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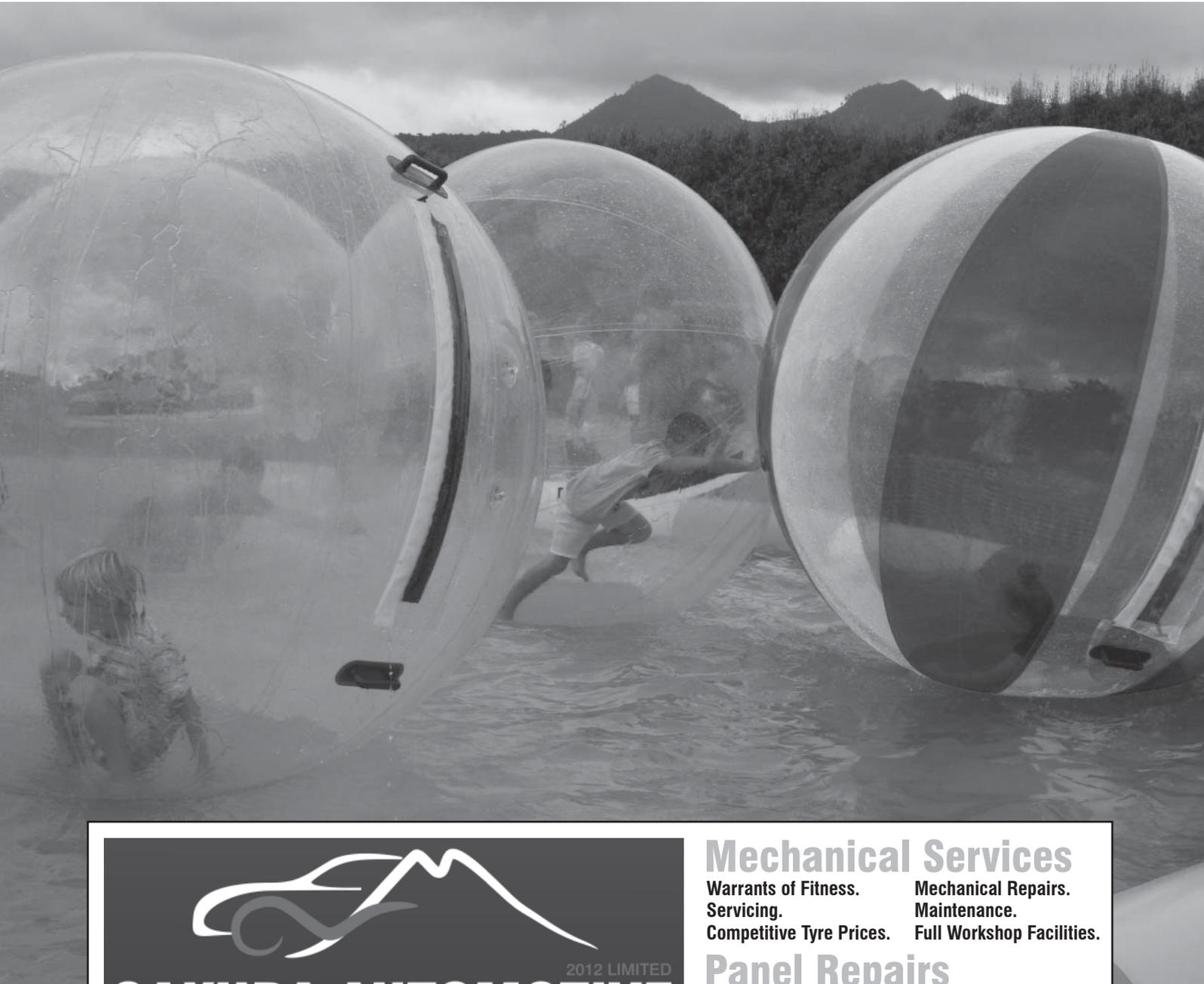
TOM OAKURA

MAY 2013

BEST EVER!

No, it's not an alien invasion, but the Zorb Balls were a big hit at Oakura School's Gala

More on page 3



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

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

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

Phone 0800 THE TOM

TOM dates to remember for May 2013 issue:

Copy and ads - 10th May

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E D I T O R I A L

I went for a walk along Oakura Beach the other morning – it was an awesome morning and the light at this time of the year is sensational - well worth the effort of walking in soft sand. I was struck yet again by this beautiful place we call home and even as I sat on my deck with a coffee this morning and watched the sun glinting on the sea - couldn't help but marvel at the luck of it. I hope you all get to enjoy our beautiful spot too. As the warlords contemplate war with North Korea I simply can't imagine ever having our paradise blown up.



I wasn't going to mention the Eric Brewer fiasco but there is something I wanted to say about the issue. I know there are two very distinct camps, one who has had firsthand experience of Eric at his worst and the other who thinks he should have been left alone as a peace loving creature. I don't want to debate the stances – they each have merit but I do want to have a poke at the media for their portrayal of the situation. Both television and newspaper (never listened to the issue on radio so can't comment there) seemed bent on portraying a 'goodie', 'baddie' situation – the Council being the baddies and Eric being the goodie, the greedy rich local landowners as the baddies, those who support Eric as the goodies. Did anyone ask why Eric was living on the beach in the first place? Did anyone take a neutral stance? Is this all the result of social media where an inaccurate pulse from a minority may be taken for the feelings of the majority? All I know is I am heartily sick of shoddy journalism in mainstream media – no one asks the tough questions anymore or reports an unbiased stance without an agenda.

On a positive note I had a really yummy lunch at Okurukuru recently. I shared a platter with a friend and listened to some blues by The Dirty Kings – a titch too loud but nice for a change. Good on you Danger!

