

## The Raw Tazzie takes off in Oakura



The beachfront café, Raw Tasman, has changed hands again and along with the promise of top quality food and service, customers can also expect more improvements in the future.



Jon and Marie Sarten and their five children (Amanda, Nicole, David, Anne-Marie and Hannah) are lapping up the challenge of running the Raw Tasman Café in Oakura. Since taking over two months ago from Robynne Wadeson, the Sartens have been frantically keeping up with orders as the sunny weather continues, as well as developing their brand new winter menu.

While the sun keeps on shining the locals and visitors enjoy the hospitality of the Raw Tasman Café all day. But as winter kicks in, the café will probably reduce its hours from 4.00pm until 8.30pm for evening meals and takeaways.

Marie, who loves cooking, has always wanted to own a café and when the opportunity came up to buy the business, there wasn't much convincing to be done. It was the perfect café in the perfect location. Now there seems no holding the Sartens back from what they can do with the café. The fantastic

situation is brimming with so much potential and is just waiting to be developed into a local icon. Firstly though, Jon and Marie are adamant about providing top quality food and service. "It's all about customer satisfaction and at a price the average family can afford," they say. "We want the community to keep coming back because they get great food and friendly service."

The café and camp ground has become more visible with new signage at each end of the village and on the Raw Tasman building and of course the C-Cab hotrod zipping around the streets bearing the Raw Tasman logo. Plans in the pipeline include becoming fully licenced to serve alcohol and developing the stream area with a deck and covered outdoor dining area complete with open fireplace. But back to the food. This is what customers can expect over the winter:

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### THIS MONTH



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**Priests at the Beachstore.**



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**A family leaving the rest of us in their wake.**



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**Jenny quietly works away in the background for the benefit of our community.**

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## Voice from the TOM Zone

It's such a buzz being part of the TOM team. As a feature writer, I always get to meet such interesting and diverse people in the Oakura and Omata communities. The feedback I get about TOM is so positive and I always feel proud to write for a newspaper that other people are proud of too.

This month I have been blown away by the talent of our sports-people (maybe there's something in the sea air?). Not just talent either, but dedication, hard work and commitment to their chosen sports. People like Jim Priest, who has been playing bowls for nearly sixty years and can still hold his own; Simon Deken, who has the ability to reach the top of the surfing elite; the Ross family, who put all their spare time into water skiing so that it has now become more than a hobby; Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, who at 18 is so self-motivated to achieve the most she can out of swimming; and Sophie Anderson, who devotes her time and talents not just to herself but also on a horse. I think it's amazing how people can read about these sports-people in TOM and perhaps become motivated to achieve a little more in their own lives too.

On a different note, I am really enjoying the new mobile library bus service to Omata. It is so convenient to pop around the corner and get a book to read (and return those ghastly overdue ones!). I hope you are accessing this service too.

**Winners of the wizard of Oz gift vouchers:**  
Congratulations to our winners of the Wizard of Oz gift vouchers: Nana Butler, and the Johnson family.

Kim Ferens



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
newplymouthnz.com



### Hi folks!

I have a big "thank you" to make to the people who came to the March meeting of the Coastal Strategy consultation.

The aim of the Coastal Strategy is to ensure that the community still has the type of coastal environment it wants in twenty years' time, and to do that we need a lot of input from residents about what their wishes are.

At the Oakura meeting the attendees raised a huge number of coastal issues that are important to them. Two things people felt most strongly about are retaining the village character of Oakura and recognising the importance of the coastal area to the town. However, these are just two of the long list of district-wide and Oakura-specific issues that were identified.

That feedback has been valuable and it will help the Council develop draft visions for the Coastal Strategy that meet the needs of the district.

Right now, Council staff are compiling all the feedback that was received from the six workshops held around the district. That information will be discussed with the public in July so that residents can have a look at the draft visions for the Strategy and help the Council refine the key issues.

After the July consultation, the Council will prepare a draft Coastal Strategy for residents to consider and make submissions on.

In the meantime if you have any comments you want to make about the district's coastal environment, you can ring the Council on 759 6060 or use the electronic feedback form at [www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy)

The more input we get from the community, the more likely we are to end up with a Coastal Strategy that reflects the community's wishes!

Also don't forget that you can make online submissions on Action 05/06 (and its associated documents) – just go to [www.newplymouthnz.com/action](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/action) to view the documents and make your submission. Among the Oakura-specific projects that are planned for 2005/06 are completing Oakura's CBD upgrade, developing the Coastal Strategy and a second water bore, and extending and improving sewerage in the town. Be sure to make your submission by the deadline of 9 May!

And remember, if you have any ideas for projects that you'd like the Council to help you with, be sure to give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent,  
Mayor

# tom

the oakura messenger



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



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# Kaitake Community Board

The good news is that the gate issue has been resolved and now it's up to beach users to behave responsibly.

Sewerage is a big issue and much consultation is taking place and will continue until all issues have been dealt with. I've just received a report that tells me 130 people attended the recent workshop, which is a very good result.

## Linda Street Reserve

After having considered all matters raised in the report, the recommendation from the Monitoring Committee is that the tennis facilities at Linda Street Reserve be decommissioned and, should it be considered after an appropriate process that the Reserve is no longer required for public recreation, that the Manager of Parks & Recreation Assets be instructed to commence the process for revoking the status of the land as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1997.

## Matekai Park bridle path

I take full responsibility for bringing this back onto the agenda after reading the recommendation from a Council meeting on

4 November 2003. The Board recommended that the amendment to the Oakura Reserves Management Plan to allow the development of a bridle path through the Reserve not be proceeded with at that time, but that a development option be considered at the next review of the Oakura Reserves Management Plan.

When I see the growing number of ponies being ridden down Wairau Road I have to ask myself why they cannot have a bridle path in Matakaei Park. This was the original intention and it's disappointing to see that this has not eventuated. Given that much discussion has apparently taken place in the past and yet another petition (I cannot believe people would petition to stop children having a safe passage to the beach), it's time to readdress this issue. The Oakura Reserves Management Plan is thirteen years old and due for a review, so now is a good time to start.

Fay



## CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

### **Plunket Coffee Mornings:**

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

### **Mini Groovers:**

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

### **St John's Omata:**

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

### **St James Church Oakura:**

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

### **Kung Fu:**

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

### **Kick Boxing & Self Defence:**

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

### **JKA KARATE**

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

### **Senior Citizens:**

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

### **Twilight Bowls:**

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.  
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# The Raw Tazzie

... continued from front page

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- Meat lovers with bacon, ham, salami, chicken and barbeque sauce.

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*On Wednesdays and Sundays:*

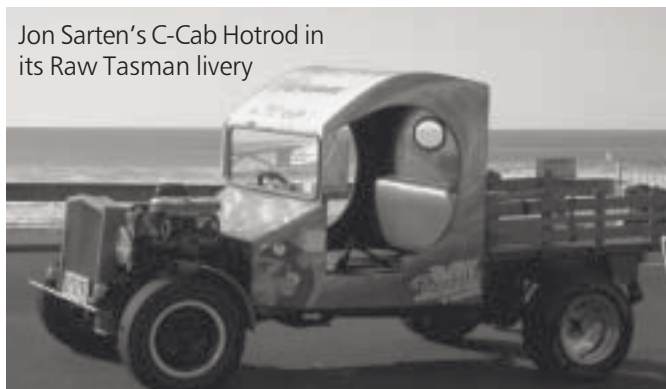
Roast beef, pork, lamb or chicken.

(All roast meals include potatoes, kumara, pumpkin, peas and gravy)

So for the first time locals will be able to enjoy a curry takeaway or dine-in meal locally and Jon says Marie's curries are to die for. I must say the Raw Tasman team make good coffee and Marie's shortbread and chocolate brownies are divine. Raw Tasman, a great place to visit and enjoy the seaside, surf, sun and yummy food!

By Kim Ferens

Jon Sarten's C-Cab Hotrod in its Raw Tasman livery



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MP for New Plymouth



## ANZAC Day

Greetings to all

The year is passing relatively quickly and we once again celebrated Anzac Day. 2005 marks the 90th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed (at an area later named ANZAC Cove) on the Gallipoli peninsula. The term "ANZAC" has become a lasting label for trans-Tasman cooperation.

By their actions on that day and throughout the ensuing Gallipoli campaign, the 8,556 members of the first New Zealand Expeditionary Force created a legacy of courage, determination, self-sacrifice and loyalty that remains an inspiration to future generations. They suffered 7,473 casualties, including 2,721 dead (one in four of those who landed).

The 25th of April has become the focal point for the commemoration of all those who have lost their lives in war and a day where New Zealand as a nation acknowledges the contributions made by veterans of all conflicts.

New Zealand is sending a 170-strong contingent, led by the Prime Minister Helen Clark, to the commemorations on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Included in this group are ten high school students who were the winners of the Prime Minister's essay competition.

It is expected that, in addition to the official delegations attending the ceremonies on the Gallipoli peninsula, 20,000 young Australians and New Zealanders will travel on a pilgrimage to attend ANZAC Day at Gallipoli. These young people are the age of those that fought and died there. The ANZAC legend was forged by the young of ninety years ago and it is through the involvement young people today that the ANZAC legacy will be preserved.

I am sure we enjoy our occasional long weekends" during the year, but ANZAC weekend was an opportune time to acknowledge and understand ANZAC Day and other commemorations that provide a platform for the next generation, creating understanding of the experiences that have been instrumental in shaping the New Zealand identity and New Zealand as a nation.

