

TOM

OAKURA

MAR 2015

FUN IN THE FEBRUARY SUN

Kaitake Athletic Group have a great day at Corbett Park.

More photos on page 11

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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EDITORIAL

I don't know if you have noticed or not, I certainly have on a few road trips I've been on lately - two heading north and one to Wellington and I can't help but be



shocked at how poorly constructed and maintained the road north is compared to the road south. How can the contractors who do the roads to the south do such a fine job while the contractors to the north do such a poor job? By poor I mean the roads are crazy bumpy with big dips, huge variations in levels especially where manholes exist in small towns, lots of holes and uneven surfaces especially where roads meet bridges. Tar leaks out, there is constant road working going on without any road ever being in better condition than it was before.

Whereas to the south the roads are smooth and I don't think I once hit a dip, hole or uneven surface that nearly crushed my spine or broke my teeth (a

relatively common occurrence going north).

History tells us that Taranaki had some of the best roads at the start of the last century due to seven toll gates operating in the region. Two thirds of all Taranaki roads at that time were sealed. I doubt imposing a toll would fix the problem here now as the funds would get syphoned off to other projects like Auckland's roading nightmare. There was no maintenance done on the roads during WW2 and it feels like they probably are in the same condition now! Or perhaps the problem is that in 1988 roading was contracted out through the competitive process and standards have fallen to get the cheapest price - most likely scenario in my opinion.

We drive modern cars with good suspensions and tyres but even they can't compensate for a rough road - I think its time something was done about the roads north - just as we drive cars that have improved immensely since the first Model T, surely roads can improve too.

Kim

Those Problem Pools



The continuing problem of horse droppings not being cleaned up.

When I was a child, horses and carts (yes, I know - old fogey) used to ply regularly up and down our town streets, leaving their steaming deposits behind them. Rather than complain, the local ladies would rush into the road with their coal shovels and quickly scoop them up for their garden composts. there was even the odd fierce squabble over who got to the pile first.

So, folks, don't turn your nose up at these little piles of garden gold - go grab 'em! They are fantastic.

Don't use them fresh, though, just let them mature in compost for a while, then spread around existing beds, or dig into your new vege garden and you'll end up with veges, well . . . the size of horses.

Ron Stratford





Mayor Andrew Judd

Hi folks

No doubt you I've seen reports in the media about the Council 's decisions to date on the Long-Term Plan 2015-2025 (LTP).

The Council has made a lot of sharp savings and hard decisions in preparing a proposed LTP that aims to be affordable while not undermining our district's great lifestyle.

This was made harder by our prudent handling of the Perpetual Investment Fund. By cutting the dividend from \$20 million per year to nearer \$7.5m we aim to ensure the funds sustainability, but of course we have given ourselves much less funding with which to offset rates.

Having said that, I'm delighted that we've cut \$77m from the amount we expect to collect in rates over the next seven years through significant savings in our operational costs. And we've shaved \$73m off our capital works programme.

As a result, we're proposing a 6.8 per cent increase in the total rates requirement for 2015/16 (year one of the LTP). That equates to about \$2.60 per week on the average residential rate or about \$11 per month.

The average increase to our total rates requirement over the life of the plan is 3.5 per cent but there 's a spike in year one due to the reduced release payment from the PIF along with costs for the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and the October launch of an improved kerbside recycling service. Over the life of the LTP we 'll also build a new new resource recovery facility for processing recyclables, buy land for parks in growth areas and do more Let 's Go cycling and walking projects. Our projects list also includes seismic strengthening of the Oakura reservoir and buying land for new parks in Oakura, but not a public toilet in the Oakura shopping area.

There is a lot of information in the Long-Term Plan Consultation Document and its supporting documents that the Council approved at its 9 February meeting. The consultation document will be delivered to homes inside the North Taranaki Midweek on 25 March.

We will be consulting on not only proposed projects and spending in the coming 10 years, but also on the New Plymouth District Blueprint (a 30-year 'big picture' plan for our district), our financial strategy for the next 10 years, the schedule of fees and charges, and a number of policies. It 's important that we get these planning documents right as they 'll confirm our road map for the next three years and give an outline of the following seven years.

Your feedback will be vital. Public consultation will run from 25 March to 24 April and I urge you to read through the consultation document when it 's released and tell us your thoughts.

Also, circle 1 April on your calendars "that's when I 'll be holding an LTP 'Community Conversation ' at Oakura Town Hall.'

Mayor Andrew Judd



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Kaitake Community Board

In this column I want to give all readers an early 'heads up' on a particularly important council process, the outcome of which will impact on the community for (at least) the next thirty years. I refer to the draft Long Term Plan 2015 - 2025 (LTP) which has been continually worked on during the past year or more. Shortly it will be available for public consultation and I urge all residents to take an active interest in its contents and talk through the issues it raises with friends and family. Issues you feel strongly about or other ideas you may wish to share can be done through a public submission process. More about that later.

So what's in it? Its label is 'Shaping Our Future Together' and its key message is 'Affordable Progress'. For me that signals a potentially better and more comprehensive process for community engagement in the construction of the LTP and the need for the council to tighten its collective belts to ensure that the organisation is efficient and effective in delivering its services.

