

FROM OAKURA TO ATHENS AND BACK

How do two everyday (and thoroughly modest) people from Oakura end up at the world's premier sporting event - the Olympics? Last month I caught up with Heelan Tompkins and Matthew Grayling - to find out what such an event meant to them.

For Matthew, competing at his first Olympics but very successful at other events, the experience was unforgettable and a world far removed from farm and family life in Oakura. Matthew began competing seriously when he was 21. One achievement this year was winning the FEI Cup qualifier in Kihikihi. At home on the farm he has six horses he is training. Revo, his Olympic horse, is still in Europe. The highlight of the games for Matthew was performing well on Revo (who is 13 years old) and not injuring himself or the horse. Susan, Matthews wife, groomed for him and enjoyed life trackside in Athens and England. In the kiwi team everyone mixes together and has barbeques, while in some other teams the riders and grooms don't associate together. The kiwi team was like a family. Matthew managed a spot of

sightseeing - to the famous acropolis ruins - and even found the heat manageable. The Olympic facilities were also top class. Preparation for the Olympics began 8 weeks before, in England, with one week's preparation in Athens. The Graylings four children stayed behind in New Zealand and were cared for by other family members. Matthew's dad oversaw the care of the farm. All in all, a huge effort is required to compete at such a high level.

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Heelan and Kiwi legend, Murray Halberg, in Athens.



Matthew and Blythe Tait stave off the Athens heat with a well deserved drink.

THIS MONTH



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Carol delivers . . .



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Vet with a holistic approach.



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Oakura School Cross-country results

tom

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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi Folks,

I'd like to start by congratulating your new community board - Doug Hislop, Fay Looney, Brent Procter, and Keith Plummer. It's great to have passionate people who are prepared to put in the time and energy to make a difference in the Kaitake Ward. Regardless of my fortunes in the election, I look forward to supporting and working with you over the next three years - whether it's "ratepayer Pete", or "Mayor Pete", I remain an advocate for the difference a Community Board can make in our community.

I'd also like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of Sue Henchman for the difference that she made in her time chairing the Kaitake Community Board. Sue is taking a well earned retirement from her involvement with local government. I know her commitment to this community will continue with the passion and vigour we all admire so much in Sue.

Since the last issue of TOM, there has been the announcement of the Taranaki Super Series Surf Champs. Some of the key figures in world surfing have been checking out the province over past weeks (and specifically, much of the TOM circulation area), and we've got the thumbs up. The world's best in surfers will be heading to Taranaki in February. The spotlight on the region continues!

Other major events over the summer promise a wonderful time for all.

Now's the time to contact those friends and relatives and ensure they've started circling dates for their trips to the region - whether it's the Surfing, the Long Track World Speedway Finals, Womad, Plymouths of the World, Volley Ball, League, Variety Bash, International Cricket . . . the list goes on and on . . .

Almost without exception, the events coming this way are because of the passion, contacts, ideas, and inspiration of locals. Invariably, as a council we've got behind the initiatives, but in the first instance it's been someone with the idea that we could do the event here!

If you've got just such an idea, that you think I or council could help, please give me a call (759 6060).

Let's work to ensure the best place in the world to live, to work, and to visit, gets even better!

Keep the passion!

Peter Tennent, Mayor



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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



Standing for Public Office is not something that appeals to the faint hearted. It is political campaign time again, and to stand for Public Office demands the casting off of all inhibition and dignity. The enemy, of course, are the ratepayers - who, by the time this article is printed, will know who the new representatives on the Council are. These people, in three years time when elections come about again, can put their personal privacy aside to do some canvassing. It's like throwing yourself to the wolves, or being boiled in oil. I would say it is one of life's most character forming experiences.

Since the election papers went out I have had several phone calls from people who used to be in the Kaitake Ward and who now are faced with the decision of voting for two of three people from Inglewood. Some of these people will choose not to vote at all, which is a shame, but I can understand their feelings. The decision to change the boundaries was not one of the best this council has made.

Election time is an unsettling time, its virtually six weeks of putting on your thick skin, and your shoulders back, and getting out there with the rest of the candidates for the sake of some votes.

This month I have sat on a hearing for the Targa rally, attended the opening of the walkway extension at Ngamotu beach, spent a week minding my grandchildren, attended the Elite Athletes AGM and attended a Community Forum hosted by our Prime Minister, Hon Ruth Dyson, Hon Harry Duyhoven, and Hon Rick Barker. Next week, I will attend a Symposium on Relationships with Maori and by then its the end of the month and, of course, not much else is happening until the elections are over.

I would like to farewell Sue Henschman from her job in Local Government as Chairperson of the Kaitake Community Board. Sue has served the community well in this time, and was always strongly supported by husband David. All the best Sue and David for any other ventures you may take up.

I've decided the winter has been too long Roll on summer!!!!

Until next month

Sincere regards,

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**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMUNITY
GRANTS SCHEME 2004/05**

The District Council through its Annual Plan provides an amount of funding to be made available to the community through the Social Services Grants Scheme. **Closing date for applications is Friday, 29 October 2004, 4.00pm.** The total amount of council funds allocated to the scheme is approximately \$55,000 therefore **only applications requesting a total of \$5,000 or less will be accepted.**

Assistance from the Social Services Grants Scheme is available to:

- Non-profit making, volunteer, community groups that are registered, that is a charitable trust or incorporated society
- Organisations that provide a social service to the citizens of the New Plymouth District
- Organisations that provide services to the whole of Taranaki will only be funded on a proportional basis for the New Plymouth District
- Only ONE application from an organisation will be considered in any one financial year.

NOTE
Grants will not be made to companies, private individuals, schools, kindergartens or statutory bodies.

Activities that qualify for Creative Communities arts funding scheme, will not be funded by the Social Services Grants Scheme. With the exception of rates relief, in any one financial year, organisations that have been funded by Council from the other funding sources will not be eligible for a Social Services Grant.

Application forms (and information) are available from the Council's Customer Support Centres at New Plymouth, Inglewood and Waitara.
Enquiries in respect of the scheme should be directed the council Telephone 06 759 6060, email enquiries@npldc.govt.nz

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MP for New Plymouth



Springtime greetings to you all as the year flies by and we are into the final school term for 2004.

By now you will have made your decisions as to who you want to be your community representatives at local Government level. I hope you have all exercised your right to vote. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were successful and to also commend all those who made the decision to put themselves forward to represent their communities on council.



It is ironic that local body elections seem to attract a relatively small number of voters; especially as councils are responsible for decisions and actions at local level. Because there are so many more councillors than MPs, people should find access easier than to central Government.

I do endeavour to be as accessible as is humanly possible to anyone who needs my assistance on government issues. However, and as most people will be aware, as a Government Minister my duties often involve time elsewhere, out of the Electorate on Government business.

I am very fortunate that I have a team of hard working and dedicated staff who can deal with a huge range of issues on my behalf.

By this time next year we will have had our General Election, and I urge all eligible voters to ensure that they are on the Electoral Roll, so that they can again take part in our democratic process.

Thank you for reading this column, best wishes to all residents and visitors to Oakura and environs.

Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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158 Tukapa St., New Plymouth. Ph. 753 3211. Fax 753 2711

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FROM OAKURA TO ATHENS AND BACK

(continued from page 1)

On the 20th October Matthew is competing again on Revo (this time in Pau, France [by the Pyrenees], in the World Cup Final), then it is home for the national competition.

