

This month

Frank Gaze Our local 'community champion'

Twelve residents of New Plymouth District have provided such outstanding service to the community that they were recently presented with Citizens' Awards. Amongst those to receive awards was Oakura's Frank Gaze.

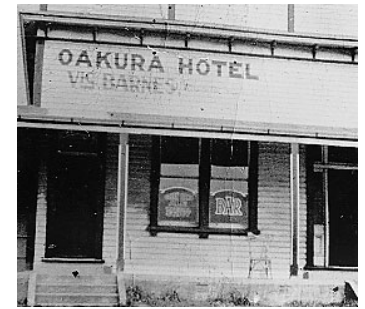
"These people are champions in our community," says Mayor Peter Tennent. "They epitomise the attitude of our residents: hard-working, selfless, doing whatever they can to benefit other people. It's because of people such as these that our community is strong and vibrant, and I congratulate each and every one of them on their years of service which have lead to these very deserving awards. Without them, New Plymouth District would be a poorer place."

Frank is well known for his involvement with many organisations over the past 30+ years, including establishing the New Plymouth Volunteer Centre, Friends Plus, and Taranaki Age Concern. He has played a pivotal role in setting up community health and social service organisations. Frank is an active member of the Positive Ageing Working Party and is involved with improving the quality of life of the older person.

Has Oakura waved goodbye to the title?



Oakura has recently lost the world record for the number of people on a surfboard. Pictured above is the successful world record attempt at Oakura in 2000 (?). How about having another go to get the record back?



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'local'*

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*Local festival
gardens*

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tom

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



NEW PLYMOUTH
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From Mayor Pete

Next year will see some big changes in how councillors and community boards are elected in New Plymouth District.

The council has decided to stick with a ward system for electing councillors – and it will also keep community boards; however, the number of wards will drop from five to three.

In the coastal community, Omata and Oakura will now be part of New Plymouth City Ward, with the rest of the former Kaitake Ward moving into the new New Plymouth District South-West Ward (along with the Inglewood area).

The feeling around the council table was that the current system of electing councillors from five wards worked very well; however, the new requirements of the Local Electoral Act meant this system couldn't be kept.

What we heard in submissions from residents is that they prefer the ward system over electing 'at large', and they wanted community boards to remain.

With this new system, we have guaranteed seats around the council table for rural councillors and also elected representation at the grass-roots level.

I am confident that the council has made a decision that will stand this district in good stead over coming years, and that this system will bring the greatest benefits to our community.

However, if members of the public wish to appeal or object to the council's decision, they have until 5pm October 13 to do so.

Any appeals or objections to the council's decision can be posted to: Representation Arrangements, New Plymouth District Council, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth.

Otherwise they can be faxed on 06 759 6072, emailed to enquiries@npdc.govt.nz, or delivered to any council office. (More information is available on the council's website: www.newplymouthnz.com)

And remember: if there's any project that you think I or the council can help you with, I'd love to hear from you! Just give me a call on 759 6060.

Cheers folks,

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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Councillor's Comment



Two years have passed since the elections and only a year away, in October 2004, it will be election time again. The council's decision on representation has caused a stir in the Kaitake Ward and several individuals and groups are appealing the decision. As it stands, the Kaitake Ward will be split, with Omata and Oakura linking with New Plymouth and Okato linking with Inglewood. This is now out of our hands; it will be up to the Local Government Commission to consider the issue and make the final decision by April 2004. It has been fairly time consuming for us, I must say, and now we have to sit back and anxiously await their decision.

Two people from the community came to the New Year Rave meeting along with council staff. Things are looking good with regards to getting funding. The NPDC Youth Council has donated \$1,800 for a kick off and "Soundz Like It" are applying for some TSB Community Trust funding. Don't forget, if you feel like helping, even for a short while, please contact Chris on 7527529 or myself. This event will now most likely become an annual one, so some extra help would be good, I'm getting too long in the tooth to be out too late anymore!

The Council is taking a group to China this month to sign the Sister City agreement with Kunming. Councillors are invited to go at their own expense. Quite a number are going and I thought this would be an opportunity too good to miss, so we are off on the 6th October and will be back on the 15th. I will be able to tell you all about it in the next edition.

The negative comments with regard to the CBD upgrade are a common response to change and some people, instead of waiting for the finished product, appear to just like to have a moan. Parking in the main street now just means you have to change your driving habits. I'm sure when the gardens are in it will look just great.

Finally, congratulations to our own Oakurian Frank Gaze for being a recipient of an NPDC Citizens award. Frank is most deserving of his award; well done!

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Public Notice

Public meeting 7pm Thursday 16th October at Oakura Church Hall on Surf Highway 45.

Waste and buy local - The Green Party's stance and what we can do about these issues. **Green party MP Mike Ward.**

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Hon. Harry Duynhoven MP for New Plymouth

Making health care even more accessible

Health care is an area where prevention and early intervention is not only better for patients, it also reduces the pressure on hospital services that occurs when health problems are left unchecked and lead to more serious issues. That is why the government has placed a huge amount of emphasis on Primary Health Organisations or PHOs.

PHOs aim to improve the health of the people in communities by working with them through health improvement and preventative services, such as health education and counselling, disease prevention and screening.

Last week the government announced its decision to accelerate plans to make primary health care more affordable for older New Zealanders. The Government originally intended to make low-cost primary health care more accessible for New Zealanders aged 65 years and over from 2005/06, but decided after consultation with professional bodies to bring the initiative forward a year.

From July 1 next year all New Zealanders aged 65 years and older who are enrolled in PHOs will be eligible for low patient fees and a maximum prescription fee of \$3.

The government has also already announced that as of 1 October this year, children and young people aged between six and 17 years enrolled in Interim-funded PHOs will also be eligible for low patient fees. This is a huge boost to the goal of making health care more affordable, particularly for those people who may have health needs requiring frequent visits to primary health care practitioners. 1.7 million people are already enrolled with a PHO, with more than 800,000 paying no more than \$20 to visit their regular health provider.



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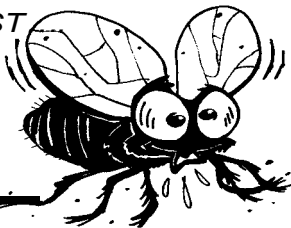


As you will know, the Kaitake ward has been divided. Omata and Oakura will become part of New Plymouth and Okato will be part of Inglewood to be known as New Plymouth District South-West Ward. On Tuesday 23rd September, the Kaitake Board held a meeting and decided to send an objection to the division to the Local Government Commission. We have also stated that we wish to speak in support of our submission at a hearing before the Local Government Commission. We would like to take the members of the Commission on a tour of our current ward and show them our area.

