

TOM oakura

JULY 2009



Winter was the theme for Omata School's art exhibition held recently in the school hall. Entitled 'Winter Wonderland' the artworks were a triumph of creativity, inspiration and sheer hard work. Teachers, students and parents can be very proud of the extensive collection of art.

(Continued further on page 18)



Omata School Art Exhibition Opens to Rave Reviews

Top: 'Melting Moments' exhibit.
Top right: by Beau Julian (Highly Commended).
Below: Rebecca Grant (Branching Photographer).
Background: by Kate Logan (Highly Commended).



editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

I was interested to hear from a group of Oakura locals the other day about their proposal to develop a Squash/Sports Centre at Corbett Park. What interested me was the fact that these locals are keen to get a family orientated club going in the village. Regardless of whether you like squash or not, you have to admire the desire to set up something so positive in the village.



There seems so much to be despondent about – swine flu, recession, mortgagee sales, car manufacturers going belly up, the weather, your age. It takes a leap of faith to swim up-current. I know about that because I have just started a new business venture in Fitzroy and the knockers are everywhere.

I really appreciate the support from the village this month. The phone has been ringing constantly, it seems, with people telling me about some story or person that is worthy of note. So thank you.

Kim

TOM dates for August

Copy and ads deadline – 24 July

Distribution – 12 August

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119

TOM
OAKURA

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

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from **mayor pete**



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Hi folks!

After more than a year of work and consultation, we have confirmed our Community Plan 2009 - 2019. I have a big thank you for everyone who played a part in pulling this plan together. We had some great feedback from you through the Community Roadshows last year, the surveys and workshops, the formal submissions process a few months ago, and finally the verbal hearings earlier this month. During the creation of the Community Plan the Council consulted with 1,400 individuals and organisations, received more than 550 submissions and heard from 94 submitters.

One issue raised by submitters and supported by Councillors was the maintenance of the Linda Street tennis courts. The Council decided to address the tennis court's safety issues within existing budgets so that residents and visitors can use this space without injury from the structures in place.

We have also increased the Marae Grants budget from \$52,500 per year to \$82,500, to help the district's Marae meet their health and safety and Building Act obligations and insurance. Marae are the soul of many of our communities, and the grants they receive will help keep them operating in a safe manner.

During the submissions process the message came through loud and clear that we needed to balance development with affordability. As much as feasible, the Councillors have taken a firm line with big-ticket items so that the district's rates would be as low as possible. Of particular note is that over the coming months the Council will be conducting an in-depth review of our levels of service, the services we provide and the standard we provide them at, with the aim of achieving significant cost savings.

Our first focus will be on the area with the largest budgets, the district's infrastructure.

My goal from this review is to lock in major savings year on year for the benefit of ratepayers, so we can take some of the pressure off our wallets as we continue to enjoy living in this great part of New Zealand.

Speaking of infrastructure, the development of Oakura's sewerage system continues as scheduled. When you receive a letter about establishing a connection from your property to the lateral, consider organising the plumber and the building permit sooner rather than later so that plumbers don't become overloaded with work at the end of the project.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about the Community Plan or you'd like to discuss an idea that you think the Council can help you with, give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent, Mayor



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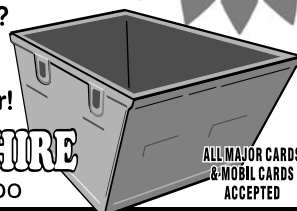
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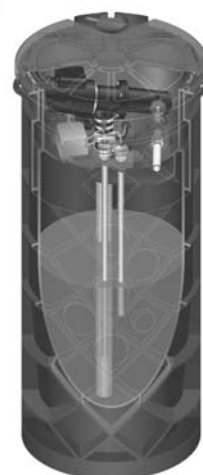
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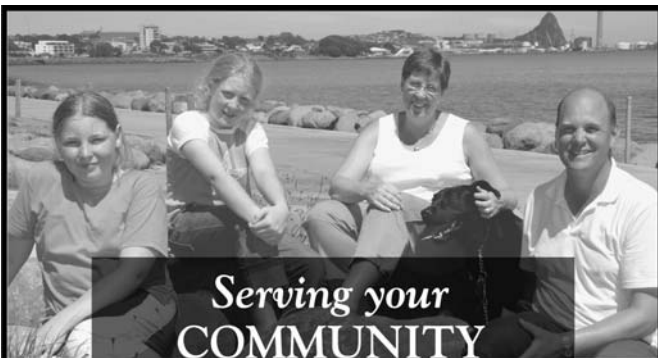
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The Montana Book Awards "celebrate excellence in, and provide recognition for, the best books written and illustrated by New Zealanders each year." The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 27 July.

The following are just a few of the finalists in their categories: *Peter Peryer: Photographer* (Illustrative), *The Pavlova Story: A Slice of New Zealand's Culinary History* (Lifestyle and Contemporary Culture), *The Painted Garden in New Zealand Art* (Reference and Anthology), *Novel About My Wide* (Fiction) and *The 10pm Question* (Fiction).

Our school holiday programme schedule is as follows: Wednesday 15 July, 10am-11 we will have a cartoon drawing class. Open to ages 5 and up. Please register at Oakura Library. A huge thank you to all our volunteers. They shelve books, assist with Oakura School weekly class visits, help with school holiday programmes and do it all with smiles on their faces. Be on the lookout for our newest magazines: *Mindfood*, *Oh Baby!*, *New Zealand Fishing World* and *Healthy Food Guide*. Library hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12pm-6pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Karen and Vincenza

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Letter to Editor

Once upon a time

There was a wee village just outside of New Plymouth by the name of Oakura. The community had lived happily together there until one day The Local Council (**TLC**) decided that they had a sewerage processing scheme (that had cost them a poulitice) being under utilised in the city near by and decided that the village could hook up to this and make it appear more of a worthy investment. A survey was sent out to the people of the village by **TLC**, it asked them "Would you like a new sewerage system?" (a very ambiguous question given that is all the information provided at the time). Of course the people of the village were unanimous in their support and thought any benefit to the environment and stuff must be a good thing.

