

Medals and cups for league boys



Family rules league.

The four Street boys from Oakura have excelled themselves in the field of rugby league this year. All four boys were selected to play in Taranaki representative sides for their age group. Not many families could lay claim to that achievement.

Aston is 6 years old, Jahn is 9 years old, Tane 12 years old and Kyja is 16 years old. They all are in their first year of playing rugby league for local club Western Suburbs in Spotswood.

The league season saw the boys playing between 12 and 16 games over the season and then selections were made for the Taranaki teams from all the clubs in the region.

(Continued on page 2)



Left to right Kyja, Tane, Jahn and Aston.

The business end of the year fast approaches. The business of buying Christmas presents, the business of going to end of year functions, the business of booking summer holidays, the business of exams, the business of going to concerts, the business of trying to have no business commitments and the business of keeping out of everybody else's business. A very trying time indeed!



But at least we have those lovely strawberries from The Bull Farm to look forward to. Fiona's strawberries are just the business for me – eat them in the car on the way home from the shop, take them to barbecues, the beach, tennis, eat them on pavlova, in fruit salad with ice cream – just delicious.

Another sort of business has me a bit agitated this month. That business is how the Shearer Reserve bio filter is taking over the open space located on our beachfront and by our playground, by our Boardriders, by our skate park and by our friends and families. I don't think there is anything wrong with a bio filter per se, but my concern is with the size of it in an area that I would rather see used in a better way. How many sewerage schemes are located in such prime real estate, I wonder, visible to every passing local and tourist? There must be a more appropriate location surely. Doug Hislop often reminds me to look at the bigger picture and in a small community it can be all too easy to just look at what directly affects us as individuals so the challenge for everyone is to have a shared vision. I may need glasses!

Kim

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cover story

Aston made it into the U7 Junior Taranaki team and over two tournaments the team ended up in first equal position.

Jahn made it into the U9 Junior Taranaki team and his team won their age group competition.

Tane was selected for the U12 Junior Taranaki team and while his team didn't finish up on the podium, they improved each time they ran onto the field during the tournaments.

Kyja was selected for the U16 Taranaki Sharks (that's what the senior players in Taranaki are called) and his team finished second. It was a very close finish with the team going down to Auckland by one point. Kyja is proud of beating Canterbury, Wellington, Bay of Plenty and Waikato.

Kyja plays as a right winger and likes playing for Western Suburbs because of all the new friends he has made. This is something all boys are chuffed about. He has got fitter, tougher and harder and learnt new skills (and stuff). Kyja is in year 11 at NPBHS and was in the number two basketball team and in the development squad for three years. He has also played cricket. The other boys go to Oakura School.

Tane plays half back and is the kicker. He is a good kicker too as dad Brian will tell you, having lost a bet to Tane about missing the goal posts. Tane enjoys the stepping, passing and kicking side of the game.

Jahn plays as mainly a hooker and he enjoys tackling and says he is good at passing. He thinks one day he would like to play in the NRL or for the Kiwis.

Aston doesn't have a position but is busy building up his skills of which he thinks he is good at breaking out of tackles and running. Parents Brian and Dana are really proud of their boys and it is no chore at all getting them to their games each week. The family chose to play rugby league for a very practical reason and that is the whole club plays together. That means all grades play in the same place on the same day and if the game is in Stratford then the entire club plays in Stratford – how sensible. Prior to this year with each boy playing rugby for Kaitake, the family could be in various different locations at various different times – very frustrating.

Brian says the family have been made to feel very welcome at Western Suburbs and he would like to thank the club for the support they have given his "four skinny white boys!" They have all made friends and the boys have been taught many new skills and they don't regret for one moment their move to league.

Fierce good natured competition abounds in the family and each day will find all four boys outside playing rugby league till dark unless they are helping dad with firewood! There is no finely manicured lawn in this family, just dozens of rugby balls lying around and two dominant goal posts and lots of muddy knees and busy happy boys!

By Kim Ferens

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from **mayor pete**



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Hi folks!

Our review of the way the district is represented on New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) is now completed.

After receiving 18 comments from the public, and then two formal submissions on our proposal to not change anything, NPDC has decided to stick with the status quo – namely, electing 14 Councillors from three wards (New Plymouth, North and South-West) and having four community boards (Kaitake, Inglewood, Waitara and Clifton).

If one of our submitters now objects, it will be sent to the Local Government Commission to deliberate and make the final decision.

The two submissions we received were from Okato residents, requesting that a guaranteed seat on the Kaitake Community Board be set aside for an Okato representative. One reason the Council didn't back this request is that no one from Okato has put their hat in the ring for the community board elections since at least 1998. Indeed, we haven't had an election for the Kaitake Community Board since 1998 because no more than four people (the total number of seats around the table) have stood for election in all those years.

The message is simple – for everyone, regardless of where you live: Get involved in your local elections. As long as you're at least 18 years old and you're a New Zealand citizen, you can stand for election to your local council or community board.

Meanwhile the district's big events are about to get underway for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to come along to the TSB Bowl of Brooklands for Christmas at the Bowl on Sunday, 13 December where, for just a gold coin donation, you will get a candle and a programme as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a host of local talent leading the entertainment.

To make the evening even more spectacular, the TSB Bank Festival of Lights will have a special light-up for Christmas at the Bowl.

The Festival of Lights officially starts the following weekend (on Saturday, 19 December), and 19 and 20 December is when iconic band Fleetwood Mac end their world tour with two shows at the Bowl.

These events are a great line-up of entertainment for young and old alike, and a fantastic opportunity to join with the wider community in celebrating the great lifestyle we have in Taranaki.

I hope to see you there! Meanwhile, if you have a project that you'd like to get off the ground and you think NPDC can help you, give me a call on 06-759 6060 and I'll see what we can do.