Susan Henchman

Chairperson

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Omata Water Reticulation Update

The Omata water reticulation works were approved by the New Plymouth District Council via the Annual Plan process in June 2003. The works have an approved budget of \$570,000 exclusive of GST. This budget is to cover all project costs.

The required level of service to be available to all residents within the Omata Urban Water Supply Area (to be defined) is to be a normal static pressure of 300kPa and minimum flow of 40 l/min at the point of supply for all on-demand connections. The reticulation is to meet fire fighting Code of Practice for Class E areas. Restricted flow connections will be offered to those outside the urban water supply area, all of whom are to be canvassed as to whether they want a water connection.

Apex Consultants have been engaged to carry out the design and consultation, and manage the works.

The required outputs from this project are

Results of consultation with/survey of residents (October 2003)

Detailed design and estimates (November 2003)

Procurement and construction tenders drafted and let (January 2004)

Omata Urban Water Supply Area defined and reticulated to Council specifications (June 2004)

All as-built information, operating manuals and asset additions provided for entry into Council infrastructural databases (July 2004)

Timing: Suggested dates are as noted in brackets for the outputs above. These timeframes are subject to agreement between the Consultant and the Client. The Consultant shall then produce a detailed programme by activity.

Brent Manning

Acting Manager Water & Wastes

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tom's Copper's Column

The school holidays are over: another ten weeks of school and then it's Christmas.

I found a couple of young lads cycling up Wairau Road, after checking the surf, without cycle helmets on. While I was talking to them, "mum" turned up and told me that they both had helmets and that they were on the lawn at home. The two lads wrote a short essay on the benefits of wearing helmets. I will share with you a little bit of what they wrote. "Wearing a bike helmet is all about preventing a serious head injury. When us kids just race off on our bikes we occasionally in our hurry forget to put our bike helmets on. Even if we are going a short distance we should stop and think 'What am I forgetting?' It is as simple as that."

"You must make sure you check your helmet regularly for cracks or weak points. They won't protect you if they are damaged. They must also fit correctly. The helmet should also sit on the top of the head, not to the back or the side"

"I should always wear a helmet on a bike because if I fall off and smack my head I could get really nailed. I should also wear my helmet because I could get a \$55 fine or even get essays on why I should wear a helmet. I really don't want to get a fine because I only have about ten dollars in my wallet and that would mean mowing a whole lot of lawns and getting in trouble with my mum. We also need a helmet to protect our heads if we get hit by a car - a helmet could save our lives. A helmet could actually save us money as well because if we got brain damage and had to go to hospital because of falling off a bike, we would have to pay for going to hospital."

Some very sound advice from two 12- to 13-year-olds.

The person who burgled the house on Messenger Tce last month has been caught and is currently being prosecuted for burglary. Some of the stolen property has been located and returned.

A good web site on crime prevention and why burglars burgle is at www.ns.org.nz. It is the Neighbourhood support web site. It covers topics like "Reducing the burglar's opportunities." "Fencing and Neighbours", "Neighbours and trees" (This latter one is important to know about before you start a war over who owns that part of the tree that blocks your view or shades your house or just annoys you when you mow the lawns.)

A number of cars were broken into at the beginning of September in the Jans Tce, Russell Drive area. All of the cars were down long drives and out of sight of the road. Please keep an eye out for people wandering the streets at night, especially in the early hours of the morning. Jot down what you saw and let the Police know. You may be the one who helps us catch the little thieves.

On that note, have a pleasant month and look after each other.

Thomas McIntyre
Okato/Oakura Constable
Phone (06) 752 4111

Time to join the neighbourhood support !

There is increasing activity in the criminal sense in the Oakura area in recent weeks.

House breakins and car thefts are on the increase. Let's make it more difficult for them by joining a Neighbourhood Support group. The deterrent factor of being in such a group is shown by the reduction in crime of 25 to 30% in other similar areas. Group community support is the most cost effective way of securing your home and family. Very little effort is required to be part of such a group, assisting your neighbours and observing your surrounding area is all that is required.

There is *no* cost involved. The Neighbourhood Support base provides signs, labels and information totally **FREE OF COST**.

Neighbourhood Support are fortunate to have 100% support from the community Police. With their involvement and sharing of information, they are determined to reduce crime in your area.

If you have not been burgled, if your cars have not been interfered with, if your letterbox is still intact, you are one of the lucky ones.

Help to keep it that way by joining your local Neighbourhood Support group.

If you need any more information or wish to join ring 757 9543 Barrie Carline or email ntns@extra.co.nz



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Dow Agrosciences Field Station

By Kim Ferens

Have you ever wondered what the Dow AgroSciences Research Farm at Omata does?

In brief, it is a research station that conducts field trials of insecticides, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. This involves expanding greenhouse testing to the field where the testing is carried out under actual-use conditions but within a controlled situation. These controls are regulated by permits issued by ERMA (the Environmental Resource Management Authority), and by the international regulations put in place by the much more stringent Dow Chemical Company. Testing involves conducting studies to determine efficacy, residues, soil dissipation, application methods and safety on target and non-target crops and pests. These studies are carried out on 11 hectares on crops such as wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, tomatoes, sugar beet, field peas, field beans, cole, onions, carrots, cucurbits and lettuce. There is also five hectares of orchards with apples, grapes, citrus, boysenberries and stone fruit. The testing is carried out on microplots of 1-10m² or one apple tree or one grapevine. Once a field study has been carried out, the crop is destroyed by mulching and dumping in a regulatory dump site.

The Research Farm site was bought from Duncan and Davies in about 1970. The Sutton Rd site has a mild temperate climate with an annual rainfall of 1500mm. The station is virtually frost free with a fertile, volcanic sandy soil which makes it ideally placed for a field station. The growing season for outdoor crops is 9-10 months of the year. Dow AgroSciences (NZ), who bought the property, are a subsidiary of the Dow Chemical Company which has over 6000 employees in

50 different countries and worldwide sales of over \$3billion(US).

At the Research Farm, the team comprises 6 full time staff – Gavin Woon (Field Station Leader and Scientist), Nigel Rowe-Lucas and Robert Dorigo (Development Biologists), Jenny Guild (Technical Assistant), Viv McMillan (Farm Supervisor) and Craig Scott (Field Assistant). During the summer months, an extra one or two scientists come from the Northern Hemisphere and three to five local students do field work.