A plan was drawn up for the work to be done, the price came in at \$7 million (this was later recalculated to \$24 million and still counting). The cost of the connection to the main sewer and private pumps and stuff was to be averaged out through the community and everyone seemed happy.

Now here comes the interesting part so pay attention !!!!!

At the same time as all this talk of sewerage and stuff in Oakura, the **main man** from the **TLC** (who has a luxury holiday home in the village) and a few of his neighbours' were able to get the **TLC** to install and pay for the construction of a special pipeline and a municipal pump required to pump the collective sewerage back up to the proposed sewer main. This was before individual house requirements were shown on the drawings for the reticulation and anybody actually knew if they needed a grinder pump or not !!! The **TLC** newsletter proudly proclaimed that the above lucky few "were saved from grinder pumps". How did they know they had saved them from something not yet planned? mmm

Over and above this they received an average payment of \$16,000 as easement compensation for the pipeline. Nice one!!!!

Smelling a rat yet ????

Now remember, this was around the same time the new sewerage scheme was rubber stamped, amazing what friendly, speedy and efficient service was being provided by **TLC** !!! Great work guys, keep it up !!!

So the scheme went ahead, and several years later everyone eventually found out that all the rules had changed and all the promises broken to the poor souls that needed individual pumps, they would have to pay the individual cost for the connection and pumps. A small group (we'll call them Septic Tanks Of Oakura Lamenters - **STOOL**) who lived in an almost identical location to the "saved from grinder pump people" were informed they would each require a sewage grinder pump - 22 properties in all. **STOOL** got together and the common thread seemed to be "why are we being treated differently than the others down the road?" They asked **TLC** to have a look at something the same as the others, so **TLC** paid for a group to investigate this for **STOOL** with a clear mandate to "make it fail" "which of course it did." **STOOL** decided to do their own investigation and **TLC** said they would pay for it.

Things really start to degenerate from here.

When **STOOL** presented **TLC** with their plan and also the account for it, **TLC** denied saying they would pay, then paid another company to rubbish the plan. **STOOL** were getting the sh#ts with **TLC** by now, so they attended a **TLC** public meeting where they proposed another plan that seemed pretty damn sharp, this was the STEG (Septic Tank Effluent Gravity) system. **TLC** committee liked it and told **TLC** officers to go away and do a feasibility study using the STEG option for the 22 properties concerned. After some investigation it was discovered that **TLC** officers were not actually looking into the STEG system at all or doing any of the stuff "good" engineers do like drawing up plans and using survey drawings necessary etc. **TLC** officers seemed to already have decided that the plan was no good, then **TLC** officers got muddled with some engineering figures confusing effluent flow rates with sewage flow rates and these were passed on to the **TLC** in their report. This meant the engineering required took a quantum leap nearer the "too hard basket!!!"

At the next (and with the benefit of hindsight) and final **TLC** meeting **STOOL** were told that enough was enough and that they could go away and either keep their septic tanks (which **TLC** officers would most likely later inspect and find inadequate), use the new STEG system they had discovered or get a grinder pump and join the scheme, all at their own cost.

STOOL tried to argue at the meeting but once you have had your say, **TLC** officers are untouchable, "Be quiet or you'll be EJECTED from the meeting!!!"

In summary:

Live next to the boss of **TLC** where you luckily get "flush and forget" when you sit on your throne and get paid \$16,000 dollars for the privilege of having a gravity feed sewer. Or live just along the road and pay for the privilege of "not being saved" from having a grinder pump which are notorious for breaking down, there is no or little storage, **so everyone in the house - STOP going to the toilet, doing the dishes, doing the laundry and stuff until it is repaired !!!**

Cool, sounds fair and equitable to me !!!!

Warren Barleyman

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Maintaining Superannuation Entitlements

No doubt discussions in Australia about changing the age for retirement and those sentiments shared by some New Zealand economists have raised concerns within the group of those contemplating retirement at 65 years of age. The argument put forward (once again by economists) is that with people living longer and experiencing better health there is no reason why the eligibility age couldn't be raised. There are those in the workforce who are only too happy to continue in employment past the age of 65 but there are also those who earn their livelihood doing physically demanding work and look forward to taking things easier. They want to enjoy all the things they looked forward to doing "when I retire". It is this section of the community who probably tried to put something aside for their retirement but found their nest egg eroded by lower returns on their investments and, in some cases, tragically lost completely when they took what they believed to be professional advice on investment.

That is why the National-led government will maintain Superannuation payments at a minimum of 66 percent of the average wage and people will continue to be eligible for Super when they reached the age of 65. Despite reports to the contrary, National's decision to defer payments to the New Zealand Superannuation Fund will not affect Superannuation entitlements. In fact, far from putting anything at risk, the combination of measures we have taken in the Budget actually secures Superannuation entitlements in the future. The future funding of Superannuation at current levels is locked into the Government's long term spending path as reflected in all the Budget projections.

It is important to remember that the Super Fund was set up to invest government surpluses, putting that money aside to help with Superannuation expenses in the future. As a result of the recession, government accounts are no longer in surplus, and surpluses will not re-emerge for a number of years. Therefore the government is holding off making full contributions to the Super Fund until there is an operating surplus big enough to fund those contributions. We would need to borrow \$30 million a week or an extra \$1.5 billion a year, a figure that will rise in future years. It would be reckless to borrow such large amounts and burden future generations with more debt.

In coming decades, when demographic pressures begin to push up the total cost of Superannuation, it is important that the Government is in surplus, has a moderate level of debt and is not burdened with high borrowing costs. That is a situation we are now forecasting, thanks to the measures that were taken in the current budget.