Over the past year the council has wrestled with reaching an accord on what its role is beyond the very prescriptive requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 and its subsequent amendments. To that end it has developed an overarching strategic vision for the district and underneath that sits two thirty year long key strategies. The first is a district blueprint, the key planning tool that will prioritise how the our social, economic, and environmental future is developed. The second is an infrastructure strategy that will identify the key infrastructure issues for the district.

Of course these strategies are based on many assumptions - it's hard enough gazing one or two years over the horizon let alone thirty. However having these long term plans is still a sensible move for council to take. Therefore it is vital that the community engagement opportunities being provided are taken up by residents and ratepayers so those necessary assumptions can be molded in the most effective way. To put it bluntly, if you don't have your say during the LTP process don't grizzle further down the path.

There will always be an ongoing need for purchasing and maintaining district assets and this is the bit where the rate take, the Perpetual Investment Fund, borrowing, etc. come into the picture. Council's financial strategy therefore has to strike a continual and appropriate balance between progress and affordability in facing the financial challenges that will inevitably arise. Some current examples are in solid waste collection and disposal, wastewater treatment, district growth versus district water supply, and the diminished returns from the Perpetual Investment Fund.

Council's forecasting assumption is that the district's population will grow by around 8,300 (11%) during the life of this LTP. This means constructing about 350 new dwellings each year to meet demand, so the two key strategies I mentioned above are critical in the council's ability to provide core services outlined in the LTP. If you are interested to see the plans for your neighbourhood then please read the information the council provides (there's heaps of it!) and then make a submission if you want your voice heard.

The submission period runs from 25 March to 24 April and you may submit in a variety of ways, for example on the council's submission form, or even on a blank piece of paper, you can mail, email or fax your submission, do it online, or ring council and an officer will record your views.

Key addresses are:

mail: NPDC Long Term Plan Submissions
Reply Paid DX
DX Box NX 10026
New Plymouth

email: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

online: <http://www.newplymouthnz.com/HaveYourSay/CurrentConsultations/>

Phone: 06 7596060.

There will also be a series of community meetings for those that want to come along and discuss the plan face-to-face. The significant ones for us are: 25 March Hempton Hall - Okato at 7pm 1 April Oakura Hall - Oakura at 7pm. The Kaitake Community Board will be making a submission so also feel free to talk to one of us about anything in the draft. Finally, Tigerturf has been contracted to install a synthetic playing surface at the Linda Street Reserve. This has been a community project, with the Oakura Tennis Club making a financial contribution. Works was due to commence on 2 March so hopefully it is well underway by the time you are reading this.

The next board meeting is on Monday 13 April in the NPOB Surf Club at 4.30pm. All meetings are open to the public so come along if you wish. And don't forget to regularly check the KCB Face Book page for more current information.

Ka kite ano

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

BIBLE TALKS

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On Target with National

We are now well into 2015 and what a great start to the year.

In 2012 National set 10 concrete and specific results we wanted to achieve over the next few years. These were in areas that have been challenging to governments, not just in New Zealand but all around the world, such as welfare dependency, crime, child abuse, and educational achievement. Three years on, we are making progress on all 10 targets and it's now starting to make a difference that improves the lives of New Zealanders. Our twice yearly update on the Better Public Service programme has just been released, and some key highlights of this latest update include:

Immunisation rates of young babies have reached an all-time high.

Rheumatic fever rates have dropped considerably.

Crime numbers continue to fall - the crime rate is now at a 35-year low.

Last year nearly 5,000 people came off long-term Job Seeker Support benefits and into work.

More 18-year olds are achieving NCEA Level 2.

More young people are achieving higher qualifications. There is still a lot of work to do and we will continue to focus on making strides on the things that matter to New Zealanders and their families.

Our New Plymouth region continues to do well, with a high number of developments in both residential and commercial, strong visitor numbers throughout summer with great attendance at the many events held, and who can forget the national record for most recorded sunshine hours for January! To keep updated on progress and upcoming events, visit my website www.jonathanyoung.co.nz or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz to sign up to my weekly newsletter. I will leave you with some wise words: "Life's a bit like mountaineering - never look down". - Edmund Hillary.

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Puke Ariki
MUSEUM LIBRARIES TOURIST INFORMATION

Oakura Library

Hot off the press! Some beautiful new non-fiction books have arrived. With the back to basics and be kinder to our environment lifestyle in mind here are some great titles of interest.

If you are crafty and looking for inspiration and instruction we have two new books written by textile artists. They are: *Reclaimed Textiles: Techniques for Paper, Stitch, Plastic and Mixed Media*, and *Stitch, Fibre, Metal and Mixed Media*.

The *Sewing Bible* offers a practical guide on how to alter clothes. *The Encyclopedia of Sewing Techniques* takes you right back to the beginning but also offers new, innovative techniques to help make sewing fun.

In our cookery section *River Cottage Light and Easy* and *Nadia Lim's Good Food* offer healthy recipes for our busy everyday lives. *Kids' Garden Adventure* suggests some fun garden projects. I especially liked the clever gift ideas. Teaching young children the value of making and giving homemade gifts is a wonderful skill.