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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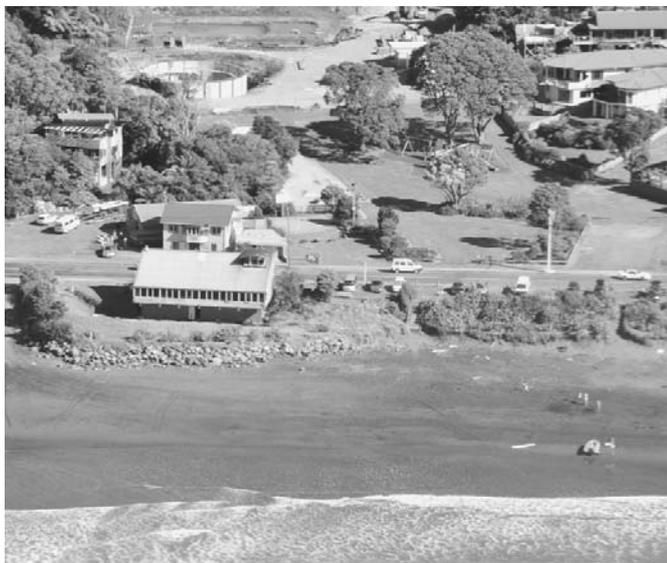
Community Members Feel Hoodwinked by Council Over Sewerage

On 19 October council officers, councillors and the Mayor met with concerned residents of Oakura to discuss the Shearer Reserve sewerage options.

On the agenda was the Shearer Reserve bio filter (or odour control) system presently under construction.

Doug Hislop from the Kaitake Community Board chaired the meeting of about 100 locals. Mark Hall, council engineer, began the discussion with a presentation on the bio filter system and the process that had it included in the sewerage scheme.

The bio filter system was confirmed in the plan in June 2008 after the public was supposedly notified as far back as August 2006.



Shearer Reserve earlier in the year showing the massive sewage storage tank under construction. This is where everybody's sewage will be stored before being pumped to New Plymouth.

There is one other option for odour control and that is an Aarcon system. The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) does not currently run any Aarcon systems and through their review process decided that the bio filter system was the most suitable. There are four bio filters in operation in the NPDC area.

The bio filter will work by filtering foul, odorous air, which is created when sewerage is stored in the pump station awaiting removal via pipe to the treatment plant. Odorous air is forced through a bed of bark chips, which oxidises the gas with soil organisms to make carbon dioxide and water. The size of the bio filter is related to the amount of odorous air needing to be treated and, in the case of Shearer Reserve, the bio filter will be the size of a swimming pool. A bund will be built up around the bio filter and plantings will be carried out on the bund. A plan will be drawn up after the bio filter is installed.

Mark says the council is more confident using a bio filter and he believes a bio filter will fit in "reasonably better" than an Aarcon unit.

Bark on the bio filter will need to be replaced every 5-10 years and to keep the bark in optimum working condition a sprinkler system will be installed. NPDC will visit the site weekly once it is up and running to monitor PH levels, etc.

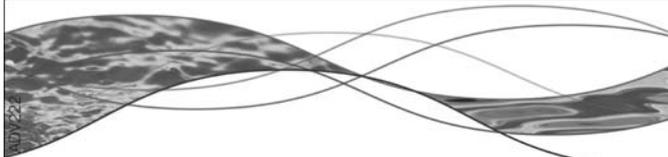
The bio filter will have minimal fencing around it to discourage people from going into the bio filter, but in essence there is nothing in the bio filter to isolate people from.

Residents got a chance to ask questions and Richard Shearer led the debate by raising a concern about his belief that the bio filter was not shown on any plans given to residents. Jim Duff reiterated this later in the evening by saying he had never seen the bio filter on plans at a meeting held at Oakura Hall earlier in the planning process. Jim suggested that the council would have received a lot of opposition if it had been on show at the hall.

Richard, along with Vic Curtis, expressed his opinion that the Aarcon system is technically superior and would detract less from Shearer Reserve than the bio filter. They both had fists full of data to back up their claims.

Other concerns raised were about the cost of the bio filter and its comparison with the Aarcon system; what would happen to the bio filter in a tornado or a flood (Shearer Reserve is effectively a swamp area and, as everyone knows, Oakura has had both events on a regular basis); and how safe the bio filter would be for children and young families to be near. John Neeson felt that Shearer Reserve is a park for people to use and he felt a smaller unit would be better suited. He passionately claimed the bio filter was not the "best thing for our community". Lauren Wallace felt the rights of the community had been denied and that odour wasn't the only concern the community had.

When challenged as to whether the council would change for the community, Mark Hall replied that he would not recommend a change and Barbara McKerrow explained the process to go through to implement a change. This is through the draft plan, and a submission would need to be put into council by March next year.



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Dean Hutton of Ardern PI overlooking the bio filter, pump shed and storage tank, the new vista from his deck.

Brent Manning asked the community to bear with the system as the whole project is more than 90% complete. He said, "Suck it and see, give it a chance to work".

So for a meeting that started with council believing the community's only concern was odour, it quickly became apparent that a fair proportion of people feel let down by the consultation process of council, that the community does want some say in matters that directly affect them, that they feel hoodwinked if all the cards are not laid on the table, and they will be proactive in expressing their views.

I spoke with Richard Shearer following the meeting to see if he was happy with how the meeting went and if he felt it achieved what the community wanted. He said he'd hoped that the meeting might have bought about the will to discuss the issue but he feels this didn't happen. I asked him about Shearer Reserve and he told me that his family (i.e. the generation before his) had given the land to the council to be used as an open public space. He said his family have a sense of pride in their gift, that it is useful and a well-used space. He hardly sees a sewerage system fitting into the vision the family had for the space.

I also had some questions for Mark Hall from the council regarding the large size of the bio filter. He informed me that the pump station has a large emergency storage and the station is designed to deal with the ultimate development in the village in the future, i.e. double the present population. Mark said he appreciated the opportunity to get factual information across to the public and he thinks it is great that a number of residents had done a lot of homework on the subject.

I also caught up with Dean Hutton who is the bio filter's closest neighbour and he is not a very happy man. Dean instigated the meeting and he feels the council has not been upfront about their plans from the very beginning. He is adamant that his property has fallen in value by tens of thousands of dollars because of the Shearer Reserve works and is seriously considering not hooking up to the sewerage scheme. He told me the feedback he has been getting is that many others in the village are also considering not hooking up. This will depend on how the council goes about the landscaping so that the end result has minimal effect on the residents as this is possible with the correct planting says Dean.

So as we wait and see how the scheme will work when it is up and running in the very near future, it is worth pondering whether the community as a whole is significantly better off with a sophisticated sewerage scheme and whether we can trust our council to carry out public works with our own money in our neighbourhoods.

