

New Zealand artist Caz Novak's works on the web



Our very own local artist has no need to drum up demand for her paintings and is now selling all her works via the internet, largely eschewing the usual avenue of the exhibition.

A highly successful and recognised artist, Caz Novak's paintings are held in private collections in New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom.

"I am now selling all my work via my website. I don't need to exhibit anymore, and even though galleries do approach me, I'm not going there. I prefer to have a connection with my clients. When my work was sold through galleries, I didn't know who had bought my work. But now I get emails and photos from my clients and I feel like I get to know them. I also have a strong bond with my artwork, having often worked for two months on a piece, so it is good to know where it has gone to. A special occasion

was to hand-deliver a surprise commission to a local resident and see the delight on her face," said Caz.

"Selling my paintings via the web opens up a world market. Late last year I sold a work to a Caz Novak in the United States. It was purchased for 11-year-old Caz (a boy) by his attorney father. This family (no relation) are now looking to visit New Zealand and drop in to meet me in Oakura."

The commission process begins with the client specifying what they want. Caz then sends a sketch by email as a proof, a deposit is paid and then Caz gets down to the real work of painting. Once completed, Egmont Gallery makes up a special crate to freight the painting in and it is sent off to its delighted owner.

"I sell everything I can produce through my web-generated mailing list. New

One of Caz's stunning Pacifica works - Sugar Loaf Islands.

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

Several times in the last month I have been made aware of the importance of community. People seem to be valuing being part of a community more and aren't we all lucky to live in the Oakura/Omata community? Don't our hearts break when we lose one of our teenagers to a road accident? Our sympathies to the Steen family in their loss.

In this month's edition of *TOM* we feature the last instalment from Korean Kelly. We will miss the glimpse into Korean life that Kelly has so ably shared with us. Thanks Kelly. We also feature the Fosters Masters Champs, Oakura Boardriders Club (what awesome surfing conditions for everyone!), a feature on Caz Novak's artwork and website – truly inspirational – and watch out for the Puma ants marching into town! Phoebe Livingston of Omata School writes an entertaining account of school camp and slow food still wins the popularity stakes for the most talked about issue, although much publicity has been given to the Weld Road walkway and land ownership issue. We at *TOM* headquarters support the right of land owners to grant or not grant access onto their properties – such rights should be respected.

Kim Ferens



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

The largest public consultation by New Plymouth District Council this year is now under way – and we want to hear your opinions!

We've now published the Draft Community Plan 2006–2016 for you to read and make submissions on. You should have received in your letterbox a flyer with highlights of the draft plan, as well as a submission form.

Copies of the full draft plan are available at libraries and the Civic Centre, or online at www.newplymouthnz.com/communityplan

So why is this the largest public consultation of the year?

Firstly, because of the importance of the Community Plan. It will detail what the Council will do in the coming three years (with the following seven in outline), and how we will pay for it.

So this is our blueprint for New Plymouth District in the coming years. What we agree to do between now and 2016 will have a significant effect on our lifestyle and economy – whether the district continues to develop or focuses instead on the status quo, and whether the cost of supplying services should lie more with the users of the service or with general ratepayers.

Secondly, it's the largest consultation because everyone in the district is asked for their opinion. We are very keen to know what your priorities are.

Tell us what you approve of in the draft plan. And let us know what areas you think should be changed. The Draft Community Plan is the Council's interpretation of what the public has told us over months of meetings so far, and this is your chance to look at the draft document and help us shape it into a Community Plan that best meets the needs of our wider community.

Submissions close on 12 May, so be sure to have your say and get your feedback to the Council!

And remember, I'd love to hear from you if you have any comments to make about the draft plan or any other issues in the district. Feel free to call me on 759 6060.

Peter Tennent

Mayor

tom

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

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

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HON. **HARRY DUYNHOVEN**
MP for New Plymouth

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the ANZAC parade and ceremonies in New Plymouth on 25 April. I was representing New Zealand at the International Energy Forum in Dohar, Qatar. However, because I was in a neighbouring country, Mr Jim Howell, New Zealand's Ambassador in Saudi Arabia, invited me to officiate at the joint New Zealand/Australia ANZAC commemorations in Riyadh, hosted this year by the New Zealand Embassy.

In the present world climate, we are reminded daily that, while the nature of conflict may have changed since our parents' and grandparents' time, the need for peace and stability remains the same.

New Zealand is a small nation with a long and proud military tradition. Despite our size, our service men and women have always shown outstanding dedication and personal sacrifice, prepared to die rather than let their mates down, and serving our country to ensure that basic rights and freedoms are respected.

They perform their duties with honour and distinction, both in the past and in our current operations around the world; most notably in Afghanistan, where a further deployment has just been committed to and, just last month, in the Solomon Islands.

Through this contribution and through our other efforts to end aggression and to achieve world peace and nuclear disarmament, we continue to strive for a world in which we, our children and all other peoples can live free from the threat of violence and suffering.

ANZAC Day commemorates the terrible events of 91 years ago. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to visit ANZAC Cove, I do feel privileged this year to have had the honour of joining with New Zealanders serving our country overseas to celebrate the day on which we cherish peace and recommit ourselves to achieving a world without war.

We will not forget. No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.



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Argentine ants

The ants are on the march and have been invading Oakura properties.

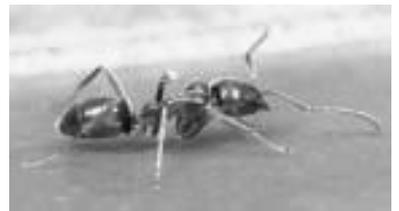
These ants were only discovered in Taranaki this year and there have already been outbreaks in Waitara, Bell Block, New Plymouth and Patea.

So far about 25 properties on the western/coastal side of Oakura have been invaded and they are expected to spread approximately 200 metres a year. The ants breed prolifically but do not swarm (fly off to establish new nests). The most common way they spread is by plants being moved or by nests established in vehicles and freight. George Gallop of the Taranaki Regional Council says there is no chance of eradication, but it is possible to control them. The pesticide programme has so far been a very good control method, with a 98% reduction.

