

# TDM

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OAKURA

MAR 2014

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## OMATA SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS

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Omata School makes a big splash as  
summer heats up.

[Photo by Rob Tucker]

*More on page 18*

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

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

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

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

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

**TOM dates to remember**  
**for April 2014 issue:**

**Copy and ads -14th March.**

**Distribution from**  
**2nd April.**

## EDITORIAL

Thanks everyone for the wonderful feedback about the colour TOM – it is wonderful being able to bring you the community in colour and it's wonderful the community supports the TOM.



It's that time of year when we farewell our university students and many mums are feeling bereft. This year I'm one of those mums with my youngest headed off to Wellington so I'm technically an empty nester now – super weird! For so many years my life as a mum has revolved around my children and the satisfaction of creating the said nest. In the blink of an eye it seems, the nest is echoing to the sounds of nothingness – no more squabbling, no more guitars being played, no more tantrums, no more laughter, no more washing machines on endless cycles, no more "what's for tea" and no more whinging – those were the days! Tis the cycle of life so I must adapt. Now I can listen to the tap of the computer keys as I book exotic holidays and can shop for gourmet foods and be self indulgent – hmm rather have the kids back! Aren't we humans contrary?

I'm not really much of a cricket fan but I was excited to see Brendan McCullum get 302 runs in the second test in Wellington – that takes commitment and a long standing record has fallen of 299 runs as the most runs in a match ever in New Zealand – go Brendan!

Our local Kaitake Rugby Club is in recruit mode for winter sport so it will be soon time to farewell our summer pursuits so the relentless cycle of life continues!

We welcome Mayor Judd to the TOM this month and look forward to his regular contributions.

*Kim*



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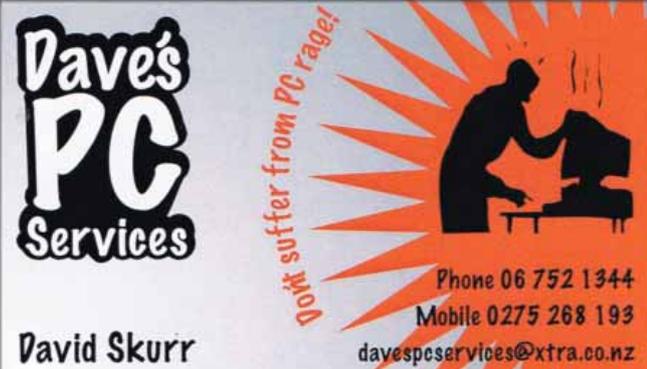
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**David Skurr**



# Mayor Andrew

By the time you read this, the Council will have met to approve the Draft Annual Plan so that it can be released for public consultation.

Elected members and staff have put in a lot of hours considering how to reduce operational costs, how much to take from our Perpetual Investment Fund, and whether to borrow from internal reserves to reduce the overall rate increase.

Whatever our decision on Tuesday 4 March, this is not the final call on what our Annual Plan for 2014/15 will look like.

Public consultation will start on the draft plan at the end of the month and we'll be highlighting the key elements of the draft along with the options we need to consider.

Please give us your feedback during this period. The more we hear from the public, the better our chances of delivering a plan and budget that meet community expectations.

## OAKURA SPEED LIMIT

Meanwhile, it's great news that the NZ Transport Agency is changing the 70km/h speed limit at the southern end of Oakura to 50km/h.

It's a simple change, but it's one that will significantly improve the safety of all road users in that area.

*Mayor Andrew Judd*

# Kaitake Community Board

Well the summer weather (except for a few blips) now continues unabated. While the crowds have departed there is still a pretty large cohort of locals enjoying our superb environment. There's something for everyone and just about everyone is doing something! Let's hope it lasts through to Easter and beyond!

The beach track at the end of the Oakura Beach Camp continues to be popular with a traffic count of 5,664 users in January. Folk may be a little inconvenienced during the next month as we have made arrangements to fix up the entrance at the beginning of the track. It has become quite sandy, making it difficult for cyclists and buggy pushers.

Since the beginning of February at the Council Joint Venture Forestry blocks at the top of Surrey Hill Road contractors have been carrying out the necessary track work prior to harvesting the logs. Large truck movements on Surrey Hill Road, Wairau Road and through Oakura village will continue for some time until this project is completed. Traffic signs will be in place but residents are urged to take care at all times.

On that note Council has received advice from the NZ Transport Agency that approval has been given to reduce the speed limit at the western end of Oakura from 70km/h to 50km/h. This is an issue that numerous residents have complained about over the years to Transit. My own correspondence stretched back 13 years! The catalyst that finally convinced Transit to take action was a project carried out by senior Oakura School students - a great example of inquiry based learning, so all credit to them and their teachers.

Your Community Board is aware of, and keeps up to date with all Council activity in the Kaitake Ward. We keep a close eye on beachfront activity, issues in the CBD, Okato concerns, and rural problems and are always available if you have matters you wish to air.

We remind you that ordinary meetings of the council, committees, some subcommittees and community boards are held on a six-weekly meeting cycle. Extraordinary meetings are held as necessary – these are advertised in the newspaper as required. Agenda papers are available for inspection at council offices, service centres and libraries before each meeting.

Besides 'business as usual' activities our next focus will be the council annual plan. Currently councillors are wrestling with aspects of the draft plan as they attempt to keep the rates increase to an absolute minimum. Bear in mind there are 8 new members going through the process for the first time. The KCB will be submitting on the plan.

Well that's it for this issue. We hope you are enjoying this great weather while it lasts and keeping your sun tan in good shape!

The next meeting of the Community Board will be held at the Old Boys Surf Club on Monday 24 March at 4.30pm. Don't forget to regularly check the KCB Face Book page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold.

Ka kite ano.

*Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Paul Coxhead and and Richard Jordan who is the Council representative on the KCB.*

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# A Government Working for All New Zealanders

## JONATHAN YOUNG MP

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

The National Government is building a faster-growing economy with more jobs and rising incomes to support New Zealanders and their families. We are achieving this through our four key priorities. We haven't wavered from these and we are getting results.

Firstly, we're responsibly managing the government's finances – just like you'd expect us to. We've turned around the books and we're on track to surplus, when we can start repaying debt and spend a little more on the services the public want.

Secondly, we're building a more competitive and productive economy because that's the best way to create more jobs and increase your wages. We're delivering economic growth of more than 3 per cent – much better than most other developed countries. Household incomes have generally been rising faster than the cost of living, and income inequality has declined.

Thirdly, we're delivering better public services. For example, we're giving parents good information about how their children are performing at school, and we have bold new plans to strengthen the teaching profession to help lift educational achievement.

There are more police on the frontline, more elective surgery is being done in public hospitals, long-term welfare dependency is falling, and we're continuing to help families and older New Zealanders with generous income support. All this is being achieved while the Government is keeping tight control of its spending. National understands that solving problems is not necessarily about spending more money.

Our fourth priority is to support the rebuilding of Christchurch because we pledged we would stand with the city, and we are. The Earthquake Commission has repaired more than 50,000 damaged houses, and nine of the 16 anchor projects in the central city will begin construction this year.

After five years of a National-led Government, the economic fundamentals are in place but there is still a great deal to do, and more to achieve. In the coming years we need to lock in the hard-won gains we've made and reject the alternative high-spending prescription.

A National-led Government can be trusted to make the best decisions for the strengthening of our economy, the prosperity of our citizens, and the security of our future.



**Jonathan Young**  
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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# Keep Oakura Beach Safe

Just a reminder that Crackerjacks, our preschool story time, starts up Thursday 20th March at 10:00 am-10:30 am here at the library. We'll hear a few themed stories and create a brief craft. Open to all families, no booking required. It will continue on the third Thursday of every month at 10am. So mark your diaries!

In this digital age we have a world of information at our fingertips on the web. However, current, quality non-fiction books delve deeply, inspire, educate, provoke and can flesh out a subject or person in amazing ways. We have a diverse range. We offer popular biographies/autobiographies such as "I am Malala", "Morrisey", "Rafa" and "Steve Jobs".

"Butterflies of the South Pacific", "Birds of NZ (a photographic Guide)", "Dogs in Action", "Big Ideas for Small Gardens" teach us about our natural world.

"Fifty Shades of Feminism" and "Lean In: women, work and the will to lead" discuss current social issues facing women and what we can do about it.

Tennis fans will enjoy "Court Confidential: inside the world of tennis".

These titles offer just a small taste of what we have available.  
*Charlie and Vincenza*

Advice from New Plymouth District Council about the use of vehicles on beaches has stepped up a gear.

Both the Council and police are actively enforcing the bylaw that allows vehicles on the beach between Weld Road and the Tapuae River mouth only when a boat is being taken down for launching or if they are an emergency or lifesaving club vehicle. Vehicles may not be left on the beach.

"We have spoken to some members of the public who have been breaching the bylaw and letters have gone out to others," says Manager Enforcement Lloyd Crow.

Vehicle owners who break the bylaw can be prosecuted through the courts.

The bylaw is in place to ensure public safety and the health of the beach and sand dunes, and we will take action when we see motorbikes, quad bikes, cars and other vehicles on the beach area when they shouldn't be there," he says.

Anyone can report improper vehicle use by contacting the Council with the registration number of the vehicle, a description of the person using the vehicle, what they did and the day and time it happened.

Dog and horse owners are also reminded that during daylight saving, dogs and horses may be exercised on Oakura Beach only before 9.00am and after 6.00pm.

Horse owners who break the bylaw can be prosecuted through the courts, while anyone breaching the Dog Control Bylaw can receive a \$300 instant fine.

Daylight savings ends on 6 April.

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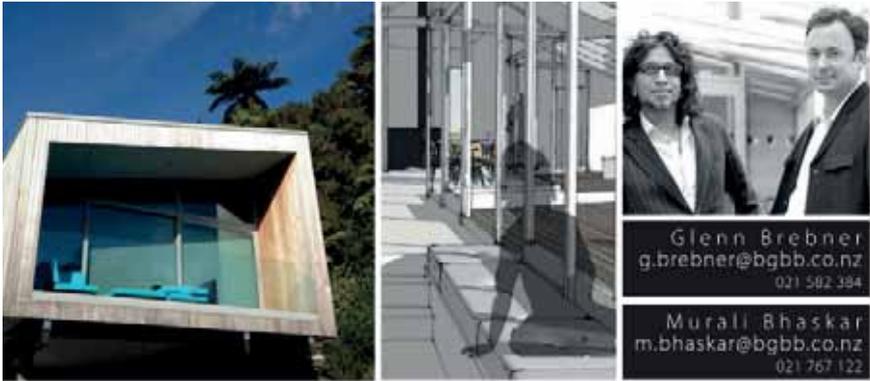


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# What Would You Do if Your House was on Fire?

The recent house fire in Omata which totally gutted my neighbour's home was a huge wake up call for me and everyone in our neighbourhood. I realised I wouldn't know what to do if my house caught on fire. We think we are safe and we think our property is safe because we have the fire service to look after us. The reality is a little harsher when you live in rural areas – the time and resources may be adequate to save lives but not necessarily property. Life is the most important aspect but we all pour our heart and soul into creating our own little oasis called 'home' and when this is threatened by fire it is devastating.

I have talked at length with fire officers to determine what we, the rural folk, can do to mitigate the damage and I would urge all lifestyle block owners and farmers to take a serious look at how they would deal with a fire. I have talked with insurance brokers to find out how we can plan for such events to help reduce the anguish and trauma that ensues.

