

# tom

the Oakura Messenger

OCTOBER 2005

## Don't blame the sea!



Are we fighting a losing battle against the erosion below the camping ground at Oakura Beach? The clip below from TOM 2001 and the photos on page 4 show that the problem is not about to go away.



### DUNE SYSTEM REVEALED

The recent spell of spring tides, onshore winds and heavy swells combined to push the ocean here up the beach by the campground.

Attempts to claim land here were stripped off, reminding us of the dune system that exists underneath.

Perhaps this fluid system could be re-established to enhance the beach here and remove any of the...  
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# FROM THE TOM ZONE

## Editorial

As they say, time flies and in the case of TOM it surely has. This issue marks five years since we began as *The Oakura Messenger*, with a first issue of just four pages in total. To get to the 28 pages we regularly print now was just a dream back then, but expanding the size has meant that we can share more of our local news without having to pick and choose stories. We are pleased that more and more of you as individuals and groups are getting in touch with us.

Each month we send two copies of the current TOM to the National Library of New Zealand, which is compulsory for any publication. What it means to us is that all the stories and information in TOM are recording our history – if you are in TOM you will be around forever. Some of us may not think that is such a good thing, but from our side of the fence it's great. When we are trying to trace historical facts on Oakura there is very little available but for future generations things will be much easier to source.

In this issue we feature Ringcraft Moana Jewellers and their achievement of Qualmark status – a small group of people achieving big things. Dirk from Vertigo shares with us his new business venture, and our regular updates from the clubs and groups in and around Oakura.

Till next time . . .

Tracey

from **MAYOR PETE**  
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
newplymouthnz.com



### Hi folks!

Do you have any ideas on how the Council should spend \$1 billion?

That's the planned expenditure for the next 10 years on all of our services, facilities, projects and developments – but where exactly should the money go? That's the big question we face as we start planning our draft Community Plan 2006-2016. This plan puts in detail for the first three years (and in general for the next seven) all the work that the Council will do each year, how much it will cost and where the money will come from.

The important thing to remember is this: it is very hard to make any changes to the Council's annual work programme outside the three-yearly review of the Community Plan. Put simply, if it ain't in the Community Plan, it probably won't happen. So we have to be sure that our Community Plan includes all the projects that our residents want us to do within the next three years!

Already we have conducted community meetings throughout the district to find out what people want to see in the Community Plan 2006-2016. Thank you to everyone who turned up at the Oakura meeting on 15 September and the Okato meeting on 22 September.

I also invite people to send in their comments to the Council by phone (759 6060), fax (759 072), email ([enquiries@npdc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@npdc.govt.nz)) or via an online comments form at [www.newplymouthnz.com/communityplan](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/communityplan).

A draft of the Community Plan will be published on 12 April next year, at which time we'll be calling for formal submissions from the public. There will be a public hearing in mid-June, and the plan will be finalised on 27 June 2006. So it's a long process, but a worthwhile one for a document that will dictate what this Council will do for the following three years.

We're actually doing a lot of consultation right now, with comments also sought on the review of the District Tree Policy, the creation of a Coastal Reserves Management Plan (including a declaration of coastal reserves) and also the Coastal Strategy. (With Mother Nature showing us who's boss with the recent storm damage, she has reinforced how important it is for us to have a strong Coastal Strategy.) Details about all these can be found in the Public Consultation section of the Council's website. Please do check out this page and send in your comments on any of these documents, as your feedback can make a big difference to the shape of our district in the coming years.

And remember, I'm always available to talk with you about any projects you have in mind. Just give me a call on 759 6060!

Peter Tennent

Mayor



# 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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LANETTE

# Kaitake Community Board

Nobody came to see us at the last meeting and there was some pretty important discussion on our reserves management plan. The Board moved that all of Shearer Reserve on the road-front be included in the management plan, rather than leave out an integral part of it until the next plan in a few years' time. You now get the chance to make a submission on the reserves plan so be sure to have your say.

The Board also brought a review of a proposed bridal track through Matekai Park into the current plan. One would imagine that if a walkway can be built the length of our coast, a bridal track for our children's safe passage to the beach should be a piece of cake.

The "big picture" evening was attended by very few although it was a golden opportunity to think big for the future of the province. And big thoughts emerged, from shifting the Port to taking ownership of WITT and ensuring our children can stay in the province to further their education. The erosion of walking tracks and other local issues reemerged and most will be part of the Coastal Strategy.

The recent storm showed us how impossible nature is to control if it decides to let go. Fifteen ton rocks thrown from the breakwater – how do you think a rock wall would survive? Harry and I agreed we had never seen the tide so high and so rough in all our many years of life in Oakura. I was sad to see the steps the Council put down at the river washing up and down in the tide, they are probably on someone's lawn now. I hope we get some more – they are a big help to folk like me trying to get to the river.

Rubbish. I don't know about you, but I hate seeing all those piles of rubbish put out on our roadsides for collection, days before they are due to be picked up. They look terrible to the passers-by and should only be there the night before pick up. I am grateful to the Council for picking up the Rugby Club's overflowing filthy looking rubbish tin at the back of the building. It was there for about three weeks. This should not happen – someone please take responsibility? The normal rubbish collectors are unable to see it where it is currently put out.

Taranaki now has a new brand. It's great and is truly "Like no other". Let's all wear it, use it and celebrate it.

Here's to more hot weather. I broke my swimming record and actually had a couple of swims in the river earlier in the month. It was fantastic but the whitebaiters could have done without me – you are safe now, I am away for a month!

Cheers, Fay

## Letter to the Editor

With the arrival of Spring, the good weather and a face lift for the township in the offing, things look sweet in Oakura. The only blemish is the treatment the camp site road is getting or rather not getting. It is amazing that other projects and areas can attract money (sorry, "resources") from the Council without any problem at all. Perhaps we should rename it the "Pathway to the Acoustic Sand Dunes Complete with Ancient Wreck and Historical Reference Points of Great Interest and Artistic Merit". It may then bring a positive response from the Council, art committee or even Venture Taranaki, but I doubt it. This road is used by ordinary folk, families with kids, people walking their dogs, grans and granddads, people in wheelchairs and surfies. Lets face it Oakura is not in the loop at the Council any more (apart from tarding the main street up, which nobody really wants), its just a nice entrance to New Plymouth from the south for the NPDC.

Barrie Carline

## Reader feedback



### Two questions:

1. Just watching people on the beach with their recreational vehicles got me wondering if perhaps an area/time could be designated especially for this use. May be then everyone would be the winner.
2. Matekai reserve is such a beautiful spot. Would it be possible to have a Christmas light display and concert there?

Email your responses to [oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz)

If you have any other questions you'd like asked, email them to us at the address above or phone Tracey on 752 7875.



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... continued from front page

# Don't blame the sea!

Here are three photos from 1958, highlighting the dune system beneath Jans Terrace – a natural fluid system from ancient times.



looking up at the original campsites



Above and right Looking across the dunes to the sea from the same campsites



## Natural environment given a spruce-up

Oakura's coastal and park areas have benefited from a number of New Plymouth District Council projects over the last several weeks.

"A lot of it was general maintenance to give areas a tidy-up and repair wear and tear, but there have been some new developments brought in as well to add to Oakura's outdoor environment," says Manager Parkscape Services Chris Connolly.

In Shearer Reserve work has finished on improving drainage so that the area is less likely to flood during heavy rain. Council staff will re-grass the area as soon as the weather allows.

