



Our secret revealed

This issue marks the end of an era for TOM, with co-founder and super hero, Tracey Lusk leaving us to share more time with her family after nine hectic years at the front line.

Perhaps then, if you've ever wondered how the TOM comes together, this a fitting time to reveal that we actually have the help of another super hero - none other than Spiderman!

His services are not cheap but his experience and expertise are legendary!

Pictured here showing us his collating skills, Spiderman, aka Caleb Avery, enjoys every minute of TOM week and we humbly thank him for his care in putting our magazine together.



Nine years ago this month The Oakura Messenger went into every letterbox in Oakura village, 520 if I remember rightly. At that stage the business was comprised of Sue Pritt and I. We did the lot. Sue wrote the stories and took the photos, did the ad lay up and got it ready for the printer. I approached the local businesses with an A4 sheet of paper drawn up with pencil lines to show where the twelve ad spaces over four pages were to go. Not a lot of information for them, however they came on board to support a local newsletter that would be local news for local people.



Many of those original supporters are still with us today and for that I say thank you, not only for supporting TOM but for showing your support to the community. I also managed the accounts and kept my eyes and ears open for story ideas. We hand delivered and bribed our children (we had a son each then) with ice creams to help.

Sue stepped down from the role and Omata local and good friend Catherine Jones came on board. At that stage there were five children between us. The business still operated as it did in the beginning. However, we took it from the original four pages to 24 pages, with a bumper issue in December of 36 pages. We in time engaged the services of the wonderful and creative Ron Stratford, who continues to put together all three publications (TOM Oakura, TOM Okato and TOM Fitzroy).

We started to pay people to write stories and eventually to deliver the TOM for us. We took on ad reps to get together the increasing number of spaces we had available and with that we also benefited from their extra skills. Catherine stepped down and at this point Kim, a friend, who had been writing for us, took on the challenge of TOM co-ordinator. It has been with Kim that we started TOM Okato and just recently TOM Fitzroy.

It has been fun, rewarding, challenging and enlightening. It's been a "job" I could work at from home and fit in with my other "jobs".....until now. Now there are three boys and all increasingly busy as they get older. TOM is getting left out. The time has come, sadly but without regret, to hang up my notebook and pencil.

Thank you for all the support, excellent feedback and sharing of your stories. My life has been better for it. I hope I served the community well

Kind regards
Tracey

It is with much sadness that I say *au revoir* to Tracey. The TOM offices won't be quite the same anymore as Tracey has been such an integral part of how TOM developed. But TOM will be continuing as usual, we will soldier on with the belief that all good things come to end and other good things happen! I feel honoured that Tracey feels she can leave her TOM babies in my hands and yes I will look after them, grow them and love them!

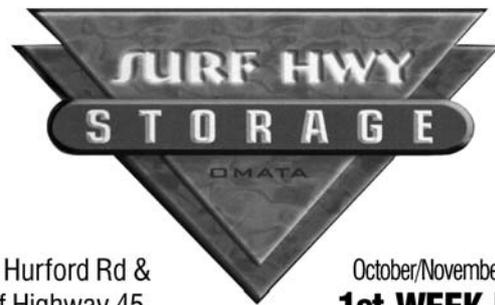
Kim



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from **mayor pete**



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Hi folks!

The announcement that the elite surfing Women's World Tour is coming to Taranaki is huge news for everyone! Oakura's own Paige Hareb is proving a force to be reckoned with on the Dream Tour, and it's due to her success that Surfing Taranaki put in a bid for one of the legs of the tour. Well done Paige, and well done Surfing Taranaki! Once again, the talents and passion of local people have proved a huge boon to the wider community.

The event will be based in Fitzroy but the surfers will compete on beaches around the coast. I expect Oakura to be on that list, and during April next year we'll be able to see the best female athletes in the world competing on our waves.

Living here and enjoying our lifestyle as we do every single day, it can be easy to take for granted just what we have. Sometimes it takes the fresh eyes of highly experienced visitors to give a new perspective. For instance, Women's World Tour international chief executive Brodie Carr describes Taranaki as "ripe with world class waves". Association of Surfing Professionals women's tour manager Brooke Farris is also a fan after visiting earlier this year. She said: "I was checking the place out to see whether it had all the qualities we look for before staging a world tour event and while I was there it certainly ticked all the boxes."

In April next year those fantastic qualities will be seen by a television audience of an estimated 50 million viewers.

This is just one example of how the efforts of a small group of people can energise and benefit the entire region. These types of success stories happen frequently in Taranaki, not always in the media spotlight, because people here dream big and make it happen.

If you have an idea for a project that you'd like to get off the ground and you think the Council might be able to help, give me a call on 759 6100 and I'll see what we can do!

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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New owners keeping the proud 4 Square traditions intact

We welcome Steve and Marlies Butland-Delfos and their two children Saskia and Tom to Oakura as the new owners/operators of the Four Square. They won't need much introduction to some locals as the family has been coming to Oakura for holidays for the last 14 years, probably making them more local than some of the locals!



Steve and Marlies, happy new owners of the Oakura 4 Square.

Steve and Marlies have taken over from Tim and Anna and have been happily trading for six weeks now. They are really enjoying themselves and say they are "really fortunate" to be in such a great community. "The staff at the Four Square is great and all the locals have made them feel right at home." Steve and Marlies plan to carry on the fine tradition of past owners with fresh local produce, New Zealand products, eco friendly products, a "can do" attitude and a warm friendly atmosphere.

Steve and Marlies come from Wellington where Steve was a McDonald's franchisee for the past three years. He gained several accolades during that time, including number two "Best Operator" in New Zealand and recipient of the international "Gold Hat" award. Steve also has experience in property management and property development. Recently Steve has fortuitously been involved in Foodstuff's Management Programme.

Marlies has spent 13 years in marketing and product management and also has a degree in food technology. She has worked for five years at the Public Trust.

Being in the Four Square is a dream come true for the family and they are looking forward to experiencing more of what Taranaki has to offer in the great outdoors. Steve is a keen long board surfer and windsurfer and the whole family enjoys mountain and road biking. Saskia (9 years) and Tom (6 years) have settled into Oakura School and are busy making new friends and helping out in the shop. Tom has already made his mark in the school cross country with a first place.

With Christmas just around the corner Steve and Marlies are offering customers the opportunity to order Christmas hams but you'll have to get your orders in quickly, as the cut off date is 19 October. There are

several different types of ham on offer, depending on your budget. They range from the Spiral Cut (easy to carve) Ham on the Bone to the smaller off the bone hams. A \$10 deposit will secure your ham in time for Christmas. Call in and place your order at the counter.

So it is a very big welcome to our new shop custodians and we look forward to many happy years together.