Worldwide there are 12 global Field Research Stations, 10 in the Northern Hemisphere (three in America, two in France, and one each in England, Greece, Hungary, Taiwan and Japan) and only two in the Southern Hemisphere (Omata and Brazil). Dow AgroSciences provide pest management, agricultural and crop biotechnology products to the world markets. This is done by developing, manufacturing and marketing products for crop production, weed, insect and plant disease management. They are also developing a plant genetics and biotechnology business in crop seeds and traits of seeds.

Out of hundreds and hundreds of research and development projects, only one or two ever make it to the market place. The average cost of discovering, developing and registering a new pesticide is approximately \$184million(US) and the process takes on average 9 years. Two such new products are SUCCESS (spinosad), a natural insecticide for vegetable, cotton, fruit trees and vines and LEGEND (quinoxifen), a fungicide for cereals and vines.

Gavin Woon, the Field Station Leader, says “The whole industry is tending to move from synthetic chemicals to natural compounds and the challenge is to produce something that doesn’t break down with ultraviolet light. Compounds are being developed that are more active and that can be applied in smaller and smaller

amounts, resulting in less load on the environment and nondetectable residues.”

It certainly gives you something to ponder when you think how big the world is and in little old Omata we sit beside those who play a part in global innovation.

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Two years in the life of a councillor

This month it is two years since the elections. I remember the last election day well; I must admit I was very anxious. I just couldn't wait for the results to come out. It was Fay Looney, another candidate, who rang me to say I had been successful. Her computer got the results before mine. My family was with me, also anxiously awaiting the results. All of this took a while to sink in, but when the phone started ringing and people started to arrive at the door it seemed more real. Then a phone call from the new Mayor organising a meeting for the Sunday morning really made me sit back and think "YES" it is real.

So we partied on into the night. My life was going to change from being a Swim School owner and instructor and wearing a wetsuit to work, to going off to meetings and functions wearing a suit and high heels.

Off I went on the Sunday to meet with Mr Tennent the new Mayor (what should I wear? what should I say?). All of these things were going through my head. We talked about which committees I wanted to be on, who should chair these committees, etc....he started off the way he continues to work: full on all the time!

I had some knowledge of how the council worked from sitting in at meetings as a representative of the community board. I had always looked at the councillors working and thought YES, that's where I want to be.

People ask me Don't you get sick of going to meetings? I can honestly say NO, I don't, because no two meetings are ever the same.

See *The Daily News* "Real People - Special Place" photographs at Egmont Gallery.

Last chance before they go to Japan!

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I have had some wonderful opportunities, met some wonderful people and have achieved a lot for the Kaitake Ward. It is not all easy, I must say, but the down times are hugely outweighed by the good times.

One of the hardest things to get used to is that all of a sudden you become public property. You can be out with your family at lunch or walking along the street and people see you and something triggers in their minds that they need to speak to you about NOW. Early Sunday morning or Sunday night - it doesn't matter, you are there for the people. My family are ever so patient and Mike refers to himself as the hand bag!

I really enjoy my Council work - there is never a dull moment, and I continue to learn so much.

Twelve months down the track, in October 2004, it will be elections again. The question is, Will I stand again? I have thought about that seriously. The first three years must be the hardest, and to have all of that knowledge and let it go, well I guess it would be foolish to not stand again. I'll think about it and let you know closer to the time.

Cheers - Councillor Pam Street



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I Remember When...
With Sue Ferens of Oakura, Northland

The Oakura of my childhood always seemed such an exotic place. Growing up on the west coast and with a family bach at wild west coast Mokau, whenever we went to Oakura it seemed like the 60s equivalent of going to Bali.



Sue Ferens recalls her time as Oakura's relief mail girl.

Memories of that time revolve around picnics at the sheltered cove at Ahu Ahu Road, being battered by the breakers near black rock, kicking mountains of foam along the shore after wild west coast storms, the shipwreck and the mysteries in the arching remains of the iron hull in the surf....who was aboard? did they survive?...

For the west coast, as anyone who has spent time beside it knows, can be treacherous.

I used to ride my horse from my grandmother's farm at Omata up the highway to the Oakura river mouth, over the river and along the beach for a good gallop in the sea air. I remember the surfers at 'the gap', the clubbies' carnivals (boycotted by us because of surfer affiliations, but noted nevertheless from a safe distance at the Oakura Store), eating icecreams and watching the surfers drive by...Hanging out at Doug Hislop's place on the hill often in the weekends and Mick and Robin Tuffery's bach down on the flat most Sunday mornings for a fresh white bread and tomato sandwich brunch.

In later years, the hippie 70s, living up under the mountain near Okato, I remember Oakura for the little post office, and scoring an enviable job as relief mail girl. Biking flat out around the village, in shorts and bikini top (tanning was very important in the 70s) with the main objective of finishing and getting home with three quarters of a day still to spare, while being paid for five hours. My postal responsibilities soon increased, and I did relief mail girl job

in Okato also, accompanied by my dog (and accomplished in under 2 hours), and made occasional relief rural deliveries from Okato as well.

It's a time I have fond memories of. Part of it's all about those halcyon days of youth (when everything seemed easy, when a good car cost \$200 and coastal land was cheap – I remember Mokau land for sale for 50c an acre) but for me it's also interconnected with life around small coastal towns, little affected by modernisation, where everyone knew everyone (and probably too much about everyone; but no one cared).

Now, living in Northland, I find myself settled beside another Oakura. It's on the east coast this time and, because of that, seems more nurturing perhaps (no westerlies!), but with many of those same qualities of coastal and small town Taranaki in the 60s and 70s. Everyone knows everyone (despite attempts to retain anonymity) but still that small town caring prevails. There are fewer people here – eight full time households in our bay and about 50 baches, mostly built in the 50s and 60s along with the odd new designer holiday home. No shops, no public toilets, birdlife everywhere and sea sounds abound. Last year both my brother and my mother, when visiting us in what was then our bach, were surprised to see that I lived near an Oakura and also a Mokau. Spooky!

But perhaps not so. I think we're all inevitably drawn to the things that make an unforgettable impression on us when young, and I'm not at all surprised to find myself beside these namesake places with similar beautiful coastal aspects to those that featured large in my youth. After years in the big smoke, it's salve to the soul.

Only thing is – there's no mountain backdrop. And that's irreplaceable.

Sue is currently working as a freelance journalist for The Northern Advocate and Growing Today.