On the walking track from the Oakura Motor Camp to Ahu Ahu a new seat has been installed to allow walkers the chance to take in the panoramic vista from the Ahu Ahu reef through to Back Beach. Repairs to the surface of the walking track have also been made, as well as to the grassed area at the entrance to the Oakura camp ground.

To build on the already well established indigenous coastal plant species in this area, spinifex, pingao and knobby club rush plants were planted in July on the foredune at the Ahu Ahu Road end. "These plants will help bind the foredune and make this coastal section more resistant during storms," says Mr Connolly.

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# Public input sought on management of coastal reserves

Oakura is blessed with a number of coastal reserves and New Plymouth District Council is looking for feedback on how they should be managed.

The Council is preparing a Coastal Reserves Management Plan for 48 reserves in the district, including nine in the Oakura area and five in the Okato area (see accompanying table).

"The intent of the Coastal Reserves Management Plan is to identify what can and cannot happen in each reserve and to guide day-to-day management," says Senior Policy Analyst Teresa Gordon. "We're looking for input from the public to ensure that the plan reflects the wishes of the wider community.

"People can submit their thoughts on any aspect of coastal reserves management that is of concern to them. For example: What types of activity are appropriate in a reserve? Should commercial development be allowed to occur and, if so, what type? Are there conservation issues that need to be addressed?

"People can comment on individual reserves or about the way the Council manages its coastal reserves as a whole. We are also looking for feedback on the *classification* or primary purpose of each reserve."

The management plan is separate to the Coastal Strategy consultation, which has been touring the district in recent months. However, the plan will be informed by the information gathered as part of the recent Coastal Strategy consultation.

"People have put time and effort into providing input into the Coastal Strategy and we intend to use that information," says Ms Gordon. "For example, people have commented that recreational use in Oakura needs to be managed to minimise impacts on natural character. We can address this concern, in part, in the way we manage our reserves."

The first round of public consultation on the Coastal Reserves Management Plan and the associated reserves declaration runs until Wednesday 19 October. Submission forms are available online at [www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalreserves](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalreserves). Hard copies of these documents are available at district libraries, the Civic Centre and service centres in Waitara and Inglewood.

The Council will use the feedback from this round of consultation to prepare a draft management plan, which will be released to the public in December for a second round of consultation. Hearings on submissions will be held in the New Year.

Area	Reserve name	Location	Area	Proposed classification
Okato/Western District	Coast Rd Esplanade Reserve	End of Perth Rd, Okato	1.53 ha	Local purpose (esplanade)
	Lower Pitone Rd	Lower Pitone Rd, west of Oakura	858 m2	Local purpose (esplanade)
	Lower Greenwood Rd	Lower Greenwood Rd, west of Oakura	1.90 ha	Local purpose (esplanade)
	Timaru Esplanade Reserve	Along the coast west of Timaru Stream, Oakura	1.37 ha	Local purpose (esplanade)
	Timaru Stream Esplanade Reserve (Weld Rd)	East Bank of lower Timaru Stream, Oakura	2.03 ha	Local purpose (esplanade)
Oakura	Corbett Park Domain	AhuAhu Rd and Tasman Parade, Oakura	16.68 ha	Recreation
	Oakura Beach Reserve	AhuAhu Rd, Oakura	1.23 ha	Recreation
	Oakura Keyhole Reserve	Tasman Parade, Oakura	0.17	Recreation; Local purpose (community purposes)
	Oakura Motorcamp	Jans Tce and Tasman Parade, Oakura	3.12 ha (including 2.02 ha of Corbett Park Domain)	Recreation
	Corbett Park Esplanade Reserve	Messenger Tce, Oakura	1.75 ha	Local purpose (esplanade)
	Corbett Park Recreation Reserve	South Rd, Oakura	7.22 ha	Recreation
	Pt Shearer Reserve (to Telford Ave)	Tasman Parade to Telford Ave, Oakura	2.48 ha	Recreation
	Matekai Reserve	Tasman Parade	6.53 ha	Recreation, Local purpose (scenic)
	Linda Street Tennis Courts	Linda St, Oakura	1149 m2	Recreation

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# Neighbourhood Support

Oakura spring is here and for a lot of people it means preparing for the summer months – getting the garden right, painting the house and correcting all the little things that winter will have spoiled.

For those in Neighbourhood Support it means big changes, daylight savings, houses with windows and doors open in the good weather, families down the beach, cars very hot with windows wide open. All very understandable but the consequences are equally predictable: the stream of phone calls from tearful mums or angry dads. The reasons are always plausible, “just nipped down to the dairy” or “it was only open for a few minutes”. Whatever the reason, the result is the same – an opportunity for someone to take your property. The family is upset, the insurance company is being awkward. “You’re not insured if it’s not secure, sir” is the current catch phrase. And the police are not overly sympathetic. “Unlocked was it, madam? Well! We will take the details anyway”, but the body language tells you it’s not going to be their number one priority.

It’s around about now that I get the phone call, total dejection is setting in and the victim is remorseful. He has been hit hard – \$3500 worth of gear is gone and he has been told by the police the offenders have been known to come back to have a go at the new stuff bought to replace the stuff stolen.

And this is how a lot of Neighbourhood Support groups start, in the aftermath of a crime.

Is it effective? Apart from being personally biased, the answer is yes, there is nothing more observant than a person who is angry about being burgled and has usually wound the neighbours up as well.

Most people realise that the police cannot be everywhere and crime is a community problem and it takes only a small effort to assist in making your community safer. A very large percentage of crime is giving people the opportunity to commit crime. Take these easy options away and your property and the neighbours’ property is very much safer.

On the news front mid-October sees the return of Thomas to the coast, back from a overseas tour of duty he will return to the Okato Station, bronze, fit and ready to go. Let coastal crims beware – Thomas the Tiger is on his way back.

Still on the news front the new website for the New Plymouth police is proving popular with new additions coming online all the time. The stolen and found property page is new, as is the rural news, plus updates on current crime and people.

See you on the beach.

Barrie Carline

Neighbourhood Support, 54 Tukapa Street,

Phone 06 753 2495

Fax 06 753 9558

Email [tns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tns@xtra.co.nz)

Website [www.nakivatch.com](http://www.nakivatch.com)

[www.newplymouth.police.govt.nz](http://www.newplymouth.police.govt.nz)

# Firelines

## Hi from the guys in the Big Red Truck

Of late we have had some questions asked regarding rubbish fires in urban areas so I have attached extracts from the NPDC bylaws relating to garden fires.

Is it okay to light fires on my property to get rid of rubbish?

Yes, as long as you follow a few rules to prevent the fire getting out of hand and to prevent the fire becoming a nuisance to your neighbours.

### Council Bylaws

New Plymouth District Council bylaws specify that you may burn a garden or incinerator fire only if the following conditions are met:

- The fire does not cause a nuisance to nearby residents or property from smoke, odour, ash or toxic fumes.
- The fire is at least three metres from the property boundary and at least 10 metres from any part of a house.
- The fire is controlled (supervised).
- Only dried garden waste and day-to-day household items, such as paper are burnt. (Do not burn plastics, furniture, tyres or other materials likely to emit toxic or offensive odours or smoke.)
- The fire is lit in daylight hours and extinguished (including embers) before dusk.
- If weather conditions change and the fire becomes a nuisance, it must be extinguished.

FIRES SHOULD BURN IN CALM, WIND FREE CONDITIONS ONLY.

