

The new Back Baa Café at The Stony River Hotel

John and Sarah MacGregor have once again come up with another idea to contribute to the Okato community and have been busy getting the new Back Baa Café up and running.

With a lick of paint and a few new accessories, the existing back bar of the local has been transformed into a very bright and inviting environment for anyone wishing to stop in for a coffee and cake and relax in the child-friendly atmosphere.

Sarah and John wanted to offer a place where people could come to enjoy a coffee (or wine!) without having to worry about keeping their children entertained and out of trouble. Parent's can let their children loose in the Café's children's play area or outside in the garden.

The play area isn't the Back Baa's only attraction – they also have a lovely selection of cakes, muffins and scones along with black-board lunch specials and bar meals. In addition to great coffee, they have the bonus of being fully licensed.

The Back Baa held its official Open Day on 22 September. The Café was busy with a steady stream of people throughout the day. The highlight for many of the younger visitors was the "feeding of the lambs". Children were able to feed



Out the back at the Back Baa.

bottles of milk to the lambs, probably the first time some had experienced this.

For those who haven't yet visited the Back Baa, pop along. They're open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 3pm and they'd love to see you there!

By Milly Carr



Mia and Sasha McGregor riding high at the Back Baa.



a peek inside

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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

Welcome to the second edition of *TOM Okato*. Thank you to everyone who has contacted us with support. We need it – without the support of the community, *TOM Okato* just won't exist.

There are so many great people, places and stories in Okato so keep them coming. Don't be shy about contacting me with your ideas because that is how those wonderful stories get in the *TOM*.

This month we feature the unveiling of what's going on in the old dairy and what a treasure that business is going to be for everyone. Coastal School has been extremely busy with calf and lamb day, book fairs and the wearable art fashion show. Stony Hotel profiles its Back Baa Café and just in the nick of time with spring weather definitely in the air.

We apologise to local residents who did not get last month's *TOM*. We are trying to sort the problem of two rural delivery runs but somehow, some way, we will get through!

Kim



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TOM

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

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

Oil Spill on Coastal Beach

The Taranaki Regional Council has completed an initial beach clean-up after oil washed on to about 10 km of the coastline west and south of Okato.



TRC Investigating Officers Robin Hughes (left) and Glen Candy clean oil off the beach near the end of Komene Rd.

The oil was first reported on Tuesday evening, 23 October. It was first seen at the end of Komene Road following south-west weather conditions and an aircraft was then used to gauge the scope of the spill. The oil had the consistency of tar balls and was thinly spread over a stretch of the coastline from north of Kaihihi Road, near Okato, to Paora Road, near Puniho.

The cost of the clean-up is expected to total more than \$40,000.

The Council's Compliance Manager, Bruce Pope, says the Council is grateful to farmers in the area who assisted with the clean-up by lending machinery and allowing access over their land.

"Their co-operation, at a particularly busy time of the year for them, is appreciated," he says. "The Council's first priority in an incident like this is to take immediate action to minimise environmental damage.



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Okato Pool

The Okato Community Pool opened for the season on Labour weekend. This is almost 6 weeks earlier than normal. Despite the inclement weather, there have been quite a few children swimming as well as a committed group of lane swimmers in the mornings. The pool is also open for public swimming Mon-Fri from 12pm-1pm.

The pool temperature at the moment is around 26 degrees.

Aquarobics was held at the pool for the first time last season and was hugely popular, with Jenny Charteris and Carla Jones becoming trained instructors. This season Sherrie Dombroski will be joining Carla, and we welcome Sherrie to the team. The number of classes have increased from two a week last season to three per week this season – Monday and Thursday evenings plus Friday mornings. As an introductory offer you may bring a friend for free for the month of November.

The pool staff also offer **learn to swim classes** in blocks of 8 lessons. I always consider the children whose parents invest the time and money in teaching them to swim are very lucky. It is a skill they will have for the rest of their lives and may even save a life one day. There is a pre-Christmas course starting on Dec 3rd and a school holiday course starting on 21st January.

The pool has plenty of large boards and also a **large inflatable toy** to keep the children entertained. The large inflatable is usually operating on weekends and daily in the school holidays from 2.30pm-4pm, depending on the weather.