For Heelan, the Olympics are the pinnacle of equestrian eventing, but she tries not to take it too seriously and enjoyed the occasion as much as possible. The build up meant a 6 month separation from home, preparing in England. The equestrian lifestyle in England is an exciting one, a far cry from life in Oakura, but Heelan believes life in Oakura is a good balance for the high life of England. One of the highlights of the Olympics for Heelan was meeting other top athletes - many of whom she describes as ordinary everyday people who have a particular talent that drives them to excel. This is what drives Heelan too - making the most of the talent she has and not having any regrets about not trying hard enough. I asked local garage owner, Ash Heydon (who has known Heelan since she was tiny), what he thought made Heelan so successful. His reply was that the input of Jill Tompkins (Heelan's mum) in the early days was the driving force in her life. Other locals, such as Norton Moller, have given Heelan helpful advice and encouragement that has also contributed to her success.

Heelan has seen Oakura change over the years - it is no longer a safe place to ride horses along the roads because there are too many cars. In fact, the lack of space is a big draw back for Heelan to train her ten horses. They are often trucked out to Waitara to John Wheeler's track for training. Life is going to be hectic over the coming months for Heelan with events every weekend from September to December. A friend, Lou, has been called in from England to help. Another hiccup is getting her gear back from Athens. It has taken weeks longer than it should have and now with events coming up and no gear - Heelan just shrugs philosophically, that's life.

Heelan isn't one to sit around for long and has started work again at Classic Hits. Doing other things besides riding horses is impor-



The Olympic Equestrian team, Heelan, Matthew, Blyth Tait, Andrew Nicholson and Dan Jocelyn.



Heelan sandwich anybody? Tall Blacks Ed Book and Craig Bradshaw telling Heelan what's over the horizon.

tant to Heelan - "riding horses all the time would be boring" she says. She loves her job at Classic Hits and says her boss, Richard, has been really good about keeping her job open for her.

So its back to the hum drum of everyday life in Oakura - getting the horses(who have basically been on holiday for 6 months) back into shape; sorting out the mountain of bills (I detect a little angst over bills); slotting back into working life; competing around the country at weekends; and reviving the social life.

It is wonderful what both of these athletes have achieved through much hard work and sacrifice. Oakura is proud.

By Kim Ferens



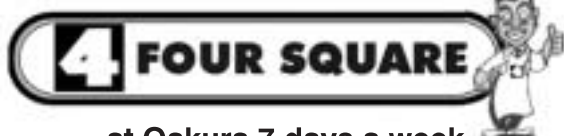
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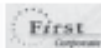
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TOM Talks to the New KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD Members

We asked the new Kaitake Community Board members three questions:

1. *What is your background?*
2. *Why did you stand for the KCB?*
3. *What is your vision for the Kaitake area?*

Here is what they said.

Doug Hislop

What is your background ?

I have been a ratepayer and/or resident of Oakura since 1970. I am principal of Central School, and married to Peta, who teaches here in Oakura. We have two daughters. I have spent many years surfing and sailing along the Taranaki coast. Among other things I like kids and dogs, get pleasure from a good read, enjoy traveling, listen to an assorted range of music, and am a keen gardener.

Why did you stand for the Kaitake Community Board?

That's a good question. Like most of us I don't recommend politics in any form as a particularly desirable activity. However.....

For the past few years I have been worried that there is no long term strategy for sustainable management of this area's natural and physical resources. There is no protection for the future, putting at real risk the very natural things that provide such a great lifestyle, and brought us all here in the first place.

We do face population growth, increasing property values and rate increases, change in the rural/urban interface, and infrastructural changes that will put increasing pressure on local environments and eco-systems.

The current District and Regional Council's planning tools, varying in age and structure as they do, will not protect the region's coastal resources, especially when the high market value of coastal real estate brings increased pressure for 'consent variation'. There is no formal contract or pledge between Council and our community to tailor development to local circumstances and priorities

However after fairly extensive lobbying over the past couple of years Council contracted Beca Planning to carry out a scoping study. The study showed there is an urgent need to develop an integrated coastal management plan from Stoney River to Mokau with a particular initial emphasis on the Oakura area.

Thankfully Council has taken this on board and has now put up substantial funding to develop a strategy. Its development will require close scrutiny to ensure we get it right.

The Kaitake Community Board will be a key player in the process. The challenge is to protect and enhance all the good things that provide such a great lifestyle for all of us here. Another challenge for the Board will be to develop fresh ways of connecting with the community and putting some relevance into its interactions with it.

Just being a bystander won't be much help in that regard so after a fair bit of 'umming and ahing' I threw my hat in the ring for membership of the Board. I like to think I would bring some vision, an broad skill set, common sense, and a democratic approach to the committee table.

What is your vision for the Kaitake area ?

Wouldn't it be great if 25 years from now this marvelous place is still a regional jewel, being enjoyed in a wide range of ways by the next generation of residents and visitors.

The coastal strategy will be the way forward. It is a real investment in the future, and all residents must be stakeholders in developing it. Broad stakeholder participation means a common community focus and I wager most of us want the same things.

Ratepayers just can't slip into becoming income generating units for Council, with no voice in preserving and enhancing the village ambience of Oakura, the local coast and its environs.

We all must make sure that only healthy and sustainable development from an environmental, social and economic point of view is stimulated here.

If that happens we will be well on the way to enjoying those next 25 years rather than wrecking the place.

During my surfing and sailing adventures over the past 40 years I have seen the unfortunate results of minimal planning and 'ad hoc' decision making in far too many coastal communities.

I've put my hand up. I guess only time will tell if my vision is acceptable and achievable.

Fay Looney

What is your background ?

Born in New Plymouth Married for 45 years to Harry.

We live on Koru rd on the land settled by Harrys' great great grandparents in the late 1800s

Mother of 2

Grandmother of 4, 6th generation Oakurians.

Self employed Photographer/publisher.

Author photographer two New Zealand books (one about to be released at Te Papa late October))

Past secretary & Chairman of Oakura School.

Past secretary Kaitake golf club (Tapuae) (We built it along with about 8 others & our lawnmowers & tractors) Thus creating the opportunity to purchase and develop the present course.

Chairman first Kaitake Community Board

First Woman president NZ professional Photographers Insitute.

Why did you stand for the Kaitake Community Board ?

I was asked.

Which is suprising as I was the first Chairman of the board some years ago and took an active part in abolishing the Board.

After working on it for three years it became very obvious that the cost of running the Board completely outweighed its usefulness.

The Board had no power to implement or change policies we spent much time talking & beating our chests about issues which were ultimately decided around the Council table.

It's a fact that most people with issues go direct to Council to resolve problems.

I believe the best example of the lack of power the Board has is the present state of the Oakura Upgrade.??

This is not the fault of those who make themselves available for election but a fact of life, we get to talk the talk but it ends right there.

What is your vision for the Kaitake area ?

Clean waterways, long term planning (The next 50 years) for sensible & transparent policies for coastal development.

Keith Plummer

What is your background ?

I have lived at Lower Weld Rd with partner Philippa and 3 children, Ben, Shem and Briar for 20 years. I have experience in management (business development, ski industry), and my own business ventures over the years. I am currently President of the Stratford Mountain Club and have also been a member of the Kaitake Community Board for the past 3 years, I lecture in marketing at the Hotel Management School in Bell Block. I like to surf, windsurf and play on the mountain in the snow, and (sometimes) have been heard to play what is loosely called music.

Why did you stand for the Kaitake Community Board?

Two reasons; 1. Because the Board is still in existence after the Ward boundaries were redrawn.

The area needs good representation on the issues that will face us over the next two decades - population increase, tourism, and coastal subdivision need long term vision and careful planning. Balanced development that allows for growth in employment/recreational opportunities is required, and to make sure that we receive the value that local ratepayers deserve.

And 2. The Community Board, can be made to work better than it has, it can be more effective with good community consultation and friendlier processes

What is your vision for the Kaitake area ?

An area that develops based on the values that attracted us to live here in the first place; land based opportunities, the beaches and surf, jobs, horse riding etc and good people. We have a unique chance to create a place to live based on values that attracted us to live and work in the area.