IN CASE OF A FIRE EMERGENCY, DIAL 111 IMMEDIATELY.

Should the New Zealand Fire Service be called to a fire after sunset, they will extinguish it. Occasionally there are fire restrictions in addition to bylaw conditions:

Open Fire Season – no fire permit needed.

Restricted Fire Season – fire permit required.

Prohibited Fire Season – total fire ban. The lighting of fires is not permitted.

Before you light your next outdoor fire or incinerator, ask yourself:

- Is there an alternative to lighting a fire? Yes! You could instead: compost (which is good for your garden), recycle, use commercial garden waste removal, or take waste to the transfer station. Please read Council brochures about recycling – you can make a difference.
- Will my neighbour be affected? If your neighbours are likely to be exposed to smoke, ash and odour from your fire, it would be better to find an alternative way to get rid of rubbish and garden waste.

Hope this helps. Until next time “stay cool” BRT

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# Progressive mortgages

I'm sure most of you know Dirk from our local surfshop Vertigo. After five great years at Vertigo, he's decided to move on and use his qualifications and professional experience in the financial services industry. Before moving to New Zealand Dirk studied business in Germany, majoring in finance and banking, and then worked overseas as a financial planner. This was when he discovered his passion for helping people into their first homes and supporting them later on in investment property decisions.

As an independent mortgage broker, Dirk has access to hundreds of loan products from major banks and specialist lenders. His job is to help people choose the right product and loan structure for their circumstances. Dirk says he can help people work through different loan structures, terms and repayment options, explaining the impact of each on the total cost of the loan.

"There's a lot to consider and having specialist knowledge helps. With investment properties, for example, having the right structure can help people maximise the tax benefits," he says.

## More on the Linda Street Tennis Courts

*When the Council first indicated decommissioning the Linda Street tennis courts, TOM asked readers for their feedback. The residents of Oakura have responded very strongly, with a general consensus on opting for an upgrade and retention the courts. Local woman Teena Bennett took on the project as part of her tertiary studies. Below is a brief explanation of the information gathered from the ten interviews she undertook, six undertaken in the streets surrounding the Tennis courts (Linda Street, Jan's Terrace and Prudence Place).*

### Main themes

- There was some frustration that the Council had failed to maintain the courts and most believed the Council had a responsibility to do so. This concern also applied to any further use of the land if it was grassed.
- Eight out of the ten families approached said they used the courts occasionally or regularly. Three other families that lived around the courts commented that the courts were used a lot "especially in the summer". (Further research would be needed to validate these comments.)
- Four families expressed concern about the condition of the courts. One family considered not using them any more because they were concerned about their children receiving injuries that may affect their ability to play tennis competitively.

### Responses

- A. Most of those interviewed expressed an interest in keeping the courts, however they doubted the Council's willingness to put money into renewing the courts.
- B. Again although most of those interviewed expressed an interest in keeping the courts, most felt it was unrealistic to think the Council would begin to fund the maintenance of the courts after not doing so for the last ten years.
- C. One person suggested that if the courts were passed to a third party the Oakura Tennis Club would be an obvious choice.

Dirk also specialises in finding finance solutions for young professionals without deposits, self-employed clients without financial records and people with impaired credit histories.

Most important to him is that people understand the finance options available to them and feel comfortable with their choices.

If you're looking to buy residential property, need to refinance or restructure your existing mortgage or just want to consolidate personal loans and hire purchases into your mortgage, then Dirk can help you. His service is free and will make it easy to find the right loan for you from a wide range of options. You can contact Dirk on 752 7488 or 021 120 1095.



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- D. Removing the courts but retaining it as reserve was a popular idea, although some were concerned that the area would not be adequately maintained.
- E. One person who considered this option stated that any change of status to the land would require the Council to carefully consider the environment of the street – it is a quiet suburban area. They were strongly opposed to any facility that sold or served alcohol and suggested a small Rest Home could be a suitable use for the land.
- F. Other suggestions were a mini golf course and a dance studio.
- G. One resident suggested that one of the courts be retained and one court be removed, that area being grassed with play equipment and seating. The resident felt this would be a better use of the land and would cater for all age groups.
- H. If the courts did end up being removed, ideas about how the area might look included:
  - a grassed area
  - playground equipment
  - a path connecting the area with the walkway through to



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# Ringcraft Moana Jewellers

**Life is a pearler in Oakura for well known local business, Ringcraft Moana Jewellers.**

In the past six months they have secured exporting orders in Australia and Italy, and as TOM goes to press, India has also come on board says Marketing Manager, Denise Hogan.

Rob Wright, a manufacturing jeweller with 30 years' experience, still specialises in those "one-off" pieces like engagement rings, but his passion for the past 10 years has been the natural paua pearl. A paua pearl is more rare than a diamond – a quality pearl is only found in one out of 7,000 shells.

"Our business is not only about sales," said Denise, "we also educate our visitors on the evolution of a natural pearl. From Labour Weekend we will also offer free coffee and tea, together with the enjoyment of our surroundings. We are in the tourism market so we encourage people to drink the wider picture."

This year the business has been part of the High Impact Catalyst Programme from Venture Taranaki. After the programme they were chosen to apply for Qualmark recognition. Qualmark is

New Zealand tourism's official quality assurance agency. It licenses the use of the industry's official quality mark, which enables travelers to identify and select professional and trustworthy tourism businesses. In time Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand (TRENZ), New Zealand's most significant annual international tourism tradeshow, will only encourage and promote Qualmarked businesses. Eligibility to use the quality mark is determined by independent and rigorous assessment. "I am proud to say we passed our assessment and are now Qualmarked. I would encourage anyone in the tourism industry to work towards this goal," said Denise.

The local market is still an important part of the operation. The locals bring their visitors and there is a large network of tourism operators who support each other.

In business you simply cannot sit still. Taranaki production company I.A.P. have just spent a day filming the operation and this hits the air in late October. Rob is presently working on new abstract flower designs in conjunction with the Rhododendron Festival.

MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

## **Mozart In Egypt 2**

Ballon Noir/Virgin Classics/EMI

This sequel to the bestselling concept album "Mozart In Egypt" (1997) again merges the timeless melodies of the *wunderkind* composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with an even older tradition, Arabic classical music.

Based on an intriguing idea by album producer Hughes de Courson and Ahmed al Maghraby, both volumes of *Mozart In Egypt* have some shock potential, particularly for Western classical "purists". But if you can persevere, the rewards are definitely there. *Mozart In Egypt 2*, like its forebear, makes full use of Western orthodox "forces", including full orchestra, choir and a piano soloist, but then boldly weaves traditional Arabic instruments (such as the oud, rabab, qanun, arghul, simsimiyya and various Middle Eastern percussion instruments) into the mix, sometimes reinforcing and at other times providing a counterpoint to the sumptuous melodies of the precocious genius Mozart.

The finale of the first *Mozart In Egypt*, "Dhikr/Requiem/Golgotha" was a stunning fusion of Sufi chant and an excerpt from the composer's incomplete *Mass*, which, on its own, was worth the cost of the previous disc. While there is nothing on this new disc that is quite as powerful, overall *Mozart In Egypt 2* is very much on a par with its predecessor. Highlights for me include "Al Maghfera", which melds the "Qui tollis" section of the "Mass In C" with Coptic, Greek and Arabic chant; "The Queen of the 1001 Nights," an orientalist reading of The Queen of the Night's stunning aria "Der Hölle Rache" (from *The Magic Flute*) and a piece simply called "Mozart In Egypt", which effectively showcases most of the traditional Arabic instruments.