Kim



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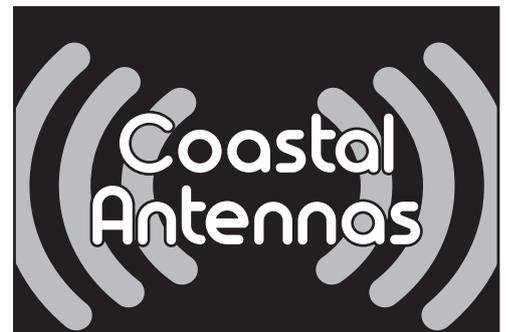
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Oakura School Gala - a Big Success

The Oakura School Gala was Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) biggest and most successful event ever! It was a wonderful day and a real community effort. The kids had a blast and huge smiles were seen everywhere!

All the generosity from community, friends and family helped contribute to the huge profit made on the Gala Day. The money this year will be used to both further the development of the Outdoor Environmental Centre as well as directly support educational and cultural programmes at the school. The Outdoor Environmental Centre will be an integral part of a native bush habitat corridor from the mountain to the sea and serve as both an outdoor classroom and community orchard. Additional educational and cultural programs for our children are now in the early planning stages.

Thanks to everyone for their support and watch out for the Oakura School Gala becoming a fixed event on our calendars!

Thanks

Ann Clough



Excited quickfire raffle punters having a fling of a different kind.



Kids having fun!



Highland dancers having a fling.

Big queues for the games.



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Kaitake Community Board

It's 2013/14 budget consultation time at the New Plymouth District Council and this month the Kaitake Community Board has been working on its submission to the Annual Plan. The KCB will make another submission on getting something done about the sorry state of the parking area outside the Beach Camp gate. The board will also reiterate the need to keep searching for a suitable solution to link the two walkway bridges at the end of AhuAhu and Weld Roads, something it has submitted on for the past seven years.

Messenger Terrace plan change 12/00036 is now open for submissions until 13 May. This plan change proposes to ensure that public views and natural character values in Oakura continue to be protected following the proposed road stopping on the seaward side of Messenger Terrace, by realigning the Oakura Urban Viewshaft and Coastal Policy Area Overlays accordingly.

It's good to see the Corbett Park sportsfield drainage upgrade has been completed in time for the winter sports season. Hopefully all the kids playing Saturday morning sport at the park will now enjoy far better turf conditions than has been the case in the past.

Drainage Plus Contracting Ltd have completed a storm-water upgrade on Shearer Reserve on Monday 8 April to alleviate the ponding issues there during high rainfall events.

The Parks Operations team have been removing the large self seeded species from the dune system on the seaward side of the beach walkway between the end of the Holiday Park and the waterfall. This has involved removal of tree growth such as pohutukawa, karo along with flaxes. These large species are not suitable in this part of the dune as we have seen with the erosion around the large pohutukawa's in front of the motorcamp some years ago. The waves swirl around the root system causing them to slip onto the beach, loosening large sections of earth and allowing erosion to occur. At the moment there is sufficient sand build up to rebuild the areas that this vegetation will be removed from. In fact many long time locals believe there has never been as much sand on the beach than at present. A programme to gradually replace the self-seeded species with specific low growing back dune species will begin once the preliminary clean-up is finished. Also the beach walkway will be fertilised in the coming weeks and eradication of gorse, boxthorn, lupin and other unwanted vegetation along the walkway will also take place.

The dunes provide natural protection from coastal storms and play an extremely important role in retaining the recreational values of our beaches. During summer periods with low to moderate wave action, sand tends to move onshore and a wide high tide dry beach develops. Dry sand blown landwards is trapped by dune vegetation, building up the dune over time. The vegetation has been enhanced along our beachfront by successive plantings of our native spinifex and pingao. During major storms, waves erode the beach and the dunes help to protect the beach by dissipating excess wave energy. Dune erosion does take place but after storm events the native sand binding grasses on the seaward face of the dune gradually begin to extend down the eroded dune face – renewing the process of sand entrapment and gradually repairing the eroded dune face.

There are a number of upcoming autumn coastal environmental plantings taking place. The first of these will be at Waikirikiri Lagoon at the end of Komene Road, taking place on Sunday the 12th of May at 9.30am.

The Taranaki Regional Council has 3300 spinifex to extend the coastal dune planting restoration project. Signage will be going up in the local community regarding the date of the impending planting as well. We would really appreciate the assistance of all who can make the time to help. Sturdy footwear and a spade required.

By the way, don't forget to have your say on the proposal to provide shelter for those folk, mainly secondary school students, waiting to catch a bus outside the hall. As reported in the last issue of TOM we seek your opinion on which option to pursue. That is:

- 1 Do nothing, don't erect a shelter at all.
- 2 Proceed with the council funded solution and erect a standard shelter that would be available this winter.
- 3 Proceed with the more detailed, integrated proposal and be prepared to wait until funding has been secured.
- 4 Investigate other options that the community may suggest.

If you do care to respond you can email your solution choice or suggestions to Kylee Hutton of the council's roading team at: huttonk@npdc.govt.nz or contact her directly by phone on 7596060.

Well that's it for this issue. Ka kite ano. The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be held at the NPOB Surf Club on Monday May 6 at 4.30pm.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson who is the Council representative on the KCB.



**Oakura
Library**

Phew! It's been a busy first term!

The 2013 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards finalists have been announced.

They are: Junior Picture Books: *A Great Cake, Melu, Mister Whistle, Remember November* and *Mr. Bear Branches and the Cloud Conundrum*.

Junior Fiction: *The ACB with Honora Lee, The Queen and the Nobody Boy, My Brother's War, Red Rocks* and *Uncle Trev and His Whistling Bull*.

Teen Fiction: *Earth Dragon, Fire Hare, Into the River, The Nature of Ash, Reach* and *Snakes and Ladders*.

Non-Fiction: *100 Tales from Aotearoa, At the Beach: Explore and Discover the New Zealand Seashore, Kiwi: the Real Story* and *The Millennium Tree*.