Keith Plummer

Email: keithplummer@clear.net.nz
<<mailto:keithplummer@clear.net.nz>>

Phone: 752 7050

Brent Procter

What is your background ?

I was raised in Taranaki (we had a section in Oakura for those summer holidays in the late 70's.) An electrician by trade, and until recently owned and operated a video surveillance business throughout the central North Island.

I currently co-host the breakfast show on Classic Hits 90FM.

I am married to Nicola who co-runs the Oakura Swim School. We have three lovely daughters, 2 at Oakura School and one in Kindergarten

We have travelled throughout NZ over 10 years in broadcasting and have seen what makes different towns and regions prosper.

I love my sport, golf and squash are top priorities and are active in both. (although never enough)

I have been back in Taranaki (Oakura) 7 years.

Through my work I have a unique opportunity to mix through many sections of the Taranaki community and this gives me a good gauge and keeps me in tune with current opinions and perceptions.

I became very involved in the submission process in favour of Oakura sewerage reticulation during the past three years and am delighted with the result.

Why did you stand for the Kaitake Community Board?

Kaitake ward needs strong representation in council. We are the smallest by population, so we need to be even more proactive to be heard.

There's plenty we want done and I believe I have the necessary qualities to enter the local political scene and help our part of the district achieve our goals.

I have a penchant for public speaking and debate and a pure desire to get involved in local body politics to make a difference for our area.

I am keen to play a part representing this area and encourage all sectors of the community to share your thoughts and views with me about what you want for your community.

With your support we can achieve the results we desire.

What is your vision for the Kaitake area ?

I believe we can build on the "Best spot on the West Coast" image we already have by continuing to build safe, involved and caring communities which work with, protect and enjoy our unique and natural environment, while also pushing for first class positive infrastructure and direction to gain the maximum benefits and provide the best opportunities for our community as a whole.

This is the place we are proud to call home!

I can be contacted

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Greetings from the guys in the big red truck.

Sorry about last month, I had a bit of a "senior moment" and missed the deadline.

As it happens there was not a lot to report on anyway, until very recently. We have had two people transfer out of the area recently leaving some gaps to be filled, hence we are again looking for some keen volunteers to join the ranks. Are you male or female up to around 50 years and relatively fit? Come to the station on any Monday night, have a look, see how it works and, who knows, you might like it.

Our latest recruit, an Okato High School Student, has just completed all his training courses and is now **Fire Fighter** Conner Yardley. Well done Conner!

Now, on a more sobering note. A house fire (our first for a very long time) reminded us of the NZ Fire Service current TV campaign "Don't Drink and Fry". Now, we are not saying for one moment that the occupant of the Donnelly St House had been drinking, but we had all the right ingredients:-

1, Fat or oil boiling on the stove, 2, The occupant falling asleep. If smoke had got to the sleeping occupant before she woke up we could have easily been dealing with a "Fatal House Fire" rather than just a badly damaged kitchen.

These fatal fires happen dozens of times a year throughout the country. Please think.

A good save by the local Brigade, putting all their training into practise. Well done team and thanks New Plymouth for the back up.

Things to remember; GUY FAWKES is just around the corner so stay safe, and if you want "Flick" to come and visit your celebration give us a call on 7527888.

Think about booking Flick for your Xmas functions also.

Until next time, stay cool. *FBT*

Horizon

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We were the proud owners of 7 Mckellar Street and we loved it - until we found we were expecting twins. Suddenly the cosy bach became an alteration conundrum - and we turned to Kay! We needed to sell. It was a stressful time for us, too early for the precious babies to survive if I overdid things.

Kay stepped in and couldn't have been more professional. The highlight of the experience was being sold, done and dusted before a fortnight was out. Kay shouldered the load and had the house advertised, open homed and known among the buyers without undue drama.

Julian and I found Kay communicative, receptive, available and honest. Kay knew the market and managed to convey, both to us and the prospective buyers, realistic, relevant information. Adept at networking and approachable, potential buyers gave her honest feedback about the house and Kay kept us in the loop, so that we were aware of where our marketing campaign was going.

This was our first home and we were reluctant to leave - especially as we had good neighbours, and a bevy of nesting Tui. Yet we enjoyed handing over our beloved batch, thanks to Kay's transparency. We highly recommend Kay as a reliable and individual agent, who will act in your best interests and listen to your wishes.

Rose & Julian Stoddart

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PEOPLE and PROPERTY

OMATA WOMAN MAKES IT TO "WOW" AGAIN

Omata resident and designer Sandra Lewis recently attended the recent World of Wearable Art show in Nelson after two of her pieces were selected by the WOW team as worthy artworks for their hugely popular show. Only one other person from Taranaki (Judy Lane) had pieces selected. Every designer who makes it to the cat walk is considered a winner already, as the standard of selected pieces is always extremely high. Each year the judging panel is different and it is hard to anticipate what the judges will like. Unfortunately for Sandra, neither of her creations were major prize winners but they may still be selected to tour with the WOW show or be exhibits in the WOW museum.

Sandra created a frock out of coat hangers called 'hangin' around' with matching parasol and head gear made from steel pot cleaners. Its appeal would have to be the innovative use of coat hangers as the dress rather than the equipment to hang the dress on. Sandra also created a bra for the 'bizarre bra' section out of curtain tape, curtain hooks and doilies. It was aptly named 'hooked on you'.

For Sandra, the Nelson World of Wearable Art Show is a chance to be creative with recyclable materials, which she favours as a resource because they are cheap and it's a challenge to create something interesting out of rubbish. Each art work takes many hours to complete and often takes over the whole house. Friends and family are asked to rummage through their cupboards for bits and pieces and a favourite haunt of Sandra's is the David Street Hospice shop. Sandra has been submitting artworks to Nelson for five years now and is looking forward to the show shifting to Wellington next year. Many designers seem to be hooked on the show and enter year after year. Its popularity has meant that the current premises in the Trafalgar Centre in Nelson have been out-grown. Suzie Moncreif, the creator of the WOW phenomena, has plans for the show to go worldwide. The show attracts entrants from all over the world, with its major prize of \$20 000, and the artworks have improved immeasurably from the first supreme winner, over 16 years ago.

Sandra's passion for wearable art has seen her entering pieces in the local newspaper wearable art show and the Waitakere Council wearable art show as well as organising the Stratford Centennial wearable art show and advising Omata School children on their art work.

By Kim Ferens

'Mermaid Shimmer'

You'll find yourself revitalised and emerging sleek, silky and sexy from the 'Mermaid Shimmer' - a new holistic therapy which takes you to a higher level in body pampering and awareness. Holistic Beauty Therapist Lee Newton is the only person in Taranaki offering this exclusive, two hour treatment in her private studio, Inner Beauty, at Oakura Beach.

First, an invigorating body polish of sea salts and almond oil will leave you refreshed, glowing and gleaming. Next, the Dead Sea mud wrap full of trace elements and minerals will detoxify tired muscles and aching joints, plus increase circulation. Although you're more like a basking seal than a mermaid at this stage, the sheer, oozy slinkiness of the mud and the deliciously warm tingling sensations all over, feels both naturalistic and totally hedonistic.

While languishing in the mud wrap, an eye print mask of marine algae soothes, tones and decongests tired eyes and takes you to the depths of tranquility and serenity. After a reviving shower, Matis Body Milk (a medically recognised French product) with cocoa bean oil and milk proteins, is gently massaged into your shimmering, energised mermaid's body...

