

## Smiles Abound at Omata School

**It is smiles all round at Omata School as the year 7 and year 6 students move into their new classroom.**

For the last term and a half the 18 students and their teacher – Deputy Principal Mr Pat Murphy have been occupying the Omata Community Hall. With the finalisation of the 6th classroom the “Best Little School in the West” becomes a bit closer to being simply “The Best School in the West”. But the school has been through turbulent times to get to the happy, positive place it is today. Last year the school came close to closure under Trevor Mallard’s school review policy but thanks to a very proactive Board of Trustees, community and staff, Omata School was able to fight it’s way out of a corner and bounce back with a new vision for the school – becoming a full primary (with year 7 and 8 or form 1 and 2). Roll increases (327% increase since 1991) and roll predictions have enabled the

it up to date. The 6th classroom is only phase one.

So why is everyone walking around with big grins on their faces? As Pat Murphy explains “This is the first classroom I have been able to help plan so it has been an exciting process. The classroom is a great space with a vibrant atmosphere. It will be easy to create pride in learning and I am looking forward to creating a learning programme that is collaborative and matches the flash environment.”

Features of the classroom have been very carefully planned by Karen Brisco - Omata’s Principal, the Board of Trustees, teachers, parents, students and consultants. Draughtsman, Darryl Edwards was able to take these ideas and turn them into

workable plans. Karen was adamant the school retain it’s unique ‘rural flavour’ and that the new classroom blend in with the existing buildings but also be as modern, flexible and comfortable as possible. Features of the building are a “Creative Incubator” – an additional workroom that is colourful and bright for all students to use for special projects that aren’t necessarily completed in one session and can be worked on over a period of time. It is an ‘inspirational’ space for extraordinary classes, flexible grouping of children,

mentorship, competitions (students could prepare their Wearable Art projects there), cluster groups and hobbies (Spanish

... continued on page 10

### THIS MONTH



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**Playcentre revivalists.**



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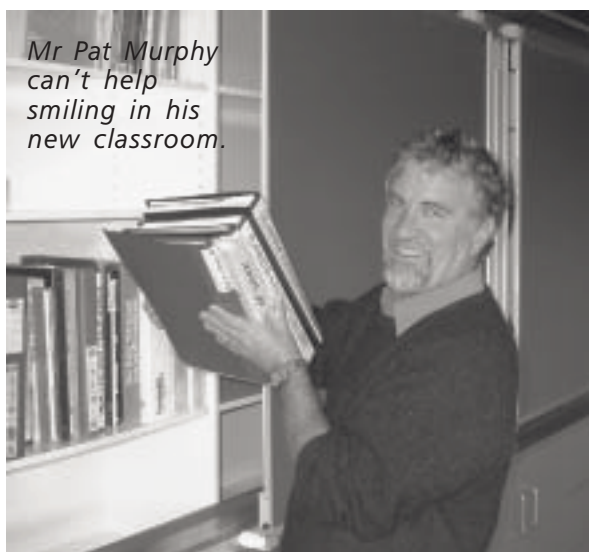
**A 90 year old tradition continues.**



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**Things are going down at historic Waireka Cemetery.**

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*Mr Pat Murphy can't help smiling in his new classroom.*

6th classroom to be built and property development funding of close to \$800,000 has meant that the entire school can undergo a much needed upgrade to bring

## Editorial

We recently did a survey in the village to see if we were meeting the needs of the community. Thank you to all those who replied and to all those people who continue to give us feedback when we are out and about. Of those who responded, 30% pass their *TOM* on to someone else to read, 30% keep their *TOM* for themselves and 97% felt *TOM* helps to keep them informed about their community. It's also great that clubs, groups and individuals think *TOM* is the best way to keep others informed.

Keep the feedback coming and if you spot someone or something that you think would be of interest to others, give us a call and we'll check it out, because at the end of the day, as they say, we're all in it together.

This issue we feature a new art gallery in Okato established by Trevor Read, art by Tracey Murfitt, a history bite on Oakura Playcentre and Patua Dairy Factory, the Waireka Cemetery debacle and a reader response to the demise of the Linda Street tennis courts. Does anyone know if Oakura has a Historical Society? Email [oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz) or phone Kim 7511519.

# tom

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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
[newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)



### Hi folks!

Please circle 5 July on your calendars: this is the date of the next community workshop on the draft Coastal Strategy. We received valuable comments from locals during the first round of consultation on this major strategy and now this second round of consultation is a chance for us to feed back to you about the information the Council has received and refine our goals and visions for our coastal areas.

I'd love to see as many locals as possible turning up to this July workshop so that we get a good cross-section of opinion from residents. To get the best Coastal Strategy possible, we need as much input as possible from you, the residents and users of our district's coastal areas. The more input we get from you, the more likely we are to end up with a Coastal Strategy that reflects what you want.

The workshop will be held from 6pm on 5 July at the Okato Community Hall, so be sure to come along!

Consultation is certainly the order of the day at the Council. We have received 60 submissions on the draft Action 05/06 document that details Year Two of the Community Plan 2004 – 2014 and the Council's work plan for the coming six months. We also had six submissions on the associated draft waste management plan, and one each on the draft schedule of fees and charges and the assessment of water and sanitary services.

It's great to see people taking an interest in their community and making the time to send their opinions in to the Council. These submissions will be considered by the Council on June 13. The meetings are open to the public and you're welcome to come along and listen to the submissions, and to the councillors debate the issues.

And don't forget that we'll be starting public consultation on the next Community Plan this September. This is the overriding document that guides everything the Council does for the coming ten years in the district – detailing the Council's work programme for three years and broadly outlining its projects for the following seven. It's the Community Plan that defines our annual Action documents, so if you've got ideas about major projects for the district, be sure to get involved in Community Plan consultation.

In the meantime you can contact me about any community projects or other developments that you have in mind. Just call me on 759 6060!

Peter Tennent, Mayor

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## WELCOME

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to Nicki Procter who has joined our new Oakura office.

You will find Nicki to be a very caring and friendly person who will listen to your Real Estate requirements. Nicki will be well known to many of you through her and her family's strong community involvement and I am absolutely thrilled that Nicki has chosen McDonald Real Estate to pursue her Real Estate career. Our company prides itself on its reputation for honesty and professionalism and Nicki fits nicely into those ideals.

Nicki will have the support of Pte McFetridge and Colin Williamson who are already established in Oakura, and as a team they will continue to provide the best real estate service imaginable.

Good luck Nicki, it's great to have you on board.



*Peter*

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**MP for New Plymouth**



### Greetings to all readers of TOM.

As we head already to the shortest day of the year, farmers will be having a well earned lie in as they prepare for another busy calving season just around the corner.

We were all appalled at the implications of the "Foot and Mouth Scare" on Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf. As many concluded from the outset, this was a stupid and mindless hoax. However, it was not an issue that could have been ignored or not taken seriously.

The implications of the scare reached far and wide, with money markets reacting and the urgent deployment of MAF personnel to the countryside that was allegedly involved. This was of course at great cost to the taxpayer and while the final cost is yet to be counted, valuable resources have been essentially wasted because of a mindless prank.

It is heartening, however, to be able to trust that in any such event we have the resources and knowledge to swing into action, although no amount of expertise could allay the very real impact that this disease would have on the New Zealand economy. We can be proud and confident that the systems in place by MAF are robust and effective, having just undertaken a simulated exercise in April that tested not only the systems on the ground but systems within the Government.

If Waiheke Island's scare had not been a hoax, New Zealand life as we know it would have dramatically changed. Our valuable overseas markets for agricultural products would have been closed and the "ordinary" citizen would soon be well aware of the far-reaching consequences of the disruption to New Zealand's economy. New Zealand relies without doubt on the agricultural industry and any threat to the industry involves us all.

Thank you for reading this column.



**Hon. Harry Duynhoven**

MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

**"The Working MP"**

158 Tukapa St., New Plymouth. Ph. 753 3211. Fax 753 2711

**NEW ZEALAND**  
**Labour**

## POLICE REPORT

**Hello everybody.**

Well, the mighty Hurricanes fell to the Crusaders, but what a great season.

Talking of great seasons I guess we will all be making the trip to Rugby Park come club finals day to watch Kaitake win their first club title for a while.

I know I am getting ahead of myself a bit, but aren't they doing well? If you answered "I don't know", get down to Corbett Park and support them.

Speaking of Corbett Park, I often see the odd person practicing their golf swing down there. Which reminds me, did you know that when driven from a tee, a golf ball travels at over 270km/h?

Which brings me to my next point, the Kaitake Golf Club has been broken into again, the second time in a little over a month.

We as a Community need to become more vigilant, if you see something or someone suspicious, they are probably up to no good and the Police need to know about it. No matter how small it may seem to you, it could be the last piece in the puzzle to us. People often say that they don't want to bother us with the small stuff, let us make that decision please.

Along with that burglary, the local area has had another child's quad bike stolen, two push-bikes and a skateboard, and most recently a lawn mower, two chain saws and a weed eater have been taken since last month's TOM. The Police are following some strong leads on a number of these items. To help us, all need to get up and go and record all the serial numbers of your property – this makes our job of retrieving it a lot easier.

Well, the weather has taken a turn for the worse and with that comes the slippery roads – please be careful when travelling.

