

# Fishing with Geoff Thomas

Ten of our kids had an amazing experience recently when they were chosen to have a day out fishing with Geoff Thomas from "Get Outdoors with Geoff Thomas" here on the coast.



*Left to Right (at back) Steve Devine (camera man) Chad Knowles, Jared Wooldridge, Laine Davies, Joseph Doyle, Darryn Spademan, Geoff Thomas(Front, left to right) Jana Taingahue, Mechele Manson, Logan Crowley, Mitchell Fleming, Dean Wilson.*

These deserving students were chosen by their teachers. Two boats were launched so some of the students missed out on Geoff's company during the fishing trip, but that aside, it was a great day for all. After the fishing there was time for photos and interviews then a barbeque. Following this there was prizegiving and speeches. Two main prizes were two rod and reel sets, a blue one for boys and a pink for the girls.

Mitchell Fleming won the boys one with the heaviest fish of the day and Mechele won the girls one with a 2.08kg kawhai. A deciding factor for Geoff visiting us was a family connection with one of our senior teachers. "It is the first time Geoff has ever done anything like this before," said Joel.

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

As summer approaches, isn't it exciting to think of all those glorious sun-filled days lolling on the beach? While I haven't quite dusted off the old swim suit yet, it is certainly looking more likely as each sunny day rolls by.

I hope everyone is organised for Christmas and the summer holidays, and that the shop-till-you-drop frenzy has waned a little this year with more emphasis on companionship and conviviality.

As 2008 draws to a close, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful and often demanding job our two Okato TOM writers have done this year. The in-depth stories and snippets of information that Milly and Kerry have written for you, our readers, are worthy of a bouquet and we look forward to many more fascinating articles in 2009.

Have a happy and safe holiday and we will be back in your letterboxes in early February.

Kim

**Deadline for February issue –  
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## Okato Fire Brigade

Wow, the end of the year is nearly upon us. What a busy one it has been, with demolition of the old station to the planning, preparation and building of the new station.

Throughout the year we have had 39 call outs and 2 new members. It is always good to have new blood coming into the service.

On 15 December we will be having our Christmas party, and be warned – there will be a few firecrackers being let off. There will also be a visit from the man with the white beard. It is always lovely to see the delight on the children's faces when he arrives in the fire truck, bearing gifts.

Now, the "silly season" is coming up so please remember your own and everyone else's safety while out and about on the roads. We do not want any unnecessary calls over this time. Be the sober driver, or arrange for someone else to be!

Must put it out there... If anyone has an unwanted, vacant but still intact house that they no longer require, we at the service would be very interested as we can use them as a training tool on our practice nights. Please contact Milly Carr on 752 4 425 or 027 320 1468.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Milly Carr

## Okato Lions

### Christmas greetings to you all.

Nearly another year has gone by and it's hard to comprehend that eight years have passed since the new millennium, but a lot has happened in those eight years. For example, we now have two magazines (*TOM* Oakura and *TOM* Okato) delivered throughout our districts.

A bus shelter has been placed at Mid Puniho Road and is being used by the children of that area.

Probably in February, a girl we sponsored for the "Spirit of Adventure" will speak at our tea meeting of her experiences on her trip.

At our most recent board meeting (19 November) we agreed to support an appeal to help a boy who is to have a series of major operations in Auckland and America.

Another project Lions are involved in is maintaining a cabin at the Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits and Education Centre (TOPEC) at the meeting of the waters just North of New Plymouth. Over the next few weeks, we will be installing new ridging and spouting and doing painting, etc.

Lions took part in the "Around the Mountain Relay" in November. Ten of us acted as marshals on various points from Stony River Bridge through to Patua. We helped to keep the runners safe from traffic. We will also be involved in the "Round the Mountain Cycle Race" to be held in January 2009.

As usual we will hold our New Year's barbeque at a member's home in January, when we will invite our spouses to join us.


On behalf of the Okato Lions, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Until the New Year


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## Innovative businesses bloom in Okato



*Laurent serves Oakura's Clive Neeson at Café Lahar. (Photo by Kerry Lilley)*

New Zealand's economy may be sagging, but businesses in Okato are growing in spite of it. In this issue, we look at four of them.

