

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OKATO

JUNE 2012

## CROQUET DUEL

Maria Van der Poel forces a smile, reluctantly handing over the trophy.

*- story on page 3*



TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OKATO

TOM-OKATO is a free, monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes and post-boxes from Timaru Road to Bayly Road.

## THE TEAM

### Co-ordinator/Features:

Kim Ferens  
06 751 1519  
kim@thetom.co.nz

### Advertising:

Kim Ferens  
06 751 1519  
kim@thetom.co.nz

### Writers:

Milly Carr  
06 752 4425  
Kerry Lilley  
06 752 4350  
Kerryn Moffitt  
06 752 8095

### Proof reader:

Maryanne Rossiter Bennett

### Graphics:

Ron Stratford  
origin@xtra.co.nz

**The TOM Group Ltd**  
22 Sutton Rd, RD4, New  
Plymouth

**Email: kim@thetom.  
co.nz**

**Phone: 0800 THE TOM**  
**www.thetom.co.nz**

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

## E D I T O R I A L

Do you value TOM Okato? Do you want it to continue?

You will have noticed that the last TOM was short, and combined with Oakura. You may have wondered why.

The paper arrives in your letterbox free of charge to you. However, it must be paid for by someone. To date, advertisers and sponsors have covered the costs, which include writing and photography, editing, graphics and design, printing and distribution. With the economic downturn, however, businesses have sought ways to save money and advertising has been a casualty of their budget cuts. Advertising dollars support the space given to the articles you read. The reality for TOM Okato is that there is now not enough advertising to warrant our own publication. Any further decreases will mean that TOM Okato does not have a place at all.

What can be done? Options that have been mooted include strongly encouraging advertising/advertorials by local and surrounding businesses (which we are struggling with), and sponsorship. We are open to other suggestions from our readers.

If you think you can help or would like to share your ideas with us, contact Kim on 06-751 1519 or kim@thetom.co.nz, Milly on 06-752 4425 or milly@thetom.co.nz or Kerry on 06-753 4350 or Kerry.lilley@gmail.com

*Kerry and Milly*



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remember for  
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# Croquet Duel

After some friendly bantering at a wedding earlier this year, some Warea locals, led by Maria and Hugo Van der Poel, challenged some Tataraimaka locals to a game of croquet. A non-negotiable time, date and venue was texted to Tataraimakian Jackie Honeyfield, and the challenge was on. It had been rumoured that a trophy had been created for the event and that the winner would hold the undisputed bragging rights. Amidst the excitement of the Okato Lions motorbike trail ride, the two districts played their first challenge on Easter Monday at Heifer Park, courtesy of the Warea Croquet Club. Tataraimaka adapted well to the locals' rules and soon won the first match. "Two out of three!" came the chorus from Warea, so Tataraimaka obliged with another win to take the trophy.

In presenting the trophy, Maria suggested that since Tataraimaka now hold the trophy they should organise the next event. Tataraimaka are still trying to think of a sport or pastime that Warea may have a chance in.



Marcus and Seal Gawler show Kopes how it's done.

The contestants.



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# Monty Julian: One of the last ANZACS

Maurice (Monty) Leslie Julian was introduced to TOM by his daughter, Debbie Julian, as “one of the last ANZACS.” I visited him recently in his New Plymouth home.

In 1940, aged 16, Monty joined the Air Training Corps No 8 New Plymouth Squadron, a non-combat division designed to help address the shortage of airmen during World War II. Having gained consent from his parents, he joined the RNZAF combat force two years later. “We left our jobs and trades and couldn’t get (to war) quick enough,” he says. “We thought it was our duty to protect our homeland but didn’t fully realise the consequences. We were men before we were boys.” For the next year or so, he kept up his aircrew studies and performed aerodrome defence duties at bases in Levin, Rotorua, Seagrove (Auckland), Wigram and Palmerston North. General guard duties meant shift work, for the air bases had to be patrolled round the clock. When he was at Seagrove, there was a “Jap” scare on. “Luckily,” says Monty, “they didn’t land!”