Our library hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12-6, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-1. You can use our book drop anytime.

We have many more eBooks and eAudiobooks titles available now on BorrowBox. Go to our website pukeariki.com and log in with your library barcode and pin. We can help you with queries.

Join us for Crackerjacks, preschool story time Thursday 19th March at 10am. No booking needed.

Happy reading!

Charlie and Vincenza

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SPORTS



KAYAK FISHING CLUB

At last the fishing is on the improve, snapper are being caught in close and tuna are everywhere. It all looks good for the kayak classic at Butlers on the 28/29th March.

Garry



Garry and Jim with some snapper caught at Opunake in February.



A school of kingfish under the kayak - there are lots of kingfish around this year.



Kaitake Golf Club News

9 HOLE NEWS

With the inclusion of the "Back 9", plenty of sunshine hours and a plethora of players arriving at 8.00am, the 9 hole summer cup was its busiest ever. Taking home the crystal cup was first time winner Kay Stachurski. Following close behind was Angela Hitchman and Margaret Briscoe. Special prizes for the 2nd 9 went to Coraleen le Breton, Raewyn Bishop and Pat Wilcox. Consolation prizes to Peg Avery and Chrissy Warden. Jam prize to Raewyn Baird.

This year we welcome five players who have transferred from Mid-Week and we hope they enjoy playing 9 holes. A few more competitions have been included in the schedule which should bring out a few different winners.

Opening Day on Feb 3rd was supported by a good number as was the Thursday following - Haggie winners on the front 9, Mary King and back 9, Jean Keegan.

No change of office bearers this year for the 9 holers, just a change of handicap regulations.

WEEKEND WOMEN

The Weekend Women's Opening Day was celebrated by



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Dr David van Hyfte

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taking extended leave.*

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playing Canadian Foursomes with the Weekend 9 holers for the Jocelyn Garcia trophy. This year it was won by Raewyn Hawker and Diane Jones.

The Pennant team have had a slow start to the competition with two losses. One to Westown 4½ - ½ and Hawera 4 and Mid Week Women.

The Mid Week Women played the Summer Cup as their Opening Day competition. This was won by Jacqui Koch.

JUNIOR GOLF

The new junior membership in 2015 for Chippers is \$40 per annum. This includes regular free coaching supported by Taranaki Golf and access to the course with an adult. Chippers range from 5 - 15 years and are beginner golfers. For any further information please contact the office on 752 7665.

Chippers with Elliott Gunn, junior convenor, will be every fortnight on Sunday 8th March at 10.30.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF GOLF

Saturday 28th March

Keep this date free. Time is flying by and registrations for the 80th celebration of the club are trickling in and numbers are just over 100. If you are intending to come along it would be appreciated if you could get your registration form back to us as soon as possible, or phone Raewyn Hawker on 751 3391 or email her at raewyn.hawker@extra.co.nz. If you were previously a member of the club and haven't received an invitation, contact Raewyn Hawker.

The Jubilee Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Abraham's Funeral Directors for their generous sponsorship of the invitations and posters. We appreciate

the support that has enabled us to contact members and so many ex-members to join in this special celebration.

We are still fundraising for this event and currently have a raffle running for a trailer load of firewood. We will also have a raffle for a painting of your choice to the value of \$500 which has kindly been donated by local artist, Kris White. Kris will have two or three of her paintings in the clubhouse to view. If you would like to take a ticket in either of these raffles pop down to the Golf Club.

FORMAT OF THE DAY

10am: Meet at the clubhouse for those wishing to play golf or have a ride around the course in a golf cart.

10.30am: 9 Hole Ambrose - 1pm. Lunch to follow.

Speeches and cutting of the cake, catching up with friends.

We look forward to seeing as many past members as possible.

Andrea Jarrold, President



The cart shed construction.

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February Events in Oakura

WAITANGI DAY

The Waitangi Day celebrations at Waitangi Day were a major success.

We had a lovely welcome onto the marae by the senior matua, then invited for a tea/coffee. Followed by wonderful music from local and national artists.

There were lots of stalls with crafts and food. The 300 hangi dinners were sold out. A magical day that will hopefully continue going forward.

by Anne Clough, photos by Doug Hislop and Oscar Anderson



KATAKE ATHLETICS GROUP

Kaitake Athletics group having a great time at Corbett Park.

Olivia Eaton came along to demonstrate techniques to the older group under the careful eye of Larry O'Byrne.



GETTING WET



Oakura Boardriders

What a summer! The guru's were completely wrong when they said we were in for a colder and windier than usual summer. There have been some great spells of weather and some great surf to be had too.

The Oakura skate park revamp is gaining momentum. You can look at the proposals and have your say on the New Plymouth Council website. There has been a public meeting held and some good progress is being made so hopefully we will see a decision soon and this great community asset can get the upgrade it so badly needs.

