

# TOM *okato*

MAY 2011

## Marlin magic

*Novice marlin fisherman, Corbin Mills proudly shows off this enormous marlin which he caught on light tackle off the coast of New Plymouth.*

**story on page 2**

# editorial



Well, autumn is here. It is a great time of the year to enjoy cooler mornings and evenings, but some fantastic clear autumnal days. Milly's kids were even brave enough to embrace the cold waters of the Stony when out on a beach walk the other day! Kids just don't feel the cold like we do. Milly has experienced some outstanding sunrises on her way to work. Taking in the panorama near Okurukuru, with its brilliant backdrop of a red and orange sky, the macrocarpas and undulating hills - what a great way to start the day.

Meanwhile, Kerry has just returned from a three day tramp near Mangaweka in Rangitikei. It was the last scheduled trip before winter and she was reminded just how prepared you have to be. Walking in wind and sleet on exposed ridges high above the beautiful Kawhatau Valley, two of her companions, whose warm and weatherproof clothing wasn't up to scratch, became hypothermic. They made it home safely, but spent the next couple of hours clutching two hot water bottles each in their attempts to regain body heat, then slept for the rest of the afternoon. Driving home through the Taranaki countryside a couple of days later, Kerry looked up at Mount Taranaki looming large under steely, rolling clouds, and was reminded how beautiful and also how brutal that mountain can be. Walkers and climbers, skiers and snowboarders, be careful out there!

Have a great month.

*Milly and Kerry*

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# TOM

OKATO

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

## cover story Marlin magic

Sunday 13 March, Taranaki Anniversary weekend will always be a day remembered for one young person, my nephew, Corbin Mills of Warea.

With a number of marlin caught recently in northern Taranaki waters, the chance to hook up one of these fantastic fish was looking promising.

So, with sea conditions perfect and time fast running out due to cooler waters not far off invading, a crew of four consisting of Peter Mills, Corbin Mills, Emmett Fleming and Wayne Fleming headed off from New Plymouth port in the 6m Gaffa with good intentions to catch a 'fish of a lifetime'. As they departed, Corbin's younger brother Troy yelled, "Marlin for dinner tonight?!"

After several hours of trawling and no strikes, the crew decided they would soon knock off and have a go at bottom fishing (had to have something to show for their efforts). Novice marlin fisherman, Corbin, still had his snapper rod out with a tuna lure hoping to sneak in a hook up prior to changing the fishing gear.

Five minutes into Corbin's turn on the rods, the reel in the rocket launcher started screaming. With Wayne driving, Pete and Emmett cleared the gear and Corbin put on the gimbal belt. With adrenalin pumping and the excitement at full throttle, Corbin played the striped marlin for two hours. The marlin put on a good display — tail walking at times — and the last hour of the fight remained fairly close to the boat, approximately 30–50m away. Due to the light tackle (15kg line) it took longer for Corbin to play the fish without breaking the line, which is no mean feat for a young guy with no previous experience in marlin fishing. After much skilful manoeuvring of the boat and Corbin's efforts, the fish was up to the boat and hauled in accompanied by much handshaking, whooping and grinning.

Text messages were sent to family and friends and everyone was waiting at the port to greet the fishermen and view Corbin's well-earned and spectacular catch.

The New Plymouth Boat Club weighed in the wonderful-looking striped marlin at 114kg. Unfortunately, the crew were not registered in the fishing competition running at the time, which would have meant the possibility of Corbin winning a prize with the light tackle used to retrieve the fish. Still, this did not detract from the buzz in catching a renowned fighting fish.

There were photos taken to capture the moment and Corbin says he is very keen to experience game fishing again next year. Many of us were very lucky to sample the delicious delicacy of smoked marlin, which was beautifully prepared by a coastal local.

Congratulations, Corbin. Here's hoping next summer's fishing is equally exciting.

*By Milly Carr*

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## CHEWING THE FAT WITH TERESA:

# Thinking of future generations

It was great to see a good turnout at the Anzac service in Okato. Thank you to everyone involved in what was a very moving service. May we honour the courage and sacrifices of all those who have served, are presently serving or will serve our country in the future. Anzac Day is one day every year our community is guaranteed to fill our splendid Hempton Hall.