By Kim Ferens

Plumbtech

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kaitake community board

Recently someone asked me if it is possible for Kaitake Community Board (KCB) agendas to be made more easily available so residents are able to have information about the meeting content in advance. If there "is anything on it of local interest residents will make more of an effort to come along," was the rationale.

The following sets out the current position.

Agendas must be available two clear working days prior to the meeting (KCB meetings are on Tuesdays on a six-weekly cycle). Therefore paper copies of agendas are available at all libraries (including Oakura) and the Civic Centre two clear working days prior to the meeting.

The Community Boards' Secretary, Jayne Beer, also attempts to get all Community Board agendas onto the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) website no later than the Wednesday of the week prior to the meeting.

<<http://www.newplymouthnz.com/CouncilDocuments/AgendasandMinutes/>>

Jayne also emails an electronic copy of the agenda to all Community Board members and Councillors as soon as they are available. And mails a paper copy to all members and brings three extra paper copies of the agenda to each meeting.

If anyone is truly interested in attending and wants a hardcopy sent (if they don't have access to a computer), they could contact Jayne at Council and she will mail one out – they would need to do this by the Friday prior to the meeting to ensure they get it in time.

From now on I will also forward the electronic copy I receive to those KCB residents whose email addresses I have. From time to time this may arrive at short notice, however, as I don't always do a daily email check.

The recent meeting with Council officers regarding residents' issues with the Shearer Reserve Sewerage Transfer Station highlighted for me the importance of all village residents staying in touch with any development aspects in the area. An excellent reference point for everyone is the Oakura Structure Plan and its associated implementation plan. Council adopted this plan over three years ago, after a huge amount of initial energy by some locals and the subsequent consultation and refinement by Beca in conjunction with NPDC planners. The Structure Plan is an adjunct of the NPDC Coastal Strategy and is the only blueprint for future development in this area. I would venture that new members of the community aren't even aware of its existence.

For those who do care about the direction this community grows in, I believe the documentation is essential reading. All the documentation is available on the Council website and I am sure you could get paper copies if you asked.

The documents I refer to are:

The Coastal Strategy – Parts 1-9

Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan

Mana Whenua Mana Moana

Oakura Structure Plan

Oakura Map

Oakura Implementation Plan

It is obvious we all live much busier lives at a far faster pace than we used to. Under the circumstances, it is all too easy to just get on with our daily lives and assume that everything happening in the neighbourhood will turn out ok in the end – someone else will take care of it! It's a fact too, that people feel good

about supporting an action that is for the good of the whole community so it's easy to put one's hand up to agree in the first instance. Everyone likes the idea, but what can happen when a development is well underway is that some people begin to realise that something that might be good for the whole community might just be going to affect them personally in a way they didn't envisage. It's a bit like all the pieces of a large jigsaw scattered all over the floor and no one seeing the pieces as part of the big picture until the jigsaw is two-thirds finished.

There were many disputations, hearings, Council decisions and so on to get the planning tools in place before sewerage and any subsequent increase in residential development and associated infrastructure comes on stream. What we now have is not perfect from my perspective. Why? Well everyone's point of view needs to be taken into account (not just mine) and there is a raft of rules and regulations that guide what can and can't be achieved. During all the twists and turns along the way to get to this point, we have 'won' some and 'lost' some, as you invariably do, and we have (at least) ended up with a plan.

There is an old Japanese proverb I hold dear to. "Planning without action is futile – action without planning is fatal." Once again, from my perspective, the Oakura Structure Plan won't eliminate all the ambiguity and the loopholes to ensure lifestyle and environmental sustainability for us. But just talking about the preservation of the status quo in Oakura is no longer an option. The Structure Plan will support the effective planning for, and management of, growth. It provides the opportunity to manage the effects of change rather than leaving that to clever, persuasive developers and their lawyers. Without an overarching plan that enables the integration of the components of growth there may well be outcomes that the community does not wish to see.

Bear in mind nothing is impossible, variations can be achieved albeit by going through a process. A good understanding of the current implementation plan for Oakura is an excellent starting point for all who hold dear to our current environment and lifestyle.

Well that's it for this issue. Roll on summer!

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor.

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Fire Update from the Big Red Truck

Summer greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

Oakura Fire Brigade is having an open day! On Saturday, 21 November the Oakura Fire Station will be open from 11am until 2pm. This is in celebration of our recent 40-year anniversary. Come along and have a look at the station, and peruse the photos, in which some Brigade members had more hair. Bring the kids along for a sausage sizzle and the chance to get dressed up like a fire fighter.

Guy Fawkes Day was on November 5th. Please make sure any unused fireworks are stored safely, away from children, and remember that when you do use them, be considerate of others and act safely.

As the weather warms up, be careful with barbecues, vegetation fires, etc. Make sure a hose is handy should you be lighting any fires. Be aware of the smoke and its impact on neighbours should you light a fire for a burn-off. Make sure you are considerate of others at all times.

Some BBQ Fire Safety tips:

1. Check the condition of your gas cylinder and ensure it is within test date (every 10 years).
2. Cleaning, maintenance and regular safety inspections must be part of your summer barbecuing routine.
3. Keep children away from the barbecue.
4. Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda and water available to put out a fire.
5. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting the gas cylinder to the barbecue.
6. Check condition of hoses and 'O'-ring (if applicable). Check for leaks after connection.
7. Light the barbecue as soon as gas is turned on. Never try and light it with the lid down.
8. Ensure valves are fully open or fully closed.
9. Prevent grease from dripping onto the hoses or cylinder. Grease build-up could be a potential fire hazard.
10. Ensure all valves are turned off when barbecue is not in use.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze (Sec)

Rich Pickings

Hello everyone, well Oakura has kept me busy in the last month with the crime stats out here going sky high.

Now, before you think Oakura has been the crime capital of New Plymouth, relax, the details are that over a short period of a couple of nights we had seven offences. The majority of those occurred overnight on 04/10/09. Of those, six were theft from motor vehicles and one was a burglary.

All but one of the thefts ex cars were related in that the offender/s have entered the vehicle by smashing the rear quarter light window and have gone about only taking small items such as wallets, iPods, etc. The burglary was for food and alcohol.

As a result of this extra activity I completed a couple of night shifts out there in an attempt to locate the offender/s, long nights they were and nothing located.