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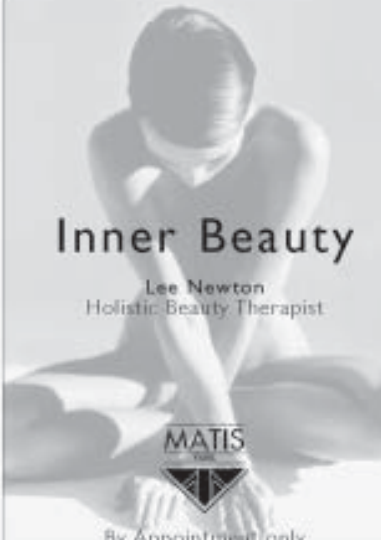
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Oakura Library with Brenda Cash



Hello from Oakura Library!

It's a case of who, what, where and when this month.

WHO: My name is Brenda Cash.

WHAT: I am the new Oakura Librarian. (Tara will be in London now).

WHERE: 16 Donnelly Street, next to Oakura School.

WHEN: Monday - Friday 10am - 12.30 pm; 1-4 pm Wednesday late night 5-7 pm.

If you would like to join the Library, (remember membership is FREE), or haven't visited for a while do call in. If you get the opportunity take the time to have a look at our New Books stand which has a selection of wonderful new adults and childrens books on display for one week. These books maybe requested and each Monday the display is changed. We can also request books that are held at our other Libraries. We have a courier who delivers books to us each day. Please ask if you would like help to find what you are looking for.

Thank you to all the patient and friendly Oakura folk who have helped make my first few weeks at Oakura Library most enjoyable. I look forward to seeing you at the Library.

Happy reading!

Brenda

tom

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**GARDENING
IN OCTOBER**

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

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.

Flowers: Sow seed or plant out summer flowering annuals.

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Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival 2004

October 29 - November 7

RADIANT rhododendrons and gorgeous gardens are always a feature of the long-running Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival - this year is no exception.

The 10-day event starts October 29th and is one of the country's premier garden festivals, set in our region, which is arguably regarded as the horticultural center of New Zealand. It showcases over 60 of Taranaki's public and private gardens, and boasts a series of sparkling events.

Over a dozen new or returning gardens have joined this year's line-up, including a park-like property boasting palm trees, doves and a lake. Other new entrants range from a charming quarter acre section that mixes art work, formal hedging and a 'witches circle', to a lovingly created Waitara garden bold with blue pots, blooming roses and beautiful detail.

Our own John Sole and Tony Barnes, at Ngamamaku garden, have a new Japanese garden this year. Richard Greenwood will speak here on Friday 5th November 11.00am.

A morning not to be missed

Pauline Lepper again has her Lepperton delight in this years Festival and Lynda Hallinan will speak here on Friday November 5th at 2.00pm

Long time festival gardener Jenny Oakley, whose South Taranaki property features in NZ Gardener magazine, opens her gates to the public, and will also have Lynda Hallinan speaking the following afternoon Saturday 6th November at 2.00pm

With our local garden trail boasting the magnificence of Valentia, Stony River Pottery, Clark's Cleveland's and Joyce Young's Garden Shed Studio, we're never short of talent and beauty.

To see the gardens, you can follow one of the garden trails that wind through town and country; you are free to set your own pace or hop aboard an organised bus tour.

This years festival has been modified to more accurately reflect its purpose -to be a more inclusive festival. Not only does it promote Taranaki's majestic rhododendrons but also its lush and varied gardens.

The Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival began 17 years ago, initially as an event to promote the internation-

ally renowned Pukeiti Gardens, south- west of New Plymouth.

It has grown in size and depth to be regarded as a must-see for gardening devotees and those wishing to soak up the horticultural heart of Taranaki.

Opening night is always a fun one and this year's Art Auction and Cocktail Party is sure to please. Nationally and internationally acclaimed Taranaki artist's works are available for bidding Friday 29th October 6.30pm viewing, 7.30pm welcome at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International, ph. 758 0589

Annabel Langbein, a finalist in this year's Montana NZ Book Awards with her publication 'Cooking to Impress - Without Stress', will be demonstrating at a Garden and Gourmet evening This is Wednesday 3rd November 7.30pm also at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International, ph. 758 0589 Be sure to be in for your tickets to this one.

Lynda Hallinan and Richard Greenwood, of TVNZ's gardening programme Ground Rules, will give workshops, while 'Bugman' Ruud Kleinpaste, famous for his appearances on Maggie's Garden Show, talks to school children. All three take part in the celebrity debate along with comedian, newspaper columnist and weekly Radio New Zealand guest Jim Hopkins. This is scheduled with our local mayors and deputies!!!! A good opportunity to see some guns blazing. Thursday 4th November 7.30pm at TSB Showplace. Tickets at Ticketek.

With a floral design competition, school environmental talks, and art exhibitions, the festival is a smorgasbord of choices.

Puke Ariki, New Plymouth's much-praised museum and library, will feature an exhibition of garden artwork, while Stratford's Percy Thomson gallery hosts a Flora and Fauna exhibition

Programmes for the festival are available from all information centers. For more information check out the festival website on www.rhodo.co.nz, or email Louise, enquiries@rhodo.co.nz or tel. (06) 759 8412.

Looking forward to seeing some of you there - a happening gardening season to you all

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CHAOS REIGNS

Kerry Vosseler of Green Ginger fame has expanded her horizons and launched her culinary wizardry on the unsuspecting public of New Plymouth in her new café cum deli cum bakery; called CHAOS.

I had a really entertaining experience recently trying to interview Kerry. I consider myself a bit of a food and coffee aficionado, so to get behind the scenes and see the cook in action was a treat, but I wasn't ready for the chaos! Chaos because not only was Kerry talking to me, she was cooking two huge trays of brownies, two huge trays of croissants and a Mexican tortilla stack, cleaning, chatting with various well wishers as they popped in and children returned from school. Just as well Kerry isn't of the male variety because there wouldn't be enough hours in the day!! Kerry's right hand lady and Oakuraian - Helen Chapman or 'Chappy' has also been putting in long hours to get the café up and running, along with Kerry's husband Mark Brennan - whose "200% support has been invaluable". Many hours have been spent planning, designing, painting and decorating to get the doors open for business.



CHAOS is situated on Brougham St, beside The Grand Central (in the old La Paz building), and is open Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm. Food on offer is all freshly made on the premises by Kerry and Chappy and includes an "all day grazing menu" and cabinet food such as pizettes, cakes, salads and breads. There is a specialty range of cakes for birthdays and special occasions that come in any size, but

particularly "little ones" for two or three people. Everything can be pre ordered. Another specialty will be the bakery items, such as croissants, foccacias, other breads and tarts made to order. The deli has high quality dry goods, fresh hams, cooked meats, pasta, salads and olives. There are plans to have outdoor seating, once the appropriate consents have been given. Local Oakura painter, Janey Askew, has artwork displayed on the walls.



Sarah Gorrie in the Chaos kitchen

I asked Kerry why she wanted to start another café while still owning a very successful one in Oakura and she said she liked to keep busy (frantic I'd call it!) - Green Ginger doesn't open over the winter so she needed to find something to do with those long winter days. Green Ginger is again open for the spring and summer and its fine food will continue, but without

Kerry fronting the café. The food will be cooked by Kerry at CHAOS and delivered fresh everyday to Green Ginger. Green Ginger will be open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and then everyday in the Christmas holidays.

CHAOS is already proving popular with the café society and Kerry says she has regular customers. Most days all the food is selling out and supposedly quiet days like Mondays are very busy. Kerry feels this is due to loyal customers, many of whom frequent Green Ginger when it is open, and now come to CHAOS. Word of mouth has also been responsible for customers flocking through the doors. (I heard CHAOS had opened after three days!!) Robert Angus of Robert Angus Real Estate helped Kerry procure the building and renovations have been carried out. Kerry says the whole of Green Ginger could fit in the kitchen at CHAOS. The lovely façade of the café invites you in and the décor is laid back, with sofas, tables and chairs, and has a sort of Tuscany feel about it.