We have all these fabulous books. Kids, come in and vote for Children's Choice or you can vote online at www.nzpostbookawards.co.nz. Voting closes 31st May.

Hope to see you soon,

Charlie and Vincenza

Time to Reward Volunteers - National

How many times have you been to a meeting where volunteers are called for? Often it is the usual members in the group who hold up their hands. Perhaps they have the time to devote to a project or maybe they want to see a project through even if the offer is going to mean that their already crowded life is further crowded.

New Zealand is a leading nation in the contribution made by volunteers. A 2008 study of the New Zealand non-profit sector estimated that volunteers make up 67% of non-profit workforce equal to 133,799 full time positions, representing 6.4 per cent of the economically active population.

Collectively volunteers contribute more than 270 million unpaid hours of work valued at over \$3.3 billion to non-profit organisation. Volunteers create positive change on many fronts, - human rights, faith communities health, education, sports and recreation, social services, arts and culture, emergency services, the environment and conservation, animal welfare, and community support development, the list is endless. Some volunteers has been fortunate to gain employment within an organisation or firm where they volunteered.

While there are high profile campaigns staffed by volunteers such as for Pink Ribbon Day, Daffodil Day and Poppy Day it is the small groups or maybe a single person who "fly under the radar" without a thought of acknowledgement or reward that also deserve our recognition. We think of volunteers as those who are perhaps of the adult generation, forgetting that there many young people who give their time despite their academic workload.

Each year the New Plymouth District Council calls for nominations for their Citizens' Awards. This year the nominations close on 15 May. This is an opportunity to look around at those in the community who give of their time to ease the life of those around them. Nomination forms can be obtained from the New Plymouth District Council offices.

This year the Government is calling for nominations for the inaugural Minister of Health Volunteer Awards to celebrate and pay tribute to our health volunteers. These are the people who are part of our public health service and who help in a number ways such as delivering meals on wheels to supporting patients and families at hospices. There are several categories for nomination, including Māori, Pacific and youth health volunteers.

Nominations are open until the 3rd May 2013. Information including categories, criteria and how to nominate can be found at <http://volunteerawards.health.govt.nz/home>.

If you know of any individual or group who make a difference in their community and to the lives of others, I encourage you to nominate them for one of these awards.

Jonathan Young



Jonathan Young
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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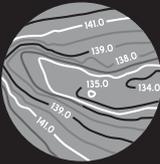
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Karma in the Clouds

Sometimes you come across people by accident but then it feels like it was meant to be. For me, bumping into Patricia Leonard of Hurford Rd felt like ‘accidentally on purpose’. It pretty much sums up how Patricia lives her life – if things are meant to be then they will happen. This has proved itself time and time again for Patricia.

One sunny day I trekked nearly to the top of Hurford Rd in search of a glass lead lighting story. I descended from altitude with much more.

Patricia’s story began with a near fatal paragliding accident at Tapuae Beach. In her 40’s, Patricia was fulfilling a lifelong ambition to fly and having carried out paragliding training was ready to fly solo. Unfortunately being only ‘slightly’ in control of her para-glider meant a 40 km an hour collision with some rocks at Tapuae Beach and a resulting six week stint in hospital with a broken back. While in hospital there was plenty of time to re-evaluate life and its meaning – on a personal level and a global level, where it was taking her, what she was leaving behind and the effects of materialism and consumerism and the part her personality was having on all around her. When Patricia was discharged from hospital there was a time of change in her life with a marriage separation and a spell in a commune on Carrington Rd then the purchase of some land on Hurford Rd with a friend. The block of land was considered a piece of near useless scrub, gullies and with a difficult river to cross but it was perfect to Patricia – it was meant to be! There was no dwelling or power on site so a stint in a house truck ensued. More than a dozen years later Patricia and Warren have found synchronicity in the bush and clouds and this connectivity with nature has produced a wonderful haven. A trip around the 11 acre property starts at the two buildings built by their own hands with hand crafted joinery and lead light windows to name but two aspects. Then follows a greenhouse boasting tropical plants, vegies and plenty of horse poo; fruit and nut trees; a swing bridge; a micro hydro system (produces electricity from the flow of water); a Ger (Mongolian nomadic tent); an outdoor bath; a camp kitchen; a workshop – one for woodworking and lead lighting and bloke stuff and one for sewing retro clothing; a vegie patch; horses – not a bad achievement for 13 years work and a very minimal investment of capital.

Patricia considers her life a blessed one. This is measured not in the wealth of possessions but in the enrichment of her soul and the journey she has been on. For some of us the temptation to call her life a trial wouldn’t be amiss – there is the ongoing issues with having had a broken back, there is the bout of breast cancer, there is the brain aneurysm, there are the affects of medications but through it all Patricia holds an optimism, energy, gentleness and cheerfulness that is inspiring. There is happiness to be found everyday if you look for it.

Patricia wasn’t finished yet – out comes the Morin Khurr (a horse headed fiddle unique to Mongolia) and out comes the 29 string Celtic harp she made herself. Music, yoga and horses are three more passions and something to be enjoyed every day. Patricia belongs to a music group called Chantry and they share their music with rest home residents. Yoga



Patricia playing her Celtic harp.



Clothing creations.



A private moment with Levi.



Patricia outside her Ger, showing one of her leadlight creations.



A perfect camping spot.

is a self-taught discipline that helps centre the mind, spirit and body. Her horses Levi and Phoenix bring a smile and a softness to her face – clearly more than just mere animals.

Patricia's Sisterhood designed clothing range is inspired by a love of making things out of other things usually old. The dresses and coats are often made from old blankets or fabric rejects found at the hospice shop. They are crafted beautifully.

