



Kayak Fishing Classic

Cory Donnelly with his club record snapper 11.1kg.

we're hooked!

I take my hat off to the Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Club for organising and hosting The Taranaki Kayak Classic Fishing competition and Oakura can be very proud to be the venue for it. It was a fantastic weekend. I popped into HQ (Butlers) at various times over the weekend and everyone seemed to be having fun. Thanks would have to go to the organising committee of the Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Club for making this event happen and to those who put in an enormous amount of work to ensure everyone who entered or came along had a great time. The weather certainly helped. It was picture perfect all weekend and it can be said that Mother Nature isn't always so co-operative.

On Friday night 112 contestants registered at Butlers and got to enjoy the company of Bill Hohepa, a fishing guru of New Zealand fishing and what I would call your average Kiwi "Good Keen Bloke". The heavily moustached and well-weathered guest of the competition had been out in his boat with camerawoman and wife, Linda, getting footage for their fishing show on Cue TV. He confessed to only catching a kahawai or two. I think this was a deliberate ploy by Grant Morgan not to reveal all Taranaki's fine fish cards on the first date. When I caught up with Bill on Saturday he was much more effusive about our fishing, having caught a good bag of snapper and gurnard, or "carrots" as he called them.

By Kim Ferens

At weigh-in on Saturday, I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the line-up of chilly bins waiting to have their catches weighed-in and recorded. Official records show that 1.8 tonnes of fish were weighed in. Each contestant or team can only weigh in three fish from each species and there were chilly bins with more in them than that so the total haul of fish must have been much more. The line stretched nearly all the way to the cemetery! Grant Morgan was weigh master and when I spoke with him on Sunday he was nursing very sore hands from wrestling 426 fish onto the

(Continued on page 8)

Last month when I was delivering the TOMs to letterboxes, I happened upon a furniture removal truck on Wairau Road. Of course it was Terry and Barb Griffiths' on their moving day. I went inside to say my farewells to this lovely couple who have been such a focal point in the community. Both Terry and Barb have been involved in the community on many levels, as firefighter, bowler, teacher aide, babysitters, mentors, email junk mailer, teller of weak jokes, neighbours and friends.



Now they have gone to Tauranga and how we will miss them! Barb would often meet me at the letterbox when I was delivering her TOM and we would have a natter. It is such a small thing but isn't it the little things that you remember? I wish them a happy life in Tauranga and they had better be back to visit soon!

Kim

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Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119

TOM
OAKURA

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THE TEAM

Co-ordinator: **Tracey Lusk** 06 752 7875
 tracey@thetom.co.nz

Co-ordinator/Features: **Kim Ferens** 06 751 1519
 kim@thetom.co.nz

Advertising: **Cyril Henderson** 06 753 6885
 cyril@thetom.co.nz

Feature writer: **Jennifer Gros**
 jennifer@thetom.co.nz

Music reviews: **Graham Donlon**

Proof reader: **Elayne Kessler**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**
 origin@xtra.co.nz

The TOM Group Ltd, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.
 email kim@thetom.co.nz
 Phone 0800 THE TOM
 www.thetom.co.nz

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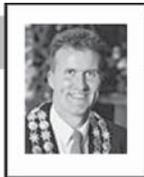
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from **mayor pete**



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Hi folks!

It's been a very busy time with consultation taking place last month on the Draft 2009-2019 Community Plan. We've held community meetings around the district for residents to hear directly from council managers about the draft plan and to raise any questions they have. Thank you to everyone who turned up to these meetings. Some travelled quite a distance to get to them, and it's great to see people willing to get involved in local democracy and have their voices heard.

We are now going through all of the submissions we have received for managers to write reports on the issues raised. On 3 - 5 June we will hold public hearings at the Civic Centre on the submissions, and everyone is more than welcome to attend and listen to what is being said. Then on Monday 8 June the Council will consider all of the submissions and the managers' reports, and make any final changes to the draft plan. The Community Plan itself will finally be adopted at the 29 June meeting of the Council.

These meetings are particularly important to our immediate future as what we decide for the 2009-2019 Community Plan will set our district's course for the next three years (and outline the following seven). So feel free to come along to these meetings and hear for yourself the issues debated and the decisions being made.

Meanwhile, it's great to see milestones achieved in the development of Oakura's sewerage network. The trunk main from Oakura to New Plymouth has passed its testing. All the pipework has been installed within the town, with all work in part D (from McFarlane Street to Mace Terrace) having passed the final testing. Work continues on schedule at both the Shearer Reserve and Corbett Park pump stations. As each part of town is finished, the property owners will be contacted to advise they can connect their private pipework to the laterals (but to not make the connection live until the entire reticulation system is commissioned later this year).

On 15 April we held an information day for residents to view the various types of private pumps available on the market, and talk directly with the suppliers about their products. I hope that information day proved useful to those of you who require pumps, and you have a clearer idea of what you'll be doing with your property's connection.

At the end of the day Oakura will have a reticulation system that safeguards the town's environment and "closes the loop" in waste management, as the sewage will end up being treated at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant where bacteria cleans the biomass and the excess bacteria is turned into an approved fertiliser.

If you have any questions about the reticulation programme or the upcoming Community Plan hearings, or you'd like to raise any other issues that you think the Council can help with, give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent,

Mayor

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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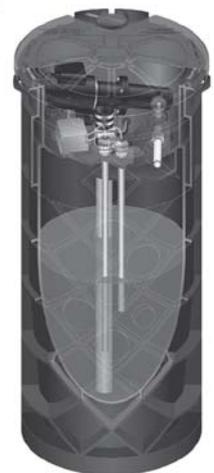
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It's LTCCP time at the New Plymouth District Council. Along with every other local body NPDC is required to follow an array of Local Government Act processes. They are explicit and must be complied with. Council must have a Long Term Community Plan (commonly known as the LTCCP). This is a ten-year strategy setting out where the community wants to go and is arrived at after extensive consultation. The plan must be reviewed every three years. Council is then charged with setting annual budgets to meet the community intentions in the LTCCP.

The community has been comprehensively consulted as part of the three-year review of the 2006 – 2016 LTCCP which, when final decisions are made, will morph into the 2009 – 2019 plan. This is a fundamental part of the review process that will either add or delete items from the current plan. The word "on the street" is a lot of projects in the current plan will be deferred as councillors wrestle with the never-ending battle to keep rate increases down. Times are tough - I have attended numerous LTCCP meetings and workshops and can attest that every councillor is determined to keep the annual rate increase to the absolute minimum. At times the debate has been very intense indeed.