On March 28 the Kaitake Community Board (KCB) met in Okato for the first time since the elections in October last year. It was great to see over a dozen Okato residents attend this meeting. As well as the five elected KCB members, we were fortunate to have Mayor Harry Duynhoven, Cr John McLeod and Cr Shaun Biesiek in attendance. I am pleased that the KCB has agreed to meet more often in Okato to ensure that locals are given the opportunity to observe the process by which decisions are made that affect our community. It is also a great way to increase usage of the Hempton Hall.

Two deputations were given during the public forum at the beginning of the meeting. The first deputation was given by Emily Bailey and Urs Signer from Climate Justice Taranaki, who expressed concerns regarding the massive expansion of intensive oil and gas drilling in Taranaki and potential hazards. Urs and Emily sought to have Taranaki declared a fossil fuel transition zone, and for regulations concerning the petroleum industry to be reviewed. The second deputation was given by Rusty Kane who sought the support of the KCB for his upcoming submission to the Taranaki Regional Council in relation to nitrate and phosphate leaching. Rusty sought the voluntary imposition of a buffer zone, free from use of chemical fertilisers, adjacent to riparian plantings on watercourses.

I appreciate that both deputations shed light on highly contentious issues. The petrochemical industry and dairy farming are major contributors to our economy, however both industries have the potential to impact the environment in ways that may severely limit the choices of future generations. Many of the costs of modern industry in general are hidden, and it may take decades for the true costs and effects of activities such as intensive fossil fuel extraction and phosphate use to be realised. Clean water is something we value and take for granted in Taranaki, but if we do not exercise good environmental stewardship today, this may be something that our children do not have access to tomorrow.

Fossil fuels and industrial chemicals have enabled humanity over the last century to make huge advances in all areas of civilization. However, we are now starting to see the true cost of our technological advances in the health of the planet, its ecosystems and all beings that live on it.

Understandably there is a lot of fear around the future, and the changes that need to occur for us to make a transition from what has become a highly industrialised economy to a clean and sustainable economy. This is not just a coastal issue or a Taranaki issue, it is a global issue. Together we can and we will find the solutions. The first step is a belief in a brighter, more sustainable future. For the benefit of future generations it would be wise to start addressing these issues sooner rather than later.

Another issue that was raised at the meeting is the fluoridation of the district's water supplies. The Council

has resolved that this matter be consulted upon between August and October 2011 using the tribunal decision-making process. Currently water supplies in Inglewood, Oakura and Okato are fluoride free, but that could change as a result of the tribunal. On 12 April I attended a presentation in New Plymouth by Dr Paul Connett, who shared a wealth of information with over 80 members of the public, bringing new research to light, including links between fluoride and harm to the brain, bones, and endocrine system. I am concerned about fluoridation and keen to see our community investigate this issue further and engage in the upcoming consultation.

After talking with some of the residents who attended the KCB meeting in March I am keen to organise regular community forums in Okato. Obviously these would not be under the umbrella of the KCB or Council but just an opportunity for Okato residents to meet regularly to discuss issues that affect our community. From time to time the forum may host speakers and show relevant presentations. The Okato Community Forum will be held on the third Wednesday of the month and the first will be on 18 May at 7pm in the Hempton Hall. I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you and your whanau keep warm and safe as the winter weather approaches.

Hei konā mai (Goodbye for now)

*Teresa Goodin (06-752 8186)*

*Kaitake Community Board Member*

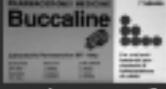
The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Kaitake Community Board.

Hello to everyone in Oakura/Omata and Okato. I am the new pharmacist at Oakura Pharmacy and my name is Jin Kim. You will see me everyday in the pharmacy because I am here to help out Phillip and manage Oakura Pharmacy. If you have any problems or queries with your medication come and ask see me. I have a keen interest in making sure everyone is taking the right medication and has a good understanding of their prescriptions.



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## Our Italian Adventure:

Anne Donald reports

The weekend we flew to Italy was one of firsts... Mo organised the whole thing — flights, accommodation and car hire — online, had to drive on the wrong side of the road and sit in the passenger's seat to drive. In addition, we were unable to understand or be understood by the locals, so had to follow the satellite navigator (sat nav) with its six-word names for streets, and find places that it would not acknowledge because we had been given the shortened version! Fun and games, with me sitting in our Fiat Bambina (a fantastic little car) going, "Right, right, right!" as we went around roundabouts and, "Curb, curb, curb!" as we went around corners!!! We got there and back safe and sound, so all good.