The clubrooms are nearing completion of the facelift so come on up and have a look and socialise. The club is open Fridays after our learn to surf lessons and are drawing a good crowd. The surf lessons run by the club have proved very popular and they take a lot of organising so please check with Gary Bruckner on 021 1196218 if you are interested in joining.

The coast has had a lot of contests of late and by the time this issue of the TOM comes out our club champs would have been held so all news next issue. A fun novelty contest was held at Ahu's early February with a 70's and 80's vibe and the surfing of Twin Fins from that era. "Tinnies and Twinnies" was the creation of Simon Deken and featured a lot of Surfers from Taranaki and all over New Zealand with a couple international faces too. The day was as much about the fun and party as about the surfing. It was a great day out and the night party made this a memorable event which may become a regular on the Boardrider's calendar. It was really enjoyed by all those that attended.

1st Aj Matthews (Whangamata), 2nd Tyler Anderson (Taranaki), 3rd Jesse Paceman (Huntington, California), 4th Hamish Christophers (Taranaki), Mr Personality - Mikey Herdson, Best Wipout - Ben Plummer, Best Dressed - Rick Christiansen, Most Surprisingly Stylish Under the Influence - Jeremy Curd, Most Freakish Manoeuvre - Blanton Smith.

The Boardrider's ran the Oakura leg of the Micro Grom series in great waves for the kids. NP Surfriders has run the New Plymouth leg with Waitara and Opunake is still to come, this proving very popular and the summer weather has definitely helped. We will have a roundup of results next issue.

Congratulation's to these kids who have started their points scores for the series in a great way.

U13 Girls: 1st Ariana Shewry, 2nd Emma Dashorst, 3rd Esther Moore, 4th Ruby Hutchinson.

U13 boys: 1st Kava Matthews, =2nd Oscar Taylor, =2nd Harry Clegg, 4th Simon Bond.

U11 Girls: =1st Carlijn Darhorst, =1st Hine Schafer.

U11 Boys: =1st Ryder Pennington, =1st Koah Shewry, 3rd Cory Butters, =4th Oliver Day, =4th Wilson Clegg. Best Wave: (push ins) Benjamin Dixon.

U9 Girls: =1st Ruby Newton, =1st Ariana Schafer, =1st Hannah Dixon, =4th Kyla Patuwairua, =4th Poppy Pennington.

U9 Boys: 1st Kalani Watts, =2nd Nate Florence, =2nd Jack Parr, 4th Zac Collins.

As always its hard to thank everyone who gives their time to all our projects and running contests, etc, you all know who you are. All the volunteer labour on the clubrooms has been much appreciated but also our sponsors so far this year who help make it all happen. There will be more who step up with prizes for the club champs too and these help make this a special event on our calendar.

Remember the Oakura Boardriders Facebook page is filled with our news and surfing interest so 'like' the page and be kept up to date.

Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders.

President: John Shewry, 027 252 9190

Secretary: Paul Lobb 06 75 27556



Tyler Anderson performing his magic for 2nd place.



The finalists.



Rick Christiansen - best dressed.

Art Excel Holiday Programme is Back

ART Excel: Self Development Holiday Programme for Kids is back in Oakura this Easter break!! 9th - 12th April 2015.

ART Excel: ALLROUND TRAINING IN EXCELLENCE for 8- 13yr Olds. ART Excel: Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, challenges, games, crafts, fun and more!!

We all want our children to be successful in life but how do you measure the success of your child? The Art of Living Foundation has been offering courses in self development for over 30 years, and its founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says this: "The measure of success is a happy, healthy, well-adjusted child that is able to deal effectively with life's challenges." In order to be successful in life children need not only academic skills, but also life skills. The ART Excel course is a practical, fun self development workshop run over the school holidays for youth aged 8-13 years.

The programme supports the overall well-being of children by teaching them a variety of empowering techniques that foster peace of mind, mental clarity and focus, physical relaxation and emotional stability. This course is taught through games and activities where participants learn valuable lessons in sharing with others, working and playing in harmony and developing a sense of belonging with others. Participants also learn simple and practical tools for self regulation through different breathing techniques and yoga. Children become more self-expressive, comfortable and natural with diverse groups of people. Activities such as making a new friend each day and random acts of kindness help students to become aware of the needs of others and encourage the integration of human values into their daily lives.

The Art of Living Foundation is a worldwide not for profit education and humanitarian organisation founded in 1982. In New Zealand, the foundation offers programmes to aid earthquake recovery in Canterbury, prisoner rehabilitation, women's empowerment and global sustainability as well as public self development and empowerment programmes suitable for everyone.



School holiday fun.



Course Details:

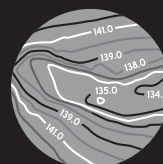
Date: 9th- 12th April (Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun)

Times: 10am- 3pm each day (20 hrs total)

Venue: Oakura Hall, Main South Road, Oakura

Cost: \$150 (staged payments available upon request)

Contact & Booking: Tessa- 06 2150503 | 021 057 4011 | taranaki@artofliving.org.nz



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A Close Shave for Jo for a Good Cause

Joanne Kelly-Cook is bravely going where not many of us would dare to go - bald! But all for a good cause and Jo wants your help in helping her reach her donation goal.