This month Sue Ferens wrote the "I remember when..." column. If you know of anyone who lives, or used to live, in the area and may have an "I remember when..." story to tell, we would love to hear from you. Give us a call on 7513305 or email us at oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz.



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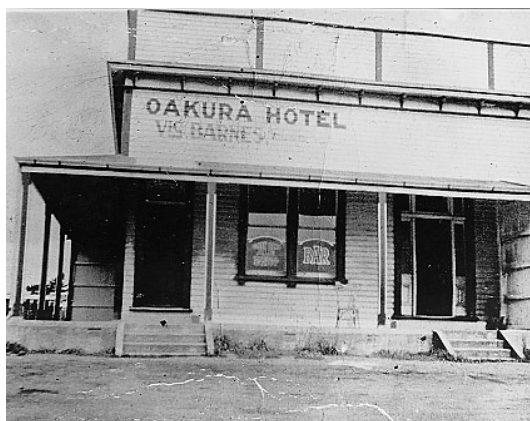
A Bite of History...

Butlers Reef Hotel

The Oakura Hotel or Butlers as it is most affectionately known today, stands out as the most significant icon of Oakura. Little is known of its birth but it is thought to be over 140 years old. The original building was extensively damaged by fire some time in the first half of the 20th century.



This photograph was taken around 1900. the top half of the building was destroyed by fire some time before Jack Butler bought it in 1946.



Stories still exist from the 1860s of locals tying up their horses to the hitching rail, wandering inside for a few pints

then wandering out again, pointing the horse in the direction of home and giving him his head. You can't do that with cars!!

The name Butlers Reef Hotel comes from one of the hotel's publicans - Mr Jack (John) Butler. Jack bought the pub from Mr Tom MacDonnell in 1946 after returning from the war. During the war, Jack had been a prisoner of war in Germany and retained a fascination with things German. Mr Butler travelled regularly to foreign destinations and always returned with mementos. These mementos appeared everywhere throughout the pub and gave Butlers its unique ambience. Many of these collections still grace the walls of Butlers: the Toby Jugs, the Delft china, the German Steins (one of which is 1 metre tall, holds 40 litres and takes two people to lift) - Mr Butler certainly was a character! The hotel boasted a begonia house along one side, a Biergarten (now known



Jack Butler and Evan Mita jnr in the 'Biergarten'

as Butlers Beer Garden), bird aviaries along the back fence, a rose garden (now the volleyball court) and tropical fish tanks. At least six fish tanks were set in the wall in the passageway to the bedrooms.

Jack cared for all these pets and plants and mainly left the hotel running to staff, one of whom was Evan Mita senior. When the aviaries were dismantled, the birds went to Gary Fagan's Pouakai Zoo Park.

Evan and May Mita took over the lease of the hotel which had been sold to Dominion Breweries in 1979 and then the Mita's son Evan Junior and his wife Kay took over the



Butlers in the 1970s

pub. Many refurbishments were carried out in this time and the present pub atmosphere was created.



Butlers in 2003

The Knudsens are the current owners.

If you have any funny, fascinating or thoroughly entertaining yarns about Butler's and its locals, please contact Kim Ferens ph 7511519.

Kim Ferens



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Taranaki Rhododendron Festival

As part of this year's Festival, we have looked at getting our communities more involved - especially our children. As an expert on subtropical plants, Dick Endt will be donating a native NZ Coconut Palm or *PARAJUBAEA COCOIDES* to our region. All three Taranaki mayors have been invited to scratch up some soil and join in a planting of one of these beautiful palms in each of our regions.

Oakura school children will be accompanying Peter Tennent and Dick Endt, and settling our new palm into Oakura on the 30th of October at 11am. There will be a corresponding planting with Mayor Mary Bourke and a selected group from Hawera, and Brian Jeffares, mayor for the Stratford area, will be digging deep also.

Ruud Kleinpaste is going to be lecturing our up-and-coming gardeners during the Festival with a

special session at Devon Intermediate. This is taking place on the 28th of October at 11am and will involve over 600 of Taranaki's school children in a demonstration from The Bug-man himself.

With the environmental twist being a stronger one this year, the Festival is also offering guided walks through some of our area's more established parks. These walks can be booked through either local councils or direct through the parks themselves.

Programmes and tickets are available through TSB Show Place, while programmes are available from Centre City and all info centres as well as local cafes.

Looking forward to seeing you during this year's Taranaki Genesis Energy Rhododendron Festival.

Louise Stevens

St John's Church (Omata) celebrates By Kim Ferens

A special church service will be held at St John's church on Sunday 12 October at 10 am. This special service is to celebrate the recent restoration of the historic building. Mr David Jennings of Omata has been



David Jennings outside the recently restored St John's at Omata

overseeing the whole project and says everyone is really delighted with the wonderful job done in restoring the church to its former glory. Many have been involved in this project,

with special mention going to local philanthropist George Mason and the Community Services gangs who all pitched in to help. The hope is that the category two historic building will see out another era as a special landmark in Omata.

The special church service at St John's will be conducted by the Bishop of Taranaki, Philip Richardson. If the weather is kind, refreshments will be served on the church lawn following the service (otherwise to be held in the Omata Community Hall on Holloway Rd). Everybody is welcome and there is a special request to all locals to attend and support this community project.

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The Rhododendron Festival

The team at TOM asked the local festival garden owners to tell us what to look out for in their gardens this Rhododendron Festival.

Garden No 43
Judy and Nita Clark
3 Russell Drive
Oakura



Nita and Judy's garden on 3 Russell Drive, Oakura, has taken 9 years to develop. The garden has 180 roses which are usually in bloom during the Festival. The garden at the front of the house is an indication of what to expect once you get round to the rear of the house. There's a very colourful display of pansies, delphiniums, cineraria, stocks, lavender, pelargoniums and roses which have been landscaped around the various outdoor living areas of the house. Many varieties of roses, including patio and climbing, have been planted. Favourite roses of Nita and Judy are Papa Meiland (dark red with an amazing perfume), West Coast, Betty Boop, Elina, Paradise, Tropical Skies, Raspberry Ice and Matawhero Magic. Many visitors have returned to this garden each year to check on the developments and to enjoy the display of colour. Nita and Judy welcome disabled visitors; however, please advise them of your arrival as the entrance for disabled persons to the garden is through the house - you are very welcome. Private viewing for individuals or groups during the Rhodo Festival or other times of the year can be arranged by ringing 7527373. Nita and Judy look forward to seeing you all!



Garden No 35
Te Tiro Gardens
469 Plymouth Rd
New Plymouth

The garden of Dianne and Brian Payne features 'quirky little bits' around the site.