On the Friday night we ventured into the Medina, a walled town in Lucca, near Pisa. Fifteenth century and not a lot has changed. Narrow streets suited to one vehicle only, no trees, no grass and all houses adjoining each other. It was hard to distinguish between houses, shops and offices, especially with roller doors coming down in the evenings for security. Second-storey homes had pulley clotheslines or lines out of the window, and some places still had filigree ironwork above their doors, which in New Zealand is now sold as doormats! No matter what they sold, the little shops were full of colour, unlike their exteriors, which were all the same colour of stone.



Mo with Simon Pavey.

On Saturday we drove out to a world-class motorbike enduro-riding event: the Hells Gate Extreme Enduro Event. Why else would we be in Italy?!!! We stopped at a few bars to get breakfast but found they all sold bread rolls filled with slices of ham and salami and we wanted something more substantial, so we moved along. We noticed that the locals were coming into the bars for espresso coffee shots and leaving soon afterwards. One gulp and gone! Still no breakfast, so we bought the crusty bread and ham and a coffee, got the shuttle, and with very little information or English understood, proceeded up to the event.

The morning was a bit ho-hum, even for Mo. BUT THEN THINGS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER!!! Quite by chance,

we met Simon Pavey. "Who is Simon Pavey?" some of you will be thinking... Well, Mo had just finished reading *Race to Dakar* by Charlie Boorman (half of The Long Way Round team) and Simon featured in it. He has completed the Paris to Dakar race six times... Yes, completed it... no easy feat!!! We were chatting to him, because 1. He could speak English, 2. He was an Aussie, and 3. He was a motorbike fan and rode adventure bikes. We asked him for his business card and ping, the penny dropped! So more conversation followed, the photo was taken, and from then on we kept bumping into him — everywhere. It must have seemed like we were stalking him, right up to the flight home when by coincidence, Mo and Simon were seated together and talked 'bike talk' the whole flight home!!!

As for the racing, after the qualifying races in the morning, the best lined up at 3.30pm for the main event. Only two contenders, both Englishmen, completed the course. The other 28 fell so far behind the leader that they were not allowed to finish. The winner, Graham Jarvis, crossed the finish line at close to 7.20pm, in 3 hours, 50 minutes. Second placegetter, Dougie Lampkin, came in 25 minutes later. As we headed out through the pits, Mo was able to shake Graham's hand, chat, and have a photo taken with the very tired but gracious winner. He, too, appreciated being able to speak English!!!

The next day we headed into Pisa, pronounced Piss-a by our sat nav!! Yes, we couldn't resist going back to The Leaning Tower and experiencing it all over again. In contrast to the late '80s, the marble had been cleaned, almost all of the scaffolding was off and it looked beautiful. The lean had been corrected by 460mm too, but who could tell with such a lean on still!!!

After a good weekend and a couple of very big highs, we flew back into Gatwick and headed for home.

Anne props up The Leaning Tower.



# Okato Catholic Church

I can't help but notice the impressive work that has taken place at St Patricks Catholic Church on Cumming Street, Okato. The church has received a new paint job, some minor building restoration, and an original window has been restored and installed.

The Parish Council actioned this initiative, acknowledging the need to maintain this building as it is not only a wonderful asset to our community, it serves many others for weddings, funerals and other congregations. Non-parishioners and others with no affiliations to the church utilise the building, including some from outside of Taranaki. The church has been part of the community for over 100 years, being built in 1898.

The restorative work was subsidised, as the Parish Council was successful in gaining a TSB Community Grant. The paintwork was completed by Derrick Brown from New Plymouth and our local building company, Brian Hill Builders, completed the restorations.

by Milly Carr



St Patrick's - looking extremely good after a new make over.



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## Okato Tennis Club

Okato Tennis Club was delighted with their quiz night held at the end of March, which raised over \$1500 towards building a rebounding wall at the club. As well as the usual curly questions searching for a quiz winner, the Tennis Club was able to auction goods donated by local businesses and families including a load of firewood, two nights at a holiday home and some much sought-after portions of locally grown pork. Thanks to all who donated their time and goods for the night.

