

Citizen Joyce

Eleven residents of the New Plymouth District have had their years of selfless work recognised in the 2006 Citizen's Awards.

Mayor Peter Tennent presented the awards to the recipients, whose achievements are in the varied sectors of sports, health, welfare, education, emergency services, the arts, horticulture and agriculture, church work, injury prevention and local history.

"When you see such a comprehensive list of achievements such as this, you realise how many areas of everyday life are enhanced by people who give freely of their time over many years," says the Mayor.

"I have immense respect for people who give so much of themselves for the betterment of the wider community. Without such dedicated volunteers and workers, much of the lifestyle that we take for granted in this district would grind to a halt. These guys are the oil that keeps our communities going."

An Oakura local was one recipient of this year's Citizen's Awards...

Joyce Young, through her commitment and enthusiasm, has consistently created

and supported opportunities for our community members to engage in either artistic creative endeavours, or participate in advocacy and social projects. She has made a positive contribution over a long period of time, continually seeking out what individuals or the community need and then doing her best to make a change or provide direction. Joyce commits huge personal effort to any volunteer project that she can assist with; reinforcing her strong commitment to the community.

Joyce steals the limelight again

I caught up with Joyce Young following her presentation of a Citizen's Award by the New Plymouth District Council. Joyce was feeling humbled by the award, which is only given out to a handful of citizens each year.

Joyce was nominated by Jo Massey and seconded by Joanne Wilkes of the Real Tart Art Gallery. It is in the field of art that Joyce has made a huge impact in our community. She has been involved in pottery, painting and floral art for nearly 50 years.

Joyce has a long history of community involvement and when it comes to pottery and art her enthusiasm has never waned. Today you will find the 70-something year-old potting fulltime and supporting other businesses involved in the arts, such

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

I want to take this opportunity to share with you all the sudden passing of Kim's mother last month. Death at any time is hard and when you don't get an opportunity to say goodbye or ask the questions you wanted to, it leaves you feeling cheated. I had the privilege to go to Auckland for the funeral and it was a fantastic one (I believe funerals can be good) in that I left feeling I knew Barbara, as though I had met her more than the one occasion I did. I also think I now know a lot more about Kim! It explains why Kim puts 110% into everything she does and everyone she meets.

This month we have the updates from DOC on the intended closure of the walking tracks in the Kaitake Ranges. This is an issue that needs to be fought or a popular and unique part of our community may be lost. Once these things are gone it is much more difficult to get them back. Let's hope DOC can be open-minded and come up with a solution that benefits everyone. Meeting dates to discuss this further are at the end of the update.

Anyone who wants the Linda Street tennis courts to remain a reserve could also contact me on 752 7875, as a hearing for submissions will be held in the first week of October. Should this land be sold there is little chance of getting that green space elsewhere in Oakura – it would be allocated to somewhere else within the New Plymouth district.

Until next time

Tracey

tom

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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

I have a big "thank you" to make to everyone who was involved in the creation of the Oakura Structure Plan. After several months of discussion, public meetings and submissions, the structure plan has been confirmed by New Plymouth District Council and is now in place.

This is a huge step forward in the sustainable management of not only our coast, but of the special lifestyle of Oakura. With this plan we will be able to ensure that Oakura continues to grow over the coming years – but in a manner that retains the town's character and the landscape's unique values.

Some key points of the Oakura Structure Plan are:

- The town's future residential development will be to the south of the existing residential area.
- Pedestrian and vehicle access to proposed green spaces, existing recreation areas and the future residential areas have been identified.
- A comprehensive approach to coastal erosion management will be implemented.
- The existing bush-covered hills will be retained to create a buffer between residential activities in the rural area and the beach.
- The views and character of the areas between the Kaitake Range and the sea will be retained.
- The minimum lot size has been reduced from 700m² to 600m², which is a sustainable approach to long-term management of development pressure in this area and fulfils people's wishes that the urban area doesn't spread up the Kaitake Range or along the coast.
- The Council will be reviewing the development standards for the town, such as considering height limits for buildings, which will be a very effective mechanism for retaining the town's character.

Watch out for further discussions on many of these issues when we go through the changes to the District Plan to make it happen.

Our aim with this structure plan is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the great lifestyle that is available today in Oakura.

In other coastal areas of New Zealand, development and substantial change to the environment has taken place before residents, visitors and local authorities fully grasped what was happening – the very things they loved about their coastal communities had disappeared before their eyes.

We don't want to see that happening here – and with the Coastal Strategy and the Oakura Structure Plan, I think we're in good shape to retain the essence of our coastal lifestyle.

Meanwhile, don't forget that if you want to see how the Council can help you with a project or business development, give me a call on 759 6060!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

I am sure that this column makes time disappear as it seems no time since I wrote the last one.

We are in the middle of the meeting cycle presently so there has been no Board meeting since I last wrote.

Good news is the CBD upgrade is about to get underway with a completion date (hopefully) 8th December. Inframax have won the contract and parkscape will be carrying out the landscaping.

Rubbish. Have you noticed how much of it flies about? Once again I ask people to be Oakura proud and do your best to pick up stray bags that those who don't care, leave about. The new Rubbish Contract is causing a few problems with people still not reading the rules. Council have been very good about picking up the stray bags that the contractor leaves. Ring 759 6060 and tell them if you see any.

I attended a Policy meeting at the end of August and submissions for the **Council Administered Reserves** review were heard. There is so much misunderstanding by the general public (I include myself in this) about many of the Council's responsibilities and Reserves must be high on the list. "Council Administered" is the key here, for example Weld Rd. Many ask (including me) why a campsite cannot once again be created there.

Fact 1: Council do not own it, the landowner who owns it does not want a site there.

Fact 2: Others in the past have spoilt this opportunity by abusing it. You may however, if you have the opportunity, talk with the landowner. If not, Statistics provided at the Policy Committees hearings by the N.Z. Motor Caravan Association President and Teresa Bowe, operator of Belt Road Motor Camp back up my comments. 30,000 people a year stay at Belt Road, spend money on food, entertainment and retail shopping. NZMCA have 30,000 members and are growing at a rate of 14 % annually. Recently at a Rally in Wanganui, estimated spending while in town, was in the hundreds of thousands. The spin offs reach many.

DoC Tracks. You will see the DoC report included in this copy of TOM and note another meeting will be held 21st September, 7.30pm at the Surf Club to talk it over. Once again this is not the responsibility of Council, however the Board is happy to help by Chairing the meeting and keeping the pressure on DoC to open the tracks.

I would also like to acknowledge the Surf Club by its generosity in allowing us to use the Club Rooms to meet.