By Kim Ferens

New Zealand Post

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Oakura

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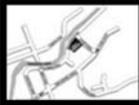
Plant tomatoes.
Continue planting cabbage, broccoli, lettuce and parsley.
Plant main crop potatoes and kumara.
As weather warms begin sowing beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, peppers, eggplants and courgettes or plant out seedlings from Mitre 10.

Lawn

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.
Enjoy all the spring blossoms. My plum tree is looking magnificent with its lovely white flowers, and the citrus fruit make the garden a picture even on dull days. Don't underrate fruit trees as an eye-catching landscaping tool.



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Library membership has many benefits. There is a whole world of books, DVDs, CDs, magazines and more for you to explore. For a nominal fee (\$1.50 for adults, free for children under 18) you may reserve any book from any of the New Plymouth District Libraries to be sent here for pick up. What a convenient service! You can do this from the convenience of your own home by visiting Puke Ariki's website online. If you prefer, we can process the request for you. Our video titles are free! If you kept your video player you are in luck. Library membership affords you free or discounted entry into Puke Ariki's many special exhibits and events throughout the year. Ask us about becoming a member of friends of Puke Ariki.

We had a visit from Ross Kinnaird (*Why Dogs Sniff Bottoms*) who entertained and inspired a group of students from Oakura and Coastal Taranaki Schools during Taranaki Children's Book Festival Week. He talked about what illustrators do, what he enjoys about the job and how it's changed since he started years ago. His lightning fast caricatures of some of the children and teachers were a huge hit! He was humorous and related so well with the children.

Happy reading.

Karen and Vincenza



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Emissions Trading Scheme strikes a balance to protect

It is generally recognised that current rates of international greenhouse gas emission are harming the environment. This is a global issue since the location of the emissions is not relevant to the effect that results in terms of global climate change.

Within the context of this global problem, National, with Maori Party support, has revised the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to reduce the costs to households and the impact on jobs. This revision ensures that New Zealand takes a responsible approach to the global problem of greenhouse gas pollution and climate change. These changes are about New Zealand doing its fair share on climate change while not being way out in front and paying a huge economic price. The changes closely align our ETS with what Australia is proposing in its Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. They ensure we don't destroy people's jobs and the backbone of our economy by jeopardising the key industries of agriculture and fisheries.

National was committed pre-election to tackling climate change by introducing an emissions trading scheme (especially for the electricity sector) and encouraging forest planting. National also had concerns about the emissions trading scheme, for example, the balance of both environmental and economic costs; which they have addressed by the changes to the ETC policies.

Features of the revised scheme include:

- Revised entry dates of 1 July 2010 for transport, energy and industrial sectors and 1 January 2015 for agriculture.
- A transitional phase until 1 January 2013 with a 50% obligation and \$25/tonne fixed price option for the transport, energy and industrial sectors. These changes to industry are designed to protect Kiwi jobs by ensuring our businesses are encouraged to stay here rather than move to other countries. The changes encourage them to be more energy efficient here in New Zealand
- A production-based industry average approach to allocations for trade exposed, emissions intensive businesses
- A phase-out of industry support aligned with trading partners and the Government's long-term 50% by 2050 emissions reduction target
- Incentives for forestation created by a domestic and international market for carbon credits. The changes encourage tree-planting by creating internationally valuable credits for forest owners
- Revised entry date of 1 January 2015 for agriculture and enhanced transitional support for the fishing industry. These changes ensure we protect people's jobs and the backbone of our economy by not jeopardising these key industries
- Halving the cost of the current ETS for families and households for the next three years of the scheme by reducing the power price increase from 10% to 5% and fuel from 7c per litre to 3.5c per litre.

New Zealand would be well placed at Copenhagen if this modified ETC is settled in legislation by December.

Jonathan Young

MP for New Plymouth

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Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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Update from the Big Red Truck

Summer greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

Message of the Month: **Smoke Alarms DO save lives!**

A recent early morning call to a fire in a house in the local area generated some thoughts and insights that we felt were worthwhile sharing:

- 1 This house had never had smoke detectors until the solo occupant recently requested them. They were installed by the Fire Service just the day before the fire started in the house.
- 2 The occupant had smelt something late the night before the call, and found some of the lights did not work (wires in the roof burnt through). However she felt it would be an inconvenience if we were called out for a false alarm.
- 3 Overnight the fire slowly spread along the central roof trusses. It is believed that had it not been a windless night, the fire would have spread a lot quicker.
- 4 The fire eventually broke through into the hallway (smoke detector activated). These areas rapidly filled up with smoke and the fire was able to start "breathing".
- 5 There has been a constant drive to have homeowners install working smoke detectors/alarms in **all** living spaces in their homes. This has been largely successful, but sometimes not everyone hears the message. Therefore it is recommended that you remember to check to see that your elderly relatives or neighbours also have working smoke detector when doing your annual check. Now is a good time, as we move into daylight saving and summer.
- 6 Be aware that you cannot smell smoke when you are asleep. For this reason people can be overcome in their beds by a smoke layer gradually descending from a slow-burning fire of this nature.
- 7 There is a perception amongst some of the public that the Fire Service charges home owners if called to false alarms. This is **not** the case! The Fire Service is here to serve you and the community. If you have a fire, no matter how big or small, please call 111 for the Fire Service. We are not concerned if you think you are wasting our time. We would rather be safer than sorry.
- 8 Have, and practice, a family safety response plan in the case of a fire. **Get Firewise**: refer to the Fire Service link at www.fire.org.nz/Fire-Safety/Pages/Fire-Safety.aspx for lots of useful tips and information. Get the kids involved too!

On a lighter note, on 26 September the Oakura Fire Brigade hosted the 6th annual Taranaki's Toughest Fire Fighter competition on Butlers Lane. It was a beautiful, sunny Paradise day and 30 hardy competitors turned up with their supporters to give the course a run. For the first time, there were nine entrants in the women's category (who must run exactly the same course as the men). With the new (since 2008) short-course format, there is enough time for competitors to try a second run to better their time. It also gives individuals a chance to overcome a rival a mere few seconds ahead after the first round. It proved to be a very enjoyable day.



Andy Cullen, Oakura's Toughest Firefighter.
PHOTO BY JENNIFER GROS

The winner (for the 4th time) of the Toughest Fire Fighter competition again deservedly goes to Denis Gibbon from Eltham VFB. His commitment and drive put him close to being the first person to almost break the 2 minute barrier. Well done Denis.

Ex Oakura and Rahotu VFB member, and currently Wellington based as a career firefighter, Angela Weir won the women's title for the first time. She came second on three previous occasions to an excellent competitor, Nicola Evans of Stratford, who came in a close second this year. Well done Angela!

More importantly at the Oakura level, bragging rites in the brigade as Oakura's Toughest Firefighter have again changed hands. Despite being ahead after the first round, the incumbent (and scribe of these words) fell short at the second round to an inspired and determined second run from Andy Cullen. Well done and well deserved Andy. Also a "well done" to everyone in the Oakura Brigade who participated, and thank you to all who helped to make it an enjoyable day.