Water and lots of it is the key to fighting a house or scrub fire but have you given any thought to where the fire service will get this water?

A rural water supply to help fight a house fire (or scrub fire) could be a water tank or swimming pool but it needs to be delivered to the fire at pressure from a pump or from a height (head pressure) using hard suction from the bottom of a tank (most tanks only have holes in the top).

It is possible to obtain fire fittings for the bottom of water tanks and also the hose fittings to speed up putting out the fire. Ring Nigel Dravitzki – the principle rural fire officer for more details on where to source these on 027 410 5103

If the water supply is a pond, lake, pool or creek (river) then the brigade needs to be able to set up a portable pump close to the water supply and pump from there through 45-100mm hard hoses – this takes time to set up.

I cannot emphasise enough how important a good supply of water is. The fire chief is not going to send fire fighters into a blaze without first establishing a line to a suitably sized water supply. Water is what keeps the fire fighters from harm along with putting out the fire!

The Oakura Fire Brigade attends a fire with an onboard water supply of 1350 litres. The New Plymouth brigade carries the same – tiny amounts when you understand a fire may need between 45,000 and 180,000 litres to put out.

An entire room can be engulfed in flames in three minutes so having easy access to and a plentiful supply of water is a must for containing a fire. It is going to take the fire brigade a minimum of 10 minutes to reach your home before they even start setting up their fire fighting systems. Our homes are full of highly combustible material. The further you live away from the fire brigade the higher the chance of losing everything unless you have planned carefully. If you would like to discuss your options with the fire service then contact the New Plymouth Fire Station and ask for the fire safety officer on 757 3860.

## A FIRE SAFETY PLAN COULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

Fit smoke alarms as a top priority in your house for early detection and have an extinguisher on hand.

Keep a minimum 45,000 litre water tank full at all times.

Locate the tank away from the house but accessible by the fire brigade.

Get together with your neighbours and list all nearby water supplies which the brigade could use.

Stow a fire hose and reel outside with a motorised or independently powered pump attached to a plentiful water supply.

Manage the space around your home by keeping combustible material 10 metres away (firewood, shrubs, trees).

Keep driveways and water access ways clear by at least 4 metres by 4 metres so fire appliances and crews can reach your property quickly.

If building from new consider building in fire resistant materials i.e. tile or steel roofs, brick, tin or Hardiplank walls, double glazed windows, gib board interiors.

Build fire walls inside ceiling cavities.

Install sprinklers and associated systems if practicable. There are companies who specialise in this field who can give you suitable advice.

Have an escape plan with a meeting place.

When your fire alarms go off, get down low and get out.

Close doors on the way out.

Call 111.

Never go back in.

Contact Nigel Dravitzki (as above) for tank fittings compatible with fire brigade hoses.

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I don't think it is sufficient preparation to say "we're insured". The cost of losing everything is huge – financially, emotionally and physically. If you can spend a few extra dollars addressing the risks to your home from fire, then you should consider it money well spent.

Hopefully everyone insures their homes and the contents in them but have you ever thought about what happens with the insurance process should you lose everything in a fire?

It's not as simple as ringing and telling the insurance company you've lost everything so send a cheque!

If your house burns down you are going to lose all your records and rescuing receipts is hardly going to be a priority but documenting your possessions and keeping a file will help in case of burglary or part fire.

**AN INSURANCE PLAN COULD LOOK LIKE THIS:**

Download the claims form or pick one up from your insurance provider.

Start a file with this form and keep all receipts of items you purchase with this form as proof of purchase.

If you no longer have the receipts then photograph the items including serial numbers.

Photograph everything in your house and store these photos off site - possibly on the cloud or drop box - a smart phone could be easiest way to do this.

Check with insurance provider if individual items need to be insured separately (items valued at more than \$2000 – jewellery, bikes, cameras etc).

The process of trying to remember all your possessions is difficult especially after a traumatic event like a fire or burglary so if you have been thorough in keeping receipts or taking photographs this will be easier and resolved quicker.

We all tend to think a fire won't happen to us but it might and it would be devastating so think carefully about your options and what you would do if it did happen.

*By Kim Ferens*



The Oakura Fire Brigade would very much like to thank those in the community who have donated into the containers at the Oakura Four Square.

Although we are funded by the NZFS, we only receive funding for 14 brigade members. The additional money we receive in donations, allows us to better equip ourselves in case of an incident of some sort. With the money thus far collected, we have purchased a wet/ dry vacuum cleaner for salvage use.

Thank you to the Oakura Community.

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# SPORTS

## Kaitake Golf Club

### FEBRUARY 2014

The 2014 golfing season is off to a good start and the competitions for all divisions are well under way. Kaitake welcomes all members back for another year and a special welcome to all the new members. We hope you enjoy your golf and comradeship that Kaitake has to offer.

The course is in very good condition though showing signs of the recent dry spell combined with those endless windy days. There are some very low scores being achieved.

Good luck to all the Kaitake teams entered in the Taranaki handicap pennants competition this year.

## Results

### MEN

The Taranaki Men's Handicap Pennants is underway with Kaitake entering two teams, Kaitake 1 and Kaitake 2, both sponsored by Raceway Cycles. Round 1 for the North Taranaki teams was played at New Plymouth with Kaitake 2 coming away with a win.

### WEEKEND WOMEN

Saturday 15th Feb was Club Opening Day for the 18 hole and 9 hole Weekend Women. The Jocelyn Garcia Trophy was at stake and fought for by teams of two from each division.

Round 1 of the 18 Hole Weekend Pennants was played at Te Ngutu on Feb 2nd. The Kaitake team had a win against Taranaki Junior Girls. Round 2 will be played on 23rd Feb at Manukoriki.