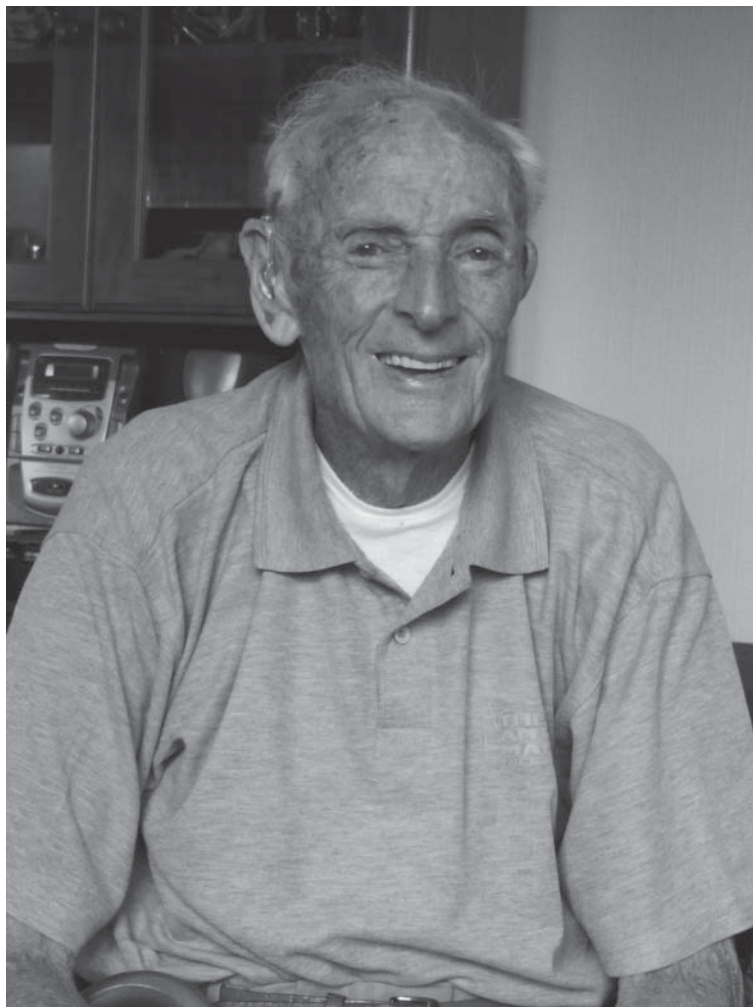
In 1943, Monty was posted to the Solomon Islands as a radar/radio operator based on one of Guadalcanal’s western beaches. There, he swam a lot to get relief from the intense heat and humidity, scanned the skies for both high flying and low flying aircraft, and alerted the American Air Force to any enemy presence in the vicinity. “It gave us a start of about 100 miles,” he said. The hand-to-hand fighting of the Guadalcanal campaign was over but a few Japanese soldiers had been left on the island, and the allies had no idea where they were, “...so you never knew whether your next breath would be your last one.” Monty left the island on leave in 1944 and, due to ill health, was unable to return.

These days, Monty is proud to be a life member of the Okato Sub Branch of the New Plymouth RSA Incorporated Branch, along with six others — Arthur Hogg, Des Corbett, Don Brash, Ivor Ellis (long-time president), Ken Keel (current secretary) and Peter Brightwell — and about 20 other esteemed members, including two women — Dorothy Withell and Ngaire Scown. “In our depleting

ranks we have a DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) in Ross Priest, and a QSM (Queen’s Service Medal) in our very own Don Brash,” boasts Monty. He is proud too of the wonderful support the coastal people give the Okato branch, on Poppy Day and at the service at Hempton Hall each ANZAC Day. The locals’ generosity has enabled the branch to donate to numerous local clubs and organisations down the years. This year, the collection of \$479 was presented to the Cape Egmont Rescue Trust.

TOM and its readers honour Monty and all the other men and women who have endured warfare on behalf of their fellow countrymen and women, and pay special tribute to those who have made the supreme sacrifice. “Lest we forget.”