The beautiful oak furniture and joinery is another example of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear. One such piece is an oak display box re-crafted to hold the treasures from Patricia's father – medals, army paraphernalia and letters and this brings me to the other workshop where the lead lighting passion is carried out. Patricia says lead lighting is more than a hobby and as with everything else she has done, developed from a necessity to make windows. It began with 'undoing' an old window then redoing it – the crafting technique was learnt in the 'undoing'. Patricia now does commissions for people and the joy in the process is making something old and broken look new.

Patricia is about to embark on a woofing trip to the land of her forbears – Wales to fulfil another lifelong dream. Two years ago Patricia and Warren went to Mongolia on a Habitat for Humanity trip and clearly this trip has inspired many of the beautiful things to be found around the property. Summer

weekends will find the couple camping out across the swing bridge in the Ger which features one of Patricia's lead light windows and the camp kitchen boasts a rock wall built by Patricia.

It would be understating things to say it's a simple life because life is never simple but Patricia has found peace living under the mountain making things with her own hands, growing things for her own needs, treating the world and the people around her with respect and finding joy in the simple beauties most of us take for granted – her own karma.

By Kim Ferens

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A PROFILE:

Nick Henderson

Born and bred Okato man Nick Henderson or 'Hendo' as he is known to his friends is presently in Turkey playing ice hockey for the Ice Blacks – a wonderful achievement and boyhood dream come true.

Nick attended Okato Primary School and Francis Douglas Memorial College and grew up on the family farm on Pitone Rd. Auckland is now home where Nick works in marketing and business development. Spare time is spent playing for the West Auckland Admirals – in the Auckland ice hockey league. Playing in the West Auckland Admirals has been a culture shock as most of the players are born and bred 'Westies' but have accepted and welcomed Nick and fellow Taranakian Nick Craig to the club. Players and fans are all very passionate about the game.

The love of rink sports began in the U10 inline hockey league in New Plymouth as a six year old. From the age of 13 Nick has represented New Zealand in inline hockey until he converted to ice at age 18. He has also been part of winning teams in the National Inline championships held annually. Nick says if Taranaki had had an ice rink he would have made the switch from inline to ice a long time ago as he thinks ice hockey suits his style of play more and perhaps there are more opportunities with ice.

So far Nick has represented New Zealand in ice hockey in the U20's and made the New Zealand ice hockey grand final in 2010. Nick has also recorded close to 100 points (goals) in the Auckland league over the last four years and hopes to push past 100 when he returns from Turkey in May.

The Ice Blacks play five games in Turkey (results not yet known at time of writing): 21 April against Bulgaria, 23 April against Mexico, 24 April against Israel, 25 April against Turkey and 27 April against China. Nick says it will be a huge honour to play Turkey on ANZAC day but he doesn't want the significance of the day to effect his emotions and upset his performance. Israel will probably be the toughest challenge. The team is hoping to make a move up the ladder to Division Two A which is made up of teams such as Croatia, Serbia and Estonia – very tough competition. Nick thinks they are in with a chance to take

gold in Division Two B and the whole team has been willing to make a lot of sacrifices in order to fulfil their roles within the team. The experience will be invaluable – the opportunities to compete at a high level are rather limited in the Southern Hemisphere.

The team have been following a strength and conditioning programme set up by a former team mate and the current strength and conditioning coach of the Canadian Olympic Ski team. Nick says it involves a lot of sprinting and leg work and lots of early mornings on the ice over summer to keep game fitness intact.

Nick plays as a winger – right or left and rates his shot as one of his game strengths. His best shot has been recorded at 147kms an hour but of course the idea is to get it in the goal as often as possible!

Nick says both his parents Alan and Barb have been a huge personal and financial inspiration to him. Both Alan and Barb are incredibly successful people – not just in a business sense, but in the way they hold themselves and how they treat people. Their inspiration goes well beyond sport and Nick continues by saying that he now realises "they were right all along!" As far as hockey goes, Nick has played with so many good players over the last few years and he



Nick playing for the Admirals.

has tried to take away as much as he can from these players. One such player is Nick's current boss Darren Blong who was the Ice Blacks captain for nine years and is in the international hockey Hall of Fame so Nick counts himself lucky to be able to learn from him.

Dad, Alan who is one of many hardworking stalwarts in New Zealand Inline Hockey and the New Plymouth Raven's Club attributes Nick's success to passion, hard work and spending a good part of his growing life with a hockey stick in his hand, constantly tapping a golf ball / hockey puck / wad of paper, backwards and forwards and nearly driving his mother up the wall.

Nick says he is still a student of the game but hopes one day to play in the European league and has been looking at clubs in France, Denmark and Italy.

Good luck to the Ice Blacks and go Nick!

By Kim Ferens

Oakura Tennis Club

The Oakura Tennis Club has had a successful season of tennis with over 60 juniors taking part in tennis coaching and many of those taking part in the Friday and Saturday interclub tennis competition run by North Taranaki Tennis Association. Three of our teams won their grade which shows what a strong group of juniors we have at Oakura. Congratulations to all teams though, great to see improvement and the kids having fun on the courts.

Youth Grade: Ben Wilson, William Pritt, Thomas Skurr, Max Shearer, Lyle Chattle.
North Taranaki Youth Grade Winners.

Junior A Oakura Black Team: Taylor Mitchell, Anna Oldfield, Jack Husband and Fletcher Ferguson, Beth Tvrdeich.
North Taranaki Junior A Winners.

North Taranaki Junior A Winners.

Junior B Oakura Matakai: Sammy Lewis, Daniel Lewis, Hunter Robinson, Blake Boddington.
North Taranaki Junior B Winners.

Oakura Kaitake: Finn Van Bergen, George Clark, Lauchie White, Henry Lehrke, Aiden Matchett.
North Taranaki Junior A Third Place.