Great to see Joyce Young recognised in recent Citizen awards, I was privileged to see Joyce opening the kiln with her latest creations recently her energy and creativity are inspirational.

Fay Looney

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Pat: To help Nana sell that man and lady's land. And tell them where it is.

Max: Oh! I hope it will help it sell.

Pat: I hope so too, Max especially when you helped Nana to put up the signs for \$2 an hour !!!

Max: No nana I want a tractor instead.

Pat: Okay. if we sell it, I will buy you a TOY Tractor.

Max: I like helping you put up the signs. Dad and Grandad are helping too, eh Nana? Can I help you put up more signs?

Pat: Yes Max, if people want to list their properties with me, we will put a sign on their house similar to this one.

Max: My daddy's going to sell farms soon too, eh Nana?

Pat: That's right Max, very soon.



Also, thank you TOM, we found "That Lady". Keeley answered that phone call too, and now we have sold her house. If you would like to list your property and Max to help put up your sign, Please ring me:

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(Continued from page 1)

Citizen Joyce

as the Crafty Fox gift shop. Joyce has been the steering force behind the Art and Craft brochure featuring local craft people in Oakura. The brochure is currently undergoing a revamp and is a piece of work Joyce is particularly proud of because of the positive impact it has had on the businesses it features.

Below is a brief history of Joyce's nearly fifty years of community involvement.

1960	President of Oaonui Women's Division of Federated Farmers
	Opunake Swimming Club Committee member
1961	Opunake Floral Club's first president
1965	NZ Floral Art Society Inaugural Foundation Committee member
1964-79	Operated her first floral business

1964-2006	Guest potter at local and national exhibitions
1970-79	Part-time teacher in pottery and art at Opunake High School
	St John's Ambulance night duties
1979	Began a honey business
1980	Oakura Indoor Bowling Club member
1981	Foundation member of Potters Gallery Co-Op
	President New Plymouth Potters Inc
1990-2006	Rhododendron Festival participant
	Taranaki Arts Society member
	NZ Society of Potters member
	Tourism Taranaki member
1994	Oakura Probus founding member
2001	Created the Oakura Art and Crafts brochure
2006	Updated Oakura Art and Crafts Brochure due to its success

By Kim Ferens

Oakura bus service improvements

– a letter to the Council

To:

Jo Spencer

Taranaki Regional Council

Dear Jo

I've just been reading in The Oakura Messenger that you are happy to receive ideas on improving this bus service. I live 10km up above Otako and am quite prepared to use public transport from the Okato area, Pitone Road or Oakura, to avoid taking a car all the way to town. I would do this because of:

- high oil prices and the cost of running a private car
- the need to reduce carbon emissions, and
- to improve the environment in New Plymouth, which is rapidly becoming pedestrian unfriendly and polluted (making it generally unappealing for people).

My suggestions are:

1. Run the service throughout the year, including on school holidays and public holidays like Easter Monday.

This will allow young people to take the bus to and from town and Oakura Beach during the holidays. It will provide commuters with a consistent service. (Without kids I have no idea when school holidays are.) If young people learn that buses can be a cheap, convenient way of travelling, they may end up with positive attitudes to public transport. (We need to get away from the idea that public transport is only for poor people). There need to be enough buses, or big enough buses, on the service to ensure everyone gets a seat.

2. Have another bus leaving Oakura at about 9.15am or 9.20am for those with business to do in town.

This departure time might be sensible for those with children – they have time to get the children to Oakura school or pre-school then go into town on the bus. It means you get to town and the shops and services are open. The bus would also have sufficient space at that time – I would be unhappy having anyone standing to travel while a bus is going 100kmph, child or adult.

3. If possible, have both buses start from Okato, leaving at 7.45am and 9.05am.

It would be great if this bus stopped along the way, say at the bare area at the top of Lower Pitone Road or at the end of Upper Pitone Road (though this is a bit tricky on the left hand because the bus would have to cross the road at a dodgy corner).

4. Have a return bus that suits working commuters, with a bus leaving town at 5.10pm or 5.15pm.

Most workers in town seem to stop work and rush off at 5pm. The bus should not be long after 5pm but should avoid leaving right on 5pm because that would only add to the rush hour traffic and congestion.

5. Have at least one central city bus stop – near the hill on Devon Street and from the Bus Station or nearby.

The St Mary's bus stop is inconvenient and difficult for less mobile people – maybe a supermarket could offer a bus stop and convenient cut through route from one part of the one-way system to another. Having a bus stop way out of the way means people don't register that the bus stop or bus service even exists.

6. Trial a return bus to Okato at lunchtime, e.g. leaving town at 12pm or 12.30pm – possibly using a small bus – so people don't have to stay in town all day.

If possible, have this bus or at least one in the day do a loop down to Oakura Beach, for the camp users, holiday makers and less mobile people.

7. Work with NPDC to create incentives for businesses to develop staff travel plans.

We will never meet carbon emission reduction requirements or be able to maintain a thriving economy once oil prices rise enormously if we don't get some attitude changes.

8. A subsidised bus trip to Opunake should be trialled, possibly running Monday and Fridays, or even every day in a six-month trial.

Presumably the councils knows how many people routinely travel to New Plymouth for work from these outlying areas, or would like to if they could afford to travel. If these figures aren't known, perhaps it is time to find out.

I hope this helps the discussion. I look forward to using a bus if it is a sensible regular service.

Yours faithfully

Jenny Steven

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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PAGE 2 FOR CONTACT DETAILS**



HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

Over this last month, my weekly meetings with constituents have mostly been about the usual concerns of housing, immigration, education and employment.

Housing

Housing concerns these days are less about people unable to afford any accommodation at all (since so many more are now in work) and more about two quite different things.

The first is the cost of buying a house, which particularly affects young families just starting out. To assist people into their first home, the Government has initiated the Welcome Home Loan scheme. Housing New Zealand is working with banks and building societies to help people on modest incomes who want to move from renting to home ownership.

Welcome Home Loans are available to people who can afford mortgage repayments but have little or no deposit, and would not normally qualify for a home loan. Participating banks and building societies offer up to 100 percent of the house price, while Housing New Zealand provides mortgage insurance to the lender.

The second issue is itinerant tenants – people who cut and run, owing landlords hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars, and who must be pursued through courts around the nation or given up on. The Tenancy Tribunal helps resolve disputes. Tenancy agreements are private arrangements between tenant and landlord. It follows that both parties therefore share a degree of risk by entering into that arrangement. It also follows that they should then bear some of the cost of enforcing that agreement rather than just the taxpayers. Without that disincentive, some people might be tempted into entering into very risky arrangements with the surety that taxpayers would pick up the tab if it went belly-up. However, it is agreed that there needs to be wider debate on the role of the state in civil debt enforcement and it is probable that a review will be part of the Justice work programme for 2007-2008.