It was gratifying to see that 35 residents took the time to make a submission on the plans for the Oakura Beach Camp. There are definite issues with the proposed approach and I do hope that decision-making proceeds with real caution.

I attended the recent Okato ANZAC Day observance. The local Lions Club, Fire Brigade and others did a great job in administering an excellent parade and service. Master of Ceremonies Ivor Ellis presided over a large gathering of local folk, with Father Garty and Councillor George providing succinct addresses about the sacrifices made by so many so long ago, but still on our behalf today. Judging by the number of young people present, I do believe ANZAC Day is finally ingrained in our culture and has become (and will remain) a tradition of remembrance for all New Zealanders and all age groups.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080) who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Jonathan Young

There has been a lot of talk in the Daily News about violence on the streets of New Plymouth. This is something which affects every community in Taranaki and New Zealand and has been a major concern to all New Zealanders for some time. National has moved quickly to deliver on our election promises and confront violent crime.

In our first 100 days in government we passed new laws that make it harder for the wrong people to get bail, and provide tougher sentences for crimes against children.

We also introduced several new bills that we are driving through Parliament.

These pieces of legislation clamp down on gangs by doubling penalties for participation in a criminal gang, and make it easier for police to intercept gang communications. They allow police to issue on-the-spot protection orders for suspected victims of domestic violence.

They have put victims at the centre of the justice system by requiring offenders to pay into a Victim Compensation Fund. They enable police to collect DNA from people they arrest and "intend to charge", and to match their DNA against samples from unsolved crimes. And they would remove the right for the worst repeat violent offenders and the worst murderers to get parole.

We have started training new police officers to boost the number of frontline police by 600 before the end of 2011. This includes 300 new police officers for South Auckland.

We have also introduced legislation that targets youth offenders. This gives the Youth Court the power to issue a new range of compulsory orders including parenting lessons, mentoring programmes, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. It extends the jurisdiction of the Youth Court to include 12- and 13-year-olds accused of serious offences. And it creates tougher, more effective sentences, including a military-style activity camp programme that targets the most serious young offenders.

This programme will consist of up to three months residential training, using army-type facilities or training methods. It will provide clear boundaries, and reinforcement of self-discipline, personal responsibility, and community values. And it will include up to nine months of intensive support and mentoring to meet each young offender's individual needs.

It is a sad fact that all this legislation was necessary to pass; but it would be worse to do nothing about the rising tide of violence in New Zealand. We know that we can't just tackle violent crime with a prison van at the bottom of the cliff. That's why last month we hosted a Ministerial Meeting on the Drivers of Crime attended by 100 experts from around the country. We expect this will, over time, lead to a number of initiatives that result in less crime, safer communities, and fewer victims.

Jonathan Young, MP for New Plymouth

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

For constituent appointments, please contact my Electorate Office in New Plymouth

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Jan Mason

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Fire Brigade news

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

Once upon a time in a land far away, there lived a recruit firefighter by the name of Mike Dunn. He had been a recruit firefighter for quite some time. Mike had a tendency to break his ankle whenever he was due to go on the course necessary to become a firefighter. Anyway, Mike eventually managed to go on his course without breaking anything and, lo and behold, he was now officially a firefighter that could respond to call-outs.

Mike's first official call-out was sometime ago on a day during the working week. Qualified firefighter Ross Buttimore took great delight in pronouncing that firefighter Dunn had put the fire out of the Punga! Mike was so excited he called home on the Brigade cell phone and told his wife of his achievement.

The Brigade cell phone went missing for quite some time after that. Mike was away in Australia, but before he went he sent his Firefighter gear off to Auckland to be dry cleaned. Guess where the cell phone was? It too has been dry cleaned but now is broken! Thanks Mike, do you think you could be a worthy recipient of an "Oops I broke it!" award?

Now onto a serious note, the high winds on the night of Monday 20th April, have prompted me to write and ask that you make sure you are all cautious with high winds. Please make sure any loose timber, tarps, etc., are adequately tied down, and be aware of any rotten or broken trees around your home. Thankfully, the night was quiet for the Oakura Fire Brigade with no call-outs. However many Brigades within Taranaki were very busy.

All the best and stay safe

Mel Breeze (Sec)



Hello everyone

Term 2 is well under way. We hope you had relaxing and fun family time during the school holidays.

The week of 11 May is New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards Festival Week. We feel privileged to be hosting Kyle Mewburn, author of the picture book *Duck's Stuck*. If you haven't already, come in and pick up your complimentary brochure listing the hottest books for Kiwi kids this year.

We have some delightful and amusing new picture books, *Superpotamus* and *Barnaby Bennett*. Margaret Mahy's *the Magician of Hoad* and Vince Ford's *Tribal Ash #3* in the *Chronicles of Stone Series* are new in young adult fiction.

We all know who Barack Obama is but what makes him tick? He is a "splendid storyteller" and "remarkably candid" in *The Audacity of Hope*.

For the crime fiction fans, we have Ian Rankin's *Doors Open* and Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Contemporary women's fiction *The Secret Life of Evie Hamilton* by Catherine Alliott and Louise Bagshawe's *Glitz* provide light reading.

The Painted Garden in New Zealand Art and *The Illustrated History of Dance in New Zealand* are beautiful new non-fiction books. Based on your feedback we are carrying three new magazines. *Mindfood*, *Healthy Food Guide* and *New Zealand Fishing World*.

Another highlight this month of course was Mother's Day! *You Sexy Mother* by Jodie Hedley-Ward is "a life-changing approach to motherhood", "redefines what it means to be a stay-at-home mum today", and "aims to "provide new insights, tools and strategies".

Hope to see you soon,

Karen and Vincenza



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It's your last opportunity to plant spring flowering bulbs. 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.

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Oakura Sewerage Project Connection Specialists

The following checklist is designed to guide you through the connection process as smoothly as possible. Plumbtech can help during any or all of the following stages:

Checklist

Have you contacted a plumber to arrange an onsite visit?

Each property will be different and property owners are advised to discuss the specifics of their work with a qualified tradesman before making any decisions. (Contact Plumbtech for a no-obligation quote).

Have you applied for a Building Consent from the New Plymouth District Council?

Those choosing to connect will be required to do so within 12 months.

