density controls should new housing areas have?

Where are the key locations we should focus commercial growth? Is there a demand for office space? Are home businesses encouraged?

Would a rural lifestyle zone with design guides that reflect the existing character provide for appropriate lifestyle opportunities?

Is lifestyle development a suitable alternative to farming activity?

CENTRES (Local service centres like the Oakura 'CBD' serve an important function to the community, providing essential services and functioning as transport hubs and community meeting points.)

Should the district plan include policies and rules for small areas around the CBD in addition to design guides to encourage a mix of uses?

What is required to provide a safe and attractive centre for current and future residents?

Is there a need to look at the extent of commercial area so that it reflects the existing situation and provides for appropriate future growth?

Any individual or organisation can have their say about the future planning for Oakura. We welcome both general and detailed comment. Your submission will be incorporated into the final document which will be delivered to the Council for their use in relevant planning documents. The consultation period runs until the end of February so if you haven't already responded please do so. You can drop your responses off in the drop box at the Four Square or the Oakura School office or email them.

For me, now beginning my 46th year here these are the things that make the place special to me. First of all this dynamic environment is our place. There are the beaches, the ocean and the surf, a natural playground enjoyed by many people in different ways. It's a place to get away from the hustle and bustle. I love the realness of open spaces and the rural landscape. Then there is the proximity and connection between the ocean and national park, giving a real 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. There is that favourite commute/drive into and out of New Plymouth with wide views of the mountain, ranges, ocean and bluffs from Highway 45. This unique landscape gives many regular travellers a daily inspirational boost. There are tangata whenua links, cultural values to appreciate and sustain - keeping hold of our past and our local history. We are still relatively undeveloped and local interests still hold sway over outside interests to a degree. And many of us still know most of us. Bumping into friends and acquaintances somewhere in the village and having a catch-up chat is part of our way of life. If this touches a chord with you then do take the time to have your say. As part of this project we are also holding an information and ideas sharing meeting at Oakura Hall from 2pm on Saturday 13 February so come along and discuss your ideas with us there.

Well that's it for this month. On behalf of Keith, Paul, Mike and our appointed councillor Richard I do hope you have a great 2016.

Ka kite ano

Doug (06 752 7324 or douglashislop@gmail.com)

Web Design Tips from Rosie Moyes

AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER OFFERS ADVICE TO LOCALS ON CREATING A VISUALLY APPEALING WEBSITE FOR THEIR BUSINESS.

The new year can be the perfect time for budding entrepreneurs to get started on their business venture and in this digital era a website is often the first thing on the to do list. In order to support your business to produce visually appealing websites, local award winning Photographer and owner of Photos for You, Rosie Moyes would like to offer her top tips on utilising professional photographs to effectively market your business online.

Firstly, it's about quality not quantity, for more than one reason! With faster upload speeds now available, it's tempting to add as many images as possible to showcase your business but remember that for SEO (search engine optimisation) purposes, it's also vital to use text. Avoid bombarding viewers with too many images, which can confuse the message you are trying to get across and also take a long time to navigate through. Use your best images that will promote your business or products and appeal to your potential demographic.

Your home page image is also incredibly important to get right for immediate impact. Use your 'best', which is often your most high quality, image here and make sure it gives a good impression of your business. Make sure the image is loaded to the correct resolution to avoid slow response times, in this quick digital era; potential clients don't have minutes

(even seconds) to wait for your image to load.

Just as the first image on your home page is crucial to represent your business offering, your last image, often on the contact us page, can be just as important but often overlooked. This should be your next best image that says the most about you and your business, leaving the user with a powerful lasting impression.

Rosie has lived in Oakura for over 9 years with her husband and three children. She is heavily involved in the local community and is the professional photographer for the successful Oakura New Year's Day Carnival. She is a national award winning photographer for portrait and photo journalism images and puts her success down to her ability to focus on the emotion in an image, however, clients know that there is much more to this with her calming nature and eye for detail, she is able to capture the most incredible stories with just the use of a lens – a talent that is hard to come by in this day and age.

Her career has taken off in recent years with the creation of the Photos for You studio. Located in the heart of New Plymouth CBD, it is complete with unique infinity wall, sound proofing and state of the art lighting equipment, which is perfect for businesses requiring professional photos to enhance their brand. Whether it's team photos for a website or social media page or product shots to showcase the latest offerings, they can help to ensure you make the right impression to your target audience. Large teams can even attend in groups to minimise disruption at the office.

For professional photographs to help improve your website, contact Rosie on 06 757 2815 or email enquiries@photosforyou.co.nz.

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SPORTS



Kaitake Golf Club News

FROM THE FAIRWAY OFFICE

Sixteen days into January and the club welcomed 94 players to our annual Beachcombers Tournament. We noted that numbers were down on previous years and that the majority of entrants were from our own club. So thank you to everyone who took part and also to the staff and volunteers who made the day happen. The results are as follows

Ladies Division Winners

Best Gross: Sally Kwon 82.

Best Nett: Sharlene Robinson 65.

Stableford: Janice Farrant 37.

Mens Intermediate

Best Gross: Barry Boon 76.

Best Nett: Barnie Proctor 64.

Stableford: A Rothwell 39.