Immigration

Immigration has been mostly about people who don't quite fit the criteria, people who've paid private consultants vast amounts of money and got poor advice, and people who have experience, qualifications, accents or looks that employers don't "relate" to.

Education

Education concerns are almost always about bullying and truancy. Recently, I've had excellent feedback from schools regarding the new curriculum. Schools describe it as a 'breath of fresh air' that gives freedom while ensuring the core education needs are well covered.

Employment

The employment issues brought to my offices tend to be about people with few skills unable to find work at all, people with drug, alcohol and mental health issues who struggle to meet the demands of employment, and workers struggling to make ends meet. Most jobs today are either highly skilled and employers struggle to find people to fill them or are part-time, casualised and/or poorly paid.

"Trudy" has been a cleaner in one rest home for nearly 10 years. She earns \$10.80 an hour before tax and, in all that time, her hourly rate has gone up 31 cents. She's a single, older woman, has two jobs, nets \$280 and pays \$155 rent. Some might argue that cleaning is not skilled work. I'd say, let's think about doing without cleaners in our rest homes for a week or two then decide how valuable their work is.

Virtually all rest homes are now privately owned, many by national

and international corporates, which, by economies of scale, can afford to run them better and still make a profit for their shareholders. Yes, residents who have neither large incomes nor assets over \$160,000 are taxpayer subsidised. Yes, fees are capped – in Taranaki at present between \$660 and \$675 including GST per week per resident – for presumably obvious reasons. I'd guess removing the cap might be issuing a licence to print money and restrict residence to only the very wealthy. But if there was not a profit to be made from elder care, would not investors be exiting the industry, not buying in as they are? The future is pretty assured. We're an ageing population that's living longer. The majority of our elders stay in their own homes for longer but, when they need to move into care, they tend to be older, frailer and more in need of skilled care. So, why do caregivers, without whom the whole system would grind to a tragic halt, who bathe, lift, dress, feed, change, who care, day in and day out, for our elders, gross between \$10.25 and \$12.00 an hour on average?

Thanks for taking the time to read this – I hope you found it interesting



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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Closure of walking tracks in the Kaitake Ranges from DoC

History

The Department of Conservation (DOC) was instructed to undertake a review of its recreation opportunities with the requirement to reduce its asset base nationally by 9% to assist in the ability to meet the costs of service requirements.

Public consultation began on the 30th September 2003 and was completed by October 2004. As a result the departments' decision, based on public feedback, the Sefton track was to be closed and the Waimoku track to be maintained. The western section of the Davies track from Patuha trig down to Boars Head Mine was to be closed and the section from Boars Head Mine to Weld Road and the section from Surrey Hill Road to Patuha trig to be maintained. Closures were undertaken in February 2006.

Decisions

The reasons for the closures are as follows:

Waimoku/Sefton tracks

- Submitters indicated that if any track were to be retained, Waimoku track would be the best (although some submitters said they use both as a loop walk).
- In light of the fact that proposed funding levels will allow DOC to maintain most, but not all facilities this decision provides a practical, affordable option without removing the opportunity to walk to the summit of the Kaitake Range.
- Duplication of the opportunity – both tracks are not needed to get to the summit.

Western end of Davies track

- It takes in to account submitters' indication that the northern section of the track is the most popular, etc, and that it would be better to close the lower/middle section.
- In light of the fact that proposed funding levels will allow DOC to maintain most, but not all facilities, this suggestion provides a practical alternative to the original proposal

Options

In view of feedback as a result of the Sefton track closure and meeting with interested members of the Oakura Community and tramping fraternity on the 29/6/06 the following options can be considered.

1. DOC overturns its decision of the closure of the Sefton track and closes the Waimoku track instead, due to the Sefton track providing a better aesthetic and natural forest experience.
2. DOC reopens the Sefton track in addition to keeping open the Waimoku track on the condition that additional resourcing to meet the costs of the Sefton tracks retention for the medium term (10 years) is forthcoming from the community and committal through formal agreement between the DOC and the Community to maintain the track to the required standards is reached. It is important to note that the Waimoku track remains the DOC designated track and the Sefton track becomes the community maintained track. It's to be noted that the Sefton track is due for cutting if this option is favoured.
3. The status quo remains, being the Sefton track stays closed and the Waimoku track stays open at DOC's expense.

Costings based on Option 2 only

The commitment to cover estimated costs (exclusive of GST) for the next 10 years in managing and maintaining the Sefton track by the community will include:

- vegetation cutting
- signs maintenance and replacement
- temporary sign placements
- annual inspections in accordance to DOC's Visitor Asset Management Systems (VAMS)
- ongoing maintenance, windfall clearance, slips etc

- storm damage
- track marking
- safety advisory requirements etc.

It's estimated that annually, reactive responses to the site due to windfalls, sign damage, etc, could be as much as 4 visits a year with the exception of severe storm cycles that incur greater one off costs. It's also understood that much of these costs can be offset by voluntary efforts.

Track cutting on a 4-7 year cycle	\$1,900
Ongoing maintenance (reactive)	\$11,100
Vehicle running @ IRD rate of \$0.62 per km	\$186
Signs and posts permanent and temporary	\$900
Annual inspection by DOC to comply with VAMS	\$3600
Track markers	\$600
Equipment hire (chainsaws, scrub bars etc)	
@ 3 days a year	\$3,625
Hand tools, (spade, hammer, clippers etc)	\$400
Total	\$22,311

Recommendations

1. It is to be recommended that option one will only be implemented in accordance to DOC policy (Guidelines for Changing Visitor Asset Decisions) Dec; 2005.
2. It is recommended that option two only be considered if an established body signs too an agreement for a 10 year duration and is fully self funded.

It is to be recommended that option three be accepted when no agreement to options one or two are reached.

David Rogers

Lucy's Gully update and public meeting notification

Local residents, Peter Morgan, Bryce Vickers and Matt Redshaw had an informal meeting to discuss DOC's proposal to close the Sefton and Davies walking tracks in the Kaitake Ranges.

We feel that DOC has not taken on board the views expressed by the 80-odd people at the meeting on 29 June, where the unanimous feeling was that both tracks remain open.

DOC has given us three options. The only option that keeps the loop track open is Option 2. Equally important is DOC's failure to address the option of keeping the Davies Track open.

We feel that the \$22,311 figure to manage and maintain the 2.5km Sefton Track is excessive. This would mean the community needs to fundraise \$2,231.10 per year or part thereof depending on the level of voluntary effort.