### MIDWEEK WOMEN

Opening Day for the Midweek Women was February 4th. 32 women turned out and played for the Summer Cup. This year there were two winners, Fiona Gifford-Moore and Marlene Scott, who both came in with a Nett 63. Well done!

### MIDWEEK 9 HOLERS

#### *Summer Cup results*

Winner of the Jo West Summer Cup - Claire Chamberlain with a score of 20, 2nd on count back Thelma White (23), 3rd Place - Marie Shotter and 4th on 24 points Chrissy Warden. Well done to all of our 25 players who participated from mid November until the end of January. (Prizes to 10th place).

Opening day on 4th February brought 27 players to the field. Thank you to everyone.

Nett Winner on the Front 9 was Chrissy Warden with a score of 29. Nett winner on the Back 9 was Christine Alexander with a score of 32. Goodies coming your way.

### JUNIOR GOLF

Budding junior golfers enjoyed two days of golf at Kaitake over the school holidays. The first day 13 enthusiastic juniors enjoyed a coaching session with Dominic Barsons. The following week 8 played in a 9 hole competition for the Mattingley Trophy. This was won by Max Shearer with Chester Oldfield a close runner-up. All participants enjoyed a barbeque prior to prize giving.

Given the level of interest we will continue to organise golf fun days each school holidays. Dates will be printed in the TOM and the Kaitake Members newsletters. Any queries phone the office.

More information on Kaitake Golf Club can be found on the website [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz), or by talking to Jacqui in the Office, phone 752 7665.

*Andrea Jarrold  
Club President*



**Max Shearer receiving the Mattingley Trophy from Jean Mattingley after winning the Junior Tournament in January.**

## KAYAK FISHING CLUB

The kayak classic will once again be held at Butlers Reef on the weekend of 22/23 March. Weigh in will be in the afternoon of both days and on the Sunday we have entertainment and music with competitions, cooking demos from Bradley Smokers and Sushi Ninja. The fish auction will once again be a feature and also come and watch the experts from Egmont Seafood's fillet the catch as people buy their fresh fish.

The Bradley Smokers are great and are very user friendly. Come and learn how to make smoked fish like the experts do. Tasman Toyota will also be running a competition so you may well win some goodies. If you love sushi, Sushi Ninja will be at the venue and can turn your purchase from the auction into mouth watering sushi.

Late entries available are from 6 pm on Friday 21 or until it reaches 250 entries. This event is fun for the whole family and everyone is welcome to join in. This years auction is raising funds for the Cape Egmont Rescue Boat. Entry

# GODzone team is Ready

Craig Cook and his team of 'keen as' athletes are about to tackle the GODzone Adventure Race and Craig updates us on the team's progress to date.

Over the last six months we have been doing heaps of training. We have been caught in gales and rain on the mountain, done some fun night trips up on the Pouakai's and rafting where a rat jumped in the boat and I screamed like a little girl and jumped out tipping the boat over much to everyone's amusement. The last couple of weekends we have been away doing some real endurance. The other weekend we went from Okoki to the Matemateaonga track via Whangamomona, 73km over some very challenging tracks. Then a 41km trek into the Pouri hut and finally a 99km Mountain bike ride to Brixton via everywhere.

We have got two changes to our team: We are now Taranaki Hardcore 225 thanks to sponsorship from THC. Grant Hildred comes into the team to replace John Ruumers. Grant is a local boy from Omata and is more than capable to filling the space in the team as he is a previous Coast to Coast two day Vet winner from back in the days when the event sold out and he did the amazing time of 12h 40min.

People will be able to follow our progress and see if we make it by going to the [www.godzoneadventure.com](http://www.godzoneadventure.com) website and from the 8th of March they can watch the tracking system and see what discipline and part of the course we are up to.

Good luck Taranaki Hardcore 225!



The GODzone Adventure race venue, photos from GODzone



**KAITAKE JUNIOR RUGBY MUSTER**

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Jim Morwood and Gary Harrison with tuna caught from Oakura beach.

forms are available from Oakura Holiday Park, Heydon Priest and online at [www.kayakfishingclassic.org.nz](http://www.kayakfishingclassic.org.nz).

The fishing is much improved with good catches of snapper, and lots of tuna being caught. We have been having lots of fun catching tuna just off Oakura Beach. Surfcasting has also been good with some great snapper caught during February.

*Gary Harrison*



# Oakura Boardriders

My family and I have had enough of the cold and windy summer so a brief interlude in northern NSW and SE Queensland is required. Hopefully with warm water and a right hand point breaks...

Oakura Boardriders has been firing all summer with some new management adding some new found enthusiasm to the mix. With a lot of new immigrants both NZ and foreign wanting to get involved we have seen some great nights and big crowds at our surfing Fridays, absolutely great to see.

The Boardriders now own the building on Messenger Terrace which brings it's own challenges but it's all positive and a new era is around the corner.

The Microgroms contests are midway with some strong showings with club members performing strongly. I haven't got a full table status but Butland and Shewry are prominent names in the mix. After the last contest circuit winners will be named. The Billabong grom series has commenced. Unfortunately our groms are still a bit young but NPSRC has had some success as has Waitara in the girls divisions - all great for Taranaki surfing

The Easter Masters entry forms are out with other entries to follow. Easter is huge for surfing in Taranaki so let's all support it.

The Dillion Walsh Memorial Longboard contest was held in early February with most of the top longboarders in NZ competing. By all accounts a good weekend of camaraderie.

Below I have included a midyear update from our president. We have the Club champs coming up Taranaki anniversary weekend - all members on deck helping out will certainly be appreciated!

On a sadder note we all offer our sincere condolences to Wayne, Phillipa, and Tobias Looker on the passing of Riley, a son taken far too soon.