Did you know in the 1950s the hula hoop was banned in Tokyo due to the large number of traffic accidents it caused? Not many people know that.

Take care, Rich

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*(Not our council, of course,  
Taranaki people just aren't that  
silly, are they?)*

**"He's got this  
huge tool that  
vibrates the whole  
house and I just  
can't take it  
anymore."**

## Oakura Neighbourhood Support

Quite a bit of action in the area this month: burglaries, thefts of bikes, skate boards and all sorts of stuff.

After fairly good summer crime-wise, the winter is bringing out the worst elements in the area. I was very surprised how many Oakura youths have been involved in problem situations recently.

With only one police officer in the area we need to be as aware as possible of things that do not appear right and give every assistance to him to help resolve issues that affect us all.

A lot of crime is an opportunity that presents itself – for some it seems impossible to ignore unlocked cars, property with doors and windows open, and bikes, skateboards, and surfboards are all easy pickings and all become part of the weekly statistics very quickly. We all do things we shouldn't like leave the windows and garage door open while we slip down to Jimmy's for a loaf or carton of milk and, let's face it, 98 percent of the time nothing happens. How many times have the kids left their bike or skateboard outside and nothing ever happens. Well, it's starting to and for the victims, complacency disappears quicker than beer at a barbie, for those that experience a burglary in their home seem completely gutted if appearances are anything to go by.

Ladies appear to be the most emotionally affected. The value of items stolen does not seem to be the major issue, it's the invasion of their personal items have a far greater impact. And the fellas – well! "What I would have done if I'd had caught them", "The bloody insurance will go up" and "The families prize possession [his golf clubs] are missing" would feature in open lines of the conversation with the man of the house.

We all know what to do to stop it, but having the time and patience is a different matter.

Paint guns are becoming a problem. While they are not killing machines, they are potentially dangerous in that they can blind and badly bruise their victims.

If you have one in household, remember they are illegal to use under the age of 16 and from 16 to 18 you need a licence. So care is needed when using them and safety gear is essential.

For those on the coast going to the Lions game, it may be wise to have a word with your mates about carpooling or to get someone to drop you off as parking will be a major issue with roads being closed for a variety of reasons.

Cheers

Barrie Carline (phone 753 9558)

Okato/Oakura police, Ritchie Corry (phone 752 4111)

### COMING EVENTS

- MEDIAEVAL DINNER & SHOW - 8 JULY.
- Dr TOM MULHOLLAND & ROB HAMILL, Charitable Dinner and Speeches. Proceeds to Dr Tom Mulholland's orphanage in tsunami stricken Indonesia - 2 JULY.
- TAWERA NIKAU, Speeches & Dinner - 29 JULY.
- MID-YEAR XMAS DINNER & DANCE - 11 JUNE, 16 JULY.
- TARANAKI BOYS' DAY OUT - 25, 26 JUNE.

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# Kaitake Community Board

## Meetings

These will now be held at the Old Boys Surf Club Rooms at 4pm on:

19 July / 30 August / 11 October / 22 November.

All is quiet on the Kaitake front as various works are in the pipeline. Perhaps the fact that winter is on its way kept you away from our last meeting or is it because everyone is happy?

Board members have attended another update of sewerage, Coastal Strategy and CBD upgrade meetings with managers from the Council, who have been very helpful.

I will be attending Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand (TRENZ) in June to design the display for New Zealand's biggest inbound tour operators' conference – you can be sure there will be a few images of the Coast to wow the buyers. Tourism is a big winner for the Coast and there seem to be so many tourists these days discovering all that's wonderful about Taranaki.

It's great to see a new gallery in Okato showing some fantastic local work. I felt very privileged on Anzac day to lay the wreath on behalf of the Kaitake Ward at the Okato Anzac Service and parade. It was so good to see the support from all the locals, including many children. As the planes flew overhead during the service, I watched one elderly gentleman look to the sky and close his eyes – that said an awful lot to me about how fortunate we are that these people gave so much to us. Let's make sure that we can also make a contribution to future generations by protecting the lifestyle we have: come and help us at the next meeting.

Cheers

Fay Looney

## Have your say on the future of our coastal environment

In July residents in Oakura and Okato will have another chance to help shape the future of the district's coastal areas.

A workshop is being held from 6pm on 5 July at the Okato Community Hall to discuss the feedback received on the draft Coastal Strategy and to further develop residents' visions for the coastal area for the next twenty years.

New Plymouth District Council senior policy analyst, Teresa Gordon says the Council received valuable feedback from the public during the first round of consultation in March. The March workshops highlighted several issues that people are concerned about for the future. These include how coastal erosion is managed, population growth and development pressures, avoiding dense subdivision between New Plymouth and Oakura, the tension between allowing visitors to come and restricting their access, the damage that leisure activities do to the coast, significant sites not mapped on the District Plan, the stringency of the Building Code's height restrictions, plus many more.

"At the workshop in July we'll be able to continue that work and refine the vision and goals for the coastal areas of both Oakura/Omata and the wider district. We'll also be providing some ideas on policy direction and examples of actions for the community to debate," says Mrs Gordon.

It's important that residents get involved in these consultations so that the final Coastal Strategy accurately reflects what the community wants, she says.

"This strategy will be our guiding document for all activity in our coastal areas. If we get a high level of involvement from residents now, then in twenty years' time we'll still have the type of coastal environment that people want. So be sure to turn up to the workshop on 5 July. We really want to hear what you have to say."

A common theme from the first round of consultation was that the public views the district as having a unique, healthy and sustainable coastal environment that is relevant to the community and reflects our lifestyle and cultures. Residents in Oakura have identified their coastal environment as a vibrant village where the sun lingers and a place where residents celebrate the wild beach and bush experiences.

In addition to this second round of consultation in July, a Community Open Day will be held at Puke Ariki on from midday, 8 July to encourage people to become involved in the project and find out more about the draft Coastal Strategy.

### What do YOU think?

#### *Linda Street tennis courts demise*

A concerned holiday home owner has contacted TOM in relation to the proposed decommissioning of the above public tennis courts. Being aware that the courts are not currently being used, the comment was made that if the courts were in better condition, maybe they would get used by serious tennis players. It is felt that recreational activities need to be encouraged more now than ever and even though there are courts available for the public at the school, to have another facility would be a bonus. What TOM would like to know is, if an upgrade could be achieved, would you be interested in using this facility for yourself, family, friends and visitors?

Forward your comments to [oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz) or 25 Jans Tce Oakura or telephone one of the TOM team.



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# Waireka Cemetery

## *a firm favourite with the locals*

More than forty people attended a public meeting about the Waireka Cemetery, held at the New Plymouth District Council chambers on 2 May. The meeting was in response to an area-wide review of cemeteries within the New Plymouth District Council's jurisdiction and also because of issues raised by a local family. The family are having a family reunion soon and would be visiting the Waireka Cemetery and they felt the cemetery is in a state of neglect and mis-management. Public consultation was sort on what people wanted to have happen at Waireka.

According to the Genealogy Society, in the 1960s and 1970s the headstones were transcribed and identification of 140 people buried at Waireka was undertaken. At present there are only about fifty standing headstones so the issue was raised about locating the whereabouts of the remains of unidentified burials. The Council can, at a huge cost, use ground penetrating radar equipment to locate any remains, but with a limited budget, this is unlikely to happen. About two thirds of the existing plots are already pre-sold. Waireka has only 10–15 plots left to be sold before it is full. Awanui Cemetery is expected to be full in three years.

In 1989 and 1996 the District Council decided to keep Waireka as a lawn cemetery with sheep grazing the site. It has been suggested that the sheep have damaged various gravestones and disturbed the ground and that rabbits have burrowed in around the graves making the site a dangerous and unsightly place to visit. Parking for funerals or people visiting the cemetery was thought to be woefully inadequate as well. Neighbouring land owner and plot owner Peter Lewis expressed views that he was more than happy with sheep grazing the cemetery and that it is the responsibility of each family to keep their headstones in "good nick". He strongly objected to off-road carparking and thought the area around the gates could be tidied up to allow for limited parking. Mr Lewis's views seemed to be generally supported by everyone else at the meeting.

John Matthews, another neighbouring land owner, offered to donate 100 trees to the Council to improve the landscaping of the cemetery. Bert Seamark felt the Council had been very lax in their upkeep of the cemetery in the past and Councillor Merrick admitted that he didn't know until recently that the cemetery existed. He also acknowledged that "...things could have been done better in the past...", but was genuinely interested in what the community wanted to see happen at Waireka.

Other suggestions to come out of the meeting were for signs to be put up naming the cemetery and contact details for the Council and the grazier. Pat Alvis felt the access to the cemetery and around the gravestones could be improved so the elderly could visit more safely.

For the most part, everyone was happy for the cemetery to continue in its present form and seemed proud of the historical significance of the site and its grand views, unobtrusive environment and sheep as the maintenance team. Planning and costings done by the Council are expected to be completed by the end of the year with the general public being able to comment on the review.

Waireka Cemetery was once the site of the St John's Church, built on land donated by J T Wickstead, agent for the New Plymouth Company, in 1848. The church was also known as Parson Brown's Church. During the land wars of 1860 the church was not used. It is amazing that the church survived the war as most buildings were looted, but this church no doubt survived because of links with Parson Brown, who was greatly respected by the Maori community.