(Plumbtech will be able to complete this on your behalf as part of the overall process).

Have you installed the pipework needed on your property?

Getting this part of the process completed by a registered drainlayer or plumber now will help and avoid large delays closer to the go-live date.

Are you ready for the final connection to make it live?

When the pump station at Shearer Drive is complete, a registered drainlayer or plumber will need to connect your pipes and make the system live. A letter will be sent to you advising when you can connect. An additional letter will be sent informing you that you can make your connection live and decommission your septic tank.

(Plumbtech have developed an effective method of reducing time and cost for this part of the process).

Need help decommissioning the septic tank?

Once the new sewerage system is live in your home, the tank will need to be decommissioned immediately. This involves emptying the septic tank, cleaning and waterblasting the inside walls and filling the tank with sand in accordance with the council building consent.

(Plumbtech have the specialised equipment and personnel to complete this part of the process).

Almost done! Have you organised sign-off from NPDC?

The final part of the process is to get the project signed off by council.

(Plumbtech will organise this on your behalf as part of the overall project).

Plumbtech have the specialist equipment and personnel to complete the whole process for you. You will see a Plumbtech specialist at every stage of this job.

Timeline

July 2008 - August 2009

Construction of central pump station at Shearer Reserve.

September 2009 - August 2010

Residents who elected to join the scheme must connect during this period.

If you have any questions about the process or are interested in getting a no-obligation price, contact Terry Gardner, Oakura Sewerage Project Manager.

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Kayak Fishing Classic

(Continued from page 1)

scales. Debbie Edgecombe was recorder, and then the details were transferred to computer. Club member Cory Donnelly recorded a record for the club with his 11.1kg snapper – a wonderful specimen. Imagine the collective held breath of the spectators when the biggest snapper I have ever seen was arm wrestled out of the chilly bin and onto the scales. Necks craned and cameras clicked for a 10+ kilogram whopper!

One keen fisherman in the queue was Club member Aaron Murfitt. He had a reasonable bounty but nothing to rival the 10-kilo snapper monster. But Aaron did manage to take out a major prize with the biggest recorded kahawai at 3.29 kilograms. Aaron had headed “somewhere north of Oakura” with fishing buddy Kermie and had two great days of fishing. Aaron goes out kitted up with a fish finder and all the gear but it is still exhausting work. Then you have to gut your fish when you get back, something Aaron has fine-tuned over the years!

Garry Harrison took a group of kayakers from Auckland out just off Oakura Beach and everyone managed to catch something. Garry says they were amazed you could catch fish so close to shore.

Sunday was the most anticipated day in my house, for I was going to get myself some fresh snapper at the evening’s auction. First the day’s catch had to be weighed and recorded. The competition’s snapper winner was caught on Sunday and weighed in at more than 11 kilos! (11.52 kilograms to be precise) I asked the fisherman (Coaster Dave Leatherby) who caught it how long it took to bring on board (that is, on board a small kayak). He had quite a tussle with it, taking more than 15 minutes to land. It seemed this specimen was destined to be a trophy and would grace the wall one day. Others I talked too, from as far away as Wellington and the East Coast, all enjoyed themselves so much they were thinking of returning next year with more of their mates. Other contestants came from as far away as Greymouth. They were happy just to be weighing in “something” and didn’t care if it wasn’t the biggest fish of the day. One local commented he “didn’t give a rat’s @*#! about the fish, how many or how big, it was meeting and getting to know people!” That probably sums up the event – it was about people not fish. Garry Harrison was justifiably proud of the overflowing bin of donated fish that awaited the auction. Peter McDonald was the auctioneer and from

The legendary Bill Hohepa.



Below: auction time, with auctioneer Peter McDonald, Angie, Christine and Anne.



Weighmaster Grant Morgan was kept extremely busy.

Tony Hurring, club President and fish filleter extraordinaire.



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The huge bin full of fish, ready to be auctioned.

all accounts is keen to come back and be auctioneer again next year though it did look as if fish weren't his favourite auction item! The competition to buy a fish was fierce and it was hard to get a bid in. \$1200 was raised for charity and donated to Taranaki Surf Life Saving, a great effort. I managed to "bag" myself a bag of snapper and for a further koha conned Aaron and Club president Tony Hurring into filleting the three snapper for me. They did a 'bloody' good job too. The auction was well supported by both locals and folks from New Plymouth. I saw some fish being loaded into a box on the back of a road bike so I know it went wide and far.

It was a great event for those who fish and for those who don't fish. I can't wait for the next time.

Heaviest Snapper:	Dave Leatherby:	11.52kg
Heaviest John Dory:	Aaron Farley:	2.14kg
Heaviest Trevally:	Martin Rook:	2.16kg
Heaviest Red Gurnard:	Dennis O, Callagan:	.98kg
Heaviest Blue Cod:	Martin Rook:	1.91kg
Heaviest Kahawai:	Aaron Murfitt:	3.29kg
Heaviest Tuna:	Stephen Tapp:	4.21kg

Winner of the Kayak & Canoe kayak was Chris LaFranche



Autumn Greetings

The fishing seems to have really slowed down since the Kayak Comp. Most of us are taking a well-deserved rest, especially the organisers. It was a great comp, with reports from all over the country to the effect of "a well organised and professional event." So again, well done to everyone involved. A big thank you to the public for coming and checking things out, and for taking part in the fish auction. Look forward to seeing you all next year

May is a really nice time of the year to fish, with still warm, calm days. A lot of the bigger fish are still hanging around. Many fishers fish until about three o'clock when the coolness sets, but they love the "getting back in to the car and getting the heater cranked up"

Eight or so of our club went up to the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association Fishing Nationals in the Coromandel in mid April. A lovely calm sea and fine weather, along with the reputation the Coromandel, encouraged us all. As we got north of Thames, a "recky" was the order of the day prior to the contest. Many miles driven and just about as many Snapper were caught but thrown back because they were only around the 300mm mark. A few fish were brought back for dinner.

The next day the Comp started and all our team went to "Plan B". Unfortunately plan B wasn't much better for us or with 90% of the other 150 fishers getting plagued with the 300mm Snapper. A few kingis were sighted but they didn't come our way. A couple of nice Snapper around the 6-8kg mark were caught off the rocks by members of the North Shore Club. A North Shore kayak fisher got a 7kg Snapper. For those that are interested, all the top casting guns were at the Nationals Casting this year. I got about 5th in a field of 20 or so women. Northern Wairoa man Peter Froggett got the top men's cast of 235 metres . . . how far can you cast?