Jo has decided to shave her hair off to raise money for the Shave for a Cure charity.

This charity can be found at www.shaveforcure.co.nz



Jo with her beautiful locks about to go under the razor.

It would be fair to say most of us take our hair for granted - its on our head, we wash it and brush it (sorry no offence to those who are naturally bald), it keeps us warm and makes us hot, it gets in our eyes and drops in our food; we dye it, we cut it, style it and sometimes chew it, are often found twiddling it but we'd never contemplate cutting it off. Which makes this shave and charity so poignant. As Jo contemplates losing her hair the pain of it was clear but also the determination to help.

We all know hair falls out when you undergo cancer treatment and Jo says shaving her hair off is a way for her to stand in arms with people who are going through cancer treatment. She says it will be a privilege to shave it off even though it will be tough.

Jo lost her beautiful mother to cancer in 2012 and this is one way to help raise awareness to the cause and raise funds to help. The Shave for a Cure charity is dedicated to supporting patients and their families living with a blood cancer. Six Kiwis a day are diagnosed with a blood cancer or related condition.

Jo's daughter Lhasa has also joined in and last year shaved her hair off then donated the hair to Pantene to make wigs for those who are undergoing cancer treatment.

Jo will shave her hair off in Shave Week 23-29 March and if you would like to be the one doing the shaving via a special bid let Jo know via her link on the Shave for a Cure website. Type in Joanne Kelly-Cook and follow the directions to donate and message her. Jo aims to raise \$5000 and is well on her way but she needs your help so please support her brave move to shave her hair off.

by Kim Ferens

Dance Delights

The Val Deakin Dance Theatre's annual Dance Delights programme will include a wide range of dances from the Dance Theatre's extensive repertoire. This is the sixteenth year that the Dance Theatre has been presenting dance and music in some of Taranaki's lovely gardens.

Included on the programme will be the famous romantic classical ballet Pas de Quatre. It is a re-creation of the gathering of four famous ballerinas of the 19th century and showcases their various strengths and humorous rivalries. The ballet, choreographed by Keith Lester to music of Cesar Pugni, showcases the talents of the reigning European ballerinas of the time - Marie Taglioni, Carlotta Grisi, Fanny Cerrito and Lucille Grahn.

Dances from the ballet Cinderella will form part of the programme - the dances of the four seasons from Act I, and the hilarious Ugly Sisters dances from Act II.

There will also be a dance to the rousing waltz from Swan Lake (great music by Tchaikowsky and choreography by Val Deakin) and the lyrical modern dance work Triangular Situations. A Czardas from the ballet Coppelia and some children's dances will round out the programme.

Musical sections for the programme will be provided by the well-known duet Guitarra - guitarists Dominique Blatti and Ross Townsend. They will play a varied programme of music from several centuries. Their work has been appreciated in previous seasons of Dance Delights - and requested for this year's programme.

The cast will be led by American-born ballerina Jane Roseman and will include some of the Dance Theatre's most experienced and versatile performers including Inge Vink, Davina Moffat, Donna Kelly, Rosanne Taylor and Mervyn Chivers. The very funny Ugly Sisters will be danced by Lynda West and Julie Gillespie - both seasoned performers with a terrific sense of comedy. The Dance Theatre is pleased to welcome back Laura Sommerville in her first performance since having her first child.

Performances will be on Sunday, March 22 and Sunday March 29.

Tickets for the performances are only \$12 for adults and \$8 for children with group and family discounts available - and are available at the gate or in advance by phoning (06) 752 7743 after 9:30 am. Bring a picnic along and enjoy a wonderful ou ing!

Should our wonderful summer weather not continue, there are indoor venues at St. Mary's School and Holland Gardens, and the Eltham performance will take place in the All Saints Anglican Church Hall on King Edward Street.

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INSPIRING AND TALENTED - Two Goodhue's

At the beginning of February two of Oakura's finest developing musicians played at a musical celebration concert held at the 4th Wall Theatre. They are Isabel and Hamish Goodhue.

These talented siblings already have a very impressive resume of musical achievements and it was my greatest privilege to meet and talk with them both about their music.

Isabel is 15 years old and has been learning the classical guitar from local teacher Dominique Blatti for 10 years. Isabel is currently at NPGHS and plays percussion in the jazz and concert bands. Isabel is also in the Taranaki Youth Orchestra, NZ Youth Guitar Orchestra, part of the Con Tempo Orchestra - a seven piece ensemble, and has been in the Classical Guitar Society for four years and this group gets together monthly to play together. Last year Isabel competed in the New Plymouth Performing Arts Competition Society placing 1st in the U16 category playing *Aztec* by T Tisserand and also placing 1st in the open solo category playing *Memories of Summer* by G Ryan. In June Isabel will be competing in the Chamber Music competition for our region. This week Isabel and Hamish will be opening a very special performance at St Andrew's church for Eduard Klassen, Paraguayan harpist.

As well as the guitar Isabel has been learning the cello for two years with Norine Dixon. In 2014 both Isabel and Hamish attended the Taranaki Classical Guitar Summer School and eagerly look forward to the same event in 2016 as are Bryan and Rachel. The summer school is a great opportunity to come together with other musicians from many worldwide countries and perform together, meet new people and play great music.