By Jonathan Young

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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Update from the Big Red Truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

This month has seen some changes within the Oakura Brigade. At our AGM on 29 June, Craig Scott (Scotty) resigned as Chief of the Oakura Fire Brigade. Matt Crabtree replaced Scotty as Chief and David Rielly became our new Deputy Chief. Well done Matt and David on your new positions within the Brigade. A huge thank you must go to Scotty for the time he has put into the Oakura Fire Brigade as Chief.

You may have noticed the recent building going on at the station. This is to extend our appliance bay so we have a bit more room when the truck is in its shed! Hopefully the construction won't take long and we will be back in comfortably.

Fire Facts:

Breathing smoke from a fire can overwhelm you in seconds.

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More than half of all fire deaths occur in homes, mainly while people are sleeping.

Most house fires start in the kitchen and 42% of careless fires are caused by leaving cooking unattended

Fire Safety tips:

Make sure your electric blanket is turned off before you get to bed.

Keep all furniture and clothing at least a metre from your heater.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze. (Sec)

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Squash for Oakura?

A group of locals, spearheaded by Raymond Hill and Tim Barrett, are keen to investigate the possibility of developing a squash club in Oakura.

Raymond and Tim see a squash club/extended sports facility as a great opportunity to promote a family friendly environment that would be of benefit to a wide range of people within the community. The options for playing squash presently are to go to Okato, Opunake or into New Plymouth. Ray and Tim say the squash club could be built at Corbett Park adjoining the present Kaitake Clubrooms. The squash facility would share amenities with the Kaitake Clubrooms, thus increasing the functionality of the facility. The club is only at the concept/idea stage so further details are not available, but initial contact has been made with local groups such as the rugby, netball and cricket clubs, Sports Taranaki, KCB, Council and affected land owners.

Tim Barrett and Ray Hill outside the Kaitake Rugby Clubrooms.



The group is in the process of consulting the community to see whether there is enough support for a venture such as a squash club. They would appreciate any feedback from locals on its viability. Maybe you could ask yourself the following questions: *Would I support an extended facility at Corbett Park in or by the Kaitake Rugby Clubrooms?*

Would I play squash in Oakura if I could?

Do I see the facility as a positive move within the village?

How can I support this?

What is my objection?

Squash is a great sport that can be played in any weather and all year round. It has been around for close to 80 years and Squash New Zealand says they have more than 231 registered clubs in the country. It seems that squash has reinvented itself as a strong social network, a change from being an elitist male dominated sport. Today there is as much focus on families, fun, fitness and socialising as there is on the sport itself.

Contact Raymond Hill 027458220 or Tim Barrett 7527858, email tim@farmventure.co.nz if you would like more information.

By Kim Ferens

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Hine Brothers Blazing Trails

By Jennifer Gros

The Hine brothers are setting New Zealand on fire, one race at a time! Shona and Stuart Hine are very proud of their two sons, and rightfully so. These two brothers are winning races throughout New Zealand with their eyes set on winning more around the world.

Although the two brothers race differently - Daniel is the triathlete and Jackson is the mountain biker; their dedication and drive are much the same.

Daniel was featured in the TOM last year after placing third in the under 19 category at the World Triathlon Championships in Vancouver. This year, he has not slowed down. He has been selected to race this September in the World Triathlon Championships on the Gold Coast in the under 19 category.

Most recently, Daniel placed first in the under 19 age group in the New Plymouth World TriSeries and placed 3rd overall. Two weeks ago he was selected for the Triathlon New Zealand Youth Academy for under 19 Elites. In April of this year, he placed 2nd in his age group at the New Zealand Olympic Distant Championships in Wellington. Daniel has also been selected for the Sport Academy Youth Talent Identification Programme.

Daniel is 17 and attends New Plymouth Boys High School as a year 13. He really enjoys the triathlon training even more than the racing. He is up early every morning to swim, and runs or bikes almost every day. He puts in about 20 hours a week into his training, and it is really paying off. Daniel likes to stay fit, and loves the adrenaline rush of racing. He is inspired by top International racers Cameron Brown and Terenzo Bozzone and was very excited to have recently met them. His goal is to do the Half Ironman Triathlon in Tauranga in January 2010. This is the New Zealand's Premier race, with a sell out field of over 1100 competitors. It is raced over a distance of 2KM swim 90KM bike 21KM run.

Younger brother Jackson is blazing his own trail, a downhill mountain biking trail. Jackson just placed 3rd out of all New Zealand secondary schools in the under 15 category at the New Zealand Mountain Biking Championships held in Levin. There were about 90 entries in his age group, and more than 750 entries total. Jackson really enjoyed the race, and was especially pleased to receive his medal from Kiwi Pro Nathan Rankin.

Jackson also attends New Plymouth Boys High School. He is 14 years old and in year 10. He enjoys playing rugby on the NPBHS team, and surfing. His future plans include racing in the National Mountain Biking Championships at the end of the year.



*The brothers in action - Top: Jackson and Daniel.
Middle: Jackson. Bottom: Daniel.*

Kaitake Golf Club - A plea to the community

The Kaitake Golf Club desperately needs a relocatable shed to house golf carts in. The Club has a large group of elderly golfers who use carts to get around the course but we have nowhere suitable to house the carts. Are you able to help the Club by supplying a shed to store these carts in? The Club has limited funds so if you have a suitable shed for sale we would love to hear from you. Contact Raewyn at Kaitake Golf Club on 7527665 and leave a message for RP.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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The Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club recently held their 8th AGM in Oakura. With a new committee elected including some fresh new faces, we look forward to another action packed season for 09/10.



Debbie gets the big "thank you" from Club President, Tony Hurring.

With much of the formal agenda passed, one sad note was Debbie Edgcombe stepping down as Club secretary after executing an outstanding job since the club was founded by a group of Oakura locals in 2001.