The pool and surrounds are a great place to bring the family for a picnic, so if you have never been to the Okato Pool why not come along and check it out.

Please remember that all children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16. The Okato Pool is a Poolsafe facility and a lifeguard is on duty at all times.

Caroline Charteris, Pool Staff

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Ziji – Beautiful minds and beautiful bodies

Ziji is the newest addition to downtown Oakura and it is a very welcome one. Ziji is a Day Spa for wellness and beauty opened recently by Forest Hepi-Te Huia in the old Snickerdoodles premises.

Ziji is a Tibetan word meaning inner radiance, confidence and dignity, and this Ziji 'force' is what makes the Day Spa so special. The emphasis is on rejuvenating from the inside out and enabling the body and mind to assist in making the outside more beautiful. How does Forest do this? She revealed her secrets to me.

Forest has had 10 years experience in the beauty industry having co-managed Elysium, Centre City, for three years and prior to that working as a beauty therapist at the Spa de Seville on Auckland's Viaduct Basin. Owning her own Day Spa is the next step in Forest's personal journey and she is relishing the opportunity to give people the tools to help themselves have optimum health and beauty. And being able to do it in the village where she lives is the icing on the cake.

Forest has carefully selected the Janesce range of products for the Day Spa. Janesce is a whole philosophy – belief that you need to care for yourself and your skin inside and out. Janesce is an organically based range of products grown in the Adelaide Hills, Australia and is produced and packaged on-site. Every ingredient is listed on the packaging and each one is totally pure, containing no preservatives, emulsifiers, stabilisers, colouring agents, perfumes or animal ingredients. Forest tells me your skin absorbs about 10 kilograms of product over your lifetime and that is potentially 100% chemical, unless of course you use Janesce. The products are highly concentrated so you need only apply a very tiny amount. They feel gorgeous on your skin – not heavy, cloying or greasy, but refreshing and light. Working alongside a Janesce Naturopath, Forest will assess you and your skin's needs and recommend a specific course of action to take to bring out a more beautiful you.

Ziji offers facial treatments, body treatments, manicures, pedicures (called Footsies in the Grass – how cute!) waxing, eye treatments, makeup, tanning, spa experiences, male treatments, shiatsu and gongxi healing, and the very special Ziji Escapes.

Ring Forest at Ziji on 06 752 1374 to make a booking for a personal out-of-this-world experience.

By Kim Ferens

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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What's happening in the Old Dairy?

Some very energetic and community-minded women have come together to offer more to the people of Okato and will be opening their shops in the Old Dairy on 15 November. Sharing the site will be Seed Coastal Organics and Nana's Pantry . . .

Organics coming to the Coast

Here's yet another great reason for living on the coast... Opening in Okato on Thursday 15 November is SEED COASTAL ORGANICS.

The idea to open an organic outlet on the coast was born from three local mums, Lindsey, Mel and Jacqui, who were passionate about feeding their families spray-free, local and organic produce without having to go "out of the way" to get it. They are now committed to bringing you (wherever possible) locally grown produce from within Taranaki and New Zealand. They say, "Taranaki has heaps of organic growers and we wanted to make it easy for people to buy local while supporting spray-free growing, which helps to take care of the environment and keep pesticides out of your families' diets."

So watch out for the flyer in your letter box, take it in with you and make a purchase before 15 December and go in the draw to win a yummy organic hamper – just in time for Christmas.

And the final word from the girls themselves... "As Okato's newest business we will be supplying you with quality local, organic, spray-free produce and environmentally friendly products that are affordable and good for you and your family".

Nana's Pantry

Hayley Burwell is opening one side of the shop as "Nana's Pantry" where she'll be offering wholesome homemade food, including such old favourites as pies, cakes and sandwiches, but all with a twist of something new. Hayley will be sourcing her produce and meats locally – "keeping it local to support the locals". She'll also be using a lot of fair trade goods in her baking.

There will also be hot and cold drinks and rolled ice cream for sale, DVDs for rental and much more. This is just the beginning of what is to come.

Opening hours - Both shops will initially be open four days per week, Thursday to Sunday, although the times do differ slightly:

Seed Coastal Organics - Thursday and Friday, 12 noon to 6pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 4pm

Nana's Pantry - Thursday and Friday, 10am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 5pm

Opening hours are thoughtfully structured to cater for daytime, after work and weekend shopping. How good is that! The women want to provide a service for the community so these hours may change to suit demand. Keep your eye out for updates on their opening hours!