Mens Senior Winners

Best Gross: Paul Suniel 72.

Best Nett: John Haylock 67.

Stableford: Kurt Hikaka 38.

Mens Junior

Best Gross: Len Frost 82.

Best Nett: Greg Jans 61.

Stableford: Dennis Harvey 42.

SUBS:

A reminder that subs for this year are due now. There is a grace period until February 29, however we would appreciate early membership reconciliation.

Thank you to those who have filed their membership.

COMING UP -

Kaitake W.End Mens Weekend Pennants 7th February.

Kaitake W.End Womens Pennants 14th February.

CHIPPERS

This is our program for young players up to age of 12 years. Dom Squatriti is our convenor and will update as follows -

Instruction/Training /Question Time/ - every alternate Sunday 10.30am - 12noon.

Play a few holes, instruction and all the rest that follows this amazing get together.

Next date to be confirmed. Please contact club for further info.

MIDWEEK LADIES

AGM results - In the Chair we have Jenny Ross with second in command Debra Johnston. Secretary Sharlene Robinson and Treasurer Joy Greenlees.

This group of ladies will tee off usual time February 9th 2016 .

MIDWEEK 9 HOLE NEWS

The midweek 9 hole ladies gathered for their end of year luncheon and prize giving recently. There was a good cross section of trophy recipients with just about everyone receiving an accolade or two. Special mention must go to Ngaire Grundy who received recognition for her awesome performance in the National Home Links Competition.

"The Sue Bunt Salver " taking first place in Taranaki and 12th overall in New Zealand. To make the presentation and join the group for lunch was Shirley Hoskings, President of the TKI Womens' Golf Association.

The Summer Cup sponsored by Jo Wilson-West has been in full swing since the finish of the annual programme with around 25 players posting scores on the board.

Convenors for the next period to 2017 will be - Jo Wilson -West and Heather O'Sullivan.

WEEKEND LADIES

The weekend ladies held a trip recently to Te Ngutu to compete in their Xmas Hamper. Consensus said that they should stay and compete in Hawera and also at Inglewood on the way home. Not a lot of decent results they say from this outing but they had a jolly good time. Oh they are being so modest . . . !

PRESIDENT'S CORNER JANUARY 2016

Summer finally arrived over the holiday period which seemed to encourage a lot of use of the course and from what was observed, there has been a tremendous number of members, family and friends and visitors playing golf on the course. This great to see. The more people we can get on the course, golfers and non golfers giving golf a go, the better.

The course is in terrific condition and huge thanks must go to Dom and his team of helpers for this, great work folks.

Alban decided to keep twilight going during the holiday break, this proved popular with members and visitor alike, thanks Alban and helpers.

I attended a Taranaki Seniors day at Manukorihi on 11th January at which Kaitake members were to fore in most divisions, well done.

Get out and enjoy the course while good weather is with us, bring a friend or two and introduce them to golf.

Good Golfing and enjoy.

President Gary Hickford

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Oakura Pony Club

The summer months are passing in a frenzy of clinics, competitions and events. This is the busy time of year for equestrians, when the months of training and disciplined work culminate in the various competitions throughout the region and even further afield. Some riders will concentrate their efforts on the local events, many held in Hawera which makes great use of both the indoor arena and the large grassed area in the center of the showgrounds.

Others will have their sights set on Horse of the Year, the annual National event that attracts the very best of New Zealand's equestrian talent, held in Hastings at the end of the season.

Taranaki, and in particular Oakura, has a proud history of producing and supporting some of the best riders in the country, and our local Pony Club has helped pave the way for many of these riders. As a sports facility it is used by a large population that does not just include those lucky enough to live within the immediate Oakura boundary. Cycling on the roads beyond the Village, you'll see horses on Timaru, Greenwood, Petone, Koru, Plymouth and upper Carrington Rds who use the Oakura Pony Club as their local arena, as well as those from Ahu Ahu and Weld Rds who can more easily access the grounds by a quick warmup ride along the beach. Our club is also used by many others as a training ground and also as an alternative to the beach for the 6 months of the summer months when the council restrictions make it difficult for some riders because of work or family ties.

Riding is a sport unlike most others as it has a variety of disciplines which suit a variety of riders of all ages and abilities. To still be competing at Olympian level at age 60, as Mark Todd does, against riders half his age in such a physically and mentally demanding sport is pretty amazing, although not unusual in horse riding. I met a woman in her early 80's who has continued to ride until just recently and is still heavily involved in judging and development of young competitive riders locally.

Most people involved in community sport will tell you the real challenge there now is in keeping young people, and particularly girls, in sport. At about age 15 they tend to wander away from sport, preferring the company of friends, either hanging out in town or on their phones. The kids you see riding their ponies at the Club, on the roads or on the beach, are fully involved in their sport, every day, for many hours. Their horses need feeding, twice a day; covers changing throughout the day depending on the weather; poo picked up and paddocks moved every day; gear cleaned and horses groomed. And those horses need to be ridden and trained every day. Pre-dawn starts to prepare for competitions around the region as well as a routine that can't really vary, make this a sport that keeps our members happily occupied, fit and healthy and involved in a sport that they can continue to excel at right through to late adulthood.