*Peter Lewis sizes up the situation at Waireka Cemetery.*

In 1873 the building was auctioned at Mr Young's auction rooms in Brougham Street. It found its way to the corner of Tukapa and David Streets before being again relocated to the Well of Life Church in Ngamotu Road, where it was used for the children's Sunday School. Several years ago it was burned to the ground by arsonists.

In 1875 a new church was officially opened on the site on the corner of Waireka Road East and the Main Road, where it still resides today and is called the St John's Church of Omata. The cemetery on Waireka Road West was neglected for many years but in recent years locals and the Council have started to take a keener interest in preserving and maintaining this small piece of history.

Minor maintenance around the fringes of the cemetery has been done recently to tidy the grounds for a family reunion so one has to wonder why, if the Council can tidy up the cemetery at the request of specific families, they can't continue to do maintenance at the cemetery to keep it looking a million dollars like the view?

By Kim Ferens

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# Multi-talented

For up and coming local artist Tracey Murfitt being multi-talented is a must – not only is she a busy mother of three children, she also has a new career emerging as a painter.

Tracey began painting about six years ago after losing a family member.

Although she had no previous involvement in the arts, the loss inspired Tracey to turn to her creative side and painting became a form of therapy.

Tracey started off with a three-month watercolour class, held at the local polytechnic, and things have progressed from there. Working from her home in Omata, she's found success through word of mouth, selling to friends and family. Tracey says her work is inspired by her surroundings. Since moving to the area she has developed a keen interest in the local landscapes and her paintings often integrate landscapes and geometric shapes in a stylised form. She works primarily in acrylics.

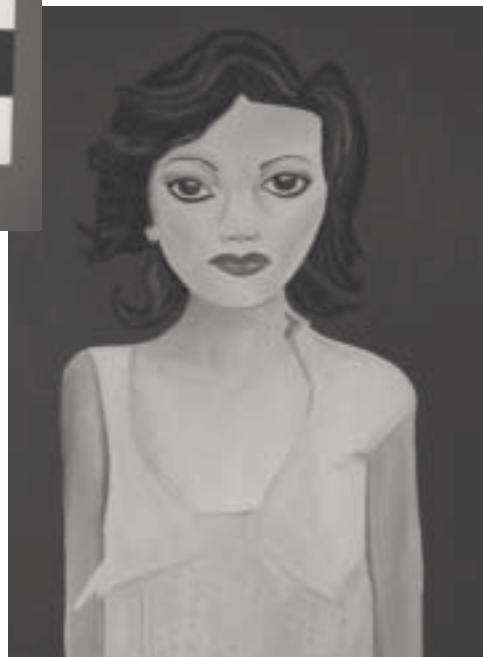
Tracey's goal for the future is to hold a solo exhibition – if all goes well she is hoping to be able to have a collection of work completed by the end of the year.

Tracey is happy to be contacted on 751 2612: you are welcome to view her work and she is also available for commission work.

Tammy Lewis



Portrait inspired by a Bic Runga concert.



## MUSIC REVIEW

### Get Lifted

**John Legend**  
(Getting Out Our Dreams/Sony BMG)

Although *Get Lifted* features guest raps from Snoop Dogg and Kanye West, there is a hint of something at the core of this album that recalls the work of such "old school" soul greats as Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Donny Hathaway. Sure there are programmed beats, samples, rapping and other hip-hop touches – even a taste of that typically seventies keyboard, the ARP synthesizer – but at the heart of this album is gospel-infused playing and singing by the "the artist formerly known as John Stephens". In fact, two of the outstanding songs here ("Ordinary People" and "It Don't Have To Change") benefit from being stripped back to just John Legend's piano and versatile voice. Although having said that, the latter also features many of his family on vocals and perfectly-placed finger snaps! The Stephens family boasts a long history of singing Temptations classics around the Christmas tree, a musical inheritance that comes through with real élan on the gorgeous "It Don't Have To Change." Other album highpoints include "So High," a track that gently insinuates its way into your heart and the equally delicious "Refuge (When It's Cold Outside)." Despite being based around his piano and voice, the immodestly re-named Legend and his co-producer (and label owner) Kanye West are no technophobes – embroidering splashes of guitar, bass, drums, horns, backing singers and strings onto the

fabric of some songs. John Legend's exquisite choice of samples (Curtis Mayfield, Sly Stone, Leon Ware and Blue Magic) combined with his familial love of The Temptations reveal his roots, but "Get Lifted" is no retro trip and should appeal to soul fans both old and new. Hell, even the tracks with West and Snoop Doggy Doo aren't too unpleasant!

### The Rough Guide to Bottleneck Blues

**Various (World Music Network/Elite)**

For me, the sound of the slide on guitar strings is one of the most affecting sounds in all music. "The Rough Guide to Bottleneck Blues" is the perfect intro to this most seminal of sounds (sounds that, with the natural distortion of that sliding motion, clearly stem from pure African music). As with any "Rough Guide", this 'catholic' selection features the originators (Fred McDowell, Son House, Blind Willie McTell), modern-day masters like John Fahey and Bob Brozman and some really quirky choices. An example of the latter is "St. Louis Blues" by Jim & Bob, an instrumental duo also known as The Genial Hawaiians, cut in 1933.

A mixture of blues instrumentals ("Guitar Rag") and songs that emphasise the interplay between the voice and guitar, with the slide-work often dexterously completing the vocal lines, "Bottleneck Blues" spans virtually the entire twentieth century. Genius, pure genius!



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# Coastal Image

Walking into Coastal Image Gallery on State Highway 45 in Okato, some Kiwi music – Fat Freddy's Drop – is being played on the stereo. Trevor Read – creator, designer, owner and photographer, says it "sets a scene by creating a wonderful, relaxing atmosphere". His gallery is funky, colourful and very welcoming.

Trevor is fervent about his gallery and what it can do for the community. It all started when a friend showed him the house and shop for sale just over a year ago. He liked what he saw and had to have it as he saw its potential as an art gallery. Once just been a Kiwi boy's small dream, the gallery has escalated into reality through Trevor's hard work and dedication – he's put in tremendously long hours and still managed to keep down a full-time job. The support he has received from the locals, friends and family has been outstanding and has given him plenty of encouragement.

In the week leading up to the gallery opening, Trevor took time off from his job and was often found working late into the night to get the gallery ready. It wasn't unusual for him to work a 16 or 17 hour day. One particular evening at around 8pm, Ange, the owner of the local fish shop, showed up with dinner for him. He had been surviving on coffee and nicotine for days. This was an amazing show of support and "makes me appreciate where I live," he says. He'd never done any painting or building work before but managed to block in two windows and three skylights to help control the lighting and install spotlights. The floor was painted black and then



*Trevor Read's Coastal Image Gallery - Inside and out..*

polyurethaned. Sandi Hickey offered advice on choosing artwork to exhibit: "We don't want visual indigestion." Good advice, I thought.


His opening night was combined with another new business in Okato, the Waiting Room Coffee Shop. Trevor's close friends, workmates and family came along to share the excitement of the opening and a dream becoming real. The two businesses were well received, with about eighty people attending. He sold his first painting on opening night and two more since. Trevor had originally intended showing only his own framed work, but having met a few artists from the area, he decided to get a few of them on board too. Peter Lambert from Okato was more than happy to be involved as was Sandi Hickey, Che Rogers, Alby Carter (also from Okato) and Cyril Tamati from Oakura. All in all it was a very successful night.

Trevor would like to have a special exhibition to put something back into the community. Showing artwork from the local school children and then auctioning them is one idea he's had, and it's been well received by the art department head teacher. The sale of young budding artists' work will be helped by the website he's launching next month to show what is on display in the gallery and enable people to buy over the internet. This will be found at [www.coastalimage.co.nz](http://www.coastalimage.co.nz) Watch that space.


What a great show of small town New Zealand spirit. Good on you Trev and good luck for the future.

You'll find Coastal Images at: 65 Carthew Street, Okato  
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*By Feona Burkett*



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## Puke Ariki

**Some events for you to note:**

*Sir Edmund Hillary:*

*Everest and Beyond Speaker Series:*

15 June Robin Drake – Aid work in Kunde;

22 June Ross Eden –

Taranaki Alpine Trust/Andrew Harris Trust.

# OakuraPLAYCENTRE

Sadly, this is the last Playcentre article I'll be writing. My son, Hayden Benton, is now five and has started at Oakura School.

So, what have I got out of Playcentre over the last few years? Playcentre has provided a wonderful opportunity for me and Hayden to get down and get dirty: getting wet and covered with clay, paint, fingerpaint or play dough – all those messy things you don't want to do at home. Not to mention making concrete, playing in the sandpit or on the great outdoor equipment, taking rides on the wagon and the weekly ritual of scone making, the results of which have always been enjoyable (apart from the time salt got used instead of sugar!).

Because Playcentre is a cooperative venture, there is always plenty to get involved with as well as the opportunity to take a formal role. I enjoyed my stint as Treasurer and learnt useful skills too. Regrettably, I didn't pursue the education and training that Playcentre provides, but had I got involved with my first child I would have been eager to take advantage of this.