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## POLICE REPORT

Well hello again. What a busy time I have had since the last article.

On a crime note, things went through the roof over the last month or so, with the Kaitake Rugby Club, the Kaitake Golf Club, the Coastal Taranaki School, the Cape Egmont Voluntary Coast Guard and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust all being the victims of a small but very busy burglary ring. Not only have they stolen some very valuable property but in the case of the Cape Egmont Coast Guard, they could have put people's lives at danger.

However thanks to some very vigilant members of the public, the people responsible for the burglaries on the above premises, and many more, have been caught and are going through the Court process.

Remember that you, the public, are our eyes and ears and that with your help we can put a stop to those out there that believe they have a right to take other people's property. If you see something suspicious, it probably is and we would like to know about it. We'd rather have the opportunity to check it out and find nothing than not be told about it at all. Any information the Police receive can be treated as confidential.

Also remember that one of the reasons these people survive is because other people are prepared to purchase the stolen property – be aware when purchasing cheap items there is usually a reason for the price!

I am also investigating the arson at Oakura School. If you have any information relating to that, please contact me at the Okato Police Station on 752 4111. We as a community need to get to the bottom of this and find out if it was just an accident or something more sinister and your assistance would be appreciated.

On a brighter note, it was good to see the Black Caps end the season on a high. Talking of winning teams I hope you are all getting behind the Kaitake senior team as they continue their race to the finals this year.

Did you know the first race track in America was the "Indianapolis Motor Speedway", which consisted of 3 million cobblestones. Not many people know that.

Anyway, until next time keep safe.

Rich

## Neighbourhood Support update

We've had a bit of crime lately in Oakura – the need for awareness is still paramount, so we need you to watch your neighbours' properties and ensure their stuff is not being stolen.

The chances of offenders being removed for any length of time are slim in today's world of "cut price" justice, community service, home detention and restorative justice. These have more to do with economics than justice – it costs very little for the above, but to give out proper sentences is an expensive option. From a legal point of view these soft options are highly marketable, lawyers who get their clients one of the above consider it a victory and charge accordingly. Let's face it, the victims of crime are considered a liability – ACC pay for any damage, you cannot sue, so the lawyers have no interest in you and let's be real, who else makes money out of crime?

So where does that leave us? It's in our interest to assist in reducing crime, which in turn reduces the number of victims.

On more mundane matters, the basic problems do exist in this great village: speeding, bad driving and noisy parties. Inconsiderate and noisy neighbours are all there from time to time and appear on my email list.

There are basic remedies to follow...

Cars that offend in any way

The registration number is the main consideration plus basic details of the car. You can email me or make an official complaint at the police station (in doing this you must be prepared to make a statement and possibly appear in court).

Noise – the ongoing problem

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT!

There is a Noise Control system in place run by the New Plymouth District Council and you are paying for it so use it.


What constitutes unreasonable noise? In the daytime this is any noise that is ongoing for a long period of time and can be heard from your residence and spoils your enjoyment of life. Common sense plays a part – a noisy lawnmower for ten minutes is a pain but not a major issue, loud music for two hours is. For noisy music at night, 11pm is the witching hour and after that the volume has to go down. If it does not, call 759 6060 and ask for Noise Control. Give them your name and number and the rest is up to them. If it doesn't stop, keep ringing them until it does.

For those who are naturally reluctant to use this service, remember it's your call – you are not at fault, it's a inconsiderate few that are causing grief for many and the more you put up with it, the more of it you get.


You will have noticed a change at the local police station – Ritchie is now enjoying the coast. Any problems, his number is 752 4111.

Barrie Carline

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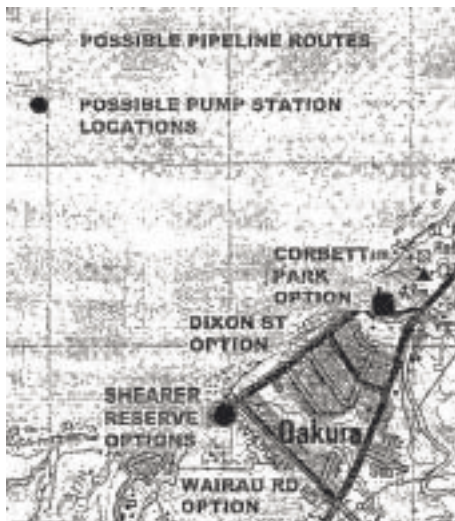
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## NEW SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR OAKURA

The New Plymouth District Council recently entered into community consultation regarding the proposed new sewerage scheme to be implemented in the Oakura district later this year. A community forum held at the Oakura town hall on 15th April was arranged by NPDC representatives to give affected residents more of an understanding of what the new proposals will entail:

The Oakura sewerage scheme comes as a result of growing numbers in the area "but is intended to address environmental and public health issues not as a stimulus to more dense development as some fear", says Anthony Wilson NPDC.

The new proposals involve a gravity feed system that collects all wastewater in a central village transfer station and then all wastewater is pumped under pressure via a pipeline to New Plymouth's existing wastewater treatment plant.

A number of alternative sites for the Oakura township transfer station are currently being debated, with those affected having to bear in mind that a gravity feed system means that the most feasible site would be a central location that is downhill from the village.

Three possible sites have already been identified as:

- 1.) the flat area on the Wairau Road corner adjacent to the NPOB equipment shed
- 2.) the park behind the Oakura Surfriders clubrooms
- 3.) Corbett Park.

All properties within the Oakura township will be offered the opportunity to connect to the new sewerage system once installed, and only those properties deemed to have an environmental or public health risk associated with their existing onsite systems will be required to connect. All new buildings requiring sewerage services will be compelled to utilise the new system. The cost of connecting to the new system; involving decommissioning of private septic tanks and plumbing alterations, will have a set standardised one-off fee for all residents based on actual contract rates.

More than \$7 million capital funding has been put aside for the new sewerage system that is expected to begin being installed in 2006. Affected residents are encouraged to obtain feedback forms from the NPDC should they have any further enquiries or suggestions.

By Fiona Washer

## Padlocked barrier arm removed

A new system for managing vehicle access to Oakura Beach has been brought in by the New Plymouth District Council.

The Council had installed a padlocked slip rail across the access ramp to the beach, with keys given to the Surf Club, Boardriders' Club, Holiday Park and fishermen.

However, at its meeting on 12 April, the Council's Monitoring Committee agreed with a request by the Kaitake Community Board for the slip rail to be removed. The Community Board will now work closely with members of the Oakura community to ensure that vehicle use on the beach complies with the Council's bylaws and the Council will monitor the trial to gauge its effectiveness.

Manager Parkscape Services, Chris Connolly says it is worthwhile giving the trial system the opportunity to work.

"If the Kaitake Community Board can get the beach users to follow the bylaw, then public safety will improve at the same time as access to the beach by vehicles is made easier," he says. "That would be a great outcome."

The bylaw prohibits motor vehicles being driven on Oakura Beach and its foreshore between the Weld Road river mouth to the west and the Tapuae river mouth to the east, with the exception of:

vehicles launching or retrieving a boat (or similar vehicle) to or from the sea

any rescue, police or surf lifesaving club motor vehicle

any motor vehicle used to carry out approved maintenance works on the beach.

A number of years ago a padlocked slip rail was fitted to the access to the beach but was later removed at the request of locals for a trial period.

In the past six month the Council received a number of complaints from the public about motor bikes and four-wheel bikes racing on the beach, contractors using the beach to access private dwellings to undertake works, and some fishermen parking their vehicles and trailers on the beach while they were at sea. As a result of these complaints the slip rail was re-installed, following contact with the Surf Club and Holiday Park.

"Hopefully this trial will prove successful and all of the beach users and the local community will get behind our effort to keep the beach safe for the public," says Mr Connolly.



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# FireLines

## Hi from the guys in the Big Red Truck.

Who lit the fire at the School? We are contemplating having a collection so his/her parents can get married.

Being serious now, you have heard it before and you will hear it again: SMOKE ALARMS-SMOKE ALARMS-SMOKE ALARMS. If the School had not had smoke alarms it would probably not be there now. We cannot emphasise enough that these little inexpensive items save property and lives.

Back to the fire, just after 8.15pm the Oakura Brigade responded to the 111 call (backed up by help from New Plymouth) to a rubbish tip on fire. On arrival we found that Noddy Jury, the caretaker, had virtually extinguished the visible fire. (It was his wife Vicky who phoned in the 111 call.)

Closer investigation found a more serious problem with the fire spreading under the floorboards, causing the rooms to fill with smoke. But patience, a chainsaw and a bit of water had it beat.

The lesson here is if you have a fire, just don't think it's out because you can't see any flames. Use 111 and we will come and have a look – NO CHARGE, IT'S FREE.

Well done to the Oakura lads and thanks New Plymouth.

Until next time, stay cool.

BRT

## Women in the Fire Service

WOMEN ONLY PLEASE. OK, you guys can read it too.

Ladies, have you ever thought about putting some excitement into your life? Now is your chance, come and join the Fire Service – it's easy. Most brigades in NZ have women fire fighters who do a tremendous job. There is even an all-female brigade.

We've been talking to three women fire fighters about being part of the Service: Milly Carr – 15 months service in the Okato Brigade, Raywin Rae – two years in the Oakura Brigade and career fire fighter Rachael Lind – eighteen months in the New Plymouth Brigade. We asked them all the same questions and got the following responses.

Why did you join the Fire Service?