Last but not least, Hareb Deken Oakura Soffe Cup team had a great season making it to the semi finals and losing to Pukekura who were the eventual winners. Team members were Graeme Mitchell, Craig Waite, Len Adamson, Charlie Lewis, Cory Sutherland with Jack Mitchell making up the fourth member of the team in the semi final. Women's players were Sue Oldfield, Jackie Keenan, Chris Davies, Rebecca Scott and Jacqui Rood, with Poppy Mitchell making up our fourth team member when we were short. We also have a large number of our juniors who represent Taranaki.

Under 10s: Taylor Mitchell, Anna Oldfield, Fletcher Ferguson, Ben Wilson, Jack Mitchell and Charlie Waite.

Under 12s: Poppy Mitchell, Emily Waite.

Under 14s: Bailey Brukner.

A very large thank you to all our sponsors this year, it is a huge support for the Tennis Club.

If you are interested in joining the Tennis Club or finding out more information you can contact Jacqui Rood our Treasurer on 752 1078, or Jackie Keenan the Secretary on 752 7013.

Rebecca Scott, Oakura Tennis Club



Surfcaster's Fishing Report

The temperature is starting to drop but the water temperature is still high at around 19 degrees at the time of writing. The tuna are still out there and local Kevin Pilcher is leading the way landing several and also some good snapper.

Now is the time to target big snapper as they put on weight after spawning. Easter was good for us and we landed some nice fish but not the big moochers although they should be around soon.



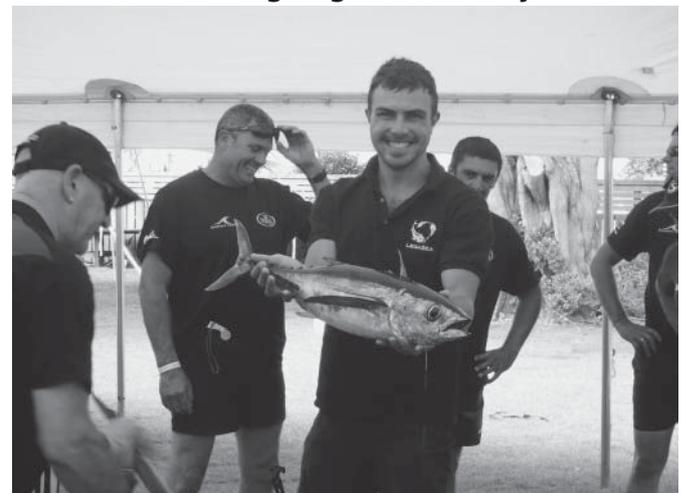
A nice catch of fish over Easter

This summer has been good for game fishing with record numbers of tuna landed, along with some good snapper. The snapper fishing has at times been hit and miss.

The feedback from the Kayak Classic has been awesome. Graeme Sinclair has been full of praise for the event and for Taranaki. Keep an eye on your TV guide as it will be on television in June.

Thanks again to all our sponsors.

Weighing in at the Kayak Classic.





Oakura Boardriders

A busy month on the surfing scene with the Easter surfing festival culminating in the Woman's ASP tour event being well run and a tribute to Taranaki. Along with the great summer weather there has been some great beach days to be had even though now with the end of daylight saving some are starting to look towards the mountain.

The 21st Easter Masters was held at the start of Easter and run at Opunake's Arawhata Rd. The weather in North Taranaki was very average but Arawhata Rd had great waves and conditions for the three days of the contest in which some of Oakura Boardriders' Masters were competing with Alan Crawford and Chris Davies making the finals.

Part of the surf festival was also the Hareb Deken Motor Groms and the Powerco-Cleggs Micro Groms. Some of our young members did really well in these events with Ariana Shewry placing 1st in U11 girls; Skyler Ellington 4th in the U11 girls; Koah Shewry 2nd in the U9 boys with Oliver Day 3rd; Niwa Shewry 1st in the U9 push ins and Tom Butland 5= in the U12 boys.

At the time of the TOM going to print the club was having a party night with the band 'Night Shift'. I hope everyone had a great evening and the night was well supported.

The middle of April has the North Wai Boardriders from Christchurch visiting for some competition and socialising. We will have an update in the next issue.

It was disturbing to note some vandalism to the temporary toilets at Ahu Ahu Rd. These are a community asset and an especially good amenity at a well used spot. So if anyone sees or hears of any vandalism or littering please take appropriate action.

*Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders.
President Philli Butt 75 27050.
Secretary Paul Lobb 75 27556.*



Niwa Shewry at the Micro Groms.



Titch Turner at the Easter Masters.



Alan Crawford.



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And then there were little Alpacas!

Nobody can resist the attraction of baby animals and cria have just that same appeal. After pregnancy of nearly a year (anywhere from 10½ months to over 12 months in some cases) cria are born usually in the middle of the day and in fine weather.

Well - that is what everyone tells you.

The first part we can say is true: only one birth of more than 70 on our farm has occurred before breakfast.

The second part - mostly true. In Taranaki, rain and wind are unavoidable and occasionally we have rescued a bedraggled, cold and wet new-born cria, born in the middle of a downpour, and taken it and its mother to the stable to the dry and warmth.

When you consider that alpaca's natural habitat is the Alto Plano at extreme altitude in the Andes of South America, it makes sense that there has been an evolutionary trend for giving birth in the warmth of the day. In the wild the survival rate of cria is said to be only about 30%. In the relative warmth of Taranaki, survival of the new-born can approach 100%, especially with the watchful oversight of eager farmers.

In the Andes there is also an evolutionary imperative that the cria rapidly finds its feet and can follow its mother to join the security of the herd. Those that struggle to stand and fail to feed will be at the mercy of predators.

After hanging half-in, half-out for sometimes 10 minutes during the birthing process, the cria drops unceremoniously to the ground, sometimes from a significant height, all arms and legs and tangled neck. Then is the moment of anguish for onlookers, politely keeping their distance. Has the cria survived being swung about and withstood the final impact?