Playcentre has developed and grown so much from when we first started going - it is now such a modern and well-resourced facility. I'm going to miss the camaraderie and cooperative spirit, the friendly banter and the opportunity to interact with my child in such an

*Trish and  
Hayden  
Whitney*



awesome environment. Thank you Playcentre, and all the best for the future.

If you haven't been to Playcentre before, now is a GREAT time to come and join us – we welcome new families. Playcentre is for all children aged 0 to 6 years, and we're open every Monday and Wednesday during term time from 9am to 12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term – no matter how many sessions you come to – and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292. Otherwise please feel free to come along to any of our sessions, where you'll be warmly welcomed.

*Trish Whitney*

*... continued from front page*

## Smiles Abound at Omata School

lessons and chess club). Data Talk has cabled the classroom with multi access points for a computer network system so the class's 8 computers can be linked together. There is also a power and cable point in the floor for the data projector. All the cabling has been done to the latest specifications. A 'Moisture Master' controlled ventilation system will control condensation and improve air circulation and quality. High windows are weather



*Mrs Viv Norris and the new entrants look around the new classroom.*

sensitive and will open and close automatically. Internal walls have been sound proofed making the classroom very quiet (in fact you feel like whispering). Most of the furniture is free standing making the space more flexible as teaching and learning needs change. Mr Murphy and Mrs Julie Herbert have an office space each and the students have a purpose built toilet block and cloak bay. The students helped choose the colours of the desks and chairs which complement the colours chosen by Colour Consultant Helen Peters.



*Alana Foster and Josh Kenny move their desks in.*

Students Josh Kenny and Alana Foster say the new classroom is "pretty cool and big" and "has lots of spaces to work quietly" it is also "a lot better than we imagined it would be" and "has lots of computers". Principal Karen Brisco says that "The new building is a space specially designed for the year 7 and 8 students and they are very fortunate to be the first ones to use it. The attention to detail and thought that has gone into every aspect of the classroom has set the benchmark for the other classroom upgrades. Builders Street and Cook Construction have finished the project having caused minimal disruption to school life. It is very exciting to move in and start using these new spaces and see our students develop a passion for learning that will take them into secondary education as leaders, role models and responsible students."

Omata School students are certainly reaping the benefits from the whole community effort to keep the school open with the recent completion of a 'commando' style playground, a new BMX track, a strong team of dedicated teachers who keep up to date with current education theories and practices and the forthcoming classroom and library upgrades.

*By Kim Ferens*



# Playcentre has a revival

Faye Newton, one of the founding mothers of the Oakura Playcentre, recalls the Playcentre beginning in about 1968 in the Oakura Hall before moving to Donnelly Street in 1971. Three years was a long time to lug play equipment out from under the stage in the hall two times each week, so having purpose-built facilities seemed like a luxury.

There are recollections of the first Playcentre funds coming from kindergarten funds. When it seemed obvious that a kindergarten wasn't going to open, the accumulated funds were transferred to the Playcentre. After all, the community's children were going to benefit one way or the other. The initial paint job on the inside of the Playcentre was done by Terry Boon and, according to a report in the old *Oakura News* in 1977, "...several mums have agreed to have a corner each to 'do up' to their taste and this should prove an interesting challenge to them and we look forward to the finished results..."

Faye and Margaret Green did their Playcentre training together. This involved doing an extra mural course and attending workshops and training sessions. The busy mums had to give up the occasional weekends for training and do study as well as work at the Playcentre during the week. It was a serious commitment to Playcentre and the community's children. Faye feels the children have all turned out well thanks in part to Playcentre. The mothers benefited enormously as well. The strategies and techniques taught have been invaluable in their role as parents and now as grandparents. They were taught



Playcentre mums. Left to right: Carol Megaw, Bev Billig, Christine Finnigan, Judy Adams, Jocelyn Payne. Left to right children: Two Finnigan children, two Adams children and one Payne child.

so many skills that they have taken through life and still value thirty years later.

Faye went on to be the Playcentre Information Officer and Liaison Officer for the Okato area.

In 1993 the Playcentre closed down. The opening of the kindergarten 18 months before was a possible reason for the closure. The Playcentre equipment was loaned to other playcentres to use. In 1999, Sharon Steen began the process of reviving the Playcentre and the equipment had to be retrieved. The Playcentre site had to be refenced and tidied up to make it safe and attractive – the sand pit had to be dug deeper to comply with regulations and bark had to be spread under play equipment.

The grand opening was held in November 2000. Two sessions were offered on Monday and Wednesday mornings. The Playcentre had an ERO (Education Review Office) visit in 2002 and except for a couple of minor things, they gave the Playcentre a big tick.

So after five years of successful pre-school education, the Playcentre has had another upgrade and is still going strong.

By Kim Ferens

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# OAKURA PLUNKET



It has been a busy couple of months for the Oakura Plunket Committee. The Committee (and helpers) ran a food stall at the "Toughest Fire-fighter Around" event at Corbett Park on 1 May. This was a new venture for us and considering the weather, it was a great day and we raised some money for our local Plunket coffee mornings. This money has already been put to good use purchasing some new toys for the children to play with at the coffee mornings.

The coffee mornings are held every Friday during term time from 9am until 10.30am at the St James Church Hall in Oakura. The attendance has been great and it is always a good way to meet new people and for the children to socialise – all ages are welcome.

As mentioned above we have purchased some new toys and had a good clean out of the old ones. If anyone has any toys that they wish to donate to Plunket, we would be keen to take them off your hands. They need to be washable (i.e. plastic or wooden) and suitable for small children. Things such as Duplo, Little Tikes stuff, Playskool toys or bead frames would be wonderful to add to our collection. If you want to find out more, ring Claire White on 752 7229 or Catherine Keenan on 752 7034.

Now that we have had some experience in the catering department, you may see us running a sausage sizzle at some

of the Oakura Saturday sports events. So if you see us braving the cold on a Saturday morning, come over and buy a sausage. Or just make a donation to Plunket, which is always much appreciated.

For a whole lot of great information on Plunket and the services offered you can look at [www.plunket.org.nz](http://www.plunket.org.nz)

See you at the coffee mornings

Catherine Keenan, Oakura Plunket Committee

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## Younger babies can now get MeNZBTM vaccine protection

Babies aged from six weeks are now eligible for the MeNZB vaccine to help protect them against meningococcal disease.

Between 1999 and 2003, 222 babies aged under six months of age contracted meningococcal disease and 232 babies aged between six and 12 months of age.

The Independent Safety Monitoring Board has reviewed the data from the first 4,600 doses administered to babies aged from six weeks up to six months in the Auckland region. The Board says it has no safety concerns about vaccinating infants.

The immunisation programme is the largest ever undertaken in New Zealand. To date, more than 630,000 doses of the MeNZB vaccine have been given nationally. Within the first few weeks in Taranaki over 50 percent of under-fives have received their first dose of MeNZB vaccine and are now due to receive their second dose.

The Ministry of Health urges people to vaccinate their children and at the same time stay vigilant for signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease, as there are other strains of the disease not covered by the MeNZB vaccine and no vaccine is 100 percent effective. Since 1991, meningococcal disease has killed 228 people and affected more than 5,700 in New Zealand, leaving many survivors with amputated limbs and other injuries.

For more information contact:

Anne Stembridge, Communications Co-ordinator, Meningococcal B project.

Phone 06 753 6139 ext 8334 or 027 448 9039.

[www.immunise.moh.govt.nz/index.html](http://www.immunise.moh.govt.nz/index.html)

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Pat has raised three children and enjoys spending time with her eight grandchildren. She has a passion for 'educaring' and sees the importance in educating and helping young children to learn at their own pace, where they develop new skills through active exploration in a safe and nurturing home environment.

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# OAKURA school news

## Outdoor learning experience

In May, our Year 5 and 6 children experienced three days of fun, excitement and team building at Vertical Horizon Christian Camp, located just outside Inglewood. During their three-day stay, the children were able to have a go at kayaking, the flying kiwi, a flying fox, sliding down slippery plastic into the lake, crossing over the lake on a three-wire bridge and many more fun activities. Despite being very cold the first night, everyone walked to the river to see the glow-worms – it was a starry evening and quite magical.

The children's teachers, Judy Zieltjes and Ray Priest had wonderful help and support from all the parents who went along, which ensured the camp was a successful experience for the children.



*The flying kiwis.*

Here are two stories by pupils that tell of their favourite activities. . .

## The flying kiwi by Jamie Scott

I felt the harness gripping to my waist while Renee tightened it. My head kept saying "you can do it." Suddenly, it was my turn. I walked up to the flying kiwi slowly and got strapped in. Then I heard Renee yell, "Jamie, are you ready to fly?" "YES," I said. I started to run, then five seconds later I was flying. I tasted my dry throat and I felt the cold air rushing through my hair. As I looked down, I could hear my classmates cheering for me. I felt like I was a bird so I flapped my wings. Soon enough, I was on the ground trying to stand still. I had a grin on my face and I thought that was the best experience ever.