Despite many awards being up for grabs at the event none came our club's way. Next year the Nationals will be again at the Coromandel but held in March. According to the locals, this is a better time for the bigger fish. Let's hope they're right!

May is the last month of our club season. Many fine fish have been caught this last year, and awards and trophies will be awarded to the various recipients in June at the Club's AGM and prize giving day. The date for this will be confirmed soon.

As a parting note, we have a particularly strong hub of keen members within the club now, with our membership having nearly doubled from two years ago.

From what I have seen, we are indeed one of the strongest clubs within the NZACA. With a new season ahead, grab a mate or two and bring them along to the AGM for a look.

Email us for more info if you are keen to join the mighty Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club, oakurasurfcasting@paradise.net.nz

Tight lines,
Debbie E



Aaron Murfitt – a man and his catch.

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Oakura Pony Club

Last month five riders from Oakura Pony Club competed at the annual national competition Horse of the Year (HOY) in Hastings. One of those riders, Andrea Brewster, has written about her experience.

I competed in Showjumping classes up to 1.25m, Junior Rider of the Year, and was in the Taranaki Pony Club team, which placed 3rd overall.

This was my first year competing at HOY. We travelled on Tuesday and were there for six days in total. The parking areas were a maze of thousands of horse trucks, gazebos, floats and cars. Finding a park was a challenge in itself, with the parking warden coming around on her motorbike telling us how we could and couldn't park! We set up a big gazebo along the side of the truck so the horses could stand in the shade because it was very hot and muggy for the whole show.

Luckily our yards were fairly close and we had a motorbike with a trailer which we used to collect shavings for the horses. We had to get in quick, as many people had the same idea and with over 2000 horses staying on the grounds the pile of shavings disappeared in a couple of hours.

In most of my classes there were between 100-150 riders. This meant getting to the ring at 6.30am (or the night before) to get your name on the board. Classes took a couple of hours each. All the big names were there and I competed against several of New Zealand's top riders on their younger horses. It was really well organised and you had to wait at the gate for

your name to be called, and then walk through the gangway to get into the ring. The National arena was my favourite ring to compete in because of the atmosphere. The grandstand was full with people watching and the jumps were cool. The announcer was a bit off-putting as you came into the last jump by saying, "...coming into the last fence now, clear so far, will they make it?"

It was great having my coach Floss there to walk my courses and help me warm up for the big classes. She also coached the Taranaki Pony Club team on the last day and was very encouraging. The team was Shannon Seaver, Caitlyn Horton, Laura Hutterd and me, and the competition involved each of us jumping two rounds. Then we carried forward the best three scores to the next round. When we realised we were 3rd equal with a total of 8 faults we were really excited because we got to go into the big International arena for the presentation. It was between the two rounds of the Olympic Cup so the stand was packed and all our horses were very excited. We were presented with huge sashes and then galloped round to the victory song, "Stand up for the Champions", which was awesome. Next year I would really like to compete in the International arena.

On the days I wasn't competing I took my horse Twiggley out for a ride around the massive show grounds. This took us past the Showjumping and Showhunter arenas, dressage arenas, miniatures, donkeys, Clydesdales, mounted games and showing rings. I made the mistake of cutting through a showing warm-up ring on the way back to the truck. My half-Clydesdale beast earned a few sideways glances from polished and plaited show pony riders!

A highlight for me was watching the Lady Rider of the Year class (1.40m). The jump-off was really competitive and there were some really good riders, some only a couple of years older than I am. The horses were amazing too, making the jumps look easy. The Grand Prix dressage horses were incredible to watch! Another highlight was, of course, the shopping. There were hundreds of trade stands selling anything and everything a horse and rider could need, and there were some great bargains! Of course the huge party at the Myers truck on Saturday night...

Although expensive, it was a great experience competing in Hastings!

Andrea

Andrea Brewster.



Taranaki Horse of the Year team.



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Oakura Tennis Soffe Cup Team is awesome in final

"Absolutely gutted" - That's how Oakura team captain John Hardie-Boys described their loss to Rotokare in the Soffe Cup tennis final. "We were so close, I can't stop thinking about all the 'what ifs'" lamented Hardie-Boys. "I wish I had called for an umpire" said Hardie-Boys, commenting on his men's singles match against Chris Popata. When pressed whether calling their own lines was an issue, Hardie-Boys replied "Absolutely not. I needed an umpire because I keep forgetting the score" (Hardie-



Graeme Mitchell and Aleisha Ford.

Volleyballer Jessie Muggeridge chosen to represent New Zealand again

Nineteen-year-old Jessie Muggeridge has again been chosen to represent New Zealand at beach volleyball. A successful summer competing in the New Zealand Pro-Tour has resulted in her selection for the girls' section of the Under-21 World Beach Volleyball Championships in Monterey, Mexico in August. As part of her lead-up to the big event, she will also attend a training camp in Los Angeles, California. In 2008 she played in the World Junior Beach Volleyball Championships in the Netherlands with the under-19 New Zealand team. Jessie, along with her partner, are currently ranked 29th in the world. She says she feels honoured to have been chosen to represent her country for the second year running.



Jessie in action at the Under 19 World Champs held in the Hague last year.

Jessie needs to raise \$7000.00 for travel and accommodation. As part of her fundraising effort, a function will be held in Oakura Hall on the evening of Saturday 27 June. Three local bands will play, "The Decktaters", "No Quarter" (her brother Michael's band) and "Gumboot Tango" (her Dad's band). There will also be an art auction. Tickets will be sold at the door, \$15 single, \$25 double. Bring your own liquid refresh-ments. Supper will be provided. Dust off your dancing shoes and prepare for a night of fun and entertainment.

Story by Kerry Lilley

Boys turns 50 later this month). Mitchell was also dwelling on the 'what ifs'. "If only I had trained harder" commented Mitchell after the loss. "It could have made all the difference". "Graeme's really disappointed" said his wife Jackie. "But he will come back stronger next year - he has started training already. On the night of the loss, he started punch bag training. We don't have a punch bag so he just used the wall instead" said Jackie. The Oakura team struggled with the dry sandy courts at Rotokare. "There was so much sand it was ridiculous" said Mitchell. "My kids came to watch the tennis, and ended up spending the entire day playing with their buckets and spades!"