As far as I'm concerned, this combination of Western and Eastern traditions is wonderful (and I can't help but think that Mozart would have loved it too), but some listeners may find this classical/ethnic hybrid to be just a little too close to musical blasphemy.

## **Def Jazz Various**

GRP/Verve/Universal

*Def Jazz* is another potentially "dodgy" hybrid affair, but this largely instrumental jazz-fusion tribute to the pioneering hip-hop label Def Jam succeeds on its own merits. Sequenced like a cruisy dance set, *Def Jazz* features "smooth jazz" stars Jeff Lorber (piano, keyboards, synths and vibes) and saxophonist Gerald Albright, "edgier" artists like trumpeter Roy Hargrove and flute virtuoso Hubert Laws, former Blackbyrd member Kevin Toney (keyboards), Hammond B-3 master Joey DeFrancesco and underrated guitarist Dwight Sills soloing over pieces made famous by LL Cool J, Public Enemy, Slick Rick, Domino, Method Man, Foxy Brown and Oran "Juice" Jones (whose "The Rain" is the only track here that features a rap, courtesy of the original artist).

*Def Jazz* could never be described as "cutting edge" jazz, but with some surprisingly strong tunes on offer, it flows nicely. Perhaps a little too smooth and underwhelming for hardcore hip-hop fans, but those listeners who still enjoy the seventies "crossover" recordings by Donald Byrd, Roy Ayers, Alphonse Mouzon and the like should try to investigate *Def Jazz*.



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# Rhododendron Festival 2005

Local gardens participating in this years Rhododendron festival are Ngamamaku, The Garden Shed and Woodleigh.

Ngamamaku on Surf Highway 45, opposite Ahu Ahu Road is well known to many of us and this year has been awarded "Garden of National Significance" by the NZ Gardens Trust. Woodleigh garden, just north of Ngamamaku, has been awarded "Garden of Regional Significance".

Event manager and Oakura local Lou Stevens has highlighted some other events to be enjoyed and not missed this festival.

- Foreshore Project
- Julie Biuso
- Guided walks
- Schools programme
- Garden seminars
- Irene Van Dyke launch of "cool kids grow" – see more about this on the kid's page.

More information on the Rhododendron Festival can be found in the brochure available from Crafty Fox or the Information Centre at Puke Ariki. The full brochure is also available on [www.rhodo.co.nz](http://www.rhodo.co.nz)

## Christmas House open once more

Members of the Surf Highway 45 Crafters and Quilters group are once again putting their talents on display. They are decorating an entire house with Christmas themes during this year's Rhododendron Festival, from 28 October to 6 November.

Many of the decorations and quilts will be handmade by group members and others may be decorations they have purchased for their own collections, says local member Maureen Priest. Last year was so successful they wanted to do it again, so people who heard about it but missed seeing it then will get another chance. And this year they will be open until after dark so the lighting displays will be better able to be appreciated.

The house at Number 5, Kaitake Place, Oakura will be open from 10.30am to 9.30pm and admission is by gold coin donation, which will go to local charities.

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## CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

### **Plunket coffee Mornings:**

Friday mornings 9.00 - 10.30am at St James Church hall.

### **Mini Groovers:**

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

### **St John's Omata:**

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### **St James Church Oakura:**

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### **Kung Fu:**

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over.  
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

### **Kick Boxing & Self Defence:**

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over.  
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

### **JKA KARATE**

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

### **Senior Citizens:**

Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

### **Twilight Bowls:**

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.  
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## The Adventures of **KOREAN KELLY**

Living in Seoul is similar to living in London in that it gives you the ability to visit neighbouring countries with ease. Having already journeyed to Cambodia, Thailand, China and the Philippines, I decided to add another country to the list and took a trip to Taiwan.

I knew very little about the country before travelling there. I knew that it was part of China, but struggling for independence and I knew that many of the toys and plastic baubles I had as a child seemed to have a "Made in Taiwan" stamp on their base. As usual, I was ignorant.

Taipei City is a myriad of past, present and future. The lush tropical jungle threatens to smother the city and at the same time, futuristic buildings loom out of the cityscape, alongside dilapidated apartment blocks and the remnants of colonial architecture. Compared to Seoul, which is literally a hastily built concrete jungle, Taipei was a breath of fresh air.

Perhaps it was the automatic relaxation that a tropical climate provides, but the first thing I noticed was the friendliness of the people. They came up to Catherine and I and offered help when we stood puzzled at the subway station, they smiled at us and spoke English with confidence and they were generally happy. This was a stark contrast to what we were used to in Korea, where the people very much stick to themselves and are almost ridiculously shy when it comes to speaking the English they learn for over 12 years at school.

There were so many things to do in Taipei. We visited the Taipei 101 building, the world's tallest skyscraper at a whopping 508 metres, and even went in the world's fastest elevator, which flew at a mere 1010 metres per minute. Unfortunately the lift was internal, though I think if it was a glass elevator, a few people could easily lose their lunch. The building is actually



*How much is the dog?*

modeled on bamboo, made in sections and "dampened" with giant metal balls connected by steel cables. These dampers allow the building to sway in high winds, and apparently the tower can move up to 1.5 metres if the wind is strong.

We also visited the National Palace Museum, which contains many of Mainland China's ancient relics, having been whisked out of the country after Mao Zedong's Communist takeover. There were some amazing sights – paintings thousands of years old, ancient statues of the many Buddha and some incredibly sculpted stone and metal artifacts.

Of course there was the food. We spent half a day perusing the roadside stalls, in awe at the weird and whacky culinary delights – whether it be the assorted internal organs of a chicken, or the delightful duck heads, soaked in a soy-based sauce and deep fried to be chewed upon as a snack. I guess the beak does make a useful handle.

A brief three day visit was nowhere near enough to explore this interesting country of modern city, beautiful tropical beaches and jungles and vast mountains. I can definitely say I'll be back.

Annyonghi keseyo,  
Kelly Ryan

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## Oakura Plunket

The local Oakura Plunket Committee organises regular coffee morning on Fridays at the St James Church Hall on the main road in Oakura. These start at 9am and go until about 10.30am with lots of toys for the children and a cuppa, cake and chat for the parents.

The new term is underway this week so come along on Friday 14 October with your littlies – we always welcome new faces and it will be great to catch up with our regulars too.

Our Annual Appeal night is coming around again on Tuesday 18 October so listen out for the fire engine coming around the street and have your envelope ready when the collectors call. If you are not home, we will leave an envelope in your letterbox and you can post this to the National Office. All donations stay in the Oakura area and will help with the provision of Plunket services here as well as contributing to the running of the coffee mornings and support for parents.

We are extremely grateful to the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade, who will be helping with our collection once again. Their help is invaluable and we appreciate both the support they have given to our Plunket Committee over this year and for our collection night.

Until next time

Catherine Keenan, Oakura Plunket Committee

## Village volunteers making it happen

A dedicated team of volunteers is expected to descend on the village following Labour Weekend for Plunket's annual nationwide appeal.

The appeal, set to run from 17 to 24 October, attracts more than 20,000 active collectors and is aimed at injecting much required funds into Plunket "to ensure that all New Zealand children are among the healthiest in the world". All funds received from the appeal stay in the region in which they are raised, meaning the appeal has a direct consequence for children in Taranaki. This year's appeal has special significance in that it is also Oakura Plunket's 30th anniversary.