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## The water slide by Cameron Meads

I felt nauseous when I was about to go down the slippery water slide, with detergent and hose water trickling its way to the bleak water. The hose water was squirted all over me. As I went back to the wall, I started to run forwards over the squishy mud and dived. I dived as hard as I could. If I had dived any harder, I would have winded myself. As I watched the frigid water below, I knew I would do this again, at least five times while I was there. As I was in the air a flash appeared out of nowhere. Gary had taken a picture of me. When I was about to hit the nippy water, I closed my eyes and . . . "That's like frostbite!" I screamed in my head. After that, I went down several times.

And now for afternoon tea.



*Cameron Mead shoots off the water slide.*



*Rosa Garner on the Zipline.*

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# KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

The second term is into full swing now and as always when the winter weather hits, the focus changes to "inside activities" for the children. Lots of arts and crafts have been produced using some beautifully coloured autumn leaves, including collage, leaf prints and threading the leaves onto string to make mobiles. The children let their imaginations run wild producing some very creative pictures and prints, which always look great decorating our kindergarten and of course are a joy to take home.

Another strong focus so far this term has been on literacy with the children now "signing in" to the kindergarten every day. They write their names on their own laminated sheet at each session they attend and the repetition of this routine obviously helps them with writing their names and recognising letters while also giving a strong sense of belonging to the kindergarten environment.

One fundraising event for this term has been the Nutrition Evening held on 1 June and our thanks to Jackie Keenan and Rosemary Law for giving such an informative presentation to the participants at the Oakura Hall. The local lunchboxes will be overflowing with all of the healthy ideas and suggestions made.

Speaking of which, our next "nutritious" cake stall will be outside the Oakura Four Square on 25 June at 9am, so make sure you get in early and purchase a yummy cake or enjoy some locally produced sauces, jams, chutneys and preserves.


The Kindergarten Committee is also in the process of organising Arts and Crafts Workshops for the July school holidays. This will be another fundraiser for Kaitake Kindergarten so watch out for more information coming soon on what will be on offer and how to register.

Funding has been secured for the construction of our new shed to house the outdoor play equipment. The old shed is in a bad state of disrepair and the equipment has suffered because of it, so we are very pleased to be getting a brand new, larger shed to keep the equipment in good condition. Our thanks go to The Trusts Charitable Foundation for the provision of this funding.

Catherine Keenan

Kaitake Kindergarten Committee

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# FireLines

## Hi from the guys in the BIG RED TRUCK

Sunday 1 May saw us hold the second annual TFA (Toughest Firefighter Around) at Corbett Park and, in a repeat of last year's results, Dennis Gibbon from Eltham won the event with Andrew Bourke of Okaiawa again in second. Also repeating last year's winning performance was Linda Graham in the women's division. Local lad Conor (Forest) Yardley won the novice division, with our newly appointed Station Officer, Greg Newton being the fastest local to finish. This gives him automatic bragging rights for the next 12 months (as if he needed it!).

Welcome to Angela Weir, a new arrival from the Rahotu Brigade with three years experience. I am sure she will be an asset to the Brigade and the community as a whole.

The weather is getting colder and the fires are being lit so remember be careful with ashes. DO NOT PUT THEM IN A PLASTIC BUCKET AND STASH IT YOUR LAUNDRY. This is a very common cause of house fires. Use a metal container (preferable with a lid) and put it outside away from any buildings – it's only common sense if you think about it.

That's all folks, so until next time... Stay cool.

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## Mini-groovers

*A session  
in full  
swing at  
the  
Oakura  
Hall.*



*The children having a  
"relaxing" song under  
the parachute.*

Don't forget to bring your pre-schoolers, babies and toddlers along to Mini-Groovers at the Oakura Hall every Tuesday during term time at 10am. These are fun, groovy and energetic sessions with some quiet and relaxing songs mixed in too. The children just love learning all of the actions, rhymes and words or just stamping their feet and clapping their hands.

The parachute is a real favourite in the middle of the session for relaxation and "quiet time" and the children love making the corks fly on it in the *Popcorn* song.

Stay afterwards for a cuppa and a chat and the children can enjoy crackers and fruit and play with the other children. A big thank you to Jimmy and Jackie at the Oakura Four Square, who sponsor our morning tea each week. A gold coin donation from participants is also appreciated to help with other running costs.

It's a great way to fill in your Tuesday mornings – so come along and groove at MINI- GROOVERS.

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# OMATA school news

### Flag flying

Thanks to the generous offer from Kevin Haggart and Ullrich Aluminium, we now have a rather spectacular flagpole and New Zealand flag to hoist each day. Its location at the front of the school means it can be seen by drivers from the main road as well as visitors to the school. I have had suggestions for what flags might be suitable for flying when the Lions visit, but we'll see. It will be nice to be able to recognise important events and memorable occasions in a symbolic way.



*Omata School's smart new flag and flagpole.*

### Rich topic for Term Two

"Safe Journeys" is proving to be a popular topic this term, kicked off by a visit from the Fire Service and a visit to the Taranaki Aviation and Transport Museum. We are planning an open day on 30 June and are looking for lots of interesting vehicles to display on the field from 9am to 11am. Please contact us if you can help. Vintage and classic cars, bikes and motor bikes would be neat as well as a dray, tank, ambulance, hearse, go-cart or any other vehicle old or new that might be a bit quirky or interesting.

### Playgroup

As TOM goes to print we will have had our Omata Playgroup opening day on 26 May from 9am to 11am. At last we have got our fortnightly playgroup up and running again. Sorry that we were unable to start earlier, but with a class operating in the hall waiting for the new classroom to be built, it was impossible. It was exciting first morning and there were some exciting surprises for the children. There are organised activities for the pre-schoolers encouraging social interaction and chances for parents to meet other families with small children. All welcome.

Enquiries to Stephanie Niederberger on 751 2722.

# Local cows and local people make the freshest milk in Taranaki

"Milk," they cry. "Taranaki Fresh Milk," they cry. "We want Taranaki Fresh Milk," they cry. Everyone in Taranaki is going nuts over Taranaki Fresh Milk. But why?

As the name suggests Taranaki Fresh Milk is made in Taranaki from milk produced exclusively in Taranaki. Well, exclusively at Tataraimaka to be precise, from the cows on Kelvin and Linda Gray's farm. This means the milk is super fresh. It only travels around the corner from the Okato farm to the Patua Dairy Factory, headquarters of Taranaki Fresh Milk, so there is no time for deterioration of the product. The milk is chilled to below 7 degrees within five minutes so when you hear (and I have heard) people say they think Taranaki Fresh Milk tastes better than other milk, then one of the reasons is because it is fresher. The quicker it is chilled, the less time there is for bacteria to develop and spoil the milk.

Another reason for people to be going nuts over Taranaki Fresh Milk is that it is totally natural. It has no additives and the goodness hasn't been taken out of the milk. Taranaki Fresh Milk is naturally high in protein and calcium so it doesn't need extra powders.

The Taranaki Fresh Milk business is a local affair too, providing employment for nearly twenty people at the ultra modern "old Patua Dairy Factory". The factory has a history of producing top milk products as revealed by factory records: "The district always had the right milk with a character of its own, unique in this province. The Board gave the factory, and the good, willing and enthusiastic staff, the 'right tools' and the resulting quality and flavour of produce, were among the top two or three in Taranaki..." Seemingly, nothing has changed.

In the production team are Trudy Adlam, Margie Blinkhorne, David Brown, Rodney Gyde, Gary Pool and Brian Richardson. The distributors are Brad Bayliss, Jane Kenny, Norm Holland, Carol Wilson and coordinator Jaclyn Gray. Business and Sales Manager is Lynette Walsh, helping with admin is Daveena Lane, Sheralee MacDonald coordinates marketing and Kelvin Gray is Managing Director assisted by wife Linda.

Kelvin's reasons for setting up a milk producing factory in a market dominated by the big brand heavyweights of milk such as Meadow Fresh, Anchor and Pam's was to supply a quality milk product at an affordable price. He felt the farmer was getting squeezed. The profits in farming were slipping and the consumer was paying more and more for milk. Plus he likes a "fresh" challenge and setting up a new milk brand has certainly been a challenge. Staff have put in long hours producing, distributing and selling the milk in what is a highly competitive market where it is not easy to take on the "big boys". Daily News cartoonist D Morton recently depicted Fonterra as the mother hen trying to keep her chicks under control but one is running away and Mr Morton has named it Taranaki Fresh Milk.

The support from the local community has been fabulous. Many retailers took the product from day one and Taranaki people have been asking for it at their local store. There are now over fifty outlets from Hawera to Waitara and around the



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coast. TOM readers can buy Taranaki Fresh Milk from BP Heydon Priest, Oakura 4 Square, Okato 4 Square, Okato Fish Supply, and Roundabout Dairy (in Blagdon and Moturoa). Other local businesses that use Taranaki Fresh Milk in their coffees and cooking are Raw Tasman, Butlers Hotel, the Waiting Room Café and the Stoney River Hotel.

Kelvin is realistic in his expectations. He doesn't want to become a national milk producer, but wants to provide the freshest milk to consumers around the mountain.

At the moment Taranaki Fresh Milk is available in standard homogenised milk (blue top), trim homogenised milk (green top), farm homogenised milk (purple) and shortly will have its own fresh cream (red top). Plans are in the pipeline for other products including a non-homogenised milk (with the cream on the top, like in the good old days). You'll find you will be saving money and enjoying milk like you never have before when you buy Taranaki Fresh Milk.