Locals from Oakura will feel right at home at CHAOS, so be sure to call in for a coffee and chat with Kerry or buy a takeout and wander down to the foreshore and wind wand or stroll up to the park and sit in the sun.

By Kim Ferens



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Carol Megaw has been delivering the post to Oakura homes for 15 years and still loves every minute of it - well mostly, except for the bad weather and a few aches and pains. Her Honda motorbike is no newcomer to the job either, with 40,000 kilometres on the clock. The Oakura mail round takes

about two hours, is 13 kilometres long with 470 letterboxes to deliver to. Carol and husband Lionel who also has delivered the mail, have seen the mail round grow over the years and a new type of resident move into the area - the affluent business person rather than families wanting to bring their children up by the sea. Carol has lived in Oakura for 30 years, built a house, raised her children, worked and delivered the mail.

Courier Post drop off the mail early each morning to be sorted before delivery and Wednesday is junk mail day and one Wednesday a month is "TOM" day. The day's junk mail has to be sorted and folded and there can be six or more different publications. Although Carol has helped twice a week with the mail, these all make the mail run slower and are heavy for the bike. Carol reckons the job couldn't be done by one person without the motorbike and because they are contractors, they can supply their own. In New Plymouth, New Zealand Post only supply push bikes.

Involvement in the community and being out in the fresh air are the benefits of the job for Carol. There have been very few bad experiences. The occasional dog has put Carol off her stride but fortunately with only minor injuries. There are no plans to retire from postie work so we'll expect to see Carol puttering around the footpaths for a good while yet.

By Kim Ferens

A Look-Good, Feel-Good, Experience

When Christine is asked what treatments she offers, it's often easier for her to say what she doesn't offer - Brazilian bikini waxes, acrylic nails and, apart from a lovely de-stressing back, neck and shoulder massage, no other body treatments. Christine offers everything from tinting and waxing to wonderful relaxing manicures and pedicures.

Christine specialises in electrolysis (permanent hair removal). "I've always enjoyed this work; it's so rewarding to see the changes in clients once their unwanted hair is being treated. When finished they are just so grateful, it's often a very humbling experience."

My other passions are facials and skin care. Janesce, the pure plant-based skin care range, was chosen for its synergy and holistic integrity, something Christine regards as crucial when taking beauty therapy to the next level. Janesce believe that our health affects our appearance, so they have developed two services. The Lifestyle and Vitality programme is tailor-made for each client by the Janesce naturopaths and provides guidance on supplementation, exercise, stress management and lifestyle trends. The more in-depth Skin-specific Naturopathic programme is designed for clients with problems like acne, psoriasis or eczema.

Christine's home-based clinic at 18 Karamea Street is open Monday to Friday with late nights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, plus Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

So for your look-good, feel-good experience call Christine on 751 2820.



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The Adventures of **KOREAN KELLY**

I have fond memories of going to Corbett Park as a child, trying to catch eels from under the rocks with my hands (the best way to do it is to use your teeth, Dad always said) and tucking into fresh barbecued sausages and bread, while Mum, Dad and my grandparents watched Kaitake thrash the opposing rugby team. Now, I realize how lucky we are as children in New Zealand. Clean air, clean water, even being able to walk bare-footed without standing in someone's disgusting pool of saliva. All things a Korean child finds a little more difficult to do.

Outdoor activities in Korea are generally based on two things - mountains and food. Perhaps the most common pastime in Korea (aside from computer games, text messaging and soccer) is walking in any of the numerous small peaks covering the craggy, mountainous terrain of the Korean peninsula. Every weekend, thousands of Ajumma and Ajjushi (married men and women), dress up in an array of mountaineering clothes, complete with graphite-shafted, space-age technology hiking sticks, ergonomic daypacks and pretty much any equipment that will allow them to emulate the latest Himalaya expedition, jump onto the subway and disappear into the hills surrounding the basin city of Seoul.

This is not quite true of all Seoulites though. Coupled with these walking 'Survival Shop' advertisements are young city dwellers, particularly females, who find it necessary to tramp along the meticulously groomed paths with faces caked in make-up, high fashion jeans and (of course) high-heel shoes. I kid you not. They wear high heel shoes.

Whilst up the mountain, trying to take in a (somewhat smog covered) breathtaking view, you tend to hear great hollers and yells from the Korean people in an attempt to create echoes and relieve stress. Any hope of a peaceful break from city life is somewhat skewed by these outbursts.

Then there's the food. A banquet-type picnic is usually prepared by the wife, with the most important part being a few bottles of soju, or whiskey, so as to help warm the body and provide energy for the descent. Either that or you can stop at one of the restaurants at the top of the mountains. It is an interesting experience. Koreans adore food, there is no place without it.

Apart from the cultural anomalies, the mountains are still beautiful. There are birds, squirrels, chipmunks, frogs and many unusual and interesting insects. It's good to get away from the city.

Annyonghi keseyo,

Kelly Ryan

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OAKURA PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre will be having an OPEN DAY on Wednesday 20th October, and we invite everyone to come and see what we have to offer and how we operate. A team of Playcentre parents will organise fun activities for you and your child/children, including water play, fingerpaint, active play, painting, collage, playdough, carpentry, puppet theatre, dress-ups and more. We will also have a draw where one lucky family can win ONE WHOLE TERM FREE at Playcentre.

So, if you've been thinking about coming along, do take this opportunity to check us out.

Oakura Playcentre is at 14 Donnelly Street, Oakura.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Feona Burkett on 752 7067 or Mandy Robinson on 752 1292.

We look forward to seeing you there.

OPEN DAY * WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER * 9.30-11.30 * OAKURA PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre is open to all children aged 0-6 years, and we're open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9.00am-12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term - no matter how many sessions you come to - and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

Please feel free to come and join us - we're a friendly, fun place and warmly welcome all new families.



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HERITAGE VALUES OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH IN OMATA RECOGNISED

The Church of St John the Evangelist in Omata is to be upgraded to a Category A heritage building in Council's District Plan. The church is currently a Category B heritage building. However, at the request of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the church's heritage rating will soon be raised. This means that the church will be regarded as one of the finest heritage buildings in the New Plymouth district alongside the likes of St Mary's Church, New Plymouth and the White Hart Hotel, New Plymouth.

There are approximately 70 Category A heritage buildings in the New Plymouth district. Category A heritage buildings

are protected in the District Plan to control inappropriate development, demolition and subdivision of land.

The Church of St John the Evangelist is located on the corner of South Road and Waireka Road in Omata, forming an outstanding physical landmark for people travelling south along State Highway 45. The Omata War Memorial is located at the church's front gate and inside the church the names of service men and women are also recorded. The church was built in 1875 by Thomas Bayley Penwarden, an early settler. It is the third Anglican church built in Omata on the third of three successive sites. A feature of the interior of the church is the walls that are lined with rimu tongue and groove timber in a diagonal pattern. Major work was carried out in 2002 and 2003 that returned the church to pristine condition. Although the present church does not physically date back to 1848, its strong historical, religious and social links with that time, through peace and war, give it a unique heritage making it a significant place in local, regional and national history.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ROADS TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is given that the New Plymouth District Council, for the purpose of permitting the Club Targa Inc to hold the Dunlop Targa Motoring event, has approved the temporary closure of the following roads for the period described.

Roads to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 8.00am to 12.00noon – Stage 10
Tikorangi Road from approximately 200 metres in a westerly direction from Stockman Road to Otaraoa Road, Otaraoa Road from Tikorangi Road to Tarata Road, Tarata Road from Otaraoa Road to Taniki Road, Includes intersection(s) with: Stockman Road No Exit, Mangahewa Road No Exit, Foreman Road No Exit, Taramouku Road No Exit, Autawa Road No Exit, Munga Road No Exit, Amo Street No Exit, Toetoe Road No Exit, Motukawa Road No Exit.