Mitchell was also having technical difficulties with his new racquet. "John got me a new racquet last week, but it needed some minor adjusting" said Mitchell. "I finally adjusted it last night after the final, by putting it on 2 bricks and driving the car over it 10 times. I noted that John hadn't presented my cheque for the racquet yet, so legally it's still his. He can come and get it anytime, it's over the back fence in the creek" said Mitchell. String tension was also an issue. Mike Roberts from Rotokare restrung Mitchell's racquet, and on the day, Mitchell wasn't happy. "My ukulele strings are tighter" fumed Mitchell. "I'll get him back on the squash court this winter" warned Mitchell (Roberts is a NZ over 35 champion, Mitchell was runner up in the plate section of the Okato Farmers Tournament).

By Graeme Mitchell



Miaana Walden.



Sue Oldfield.



Becky Bruckner.



John Hardie-Boys.



IRB National Champs – Oakura

At the end of March Oakura Beach was the venue for the IRB Nationals with teams competing from all over New Zealand.

Local clubs and teams came out on top this year so we can be very proud of the results of all who put in the hard yards to compete and organise the event.



James Morwood (left) and Andy Cronin.

James Morwood of Oakura and his driver Andy Cronin won the premier IRB event. These nationals are the first year the pair has competed together. This event involves competing in four races and the two-man team won gold in the single rescue and the tube rescue, silver in the mass rescue and bronze in the assembly rescue. These results were enough to give them overall top points and first place.

For Andy Cronin it was his second Top Premier title and James' first title. Andy is a member of the East End Surf Club and James has joined East End from NPOB's especially to race with Andy. James says there is a long family tie with East End and NPOB's so it doesn't feel like he is defecting to the opposition.

Andy has been involved in surf life saving for more than 12 years, first becoming a patient (the prerequisite being a skinny bloke!), and has been driving IRBs from the age of 17. Andy gained his first lifeguard award way back in 1996 and has since won 11 national titles. He says he is into IRB racing "for fun" and it is a licence just to go as fast as you can and get an adrenalin rush. IRB racing is about testing how good your skills, patience and strength are and no two waves are ever the same so you are continually testing yourself he says.

Andy has a full time job working as head coach and coaching co-ordinator for the East End Surf Club. This involves coaching all areas of the club, including paddle board, surf ski, and IRB teams. Andy also instructs the adult life-guard classes the club holds. Over the winter the club does a lot of fitness training to prepare the lifeguards for the coming season. Some of this coaching is carried out at the Bell Block Pool, and near the end of the year the coaching becomes full on. The club boasts over 200 members including juniors. In September Andy and James are hoping to compete again in the Ninety Mile Beach surf challenge where IRB's are raced from Scott's Point at the north of the beach to Ahipara at the south end of the beach with various adventures in between. It is a good precursor to Nationals and a great opportunity to fine tune techniques.

James has been involved in Surf Life Saving from nearly the moment he could walk so that makes his commitment 19 years. James got into IRBs the same way Andy did, by being the skinny guy and getting picked to be the patient. He then moved onto being the crew and at this stage James is still working on the art form of this demanding position. There is skill in reading the wave, where to place yourself in the boat, how you place yourself and having strength and guts.

James has got his drivers licence for the IRB but doesn't use it to compete.



James (left) and Andy (right), competing at Oakura. (Image courtesy of Gary Tosland.)

For James IRB racing has got him hooked and he finds it an exciting sport to be part of and he is looking forward to competing again. James is a Fitter/Welder in his last year of apprenticeship at Fitzroy Engineering. There is no time for any other hobbies or interests in his busy schedule.

So while East End can display the silverware, NPOBs can also take pride in helping produce part of this talented team. James says all the rivalry goes out the door when competitions are over and everyone is all one big family.

By Kim Ferens



Oakura Boardriders

A busy month just passed, starting with the Taranaki inter-club challenge being held at Arawhata Road on Saturday 28 March.

The teams of eight for this event must include an U-16, a woman and an over-40 competitor as members. Brian Clark, Glen Johns, Tyler Anderson, Simon Deken, Jeremy "Snuffy" Curd, Regan Brien, Connor Anderson and Eloise Stevens had great success.

The contest is made up of two sections, with no seeding and the heat draw decided out of a hat. The first section is a standard contest format with the second section a tag team event, which can completely change the outcome of the contest. The Oakura team finished 2nd behind NPSRC team 1 and ahead of NPSRC team 2 and Opunake board riders. Waitara was a no show in the end. The contest was a great success and will be an annual event staged by Surfing Taranaki.

This was followed by a band night at the club rooms, which put paid to many members' aspirations for the following day at the completion of the Club Champs, held at good contestable Graveyards on Sunday 29 March. The surf was good and solid as the finals progressed with some good surfing and rivalries seen during the day. This event always brings all the locals out of the woodwork and it's always good to see those we don't catch up with regularly.

Simon Deken regained the open crown from Tyler Anderson in a great final. Those two have owned the title for the last four years. Hamish Christophers in 3rd has been there every

year also, with Glen Johns being a double finalist, running out of energy in the last heat of the day after copping a Graveyards hiding to remind him he's not a young fella anymore. A newcomer to the Club, Jackie Mitchell took out the open women's title.

There were once again plenty of entries and a great day was enjoyed by all. Prize giving at the club in the evening saw the usual flock of kids hoping for some luck in the prize draw. Thanks again to our local sponsors, Vertigo, The Village Café, The Oakura Pharmacy, Skincare Taranaki, Roofing Taranaki and Snickerdoodles. The Club Champs takes a lot of organizing and behind the scenes work, so special thanks to Philly Butt and Jan Anderson for all their help over a huge weekend.

Our local surfers continue to do well internationally and nationally with Paige Hareb maintaining her great form with another good result in the Rip Curl Easter Classic at Bells Beach. This followed a semi-final finish at a WQS contest at Margaret River. Paige is sitting in 3rd place on the WCT standings and well within reach of the number one spot.

Nationally Hamish Christophers won the pro-junior division of the World Kneeboard titles in south Taranaki over Easter, adding another great result to the U-16 and U-18 titles he won at a previous World Titles a few years ago.

Tyler Anderson finished 2nd in the Volcom VQS series finals in the U-18 division at Raglan with an impressive display of surfing by both finalists in the man-on-man final. It could have gone either way in the end with nothing between the finalists as the hooter went. Unfortunately the trip to the World Final in California just slipped away, with Alex Dive from the BOP winning.

