

TAKE ONE MOMENT

JULY 2011

TOM FITZROY

INSPIRED BY COLOUR

Haylee Kirkham, pictured here in her home studio, has revived her old love of painting

PHOTO BY DEREK HUGHES

- more on page 2



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TOM FITZROY

TOM FITZROY is a monthly publication delivered free to your letterbox in the Fitzroy, Merrilands, Highlands Park, Strandon and Glen Avon areas.

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

EDITORIAL

TOM has a new look – one I hope you will all appreciate. One of the most asked questions I come across is what does TOM stand for so I hope the new logo, banner and website answer this question for everyone.



A big thank you goes out to the local community who continue to support the TOM through advertising and article contributions – without either the TOM doesn't exist. My next most asked question is why do I do the TOM and the answer is simple – the immense satisfaction I get from people's enjoyment in reading about interesting things the local community are up to – money doesn't buy success.

I got a great buzz this month when I opened up my TOM folder and saw all the wonderfully colourful and vibrant images waiting to go in this issue: artworks by talented locals; glorious winter foliage and flowers; toddlers at play. These are all really worth checking out on Facebook in colour (The TOM Group Ltd) for those of you who haven't visited yet.

I have been wondering about something I see regularly on the roads. Why do people indicate when they reach the end of passing lanes? My youngest son is learning to drive (thank goodness I have no more children to teach!) and I have explained to him countless times you use your indicator to tell other drivers what you are up to. But I don't understand why people are telling me they are turning right at the end of a passing lane. Isn't it a nonsensical gesture because you really don't have anywhere else to go except on the road you already are travelling on?

Kim

TOM August issue
deadline for copy and
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Delivery from
15th August.

COVER STORY

LOCAL ARTIST:

Haylee Kirkham

When viewing some of her art hung on walls around her home it's hard to believe it was just three years ago that local artist Haylee Kirkham began to paint seriously.

Haylee studied art and photography right through to her sixth form year at Hawera High School and her two art teachers there, Nigel Ogle and Tim Chadwick were she says, a huge inspiration to her. Haylee also gained a wealth of photographic knowledge when she worked for Lester Timms Photography studio after school, where instead of getting paid she asked Lester Timms to critique her photographic work. She says "When I began I said to him, Tell me what's wrong with my work not what's OK." With guidance from him and her art teachers she entered and won the Ivon Watkins Dow photo competition in her category.

When she left school Haylee worked in a gift shop in Hawera and eventually purchased the business. She devoted most of her time to the day to day running of 'Haylee's Gifts' for many years. Photography wasn't completely forgotten and Haylee did children's portraits and some wedding photography for close friends, but the shop took up most of her time.

Haylee's artistic streak was stymied until one day she dug out her old school paints and started to put brush to canvas resulting in her reconnecting with her love of painting.

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This saw Haylee immerse herself in her painting and producing works that to her surprise people admired. After much persuasion she allowed her mother to take one of her paintings to put in Real Tart Gallery. It sold quickly and so she took some more paintings down and within a week and a half she had sold another three. She says "Every time a painting sells I am still very excited and surprised." That her work does sell allows Haylee to paint full time and she describes it as "A hobby that pays for itself." She also greatly values the role that Real Tart gallery plays in showcasing the work of artists such as herself. Haylee is one of the artists featured in the gallery's book 'Emerging Collectible Taranaki Painters'

The first thing you notice about Haylee's work is that it is awash with colour and she went on to say, "Colour is my inspiration, I love colour and I love that it can make you feel good," a huge positive for someone overcoming health problems on a daily basis.

Two of her large paintings that greeted me as I entered her home are certainly testament to her love of colour as they are a joyful explosion of colour. Flowers, nature and the Taranaki landscape also offer lots of inspiration for Haylee and she says reds, yellows, golds and oranges have become somewhat a signature of her work. In fact she says she is making a point of using other colours more now and says she would like to 'free up' her painting style more. One abstract work I admired was completed after she experimented with the style of American artist Jonas Gerard who paints to music. Haylee's abstract done in this style is quite different to her other paintings and she says "I thoroughly enjoyed painting that way. My photographic background tends to see me paint in a more exact and controlled way."