"We have such a strong network of volunteers helping out in the Oakura village every year, which is great but we welcome every bit of help we can get", says Plunket president Claire White, who encourages anyone who would like to assist to come along to help collect on Tuesday 18 October. The evening appeal, due to start at 6pm, also involves the local fire brigade, who lend their services and sound the beginning of the appeal on the fire engine as they drive through the village. Collectors come door-to-door for donations and all wear identification tags and have specially marked collection buckets.

This year's appeal has a slightly different emphasis – where past years' funds were used to keep nurses on the road and clinics active, this year's appeal incorporates an educational awareness component. "Education is becoming more and

more important for both parents and caregivers", says Claire, who recognises the need to better educate people, not just on the health needs of children but also on parenting skills. Plunket already provides key services, such as support centres, antenatal classes and car seat rentals, and is one of New Zealand's more established charitable organisations. Without Plunket's strong volunteer network, New Zealanders would undoubtedly have to pay for these services.

Claire welcomes anyone who would like to get involved in this year's annual Plunket appeal to meet on Tuesday 18 October just before 6pm at the Oakura village fire station. For further information phone Claire on 752 7229.

Fiona Washer

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# World champion

Highland Dancer Morgan Bamford of New Plymouth is the new World Juvenile Highland Dancing Champion at the tender age of 12, after winning the title at the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon, Scotland.

This was her first attempt at this championship, where she was up against 13, 14 and 15 year old dancers from around the world including Canada, the United States, South Africa and Australia as well as Scotland and the UK. Morgan won three out of four events, which included the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sean Triubhas and Highland Reel.

Taught by Judy Clark of Oakura, Morgan has been travelling to Scotland every year since she was eight years old, and has consistently won her age group championship at Cowal. But this year in turning 12 she hit the big time and was eligible to enter the Juvenile World Championship, dancing before the typically huge crowd that flocks to the Cowal Peninsula off the West Coast of Scotland every year for the event.

The Junior (16 to 18 years) and the Adult World Championship (19 years and over) is also hotly contested at the same event every year.

Morgan is the first New Zealander to win this title in the 67 years of its existence. New Zealand has only ever had one other world champion and that was in 1966 when Sandra Wright won the World Adult Highland Dancing Championship.

Morgan was unbeaten in championships held in Scotland during August this year. While in Scotland this year Morgan also won: British Overseas Championship under 16 years; British Open Championship – 12 years; World Pipe Bands Highland Dancing Championship under 13 years; Bute Championship under 14 years; Commonwealth Championship under 13 years; Scottish Championship – 12 years



*Morgan (right) struggles to hold on to her heavy silverware.*

Morgan returned home on 12 September to an amazing welcome at New Plymouth Airport. Her class and the Kapa Haka group from Coastal Taranaki School were there at the airport and on her arrival, the Kapa Haka group greeted Morgan with a Haka. Teacher Hamish Hislop played the bagpipes and members of the Lawrie Studio were in their kilts to honour the World Champion. Mayor Peter Tennant was also there to welcome Morgan with a huge bouquet of flowers.

Morgan's teacher is Judy Clark

Phone 757 8916 (work) or 752 7373 (home)

## Lawrie Studio of Highland and National Dancing

### What is Highland and National Dancing?

Highland dancing is a traditional style of dancing from Scotland and is danced by both boys and girls.

### Why study dance?

Dance is an art that anyone can do. It allows you to express yourself through movement, either for fitness, competition or examinations. Highland Dancing is a wonderful form of eurythmics as well as an area where students can develop self control, confidence and self-esteem. Students that participate in Highland Dancing develop friendships with fellow competitors that will last a life time.

Several learning styles are used to learn the art of Highland Dancing: Visual; Auditory; Tactile; Kinesthetic.

Classes: Pre-school dance and movement class is held on Thursdays at 1.30pm.

Classes for older children are at various times throughout the

week. Phone Judy on 757 8916 or check the website (see below).

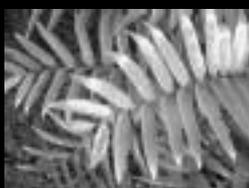
Adult classes are held on Tuesday nights at 7pm.

For further information visit [www.lawriestudio.co.nz](http://www.lawriestudio.co.nz)

August has been a wonderful year for the dancers of the Lawrie Studio. Not only celebrating the success of having a world champion in the studio, but two of the Lawrie Studio dancers were selected for the New Zealand team of dancers to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo in August. They were Hayley and Nicole Eichstaedt. These dancers had the marvelous experience of living in the Redfern Army Barracks as well as performing every night in the courtyard of Edinburgh Castle. Hayley and Nicole also performed in many mini tattoos throughout Scotland during August. Hayley and Nicole both had the privilege of carrying the New Zealand flag during the finale of the performances

The Lawrie Studio is situated at 36 Devon Street West, Level 1 of the Kings Building.

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# OAKURA school news

## Taranaki cross country results

This year, Oakura School was represented by over 50 pupils at the Taranaki cross country event held in Hawera, which confirms the positive attitude our children have towards physical activity.

Oakura School pupils achieved some outstanding results with seven receiving medals:

9 year old girls – 3rd Jessica Knudsen

9 year old boys – 2nd JG Coughtrey

11 year old girls – 2nd Lucy Brankin, 3rd Amelia Lyall

11 year old boys – 1st Johnnie Fletcher, 2nd Domenico Squatriti

13 year old boys – 2nd Troy Jury



Teihorangi Walden and Catherine West take the reins at camp El Rancho.



Eve Coltman and Anne-Marie Petty filming at Capital E.



Dominica Wearne, go-karting at Camp El Rancho.



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## Camp Wellington

In August, after much planning and several fundraising activities, 66 Year 7 and 8 pupils and nine teachers and parents headed off to Wellington for a week "on camp". Day 1 took the group, travelling on a bus and in a few cars, to Wellington Zoo, via Wanganui for lunch and the Porirua Aquatic Centre for a swim. The campers had a nocturnal behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo and then a sleepover there. After breakfast, the children saw the animals waking and being fed. Day 2 was filled with setting up at Camp El Rancho in Waikanae and a few on-site activities. On Day 3 they went Wellington by train to visit Parliament, Te Papa and Capital E, where they recorded a TV news item. Day 4 the children were occupied by kayaking, horse riding, orienteering, archery, team initiatives, and riding the flying fox and go-karts. Day 5 saw the group back on the bus to journey home to Oakura, very weary but very happy.

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## Junior's fancy dress

Mid September saw the children from the four junior classrooms in the Oakura Hall, dressed up in some wonderful costumes, dancing folk dances and taking part in the grand parade. There was a lot of practice before the event, and this was evident in the very good dancing. How wonderful to see so many happy faces and so many supportive parents and grandparents there to watch.

## Dates to note in your diary

### Lunchtime gala day

Oakura School is holding a "Lunchtime Gala" on Sunday, 6 November from 11am to 2pm in the school grounds. Come for lunch, watch the dancing and karate displays, ride the ferris wheel, win prizes and much more. It will be a great day out for everyone, so see you there!

### Annual fun run

Yes, Oakura School is holding this event again, so mark it in your diary now. The date for the "Fun Run or Walk" is 26 February 2006. More details to follow closer to the time.

