

TOM *Fitzroy*

FEBRUARY 2010

Young local sailor continues to shine on world's yacht racing stage



Hayden in action.

PHOTOS BY CARLO BORLINGHI

Taranaki consistently seems to produce its share of "stars" on the international stage. Across all walks of life be it in business, the arts or sport, many began their journey here in our province and still call Taranaki home even if it just a hurried stopover between work commitments.

In late December of 2009 during one such brief visit home I spoke with Hayden Goodrick, home visiting his family in Merrilands.

Hayden is a young man achieving great success as a bowman on the international sailing elite match racing circuit.

Although he is only 26 Hayden is living what would be to most young men his age (and probably most twice his age!) an enviable lifestyle. Based in Switzerland he is flown all over the globe to sail

(continued on page 2)



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Last month I went to Melbourne for a holiday and for the first time since owning a mobile phone, I left it at home - not being on the XT network and all(not that you would want to be by the sounds of it). What a strange experience it was and it has made me realise how integrated mobile phones are in our everyday life now - using one is almost second nature to us, so much so that when we do something exciting, see something unusual, go somewhere new, we want to tell our friends instantly. And we do via our mobiles. Well I had to savour the experiences without my mobile, pull my hand out of my handbag and just enjoy the moment without my friends knowing what I was doing and when. Actually it's not too bad when you get used to the feeling that something isn't quite right. So when Roger Federer took off his shirt at the tennis I didn't snatch up my mobile, I just gawked! And that can't be all bad can it?!



While on holiday my mother-in-law wanted to buy a postcard and I had to think long and hard what one of those might be and then I remembered that's why we use mobiles - so we don't need to send postcards that reach their destination long after you have returned from holiday. Perhaps mobiles aren't so bad after all. At least it doesn't matter if your spelling is wrong!!

On a more serious note the TOM team looks forward to bringing you many interesting and varied stories in 2010 and please contact us if you have something you would like published in the TOM.

Kim

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yachts for some of the world's richest men. Interestingly he went on to talk about his employers who despite their great wealth are very genuine people and great to work for. He recounted to me the almost rags to riches story of one Australian billionaire owner who found his fortune in road construction, he started out with one bitumen truck but now has the monopoly on all mining road construction in Australia. This same man had his most recent six million dollar yacht built without his wife's knowledge. Her response when she found out was to exclaim "that's the 'expletive' LIMIT!!!" After this her husband duly called his new boat 'Limit'.

Although he is now a sought after yachting bowman, sailing wasn't always where Hayden saw his future. He says until he was around 16 surfing was his main focus. After becoming involved with yachting through the local New Plymouth yacht club he then worked his way up through amateur circles, doing the hard yards in finding suitable sponsorship to enable him to attend sailing events. His successes and talent were noticed by others and he was able to reach a point in his yachting career where he could become a professional sailor.

This turning point was reached at a young age in sailing terms as the guys on these bigger boats are generally older; he was in fact the youngest sailor involved in the last Louis Vuitton series. He was aged just 22.

Recently Hayden has been involved with two different campaigns funded privately, one by the Australian billionaire mentioned earlier and another by an American millionaire.

As bowman on the 52 foot 'Vincitore' designed by Reichal Pugh, he and the rest of the crew have won all seven of the regattas they sailed in for the 'Vincitores' owner in 2009. These races took place in locations such as San Francisco, the Caribbean and Chicago. As well as his bowman role he has also had the responsibility of selecting crew and flying 'the boys' in from all over the world. The 'boys' can consist of the likes of men such as Chris Dixon who took the helm. Hayden went onto say that kiwis feature strongly in many of the top crews. Kiwis are known as sailors that get on with it, keep their head when it's stressful, are practical and hands on. They also gel well together as team which is essential in this type of racing.

While the Americas Cup is in meltdown this type of sailing work is sought after by many so having a good reputation based on ability and success is vital in getting selected for work. A strong work ethic and performance have paid off for Hayden and he is now booked out to race for people two years in advance.