Milly: Having a nursing background, I felt it was another avenue to apply service to the community and offer help and assistance when needed.

Raywin: I wanted to do something for the community and meet all the locals.

Rachael: I wanted to be in a helper role and knew the Police and Ambulance Service wasn't for me. I like the way the fire service is held in high regard in the public's eyes.

Do you have any problems with any of the duties?

Milly: I don't think I have been in the Brigade long enough to comment but like to think that I can do anything that is put to me. I enjoy a challenge

Raywin: To be honest yes- sometimes- but stubbornness is good!! Girls can do it, may take a little longer.....but hey.

Rachael: No

How do you find working with the guys?

Milly: Fine. Keep them on their toes.

Raywin: Great really fun, and a supportive group

Rachael: Working with the guys is great now that they have gotten used to me. We have a lot of fun

What is the best thing about being a woman Fire Fighter?

Milly: Shows other women / girls that women can do "male stereotyped" work

Raywin: The challenge, the people and the rewards at the end

Rachael: Just being in the Fire Service is great regardless of being a female

Would you recommend other women to take up the challenge?

Milly: Most definitely

Raywin: Definitely. Really rewarding and quite social

Rachael: Yes take up the job if you are physically fit, competent and enjoy a challenge

Thanks to all the girls that took part the replies are their words not ours.

New members are required mainly during the day and I hear you say "Hey I've got ankle biters at home what about them?"

Well we can set up a roster system at the station and operate a sort of crèche while you are away on the Big Red Truck taking turns at minding or riding

Find a friend, think about it then come and see us at the station any Monday night. Get the adrenalin rush.

See you soon and thanks for reading this

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### Wednesday 11 May

**10.30-11am.** Story reading at Toddler time, at Discover it! Puke Ariki, Ariki Street, New Plymouth  
**6pm-6.30pm.** Story session for all ages, Oakura Library, Donnelly Street, Oakura

### Thursday 12 May

**3.30pm.** Story Session for children, Waitara Library and Service Centre, McLean Street, Waitara

### Friday 13 May

**11.15am-12 midday.** Stories at Tots Time, Inglewood Library and Service Centre, Rata Street, Inglewood

### Wednesday 18 May

**10.30-11am.** Story reading at Toddler time, at Discover it! Puke Ariki, Ariki Street, New Plymouth

### Thursday 19 May

**1pm-3pm.** Roving Storyteller – impromptu storytelling with Stu Duval throughout Puke Ariki, Ariki Street, New Plymouth

**3.30pm.** Story Session for children, Waitara Library and Service Centre, McLean Street, Waitara

**4-5pm.** Storytelling Session with Stu Duval, all ages, at Discover it! Puke Ariki, Ariki Street, New Plymouth

**Awards Ceremony at Parliament - winners announced, 6pm on Thursday 19 May.**

### Touring Author Visit

#### Thursday 19 May

Storyteller Stu Duval visiting Puke Ariki to share stories, spontaneous performance with school students and the general public. Morning sessions for schools with 60 students invited - (CLOSED SESSION).

From **1pm-3pm** Stu will then rove Puke Ariki, tell impromptu stories and interact with groups of listeners.

Later from **4-5pm** Stu Duval will present an afternoon Storytelling session for the general public, at Discover it! - so come along to Puke Ariki and join in with Stu!

### School Events and Programmes

Throughout New Plymouth District and North Taranaki, various schools will be hosting special New Zealand Post Book Awards events. Please contact your local school office or School Library for information on activities being planned.

### Early Childhood Centres, Playcentres, Kindergartens

As above.

### Bookstores

There may also be a display of New Zealand Post Awards finalist books and associated events at your local bookshop – Contact your bookstore for further information.

### Who to contact for further information:

General programme enquiries: New Plymouth District Council Call Centre 06 759 6060

**For more detailed information: Discover it! Youth Learning Team, Puke Ariki, 06 759 6060, extn 7802**

*For more information about the New Zealand Post Book Awards visit*

[www.nzpostbookawards.co.nz](http://www.nzpostbookawards.co.nz)

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**Oakura Library with Brenda Cash**



The library has been very busy over the last month with many people making the most of our opening hours remaining consistent with term-time hours. If you can't make it to the library during the day, pop along on a Wednesday night when we reopen for two hours from 5pm to 7pm. For Oakura Library hours and information or for any of the Puke Ariki and district libraries, take a look at our website at [www.pukeariki.com](http://www.pukeariki.com). It is a fabulous and useful site - you can even request and renew items online.

I must use this space to thank all those people who supported the April library holiday programme. Lots of fun was had making autumn leaf collages and reading some new picture book stories with the children. Looking forward to having lots more activities and events in the library for all age ranges. One of the future events will be a "Potter Party" to coincide with the launch of J K Rowling's latest Harry Potter tale, The Half Blood Prince. This book has been eagerly anticipated by both children and adults alike, and of course, the library will be buying copies. 16 July is the official release date. Fans of the wizarding series may like to check out [www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com) for more information.

Over the next few months the serials and compact disc collections will be evaluated and where possible, new titles purchased. So keep an eye out for some new and interesting magazines and CDs in the near future. Hopefully our new DVDs will also be available very soon.

In the meantime I hope you are all managing to enjoy a good book on these cooler evenings.

Happy reading

Brenda Cash

**Jones & Sandford GARDENING**



**Gardening with Rosemary Herb**

**MAY CHECKLIST**

**Vegetables**  
Sow broad beans, peas and onions.  
Plant garlic and shallots. Set garlic cloves 2-3cm apart and shallots 10cm apart with top half of bulb exposed.

**Flowers**  
Last opportunity to plant spring flowering bulbs. Plant polyanthus, primula, nemesia, pansies, violas, stock and calendula for early spring flowering.  
Dahlia tubers and gladioli corms should be lifted and stored in a cool dry place.

**Fruit trees**  
Begin pruning fruit trees once leaves have dropped. Paint pruning wounds with Bacseal Pruning Paint to protect the leaf scar and prevent disease.

**Lawns**  
Rake over and re-sow bare or thin areas of lawn with Easy Grass or Mow-it-less lawn seed.

# Sir Edmund Hillary: Everest and Beyond

## - a Puke Ariki exhibition

On 29 May 1953, a humble 33 year-old New Zealander from Auckland reached the summit of the world's highest mountain, accompanied by renowned Sherpa climber, Tenzing Norgay.

Fifty-two years later Sir Edmund Hillary will open the stunning exhibition Sir Edmund Hillary: Everest and Beyond at Puke Ariki, New Plymouth – under the shadow of Mount Taranaki, which he climbed many times, perfecting the remarkable skills that would take him to the roof of the world and onwards to countless adventures and some of the greatest human achievements of the 20th Century.

Acting Manager of Puke Ariki, Maria Ramsay, is proud of the effort and commitment behind the staging of a show of this stature. "This exhibition is amazing as it shows the breadth of achievement by one person, and for Puke Ariki to host such a huge and definitive story is a milestone in our history."

Curator of the show, Alexa Johnston, says the exhibition explores all aspects of Sir Edmund's life, from his early days as a novice climber and beekeeper to his celebrated Everest ascent and humanitarian work for the people of the Himalayas.

In 1961, Sir Edmund asked the Sherpas, who had helped him scale the roof of the world, what he could do for their community. Their reply – "we need a school for our children" – was the catalyst for the next forty years of Sir Edmund's life in which he established the Himalayan Trust, an organisation devoted to the health and education of the Sherpa people and the protection of the Himalayas.

Told through breathtaking panoramic landscapes, replica Sherpa buildings and never-before-seen objects from the 1953 expedition, Sir Edmund Hillary: Everest and Beyond also charts Sir Edmund's other journeys, from his South Pole tractor journey to his jet boat pilgrimage up India's Ganges River following the tragic death of his wife and daughter in 1975. This personal show develops not only Sir Edmund's achievements as a mountaineer and adventurer, but as an environmentalist, humanitarian and extraordinary, ordinary man.

"We are so lucky here in Taranaki that we have such a diverse population of mountaineers, conservationists, adventurers, philanthropists and travellers who will bring their specific knowledge to an outstanding lecture series that will be held throughout the duration of the exhibition. All of these talks are free of charge and will reflect the many areas of interest of Sir Edmund's life," says Mrs Ramsay.

Sir Edmund Hillary: Everest and Beyond opens on 8 May 2005 and continues until 7 August 2005.

## Exhibition Highlights

### From Everest:

His Everest ice axe, his Kodak Retina camera (which recorded the legendary summit photos), the down-filled and windproof clothing he wore to the summit, his high-altitude assault boots, nylon climbing rope, oxygen frame, pack and mask, and Hillary's famous home-made blue and white sunhat and his personal diary.

From Nepal:

A selection of religious and domestic Sherpa artefacts including ceremonial horns, yak butter tea-churns, gold-lettered Buddhist prayer books, carpets, cooking bowls and paintings.

From Sir Edmund's many awards and decorations:

An intriguing selection of scrolls, plaques, vestments and medals from all over the world, from the Kathmandu Taxi-drivers Association award to the Order of the Garter.



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## Replica spaces/objects:

The Silver Hut constructed to enable a party to winter over in the Himalayas at 19,000ft.

Thami schoolhouse with drawings and messages sent from Sherpa school children.

The Sherpa kitchen in Kunde where Hillary planned many of his projects.