Good luck ladies and well done on keeping the old building utilised.

By Milly Carr and Bob Fleming

burning issues

Another month rolls on and that means the man with the big white beard will be visiting us soon!

Things at the station have been fairly quiet of late with only a few call outs in the month. It is always great to have our first response to medical calls Kevin (Scruff) Richardson handy. He is a great man to have around.

Hope all were conscious of themselves and their animals over Guy Fawkes and kept safe.

A gentle reminder to keep matches and lighters up high away from little peoples hands and do you have your own evacuation plan in place?

Until next time, be fire wise!

Milly Carr

Okato Care & Craft Group

We are a group of women who get together on alternate Thursdays at St Lukes Hall, Okato from 10.30am – 2.30pm to enjoy doing crafts or and to just get out of the house and have a chat.

Lunch is provided for a small donation of \$2.

Our next gathering is on 8 November. We welcome anyone who may be interested to come and join us – it would be nice to see some new faces.

Any enquiries to Lorraine Whittle on 742 4359.

Okato Lions

We meet at 6.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month for our "Tea Meeting". The first half hour is spent socialising with a drink or two, then tea is at 7pm followed by a little "house-keeping" business. (The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month to handle decisions and finance.)

At around 8pm we have a guest speaker. This month we have John Rae, who will be speaking on the Americana Festival, which the Okato Lions will be involved with in early 2008.

Several times during the year, the spouses of the members also join us for these "tea meetings" to share the evening with us.

If you would like to be involved as a Lion, please contact Bernard Gibson on 752 4308 or myself on 752 4086.

Lion Merv Hooker

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Ray Rook



Ray and Helen Rook.

Ray Rook has led a busy professional, community and personal life over the last eight decades, contributing to the Okato we know today.

Ray was born in New Plymouth in 1924, the second eldest of 12 children born to Bob and Myra Rook. The family lived in Mokau until Ray was four, when they moved to Waitara for a short time before settling in Okato.

Bob Rook was employed by Stan Johnson as a driver. The family lived in several properties around the village over the years. Initially they lived in a cottage opposite the Police Station (the cottage was later relocated to 26 Gossling Street) and then moved to a county house on Curtis Street. While Ray was still at primary school his parents purchased the first Anglican Vicarage for Okato at 100 Oxford Road and this became their family home.

Ray attended Okato Primary School and then New Plymouth Boys High School. As was common for the times, Ray left school in his mid-teens, when at 15 he took on an apprenticeship as a mechanic in Okato. On qualifying he was employed by Charlie Maxwell, working alongside 13 other mechanics. He worked double shifts, day and night – times were certainly different back then! The business became and still is Coastal Motors.

Ray also did a stint in the military, initially in the Air Force as a flight engineer. He was seconded to the Army for special duties for a time, before returning to the Air Force for sea rescue, based in Nelson.

By the time Ray purchased Coastal Motors in 1950 he was more than qualified for the motor trade industry, with a Motor Inc. mechanical engineers degree and various other certifications in the mechanical field. Ray eventually owned three garages in Okato, along with other domestic and commercial properties in Taranaki and as far a field as Auckland.

Even with four children – one daughter and three sons – and a business to run, Ray still found time for involvement in the voluntary sector. He's been president of the local branch of Rotary and the Okato Athletic Club, financial advisor for Plunket, executive for MTA, and long-standing member of many of these plus others. The time and dedication he put into these have resulted in many awards and medals. Decades in the local fire service, including 35 years as Chief of the brigade, earned him a Queen's Fire Service medal. With so many years of service behind him, he deserved to retire back in 1989!

Ray was also awarded a New Plymouth District Citizen's Award for distinguished services to the community. You deserve that Ray!

Despite such a busy life in and out of the garage, he still made time for rugby, playing for the Tukapa junior teams. He has also entered many car races and rallies and had fun racing his 2.5 Triumph and RX3 Mazda with John Wells a few years back now. He says, "He enjoys the motor racing from his armchair now".