So what are Argentine ants and why should we be concerned?

Argentine ants (*linepithema humile*) are very aggressive and can bite people but are not poisonous. They are a major household and garden pest that will completely eliminate other ant colonies, eat other insect species and earthworms. They are particularly fond of sweet foods such as nectar producing plants. They nurture and protect aphids and scale insects, then use them as a source of honey dew. In winter they band together into super-colonies, making them aggressive and competitive. There is the risk they will reduce fruit set and damage orchard produce.

An infestation can be up to six nests per square metre and each nest can have 30 queen ants. Their sheer numbers mean they will eat just about anything. They will drive away or kill other insects and baby birds and are a real threat to native species. They will also invade houses and make their way into microwaves, fridges and screw-top jars.



You can identify an Argentine ant by their colour and their trail. The wingless worker ant (the most commonly seen) is light-to-dark honey-brown (common ants are black) and is 2-3 mm long. The argentine ant trail is often five or more ants wide and can travel up buildings or trees. When squashed the Argentine doesn't smell of strong formic acid.

Tips for control

- Remove or securely store food. Clean surfaces with lemon juice, soapy water or diluted tea tree or eucalyptus oil.
- Trim trees near the house to prevent access.
- Argentine ants love moist conditions. Keep your sub-floor and roof gap dry to discourage nesting.
- Where trails enter the house, spray with permethrin spray.
- In winter follow ant trails back to the super-colony and pour boiling water on it, but being careful not to get in the way of the swarm as they may bite.

Taranaki Regional Council will provide Xstinguish Argentine ant bait at cost. Contact TRC Pest Animal Management on 06 7657127 for information about the product and to report infestations.

By Kim Ferens

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A change for a popular local walking track

If you've walked the coastal pathway south of Oakura lately, you'll have noticed a slight change to the route.

Until recently the path between the ends of Ahu Ahu and Weld roads crossed private land, but the land owners are not encouraging access. New Plymouth District Council has identified an alternative pathway so that walkers and cyclists can still enjoy the coastal route.

You can still walk from the end of Ahu Ahu Road to the stream and cross the existing bridge. But once you're over the bridge, you'll need to turn right and walk alongside the river to the beach, then along the beach to the end of Weld Road. Cyclists will have to walk their bikes along the beach.

The Council has erected signs to make it easier for the public to identify the new route.



Some people, however, are irate about losing access through the land and have shown their displeasure in a totally disrespectful manner. This is just selfish vandalism and those concerned should be ashamed of their actions.



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Dahlia tubers and gladioli corms should be lifted and stored in a cool dry place.

Plant polyanthus, primula, nemesia, pansies, violas, stock and calendula for early spring flowering.
- ✦ **Fruit trees:**
Begin pruning fruit trees once leaves have dropped. Paint pruning wounds with Baceal Pruning Paint to protect the leaf scar and prevent disease.
- ✦ **Lawns:**
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Cuppa Time with Susette



Local journalist and author Susette Goldsmith has recently released a new work entitled *Tea – A Potted History of Tea in New Zealand*. The book is a very charming and informative look into the travel of tea throughout New Zealand's history and the impact tea drinking has had on our society. You might say "It's just a cup of tea" and you would be right but the book is a very thought provoking and nostalgic trip down memory lane. Who doesn't remember Grandma and her seemingly bottomless pot of tea. Tea is about how we interact with one another – funerals, weddings, christenings, gatherings and simple restoration from hard work. Susette has woven together a fabulous collection of photographs, images, bites of history, recipes, facts about tea, tea paraphernalia, tea traditions, society and our forebears to make an absorbing read for anyone interested in history or tea.

Tea came about by accident really when Susette was doing research at the Turnball Library and came across a photographic collection called "Afternoon Tea". Susette could see that tea linked people together. This inspired her to continue researching and 18 months after beginning her research Susette had a "book" she thought worthy of publishing. The road to print is a fascinating journey. Upon completing the research Susette selected a publisher bearing in mind which one of the three main publishers would best suit the book. A proposal with photos and various chapters was sent off to Reed Publishers. They replied with a "definitely interested" (what an exciting moment that would be!), a bit of tweaking of content was carried out then the marketing team got on board and they defined who might buy the book, what size the book will be, what the price will be, the cover, colour, quantity and how it will be launched. Once this was done the proof went off to China to be printed and lots and lots of boxes of books returned. This process took 18 months so the project has been a collaborative effort over 3 years. Susette has been involved in all the design aspects of the book, and in particular commissioning the wonderful photographs of the teapots by Julia Brooke-White.

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of publicity appearances (Breakfast TV, Radio Pacific, Sunday Star Times, Otago Daily News, Taranaki Daily News (Nakid) a media interview with Kim Hill and a "Tea Party" launch on 26 April at Marsden Books, Wellington. Last week Susette signed books at Whitcoulls New Plymouth.

For me personally, I love the book! It evoked an overwhelming feeling of loss for my tea drinking grandmother and I realize how much of her tea drinking paraphernalia I have in my house (even though I am a coffee addict) and once I read the book I was amazed how much tea drinking had actually shaped my life. *Tea* is easy to pick up and glance through, it's wonderful to delve into a little deeper and it would make a beautiful gift for someone special.

By Kim Ferens



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Ice creams at Vertigo?

No, Vertigo are not selling giant ice creams, but much speculation has arisen over the large fibreglass structure under construction out the back at Vertigo.

Biggie Smithers has been flat out sculpting a commission for the Ohakune Visitors Centre. Last week Biggie transported the sculpture over to Ohakune, where he installed the interactive tourist attraction. It is a huge volcano that starts inside the Visitors Centre and extends out through the roof like an erupting volcano. The finished work will be painted and lit up from inside.