**OOPS!** In our whitebaiters' profiles last month, we captioned Rod Smith's photograph with "Road" Smith. Sorry, Rod, but just to make up for it, we've applied to *Transit* on your behalf for some funding to help finance your retirement.

## KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

Well, here we are into the last term of the year and hasn't time just flown by? The holidays have zoomed past and summer is just around the corner.

A big focus for our Kindergarten over the past few months has been to achieve a Healthy Heart Award, which is an initiative put together by the National Heart Foundation for early childhood centres. The aim of the program is to promote healthy food and physical activity to under-fives and their families.

There are a number of criteria that have to be met so there have been numerous activities at the Kindergarten that have helped us meet these criteria. These include:

- Ø A successful evening hosted by dieticians Jackie Keenan and Rosemary Law, which informed parents and caregivers about appropriate nutrition and how to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. Food label reading was of particular interest.
- Ø Having an obstacle course regularly set up in the outdoor play area and encouraging the children to attempt the different activities and enjoy their physical activity.
- Ø Involving the children in craft activities including making food pyramids and cutting out pictures from magazines that showed the healthy food and the not so healthy and discussing the different food groups.
- Ø A "physically active day" that was held at the Oakura Hall. Each group walked to the hall and participated in some exciting activities put together by the Kindergarten teachers and staff from Sport Taranaki. The children really enjoyed the different challenges and it was lots of fun.
- Ø Guidelines for healthy food for children's lunchboxes are distributed to the parents and caregivers when a child starts in the Wednesday group (for four year olds). The children always bring a piece of fruit to share each day they attend and filtered water for drinking is available to the children at all times.

We look forward to continuing this "healthy thinking" and achieving this special award promoting Healthy Hearts for our children.

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# OMATA school news

## Omata School cross country

We held our school cross country races in fine conditions on 31 August at Linda and John Matthew's Waireka property. The students enjoyed the course, pounding through the ford, sprinting over the fields and down well worn tracks. These are our results:

- 5 year old girls: 1st Kayla Deane, 2nd Ruby Crawshaw, 3rd Tyra Mahilord
- 5 year old boys: 1st Oliva Mason, 2nd Fabian Johnson, 3rd Lachie Barrett
- 6 year old girls: 1st Charlotte Jones, 2nd Taylah Williams, 3rd Mia West
- 6 year old boys: 1st Michael Anderson, 2nd Cameron Stewart, 3rd Keiran Williams
- 7 year old girls: 1st Erin Barrett, 2nd Skye Cameron, 3rd Helene Fougere
- 7 year old boys: 1st Cole Hareb, 2nd Cameron Langton, 3rd Lleyton Taylor
- 8 year old girls: 1st Phoebe Livingston, 2nd Hannah Barron, 3rd Lena Hines
- 8 year old boys: 1st Zac Clark
- 9 year old girls: 1st Bailey Hoosan, 2nd Danielle Fougere, 3rd Laura Anderson
- 9 year old boys: 1st Ben Mitchell, 2nd William Jones, 3rd Jack Wagstaff
- 10 year old girls: 1st Julie Richardson, 2nd Tamara Johnson, 3rd Suzy Carswell
- 10 year old boys: 1st Cody Niederberger, 2nd Josh Clark, 3rd Caddison Murfitt
- 11 year old + girls: 1st Kim Avery, 2nd Kirstie McLean, 3rd Mihiata Morgan
- 11 year old + boys: 1st Taylor Hines, 2nd Aden Lowe, 3rd Hayden Marshall

Huge appreciation and thanks to the Matthews for allowing us to use their wonderful cross country course.

The following week on 8 September we hosted, for the first time, the Interschool Cross Country between Oakura, Coastal Taranaki and Omata Schools. Once again the weather was kind and the students enjoyed the challenge of our course.

These Omata students were eligible because of their top 10 places to represent us at the Taranaki Interschool Cross Country in Hawera:

Bailey Hoosan, Danielle Fougere, Ben Mitchell, William Jones, Jack Wagstaff, Regan Jeffery, Julie Richardson, Cody Niederberger, Kim Avery, Kirstie McLean, Taylor Hines and Aden Lowe.

Congratulations for the great results.



Jacob Tomlinson (right) and Bailey Hoosan (left) ripping through the ford during their cross country races.



Fancy Dress and dancing, too.



Above and below - Music assembly for the end of Term 3.



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# Kirstie wins a scholarship

Last month a special ceremony was held at Omata School to present school student Kirstie McLean (11 years old) with a scholarship from the New Zealand Korea Veterans' Association. Worth \$300, the scholarship is awarded for essays on the Korean War and Kirstie won the junior section.

The presentation was attended by Mayor Peter Tennent, the National Secretary for the Korean Veterans' Association from Wellington, the President of the Taranaki Branch and 12 Korean War veterans, one of whom was Kirstie's grandfather. The whole school was present to watch the presentation and to hear Kirstie read out her very moving winning essay on the War. Mr Tennent praised the Kirstie's efforts and said he thought we would see more positive things from Kirstie in the future. Doug Callander, the National Secretary of the Korean Veterans Association gave a brief history of the Korean War and the sacrifices made by New Zealanders fighting in Korea.

Kirstie's essay is about the history of the Korean War and ANZAC Day celebrations and how it felt to proudly march alongside her "Poppa". A particularly poignant, mature and well written paragraph runs like this ..... "As I try to keep in time with my Poppa as we march towards the Cenotaph I feel proud of him because he offered his help to a country that wanted peace for their people, and feel lucky because I live in a country in the world that does not have the worry of nasty, violent wars..."

By Kim Ferens



# Oakura PLAYCENTRE

## Shotz photography session on 12 October

Have your family photographed professionally for \$12. This is a Playcentre fundraiser so please support us and book a session for your children/family with Melanie on 752 1111.

This month the Playcentre received a grant for a new stereo so we are now "rocking and rolling" around the stage. It's interesting to see how the different children benefit from the stage, using it to either dance, sing, act or even jump from.

We've had ongoing support from Sharon who has been an education supervisor. She has been a great inspiration for the kids and has started to plan and evaluate after each Monday session. She looks at what the children have been involved in and tries to plan further projects. Much of this term has focused on cooking, which has included making pizza, soup and pasta. Also the garden has been planted to hopefully produce some food the children can eat. Another project has been making pom-poms for a mobile in the babies room. The children have benefited from the fine motor skills involved.

We had a business meeting recently, and the dominant topic was how we go about building the deck at the front of the building. The main problem is the cost, so we need more fundraising and grant applications.

Oakura Playcentre, Donnelly Street, is open Monday and Wednesday 9am to 12pm. The first 3 sessions are free. The focus is on parent-lead education and we operate as a cooperative, so help is needed in the general running of the centre, as well as with the education of the children. Phone Melissa on 752 1056 for further information.

Susan Oldfield



## Mini Groovers

Don't forget to bring your pre-schoolers, babies and toddlers along to Mini Groovers at the Oakura Hall every Tuesday during term time at 10am. These are fun, groovy and energetic sessions with some quiet and relaxing songs mixed in too. The children just love learning all the actions, rhymes and words or just stamping their feet and clapping their hands. A gold coin donation is appreciated to help with running costs.

The parachute is a real favourite in the middle of the session for relaxation and "quiet time" and the children love making the corks fly on it in the Popcorn Song.

Stay afterwards for a cuppa and a chat and the children can enjoy crackers and fruit and playing with others.

A big thank you to Jimmy and Jackie at the Oakura Four Square, who sponsor our morning tea each week.

