

## On your bike

**For all you junior motorcycle lovers out there, here is a chance for you to join in on some of the fun.**

The Taranaki Motorcycle Club has a Mini Motocross Class that is held all year round with two series over summer and winter. The first round of the winter series is at Upper Ngariki Road.

The Club tries to stick to the first Sunday

over the summer months but the Club is always keen to use paddocks if available.

The summer series consists of five race days, one per month. The Club has been building this up overtime trying to get

Three of our local young lads, Kasey Corbett, Zak Hetherington and Liam Gibson, are all in the Junior class and all are doing very well in their section. Zak, who is new to the club this season, has done exceptionally well and is now placed first on the table with Kasey in second place and Liam sixth out of the 11 riders. Kasey has been racing since his was five years old and Liam has been

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Zak Hetherington, Kasey Corbett,  
Liam Gibson.**



*(Continued on page 3)*

of every month for race days and these are always notified in the newspaper. The only month off is January. Over summer and daylight savings, the Barrett Road track is open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturdays and Sundays. There are also fun days between race days as well. The usual track is Barrett Road

more kids. The mini riders have a track to themselves. The kids are basically out there for fun, but still like to win. Last season they also had three girls racing. This season there are three classes – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. The classes are split into three age groups – 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years.

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## editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

It's hard to believe that the summer Olympics are underway while the winter weather bites deep here, but isn't it great watching the world's elite amateur sportspeople battle it out for sporting supremacy? Locally, accolades go to several young people who have been representing New Zealand and Okato internationally – Abby Bridgeman, and Khord Kopu who features in this edition of *TOM*. And well done also to Beccy with her degree.

On a more mundane matter we at the *TOM* are interested to know if everyone is receiving their *TOM* okay. If you are not getting one in your letterbox or do not have a letterbox and would like to receive one, email [info@thetom.co.nz](mailto:info@thetom.co.nz) or phone 0800thetom and we will try to get it to you.

Kim

**Deadline for September issue –  
Copy and ads 22 Aug, delivery 10 Sept.**

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# TOM

OKATO

***TOM-OKATO** is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from Timaru Road to Bayly Road.*

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

# On your bike

(Continued from page 1)

riding off and on for two seasons. All three boys just can't get enough. Katrina, Kasey's mum, said, "I had the pleasure of having all three boys, including bikes, for a sleepover during the holidays. We were out in the paddock for three hours in the rain. These boys love bikes and at the age of seven were already trying to see who could jump the highest! Move over Travis Pastrana!"

The Club would love to see anyone who may be interested in coming along to these fun events. All you need is a bike, anything that runs basically. 110cc 4-stroke and under or 65cc 2-stroke and under are allowed on the mini track.

Kasey started on a PW50 Zak and Liam started on CRF50s. The CRF50 (4-stroke) is a good starter. Kasey and Zak are currently on KTM50s (2-stroke) – these have a bit more sting (Kasey's is for sale). These are quite common and the next size up is a 65cc 2-stroke, either Kawasaki or KTM.

What it really comes down to is what the mini likes to ride. Anyone can come to events, if it is a race day they can do two of these before they need to be licensed. Having a helmet is a must. Some kids start in gumboots but MX boots are preferable and also armour. With the number of children racing now, this can be sourced second hand.

For any other enquiries, contact Katrina Corbett on (06) 752 4405.

By Milly Carr

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## Okato Lions

Greetings from the Okato Lions Club

It doesn't seem as though a month has gone by since I wrote last month's contribution to *TOM*. In that issue I mentioned a good rain falling at the time. Well, now we have had enough and sunshine is definitely needed to harden pasture, and I'm sure both humans and animals would appreciate it!

Our change-over night went well. John King is our new President, taking over from Bernard Gibson – thank you, Bernard, for a job well done. Lion Norm Raill was our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting account of the trip to China that he and Jeanette went on recently.

Our phone books have gone to print so they shouldn't be too far away from delivery.

Resene Paints have kindly donated three 10-litre pails of paint for painting our bus shelters, so over the next few months the Lions will tackle that task.

Our Youth Director Wilf Riepen is busy liaising with Coastal Area School on the forthcoming Lion-sponsored speech contests.

New members are always welcome.

*Lion Merv Hooker*

Phone 752 4086

## Beccy's Master of Education

In 2007, after four years of part-time study through Massey University, Beccy Muggeridge completed a Master of Education. The topic of her research report was using individual planning systems for gifted and talented students and she is keen to implement some of the ideas she explored, if and when she goes back to teaching.