*Story and picture by Kerry Lilley*



## Dog Grooming @ the Pet Parlour

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# The Stony River Hotel

## PART ONE

For generations Okato's Stony River Hotel, situated on the corner of Main South Road and Lower Kaihihi Road, was a gathering place and a watering hole for the adult population of the community that surrounded it. But as horses and carts morphed into motor-driven vehicles, and laws were made to discourage combining alcohol with driving, making a living as a liquor trader in an isolated location became ever more challenging. Hotel Managers Katie and Peter Simmonds had tried everything from band nights to topless barmaids to jelly wrestling to draw custom, but nothing worked. Consequently, on 1st April 2012 as the band wound down, the last pint was pulled, the final drop was downed, and at 9pm the doors swung closed behind patrons for the very last time. After 137 years, the final sentence of the Okato pub's story had been written. It began with one Robert Gray, former Hampton Road farmer, Lloyd Gray's, great grandfather; Kelvin Gray's great, great grandfather. Robert's was amongst the first, if not the first, family to settle in Okato. Robert built the hotel in 1875 on the corner of Main Road and Kaihihi Road and lived there until his death, aged 82. He passed the establishment on to his son, William James Gray, locally known as Willie, who found friendship amongst the Maori community, and became a respected interpreter. In 1926, Willie sold the hotel to Charles Edward Brookes, who stayed for only 18 months before leaving for Auckland. He leased the establishment out for the next five years. Then, unable to find a buyer or another lessee, he returned as publican for the next several. Charles sold the establishment in 1932 to Taranaki Brewery and Cordials. Eventually, he became Chairman of its Board of Directors. The hotel has had many other owners and lessees, who have woven into it their own stories. There was Will Emeny (1912), who became known as "Slippery Bill." And Edgar Meredith (1923), who donated the Meredith Cup which was contested regularly between Okato and Rahotu Rugby Clubs until they, together with Opunake Rugby Club, amalgamated about 15 years ago to form Coastal Rugby Club. Mr Bullock was the publican during the 20s. He was best remembered for his loss of hair. Len Dunne arrived in the 30's and became known as "Dad Dunne", probably because he encouraged the young men not to consume alcoholic beverages, but to drink soft drinks instead. One lessee was Jack Gillard who, when he went to live in Australia in 1963, instigated regular bowling trips between Okato and his local club in Lithgow, New South Wales.

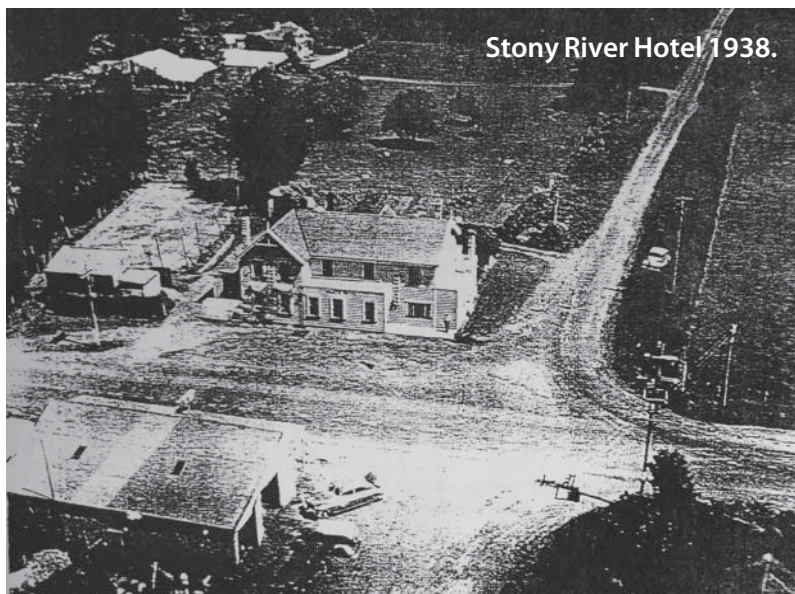


Stony River Hotel 1905.