On 22/10/09 there was also a neighbourhood support meeting held at Oakura Hall. I would like to thank those of you who took the time to come along. Those who didn't, I hope you enjoyed the rugby.

I encourage all to join a neighbourhood support group, as I said at the meeting, your neighbour is your best form of security. If you have any questions about becoming a member or setting up a group in your area, please don't hesitate to contact me here at Okato on 752 4111 or the neighbourhood coordinator at the Westown Police on 753 2495.

Also, if you have any information in relation to any of the thefts from Oakura please contact me. All information will be kept confidential.

Anyway must go, but before I do, did you know a man by the name of Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 69 years? Not many people know that.

Take care

Rich



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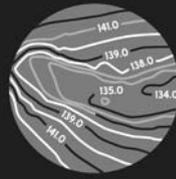
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As we are involved in a book exchange with Puke Ariki you will notice a huge infusion of new adult fiction books displayed on our shelves. Our CD, DVD, magazine and large print collections are larger than ever.

Here are a few of this months new titles sure to teach, inspire, and tantalize:

In non-fiction: 100 Best Native Plants for New Zealand Gardens, Art at Te Papa, and Educating Boys: Helping Kiwi Boys To Succeed At School

Fiction: Michael Connelly's The Scarecrow, Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol, Monica Ali's In the Kitchen and Tiffany Baker's Little Giant of Aberdeen County

Teen: Gone, The Bride's Farewell, Brigands M.C. and The Reformed Vampire Support Group

Junior: more titles in the following series - Beast Quest, Zac Power, Geronimo Stilton and 39 Clues

Picture Books: 2 titles delightfully illustrated by Ross Kinnaird - Big Bouncer and Cindy and the Lost Jandal

A brief word about our children's summer reading programme: "Dive into books" is running from Monday 14 December-Sunday 31 January 2010. However, registration begins Sunday 15 November. We have a limited number of spaces so please sign up early.

And finally if you know of anyone who would benefit from our housebound service please contact us.

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The Perils of 'P'

The judge is about to pronounce sentence and the accused has risen to his feet. He is now standing, eyes downcast. He already has a prison pallor from the constant use of drugs and he is about to be sentenced. His defence has been that he has no recall of committing the crime for which he has been found guilty – he is a methamphetamine or 'P' user. This scene is enacted throughout our courts on what seems to be a daily basis.

On the street, methamphetamine has a range of nicknames including speed, crack, crystal and ice, however the nickname 'P' is unique to New Zealand, referring to its pure form. Call it what you will, it is wrecking lives, wrecking families and fuelling crime.

You have all heard the stories about how dangerous and addictive the drug P is. We have seen the media coverage of high profile cases such as William Bell, Antoine Dixon and Steven Williams – all methamphetamine users.

We have read about or seen on television the busting of P labs and the intercepting of the importation of the precursor chemicals, however there are less-publicised events. Landlords can find that their rental properties are being used as P labs and the buildings have become contaminated with the chemical process and now pose a danger to future occupiers, especially children. Something less well known is the fact that for every kilogram of manufactured methamphetamine produced, around seven kilograms of toxic by-product is flushed down toilets, stored in sheds or dumped outside – quite often in residential neighbourhoods.

The National-led Government is committed to using every tool it has to fight P.

Firstly, it is going to make it harder for people to manufacture P, by controlling the availability of precursor chemicals and making the main precursor, pseudoephedrine, a prescription-only medication. It is being replaced now by alternative, clinically safe cold and flu relief that can be bought over the counter.

Secondly, the Government will use new powers to break drug supply chains by attacking gangs and organised crime syndicates who peddle P for a business. Police have more tools at their disposal than ever before and they will take profits off these criminals and use them to fund anti-P initiatives.

Thirdly, the National led Government is committed to reducing the demand for P by helping addicts quit and deterring new users. This should lead to making treatment available for more than 3,000 extra patients over the next three years. Expanding specialist services will see addicts get the immediate support they need and the follow up services to help them stay off the drug. The Police and Courts have the power to divert users into treatment. Most importantly, help will be given to families and doctors to get addicts into treatment.

Fourthly, help will be given to schools, whanau, clubs and business to support addicts and stop people becoming P users in the first place.

Lastly, the National led Government will provide the leadership needed to ensure that government agencies charged with the responsibility of tackling P get results.

National is tackling P from all directions. It is cracking down on precursors, breaking the supply chains, providing better routes into treatment, supporting families and communities, and strengthening leadership and accountability.

This will make a difference for hundreds of families and make our community safer.

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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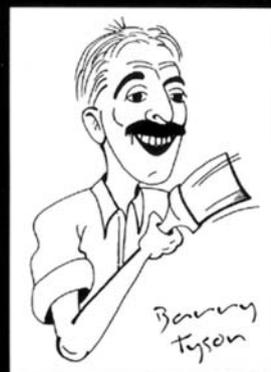
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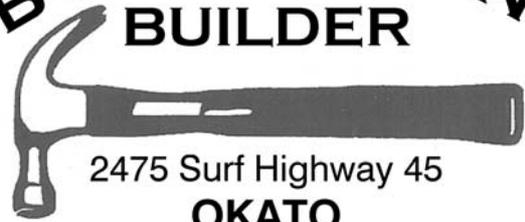
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Oakura Pony Club News

As our annual fundraiser, Oakura Pony Club hosts a Show Jumping Day competition. This year we were the first show jumping event of the season. Our prayers for fine weather were answered and the event attracted well over 100 riders from around the region, with a huge 349 entries (riders can enter up to three classes). Riders ranged from complete novice pony clubbers competing for the first time, to experienced show jumping riders who used the event as a practice day for the approaching show jumping season – we even had Olympic rider Heelan Tompkins join us, much to the delight of all the younger riders who got to see her do some brilliant rounds on a few of her young horses. As our grounds, and especially our carpark, are relatively small, we hold the event at the Waitara Pony Club.

All the results from the jumping day were published in the Taranaki Daily News, but I've listed below results from just the Oakura riders:

Hacks Show Jumping: 70cm I. Anderson (McLeod) 4th; 90cm M. Lobb (Star Catcher) 3rd; 1m A. Hinton (Sexy B) 1st, M. Lobb (Star Catcher) 5th; 1.10m A. Hinton (Sexy B) 2nd, S. Anderson (Midnight Grace) 5th; 1.15m S. Anderson (Midnight Grace) 1st, A. Brewster (Kennebrooke Twlylte) 2nd, H. Tompkins (Sugoi) 3rd.