The new club secretary is Christine Morwood, with Debbie staying on as a committee member to help her settle into the role (and

keep an eye on her!). We wish them both all the best - Christine in her new position and Debbie for a well deserved break.

Debbie's efforts and work was acknowledged by becoming the clubs first ever Life member.

Debbie is staying on as a committee member (too keep an eye on us) as Christine Morwood settles into the role. We wish her all the best in her new position as club secretary and Debbie a well deserved break.

Already the club has plans for the up and coming season including the Kayak Fishing Classic which has become somewhat of an icon within the kayak fishing fraternity. Dates to be planned soon . . .

Tight lines & screaming reels,

Tony Hurring

Club President

Kayak Section

OSKFC - Heaviest Tuna: Martin Rook, 6.900.
Nakiman Trophy - Heaviest Kingfish: Martin Rook, 8.480.
Hunting and Fishing - Heaviest Snapper: Jim Morwood, 11.630.
Tasman Toyota - Heaviest Trevally: Jim Morwood, 3.675.
Madgwick Family - Heaviest John Dory: Tony Hurring, 2.055.
Snikerdoodles - Heaviest Red Gurnard: Tony Hurring, 1.060.
Oakura Panel Beaters - Heaviest Kahawai: Aaron Murfitt, 3.285.
McCracken - Heaviest Spotty Shark: Jim Morwood, 1.495.

Club Champions

Auto Sound & Electronics - Most Club Day Points: Cory Donnelly, 1746.
Canoe & Kayak - Most Overall Points: Martin Rook, 4259.
- Junior overall points: Kurt Penberth, 222.

Surfcasting Section

Heaviest Snapper: Shane Dunlop, 7.580.
Heaviest Trevally: Chris Whitaker, 2.930.
Heaviest Gurnard: Chris Whitaker, 0.930.
Heaviest Kahawai: Chris Whitaker, 3.290.
Heaviest Club Day Bag: Shane Dunlop, 7.365.
Heaviest fish (Junior): Jacob Morgan, 0.800, Hiwi Hiwi.
Heaviest Fish (New Member): N/A.
Three Heaviest Snapper: Shane Dunlop, 19.540, 7.58 + 7.16 + 4.8.
Heaviest Club Day Snapper: Shane Dunlop, 3.535.
Heaviest Shark, Snapper & Trevally: Chris Whitaker, 13.315;
Shark 3.00, + Snap 7.385, + Trev 2.93.
First To Get Most The Species: Chris Whitaker, 12 species; branded wrass, gurnard, eel, eagle ray, grey shark, kahawai, lemon shark, red cod, snapper, sting ray, grey mullet, trevally.
Most Overall Points (Mens): Chris Whitaker, 2369.
Most Overall Points (Ladies): Debbie Edgcombe, 65.
Most Overall Points (Junior): Jacob Morgan, 3.

Club Champions

Madgwick Graphics - Most Club Day Points (Men): Shane Dunlop, 170.
Oakura Beach Camp - Most Club Day Points (Ladies): Debbie Edgcombe, 21.
Beckmans - Most Club Day Points (Junior): Jacob Morgan, 3.

Oakura Pony Club

By Diane Alder

In May we held our AGM, which saw our chairperson Linda Knudsen retire and be replaced by Paula Harvey. Denise Patterson will continue as head instructor, Libby Hinton continues as treasurer and Diane Alder as secretary. We were also very sorry to receive Ingrid Anderson's resignation as one of our instructors. Ingrid has devoted many hours to Oakura Pony Club and its young riders over the years, and we all wish her well as she pursues other interests. Our annual dinner and prize-giving held at Butlers Reef Hotel was a great success with many current and past riding members and parents attending. The following presentations were made.

The Cooks Cup, for special achievements outside Taranaki was won by Catherine West who is the NZPC Junior Dressage champ, North Island Junior Rider champ and NZ Secondary School Junior Dressage champ.

The Dickey Cup for excellence in pony show jumping was won by Zoe Laing, who ended her season in the International Ring at Horse of the Year and was in the Saba Sam winning Taranaki Team.

The Kaitake Challenge Cup for overall excellence in horsemanship was won by Andrea Brewster.

The New Plymouth Vets Most Enthusiastic Rider award was won by Paige McKay. The New Plymouth Vets Most Improved Junior rider award was also won by Paige McKay, second was Ty Stevens, third Isabella.

The New Plymouth Vets Most Improved Intermediate rider award was won by Lyndall Noakes, second was Jess Clark.

The New Plymouth Vets Most Improved Senior Rider was won by Anna Hinton, second Lauren Moorby and third Andrea Brewster.

The Oakura Challenge Rose Bowl for overall excellence was won by Anna Hinton. Anna's achievements in the 2008-2009 season are outstanding and too many to list here but included 1sts at Cambridge Trials, Hawera and Inglewood one day events, Taranaki Area Trials, Cups Day and various team events.

The Quinns Cup for dedication to a goal was won by Andrea Brewster whose goal to qualify for the 3 Day Event in Taupo was realised through sheer hard work and determination.

The Ward Trophy for general helpfulness and best pony club attitude was won by Jordan Giltrap.

The Wickham Challenge Cup for improved horsemanship and achievements was won by Lauren Moorby.

Turn-out Cups were won by Paige McKay (junior), Nina McLean (intermediate) and Catherine West (senior).

Attendance ribbons were won by Ty Stevens (junior), Jordan Giltrap (intermediate) and Anna Hinton and Catherine West (senior).

And finally, the most anticipated and speculated upon award of the night, the Horse's Backside award went to our new chairperson Paula Harvey, who received it with good humour and aplomb. Well done all.

Snippet

Results of local lads who competed in the NZ Secondary School Cross-country Champs held in Nelson on 20th June. 140 schools and over 1,000 runners competed in the races.

Year 9 boys race:

Max Hardie Boys, NPBHS, 34th (a member of the 3 man bronze medal team).