On fine days a boat is put out in the stream, and there is a volcanic mountain which is operating most days. Other features include 'holly hobby' or candy bells and the fuschia hedging which was popular last festival.

Garden No 44
Joyce Young
Wairua Road

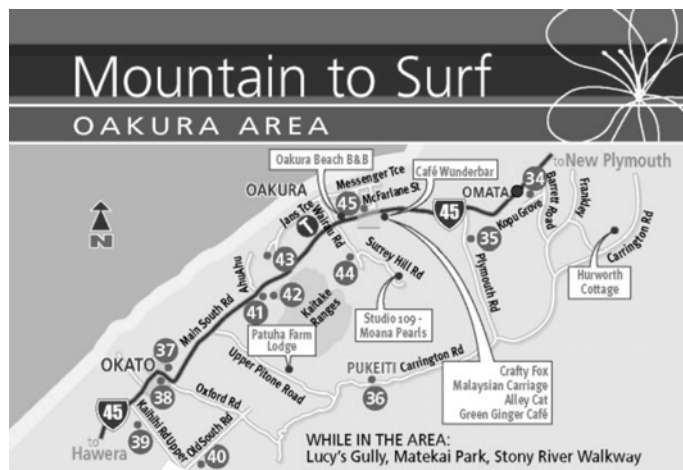


See the pottery in the garden and in the garden shed studio. New plantings of iris - several varieties. New range of seagulls suitable for succulent and grass gardens - see these in Joyce's garden.

Garden No 45
Peg and Howard Haylock
 68 McFarlane St, Oakura

This garden is a mixed garden with perennials and annuals; there's lots of colour expected for the festival.

Three or four large camellias have recently been replaced with perennials and vireyas. Visitors to this garden often remark on the lawn and how nice the garden looks. The garden has many different plants including some 'old fashioned' plants that now are back in fashion!



Garden No 36
Pukeiti
 Carrington Road

Remember to visit New Plymouth's most extensive range of Rhododendrons. View the new waterwheel. Lots of early spring colour at Pukeiti. Kids, have you tried the Garden Fun Pukeiti quiz? (a treasure hunt around Pukeiti).

Garden No 41L
Ngamamaku
 1521 Main South Road
 Oakura

Tony Barnes and John Sole will be opening their large garden, Ngamamaku, next to Lucy's Gully, for the eleventh successive year. During that time the garden has expanded and matured so that the contrast between the formality of clipped hedges and pergolas, and the naturalness of the stream and native bush is enhanced. Hybrid



clivias and maples are special features, with roses following in November.

Open by appointment outside Festival dates, and also available for private functions.

Ph 06 7527 291

Enjoy!

Gardening with Rosemary Herb

October Checklist

Vegetables: Plant tomatoes. Continue plantings of cabbage, broccoli, lettuce and parsley. As weather warms, begin sowing beans, cucumber, pumpkins, peppers, eggplant and courgettes. Plant main crop potatoes and kumara.

Fruit Trees: Spray with Mavrik for leaf roller and other caterpillars.

Flowers: Sow seed or plant out summer flowering annuals. Spray roses and ornamentals with Super Shield to control pests.

Lawns: Sow new lawns. Uncoated seed is best. Re-sow thin or bare areas using Easy Grass, a grass seed, mulch and fertiliser all in one.

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Dancing

Dancing has played a large role in my life and that of my daughters since they were very small. It is no surprise then that when we arrived in Rarotonga the three of us sought out somewhere where we could learn Cook Island dancing.

There are two main forms of Cook Island dancing here. Simply called "slow" and "fast". The slow form is the rhythmic swaying of the hips with elegant hand movements, often to love songs sung and accompanied by a string-band, very similar to the well-known Hawaiian hula. The fast form is a very vigorous workout of the hips, usually to the beat of a drum band.

We have regularly attended the beginners' class of sometimes up to 50 or more participants. The class is made up of various nationalities from nappy-clad one-year-olds to 70-odd-year-olds. Both male and female.

It was hardly surprising then that, when we went to a local resort recently for their "island night", my two daughters happily went on stage to join the professional dancers when they asked for people in the audience to join in. My husband, however, who had never been to the classes, was more reluctant when a young girl from the troupe grabbed his hand and invited him on stage.

The girls did admirably, and congratulations rolled in from surrounding tables. My husband did less so. In fact, I was laughing so much that I couldn't keep the camera steady enough to get a good shot. But the look on his face as he tried to shake his legs and do arm movements at the same time, in front of a crowd of at least 300, will last in my memory forever. Classic.

Diane Alder

Holiday home wanted in Oakura for 7-10 days between 27 Dec and 16 Jan. 2 families - 4 adults and 5 children (youngest 6 yrs). Contact Bronwyn 04 472 2933 or 021 188 9780 or email: bamo@globe.net.nz.

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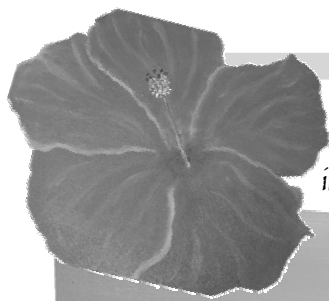
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8am-7pm Sat-Sun**



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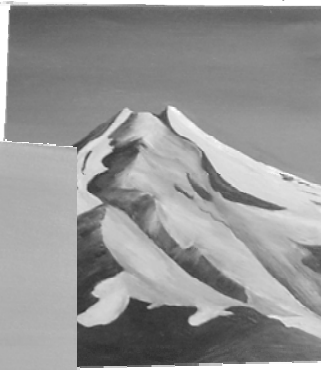
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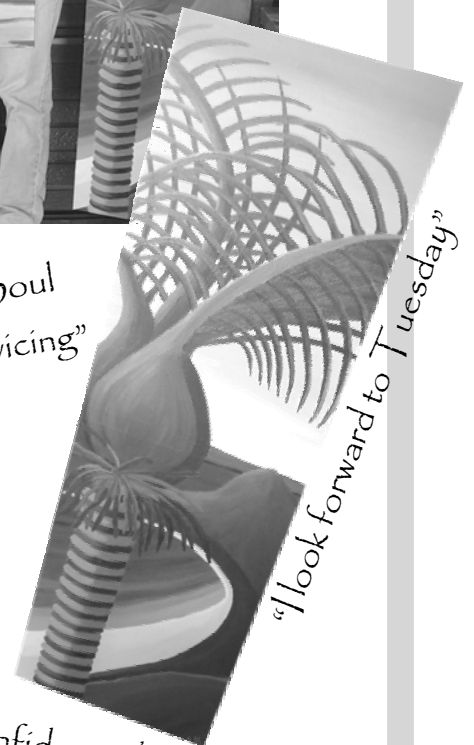
"Opportunity to get together"



"Learn from each other"



"Soul servicing"



"I look forward to Tuesday"

"Confidence booster"



"This is my third session of lessons!"