The Midweek Ladies tennis teams all finished their season very well with Okato 1 placing third in Section 2, Okato 2 placing third in Section 4 and Okato 3 WINNING Section 6! Well done, everyone.

Juniors enjoyed their coaching sessions after school on Fridays. The club is proposing to develop the juniors by applying for some funding to support coaching for three age groups in Term 4 this year.

Remember that the courts are open for all the community to use in fine weather over winter (there's an honesty box on the side of the clubhouse).

*Susan Henderson*



*Members of Section 6 Interclub Team:*

*Above: Noeline Vander Poel, Leonie Honeyfield, Delwyn Mills and Milly Carr.*

*Below: Kerry Lilley, Kay Crow, Debbie Aylward and Joy Burmeister.*



## Warea Tennis Club

Warea Tennis Club has once again fielded teams in Midweek Ladies Sections 2, 3 and 6. Next season we will have two teams in Section 2 and one in Section 6.

It has been a busy season. Our new courts were groomed over the winter, and continue to be enjoyed and used by our Midweek Ladies teams and local community members. The courts are very popular with visitors to the area, in particular families. They are well used and enjoyed.

*Jan Brophy*

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## Darren Watson: Yoga teacher and Ayurvedic therapist

Darren was born in Napier in 1966 but most of his growing up years were spent in Auckland with his mum and dad and younger sister, Justine. He left school at 18 and worked a couple of jobs before spending six years in the air force, at first at Wigram and then at Whenuapai, as a crash fireman, attending incidents such as brake fires, house fires and accidents.

Darren credits the controlled environment of the air force with helping him develop self-discipline and a strong work ethic. But living just 15 minutes or so from the rugged west coast, he had fallen in love with surfing and the air force was at odds with this and his other lifestyle aspirations. So in 1990, at 24 years of age, he left the military and Whenuapai to start afresh. Moving to Oakura, he worked as a barman at The Mill bar and nightclub, and then as an odd jobber at the port. And for the next five years, he surfed.

In 1995, he won a 12-month contract cruising the South Pacific as a deckhand on the recently restored, all-oak square rigger sailing ship and star of The Onedin Line, the Soren Larsen. Darren speaks of the experience with relish.

"I met cool people among the 12 crew and 22 voyage crew on each trip, and learned to sail the traditional way," he says. He also got to visit remote islands and explore places where not many people had been before, discovered an amazing diversity of marine scenery, and snorkelled amongst pristine coral and multitudes of fish. The most special place of all, he says, was the Coral Sea between the Whitsundays and New Caledonia where, "Five days from anywhere, nature was untouched." One of many highlights was encountering an 8ft shark which, in 3-4ft of water, rolled lazily onto its back and scratched itself along the sandy seabed. Another was discovering the tracks of turtles that had made the dangerous trip up the beach to lay their eggs and bury them beneath mounds of sand.

In 1999, aged 32, Darren became conscious that he lacked formal qualifications as the means to establish himself. But he had his fire fighting experience and, as the means to an end, he decided to return to the air force. He stayed there for a further eight years, again running his shift. On his days off, he began going to Iyengar yoga classes with Marice.

All types of yoga involve the performance of asanas, or postures, to develop strength, mobility and balance, but Iyengar yoga uses props such as belts, blocks and blankets



*Darren checks Vicki's preparation for a warrior pose while Sheralee and Pete concentrate on theirs.*

to minimise the risk of injury and assist students of all ages to correctly perform the postures. Standing poses are emphasised to build strong legs, increase general vitality and improve circulation, co-ordination and balance; there is a strong focus on correct body alignment and great attention is paid to detail. Along