Music is a way of life for Isabel with mum Rachel playing cello in the New Plymouth Orchestra and classical guitar, Grandpa Peter, Auntie Liz and Great-Grandpa Stan all with varying musical abilities.

Isabel plans to finish her grade 7 Trinity music exam this year and is looking to a future in medicine or literature.

Hamish is 12 years old and is in his first year at NPBHS where he is embracing the strong music culture of the school, learning the trumpet and taking performance music. He is hoping to join the concert band once he gets up to speed with the trumpet!

Dominique has been teaching Hamish the classical guitar for seven years. Hamish has also competed in the New Plymouth Performing Arts Competitions in 2014 placing 1st in the U14 guitar category with *Steely Blue* and 2nd equal in the U16 guitar category with *The Lotus and the Lyre Bird* by Richard Charlton. Last year Hamish also won the year 8 music cup at Oakura Primary School. The highlight of year was going to Wellington to perform at the Victoria University's School of Music national competition where he won the Most Promising Award and competed against 15-18 year olds and placing 4th.

Hamish is also in the Con Tempo Orchestra, the NZ Youth Guitar Orchestra.

Hamish enjoys performing in front of people and never seems to suffer from nerves. He plans on learning Trinity grade 5 this year. He sees a future in the music industry



Hamish and Isabel plucking out some beautiful melodies.



Isabel (left), Dominique and Hamish performing at Waiau Estate.

as first choice but hasn't ruled out something medical like physiotherapy though.

Both Goodhue's enjoy a wide range of music not limited to classical guitar but rate Rodrigo Y Gabriela as inspirational guitar playing. Isabel would choose to listen to 50's music, Vivaldi, Queen, Elton John or Johnny Burnette when she is happy, while Hamish would choose something from the classical genre or his top 40 collection. Isabel would choose to listen to Radiohead if she needed to de-stress and Phantom of the Opera, The Killers - Mr Brightside when she is feeling the need to cheer up. Hamish likes Ed Sheeran, One Republic and Maroon 5 as a mood enhancer.

It is fair to say the Goodhue house would hardly ever be a quiet place and the neighbours would definitely get to enjoy some first class music but it certainly is an inspirational place. All the family say they get something special out of music and dad Bryan says he has never had to push his children to play music or practice - between Hamish and Isabel they would practice more than 15 hours a week and he says they both have a real aptitude for music - he and Rachel are very proud as I think we all can be of two hardworking and talented local artists. Guitar teacher Dominique says they are both wonderful people who inspire her and give her great inspiration.

By Kim Ferens

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Oakura Playcentre Welcomes New Year And New Families

What a beautiful summery start to 2015! Our families started back recently for another fun-filled year of play and learning.

Playcentre is an early childhood education service run co-operatively by member families. We aim to give our children high quality early childhood education with the active involvement of whanau. Parents can gain skills and qualifications, as well as confidence in their parenting.

Our tamariki are enjoying the outdoor play areas in this heat, especially water play activities. When they need a break from the sun, activities such as Valentine's Day cards, scone making, family play, dress-ups, music, and building keep them busy.


We are looking forward to another busy year at the Playcentre, but we will also be planning some excursions. Last year's trips to the local fire station and Taranaki Rescue Helicopter base were a hit with the kids, and we are thinking a trip on a train may be in order this year!

We wish our big kids who have started school all the best - we will miss you! If you have a young family between the ages of 0-6 years, please come and check us out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am until midday. We would love to meet you and your family. You can visit a few times before making a commitment to joining us.

Above right, Josh La Franchie and Maxi Wahlen learning the ropes at the Oakura Fire Station.

Below, right, Joe Veric, Seth Brown and Harry Brown enjoying the water.





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Spotswood College

2015 has started very positively; our NCEA results have improved again; we are fully staffed and we have had wonderfully talented and focused Year 9 students join our school.

Over recent months we have refined the wording of our cornerstone values statements to give more explicit direction for our work and learning for both teachers and students. The revised statements are as follows:-

Vision - (this is what we want for our students).

Developing young people of good character with the skills and knowledge to contribute to the increasingly complex and connected global society.

Principles - (these underpin the work that we do and the foundation upon which we make decisions).

We are a co-educational school, learning is our focus, we are diverse, inclusive and caring.

Values - Our E TA values are incorporated into every aspect of our Kura.

We stand-up, stand tall, for **Education, Taking Part, and Unity.**

TEACHER E TA VALUES -

Matauranga -

We understand, respect and demonstrate the moral.

Education -

purpose we have as educators.

Whai Wahi -

We enthusiastically participate in our school-wide.

Taking Part -

endeavour for continual improvement.

Kotahitanga -

We demonstrate unconditional positive regard for all.

Unity - members of our learning community.

STUDENT E TA VALUES

Matauranga -

Education. Respecting opportunities to learn.

Whai Wahi -

Taking Part. Getting involved, participating positively.