*Beccy with her very proud husband, Robert, on her graduation in May.*

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# Okato Fire Brigade –

## A history from old to new - part 2

The Fire calls were received through the Okato exchange and here the siren would be manually activated. Also at this point phone calls would be made to each member of the brigade to inform them of the emergency. In 1973 the Fire calls went through the Automatic Exchange to the New Plymouth 111 system.

Our trainings were self directed initially, learning as we went along says Ray. We would visit a lot of other brigades, mainly in New Plymouth and watch their drills. Most of us attended courses at the Fire School in Wellington which held courses most long weekends and over Easter holidays. There was a hostel to accommodate the firemen but more often than not it was full and we stayed in Hotels and would visit the hostel for our meals said Ray.



*Above, the demolition of the old station and below, the new station.*



The source of water was mainly creeks which were dammed semi-permanently with sand bags. The creek near the old Primary School was their first port of call and then other creeks in the area. It wasn't until 1976 that Okato was put onto water reticulation. If the dams were washed out, the lads would be down in their spare time to rectify the problem.

In 1954 the Brigade were presented with a new Land Rover appliance together with new hoses and equipment, largely financed by the local Dairy Companies. L.D. Hickford, Chairman of the Taranaki County Council and of the Okato Dairy Company, no doubt used his influences in this area. At this time a new siren was also installed.

The Land Rover appliance would carry five to six crew and others would follow in their vehicles, just like we do today.

Ray remembers one call when a boat had run aground off the coast and they came into possession of an offload of rum. In the interests of averting an environmental catastrophe, the Brigade promptly retrieved the goods, which I'm sure were put to good use!

Another call-out was to a house on Newall Road where the owners were away on holiday and the radio had been left on. The electricians had burnt a hole in the floor, making the house like a furnace, but because it had been contained, it had not combusted. Ray says the house was so hot that a candle in one of the bedrooms at the rear of the house had melted in the heat. They were amazed.

The couple who owned the house were so grateful that they gave a generous donation and this windfall enabled the Brigade to purchase their first breathing apparatus and soon after they purchased their second one. They also bought a portable resuscitator.

In 1965 the Brigade acquired an ex-army 4WD Dodge, which Ray tells me was found abandoned in the Pouakai Ranges by someone out goat hunting. It was modified and rebuilt to act as a hose layer and to tow the Gwyne trailer pump.

In 1976 the NZ Fire Commission was formed and the Brigade was no longer under the authority of the Taranaki County Council.

Over the next 15 years they had a succession of appliances. When the 4x4 International came along in 1980, the station was extended to accommodate the larger machine. A Hose Tower was built at this time.

Ray also remembers the Brigade's annual quiz nights as great evenings. These must have honed the team's general knowledge as in 1984 the Brigade won the Inaugural Taranaki General Knowledge Quiz. This was a real highlight.

After 35 years in the service Ray retired and Colin Neilson became the new Chief Fire Officer in 1989. Ray was awarded a Queens Fire Service medal for his years in the service.

When I asked Ray what had motivated him to serve in the Brigade for so long he answered, "Well, it was just a fascinating sort of thing to do, the excitement of going to the call and heading into the unknown."

Jaws of life and other rescue equipment were acquired by the Brigade in 1989 and in 1995 Shell BP Todd generously made available to the Brigade a small fire appliance from their Oanui site, which was modified as a crash tender. The social room and office area were extended by Brigade members in 1997.

In 1998 Colin Neilson retired from the service and was replaced by Dermott Lane, who served in the role for six years. Our present Chief Fire Officer Barry Harvey has served since 2004 and Brian Hill took on the role of Deputy Chief Fire Officer at this time.

We've had our current Mitsubishi diesel appliance since 1999. The unit carries one portable pump, one generator, jaws of life, spreaders, an oxygen resuscitation kit and as of 9 June, we have a defibrillator on the appliance (which has been community funded). This is a fantastic asset for our Brigade and for any person in the community who may be unfortunate enough to need this. With this on board it can increase a person's chance of survival from 5% to anywhere up to 20% or even 40% in some cases.

Today we have 21 members – 19 men and 2 women. We practice every Monday evening.

It is absolutely wonderful to finally have our new station completed and operational thanks to the architect Andrew McNally, who officially signed off the building. Barry Harvey

says he has been absolutely brilliant. A big thank you to you, Andrew.