For all those Facebook users the Facebook page has gone from a profile to a group page so please go and "like" the page for all the online news.

*Brent Anderson (OBC)*



Connor Anderson on a wave at the Dillion Walsh Memorial.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

An update on news and upcoming events.

### FRIDAY NIGHTS

Summer has been cranking along with loads of new members (and old) enjoying the surf lessons, boardroom and potluck/bbq's.

Friday night sessions are now in full swing so come down for an "all in" session - we'll have a couple of coaches in the water, an open bar and sausage sizzle available.

We will also be running a best wave competition on Friday night so be in the water between 5-6pm for your chance at a prize.

Our Friday/Lesson nights have been great for so many reasons - Gary and BC's coaching has had a dramatic effect on our kids, showing the lessons are worth their weight in gold! Check out the last two Micro Grom competition results, nearly all Oakura kids taking top spots in all divisions. We've just applied for more funding to ensure this service keeps moving forward so will keep members updated with that. Our membership is still growing rapidly so any ideas members have about how to fund our kids please speak up.

### BOARDROOM

With the boardroom now open to all (via combo lock) the boards are under heavy use. We've had some breakages and mistreatment of the boards. Please make sure you carry the boards to and from the beach for the kids, this will make sure edges and fins aren't damaged on the road. Make sure boards are left wax face down to the sand when on the beach. Wrap leg rope around board and WASH it before returning it to the room. Boards have been left out on the beach and the boardroom on a few occasions. We wouldn't leave \$700 lying on the beach or road so please be mindful. The freezer has also been switched off so please do not touch the plug in the boardroom. I will change the combo lock more often so please do not share it with friends if they want the number just txt me or committee members direct and we will send it through 0272529190. On a positive note the boards are getting used which is great to see so please keep enjoying them.

### Funding

We are currently working on a few options for funding. (big thanks to Clair Florence, Stella Bond and Ange Day for the current efforts) If you have any advice you'd like to add please do so.

Current projects are:

- Kids and adult lessons;
- New boards;
- Changing room refit;
- Potential refit of kitchen and upstairs;
- Outside deck on the eastside of the building.

### PARTY NIGHTS.

It would be nice to start organising some bigger events perhaps for once a month or something like, if you know a band or have some ideas or theme nights you'd like please put them forward so we can try and organise some. Be great to see some more good times.

## EVENTS

Ange Day has taken over a share in the Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/oakuraboardriders> (along with Brent of course) so please jump on Facebook, look up Oakura Board Riders and friend it so you can receive updates of events etc. Also any great photos you have send them to Ange and she will upload.

Friday nights are in full swing so come down 4.30pm onwards.

OBC champs Taranaki Annervesrary weekend 8-10th March

We have an open day "surf taster" 5th April, 9am - 12pm (part of the Puki Ariki exhibition)

## SPECIAL THANKS

Steve and Marlise Butland for cleaning the carpets and deck. Hareb Deken for paying and fixing our TV.

Fiona and Mike Hareb for the couch.

Southcoast Construction for the ply wood and bar till.

Johnno at Vertigo for the awesome prizes and effort to support our club, please support his shop and keep it local .

CSA for supporting our comp, please also show your support for them.

A special big thanks to Gina Roberts (and Steve of course) for the huge amount of work she puts into our "books" and weekly running of the club, she is an asset to us all. Thanks Gina. Anything or anyone I missed please don't be shy.

*John Shewry, OBC*

# Domestic Goddesses – This One is for You!

A recent Thermomix demonstration to my friends and I by Aileen Katanella brought out the Nigella in me! The Thermomix was a machine I had seen on Masterchef and the like and had assumed only professional chefs used. It is very impressive with a list of functions to make every Nigella quiver – beat, whip, blend, stir, emulsify, knead, steam, chop, melt, mill and cook – all in one machine.

An online search showed Consumer rating it highly, though expensive and the test to test all gadgets – TradeMe – not a single machine for sale. Thermomix has been in New Zealand since 2009 so long enough for them to pop up on the second hand market if people are finding they don't live up to their reputation.

Aileen is the perfect demonstrator – she is passionate about eating healthy food and the Thermomix gives control back to the cook. You can mill your own wheat for flour, you can steam your food to retain their nutrients, you can do away with foods with additives in them, you can disguise the yukky vegetables kids hate in your cooking – all a big plus for family cooking. For couples the



**Voila! A yummy lunch.**



**Aileen with the kitchen gadget to rival all gadgets – the Thermomix.**

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Aileen showed us how the Thermomix saves time – for instance a mushroom risotto takes half the time of a stove top risotto and you don't have to tend to it. A gravy beef goulash takes two hours rather than four hours.

The variety of dishes you can create with a Thermomix is endless and all your favourite recipes can be adapted to use in the Thermomix. Aileen treated the Thermomix like it was her best friend and I think it is – after all it is helping her achieve the things she is passionate about – healthy food for her family, saving her time, giving her a business opportunity and getting her out in her community and meeting people.

If you would be interested in more information about Thermomix contact Aileen on 0275244007 or email her at [aileenthermomix@gmail.com](mailto:aileenthermomix@gmail.com)

*By Kim Ferens*

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*Noho ora mai rā*

*Teresa Goodin*

*First Light Flower Essences of New Zealand® Practitioner*

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**Kauri. The Beauty Essence. Helps with anxiety around love and promotes self acceptance.**

# RAY PRIEST - The 'Happy' One

At the end of last year one of Oakura School's and the local community identities retired from teaching so we pay a small tribute to this marvellous contribution to the lives of our children and the greater good to the community with a few words from locals.



Ray cunningly combining the rugged outdoors with a bit of classical ballet?