with these aspects, Darren appreciated the safety of the supported yoga approach and enjoyed the highly verbal teaching style. He also enjoyed the flexibility and strength that he developed without pushing weights, and how weekly classes relieved old sporting injuries. When he started going twice or even three times a week, he noticed further benefits for his sport, and that he was calmer, especially when dealing with frustrations at work. His conviction and enthusiasm was such that he spent the next five years in Auckland, learning from Marice how to teach Iyengar yoga. Marice also introduced Darren to Dr S. Ajit, an Ayurvedic doctor based in Auckland. A medicinal system developed in India, in the West Ayurveda usually complements rather than replaces conventional treatment regimens and relationships that exist between patients and their existing physicians. From Dr Ajit, Darren learned Ayurvedic body work, including massage, katibastis, shirodharas and panchakarmas. Massage using warmed oil helps flush out toxins and improve energy flow throughout the body; Katibastis involve the application of medicated herbal oil to treat back pain, stiffness and other back issues related to spinal disc problems; while shirodharas involve the pouring of warm oil over the forehead to treat a variety of medical conditions centred round the head, and for its relaxing properties. Darren has also been trained to assist with panchakarmas, which are full body cleansings using a range of Ayurvedic techniques, together with a natural diet.

Eventually, Darren became disillusioned with the air force as an organisation. He "got over the military" and, in 2007, he "got out." He had often thought of moving back to Taranaki, and this was his opportunity. His first choice, Oakura, had become trendy and too expensive for his means. Okato was his second choice. As it turns out, he's glad, because Okato still has the small, community feel that Oakura had in days gone by. He enjoys the people and the general vibe, and loves the lifestyle and the abundance of outdoor activities, especially surfing.

Darren works as a hammer hand for Daryl Common's Building 2-3 days a week and as an Ayurvedic practitioner by appointment. He continues to advance his yoga and teaching skills, travelling to Rotorua every few weeks for weekend workshops with his mentor, Paul Barton, and he teaches both day and night classes from his Okato studio.

Darren believes that yoga is a discipline for everyday life. "It's like giving your car an oil and lube," he says. "It helps keep your joints lubricated and your muscles working properly, so that you can carry on doing the things you enjoy."

For yoga class times and contact details, refer to Darren's advertisement elsewhere in TOM.

*Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley*



*Darren performs a half moon pose.*

## One Man's Treasure

While getting a warrant for my vehicle late last year at Kevin and Karen Smith's Okato Service Station, I spied an unusual classic vehicle that Kevin has been restoring. Catching up with Kevin and Karen has filled me in on what has transpired in getting this truly unique vehicle to an almost completed state.

The vehicle in question is a 1946 Standard 14 Drophead Convertible, the only one in New Zealand and one of five worldwide. It has an 1800cc side-valve engine with an aluminium head, an unusual feature for the period, and because the car was manufactured just after WW2 and metal was still in short supply, the framework is made of wood. The brakes are activated by cables (rather than hydraulics) and when pulling the handbrake on, all four wheels lock up.

Talking to Kevin reveals his passion for restoring classic vehicles, which is testified to with a stable full, including a 1962 Morris 1000, a 1946 Morris Series E, and a 1973 Triumph Spitfire. The story of Kevin's journey in coming across the Standard 14 makes for fascinating reading. Kevin had seen the vehicle advertised on the Internet — it was for sale in Cambridge back in 2007. Looking at the photos that Kevin took of the wreck, you can hardly tell it is even a vehicle! Kevin and Karen travelled up to Cambridge to take a look. Apparently the elderly owner had died and had left the wreck to his mates, who decided to sell it. The vehicle was interned in an old cowshed and was in bad shape, with major rust in panels and most other parts worse for wear.

Kevin made an offer, which was duly accepted (I won't tell you what Karen voiced to Kevin at this point. Needless to say she was not enamoured with what she had seen!). It was duly picked up and delivered to the garage where Kevin commenced the huge task of restoration.

As part of finding out the history of the vehicle, Kevin got in touch with the Standard Car Club in England, where he was told that no Standard 14's existed in New Zealand. To confirm that, yes indeed, he did have what he thought was a Standard 14, he photographed the chassis identification number and sent it through to the club. The response confirmed that he was right and went something along the lines of "Do you realise that you have a very valuable car?" This was backed up by news that a Standard 14 found under bushes in Devon (incidentally in such poor shape that experts had to identify it) and another, in Paris, which is only half way through restoration, sold for tidy sums. Karen is now tending to agree that the initial investment and effort in restoration is not so bad.