Having the facilities that support their sport available to them and in a location that is accessible will ensure the continued involvement of these kids, and others in the future.



Above: Rylie Matchett on Coby and below: Saskia Butland on Scoobie.



Oakura Bowling Club

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Allan Bridgeman won the highly coveted Club Championship Single Competition in a high quality win over Adam Collins. It was a closely fought match with both players thrilling the small crowd with their skills in all aspects of the game. It was Bridgeman's third senior singles championship title.

The Club Championship Pairs Competition is down to the final two teams. Adam Collins and Rex Phillips (2015 reigning champions) will face the in-form duo of Wayne Robinson and Ray Haslip after both pairs had impressive semifinal victories. Well done to both teams and good bowling for the final.

The Collins Trophy and the President's Trophy are scheduled to be played over February, March and April. The Collins Trophy is played in a 2-4-2 pairs format consisting of a senior player in combination with either a junior or social member. The President's Trophy is a handicap based singles competition that provides a level playing field for all participants. All members of the community are welcome to come on down and enjoy the hospitality of the club while watching these unique and interesting competitions.

INTERCLUB TOURNAMENTS

With 6 rounds to play Oakura is comfortably leading the standings in the mid week Avery Cup with a healthy 77% win ratio. In both the Gilmour Cup and Shield competitions, Oakura is currently positioned mid-table.

Division 2 Interclub play saw Oakura fall tantalisingly short by 2 points (1 game) of securing top spot and promotion to the Bill Smee Division 1 Trophy. It was a great team effort by all players and the club is looking forward to the challenge of going one further and securing top position next season.

BOWLER OF THE MONTH

This month's award goes to Adam Collins. Adam has reached the final of all four club championships played to date, represented Taranaki and has made the transition to a quality Skip seamlessly. Well done Adam and keep up the excellent bowling.

CLUB NEWS

A Pat Bishop led team from West End took out the Oakura Pharmacy sponsored triples tournament played over at Oakura during the Christmas break. A beautiful day greeted the teams and it was fantastic to see a number of new and old faces enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of the tournament.

It is with sadness we mention the passing of past Oakura Bowling Club member, Clarry Norgate. Clarry's great sense of humour and enthusiasm for life will be sorely missed by all.

The Underarm Bowler



KAYAK FISHING CLUB

Happy New Year to all, the fishing has been a mixed bag over the Christmas / New Year period.

The water temperature has been a little down on last year but will get better and better as summer moves on.

Surfcasters have been doing well with one camper I spoke to catching a big snapper at Weld Road over Christmas along with a few gurnard.

We have done well surfcasting to the north at Rapanui and the Mokau area. The boats are starting to do well in depths from 40 metres, but boats and kayaks are still being plagued by sharks, seems to be lots of blue sharks and seven gill sharks around.



Snapper caught New Year's Day inside port Taranaki.

For the kayakers there are lots of gurnard around and kingfish are showing up in the port, plus I was lucky enough to catch a good size snapper in the port on New Year's Day.

The next event on the club calendar is the kayak gurnard hunt on the 20th of Feb. \$5.00 entry, some great prizes up for grabs, enter at Canoe and Kayak New Plymouth. This event is open to club and non club members.

Entry forms are out now for the Kayak Classic in April, the early bird prize for this year is a Heli Tranz trip for two to Great Barrier Island, plus (Thanks to Tasman Toyota) a new 2016 Hilux to use for the weekend to get you to Auckland and back.

Entry forms available at Heydon Priest or online at kayakfishingclassic.org.nz

Cheers, Garry.



TROPFEST

NEW ZEALAND THE WORLD'S LARGEST SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Tropfest – dubbed the “world’s largest short film” returns to the TSB Bowl of Brooklands on February 27th. Sixteen films will screen to a live outdoor audience, one filmmaker’s life will be forever changed and thousands will be entertained, mesmerised, confused and surprised.

THE NIGHT

TROPFEST attendance guide - everything you need to know!

WHEN Saturday February 27, 2016.

WHERE TSB Bowl of Brooklands – entrances are via Brooklands Park Drive, The Racecourse (via Saddle Row), Pukekura Park Dell and Kaimata St.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropfest is **free!** However a voluntary koha/donation at the entrance would be appreciated.

SCHEDULE

- Entertainment & market stalls from 4pm.
- Films screen from 6.30pm.
- Awards ceremony at 9.30pm.

WHAT TO BRING

- Sunblock.
- Picnic blanket.
- Food and drink.
- A jacket for when the sun goes down.
- Cash for the food and retail stalls.

FOOD & ALCOHOL

- Festival goers are welcome to bring picnics into the festival site. Alcohol will not be sold on-site but the event is BYO with a limit of four standard drinks per person. Security will demonstrate zero tolerance for drunken and disorderly behaviour.

PARKING

- Brooklands Park Drive will be closed to vehicles.
- The Saddle Row entrance via the Racecourse and Coronation St has parking, however this is limited.
- Disabled parking will be available on the Gables Lawn, you'll need to show your mobility parking permit to gain access up Brooklands Park Drive.

ALL FILMS RATED M

Please note all Tropfest NZ films are rated M and are suitable for mature audiences.