The sculpture has been a feat of Kiwi ingenuity, with Biggie making up the pattern as he went. We'll feature the finished work in next month's TOM.



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Peter and the Wolf

Fun and frolics for all the family are promised in the Val Deakin Dance Theatre's forthcoming production of *Peter and the Wolf* during Queens Birthday Weekend.

This off-beat version of the much-loved tale features a snorkel-clad Duck, a softball playing Wolf and a Bird a la Snoopy complete with flying helmet! These and other characters bring to life this children's classic with humorous choreography by Val Deakin, music by Sergei Prokofiev and narration. It is also the ideal vehicle to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra.

Taking the part of Peter will be Lisa Sinclair. She is very much looking forward to playing Peter – one of her favourite characters in the Dance Theatre's repertoire. The dance skills that help her catch the Wolf also help her with her netball and volleyball playing!

There will be some familiar dancers taking the other parts in the production: Jane Roseman as the hungry Wolf, Inge Vink as the delightfully dumb Duck, Laura Sommerville as the bouncy Bird, Davina Moffat as the very vain Cat and Michael Takarangi as the grumpy Grandfather, plus a whole host of bumbling, hopelessly short-sighted hunters.

Performances will be at the Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth (opposite Mitre 10) during Queen's Birthday weekend. There will be a 10 am and an 11 am show on Friday, 2 June and performances at 2 pm and 4 pm on the Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and children alike, with group

discounts available. Phone 06 752 7743 after 9.30 am for reservations (strongly recommended as previous seasons of this favourite dance work have sold out!).

These performances are part of the Dance Theatre's preparation for participation in the Arundel Fringe Festival in southern England in August. The Dance Theatre will perform *Peter and the Wolf* there, as well as an exciting longer programme, *Dance Magic*. It will feature classical, contemporary, jazz, comedy and character works from the Dance Theatre's repertoire. Deakin's comic touches are sure to go down a treat in England, as they do here.

In addition to director Val Deakin, seven dancers are going to the Festival: Jane Roseman, Davina Moffat, Inge Vink, Laura Sommerville, Michael Takarangi and Sarah Davis (all going from New Plymouth) and Shelley Prestney, who will be joining the group from Turkey. In addition, an international support crew has been lined up with assistance coming from London, Switzerland and the USA.

There has been terrific support for local fund raising efforts from many people as well as donations towards the expenses of the journey.

For more information or photos contact:

Jane Roseman, Secretary

Val Deakin Dance Theatre Trust

63 Messenger Terrace

Oakura

06 752 7743

Email: mossrose@clear.net.nz

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Making a move to prevent falls – Tai Chi classes

On average, a third of all people aged between 65 and 80 and half of those aged 80 or more will fall at least once a year.

Age itself is not the only contributing factor – inactivity, leg muscle weakness, poor balance, multiple medication use, low blood pressure and poor vision can all increase the likelihood of a fall.

Along with eliminating the loose rugs and household clutter and taming the family cat, blood pressure and medication checks with the doctor, regular vision checks and a daily walk will all help to reduce the risk of falling. Exercise that improves your strength and balance is a really effective way of reducing the risk of falling.

Tai Chi has been shown to be a very effective in building and maintaining strength and balance, thus preventing falls. For an older person a fall can cause injuries that have lasting effects and can lead to a loss of mobility and independence. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise anybody can practise regardless of age or physical condition. As strength and flexibility improve so too will balance and walking skills.

Classes include gentle warm-up exercises that can be practised at home and a modified form suitable for those with less mobility or flexibility. Those who have attended classes comment on an improved feeling of well-being and the enjoyable social atmosphere. There are also additional health benefits to be gained from practising Tai Chi.

ACC is currently promoting a class of modified Tai Chi for those aged 65 and over in Oakura. Classes are held at 10 am Mondays in the Oakura Church Hall. To register or for more information call Alison on 759 0728.

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SLOW FOOD UPDATE

The Taranaki slow food convivium has had a quiet month as we prepare for our winter activity. It will be a pot lunch meal based on your mother's best recipes.

Interest in the convivium continues to grow and new names are added constantly to our list of interested people. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email twags@xtra.co.nz

With winter approaching, I thought I'd share with you a recent culinary triumph, a Greek Stifado. It seems you can make a Stifado with just about anything – beef, veal, lamb shank, rabbit, fish or, for vegetarians, cauliflower or egg plant. The essential ingredients are tomatoes, wine, spices and feta. Here's how ours went for four.

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1.5 kg of chuck steak, cut up about into stew-sized pieces | |
| Olive oil | Ground cumin |
| 2 onions, finely diced | 4 cloves garlic |
| 1 cup red wine | 2 cups water |
| 2 Tbsp tomato paste | 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar |
| 2 cinnamon sticks | 10 cloves |
| 2 bay leaves | 2 tsp sugar |
| 10 small pickling onions | A handful of currants |
| 150g feta cheese | |

- Brown meat in batches with olive oil in a casserole pot, then remove and dust with ground cumin.
- With more oil in the pot, cook onion and garlic over a low heat until they soften.
- Return the meat and add red wine, water, tomato paste, vinegar, cinnamon sticks, cloves, bay leaves and sugar. Bring to the boil, then cover and reduce to a simmer over a very low heat and go and watch the footy for an hour. (Stay with me, it's worth it!).
- Then add pickling onions and a handful of currants and cook for another hour or so until the meat falls apart.
- Finally 10 minutes before serving, add feta cheese, crumbled.

We served with rice, but evidently sautéed potatoes are acceptable. Accompanied by a big Aussie Shiraz, you have a meal that will make you welcome winter.

Stifado is a traditional Greek dish that has gathered a measure of mystique along the way. Here's what I found about the "lasciviousness" of eating Stifado from the Saint Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. "To eat such a dish properly, you must abandon all shame, and gorge on it, using the fingers to tear the flesh off the bones. Then bring the bones to your mouth and use your tongue to lasciviously excavate them, exploring every cranny, allowing the sauce to run down your chin, and in so doing allowing the aromas to rise to your nose. You must allow yourself to wallow in the juices, licking and enjoying every morsel." Amen to that!