Lionel and Sybil Simpson were in residence during the late 70's. Lionel became known as "Rumpole" for his resemblance to the character, Horace, Defence Lawyer in the British television series, "Rumpole of the Bailey." Shirley Donald, now Haskell (1996 – 2005), is notable as the sole, solo woman publican. She recalls that patrons were skeptical that she would succeed, but succeed she did. An innovator, she honed the financial systems, installed cameras to tighten up security. created a garden bar, installed a commercial kitchen (her proudest achievement) and converted the original, oval bar into a dining room. So what next for the Okato icon? Well, there are plans to cater for the under fives instead of the over 18s; the hotel will be reinvented as a kindergarten. And the accommodation and restaurant side the business will be re-opened. "Who knows - there might be scope for a wee snug bar in the front of the restaurant," says Katie.

References: *Okato, Tataraimaka, Punibo Districts: Their Stories Told*. Compiled by Irene Waswo 1998. *Okato Jubilee Booklet: 125 years: The history of the Gray family: Minutes from Taranaki Brewery and Cordials*, excerpts from 23 June 1952 – 9 December 1968. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news> 11.09.2008 04.06.2011 16.02.2012 04.02.2012

by Kerry Lilley



Stony River Hotel 1938.



# Oceania's are All Gold and Silver for Locals

In mid-April, the Oceania Inline Hockey Championships were held in New Plymouth. Okato had three representatives selected to play for New Zealand in their age grade teams. The teams competed in a five-game series. New Zealand was the overall points winner, so were awarded with the Tasman Trophy.

Kayden Gibson played for the Under-18 team and won gold. Rodney Cruden-Powell played for the Under-14 team and won silver. Hayden Luckin won gold with the Under-12 team. Well done, you guys!

Hayden says being in the tournament was awesome and he had a lot of fun. "The games were really close. We won four out of five, and lost one in overtime. It was amazing learning the haka and performing the haka out at the Waitara Marae when we went out to be welcomed on, and to meet the Australian players for the first time. The Aussies looked a lot bigger than us, and the rumour was some of them had been over in Canada training. As the games started, the training we had put in started to fall into place, and we played well as a team. I enjoyed the experience and the company of my teammates." Hayden says it is something he will remember for a long time and it was fantastic being able to play for his country.



Above, Under 12 team gold medal winner, Hayden Luckin, and below, Hayden's precious team jersey.



Hayden says it was an amazing atmosphere listening to the chanting from Aussie and New Zealand. His team were given some good rookie treatment and had to dress up in little skirts and bunny ears and sit in the stands

for a whole game cheering for their Under-14 team. Many of the games were really close in scores, only a couple of goals difference, and some games even went into overtime. Hayden's mum, Kelly, says it was pretty unreal to see her child do the haka and play for his country, but one of the biggest things was the friends he has made from all around New Zealand.

By Kerry Moffitt

# Okato Pony Club

A closed ribbon day was held on Sunday, 6 May as the last day for pony club this season. A huge thank you to all the sponsors for donating an abundance of prizes won by all. Also a big thank you to the families and supporters that keep our local pony club running. It's always lovely to see grandparents and friends come along as extra support. Thank you to Ingrid Anderson from the Tack Shack Motoroa for coming and judging the flat classes for us. We were also very lucky to have Mary Grayling with us to present the cups. We have a new cup that has been kindly donated by Max and Carole Sole; this is the Malcom Grayling Memorial Cup for Best Beginner Rider, which went to Jorja Sole.



Next season we would like to encourage any new members to join and keep our local pony club strong. Anyone interested can contact Michelle Beekman on 06-752 7056.

## OVERALL POINTS

<i>Beginners:</i>	1st Jorja Sole, 2nd Ellie Sole.
<i>Juniors:</i>	1st Maddison Smyth, 2nd Kayla Deane.
<i>Intermediates:</i>	1st equal Georgia Strachan and Jessica Gibson
<i>Seniors:</i>	1st Ashley Downs, 2nd Ella Beaumont

## CUPS

<i>Junior Show Jumping:</i>	Maddison Smyth
<i>Intermediate Show Jumping:</i>	Georgia Strachan
<i>Senior Show Jumping:</i>	Ashley Downs
<i>Best Cared for Pony/Gear &amp; Attendance:</i>	Kayla Deane

Congratulations everyone, well done!