**Lynne Hepworth** – Oakura School Principal.

Ray is passionate about Oakura and the beautiful environment in which we live. He has lived in Oakura for most of his life and he has been a highly valued staff member at our school for 27 years. He has a passion and talent for teaching science, technology, environmental studies, languages, Maori language/culture and history, musical productions and 'Education Outside the Classroom'.

Past pupils still talk about his morning sing-a-longs, how he taught them about the Maori language and culture, and the way his teaching influenced their thinking about environmental issues.

He has established and maintained most of the environmental projects that are in place at our school: starting

up the school plant nursery, initiating local plantings in the village and surrounding national parks, looking after the trap line on the Kaitake Ranges for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust, paper recycling, composting, worm farms, 'Beach Clean Up' days, Keep NZ Beautiful clean ups, Arbor Day plantings, looking after the school vegetable garden (helping the children produce several meals a year from them), organising the home vegetable garden competition and teaching about local flora and fauna to pupils and parents when on school camps.

Ray has played a large part in establishing many of the traditions that still exist at Oakura School. We hope that he will find time in a busy retirement to come back and be part of these in the future.

**Peta Hislop**

Ray and I have worked together at Oakura for many years and are friends as well as colleagues. Ray is a wonderful teacher and is going to be missed in the teaching world although I know he

will be coerced into doing some part time work at the school. He taught our daughter Ana for two years and she still says he was the best teacher she ever had. He certainly imparted his wonderful knowledge of environmental issues which she is now teaching her own son. Ray has a wealth of skills and knowledge which made his classes exciting for kids and many, many of them remember him long after their school days are over. Ray has a great sense of humour and is a caring human being, and it was a pleasure to work with him always. I know he will enjoy being retired, pursuing his interests and spending time with his family.

**Rebecca Cowley** - student

This is my story. (1990 - 1997)

Mr. Priest will be known as the pioneer of activities at Oakura school – the video-camcorder. In my younger years I looked up to the older students, such as older siblings and how they the opportunity to record updates within the school through the use of a video-camcorder. The two 'reporters' that we saw on screen were part of a team effort - the researchers, the video assistants, the video recorder and the teacher.

Mr Priest's involvement with Te Reo Maori were a highlight and our trips to the Oakura Marae, staying overnight, learning the traditional language and of course including the knowledge and understanding of our native trees and bird life.



Never a dull moment out there with Ray.



**Morgan Davies** - student

Remembers singing Maori songs on Wednesdays mornings - was always fun and more enjoyable than maths or English.

**Emma Dashorst** (10 yrs)

As most of you know Mr Priest retired from Oakura school on Thursday the 19th. He has been a teacher at Oakura school for 27 years! He's made a huge difference in our school, especially to do with his love for the environment. One of the things that he will keep helping us with during his retirement is writing productions. He has been writing them along with Raeleen Luckin.

Another thing that he will keep helping us with is our Oakura school nursery. Most of the trees in the Enviro Centre were planted in the nursery. And that is one of the most resent things that Mr Priest has made possible in our school. The Enviro Centre. Some of you might remember that horrible day when a lot of people gave up their Sunday morning to help Mr Priest and some of the council to plant one thousand small trees.

One of the things that I will miss most about Mr Priest is his love for science and technology. I remember last year was so much fun! Especially making a boat made of recycled materials. That was my favorite homework ever. Mr Priest also takes all the photos of sports events or other special events around the school.

I will miss you very much Mr Priest and I know that all the people who ever had you as a teacher.

On behalf of all of the people who ever had you as a teacher, happy retirement!

**Mike Nightingale** – Educational Psychologist 1974-1989

Within the teaching profession Ray was very well known and respected and a lovely man to go with it.

*These words go nowhere close to expressing the community's affection and gratitude towards Ray, but are merely a small offering of what many have verbally expressed.*

By Kim Ferens

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# Oakura School Beach Education

Knee boards, inflatable rescue boats, rips and currents, were some of the important topics that Oakura School pupils learnt about at beach education.

In week 2 of this term, the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of February, Oakura school's 12 classrooms went to the New Plymouth Old Boys surf club for lessons about beach hazards and safety steps to remember while on the beach. Oakura pupils learnt about how to identify rips and currents, looked at different rescue equipment such as inflatable rescue boats (IRB's) and knee boards, and participated in beach activities both in and out of the water.

Some quotes from students were; Alfie Arms: "My favourite activity was when we ran into the water and saved our buddies from drowning with the life tubes." Niwa Shewry added, "My favourite part was going for a swim with the lifeguards."

Overall everyone at Oakura School had a fantastic week. Thanks to all the parents who got in the water to supervise the pupils when they were swimming and to the very capable life guards who took us for this programme.

*By Hamish Goodhue, George Clarke, Jade Maulder & Portia Roper – (12 years old)*



**Edward Poole dressed up as a life guard with all the safety gear.**

# A Successful Day of Cleaning

Plastic bags, an old shoe and a tyre were just a few of the items collected by Oakura students on their annual beach clean-up day. Oakura School beach clean-up was held on Friday 7th February and was a huge success, with each pair of pupils gathering enough rubbish to fill several rubbish bags.

All twelve classrooms of Oakura School trekked across the beach or through the village, picking up any pieces of rubbish lying on the ground and littering our environment. The thoughts of a nice cool swim and hot dog at the end of the clean-up were great incentives and kept everyone going.

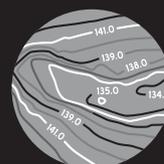


**Teacher Philli Butt supervising Jade Maulder and Gloria Pronk Jones as they enjoy jumping off the river bank.**

A swim in the river was definitely a worthy reward for the hard work of the local school. All the students had the opportunity to have a swim and a hot sausage prepared by the Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) committee.

The beach is clean for now, but we all know that in the future, the beach may need the help of Oakura School again.