From left Sam Worthington and John Polson at Tropfest AUS 2013.



Tropfest NZ 2013 awards ceremony.



From left Denise L'Estrange-Corbet, Tessa Novak and Millie Lynskey at Tropfest 2013.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 2016

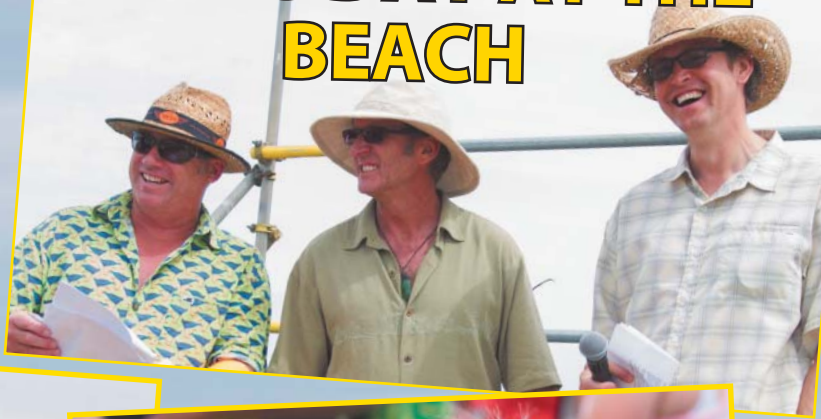
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TSI: DREAM

A CRACKER OF A NEW YEAR'S DAY AT THE BEACH



Photos courtesy of
Rosie Moyes



GETTING WET



Oakura Boardriders

Finally summer arrived with a great run of weather through Xmas and New Year, great to see the motor camp and beach packed with everyone enjoying the great weather and surf.

The water has taken a while to warm up but finally it's got there, our surf lessons have been running smoothly and the teams have been very busy, headed up by Brian Clark with Paige Hareb and the Vertigo team of Jono Heath, Cole Baker and Neil Pullen. All those new club members have been benefitting from the club's coaches, giving many their first taste of surfing through the holiday period and we are still getting enquiries for lessons, all of which is helping to swell the club membership.



Surf coaches Neil Pullen and Cole Baker.

The Xmas party the week before Xmas was well patronized and enjoyed by all, great to see the clubrooms back to times of old and well patronised, thanks to all the helpers that make this happen.

With the holiday period coming to an end the clubrooms upgrade will be continuing and the new skate park planning resuming with some action happening soon with any luck.

The Taranaki Grom contests will be starting soon with Oakura hosting the first early February also the club Longboard contest in memory of Mike Christiansen will be run on the most favourable weekend in February, keep an eye on the Facebook page for details.

The Surfing NZ Nationals are being held in Dunedin this year starting as we go to press so all news and results next month, good luck to all the Taranaki contestants.

That's all for this month hoping for more great weather and surf, get out there!

*Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders,
President; Luke Florence, 027 493 0819,
Secretary; Paul Lobb, 027 244 4297.*

New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Camp

For the third successive year NPOB has run its ever expanding surf sport camp and it is proving to be a great success in terms of team building and surf life saving skill development. The focus of the camp is on fun, first and foremost, interspersed with challenging training sessions that develop competition strategies, skills and techniques preparing our athletes for national surf life saving events including Ocean Athletes, for our juniors, and Surf Life Saving Nationals, for our senior athletes.

Parents and Club Members came together to feed, train and entertain thirty five surf life savers ranging in age from eleven to nineteen. The new kitchen facilities in our upgraded club house made the catering side of the camp so much easier than what we have been used to in the past.



The BBQ was also fired up and a production line of good quality food was prepared by parents to keep hungry bodies fuelled. Deano Spicer led a team of coaches including Mitchell Owen, Ayla Dunlop Barrett and Dyllan Dunlop Barrett to train beach sprints, flags, surf swimming, body surfing and boarding. All of our athletes benefited from great competition and excellent skill development.

Our local surf life saving club continues to enjoy positive development in our younger ranks at present and this camp is one of many initiatives that is contributing to this. We are looking forward to a great season of surf sport and to the ongoing development of our club's future.



Road Safety Around Our Children

This is a timely reminder for everyone, as our children go back to school and the general community well and truly go back to work. Almost two years ago the speed limit through Oakura changed from 70kmh down to 50kmh. This change came about after many hours of hard work and campaigning by our school and various community groups, and as a result NZTA made the change. From a personal point of view I was pleased to see this change and truly believed it would benefit and help protect the safety of our community.

Living locally, and patrolling the school crossing every couple of weeks, unfortunately, parents, teachers and I have noticed that it seems to be our own local community that hasn't quite got the message! Sadly excess speed continues to be a problem through our village.

I work at the New Plymouth Station and whenever colleagues patrol the area, checking vehicles for speed I ask the patrolling officer where the offenders come from, and every time I am met with the same answer, "It's the locals!"