What a huge undertaking it has been for the builders. We are very lucky to have had Brian Hill (builder) in the Brigade as he could enforce some great ideas to benefit our Brigade and the needs of the service. They have made a wonderful job.

We've encountered a few teething problems in the new site, with the fire siren not being connected properly, but this has been resolved and all is up and running now.

Moe Kelly, our Volunteer Support Officer, visited in late May and he is very pleased with the fine workmanship, saying it is a credit to the Brigade and the community. The building is great, with its separate work and office areas. There is lots of space and it really is something to be proud of.

Huge thanks go out to all involved in the project and a special thanks to those businesses who contributed financially to the extension of our social/training room within the station. These are Juffermans Surveyors, TSB and the Australian Worldwide Exploration Oil Company.

We will be having an official opening once we have everything ship-shape. This will be open to everyone. We will keep you advised as to when this will be happening. We would love to see you there.

By Milly Carr

## News from the Fire Brigade

Things have been fairly quiet on the call out side of things for us. But just a reminder that if you do have an emergency, please call 111 directly.

We must apologise for the inconvenience the other morning when the siren wouldn't turn off! Nice early start for you all, eh?

We are enjoying our new station. There is still work to be completed next door on our combined training area and carpark. This has been held up by the weather conditions of late!

Speaking of which, it would probably be wise for you to check your roofing and the nails to make sure they are still intact as that wind can sure do some damage and loosen things.

As mentioned in the "Brigade Story", the Open Day for the station is still in the pipeline. We'll keep you advised.

Milly Carr

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## Warea Tennis Club

This year the Warea Tennis Club will undertake major fundraising to resurface their tennis courts. The Club has a long history and has recently held its 81st Annual General Meeting. The asphalt surface has been deteriorating slowly and it was decided at the meeting that we should proceed with resurfacing. We hope local businesses and the TSB will be able to help us in our goal to provide our community with tennis courts they can use for many years to come.

Warea has three mid-week ladies teams in sections 3, 4 and 6, and welcome any interest from new members.

Last year Club members painted the building inside and out – we thank the Warea Domain Board for their continued support. The grounds are maintained by Raymond Kopu, who does a wonderful job. Last year Taranaki Farmers donated windbreaks, which we put on the southern and western sides of the courts and which have had a significant effect on our tennis on windy days.

Over the winter we have continued to have Monday morning tennis, when weather permitted, and it has been very successful.

If there are any families that would be able to help us with rearing a calf to weaning, we would be very grateful. Contact either Maria Van der Poel on (06) 752 8130 or Jan Brophy on (06) 763 8666.

## Old and young unite at indoor bowls

At the end of Term Two students from Rahotu, Okato, Oakura and Omata primary schools participated in an indoor bowls tournament at Hempton Hall in Okato. The Year 7 and 8 students filled the hall to brimming and were ably supported by bowlers with years of experience under their belts.

The winners of the tournament were Rahotu, second were Oakura and Coastal came in third place.

The highlight of the day was the competition to see who could bowl onto a ten dollar note. One person from each team was chosen to represent their school. The only school to hit the jackpot with a bowl on the note was Jeremy from Omata School.

*By Kim Ferens*



## Khord on the Inline World Championships

As a member of the NZ Senior Men's Inline Hockey team, I have just returned from Bratislava, Slovakia, where the team competed in the Inline World Championships.

On arrival in Slovakia, after 24 hours' flying time, the team trained together for a week prior to the competition starting. We also had two warm-up games against local sides. Unfortunately, even with all the training we were unable to win any of our competition games. However, we did perform with national pride and did have some very close games. As we lost our pool, New Zealand has been relegated, which was very disappointing to us all.

The temperatures inside the rink were really hot with no air conditioning and our diet wasn't that great either. The team also didn't cope well with the stop time rule that makes games go much longer than what we were used to, but basically we were beaten by better teams.

Though our results weren't what we would have hoped for, the experience was one that I will always remember. To play inline against the calibre of players we met was truly memorable. I would like to thank all those people who supported me, especially the local Warea and Okato communities, SAG Contracting, Warea Croquet Club, Warea Domain Board, Tracy and Delwyn and the cleaning girls. It was this support that made it easier financially for me to be a member of this team.