Kotahitanga -

Unity. Consideration and respect for others

The Powhiri to welcome our new students and their families was a wonderful way to begin the year. Our students are always going to be most successful when children, their families and their teachers work in partnership to achieve their learning goals. Year 13 Peer Support Leaders have been enjoying working with Year 9 students to support them as they begin their secondary schooling.

STAFFING:

It is a pleasure to welcome a number of new staff to our school.

Ms Leonie Sole has taken over the Special Needs Unit role vacated by Mr Leonard. Leonie has an extensive teaching background with a real interest in Special Education. We

are excited to be able to welcome Leonie into our learning community.

Mrs Tanya Harris has worked extensively in our school as a relieving teacher over the past couple of years. Tanya knows our students and our school very well. Tanya is teaching both Maths and Science during 2015. We look forward to the contribution Mrs Harris will make to our school this year.

Mr Moss Leauga has also worked in our school previously as a relieving teacher. Mr Leauga is relieving for Mrs Takarangi who is on maternity leave. We are very pleased to have Moss on our team.

Mrs Wendy Eynon - we have been most fortunate to enter into a contract with Tu Tama Wahine who will work with us (3 days a week) to assist priority learners access Career information in partnership with their families. Wendy is a trained Careers Advisor and has extensive links within the community. We look forward to working closely with Wendy and the Tu Tama Wahine team.

Mrs Dawn Colless - the Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour Service has re-organised their service delivery. Mrs Colless has moved to our school from her previous base at Opunake High School. Mrs Colless will help us refine and develop our E TA Project.

Two staff members were married during the holidays and have changed their names accordingly: special congratulations to Mrs Roach (Ms Power) and to Mrs Pope (Ms Doherty).

KEY DATES FOR TERM ONE:

<i>March</i>		
8	TSSSA Triathlon.	23 NZSSSC Tournament Week.
9	Taranaki Anniversary Day.	BOT Meeting.
11	TSSSA 3 x 3 Basketball.	25 Year 13 Geography Trip Mt Maunganui. Report Evening and IDPs.
12	TSSSA Athletics.	26 Year 13 Geography Trip Mt Maunganui.
14	TSSSA Equestrian & Cross Country.	27 Year 13 Geography Trip Mt Maunganui.
18	TSSSA Rogaine.	31 TSSSA Swimming.
19	Omata/Devon Literacy Meeting 8am - 12 noon.	<i>April</i>
	TSSSA Dressage.	1 TSSSA Lawn Bowls.
		TSSSA Orienteering.
20	TSSSA AWD Athletics.	2 End Of Term 1.
		20 Start Of Term 2.

We are grateful of the opportunity TOM provides us to communicate with our wider community. If ever you have any queries about our school or feedback regarding our students or our learning programmes please contact us accordingly.

Our School Newsletters are published on-line and via email every three weeks, our website is regularly updated and contains a great deal of information. Parents and students can access learning materials and information on-line by logging on to our Ultraset Website (www.spotswoodcollege.ultranet.school.nz/signin). Our school office is open from 8am until 4.30p.m, the phone number is 7512 416.

We wish students from all schools the very best for a successful year of learning and achievement.

Mark Bowden, Principal



New Plymouth Boys' High School

We are delighted at NPBHS with our academic results for 2015. The boys performed well at all levels and the pass rate for literacy and numeracy was excellent. In particular we want to congratulate this year's Year 12 and 13 boys, who last year achieved so well. I am very happy with the structures we have in the school and the strategies we have to ensure boys do their best.

We want the boys ENGAGED in their studies and focussed on doing their best. For internally assessed subjects the boys need to be well organised and know when they are being assessed and how many credits they have.

I was also very pleased with our senior boys and the leadership they have shown. New boys to the school were welcomed and I want them to feel free to get to know the senior boys. The friendliness in the school is apparent - we are off to a great start.

The school has a large gap where the Carrington building



Hamish Goodhue, George Clarke, Lachlan white, Eli Goodkind, Ben Giltrap, Jordan Burkett, Henry Bredin, Jimmy Ellis, Finn van Bergen, Matthew Whittaker - local boys taking their good study habits to high school.

once stood for 98 years. The decision to demolish the building was the right one given its fragility, indeed we found out it did not even have a reinforced foundation and the walls came down very easily. Carrington was part of the hostel establishment and we will be deciding on the creation of a new buildings soon.

Michael McMenamin, Headmaster

omata school news

COMING EVENTS

March

- 9 Taranaki Anniversary.
- 23 Year 7/8 Athletics at CTS in Okato.
- 24 Year 5/6 Athletics at CTS in Okato.
- 25 3D Conferences.
Early finish 12pm.
- 26 3D Conferences.
Early finish 12pm.

April

- 1 Weetbix Tryathlon.
- 2 Term 1 ends.
- 3 Good Friday.



SWIMMING

During December and January the families who purchased keys took full advantage of the long hot summer to enjoy time at the pool. Our pool is in full action with daily swimming lessons. 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 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. We are so fortunate to still have a school pool in use as many others in schools across the country have been dug out or out of action.

When you live on an island surrounded by ocean and with many rivers, lakes and streams, it is vital children learn early how to swim and survive in the water.