The motor trade has seen many changes over Ray's life, from the hustle and bustle of a large workforce in his early working life, to only two staff during the war years. The balance of imports shifting from British and American vehicles to Japanese vehicles and then the deregulation of fuel within the industry has seen many smaller businesses downsize, close down or specialise. Coastal Motors is no exception – Ray and his partner Helen continue to own and run the garage, but with a focus on classic cars. At the lovely young age of 83, I don't think the word "retirement" features in Ray's vocabulary as he is still working at the Coastal Motors and enjoying the rebuilding of classic cars, of which he owns a few. You should check these out!

In their spare time (it's hard to believe he has any!) Ray and Helen enjoy their garden at home in Hickford Place, walking their little dog "Jack", attending Taranaki rugby games and anything to do with cars. They are always happy to have a chat. You really do have stamina, Ray!

By Milly Carr

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Okato Tennis Club

Our Court replacement project is progressing well. By the time you read this the old courts should have been removed. A BIG thank you to Blue and Trudy Adlam for their generous donation of time and machinery to complete this.

Are you interested in twilight tennis on a Wednesday or Thursday night? Come along to our open night on Thursday 15 November from 6pm onwards. We will put you into teams of 4-5 players or you can make up your own team. If you want more details, please phone Milly Carr on 752 4425 or Maree Moffitt on 752 8107.

Junior tennis is underway for both learners and the more capable players from 3.15pm to 4pm on Friday afternoons. Parent help is required. If you'd like further details, phone Angela Phillips on 752 4451.

Okato Swimming Club

The Okato Swimming club is celebrating the opening of the Okato Swimming Club for 2007/08 and the unveiling of the heat pump on Thursday the 22nd of November.

The evening will start at 6.30pm and all members, new members and past members of the club are warmly invited to attend this special evening.

A plaque will be presented to the Club from the TSB Community Trust, followed by a light supper and a swim for the children.

Tireless hours have been spent by John Pullar, Caroline Charteris and their committee to purchase a heat pump to provide a quality asset for the club and community.

The Okato Swimming Club offers learn to swim, training and race nights, something for everyone, we welcome all new families and will be taking registrations on the night.

Susan Crowley, ph: 06 763 8255

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Inline Hockey Nationals attract strong field from Okato



U12's Josh Gibson on left before the gold winning game

In the last week of September 56 teams from all over New Zealand converged on Mount Maunganui for the New Zealand National Inline Hockey Championships.

The ages ranged from under-10s up. Our community was extremely well represented, with eight players coming from the coastal region, all of whom did well in their divisions. Hayden Luckin and Rodney Cruden Powell brought home the gold medal in the Under-10s, Josh Gibson also won gold in the Under-12s and was coached by local farmer Alan Henderson. Kayden Gibson took fourth place in the Under-14s. Abby Bridgeman played for the senior women, who came home with the silver medal. Michael Bridgeman played for the senior men, coming in fourth, as did Nick Henderson's team in the Under-18s. Khord Kopu, who has moved further south and plays for the Rangers senior men, finished with a silver medal.

Over Labour Weekend we also had two players representing the Central Region in the Inter-Regional Championships held in Nelson. Kayden Gibson was goalie for the Under-14s and brought home a bronze medal and Abby Bridgeman played for the junior women, who were outstanding with no goals scored against them, gaining yet another gold medal.

Khord Kopu plays as a goalie for the Lower North region in the under-20s age group, who also won gold.

It was a fantastic effort by all our players and we will keep you updated with their progress. Here's hoping we see a few coastal names representing our country in the future.

By Amara Gibson



U10 gold winning team relaxing with their spoils after the game.

Tumahu Rural Women

Our annual meeting was held in July and the Tumahu Rural Women stole the show, dressed in furs, hats, gloves, arriving in a 1937 Ford model car. The meeting was the 70th birthday celebration for the Club held at Tumahu Hall where blackberry grows happily through the walls! The Golf Club ladies from down the road served a scrumptious meal to the approximately 70 ladies gathered. A celebration cake was cut by two foundation members – Joan Coxhead and Joyce Haylock.

Apart from annual meetings cum birthday celebrations the group continue to meet each month at various members homes. Over the year guest speakers have entertained everyone with their exploits. These have included Barbara Kuriger speaking about her overseas trip, a double amputee speaking on life with no legs, Barbara Williams speaking about her trip with Rotary to India.