Then we see the ears flicker and the head is raised. Relief. All is well. Politeness no longer applies. In we go to show the hembra what to do (as if she doesn't know!) and to check if it is male or female. Can't resist. Rarely is any assistance or resuscitation necessary or useful.

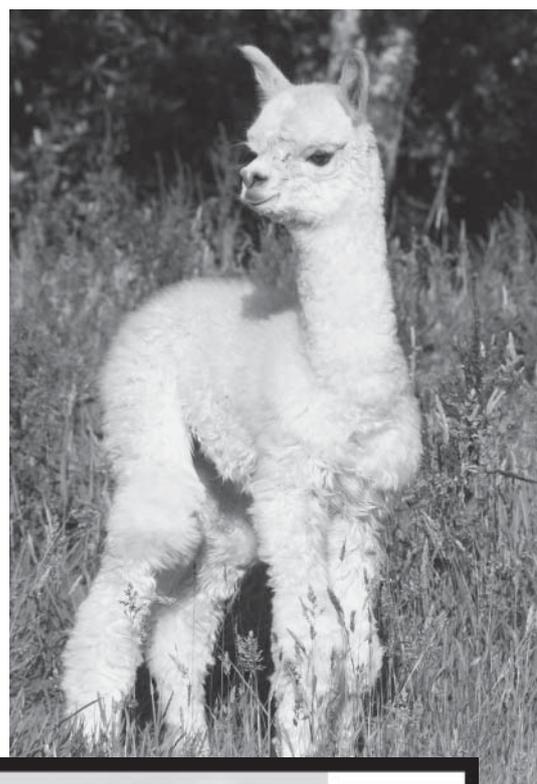
Within minutes the first attempts to stand are feeble and uncontrollable. But with every attempt, strength and co-ordination improve. Amazingly, within an hour of birth the cria is able to stand and walk and instinctively seeks its mother's udder. Within two hours the newborn is keeping up with the herd as they graze on.

Very soon the fleece has dried in the sun and fluffed up – fine, long, crimped and dense – to the breeders delight. But whatever the qualities of the fleece, watching the cria prinking about the paddock with all the others ... cute ... adorable ... irresistible.

This year's cria can be seen at our farm on National Alpaca Day, Sunday 5 May, 10am – 4pm 680 Hurford Rd.

Alpaca fleece products also available for sale.

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WELLBEING

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Before you start googling diets or paying some astronomical fees purchasing weight loss products or joining a programme that guarantees weight loss, take some time to ponder the following:

Think about why you're going on a diet. Is it for some special occasion, or perhaps a trip to some exotic island, perhaps a milestone birthday – whatever the reason, does it become one of your top three priorities in life? Consider too, once the special occasion is over, will you resort to your old habits, habits that have caused your weight increase? Chances are you will. If your reason to lose weight is to look good for one occasion, do you really believe it'll be a lifelong change? Having short term goals are good, but you must also have long term goals. Incentives along the journey to a healthy, fitter you are really important but only if your ultimate goal is to be fit, healthy and strong from now on! Not for 6 weeks, or 12 weeks, or 6 months, but for life.

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THUR: 9.30 - 7pm. FRI: 9.30 - 5pm

SAT: 9.30 - 4pm. SUN & MON: Closed

Dance Theatre's Dance Gems



Choreography by Val Deakin is the central gem of the Dance Theatre's Dance Gems programme with a multi-talented, multi-faceted cast bringing the many works to life. Performances will be at New Plymouth Little Theatre on May 3, 4 and 5. The Dance Theatre gave its first public performances at the Little Theatre in 1973, so it is wonderful to be returning to that intimate space again – one that will show the 'theatre' aspects of the Dance Theatre's work to advantage.

One of the hardest tasks has been choosing which to showcase of the more than 100 different dance works that the Dance Theatre has presented in the last 40 years. Several programmes could be filled with the colourful, glittering array of dances. Excerpts from several works will be shown on the programme.

Opening the programme will be selections from Shakespeare's *Spell*, originally commissioned by the Stratford Shakespeare Society, which celebrates some of the characters from the Bard's many plays. There are lively scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew*, comic ones from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and dramatic ones from "the Scottish" play *Macbeth*.

This work is followed by two excerpts from the classical masterpiece *Coppelia – the Dance of the Hours* and the rousing *Czardas*. The newly fashioned Jubilee Variations will show some sparkling classical ballet work.

Reflections, the 1991 piece set to Chopin's lovely piano music, showed the effect that coming to New Zealand's green and open lands would have had on early colonial settlers. The two excerpts include a romantic *pas de deux* and a humorous one!

The comic master piece *Flashback*, based on Cyril Maude's prints, was created for New Plymouth sesqui-centennial. Three of the most popular sections of this Edwardian era work will be on the programme.

For Roberto is a contemporary dance work that is a real favourite for dancers and audience alike with its generous sweeping movements and varied moods. It was inspired by a poem by a 10 year old Yugoslavian boy during the Balkans conflict.

A comic treat, *Forever Bubbles*, which looked at New Zealand women in the 1920's, 30's and 40's, will be represented by

several very popular dances from the 1920's and 40's – with infectious music to match.

Several jazz dances from *Roadrunner* and *Mill 'n Round* will round off a very full and glittering programme.

Hallmarks of Deakin's work include a musicality and sensitivity to the nuances of the music, expressive dancing and a strong sense of comedy. These will be in evidence in the selection of works chosen for the Dance Gems programme.

The multi-talented cast bringing all these works to life are from various Dance Theatre's eras. The programme includes performers ranging in age from 7 to people in their 70's! Opportunities for all to dance is one of the Dance Theatre's many aims – and this programme certainly is representative of that. Some of the very experienced dancers leading the programme include Jane Roseman, Peter Rothwell, Mervyn Chivers, Inge Vink, Davina Moffat, Donna Kelly, Laura Sommerville and Michael Takarangi.