Swimming fun in the pool.

BEACH EDUCATION

Our year 4-8 students took part in a Beach Education programme run by Surf Lifesaving at East End Beach on the 11th February. What a fabulous day for it. Thanks to all the parents for support with both transport and getting in to the ocean to help with the programme and keep our children safe. The life guards on the day were amazing and ran an excellent programme. What a great learning experience.

Karen Brisco, Principal



oakura school news

This year at Oakura School we are lucky enough to have two new teachers. The lovely Miss Proffit and the amazing Miss Leadbetter. We have already seen them around the school talking with children and they are always smiling. Miss Leadbetter has moved from Auckland and is the lead teacher in year 3 and 4. Miss Proffit works in room 2 and has come to us from Westown School. They are both now part of our whānau and we are happy to have them at Oakura School. Oakura School also welcomes 23 new pupils this year. A very warm welcome to all of you.

BEACH CLEAN UP

On Wednesday 11th February Oakura School held its annual Beach Clean Up. It was another fantastic year! A very big thank you to our parent helpers, without you it wouldn't have been possible to swim or keep the students so well supervised. Some parents even helped by organising games for us. The FOOS committee did an awesome job with the sausages. After a swim, we have to admit, they were absolutely delicious. Also a massive thank you to Ray Priest for coming out of retirement and once again assisting the older children in the safety of their river jumps. We would love to thank the teachers for supervising all of the children throughout the walk across the beach. We were lucky enough to have Te Ra (the sun) and Tawhirimatea (the wind) on our side giving us amazing weather. This year, we are happy to report a significant decrease in the litter on our beach. The children had a lot of fun and felt positive

about making a difference in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2015 Beach Clean Up.

*Written by Melanie Bishop (Age 11)
and Maya Jackson (Age 12).*

YEAR 8 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

The 2014 Oakura School leavers assembly was held on December 16th at the Oakura Hall. It was a chance to celebrate the achievements and contributions of our year 8 leavers over their time at Oakura School. Our year 8 students were acknowledged and congratulated on their leadership roles and areas of excellence.

The year 8 leavers, their leadership roles and awards are listed below:

Henry Bredin - Art Leader, Student Mentor; Jordan Burkett - ICT Leader, Sports Leader; George Clarke - Media Team, Environment Leader; Alex Craig - ICT Leader; Skyler Ellington - Sports Leader, Environment Leader, Girls Athletics Cup, Health Safety and Environment Cup; Jimmy Ellis - ICT Leader, Sports Leader; Ben Giltrap - Art Leader; Hamish Goodhue - Media Team, Sports Leader, Music Cup; Eli Goodkind - Environment Leader, ICT Leader, Debating Cup; Jayden Lamb - Sports Leader, Rugby Cup; Henri Lehrke - Art Leader, Good Attitude Award; Phillippa Marshall - Art Leader, Environment Leader, Swimming Cup; Jade Maulder - Student Mentor, Media Team; Kaia Mead - Student Mentor, Art Leader, Kapahaka Leadership Award; Anna Newton - Head Pupil, Swimming Cup; Portia Roper - Welcome Committee Leader, Media Team; Samantha Skurr - Student Mentor,



The BeachClean Up crew.

Our fabulous new teachers.



Miss Anna Proffit.



Ms Sue Leadbetter.

Art Leader, Netball Cup; Finn van Bergen - Art Leader, ICT Leader, Diligence Award; Charlie Waite - Head Pupil, Sports Cup, Arts Cup, Citizenship Award; Lachlan White - Head Pupil, Swimming Cup, Oakura School Dux; Olivia Whitehead - Head Pupil, Citizenship Award; Matthew Whittaker - Environment Leader, Welcome Committee, Sports Leader, Boys Athletics Cup; Jade Williams - Art Leader, Student Mentor; Jacob Woodman - ICT Leader

We congratulate these students on their achievements and wish all our year 8 leavers every success at their new schools and beyond.



Above, students jumping off the bank at Corbett Park...

... and in the water.



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OAKURA COMMUNITY - WHAT'S ON

PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING

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. Music and movement for preschoolers! Tuesdays 10am during school terms, now at St James' Hall (opp. Oakura Hall). Gold coin donation. Contact Maryanne on 06-2811197.

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

Oakura Playcentre. 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Maryanne on 06-2811197.

Oakura Pony Club. Contact Robin King ph 751 0300.

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

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

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

Oakura Tennis Club
Monday 9am-2pm - Ladies Midweek Competition.
Tuesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching.
Wednesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching / Hot Shots Tennis.
6pm-7.30pm - Ladies practice night.
Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm - A Grade players practice.
Friday 4pm-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.
Saturday 9am-4pm - Soffe Cup and A grade Competition.
Contact Club Secretary, Jackie Mitchell on 06- 752701.

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 classes are from 9:30 to 10 am and the Beginners' Ballet dance class from 10 am to 10:45 am.

Vigor Fitness. Tuesday and Thursdays 10am – Outdoor Pure Grit Training. Phone Anneka Carlson 021 404 642.


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.

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