By Kristy Strachan

# Cape Egmont Boat Club

Well, the weather has been exceptional for this time of the year and large numbers of fish have been caught both in boats and surfcasting.

Record numbers of fish were caught during the Kids in Boats day and we've seen a record kingfish caught as well. And while on the subject of kingfish, it's been good to see some others being caught as well.

Fair to say that the farmers are really happy with plenty of excellent fishing during the good weather and just as things were starting to dry up along came the rain.

Congratulations to John Blundell on his record catch of a 29.5kg kingfish on 15kg line. This fish gave John an amazing fight before being landed. Well done to John and the Skipper Brian Goodin and the crew of Kit Kat.

And while on the subject of kingfish, well done to Kane Barrett for landing his 19kg fish.

## KIDS IN BOATS DAY

This event took place on Saturday, 14 April on a nice fine day with excellent sea conditions. Nine boats and 21 anglers took part.

As one skipper described it to me..."This is the best day of fishing with the best variety of fish I've ever seen on Kids Day."

And the results certainly back up that statement. Plenty of snapper were caught with the biggest of 12.04kg being landed by Tyla Hare.

Next in line was Kyle Manson 9.78kg, Bradley Hare 9.30kg and Beni Kalin 8.48kg. Not often you get a snapper over 9kg and don't win!!!!

Overall winner was Tyla Hare 16.12kg, followed by Kyle Manson 12.60kg, Bradley Hare 12.00kg, Beni Kalin 10.16kg, Mitchell Fleming 9.30kg, Jamie Goodin 8.68kg, Mechele Manson 7.60kg and Nathan Goodin 7.56kg. The Junior Commodore's Trophy for Best Junior Member went to Kyle Manson.

Prizegiving followed the successful event along with supper. Many thanks to Tom Goodin and Goodin Contracting for their generous sponsorship of the day.

## AGM

The Cape Egmont Boat Club AGM is coming up on Sunday, 15 July. Please diarise this date. The club is always looking for new committee members so anyone who is interested in helping out should attend the meeting.

Well, that's it for this month... catch you on the bottom,

*Squidly Diddly*

**Kids in Boats winner Tyla Hare with a 16.12kg snapper.**



**John Blundell with his record breaking kingfish.**



**And a 19kg whopper for Kane Barret.**





# Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade

The recent severe weather events resulted in the Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade experiencing one of its busiest days for quite some time.

The strong winds and resulting damage had the brigade responding to 15 callouts within a 12-hour period.

The callouts ranged from trees blown over and blocking roads or endangering property, to roofs and roofing iron lifting.

The recent gift from the Okato Lions Club to the brigade of a cordless impact drill set, proved its value on the day. It was used on a number of occasions to make secure and safe property that had suffered the effects of the strong winds.

Once again the Okato Brigade would like to thank the Okato Lions Club for the donation of this vital piece of equipment.

It is events such as these that highlight how vulnerable the power supply can be to our community (and others). In order to strengthen the resilience of our station so we can continue to help our community during events such as those we recently experienced, we are about to embark on a fundraising drive to purchase a standby generator for the station.

We envisage that the fire station would be set up as a temporary welfare centre to help support those who have been severely affected by any natural disasters, as well as to support other welfare organisations working to get the community back on its feet. Powercorp have already come on board by agreeing to carry out the required alterations to the station to facilitate the station running of a generator, free of charge. This work is currently underway.

The cost of this generator is expected to be around \$10,000.

# Okato Playcentre

This term our focus is on the health and safety of our children and surroundings. We will practise road, car park, footpath and bike safety by role-playing with a 'make believe' road and cones. Weather permitting, we'll have a bike ride and picnic on the New Plymouth Walkway to try it all out. It appears we have a few budding master chefs at Playcentre now who love to get in the kitchen and help prepare morning tea, so it's an opportunity to teach the children safe kitchen practices. If you would like to join in with the activities, or just come to see what other awesome things we do, please come along to Playcentre on either Tuesday or Thursday 9.30am till 12.30pm. It would be great to see you there.