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Caz on the web (continued from page 1)

"I sell everything I can produce through my web-generated mailing list. New paintings sell rapidly and I currently have just under 1,000 people who have been added to my mailing list and receive painting previews.

"In this respect every new painting receives its own 'opening night'. I have a number of buyers who are strong collectors of my works – a professor at Massey University currently owns five of my paintings and hasn't looked to stop there. I also have many others on waiting lists for works from various series."

Not all artists can successfully market their art works through the web but Caz thinks people (especially ex-pat Kiwis) relate to the New Zealand landscape, so her works pretty much sell themselves (aside from Caz's obvious talent as an artist!). There's also local connection in Oakura's Steve Smith of Webfocus, who constructed and manages Caz's website and "... does a wonderful job," said Caz.

Caz's current series, *Pacifica*, explores the vibrancy of the New Zealand coastline and its iconic native plants. This series has proven particularly popular with ex-pat Kiwis. Her next three commissions are going to the USA, Holland and Belgium.

Last year she was invited to exhibit at the *Our Land* exhibition at Lake Taupo Museum and Art Gallery, where her *Pacifica* work was the first to sell on opening night and was shipped to its new home in New York.

The *Pacifica* series has also drawn corporate attention – award winning gourmet cheese makers Waimata Cheese will use a painting from her series for their new Longbush label (to be launched on the 19th May in Auckland), combining food with fine art.

Caz was born in Wellington and majored in art at Wellington College of Education. As a full-time artist, her work is widely recognised for its vibrant use of colour and texture, which incorporates both impasto and sgraffito techniques. Much of her work is inspired by her tranquil Taranaki coastal environment.

By Kip Brook and Kim Ferens

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Part three concludes "The Legend" of the Battle of Waireka, which is part of an ongoing series of Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) funded '*Taranaki Stories*' from Puke Ariki. The aim of these stories is to bring to life the spirits of Taranaki; to provide meaning to street signs, local spots and landmarks, and names from the past.

The legend of the Battle of Waireka

PART THREE (By Sorrel Hoskin)

Here the story gets confused...

According to Cracroft "...it was now half-past five, and as there was only half-an-hour's daylight left, I determined to attack this Pa at once. I accordingly planted the 24-pounder rocket tube about 700 yards from it, and after a few discharges the men stormed this Pa under heavy fire in the most gallant style. William Odgers, leading seaman, doing his duty as my coxswain, being the first man in it; and having captured the flags and destroyed everything living in the trenches, as far as could be ascertained in the dark, I returned to the blockhouse."

Other reports say the Pa was deserted, save for one elderly Maori, who was cut down. William Odgers tore down the flags, earned his ten pounds and later a Victoria Cross – for storming an empty pa.

Whether Cracroft fabricated the events is unknown. But he then about-turned and headed back to the blockhouse, abandoning the settlers and the men at Jury's farmhouse.

Down around the farmhouse the Maori heard the firing behind them and withdrew up the slopes. Captain Brown's men now had the battlefield to themselves. They dusted themselves off, gathered up their wounded, and headed back to town across country.

An anxious wait

In New Plymouth the townsfolk were anxiously awaiting news of the volunteer company. Imagine their dismay when Murray's troops returned alone, the nerve-wracking wait and then the joy of seeing their loved ones safe. One mother's account sums it up, "Hours passed as if in a daze, I thought my heart would break, until all at once a tumultuous cry of joy thrilled through my veins, and the words 'The volunteers are safe' quickened me into life again."

European casualties numbered around 14 killed and wounded, Maori maybe 17.

Wellington Carrington – married to a Maori woman – watched the action and later wrote, "The battle was fought by the Nga Mahanga, headed by Kingi, Paretane and Perere, the best fighting men of the tribe. The first was wounded, the two latter were killed. On Jury's farm the battle was fought by the Ngati Ruanuis, headed by Te Hanatau, the head chief of the tribe, who was killed. Old Paul [Paora Kukutai] was killed when the Pa was stormed and the colours taken."

British newspapers trumpeted the victory, the gallant actions of the militia and volunteers, claiming as many as 150 Maori were killed, with "cart-loads of bodies" driven away from the battle site. This was a gross exaggeration, but no one knows

Storming the pa. Probably depicting William Odgers leading the assault.



exactly how heavy the Maori losses were. But the loss of so many chiefs took a heavy toll and led to the withdrawal of the tribes the day after the battle.

What about the abandoned settlers?

In all of this the settlers, who everyone had set out to save, seemed to have been forgotten. During the battle they had been under protection in Reverend Brown's house, watching part of the action out a window. The little group made their own way to New Plymouth the next day. Reverend Gilbert claimed, "It was no wish of ours that an armed expedition should be set on foot on our behalf. We were perfectly safe."

Whether or not the settlers needed assistance, Captain Cracroft and his men were seen as heroes. Their actions had saved the volunteers and allowed the settlers to return to New Plymouth unharmed. The ladies of New Plymouth presented colours to the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles and Militia, and Captain Cracroft and his men. Each bore the single battle honour "Waireka".

But who were the victors?

Here the story gets confusing again. Both sides claimed victory after the battle – so who won?

The book *Frontier: the battle for the North island of New Zealand* offers the following analysis:

"Who's reputations were made and who's lost? And, for the sake of the record, who won? There were no real victors. Seven hundred men of two races, spent an afternoon shooting inconclusively at each other across the ferny ridges above the sea. The fight ebbed and flowed, terrain was gained, held briefly and then abandoned. A handful of men were killed on each side and a score wounded. Nobody won, but each side retired to claim a victory of sorts."

From that, we can conclude, no one.



Victoria Cross winner William Odgers.