Tyler followed up by leading the Taranaki team in the National Scholastics at Raglan, setting the pace early in the event when the surf was on the points along with Mark Parthemore, Michael Mallalieu and Sean Parker, the U-18s being Taranaki's strongest division. Unfortunately the swell dropped away, with the contest being completed at Ruapuke beach after being called off the day prior. The small surf put an end to the Taranaki team in the semi-finals. Team results were not encouraging, with a real lack of depth and experience at competing at this level being shown. This will need some serious commitment if Taranaki is to regain its place as one of New Zealand's powerful surfing provinces, especially with the top surfers moving on next year.

Team results: 1, Bay of Plenty, 17362, 2, Waikato, 15928, 3, Auckland, 15703, 4, Gisborne, 14363, 5, Coromandel, 14095, 6, Northland, 13239, 7, Canterbury, 13053, 8, Taranaki, 12833, 9, Hawkes Bay, 8268, 10, Otago, 4010, 11, Wellington, 3890, 12, West Coast, 3260.

The Boardriders Longboard Champs will be completed in the next few weeks so watch for an update next issue. Remember for information or new members contact Paul Christophers on 027 406 5654.



Simon Deken giving his victory speech.



Oakura interclub team, left to right, Glen Johns, Tyler Anderson, Jeremy Curd, Connor Anderson, Simon Deken, Brian Clark, Regan Brien. Missing, Ellie Stevens.



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A History Bite –

Oakura Hall

The Rural Halls Review submission preparation revealed the following interesting facts on the history of the Oakura Hall.

The hall really began at a meeting of settlers in the Oakura Hotel on 7 August 1895 “for the purpose of considering the advisability of erecting a hall in the Oakura township.” After much discussion it was decided to erect a hall. To fund costs residents could purchase shares of one pound and 32 shares were taken up on the spot. Mr Grylls donated the land and gave five pounds to start the project off. Over the subsequent weeks more shares were sold to local residents.

By February the following year the timber was on site, volunteers had laid a metal track from the site to the road, Mr Sole had surveyed and pegged the section, and the piles provided by Mr Rodriguez of Tapuae had arrived, as had the hand sawn scantlings from Mr Wilson of Tatairamaka.

Plans had been drawn up by Mr Frank Messenger and tenders called. The successful contractors were Mr J Grylls for the carpentry (15 pounds 10 shillings) and Mr Wallach for the plumbing (14 pounds), with the joinery being supplied by the New Plymouth Sash and Door Company. By the middle of March the frame was up and the exterior boarding commenced. It was reported that “the contractor was doing his best to push the building along, as he says he does not mind giving Oakura a little free labour to help them.”

In early April a meeting was held to consider the hall’s grand opening, which was set for 23 April 1896, just over eight months from when the initial decision was made. From all accounts the opening was performed by Captain Mace and the subsequent ball was a great occasion with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. Dancing went on until 3 o’clock in the morning to the music provided by Messrs Putt, Harrison and Good.

Very quickly the hall became a major community asset, as it was the only hall between New Plymouth and Rahotu for many years. It proved a great venue for travelling performers as “it has a good stage, nice and high, so that those behind can see as well as those in front.” An elected committee called the Oakura Public Hall Trustees administered it.

After the Second World War the trustees legalised their existence and became an incorporated society. Management continued in that mode until 1972 when the Oakura Community Centre Inc. requested the North Taranaki County Council to impose a levy of \$2 per dwelling, with the income to be used to maintain the Oakura Hall. The Council accepted a transfer in 1974 of the hall from the Oakura Community Centre Inc and declared the site a public reserve in October 1974.

It came to the attention of the Council in 1977 that the Bowling Club Pavilion extended onto the hall property. The arrangement was subject to an unregistered agreement to lease. The agreement to lease provided a site for the Bowling Pavilion, parking area and access at a cost to the Club of \$2 per annum, which was not collected while the Hall Committee paid rates to the Council on the whole site.

When the re-organisation of four former local authorities, New Plymouth City Council, Clifton County Council, North Taranaki District Council and Inglewood District Council took place on in 1989, the Oakura Hall became an asset of the new North Taranaki District Council. During the next few years the hall, while still used regularly, had little major maintenance carried out so in 2001 a survey was undertaken of users. It highlighted some maintenance issues and necessary repairs. In 2007 there became an issue regarding access to the reserve as the neighbours had installed a gate between their property and the Oakura Hall site. Correspondence indicates permission was given verbally by the Bowling Club president of the day. The Council permitted the gate to remain, with conditions attached

The speedy erection of the hall for the princely sum of 150 pounds speaks volumes for the resilience, energy and community spirit of early Oakura folk. The very same hall has now served the Oakura wider community well for over 113 years. A volunteer hall committee (still in existence today) has managed the hall for that total period and all of the maintenance for the first 60 years was carried out by local volunteer labour and donated materials.

By Doug Hislop

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New Flags

Rooms 4 and 5 have been working on new school flags to replace the ones that were made 13 years ago. First of all they designed their own pictures of fish and geckos. They drew them on white material with black vivid and painted them with material paint. Some children worked with buddies, others on their own.



Parent helpers Jane Cullen and Suki Bishop ironed the fabrics and stitched the paintings onto colourful bits of material, blue, yellow or red to match the school colours. Jeremy Pritt and Mr Priest supplied the bamboo and cut it into the right lengths for the flags. The school art leaders Saxon MacKinnon and Ben McLean helped Mrs Day to put the first two finished flags up in front of the school on Friday 27 March.

The new flags look great in the school grounds and make it a very happy, colourful place to be.

By Molly Oldfield

Bell Block Swimming Championships

On Monday 6 April Oakura School was involved in the first New Plymouth Full Primary Swimming Championships. Two swimmers from each of years 5-8 were entered into the swim events, which were held at the Bell Block Aquatic Centre.

Angus White was one of the students that went and he said, "The swimming sports were very exciting because I got first in all of the finals I went in, and it was fun because I enjoy swimming races."

Oakura School did really well in the swimming and they all had a fun day.

By Jamie Scott



Angus White at the swimming competition.



On 24 March all the pupils of Oakura School made their way down to the Oakura Hall to watch a percussion performance by the band "Strike". This band is made up of three talented musicians, Tom, Sam and Tack. The performance was both entertaining and informative. The three musicians taught us the parts of a drum and all the names of the instruments that they used in their show. They chose several eager students to join them on stage and play a beat on their unique, wooden log instruments.