## Sir Edmund Hillary Exhibition speakers

### May

- 11 Mark Dwyer – Images of Antarctica
- 18 Dr George Mason – Impressions of Aid: Himalayan Foothills
- 25 Alan Jellyman – Rhododendrons of Nepal

### June

- 1 Rex Hendry – Post-modern Antarctic Issues: Environmental/Political/Social
- 8 Fiona Black – Beekeeping in Uruti
- 15 Robin Drake (TBC) – Aid Work in Kunde, Nepal
- 22 Ross Eden – Taranaki Alpine Club & The Andrew Harris Trust

### July

- 6 Matt Prendergast – NZ Police Search & Rescue: Mountain Rescue
- 9–24 School Holidays – Discover it! Programme
- 27 Wayne Butt – Ear Surgery in Nepal

### August

- 3 Rex Hendry – Tourism Impact on Southern Ocean Islands & Antarctica



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*Denise Ries*



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with NCEA seek help early to make the best possible use of the tutorials.

Holiday programmes are also available in all classes. An extensive study and examination skills programme also operates during the holidays.

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One of the reasons why the Kip McGrath approach is so effective is that each student works on an individualised programme tailored to their needs, within a small group setting. An immediate benefit of the group (in which there could be up to four students) is that, at the outset, each child appreciates that they are not alone in their need for extra support and tutoring. This is a great confidence-builder for children, especially for those who have begun to feel isolated in their struggle to understand a certain subject.



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## ***The Spirit Music Jamia: Dance Of The Infidel***

**Meshell Ndegeocello (Emarcy/Universal)**

*The Spirit Music Jamia* recalls those marvellous jazz-fusion recordings of the seventies. So if you fondly remember some of those seminal albums by "fusioners" Donald Byrd, Miles Davis, The Blackbyrds, Billy Cobham, Return To Forever, Alphonse Mouzon and the Herbie Hancock "Mwandishi" band, then this album by Meshell Ndegeocello should be high on your must-hear list.

Always a feisty, gifted and somewhat controversial artist, Ndegeocello was all over her previous recordings like the proverbial rash, wickedly flaunting her talents as a composer, arranger, bassist, keyboard player, programmer and vocalist. Yet *The Spirit Music Jamia: Dance of the Infidel* finds Ndegeocello (christened Mary Johnson) taking more of a directing role for this, her seventh outing. It takes an awful lot of courage to invite serious jazz musicians of the calibre of Oliver Lake and Kenny Garrett (saxes), Don Byron (clarinet), Wallace Roney (trumpet), Jack DeJohnette (drums) and vocalists as commanding as Cassandra Wilson

and Lalah Hathaway to embrace your inner visions. But Meshell has never lacked fortitude and, fortunately, her gamble has paid off.

With its spacious feel and controlled spontaneity, *The Spirit Music Jamia* is a long, long way removed from the future-funk grooves of her 1993 debut album, *Plantation Lullabies*. Sure, there is nothing here with the instant appeal of her sassy hit "If He's Your Boyfriend (He Wasn't Last Night)," but this is an album that repays repeated hearings and weaves a spell all of its own.

A deft balance between lengthy instrumentals (including the outstanding "Papillon," "Luqman" and "Al-Falaq 113") and moody songs like "Aquarium" featuring singer Sabina, the Lalah Hathaway showpiece "Heaven" and Cassandra Wilson's feature "The Chosen," *The Spirit Music Jamia* achieves Ndegeocello's intention of creating "music that allows for free interpretation and self-expression." As some of these titles may hint, this German-born daughter of an American jazz saxophonist seems to have embraced Islam, adopting the name Meshell Suhaila Bashir-Shakur, yet another brave move in the post 9/11 paranoia of modern-day America!

*Music review by Don Juan*

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

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

Nicki will have the support of Pat McFetridge and Colin Williamson who are already established in Oakura, and as a team they will continue to provide the best real estate service imaginable. Good luck Nicki, it's great to have you on board.

*Peter*

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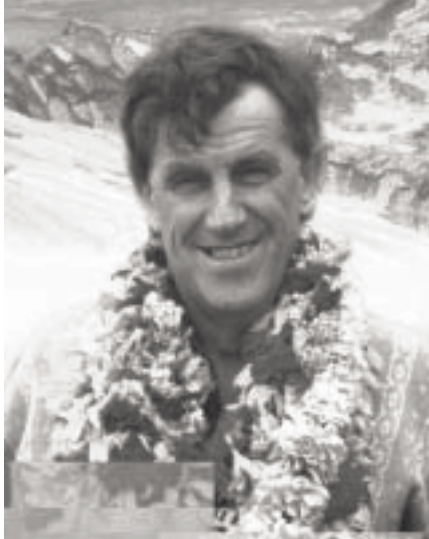
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# OAKURA school news

## Camping at school

Towards the end of Term one, fifty Year 3 and 4 children from Rooms 4 and 5, plus approximately twenty parents, had an overnight camp in the school grounds. I had a chat with William Conquest from Room 4 about what they did and he told me they had a lot of fun. On the Thursday, they had a triathlon involving running, swimming two lengths of the school pool and then cycling around the back fields. In the afternoon, they watched a big tee-pee go up and all of the other tents around it. There was a yummy dinner of fish & chips and ice cream followed by some juggling to watch and more entertainment in the form of a video about Robin Hood. The weather turned bad in the night with rain falling on the campers. Some children evacuated to the staffroom but many stayed in their tents. By the morning, the rain had stopped, so after breakfast, it was off to Weld Road beach to play games, draw the ship wreck and take part in other beach activities.

## Here is a story by Molly Oldfield from Room 5 about what she did on camp:

"I was excited about the school camp on Thursday and Friday. The teepee was erected first and we went on to the field and watched the man put it up. It looked hard, with all the long sticks and rope. The cover got put on with some rope and the man had to go around and around lots of times. Next we went to do some field games. I did hockey, making shapes and a water game. Our team spilt nearly all our water. I did not enjoy the shape game, no one was doing it right. I only did some of the triathlon because I got very tired and could not breathe well. I felt very frightened. My Mum came with the tent and my stuff. We went and put up the tent. It was exciting seeing the tents being put up. Amy, Olivia and I went in and looked around. Later, we went and played on the playground until dinner was ready. I played on the monkey bars and on the high wooden deck. We had sausages and chips. "Yummy", I said when I crunched the chips. For dessert, we had ice cream and peaches. I just had ice cream because I do not like peaches that much. Later on, Adara's Dad came and did some juggling - it looked great. They turned the lights out. It looked so cool. While they were juggling, the teachers were setting up Robin Hood. We watched some of Robin Hood. When they turned it off we went down to our tents. The grass was wet and cold but we got in the tent and snuggled down. It was a great camp."

Cathy Ardern



Years 3 and 4 children enjoying the entertainment.

## Oakura Junior Sports Club

### Kia ora

Term 1 is now well behind us and thanks again to all those who have helped out with the coaching and managing of teams over that term, and for the time and commitment to each individual team. Also a big thank you to "Sporty Spice" who has taken on the role of editor for our weekly newsletter. You are doing a great job.

With winter sports starting in the first couple of weeks of the new term, thank you to our sporting co-ordinators for the time spent sorting out teams and coaches. Also a big thank you goes out to Debbie Coltman, the treasurer, who has been very busy over the past months doing all the collecting of fees. It is job that takes up a lot of time and commitment.

Brenda Crummey (OJSC Sports Coordinator) Phone 752 1282.

### From Sporty

As summer bows out with the loss of daylight savings, we are seeing the last rounds of all the summer sports. Congratulations to all those who have participated over the last months in the various chosen activities. Special congratulations to Teihorangi Walden, who was selected to represent Taranaki in the Under-

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12 Tennis Team this season. He had some great results against Wanganui and Manawatu over the Easter break, winning most of his matches. Well done.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who sent in some action shots from the triathlon run during Rooms 4 and 5's school camp.

*Sporty Spice*

### Netball

Thank you to all the enthusiastic Year 3 and 4 netballers who came prepared for their turn at the "meet the team" get together. It is pleasing to have so many of you keen and ready to participate. Already practising and underway are The Stormers, Rebels and Thunders.

*Stormers* – Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime (at school)

*Rebels* – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.30pm (or Friday lunchtime if wet)

*Thunders* – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4pm or 4.15pm at the courts behind Room 6.

*Fun Ferns* – This is for all children aged 5–7. The emphasis is fun, active participation and developing passing and movement skills. This programme will be starting in Term 2 at the end of May. Please talk to your parents or caregiver if you are interested in being involved with Fun Ferns.

*Flyers v Sting* – What an awesome game. I saw plenty of aspiring players cheering for their team. Well done to Rachel Eden for winning the ball carrier competition. You did a grand job and looked so proud walking on. Also congratulations to Amy Barron who won a ball in the McDonald's giveaway competition.

*Jo West* (Netball Coordinator) Phone 752 7837.

### Soccer


The new season started on Saturday, 7th May.

THANK YOU to all the parents who've offered their spare time to help coach or manage a team. The kids really appreciate your input.


Players - spend some time enjoying a kick-a-round with family or friends. Any ball handling improves confidence within the game, but more importantly, it is so much fun!!

*Dom Squatriti* (Soccer Coordinator) Phone 752 7217

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# OMATA school news

Omata School has been studying rock pools. Below is a selection of poems written about the rocky shore.