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The Adventures of **KOREAN KELLY**

Goodbye "Korean" Kelly

I've thought long and hard about what to write for my final Korean instalment. I sit here now and look out my twelfth floor window through the haze of pollution and yellow dust that has blown over from the deforested Gobi Desert, and realise I'm really going to miss this place. Three years ago I experienced culture shock to the extreme. From a brewery house in Mangatainoka, spending my days doing many a beer drinker's dream job, to being swarmed by knee-high kindergarten children yelling at me in an alien language... it's been quite a trip. So time for the highlight reel...



As well as a new appreciation for a different culture, I can definitely say I've learnt a lot about patience. Whether I'm standing in a subway train for an hour and a half, completely squashed by other commuters; speaking my hybrid Korean-English tongue in a bid to order the right food in a restaurant; or explaining the intricacies of subject-verb agreement to a 12-year-old that has already been at school for ten hours straight. I've become a very patient person.

I've also seen some amazing things. Snowfalls in the city when the temperature hovers around -10. The remarkable burst of life heralding spring, from skeletal limbs to extravagant blooms. Massive television screens on the sides of buildings next to ancient fortified gates, the merging of ancient and high technology. It's been awesome.

The millennia-old Silla kingdom capital, Gyeongju, is definitely a must see for any visitor – temples, hidden caves with towering Buddha statues, giant mound-like tombs, picturesque ponds and other marvels. It reminds you of the time that was, and makes me feel a little sad when you think of the overpopulated land it has become, striving for economic brilliance. Yet, the Korean people are very proud of who they are and where they have come from, and will never forget their traditions or their past.

The Boryeong Mud Festival, which takes place before the stifling summer months, is another great escape. Lazing on a beach and drinking soft drinks mixed with soju (that cheap, potent bringer of headaches), covering yourself and whoever else is around you with slimy mud... it's a great time and a welcome alternative to the concrete, cars, buildings and pollution.

Most importantly, there are the people. Although shy at first, seemingly distant to the intrepid traveller, the Korean people are some of the most generous I have ever met. Once you are accepted into their lives, you are treated like family. The lack of greed and true honesty with which they treat you is something I will never forget.

I'm going to miss it here and don't really know what I'm going to do next, but as an old Korean proverb goes, "Gaemiga jeongjanamu keondeurinda" – "Even an ant can topple an oak tree." I guess as long as it is not a pohutakawa, then I'll be okay.

Thanks for reading.

Annyonghi kyeseyo, Kamsa hamnida

Kelly



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Flu PANDEMIC

Health experts and governments around the world are worried that the H5N1 strain of avian influenza (or bird flu), which can already be passed from birds to humans, could change into a form that is highly infectious for humans and spreads easily from person to person. This could result in an influenza pandemic. No one knows when or how severe such a pandemic might be, but if this happens and the new virus enters New Zealand, many of us could become very sick.

In Taranaki the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is coordinating pandemic influenza planning and has 13 working groups meeting to discuss issues, plans and so forth within their sector groups.

If the virus hits New Zealand, every effort will be made to keep it out of Taranaki. Should that fail, every effort will be made to contain it in the area of the province where the outbreak has occurred. You could well see management of our borders put in place to restrict unnecessary traffic and the potential spread of the virus.

How would this affect the average person?

Depending on the numbers who fall ill to the virus, there could be disruption to essential services, such as food supply, power, water and waste, phones and other communications like computers. The different service providers are working on their contingency plans to carry on providing these services if 50% of their staff are affected with the flu virus.

How can the public be prepared and help in such a situation?

Be prepared

Firstly, increase your emergency kit stock of non-perishable foods and water, paracetamol, tissues, plastic bags and prescription medicines. But don't go overboard – no one knows when a

pandemic will arrive, so panic-buying of all and sundry could result in a lot of waste and the need to replace out-of-date or perishable items.

Keep your telephone list up-to-date, including your doctor's number and those of friends and family.

Consider family arrangements – make a plan with family and friends who could help with food, supplies and childcare if you and your household are ill. Are there any family members with a disability or who need special care – how can you assist in their welfare?

Keep yourself healthy

- Consider getting a flu jab each year
- Observe basic hygiene practices – wash and dry hands before preparing food and eating; and after coughing, sneezing, blowing your or a child's nose, visiting the toilet and looking after the sick.
- The social distancing rule – if possible, stay a metre away from sick people to reduce the spread of germs.

Volunteer

There is going to be a huge demand for volunteers from a wide range of organisations. If you have special skills, for example you are a trained nurse who is currently not working, the Red Cross for one would love to hear from you and there are many others. Now is the time to contact your preferred organisation, ask what is required and get your name and number on their contact list. It's never too early to be in the picture.

Neighbourhood Support, along with many others, will be playing a part and your help and cooperation will be essential in assisting those unable to help themselves.

For more information

The Ministry of Health website has useful information about H5N1 bird flu and preparing for a pandemic. You can find it at www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza

This information is from Neighbourhood Support.

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Greetings all

We had our biggest month ever this March, with over 100 fish weighed in between kayakers and surfcasters.

Our season only has a few more weeks to go and then everyone goes back to zero again from 1 June.

To the end of March, surfcaster Shane Dunlop is winning with 3,610 points. With the closest contender on 1,438 points, it is safe to assume Shane will be this year's top surfcaster.

As the kayak section of the Club was only introduced in November, their points are a bit lower but they have done really well. Peter Florence is leading with 1889 points but with Jason Bond only 439 points behind, this could change if Jason can get another good day in – we'll have to wait and see, and will keep you posted.

We are pleased to have a New Zealand champion caster in our Club. We run a casting competition on dry land throughout the year, which tests casting distance and accuracy. The results get sent in to the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association along with about 25 other clubs through out the country. We just got the results back last month. Darryn Spademan scraped in as a midget last year and came up with the following results:

- 1st – Postal casting (166.24 points)
- 1st – Accuracy (97.58 points)
- 1st – Handicap points (266.24 points)
- 2nd – Aggregate points (234.87 points)
- 2nd – Distance (68.66 metres)

Excellent effort by Darryn and he will be entering this year's competition as a junior. (Just for the record, at the NZACA



Nationals this year in March, the longest cast (229.45 metres) was recorded by a man from northern Wairoa.)