I asked Haylee if she had a favourite subject that she liked to paint and she said "The port" and she has devoted a whole series of large works to this subject.

Haylee works in acrylics and mixed media and her studio is the family home she shares with her husband and two daughters. Most days will see her painting and as well as exhibiting and selling her work through the Real Tart Gallery she also does some commission work.

I was truly inspired to meet this talented artist who in spite of the many challenges in her life pursues a hobby that she loves and that one day she hopes could become a career.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Haylee's love of colour is reflected in her outstanding paintings of nature.

PHOTOS BY DEREK HUGHES



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Architectural Planting Key to Success

Winter is a difficult time of year to have a garden looking half way decent and let's be honest, most of us turn our backs on the garden in favour of the fire and a good book.

This month's TOM garden looks spectacular regardless of the season and the reason is because of the type of plants selected for the garden. Darren, the owner of the Nobs Line property tells me the garden was designed and installed by Mike Mansvelt from Plantation. Mike had free reign to carry out his bold plan back when he was beginning his landscape gardening career in New Plymouth. The garden has been in since 2005.

The section is a very small urban site with an in ground swimming pool and sea views. There is no lawn but instead the eye is drawn to the form and structure of the specimen planting and especially so the colourful foliage of the large red bromeliad, the glamorous Bird of Paradise and the different hues of greens in the Poor Knights Lily (*Xeronema Callistemon*), the agaves, the palms and the Griselinia hedges. Susan says the Poor Knights lily only flowered for the first time two seasons ago and the beautiful red flowers lasted for ages. Freya from Plantation suggested the lilies needed a dosing of sea water to help them flower but Susan wasn't brave enough for that!

But what first captures your attention is the roadside planting of 'Arctic Ice' proteas (*protea cynaroides*). The mass planting of the large flowering white protea looks good for months at a time and also has the added benefit of attracting bees and birds to its nectar producing flowers. The flowers also make great indoor floral displays.

The most unusual plant in the garden would have to be the Giant Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*) which had finished flowering when I visited but the enormous flower heads were still on the plant. This variety can grow up to six metres high and the clumps can spread as far as 3.5 metres wide (it is kept contained in this small garden). The leaves can grow up to two metres in length also. The aloe tree (*Aloe bainesii*) adds another dimension beside the pool and while the temperature is not hot enough to be an oasis you could easily think you were in the desert.

An important feature of the garden is the low maintenance aspect. The hedges need an infrequent prune but apart from that Darren says the garden only needs attention once every three months or so.

So while many gardens languish in monotony and neglect, this month's garden is reminiscent of sunshine, summer and the tropics.

By Kim Ferens



Above, a colourful burst of colour in the winter – Bird of Paradise.

Left, the Giant Bird of Paradise.

Right, the Aloe tree.

Below, Arctic Ice protea.



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New Plymouth Sites with Quite a History

A vicarage, the premises of an award-winning French restaurant, a drinking fountain and an early settler house – all in New Plymouth – have been formally recognised with inclusion on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register.

Te Henui Vicarage (pictured) has received a Category I registration because of its outstanding heritage and historic significance. Built in 1845, the vicarage is significant in religious history with its direct connection with the establishment of the Church of England in New Zealand.

“The vicarage, constructed of Taranaki andesite, was designed by noted architect Frederick Thatcher, who was Bishop George Augustus Selwyn’s architect of choice. The small stone carving above the top windows, which was the symbol of the first, undivided Anglican Diocese, makes this building extremely rare historically and architecturally,” says NZHPT Heritage Advisor Blyss Wagstaff.



Te Henui Vicarage.

The remaining sites have been Category II-registered and have strong social, architectural and historic links with the city.

The former Brougham Street Offices are today better known as André Teissonnière’s award-winning French restaurant, L’Escargot. The two buildings were built in 1884 and 1896 for, respectively, the New Plymouth Investment and Loan Society and lawyer Robert Clinton Hughes.

The Honeyfield Drinking Fountain on the Coastal Walkway was donated by Alice Brown Honeyfield – a woman perhaps ahead of her time in realising what the waterfront had to offer the city. “In 1907 Alice donated the fountain on the condition it was sited on the Esplanade to encourage people to use it and develop the walkway. A century later, after it was again unveiled after being restored, it has become an iconic part of the Coastal Walkway.”