A selection of work and comments from Margaret Scott's art students; Sally Furze, Andrea Kelly, Denise Rielly, Rachel Kisby, Avis Mostafa, Karen Hawton and Ingrid Palm.



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Puke Ariki



Oakura Library **With Tara Ward**

Hello once again from Oakura Library!

As the warmer weather approaches, you'll need a good book to read in the sunshine! We have a number of exciting new New Zealand titles this month. Just arrived on the fiction shelves are Elizabeth Knox's *Daylight*, *Hummingbird* by James George, and *The Denniston Rose*, a novel set in the 1880s in the West Coast coal-mining town of Denniston. New non-fiction titles include *Marti Friedlander Photographs* and *Here on Earth*, a book with stunning photos of New Zealand landscapes matched with writing by authors including Fiona Farrell, Hone Tuwhare and Sam Hunt. We also have Cindy Gibbon's (from TV One's *How's Life*) autobiography *Cindy, Breaking the Cycle*, which tells of her struggles to overcome many personal and professional challenges.

Fancy a lighter read? You may have noticed some new magazine titles recently added to the magazine collection. As well as our regular magazines, including *NZ House and Garden*, *Next*, *NZ Geographic*, *NZ Gardener* and *NZ Fishing News*, we now also subscribe to *North and South*, *Player*, *Cuisine*, *Fashion Quarterly*, *New Zealand Surfing*, and *NetGuide*.

Oakura Library Hours:

Mon – Fri: 10-12.30; 1-4pm

Wednesday Late Night 5-7pm

Hope to see you soon!

Tara Ward

tom at Puke Ariki

TOM is now available to read at the
The Daily News Café in Puke Ariki.

Sandra Lewis's 'Hair Today' which was on stage at the recent 2003 World of Wearable Art Awards in Nelson. 'Hair Today' was created from a variety of hair accessories.

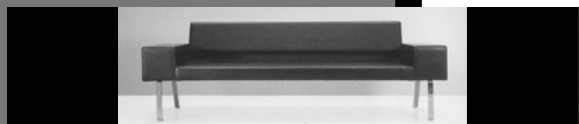


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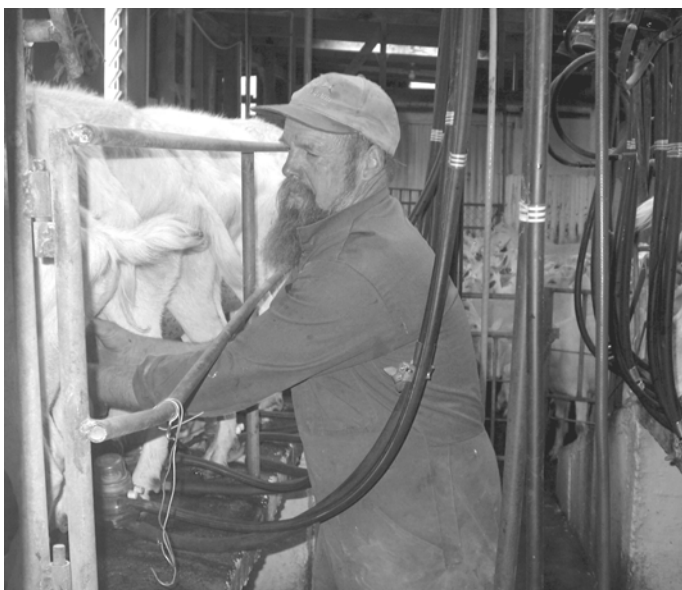
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MILKING TIME ON THE FARM

By Kim Ferens

Getting “the girls” in for milking at the Gargan’s farm doesn’t really resemble your usual milking session. For starters, “the girls” are plain white, knee high, baa like sheep, smell like sheep, and take up a smidgeon of the room of cows. Also, the milking shed is only about 3 metres long, the animals need to go up a ramp to get the milking machines on, they don’t poop everywhere and they only have 2 teats. These “girls” are Saanen goats, the Fresian cow equivalent of the goat family - and what delightful ladies they are.



Porky Gargan milking “the girls”.

Porky and Rosie Gargan of Beach Rd, Omata have been farming Saanens for over 20 years and have been through the ups and downs of goat farming; they stuck at it when it wasn’t trendy to milk goats. Porky was looking for an alternative to milking cows, one that would sustain the family, provide a good lifestyle and required less input than a dairy unit. On their 17 acres they farm around 130 goats with 40 kids raised each year and they’ve managed to achieve everything they wanted. Porky built his own milking shed and in the early days the goats’ milk was frozen and taken to the Cool Stores, then processed at Bell Block. Today a tanker picks the milk up every second day and takes it the Co-Operative Dairy Factory in Hamilton. The Co-Operative covers the Taranaki, Waikato and Northland areas. The milk product is aimed at the top end of the market: it’s used in baby formulae and also tinned. Most is exported. The Gargan’s have seen the value of their raw product rise over the years (where they were once getting around \$2 per kilogram they now get over \$10 per kilogram). These days, collectively, over \$50million is exported annually.

The day-to-day running of a goat farm is less strenuous

than dairying. The milking season is shorter with the nannies drying off in March and the only health problems experienced by goats are parasites, foot problems and mastitis. Sick goats are usually dead goats. They have no reserves of fat to call on and go downhill really quickly. Milking the 110 nannies takes about 2 hours and supplementary feed is served up, toenails are checked and it’s out the door to refill the milk bottles! Speaking of bottles, Porky says their udders are just like hot water bottles. When they are empty they’re as flat as empty hot water bottles. A dog bite on the udder could produce a hole with milk leaking out just like from a hot water bottle! Goat farming has real appeal for some, and when you see the goats vying to be first into the bales and stamping their feet and nattering to each other in the shed, watching you with clear intelligent eyes, you wonder why anyone would prefer a cow. Dave, can we become goat farmers!??

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Please advise of any change of detail.



Fancy Dress

The children and parents of Omata School had a wonderful time at their annual fancy dress recently. The Omata Hall was full to overflowing, and each class gave a demonstration folk dance, which was enjoyed by all.