At the end of this term we will be presenting a Christmas Concert. This will be in the Oakura Hall in the middle of December and everyone is welcome to attend. More details will be given closer to the time. The children are looking forward to "showing their stuff" at the concert, which will be a mix of traditional Christmas songs and our regular favourites from the sessions, including "Flo from the Button Factory".

A great way to fill in your Tuesday mornings – so come along and groove at MINI GROOVERS.

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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## Universal Children's Day 2005

30 October Centre City 11am to 3pm

In 1954 the United Nations recommended the observation of Universal Children's Day. It encourages every nation to mark "a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity promoting the welfare of the world's children".

A key objective of the Universal Children's Day is to increase awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since its adoption by the United Nations, the Convention has been signed by more countries than any other international treaty. Over the past decade, the Convention has proven a valuable tool for promoting the rights of children everywhere around the world.

The vision of Children's Day is to see children celebrated, nurtured and treasured by all. Children's Day is about celebrating children in positive ways.

To celebrate this very special day, once again the Modern School of Music will be holding a day long concert. Students of the school will be performing solo, duo and group recitals for this marathon-like event.

Take some time to participate in this event by supporting these students and their commitment to a worthy cause.

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# Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Hayfever is an allergic reaction and is the body's way of responding to foreign substances known as "allergens". In spring these allergens are commonly pollen from flowers, grass, trees and weeds.

When an allergen enters the body and comes into contact with special cells called mast cells, it causes various chemicals to be released. One of these chemicals is histamine. "When too much histamine is released symptoms like watery, itchy, red eyes and a runny nose develop", says Catherine.

Sometimes it is easy to confuse hayfever with a cold. The symptoms can be very similar but with hayfever the mucus from the nose is more watery. Also, a cold will usually last seven to ten days, whereas allergies tend to be more long-term and recur whenever you are exposed to the substance that causes it.

"Not everyone prone to allergies is allergic to pollen," says Colleen. "Many people also suffer reactions all year round because they are allergic to dust, animal dander like dog or cat hairs, chemical fumes, temperature changes and the ever common house dust-mite."

If you can't completely avoid trigger factors that cause your allergy, Colleen recommends antihistamine medicines or an anti-inflammatory nasal spray. These are very effective and, if taken early enough, will help prevent the symptoms of hayfever.

Catherine warns that some antihistamines can interact with other medicines and advises people to check with their pharmacist before taking them. You should also tell your pharmacist if you are pregnant or suffer from any medical conditions such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes before taking antihistamines.

If your runny nose is getting you down or you think your cold may be hayfever, talk to Colleen or Catherine at the Oakura Pharmacy and ask for a fact card on hayfever.

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## SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT SCHEME 2005/06

Assistance from the Social Services Grant Scheme is available to:

- Non-profit making, volunteer, community groups that are registered as either a charitable trust or incorporated society.
- Organisations that provide a social service to the citizens of New Plymouth District. A social service is defined as an organised activity which provides benefit to a client's welfare and quality of life, or seeks to improve the condition of disadvantaged people in the community.
- Organisations that provide services to the whole of Taranaki will only be funded on a proportional basis for 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 the Creative Communities arts funding scheme will not be funded by the Social Services Grant Scheme. With the exception of rates relief, in any one financial year, organisations that have been funded by the council from its other funding sources will not be eligible for a Social Services Grant.

Application forms (and information) are available from the council. Forms are also available via email.

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.

Closing date for applications is Friday 28 October 2005.

For more information contact New Plymouth District Council on Telephone: 06 759 6060, Fax: 06 759 6072 or Email: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

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# Oh where has Fi's Fit Farm gone?

It was a really difficult decision. I was doing what I am passionate about but needed more support from like-minded individuals. So this is where the World Gym and Rochelle Sieverts come in.

To be able to provide a service for everyone – seven days a week, early mornings, late evenings and weekends – moving in with the World Gym was the only solution.



Rochelle and I share the same philosophy... keeping fit but not fanatically counting calories or obsessively over-exercising. Finding a balance between work and leisure. Helping people to make healthy choices. More importantly, not just about looking good, but for some just being pain free!

My main passion is helping people to be aware of their body, to help improve bad posture and get rid of bad habits, which is often the key to lower back pain, headaches, sore knees and annoying pinched shoulders. Hand-in-hand with this is improving sporting performance and unless the ground work has been done, results will be slow and goals hard to achieve.

So having a programme to suit your individual needs is so important and if it is necessary to liaise with other health professionals like physios, massage therapists to do this we will.

The World Gym of course is a lot more spacious but does offer an area designed for quiet stretching and "core focus" (stomach, lower back plus butt – THE POWERHOUSE). There is also an area we like to call "Women's space", where the focus is mainly on women's fitness, and of course there is the bigger area for anyone to use, including a great cardio theatre. So you can sweat to your heart's content and watch "Desperate Housewives".

Another bonus is a variety of fitness classes including yoga, circuits, step, spinning, men's flexibility and the power lunch workout for those on the run (45 minutes).

Rochelle offers advice on nutrition and supplements. She is currently studying nutrition and life coaching with the C.H.E.K Institute, an advanced industry certification.

In addition to this the World Gym also has a new sunbed and an amazing aroma plus colour therapy infra-red sauna.

So please feel free to drop in and see us. We are directly above the Post Office and in the centre of town.

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# GETTING WET!



## News from the lifeguards

It never seems to take too long before summer rolls around and we are again enjoying the long warm days at Oakura Beach. New Plymouth Old Boys (NPOB) Surf Club members and supporters are looking forward to a busy summer calendar of events, including hosting New Zealand's national surf lifesaving champs in March. As an icy cold southerly passes over us, many Oakura lifeguards are already braving late winter conditions to ensure they are in optimum fitness for patrolling and competition. It's also at this time of the year that the Surf Club is looking to recruit the next wave of champion lifeguards, families, helpers and supporters.

If you like the idea of being part of a club of champions who relish fun, carry out a respected community service and compete in a sport designed for everyone, then come along to our open day at the Club on Sunday 16 October from 10am onwards. Surf Club members will be welcoming anyone who would like to experience what being a surf lifeguard is all about. Some of New Zealand's best IRB (inflatable rubber boat) drivers will be offering free rides on our famous orange "duckies" and if conditions are right, you can have a go at paddling a canoe with our elite paddlers or simply enjoy the sausage sizzle. We would love to see you there.

NPOB Surf Club has provided an exemplary patrol service at Oakura beach for the past 75 years and has won numerous patrol awards at national level. Last year Oakura lifeguards saved 10 lives, provided first aid to five people, carried out three searches and performed 1,505 preventative actions, all within a staggering 1,598 patrol hours. These duties were effectively carry out by members who receive a high level of training and the on-going skill development necessary for patrolling a busy beach. If you would like to be part of the action, don't hesitate to contact Julie Neilson, club administrator, on 752 4462.

In It For Life...

Bruce MacDonald

Club Captain

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Be part of an IMPORTANT TEAM?

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## NPOB SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB IS FOR YOU

Our Youth Section offers excitement, fun and participation for children 5-13 years  
Qualified Lifeguards commence from 14 years onwards  
Subs: Youth \$15; Youth Family \$45; Junior Members (14-17) \$40; Senior Members (18+) \$60; Family \$100

Come and check out our

## OPEN DAY

Sunday 16th October 2005 at 10am  
at NPOB Clubrooms, Oakura Beach  
Phone 7524462

## The Barrett's blast off the block in Fiji

Murray and Zoe Barrett, along with sister Helen Barrett, competed in the Oceania Swimming Championships in Fiji recently and brought home a swag of medals for their efforts.