The audience walked out of the hall with the sound of the distinctive music still ringing clearly in their ears.

By Jamie Scott and Isla Dunn

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Student Mentors

Ruby Tinson, Meika Watson-Burrows, Jamie Scott, Molly Oldfield, Madison Wood, Zoe Cullen, Becky Gooch and Ellie Tvrdeich are the newly chosen Student Mentors for Oakura School 2009. Their main job is to arrange with junior class teachers a regular time to meet with their buddies and encourage them to want to learn by providing positive feedback and praise. These students were chosen because of their kind and caring nature, and the way that they relate easily with younger students as well as their fellow Year 8s. Good luck to them all for 2009.

By Isla Dunn

Art Leaders

The 2009 Oakura School Art Leaders are Saxon Mackinnon and Ben McLean. This job involves leading art projects around the school and supporting Mrs Day, our teacher in charge of art, with her role in the school. These two students were chosen to do this job because of their talent and interest in art.

By Jamie Scott



Saxon Mackinnon and Ben McLean.



Left to right, Front row- Ellie Tvrdeich, Jamie Scott, Molly Oldfield, Zoe Cullen, Madison Wood. Back row- Becky Gooch, Meika Watson-Burrows, and Ruby Tinson.

Environment Leaders

This year's Environment leaders are Jessica Clarke, Ben King and Martin Leith. These students will help to lead environmental projects that the school is involved in and will support Mr Priest with his propagation unit. They all have an interest in the environment and don't mind getting their hands a little dirty. We hope that they develop green thumbs this year and help to maintain Oakura's environmentally friendly focus.



Jessica Clarke, Ben King and Martin Leith.



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Sea Snake Sightings

Every so often we have something a little out of the ordinary turn up on the Taranaki coast. Over the past two months we have had three (reported) sightings of yellow-bellied sea snakes! This highly venomous member of the cobra family is said to be about 10 times more toxic than the Egyptian cobra. It can cause paralysis, severe pain and in the worst case, cardiac arrest. Is this cause for concern? No, not really. Although potentially deadly, they require a considerable amount of provocation before they will bite. However, if you do see one, don't touch it, even if it looks dead!

Only two species of marine snakes have been recorded from New Zealand waters, the black-banded sea snake, *Laticauda colubrine*, and the yellow-bellied sea snake, *Pelamis platurus*. The yellow-bellied is the most widely distributed of all sea snakes and lives and gives birth entirely at sea. They eat fish and catch prey with a sideways strike of the head. Their victims are quickly immobilised by powerful venom that is injected through needlelike fangs, and then swallowed whole.

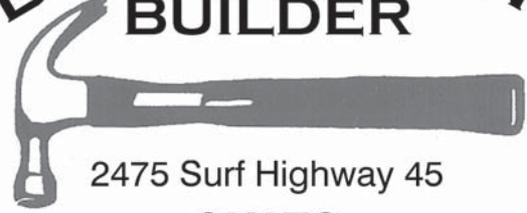
Nationwide, there are only about three sea snake sightings per year, most of them up north. As yellow-bellies are weak swimmers, they are largely at the mercy of the ocean's currents and are only ever seen in New Zealand between January and May. They cease feeding when the water temperature drops below 18°C and, due to our environmental conditions, are unable to reproduce and establish here. When found many of them are moribund (near death) due to the cold waters and have been washed up on the beach.

In late February Port Taranaki staff observed seagulls harassing a sea snake. One of the gulls had it in the air and dropped it with a squawk, possibly because it had been bitten. About a week later, I saw one while diving in the Port doing *Undaria* (an invasive seaweed) control. It seemed quite docile and was lying on the sediment by a wharf pile. As I was covered head to toe (yellow-bellies have tiny fangs so are unable to penetrate through wetsuits or thick gloves), I scuffed the sediment behind it and it wiggled off. I could hardly believe I had seen a sea snake! Then on 18 April, Clarke Anderson of New Plymouth found one on Back Beach. He said, "We came across a sea snake, approximately 600mm long, 40mm diameter. It was turquoise blue, changing to an off white/dirty cream on its belly. It had a translucent fin on its tail. It was writhing around, and without really thinking too much about it I picked up the nearest stick and flicked it back into the water." Clarke recorded the necessary details for a sighting (physical characteristics, time, weather and location) but lamented, "We didn't even think to take a photo."

If you are lucky enough to see a sea snake, please contact the local DOC office on 759 0350 or 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) after hours as soon as possible to report your find. We will verify the sighting and forward details to the New Zealand Reptile Distribution Scheme. If you are unlucky enough to be bitten by a sea snake, please contact emergency services . . . you're going to want some anti-venom!

Callum Lilley, Ranger, Marine/Biodiversity, Department of Conservation.

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Okurukuru staff prove stiff competition

At the recent Taranaki/Whanganui Salon Culinaire Hospitality competitions, the staff at Okurukuru proved to be fiercely competitive, taking out some of the top placings in a number of categories:

- Simon Houghton – Taranaki/Whanganui Chef of the Year (2nd year running)
- Kristin McCormack – Professional Service Person
- Kharmen Groenendijk – 2nd Professional Service Person
- Troy Waters – Junior Chef of the Year
- Elle Donald – Junior Service Person (competing in three classes)
- Tanita Johnston – Junior Salmon Dish
- Louise O’Donnell – Junior Chocolate Creation
- Joshua Ganguly – Classic Cocktail



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KristinMcCormack at Okurukuru.



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Coming Events

May

- 11 School choir perform at Kids for Kids concert TSB Showplace
- 12 Hadlow School Choir performs for us in hall 9:15am
- 14 Kyle Mewburn, author and NZ Book Award nominee visiting at 9am.
Year 3 and 4 Ball skills 1pm
- 18 Book Fair in library this week
- 23 'Audacity' Repertory Show 8pm \$18 per ticket
- Home and School fundraiser

June

- 1 Queen's Birthday Holiday

What is Art?

We are anticipating a term full of creative, responsive, exciting, rich learning opportunities with our 'What is Art?' topic. A highlight for the term will be input from our community and the many local artists we hope will come along.