Will Jones, NPBHS, 81st.

Jamie Simpson, NPBHS, 92nd.

Sean Kelly, Francis Douglas Memorial College, 102nd.

Jesse Grayling, NPBHS, 118th.

GETTING WET!



Regardless of the season, life in Taranaki is great. The provinces' adopted name 'Taradise' sums it up perfectly as there are not many places in the world where you can enjoy the pleasures of the surf and the snow in one day! This winter season so far has enabled us to live that dream.

The Oakura Boardriders' Club was established eighteen years ago to bring people together within our community so that we can share that dream and together take advantage of the wonderful assets that Taranaki has to offer. The club is still going strong and continues to promote and foster a love of water and land based sports that involve riding a board.

For snowboarders and skiers alike winter on our mountain has come early and in May we were treated to some magical days of fresh powder, awesome snow cover and blue skies. It was exciting to receive such excellent media coverage and to see the impressive photographs displayed on the Stratford Mountain Club e-newsletter. The best of these photos and others you can see on Okato photographer, Trevor Read's website, trevorread.co.nz

This early snow is certainly encouraging for the Surf and Snow Competition to be held on one of the last two weekends of August. Keep these dates free as it's a good one!

There's certainly no snow where Paige is at the moment! She, along with some others on the Dream Tour, are in Mexico surfing for a photo shoot with the American magazine, 'Surfer Mag'. Her next competition is a WQS one which started on 27th June in South Africa. To follow the event, log on to aspworldtour.com.

The Port Taranaki Winter Surfing series is now in full swing with one contest already held. Seth Marshall and Connor Anderson were the only two OBC members who competed in this event and were second and third place respectfully in the U16 division. Well done guys!

It was fitting that on International Surfing Day, the 20th June, the newly resurrected Taranaki Surfing Champs were held at Rocky Point. Although the wind was a strong, cold southerly it was offshore and a good clean three to four foot. The spectators rugged up in their winter jackets seeking shelter amongst the trees were treated to some superb displays of surfing. In fact as the tide got low they were riding barrels amidst the rocks and one competitor even ollied over one of them.

We had six members of our club competing and they did us proud especially Tyler Anderson, who was in his element at his favourite spot, winning the U21 division. You have to be impressed with Jeremy Curd who entered the water for his heat with only ten minutes to surf, because he had to take his son to the doctor, and then proceeded to get three good waves and win the heat! Unfortunately he was just knocked out in the semi finals.

Our other representatives were Brian Clark, Casey Stevens, Connor Anderson and Jordan Hart.

A special thank you has to go to Fiona and Mike Hareb for battling the elements all day and helping to organise a very successful event. Mike who is the new president of Surfing Taranaki presented the awards at the prize giving during which there was a minute silence for the young Taranaki surfer Dillon Walsh who died recently.

Final results were:

Womens Open: 1. Thandi Durham-Tipene 2. Bronte Mannix 3. Jess Terrill 4. Megan Wilson.

Under16 Junior Cadets: 1. Josh Kettle 2. Sean Kettle 3. Mitchell Thompson 4. Chad Jones.

Under21 Junior Mens: 1. Tyler Anderson 2. Conan James 3. Mark Parthmore 4. Sean Parker.

Mens Open: 1. Bachelor Tipene 2. Lee Fleming 3. Ali Patuwairu 4. Jamie Andrews.

By Philly Butt

Tyler Anderson in action as U21 champion.



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The Night Ruru Came to Visit

I am not at all superstitious but coincidence is another thing altogether. The Saturday that the All Blacks lost the rugby so pathetically to the Froggies, a Morepork, or Ruru to give it its indigenous name, smacked into my French doors. Could this have been a coincidence? Maori mythology has the sighting of one as an omen of death. Could this have been a sign of the demise of All Black dominance? Ohh, you cynical one! Especially as the All Blacks did manage to fumble a win on the following Saturday, (at time of writing they hadn't played Italy).

To be honest, when I heard the thump on the French doors I thought a cat had banged into the door but when I urged my friend Peter to go out and investigate he found the Morepork. Everyone was delighted to see a Morepork up close and to touch it, for who hasn't heard the wonderful sound of "morepork" ringing out in the night – but to see one? Never.

I asked our Department of Conservation expert Callum Lilley if he knew of similar experiences of Moreporks flying into glass and he said it was extremely uncommon. Moreporks have very good eyesight. Well they would wouldn't they, since they hunt at night! Their eyes are amazing. Pictured is a photo Callum took of a Morepork at dusk before its pupils had dilated for night vision. The yellow retina is extraordinary. You can see in the picture I took that the yellow almost entirely disappears when it is dark. I am assuming the Morepork was after a moth caught in the hypnotic light of French rugby dominance!

When Peter let the Morepork go, apparently unharmed by its encounter with my French door, it flew silently off into the night. Another astonishing feature of the Morepork is its silent flight, again an absolute necessary for capturing prey. Imagine if it sounded like a Wood Pigeon, whoosh, whooshing through the night. The Morepork's wing feathers have downy edges on them to muffle any sound. How clever they are. (Pity you can't do that to children!)

Below are some facts on the Morepork. If anyone else has had a close encounter with the Ruru, I would love to hear from you.

Morepork (Maori Name: Ruru) **Scientific Name:** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*.

Conservation Status: Common, but protected.

Habitat: Moreporks are native to New Zealand. They live in native forest and lightly forested open country and pine plantations.

Unique Features: The plumage varies between individuals, with shades of brown and buff tips on the feathers. There are bars on the tail with a black and white pattern on underside of the wings. The female is slightly larger than the male.

Social Behaviour: Moreporks live in pairs, keeping the same mate for many seasons and occupying the same territory all year. Some birds move around in winter but they are mostly sedentary. Some use the same roost over long periods while others change frequently. Calling increases during breeding season.