Pony Show Jumping: 80cm G. Ferris (My Vagabond) 3rd; 1m G. Ferris (My Vagabond) 2nd.

Handy Hunter: Hacks 80cm – 95cm A. Brewster (Kennebrooke Twlylte) 1st, I. Anderson (McLeod) 3rd; Ponies 80cm J. Giltrap (Celtic Limelight) 3rd, J. Knudsen (Run the Risk) 4th, G. Ferris (My Vagabond) 6th.

As Oakura Pony Club is reasonably small, it is a huge undertaking to put on an event like this, and there are many thanks to be made. Firstly to our Club's incredible parents, who time and time again turn up with not only a plate of biscuits for the judges' morning teas, but also a truckload of horses and kids to compete, and then have to sit in a truck writing for the judges or adding up results in the office, picking up poles when they're knocked down, or pick up kids who fall or are thrown off their ponies. And that's just on the day! For two days before the show there is the measuring out and setting up of arenas and jumps, carting tonnes of gear from Oakura to Waitara, collecting in the entries, and organising judges, food, shelter, ribbons, prizes, sponsors, etc. It really is massive, and we want to shout a big THANK YOU to all our parents at Oakura Pony Club for their help and support. I was amazed and heartened to see so many of them still smiling and laughing at the end of the day as we went around the field picking up and packing up all the jumps. I am loathe to highlight anyone in particular because we all did such a great job, and I don't want to offend by missing someone out – but you know who you are and thanks a million.

We were so fortunate to have sponsorship of the event again this year, and also want to say a big thank you to our sponsors. We realise it can be difficult for you local businesses, who are constantly hit up by clubs like ours, but good on you for pulling out your wallets again – and we are mentioning you all now because Oakura needs to know how great you guys are for

helping us out again this year. Thank you all for your generosity (in no particular order):

The Dickey Family and BTW; Oakura Travel; The McLean Family and BP Powderham and BP Moturoa; Oakura Pharmacy; Brent and Suzie Anderson; The Hinton Family and Mayfair Pools; Hareb Deken Motors; The Winks Family and Tasman Oil Tools; Oakura Beach Camp; Heelan Tompkins; Vertigo; McDonald Real Estate; John & Tony at The Crafty Fox; The Tack Shack; Graham Symons and Symons Transport.

At time of print we haven't met to decide what the money we raised will be spent on, but half usually goes to maintaining and improving our grounds. We are also hoping for some new bright and colourful jumps.

We are just beginning our season, and welcome any new members riding or not riding. We also have facility for people to hire the arena and grounds. If you're interested in joining please contact either Paula Harvey (Chairperson) 753 5335, or Diane Alder (Secretary) 752 1008.

Diane Alder

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Greetings all,

Still a bit quiet, with the water a mere 15 degrees towards the end of October. Kayakers have been steady again this last month getting a feed or two. The Cape has been producing nice Snapper and Blue Cod galore, these have all been of a good

size. Good sized Gurnard have been bagged within about 35 metres of the Port too.

Surfcasterers have been getting Snapper, Kahawai and the occasional Shark.

Recent Club days have been well patronised with many members fishing the Ali Krutz Memorial Trophy day in October, the annual Surfcasting Competition between New Plymouth Surfcasting Club and us. In terrible conditions, we kept the trophy for the sixth time running. We had all our 'Shore Guns' out but alas most got FA. However, Garry Harrison came up trumps for our Club and got two nice-sized Kahawai off Weld Road in the soup, one of Garry and Ange's exchange students, Rodrigue from Brazil, also got a Kahawai. This was indeed enough for us, as about 13 New Plymouth surfcasters got zip.



Merv Krutz presenting Garry H, our Vice President and "Fish Catcher of the Day", with the Trophy.

Labour Weekend saw not too bad weather; surfcasters were out in numbers with six rods out at Corbett Park at one stage. We all ended up 'just practising'. The next day many had another go and Ali Watt got a nice Snapper of about 1.6kg from down the coast. Martin Rook also got some lovely fish from the Cape out in the Yak on the Saturday.

Tight lines

Debbie E

Oakura Tennis

Congratulations to junior members Tai Walden, Brady Simpson and Molly Oldfield, for being selected for Taranaki junior representative teams.

We have various options for different players this year. If you are a beginner/social player then come on Fridays from 9am, Belinda Tran-Lawrence is running these sessions (ph. 752 7876). Cost is \$5 if you are a non-member. We are also organising business house tennis and again this is for fun. It will be held on Tuesdays from 5.30-7pm. This consists of teams of at least three players who will play three half-hour matches per night. The teams will be handicapped depending on their ability, contact Helen Ivess (ph. 752 7370). The Tennis Club has also entered various teams into women's doubles events on Mondays, A Grade tennis, Grades 1 and 2, B Grade and junior teams.

We have a new president, John Hardie-Boys, so we look forward to his expert guidance. He is already trying to organise a new surface for the hard courts but it will cost about \$38,000! Anyone can become a member – it costs \$120/single, \$240/family. Please contact Becky Bruckner about membership and keys (ph. 752 7474). We have a ladder system for seniors and juniors, if you would like to play in the teams. I am the junior tennis co-ordinator, so please contact me with any queries about this (ph. 752 7715). We now have a coach, Wes Alder, who is taking three groups of eight children on Wednesdays. This session is currently full but you can always call Wes for private coaching, junior or senior (ph. 757 5182 or 021 483311).

If you need to buy any racquets/bags/balls, etc or need your racquet restrung contact Mike Roberts on 757 5098 or 027 8559.

Happy playing,
Susan Oldfield



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GETTING WET!



Surfing and Windsurfing

As I write, Labour Weekend has come to an end and Taranaki has just hosted three surfing events that brought surfers and windsurfers from all over Aotearoa to enjoy our magical coastline and compete against our local talent.

I was privileged to watch the finals of the Auahi Kore Aotearoa Maori Titles held at Stent Road on Sunday, 25 October. Day One had been held at Rocky Point where the sun was shining and the surf a consistent three foot. Also held on Day One were the Under-12 and Under-14 events where the grommets surfed in a 2-foot swell at Waitara Beach. The emphasis was on having fun and the highlight was an East versus West tag team event.