Our main focus is the visual arts where we will be understanding the arts in context, developing practical knowledge, developing ideas and communicating and inter-pretting. Investigating, exploring and creating contemporary artworks will provide the context of learning while developing the key competencies very much underpins the topic. We have put all our children into ten studio groups of mixed ages who will put together a Winter Wonderland art installation in the hall

Look out for our open day exhibition on the 26th June from 9-12am when we hope you will join us in viewing and celebrating the students learning and exhibits.

Omata Playgroup

Parents run a Playgroup for preschoolers in the hall every second Thursday from 9-11am for children enrolling at the school. You are most welcome to come along. There are many activities and toys set up for the children's enjoyment while you relax and get to know other parents. Please call Bronnie at the school office to find out the next Playgroup day.

Out of Zone Pupils

We are pleased to advise that we have spaces available now for 'out of zone' pupils. For more information call the school on 751 2308 during school hours, or visit our website, www.omata.school.nz



Inter-school Swimming Sports Results

Results from the inaugural Year 5-8 swimming sports held at Bell Block Community Pool

1st	Nick Parthemore	Year 8 boys backstroke
1st	Blake Tanner	Year 5 boys breaststroke
2nd	Nick Parthemore	Year 8 boys freestyle
2nd	Phoebe Tomlinson	Year 8 girls backstroke
2nd	Jade Megaw	Year 7 girls backstroke
2nd	Joe Trotter	Year 8 boys breaststroke
3rd	Phoebe Tomlinson	Year 8 girls freestyle
3rd	Charlotte Jones	Year 6 girls breaststroke

Congratulations to all those place-getters and everyone who took part. It was an exciting event and we look forward to our continued participation in the years to come.

Students in year 7 & 8 have been developing their poetry skills. Here is a sample of what they have achieved.

The Bush

Tall ancient tree tower over seedlings,
Filtering light through their branches.
Cicadas chirp and call for mates,
As the faint sunbeams awaken a new day.
Gusts of wind blow leaves frantically
And the most delicate strings of the spider web breaks.
Spiders givers and takers of lives
Kill to survive in the dark and murky swamp.
Mysterious shadows move
Hiding from prying eyes.

By Jade Megaw

Feeling Tired

Feeling so out of it, feeling gone.
All can be said in one mighty yawn.
Exhaustion from the night before.
Sleeping in a tent, you know the score.
Sleeping children on the floor
Nothing but sleep matters anymore.
The world is blurry, through bleary eyes
Staying up so late was unwise.
I really want to go to sleep.
Maybe I'll try counting sheep.
I can't believe my state of mind.
I really need to just unwind!

By Phoebe Livingston

Haiku

Silence in the Night
A still evening,
A dull, black, moonlit blanket,
Silence never ends.

Our Beautiful Bush.

Rotting, crumpled leaves,
Towering, flaky pongas,

Our beautiful bush.

By Olivia Holt

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Artist's Life a "Work in Progress"

Procrastination is not a word that applies to this livewire Taranaki artist. After a year of painting "off site", Jayeta Valentine is back working from her home base in Huatoki Street. Although her newly relocated "smugly ugly" work-shop is in need of a cosmetic overhaul, her painting spaces are now warm and fully functional. Why this recent move?

Jayeta explains that because she has three young children she prefers to work from home, but that she gets "bored in a New York second". She is still painting canvases, funeral caskets and ukuleles, but now that the intensive phase of the workshop relocation project is ending she wants to diversify . . . again.



Jayeta at work.

Jayeta left teaching to paint full-time four years ago, but a recent stint of art tutoring has re-ignited her enthusiasm for teaching. She has also been approached to facilitate art-based corporate "team-building" days.

Jayeta's new project is to organise one-day workshops for adults, starting next month. These workshops are aimed at beginners or those who just want a creative shot-in-the-arm. People can enrol in one or more workshops. Jayeta wants each participant to go home with at least three of their own art works. More information is on her website or phone 067534278.

Over winter, Jayeta will be opening a bigger home gallery. In the meantime, paintings are available at wholesale prices through her website, www.jayetavalentine.com.

Subscribers to Jayeta's e-newsletters will be notified of events and specials that are not usually advertised elsewhere.

Watch this space!

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INGREDIENTS

- 1kg Angus beef brisket
- 300g onions, rough chopped
- 450g carrots, cut in chunks
- 700g potatoes, peeled, cut in chunks
- 2 celery sticks, thick sliced
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 450ml dark beer
- 3 TBSP fresh thyme
- 2 TBSP wholegrain mustard
- 1 TBSP tomato puree
- 1 tsp soft brown sugar
- 500ml beef stock
- 1 bay leaf
- Sea salt & black pepper to season

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 180C/Gas 4. Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole pot and brown the brisket all over until golden brown. Then remove from the pot, add the onions, carrots, celery and cook for about 4 minutes over medium heat.

Add the flour and stir for a minute. Add the potatoes, thyme and bay leaf. Pour in the beer and beef stock until well combined and bring to a slow boil, stirring continuously.

Add the tomato paste, sugar, mustard and plenty of seasoning. Place the brisket on top, cover with a tight lid.

Cook for about 2½ hours or until the meat and vegetables are tender. To serve, remove the meat and carve into slices. Serve with vegetables and plenty of gravy. Enjoy.

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The Kindy is very excited about the up-coming *Okurukuru Tasty Evening* on 24 June. We are lucky to get again this year, two well-known chefs Simon (Okurukuru) and Danger (Stratford Mountain House). Between them they will create a variety of tasty morsels to enjoy. Something new to the evening is an Art Auction, which will be run between courses.

The Kindy is very fortunate indeed to be able to auction paintings from Michael Smither and Peter Lambert. There are a number of other artists who have kindly donated work to us for the auction – all which the Kindy is very appreciative of.

We are hoping that this evening is a great one and we have some great projects lined up for the money raised.

Tickets are on sale now for \$30 phone JULIE NEILSON PH 752 4452.



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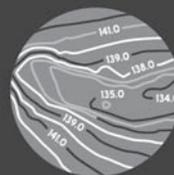
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Bellydance

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Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8.00pm. Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd. Ph 752 7816.

Farmers Market Taranaki

Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am - noon, Curried St, New Plymouth.

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Una Shotter 751 0971.

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

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

Mini Groovers

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

Oakura Art Group

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Ph Margaret Rangi 752 1004.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night begins 16 March.

Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.
Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752 1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

Senior Citizens

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome. Phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley 752 1016 for details.

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge.
Contact Brian Goodhue, the EI Presidente 752 1290, email podsnail@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome. Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM with any changes to your listing.