*By Kim Ferens*



*The Taranaki Fresh team:*

*Front, left to right: Rodney Gyde, Jane Kenny, David Brown, Linda Grey, Daveena Lane, Carol Wilson, Margie blinkhorne, Trudy Adlam.*

*Back, Left to right: Kelvin Grey, Brian Richardson, Jaclyn Grey, Gary Pool, Lynette Walsh.*





# THE PATUA DAIRY FACTORY TURNS 90

Not many dairy factories have stood the test of time but the Patua Dairy Factory is still pumping out milk products after ninety years. Way back in 1915 the Patua Co-Operative Dairy Company began business as a cheese and butter factory.

It's 90 years old officially, but in actual fact the history of the dairy factory began well before this. Early milk production (prior to 1890) involved settlers each making their own butter and either trading or selling it in New Plymouth for groceries or cash. The Patua factory was a creamery branch of the Oakura Co-Operative Dairy Company (it was also known as the Timaru branch but was generally called the Patua Dairy Factory). The factory (not the Co-Operative) started in 1901 when the water wheel, dam, buildings and cottage were leased from Messrs Honeyfield Bros for £10 per year. The Oakura Co-Op was formed in 1898 but only survived fifteen years.

In 1915 the Oakura Co-Op was liquidated and the Directors of the Patua Co-Operative Dairy Company purchased the land, building and plant of the creamery at Tataraimaka with the Omata Dairy Company buying the Oakura creamery. The Patua Co-Op also purchased the shares held by the Oakura creamery in the Egmont Box Company and the Taranaki Producers Freezing Works Company.

The first manager of the Patua Co-Op was Mr J McCann, who began work on 8 July 1915 for a salary of £200. Mr N Shogren was appointed whey butter maker on £2-15-0 per week. Mr A Murdock was appointed first assistant cheese maker. Mr A O Penwarden, a supplier and County bridge builder, supervised the building and installation of plant and machinery on the banks of the Timaru River. The power source, a dam upriver and turbines under the factory were also built by Mr Penwarden.

Patua's first year's cheese and whey butter was sent on consignment to Messrs Collett, Whitfield and Co of Cardiff Wales. Approximate output for year one was 200 tons of cheese and whey butter.

These were difficult times, it being the second year of World War One. Records tell of misfortune and uncertainty plaguing the factory. In sixteen years there were twenty-five different

directors. In 1918 the Omata Co-Op's main factory on Hurford Road was destroyed by fire and the Patua Co-Op manufactured butter for Omata while the new factory was built.

In 1947 Mr Penwarden built the office, water tank and whey tank stand. During this time more electric power was added, plus two large vats and overhead curd stirrers (an early form of mechanisation). In 1950 the workshop, meal room and ablution block were built on the riverside. In 1960 a new boiler and boiler house extension was installed for £4,500, allowing for an increased cheese tonnage. A new tanker picked up the equivalent of 750,000lbs of butterfat in one season (almost double that of other tankers). The Patua Co-Op was also one of the first factories to install refrigerated vats.

In 1965, as the Company celebrated fifty years in business, milk quality improved and the Co-Op could claim to be among the top two or three factories in Taranaki for quality and payout. In 1967 Colby cheese was produced but because of DDT, used by farmers to control grass grub, exports were cancelled in 1967. In 1968, 1,580 tons was achieved, the Co-Op's greatest output. A new pasteuriser room, laboratory and boardroom were built by Mr Bill Ross. A milk silo and staff bach were also built. In 1973 a bell silo (for milling, salting and hoping) was installed, allowing the Co-op to cut down on staff and improve grades and payouts.

During the 1970's a mould problem had plagued all cheese makers and a local New Plymouth firm successfully developed a vacuum sealing machine for Patua. In 1976/77 a mature type cheese was made for export.

In 1979 Patua amalgamated with the Okato Dairy Company. The Okato Chairman told suppliers at the 1980 AGM that record production was achieved and payouts improved due to additional supply from the Patua amalgamation.

The Okato Co-Op merged with the Egmont Co-Op in 1985. The Egmont Co-Op merged with Moa-Nui Co-Op in 1989. The Patua branch ceased to produce cheese and whey butter and was presumably closed during these mergers.

As a child in the 1970s, I remember stopping often at the Tataraimaka factory to buy cheese from the factory shop.

*By Kim Ferens*

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY MR P RICHARDSON



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## CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

### Plunket Coffee Mornings:

Friday mornings 9.00 -10.30am at St James Church hall.

### Mini Groovers:

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

### St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### Kung Fu:

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over.  
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

### Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over.  
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

### JKA KARATE

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

### Senior Citizens:

Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

### Twilight Bowls:

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.  
All Welcome.



# Aid work in the foothills of the Himalayas

On Wednesday 18 May, Dr George Mason of Omata gave a presentation on aid work in India to a roomful of people at Puke Ariki museum as part of the *Sir Edmund Hillary: Everest and Beyond* exhibition currently on show there.

George has recently been involved in an International Centennial Rotary Aid Project in conjunction with RUCHI (Rural Centre of Human Interests) in to the foothills of the Himalayas. The agricultural aid project aimed to help the peasant farmers of the Himachal Pradesh area of Northern India become sustainable farmers. George and two farmers from the Manawatu undertook the arduous journey by plane, train and road to this area to show the RUCHI volunteers and the peasant farmers how to fence their crops with five-wire electric fencing to protect from predation (primarily elephants, cows and monkeys). The rampant weed Lantana was slashed and the stumps dealt to with herbicides to stop regrowth and prevent power outages in the fences. The ground there is very hard and rocky, making fencing difficult. There was no wood available (what little there is gets used for cooking fires) and no waratah standards.

The area is rich in labour but scarce in resources. Rain mainly comes in the monsoon season, with little more during the rest of the year, so water storage, purification and reticulation are an ongoing challenge. George had an extra focus of seeking out a crop the farmers can grow as a cash crop. Cultivation of flowers for the cut-flower market is lucrative if the crop is sufficiently different. George had hydrangea cuttings propagating in tunnel houses. There is potential for other crops to be developed, like coloured sweet peppers. The soil is deficient



of nutrients and organic matter so composting systems needed to be built and fine-tuned. A chaff cutter could be adapted to shred the weed Lantana to be used in the compost mix to add nutrients and the necessary mulch.

It was clear to see from the Power Point presentation at George's talk that helping the farmers in the area sustain themselves had a follow-on effect with better education, housing, care of the elderly and health care, and in numerous other ways that we in the West take for granted. Dr Mason gave a very succinct and thought-provoking talk that highlighted how easily the lives of other people can be improved. Donations to this aid project in the form of mains electric fence units and associated fencing gear can be made to the West Rotary Club, P O Box 606, New Plymouth.



By Kim Ferens

## Lumière illuminating Oakura

Trish McDonald is casting a new light on Oakura with her new lead lamp business "Lumière". Lumière Lamps & Shades is situated just 2 km south of Oakura township and imports hundreds of beautifully crafted unique lead lamps and shades from China. The Tiffany lamps range in size and are proving very popular as classic showpieces for countertops, coffee tables, bedsides or simply as special shades to light the kitchen, dining or any area with.



Trish was initially given the idea by her daughter Kelly, who suggested she begin selling the sought after lamps when they saw them on display at last year's Mystery Creek Field Day. Trish is expecting a container of more than 1,000 lead lamps and shades to be delivered any day now and welcomes people to her newly opened showroom to come and inspect the many ornate and intricately crafted lamps and shades (all with individual names) that she is bringing into New Zealand. Lumière is open to view during business hours at 1327 Surf Highway, just opposite the Kaitake golf course or by appointment. Trish's lamps can also be viewed online at [www.lumiere lamps.co.nz](http://www.lumiere lamps.co.nz).



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## OAKURA INDOOR BOWLS ON WINNING STREAK

Oakura's winning streak at indoor bowls is proving to be tough competition for other coastal competitors in the Western Division (WD) of the North Taranaki Indoor Bowls Assoc. Oakura's A and B teams gained 1st and 2nd place in the recent WD Interclub Event held at Warea on 13 April with only one point separating the two teams. Earlier, Oakura won the WD Units Triples Event with Shirley Marster's and Jim Priest's teams leading the charge with some outstanding bowling. Oakura's Club President, Rex Ward is delighted and says this is the second year in a row the club has taken out both titles. Other Clubs in the WD are Kahui-Rahotu, Oaonui, Okato, Tatarai-maka, and Warea.

"Bowling is for both young and old " says Rex who is equally excited about the upcoming Junior Schools Tournament to be held later in the year. The Competition that offers young people the opportunity to participate in Indoor Bowling will see Oakura School anxious to defend the Ashley Trophy they won last year. Three teams will be selected from year 7 and 8 pupils with training given under the watchful eye of Club Coach Roy Grey. As a lead up to this competition, it is intended a "dry" run takes place between the selected pupils and their Mums and/or Dads. " The youngsters will be frothing at the mouth in anticipation of taking out their Mums and Dads " says Rex with a laugh. " It'll be a great atmosphere and loads of fun for the families.