We believe there are two options left to the community:

1. Comply with Option 2
2. Lobby the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter.

We believe that DOC is making this exercise much more difficult than it needs to be. Maintaining the 2.5km Sefton Track should be a relatively simple task as it is still in very good condition. Maintaining the 5.5km Davies Track would be just a bit more demanding. We urge interested people to attend another meeting to make some decisions and tell DOC we deserve better.

Meeting

7.30pm, Thursday, 21 September
NPOB Surf Club

An opinion from Peter Scantlebury

Option 2 is the way for community input and I believe it will be the preferred choice. It certainly is for me. I have been in communication with Dave Rogers from DOC, and he tells me they have a standard agreement that commits such a proposal to a 10 year programme. I see no real problem with this and feel it is an excellent opportunity to participate in the stewardship of our national park. I am sure the costs proposed by DOC will be virtually cancelled by voluntary effort.

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Hello from Oakura Library!

We have some excellent new books on our library shelves this month. New titles include *Trade Me Success Secrets*, *Holst's*

100 Great Ways To Use Slow Cookers and *Growing Great Boys* (you may recognise Ian and his parenting tips from the Toyota ads currently screening on television); and the 76th edition of the New Zealand classic, *Yates Garden Guide*.

National Library Week is being held from 18-22 September, and to celebrate we are running several special events. Our first is a Crackerjacks pre-school session on Monday 18 September at 10am. Preschool children and parents are welcome to join us for a half-hour session of stories, songs and activities.

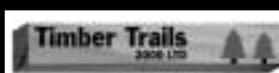
On Wednesday 20 September at 6pm we will be participating in the national mass book reading of award winning author Margaret Mahy's book *Down the Back of the Chair*. Please join us for New Zealand's biggest storytime!

Our final session on Friday 22 September at 10am is 'Get Connected through Your Library', where you'll learn about a variety of digital and book resources that can connect you to the world of knowledge and ideas. Numbers are limited for Friday's session so please pre-register on 759 6060.

Has it been a while since you visited the library? We always welcome new members. Oakura Library is situated next to Oakura School on Donnelly Street, and is open Monday to Friday, 10am-12.30pm and 1pm-4pm, with a late night each Wednesday from 5pm-7pm.

Happy reading!

Tara Ward



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Goodbye Myanmar, hello Columbia

Greetings to everyone. We were back in New Zealand briefly, enjoying the wonderful winter weather before flying out to Bogota, Colombia, where we will be based for the next two years.

After finishing school in Myanmar in June we headed up north to Kengtung in the Eastern Shan State, where we spent an amazing few days exploring the countryside. Kengtung is a picturesque city based around a small lake and home to a number of different ethnic groups.

On our first day there we drove across to Mong-La, a once bustling town on the border with China. In its heyday, Mong-La catered for wealthy Chinese and Burmese punters looking for a weekend of gambling, drinking and women, with perhaps some shopping! Today it resembles a ghost town, with the casinos, hotels and even the lady-boy show shut down. Quite why Mong-La suffered this decline is open to conjecture, but one rumour speaks of a high-ranking Chinese official who spent (or rather lost) a large sum of money that apparently wasn't his own!

The town of Mong-La itself is in what is known as "Special Area 2" and is controlled by the "Wa State Army". So while it is still inside Myanmar, you have to go through Burmese immigration before passing into "Wa" controlled territory. The Wa have been at war with the Burmese government for decades and are described by the US State Department as Southeast Asia's largest narcotics trafficking organisation. The Wa frequently trumpet about how they have ceased all opium-growing in the area, and by all accounts this is correct. Wonderful, I hear you say? Except that they have now moved into the far more lucrative methamphetamine production – the Wa are allegedly now the world's biggest producers of methamphetamine pills!

While in Kengtung we hiked up to visit some of the nearby hill tribes and donated nearly a hundred school books and pencils to some of the village schools. To our dismay we discovered the entire school in one village out ploughing the school garden in preparation for planting physic nuts.

The physic nut is Myanmar's answer to the oil crisis. It can produce a sustainable bio-fuel that will make Myanmar self-sufficient in fuel in years to come. Well, that is the plan anyway! Far wiser people than me can debate whether this is genius or insanity, but it is the hidden side of this program that is undeniably wrong. Each village is required to clear a certain acreage of land and to buy and plant the seeds themselves. After your village has done all this unpaid work, do you get to own the physic nuts? In short, no! But I'm sure the government will sell the fuel back to you for a good price!

While very few Burmese dare to speak openly (especially to foreigners like us!), it is obvious that there is a high level of discontent. The following quote is from an article in the "Burma-News" website just last week:

"The Burmese authorities at Bhamo, Kachin State in northern Burma issued an edict which states that those who criticise the government's physic nut plantation projects will be arrested and prosecuted under Act (118)".

After two years of living in the country I still have no idea what the answer is for Myanmar. I do know that overnight democracy would not be the answer. The country contains too many ethnic groups, many of whom want independence and corruption is rife. I think overnight democracy would be viewed by many as freedom to do whatever they please. Until recently the average police officer in Yangon was on about NZ\$15 a month – corruption becomes a necessity when one needs to feed a family. (This however has been somewhat remedied by the government

giving all public servants a pay rise – some as much as a 1000%.) Ever heard of inflation?

I once spoke with a Singaporean couple about solutions for Myanmar. After hearing my stories, they suggested that perhaps Myanmar needed to base itself on Singapore and ease itself into democracy with a form of "Socialist Democracy." (One could argue that perhaps this is what the Generals are doing now!) It's ironic to think that Myanmar's solution could be to base itself on Singapore when you consider that Sir Stamford Raffles (who is credited with creating modern day Singapore) allegedly based it on Burma! Give me a choice between Singapore and Myanmar though and I'll take Myanmar any day.

My parting thoughts on Myanmar are unfortunately tinged with sadness. It is a country that captivates you: a land of unspoiled beauty and friendly people that has so far escaped (although not by choice I'm sure) many of the evils of excess of our modern day, western societies. (Not that it doesn't currently face different evils beyond comprehension!) By opening up Myanmar, the benefits to the people will be numerous, but it will come with a price.

I think our teaching experience in Yangon has unfortunately spoilt us for future jobs. The children were respectful, polite and eager to learn, and the parents supported you every step of the way. No comment on how that compares

to New Zealand! We have left a lot of very good friends in Yangon and we will make every effort to return there one day.

Our next adventure is in Bogota, Colombia and we are both really excited about what Latin America has to offer. The last few months have been hectic with planning a wedding, changing jobs and shifting countries, so the idea of enjoying some Colombian coffee in a nice café in Bogota is very appealing. In the meantime, take care everybody and we will write again from Colombia.