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 8.30am to 12.30pm – Stage 11
Kaimata Road, starting 710 metres from its intersection with Tarata Road (at house No 710) to Bristol Road, Bristol Road from Kaimata Road to Everett Road, Everett Road from Bristol Road to Clarke and Waitara Roads intersection, Clarke Road from Everett Road to Waitara Road intersection to Lincoln Road, Lincoln Road from Clarke Road to Richmond Road, Richmond Road from Lincoln Road to Ackworth Road, Ackworth Road from Richmond Road to Kelly Road, Kelly Road from Ackworth Road to Crose Road, Crose Road from Kelly Road to finish at Richmond Road, Includes intersection(s) with: Mangarui Road No Exit, Barry Road No Exit, Lincoln East Road No Exit, Kelly Road No Exit.

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 9.30am to 1.30pm – Stage 12
Hursthouse Road from Little Lepper Road to Upland Road, Upland Road from Hursthouse Road to finish at State Highway 3, includes intersection with Awai Road No Exit.

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 10.00am to 2.00pm – Stage 13
Peters Road from Egmont Road to Alfred Road and Alfred Road No Exit intersection, Alfred Road from Peters Road and Alfred Road No Exit intersection to Mangawara Road, Mangawara Road from Alfred Road to Albert Road

Albert Road from Mangawara Road, to Hill Road and Alfred Road No Exit intersection, Hill Road from Albert Road and Alfred Road No Exit intersection to Maude Road and Hill Road No Exit intersection, Maude Road from Hill Road and Hill Road No Exit intersection to Kent Road and Maude Road No Exit intersection, Kent Road from Maude Road and Maude Road No Exit intersection to finish 500 metres from State Highway 3, Includes intersection(s) with Thomason Road No Exit and Karito Road No Exit.

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 11.30am to 3.30pm – Stage 14
Frankley Road from Carrington Road to Barrett Road, Barrett Road from Frankley Road to Phenev Road, Phenev Road from Barrett Road to finish at Hurlford Road, Includes intersection with Tapuae Road No Exit.

Tuesday, 26 October 2004 – 12.00noon to 4.00pm – Stage 15
Upper Pitone Road starting 580 metres from State Highway 45 to Carrington Road, Carrington Road from Upper Pitone Road to Dover Road, Dover Road from Carrington Road to SH45, Includes intersection with Albion Road No Exit.

Wednesday, 27 October 2004 – 8.00am to 12.00noon – Stage 17
Tarata Road from Kaimata Road to Taniki Road, Taniki Road from Tarata Road to Salisbury Road, Salisbury Road from Taniki Road to Beaconsfield Road, Includes intersection(s) with: Mangaoe Road, Kohete Road No Exit, Ratapike Road, Kaimata Road South, Mangaoe Road No Exit, Croydon Road (West and East), Tuna Road No Exit and Kaiapoi Road No Exit.

The roads may be reopened at such earlier time as decided by the organisers upon removal of the road closure sign at the venues, in which case the closure will be deemed to have expired. The roads will then be open to normal vehicle traffic and normal traffic regulations will then apply.

Rodger Kerr-Newell, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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OMATA school news

Omata School held 'Pet Day' on the 16th of September and we were lucky to have it in the morning as it bucketed down later in the day. The variety of pets that arrived at school was amazing. It was a bit like Noah's Ark. We had; horses, ponies, rabbits, lambs, kids (the goat variety), quail, cats, dags, guinea pigs, rats, rabbits, fish, birds and a duck.

I am pleased to say we had no escapes although I did hear of one pet rat that did a runner on the morning of pet day and never made it to school! In each classroom there were displays of country crafts including vegetable models, flower arranging, sand saucers, pizza faces and miniature landscapes.

Our guest judge, Nick Barrett, who came with dubious qualifications from the craft judging circuit, had the unenviable job of selecting two prizes for each class. Thanks Nick.

The winners were:

Room 1 Miniature Landscapes ~ *Jacob Tomlinson and Abbey-Louise Mayhead*

Room 2 Pizza Faces ~ *Caddison Murfitt and Jordan Hales*

Room 3 Sand Saucers ~ *Kristie Riha and Jayden McLean*

Room 4 Vegetable Models ~ *Manu Akioka and Stephanie Galvin-Perry*

Room 5 Flower arrangements ~ *Benjamin Watson and Jasmine Donald*

Well done to you all.



Goats, lambs and all sorts at Pet Day.



Maeghan King rides her horse.



Benjamin Taylor and his "kids".



Vegetable people mingle with teddy bears at Pet Day.

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OAKURA PLUNKET

A big thank you to all who made donations to our annual door-to-door appeal held on Tuesday 5th October. The money raised stays in our area to help run the clinic and provide equipment for Carol Stewart the local Plunket nurse. It also helps fund the "coffee mornings" which are on during term time at St James Church hall on Fridays from 9am - 10.30am. The Plunket committee once again appreciated the help of the Oakura Fire Brigade who gave us great support on the night and also to the volunteer collectors for giving up their time for this great cause.

As mentioned above, Carol Stewart is our local Plunket Nurse who provides Plunket services to Oakura and Okato communities. Carol says she has been in the job "a long time" (couldn't quite recall the exact years) and thoroughly enjoys the work she does, providing wonderful support and advice to parents, caregivers and whanau. Carol has regular appointments at the Oakura Plunket clinic on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, in the afternoons, to carry out free Well Child checks or if parents have any concerns with their babies or children. Carol also does home visits for parents of newborn babies.

If you are new to the area, and would like to get a Well Child check for your baby or child please leave a message for Carol Stewart at the New Plymouth clinic 7583229 and she will phone you back with an appointment time. The clinic is located in a room which is part of the Oakura Library complex.

Congratulations to all those in the village who have recently had babies, seems there has been a bit of a baby boom lately. See you all at the "coffee mornings"

Catherine Keenan, Plunket Committee



Tessa Keenan (4) outside the Oakura Library where the Plunket clinic is situated.

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Animal Healing

Photo& story by Jane
Dove Juneau

with a Difference

Oakura now has the services of a small animal vet clinic called Koru Vet. Dr. Petra Packheiser veterinary science, has recently opened a surgery at her home on Koru Road. The small animal clinic is for dogs, cats, guinea pigs and other small animals. Services offered include vaccinations, soft tissue surgery which includes spays and neuters, treatment of internal and behavioral problems.

In her treatment Petra offers an alternative service with a holistic focus. Holistic animal healing includes the whole animal, emotions, mind and body.

"Traditional vet medicine is aimed at suppressing symptoms and illness," Petra said.



"I got involved with homeopathy in 1990 in my locums. Ever since I have been working more and more with it. The difference is it gives the body a chance to really heal. It might take longer but usually we don't get the same problem back, it's preventative."

Petra took an acupuncture course and has been using acupuncture ever since quite successfully for problems with animal bones and joints.

"It can be used for any other type of disease as well," Petra said. "It is part of traditional Chinese medicine which includes diet, herbs and acupuncture."

Animal behaviour is another focus at Koru Vet. Petra offers behaviour consultation as well as pre purchase consultations.

"Before you get an animal I can talk the idea through and look at the type of animal. I can tell them how much time they'll need to spend with the animal. Different breeds have different characteristics."

Petra completed her veterinary training at Hanover University in Germany in 1987. After graduating she worked in a range of clinics in Germany which included a dairy practice, a horse vet clinic that worked for the German Olympic Team. In 1991 she opened her own small animal vet clinic in Hamburg.