Previously "The Waiting Room", Laurent Manderson's café has taken on a new life as Café Lahar. The name was conceived on a trip along Wiremu Road. "There were lahars everywhere and you could see the mountain and the sea. It was full-on Taranaki," Laurent said – "It just summed it up." The café also sports a colourful new sign, designed by Laurent's father-in-law, Peter Lambert. "They're the colours you get when you're walking back from "The Patch", Laurent told me. The revamped courtyard is looking inviting, the menu is being expanded to include pizzas and other delicacies that as yet remain secret, and a license is on its way soon. There are even plans afoot to erect a screen and get a projector up and running to screen night-time movies over summer. Watch this space!

Directly opposite, Coastal Image has been transformed into Trevor Read's photographic studio. The paint job is glossy black and white, the central window sports his new logo and flanking this, each expansive side window carries three huge, panoramic-style photos that showcase his talent. "I made them really big so that there is good impact from the café across the road," he told me, and the overall effect is stunning. He will be opening on random days and hours, as well as by appointment and will be selling a range of affordable photographic images – cheaper items (but limited editions never-the-less) and gifts, as well as postcards and photographic mementos for tourists passing through. Trevor plans to carry the theme through to his website, which will carry galleries that capture Taranaki events such as WOMAD, the Parihaka Peace Festival and even good days in the surf. Check them out on [www.trevorread.co.nz](http://www.trevorread.co.nz)

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There have been changes next door at Seed too. Nana (Hayley Burwell) has vacated her pantry and is spending more time at home with her family, giving owners, Lindsey Ellison, Mel Abbot and Jacqui Pennthe the opportunity to grow their business, which is based on organic and fair trade principles. There is an expanded range of bulk products, organic meat and chicken available on order, a selection of books and notebooks, an array of fabulous bags, "ecotankers" (water cooler bottles) and a small range of baby products. There are more gift items arriving in time for Christmas too. Recently, the business celebrated its first birthday, which Lynsday reckons flags the business's success. This is due, she said, to the support of their regular customers, who she thanks for their loyalty, on behalf of the management. She also praised the work of the shop's volunteers. "They are passionate about the organic concept and bring a different energy to the place."



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*Produce and gifts for sale at Seed. (Photo by Kerry)*



*Trevor Read's re-vamped photographic studio. (Photo by Kerry)*

Last but not least, New Plymouth's PGG Wrightson Real Estate's satellite office, which opened about three months ago, is going from strength the strength. It provides convenient, attractive, comfortable office facilities for Okato-based agent Pat McFetridge, who sells residential, lifestyle and rural properties, and for Opunake-based Kathryn Young, who sells residential and lifestyle properties between Omata and Opunake. It is also a great drop-in centre and contact point for locals, who can browse the window display or meet Pat or Kathryn there to list their properties or receive information about properties for sale throughout New Zealand and internationally. "It's a great location," says Kathryn. "If the doors are open when you're passing, feel free to drop in for property advice or just for coffee and a chat."

Kerry Lilley



Pat (left) and Kathryn, your PGG Wrightson real estate agents. (Photo courtesy of Pat)

## Family Photos for Christmas?

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# CHRISTMAS

*A very special time for keeping in touch  
with friends and family*

Many of you have moved homes over the last year and are going to enjoy Christmas in your new home.

To all who are a long way from home and families this Christmas, we wish you all a very special Kiwi Christmas and as you shed a few wee tears when you think of those back home, know that we are thrilled that you have chosen to live and buy your property through us and are now resident in this very special place in New Zealand.

To all of you that have family, especially children and grandchildren, all over the world, we also know what it is like not to be with them at Christmas. Just remember "Families are Forever".

To those people who have lost someone so very dear to them over the last year as some of our clients and team have, please enjoy the holidays as best you can . . . remember you are not alone. And we do care about you.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with many of

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## Okato Tennis Club

As a club we were disappointed to find that our club house had been broken into. All our trophies and section winners' flags were taken. These items all form part of our Club's long history and we would love to have them back. If anyone happens to find these or knows of their whereabouts, please let one of our Club members know or contact Richard Corry at the Okato Police Station.

We are pleased that a group of young folks from Okato and Opunake have formed a Saturday Tennis Team called Coastal 45 and are playing in the A3 section of the North Taranaki Tennis competition. They have had a number of games and are proving to be competitive. So keep up the good work girls and guys – we look forward to following your progress.