*Khord Kopu*



*Khord in goal in Slovakia)*

*Below left: Hempton Hall, heaving with bowlers and below, Chad Knowles, a picture of concentration.*



## Okato Co-operating Parish Womens' Fellowship

On 24 July 2008 we hosted 130 women from around the mountain at St Pauls Church where Reverend Albie Martin conducted a service at 11am. By this time it had stopped raining so everyone was able to transfer to St Lukes Hall where a scrumptious lunch was waiting.

As this is the "International Year of the Potato", we followed that theme through the day. There were competitions of "guess the name of the potatoes" (there are at least 23 varieties), potato decorations and potato prints. Thank you to Emily Davidson for judging these. The prizes were little baskets of potatoes. The table decorations were a potato nestled in among camellia leaves. There were potatoes in the raffles on the stalls and we even published a recipe book on *Tried potato dishes*. These are selling at 50c each and are well worth it.

After rushing around to get more tables set up (we only set for 100), an excellent meal was produced and disappeared in no time! The guest speaker was Mr Adrian McLeod from Fairfield Gardens. We all received tips on growing potatoes so this year will probably see an influx of the vegetable!

As our member numbers are very few, I think we all did an excellent job. As these ladies talk all year about when they come to a "rally day" at Okato, we haven't the heart to say, "No we're not doing it anymore!"

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day. Without your help, we could not have put together the day that we did.

Joyce Downes, Secretary

Lorraine Whittle, President

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## Coastal School Inline Hockey Cruises into Final

In the school holidays the Taranaki Ravens Inline Hockey Club held a junior tournament with teams from Wellington, Waihi and Hamilton competing. Coastal School was asked to field a team for the Under 10 year old section which they did. Some of the children had never been on inline skates before and the team was expected to just provide game time for the other regional teams. But no one told the kids and they played their hearts out and ended up in the semi-final, coming third. How awesome and thanks has to go to Kelly Luckin and Gill Hurley for their last second coaching and managing.

## CTS Community Library – Okato

The Coastal Taranaki School Library is a warm, light and spacious environment with plenty of books for you and your children to choose from.

This library is a school library as well as a community library combined. There is a great collection of adult fiction along with plenty of non-fiction books for children and plenty of other books available for loan. For parents with preschoolers we have a great selection of junior picture books to choose from.

To take advantage of these books all you need to do is join. This gives you the opportunity to borrow up to 10 books at a time and have these for a month.

You will find the library by using the Oxford Road entrance, where there is plenty of parking.

We have a great new colour photocopier available with reasonable rates. Call in anytime as Delwyn the Library Manager would love to see you. Delwyn has been working at CTS for more than 3 years. She lives in town and has a student at school. Call in and meet her. The hours are:

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*The Coastal School Inline Hockey team - 3rd place getters in the Ravens Junior Tournament.  
From left, back row: Bryce Goble, Anne Maree Harris, Tailia Hurley, Stephen Gibson, Blake King  
Front row: Dean Revell, Trent Brophy, Carson Luckin.*

Do you have a story of  
local interest?  
Ph 0800 THE TOM

## Coastal School News

It is great to have the school canteen taken over by Sue Henderson. She is offering lots of homemade healthy food options and all very delicious!! Good stuff Sue.

Calf and Lamb day coming up in October. If anyone is interested in helping out or being on the committee, this includes any of you in the wider community, you can contact Nichole Smyth on 75 24182. Would be great to have you on board. New and old faces, with new ideas. Be great to hear from you.



# TOM okato babies

Meegan Care grew up in Oakura and met her English-born husband, Olivier Perkins, while she was visiting family in Taranaki. They lived together in Auckland for a year and their daughter, **Xoki Echo** was born there, but they returned six years ago for the waves and the lifestyle. **Eden Star**, pictured with her Mum, joined them on 10 December 2007. Meegan is an energy therapist and counsellor at Ziji in Oakura, while Olivier is completing a graphic design degree at WITT. "We are very happy here," says Meegan. "It's beautiful and a great lifestyle for us."



*Eden with her mum Meegan*

**Isabella Kate Bromell**, pictured with her proud parents, Katrina and Chris, was born on 20 February 2008 on the North Shore. The family moved to Okato at Easter this year to enjoy our Taranaki lifestyle and raise their family in the country. Chris, originally from Manaia, works as a maintenance fitter for Methanex and Katrina, an Auckland, is a self-employed chartered accountant.



*Isabella with mum and dad.*

Meet **Strandyn Terewai Ripia** and **Jaxin Ingman Ray Barron**.