March results

Total no. of fish weighed in: 103

Surfcasters: 12 kahawai, 40 snapper, 1 eagle ray, 1 hiwi hiwi, 3 gurnard, 3 spotty sharks

Kayakers: 20 snapper, 10 kahawai, 2 blue cod, 7 gurnard, 1 spotty shark, 1 John Dory

Fish of the Month: Surfcasting – Shane Dunlop (3.2 kg snapper), Junior – Jacob Morgan (0.9 kg hiwi hiwi), Kayaker – Jason Bond (10.425 kg snapper)

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Weekday Women's Golf results

Nancy McCormick

Winners – Jacqui Prater and
Kath Vernon

Runners up – Jenny Ross and
Rose Tanner

36 Hole Stroke Play

Silver: Gross – Robyn Robins
Runner up – Margaret Muir
Nett – Shona Burgess
Runner up – Jenny Ross

Bronze: Gross – Jean Mattingly
Runner up – Kaye Cavey
Nett – Joan Gerrard
Runner up – Maureen Neilson

Congratulations to all players. At this stage we're up-to-date with our programme.

The weather has been mild and hot – long may it continue.

Good golfing

Jenny Ross



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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Club championships

The 2006 Club champs were held over two weekends in late March and early April.

The first Saturday we ran the younger kids at Oakura beach. A light offshore wind created nice 2-foot waves opposite the end of Wairau Road. That night we partied up at the clubhouse to the sounds of the Boardy Boyz, who had everyone up and dancing from their first song. They play well-known covers but their own protest song "Black Sand Mining" is also a classic.

Unfortunately the sea went flat on Sunday and even Opunake couldn't provide a contestable wave, so the senior events were postponed. The following Saturday we camped out at Rocky Rights and had good 2-4-foot waves all day.

See our website at www.oakuraboardriders.co.nz for some action shots.

Results for 2006

Bodyboarding: Under-10 girls – M Lumb, Under-12 girls – E Stevens, Under-10 boys – L Stevens, Under-12 boys – K Bruckner.

Surfing:

Women: Under-12 – E Stevens, Under-16 – A Crawford, Open – C. Stevens.

Men: Under-10 & Under-12 – T Brankin, Under-14 – C Anderson, Under-16 – T Dobson, Under-18 – N Moses, Masters 40+ – G Bruckner, Grandmasters 45+ – B Hollis, Legends 50+ – C Davies, Open – S Deken.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Hareb Deken, Vertigo, Oakura Pharmacy, Snicker Doodles, Sirroco Surfboards, Oakura BP, Fish and Chip shop, Alley Cat, Crafty Fox, Tom Brankin, RTL – Grant Stewart, Taryn Lobb artworks.

Under 14 Boys



2006 Fosters Easter Masters results

Plate Division

1st	Mads Naeraa (Wellington)
2nd	Perry Anderson (Mt Maunganui)
3rd	Dave Haskell (Waitara)
4th	Reeve Hokopara (Ohawe)

Lie-Downs

1st	Tracy Skelton (New Plymouth)
2nd	Donna Muir (Wellington)

Gidgets: Ladies 30-39 years

1st	Monique Hedges (Wellington)
2nd	Amaia Sasaia Yellgas (New Plymouth)
3rd	Gina Samson (Waihi)

Femlins: Ladies 40 years and over

1st	Sara Nicholson (Auckland)
2nd	Kathy Steed (Mt Maunganui)
3rd	Sandy Gillie (Taranaki)
4th	Anne Ribelow (Auckland)

Cadets: 35-39 years

1st	Jason Matthews (New Plymouth)
2nd	Karl Quinn (New Plymouth)
3rd	Damian Phillis (New Plymouth)
4th	Mike Kahukare (New Plymouth)

Grommets: 40-45 years

1st	Mike Ngaia (Waitara)
2nd	Gordon McBride (New Plymouth)
3rd	Brad McKinley (New Plymouth)
4th	Andy Maku (Waitara)

Juniors: 45-49 years

1st	Greg Scott (Mt Maunganui)
2nd	Jay Whitaker (New Plymouth)
3rd	Pete Brown (Wellington)
4th	Murray Valentine (Mt Maunganui)

Masters: 50-54 years

1st	John Gisby (Gisborne)
2nd	Viv Treacy (Whangarei)
3rd	Dave Stork (Piha)
4th	Chris Davies (Oakura)

Legends: 55-59 years

1st	Robbie Walsh (New Plymouth)
2nd	Bruce Richards (New Plymouth)
3rd	Stu Griffiths
4th	Kevin Rowlands (New Plymouth)

Icons: 60 years and over

1st	Chris Jury (New Plymouth)
2nd	Allen Pidwell (New Plymouth)
3rd	Adrian Pickering (Whangaparaoa)
4th =	Valda Polletti (New Plymouth)
4th =	Ray Hawthorne (Gisborne)

Dunga Derby: Open and politically incorrect

1st	John Bolton (New Plymouth)
2nd	Jason Matthews (New Plymouth)
3rd	Rhys Williams (New Plymouth)
4th	Gordon McBride (New Plymouth)

Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Team 2006



*Top row, L to R: Tyler Anderson, Kelvin Weir, Conan James, Nick Moses, Keone Campbell, Anita Crawford.
Front row, L to R: Casey Stevens, Colton Healey, Mathis Smith, David Lee. Absent: Mark Parthemore and Paige Hareb.*

The Taranaki surf team surged to the lead at the Smokefree National Scholastic Surfing Championships with ten of their twelve team members remaining in the event after three days of competition. In small 0.5m – 1.0m waves at St Clair Beach Dunedin, the Taranaki team stood united cheering and supporting every team member that entered the water and it paid off big time with their excellent performances across the board on Friday, the penultimate day of competition but they could only manage a fourth place. The Taranaki team was lead by Paige Hareb, Keone Campbell and Tyler Anderson who all secured good heat wins. Paige Hareb surfed to a heat total of 14.0 points in her first heat of the event to move through to the semi finals of the Under 18 Girls. In deteriorating conditions she posted an excellent 8.0 point ride in her heat to combine with an early 6.0 point ride.