Diet: Predominantly insects, mainly wetas but also spiders, lizards, small birds, rats, mice and bats. Flying insects are caught with their talons or beak. Large prey is held in their talons and torn into pieces.

Reproduction: Mating occurs in September. Moreporks can nest in tree hollows, thick clusters of shrubbery, caves or even burrows. Their nest is usually a shallow impression with no extra material. They usually lay two eggs, which the female incubates for about 30 days while the male feeds her. Chicks (owlets) are mainly fed on birds that are dissected by the parents. They fledge at 34 days.

Life Cycle: Life span in the wild is 5-11 years.

Relatives: Related to all the other owl species.

The above obtained from <http://www.wellingtonzoo.com>.

By Kim Ferens



Callum Lilley's photo of a Morepork with undilated pupils.



The Morepork that visited Kim's house. Note the large pupils.



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Life and times of an author - Vic Curtis

Many people dream of writing a book at some time in their lives. Vic Curtis from Oakura is one of those people. Vic - a Marine, Power and Civil Engineer drew on his practical experiences whilst living in Hamilton and wrote a novel called 'Marry it or Steal it'.

The main character is Bill Maxwell a transport operator who, after a series of knock-backs in both his work and personal life takes a rather unusual approach to settling a huge tax bill.

Vic knows about the stresses, strains and mountains of paperwork involved in operating a business and admits that there is a bit of him in Bill Maxwell.

'Marry it or Steal it' is a novel so all the characters are fictitious but all are based on people he worked with in Hamilton.

Vic's path to becoming an author has been a long one. He was born in Stratford where his father managed the Taranaki Herald. But the Second World War saw his dad flying Stirling bombers over occupied Europe. He was shot down in flames and spent the rest of the war in a concentration camp.

Vic's mother took over his father's job and managed the Taranaki Herald during the war. She was probably one of the first women journalists in the world. She was also one of the few women in Stratford who had a driving licence.

Vic spent much time with his mother, in the office, after school and learnt how to type on an old Imperial typewriter. It was a far cry from modern word processors. There was no spell-check in those days.

Vic served an apprenticeship with the Union Foundries in Stratford and then went to sea as a Marine Engineer. He then came ashore and married Janet. They lived in Te Awamutu where Vic was Chief Engineer at the New Zealand Co-op Dairy Company. At that time the factory was the biggest in the world. Some years later they came to New Plymouth where he was foreman for Swanson Engineering before joining MacEwan Machinery as a Project and Sales Engineer. "It was a great time to be in the dairy industry - archaic ways of manufacture were being replaced with modern technology and at a rapid rate". He then started Anderson Equipment, an Australian company, in New Zealand and built the company up into a multi million dollar operation.

He travelled frequently throughout the world as a Consulting Engineer until one day he thought. "If I'm going to work this hard I might as well work for myself," and to that end he started a civil engineering business in Hamilton.

At this stage, Vic hammered out five pages of his novel on an old portable typewriter. "I realised that this was going nowhere so I brought one of the first word processors in New Zealand and started writing in earnest. Basically it was easy to write because I had the plot in my mind and the practical, on-site, experience to blend the two". It took about three years to write and find a publisher. David Hill from Inglewood and Cathy Dunsford from Warkworth edited it. It was published with an initial run of 5000 books.

He believes that motivation and life experiences to draw on are all that is necessary to write a book. "I know that 'Marry it or Steal it' isn't great literature, but it's a pretty good read" and it's in the New Plymouth Library".

Vic is working on a sequel which has the working title of "Suffer in Comfort" and another called the 'Paper Boy'. The latter is based on his experiences selling the Taranaki Herald on Broadway, Stratford, after the war.



To anyone who is contemplating writing. "Just start writing something you know something about and weave in the plot to suit. It's great fun because as an author you can make anything happen", says Vic.

Vic is probably better known locally for standing in the last NPDC elections and his satirical letters to the editors. "I just missed out but then I had only just arrived in Oakura. But now, with the rates increasing by 10% annually, someone has to stop the spending and I know how to do that".



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Earthrace Captain Visits Oakura School

On Monday 25 May, Pete Bethune visited Oakura School to talk to the middle and senior school children about his project, *Earthrace*. Pete and his crew wanted to focus *Earthrace*, a bio-diesel powered boat, on not only beating the world record, but also making it an eco-friendly experience on the way.

On the 7 April 2007 *Earthrace* first attempted to beat the world record of circling the globe in 74 days, 20 hours, 58 minutes and 30 seconds. Unfortunately about a month after they set off, due to severe weather conditions, the *Earthrace* crew had to abandon the attempt because of a leakage in the forward part of the front hull. They then set out to try again on the 27 April, 2008. On their second attempt *Earthrace* was successful, and beat the previous record by almost two weeks.

Other interesting information that the children learned was that the bedding in the boat was made from canola oil, all the crew's clothing was made mostly from hemp and bamboo, and recycled ice cream containers were used to help construct the boat's outer layer.

Mr Bethune spoke out about many interesting places he visited and the adventures he'd had. The most important and inspiring message that came through was, "Don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe in, no matter what!"

Pete Bethune's next project will take place in the Pacific and Southern Oceans. His aim is to stop Japanese whalers from hunting and further endangering whale species in these areas.

By Anna Costelloe



Year 7 and 8 Debating Teams

In May, the Year 8 debating team for Oakura School competed in its first debate. This debate was against Francis Douglas Memorial College. The team of five pupils consists of Anna Costelloe, Amy Barron, Jamie Scott, Meika Watson-Burrows and Isla Dunn.

The moot for the first debate was that "Dogs are Man's Best Friend". Some of the highlights of the debate were the wide use of interesting vocabulary and the attention-grabbing arguments made by both teams. The Oakura team was the affirmative team and Francis Douglas was the negative. The debate was very close. In fact, the difference was only 5 points! In the end, the nerve-racking wait for the results was well worthwhile, bringing Oakura the win. All of their practice and work paid off and the Year 8 team is now looking forward to its next debate at Sacred Heart Girls College. The next moot for that debate will be "Cartoons Are a Good Influence on Children". Oakura will be the negative team.