Best mates, they are shown below glued to the television set, watching their favourite programme, *Bob the Builder*. Strandyn (on the left) is the son of Simon Ripia and was born on 6 June 2006. Jaxin was born on 20 July 2005 to Rebecca Williams.

*By Kerry Lilley*

*Strandyn and Jaxin watching their favourite tv programme.*



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# Okato Bus Lines comes to an end –

It has been 36 years since David and Heather Oxley first started their venture into the transport business in Taranaki, and over those years they have seen many eras as David says.

David was born in England and lived there until 1961 when at age 22 he immigrated to New Zealand, coming over on the ship *Southern Cross*.

The New Zealand Government paid £162 to bring in a “working unit” and David was employed by a couple to work on their sheep farm in Dunsandle, Canterbury. The family provided David with all his meals and he slept in a whare out the back of the house.

On completion of his two-year contract David had the opportunity to return home or stay in New Zealand. He decided to stay and moved to Christchurch, where he secured a job with the then Christchurch Transport Board, driving the red buses. “It was the best job I ever had,” he reminisces fondly. He met Heather at a local dance in late 1963. They were engaged soon after and married the following year in Sydney. They lived there for three months before returning to Christchurch, where David continued driving buses. “I was on a great wage then, earning 85 cents an hour. This was great money back then,” he says.

Heather worked as a telephonist and typist for a travel agency named AR Guthrey Ltd.

In 1965 they moved further north to Nelson and bought the local RD1 mail run. They did many runs in their two mini vans, carrying school children, the public, mail, bread, papers/parcels and even cream. They also conducted local sightseeing tours. In the five years they owned this business, two children arrived – their daughter Linda was born in 1966 and two years later Malcolm. Heather says the kids were straight onto the buses after they were born: “I left the hospital with Linda and that same afternoon she was on the bus. The passengers would nurse her.”

When Malcolm was born they entered into a scheme for “unmarried mothers-to-be”, who boarded with them and looked after the children. This was arranged through an agency as these were the days before the DPB.

These times were very busy for them and they worked very hard. The morning would start for David at 4am and he’d work through till 10pm in the evenings, six days a week. Sunday evening was the time to sort mail for Monday deliveries. In the five years of owning this business they only had one weekend off. “These hard yards set us up financially for the purchase of the Okato Bus Lines,” says David.

In 1970 they sold the mail run and went to Sydney for a working holiday. They purchased a 1949 OB Bedford house-bus and revamped this over a period of time. Bunks were installed for the children and they all lived in it for 18 months, travelling around Australia.

David worked as a postman, delivering his post by push bike around Greenacre in Sydney. Heather had work in several orchards and was involved in bean and pear picking. At one point they lived in a caravan park opposite the Ardmona Fruit Cannery where David also picked up shift work. This was the first time he earned \$100 for a week’s work. “That was really great,” says David.

A stint at sheep rousing was also part of his work while in Western Australia.

They decided to come back to New Zealand for the children’s schooling and with their third child, Raymond, on the way, they returned to Nelson in 1971.

David worked for Newman’s Coach Lines for five months on their return. Then in April 1972 they relocated once again when they purchased Creswell Motors in Okato. With this came four buses – two Bedfords, a Leyland Comet and a Federal, one of the last buses with a wooden (Crawley Ridley) body, which are no longer legal. They lived in the Old Methodist Manse for a couple of years and then decided to build the house they now live in today. “We donated the old house to the Fire Brigade for a controlled burn. I remember those terrible southerlies and we had to use four-by-two timber against the walls! It was so rickety.”

In between bus runs David taught woodwork at the College. The extra money this brought in plus the money Heather earned working weekends at Neilsens caterers helped pay the mortgage on their house.

The bus runs consisted of three Ministry School routes and one private run into town. “We went as far north as Pitone Road and south to Kahui Road.”

Another bus company was running local school runs at the same time, owned by Max Rook. “In 1979 we took over this business and this brought our bus numbers up to seven and extended our runs.

“It was very busy in the early 1980s as we transported a lot of children from Oakura back to the College in Okato.

David recalls a time when the Bedford bus blew a piston. A local farmer Alan Smith offered his truck engine for an overnight change-over of motors so that the bus would be ready to run the following morning. Alan drove his truck down to their depot, pulled the engine out and away they went. They worked from 7pm till 3 or 4am. They ran Alan’s engine for about a week until the other was fixed. “Now you wouldn’t get that sort of thing happening today,” says David.