The care and dedication that Kevin has lavished on the restoration is reflected in what is now nearly the finished product, which has taken three years to complete (just lacking the canopy cover and a few bits and pieces). He says it was like putting a gigantic jigsaw puzzle together, with a couple of headaches thrown in for good measure. Kevin has rebuilt the body, in many cases from scratch, as no spare parts are available and he has had to make specialised machines to manufacture panels and sections. The cost to get these done at specialised engineering facilities was prohibitive to say the least, so Kevin's 'can do' attitude was employed. With its large chrome grill and headlights, shiny red body and sweeping classical lines, this vehicle stands out as something special and is a testament to Kevin's expertise and persistence in getting it to this stage.

To really reinforce just how great this car is, Kevin entrusted me to have a drive. As my first drive in a convertible, the thrill of racing along in the bright sunlight, wind streaming through my hair (what's left of it), and the sound of the engine all combined to make this a brilliant experience. All that was needed was a tweed jacket and a thermos in the back to take one back to days past.

As to whether Kevin will continue to fulfil his passion in restoring classic vehicles, Karen has something to say about that. Still, if that particularly special car sitting in an old haybarn comes up for sale, I can't see Kevin passing up the opportunity to indulge his passion.

*by Richard Carr*





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## On the Catwalk

Students begin school life at Coastal Taranaki School assigned to a 'Whanau group', allowing them to work in family-based groups with students from years 0 to 13. Teacher Ruth O'Connor has been running our Whanau programme for the last two years. Groups have been working towards a common goal with a different focus each term. This has led to much higher participation in our Whanau activities and has ignited the competitive spirit in students and staff!

In Term 1 all groups worked together to create Wearable Arts costumes made from recycled materials, using a variety of themes as inspiration. Because every budding designer needs an exhibition, the term ended with a spectacular fashion show bringing our students into the limelight, and their families into the audience. A large number of parents and grandparents enjoyed the chance to see the results of creativity, problem solving and cooperation. The show included models of all ages and some fabulous works of wearable arts. Students' images were projected onto the wall, music was provided by our arts captains. Parents and staff were guest judges. Creative lighting and set design provided extra magic to the day.

Sharleen Valentine



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# playcentre

## Okato Playcentre

*Everything you needed to know and were too scared to ask . . .*

### Who runs Okato Playcentre?

Playcentres are unique in that they are cooperatively managed and supervised by the parents/caregivers of the attending children. Upon joining Playcentre parents can opt to become members of this cooperative, or simply opt to be casual members attending the play sessions only. All parents help supervise play sessions. The cooperative group has monthly meetings for programme planning and running the business/financial side of the centre. Office holders are elected annually at the AGM. Okato Playcentre is supported by personnel from the Taranaki Playcentre Association and the Playcentre Federation.

### What is the learning programme?

As with all Early Childhood Education providers, we follow the Ministry of Education's Te Whaariki curriculum, which provides the framework for our children's early learning and development. As Playcentre families, we have the awesome opportunity to collectively shape our children's learning programmes to suit our own children. Prior to each new term, our Playcentre parents meet for a Planning & Evaluation Meeting. First we reflect on the term's activities and evaluate our children's developments, then we discuss our children's current needs and interests to select fitting goals for the following term. Finally, we have great fun brainstorming a range of activities to suit the goals.

### What's on this term?

This term we have chosen a goal from the 'Belonging — Mana Whenua' strand of Te Whaariki. This goal focuses on affirming and extending links with family and the wider world, promoting a sense of belonging for children and their families. Here is a taste of some of the activities we have lined up: visits to the Coastal Taranaki School new

entrants' class and library, a visit to the Okato Fire Station, co-hosting a hui at the Oakura Marae, a Dads/Lads & Kids evening session at Playcentre, a Grandparents' Day, a bus trip to Pukekura Park, and a ride on the Lions' train. We will also encourage families to bring and show favourite things like toys, music, cultural items and food so children can take pleasure in discovering an unfamiliar wider world where the objects, sounds and tastes are different from those at home.

### Why is Playcentre a great Early Childhood choice for the kids?

The emphasis is always on learning through play (fun, fun, fun!). Playcentre is well resourced and has quality equipment. There are always 16 areas of play available at each session. There are lots of adults to guide and assist. All children, from baby to 6 years, attend together at the same session, so there are children of mixed ages to play with, learn from and care for. Messy play is encouraged — no Pumpkin Patch outfits here!