Since the season opened on the 7 March, the Oakura Club has had two major competitions resolved. The Jamieson Cup for Fours was won by Shirley Marster's team comprising Syd Sharp, Joyce Young, and Royden Hancock. The other event was the Club Championship Triples won by Roy Grey's team comprising Glennis Bridgeman, and Roydon Hancock. Currently, Club members are competing in the Club Championship Fours Event played in the Oakura Hall on Monday Nights 7-30pm. Anyone wanting to try their hand at Indoor Bowls (young or old) should contact Club Captain Alan Bridgeman on 7527478. All bowls and equipment are supplied. All you have to do is turn up in flat-soled shoes.

By Fiona Washer

## Greetings fellow fishos

Surfcasting has been better than expected over the last few weeks. We had about eight snapper weighed in over May and a good number of kahawai. This is great as it gets people out fishing, which is what we are all about.



As far as recent Club Days go, we have been hampered by the weather yet again, plus we tend not to schedule too many this time of the year as the chances of the conditions being ideal are slim.

We recently held our Casting Comp up Surrey Hill Road. This was very well supported and yes, it was an ideal day to be at the beach with your rod rather than in a paddock with your rod. However, we managed to get the event over by lunchtime and a few sneaked off towards the tide afterwards. The longest cast of the day was 161 metres, cast by Merv Krutz, with about three other casters getting around the 110 to 130 metre mark. Bruce Madgwick and Darryn Spadman both did very well in the accuracy, getting within 2 metres of the 60-metre pin. Oakura Surfcasting Club thanks Symons Transport and also McKinlay Surveyors for their help.

The end of May saw the last of our 2004/2005 season. We will have all the winners in the July issues of TOM. As of 1 June all points go back to zero and we start again. Any one is welcome to join up – come to our AGM in June and check us out (by the time this issue is out the date of the AGM will have been finalised). If you are keen, phone one of the contacts below.

Tight lines

Debbie E

### Club contacts:

Gary Harrison	752 7055
Bruce Madgwick	752 7712
David Politakis	758 8528
Debbie Edgecombe	752 7425

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### INSIDE STORY from the locker room

Well it's just as we thought, the Hurricanes let the Crusaders have a runaway win along with their moment of glory against the Warratahs because there are, of course, bigger fish to fry. It was all a cunning plan to save the Taranaki players for the match against the Lions.

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## Oakura Pony Club news

Since our last article, the season has drawn to a close and ponies are being spelled for a while over the winter.

The Taranaki Area Pony Club Eventing Team headed to Palmerston North to defend the New Zealand Championship trophies won at Cromwell in 2004, but unfortunately returned empty handed. The Oakura Pony Club had a number of riders represented in the team – Tara Harvey and Sherie Holdom, with Mathew Thomas and Lauren Rook as reserve riders. The team entered the second day of competition placed second overall after the first day dressage competition. Day two, however, saw their standing slip as the testing hilly cross-country course saw some eliminations. This effectively eliminated the team from the team competition and it was left to those individual riders not eliminated from competition to salvage some pride. Tara Harvey on Zeus continued her good form from the season to post a very good score in the dressage competition, and produce clear rounds in the showjumping and cross country to finish the 17 years and under individual competition in second place – a superb performance following on from her third placing in 2004. Sherie's mount, Ice, unfortunately suffered a leg injury at the water and was forced to retire. Nevertheless, the team had a great week away and will no doubt look forward to Whangarei next year.

Claire Hinton on Sexy B rode as a member of a combined North Taranaki / Te Puke team at the Timberlands North Island Teams Event held at Tokoroa in April. Claire produced a very creditable dressage score and clear showjumping and cross country scores to post the fourth best individual score in the 130 rider field.

A number of our junior riders are busy completing horsemanship and horse management certificates to embellish their equine knowledge and riding skills. Thank you to our instructors and examiners for your efforts. It is your knowledge and skill that makes this Club well recognised in the province as being able to consistently produce skilled and competitive riders.

The Pony Club grounds have been resurfaced and grassed and are looking great. Riders wishing to use the arena should skirt around newly grassed areas. The McKeller street entry has been locked by the Council to prevent unsolicited dumping of soil on the grounds. We are attempting to have the gate reopened for rider entry only, so please, no vehicles or soil on the grounds.

The Pony Club Committee, parents and riders will be heartened to read of Councillor Fay Looney's comments with regard to the need to review the Management Plan for Matekai Park, to include plans for a bridle path (see the May issue of TOM). The Pony Club, some time ago, also suggested to the Council that the Plan should be reviewed, with the potential to include/create a unobtrusive and non-threatening (to public and ecology) bridle path to the beach. There are serious safety issues to be considered over young riders using Wairau Road, so we would welcome any positive support from the Community Board and the community on the proposal.

GR



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## Kaitake Golf Club

### Runaway trundler: a true story

One Wednesday morning the men of Kaitake Golf Club had finished playing the second hole and were onto the third tee. The men all teed off, but one of the guys put his ball to the left of the hole and it ended up down the bank and in a tree. So one nice gentleman in the group pushed his trundler forward and left it just to the left of the tee on the third while they all looked for the ball.

When the ball was found they went on to finish the hole but one of the guys couldn't find his motorised trundler anywhere. Ten minutes and eight men later they found the runaway trundler down on the sixth fairway. It had taken itself off on a little jaunt. Lots of laughs were had by all.

### Hole in one!

Local golfer Mike Mills and ex-local women's golfer Kay Cavey both got a hole in one on the fourth.

### Weekday ladies

The Fougere Cup was won by Janet Beggs (36 hole stroke play)

### Gross competition

Silver: R Robins – 170, 2nd S Burgess – 173

Bronze: J Mattingley – 186, 2nd J Beggs – 189

### Net Competition

Silver: S Burgess – 145, 2nd J Ross – 147

Bronze: J Beggs – 137, 2nd J Mattingley – 146

# On the SLOPE Piston

Well, here it comes! Yes, the ski season is nigh. The doctors are all rubbing their hands together in anticipation of extra wealth and the ACC bean counters are shaking in their soft, polished, Italian shoes.

So dig out those 1996 skis from the back of the garage, sharpen them up and wax them, then sort out all your un-sexy, clunky, mildew-smelling clothing and boots. Or . . . better still, buy all new stuff, because you don't want to receive scorn for having *old* gear up there on the hill, now do you? Besides, you'll look pretty silly with odd boots on. Oh, you're going to try snowboarding this year are you? Better beef up the accident and loss of earnings insurance then. And *please* learn to improve your aim when joining the queue for the top tow.

Now, what about getting up there? You'll probably find your

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chains without a problem, but then realize that you've changed vehicles (and wheel sizes) since you last used them. Decent tyres would be good, too.

Well, nobody said it was going to be easy or cheap, but at least it'll be one hell of a lot of *FUN!* Snow, please snow!

## Powder Reef Club's 10th Anniversary celebrations

**To all past and present members**

This year, "Season 2005" signifies the 10th Anniversary of the Powder Reef Club. To celebrate, we are planning an event on the Manganui Ski Field during August (dates to be advised). This may include our Club champs up on the field with a prize-giving and party at the Stratford Mountain Club Lodge. The intention is to stay overnight in the Lodge. We will be also be producing special 10th Anniversary merchandise for the event.

We're asking all members past and present to express their interest so if you would like be part of these celebrations, please contact our secretary, Tanya Farrant, on 752 1301.

The annual trip to Turoa will be Wednesday 7th through to Friday 9th September.

Mark Braddock, President



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Hello everyone. I hope you have lots of great reading material as this time of year tends to provide us with weather suitable for reading. It's most satisfying to sit in comfy armchair by the fire with a favourite book or two. For those brave enough to venture out in the evenings, just a reminder that the Library is open on Wednesday evenings from 5pm – 7pm.

A good number made it to the recent New Zealand Post Book Awards Storytime evening. An enjoyable time was had by all. The children created some wonderful "other ark creatures" to tie in with the Lynley Dodd book *The other ark*.

Due to the interest generated by this storytime I am looking at introducing a regular storytime for children and a book group for adults – possibly a monthly session on a Wednesday evening and perhaps one session of each on a weekday afternoon (also monthly). I would love to get feedback from you. Would you be interested in any of these sessions? Please let me know when you visit the Library or telephone 759 6060 and ask for Oakura Library. Thanks in advance. If there is enough support I will have a list of dates and times ready for the next *TOM* issue.

Back to the New Zealand Post Book Awards for children and young adults. The winners have been announced and all the

books are available from the Library. Just keep in mind that the books are written for different ages and stages and some have content, concepts and issues that will be appropriate for older teen readers only. Others such as the picture books and junior fiction titles will appeal to a much wider audience. The overall winner, New Zealand Post book of the year and picture book of the year, is *Clubs: a Lolly Leopold story* by Kate De Goldi and Jacqui Colley. The junior fiction winner is *Aunt Effie and the island that sank* by Jack Lasenby, the young adult winner is *Malcolm and Juliet* by Bernard Beckett, and the non-fiction prize went to *Welcome to the South Seas* by Gregory O'Brien. Lorraine Orman received the best first book award for *Cross tides*, her finalist in the young adult fiction section. The children's choice award was taken out by Lynley Dodd for *The other ark* – a great book for reading aloud. For further details, you may want to look at the Puke Ariki website at [www.pukeariki.com](http://www.pukeariki.com) or New Zealand Booksellers at [www.booksellers.co.nz](http://www.booksellers.co.nz)

Happy reading

Brenda



## Gardening with Rosemary Herb

### JUNE CHECKLIST

**Flower garden:**

Cut back, lift and divide perennials such as asters, achilleas, dahlias and phlox. There's still time to plant lilies.