Kind Regards, Hayley & Stu



Hayley saying goodbye to her school pupils.



Pat Cunningham, out with Hayley and young friends, seeing the sites.



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The Vinaigrettes

This month we are going to give our taste buds a real work out and try some delicious merlot (pronounced "mer-low", not "mer-lot" for you phonetic drinkers). This is a great wine to introduce to someone who may not be too excited about the red stuff.

Thornbury Merlot Hawkes Bay 2004 is a rich coloured wine with ripe plum and dark berry flavours. The Thornbury comes from the Hawkes Bay, where the moderate climate is ideal for ripening of red grape varieties. The grapes for this wine are sourced from the Gimblett Gravel region, where lots of fantastic wine comes from.

We did start to sample this merlot with crackers and dips. It wasn't really working and I thought we had scored a rough red this time. However, being a weekend and not wanting to cook we ordered some pizza and that did the trick. The flavours really began to develop. Real soft and earthy tones with great hints of spice formed and made this a real pleasure to drink.

The Wine Adviser and His Wife are currently absent, swanning around the tropics somewhere, so I have had to try several bottles with several different types of food.

We really recommend medium-body dishes such as burgers, barbeque meats and particularly spaghetti bolognaise. You can choose to cellar it for up to four years or drink now.

When you serve this, it needs to be drunk at slightly below room temperature. Place in the fridge about 15-20 minutes before serving and get ready to really enjoy the savoury flavours that a merlot offers.

Hot off the press – The September Cuisine magazine has given this wine five stars for taste and value for money. (So it looks like I may know what I am talking about after all!) This merlot can easily compete with a \$30 bottle and for the special price of \$16.99, normal RRP \$20.75, you are going to drink this by the boxful. Don't be shy on this one – light up the barbeque, put on your red wine drinking shoes and enjoy.

Don't forget to add some merlot stamps to your Wine Club Card. Yours in Corks and Screw Tops

Jillyho



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The Journey of a Pearl

From the bottom of the Pacific Ocean in the Tuamotu Archipelago, Tahiti to Surrey Hill Road, Oakura – so began the creation of a unique and beautiful piece of jewellery.

On a recent trip to Tahiti I bought a Tahitian cultured pearl from the Pearl Market in Papeete. I had fancied a new ring to replace my broken wedding ring so I gazed longingly into every shop window on Moorea and in Papeete with the hope that some little gem would jump out and say "buy me". Unfortunately the "little gems" all cost more than I could justify, so I visited the Pearl Market, where you can buy one pearl, a string of pearls, cheap pearls or expensive pearls.

Selecting a pearl is no easy matter. There are literally thousands to choose from, but there is also expert help on hand to steer you in the right direction. Embarrassingly I was extremely small-fry with my request for one miserly pearl. But the sorting and selecting must go on and eventually I found a pearl with the colour, shape and size I liked, flashed the Visa around, received my complimentary gift (a pearl shell!) and left to contemplate what I would like happen to my pearl.

I'm not a jewellery person at all so I have no firm ideas on what I like. It seemed to me the most obvious place to go to get advice would be Moana Pearls and Rob Wright, and sure enough Rob was able to sketch up a ring that appealed to me. I selected the metals I wanted – white gold and yellow gold and left him to it. The poor guy must have thought he had a right one on his hands with

me – no idea what shape, size or setting I might like! But in a truly professional manner he crafted my ring. Five hours of fiddly cutting, welding, polishing and drilling later I had my masterpiece. Rob was as thrilled with it as I was.

For Rob, working on commissions such as mine is his preferred way of jewellery making, though he does have a large range of ready-made pieces. So after nearly 40 years in the business, the excitement of being creative and being able to develop some of his own distinctive work for clients, makes the job more of a good lifestyle choice than a chore. My pearl now has a beautiful bed of yellow gold set on white gold and looks like nothing else I saw in Tahiti.

By Kim Ferens

Rob adds the finishing touches in his workshop.



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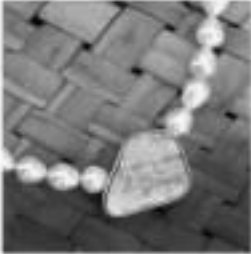
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tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom

Why properties don't sell!!!

The Three Ps . . . Price . . . Promotion . . . Presentation

Last month I spoke about Price being one of the reasons properties sometimes don't sell. This month I want to discuss the second reason, Promotion.

I was recently given the opportunity to appraise a semi lifestyle property, which I considered to be a lovely, unique property and would present itself well in the market. I was disappointed to find out a few weeks later that the vendor had decided to list with another agent who was also their friend (understandable no doubt). Now putting sour grapes aside, I was bit surprised a couple of weeks later to see how this property was being promoted. The sign on the main road, about 3klms away from the property, didn't carry a photo of the beautiful property, the advertising didn't mention some of main features about the property, such as close proximity to town, the wonderful views, etc., and the good garaging that the property offered. I have had prospective buyers look at some of my properties in the past where, if the bloke had got his way (and that's a rare occurrence), they would have bought the house to go with the garage. My point is, that its all about Promoting the best features. A good question to ask yourself when you are considering selling is "What was it that attracted you to buy your property in the first place?", and the chances are these same features will appeal to the new buyers. The purpose of marketing is not to sell the property. The purpose of marketing is to generate an interested enquiry and, ultimately, an inspection. It must present your property in an enticing way in order to stimulate a buyer's interest enough to phone your agent or attend an inspection. Your ad,

signboard and brochure don't do the selling - their job is to generate enquires from interested buyers. Your marketing gives buyers a feeling for the lifestyle potential of your property. Better quality marketing creates a more favourable impression. The first 14 to 21 days on the market is when a property gets the most attention and so, the first 21 days is the window of opportunity when the most impact should be made with all of our advertising. The goal in our advertising is to create a competitive frenzy, where we have the ideal situation of buyer against buyer, competing for your property instead of buyer against seller. The emotions we want to create with our advertising campaign are those of excitement, energy, a sense of urgency that the prospective buyer could miss out if they don't get their skates on and make a good offer on this property. Isn't it human nature that we only want something more if we feel we could miss out. "sad but true". In summary, it probably sounds like a cliché, but it is hard to sell a secret. So when selling your property, the goal, within reason of your budget, is to let as many people as possible know that your property is on the market and what the features of this property are . . . It is disappointing to think that some properties don't sell for any other reason than lack of good promotion. If you would like advice on how best to promote your property please give me an obligation free call.