In 1996 she moved to New Zealand and worked as a locum at New Plymouth Vet Group for six weeks, before getting a job with the Vet Stop where she worked for five years. She stopped work after having two boys Jens (3), and Lucas (1½) years.

To visit Koru Vet please call for an appointment first. Petra's veterinary experience and caring nature will ensure your pet is well taken care of.

For an appointment at Koru Vet, 255 Koru Road, phone: 752-7789.

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OAKURA school news

CONGRATULATIONS

Thais Farrant, an Oakura School Year 8 pupil, won the 2004 Year 7 & 8 Pukekura Toastmasters Speech Competition, held in August. Thais competed against her Year 8 classmates to determine the top 3 speeches. These children then competed against the top 3 Year 7 children: Leo Pritt, Toni-Ann Plaizier-Rielly and Shade Brophy, with Thais the overall winner, delivering her speech entitled "Girls". Second place went to Bethany Lowe and third to Melissa Harvey.

The Toastmaster's Competition is open to all Taranaki Year 7 & 8 children and, this year, nine schools were represented.

CROSS COUNTRY

The end of Term 3 is the time for school cross-country events to be held.

The weather was fine for the juniors and seniors, which made the events more pleasant for spectators and competitors. The children ran in their age groups and demonstrated good sportsmanship and determination. There were certainly some very close calls on the finish line!

A week after the school events, the senior children from the Coastal Schools, including Oakura, competed at Corbett Park, on another lovely fine day. The top eight from each of these age group races now go on to compete in the Taranaki Cross Country Competition which is held in Hawera. (Results on page 24).

Cathy Arden.

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Kip McGrath

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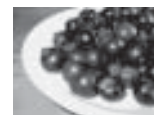
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GUAVA COBBLER



I don't know how many people have a guava tree these days but this old fashioned fruit tree must still lurk in a few gardens. The guava evokes memories of long lost childhoods along with the green gooseberry, cape gooseberry and quince. Guavas were once only used to make guava jelly - the hard little pips being sieved out but I personally love crunching on these pips. Grandma always served guava jelly with scones and pikelets. It was a cheap and nutritious spread. My son recently bought me an ice cream container filled with delicious red (or strawberry) guavas from our decades old and heavily laden guava trees and asked me to make something yummy, so I did!!

Guava Cobbler

50g softened butter

1/2 cup sugar

1 egg

1 cup flour

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp vanilla

1/2 to 3/4 cup milk

1 cup orange juice

1/2 cup brown sugar

as many guavas as you like

Beat butter and sugar together. Add egg and vanilla and beat. Mix in flour, BP and milk. Spoon into a greased pudding bowl. Sprinkle over the guavas which have had their bottoms chopped off. Sprinkle over the brown sugar and pour on the juice. Bake for 40 minutes at 180 degrees.

By Kim Ferens



KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

PET DAY 2004



*Tracey the Cocker Spaniel
receiving her shampoo
from: (left to right)
Jordan Burkett, Sophie
Willis & Jeremy Epstein.*

We recently held our annual pet day where the children who attend kindergarten have the opportunity to bring their favourite family pet from home. It is always a very special day at kindergarten as often parents, younger siblings and even grandparents, accompany the pets.

As well as dogs, cats, birds and goldfish, we also welcomed an axolotl, lambs and a visit from a horse and rider, to both sessions. Children who didn't have a pet that they could bring brought their favourite soft animal toy.

By bringing their pet from home, the children were able to make an important link between home and kindergarten. Within the kindergarten we always notice the children that have a strong interest in animals and nature.

Pet day gives the children a very important hands-on experience with animals. As well as meeting and greeting all the dogs, one dog was lucky enough to receive a bath from the children which gave them an opportunity to care for the dog, making sure it was washed and rinsed well, then dried thoroughly afterwards.

Susan Henderson

Committee



tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom

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AUSSIE BOYS MAKE TARANAKI SMILE

Taranaki NPC rugby is causing a bit of a stir around the country. Small provincial teams like Taranaki and Bay of Plenty aren't supposed to be out-gunning the All Black riddled teams like Canterbury (Auckland was just a glitch) but, with Taranaki at the top of the NPC table, we are. I think I've found out why. We all know winning rugby is about team work and confidence. The good old guys from Taranaki's forward pack (Tito, Slater, Hore etc) provide the team work and experience, and the confidence is, in part, coming from two boys who hang out in Oakura - Brock James and James Hilgendorf. I know we all love to poke fun at the Aussie's, but when they don the amber and black colours and score tries and kick conversions and penalties and help us win, we all agree it's ok to have an Aussie or two in the team. Jimmie Lim loves cornering them in the Four Square to get the latest tips. He also thinks they are "lovely boys that bring a smile to your face!"

Both Brock and James (Jimmy) come from Sydney, and both won scholarships to play rugby at Sydney University. Brock has been playing rugby since he was five and has played sevens rugby for Australia and been in development sides. The Super 12 franchises in Australia didn't want either of them, so Brock looked for opportunities here in Taranaki and James sent videos of his rugby to the NPC teams around New Zealand - he was accepted by the Taranaki Rugby Union. Brock began playing for Coastal rugby before being selected to play for Taranaki. The highlight of their Taranaki careers so far is the win over Canterbury. James scored two tries in the match. Both feel they aren't playing their best rugby yet but enjoy working with people like Paul Tito and Gordon Slater. I asked Paul Tito what he thought about the Aussie imports and he said "Typical Aussies, they back themselves but bring heaps of confi-



dence to the team. I can't wait for them to play their best rugby if they think they haven't yet!" They both find life in Oakura (and New Plymouth) quite a bit different to life in Sydney but really love the village feel of Oakura - lets hope the weather improves so they can get out and do some surfing without getting frost bite! Down time from rugby means practising for rugby (twice a day), doing interviews about rugby or, if they're lucky, relaxing by watching DVD's, or playing on the play station. James has had his sister and girlfriend over from Sydney so there has been some sightseeing to do. What do they think they'll get out of rugby in Taranaki? Heaps of new friends, a few injuries, maybe a super 12 contract or AB call up, opportunities to party up and have fun - so look out girls!

By Kim Ferens

OAKURA TENNIS CLUB

Summer is coming (??) so we are inviting all present and new members to come and join us at the courts for -

Club nights on Wed at 6pm - contact Ted at 752 7768 for more info

Mid-week morning tennis on Thursday mornings at 9am - contact Jill on 752 7262 for more info

Business House will be on Tuesday evenings, if interested in putting in a team or just playing phone Jill on the above no.

Anyone interested in competition tennis, adults or school pupils, contact Louise on 752 7347

Fees for this season:

Family \$175, Couple \$110, Single \$75, Student under 12 \$20, Student over 12 \$40 .

Key fee \$5 - new lock system this year so *all members will need to get a key.*

Oakura Surfcasting Club events for October

Sunday 17th October - Ali Krutz Memorial Day meet @ Corbett Park 7.15am

Labour Weekend - "Club Trip" - Ring for more info 752 7425

Sunday 31st October - "Tri Comp" weigh in @ Bev's - 9 Hussey St Oakura

November:

Sunday 7th November - Fish Anywhere weigh in 4.00pm @ Bev's 9 Hussey St

Sunday 14th November - "Tri Comp" weigh in 4.00pm @ 8 Brixham Pl New Plymouth

Kaitake Rugby Club Season 2004 Review Season.

2004 was a good for the club this year as the Senior Reserve Team made the final. It was the first time for well over ten years that this had been achieved, so based on this alone this season was a successful year. We had good playing numbers over the season and the encouraging part were the number of younger team members. This success along with the calibre of players was widely attributed to the level of coaching available this year in Bruce Sutton and Bruce Jackson. The club would like to thanks them for their services.