## Rocks, water and life

Popping Neptune's Necklace  
Retreating reef star  
Freezing refreshing water  
Smooth boulders  
Crabs hunting  
Darting fish  
Tiny plankton  
Cheeky black neritas  
Stream-lined clingfish  
Sticky snake-skin Chiton  
Webbed cushion star arms

By Phoebe Livingston

## Ripply rock pools

Stiff seaweed  
Rolly rocks  
Sleepy sea snails  
Stale seaweed  
Big boulders  
Plodding people  
Salt water seaweed

By Matheson Lee



And not only fine poetry . . . pictured are a couple of excellent examples of artwork from Omata School pupils.



## Un-radiant flickering fish

Slimey, squirming  
fast little fish  
Struggling, gliding  
bold scaly fish  
Shy, quick  
small killer fish  
Fine, scared  
flickering fish  
Slimey  
Struggling, gliding,  
shy, quick  
Un-radiant flickering fish

By Danielle Fougere

## Lazy rock pools

Prickly kina  
Killer crabs  
Empty shells  
Flying seagulls  
scouting star  
Greasy rocks  
Hiding crabs  
seaweed glove  
slippery fish

By Phoebe Tomlinson

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Nominations close 3 June 2005

**NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
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What did the ballerina do when she injured her foot?

She called the toe truck.

You've got to be KIDDING!?

## TOM-KID-PROFILE

NAME: NICHOLAS WILSON  
AGE: 6  
SCHOOL: Oakura School  
YEAR: 2  
MY FAVOURITE THINGS: Chocolate  
FOOD: Playing with Lego  
ACTIVITY: Rugby  
GAME/SPORT: The Incredibles  
MOVIE: Horrible Histories  
BOOK: Angus White, Angus Tinson, Sunny  
BEST FRIENDS: Peebles, Gian Squatriti and Taylor Barry.



**Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.**

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**The ant can lift its own weight and can pull 30 times its own weight.**

THOSE ANTS ARE JUST LITTLE SHOW-OFFS AREN'T THEY?

**Sound at the right vibration frequency can bore holes through a solid object.**

SO THAT'S HOW I GOT THOSE HOLES IN MY UNDIES!

**You can stop a sneeze by pressing your tongue to the roof of your mouth.**

JUST YOU COLD AND FLU VICTIMS REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU GO TO VISIT YOUR GRANNY.

**A crocodile can't stick out its tongue.**

WELL, YOU NEVER SEE THEM IN THE DAIRY BUYING ICE CREAMS DO YOU?

**More than one billion dolls from the Barbie range have been sold since 1959. Placed head-to-toe, they would stretch around earth more than seven times.**

THEY MUST HAVE SOLD A LOT ON SATURN AS WELL THEN.

There was a young chap named Jack,  
Who walked to China and back.  
When they asked Jack the reason,  
Said he, "T'was the season,  
To test out my brand new back pack."

How can you tell if a snake is still a baby?  
It has a rattle.

WHAT WEIGHS  
12 TONNES AND QUACKS?  
MOBY DUCK.

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

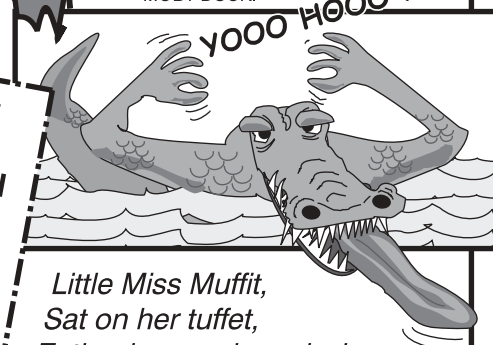
**S P A C E M A N**

English words only, no proper names or plurals.  
SCORE:  
2 words - abysmal, spend more time at school.  
8 words - good.  
12 words or more - excellent.  
300 words - leave school and go and work for NASA.

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

Dad - "What's the difference between a post box and an elephant's bottom?"  
Son - "I don't know!"  
Dad - "Well I'd better post my own letters, then."

How many balls of string would it take to reach the moon?  
Just one humungously large one.



Little Miss Muffit,  
Sat on her tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey,  
When down came a spider,  
That sat down beside her,  
And Miss Muffit was heard to say,  
"Shove off hairy legs!"

**CRAZY TOM BOOK CLUB**  
Recommended Reading

"Learn the Piano" by Ivor E. Keys.  
"Smash and Grab Techniques" by Eva Brick.  
"Simple Christian Cooking" by Friar Negg.  
"Pony Riding" by Reardon Buktov.

# OakuraPLAYCENTRE

Well, it's finally finished. Yes, this stage of our renovations is now complete and we're back in action! The builders left the building during the school holidays and a dedicated team of Playcentre families then had the huge job of getting all our furniture and equipment back to Playcentre and into its new place. Many thanks to those who stored our things, to those who helped move us back in and of course to the builders from Pepper Construction and our architect, John Arden.

The old building has been extended considerably and all the old windows, doors and outer surfaces replaced. We have a new cloak bay, new toilets and basins (including an adult/disabled one), new shub, baby sleep area, kitchen and clean up areas, and a new office area. We're so much lighter and brighter, and everything looks nice and new.

Our regular sessions recommenced on 2 May and we were all very excited to be back, especially in such awesome new surrounds. It's SOOOO much better. Hopefully, we'll have lots of good photos for the next issue.

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

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

Trish Whitney

## Playcentre and where it began



The Oakura Playcentre began its existence at the Oakura Hall and really only began because a group of mothers wanted a "play group" for their preschoolers to go to in the mid-1970s. The community had been told it would be thirty years before a kindergarten would come to Oakura. The criteria for setting up a kindergarten was outside the capabilities of the parents at the time, so setting up a playcentre was suggested.

Becoming a playcentre meant the group would be eligible for Government funding, so long as they met the necessary criteria. Government funding alone wasn't sufficient so parents had to fundraise. Many cabarets were held in the Hall with the mums doing the decorating (ponga fronds all around the walls) and the catering. Those cabarets are still talked about today!

Toys and equipment for the Playcentre were stored under the stage and had to be got out and set up each session. The core group of mothers who seemed to be the driving force behind the new Oakura Playcentre were Faye Newton, Margaret Greenwood, Christine Finnegin, Caroline Coxhead, Maureen Priest, Jocelyn Payne, Judy Adams, Bev Billig, Janet Parkinson (husband John was headmaster of the school) and Janice Telford. There are probably others.

Eventually, the Playcentre bought the old Moturoa School building and had it placed on the present site. This piece of land had previously been a "paper road" and had to be acquired from the Council. Mr Florence (Faye Newton's dad) was a builder and he did some renovations on the building to make it serviceable for the needs of the Playcentre. Playcentre is unique to New Zealand and began in the 1940s. It is internationally recognised in early childhood development and is based on child-initiated play, with parents as educators. It provides parent education and in the early days of the Oakura Playcentre, mothers could train extramurally to be "supervisors". thus gaining an early childhood qualification. There are 519 playcentres in New Zealand, divided between 33 regional associations.

The following extracts are Playcentre Reports from the Oakura News in 1977.

July 1977: "We have two morning sessions per week and one extended session on Wednesday afternoons for over four year olds. Playcentre sessions are staffed by one supervisor, one assistant supervisor and two or three mother helpers. There are many different activities for the children, mainly done in the free-play form. Painting, collage work, family play corner, dough, etc and many outside activities, e.g. swings, sandpit, slide, water trough, etc. We try to go on regular trips, namely the beach, parks, factories, fire station, farms, etc., to stimulate the children... So the "Dads" don't feel left out, we have the odd 'working bee' and try to have regular social evenings to keep everyone up to date with what is going on..."

In next month's issue we'll have more about the Playcentre's history and memories from the Playcentre mums.

By Kim Ferens

*Family memories  
are so special...*



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*Playcentre site.*

*The old Moturoa School building  
being moved on to the site.*

# The Blue Flag Programme

The efforts of an Oakura local have helped establish an international environmental organisation in New Zealand, with Oakura Beach being a potential pilot beach.

Matt Cowley undertook a study on the implementation of the European-based "Blue Flag" programme in New Zealand. His study focused on Oakura and Fitzroy beaches and was undertaken as part of his honours degree in Resource and Environmental Planning at Massey University.

The Blue Flag programme, which was started in France in 1985, has become one of the leading coastal environmental programmes in the world. The Blue Flag now flies over beaches and marinas in 29 countries in Europe, North America, the Caribbean, Africa and elsewhere.

New Zealand joined the programme in 2003 through its parent body, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

Essentially, Blue Flag provides environmental educational and management criteria for the measurement of a beach or marina's environmental performance to an international standard. Previously, Kiwis and others have relied upon the standards implemented by local and regional authorities, which are generally very good, but there has never been an internationally recognised standard for environmental beach management.

For instance, there are cases where beaches in one area may have excellent signage for water quality, amenities, erosion or other environmental issues but another beach that's popular for bathing may have no such information to educate the public and beach users.

Furthermore, the fact that Blue Flag is a prestigious organisation, endorsed by the United Nations and used by so many countries as a base standard for good beach management, means that it tends to help lift general awareness on good beach management, not just for beach users, but also for other parties involved in coastal management.

New Zealand generally has first rate policies and our membership of Blue Flag (through FEE) means we can also more readily exchange ideas and advice regarding issues upon which we are expert. For instance, New Zealand's huge coastline – the eighth longest in the world – means we can take what we know in New Zealand and help other countries to apply some of our hard-fought lessons and environmental expertise.