The early settler house ‘Willowfield’ was built in 1863 and gradually expanded over the years. A series of cottages were soon built in front of ‘Willowfield’ for the original owners’ children to live in or rent out.

The whole grouping of the Hirst Family ‘Hen and Chickens’ houses is also already recognised through a Historic Area registration with the NZHPT.

Extracted from the July issue of Heritage This Month – New Zealand Historic Places Trust Newsletter

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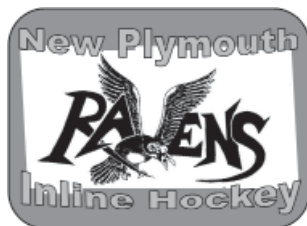
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TOM Sports



Ravens Inline Hockey

RAVENS PLAYERS COMPETE FOR NZ AT INLINE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPS IN PARDUBICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Annually the International Ice Hockey Federation hosts the Inline Hockey World Championship featuring players from all parts of the world.

For New Zealand to participate at this prestigious event held in Europe, the odds are stacked against achieving at the highest level due to various factors. They include the cost of participation, limited funding and support and the

lack of expertise to guide the players towards the technique and strategies needed to compete against the world's best. The 2011 NZ team are grateful for assistance from Lion Foundation who assisted towards costs of airfares and JD Hickman and Stars Travel who contributed to uniform costs. In addition the New Plymouth based players also attended the Oceania Inline Hockey Championships held in Australia in April and were supported by funding grants from the TSB Community Trust.

The event organisers recognise that there are two main groups of players competing at this event. One, the championship group with countries who have a huge ice hockey following represented by USA, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Slovenia. Teams include NHL or pro ice hockey players and in some cases, pro inline hockey players. Most of these countries have been involved since 1996 when the event was founded.

The second group of countries, Division 1, includes New Zealand, Chile, Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, Hungary, Japan, Croatia, Argentina, South Africa along with other countries waiting for their chance to be included.



Fighting it out in the Czech Republic, above Sam Beardman and below, Julian Beardman (front).





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Trent Kemsley.

2008 and 2011), Trent Kemsley and Julian Beardman. Other team members with a New Plymouth connection are Ali Novak, Zach Beardman (both playing for Capital Penguins in Wellington) and Nick Harvey (playing for Hamilton Devils). The New Zealand team last entered the world championship event in 2008 where they were relegated and qualified again to attend in 2011. In 2007 the team placed second in Division 1 after an overtime goal went in favour of Brazil. The silver medal placing was the highest level the New Zealand team has achieved in its history of attending this event. In 2011 the New Plymouth players did well featuring in all games, scoring goals and displaying good defensive tactics.

By Krystyna Beardman

Qualifiers are held annually for entry to Division 1, and each year the top placed Division 1 team is given the opportunity to move up to the championship division in the following year.

In 2011, the New Zealand team competed against Argentina, Hungary, Croatia and Austria and although they did not finish in the top four in their division they can be very proud that they came within a goal of the winning teams and certainly showed that the skill sets required are building in strength within the sport in New Zealand.

The team took the Austrian team to a 9-all full time score only to lose by a sudden death overtime goal. Austria went on to finish in third place. They also kept their loss to Hungary to within one goal, and Hungary went on to finish second. Overall they played very well and the improvement can be directly linked to previous coaches, Shane Clark and Dion Bunt (both of Christchurch) who have also played at this level in past campaigns and their current coach and his ability to lead the team into a competitive arena the players would normally not experience within New Zealand.

Pat Lee, the 2011 coach, comes from a background of pro competition at the elite level in the USA and has played for the USA team for six years. In 2010 his team won gold at the world championships held in Sweden. In 2011 the USA fought a very close final in the championship division against host country the Czech Republic losing 2-3 and placing second.

The New Zealand team was selected from the best players in the country, three of whom play for the New Plymouth Ravens club: Sam Beardman (2007/

Aspire Finance

When you're living on a fixed income and a financial shock comes along it can be a real struggle if the bank won't loan you the money to cope.

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"We often lend for school costs, funerals, deposits on cars from TradeMe or auctions, car repairs, unexpected vet fees – all sort of financial shocks that people have to cope with in life."