The other extremely encouraging aspect this year was the dedication shown by our supporter base. The club would have to have one of the largest supporter groups in the competition and this includes many of the senior sides as well.

KAITAKE RUGBY CLUB PRIZEGIVING RESULTS 2004

Most points Matt Sturmer. Most Tries Matt Sturmer. Best And Fairest Trevor Logan. Keenest Team Member Rob Pompey. Most Improved Mike Tauroa, Nathan Farr. Most Valuable Player Raymond Gadsby. Leadership Award Pugs Scholar.

Interested in playing TOUCH RUGBY?

Why drive to town and play?

We are going to resurrect our
Touch Rugby Competition
right here in Oakura (Corbett Park).

Teams - 5 aside

(We encourage females to play but it won't be compulsory to have one on the field - although females get 2 points for a try!)

30 minute Games

We aim to start this competition on
THURSDAY, October 21st, starting at **6.30pm**

*Get your team of at least 5 players together and
contact one of us to register your team:*

Rob Pompey 7599736 (Day)
or 027 229 4515

Tanya Farrant 752 1301 (Anytime)
or 025 698 4806

This support was evident at the club prize giving night held on Friday 27 August. It was a huge success. Bruce Suttons Band 'The Bald Eagles' provided the entertainment for the evening.

This was a great way to top off the season. Lets hope that next year brings us as good a year that we had in 2004.

Regards

Mark Braddock

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Oakura Senior School Cross-country

Reported by Bethany Lowe and Melissa Harvey

On the 27th of August rooms 5,7,8,9 and 10 of Oakura School endured a 1.5 or 1.9 km run. It was a very successful event, with supporters and parents turning up to cheer on the enthusiastic runners. The success of the fitness programmes at Oakura School showed through, when those who participated fully made an excellent effort to finish. Here are the top three in each race:

8 Year Girls: 1st Jessica Knudsen 2nd Emma Shiels 3rd Ruby Tinsen

8 Year Boys: 1st Felix Page 2nd Jesse Grayling 3rd JG Coughtrey

9 Year Girls: 1st Milla Novak 2nd Nina McLean
3rd Olivia Chitty

9 Year Boys: 1st Matthew Everest 2nd Tai Juneau
3rd Mason Farrant

10 Year Girls: 1st Lucy Brankin 2nd Catherine West
3rd Anna Hinton

10 Year Boys: 1st Johnny Fletcher 2nd Domenico Squatriti
3rd Jackson Hine

11 Year Girls: 1st=Rhiannon Lambert-Lindsay/ 1st= Nicole Sturgess 2nd Anne-Marie Petty 3rd Emma Glucina

11 Year Boys: 1st Troy Jury 2nd Jake Andrews
3rd Henry Saleman

12 year Girls: 1st Bethany Lowe 2nd Miaana Walden
3rd Hineana Todd

12 year Boys: 1st Daniel Hine 2nd Oliver Brankin
3rd Hayden Taunoa

13 year Girls: 1st Stacey Fletcher 2nd Georgia Wood
3rd Melissa Harvey

13 year Boys: 1st Kris Quay 2nd Shaun Adlam
3rd Tyler Anderson



7 year old girls taking off.

Coastal Cross-country

This annual event was another great success, with Oakura School making up the majority of the numbers in the top placegetters. The weather was great and everyone had a wonderful time. Though optional, most students chose to run, and brought home some great results. Here they are!!!!

9 and Under Girls: 1st Milla Novak Oakura 2nd Jessica Knudsen Oakura 3rd Victoria Grayling Okato

9 and Under Boys: 1st Felix Page Oakura

2nd Max Hardie Boyes Oakura 3rd Matthew Everest Oakura

10 Year Girls: 1st Lucy Brankin Oakura 2nd Toni Fever Okato
3rd Catherine West Oakura

10 Year Boys: 1st Johnny Fletcher Oakura 2nd Dom Squatriti Oakura 3rd Taylor Hines Omata

11 Year Girls: 1st Nicole Sturgess Oakura 2nd Rhiannon Lambert- Lindsay Oakura 3rd Meisha Davies Okato College



Troy Jury winner 11 Year Boys



12 year-old girls, right to left Christie McMillan, Sasha Barleyman, Hineana Todd, Kate Thomson.

Milla Novak heading up the hill.

Bethany Lowe (left) and Stacey Fletcher.



Lucy Brankin, Catherine West



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11 Year Boys: 1st Nathan Reid Okato 2nd Dylon Juffermans Warea 3rd Teihorangi Walden Oakura

12 Year Girls: 1st Claire Richardson Okato College 2nd Bethany Lowe Oakura 3rd Miaana Walden Oakura

12 Year Boys: 1st Troy Jury Oakura 2nd Daniel Hine Oakura 3rd Peter Marks Okato College

13 Year Girls: 1st Stacey Fletcher Oakura 2nd Georgia Wood Oakura 3rd Petra McManus Okato College

13 Year Boys: 1st Ashley Reeve Okato College 2nd Kris Quay Oakura 3rd Shaun Adlam Oakura

Taranaki Primary Schools Cross-country Championships.

Oakura School had 39 eager runners representing the school at this annual event in Hawera. The day was warm, but the ground conditions were heavy with large muddy areas to slog through. This proved a challenge in bare feet, but made for great viewing. The results for all of the Oakura School representatives were something to be proud of. Ten children achieved a top ten placing, with three medal winners. Races numbers were high, with up to 150 participants in a race, and children representing their school region from the north of Taranaki to Waverley.

Results:

9 years & under Girls

Jessica Knudsen-6th
Elish Hurley-23rd
Nina McLean-44th
Olivia Chitty-50th
Emma Shiels-86th
Boys
Felix Page-6th
JG Coughtrey-10th
Faris Petty-13th
Mason Farrant-15th
Matthew Everest-17th
Max Hardie Boys-26th

10 years

Girls
Lucy Brankin-2nd
Catherine West-16th
Beatrice Petty-18th
Anna Hinton-44th
Hannah Ross-45th
Boys
Johnny Fletcher-1st
Domenico Squatriti-4th
Henry Nagel-19th
James McDougall-21st
Jackson Hine-34th
Adam Landers-64th

11 years

Girls
Anne-Marie Petty-10th
Emma Glucina-48th
Boys
Zac Power-28th
Isaac Looker-32nd
Henry Saleman-53rd

12 years

Girls
Bethany Lowe-25th
Ann-Marie Dehar-66th
Abigail Bridgeman-88th

Boys

Troy Jury-2nd
Daniel Hine-7th
Julian Bridgeman-42nd
Oliver Brankin-48th

13 & over

Girls
Stacey Fletcher-8th
Melissa Harvey-39th
Boys
Shaun Adlam-16th
Tyler Anderson-19th
Corey Snowden-44th



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TOM KID PROFILE

Name: Laura Anderson

Age: 8

School: Omata

My favourite food: Beef noodles

My favourite activity: Playing on the bars

My favourite game / sport: Netball

Best movie: Shrek 2

Best friends:

Hannah Simpson, Suzy, Candyce,
Shantelle, Zoe, Bailey H, Danielle

When I grow up I am going to....
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Ever tried
PORK
noodles??

Swifter,
Higher, Stronger

Hop hop
Skip skip
On the grass

Jump jump
Wiggle wiggle
On the field.

BY CHARLOTTE
5 YEARS



Disco



Groove groove groove
Dance dance dance
Move move move
Wiggle wiggle wiggle

Clap clap clap
Slap slap slap
That's all I've got to do and
That's all I have to do.

By Brittney, 6 years





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

Indoor Bowls:

- Mondays at 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
- Phone Rex Ward for info

St James Church, Oakura:

- Morning worship 10 am, 24th October.

St John's, Omata:

- Morning worship 10 am, 24th October.

Senior Citizens:

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