Projects over the passed months have been the baking of home made biscuits for the older ladies; presenting 53 jerseys and hats, 48 pairs of gloves and 24 singlets all hand knitted for Band Aid, Khari Khola, Nepal; participating in International Day at Stratford where the country of study was Finland and winning entries in the competition included a Santa, baked muffins, Christmas card, and a third place for fair aisle knitting. These prizes entitled us to win the Bridgeman Challenge Trophy, Nth Taranaki WDFE.

Other highlights have been Heather Bollard and Lorraine Whittle attending the annual conference in Rotorua and both coming home richer for the experience. As a group we have supported Oxnam House and the Hospice and Raewyn Lusk attended on our behalf the garden planting at "The House for Karen" project. Life memberships were bestowed on Lorraine Whittle and Joyce Downes.

Bev Moffitt – Treasurer

Jan Vanner – Secretary

Joyce Downes – President



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Okato Playcentre



Douglas Jones and Thomas Fisher flying kites)

During October, we've had a bit of a battle with the elements, with the kids eager to get outside and run around but almost blown back into the safety of the covered deck. We've managed to gain the upper hand though, taking up the weather challenge by making kites and wind chimes. After all, isn't life just one big science lesson?

The windows of sunshine and warmth we've had have been well used, with plenty of sandpit digging, truck pushing, trolley towing and climbing on our new playground equipment.

A big welcome to our new families this term, it's great to see you. If you have small children and want to know what Playcentre is about, please feel free to drop in. Our session times are Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Playcentre is aimed at all children aged 0 to 6, so even if you only have a wee one, it's not too soon to come along. If you'd like more information, please call us (see below).

Garage sale

We will be having a garage sale fundraiser on 24 November at Hempton Hall from 10am to 1pm. If you have any quality used goods you'd like to donate, please call us to organise drop off. We'd love to see you there. In addition to the garage sale, we'll be having a cake stall, raffles, and a kids' corner so you can get a taste of what Playcentre is like and entertain the kids while you browse.

Jane Fleming – 06 763 8353

Debbie Fisher – 752 4500

Marlene Goodreds – 752 8047



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A special welcome to Shea Joyce (Year 10) from NPGHS, Sydney and Ethan Corry (Year 4 & 1) from Frankley School, Jesse Nicholson (Year 2) from Opunake Primary, and Shyne Primrose and Piukala Fakavamoeanga (new entrants), who have started their journey at CTS recently. We know you will enjoy the family atmosphere and that the support of your teachers will help you greatly to settle in and achieve well – set your sights high and play your part in reaching your goals.

Last week the school was visited by the Hon. Harry Duynhoven, MP. Harry has long been a supporter of the schools of the Okato District and I am pleased he has resumed his interest and taken the time to become informed about what is happening at CTS. He wrote many notes and was taken by the warmth of the interactions he observed and the positivity he experienced.

In a similar vein, our Open Day provoked many positive comments from our visitors about the supportive relationships, pleasant working atmosphere and attractiveness of the campus and its facilities. Please thank, on our behalf, those members of your family and friends of the school who made a big effort to travel (some distance in the case of one set of grandparents) and share the day with us.

Events calendar

November	December	February 2008
14 Last day for Years 11-13	5 NCEA exams finish	4 First day of Term
19 NCEA exams start	7 Mufti Day School Ball	
21 FOTS meeting 7.30pm	14 Prize Giving	
24 Year 10 Gold Coast trip	Last day of Term 4	
26 Activity Week		
Years 5-6 Wellington trip		
Years 7-8 Auckland trip		

Okato Youth Group

Held in:

New Zeal Church in St Lukes Hall, Okato

Saturday Nights 7-9pm

Years 8 and up

17 November guest speaker Tara Hamlin from the USA

Any enquiries to Claire Simpson ph 7524994

Book Fair Bonanza *by Ellee Donald*

For one week our school hall was full of displays of books for both the young and the old.

From 15-19 October Coastal Taranaki School held our annual Book Fair to raise funds for the school library. Scholastics and New Plymouth Whitcoulls supplied a huge range of books for purchase (many thanks) and 30% of total profits went to the school.

The week included a 'Late Night Wednesday' for those who couldn't make it during the day.