I asked him if he had an agent to manage his work commitments and he laughed and told me about his agents



Hayden sails with the "big boys" on a regular basis.



Hayden performing his bowman duties.

of sorts, his 'Sopranos' he calls them. These are guys involved in the marine industry who have their ear to the ground and are constantly wheeling and dealing. They recommend Hayden for jobs they hear about and likewise he recommends them for work.

When describing his work situation Hayden says 'everything is a positive' with every possible thing provided for from food through to their sailing clothes. He and his crew mates have to focus only on one thing, and that is winning the yacht race for the owner.

A typical day starts with morning fitness such as running, biking or gym work. Once down at the boat there's boat

maintenance and off the dock around 10 am for training drills, things like practicing starting drills.

Being fit, strong and focused is all important in this kind of racing. You get an understanding of the power of these boats when Hayden explains there's a fifteen ton load on just one winch.

Often these races are very tight with errors or slowness in things like a sail change can mean the difference between first and second place and with the amount of money spent on each race owners don't want to finish second.

Off shore racing holds some allure for this young sailor as well. In 2009 he was part of the winning crew as bowman on 'Limit' when it won with line honours the Auckland to Noumea yacht race.

This race was in tough sailing conditions. The crew battled eleven metre swells and 60 knot winds, even some of the experienced crew was laid low with sea sickness.

Hayden says it was tough going. Eating consisted of grabbing a handful of freeze dried food and when you weren't on watch, trying to sleep as much as possible. Added to the equation were two non crew guests who were struck down with seasickness as well. Conditions were so bad that they were confined to their cabin for their own safety. I asked Hayden if he was scared. "No just over it," he replied. "it was just really tiring and hard work." The crew battled these conditions for a good part of the race and then ironically they were practically becalmed within touching distance of the Noumea finish line. However a few early morning puffs of wind saw them finish well ahead of their nearest rivals with a finish time of 115 hours 42 minutes and 34 seconds.

By 8.30 in the morning they were sitting on the dock eating French baguettes.

That whole experience hasn't lessened his enthusiasm for off shore racing in fact he describes the Volvo around the world race as one of the few remaining things he'd like to put a tick next to on his bucket list. That a 26 year old has his 'bucket list' almost covered is a statement in itself but Hayden told me he would love to put a Volvo team together and it is a definite possibility with very early talks having taken place.

Whilst he is based in Switzerland for now because of it's accessibility to Europe and the States, Hayden says he still wants to settle back in Taranaki eventually. With this in mind he recently bought a home in Fitzroy.

This however is a future plan, for now he is happy to be making sure the owners of the yachts he's racing on are up on the winners' podium and of course there are those last few ticks on the bucket list to be taken care of.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Photos supplied By Hayden Goodrick

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Rotary International recognises Fitzroy club as outstanding

As a community service club the Fitzroy Rotary has had a proud record of local and international achievements and this was recently reflected in a recent award where the Fitzroy Rotary Club received recognition for being one of the "Top three highest in per capita for annual giving." The award shows how community and world minded the members of the club are. And you could be part of this!

As with any organisation or group there is the constant ageing of members, and the club is looking for people to join one of the world's best recognised clubs to continue with its community service. We all live and earn our incomes from this community. Our families grow up in this community and enjoy all of its benefits and good life style.

Is there a project that comes to mind that you and a group of fellow prospective members of Rotary could successfully achieve to add to the community goodwill?

Past projects that this club has completed have been well noted together with assistance to the Riding for the Disabled, donations to the Hospice, helicopter fund, leadership training for teenagers and many others.

We have provided in this last year, six \$500 grants for local students to assist with University Careers in literature. The club runs a programme with nine local schools with reading assistance which involves approximately 100 Senior Citizens who give their time to attend the schools and listen to children read and give them the confidence to read and learn.