Oakura School also has a Year 7 debating team which had its first debate on the 26 May. The Year 7 team includes Corey Vickers, Amy Benton, Bailey Hales and Alex Bishop. The moot for their debate was "Zoos Should Be Abolished".

Once again the highlights were their super use of vocabulary and persuasive arguments and their great confidence while speaking! The debate was against Mangorei and Oakura came out with a convincing win.

The debate was exciting and a great challenge for the team members because it was their first ever debate. They did very well and are looking forward to their next debate which will be against Francis Douglas. Oakura will be the negative team for the moot "Technology is More Foe than Friend".

Both teams have made a very positive start to this year's competition and we wish them lots of luck for their next debates.

By Jamie Scott.



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Girls exchange one country for another

Christine Lutwyche (14 years) of Forster Tuncurry, NSW has just flown back home to Australia taking with her local girl Rosa Garner (14 years). Christine has been an exchange student here in Oakura for the last three months and now Rosa has gone to Australia to experience her own adventures.

The exchange programme is run by Rotary and Brian Hannon of the New Plymouth North branch says it is a very successful programme with children and adults making lifelong friendships. Four young people from Australia have been in New Plymouth staying with host families and there are 42 staying throughout the North Island.

Rosa saw a notice about the exchange programme on the Sacred Heart notice board and applied for a position. It was the same was for Christine. Interviews followed before Rotary made their final selection.



Rosa, left and Christine, right before they left for Australia.

Christine has travelled around the North Island going on 'Safari' with other exchange students to the centre of the Island Rotorua, Hamilton, Desert Rd. She has also been to Wellington and especially liked going up Mt Taranaki and playing in the snow. Christine has also enjoyed learning about local history. Rosa will go on safari in Australia too and travel on a 16 hours road trip up to the Gold Coast. Mum, Donna is feeling a bit fearful about parting from her daughter for so long and there will be no mobile phones for texting but there will be regular 'normal' phone calls. Christine says she was quite homesick but has enjoyed meeting such nice people here and she thinks Sacred Heart is a beautiful school.

Rosa has had to make a few sacrifices to go on her trip by working to help pay expenses and she has also had to part with her beloved horse. She thinks she'll miss her brother Rory and her horse but is very excited about her adventure.

By Kim Ferens

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Sweet Farewell

by Jennifer Gros

A very special farewell went out to the Lawson family as they headed back to the U.S. in late June. With new baby Kaia in hand, Ron, Lynnette, and Bailey first went to Maui, Hawaii for a three month holiday. They will then move to California to live and work. Ron plans to go back to school to pursue music and youth studies.

Bailey and Kaia.

They are both hoping that the future involves another cafe' of some sort, and continuing to grow as a family in every way.

"We would like to thank Oakura Village for their support and friendship over the past four years. It has been awesome getting to know everyone and being a part of this great village. Snickerdoodles wouldn't have been as big of a hit as it was and still is, if it were not for all of you. Thanks for all of the memories." - Lynnette, Ron, Bailey and Kaia Lawson

Best wishes to all of the Lawson family! You will be greatly missed by so many in the village. Thank you for being such a special part of our lives.

Welcome New Family

The Milam's from Wilmington, North Carolina

By Jennifer Gros

Noelle and Tom Milam and their four children recently moved to Oakura. They have settled in very quickly, and can already be seen most days running carpools to rugby, ballet and anything involving horses that the girls can dig up.



The children are Mary Grace (12yrs) in Room 10 at Oakura School, Caroline (11yrs) in Room 11, James (9 yrs) in Room 9, and Wilson (3 1/2 years) at Kaitake Kindergarten. They arrived in mid-March from Wilmington, North Carolina, which is a small historic town on the eastern seaboard of the USA. It is famous for being the third largest town for movie-making next to Los Angeles and New York City. The Secret Life of Bees has just been filmed there.

Tom is a consultant specialist at Taranaki Base Hospital and Noelle is an occasional relief teacher at Oakura School. She is enjoying being home with the four children. The family loves the accessible library and multitude of activities for kids and families. The Milam's have loved their first few months in the village, and have enjoyed meeting many great families. They look forward to meeting others around town.

No, Snickerdoodles isn't leaving Oakura!

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Oakura Playcentre

By Jennifer Gros

Playcentre offers so much for children and mums as well. Why stay home with a fussy and bored preschooler? Come in and have a cup of warm tea with other mums while your child makes new friends and learns to explore their world! The Oakura Playcentre has an enclosed deck area for rainy days where children can jump on bouncy mats and build cardboard choo-choo trains! Everyone is welcome, and there are children ranging from newborns to age 5. There are many centres of learning include music, reading, nature, baking, play dough, collage, puzzles, blocks, and so much more! On a nice day, the outside area is wonderful and has swings, a sandpit, and lots of climbing blocks and slides. The first three visits are free, and then each term is only \$15. Casual visits are only \$5.

Playcentre is in need of a two or three seat sofa in good condition for their reading area. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Please call Jo Syme at 0274333078 for more information.



Struen loves to play pirates! (Don't we all, Struen!)