Above: Cole Hareb and Lucy Mitchell Left: Laura Anderson



Left: Bridget Allen Above: Tayla-Jayne Nickson Below: Room 3 children perform their pacifica folk dance



Oakura Gala Day

Oakura School is having its biennial Gala Day on November 16th 2003, starting at 11am, in the School grounds on Donnelly Street. Come for lunch, as there is to be a wide variety of foods available. There will also be many exciting stalls this year, including handcrafted mosaic decorated rocks, Christmas crafts made by the school's pupils and fun activities for all ages. If you are making marmalade, chutneys and preserves in the near future, donations of these would be gratefully received for the Produce Table. There will be a plant stall too, so donations of plants, potted succulents or cuttings would be fantastic. Any donations can be left at the Oakura School office or phone Cathy Ardern, 752 7519, and we will arrange to collect any donations.

Keep watching TOM for more details.

Okato College

The third term at the College has been a really busy one. Ian Wiseman is currently with a group of senior students on a skiing and snowboarding expedition. Our sports co-ordinator, Ash Haimona, has been busy with 3-on-3 basketball competitions at lunchtime in the gym and the results seem not to favour the teacher's team at the present moment! I must assure readers that Ted Normanton is doing his best to remedy this situation...

We had a great afternoon on Sept. 10th when students played the old-timers in rugby, soccer, netball and volleyball, and although one or two of us have placed silver streaks in our hair, staff still managed to come up trumps. That means we need to really thank the refs for their decision making.

Our Kapa Haka group, led by Stacey Taingahoe, has been working with a number of Coastal Schools and we are proud of Stacey's dedication and of the students who put hours of practice into their work.

Gordan Walsh (Careers and Guidance) has a group of students placed in the community each week doing work experience. Several students are considering their career paths and have been offered apprenticeships.

The three Yr 7/8 classes are busy raising money for their big O.E. to Auckland at the end of the year.

For the third year in a row, the rugby team of boys and girls reached the finals of the Linkhorn Cup. This term some of their homework has centred around their Creative Homework. We had a Creative homework Bonanza in the School Hall on Friday 19 and again there were some fantastic creations. Students were given the option of selling their creations to raise funds towards their Auckland trip. Parents and Grandparents were invited to come armed with money to do some early Christmas shopping.

Congratulations to 16 runners who were selected to represent the Coast in the Taranaki Cross Country event and to Claire Richardson for her 7th place.

Oakura Plunket

Last month we made a plea for new Plunket members to keep Oakura Plunket going. We now have six new members. I would like to thank them for coming on board. If anyone else would like to help out please don't hesitate to contact me: the more the merrier!

Remember our National House-to-House Appeal runs from the 6th to the 13th of October. Be sure to listen for the fire engine and be ready with your donation when the collector calls.

Keep safe, keep smiling,

Noeline Vickers

President 7527022



We finished off the third term with an enjoyable walk with the children to Oakura Four Square for an ice-cream. Everyone enjoyed the walk & we managed to dodge the rain showers.

We have been planning our 10-Year Celebration & tracking down the dedicated establishment committee who formed the kindergarten & made it a reality. We invite all associated with the kindergarten – past pupils & parents, past teachers, teaching support staff & committee members - to join us on Sunday 2 November for a relaxed gathering to celebrate our 10 years in operation. We're making it a fancy dress day (for the children) with an international theme to reflect the diversity of our community. There will be live music for the children and a sausage sizzle for the peckish. We look forward to seeing you all (see the ad in this issue of TOM for details).

As well as the 10-year celebrations, don't forget our Craft Fair at the Oakura Hall on 30 November (see our ad this issue of TOM).

We look forward to seeing you all at the Kindergarten for our 10-Year Celebration.

Susan Henderson

Chairman Kaitake Kindergarten Committee



10 year celebration

Sunday 2 November

11.30am until 1.30pm at Kaitake Kindergarten

sausage sizzle ... live entertainment
international fancy dress for the kids

Has Kaitake kindergarten changed since you were there?



Cross Country

The Omata School cross country run was held in perfect conditions at Waireka Park. The children enjoyed the challenging course the park provided - older children even had a water crossing in their course.



William Jones



Zoe Parker



Jesse Pemberton



Cameron Barlow



Travis Jefferies



Sam Mitchell



Sangster Vercoe, Luke Barron and Sommer Steer





tom KIDS

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kids photo to

25 Jans Terrace, Oakura or
Email oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

True or False?



1. Octopuses turn white with fright.
2. The Atlantic is the biggest ocean.
3. Baby sea horses hatch from their father's pouch, not their mother's.
4. The sea wasp is an insect.
5. Seaweed can grow as tall as trees.

answers at bottom of page



Bottle-nosed dolphins can
leap up to 20 feet (6m) high
That's as high as a house!



This photo was sent by Pat Coxhead, the local PORSE Network home educator. Gian Squatriti, Grace Powell and Jack Powell having fun in the holidays!

JELLY WHIP

1 packet jelly

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Answers to True or False 1. true 2. false 3. true 4. false 5. true



Fiona Ross of Plymouth Road, Oakura, has come up with an innovative new business idea that will operate from her home. It involves something she is passionate about and something she excels at - fitness, health and exercise. The 38 year old mother of two who originates from Scotland has developed a studio gym in Plymouth Rd and along with her expertise and training in the health industry, plans to inspire clients into making ongoing lifestyle choices. Fiona has previously worked at New Plymouth's Club Health gym and the YMCA as well as being a qualified nurse and midwife. Her aerobics classes have included step, high and low impact, pump, yoga and pilates based sessions.



What does Fi's Fit Farm Studio offer that other gyms don't?

Firstly, Fiona's professionalism and enthusiasm would have to be part of the attraction. It would be hard to leave the Studio without being inspired by what's on offer: the brand new decorating and bright cheery atmosphere and lovely outlook (how many gyms have chooks wandering around outside the window?), the intimate surroundings where only small groups of people work out together or one on one, the ease of access if you live in Oakura or Omata or even Okato, the up-to-date equipment.

Secondly, Fiona offers fitness assessments, nutritional advice, personal training one on one, training sessions of 6 maximum, strength and toning programmes, flexibility programmes, walking and running programmes,



circuits, cross training and cardiovascular fitness and fat burning training.

This studio gym is aimed at filling a niche in the market with membership limited to only 100 people a year but it is very competitively priced with special rates for couples and students. Opening hours are from 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday with sessions reserved in the bookings diary.