The New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council are currently looking into the possibility of Blue Flag for Oakura and Fitzroy beaches. Local Community Board member Doug Hislop is also very keen on the idea. "The Blue Flag concept has great potential and would create a 'win win' situation for everyone here. It fits right in with the Coastal Strategy environmental concept too," he says. Oakura could potentially become the first beach in New Zealand to be awarded the Blue Flag, joining over 2,900 communities and marinas around the world. If you would like more information on Blue Flag, check out [www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org), [www.blueflag.org.nz](http://www.blueflag.org.nz) or email [erin.alley@blueflag.org.nz](mailto:erin.alley@blueflag.org.nz)

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I remember when . . .

## Jim and Maureen Priest



**To spend the greater part of a lifetime in one place is a fair indication of a love of the location and for Jim and Maureen Priest this is particularly true.**

Jim's dad Ross was a mechanic at Pungarehu and in the Second World War he went to England as a bomber pilot, where he met Jim's mother, a woman's auxiliary fighter (WAF). After the war the young couple returned to Pungarehu and then shifted to Oakura in 1952 when Jim was six years old.

The family lived opposite the Oakura Garage where Ross had come to take over the running of the garage. When Ashley Heydon joined the business it became "Heydon Priest" and the cartage business was called "Hey Presto". Jim went to Oakura School before attending Okato College where as a 3rd former he met Maureen Ross. Maureen lived with her family at Tapuae on Henry Stavely's farm. They went to school together on the bus so they had plenty of time to get to know each other. Jim left school when he was fifteen and worked at the Okato Four Square for Bill Campbell.

One day after working for Bill for three years, Jim came home from work to be asked by his father if he would like to run the Oakura Beach Shop. Jim wasn't sure, being only 18. But when he came home the next evening, his father told him that he had bought the shop for him, so that was that. Fortunately it was the "making" of Jim and he relished the challenge of running his own business. The shop had been bought from Scotty Priest (no relation) and was in need of some tender loving care. There was a lot of work to do to the building to patch it up and restock the shelves. The Beach Shop didn't open over the winter and Jim was lucky to be able to work at the Okato Four Square in the cold season instead. In the summer the shop was frantic.

The shop opened at 6am and closed at 10pm. The hardest part of the job was rolling all the scoop ice creams. Eventually they went out of scoop ice creams and only stocked stick ice creams, much to the disgust of customers. The advent of super-markets (did they never exist?!) saw a change in the custom at the shop.



and provided a service to the campers was to freeze their "slicka" pads overnight for a few pence. This kept their food cold during the day because there were no fridges or freezers.

The shop featured an outdoor speaker in the ice cream sign on the roof and music from Jim's collection would waft around the beach. Maureen recalls Jim embarrassing her by playing the song "Itsy bitsy, teenie weenie yellow, polka dot bikini" when she braved the beach in her one and only bikini!

The day of the Oakura Beach Races would mean a big swell in customers as would the New Year's Day Carnival. In fact this was the occasion of the Priest's only near disaster. Ready made food (such as filled rolls and pies) had to be pre-ordered for New Year's Day with a gamble that the weather would be fine and crowds of people would attend. One particular year the weather was atrocious (at least some things never change!) so hundreds of pies and filled rolls were in surplus. Fortunately a catering firm in New Plymouth took them off their hands. The New Year's Day Carnival attracted more people back in the Sixties and Seventies than today and the Beach Shop was just about the only place to get food if you didn't take your own. The shop had at least eight people working over New Year's. At the end of the day the Priest's would have boxes and boxes of coins to count but were nearly too exhausted to do it!

During the five years of running the Oakura Beach Shop, Jim and Maureen got married and had two sons, Heath and Jason. Jim and Maureen together with Jim's sister Sandra and her husband Trevor took over the shop briefly again in 1989. The change in camping over that time was huge. In the shop the change was noticeable – the children would buy lollies with \$10 notes instead of a shilling or two.

At twenty-three Jim began driving trucks for Heydon Priest and did so for nine years. Heydon Priest then sold the transport side of their business to Murray Pease. Jim worked for four years for NZ Express before working for Hookers in 1982, where he has been for the last twenty-two years.

Jim was a foundation member of the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade when it started in 1969 and has been in active service for thirty-six years. These days though, Jim helps Terry with the Fire Police duties and so is officially off the "front line".

In his spare time, to keep out of mischief, Jim has indulged himself in bowls. This was a sport that his Grandad had first taught him when he was seven years old. Indoor or outdoor bowls, it makes no difference to Jim and he has excelled at them both over the years. During his indoor bowls career he has won many titles –

Previously campers would come and buy all their groceries and greens at the shop but when the supermarkets opened in New Plymouth they would bring a lot of their groceries with them (this would be the late 1960s). Prior to this Jim would take a big truck into A.S. Paterson's and fill it up with bulk grocery items. Another way they made a bit of money



*Maureen Priest outside the Beach Shop..*

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It goes without saying that Maureen has been “a rock!” for Jim, enabling him to pursue his sport and devote time to community service, but she has been very busy with her time too: helping to set up Playcentre in the early days, raising the two boys, looking after the home, working in the shop and various other places

So Jim and Maureen have both managed to cram a lot of enjoyment into their lives and are eagerly awaiting their retirement when they can cram in some more!

by Kim Ferens

tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom

A cartoon cow with black and white spots, standing and looking towards the left. A large question mark is positioned above its head.

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- Dr TOM MULHOLLAND & ROB HAMILL, Charitable Dinner and Speeches. Proceeds to Dr Tom Mulholland's orphanage in tsunami stricken Indonesia - 2 JULY.
- TAWERA NIKAU, Speeches & Dinner - 29 JULY.
- MID-YEAR XMAS DINNER & DANCE - 11 JUNE, 16 JULY.
- TARANAKI BOYS' DAY OUT - 24, 25, 26 JUNE.

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## The Ross Family Take to the Water like Ducks

On the 28th March to the 2nd April Wanganui hosted "The Suzuki 2005 New Zealand Water Ski Nationals" and local Oakura family Allan, Fiona, Calum and Hannah Ross competed. The National Champs were held at Lake Wiritoa, south of Wanganui with mostly ideal conditions all week. The championships are held every year at either Wanganui, Hamilton, Auckland, Northland or Canterbury and attract around 130 competitors.

For Hannah, it was her first National event and she competed in the Under 12 Junior girls slalom event and was placed 4th.

Calum, at 14 competed for the first time in the Under 17 Junior Boys events in slalom, jump and trick and was placed 5th overall. He achieved a personal best in the jump with a 26 metre result and also a personal best in the trick. Calum has competed before in the National Water Ski Champs and has been placed 1st in the slalom, 2nd in jump, 4th in tricks and 3rd overall.

Fiona competed in the Senior Women's 1 event and was placed 3rd in the slalom, winning a bronze medal.

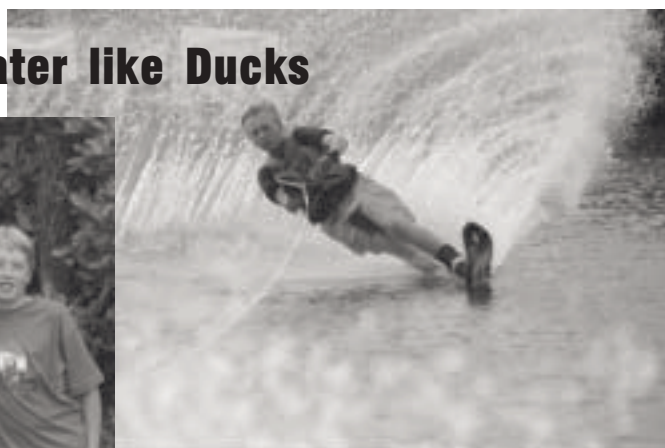
Allan competed in the Senior Men's 1 event and was placed 5th in the slalom.

The Ross family are obviously a force to be reckoned with when it comes to water, boats and little pieces of fibreglass with the family hugely committed to their sport and have collectively put in many, many hours of pre-competition training. In fact they have travelled to Lake Rataipiko every weekend for at least 9 weeks prior to the champs. They have belonged to both the New Plymouth Water Ski Club for 9 years and the Wanganui Water Ski Club. To be able to enter National competition the Ross's had to qualify in the Regional competition which was held in Wanganui in March. Fiona (or Fi as she is known by her Fit Farm friends) achieved a personal best at the Wanganui Regional Champs.

The thrill of water skiing for the Ross family is the exhilaration of competing and being able to master the technically challenging aspects of the three water skiing disciplines but most importantly the fact that it's a great family sport with lots of fun and good social times. Having a certain level of fitness is also important too but having the right technique is just as important. If it was easy you would probably call it wakeboarding.

Calum has been to Ski School and the family have had some coaching from water ski experts but ultimately success comes from practise, practise and more practise. At present the Ross family have eased up on water skiing as the winter weather approaches but they'll be back to claim more places on the water ski podium in the future.

By Kim Ferens



## Greetings fellow fishos

Well, we have really slowed down now as we approach the winter, with the dreaded South Westerlies kicking in. Not a great deal was caught in April, despite the nice conditions we experienced earlier on with the offshore. Recent Club days have unfortunately been hampered by bad weather, and the Sutherlands Sports Tri Comp on Sunday 24 April wasn't the best either – only a few fish were caught in terrible conditions. Leon Jury from the New Plymouth Surfcasting Club won the day's prize with a 1.6 kg John Dory.

Oakura Surfcasting Club is having a Casting Demonstration and Competition Day in May and invites all that are interested to come and have a go. There will be a couple of New Zealand's top casters present to give you pointers and advice on technique. Distance and also accuracy are measured and you could even win a prize. Details of location and the date are still to be finalised, but by the time this issue of *TOM* is in circulation, we'll know and you can ring one of the contacts below to find out where and when if you want to have a go.