As mentioned in the last TOM, our centre is about to have a much welcomed makeover. Although our centre has served its purpose well for over 40 years, with recent events such as the Christchurch earthquakes, and with our first priority of child safety, our centre is in much need of an upgrade to meet new and more stringent regulations. The centre will remain on the current site. The main areas to be upgraded are the kitchen and bathroom facilities. Additional alterations include the redesign of the roof and entrance to the building. It's all very exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time but we are looking forward to the project.

As part of the rebuild, we need to come up with a portion of the funds. So with our quick-thinking minds we have come up with the idea to host a Cryptic Dinner Dance for the community on Saturday, 23 June. The best way to



Elena Barron busy painting.

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### Are You A Female Farmer? Do You Get Stressed At By Your Partner? Juggling Work With Home Life?

If you answered yes to the above then I need you!!

I am looking at putting together a Women's Farmer's Discussion Group (A B\*\*ch session if you wish), for us females out there who are working the farm as well as the home!! Need to let it all out? Then fear not!! As you are not the only one out there. Let's get together once a month and let loose ladies!! NO MEN!!

I can see the men now, if they are like my partner . . . they will be rolling their eyes. If you are interested in meeting women just like yourselves then fly me an email -

[ashtonjordan06@gmail.com](mailto:ashtonjordan06@gmail.com)

or text 027 2607118 - leave name and contact number.





The boys enjoying the warm autumn days.

describe the night is lots of unknown fun!!! Our team of wonderful cooks will be preparing a mouthwatering three-course meal, but it's up to you what you eat and the order you eat it in! On arrival you will be given a menu in cryptic verse. What you eat depends on what you think!! It's a great way to have a night out with your staff or maybe a way to get the people in your street or the local farmers together. A cash bar will also be available. All this is happening for a cost of \$25 on Saturday, 23 June 2012 at the Hempton Hall, Okato. Doors open at 6pm and the meal will begin at 7.30pm. To purchase tickets, or if you have any other enquiries please contact myself, Rebecca Ripia, on 06-752 4501 or email [okatoplaycentre@gmail.com](mailto:okatoplaycentre@gmail.com). So let's get together and help support our children with a safer, more functional Playcentre building for a further 40 years.

*Rebecca Ripia*

## CTS Trail Ride

Coastal Taranaki School (CTS) held a trail ride on Sunday, 15 April on Dover Road, Okato for children 12 years and under. The conditions for riding proved to be favourable with a sunny day experienced by all.

The trail ride was held on the property of Julie and Daryl Neilson as a camp fundraiser for the Year 5-6 class at CTS. Fifty-three children entered into the day, with supervision and assistance from adults. "There was fantastic support from the parents," says Julie.

The day went really well with only one casualty, a broken leg, but lots of happy kids!!



# CTS Community Library - Okato

Everyone is welcome to use the library and our services.

## HOURS

Monday–Thursday 8.30am–4.30pm

Friday 8.30am–3.00pm

## COMPUTERS

We have four new Mac computers available for the community to use.

Need to check emails, print something (airline tickets, passport applications), access Internet banking, check TradeMe, make a CV? We can help, come and visit the library.

It is free to use the computers. Best time to visit is after 3.10pm when students have gone home, but any time is fine.

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We are not a branch library of Puke Ariki, you cannot use your New Plymouth Library card here and books borrowed from New Plymouth and Oakura Libraries need to be returned there.



One of the fabulous new Mac computers available for public use.



The CTS Quiz Team: from left, Mentor: Delwyn Pierce, Samantha Ure (Yr 11), Jared Wooldridge (Yr 13), Ella Beaumont (Yr 11), Jaydene Transom (Yr 12) and Sydney Corry (Yr 9).



# Secondary School Literary Quiz

On Monday, May 7 the Coastal Taranaki School (CTS) Library Quiz team struck out for Hawera to compete in the Secondary School Literary Quiz, and what a productive day it was!! There were 14 teams of five students from around Taranaki. The quiz was based on the 10 finalist books from the NZ Post Book Awards. The awards promote New Zealand authors. Students had to read five young adult fiction and five non-fiction books. The CTS team proudly made the finals. This is the first time CTS has ever made the final stage. They got placed 4th with Spotswood College winning on the day. The quiz team consisted of Jared Wooldridge, Jaydene Transom, Ella Beaumont, Samantha Ure and Sydney Corry. Delwyn Pierce expertly mentored the team.