The sun continued to shine for the finals and conditions in the morning at Stent provided surfers with some clean, long-running, 3- to 4-foot waves. However, as the tide became full and onshore winds prevailed, wave selection became a little more crucial. But Stent, with a swell, always seems to deliver and we were still being treated to some dazzling displays of surfing, especially that of Jamie Andrews (Ngati Ruanui) in the final of the Over-30 Men's Division. His near-perfect performance was rewarded with 19.75 points out of a possible 20!

Bachelor Tipene (Ngati Ruanui) won the Open Men's Division. "The Maori Titles is the one title that I have always wanted to win and it is so good to win on home turf in front of my family," commented an almost speechless Tipene. He was one of five Taranaki surfers to win a division, so the locals were in fine form. Jess Santorik (Ngati Raparapa) won the Open Women's Division with Oakura resident and partner of Bachelor, Thandi Durham-Tipene (Taranaki) in third place.

If you missed all the other results in the Daily News the following day, check out Surfing New Zealand's website. Surfing New Zealand helped run this most successful event and operations manager, Steve Ria, with a Waitara Club member were most informative and entertaining commentators.

The Waitara Bar Boardriders Club also need to be commended for their role in the event's success. What impressed me was how well they looked after and cared for their guests. The haka at the powhiri was described as "sending shivers down your spine", in the evenings everyone was fed and entertained at the Marae and club members opened their homes to accommodate visiting competitors.

The New Plymouth Boardriders Club also successfully hosted their annual Del Surfboards Festival of Longboarding competition, which was held at Fitzroy Beach. The event attracted about thirty-five competitors with a good contingent coming from Christchurch and Wellington. The surf was a good 2-3 foot with light winds and a warm, friendly and jovial atmosphere prevailed. Each night the clubrooms offered live music, a barbecue and I'm sure the odd drink!

Brian Clark, who was the only representative from our Club competing, made us very, very proud by winning the Over-50's Division and coming fourth overall. No doubt you will have seen his photo in the newspaper along with the results.

The third event held over Labour Weekend was the Taranaki Wave Classic, a windsurfing competition that had to wait until

there was enough wind on the Monday to be held. There were ninety-six competitors who came from all over the country and even two who came from New Caledonia, to surf the swell and light winds at Kina Road. Oakura local and club member, Paul Barron, won the Men's event, which also made us very proud. Okato local, Katrin Dau, won the Women's event and Jebbe Unthank from Auckland won the Youth Division.

We are so excited, but not surprised, that Paige Hareb has re-qualified for the Women's World Tour after finishing the year ranked fourth on the ASP World Qualifying Series (WQS). This ranking is three places higher than her seventh in 2008, which saw her become the first ever New Zealand surfer on the Women's World Tour.

At the time of writing, Paige is ranked seventh on the Women's World Tour and as this goes to print she will already have competed in the Women's World Tour competitions in Portugal and Peru.

Paige is an inspirational role model to young surfers not only because of her surfing prowess and what she has achieved, but also because of her warmth and friendliness and her positive attitude to the sport and to life in general. I'm sure it won't be long before there will be other young Kiwis following in her footsteps, and the Ocean and Earth Winter Teenage Rampage junior series is an excellent breeding ground for fostering such talent.

The third and final competition was held on Saturday, 17 October at Fitzroy Beach. I'm told it was the first time in the series that competitors were greeted with cold, onshore conditions. However, the 2- to 3-foot waves were still highly contestable and didn't dull the mood around the competition site, with quality warm eats provided by the Waitara Boardriders and guest MC Keone Campbell throwing out some good sounds and commentary. Again it was extremely well organised with great prizes and spot prizes thanks to the major sponsor, Ocean and Earth, and the co-sponsor, CSA Surfboards. Special thanks and praise must also go to the contest director and Boys High Phys Ed teacher, Kane Rowson, for his support, enthusiasm and integrity.

At this event the overall champions were crowned and they were:

- U14 Boys Sean Kettle (Taranaki)
- U16 Boys Tyler Lawson (Hawkes Bay)
- U18 Boys Michael Mallalieu (Taranaki)
- U16 Girls Alexis Poulter (Raglan)
- U18 Girls Alexis Poulter (Raglan)

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Strawberry Shack Open For Business



The Strawberry Shack with the lovely strawberry ladies, Kate (left) and daughter Suzanne.

Oakura's Strawberry Shack is once again open for business and selling super sweet and juicy strawberries.

The luscious berries proved a huge hit with locals last summer who couldn't get enough of them – many people even commenting that they are the best strawberries they have ever tasted!

The strawberries are sold daily from the Strawberry Shack, at The Bull Shop, 16 Koru Road, Oakura from 2.30–6pm daily.

"But you need to get in quick," say strawberry sales ladies Suzanne and Kate Thomson who run the Strawberry Shack – "these yummy strawberries are so very popular and if we sell out we have to close the Shack early sometimes".

Former Oakura resident, Fiona McIntyre (nee Washer), and her husband Jason grow the strawberries in Silverdale and truck them south to Oakura every second day.

"We love coming home to Oakura but realised fresh strawberries are not that readily available down here, so as well as supplying our local market up north we decided to send some of our finest fruit down country as well," says Fiona, who helps her husband grow and pick the berries. "Our strawberries are guaranteed fresh. We are able to pick the strawberries in the morning then truck them south to be sold that same afternoon or immediately the day after – it doesn't get fresher than that".

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book was Tracy Malone of Oakura.

Quail Return to Garden

Every spring my garden gets repopulated with Californian Quail and it makes me wonder where they have been and why they come back. They are very welcome members of the garden and I enjoy watching and listening to them. Each season they produce a large family and by the end of summer, sad to say, the family



numbers have dwindled to a mere few. Californian Quail make a very distinctive pipping noise and it is fascinating to watch the husband and father on guard duty, protecting his family.