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New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

Winter is a time when surfers traditionally head for warmer climes, particularly those “wave factories” such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Pacific Islands. With the big boy’s Metawai’s trip safely returned minus some skin lost on the Indo reefs, and Daisy back from her spell at Roti on Timor we still have members in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and some soon heading off for the Solomons. So, hopefully lots of stories waiting out there to be shared.

For those who have to stay at home winter is still a busy time with the NPSRC hosting the Taranaki Interclub competition and the Taranaki Open (Men’s and Women’s).

The Interclub, organised by Surfing Taranaki, drew teams from New Plymouth, Oakura, Waitara, Taranaki Christians and Opunake. New Plymouth Surf Rider’s held the event on their home patch of Fitzroy where it was hoped that local knowledge would enable them to retain the title for the third consecutive year.

It was not to be with Taranaki Christian surfers taking out the title. Surfing in a 1m swell with a light on-shore breeze, it was the third running of the annual event in which teams of eight surfers from the Waitara, New Plymouth, Oakura, Opunake and Christian clubs compete to be crowned top dog. Each team had four surfers compete in the open division and one in each of the longboard, under-16s, over-40s and women’s divisions. It was a closely fought contest with the winner undecided going into the final event. The Christians sat on 62 points, four ahead of New Plymouth and 10 in front of Waitara, with 40 points on offer for the tag-team winner. The Christians took out the division to secure the title.

Earlier the Christians and New Plymouth were tied after the open division where Jeremy Grainger and Jamie Andrew won their heats for the townies and Josh Kettle and Bachelor Tipene for the Christians. Oakura surfer Brian Clarke won the longboard, while club mate Glen Johns won the over-40s division and Waitara’s Te Rapai Barbarich-Love the U-16s. Eight points separated first and fourth, with Opunake 22 points adrift when the women went into the water which Thandi Durham-Tipene won for the Christians. Christians finished on 102 points with New Plymouth on 82. Waitara finished third on 80. Oakura and Opunake ended the day with 64 and 48 respectively.

Gary Cruikshank from Australia’s High Performance Coaching stated last year “That the majority of competitions are held in crap conditions”. He certainly got that right for this year’s Taranaki Champs managed by Surfing Taranaki. The conditions were cold and wet with a solid peaky, northerly swell making demonstrating skills difficult

and rewarding good wave selection, and luck.

With a full field of 32 in the men’s open it was disappointing to see only three women turn up but the conditions were certainly not attractive by the time they were sent out with a lowering tide and rising northerly wind.

Given the conditions our clubrooms were the logical and only venue available and provided shelter, warmth and good food until the late afternoon sunstroke made judging difficult

RESULTS: MEN’S OPEN -1 Bachelor Tipene, 2 Jarred Hancox, 3 Conan James, 4 Luke Kerr.

WOMEN’S OPEN – 1 Thandi Durham Tipene, 2 Bronte Mannix, 3 Eloise Stephens.

Allen Pidwell



Taranaki Champs Mens finalists:
Conan, Bach, Jarod, Luke.

Taranaki Womens Champs finalists:
Bronte, Thandi, Eloise.



Taranaki Christian Surfers Inter-club champs 2011.

East End SLSC

Well the shortest day has passed us all by which means that summer is just around the corner – YAY.

Our junior surf winter programme is going well with a strong group of junior surf members attending swim training every Wednesday at the Bell Block Swimming Pool.

Our Seniors' winter programme is going great guns with swim training happening Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the NP Aquatic Centre, and ski/board/run training happening Sundays starting off at East End SLSC.

We are pleased to advise that James Morwood has been appointed as our Club Coach for the 2011-2012 season – he has a fantastic season of training planned, and we all look forward to working with James over the next 12 months.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

We are gearing up for our new lifeguard training and we are pleased to say that we have as many adults wishing to become a lifeguard as we have 14 year olds. This is fantastic to see.

Being a lifeguard is an awesome experience where you get to test your own personal boundaries, get to train with a fantastic group of people, work as a team and at the same time you get to give back to the community by helping them stay safe at the beach.

Below is some information about what you are trained in when getting your lifeguard award.

If anyone is interested in becoming a lifeguard please contact Fiona Climo email fclimo@ihug.co.nz txt 027 2424929.