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Over the years he bought or collected old Bedford trucks from farmers to use for spare parts. "Farmers would find the chassis starting to rot from the whey that was carried and it rusted the trucks, hence they wanted to be rid of them. It was a perfect opportunity for me to get a bargain."

Buses changed considerably over their time in the business. "The biggest benefit has been the power steering. Also the computerisation of engine runnings is rather amazing. We had a problem with one of the computer buses once. It was dealt with in Sweden and up and running that same day via a computer equipped workshop!"

In 1982 the Lions Club approached David and Heather to run a trip to the South Island. This was the beginning of the "Okato Travel Club". This involved organised tours in both the North and South Islands. For this they bought another bus, the Leyland Super Comet.

"This also led us to our first venture into Japanese chassis. They were very reliable and comfortable. We built a modern motor bodies coach in 1987 which was a 28-seater.

They expanded the tour business to overseas trips and the growing popularity of the tours meant they needed the assistance of an agent from the AA who would organise tours for them, as they catered for up to 35-40 people at any one time.

"Our tours ventured overseas to places like Australia – NSW, Tasmania, WA and Queensland – , America, Hawaii, Canada, Europe, UK, Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Rarotonga. It was a wonderful experience and at our peak we would do up to 25 tours and trips a year."

In the late 1990s, employee interest was hindered by the introduction of new legislation and passenger licenses, and the extra costs involved and time to obtain a "P" endorsement affected the business.

In December 1991 they took over the town buses and needed to find another depot to house them all. "The initial building we went to was in New Plymouth at the old Railway Station, but with vandals coming in we needed to relocate. The Newman's building was great for us until it became too small with our fleet increasing and we had to decide where we should move to next. With up to 50 buses at one point we needed somewhere with plenty of room. We looked at several sites and made a decision to move into a new purpose-built building down on Sunleigh Street, off Borrell Avenue in New Plymouth." The family business now had 35 staff.

After a two-year trial of concessionary fares in New Plymouth, the Taranaki Regional Council decided to tender the urban services and the tender was won by Masterton company Tranzit.

In April 2008 David and Heather were approached by Tranzit, offering to take over the business. There were many negotiations and the end the decision was influenced largely by the price of fuel and the economy as it is today. "The charter work could go either way. People may decide to take public transport because it will be cheaper than running their own vehicles or the price of public transport may increase drastically and make it unaffordable for people to use. There are shortages of buses and the Government with its policies is making it more difficult for companies to comply without costing them an arm and a leg. Tranzit's approach gave us an out and an opportunity to leave on our terms."

David and Heather are yet to sit back and enjoy their retirement though. They are both going to be driving for Tranzit. David will be managing the Okato area for Tranzit and he will be driving the school buses. Heather will fill in when she is needed. At present there will be no changes to the school bus run and the local drivers continue to drive for Tranzit.

We may all think that they have shut up shop and business is all over for the Oxleys... Wrong! The finalisation of business matters, paperwork, shifting and sorting has been huge! When I caught up with them they informed me that they had an entire bus filled with paperwork. "You couldn't even walk down the aisle," said Heather. They will surely need a big holiday themselves once they have completed these tasks.

David plans to get involved with other things in the community and also has a keen interest in railways which he will hopefully have more time to enjoy.


So how do they feel?

"Well, at the moment the stress has decreased. Knowing that we no longer have to deal with the bureaucracy, red tape, etc – it really is great to be out.

We have enjoyed every minute of our time driving the buses and dealing with the kids. It's the kids that keep us young, and oh, all those stories!"


Good luck, David and Heather. You have served the community in such a big way.

*By Milly Carr*




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## Keeping you informed

## "Okato" – a spot of etymology

### What does Okato mean?

It seems the name "Okato" was given to the region by Maori because of a great tidal wave and cyclone that swept up the coast, causing loss of life and destruction of villages. Fishing fleets were lost and crops and plantations were purported to have been wiped out. "O" means "the" and "kato" means "flowing" or "flood of the tide".

### Street names and road names in Okato

Carthew Street is named after Captain Carthew, member of the No. 4 Company of Military Settlers. Cumming Street, Gosling Street and Curtis Street got their names the same way.

Oxford Road, Dover Road, Perth Road, Leith Road and Hampton Road are named after well known cities, towns and places in England and Scotland.

Kaihihi Road is named after the stream and tribal settlement of the same name.

Saunders Road is thought to be named after Sergeant Saunders, a military settler.

Minarapa, Komene and Hoani roads are probably named after well known Maori families in the area.



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