If you're interested in a personal effective exercise programme that will fit in with your own lifestyle then contact Fiona to make arrangements for your very first Warrant of Fitness, or if you want more details ring Fiona 06752 7533. You won't be disappointed with either the facilities or Fiona's personal touch and flexibility!!

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Hidden Assets

Wetlands are our most underrated and most rapidly disappearing habitat. We used to know them as swamps and marshes and as such they were considered to be of no value so were best filled in or drained.

Unfortunately for some birds, however, this was the end of their homes. The Fernbird, Spotless Crake, Marsh Crake and Banded Rail are totally dependent on these unique areas; unlike the Pukeko and Paradise Shelduck, these birds cannot survive in modified habitats. Living amongst raupo, rushes, sedges, flax and other dense vegetation means that they are rarely seen and are to most people completely unknown.

Fernbirds were once common in almost any swamp but now in Taranaki they are known from only a few locations. The Potaema Bog in Egmont National Park has pairs breeding; Lake Rotokare has a good stable population; and Mohakatino, Mokau and Awakino rivers all have a few pairs. Some swamps in the Waverley district have a few pairs, and there are also some hill country locations. On the ring plain, we have no recent records at all. This is not to say that they are not there, however, since they are rarely seen and their call may not be recognised.



The Fernbird

Spotless Crakes are small birds about the size of a Starling. They have a dark grey-blue body with brown wings and back, and are mostly heard rather than seen. They have a "pit-pit" call sometimes followed by a purring note. Once again, they are not currently known from the ring plain but again this may only be because they rarely come out of the swamp areas into view. Lake Rotokare is again a good place to hear these.

The Banded Rail is only recorded from Mokau but an old record from South Taranaki could suggest there are others somewhere in the province. More often they are in saltmarshes. Their range is generally Northland, Bay of Plenty, Kawhia, Raglan and Nelson.

All of these species have to contend not only with destruction of their habitat but also the usual round of predators – cats, dogs, stoats, weasels and ferrets. Often

the only record of their existence is from a bird brought in by a cat. It could be the last survivor!

The Ornithological Society would be keen to hear reports of any of these well-camouflaged little species.

Barry Hartley, phone 7578644

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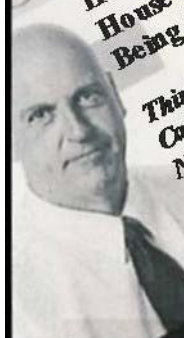
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Kaitake Netball

2003 was a successful season for Kaitake Netball. Firstly, we managed to field two teams this year and, secondly, both teams did really well in the third grade.

The results of the last two games in the competition were: Kaitake Blue beat Sacred Heart 27-15 and lost to Girls High in the last round. Kaitake Black lost to Girls High as well and had a BYE in the last round.

The final results were: **Kaitake Blue** was placed second after Girls High who didn't lose a game all season. **Kaitake Black** was placed fifth overall.

On 6 September we had our prize giving at Kaitake Clubrooms and congratulations go to:

Kaitake Blue

Most Improved Player – Claire Dobbin

Most Dedicated Member – Vanessa Danger

Player of the Year – Catherine Spindler

Most Successful Combination – Catherine Spindler & Jo Hill

Special Thanks Award presented by Anna (coach) to Bob Fleming & Tanya Farrant for behind the scenes efforts & dedication that made her job easier.

Kaitake Black

Most Improved Player – Amy Elliot

Most Dedicated Member – Nicole Mancner

Player of the Year – Karen Cooper


Congratulations to you all and also to the rest of the players whose efforts didn't go un-noticed.

A special thanks to **Anna Cleland** for coaching Kaitake Blue this year. Even having a baby didn't deter her from coming down to practice and being at every game. Thanks heaps Anna.

Also thanks to **Pauline Shannon** for umpiring again this year. Once again, even the fact of having two other netball teams to follow didn't stop you from helping us out. Thanks.

For those who supported us this year – thank you. Especially **Maureen & Keith Looney**, whose advice on the sideline didn't go un-noticed (especially by me!). A big thanks to **Colleen Day** who 'ended up' coaching Kaitake Black.

From Bob Fleming and myself, thanks to all who were involved in Kaitake Netball this year, and we hope to see you all back in 2004. **Watch this space** for details of a 'summer netball session' to be held at Corbett Park possibly once a month over summer for those who are interested.



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Please contact us if you are interested in joining Kaitake Netball next season.

We look forward to another successful season in 2004.

Tanya Farrant
Secretary

FIRE!

Guy Fawkes night will soon be with us again and the Oakura Brigade will be out and about on the night. They would like to offer their services to visit families on the night to promote fire safety with the help of our "little flick" fire engine. If you would like a visit please register by phoning Brian Grundy on 752 7677 and advise us of approximate times. If anyone would like us to attend any function regarding fire safety please do not hesitate to contact us.

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The Powder Reef Club recently held their inaugural club champs at the Turoa skifield during their annual three day trip. The event was raced over a GS course situated below the Giant Café. The event was hotly contested in all categories with skier Alan Cook taking out the Club Championship with the fastest time of 34:39 secs followed by snowboarder Troy Reid at 34:89 secs. Tanya Farrant also took out the Women's Snowboarding category and ran 4th in the Men's Snowboarding category.

ated below the Giant Café. The event was hotly contested in all categories with skier Alan Cook taking out the Club Championship with the fastest time of 34:39 secs followed by snowboarder Troy Reid at 34:89 secs. Tanya Farrant also took out the Women's Snowboarding category and ran 4th in the Men's Snowboarding category.

Club Champs Results 2003

Men's Skiing

1st Alan Cook
2nd Dene MacKinnon
3rd Mark Braddock

Women's Skiing

1st Lynda Holswich
2nd Nicky Davies

Men's Snowboarding

1st Troy Reid
2nd Hayden Reid
3rd Glen Davies

Women's Snowboarding

1st Tanya Farrant



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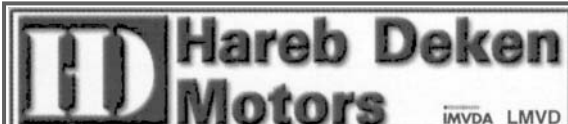
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Photo right: Powder Reef Club members: Back Stultzee, Hayden, Mike, Lynda, Jim, Dene Middle Woody, Deano, Sideways, Curdy, Sarah, Bug, Cooky, Grunter, Tanya, Whisky, Reido Front Dave Rail, Runamuck Absent Dingy, Nicky, Alan Day



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