INFORMATION

Prerequisites: 14 years of age, current member of a SLS club

Duration: 8 weeks

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Who should complete it: Anyone interested in getting started as a Surf Lifeguard

Candidate requirements: Complete all tests, practical tasks and theory successfully

Exam components: 400 Metre Swim in under 9 minutes; Releases and Tows; Tube Rescue (Pool); Radio; Theory Paper 80% correct; Signals; Run-Swim-Run; CPR; First Aid; Tube Rescue.

Topics covered:

1. Introduction and risk management
2. The physical environment
3. CPR
4. First aid
5. Roles and responsibilities
6. Surf lifeguard skills and knowledge
7. Communication

OUTCOMES

At the completion of the qualification candidates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of health and safety issues relevant to Surf Life Saving members.
2. Describe the features of the surf environment.
3. Identify and describe the roles and responsibilities of a Surf Lifeguard.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of effective communication
5. Demonstrate knowledge of effective scanning techniques and victim identification.
6. Perform retrieval of underwater objects.
7. Perform releases and tows in an aquatic environment.
8. Demonstrate Surf Life Saving signal communication and demonstrate knowledge of graphic communication.
9. Communicate using a two-way radio.
10. Perform a tube rescue.
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12. Provide first aid (no unit standards).

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"Travels of a Bush Baby"

A BOOK BY JEAN FISHER

When Jean Fisher started jotting down her memoirs as a record for her children and grandchildren, she had no idea that she was writing a book. In fact, one of the things I most remember from when we first met was that she lamented her poor memory for the early events of her life. "Tales of a Bush Baby," some 160 pages long, is the result of Jean's "poor memory." For most of her time writing, Jean referred to her manuscript as "the thing" and to her computer, with which she has, I believe, a love-hate relationship, as "the beast". The publication of her book proves she has tamed if not mastered the beast and that the thing can now truly be called her book.

In it Jean, wife of the late Stratford GP Brian Fisher, describes her life growing up in Africa as part of a missionary family, in very different circumstances and with very different experiences to most of our own. She moved to Scotland to train as a nurse and when she returned to Africa, she met and married Brian, who had also returned to his home country after doing his training in the UK. They started their family in Africa but finally, in a brave move, they all moved half way across the world to rural Stratford, where Brian established his general medical practice and Jean re-established their family.



Jean at her book launch.

Jean is a committed Christian. She suggests that when reading her book, you might like to see how God moved circumstances and people at significant times, and how He made provisions just when they were needed. On the other hand, you might just like to sit back and enjoy her fascinating story. It's an easy read, funny at times and beautifully written, with a delicious turn of phrase. It is illustrated with great photos too.

"Travels of a Bush Baby" was launched on Saturday 28 May at the Central Baptist Church and Jean has since had a book signing at the Stratford Library. To her surprise, her book has been popular enough to demand a second printing! It is a good read and a wee piece of history too. Congratulations, Jean, you are now a published author!

If you would like a copy of Jean's book, you can contact her on (06)758 2371 or by e-mail at bjfisher@clear.net.nz

Story by Kerry Lilley

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Choosing a Financial Adviser

Choosing the wrong financial adviser can have dire consequences. Just ask all those people who lost money to sharks or through poor financial advice over the past five years.

Part of the problem in New Zealand is that until recently, almost anyone could print a business card and start offering financial advice. That has now all changed with the Financial Advisers Act 2008 which comes fully into effect on July 1 and means financial advisers, mortgage and insurance brokers and other financial entities such as banks must meet certain standards.

These standards include taking an appropriate degree of care, refraining from misleading and deceptive conduct, being registered on the Financial Service Providers Register (which can be searched) and joining a dispute resolution scheme that can make independent recommendations.

From July 1, financial advisers offering investment advice need to have the letters AFA (Authorised Financial Adviser) after their name, which means they meet basic educational and knowledge requirements and have been through some sort of educational process and that they need to adhere to a code of professional conduct under the FAA.

Mortgage and insurance brokers simply need to be "registered" as RFAs, not authorised, because they sell simpler products than financial advisers.