All up \$3000 was spent by a very supportive public, from which we raised \$900 towards new library books, plus another \$200 worth of books were bought and donated to our school library. Delwyn Pearce, our school librarian, pronounced the week a great success!

Competitions were held also throughout the week including

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a colouring-in competition, Design-a-rocket and for those who donated a book to our library, 'Guess the Amount of Lollies'. Congratulations to the winners listed below:

Colouring-in: Kelly-Anne Doyle, Blake Carr, India Ralph, Kyle Manson and Mitchell Fleming

Design-a-rocket: Matt Hooker, Grace Hooker, Nouveau Rodgers, Grace Chapman and Carys Pullar

Guess the Amount of Lollies: Raven Pearce

Coastal Taranaki School would like to thank Nicci Hooker and her helpers for putting in the time and effort to make this event happen. I know the pupils will look forward to reading the new books that will be purchased with the funds raised, and we will all look forward to next year's Book Fair.

Calf & Lamb Day at Coastal Taranaki School

Thursday 11 October saw a convoy of trailers, trucks and horse floats venturing into CTS grounds. What brought this about? Yep, the good old annual Calf & Lamb Day had rolled around once again.

Every child in the school had the opportunity to bring an animal and those who didn't bring their own still enjoyed watching the four-legged friends parading in their rings – some leading rather diligently and others needing a little more encouragement (or tugging!).

The lambs looked very cute waiting outside the rings, some looking hopefully at their owners (do you have milk for me?), bells tinkling as they ran when they were called to. What a pet, huh?

As someone who is not a farmer, I can only assume that the lambs that were not so obliging in the ring were fed before the parade, while those that ran to their owners were still expectantly awaiting theirs? Or is it just my ignorance and the behaviour of the lambs in the second category was actually the result of the great training and time the owners put into their animals? Who really knows?

The calves stood patiently while waiting to be judged in their sections of Rearing, Leading and Dairy Type. There were some beautiful calves this year. It looked like lots of time and effort had been put into them. I even learnt a few tips myself!



Love that lamb! Shalaya Luckin.

We were very lucky with our weather and only had to head for cover for a brief moment during the day. Phew, eh Kath?!

The teachers and children had a busy build-up to the day, making classroom exhibits for all to view. Vege/fruit animals, miniature scenes, driftwood

sculptures and biscuit decorating featured among the exhibits to view and admire.

It is always neat to see these events happening in our schools – we probably all remember something similar when we were children!

As the day progressed the adults were kept very busy with a sausage sizzle and drinks stand, while the seniors of the school on the Ball Committee worked hard making and selling espresso coffee. Good job and thanks to those girls who also provided a wonderful morning tea to all the judges and sponsors.

Thanks to all the sponsors who donated goods so each child could receive a prize on the day. The kids love receiving these. Other items were put towards the Silent Auction, which had some great things up for grabs and went well.

A good job to all involved in organising and running the event as it takes a lot of commitment, energy and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all those who participated, received trophies or ribbons. You all helped to make this day a great rural event.

The day would not have been complete without our judges. Thanks for taking the time in your day to attend. It is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to it all again next year – so come on board anyone within the school or the community who'd like to help towards next year's Calf & Lamb Day. The more the merrier and many hands make light work!

A big thank you to the Calf & Lamb Day sponsors -

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Results:

Junior Champion Calf: Anna Crowley
Intermediate Champion Calf: Emma Gibson
Senior Champion Calf: Corbin Mills
Masters Champion Calf: Kimberley Downes
Junior Champion Lamb: Shalaya Luckin
Intermediate Champion Lamb: Thomas Morgan
Senior Champion Lamb: Hazel Baker
Champion of Champion Calf: Emma Gibson
Reserve Champion Calf: Anna Crowley
Champion of Champion Lamb: Hazel Baker
Reserve Champion Lamb: Shalaya Luckin
Most Loved Calf: Ayden Brown
Most Loved Lamb: Kyle Manson

By Milly Carr

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Dare to be different?

On 13 October senior students of Coastal Taranaki School showcased their art and talent on TSB Stadium's runway at the Daily News Fashion Awards. Seven outfits were submitted from our pupils, in various sections from 'Recycled Art' to 'Bras Gone Bonkers'.