Bay of Plenty has won the 2006 Smokefree National Scholastic Surfing Championships – a five day event held at St Clair Beach Dunedin this week. Bay of Plenty last won the title in 1996 and is one of only four regions to have won the title in the events eighteen year history. On finals day it was Under 18 surfer Tim O'Connor who lead the team to victory with a stellar performance scoring 16.0, a score only surpassed at this event by him in the first round. The surf was the best it had been over the five days with a solid 1.0m – 1.5m swell and offshore winds making conditions perfect.

Conan James (Tara) was the sole goofy-foot surfer in the final and placed fourth amongst some top talent to hold the Taranaki team in fourth position overall.

Mischa Davis grabbed Auckland's lone title in the Under 18 Girls division. Paige Hareb (Tara) became wave starved in the final as was Laura Rishworth, the two girls finishing third and fourth respectively.

Bay of Plenty's Matt Hewitt followed winner of Under 16 Boys, Paco Divers to the right-handers later in the heat scoring 6.25 on his best wave but had to settle for third place ahead of Keone Campbell (Tara) in fourth.

New Zealand representative Johnnie Hicks (Gis) fought off Karne Pitcher (Coro) to win the Under 14 Boys in the closest battle of the day. Dark horse Mark Parthemore (Tara) surfed his way to third in the final posting 10.0 to beat Landem Collier (Gis) into fourth place. Jos Hadfield earlier surfed his way to a win in the Kneeboard final. Kneeboarding is a discipline that Hadfield competes in on the side of his surfing and his efforts paid off at this event as he won out over 2005 event champion Kelvin Wier (Tara). Otago surfers Luke Grubb and Sam McCutchen placed third and fourth.

Host region Otago had their success through Under 18 Bodyboard surfer Robbie Burns who rode to victory early in the days proceedings. It was Burns' last wave at the end of the final that scored him 7.75 to move him from third to first. Defending champion Ahipene Newby (Gis) had to settle for second this year after being pipped at the

post. West Coast's Ben McPaike was also unlucky not to pick up the regions second title of the event after leading for much of the final but ultimately finishing in third ahead of Taranaki's Kelvin Weir.

Full results from the final day of surfing are set out below.

Smokefree Teams Trophy

1 Bay of Plenty 8030. 2 Gisborne 8000. 3 Auckland 7560.
4 Taranaki 7328. 5 Coromandel 7080. 6 Waikato 6180.
7 Canterbury 6048. 8 Northland 5778. 9 Otago 5610.
10 West Coast 3950. 11 Wellington 1225.

Smokefree Under 18 Boys Finals

Tim O'Connor (BOP), 1, Richard Christie (Gis), 2, Jos Hadfield (BOP), 3, Conan James (Tara), 4.

Smokefree Under 18 Girls Final

Mischa Davis (Auck), 1, Jessica Welch (Gis), 2, Paige Hareb (Tara), 3, Laura Rishworth (BOP), 4.

Smokefree Under 16 Boys Finals

Paco Divers (Nth), 1, Ryan Hawker (Auck), 2, Matt Hewitt (BOP), 3, Keone Campbell (Tara), 4

Smokefree Under 14 Boys Finals

Johnnie Hicks (Gis), 1, Karne Pitcher (Coro), 2, Mark Parthemore (Tara), 3, Landem Collier (Gis), 4.

Smokefree Under 16 Girls Finals

Anna Hawes (WC), 1, Maddy Phillips (Auck), 2, Ariana Roberts (Gis), 3, Annie Stewart (Auck), 4.

Smokefree Under 14 Girls Final

Grace Spiers (Coro), 1, Alexis Poulter (Auck), 2, Rosa Thompson (Auck), 3, Alexa Halvorsen (BOP), 4.

Smokefree Under 18 Bodyboard Final

Robbie Burns (Ota), 1, Ahipene Newby (Gis), 2, Ben McPaike (WC), 3, Kelvin Weir (Tara), 4.

Smokefree Under 16 Bodyboard Final

Luke Elliot (Mnt), 1, Liam Blanchfield (Cant), 2, Kurt Randell (Wai), 3, Joshua Randell (Wai), 4

Smokefree Kneeboard Final

Jos Hadfield (BOP), 1, Kelvin Weir (Tara), 2, Luke Grubb (Ota), 3, Sam McCutchen (Ota), 4.

The event was hosted by Southcoast Boardriders in conjunction with Otago Scholastic Surfing. The Scholastics has been running since 1989 where it was first held in Raglan and used as a selection event for the New Zealand Junior Team to contest the World Junior Champs. Since then the NZ Junior Team has been selected from a number of events but the prestige of the Scholastics has remained and to this day the event is as unique as ever on the New Zealand surfing calendar.

For more information on the event please contact Ben Kennings on 021 2278732 or benkennings@surfingnz.co.nz. High resolution images are available free of charge for various surfers competing in the event.

The 2006 National Scholastic Surfing Championships was sponsored by Smokefree and featured Quiksilver's King of the Groms.

The event would not have been possible without the support of Surfing New Zealand, Southcoast Boardriders and Otago Scholastic Surfing.

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OMATA school news

The following story was written by our Year 4 student Phoebe, who is 8 years old. It is the most amazingly entertaining story and I am sure you will enjoy reading. The three senior classes of Omata School stayed for one night on the school grounds recently. As you will gather from Phoebe's story, it was extremely windy but no less enjoyable for everyone involved.