There are other degrees of authorisation. Bank tellers and client services staff, for example, can give advice under the FAA about their employer's products. The bank or other financial entity has to become authorised as a Qualifying Financial Entity (QFE) and its staff work under the company umbrella with the bank or financial institution takes responsibility under the law for its staff's actions.

There is a greater risk of such staff making mistakes than a financial adviser, who is trained and authorised in his or her own right. But the employer sits at the bottom of the cliff to catch any mistakes.

A good financial adviser should help you make better financial decisions. Even if you manage to swim clear of the sharks, you can't simply pick a financial adviser and leave every last detail in their hands. It's essential to actually read the material you receive and consider carefully the returns on your investments.

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Living in the Quake Zone...

EX RESIDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

This month we hear from three New Plymouth people affected by the on going problems faced by living in Christchurch. These are their experiences.

Ex Highlands Park resident Nicola Wilmot moved to Christchurch seven years ago she says, “to marry my fantastic husband.” This is her account of the events directly after the quakes.

“They were both different. The first one in September was so early in the morning that we were both thrown out of bed. It was horrible hearing things smashing and falling over in the house in the dark, because the power had gone out. Our night store heater which was on and hot at the time was coming off the wall which was near the doorway that we were huddling in. It was a very scary experience but at least we were together.

The second quake, being during the day when we were both at work on opposite sides of town was terrifying. Hearing all the sirens and not being able to communicate with each other was terrible, everywhere people were in a real state of panic. We were hearing on the radio about collapsed buildings, some of which I had been in or near, only days beforehand. I hadn’t replied to an earlier text that Matt had sent because it came during a meeting and I thought I would reply when I got back to work, but then the quake hit. Matt had no idea my meeting had finished early and that I wasn’t in town and I had no way of telling him I was OK or finding out if he was safe.

Initially I tried driving to his side of town but the roads were terrible...huge cracks and water running everywhere. It was like driving through a river and we were still having aftershocks. People were running in panic, wading through the dirty water and as I drove the car scraped on some of the big cracks in the road. Roads we travelled on regularly were blocked because buildings had fallen on them and there was a man on foot walking through the traffic telling people that we couldn’t go any further and that we would have to turn down other streets. I ended up changing my mind about getting to Matt’s work in the Cashmere Hills and decided to try and get home in the opposite direction near the airport. Once home I was really nervous about going into the house alone, not knowing what I was going to find. One of our big windows had smashed and there was glass all over the table and floors. In the end I went to the neighbours house as they had made it home safely too. During this time there were helicopters with big buckets of water flying over head to put out the CTV fire. Reports were coming in on the radio of the extensive damage to the city and that people were trapped in buildings. After about four to five hours I managed to finally get through to Matt on his work phone to tell him I was OK and to find out how he was. Friends of ours nearby picked Matt up and bought him home on the still chaotic roads.”

I asked Nicola to describe what it’s like living with the hundreds of aftershocks.

“My heart still races each time as it’s hard to know if a quake is building up or if that is it. As a Christian having God and the amazing support of our church, the Revival Fellowship has been huge. Lots of prayer, fellowship and singing all really help.” The hall that Nicola’s church held their meetings in will need to be demolished and they now hold their meetings in a school classroom.

Innovation has also come as a result of the quakes. A friend of Nicola’s, Brendan Wright, has developed a device that is an Earthquake Early Warning System that can warn of impending earthquakes and tsunamis. Brendan’s company Roam3 supplied Urban Search and Rescue workers with the warning system when they were working on the rescue/recovery mission in the CBD. A warning message was transmitted to their cell phone so that they had a few seconds notice of a quake. In the extremely dangerous situations they had to work in after the quake these few seconds warning proved invaluable. Roam3 is hoping to provide the service to the public for free if government funding can be obtained.

I asked Nicola what changes she had made to her daily life since the February quake.

“My handbag has so much more extra ‘stuff’ in it now...food, water bottle, self charging torch, cell phone charger. I don’t really like going to the mall or the supermarket now. I don’t like parking undercover with the risk of being trapped. When I go places I plan an escape route and/or somewhere to take shelter. We keep a torch, radio, clothes and shoes next to the bed. There are also torches in certain spots around the house and lots of water stored too. Each morning when I drop Matt off at work we have a bit of a plan of what to do, where to meet etc. I always text him to let him know where my meetings are and what part of town I’m in.”