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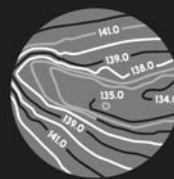
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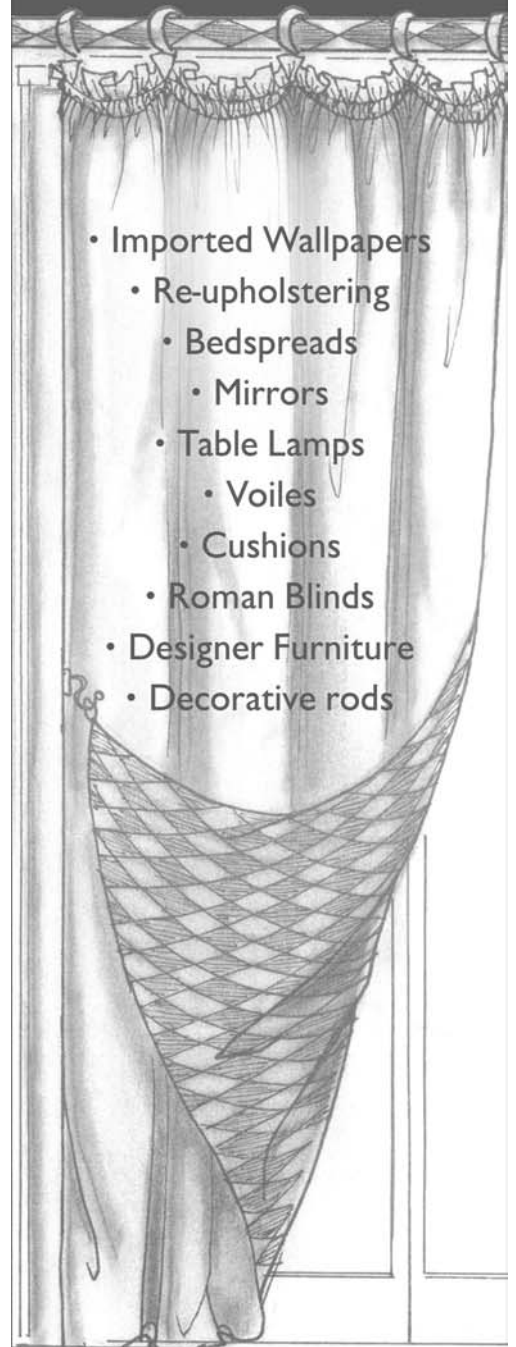


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"Winter Wonderland" Art Exhibition

(Continued from front page)

Studios



In small studio groups of mixed ages, children were asked to come up with a contemporary art installation for our 'Winter Wonderland' Exhibition. The resulting art works were creative, varied and an unusual reflection of Taranaki in winter from a student's perspective. Gumboots, umbrellas, clotheslines, blocks of ice, heads, mobiles, mosaics, digital stories, cup mountain and whiteware were all displayed in spectacular fashion for the open day. With names such as: *Flat White*, *Melting Moments*, *Winter Hang Ups*, *Get in Behind* and *Everything but the Kitchen Sink*, the exhibition captured the magic and essence of winter through the children's eyes and imaginations.

Photo Competition

A Black and White Photography Competition ran alongside the studios. Each child entered a photo that showed their view of our "Winter Wonderland". The photos were judged by Rob Tucker and Mark Bellringer and we thank them both very much for doing this difficult job. Students learned a great deal about composition, light and shade, point of view, camera and iphoto functions.

The contest winners were:

Rooms 4 and 5 Budding Photographer: Annie Jones.

Highly commended: Beau Julian.

Rooms 1 and 3 Branching Photographer: Rebecca Grant

Highly commended: Kate Logan.

Rooms 2 and 6 Blooming Photographer: Tegan Wilkinson

Highly commended: Kristina Hunt.

By Principal, Karen Brisco

BOOKS

By ADRIENNE TATHAM

■ 'Farming For A King' ■

100 year history of Nukuhakare Station - \$48

■ 'Footsteps Of A King' ■

The life story of Newton King - \$35

Both books available from the author at

4 Kinross drive, Merrilands, New Plymouth 4312

Phone 06 758 1865

frank.adrienne@paradise.net.nz

Coming Events

July

20 Term 3 begins

23 Lantern Parade Room 3

Golf Clinic for all classes

28 Home and School Meeting 7pm

29 BoT Meeting 7pm

August

4 3-D Conferences. School closes 12:00

5 3-D Conferences. School closes 12:00

10 Welcome Myra Manning, student teacher in Room 6

21 Teacher Only Day



Photo by Kristina Hunt (Highly Commended).



Photo by Annie Jones (Budding Photographer).

Photo by Tegan Wilkinson (Blooming Photographer).



TOM CLASSIFIEDS

AFTER SCHOOL

CARE required, 8-10 hrs per week (3pm - 5pm approx). Some housework and pickups from sports practices. Need own car. Start Term 3. Call Amanda 752 1201 for more details.

TARANAKI

CHEESE MAKERS' GET TOGETHER

All small timers, beginners, those that have a genuine interest in exploring the fine art of cheese making - come and share. Saturday 25 July at 2362 Wiremu Rd, Okato. 1pm. Phone Su 752 4497 for further information..

PSYCHIC

TAROT - For accurate readings and consultations please phone Lisa Lister on 067512687 or 0275632828.

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Your July Checklist

Vegetables

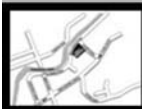
Plant broad beans, asparagus crowns, onions, garlic, shallots, cabbage and spinach. Add compost and lime to vacant soil in readiness for spring planting.

Flowers

Sow seeds of alyssum, delphinium, larkspur, dianthus, sweet pea and cornflower. Lift and divide dahlias, cannas and phlox. Prune roses. Spray with Champion Copper for control of fungus diseases and Conqueror Oil for control of scale insects and mites.

Fruit Trees

Plant fruit trees. Prune established fruit trees on a dry day to avoid spread of diseases. Paint wounds with Bascal pruning paint to prevent disease entering the tree.



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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

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

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.
Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.
Gold coin donation.

Oakura Art Group

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over
winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

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

Plunket Coffee mornings

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

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley
752 1016 for details.

Volkswagen Club

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

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-
9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-
10.30am. Beginners
welcome. Phone Sarsha 752
7977.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM
with any changes to your
listing.

OAKURA BEACH HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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Phone
06 752 7875

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