Regards, Garry Mclean PERSONAL SERVICE/ PROFESSIONAL RESULTS

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Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Different things can cause constipation, such as not enough fibre or fluid in your diet or not being active and exercising enough. Some medicines and medical conditions can cause it too. People with emotional stress and worry can become constipated and pregnant women, because of hormone changes in their bodies, are more likely to have problems passing bowel motions.

When you are constipated your stools can become small and hard or a large bulky mass. In both cases, the bowel motions are difficult to pass and you can strain hard trying to pass them. You may not pass faeces as often as you used to. Regular straining to pass the stools can lead to haemorrhoids (piles).

"Before treating your constipation with medicines, look first at the simple lifestyle measures you can take," recommends Colleen from Oakura Pharmacy. "Make sure you drink plenty of fluids, preferably water, as fluids soften the stools and make them easier to pass. Six to eight glasses of water throughout the day is a helpful amount," adds Catherine.

Fresh fruit and vegetables, and whole grain cereals and breads are good sources of that all-important fibre you need to keep your bowel motions soft and easy to pass. If too little fibre is the reason why you are 'plugged-up' then slowly, over a few weeks to avoid wind, increase the amount in your diet.

In addition, being active and mobile is a way to prevent constipation, and having regular exercise, such as walking everyday, will get your bowels 'moving' to help relieve constipation.

"However, if you have severe constipation, laxative medicines can help. There are various types from which to choose, each working differently," explains Colleen. "Come in and chat to us about your options and pickup a *Self Care* card on constipation."

Some medicines cause constipation as a side effect, so if you are taking such medicines (Oakura Pharmacy will advise you which ones), you may be prescribed laxatives to help control the constipation.

Colleen and Catherine caution against using laxatives for anything other than short time periods, unless under the doctor's instructions. "They can make your bowels become lazy, which may take a long time to get back to normal."

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* Vegetables

Sow lettuce, radish, carrots, beetroots, silverbeet and peas.

Plant out cabbage and cauliflower seedlings.

Prepare to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, peppers and sweetcorn next month.

Plant main crop potatoes.

Rosemary has noticed that the beautiful warm weather of late has given the veggie patch a real healthy start to the season, so if you haven't got any veges in, rush off to Mitre 10 and buy some punnets of your favourite veges to plant and get those tatties in quick.

* Flowers

Topdress spring flowering bulbs with bulb food.

Sow seeds of most hardy annuals.

* Fruit Trees

Plant passionfruit vines in a sheltered site.

Apply an all purpose fertiliser like Thrive to strawberry plants.

* Lawns:

Sow new lawns and re-sow thin or bare patches.

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Skiing news

Nordica National Points Series

Six Taranaki skiers competed in the first races of the Nordica National Points Series for K and J Division skiers at Turoa Ski Area, Mount Ruapehu on the 4th and 5th of August. The races were held in great conditions on courses set to international standards, providing some very testing and exciting racing between the top junior racers in the North Island.

Taranaki skiers' results:

Giant slalom

K1 Division: Tai Juneau – 3rd (Bronze Medal), Jackson Braddock-
K2 Division: Finlay Neeson – 1st, Thornton Davies – 5th, Henry Saleman – 6

Slalom

K1 Division: Tai Juneau – 3rd (Bronze Medal)

K2 Division: Henry Saleman – 4

The demanding Slalom course saw many top skiers crash and fail to finish including Finlay Neeson, Jamie Hareb and Jackson Braddock-Pajo.

Finlay Neeson from Oakura was the fastest skier in the Giant Slalom across all divisions. He skis for Team Turoa and has been selected for the Mt Ruapehu Race Team.

Clive Saleman

Stratford Mountain Club Racing Coordinator

Phone 027 290 6636

Oakura young gun shows up older ski racers

The third race of the Stratford Mountain Club Championship Series was held in stormy conditions on the Top Tow, Maunganui Ski Area on Saturday 24 August. In an Open Class race, skiers had two timed runs through a steep tight slalom course, with the combined time giving the results.

Results: 1st – Henry Padrutt

With a big snowbase on the Manganui Ski-field, more Club races are planned for the coming months.



PHOTO BY JANE DOVE

The Stratford Mountain Club Race Team from left to right: Team Captain Clive Saleman, Coach Christina Binsbergen, Jamie Hareb, Jackson Braddock-Pajo, Tai Juneau, Henry Saleman, and in front Thornton Davies.

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Oakura Pony Club

It's been a while since our last newsletter. Pony Club activities across the province have wound down for the winter season. We've been put out to the pasture so to speak. A bit like most of the ponies about the village, though many are being kept quietly in work or being ridden for fun over the quiet period. As the signs of spring begin appear, so do the committees and instructors gather to plan for the new season ahead.

The 2006-7 calendar has been prepared and posted about the province. There are some new competitions and training schools available to riders this year. These will include a inaugural Taranaki Area Pony Club Showjumping Championship event, which we hope will develop into a North Island Championship event in the future. Also planned is a Taranaki Area eventing and dressage training squad. Riders will be selected or invited to attend training sessions with the view to selection for the Taranaki representative teams at the National events.

The Pony Club grounds are about to be transformed. In conjunction with the New Plymouth District Council, we will be carrying out a planting programme around the grounds and carpark, which will better link with Matekai Park and improve the visual aspect of the southern entrance to the village.

The Club's opening rally for the season was held on 3 September at the Club grounds and was well attended. This was an unmounted rally and a day for members new and old to meet their instructors for the season and establish programmes and goals to achieve, while parents could get together and have a tidy up around the grounds.

Our Club held it's annual prizegiving recently with a dinner at Butlers Bar and Café. This is always an entertaining evening to get together around the fireplace and was attended by 60 or so parents and riders.

Graham Rook

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KAITAKE GOLF

Results for the Men's StrokePlay played in August

Seniors: Winner – R Sim, Runners up – E Richie, G Farrant.

Intermediates: Winner – P Larkin, Runner up – L Julian.

Juniors: Winner – K Knuckey, Runner up – W Grey.

Limits: Winner – M Jans, Runner up – E Williams.



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The senior third division team won their final for the second year in a row too providing Bruce Sutton a most fitting farewell. Pictured is joyous captain Andrew Jarman.



The boys in blue punched above their weight to win the Inglewood 10th grade knockout competition, beating their nemesis, Opunake in the semi-final and then NPOB in the final. The club team was coached by Tim Costello, and for the knock-out competition was coached by Phil Thomson.

KAITAKE Rugby

Winners of the year 5&6 year Division B Interschool Competition, going through unbeaten.

Photo taken after they survived a dramatic comeback by Coastal in the second half to run out the winners 31-24.