Want to have a hit? Bowl along from 6.30pm onwards on a Wednesday night to Twilight Tennis, which has started with a few warm-up nights. Once the weather improves, we will start up a round robin. Also Ladies' Wednesday morning Tennis is well under way. Come and join in from 10am onwards. All abilities welcome at both.

Midweek Ladies will have completed their first round by the time this goes to print. We await results. The second round starts in February.

Juniors wishing to learn to play can go along to the Club on a Fridays from 3pm to 4.15pm during the school term. For further details, contact Angela Phillips on 752 4451 or see you there.

Just a reminder that our Club subs are now due. These are important to the Club as they help run and provide this awesome venue for the Okato community. Social non-affiliated memberships are \$20 per adult and \$10 for school-aged children. Family subs are \$50. Subscriptions can be forwarded to Raewynne Lawn, Mangetete Road, RD 37, Okato or handed to any of the Committee Members

## Zak Heatherington

Check out Zak Hetherington who attends Coastal Taranaki School and how he has been getting on since he featured in our August issue.

The Year 3 Coastal School student has just won the Waikato Championships in the Mini Motocross class so congratulations Zak.

Zak has been riding competitively all year so winning the champs tops off the year for the eight year old and considering he has only been riding since February this year that is some achievement. So to recap on the year Zak has won the Summer Series and the Winter Series and now the Champs.

Zak enjoys riding Motocross because "bikes are really fun! I couldn't touch the ground on my bike (KTM 50XS) when I first got it and now I can. I like riding against the top New Zealand kids and making new friends. I want to keep riding and getting better."

In his spare time Zak plays cricket and oh he rides his bike!

The Hetheringtons travel around the North Island for Zak to compete at places like Taupo, Foxton, Pahiatua and Otorohanga. Zak would like to get some sponsorship for new riding clothes because "they cost lots of money!" so if anyone is keen to help out an up and coming Motocross rider then Zak is the man.

By Milly Carr



*Zak with his Taranaki Winter Series trophy and his Waikato Champs trophy.*

## Cape Egmont Boat Club

### – kids' day in the race

It was a cold and windy day but a few children braved the bitter weather. After catching their fish one by one they would slowly adjourn to the clubrooms where it is warm and sheltered. The children were treated to lunch and a few goodies to take home.

We would like to thank the Rahotu/Pungarehu Lions Club for sponsoring this day.

By Debbie Aylward

*Back: Stephanie Wells, Joel Chard, Bryn Chard, Marshall Wells, Kalin Aylward, Stephen Gibson.*

*Middle Row: Holly Fleming-Gordon, Eva Fleming-Gordon, Ella Chard, Zoe Megaw, Ashleigh Megaw, Kylie Aylward.*

*Front Row: Quinn Thompson and Fynn Megaw.*



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## COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL

### Fishing with Geoff Thomas

*(Continued from page 1)*

We asked a couple of the kids about their day...  
*What was your reaction when you received the news that you were going out fishing with Geoff?*

Mitchell Fleming, Year 5: Very excited.

Mechele Manson, Year 7: I was jumping up and down, so pleased, shocked.

At what part of the coast did you go fishing?

Mitchell: 30 metres straight out from the Boat Club.

Mechele: Out by Stent Road.

How many fish did you catch and what types?

Mitchell: Four snapper. The biggest was 5.5 kg.

Mechele: Seven fish – two blue cod, two snapper, one barracuda, one kahawai and an octopus.

What was the most memorable part of the day?

Mitchell: Catching the 5-kg-er, and winning a rod and reel.

Mechele: Winning a prize and catching heaps of fish. I also got the second biggest fish of the day – a 2.8kg kahawai.

Other comments:

Mitchell: It was an awesome experience to be part of the day and thanks to Geoff for coming down and spending time with us.

Mechele: It was a beautiful day out fishing (besides being sick). I won a pink rod.

*By Milly Carr*

#### Logan Crowley has written about his experience of the day . . .

It was in fifth period and we were doing our speeches when the ten kids were named to go fishing with Geoff. My name was called out and I was stoked. We'd had to write a letter two months ago to say why we would like to go fishing with Geoff.

We all met at the Cape Egmont Boat Club down Bailey Road at 8.30am. We were all so excited. There were six boats and a heap of fishermen from the Club who kindly took us all out.