Plant new roses.

Rose pruning can start late in the month.

Prune deciduous trees in dry weather.

Mulch all plants with compost.

**Kitchen garden:**

Plant strawberry plants.

Plant new trees: citrus, apple, pear, plum, peach and nectarine.

Spray deciduous fruit trees with Champion Copper and Conqueror Oil to protect against pests and disease.

Plant asparagus crowns into well drained soil.

Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, winter lettuce, spinach and silverbeet.

Plant garlic and shallots.

# Dior

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I remember when...

## Dr Arthur Hogg

Oakura resident, Arthur Hogg's earliest memories are of growing up in Wellington during the war years. Out in the bay and at the wharf, big troop ships, Cunard liners and P&O cruise ships were assembled – most would never have been seen in New Zealand were it not for the



war. As a boy at Scots College he remembers wanting to be part of the war and he did military training in the hills overlooking the harbour. The training involved running around with World War 1 303 rifles, firing blanks and pretending to kill the enemy, and it was during one of these exercises that Arthur watched the 2nd Echelon leave Wellington Harbour.

Going to war seemed like an exciting thing to be part of. Arthur was too young but he joined the British Mercantile Marines anyway and in October 1940 Arthur left New Zealand bound for a training ship moored on the Thames in London. He turned sixteen while at sea on his way to England. As their ship crossed the North Atlantic Sea, they were torpedoed by the enemy when they were only about 250 miles from Britain. He remembers being down in the dining saloon and hearing something like a banger going off before feeling the ship keel over. They rushed up to the bridge then slid down a rope into the life boat. Prior to being torpedoed, the going had been heavy with a storm raging for six days, so the sea was very rough and scrambling into the life boat was not an easy feat. He spent twelve hours in the life boat before being rescued by a Minesweeper and taken to Stornoway in North Scotland.

Arthur was in London at the end of the Blitz and remembers it as "quite an experience". He was stationed in Yorkshire but had to travel through London to his training ship, which had been moved from the Thames. Buildings were demolished and rail disrupted.

Arthur returned to New Zealand in May 1946 and as a returned rehabilitation student, he was able to study medicine for six years with assistance from the Government. Arthur's father had been a doctor in Wellington and he believes this was probably the best reason he could think of for wanting to be a doctor himself. In 1952 he qualified and then spent two years service (one year was compulsory) as a house surgeon in Wellington.

He married a local girl, Barbara, in 1954. They moved to Okato where Arthur began a practice as a general practitioner. The Hogg's lived in a large house in Cummings Street where they made one of the bedrooms into a surgery. Life wasn't easy for a doctor who had no experience in general practice and with no one to show him the ropes, Arthur remembers being a GP as a challenging experience. There was a lot of travelling to do in "domiciliary" visits. Maybe his inexperience meant that he made more domiciliary visits than was strictly necessary. The practice covered an area from Pungarehu to the Tataraimakas. The "bush telegraph" was very efficient – vigilant neighbours kept an eye on the doctor's movements and could let people know via party phone lines when the doctor was in or out of the surgery. But all in all Arthur felt he gained a lot of valuable experience in the four years he was a GP at Okato.

The practice was sold and the family moved to Invercargill where Arthur began specialising as the Senior Medical Registrar. In 1960 the Hogg's went to Buckinghamshire, England where Arthur took up a position as Registrar specialising in the care of the elderly. Many opportunities arose from this foray into geriatric care, bearing in mind that the New Zealand National Health Service only began in 1938. During the Hogg's eight years in Britain Arthur also attained a post graduate diploma and was appointed as a consultant. On their way back to New Zealand the Hogg's stopped off in Australia for two years. On finally making it home to New Zealand, Arthur took up the position of Geriatric Physician at Waikato Hospital, where he worked till retirement in 1989.

The unrivalled views of the Tasman Sea beckoned so Arthur and Barbara built their dream home on Messenger Terrace on a site previously occupied by two baches. Now Arthur falls into the category of the elderly and is able to put into practice his life's study of geriatrics, but he finds the best antidote to aging is to keep the mind and body active and to plan retirement well before you get there. And it also helps to live in such an idyllic spot as Oakura.

By Kim Ferens



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## PROFILE

TOM KID

WOT,  
NO  
POEMS?

Why do pigeons fly home?  
Because it's usually too far to walk.

**Name and age:** Callum Taylor, 8 years old.

**School and teacher:** Omata Primary School, Mrs Aylward.

**My favourite food:** Chocolate and grapes.

**My favourite activity:** Motorbike riding.

**My favourite game/sport:** Ripper rugby.

**Best movie:** Sponge Bob Square Pants: The Movie.

**My pets:** Lizzie the dog, Sandra the cat, Luipy the cat and Snow the lamb.

**Exciting place or activity been to or done recently:**

I went to Brisbane and loved going to all the theme parks. Movie World was my favourite.



Why didn't the moon  
feel hungry?  
Because it was a full moon!

Congratulations to Toni-Ann Plaizier-Reilly,  
aged 12 who topped last month's quizz with  
an excellent 16 words.  
(Mind you, Toni-Anne, there were one or two fairly dodgy ones  
in there! But, hey! We won't tell anybody).

### NOW TRY THIS ONE

How many words of 4 letters or  
more can you make out of . . .

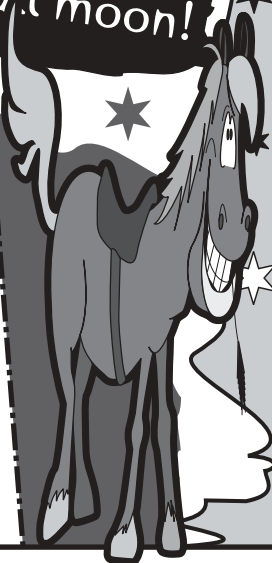
### M I C R O S C O P E

English words only, no proper names, plurals, or  
abbreviations, use each letter only once.

#### SCORE:

2 words - what do you do at school all day?  
12 words - good.  
16 words or more - excellent.  
350 words - go to Australia, they need you.

Email your answers, along with your name, age and  
school to: [oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz) or send to:  
TOM, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura and we'll print the top  
scorers' name(s) in next month's issue of TOM.



One man told 12,682  
jokes in 24 hours.

THAT'S FUNNY.

Some bottlenose dolphins have been  
trained to jump as high as 7.92m from  
the surface of the water.

PUT THEM IN THE TALL BLACKS.

The longest time a person has  
balanced on one foot is 76 hours and 40  
minutes.

MY GREAT AUNT AMY WITH ONE LEG COULD DO THAT, TOO.

The tallest living horse measures 19  
hands, 1 inch.

PROBABLY MEASURED BY SOMEONE WITH VERY SMALL HANDS.

You've got  
to be  
KIDDING!!?

### CRAZY TOM BOOK CLUB

#### Recommended Reading

"Scrap Metal Recycling" by Ally Cannes.  
"Journeys in Space" by Aster Royd.  
"Picking Pockets" by I. Steele.  
"Book of Knots" by Tai Cord.

What do you  
call a fly with no legs?  
A "walk".



What's black and white and red all over?

No, not a newspaper - a penguin with sunburn!



# Anne Wilson

06 752 7775

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## Properties Wanted

- Family wanting 4 plus bedroom home, 2 living areas, north facing, up to \$500,000.
- Still have family wanting home with some kind of character, within walking distance of village, private section suitable for children. Will pay into \$700,000's for right home.

## Properties For Sale by Anne



### 204 Surrey Hill Road, Oakura

Double bay villa. Just over 1 year from new, 5 bedrooms plus study, large entertaining areas indoor outdoor flow, triple garaging on 6010m<sup>2</sup> section.



### 109 Townsend Rd, Bell Block

Fabulous country cottage in the 'Forest'. 2yrs old, rustic, 3 brms, on 10 acres.



### 10 Donnelly St, Oakura

Very spacious, 2 brm brick unit, large living areas, large deck, private!



### 64 Wallace Place, Westown

Stone cottage, Chapman Taylor style, 5 brms, with 3 living areas and large, flat inner city section.



### 31 Wairau Rd, Oakura

2 brms plus study, extra room on lower level, fabulous sheltered section, double garage with internal access.

### 28 Dartmoor Ave, Westown, NP

Character Californian Bungalow, \$420,000.

### 31 Tukapa St, Westown

Character home, 3 large bedrooms, indoor/outdoor, flat, fenced section, 2 toilets. Offers over \$340,000.

## Section for Sale

1154 South Rd, Oakura, Flat section, 926m<sup>2</sup>.

## Sold

293c Carrington Street, New Plymouth. Very large, 4 bedroom, brick home, 2 bathrooms, overlooking Vogeltown Park.

## Thought for the Month

Your today will become your past, tomorrow. So live your today to the fullest, so you do not have to regret your yesterday.

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