I love our village, our community and beautiful Taranaki and want it to remain that way. Please, please, please can I ask everyone to check their speed? Please, stick to the 50kmh limit. Contrary to popular belief, police do not enjoy giving out speeding tickets, and I can honestly say, with my hand on my heart, that every single member of police hates attending fatal and serious injury crashes. Is a crash like this what it will take for us to slow down? Someone has to die or be permanently disabled to make us slow down? Just think for a moment of the



widespread hurt a death or serious injury causes to the victim's family, friends, relatives, school buddies and work colleagues. Does it become a little more personal now? And will these thoughts help you to slow down? I would like to think so.

The Wairau Road and South Road intersection is a very tricky place to cross as a pedestrian at the best of times, and speeding vehicles make the task much more difficult and dangerous. That difficulty vastly increases when you are trying to cross the road with animals, or more importantly, small children in tow. Please Oakura community, please, check your speed, slow down to the 50kmh speed limit, well before you reach the 50kmh signs at either end of the village. We all lead busy lives and everyone is always rushing to be somewhere, but if we can check our speed and slow down it may help save a life, a life of someone you may know.

Think about it, then do it, please?

Safe Roads, Safer Families . . . !

A concerned local and police officer

The Joy of Sewing

"Sewing is about patience, not how fast, but how well," says Jenny.



Jenny and Jan

It was in this very publication some months ago I spied an advertisement promoting Jenny Imrie's Sewing Classes. I hadn't sewn for twenty years!

Reading the ad, I felt 'sew' inspired me to learn again. I imagined all these spectacular fashion creations I was going to make and found myself calling Jenny to inquire if there was space. There was. She explained I would have some information posted out with instructions on purchasing items necessary such as fabric, a pattern, scissors, thread, measuring tape, tailors chalk and more. Nothing too ambitious to start with.

Once I received my sewing instructions I was hellbent on finding all these accoutrements. It was thrilling, the start of a new hobby. The fact that I did not have a machine did not matter. The purpose-built class room in C Block at WITT is light and spacious with spare sewing machines on stand-by. Four overlockers are lined up, plus two large cutting tables, three ironing stations, a giant mirror and changing room. Ten students is an ideal number for morning, afternoon or evening classes.

Jenny taught at the Witt Fashion Design Course twenty seven years ago and has been teaching her own classes for the last twenty one years, inspiring countless other seamstresses and budding tailors, including Jan Hardie-Boys of Oakura. Jan joined Jenny's class ten years ago and proved "a natural."

"She is very fashion-wise and up with the play," says Jenny, a pattern maker by trade, who went on to mentor Jan to teach and gain the technical knowledge and understanding of clothing construction.

TV shows such as *Project Runway* and *The Great British Sewing Bee* help swell the numbers and promote the joy of sewing.

While it can be such a solitary pursuit, the classes enable a social aspect of like-minds, exchanging ideas, sharing patterns and affirming the positives. All under the observant eyes of Jenny and Jan who space their time from pupil to pupil issuing tasks and guiding through the whole process. Students in their classes range from ages 14 up to 80.

Jan can remember the first item she made, a very simple pair of pants. Her daughter was attending Montessori and this enabled Jan to spend all day at the Wednesday class.

"It became very addictive and the fact you had this uninterrupted time dedicated to sewing, it is a great escape where you can concentrate on making something really beautiful in a good atmosphere. I tend to make things that supplement what I already have," she says, even though she admits to "living in jeans", she likes to make tops out of beautiful fabric and quickly points out you don't need to buy much for a top so there is the economic benefit as well as personal satisfaction.

These days she usually has two or three garments on the go and has learnt that it's one thing to sew, but to teach it and pass on the knowledge is quite another, but clearly Jan loves it and so does Jenny.

"We feel sorry for women who don't sew. What do they do?"

Jan recently made a retro 1940s ball dress, from a Vogue Retro pattern, firstly using an old sheet and felt pen as a trial sew first before committing to the actual garment. This is known as a 'toile' in French, a test garment. Jan has also made a leather tote bag which was "very difficult."

The sewing classes enable better fitting opportunities too with pattern adjustments to custom fit. Jenny warns to never assume that the sizes will be right and not to be discouraged. Pattern sizes have changed and all bodies are different. Learning to tailor provides a professional fit and successful patterns can be shared with classmates.

As well as patterns changing, interfacings have vastly improved on the bulkier stuff that was around 30 years ago. Now the modern quality interfacings (available in class) are simply ironed on to help give structure where needed. Sewing machines are more modern and fabrics have changed, offering greater scope to your wardrobe if you know where to go. Just ask Jenny or Jan. They have sourced and developed relationships with fabric stores around NZ and overseas.

'Sew' it goes, I am the proud owner of a sewing machine and an overlocker and will be looking forward to more classes. See you there!

By Shelley Landon-Lane

DRESSMAKING and TAILORING CLASSES

TERM 1, 2016 - Spaces Still Available

Starting Wednesday, 10th February

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Ann and Claire at the Jubilee stand at the Oakura Beach NYD Carnival.

CHANGES FOR 2016 AT OAKURA SCHOOL

Over the holidays many changes took place at our school - our intermediate classrooms were refurbished and the Gallery is being transformed into a new teaching space to accommodate our growing roll. Three new teachers joined our team: Mrs Amanda O'Dowda (yrs 3&4 team leader), Mrs Anna Trinder (yrs 5&6 teacher) and Mr James Willson (yrs 7&8 team leader). We have enjoyed getting to know them and welcoming them into our school community.