Geoff was on the coastal cat and I was fortunate to go on the boat with him and the camera man, Steve Divine.

I caught five fish – three blue cod, one small snapper and a trevally, but some people caught huge snapper of around six to nine kilos.

It was a bit choppy and some of the kids got seasick, including me!

When we got back to the Boat Club, we had a BBQ and then prizegiving. Mechele Manson and Mitchell Fleming won a fishing rod each for the biggest fish and all the rest of us were given a signed poster and cap.

It was so cool. Geoff was awesome, really friendly. I had the best day.

*Logan*



*Logan Crowley with Geoff Thomas and his catch,*

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## Buckle up, keep safe

Coastal Taranaki School students were "driving" themselves up the wall on Thursday 20 November. It was all by choice, mind you. Taranaki Roadsafes and RockUp brought to the school a portable climbing wall as well as a message: "Buckle up – keep safe".

The underlying message was that we need to look out for each other, something that CTS students do particularly well as it stands. I would say that most parents practice seatbelt safety with their children habitually. However, if the habit is instilled at a school age, then the chances of that child wearing a seatbelt when not in their parents' care will increase.

Looking at local statistics, Taranaki road fatalities have halved since 2004, however, what has increased is minor to serious crashes. Thanks to the message from Taranaki Roadsafes and Geoff at RockUp, we can decrease the likelihood of minor to serious injury occurring by looking out for each other and checking our "harnesses".

By Mr Mark Dickie



Hayden Milham and Geoff from Rockup.



Kade VanDerHeyden makes an attempt on the summit.



Daniel Doyle, Samuel Moffitt and Hayden Milham reaching new heights.

## Rep Cricket Beckons for Logan

I first started playing cricket for Pungarehu Primary School when I was eight. I now play for the Coastal Taranaki Cheetahs team.

As for the Taranaki squad, I am in the Taranaki under-13 side. I attended a trial and they selected a squad of 17. After a month of training, that squad was cut from 17 to 12. We are still training once a week on Friday nights from 5pm to 7pm at New Plymouth indoor cricket pavilion, but on fine days we practice outside. We are looking into the game plans and focusing on quality playing.

Our coach is Gavin Ewing, who played for the Zimbabwe national team.

My goal is to continue playing rep cricket through high school.

Logan Crowley

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# Shake, Ripple & Roll

– Coastal Taranaki School's first production

Everyone thought the production went to plan and was a great success.

Raeleen Luckin did a fantastic job with the choreographing and directing of the play. Jan Aiello also did a brilliant job with the piano and helping the students with their singing. Everyone put in enormous effort to pull the play together. It worked and we had great reviews from the audience and the papers.

Mrs Kath Lawn said, "The production was awesome and a credit to all our wonderful, talented students. Well done. You worked hard to produce a top show!"

Mrs Margaret Normanton said, "It was the first opportunity to get the students involved in a production. Before the production we hadn't done much drama and singing but when the opportunity came up, we jumped at it. We tried to make the experience real by using sound, lights and a band. The staff worked really hard to make it a successful show by making the costumes and setting up the hall. It was a great show and I'm sure you all agree it was too".

The next time we have a production I hope it is as excellent as this one was.

By ??????????

## Shake, Ripple & Roll

When the students of Coastal Taranaki School were told that they would be performing in a production, they weren't very sure about it. But as the weeks went on and practices were well under way, the students changed their attitudes and began to enjoy being on stage. The first dress rehearsal ran smoothly.

The story was set in the Fifties in an ice cream parlour with Mr Cohen – the manager, Joey Nobody – a guy with no memory, and four cute waitresses who tease Mr Nobody, plus a cool dude called Chuck. The owner dies and a movie star, Deanna La Domme, tries to claim the property.

They end up finding the will in the juke box that is always playing havoc. Hurray for Joey who ends up being Uncle Angelo's son and who is gifted the ice cream parlour in the will.

By Jasmin Warren, Year 8 reporter



Bennett as Joey.

Jonathan, Bennett, Jade and Mitchell.



Below: Main actors -  
From left: Kate Appert,  
Victoria Grayling, Christie  
Thomas, Jasmin  
Warren, Clare Henderson,  
Ruby Luke-Hurley,  
Ariarna Hickey, Bennett  
de Beer, Jade Stone,  
Mitchell Hurley  
Jonathon Adams and  
Bradley Smyth



The new  
entrants  
in the ice  
cream  
parlour.