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Greetings fellow Fishos

Things really started happening again at the end of July – Tony Hurring caught another goody (a bit over 9kg) in his kayak, Shane Dunlop got the Day Prize in the very last Tri Comp on the 30th with a small Snapper and won a cool Mitchell reel worth about \$320, and local man Kevin Davis got a munter of a Tope Shark (16kg) on 10kg line off the rocks up North – this is a new Club record by about a further 13kg. (Let's hope this is the start of more good fishing in the not too distant future!) On the same day my son and I were fishing at Middletons Bay at Opunake. Much to our surprise, a 4-metre Killer Whale jumped out of the water between us! (I was tempted to try and catch it but it wouldn't have fit in the car!) Other than that a few more Red Cod, Kahawai Snapper and Blue Cod have been caught.

The "All Sundays" Club Days in July were a bit spasmodic, as the weather wasn't the best. However, we had a few fish weighed in. Chris Whittaker was lucky enough to catch a Butter Fish. These are quite rare around the 'Naki and it was the first one ever to be recorded in the five years of the Club's existence.

All Sundays in August were "Fish Togethers", and on the first Sunday it was a bit of a wash-out, however three ducks gave it a whirl and got about six Kahawai between them down Kahui Road. The following Sunday was an absolute wash-out and the 21st wasn't much better, but about six keen fishers ventured out in the horrible conditions (to no avail).

July Fish of the Month

Surfcasters – Kevin Davis (16kg Tope Shark)

Kayakers – Hurring (9.085kg Snapper)

Tight lines

Debbie E

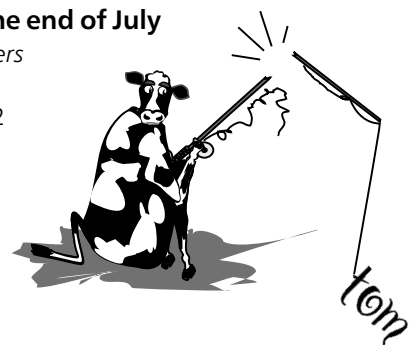
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Weighmasters report to the end of July

	Surfcasters	Kayakers
Blue Cod	8	
Snapper	1	22
Kahawai	3	7
Gurnard	2	6
Red Cod	2	
Blue cod	8	
Tope Shark	2	
Butterfish	1	



Oakura reps at the Karate World Cup

Oakura's Connor Anderson, Dominic Cooksley-Gruys and their coach, Sensei Jim Hoskin, have just returned from the 10th World Karate-Do Championships in Sydney, held at the Olympic Park Sports Centre.

As part of the 20 strong New Zealand team, this was a great experience for all involved and something the boys will remember all their lives.

The facilities at the Olympic Village are second to none and with hundreds of competitors, it was a busy time. However, the event ran smoothly and like a true world event with opening ceremony, team march past, dance presentation, speeches, etc.

Connor finished up ninth equal in the 13-year-old boys' division (his first exposure to full contact Kumite) and Dominic made a few rounds in the 16-18 year-old division and was looking strong, but was controversially eliminated early.

The New Zealand team had their best results ever at a world champs, with some strong performances by some of the juniors, and can only get better with the experience gained.

For the Oakura Dojo to have two representatives in the team is a credit to the commitment, dedication and time put in by Jim, and the group were great ambassadors for Oakura and Taranaki, along with their supporters.



Sensei Jim Hoskin, Connor Anderson and Dominic Cooksley-Gruys, ready to take on the world . . .



. . . after a bit more fine tuning, of course.

New Zealand team at the opening ceremony.



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Mini-Athletics 2006/7

Just to bring you an update on what is happening with Mini-Athletics this year.

We will be starting the season at the beginning of November.

Currently we are applying for funding through NZ Community Trust to purchase a high jump mat. We have been sourcing some new equipment and attempting to attend courses over the winter.

Just an early call for volunteers to assist with running the age groups. We have a lot of children attending each week – we averaged 50 each Monday night last season. We need some parents who are willing to have a go for possibly only one night in the whole season. Training and a manual will be supplied, with lots of support on the night. If you are keen, or even not so keen but see the value of this programme continuing, then give any of us a call on the numbers below.

If we struggle to get extra help then we may have to look at taking away an age group to keep the programme manageable.

We are looking forward to getting the programme up and running for what will be our third season. By that time we should hopefully have got rid of the winter cold and ready to enjoy some summer evenings at Corbett Park!

Jo Hill – 752 7899

Rose Parker – 752 7288

Melissa Waite – 752 7907

Oakura Cricket Club

Pre-season meeting and get-together

**Thursday, 28th September,
8.00pm**

Butlers Bar & Cafe

ALL WELCOME

Enquiries Les Nairn (Whiskey)

Phone 752 7132

GETTING WET!



The More FM Taranaki Surf 'n' Snow Classic

Day 1 – Saturday 5th August

Competitors met at the Maunganui Ski-field, with clear skies and soft snow. With much thanks to Ben Plummer for two nights' work pushing snow, we had a hard, fast and tight Boarder X course laid out. With a good turnout, it was straight to it.

All divisions were narrowed down to four-person finals.

The open men's was won by Roy Laird, who was one of the strongest performers all day. Coming in second was Ben Plummer, course-builder and previous winner of this event. Third went to Rayne Anderson from the Stratford Mountain Club, who also helped out with organising the event.

The local girls were riding hard all day, but taking it out was Simone Burbidge, who surprised everyone with super fast runs throughout the event. Followed closely for second was seven-

months-pregnant Jess Terrill, who also took out the girls jib jam! Third went to Taryn Lobb, with Candice Smith in fourth.

The juniors was won twice by Tyler Anderson over Caleb Smith, Kay Mckee and Ben Parry after the final had to be rerun due to a small skier cruising onto the track the first time, hindering competitors.

Now it was time for the geriatrics (over 45). Coming in third was Mike Christiansen, in second was Brent

Anderson (both from Oakura Boardriders) and funnily enough taking the win was Seasons/Cheapskates owner and event co-organiser BJ Smith.

Jib jam time – with two rails and a decent kicker to finish, competitors were judged on technical difficulty, style and speed. After an initial half-hour free-for-all jam with all competitors throwing it down, the field was narrowed down to ten finalists, who were then judged on two final runs. Standouts were Joe Fraser, Rayne Anderson, Ben Plummer, Jake Vander Fits and Ben Parry. But stealing the win on his last run was Wade Lobb, getting tech on the rails and finishing with the biggest stiffy!

With the competition finished, everyone headed down the track and off the mountain. That was it – Day 1 completed.