Finally, if you are going to use fireworks on 5 November, please be considerate of others and act safely. Remember to make sure any unused fireworks are stored safely, away from children.

All the best and stay safe

FF Breeze (on behalf of Mel)

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Flair from the Fare at Okurukuru

Recently I enjoyed an evening of culinary flair at Okurukuru when the winning team from the Culinary Fare 2009 demonstrated their expertise. In August the Okurukuru team participated in the Culinary Fare competition and came home with fists full of awards, not least being Restaurant of the Year 2009. I was invited along to Okurukuru to sample the award winning menu and to watch Simon Houghton and Troy Waters demonstrate their skills in front of the diners.

It was a marvellous evening and what Okurukuru might lack in atmosphere was eliminated when Simon gets his knives out! Simon is an absolute pro at entertaining his guests and interacts extremely well with his audience. His gastronomic expertise was spellbinding. You were left with no doubt that Simon is one of New Zealand's top chefs.

Troy's competency as a younger chef was also evident and he says he enjoys the pressure of cooking in competitions. Kristin McCormack very ably waited on the tables and showed an excellent knowledge of wines. The Sugar Loaf wines we had matched the food perfectly.

The winning Culinary Fare menu is currently on Okurukuru's menu. It shows an adventurous side with a whitebait and tomato consommé jelly and salmon caviar entree. Absolutely delicious! The main was lamb rack, vegetables and a rosemary jus. The jus is my only criticism about the food as it was practically non-existent on my plate. The dessert was a smooth chocolate and macadamia nut Marquis with vanilla mascarpone, and was a perfect end to the meal.

I consider myself privileged to have been seated beside Caroline Medway-Smith of Hospitality Service Industry. Caroline is passionately supportive of the hospitality industry and the apprentices she trains, and is a thoroughly nice person to boot.

If you get the chance to go to Okurukuru and watch Simon and his team cook your food in front of you, you won't be disappointed. I know the kindy fundraiser that is run along similar lines is always popular so it is worth the effort and is a fun night out.

By Kim Ferens



Troy Waters with his award winning entrée.

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kaitake community board

Greetings

The KCB has been rather busy since last reporting. There is a lot happening, much of it under the radar of many folk. We have been working behind the scenes with Farmers' Market Taranaki and are pleased that it will kick off its monthly markets in Oakura on Saturday 14 November. There is a more comprehensive report on the market by Kim elsewhere in this issue. Needless to say, if the market is well patronised it could easily consolidate into a fortnightly or even weekly event.

Council's Youth Subcommittee is now calling for 2009 Young Achievers Award nominations. Nomination forms are available from the Council, online and from district libraries. Nominees must be aged 12-24 and live in New Plymouth District. Information on all award categories and the criteria are detailed within the nomination form. Nominations close on 15 October with the award ceremony held in the Council Chamber on 28 October.

The 'biggie' looming on the horizon is stage two of the Community Halls review. Council is reviewing all aspects of the halls it owns in the district and intends, after further consultation, to refine its Rural Halls Policy, develop a Community Halls Funding Policy and initiate an action plan of priorities for hall management, development and maintenance.

During Stage One of the review process, research was undertaken into the history of community halls, their management structure, facilities and use. A discussion document outlining issues and opportunities was circulated to those closely connected to halls (hall societies, custodians, committees and known hall users). These diverse groups were asked to provide feedback to Council and that feedback led to the development of Stage Two of the review.

Council has categorised its 17 halls into urban and rural groupings. In the Kaitake Ward there are two halls on the NPDC list, Hempton Hall in Okato and the Oakura Public Hall. Both are in the urban category. Stage Two of the review will be an agenda item at the Policy Committee meeting to be held on 20 October. It is expected that the review discussion document will then be available for public viewing and submissions. I would certainly urge everyone to ensure they are aware of the discussion document's contents and make their thoughts known, either through the submissions process or to KCB members. KCB will certainly be submitting on the issue.

During the last few years there have been many opportunities for members of the community to make their views known on various Council activities. The views of those who do make the effort are factored into final decision-making. After consideration sometimes those views change the scope of what is to be done, sometimes they don't. However if one doesn't make the effort to make their views known through the consultation systems provided by Council, then there is little point in being critical after the decisions have been made if you disagree with them.

We do face population growth, we do face increasing property values and rate increases, we do face change in the rural/urban interface, and we do face infrastructural changes that will put increasing pressure on our lifestyle. There is pressure on community halls. In some cases it is lack of patronage versus

the cost of ongoing maintenance. In other cases it is that the building space does not adequately cope with the changes in activities the community now requires of it. Council has determined it needs to address the matter. There will be an opportunity to comment and make suggestions to help plan the best way forward. KCB urges you to take that opportunity. Well that's it for this issue. Ka kite ano.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080) who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Tracey? . . . er . . . *who?* . . . Oh yeah! Well, I didn't even know who she was until that bossy Kim told me she was leaving. Although her face looks familiar. In fact, asking around I couldn't actually find anybody who knew exactly *who* she was, or *what* she did. Still, I suppose someone has to do the hidden, back room stuff, eh?

Oakura Pony Club

In September we kicked off the new pony club season at Oakura with our opening/registration rally. We were happy to welcome on board five new young members, which is fabulous news for our little club. Four of these new members have kindly given me a little profile on what they like about riding and what their goals are for the season, which I thought I'd share with TOM.

Madaleine Bourke

Maddee's pony is called Turbo and she has been riding him for 18 months. Maddee loves her pony which lives down Weld Road. She especially enjoys jumping and her goal this season is to learn more about that.

Isabella Hibell

Bella is 7 years old and her pony Whiskey is 9 years old. Bella has been riding Whiskey for three years. Bella really loves it when Whiskey does what he is told! (Whiskey is a little lazy.) Whiskey loves attention and being cuddled. He loves it when Bella plays with his mane and sings to him. Whiskey was a lead rein pony when Bella's parents bought him. He had never been ridden by a child off the lead and had never been to pony club, so he is very "green" and not always obliging. Both Bella and Whiskey have much to learn together and they are doing really well under Lydia's (from Clearwater Riding School) patient and calm instruction. Pony Club will build on this and Bella is looking forward to learning heaps and having fun with other children of her own age and ability. Her goal this season is to master the basics, achieve simple things and do them well.

Kate Logan

Kate's pony is called Sprite. Kate enjoys riding and having fun with Sprite. She especially likes to canter up and down the hills on the farm. Her goals this season are to get better at jumping and to have lots of fun at pony club.