The community needs people with leadership and talents to give these projects and others an ongoing life. In belonging to Rotary you have the benefits of meeting other like minded people and being able to network with them. This is achieved over the weekly evening meal that Fitzroy Rotary has every Wednesday night where we enjoy a two course meal and have a guest speaker. We also have a bar with very competitive prices for pre meal drinks. It is called fellowship and it works. All around New Zealand and worldwide you can find significant projects set up and run by Rotary. Membership of Rotary entitles you to wear one of the most recognised and respected international lapel badges identifying you as being a Rotarian.

As a Rotarian you are entitled to attend Rotary meetings anywhere in New Zealand or any country in the world. This can sometimes be of a considerable advantage to you.

Rotary International has a programme world wide to reduce and eventually eliminate the polio epidemic which affects millions of children and funds generated by all clubs contribute millions of

dollars to achieve this end. There are many other projects as with the illustration of solar cooking ovens to provide assistance to some the disadvantaged peoples of the world.

You could be part of this group to achieve a positive difference to the world that we live in.

As with any organisation, there is a cost factor to Rotary membership. There is a capitation fee due to the Rotary Organisation. The club operates a monthly direct credit system at a charge of \$95.00 which covers hall hire, with weekly evening dinner meetings, and the capitation fee. As part of this fee, Rotary publishes a bimonthly magazine of Rotary information. The bar and the meal is the time for members' fellowship and time out from work activities and has the advantage for members to network with ideas and information. The dress format is casual/tidy.

We meet at the Beach Street Hall, Wednesdays at 5.15pm and finish by 7.15pm and no dishes to wash.

Give Rotary a go for a new challenge in your life and make a difference to the world around us.

TOM Pet of the Month

Name: Spot

Breed: Sheep (but he is convinced he is a dog)

Age: About 6 months old

Our pet of the month this month was an abandoned lamb hand reared by his owners. Pictured here with his favorite family member Taylah who is aged ten months.

Taylah's Nana, who lives in Strandon, says Spot isn't really interested in any people other than her granddaughter Taylah. When he sees her he just lights up and runs to greet her. Spot spends his days racing around paddocks with two working dogs and at night sleeps with them in the garage. He is quite convinced he is of the canine persuasion!



Could this be love? Spot and Taylah.



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TOM Garden of the Month

Hidden behind a high wall of greenery lies this month's TOM garden. It has been a constant work in progress for its owners Valerie and Barry. When they moved here 22 years ago there was minimal planting so they were given pretty much a blank canvas to work with.

The garden is a far cry from the somewhat barren place I viewed in the photos from 22 years prior. Today it is a lush mix of all the owner's favourite plants.

Running a Bed and Breakfast from their home means a welcoming entrance is a must, as is a cool private spot for their guests to sit on these hot summer days. The garden's owners have achieved both.

The entrance to the property features several separate garden areas framed with buxus. Through these areas there is a path leading to the front porch which is framed by a large bougainvillea.

These front gardens are full of a variety of plants but roses, camellias, lavender and clipped buxus are repeated throughout. Roses are Valerie's favourite flower and three of her favorites are: Julia's Rose which is a beautiful parchment coloured rose; Sally Holmes which is a soft creamy apricot, and the creamy white Avalanche which has a slight blush. To help keep bugs away from her roses she puts Neem granules in the soil and plants lavender as a companion plant.

Another plant that makes a fragrant welcome at the front entrance is the Rhododendron 'Fragrantissimo'

As well as making the front entrance attractive and welcoming this part of the property also has another purpose. It is a play area for the couple's two corgis, Megg and Duke. With these two in mind Valerie has cleverly left tracks and low tunnels amongst her plantings for the pair to run and play through. The areas that she doesn't want them trampling she has framed with buxus. It all works well and you would never know that parts of this garden are a playground for the dogs!