When the February earthquake struck Nicola was seven weeks pregnant so she tried to stay as calm as possible and not get too stressed. She says dealing with terrible morning sickness and the vomiting whilst having no running water was awful; adding to the chaos was she and Matt had been in the middle of house renovations. Ongoing aftershocks make post graduate study challenging she says, and the traffic is still really bad. It’s very congested...like living in Auckland!

Finally I asked Nicola what has impressed her about the



Nicola (far left) surveying the damage at the church hall.

Christchurch people and her answer was simple: “how people have just carried on”

Getting in touch with loved ones after the quake and big aftershocks is a priority, when those loved ones aren't in the same city this can pose its own set of challenges. Fitzroy resident Gail Towler's eldest son, Sam aged 21, is in his third year of a business degree at Canterbury University and was in Christchurch during both quakes.

The morning I spoke with Gail she told me Sam was sitting exams. There had been another sizeable aftershock the night before; students studying at Canterbury would certainly be dealing with a lot more than exam jitters when they entered the examination room that morning. Gail wasn't sure what the protocol would be if they had a big aftershock in the middle of the exam, but no doubt a whole set of new procedures has had to be put in place for just such an event. The University has had to be resourceful; holding lectures in large tents, sending students overseas to study and announcing that no students will be excluded based on their results from this semester. Students lost six weeks of study through the delayed University opening and Gail says Sam is very aware that even when he wasn't at uni his student loan was still mounting up. Sam and his girlfriend Lana live in Riccarton and have fortunately suffered no major property or liquefaction damage to their rental property but they haven't escaped the constant aftershocks and other disturbances like blackouts and loss of clean water. Lana is employed at a store that sells fine china and crystal. She spends huge amounts of time cleaning up breakages and one wonders how long a company can sustain those sorts of losses. When an aftershock hits in the night, Sam has told Gail he always wakes up, guesses its intensity and then goes back to sleep. The family has learnt to be patient through this whole ordeal too. Text messages come through very slowly after an aftershock as everyone has the same priority, send a text to let loved ones know they are safe.

After the February quake Sam went with Lana and stayed at her parent's home in Blenheim and in April the Towlers flew them home to Taranaki for three days. Once home they both said “We'd forgotten what it was like when the ground isn't moving.” As parents the situation is obviously a worry for Gail and her husband Murray. They have even offered to buy Sam and Lara out of their rental lease so they can study elsewhere but they want to stay and Sam told her, “It would be like giving up if we left”..

The stress on parents back home is huge too but Gail went on to explain. “At times in Christchurch, is what it must have been like in World War II in England. The blackouts, waiting for bombs, it's the type of hardship and stress many generations of people have never experienced. But you have to try and take some good out of all this; this is a learning opportunity and the kids will hopefully come away with some amazing life skills.”

That so many people choose to remain in Christchurch including many students amazes some people. Another student who has opted to stay is 18 year old engineering student Sam Mitchell who is in his first year at Canterbury. He gives us some insight into what keeps him there.

When the February quake struck Sam was on the fourth floor of his boarding hostel. He described the experience in this way: “For a few seconds there was a low rumbling noise and



Sam Mitchell.

then the building started to shake. It started off small but then it was like someone had picked up the building and started shaking it violently. There were about twelve of us in the hallway and some people were thrown against the wall. Instincts kicked in and I jumped into the only open doorway and held as hard as I could, someone grabbed onto me. People were screaming and we were all pretty frightened.”

Sam is full of praise for both the university and his hostel for what they have done for the students, many of whom had never before experienced an earthquake. Like Nicola the Christchurch people have impressed him in

the way they have supported each other and how they have carried on with life in spite of all the difficulties they face.

For Sam the ongoing aftershocks are something he has learned to live with. “The smaller ones are no big deal but the bigger ones affect everyone. I'm kind of jumpy at times, loud bass music, big trucks driving past, really strong winds that make the walls creak, all make me think there is an earthquake for a second or two, but then you just compose yourself and get on with life. After a big aftershock there's usually only a couple of minutes to send off a text to before the phone lines jam, so I send one to mum straight away to let her know I'm OK and then try and contact extended family and close friends.”

Sam, along with many from his hostel, attended the memorial service and he recounts some of the special moments from the service.