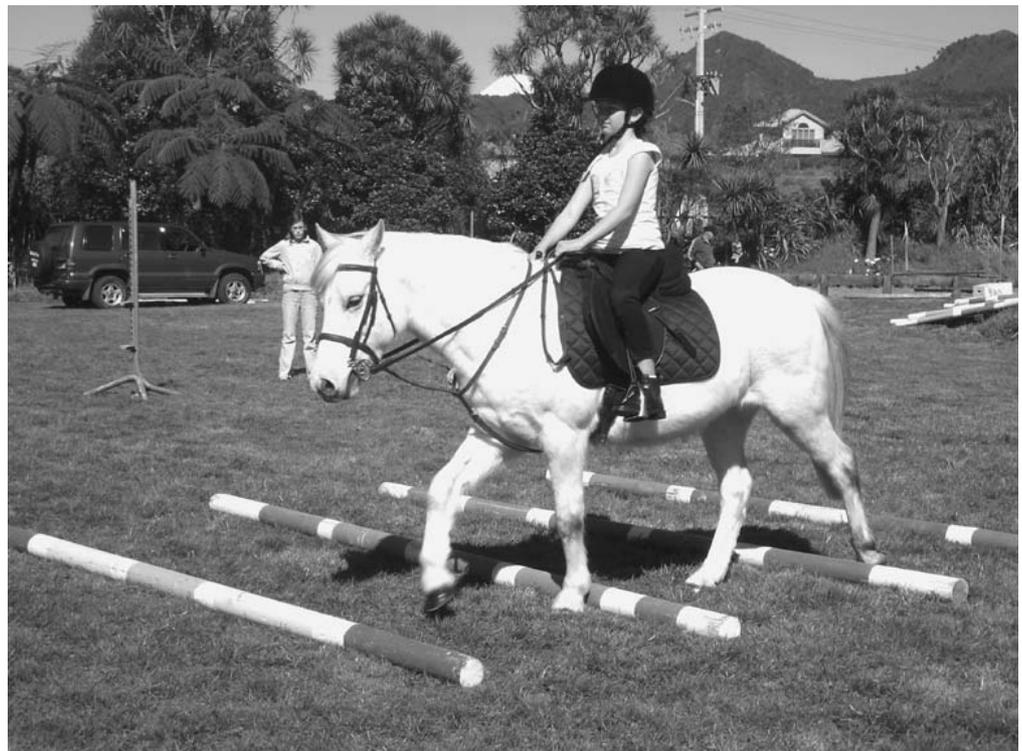
Caroline Milam

Caroline has been riding off and on for 3-4 years and is currently riding Husky. "I like ponies because they are a fun and creative outlet for me," says Caroline. "I like Husky in particular because he is a challenging mount for me. He is great and I love him." Caroline's goals this season are to learn dressage and to jump better.

On the same day as our opening rally Oakura Pony Club hosted



Leading the young riders over the poles are Kate on Sprite, Caroline on Husky, Bella on Whiskey and Maddee on Turbo.



Kate Logan riding Sprite.

the North Taranaki Show Hunter Trials. Congratulations to Bronte Alder from Oakura who qualified and will be going to Palmerston North to represent Taranaki at the North Island Show Hunter Champs on her new horse, Abby. We also held our annual fund raiser Jumping Day at the Waitara Pony Club grounds on 19 September. There will be more news about that next month.

By Diane Alder

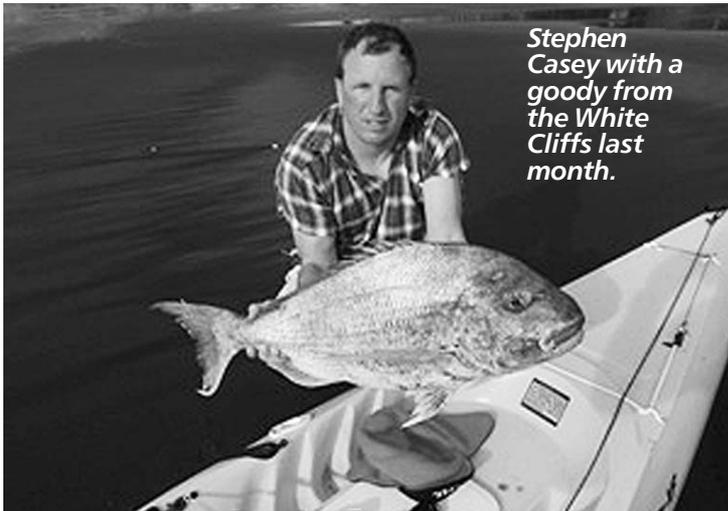


Greetings All

Well we have had a few more fish getting caught in the last month or so. Surfcaster Chris Whittaker has been giving it a nudge out Waitara way and been getting the odd feed. Snapper and Trevally have started turning up between the Tapuae and

the Fort. Bell Block is also worth considering, as a few Snapper have been landed there lately, too.

Kayakers have been a bit quiet recently due to the wild weather. Although there were a few nice days last month, they all seemed to get hammered by the dreaded Spikey Dogs. These have somewhat abated now though, and Carrots (Gurnard) and some nice 4-5 pounders (Snapper) are turning up. Last month Stephen Casey, a man who is normally particularly quiet on the Yak, came home with a fantastic 20 pounder. This was indeed a nice fish and was in lovely condition when we weighed it coming in at 9.770kg.



Stephen Casey with a goody from the White Cliffs last month.

Don't forget the Kayak Classic is coming up in April next year. Now's the time to get a Kayak, perhaps join the club and get some practice in over the summer. You won't want to miss out on the next comp, given the great time everyone had last time. Have a look on www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz to see the dates and get tuned in. The entries will be available in December and we may have to limit them so check it out.

If you are interested in going Kayak Fishing or just for a paddle call Garry on 752 7055 or Tony on 751 3552. On the other hand, if you prefer to stay on Terra Firma give Grant and me a call on 752 7425. We'll tee you up with Shane D. (*Readers of the TOM know Shane catches big snapper regularly. Make sure you have plenty of petrol though.*)

Tight lines
Debbie E

Connor Anderson's karate trip to Japan

In early September I was lucky enough to be invited and consequently attend the Aoyama University Gasshuku (an intense Karate training seminar) in Japan. There were only four of us in the NZ team but we joined the Australian team of which there were about 40 members.

The first night we stayed at a hotel in the Shinjuku region of Tokyo, and spent a bit of time on buses and trains exploring the huge city of Tokyo. The next day we travelled out to the village where we were training. This was in the mountains above Gunma, about 2 hours from central Tokyo.

The training began that afternoon and although the session was only about 2½ hours long, both the New Zealand and Aussie teams were shocked by the intensity and how physically and mentally hard it was. After only an hour five Australians had vomited and no one was looking forward to the following day.

The first half of each training session was heavy conditioning and the second half Karate training. The first few sessions were extremely difficult. The hot weather, high altitude and sore muscles proved painful and after each training just walking was difficult. As the seminar went on the sessions seemed to get easier as the body got used to the exercises.