*By Hamish Goodhue, George Clarke, Jade Maulder and Portia Roper (aged 12 years)*



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# Oakura - the Happiest, Healthiest Place in Taranaki

Year 7 & 8 students from Oakura School were captivated by motivational fitness guru Rowena Szeszeran-McEvoy or Rowie to her audience as she told them they could be happy, healthy and successful.

Rowie's approach of getting down and sitting on the floor in her designer outfit endeared her to the students and it wasn't long before she had them singing and dancing about wee's and poo's!

Rowie is the co-founder of THE MAX – an international fitness business college for professionals and a multi-millionaire and is in Taranaki giving talks on being happy and healthy.

Her approach is simple – it's about how you look at things – rain is not a nuisance, it is free water falling out of the sky! She believes if you want to do something then go out and achieve it. Do what you love doing and it won't be hard to achieve. It is instantly clear Rowie is enjoying being with the students and even though she has probably told her stories dozens and dozens of times, she is excited about the stories and her audience – she loves it and her genuineness and enthusiasm is infectious.

She challenged the students to make Oakura the happiest and healthiest place in the region in five easy steps.

Be happy – you decide to be happy.

Drink more water – drink more water till you get clear.

Eat more fruit and vegetables – not because it's healthy but because they make you poo i.e. once or twice a day. Make it a priority to eat more things from the ground and don't follow a silly diet.

Get huffy puffy four times a day – exercise till you gasp for breath as this is burning fat even when you are sitting still and you get to feel great four times a day!

Get strong muscles not big muscles – overload your muscles to make them grow. Strong people are successful people – strong mentally and physically. Bullies pick on people they see as weaker than themselves, so get strong. Do one press up today and two tomorrow and so on.

Oakura students will now be the happiest and healthiest in the region I'm sure and I'm picking they will be prompting their parents to be the same!

Rowie was proudly brought to Oakura by Estelle Williams from Functional Fitness.

By Kim Ferens



Rowie gets the year 7 & 8's thinking.



Kaia and Maya soak up some 'happy' with Rowie.



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## COMING EVENTS

### March

- 10 Taranaki Anniversary.
- 18 Y5/6 Athletics at Okato.
- 25 Y7/8 Athletics at Okato.
- NB: change of date.
- 26/27 3D Conferences.
- School finishes 12pm.

### April

- 3 Y6-8 Interschool swimming Bell Block Pool.
- 17 Term One ends.
- 18 Easter Good Friday.



## New Plymouth Boys' High School

The school has begun with 1270 students and summer as usual begins when school starts!!! If you are reading this and have a son at Boys' High, I hope he is enjoying being back at school (even if he's not prepared to admit it).

At the very core of any educational institution is what is called "the hidden curriculum". This encompasses the values that a school espouses and the very effectiveness of a school lies in the close correlation between what it preaches and what in fact happens. You may remember a teacher saying, "Do as I do". There is little benefit in a school saying that its values are integrity and respect, but treating its pupils with little integrity or respect . . . in fact if a student is not treated fairly and respectfully, then there is little chance the student will treat fellow students or staff appropriately. The hidden curriculum is a very powerful thing in a school (any institution) and you can very quickly see what a school really stands for . . . the rhetoric or the reality?

At New Plymouth Boys' High School we have formed an acronym under the word "PRIDE":

**Pride** in the school – this can be seen by such things as wearing the school uniform well, caring for the environment, representing the school with pride . . .

**Respect** for self and others – this can be seen by such things as manners, appropriate behaviour, being kind to others . . .

**Integrity** – this can be seen by such things as honesty, taking responsibility for actions, being true to oneself . . .

**Determination** to succeed – this can be seen by trying your best at all times, extending your talents, setting goals . . .

**Engagement** in the opportunities offered – this can be seen by focussed study, willingness to take part and participate in school activities. Boys who are engaged in school activities show sustained behavioural involvement accompanied by a positive emotional tone. They select tasks at the border of their competencies and exert intense effort and concentration. The opposite of engagement is disaffection. These boys are passive, do not try hard, give up easily and are often bored with and withdrawn from learning opportunities.

The true meaning of PRIDE is a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of one's close associates, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired. It means things such as pleasure, joy, delight, fulfilment, satisfaction. Pride in yourself and your school implies high self-esteem, dignity and respect.

That is what we stand for.

*Michael McMenamin, Headmaster*

## FONTERRA MILK FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

We are getting set up for the 'Milk in Schools' programme to start this month. Our community consultation survey at the end of last year indicated most of our parents supported having the scheme running at school so Fonterra have been delivering their fridge and supplies. Training staff and children how the recycling part of the programme works is underway and I am sure once we begin, it will run very smoothly. We have opted to use the programme three days a week and have parent permission to opt into the scheme.

Thank you to Fonterra for providing the milk, fridge and recycling bins which support the programme so there is no cost to the school. They even come and collect the recycling.

## SWIMMING

The pool is in full action with daily swimming lessons and is being well used by the Omata community. Our year 7 and 8 students also go to the Aquatic Centre twice a week for deep water and longer lengths swimming and life saving skills lessons. The school also employs Julie Neilson two days a week during the swimming season to take swimming lessons alongside the teachers. This gives the children support with stroke development and supports the teachers with new ideas for teaching swimming.

*Karen Brisco  
Principal*

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# Spotswood College



## A GREAT START TO THE YEAR

The new school year at Spotswood College has begun with a range of positive and engaging activities, such as the Year 13 Peer Support Leaders Group. Year 13 students have been pushed out of their comfort zones at the Vertical Horizons Leadership Camp. The Peer Support Team were taught to take a stand, put their best foot forward and to work, not as individuals, but as one team. The camp was very beneficial to all those students who attended, it kick started the journey for most to a lifetime of leadership.