On the day another prize was awarded and one CTS student was the lucky recipient. Samantha Ure's name was picked from a teapot and she excitedly became the winner of a dream trip for any avid reader. She won a trip for two to Wellington to present the Children's Choice Award at the NZ Post Book Awards ceremony. These awards are for New Zealand authors.



**Samantha Ure, the lucky recipient of an all expenses paid trip to Wellington.**

The prize package included flights, taxis, accommodation at The Duxton, gala dinner and the awards ceremony. Samantha says she had a great time and got to meet the authors, publishers, etc. She had to wear her school uniform to make the presentation. The Children's Choice Award is voted by the school students of New Zealand.

As the prize was for two, Sam kindly decided to take CTS Librarian, Delwyn Pearce, with her.

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## OKATO CLUBS & GROUPS

### Care and Craft

Get together Thursday fortnight at St Luke's lounge.  
10.30am - 2.30pm. Contact Thea Fisher 752 4290.

### Coastal Garden Circle

Meet every third Monday of the month. Contact Rae Hooker  
752 4086.

### GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura  
Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term,  
4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on  
06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

### Highway 45 Craft

Meet weekly on Monday mornings 10am - 12noon at  
members' houses. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

### Historical Society

Meets quarterly in the Community Trust Hall. Contact Iris  
Putt 752 4182.

### JKA Karate, Okato

Monday and Wednesday 6pm - 7.30pm in Coastal Taranaki  
School Gymnasium. Contact Nicci 752 4529 or 027 259  
6223.

### Kaitake Community Board

Teresa Goodin (027) 454 3585 or teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

### New Zeal Church

Service 10.30am, Sundays at St Luke's Hall. Contact Angela  
and Kevin McFetridge 752 4993.

### Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards. President  
Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509,  
Contact women's section Lauren Bright ph 752 4874.

### Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

Meet bi-monthly, first Wednesday of the month in St Luke's  
lounge, 1pm. Lorraine Whittle 752 4359. Harvey 752 4568.

### Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm.

### Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

### Okato Squash Club

Thursday, 7 June 2012, 1pm start - Squash and darts to be  
played. No experience needed, bring a friend. Non-farmers  
most welcome. Spot prizes up for grabs. To enter: put your  
name down at the club or contact Matt 027 406 5000 or  
Cheryl 06 752 4097.

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm. Everyone welcome.  
Phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

### Playcentre

Main Road, Okato (over the Stony Bridge). Tuesday and  
Thursday, 9.30 - 12.30pm. Contact Rachel 752 4463.

### Playgroup

St Lukes Hall, Main Road, Okato. Wednesday morning  
10am-12 noon. Contact Danelle 752 4916 or Angie 752  
4445.

### Plunket

Meetings held every second Thursday of the month.  
Jaclyn 752 4872.

### Pony Club

Contact Michelle Beekman on 7527056.

### Probuss

Meet every third Friday at the Oakura Golf Club. Contact  
Margaret Hodges 752 1371.

### St Patrick's Church, Okato

Saturday evening mass 7pm.  
Inquiries to Steak Goodin 752 8160 or Nora Fox 752 4062.

### St Paul's Church

10am services. Congregate first and third Sunday of the  
month. Contact Jan Putt 752 4188.

### St Peter's Guild

Meet 4th Friday of each month. Angela Montgomery 752  
7738.

### Tennis Club

Contact Noeline van der Poel 06-752 8200 or Raewyn Lawn  
752 4466.

OKATO

# Business Directory



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Thursday 9.30am - 7.00pm  
Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 4.00pm

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### Tumahu Golf Club

Roly Harvey 752 4314. Sunday: Mens golf day, Tuesday: womens  
golf day. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month: mixed golf.

### Tumahu Rural Women

Meet every second Wednesday of the month, 1pm at alternate  
members' houses. Contact Joyce Downes 753 4122.

### Warea Tennis Club

Contact Jan Brophy 06 763 8666.

**Please contact Milly 752 4425 for any additional listings or amendments.**