Years 3's as  
angels)



# TOM babies

I met Dion and Anna Van der Hulst and their son, Jordy Marcus, having time out at Café Lahar recently. Dion and Anna both hail from the Waikato but lived in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia before coming to Okato. Dion worked as an underground miner there while Anna, who has a Bachelor of Social Sciences, worked in vocational rehabilitation.



*Jordy with proud mum and dad.*

Jordy arrived at Taranaki Base Hospital on 7 August 2008 and now that he's here, Dion has elected to be the stay-at-home dad while Anna runs her own vocational rehabilitation business, contracting to ACC. Okato has a great lifestyle, they agree. "There's everything here," says Dion. "It's a giant playground."

Leroy Win Cliffe was born to Nigel Cliffe and Jen Laracy on 17 May 2008 at Taranaki Base Hospital. Leroy's middle name honours his recently deceased, maternal grandfather; "a lovely man," says Jen. "It's French and means 'The King'." Nigel, a local born and bred, is a qualified practitioner of acupuncture and Chinese medicine, while Jen has her roots in Upper Hutt and is a jeweller working with fine metals. Of the Okato area and farming, they say they love the lifestyle, the landscape and their accessibility to the sea with all the activities it offers.

Leroy has a proud older brother, Nigel's other son, six-year-old Riley Christopher.

Jasmin Ella Kemsley was born to Warren and Louisa Kemsley at Taranaki Base Hospital on 7 April 2008. She is pictured here with her older brother, Oliver Joseph (2), but has two older siblings, Ben Brian (5) and Myah Lily (6½), who were at school when I visited. Louisa is taking time away from her nursing career while she raises her family while Warren, who worked as a diesel mechanic until four years ago, is enjoying managing Glenys Putt and Marg Douglas' farm on Newall Road, which allows him to spend more time with his growing family. Jasmin, Oliver, Ben and Myah are the grandchildren of local farmers, Sandy and Brian Butler, and Oakura resident, Sandra Kemsley and her late husband, Trevor.



*Here, Leroy is surrounded by (left to right) Riley holding Bella – his new kitten, Nigel, Jen and Riley's best mate, Caleb Belcher, son of Erua Stockman and TJ Belcher.*

Originally from Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast, Suzanne and Craig Fraser lived in Raglan before moving to Ruakere Road about nine months ago. They plan to make this their permanent home. People here are much like Nova Scotians – salt of the earth, approachable and friendly, Suzanne tells me. She says, "The feeling of home is part of the attraction." Craig works from home, in IT for Genesis Energy, and loves to surf. Suzanne, previously an events coordinator and now a full time mum, is looking forward to pursuing her painting and singing interests. Both are enthusiastic gardeners and are enjoying renovating their 1920s villa.



*Danu and Suzanne.  
(Photo by Kerry Lilley)*

Suzanne and Craig welcomed Danu Rae at Taranaki Base Hospital on 12 June 2008. In Celtic mythology, Danu means Earth Goddess. Danu and Suzanne are pictured here.



*Jasmin with Oliver.*

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## Pastor Kevin sends aid to Zimbabwe

Call it divine intervention, good luck or what you will, but the timing of aid to Zimbabwe couldn't have been better for Oakura and Okato pastor, Kevin McFetridge of New Zeal Church. He was looking to help deal with poverty somehow in the global sense. All the pieces have fallen into place and now the container of aid should be being unloaded in South Africa.

The first piece fell into place back in September when Kevin went to Zimbabwe with a group of other ministers who are part of the Network of Christian Ministries. This group has contacts in Zimbabwe also and these fellow Christians and business people showed Kevin's group around the war-torn dictatorship. Now that aid is on its way to the country, these contacts will be responsible for distributing the aid.

Kevin and his wife, Angela, took on the project of providing aid to an orphanage called 'Emthunzini Wethemba'. This orphanage has 50 children housed in extremely poor circumstances. So the couple and their parishioners took on the task of providing the basics for these children – that is 50 of everything – blankets, pillows, toothbrushes, pyjamas, soap, undies, etc. The team of about 50 (how coincidental!) worked tirelessly to reach their deadline of mid-October when the container bound for South Africa would leave. And they achieved it only to find that the church in Auckland they were working with had upped the size of the container from 20 feet to 40 feet so this took a bit more filling. In went medical and surgical supplies, mattresses, lights and more.