Around the back of the property is another fenced area for the dogs when their owners are out and it is also where Barry has a raised vegetable garden. He grows a wide variety of vegetables including cucumber, zucchini, tomatoes, garlic, broccoli, spinach, carrots and spring onions. There's also some rhubarb, strawberries and some Jersey Benne potatoes - a South Island variety. There's no risk of the two pooches getting on the veggies as it's at a level that they can't get up to with their short legs!

Running the B&B as well as their other interests doesn't give Valerie and Barry as much time as they'd like in the garden but that being said how the couple have planted and arranged their garden makes it one that doesn't require huge amounts of their time to keep it looking great.

The cool leafy front garden is the perfect spot to enjoy a hot summers evening and isn't enjoying your garden what it's all about?



The front garden with its beautiful bougainvillea.



Megg and Duke contemplate a romp in their custom designed play area..



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Local sculptors feature at stone symposium

Two stone sculptors from our local area Renate Verbrugge and Merrilands Principal Graham Wilson who is also Chairman of the Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Society participated in the recent Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Symposium.

I asked Renate who has just returned from a symposium in India the following questions -

What was the thought/inspiration behind your sculpture?

How long have you been doing stone sculpture and who or what got you involved originally?

"The sculpture 'Under the full blue moon' is what I call an abstract organic sculpture. The form of the stone was of such beauty that it only asked for one side to be sculpted. On this side I added rough texture and polished cones, a game of contrasts with forms almost like a moonscape.

I was first introduced to stone sculpture by Filipe Tohi who even now remains my mentor and shining example. Since those first chisel marks in andesite in 1999, it has been a long road - a road of never ending learning, of lots of hard work and great satisfaction. My passion for sculpture is what drives me to work, it is what drives me to learn and accumulate knowledge.

I have participated in over 20 sculpture symposia and exhibitions all over the world, from New Zealand to India, France, Italy Belgium and Turkey.



Renate's 'Under the full blue moon'. This sculpture is for sale and can be viewed at the Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Society on Centennial Drive.

I asked Graham, as Chairman of the Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Society, the following questions about the event and his involvement with this wonderful art -

Was this year's symposium and auction a success?

How did it compare to previous years?

When is the next symposium?

How long have you been involved with stone sculpture?

"The 2010 Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Symposium was an outstanding success.

The New Plymouth foreshore provides a wonderful opportunity for the public to follow the progress of Taranaki andesite boulders being transformed into beautiful sculptures. The 25 carvers gain a lot of satisfaction from interacting with the public during the three weeks of carving and sharing their passion for this fantastic art form.

The public were impressed with the quality and range of the finished works displayed for the exhibition set up at the conclusion of carving, and the auction itself was very successful with the majority of works sold.

Each symposium seems to lift the standard of works created, with organisers and participants very pleased with how well the whole event went. The Stone Sculpture Symposium has

become a very popular attraction on the New Plymouth foreshore and it would not be possible without the support of the many generous sponsors. Many people seem to think the event is annual but it is only held every two years, and the next symposium will be held in January 2012.

I have been carving for seven years and this is the third symposium in which I have been a participant.

I am passionate about rock carving and relish the opportunity to be totally focussed on nothing but carving for the three week event - it is such a change from my day job! There is nothing more satisfying than having a form evolve from the raw boulder and the tactile relationship with the surface of the work as it nears completion. I can't wait to be involved again."

With the event going from strength to strength many of us like Graham will be eagerly awaiting the next symposium where we have the privilege of seeing these wonderful art works come to life.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Graham Wilson exhibit.

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TOM sports

Get your kayak fishing competition entries in

The Oakura Kayak and Surfcasters Club is holding its annual kayak fishing competition on the 10th and 11th April. This event is a must do for any keen fisherman and the weigh-in of fish on the final day followed by the charity fish auction is a great occasion for those not wanting to venture out in a kayak. Proceeds from the auction go to Coastguard Taranaki and at last years' event around \$1200 was raised for Taranaki Surf Life Saving.