The intermediate area of our school has grown to now include three classrooms. We took the opportunity to refurbish these rooms over the holidays, making them more suitable for a twenty first century learning environment.

Over the years, teaching has gone through many changes - tools for learning have gone from chalkboards, to whiteboards, to data projectors, to interactive whiteboards and now to individual digital devices. Teaching philosophies have developed from rows of desks with teachers teaching from the front of the room - to teachers working beside students facilitating learning, through to current practices of team teaching, student directed learning and collaborative, flexible learning environments.

Our newly refurbished rooms will accommodate these changing needs. Access ways through all three rooms will allow for collaborative teaching. Students no longer stay in one classroom all the time. At times there may be more than one teacher in one room and sometimes students will move through to another room to access learning opportunities offered by another teacher.

Smaller rooms off the main classroom space, called breakout spaces, allow for individual and small group learning. A range of furniture also allows for flexible learning choices - students may stand at desks, work around a group table, work on the floor or work at an individual desk.

These adaptations reflect the changes being made in many adult work environments. By providing similar environments for students we aim to make them better prepared for the future, aware of their own learning styles and more in control of their own learning. We look forward to showing these changes to our wider school community on the classroom tours during the School Jubilee on March 4 - 6, 2016.

Lynne Hepworth

Health & Wellbeing

Ladies!

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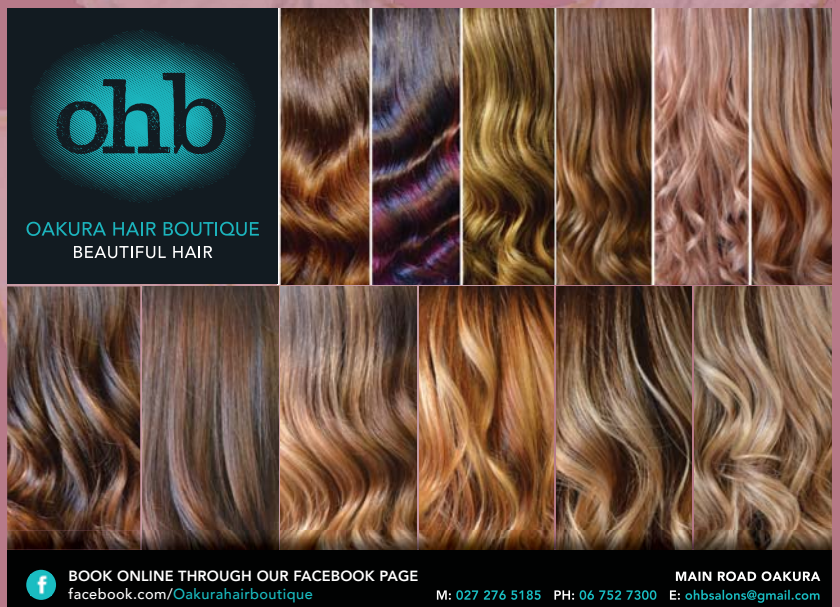
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omata school news

COMING EVENTS

February

- 11 Information Evening 5:30-7:30pm.
15-17 Year 5-8 Cycle training.
25 Year 5-8 Camp Out at School.
26 Omata Triathlon.

March

- 1 Swimming Displays:
R6 9:15am (at Kawaroa).
R2/3 11:10am - 12:15pm.
R1 1:30pm.
R5 2:00pm.
R4 2:30pm.
15 Y5/6 Athletics at Okato.
16 Y7/8 Athletics at Okato.
015 Prize-giving.

Congratulations to our 2015 cup winners below and to all our leaving Year 8's beginning their first high school year, we wish you all the very best for the future.

Community Cup for Arts and Culture: Grace Glennie.

Home and School Cup for Sporting Excellence: Chris Logan.

Staff Cup for Responsibility: Elisha Williams.

Principal's Cup for Leadership: Grace Glennie.

Board of Trustees' Cup for Academic Excellence: Megan Jones.



2015 cup winners, from Left: Grace Glennie, Megan Jones and Elisha Williams - absent Chris Logan.



Omata School.

BOT UPDATE

The new flexible learning area, Keruru, is already being put to good use and with roll growth being strong is going to be a great asset for our school.

In the last term of 2015, we had a number of curriculum reports across the board table. The first of which was music, drama and visual arts which now offers such a wide range of experiences for our students, exposing our children to a rich array of what falls under the umbrella that is 'The Arts'. Stuart and Jemma also presented the maths and statistics report highlighting the AliM programme which has proved a great success, not only for the students but also for staff alike with teaching knowledge and strategies filtering through all staff. The board has appointed two new full time teachers for the start of the new school year 2016, Jemma Glasgow and Kelly Madden. We look forward to working with both Jemma and Kelly, "Welcome to Omata". Throughout the year there are many volunteers that slip in and out of the school unnoticed by most, working behind the scenes to help the school in all manner of ways. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, it is much appreciated.

I was fortunate enough to be part of the Year 7/8 camp to Wellington last term and I am very proud to be able to write, that the behaviour and manner in which our children carried themselves over the course of the week was outstanding. This was a great example of the outdoor classroom at work with some amazing learning experiences for the senior students.