Competing against the Japanese team was invaluable experience.

During the training I lived with a local Japanese family who spoke very little English. This gave me a chance to practice my Japanese which I am presently studying at school. I now know how far I have to go!!!!

The last day of the seminar had a practice competition and four foreigners were invited to compete in the *Kumite* (fighting) against the Japanese team. I was lucky enough to be selected and was the youngest in the open men's division. Needless to say the experience gained was invaluable, as the Japanese style is a lot different to what I am used to.

This trip was an amazing experience. The Karate training, the unique culture, (from downtown Tokyo to the rules in my host family's house) all left me with an experience I will never forget.

Remember: Coastal Karate trains at the Oakura hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Omata School on Mondays and Wednesdays. As well as Okato and Opunake, contact Sensei Jim Hoskin on 752 7337.

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders update

This last month saw the passing of one of Oakura's "watermen" and below is a moving farewell from committee member Philli Butt.

Farewell Manos

It was a real privilege to prepare our clubrooms and the Old Boys Surf Clubrooms across the road for the farewell of a dear friend on Saturday 19 September. For those of you who didn't know him well, Manos (Brett Manning) loved the sea and the mountains with a passion that was only matched by his love of family and friends. Not only was he a keen surfer and skier, but he also was a most accomplished swimmer, windsurfer and snowboarder. Lately he was mastering the art of kite surfing.

Indeed not long before Brett became ill he produced an exceptionally good DVD about the snow and surf that Taranaki is famous for! It is a treasure that needs to be shared. My partner Keith, in his tribute to Brett at his funeral, talked about their friendship and how Brett always did things first before him, especially the above mentioned sports. However there was one thing that Keith did first and that was to become a father!

Our eldest son Ben was born at Clovelly Cottage on Wairau Road and the first visitor we had just after his birth was Brett. I will never forget the tenderness on his face as he gazed at this new child. Although larger than life in so many ways, Brett was a gentle soul. It seemed to me at the time he got as much pleasure from visiting a new mother and her son as he did from skiing the top tow with Keith two days later.

The loss of Brett has left a huge gap in this community. It was a real testament to the very special human being that is Brett that so many people came, not only from Taranaki, but from all over Aotearoa, to say goodbye. Our hearts go out to Nichola, Jane and Peter and to the members of Brett and Nichola's family. I know they have been overwhelmed with the aroha, support and kindness that have been given. This truly is love in action.

As I said my final farewell to Brett, it struck me that there were so many things that Brett did in his life that I could embrace in mine, to love more, to laugh more, to have more fun and to forget the things that aren't important. If there's a wave to catch, catch it. If there's snow on the mountain, wax that snowboard. If there's a cup of tea and a muffin to be shared with a friend, go and enjoy it! So thank you Brett for being you.

Surfing Happenings

Of course big news this month is the ambitious plan to hold a week of women's surfing on the Taranaki coast next year with the NZ open, Pro Junior and a WCT event all being staged. This will be by far the biggest happening ever in NZ surfing and Taranaki in particular, with great tourism and promotional benefits. A lot of work will be involved, especially by the Boardriders Club so here's hoping all can be pulled together and run successfully. Watch this space...

The last contest of the Port Taranaki Winter Series was held on Saturday 19 September in good waves at Fitzroy. There is a strong group of younger surfers attending these contest series, which bodes well for the future. The open division final was a very closely fought affair with two surfers opting for the rights and two for the lefts. Unfortunately the left stopped working with very few waves coming through, finishing with Batchelor Tipene taking it out over Tyler Anderson, Sean Parker and Conan James.

The overall Winter Series Open and U18 winner was once again Oakura's Tyler Anderson, with Sean Kettle taking the U16 and U14.

Port Taranaki Winter Series results:

- Open 1st T Anderson, 2nd J Grainger, 3rd C James, 4th Sparker.
- U18 1st T Anderson, 2nd J Kettle, 3rd H Porter, 4th M Smith
- U16 1st S Kettle, 2nd J Kettle, 3rd E McDonald, 4th C Anderson.
- U14 1st S Kettle, 2nd M McLeod, 3rd T Barbarich-Love, 4th J Hart.
- U12 1st S Kettle, 2nd T Barbarich-Love, 3rd D Farr, 4th J Farr.
- Girls 1st E Croton, 2nd L Walsh, 3rd A Duynhoven, 4th G Taverner



NPSRC winter series open finals Jeremy Grainger 2nd, Conan James 3rd, Tyler Anderson 1st.

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Saturday 5 September saw the running of the 2nd event of the Ocean and Earth Teenage Rampage junior surfing series. The series is run over three events, and is a mobile event around the Taranaki Coast. The event again attracted competitors from all over New Zealand with former and current scholastic champions present. A pristine day saw Mt Taranaki in clear view to remind competitors why the water is so cold!! Good waves on the high tide unfortunately didn't carry through to the low tide, which made tactics very important.

The two standouts of the competition were Rosa Thompson and Tyler Lawson. Both of these competitors surfed powerfully and critically during their seven heats to take out both the under 16 and 18 divisions.

The winners of the divisions were:

- U14 Boys 1st Sean Kettle (Taranaki), 2nd Waretini Wano (Piha), 3rd Paul Moretti (Northland), 4th Mahorahora McLeod (Taranaki)
- U16 Girls 1st Rosa Thompson (Auckland), 2nd Eloise Stevens (Taranaki), 3rd Lydia Walsh (Taranaki), 4th Casey Stevens (Taranaki)
- U16 Boys 1st Tyler Lawson (Hawkes Bay), 2nd Joe Moretti (Northland), 3rd Nat Hughes (Raglan), 4th Toby Watt (Taranaki)
- U18 Girls 1st Rosa Thompson (Auckland), 2nd Nicola Colson Koster (Raglan), 3rd Kendra Hartley (Taranaki), 4th Casey Stevens (Taranaki)
- U18 Boys 1st Tyler Lawson (Hawkes Bay), 2nd Michael Mallalieu (Taranaki), 3rd Christo Gilbert (Hawkes Bay), 4th Tom Smith (Taranaki)

Congratulations must also go out to some fine performances in the North Island Sec Schools Skiing and Snowboarding championships by some of our younger members. I know Oakura kids did extremely well. I don't know all the exact placings and don't want to miss anyone's achievements but there were some great performances with the NPBHS team getting a 2nd place overall in the snowboarding as a highlight. All this doesn't happen, of course, without good support. Titch Turner and Clive Salemen take a bow, and of course all those parents who assisted and helped make these trips happen.

Since it's school holidays the usual exodus to Indonesia is on again, so hopefully we can coerce some travel stories for the next issue.