This year the main sponsor is Viking Kayaks who will donate a Viking Nemo 2 and a tandem kayak to the lucky winners of the early bird entry draw. Other main prizes are a top of the line fully rigged Viking Pro Fish fishing kayak, and a Viking Esprit Fisherman kayak, plus there is a \$1000.00 travel voucher from Oakura Travel Centre. The total prize pool is in excess of \$20,000. The entry fee is \$60.00 for early bird entry before March 1st.

Late entry is \$80.00. Entry forms are available from Hunting & Fishing, Canoe & Kayak, Heydon Priest Garage, Oakura, Oakura Holiday Park and Tasman Marine.

Headquarters for the event is Butlers Reef Hotel in Oakura and this is where kayak fishing guru Steven Tapp will be holding a seminar on how to set up a kayak for fishing and where registration takes place. Steven is a writer for NZ Fishing News and is regarded as a leading kayak fisherman. The general public is welcome to come along.

Check out www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz, or contact Garry Harrison ph 752 7055 for more details.



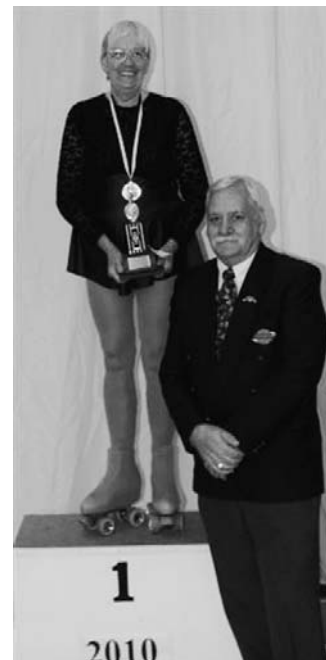
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Top dias spot for New Plymouth roller sports figure skater

Valerie Bedford from the New Plymouth Roller Sports Club won the Esquire Ladies Figure skating at the recent New Zealand championships held in Palmerston North.

Presenting Val with her trophy is Jim Taylor, a former founding member of the New Plymouth club who now resides in Australia and is an international judge.



Merrilands Indoor Bowling Club

Opening night for the 2010 season was on Monday February 15th. New members are most welcome with coaching available. For details please phone Ray (President) on 758 3842 or Susan (Secretary) on 758 8514.

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The Hillary Challenge...

Why do our Local High School students do so well?

In late December 2009 as another busy school year drew to a close I interviewed NPBHS teacher and local resident Phil Hewlett. Phil is Head of Department for Outdoor Education at Boys' High and is one of the coaches of the combined Girls' High/Boys' High adventure race team.

Just a few months earlier they were named as Taranaki Sports Team of the Year at the Taranaki Sports Awards and Phil was a finalist for Taranaki Coach of the Year.

The team in May of 2009 had won the Genesis Energy Secondary Schools Hillary Challenge. In many ways the team winning the title of Taranaki team of the Year in 2009 can be seen as not only recognition of their fantastic effort but also that of the other Boys' and Girls' High teams that have gone on to win before them. Six times in the last nine years these local schools have claimed this coveted title, and twice have placed second.

To understand the significance of our teams winning this many times you need to get an appreciation of the magnitude of the challenge itself. I asked Phil to give me an overview of the event and why he thought we had been so successful over the last nine years.

The Hillary Challenge runs over five days and takes place on the North Island Central Plateau in late May. The base for the challenge is the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre (OPC). In 2009 ninety six of the countries' top secondary school adventure racers came to compete. They made up a total of twelve teams from schools all over New Zealand.