I asked Mike Tapp from DOC if he could answer my questions and this is what he had to say:

“Californian Quail are really social birds and a whole group of them may have been around somewhere near you during the winter but perhaps somewhere that the whole group could all get a good feed. Towards the end of winter they tend to pair up for breeding and the group breaks up, so that may be why they head into your garden. They may even be the pairs from previous years who know they are on to a good thing in your garden, either as a nesting site or a food source for chicks. The first eggs appear in late September but they will nest through to January, even February, and it may be that your place or close by is a good nesting spot and they keep coming back. They like plenty of thick cover to nest in so there may be a site like that near you. Other birds will nest in exactly the same spot year after year and their offspring will nest close to where they hatched. I’m not sure if this is the case with the quail but it could be.

Another reason for their disappearance could be that stoats are getting them when they get hungry in the winter. Stoats are incredible survivors. They’ll hold their young until they know they are somewhere where there is plenty of feed then they will have as many kits as they think the habitat will support. The quail may be part of their winter menu and you get the survivors trickling in when it’s time to nest. As it warms up the stoats can find other pickings like mice so the old stoat won’t wipe the quails out completely – though this has happened in a lot of places.

Quail are hunted from May to the end of August so they may just keep on running until they don’t get shot at, and at the end of August they stop running near you because nobody is shooting at them – a bit like the ducks at Pukekura Park. I don’t think they really head there on purpose. If there really are more in the Park during the duck shooting season it’s probably only because they’ve tried landing in other spots but have been scared off so they keep flying until they find a safe house.”

So if you are lucky enough to have quail in your garden, I hope you get as much pleasure from them as I do.

By Kim Ferens

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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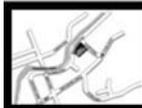
Mulch around flowerbeds to conserve moisture in the soil.

Sow seeds of summer flowers: cosmos, marigold, petunias, portulacas, verbena and zinnia.

Plant new roses using plenty of compost. Water all roses at least once a week.

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Summer fitness

Summer is just around the corner and here are some ways to help you look and feel your best -

Core Strength - Pilates

Standing at 185cm tall (over 6'1" – previously known by me as 5'13") my extreme height could be used to advantage to make me one of two types of athlete. There are those of the coordinated, balanced ilk like Irene van Dyk who tip the shots effortlessly to score in netball or Queen Beatrice Faumuina who can throw a discus to staggering lengths. And for the others, height is just something that helps you meet new people when they ask you to retrieve items off the high shelf in the supermarket. Let me be clear. I am in the latter group. While I maintain a certain degree of fitness with daily walks, I'm no spring chicken so it was with combined trepidation and curiosity that I enrolled in a Pilates class. Following a recent back injury, I wanted to gain strength in order to prevent further pain and immobility.

German-born Joseph Pilates invented and promoted the Pilates method of physical fitness, which he named 'Contrology'.

Following numerous childhood illnesses in the late 1800's, Joseph Pilates came to believe that the 'modern' lifestyle with bad posture, and inefficient breathing lay at the roots of poor health.

Pilates focuses attention on core postural muscles that help keep the human body balanced.

Colleen Remus-Bodle, a qualified physiotherapist, became inspired by the Pilates method in a placement during her studies. Following graduation three years ago, Colleen has been utilising Pilates with added physiotherapy exercises at the Strandon Physiotherapy Clinic.

Canadian-born Colleen met and married Kiwi, Richard, in Australia and a love of tramping and surfing brought the couple to Oakura. Having lived here for almost a year, they are excited to be building their own home locally on a special piece of land.

Pilates has gained momentum in the village with Colleen now running three classes, two beginners' classes and one at Level 2, which are run from the Oakura Boardriders' rooms.

With a class maximum of 12, Colleen believes in the importance of personal contact during the group session. This ensures that each person gains their own awareness of how their body works in movement.

"As you improve you can make it easier or more challenging on the day," Colleen says.

Continuous cues by Colleen for different stretches (including making sure we breathe!) help gently challenge our bodies just a little more every week. While I don't think I'll be joining the Ferns, I do advocate Pilates to anyone wanting to enhance their fitness at their own pace.

Men and women are welcome to attend and Colleen will continue courses into

2010 during school terms. To register your interest, call Colleen on 758 4778.

By Sharon van Dijk (not to be confused with Irene)



Colleen with her Pilates class.



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In a Nia class, you are encouraged to move within your own comfort zone; get familiar with the basic steps and then do your own thing. I think it is absolutely amazing to see how every body moves totally differently from one another - in the way that feels right to them. Another thing that impresses me is how Nia attracts people from all sorts of different backgrounds including those who have never danced before, those who haven't danced for a million years (or so they say) and even dance enthusiasts. They all dance together with equal enjoyment.

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- 5 Nia is the Body's Way, a new way of being and living in your body

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Oakura Medical Centre

Tel: (06) 752 7199

New Doctors Joining the Practice

We extend a warm welcome to our new doctors. We are very lucky to secure these doctors, two of whom will be joining our team long term. Both live in Taranaki with their families and have extensive experience in medical practice, particularly women's health.

Dr Lindy Fookes, who has worked at Oakura in the past, started with us on 2nd November 2009.

Dr Nova Robinson, will be starting with us in early December.

Dr Kerrie McLemore (from Texas), who replaced Diane, joined our team in August. She is with us for one year.

Dr Brent Anderson is still working full time between Opuanke and Oakura Medical Centres.

Doctor Shortage

We would like to thank all our patients for their patience and co-operation during the past few difficult months while we were short staffed on doctors. It is an on going issue in the New Zealand health system, so we are fortunate to be fully staffed again.

The Future of General Practice

We are entering an exciting era in General Practice. The Government is strongly committed to improving primary care in New Zealand. Already moving towards a more extensive holistic health care approach, we have started more extensive screening and preventative healthcare measures for our patients. This, and other initiatives that are being developed, will keep us busy and our community healthy.

Dr Anderson also has a special interest in *cosmetic* and *vein* medicine; also an exciting and developing area. Interestingly we now have some innovative and unique ways of treating some medical problems, such as using *botox* for migraines, tension headaches and excessive sweating, etc.

We welcome new patients and as our practice grows so will our services.

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"Aquaobics" starts 16 Nov, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5.30pm-6.30pm

For 'What's on' and other information, please call 759 6060 for further details



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Can Collection

On 30 September, 119 people died because of a huge tsunami in Samoa. Oakura School were asked to do our bit to help by a Samoan teacher in New Plymouth. We started to collect canned food that we could ship off to Samoa. It was an AMAZING effort throughout the school, and we collected over a thousand cans in total!