Tickets for this glittering DANCE GEMS programme can be obtained from Mementos in downtown Devon Street, New Plymouth or online from taranakiinbox.co.nz. The Dance Theatre Trust is grateful to major sponsors as well as to many other local business for the assistance in sponsorship and materials.

Some of the lovely and talented dancers from Val Deakin Dance Theatre.



Hull of a Good Guy

Nathan Hull of Hurford Road is one very talented artist. He rates himself as a self-taught artist who likes tinkering around with his welder, who has no formal artistic qualifications but sells works all over the country and even overseas. His sculptures are world class, imaginative, well made and inspirational, made from a wire base or car parts, silver and stainless steel cutlery, or old oil drums. They grace many business frontages, cityscapes and gardens. Each artwork is crafted to high specifications and Nathan takes the time to finish each one with a good quality lacquer.

If a man's shed is his castle then Nathan has a palace! Nathan's shed is a real Aladdin's cave. And he knows where every single thing is and that is no mean feat — it is packed to the rafters with recycled goodies! Car parts, kitchen utensils, furniture, packing material, metal, wire, plastic, TV's, hot water cylinders, you name it.

Nathan and his partner, Rachael, have recently moved to Hurford Road from Putaruru where Nathan had a studio selling his sculptures. Rachael has moved back into the home she grew up in and Nathan is originally from Cambridge.

Nathan has been making sculptures for more than eight years and over that time has won many awards at various exhibitions around the country. He is a regular exhibitor at the Mystery Creek Field Days, where his recycled sculptures display an obvious number 8 wire ingenuity.

In recent years Nathan has let his artwork take a back seat while he has concentrated on shift work as a fitter/welder. Over this time he has been building up his tools and raw material base and now the creative juices are flowing again. Nathan says his passion is the big installations he makes and he is currently working on a gargoyle. Waiting in the wings are various other creations in different stages of completion and his ideas notebook is full of inspiring ideas. Nathan and Rachel have a long-term dream to make a life-size sculpture park with full-sized animals for children to climb on.

Nathan's work can be seen on his website www.nathanhulls-culpture.com and some pieces are on display at the Mermaid Gallery beside Hunting & Fishing at Breakwater Bay and at Hot Goods in Inglewood.

If you have any old junk you want to get rid of Nathan will come and take it off your hands — give him a ring on 06-751 4529.

By Kim Ferens



Nathan with one of his amazing creations.

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Crazy Hair Day

On Tuesday 26th March, Oakura School had a 'Crazy Hair Day'. Usually our Crazy Hair Days are just for fun, but this time it was for a very special cause. The School Council decided to have a fundraiser for the new children's ward at Taranaki Base Hospital. The funds raised would go towards purchasing toys and T.Vs to entertain the sick children. Students were asked to bring a gold coin donation (or more), along with crazy hair for the craziest hair competition. The categories were: short haired boy, long haired boy, short haired girl and long haired girl. Congratulations to our winners: Lilly Stoddart (short haired girl), Silvia Niccol (long haired girl), Finn Kennedy (short haired boy) and Chai Ruakere-Forbes (long haired boy). Thank you to everyone who came along with crazy hair and contributed to our donation. We raised \$378.30!

By Tessa Keenan, aged 12

Silvia Niccol shows off her winning hair style (long haired girl) for Crazy Hair Day.



Head Pupils

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HEAD PUPILS:



From left: Oscar Robertson, Felix Ferris, Kara Wells and Tessa Keenan.

By Sian Tran-Lawrence, age 12

Interschool Coastal Athletics Day

On 14th and 15th of March, Oakura school's year 5-8 students participated in the annual Coastal Athletics at Coastal Taranaki School. We competed against Omata and Coastal students. The year 5-6 pupils went on the 14th while the year 7-8 pupils went on the 15th. There were a wide variety of events, such as 100m and 200m sprints, javelin, shot-put, discus, high jump and long jump. At the end of the day, the fastest sprinters competed in the relay teams for our school. There were many 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings received over the two days of competition. Congratulations to everyone who competed, you all did really well. Thank you to Coastal School for hosting this fun event.

By Ellie Whitehead, aged 12



Shaelyn Hattle competing in the javelin event.



Oscar Robertson sprinting to the finish, closely followed by Hayden Benton.

COMING EVENTS

June

- 11 Young Leaders Conference
Palmerston North for Y8
- 21 Show in hall 'And the
Winner is . . .'
- 22 ALL BLACK TEST
- 25 Y6 Gymnastics at Coastal Taranaki School

July

- 12 Music Assembly 9am



Marae Visit

What a wonderful day we had at the biennial Oakura Marae visit. Tino pai to our terrific parent helpers and Dave Hare whose team provided the expertise. I did hear from many that it was the best hangi so far. For those families for whom it was their first Marae experience, I do hope you enjoyed your visit and learned a little more about protocols and culture.

Enrolments

Our new entrant class has grown beyond our expectations from last year and we have needed to move through some students to the next classrooms earlier than we anticipated. It is great to have new families in the Omata area and see our roll continue to be secure. It is important that we have a stable roll to maintain our current staff. Please help us with future predictions by letting us know when anyone in your area moves or has children. We have a pre-enrolment list that predicts the next five years, so it is never too soon to enrol! If you are not sure of the Omata School zone please give us a call in the office 7512308 and we can help you out, but basically it is from Koru/Plymouth Road through to Barrett Road/Karamu Street and all that lies between.