Day 2 – Sunday 6th August

The weather had packed in over night, but we had a moderate offshore wind and a peaky but nice 2-ft swell, which was rising with the tide. Back Beach was the call. Once again the hard core from the Oakura Boardriders, Vertigo and Cheapskates were out in the rain, setting up the tent and contest arena for the surfing. Competition kicked off with the open men's

In Round 1, standouts were Luke Kerr, Hamish Christophers, Isaac Peterson and Jeremy Curd, who all eventually made up the final four. Isaac came out on top, with Hamish and Luke in second and third, and fourth went to Jeremy Curd, which gave him enough combined points from the snowboarding and surfing to take the prestigious overall title for the Taranaki Surf'n'Snow 2006.

The woman's surfing was won by Oakura's Paige Hareb, coming in second was Jackie Keenan and taking out the junior's surfing was Keone Campbell by 0.5 with Tyler Anderson close in second.

The woman's overall title went to the Jess Terrill (for the I don't know how many times). BJ took out the Geriatrics surfing and the Geriatrics overall title. The juniors overall title winner was Tyler Anderson.



Tyler Anderson Junior Winner.

Finishing the weekend off with prize-giving, a few beers and a BBQ at the Oakura Boardriders Club was a great end to a great weekend of competition.

The whole emphasis of this event is fun, with everyone walking away with heaps of great prizes and smiles all round.

Thanks to all the sponsors – you know who you are. Thanks also to More FM, Oakura Boardriders, the Stratford Mountain Club crew shot boys, BJ from Seasons/Cheapskates, Jono from Vertigo, Mike Christianson, Fiona and Cath for looking after the shop and anyone else who had input to this event.

There's not many other places in our beautiful country that you can pull off an event like this!

Tara's Rocks!

See ya next year,



Jess Terrill, women's overall winner

Oakura Boardriders update

It's been a busy month with the Taranaki Surf and Snow competition. Big kudos to Mike Christiansen from Oakura Boardriders Club, Jono Heath from Vertigo and BJ Smith from Seasons/Cheapskates, who were the crew behind this popular event. Everyone involved had a great time and it showed what Taranaki has to offer with the mountain and coastline.

The other event was the Secondary School Surfing competition at Raglan. Members from New Plymouth Boys High and and Girls High made up a contingent at Raglan and had good surf on the first day at Manu Bay.

Day 1 saw Tyler Anderson, Keone Campbell, Mathis Smith, Michael Malleliu (all in the Under-16s), Conan James (Under-18s), Mark Pathmore (Under-14s) and Paige Hareb (in the Women's) all get through.

Day 2 brought a big drop in swell at Manu Bay. A few of the boys powered on in the small conditions, with the finals seeing Tyler Anderson come up just short in third and Keone Campbell in the next heat in fourth. Mathis Smith got through and ended up coming third overall in the Under-16 division. The finals of the Under-18s also saw the demise of Conan James.

Paige Hareb finished in second in the Woman's Under-18s and Mark Pathmore came second in the Under-14s.

Some good free surfing went down in good size Indicators with "The Daily Surf on the rocks getting some good photos, so check out the next issue for some good coverage.

Upcoming events

30 September – Town & Country evening at the Stony River Hotel, Okato with entertain-ment from the Boardy Boys.

18 & 19 November – Primary School Surfing Champs, Gisborne.
Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders

Rosie Bolger surveys the building work at Oakura Playcentre

Building work has started on a new deck and equipment shed at the Oakura Playcentre.

The deck, which has a roof and will eventually have canvas walls, will allow more room for activities to be set out attractively for the children and for some areas of play, such as carpentry, to be expanded. The old equipment shed was a rickety old thing and parents are looking forward to a solid new shed that will allow easy access to all the outdoor play equipment, such as sand-pit toys, trolleys, gardening tools and water-play toys.

The deck was planned at the time of the major renovations of the Playcentre building in 2005 but was put on hold until more funds could be raised. It can now go ahead thanks to a grant from the TSB Community Trust, a loan from the Taranaki Playcentre Association and support from builders, Toby's Build & Design. Some additional fund-raising is also planned. Local businesses have kindly donated some awesome prizes for a raffle, including accommodation at Ahu Villas and the new cabins at the Oakura Camp Ground and a heap of gift vouchers. We'll be selling tickets outside the Four Square, so make sure to look out for us.

Despite the winter weather, our hardy Playcentre kids have been focusing on water play this term with activities such as a car wash, washing dolls and dolls clothes, making potions, playing with ice and a trip to the Aquatic Centre.

The Oakura Playcentre in Donnelly Street is open Monday and Wednesday from 9am to noon. New families are always welcome and the first three sessions are free. If you are interested in joining us at the Playcentre, feel free to just turn up to a session or for more information, phone Jamie Silk on 752 1000 or Joanna Syme on 752 7144.



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OAKURA school news

Oakura school is preparing for another major production that will be held from 11th to the 13th September in the Oakura Hall. The production has been written and is being directed by two of our talented teachers, Philli Butt and Ray Priest. The theme is world peace and is entitled "Imagine". All 270 pupils will be involved in either class scenes or individual roles.

The school is a hive of industry with Raeleen Luckin choreographing the dance scenes, teachers and pupils practising their scenes, Robynne Wadeson and parents designing and making costumes and Pete Day, parents and pupils designing and making props.

Along with all the creative learning taking place all pupils are learning about world peace leaders and events in history.

FOOS

The Oakura School (FOOS) fundraising committee members do a fantastic job of fundraising for the school. All children who attend Oakura primary school benefit in some way or another by the funds that are raised by these wonderful volunteers, whether it be educational resources, swimming pool heating & cover, outdoor learning areas, sandpit toys, sunshades etc, the list goes on. The school has wonderful support from the local community when different fundraising events occur, but it would be great to have some more committee members on board.

So if there is anyone out there in the community who has children attending Oakura School that would like to help with any upcoming fundraising events (its not hard work, many hands make light work) we would love to have you on board as a member. The (FOOS) fundraising committee have a meeting once every 6 weeks in the school staffroom on a Monday evening, starting at 7.30pm, meetings run for approx 1 hour.

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OMATA school news



Omata School held their cross-country event on the 1st September. Above, 5yr olds and right, 7yr olds, led by Cameron Stewart.



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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.

Yoga:

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7-8.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 7.30-9pm.
Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494

Oakura Art Group

Tuesdays 9.45am to 12 noon, February to late November
St James Church Hall.
Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

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.
All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

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Properties Sold by Anne

3 Ngaio St Strandon, Lot 7 Wairau Rd, Lot 12 Under Contract, 204 Surrey Hill Rd.

Thought for the Month

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