From left to right: Michael Mischeski (Deputy Head Boy), Jaymz Tito (Deputy Head Boy), Faris Petty (Head Boy), Mark Bowden (Principal), Hayley Maply (Head Girl), Monique Flaszynski (Deputy Head Girl), Kaitlyn Koboski (Deputy Head Girl).

Before school began to really get into gear we held our Powhiri on day one to welcome new students to our school. It was a great opportunity for our Year 9 students and Year 13 students to connect and begin to build a bond that unites our school and brings us together as a family. The Powhiri gave the Year 9s the chance to meet our encouraging and supportive senior students who will become their leaders, their friends and their whanau for the 2014 school year.

Following the Powhiri the new students were encouraged through their peer support groups, their whanau classes and their Hapu groups to participate in our first Hapu sports event which was novelty swimming. Students were enthusiastic and eager to get involved, which shaped a really positive and rewarding start to the year for everyone.

In the senior school the first senior assembly highlighted the very good NCEA results gained in 2013. Speakers at the assembly encouraged us to remember and keep focused on our school E TŪ expectations (Education, Taking Part and Unity). The E TŪ programme is a positive part of our school and for 2014 focuses on learning in the classroom. E TŪ reminds us as to who we are as a school, "we are a co-educational school, learning is our focus, we are diverse, inclusive and caring."

We had a wonderful Meet the Teachers evening on Wednesday 19th February. Year 9 students and their parents met with teachers and were well fed by Head Prefects who cooked a BBQ and waited on students, parents and teachers.

Following the excitement of the Hapu Swimming Sports we are looking forward to a competitive and thrilling Athletics Day on Thursday 27th February. Students dress in their Hapu colours and involve themselves in fun and competitive events.

Our start to the year has been great, new faces, new classes, new subjects and new dreams and goals. We look forward to the rest of the year continuing with such positive focus and enthusiasm.

*Kaitlyn Koboski, Year 13, Deputy Head Girl*



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PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING

### Dance Highway 45

Jazz, Hip Hop and Tap classes available for 4yrs and above. Boys' Street Dance with Shaquille: Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm 9yrs and under, 5.30pm - 6.00 10yrs and over. Contact: Raeleen Luckin 752 7761 d.luckin@xtra.co.nz

**Fitness Training.** Small Group classes held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Corbett Park - Interval Training & BoxFit. Contact Estelle Williams of Functional Fitness ph 7521001.

**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.** Restarts Tuesday 11th February, 10.00am Oakura Hall. Gold coin donation. Weekly thereafter.

### Nakifit - Circuit Training Classes.

Body Shape Light Tuesdays 9.15am/6pm.  
 Body Trim & Core Thursdays 9.15am/Saturdays 8am.  
 BoxFit Thursdays 6pm.  
 \$50 for 5 Concessions/\$80 for 10 Concessions.  
 Bookings essential. Call Katrin 021 02255 885.

**Ringcraft Moana jewellery classes.** Every Saturday 10-11:30am. RSVP information online - www.nzpearl.co.nz

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

**NP Toastmasters Club.** Meets every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of the month, 5.30pm at Bell-ringer Pavillion. Everyone welcome. Ph Faye 0274 250 354 or 751 0811.

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

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 3pm-6pm: Juniors private coaching.  
 Tuesday 5.30-7pm - Club night.  
 Wednesday 3-6pm - Juniors private coaching/Hot Shots Tennis.  
 Thursday 9-12pm - Social Womens tennis for members and non members.  
 5.30-8pm - A Grade players practice.  
 Friday 4-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.  
 Saturday 9-4pm - Soffe Cup and A Grade Competition.  
 Contact Jackie Keenan Secretary 752 7013.

**Okato Squash.** Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06-752 4804.

**Omata Playgroup.** Meets every Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

**Playcentre.** Playcentre, Donnelly Street. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon. Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

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

**St James Church, Oakura.** Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**St John's, Omata.** Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

**Val Deakin Dance School.** Pre-school dance class on Saturday morning from 9am to 9:30am. Beginners' ballet/dance class from 9:30am to 10:15am. Oakura Hall. Ph Val Deakin, or Jane Roseman on 06 752 7743.

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

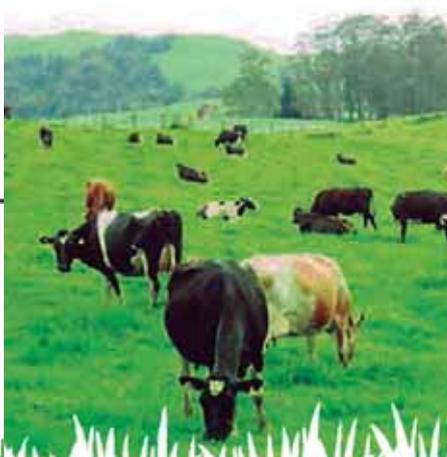
**Yoga Classes.** Oakura Church Hall Monday and Thursday 9.15am. Everyone welcome. Contact Kate Evans 027 203 7215.

### TOM CLASSIFIED

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE**  
 Dry gum or pine. Gum \$95 per cube and pine \$65 per cube. Free delivery in local area. Ph Roger Nightingale 021 136 0309.



## DAIRY PROPERTY INVESTMENTS



**Farm Venture** is a farm property investment and supervision company based in Taranaki with investments in Taranaki & King Country.

The main land use is with dairy cattle producing above the top 10% of productive performance in the areas farmed.

Substantial returns are achieved through increasing the productive capability which in turn creates large wealth gains and allows higher returns through a lower cost of capital.

The only persons who may subscribe for securities are persons excepted or exempted from being members of the public in terms of section 5(2CBA) of the Securities Act 1978 (NZ) (the Act).

For more info please contact Farm Venture on **06 758 3688** — [www.farmventure.co.nz](http://www.farmventure.co.nz)