Thanks to the whole school for their support and also to Alex and Ben King, Mary-Grace Milam, Jamie Scott and Isla Dunn for spending their morning sorting and packing all the cans into boxes to be sent away.

Hopefully this will help to feed the families and victims of the tsunami.

Face Painting

On Friday, 16 October, Oakura School's Year 7 and 8's paired up to paint their partners' faces for a face painting competition.

The previous day the students had paired up to come up with designs that portrayed an emotion, and which were unique in their own way. The finished models were displayed in a full school assembly.



When the time came to judge these creative pieces, you could see the faces of the junior and middle school as they theatrically whispered "OHHH!" and "AHHH!" in amazement.

Although they were all fabulous, third place was split between Isla Dunn and Ellie Tvrdeich, and Molly Cattell and Jordan Giltrap. Isla and Ellie's theme was flames, and Molly and Jordan's was happiness. Second place was given to Taylah Flintoff and Madison Wood, and their theme was Mode. Congratulations to our first place winners, Farrell Robertson and Ben McLean, whose theme was The Joker.

It was great fun to let our imaginative and creative skills run wild and everyone felt that it was one of their favourite parts of the year. Hopefully there will be another face painting day, with even more amazing designs!

By Isla Dunn

Learning French

Throughout 2009, Oakura School Year 4 to 8 students have been learning French as a second language.

Over previous years, only the Year 7 and 8 pupils were able to learn a second language, taught by their teachers. This year Oakura School has been very fortunate to have Casey Batten come and teach each of the six classes once a week.



Learning French with Casey Batten.

Classes have been learning: how to say and write numbers in French, colours of the rainbow, greetings, the weather and more. They've also learnt about French events such as Mardi Gras, and famous French landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower. As a previous Year 7 and 8 teacher of Oakura School, Mrs Batten was very excited to come back to the school and teach classes about the language and culture of France.

"I've really enjoyed helping the students to broaden their minds and understand the different cultural ways. This will help them if they ever want to continue to learn about it at high school, or visit the country when they're older."

By Anna Costelloe

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Oakura School

Speech Finals

On 12 October Anna Costelloe, Bailey Hales, Becky Gooch, Corey Vickers, Farrell Robertson, Molly Oldfield and Paloma Aston competed for the Year 7 and 8 Speech Finals at Oakura School. The speech topics included smoking, whaling, little sisters, wacky jobs, parasites, embarrassing dads and how life relates to chocolates.

The speeches were all extremely well written; they all spoke well and had excellent eye-contact. First and second were very close, but in the end Corey Vickers gained first placing, with her speech titled, 'Life is like a Box of Chocolates' and Anna Costelloe came second, with, 'My Dad'. Corey will be representing Oakura School at the Pukekura Toastmasters, who are holding a competition for Year 7 and 8 students across Taranaki. This competition is held annually on 30 October at the Cricket Pavilion in Pukekura Park. Good luck, Corey!



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Coming Up

November

- 19 Year 5-6 Coastal Athletics at CTS.
Playgroup 9-11 am in hall.
- 20 Year 7-8 Coastal Athletics at CTS.
- 23-27 Year 7-8 Camp to Wellington.
- 26 Year 1-6 Folk Dance display and Community BBQ.
5.30pm Start.
6.30pm Dancing display.
- 30 ALL library books to be returned.

December

- 3 Playgroup 9-11 am in hall.
- 4 Music assembly 9am.



Playgroup

Every second Thursday during the term, parents with preschoolers who will be attending Omata School get together in the hall. Activities and toys are put out and children and parents enjoy the time to socialise. Please come along; the more the merrier. Huge thanks to Michelle Berridge who has been organising the playgroup this year.

Omata School

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Antarctic Poems

A Death in Summer

I am towering and ruthless,
king of my watery ancestors.
Soon I will be water too,
light pours in, I am melting.
I once more look over the living survived ones.
The other towers look like mounds to what they were.
Swoosh!
I turn into a stream.
I am no more a tower on Antarctic land,
but a puddle in the ocean.
Just moving with the other ancestors,
for I am no more.

By Tegan Wilkinson (9 years old)

The Antarctic Treaty

As the ink splatters, the pen scribbles all over me.
Observing as seven countries become one.
Waiting for the silence to be broken with cheering and laughter.
Hoping this plan doesn't fail, and I am no more.
Thinking about who owns what, and what I am worth.
I am part of history and always will be.

By Zac Mcleod (10 years old)

Life on Ice

All I see around me is pitch black
Here I am in this treacherous environment, wondering what
will happen next.
So uncertain, it hits me out of the blue.
As the gloominess descends, I'm desperate
Time passes by, drifting on a blanket of ice.
Bullets pelting down on me
The katabatic winds unleash what has never been before.
In a plunging escape, I merge with the crystal, clear water.
I don't know how I'll live on, but I'll find hope, somewhere.

By Lucy Mitchell (11 years old)

Regards

Karen

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Party goes and picnickers pick up your rubbish!

Just after Labour weekend I went down to Weld Rd River mouth and visited Mike Hewer. He showed me five fire sites on the beach and in the reserve all with broken beer bottles and rubbish strewn around. And all from the weekend.

This is not good enough. Mike had been into the council the day before to get them to clean up the mess but 24 hours later it hadn't been done. So Mike and I picked up the rubbish.

The concern is the hazard the broken bottles pose for the general public. It is rather scary to think of little children running around willy nilly on the beach and river banks, oblivious to the dangers of broken bottles. Adults may be a little more discerning.



Mike picking up someone else's rubbish at Weld Rd beach.

I feel outraged that people are using our public spaces as a dumping ground and I feel this is abusing our heritage. Having a fire on the beach is part of our Kiwi tradition and I don't want to see it banned because some lout or other didn't clean up their mess. By all means have your outdoor fire and a few drinks but leave the environment as you found it. Why should other people clean up the mess?

This day there were several van loads of overseas tourists enjoying the tranquil setting of Weld Rd beach but what must they think of bucket loads of broken glass on the beach?

For the good of the local community, for our overseas tourists, for our wildlife, for our pets and for our clean green image, my plea is have your fun but take a minute to pick up your rubbish!

By Kim Ferens

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Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders Club. 7.15 to 8.30pm. Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380.

Country and Western Club

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

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.

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

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

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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.

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