The first two days the teams complete twelve hour long challenges. These challenges require great team work and sharp minds as they problem solve various scenarios whilst using their outdoor skills and knowledge. Coaches are present over these two days but obviously cannot help or speak during the challenge itself. The third and fourth day sees the teams out rogaining covering up to 60 kilometres in rugged terrain. In 2009 the New Plymouth team took one of the longest times to plan their route. They spent 45 minutes planning and this smart decision-making paid off says Phil. He mentions here the huge input fellow Boys' High teacher Sue Scott puts in to the success of the team along with the support of the New Plymouth Orienteering club. Her navigation expertise and skills that she teaches the team are invaluable.

The entire team must participate in all the events throughout the week and there are penalties if someone is withdrawn through sickness or injury. Likewise over the rogaining part of the challenge they must be setting up camp for the night by a specific time. If they are late again point penalties are incurred. There are clear roles within the team such as navigators, time keepers, activity leaders and the foot soldiers. As they navigate their way over the 60 km they have to find checkpoints. They are shadowed by an OPC instructor who is there to monitor safety but cannot assist them in any way that could affect the competition. The level of fitness of the top competitors is incredible, the teams are moving fast with full back packs containing all their food and camping gear and yet the OPC instructors in some cases struggle to keep pace. The navigators in the team have to be particularly fit as when they make their stops to check direction and bearings they must then be able to run to catch up to the team who has gone on ahead. On the third and fourth nights in the 2009 challenge heavy snowfall saw the competitors waking up to sub zero temperatures. Racing in these conditions highlighted the toughness of the competitors. The last day is a multi sport race which in 2009



The Winning 2009 Combined Boys High and Girls High Adventure Race team were: William Tennent, Cameron Holden, Lewis Walsh, Jordan Millen, James Varley, Elly Fleming, Erin Paterson, Tessa Murray. Photo supplied by Phil Hewlett.



started with a 6 km paddle in kayaks and a Canadian canoe followed by an 8 km cross country run through bush and then 25 km on mountain bikes over muddy 4WD tracks and a 6 km run through bush back to the OPC.

On every level this is a tough race. Darren Ashmore, the OPC events manager was quoted as saying in the Bivouac newsletter, "There is no question about it this is the most demanding sporting event that you can do at secondary school in New Zealand, possibly even the world. It is a complete physical, mental and emotional challenge for the participants." Phil Hewlett agrees. He says, "There is no other Secondary School event as tough; this isn't about staying focused for the length of a game or a few hours. This is a week of challenge like no other."

Why then are Taranaki young people so strong in this event? I say Taranaki young people because for several years one of the New Plymouth teams' closest rivals has been Opunake High School coached by teacher Matt Lash.

Phil believes there are three main reasons we produce strong teams. The first is the quality of the Taranaki kids. They are often involved in mountain activities such as tramping and skiing and in clubs such as surf life saving. They just seem a little more robust than some of their peers from larger cities, displaying a natural toughness and perseverance. Something also apparent within the combined Boys' and Girls' High team is that the culture is being passed through families with several names cropping up each year in the team as different members of various families pass through the schools and become involved in the sport.

The second reason Phil believes sees our teams prepare well for the challenge is the readily available resources and qualified people we have here in Taranaki. Groups like Orienteering Taranaki of which Robert Newbrook was named volunteer of the year. Nick Collins and Don and Jay Paterson have contributed a lot.

(Continued overleaf)

The Hillary Challenge - (continued)

Mountain Safety council is also invaluable with instruction regarding the outdoor first aid scenarios that the team faces.

This is a huge and expensive event to prepare for and good support is a vital ingredient for success. As well as all the local experts giving their help there has been huge parental support over the years plus the fact there are a team of teachers involved such as Sue Scott, Jonathan Dobbie and Girls' High PE teacher Bridget Fleming.

The third reason that our teams are advantaged is the geographic environment Taranaki kids are raised in. Phil went onto to say that Steve Gurney has always said to be successful in this type of event you have to "train on the same terrain you are competing on." With Mt Taranaki on our doorstep our teams have the luxury of doing just that.