As you read this, the container should be being unpacked and some very grateful children will be enjoying the things our children take for granted. Kevin feels very strongly that it is his duty to help the less fortunate and through his and others meagre efforts, poverty and deprivation can be alleviated for some, even if temporarily.

Kevin hopes to send another container in the near future and he is very humbled by the way the local community and those from Palmerston North have pitched in and donated goods for this cause.

In the next *TOM* we hope to bring you photos of the reception of the aid in the orphanage.

By Kim Ferens

*Children in the playground in the Bulawayo orphanage.*



*Donated aid being packaged to go to Bulawayo.*

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## Okato Playcentre

The fun continues at Okato Playcentre. Last term we visited Jack and Jill's Educational Activity Centre, where the children enjoyed the various activities on offer, including a trampoline, climbing frames, balancing and obstacle courses and much more, not to mention a great morning tea.

We also went to Coastal Taranaki School's Calf and Lamb day, where the children loved the close interaction with all the animals and visiting the classrooms to check out the creative art work the school children had made. It was a great morning out.

Halloween was a blast. The children dressed up in their Halloween costumes, mothers had made Halloween food for morning tea, and Kerry Moffitt had hidden goodies in the sand pit and had a "guess what's in the box" game. The children also turned their hands to making ghosts out of tissues and cotton balls.

The PD crew came to the centre during the last holidays and did some outside maintenance, cutting back foliage and water blasting, etc. What a great job! Thank you to the crew.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party at Playcentre on 11 December. The kids are especially excited about seeing Santa. Hopefully us mums will have managed to go to the Playcentre Shop at Inglewood for some serious Christmas shopping?!

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to all.

Our hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm.

Enquiries to Rachel Douglas on 7524 463.

*We would like to thank the coastal community for their fantastic support over the past year*

*It has been great meeting so many new customers and becoming friends with our old customers.*

*We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 2009.*



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## Brett Willis grows organic structures in back yards on the coast



*Brett poses in Nova's playhouse.*

I was enjoying a chai at Café Lahar the other day when Noreen Riordan came in for a snack, saw me and said she had seen an unusual looking igloo-like hut down at Warea. It had aroused her curiosity and she suggested that I could be the one to investigate it. Intrigued, I headed down the road to see it for myself.

I was met by its creator, Brett Willis, who said that he had another one he'd like to show me in the village; one he had built as a playhouse for his and Sonja Jorgensen's daughter, Nova. It was just the cutest thing – a golden sand-coloured, curvaceous, vaulted structure trimmed with corrugated iron

and embellished with strings of coloured beads hanging in the apex above the front door. Hobbiton above ground.

Brett first hit on the idea of making such sculptural vaults about two years ago, when he was working for Kaimai Hydropower, building and repairing the underground vaults that serve as support systems for the hydro-mines. Parts of a vault exert a thrust that requires counter-resistance. When built underground, the ground itself provides the resistance required but when built above ground, it relies on external forces.

Although the concept of vault-shaped buildings dates back to ancient Egypt, Brett is particularly inspired by the 18th - early 19th century Spanish architect, Antoni Gaudi (1852 - 1926), who was fascinated by organic forms (forms having no straight lines) and their inner forces, which express themselves on the surface. Interestingly, Gaudi, arrived at a type of structure that came to be known as "equilibrated" – that is, it stood on its own without external bracing or buttressing. In Gaudi's words, it stood "like a tree stands."

The thin-shelled, ferro-cement-covered vaults Brett is building now, however, originate in Mexico. He laminates pine to make arcs, then incorporates driftwood to create interesting forms. He installs windows and doors and then covers the "bones" with reinforcing steel and mesh. Then, he plasters the structure with light-weight cement to keep out the elements and reveal its final form, and paints it in an earthy range of colours.

Brett is now experimenting with building vault-shaped, insulated sleep-outs using curved corrugated iron, incorporated with wood finishes. If you are interested in owning one of either style, phone Brett on 027 717 0888 or e-mail him on wabizumai @live.com.

*Story & picture by Kerry Lilley*

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