Senior Camp Story

By Phoebe Livingston

"Twenty minutes until the bell rings," whispered Sam in an extremely excited tone. "Calm down!" I said, but my words did not discourage him from leaping up and down silently in his chair. We sat down in the hall and the teachers gave a lecture on the camp rules and the timetable. About ten to fifteen minutes later we trooped out of the hall in classes.

We started setting up our tents in a high wind. I was the only person out of me, Olivia, Erin and Tenesee who knew how to set up our four-person tent, so I was supervising. Eventually it was just the fly left and the wind was like the flu – it had to get worse before it got better. Right now it was at its extremely nasty point.

While we struggled I risked a glance upwards and saw people struggling just as much as we were. That sight tanked me up on confidence... like a car being filled up with petrol. Then suddenly an extremely powerful gust of wind made the tent inflate like a parachute. That happened a few times, then it was up, standing as bold as brass. We took our luggage and made our beds.

For five minutes nobody spoke. I broke the silence by saying, "I'm going to see Dannielle and Tamsin. Anyone wanna come?" Erin said, "Yes," but Olivia and Tenesee wanted to get comfortable. So Erin and I advanced into the hot afternoon. Danielle and Tamsin were next door to us so we didn't walk far to reach their tent. "It's Phoebe and Erin coming to visit!" I informed them. "Come in," Dannielle unzipped the door and I crawled in. The entire place was immaculate. The beds were looking perfect, ever so similar to my room once Mum had visited. Suddenly I had a brainwave. "Can we go see whose tent is whose?" I said. "That's the cleverest thing you've said all day," said Dannielle.

We were grateful when the dinner bell rang and we got our food. I chewed happily on my sausages. Once I was finished dinner I sped off to play while watching others eat food and talking to other chewing people. As I watched I saw that lots of people were forgetting their manners and talking with their mouths packed to exploding point. We had a rest for a while and had a competition for the most amazing and fabulous tent.

At 8 o'clock it was night trail time. Mr Murphy was the leader, but not the tallest on the walk. We were a long way down when Dannielle said, "Look! Glow worms!" Sure enough, when I looked round I saw tiny twinkling lights. We walked back up then started roasting marshmallows. I burned one and when I attempted to remove it from the stick, gooey liquidised marshmallow flowed from the bottom and effectively glued my fingers together. I sucked the dried marshmallow off my fingers.

Later I snuggled up in bed happily. The end of camp was coming! I woke up in the morning and my first thought was: It's the end of camp. Sayonara, tent, until next time.



David Robinson and Amber Donald making ice cream... or is that making ice cream disappear?

Technology students,
Jamie Barrett,
Cameron Barlow and
Jack Wagstaff.



Campers, Erin Barrett, Tenesee Murfitt, Phoebe Livingston and Olivia



by William Livingston, Omata School

Kaitake Kindergarten

Family or Childrens' Portrait
Saturday 24 June

at the Kindergarten 2 McKellar Street, Oakura.



This is a great opportunity to have a professional photographer capture the spirit of your family or children. It is also a great way to support your local kindergarten as funds raised will be used for planned extensions to the kindergarten.

A 10" X 13" colour or black & white digital photograph will cost you \$10.
Other sizes & prices will be available on the day.

To make an appointment time please phone Melanie Breeze 752 1111.

OAKURA School news

Outdoor Learning Area

This area has just recently been developed and includes an outdoor stage, decking and new pathways. The development of this area was made possible by a most generous grant from the TSB Community Trust and funding from the Friends of Oakura School Committee.

The purpose and use of this Outdoor Learning Area is for outdoor performances by pupils and visitors. It also provides shaded seating for lunch times and there will be times when it will be used for outdoor assemblies.

In the near future sunshades and extra seating will be added. This area was only just completed before the school holidays and the pupils were making great use of this wonderful new addition to the school.



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Louis Ferens
 Age 10
 Omata School, Mrs Gurnick
 Fav food: Spaghetti bolognaise
 Fav Movie: Ice Age 2
 Fav Activity: Lego and chess
 Pets: Tropical fish, guinea pig, chooks
 Exciting places: V8 super cars, Pukekohe
 When I grow up I want to play roller hockey for NZ

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 One caught in Port Jackson Australia scavenging
 offal had in its stomach 8 legs of mutton, 130kgs of
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 and a container of deck scraper!



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EF Foundation urgently needs volunteer host families in the Taranaki region for International Exchange Students.

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A family needs to provide a bed, meals and a caring environment. EF provides support, guidance and a monthly contribution.

Call Sofie 0800 44 55 11 for more info

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.

Yoga:

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7-8.30pm.
 Thursdays at Oakura Hall 7.30-9pm.
 Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Twilight Bowls:

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

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
 Next one - 21st April
 Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

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43 Tokomaru St, NP

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25 Arden Place, Oakura

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10 Russell Drive, Oakura

I have just listed this immaculate, low maintenance, brick, 3 bedroom home + office and ensuite with the added bonus of a bedsit.

Wairau Rd Sections

SELLING RIGHT NOW - Roading going in. We have serious interest in most of these sites, so ACT NOW and do not miss out on these fabulous plots of land.

204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

Near New, 5 bdrms + study on 6010m² of land. Call Anne for pricing.



Atkinson Rd section

1 flat acre with mountain views, privacy and only minutes from town. Plans for a 4 bedroom + study contemporary home available.



3 Rahui View, Oakura

4 bdrms + study on large 1706m² section, with lovely rural views. Huge living areas. Sunny with great outdoor living options.



118A Wairau Rd, Oakura

4 bdrm + ensuite, low maintenance brick home on private 2,200m² section.

Properties Sold by Anne 48 Karina Rd, New Plymouth - 130 Wairau Rd, Oakura - 34A Old South Rd, Okato - 17 Kinross Dr, NP

Thought for the Month

"Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."



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