With the 2010 Hillary Challenge just five months away the competitors hoping to secure a place on this years' team will already be doing lots of individual training including running and cycling on that all important terrain. This is a key element says Phil. They must have that personal drive and self motivation to train themselves.

By the end of February the coaches will have a better idea of who is going to make up the 2010 combined Adventure Race team and along with the students' personal training there will be mountain safety courses, team runs, rope and rock courses and other adventure races to complete.

The months of preparation and training will culminate in the eight students chosen for the team defending the title in May at the 2010 Hillary Challenge. We look forward to following the progress of these remarkable young people as they compete in this challenging and inspiring sporting event.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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GETTING WET!



New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

Most people have been complaining about the weather and it certainly has been cooler over spring and early summer. With New Zealand in the grip of El Nino weather patterns the frustratingly long periods of west to south-westerly winds have made seeking out a surf break protected from these winds difficult even for the locals.

However there are those who are claiming to be "surf-ed-out" particularly with the last two weeks of January turning on some great days. Back beach has seen its summer-time bank return and has produced some of its best days with over 100 surfers out one Saturday afternoon. Crowds of this size mean everyone must obey the rules of surfing but unfortunately some don't and there have been some collisions and damage to boards.

While the air temperatures have been down the sea has been some two degrees cooler than average for this time of year and only from mid January has it started to get comfortable.



Fitzroy getting busy now the water has warmed.



Paige Hareb shows the way. Photo by Daisy Day.

This means that every chance to catch a wave is taken as the photo of Fitzroy on January 17th shows.

The Club's social side has not slowed down over the Christmas - New Year break and we were fortunate to score an impromptu session with nationally renowned Drew Bowden. Those able to attend were treated to a two hour session before Drew had to leave for his scheduled gig. And at the end of January we held a successful wine and cheese evening which drew a big crowd.

The big event though was the launching of Daisy Day's fantastic book 30 YEARS OF SURFING: a pictorial history of the Wanganui/Taranaki surf scene as recorded by a top surf photographer. The club was packed for the event and the first edition sold out overnight. There are still books available at the Beach Street Surf Shop and Benny's.

Our competitions have been continuing also with the second round of the PORT TARANAKI SUMMER SERIES being completed on January 26th. Results are:



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NEW PLYMOUTH

New Plymouth Potters Inc

Potters have been busy the last few months. As we told you in November, we ran our 36th Annual Exhibition at Real Tart Gallery. This was a great success and the accompanying Soda Firing led by Janet Smith from the Waikato was 'the icing on the cake.....or more correctly 'the glaze on the pots'. The firing was most successful despite various frantic adjustments to get our newly built soda kiln firing properly. The Supreme Award of \$500 went to Joyce Young for her 'Fungi Stump Bowl.' Barbara Nicholls and Kathryn Gates shared the Merit Award and Linda Barbour won the Novice Exhibitor award.

In early December members held a Pottery Market at the Vicarage. It was well attended and customers were thrilled with their great bargains as we cleared the shelves for the new year. It was a great chance for potters to display some of their larger pieces outside on the lawn of the Te Henui Vicarage.



Fern Vase - Kathryn Gates

The next market will be the weekend of the Americana Celebrations so watch for the signs.

On Sunday 31st January the combined Real Tart, New Plymouth Potters Challenge opened. The exhibition was initiated by Sarah Stevens from Real Tart and the club in 2009 and has produced some interesting pieces. It is open to all Taranaki Potters, who are invited to interpret the title in anyway they wish. This years' title was *Flora and Fauna*.

The club continues to open the Vicarage Gallery every weekend from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. The public are also invited to visit whenever the clubrooms are occupied especially on Thursdays when an enthusiastic group will be in action from approximately 10.00am until around 3.00 or 4.00 pm. Classes will be starting about now on Tuesdays. Ring Witt for details if you are interested in them.

Jan Pidwell



Joyce Young's 'Fungi Stump Bowl'.