The competition was open to swimmers in the Pacific region aged over 25 years. The competition is as much about enjoying yourself as it is competing, so the Barretts combined a family holiday with the event. Swimming is no new thing for the Barretts, with Helen famous for her swim across Cook Strait and father Jim a previous Flanagan Cup winner. A chance remark one day while Zoe and Murray were training at the Aquatic Centre as part of the New Plymouth Seals Masters Club



had the family packing their bags for Suva and having a go, "just for the hell of it!".

But the swimming results aren't down to chance with training four times a week, swimming 2-3 kilometres and sometimes 5 kilometres at a time. Zoe says swimming is something she does to keep fit and she enjoys it more than running. Plus it is

a good family sport with the couple's three children, Jamie, Erin and Lachie, participating. She likes the social side of swimming too and says there are a great bunch of people to swim with. So while the bags may have been bulging with medals on the way home from Fiji, the competition was more about having fun with other like-minded people.

By Kim Ferens

## Oakura wins gold at North Island school ski champs

The Oakura School Ski team scored the highest points tally of any team and took the gold medal in the Senior Primary Division at the North Island Primary and Intermediate Ski Champs held at Whakapapa ski field on Mt Ruapehu from the 5-8 September. Around 460 skiers in 100 teams competed in this annual event. The Oakura team were Henry Saleman, Jackson Braddock-Pajo, Tobias Looker, Lucy Brankin and Tai Juneau.

Tai had the third fastest time on the Giant Slalom course in the Junior Boys' Division. Henry was the ninth fastest and Jackson the tenth fastest through the Senior Boys' course. This gave the team the basis of a great combined score, which was backed up by good placings from Lucy and Tobias.



Tai Juneau (right) edges ahead in his man-on-man slalom duel.



Henry Saleman (centre) thanks the organisers at the prize-giving. Fellow Oakura School Team members Jackson Braddock-Pajo (right) and Tai Juneau together accepted the gold medal for the Senior Primary Division.

On the second day of racing each skier raced off side by side against the competitor with the closest time from the Giant Slalom. Henry, Tai and Tobias won their slalom duels to gain maximum points for the team score. When the racing was over and the points were tallied Oakura School had won their Division and had scored more points than any other team – an outstanding result against teams from Ohakune and National Park schools, who train all winter, and Auckland private schools with paid coaches and summer training in the Northern Hemisphere! Oakura's ski technician Clive Saleman has since patented his secret ski wax recipe!

The team and parents enjoyed a great stay at Aorangi Lodge, situated at the base of the ski lifts on the mountain. A TV film crew covered the event with footage to feature on the Saturday Disney show over the coming weeks.

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Ardern Peters Architects work from their recently retrofitted office at 170 Powderham Street in New Plymouth. John Ardern and Eldon Peters formed their partnership after having worked together for many years previously. Business growth over recent years has enabled them to employ several architects and draughtsmen to assist with the workload. They are able to help you with your project no matter how big or small.

John & Eldon run their business on a flat management basis, believing that everybody's opinion is worthy of consideration. This philosophy carries into their relationships with their clients



who are encouraged to contribute positively to the task at hand, making the time spent together meaningful and enjoyable, with clients also often ending up as good friends.

The last few years have been an exciting time for the partnership, having been heavily involved with the design and construction of the Quarterdeck Apartments in New Plymouth. Along with this large residential project, they have also been hard at work designing new homes, alterations and additions to existing homes, buildings for schools and playcentres, medical and scientific laboratories, office buildings, retail shops and student housing complexes. Interior design and colour scheme services are also offered and they recently have been designing a number of new kitchens.

Ardern Peters Architects are happy to work with you, and offer a free one hour consultation on your first visit. This time is invested in your project, at no cost to you, in order to meet with you, discuss your needs and help get you started with the design and building process. From thereon, you can decide if they are the right people for your job.

If you are thinking of building, renovating or changing your colour scheme, give John or Eldon a call, or drop into their office, they will be pleased to talk with you.

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## TOM KID PROFILE

Name and age: Matheson Lee, 9 years

School and teacher: Omata, Mrs Aylward

Favourite food: Chocolate

Favourite activity: Playing on the computer

Favourite game/sport: Roller hockey, soccer

Best movie: James Bond

Pets: Paddy the dog, Ginger my calf

Exciting places been to: Movies to "Sky high"

When I grow up I'm going to... be the owner of the biggest toy store in the world.



Q. Why did the turtle cross the road?  
A. To get to the Shell Station



## FACT BOX

- \* Sneezes can travel at 160kph!
- \* There is enough stone in the Great Wall of China to build a 2.4 metre high wall encircling the globe at the equator. (The South could play the North at ValleyWall)
- \* If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. (PowerCo needs to look into that)
- \* About 600 species of plants are carnivorous. Most eat insects but also on the menu are frogs, birds and even small monkeys. (Let's get one, I know some some children that could pass as small monkeys)

## Here's a fun Recipe for making a kind of PLASTIC OR GLUE

What you need:

- 1) Milk (high fat, or cream is the best)
- 2) Vinegar or lemon juice

### Recipe:

Gently heat half a cup of milk in a saucepan and when it begins to steam, add a few spoonfuls of vinegar and mix well. Keep mixing and add more vinegar until it starts to separate.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Tip out the curds (the lumpy stuff) onto a kitchen towel or two and try to squeeze some of the excess moisture out.

You should now be able to mould this into a shape, a bit like plasticine.

Alternatively, mix with some water and a teaspoon of baking soda to make glue.

Mary had a little clock,  
She swallowed it one day,  
Now she's eating lots of figs,  
To pass the time away.

Q. What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup?

A. Anyone can roast beef.

(THINK ABOUT IT!)

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE CAT SLEPT UNDER THE CAR?  
IT Woke up OILY the next morning!

Erica: My teacher yelled at me today for something I didn't do.  
MUM: Really, what was that?  
Erica: My homework!





# Anne Wilson

06 752 7775

0276

DSELLA

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## Properties Wanted

- House, any condition on 1+ acres of land, Oakura/Omata area.
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## Properties for Sale by Anne



### 6 Mallinder Place, Oakura

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### 3 Whakawhiti St, New Plymouth

3 bdrm, very tidy, aluminium windows, lge single garage, polished floors, great first home or rental.



### 14 French St, New Plymouth

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### 15A Leatham Ave, Merrilands

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### 204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

5 bdrms plus study. Great combination of old style with modern conveniences on 6010m<sup>2</sup> lifestyle section.

#### SITUATION VACANT

House Keeper wanted in Oakura for approx 10 hrs per week. Please phone Anne 752 7775 for more details.

### 7 New Affordable Oakura Sections

Mostly flat with sea views and views of the Kaitakes.

**Sold** 18F Saxton Rd, Sold at Auction. 144 Tukapa St, Sold at Auction. 35 Sanders Ave, Sold before Auction. 52 Dixon St and 4/12 Webster St sold at Tender.

## Thought for the Month

Happiness is not a result of life's circumstances. Happiness is a positive reaction to life's circumstances.

**HARVEYS**  
PART CITY REALTY COMPANY

PEOPLE and PROPERTY

**Park City Realty Ltd - MREINZ**  
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