1 RUN 1 OUT

Fingers on the seam
Thoughts repeating
A battle of strength
of determination
Eyes meet my destination
Heavy feet hit the crease
The seam swinging into my target
Three stumps
Bails cartwheel off the wooden sticks
Cheers erupt
Screams of joy invade the silence
Challenge over

by Chris Logan, Year 6

Hangi at Oakura Marae



After the haka, I sprinted across the lush grass towards the hangi, nervousness running through my veins. Three men were digging out the layers of steaming dirt. As they peeled back the damp blankets, more steam rose into the deep blue sky. The anticipation of waiting for my mystery lunch became almost unbearable as the men hoisted out the shiny metal baskets that held the tasty hangi parcels. Under the baskets was a burning layer of hot rocks that had a hint of orange at the edges.



When my name was called, I ran up to the lady, grabbed my parcel in my hat, said a quick thank you, and raced to the shade where my friends were eating. As I peeled back the shiny tinfoil, a delicious smell unlike any other, wafted up my nose. Digging my fork into my food and lifting it up to my mouth, I tasted the scrumptious hangi. While swallowing the last morsel of food, I thought to myself, "This by far, is one of the best meals ever."

by Jemma Tanner Year 6

Karen Brisco

Parents and Children Enjoy Oakura Playcentre

SPACE (Supporting Parents Alongside Childrens' Education) celebrates the graduation of the first SPACE group in Oakura this month.

The mostly first time mums and babies have been together since July last year and have shared in each other's joys and developments and supported each other through the challenging times during the first year of their babies lives.

A typical SPACE session includes singing to the babies - this Oakura group especially enjoyed the "lycra" song, wondering sometimes if they sung it more for themselves than for the babies. Singing is followed by a discussion on relevant topics i.e. sleep, what do I hear, movement, morning tea, an activity (making something for the babies) and creating a portfolio about the babies SPACE journey.

More recently the babies have been exploring all the wonders of the Playcentre, especially being introduced to the value of messy play. One little man, Max, enjoyed the introduction to paint so much he covered himself head to toe in blue paint!

Some thoughts from the mums:

"SPACE has given me and my daughter an environment where we have grown together into a confident Mum and a happy baby. I'm so glad we decided to give it a go." - Claire

"SPACE has been a lovely introduction to Playcentre. A neat environment for young babies and new mum's to grow and enjoy each other's company whilst doing fun activities." - Shannon

"I learnt more from SPACE than anywhere else! It allowed us to be open with our troubles and as an added bonus we have all made new friends!" - Katey

A new SPACE programme is starting soon in Oakura with places still available.

Do you have a baby under 8 months or know of anyone who may be interested in attending a SPACE session?

Please contact either Celia Howatson (06) 762 2788 or Paula FINDERUP (06) 755 4548 & 027 810 4717, or email spacetaranaki@gmail.com.

To obtain more information about SPACE check out the website www.SPACE.org.nz.



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Family Fun Day for Kaitake Kindy



Kaitake Kindergarten's first fundraiser for 2013 quacked off to an interesting start. Contenders brought tickets which matched up to their competing plastic duck. Wind conditions put an interesting spin on the duck race . . . a complete spin at that. What was thought to be a race to be held down Weld Road River reverted to an upstream wander and coaxing.



Harry Niccol coaxing the ducks along.

It was a fun family day for the Kaitake Kindergarten community. Sausages, steak sandwiches and ice blocks that followed went down a treat. Previous fundraisers have had tremendous support from The Lim Family of Stratford New World. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the Lims for their contributions over the years. Thank you.

G.S. Lindsay
(GRIMBO)
PAINTER PAPERHANGER

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New Plymouth Boys' High School

We had a great month in March/April with the fine weather having a good impact. We feel for the farmers and their need for rain but fine weather makes it a lot easier to run a school efficiently. In fact it is amazing how the weather affects happiness and levels of effort. We are praising boys who make a top effort on our website, Facebook page and now 'The Edge' radio station. The musicians came to the fore again with outstanding results at festivals. I am thrilled to see the number of boys using itinerant tuition and we have four rock bands performing to a high standard. The tuition in drums and guitar for these boys may well produce a rock star one day! The sport is moving from summer to winter sports. Rupert Young scored three centuries this term in the 1stXI and the team did very well. There are lots of boys playing junior cricket and we need them to maintain our strength. Successes in tennis, athletics, volleyball, sailing, surfing, surf lifesaving and touch are outlined on our website. Congratulations to Dane Brook who was selected for the NZ U18 basketball side to play Australia. We have a fine equestrian exponent in Reuben Grey who is representing Taranaki in dressage, jumping and cross country.

The internal assessments in NCEA are beginning and it is a good chance to accumulate credits.

The school will now be producing a bi-annual magazine called "CVW" (Comradeship Valour Wisdom) which will share school stories with parents and Old Boys. Parents are asked to keep looking at the website for information and updates.

The PTA meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the staffroom. This is always a well attended meeting and is a chance for parents to have a say in the future directions of the school.

Old Boy Albert Wendt (winner of the NZ Prize for Literature) was awarded an ALUMNI MERITA making him the sixth Old Boy to receive this award from the school.

We begin Term 2 with our annual ANZAC Service.

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Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

Indoor Bowls

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

JKA Karate

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

Mini Groovers

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

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

NP Toastmasters Club

Meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of the month, 5.30pm at Bellringer Pavillion. Everyone welcome.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Okato Squash

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

Omata Playgroup

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm
Tuesday 5.30-7pm
Wednesday 3-6pm
Thursday 5.30-7.30pm
Friday 9am-12noon

Ladies' Midweek Competition
Club night
Juniors' private coaching
A-grade players' practice
Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members
Junior Competition
Soffe Cup and A-grade Competition
Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit

Friday 4.30-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 3-5pm

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

Playcentre

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Val Deakin Dance School

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

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga Classes

Oakura hall 7.30 - 9.00pm. Running during the school terms - Tuesday nights. Some gear available - beginners welcome. Ten classes \$120 Casual \$14. M. 027 715 6188. P. 75 27 050. E. keithplummer@clear.net.nz

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