Don't forget, we welcome all on any Club day or come up to the Weigh-ins at the stated times. Even if you don't catch anything, come up for a yarn – you may just go away with the thing you have been missing.

Tight lines...

Debbie E

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

### Club days for May

Fish Anywhere – 22 May. Weigh in at 4.30pm at 118 Croydon Road

Sutherlands Sports Tri Comp – Sunday 29 May. Weigh in at 4.30pm at 8 Brixham Place, New Plymouth (off Riversdale Drive). New Plymouth Surfcasting Club are the hosts.



# Riding high



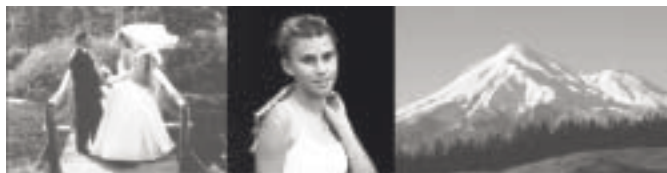
Fourteen year-old Sophie Anderson has a love and it started when she was just four years old. When Sophie was just a wee tot she would disappear from home and would often be found hanging out with her parents' horses. Ten years later not much has changed – she's still mad on horses, except now she's heading into a bright future doing what she loves the most: riding.

Sophie has been competing in the grand prix showjumping circuit all over New Zealand and has had a very successful season. Her biggest highlight so far has been winning the Taupo grand prix, which is the second largest pony grand prix held in New Zealand. She won this event on her seventeen year-old pony, Mill Banks Idaho (also known by his paddock name, Idaho).

Sophie has successfully competed at Horse of the Year and in many of the top events in the equestrian circuit. She has also represented Taranaki in both individual and team events.

Her goal for the future is to win Pony of the Year, which she has been invited to compete in for the last two years. After that, she's setting her sights on the Junior Olympics. With her already impressive list of successes, Sophie's well on the way to making her dreams come true. We wish her all the best.

*Tammy Lewis*



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## Oakura Pony Club News

The closing rally for the season was recently held at Graham and Lorraine Rook's property at Ahu Ahu Road. A great turnout of thirty or so riders made for a very busy and entertaining day. Competitions involved four groups of riders: kindergarten, junior, intermediate and senior classes. Riders competed in a "flat" competition in which riders and ponies are judged for presentation and riding skills similar to those required in the dressage ring, and the always exciting showjumping competition (kindergarten – 40cm, junior – 65cm, intermediate – 85cm and senior – 1.05 cm). The performance of almost every rider in this competition was superb with most riders completing clear rounds, which made for exciting jump-off competitions. The showjumping was followed by a short cross country course over fence spars and knock-down field jumps, and provided riders and ponies with a good open paddock gallop with jumps along the way, all being timed over the distance. A great day with excellent performances by all. Thank you to all parents and helpers for your assistance.

Off-season activities will include members being able to complete riding and equine knowledge certificates and the occasional beach and forest/farm trek.

The Pony Club grounds are currently undergoing a surface refurbishment. The grassed area over the old tip site has, over the years, become very uneven as the underlying refuse has settled. The Council Parks contractors are re-surfacing and grassing the area, which should be ready for next season.

The Club AGM is scheduled for 7pm on Tuesday 31 May at the fire station. The Club intends to have a social "get to know Pony Club" evening for those parents who do not have a good understanding of the Pony Club structure and competition. Members will be contacted about this evening shortly. The annual Club prize-giving dinner and presentations will be held soon after the AGM. The date for this evening will be set at the AGM.



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# GETTING WET!



## PROFILE Ayla Dunlop-Barrett



2005 Lion Foundation Surf League – Ayla leading current world champ, Rachel Anderson of Gisborne, out of the water.

Up under the mountain lives a very determined and talented young woman. The list of Ayla Dunlop-Barrett's achievements in swimming and surf lifesaving leaves me gasping for breath and she is only 18 years old.

Success in swimming began early at Oakura School. Then Ayla won the 9 year-olds Taranaki swimming title in breaststroke. At 14 she won two national titles in the 50 metres backstroke and 200 metres medley. Ayla joined the Under-16 New Zealand Swimming Team and competed in trans-Tasman events in Australia, including the Youth Olympics in Sydney in 2003 (and again in 2005).

At 15 she won four age-group titles in the 50 metres breaststroke, 200 metres medley, 400 metres freestyle and 400 metres medley, and also won three silver medals. At 16 Ayla won four more national titles in the 50 metres breaststroke, 100 metres breaststroke, 200 metres breaststroke and the 200 metres individual medley. She also entered the Open Women's Short Course 50 metres breaststroke race and set a New Zealand record of 33.16 seconds.

Now at 18 Ayla has won seven national titles in the 50 and 200 metres breaststroke, 50, 100 and 200 metres backstroke, 400 metres freestyle and 200 metres individual medley, and a bronze medal in the Open Women's 200 metres individual medley.

Ayla says the individual medley is her favourite and she loves the challenge of swimming and training. She's made many great friends all over New Zealand and has travelled to many interesting places. Just recently Ayla was invited to travel with the New Zealand Swim Team to Turkey for the World Student Games in August and it is clearly only New Zealand's best who are hand-picked to attend. She hopes to represent New Zealand in the Open Woman's team in the near future.

What has made Ayla such a good swimmer? Dad, Noot Barrett, says everything Ayla has achieved in swimming is through her own hard work, courage and determination. She has a great passion for swimming and winning and she pushes herself to achieve. The whole family has a love for the sea and surf and they spend most of their summer at Oakura Beach, so the Kiwi outdoorsy lifestyle has helped create a desire to swim. Younger brother Dylan (14 years old) is also a great swimmer, having already won a national title, and he keeps on challenging Ayla to work harder in training sessions. And the training is serious with eight sessions of one to two hours every week – five early morning ones and three afternoon sessions at the Bell Block Community Pool. Ayla is part of the Bell Block Swim Club and is in the Aquablades Training Squad. She is coached by Sue Southgate.

In her weekends Ayla participates in surf lifesaving as part of New Plymouth Old Boys' Surf Club and she has achieved yet more success in her "leisure" activity. Ayla has been in the New Zealand Development Squad since she was fourteen. She went with the Under-21 team to Japan to the DHL Asia Championships and has a bedroom full of medals, trophies and ribbons plus three National titles to her name.

Now in her final year at Sacred Heart, Ayla has no firm plans for her future but you can be sure that it will involve swimming and success!

By Kim Ferens

## PROFILE Simon Deken

Simon Deken is another of Oakura's successful sporting sons, and doesn't Oakura breed them so well!

At twenty-three years of age, Simon has achieved surfing success for nearly ten years running. He began surfing at nine years of age with other local friends and some guidance from his father, Ton.

Simon attended Oakura School before going onto Francis Douglas Memorial College (FDMC). While at FDMC, Simon was selected on form (as the under-16 national champion for two years) for the New Zealand Under-16 Surf Team, which included four boys from throughout New Zealand. Surf competitions were held in such places as Brazil, Bali and Australia. "Those were some fun trips, competing, surfing a bunch of different waves, and checking out some interesting cultures. A great experience," says Simon. There was plenty of spare time between events for relaxing, sightseeing and surfing.

Following on from this success, Simon was selected for the



New Zealand Under-18 Surf Team and again went overseas to compete. In the winter, Simon also competed in the National Secondary Snowboarding Competition at Mt Ruapehu and was placed fourth, though snowboarding is just a leisure activity for Simon now. He was also the Under-18 Pro Circuit winner for two years.

After some fun years travelling and competing, Simon enrolled at the Taranaki Polytechnic (now WITT) to complete a year-long Certificate in Visual Arts as a lead-in to a Bachelor of Visual Arts. He then went to Australia in 2002 to do the Pro Junior Surfing Circuit. Unfortunately for Simon this wasn't a positive experience. He missed the camaraderie and support of his New Zealand surfing mates. He also found that the pressure of organising his events, accommodation, travel and gear, etc, affected his performance and he didn't achieve the same success. "I just wasn't in the right headspace and wasn't surfing the way I knew I could." It was a lonely experience, so he returned to New Zealand with a renewed energy to focus on his degree and creativity.

In 1999 Simon had started a surf and skate clothing label called "Victim" (mainly t-shirts), which were stocked at Seasons and Vertigo, and in Pauanui. Simon is currently developing a new title for his clothing. "It's going to have a more positive feel for a wider market," says Simon. For 2004 and 2005 Simon has been full-time at WITT, majoring in Computer Graphics with the intention of developing his clothing line into a marketable product. Meanwhile, his surfing is on form – he placed in a number of

finals in the open division of the New Zealand Pro Series and he is currently rated tenth on the circuit.

His success, Simon feels, is due in part to having his focus in balance – that his creativity is fed by relentless design assignments and new ideas for his clothing line, and his surfing achievements are fed by a more relaxed attitude about the direction his life is taking.

By Kim Ferens

## Oakura's first surf shop

Long before the days of *Vertigo*, Mick Tuffery, Doug Hislop and Murray Wagstaff (Wag) opened the Oakura Surf Shop in October 1972. It was in the space now occupied by McDonald Real Estate.

Both Mick and Doug had worked for a number of years at Del Surfboards, Mick as a glasser and finisher, and Doug as a shaper. But they had the urge to branch out and do their own thing. This didn't go down too well with their previous boss, local surfboard manufacturer magnate Nigel Dwyer.