NP Old Boys

Summer is nearly upon us. Daylight saving has kicked in and there are more sunny days. No doubt the beach will only get busier from here. Your surf club has been working hard over the winter months to get prepared for the summer season of patrol and competing.

Some giant strides have been made in the off season, building on the club's competition successes of last season. Surf Lifesaving continues to grow as a sport buoyed on by the New Zealand teams' recent successes, most recently a 3rd placing in the World Games in Taiwan. Two of our members formed part of that team, Captain Glenn Anderson and Team Veteran Ayla Dunlop Barrett. Both of them performed exceptionally well in some testing conditions (the food not the surf). They achieved some awesome results, with a number of podium finishes.

The competition season will be kicking off very soon with New Zealand Pool Champs in Wellington on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October. Old Boys will be sending a strong team, boasting competitors that include Olympian Daniel Bell, Glenn, the Dunlop Barrett siblings, Dylan and Ayla, New Zealand Universities representative swimmer Charlotte Webby, along with a number age group up and coming stars. Some good results are expected.

Patrolling is the backbone of our club. It is the core reason the surf club exists, to prevent drowning and injury at Oakura Beach. For this to happen all types of people are needed. You do not have to be the world's greatest athlete to contribute to patrol. Rather, there are numerous ways a contribution can be made. With a busy season ahead, every new face in the patrol tower is welcome. If surf club sounds like something you or your family might like to get involved in, please don't hesitate to email the club on npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz. On that note, the club open day is on Sunday 1 November from 2-4pm. Please feel free to drop in, have a banger from the barbie and see what we are all about.

See you down the beach

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Farmers Market comes to Oakura

It is exciting news indeed that the Farmers Market is coming to Oakura on a monthly basis. I think we have the most perfect setting for such a wonderful event, Shearer Drive picnic area and playground by the beach. Can't you just see it – lovely, fresh, locally grown produce and goodies for sale under colourful umbrellas and locals mixing and mingling amongst the cheese, fruit, bacon and vegetables – all with the pungent sea breeze and surf as a backdrop.



Tupare Farmers Market, coming soon to Oakura.

The aims of the Farmers Market are to provide fresh, healthy, local (grown in Taranaki) produce at fair prices, and to create an environment where smaller and start-up local businesses can enter the market. It is to be a place where friends can meet and, finally, to allow consumers to discuss their produce directly with producers. All the produce must be edible and not art, craft or bric-a-brac.

Christine Frey is one of the driving forces behind bringing the Farmers Market to Oakura. She says the Farmers Market is a great platform for local growers to meet their customers and interact with them face to face. The New Plymouth Farmers Market in Currie St and the Plaza has been operating since 2005 and the concept is growing in popularity and strength year by year. Christine has a small holding on Pitone Road where she grows blueberries, black currants and gooseberries. She also farms Purebred Highland cattle so it will be a treat to see her produce at the market.

Market days will be 14 November, 12 December, 9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, all the second Saturday each month. Trading will start when the bell goes at 9.00 and stop at 12.00 noon.

There will a number of stall holders selling produce such as:
Nashinui: Nashi pears and juice, organic vegetable seedlings and bagged lettuce.

Avonstour Rare breeds Farm: Organic rare breeds meat and meat products (beautiful lamb bacon!!), eggs.

MacSnack: Organic Macadamia nuts and nut products.

Sid's Sauce: Sauces, vinegars and barbecue rubs.

Cottage Wines: Fruit wines.

Amadinah: Dips.

Austins: Vegetables and vegetable seedlings.

Petit Paris: French bakery.

Rubyfields: Free range bacon.

Taratu: Asparagus.

Windsong Orchard: Avocados and Feijoas.

The Blue Berry Patch: Various fruit, berries, jams, chutneys, sourdough bread and gluten and dairy-free baked goods.

Many of these are seasonal and each month there will be something different.

If anyone in the community wishes to be a stallholder they can contact the Farmers Market organisers at enquiries@farmersmarkettaranaki.org.nz

Other options for locals are the "gardeners' table" or a fundraiser table. The "gardeners table" is a stall where for \$5 you can sell the excess produce from your garden. This would be a great option for children or those with green fingers. The fundraising option is available for local groups like kindy, playcentre, etc who may want to provide a sausage sizzle or some other fundraising venture that runs alongside the stallholders. This option is limited to two groups per market day. Again, contact through the email address above.

Christine says the Farmers Market Trust is excited about coming to Oakura, and that they certainly appreciate the efforts of the community to make them feel welcome.

By Kim Ferens

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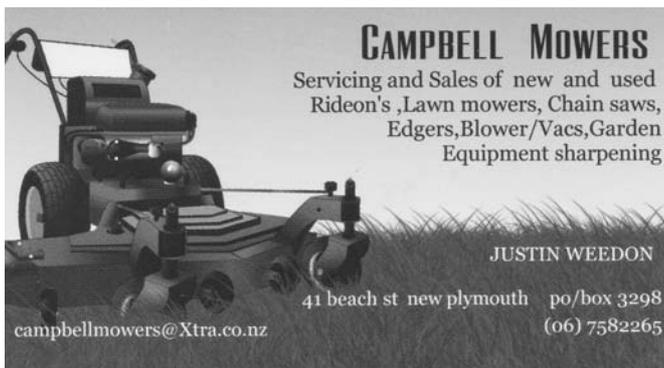
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Pukeiti - more than just gardens

Pukeiti has always played an active and entertaining role during past Rhododendron Festivals and this year is to be no exception. Artist Sue Worthington will be in residence during the festival, along with a display of photography by Pat Greenfield about Tongaporutu.

Each day, through Labour Weekend and the festival, there will be a fabulous display of 120 blooms taken from the garden and twice a day, guided walks through the garden at no extra cost. Not to be missed on Sunday 8th November, one of New Zealand's greatest blues musicians ever, and some of his friends from Wellington, will be creating an unrivalled atmosphere for Pukeiti visitors.

Many more activities are planned for the festival, including Heliview being based out of the gardens on the 6th and 7th November. Check the Pukeiti website for more details, www.pukeiti.org.nz

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Home on the Range

Best friends since babies, Samantha Meads and Bailey Bruckner won first place in the under 12 years piano duet in the Taranaki Modern School of Music Competitions playing "Home on the Range".



Bailey and Samantha with their trophies at NPCentral Baptist Church.

Both girls, now aged 10, had recent arm injuries but still managed to secure five trophies between them. Samantha fractured her wrist following a game of bull tag and had her arm in a cast for the competitions. A boisterous fall off the bed led to Bailey's broken arm and she only just had her arm out of plaster before the competitions. Samantha and Bailey have learned to play the piano with local tutor, Margaret Green.



Margaret Green, Samantha's and Bailey's tutor.