*Ella and Tula cool off at the pools.*

### Why is Playcentre a great choice for the parents?

A strong point of Playcentre is that it acknowledges and supports parents as the first and most important educators of their children. Parent Education courses are available so parents can gain parenting skills and skills for running Playcentre sessions. Playcentre provides a huge social network for parents, which is especially helpful for newcomers to the area, or new parents.

**Please feel welcome to call in** — we are just over the Stony River Bridge. Fees are minimal and the first three visits are free. Playcentre sessions run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am–12.30pm. Call Kerry for more information on 06-752 8095.



*Mums and kids do a bush walk to Okato Pools.*

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Buying from bulk bins and fill your own is an excellent economical way to spend less and cut down on waste in our environment.

Look forward to seeing you in store,

*Jacqui*

## Complementary Therapies for Kids

Natural Therapy Community Clinic Taranaki (NTCCT) has been developed to provide access to complementary healthcare for all children in the region. The clinic is specifically for babies, children and teenagers up to 18 years of age.

The philosophy behind the Clinic is to offer support to the whole child, which in turn supports the whole family and the wider community. It is a resource to explore for parents/children who are unfamiliar with, and curious about, what complementary therapies are. It is also for those who struggle financially but would like their children to have access to these forms of care.

Asthma, eczema, emotional concerns, digestion/nutrition concerns, sleep issues, fears/phobias, nightmares, anxiety, colds/flu, reflux, earache, bedwetting, insomnia, rashes, and back and neck problems are just a few of the health concerns that can be addressed.

The clinic has a well-rounded group of practitioners: Annalisa Johnson — Herbalist; Meegan Care — Counsellor; Kate Evans — Massage Therapist; Liz Jury — Naturopath. NTCCT's group of qualified professional therapists are folks in the community who volunteer their services for a donation clinic on the first Saturday morning of each month.



*Liz Jury, Annalisa Johnson, Meegan Care and Kate Evans.*

The clinic dates for the next few months are May 7, June 4 and July 2, from 10am–12noon at Village Health, 11 Old South Road, Okato. Bookings are essential and can be made by phone 06 752 4826 or email at [healthychildren@villagehealth.co.nz](mailto:healthychildren@villagehealth.co.nz).

The NTCCT is looking for other volunteer practitioners interested in joining the team; if you are interested please contact them at the contact details above.

## Arthouse Cinema

A lot of new things are happening at your favourite Arthouse Cinema in May!!! Of course, we're working as hard as ever to find you the best movies but we also want you to be involved in YOUR cinema. Highlights of the month are the new Movie You Make on Friday, 6 May (free entry) where Jason Stutter (director of *Predicament*) will show some of his short films and encourage local people to make their own movies. This night is sponsored by Make (<http://pigtitsandparsleysauce.co.nz/>) and will be a regular monthly event where local people are able to show their own productions on the big screen! Another regular night is the monthly Seasons/Cheapskates Extreme Sessions with surf, snowboard, ski, skateboard and windsurf movies for only \$5/ticket! Extreme Sessions opening night is Friday 27 May from 7.30pm.

Sarah's Key

Critically well-received French drama starring Kristen Scott Thomas as a present-day journalist investigating the story of a young Jewish girl who experiences the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup in Nazi-occupied France.

Babies

With wit, tenderness and a keen eye for the fledgling signs of intelligence and sociability, director Thomas Balmès documents the first year in the lives of four infants from different parts of the world.

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#### WANTED

OKATO Fire Brigade wants old cars for training purposes. Contact: Barry 027 295 7140, Bruce 027 444 8106, or Brian 027 444 2703.

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## okato clubs & groups

**Bellydance Group Okato** - St Lukes Church Hall, Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm. Contact Rosalina 06 759 1739.

#### 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.

#### 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, ph 7528186 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 Laureen 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. Contact Barry.

#### Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

#### Playcentre

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

#### Playgroup

St Luke's Hall, Main Road Okato. Wednesday morning, 10am - 12 noon. Contact Julie Moore 752 4277 or Danelle 752 4916.

#### Plunket

Meet bi-monthly at St Paul's Church Hall. Jaclyn 752 4872.

#### Pony Club

Contact Carey Brophy, 752 4458.

#### Probus

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

#### Squash Club

Monday evening club night. Contact Steve Kelly 027 2333 229.

#### St Patrick's Church, Okato

Daily mass 8.30am. 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 Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466.

#### 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.