Erin Murphy's entry to the 'Recycled Art' section was a tribute to breast cancer awareness. Modelled on a ballet tutu, the dress was made of old bras and petticoats, which were then dyed pink. The creation took Erin one month to complete.

Jennifer Revell and Shannen Taylor entered and won the 'Farm Fantastic' category. Their design, 'All Taped Up', was made of baling twine, meal bags and blue milk filters, and took the girls three weeks to create. Both described the experience as "wicked" and "awesome", and they are already thinking up ideas for next year. Jodie Donald and Tayla Hartley created 'Disco Diva' for the 'Bras Gone Bonkers' section. Inspired by disco balls, the girls glued mirrored glass to a paper maché bra. This shiny number took the girls around ten hours to make, and finished up third in their section.

Claudia Van Der Heyden designed 'Plastic Fairy' with the help of Hine Dando. The outfit, entered the 'Recycled Art' section, was a white, fluffy, fairy dress made from plastic bags. Claudia exclaimed that "the show was real cool" and that it was "exciting to enter".

Blake Aylward and Corbin Mills were the only male pupils to enter this year. The boys created a 21st Century gladiator for the 'Recycled Art' section. Their outfit took four days to make and included a whitebait net, milking filters, a meal bag, cardboard and CDs.

'Daily Hues' was created by Jasmin Warren and Lydia Connor for the 'Newspaper' section. The girls used old newspapers to create a top and pleated skirt and dyed them bright colours. Both Lydia and Jasmin thought it was exciting that everyone was seeing their work.

All the pupils would like to give a huge thank you to their art teacher, Sharleen Burrows, as well as their other helpers for giving up their time to assist them with their creations.

Next year we hope to see more participation and more amazing designs.

By Ellee Donald



Jasmin and Lydia - "Daily Hues".



Blake and Corbin's "Gladiator".

A bright future in wearable arts

Eight-year-old Nouveau Rogers found success at the Daily News Fashion Awards in New Plymouth in mid-October.

Nouveau had been wanting to make a wearable arts costume for some time, inspired by her mother Carmen, who has twice entered similar events in Raglan.

Nouveau finally had her chance to fulfil this dream when Coastal Taranaki School art teacher Ms Burrows visited each class to offer them the opportunity to partake in the New Plymouth event.

Nouveau couldn't wait to get started on her costume. She was already brimful of ideas (draft copy and all). She had several lampshades at home in her garage and she could just visualise a dress from them. She just needed a few more lampshades and some other bits and pieces to spice it up.

Nouveau had a busy time ahead of her. It took eight whole weeks to complete her masterpiece – the "Lady Shady".

Several lampshades held together with nylon string inside make the bodice. Two smaller lamp shades are sewn on each side for the arms. It really is so cleverly put together.

Several visits to the Op Shop yielded 29 doilies and a few other items, which she diligently hand-sewed onto the dress for decoration.

Nouveau also designed and made accessories – gloves and a necklace of doilies. The shoes, covered in (you guessed it!) doilies, are so gorgeous I can see them in the windows of commercial shoe shops in the future! The headpiece looked like something a fairytale princess might wear as a crown, with a veil trailing at the back.

Nouveau also made a pushchair from a luggage trolley in which she sat a doll who wore a lampshade dress too. Such finishing touches from one so young!

On the night of the event Nouveau modelled the dress herself (which she said was quite comfortable!) and was excited to be showing it off for all to see. She enjoyed being up on stage and it wasn't over yet.

The finalists in the 5-13 year old category were announced and Nouveau was called up. Then as the evening drew to a close and the place-getters were finally announced – Nouveau and her "Lady Shady" came out tops in her category!

What a wonderful achievement for a talented young girl. Her huge effort and innovation earned her a \$200 prize, plus another \$100 prize for the best first time entrant.

The night was also a success for her mother Carmen who won the Recycled category.

Nouveau plans to use the money to head to Wellington to attend next year's World of Wearable Arts Awards.

And she also intends to compete in the New Plymouth event again in 2008.

Keep the passion, Nouveau. We look forward to seeing more of your designs in the future.

By Milly Carr



Erin Murphy's "Recycled Art" entry.



Jennifer and Sharon's "All Taped Up".

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