Margaret and husband Brian have lived in the same home since 1984 and many students will remember their sessions with Mrs Green on Pitcairn Street. As a teenager, Margaret began taking piano lessons and progressed steadily until grade 8, when her tutor Mr Rogers suggested she take on her own pupils to teach. A shocked Margaret heeded his advice and has gone on to train many local students over 47 years (plus or minus a few years for parenting).

Samantha and Bailey deserve their success. "They played so well and perfectly together," enthuses a proud Margaret. Among other talented students of Margaret's is Toni-Ann Rielly, 17, who "consistently takes trophies".

By Sharon Van Dijk



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Junior Cross Country

On 1 September Oakura School's junior school had their annual cross country. Parents and friends took time out of their day to come and watch the great event where the kids raced each other in their age groups to try to get a placing, either 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

The Oakura School Junior Cross Country is a part of the school's P.E. programme, along with Athletics Day and swimming sports. Students train for this event for several weeks in advance. The school's senior pupils supported the younger children in their races if it was needed.

Everyone who took part put in a great effort and really enjoyed the opportunity to compete, including those students whose goal was just to complete the race.

Anna Costelloe (12)

Burkhart Cup Netball Report

On Tuesday 15 September, the Oakura School Year 8 Netball Team played in the Burkhart Cup final. Our team consisted of Amy Barron (Captain), Anna Costelloe (Vice Captain), Jessica Clarke, Meika Watson-Burrows, Molly Oldfield, Paloma Aston, Amy Benton and Madison Wood.



Year 8 Netball team.

Our opposition was the Puketapu School Year 8 netball team, a tough side whom we had beaten by only one goal previously in the season. We had a strong start to the match, with some early intercepts from the defence and great smooth plays on attack. We took the lead right from the beginning, and finished the first quarter 8 to 4. Phew, a good start!

The second quarter saw us fire up our play with more fantastic work right through the court; with a half time score of 19 to 11. The game continued with an outstanding effort from both sides, but we were still in front. There were more stunning intercepts and amazing pressure in defence, with skilful driving and well executed passes through the mid-court and shooting area. Our hard work was finished off well by the shooters. Paloma just couldn't miss!

Heading into the fourth quarter, we were up by 10 goals and now we looked likely to come off with the win. But against a skilled team like Puketapu, anything could happen. Once again, there was excellent work throughout the whole court, and each team was giving their best efforts.

The game ended with Oakura taking the win 36 to 22. We were exhausted and proud, each one of us knowing we had contributed something to the match.

It wasn't an easy match, but it was a fair game that was played magnificently by both teams.

The Taranaki Cross Country Championships

On Wednesday 23 September, 40 Oakura School students travelled to Hawera to race in the Taranaki Cross Country Championships. Schools from all over Taranaki competed in this event. There were approximately 120 kids in every race, from 8-13 year olds. There were no firsts this year for Oakura, but four of our talented students received a place in the top ten: Angus White 4th, Nick Wilson 7th, Faris Petty 7th, Ruby Tinson 8th.



The 8-10 year olds only had a 2 kilometre course, but the 11-13 year olds had 3 kilometres. The conditions were not perfect, as it was a rainy, cloudy, windy day. Therefore, by the time it got to the 10 year olds, the grass was no longer green, but brown. It was extremely muddy! Many kids fell over, but they got straight back up again. I had first-hand experience of this, as I fell over while racing myself. The course had differed from previous years because of a new road being put in.

Everyone was very pleased with the results. All the students tried their hardest and everyone gave it their best. I look forward to seeing next year's results!

Amy Barron (12)

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Kaitake Kindergarten

Did you know that if you plant an apple seed it grows into an apple tree? Spring is here and during Term 3 the children enjoyed learning how to grow all sorts of different vegetable plants. Reading books like *Jack and the Beanstalk* at circle time inspired the children to try to grow their own vegetable plants.



Above, Macy Harewood and below, Tamzyn Drake.



A lot of care went into placing potting-mix into small containers (mostly recycled egg containers) and then placing the seeds very gently in. Finely they learnt the importance of water and sun to help the plants grow. The plants were kept in the outside veranda so that they had plenty of warmth to help them grow. The children were able to take the plants home at the end of the term so we are waiting to see the plentiful crops later in the year.

One of the easiest things to grow is peas. Peas can be called a treat and they are a great way to get raw greens into the children without them noticing!!! They are brilliant because the children can eat them as they pick them straight from the vege patch - a bit like yummy strawberries. Pumpkins grow fast too. The children love to see how far the vines grow. It costs 8 cents a plant if you grow them from seed as opposed to 80 cents each if you buy a plant from a retail outlet. So go out there and grow some food with your young ones.

With spring come birds that starting to have young ones hatching. Our teacher, Shane, has been helping the children make different objects with clay. The attraction for the children is that is fun play, a bit like giving them water and dirt to make mud pies. They have to work hard to shape and mould the clay until it is nice and soft. The children persevere until they complete their objects. One of the most popular objects was bird eggs. These round shapes were easy to make, but what were the children going to put them in? They gathered straw and light twigs for nesting materials. The bird nests look great with little eggs sitting in them, looking almost real. We hope you're having a nice break in the holidays and you're ready for the last term of the year.

Oakura's international family

Garry and Angela Harrison's family just keeps getting bigger! In addition to their own children Kim and Michael, the couple have opened their home to International students through Spotswood College for the past 4 years. An urgent situation arose where a student was booked to live with another family and then that home became unavailable. The Harrisons were asked to help out and their hospitality has continued since then.

Currently their two other "sons" are Rodrigo Frigori of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Luca Montanari from Parma, Italy. Both teens, 16 years old, were drawn to New Zealand and particularly New Plymouth because of the alluring proximity of mountain to sea. Following presentations and the possibility to live near the beach, their individual journeys were set. With a "game for anything" attitude the two have adventure in their sights.



Garry and Angela with their "other sons" Rodrigo and Luca left to right.

Rodrigo, who has been here since January, has already made three bungee jumps and surfed and skateboarded everywhere. He has also taken a chunk out of his knee when he was too fast for his bike going downhill. Undeterred, he's off sky-diving whenever he has the opportunity. Luca, who arrived in July, is also keen to try bungee jumping and white water rafting while on his upcoming tour of the South Island. Talented soccer players, Rodrigo and Luca represented the First 11 in Hamilton in early September.

Wednesday night at the Harrison's sees keen competition to make the best pizza. "Rodrigo and Luca get on very well and have become part of the family, which we're very happy about," say the Harrisons. Skype keeps the two in touch with their families and generally they don't miss much from home.

Say Kia Ora / Hi if you see them around, as they're keen to improve their already able English.

By Sharon Van Dijk

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- 12 Years 3-4 tabloid sports with Oakura at Omata.