Famish Logan, Bot Chairman

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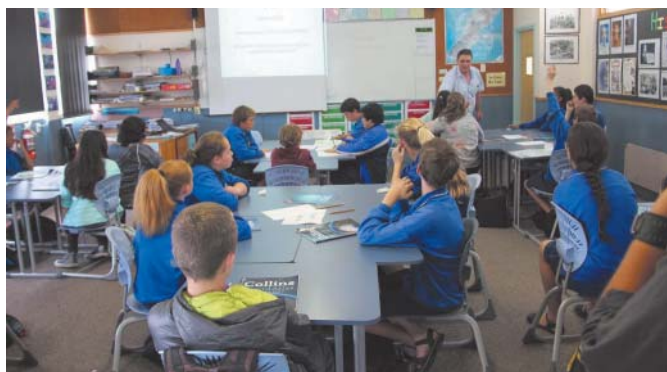
Spotswood College

FAREWELL 2015, WELCOME 2016

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for young people as they enter into the next stage of their learning and development; - perhaps a new school, a new class, some new subjects, new teachers and new learning opportunities.

Whilst exciting, it is also a time of heightened anxiety as children familiarize themselves with the challenges of 'next step learning', often within new environments.

At Spotswood College we have been working with Year 8 students for almost eight months to assist their transition confidently to high school. We encourage parents to be particularly vigilant during the first few weeks of school to ensure children feel comfortable in their new learning environment and settle easily into their learning routines. Please contact us early should any concerns arise.



Transition day for Year 8 students – November 2015.

As a teacher it is a privilege to see the significant growth and development that young people make in the course of a school year (if only, as adults, we could maintain that same level of learning!).

Our end of year standard testing results have demonstrated good learning progress for our juniors through 2015. We have been very encouraged that the plans we put in place for continually raising levels of student achievement are being realised.

Our Junior Prizegiving (both in-house and formal) were events which celebrated excellence as well as personal achievement and personal bests.

TOP SCHOLAR AWARDS – YEAR 9

Top Year 9 scholars for 2015 were: Tane Whitehead, Chris Hobson, Larissa Wilkinson, Harry Younger, Gemma Clarges, Roan Upson.

Overall Top Scholar for Academic Excellence in Year 9 for 2015 was Keegan Joe.

TOP SCHOLAR AWARDS – YEAR 10

Top Year 10 scholars for 2015 were: Xavier Johnson, Caitlin Brown, Georgia Strachan, Katie Pullen, Adelaide Campell, Tanesha Bower.

Overall Top Scholar for Academic Excellence in Year 10 for 2015 was Nadia Hill.



Junior Prize giving – 11 December 2015

2016

PROPERTY PROJECTS

During 2016 we are expecting our property upgrade to begin in earnest. The first project will be the construction of our new Special Needs Unit followed by the building of our new Gymnasium. We are very pleased with our new Astro Turf courts. Special thanks to NZCT and TSB for assistance in funding this valuable asset and to Mr Gayton for managing much of the project.

TERM DATES

	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>END DATE</u>
Term 1	Monday 1 February.	Friday 15 April.
	<i>11 weeks, includes Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday (a school holiday).</i>	
Term 2	Monday 2 May.	Friday 8 July.
	<i>10 weeks, includes Queen's Birthday.</i>	
Term 3	Monday 25 July.	Friday 23 September.
	<i>9 weeks.</i>	
Term 4	Monday 10 October.	Tuesday 13 December.
	<i>9 weeks, includes Labour Day.</i>	

We look forward to keeping you informed of our activities and progress through 2016 in our monthly TOM updates. If at anytime you have any queries regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to a great year.

Mark Bowden, Principal

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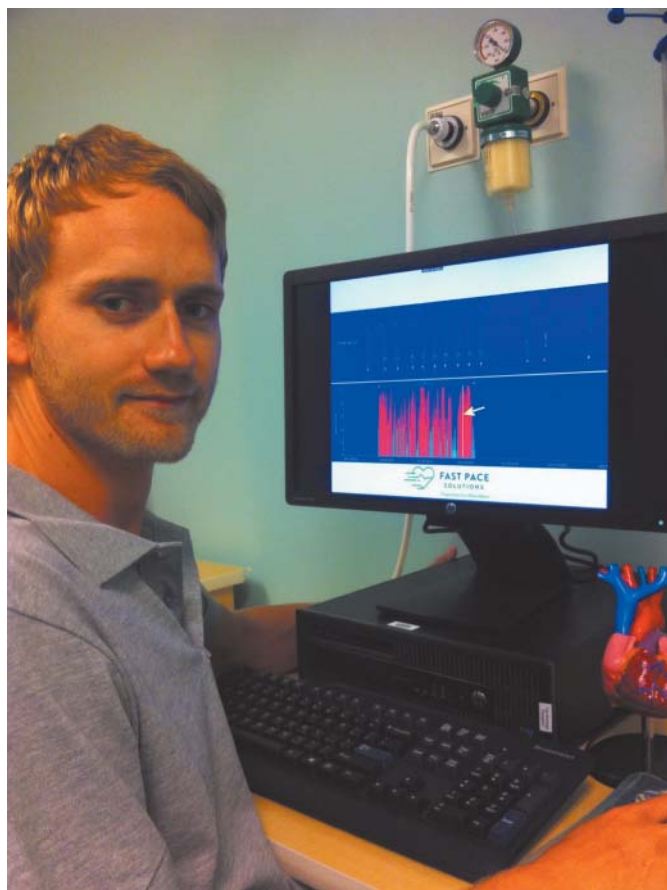


Local Resident Creates Innovative Regional Healthcare Service

Fast Pace Solutions Ltd is the first and only private Cardiac Diagnostic service in Taranaki that has been set up by Taranaki Base Hospital's local qualified Cardiac Physiologist and Oakura resident, Michael Maxim.