Novice Exhibitor Award Winner.
Linda Barbour - Kokari Maria Brockhill.



Flora and Fauna
Frog - Cecily Bull.

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Take a walk to the local shops at Fitzroy. It's a pleasure wandering around dealing with the local people – the bakery, fruit shop, and newsagent all hold their place in servicing the local community – people who know you and welcome your patronage.

But what about the people behind the scenes that don't hold shop fronts and aren't immediately visible to the community?

Meet the local plumber - a vital part of the community, maintaining the health and well being of its members. A licensed practitioner adhering to statutory regulations in plumbing, drainage and gas fitting whose role is to be reliable as plumbing problems can often be very consequential.

Ace Plumbing, Taranaki is a local business currently providing a reliable and dependable service. "It pays to keep the clientele happy," offers proprietor Dave Brown, "and the wife!" He chuckles.

Recently married in Samoa, (yes, during the tsunami), Dave and wife Melissa are expecting their first child and are looking forward to what 2010 has to offer. "We are lucky here in New Plymouth. Everything a family needs is right here. It is a really unique place with great people thriving in a spirited community," says Dave.

Based in Fitzroy, Ace Plumbing continues the trend of providing a friendly personalised service. Dave owns and runs the business from the day to day office work to the ditch digging. This ensures the job is done just right and tailored to suit the client's needs and budget. Dave will often apply solutions to a job to cut costs and offers a fixed price at a reduced rate – no surprises and all work is guaranteed. "I aim to offer real peace of mind when it comes to plumbing, drainage, gas and bathroom renovations," says Dave.

Just like the place itself, the mood is pretty relaxed in Fitzroy. Next time you have a plumbing problem, 'RELAX' and call Ace Plumbing, they won't let you down.



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New Plymouth Boys' High School - a great start to the year

The staff of New Plymouth Boys' High School is very proud of their students and the NCEA results. The boys are to be congratulated on the best set of NCEA results the school has had. It is a testimony to the positive attitude of the students and their desire to succeed. We see ourselves as an "80 plus" school where over 80% of the students will pass NCEA assessments. At Level 1 we gained 77% pass rate but the outstanding achievement was 34% of the students gaining a MERIT endorsement. In Level 2 10% of the boys gained an EXCELLENCE endorsement. The results at this stage are still provisional so the full results will be published later. At Level One the 77% pass rate for NPBHS can be compared to 64% for boys in Co-educational schools. The aim now is to ensure that this year's group gain more than an 80% pass rate.



Andrew Hope.



2009 Merrilands school trophy recipients

Merrilands School is very proud of the achievement of all our students. As part of this trophies are awarded to outstanding Y6 students to inspire further achievement and to publicly acknowledge our high achievers as they move onto the next step in their journey as lifelong learners.



The recipients of trophies at the end of 2009 were:

Back Row (L to R)

Rachel Travers - Citizenship Award;
Georgia Patterson - Most Improved Girl Student;
Joshua Gulliver - Citizenship Award;
James Carley - Academic Excellence.

Front Row (L to R)

Jodie Jarvis - Academic Excellence;
Megan Wheeler - Sportsgirl of the Year;
Jarden Te Awa - Most Improved Boy Student;
Drew Farnsworth - Sportsboy of the Year.



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9pm. For more info contact: John Calcott, Ph 753 9186,

jcalcott@paradise.net.nz

Rotary

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Enquiries to the Secretary, Ross Smith, phone 758 4194. Email,

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Watch this space for monthly dates. Any queries to Val at 758 1957.

Taranaki Model Powerboat Club

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Taranaki Radio Control Car Club

Off-road racing, Club's dirt track by Lake Rotomanu, 2nd Sunday of every month. Contact Greg Mawson, ph 753 7471.

On-road racing, contact Selwyn Duthie, ph 06-765-8108.

Indoor racing, contact Tracy van Beers, ph 751 1093.

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