- 5 Years *Girls* 1st Isabella Roebuck, 2nd Annie Jones, 3rd Ella Casey.
- Boys* 1st Jack Feaver, 2nd Rockco Lister, 3rd Beau Julian.
- 6 Years *Girls* 1st Yannika Harrop, 2nd Samantha Glenny, 3rd Jana Niedermayr
- Boys* 1st Max Brooke, 2nd Josh Read, 3rd Bays Pratt
- 7 Years *Girls* 1st Megan Jones.
- Boys* 1st Leo Lister, 2nd Chris Hobson, 3rd Max Hay-Ward.
- 8 Years *Girls* 1st Amber Donald, 2nd Annabel Jones; 3rd Claudia Harrop.
- Boys* 1st Corban Richardson, 2nd Noah Dunn, 3rd Nicholas Harrop.
- 9 Years *Girls* 1st Maisie Jones, 2nd Ruby Crawshaw
- Boys* 1st Javani Boyce, 2nd Tegan Wilkinson, 3rd Lachie Barrett.
- 10 Years *Girls* 1st Charlotte Jones, 2nd Rebekah Smith, 3rd Olivia Lister.
- Boys* 1st Zac McLeod, 2nd Michael Anderson, 3rd Nicholas Hinton.
- 11 Years *Girls* 1st Olivia Holt, 2nd Jacinta Harrop, 3rd Lucy Mitchell.
- Boys* 1st Jayden Cooper, 2nd Baylee Brown, 3rd Cameron Stewart.
- 12+ Years *Girls* 1st Phoebe Livingston, 2nd Jade Megaw, 3rd Bo Marsh.
- Boys* 1st Hamish Dunn, 2nd Joe Trotter, 3rd Logan Clarke.

School Cross Country

Thank you for joining us for the afternoon. It was a perfect day for the event. The children had a great time and put in remarkable efforts. Well done everyone. Here are the results:



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Omata School Young Leaders' Conference Trip

Early one Monday morning a group of Year 8 students were rudely awoken at approximately 5 am by a loud alarm clock and/or their eager parents. From then on all things were go! Our goal was to reach school by 6 am and attempt to leave for Palmerston North by 6:15. When all were present we scrambled for the window seats of the mini bus. Unfortunately not all could be rewarded. However, after the first hour of rushing in the early hours of the morning, we all settled in for a three hour journey, destined for the Young Leaders' Conference. We had a quick stop at Bulls for a toilet break and a chance to purchase some energy-fueled junk food at the petrol station to keep us going for the rest of the trip. An anxious Ms Brisco, exclaiming that we would be late if we took any longer, hurried us back to the bus.

Charlie Panapa, well known for being on the kids TV show "What Now", and Whitney Pa'u explained the plan for the day and then introduced the first speaker.

Nick Tuitasi was first to speak. He told us it was important to choose our friends carefully and listen to those who might see the bigger picture. Guarding our reputation was one of the major points. He explained it like this: "Imagine a teacher cleaning the whiteboard then asking the class what they saw. The class replied "a clean whiteboard." "Exactly," said the teacher who then put a small black dot in the middle of the whiteboard and then again asked the children what they saw. They told him they saw a whiteboard with a black dot in the middle of it. "This goes to show that if you have a reputation for doing good things and never something wrong then your whiteboard is clean. Do one thing wrong, even if it is small, that is what people will know you for."

The next speaker was Farah Palmer. She plays for the Black Ferns, the New Zealand Women's Rugby Team. She told us that if you have a big job ahead of you and you think it's too big and is impossible to complete, then you will never get it done. If you think of it as eating an elephant, one small bite at a time then you will eventually get there. Just start and work your way to finishing it. If you get lost or need help then don't be afraid to ask for it. You shouldn't have to feel like you need to do everything yourself. For example, if you couldn't figure out your two times table and needed a strategy to finish it then ask for help. Chances are you will learn them much quicker with someone helping you than if you were on your own.

Up next was Rob Harley. He said, "One thing you must remember, it's not what happens to you that counts, it's what happens in you. Just think about that." If good leaders come across a problem they not only fix it, but make something good out of it. They find a way to make things better than they were before. "We all make mistakes but do we achieve anything if we whine about them? How about if we turn them into a learning experience or even solve a different problem with our mistakes."

Last of all was Barbara Kendall. Known for getting gold, silver and a bronze at the Olympics, she taught us that it's good to dream and big dreams are especially good! There are no limits in our dreams and our dreams form our goals. "Be passionate about something, get excited about it," she told us, "If there is something you want to succeed in then go for it no matter what. If you fail in your dream then it is not because of lack of talent but because of lack of commitment."

When the conference ended we struggled to get out of the main doors as at least 900 others were trying to do the same thing. When finally free of the bottleneck of people, it was a rush back to the mini bus for the all-important good seat! The occasional game of "Yellow Car" was played as we passed a car sale yard. The sun was starting to set and we moaned about our empty stomachs. Mr Murphy kindly stopped off at the Hawera Subway and the lady behind the counter was shocked at the sight of nine hungry teens entering the premises. When we finished our meals we headed back to the van for the last leg of the trip, from Hawera back to school. Finally after driving all the way to Palmerston North and back, we returned to school.

By Kristina Hunt, and Bailey Hoosen.

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Jane Dove's book takes the pulse of the planet

The timely release of Jane Dove Juneau's latest book, *Listen to the Heartbeat of the Earth*, ensures it is well positioned in the debate heating up on climate change in New Zealand. With increasing concerns on climate change throughout the developed world, this book is designed to reach people and stimulate thought and action.

Jane has spent over 30 years photographing images throughout the world for news outlets, corporate and promotional work and her own books. *Listen to the Heartbeat of the Earth* has images that evoke earth as the most special of



places and inspirational thoughts by great people in world history, which combine to reward the reader with an experience that borders on the spiritual. "*Listen to the Heartbeat of the Earth* is there to remind each of us of the importance of our impact on the planet and the environment. It is time to think seriously about how we can create a sustainable future for man and the other creatures that inhabit our planet," says Jane.

This beautiful book presents 120 phenomenal, top quality, colour landscape images taken across the world, from Peru to Samoa, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. "Our footprint, combined with all the steps taken by mankind, has a huge influence on the environment and we need to take time to consider our personal future and the lifestyle choices we make in the short time we are on the earth, as they are crucial to the future of the earth," she says.

As climate change raises concern around the globe, Jane Dove Juneau's book is right in tune with current thinking and it offers encouragement to people of all ages to become active in their own communities and environments. "Change comes from each and every one of us taking responsibility and care of our planet. We have to become more aware, as the very future of mankind rests with us today."

Listen to the Heartbeat of the Earth

By Jane Dove Juneau

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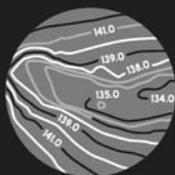
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Country and Western Club

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Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

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Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

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Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752 1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

Senior Citizens

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome. Phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

St James Church, Oakura

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