Acting on the frustration of many patients with the lack of alternative, prompt services in the region, FPS has been established to first and foremost cater to patients needing a Holter Monitor or Cardiac Event Recorder, who are currently on long waiting lists at the hospital.

The service, which is the first of its kind in New Zealand, will lease diagnostic tools directly to GP practices throughout the region to enable a fast response to worrying heart symptoms that would usually be referred to the hospital waiting list. Now, due to this innovative service, GP's can apply a heart monitor to a patient within the first appointment and deliver the results within a few days, saving numerous trips to the hospital



Michael at his computer.



that will save the region's healthcare system valuable resources and time.

Michael Maxim, Managing Director of Fast Pace Solutions said: "Our aim is to invest in a first-class Ambulatory Cardiac service that will help reduce hospital waiting lists and give symptomatic patients the chance to get an immediate diagnosis. Ideally the service will also be utilised by rural centres outside of New Plymouth to patients who often have to make a two hour round-trip to have monitors fitted at Base Hospital only to have to return them the next day."

The service has been set up after discussions with/and the approval of local cardiologists and physicians, and will be available to the public through GP Practices who wish to invest in the service from early February 2016.

The first GP practice to get on board with this service is Carefirst on Tukapa Street and they will be offering this from February 2016. Until other practices can offer this service, GP's can refer their patients directly to Carefirst or local Cardiologist, Dr Ternouth, for a Holter Monitor or Cardiac Event Recorder.

Doctor Ternouth, the region's only Cardiologist doing any private

practice said, "Being able to offer our patients this unique service will not only help ease the pressure on the public system that has a significant waiting list, but also help us to get a speedy diagnosis in someone suffering from a wide range of heart rhythm issues."

Cardiovascular disease is still the leading cause of death in NZ and it is estimated that of the 110,000 people in Taranaki, 41% in our community are at risk of heart disease during their lifetime and this is growing due to an aging population.

Michael continued: "We have set up a Facebook page to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and educate the local community on simple lifestyle changes that should see these stats reduce in the future. We also urge patients who utilize this service to give feedback in order for us to continue to provide the best possible solutions for our community."

3 SOLD IN DECEMBER BY RACHEL



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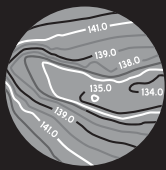


Arden Place Christmas Fun

The annual Christmas Street Party for Arden Place and Shearer Drive was a wonderful night with up to 50 people coming to enjoy the evening barbecue. It was lovely to see so many families and once again to be able to introduce ourselves and welcome the new people to our streets.

Santa made his appearance, arriving in style in Rod Smith's Mark I Zodiac car to the delight of the children, and I know most had a big handful of sweets from the lolly scramble so special thanks to Santa.

Bernice Duff.



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Functional Crosstraining by Nakifit. Saturdays 7.40am.
Ph 021 297 5465 or nakifit@gmail.com

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.

Move It or Lose It - fitness classes. Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

Oakura Bowling and Social Club. Bowling tournaments begin September through to April with both mid-week and weekend games. For information contact Steve Muller on 06 757 4399.

Oakura Playcentre. 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Kate Garner on 021-254 4769.

Oakura Pony Club. Contact Robin King ph 751 0300.

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 Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

Omata Playgroup. Meets every 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 - Ladies Midweek Competition.
Tuesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching.
Wednesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching / Hot Shots Tennis.
6pm-7.30pm - Ladies practice night.
Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm - A Grade players practice.
Friday 4pm-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.
Saturday 9am-4pm - Sofie Cup and A grade Competition.
Contact Club Secretary, Jackie Mitchell on 06 752 7013.

Pippi's PT and circuit training, every week day morning 9.30am-10.30am and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5.30-6.30pm. More details call Pip 021 1041 851.

Probus Club. Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Barry Goble 752 7254, or Betty West 752 7816.

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. Oakura Hall. Saturday mornings. Pre-school dance classes 9:30 - 10 am. Beginners' Ballet dance class 10.00 - 10:45 am. Contact Val on 752 7743.

Also classes for pre-schoolers to adults in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and ballroom (beginners to advanced) at the Dance Centre in New Plymouth.

Volkswagen Club. Regular events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: kirk@taranakivw.co.nz and Secretary: bryan@taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga Classes. Oakura Church Hall, Wed at 9.15am, Fri at 6am, (call Kate to book your class), Fri at 9.15am. Everyone welcome. Contact Kate Evans 027 203 7215.



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