Wag began making surfboards under the labels "Wag's" and "Early Times", (named after a popular brand of bourbon drunk at the time) before teaming up with Mick to make "Jungle Tea". Doug's label was "Tangaroa". Initially they shaped their boards in town in Colin Loveridge's Carrington Street factory and then brought them out for glassing at the back of the Oakura shop. However, as the shop was zoned commercial rather than industrial, a stop was very quickly put to that.



Mick Tuffery's surf wagon (circa 1973).

Mick and Wag continued to make their boards in town while Doug quietly turned the garage of the cottage in the Tasman Parade where he and Peta lived into a backyard factory. The shop then became an outlet for their boards and a place where a number of local folk who were into crafts could display and sell their creations.

They were turning out about five boards a week at the peak of the season. They reckoned their quality was as good as anything the bigger manufacturers were building, but with very small overheads their pricing structure of \$75 a board certainly helped, as did the free full-page advertising they were getting in Doug's Tracks-style surfing magazine called Waves.

The shop was a busy place during the summer of 1972/73, a favourite stopping place for surfers on their way home from the coast and hanging spot for the increasing band of surfers beginning to move into the village. It carried the two labels, a range of secondhand boards, took trade-ins, did repairs, and sold wet suits and T-shirts. The shop faded somewhat during the ensuing winter months but bounced back again during the 1973/74 summer and then quietly folded as the boys branched out into other surfing pursuits.

By Blyss Wagstaff



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# Jen Blyde, working to make our community a better place

A local Oakura resident who is quietly but steadily working to make our community a better place is Jen Blyde. Jen's work with the TSB Community Trust, the Halberg Trust and local horse-riding organisations has helped facilitate a lot of growth in the region, contributing to the renewed feeling of positivity and excitement in the Taranaki air these days.

With a background in business administration (she worked at Methanex during the plant's construction until she left in 1987 to have daughter Tanya), Jen was approached to take on the role of Secretary-Treasurer of the new TSB Community Trust and has worked there since 1989. The role that has grown from 14 years as a sole employee working from her home office to the now-titled Trust Manager, heading two other staff in their New Plymouth office. "What was a part-time job grew into a career," says Jen.

The Trust was formed in 1988 after the Trustee Bank Restructuring Act was passed. TSB Bank Ltd is the only provincial bank in New Zealand to remain in community ownership, with the shares of the bank being vested in a charitable trust and trustees appointed by the Minister of Finance. TSB Bank Ltd gives 15% of its net profit to the Trust to distribute to the community "to support projects that make a positive difference," as the Trust mission statement states.

Jen's role is overseeing the efficient administration of the TSB Community Trust – seeing that all the paperwork is in order, making sure the applications are bona fide, a huge job now that the Trust is receiving approximately 1,400 applications to process per year. In her first year on the job the dividend the Trust had to work with was \$50,000 – last year the dividend was closer to \$5 million. While donations are still made to hundreds of small community organisations, Jen says that Taranaki's growth is being reflected in some of the larger donations now being made for much bigger projects. "We recently donated \$250,000 to WOMAD, which was absolutely fantastic, and we support the Festival of the Arts, the Festival of the Lights, Puke Ariki, a primary school Youth Literacy project. Success builds on success – Taranaki is changing and when people see events and projects like this happening in the region it encourages everyone to think bigger," she says.

She loves her job with the TSB Community Trust because of all the people she gets to meet and work with, the involvement in big and exciting projects, the interesting places and events she goes to, and the general feeling of being in a really positive business. "With all the projects I've seen happen through the Trust – things like the upgrades of the TSB Showplace and the Bowl of Brooklands and the spin-offs from that now benefiting the community (Womad, the Mark Knopfler and REM concerts), the Trust has really helped make Taranaki what it is."

Two and a half years ago Jen was also asked to be the first Taranaki trustee of the Halberg Trust, an organisation set up by Murray Halberg to honour sporting excellence and enable disabled youth to participate in sports the same as able-bodied children. While the Halberg Trust is primarily known for its "Say When Halberg Awards" that celebrating Sportspeople of the Year, its primary role is to work quietly within the community assisting disabled children to participate in sport and active recreation like their able-bodied friends. For example, the Halberg Trust may provide special bicycles and equipment,



or extra people to help these children participate in sport. The Halberg Trust also supports Sport Taranaki in contributing towards a salary for the Sports Opportunity Officer to work within the community to encourage disabled youth participation in sport. One becomes a trustee by invitation and with the likes of Susan Devoy, Sean Fitzpatrick and many other well known people also on board, Jen was extremely surprised to be asked and has no idea how she became known to the Halberg Trust. It's a voluntary position she enjoys greatly, doing charitable work raising funds. Jen instigated an annual fundraising dinner in New Plymouth, featuring guest speakers from the sporting world (most recently the Evers-Swindell twins). "The Halberg Trust is usually just there in the background, doing its work quietly, so this dinner raises the profile of the Trust (and is also a very enjoyable part of my work!)."

Another voluntary position Jen holds is as a trustee of the Taranaki Elite Athlete Foundation. This Foundation was established with funding assistance from the New Plymouth District Council, TSB Community Trust and Taranaki Electricity Trust to help the very elite athletes achieve their goals.

Jen and her family are also very involved in local sports. Keen skiers and horse riders, Jen and her husband Phil Dickey (of BTW Surveyors) organised the laying of the riding arena for the Oakura Pony Club (on the site of the old Oakura Dump) and are active members of the Taranaki Show Jumping Group – Phil being the President and Jen the Publicity Officer. Their children Tanya and Mathew were both selected for the National Show Jumping squads this year and the family spends most weekends driving their "house on wheels" and horses around the North Island to horse shows.

Jen is a self-confessed busy person ("I don't know what I'd do with myself otherwise") – but the benefits of such positive work and meeting great people make it all worthwhile.

*By Blyss Wagstaff*





## The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

Whisps of steam, smoke and the smells of cooking climb into the sky from the line of brightly coloured stalls. The blue, green and red of their vibrant plastic rooftops and the steel and aluminium of their workbenches in the Korean marketplace provide a feast of activity for the eyes. Every suburb of Seoul has its own resident market area, where anything from plastic baubles, fresh vegetables, tree bark or even freshly slaughtered dog can be purchased. And let's not forget the clothing – trillions of pairs of fifty cent socks. Rooster-like shopkeepers bellow at the top of their lungs to advertise their cheap goods.

This dissonance of sound and sight is always fascinating to visit. Especially to view the wide array of foods and Eastern medicinal goods that are on display. I sit down at a food stall and order a roll of gimhap, which is like a sushi roll, but crammed with egg, ham, spinach, radish and fern shoots (similar to New Zealand's Pikopiko). I order a small helping of soondae, a mixture of steamed lung, liver and intestines filled with blood noodles then devour my steaming miyok gook, a seaweed filled soup. I pay equivalent of NZ\$3, and walk away replete.

The smells creep up to me as I walk. Past the skinned canine section, the fish market with buckets of writhing catfish, white-fleshed Paua and baby octopus ready to be cut up and consumed alive with a dab of hot pepper paste. Then there's the medicine stalls of ginseng, mushrooms, tree bark and deer antlers, the smell of strong aniseed and pungent herbs coming from the distillation vessels inside the shops.

Everywhere around I hear the high decibel yells of the Koreans. Their style of speech sounds very complex, with its argument-esque tone, guttural throat clearing sounds and sheer angry volume. The middle-aged women behind the counters, Ajummah, as they are known, yell at me to buy their onions or travel bags or cell-phone accessories. On the footpath I am constantly pushed, elbowed and budged by the locals, the Confucianism of their ancestry not allowing them to even notice me. My personal space bubble has quickly learned to shrink.

I meet Catherine and her friends, their arms bulging with cloth and plastic shopping bags, the zealous glee of shopping fever slowly fading from their eyes. They had found the bargains, so it was time for the devilish subway ride home, people pressing me at every side and incessantly snapping their chewing gum.

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- A. Family want 3+ bedroom home, cottagey/rustic style, Upper Wairau Road area definitely a possibility. Privacy, minimum of double garage, or room to add one. Cash buyers.
- B. Large family wanting 3-4+ bedroom home or room to add on, double garaging, any area considered. Oakura. Eager cash buyers.

## Properties For Sale by Anne



### 2 Richmond St, NP

DIRECT RESERVE BEACH ACCESS, FITZROY

**SOLD BY ANNE**



### 10 Donnelly St, Oakura

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



### 31 Tukapa St, NP

Californian character, 3 large bedrooms, indoor/outdoor, flat, fenced section, 2 toilets.



### 31 Wairau Rd, Oakura

3 brm, modern, close to main beach, dble + garaging.

### 28 Dartmoor Ave, Westown, NP

Character Californian Bungalow, \$420,000.



### 239c Carrington St, NP

Very large, 4 brm brick home, 2 bathrooms, overlooking Vogeltown Park.

### 109 Townsend Rd, Bell Block

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

## Sections for Sale

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

**130a Wairau Rd, Oakura**

1210m<sup>2</sup>, flat section. Fabulous views of Kaitakes and the sea. Build your dream home.

## Sold by Anne

**39 Wairau Road, Oakura.** 4 brm, beach style home, private and sheltered.

**17A Record St, Fitzroy, NP** 4 brm Lockwood, close to golf club and beach.

## Thought for the Month

"A man's success is not measured by the money he has, but by the numbers of lives he affects positively" **FELIX OLOYEDE**

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