“We arrived and got seats near the front. Half an hour later when the service was about to start, I turned around and was blown away by how many were there. I literally could not see the end of the people. One of the most poignant moments for me was when the USAR and other rescue teams walked into the service and suddenly everyone stood up to give them a standing ovation. Of the many tributes given, for me two highlights were Prince Williams's speech and Dave Dobbyn's performance of 'Loyal'. William spoke very well and one thing he said that touched a lot of peoples hearts was something his grandmother had said to him that “Grief is the price we pay for love” Sam went onto describe Dobbyn's heartfelt performance as one of the best he has ever seen.

Whilst the February earthquake and the feeling of helplessness was the worst experience for Sam he says there are some good experiences that have resulted. He says his hostel group has been bought closer together by sharing such a major event and helping each other. The University staff often reminds them that their year group will be one that knows how to deal with struggle, harsh conditions and difficulty.

Sam says “I guess it has helped me to grow up a bit more. It has also made me place greater value on simple things that you take for granted, like tap water. We spent about two months having to boil water and not use any taps.”

As for leaving Christchurch, “I have great friends in Canterbury and feel an association with the region. I guess it does that to you, and as much as I consider myself to be Taranaki born and bred, now there's a bit of a Cantabrian in there.”

By Jackie Tomlinson



Helen Keller summed it up.
PHOTO BY MARK DARBYSHIRE

A Rocking Good Time at Twinkle Toes

PAUA (Preschoolers At-Home Uniquely Achieving) is a vibrant Home-based Early Childhood Education service operating throughout the central and lower North Island and also in Christchurch.

Raewyn Overton-Stuart (PAUA's Managing Director) is delighted by the mainly 'word-of-mouth' growth, adding "Due to regional growth we are delighted to have Victoria Mills as Visiting Teacher in Taranaki. Victoria brings great experience and enables us to provide 'on-the-spot' support for Educators and families." One of the ways that Victoria has added support in the community is by setting up a music group with Holy Trinity Church called Twinkle Toes.

Rev Helene Young said, "We are delighted to work alongside PAUA. Twinkle Toes was set up to bring communities together, provide opportunities for children, grandparents, educators, caregivers and parents to come enjoy and have a coffee. I can't think of a better way to do this than with music and movement."



Twinkle Toes music group gets underway,

Twinkle Toes follows a format similar to other music and movement sessions but as an independent group it can offer flexible resources from a variety of sources of music and equipment. The normal format is 30mins music and movement, followed by 30mins free play.

Grandmothers and volunteers from the parish come in and provide home baking and help with the tea, coffee and music. Twinkle Toes is run fortnightly on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am – 10:30am

27th July 2011, 19th August 2011, 24th August 2011.

There is a gold coin donation to cover costs like the morning tea, and to buy and make instruments.

Everyone is welcome. It is a fantastic, relaxed fun thing to do with your pre-schoolers so come along and give it a go!

Margaret Joyce and her daughter Holly enjoy Twinkle Toes.



TOM PET OF THE MONTH Scout

Age: Five years old. *Breed:* German Shepherd

Personality and Background: Scout was rescued by the SPCA as she hadn't been treated very well by her owners. After a month at the SPCA she was adopted by Arch and Daisy and has lived happily with them ever since. Scout has a strong personality, but Arch and Daisy have had Shepherds before and knew how to handle her. They also enlisted the skills of Nick the Dog Whisperer for some extra training. All this hard work has paid off - Scout has learned to chase a ball and NOT the family's old fluffy cat and will even lie down and roll over in order to earn a biscuit.

She loves to run on the beach and plop into rock pools to cool off. Hide and seek is another favourite game which Scout always wins. Her sense of smell is amazing and Daisy says she would have been a great police dog. She sniffs rats out of the compost, catching them to proudly show her family.

Scout is still a little bit naughty at times especially if she hasn't been out for a run and she has learnt to open doors and sneak quietly into the guest area at home to pick up

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toilet rolls to bury. Another favourite trick is to grab the toothpaste and chew it in comfort, on the guest bed!

If family and friends visit Scout gets really excited and shows the visitors all her toys and loves a cuddle.

It's apparent that this beautiful girl who had a shaky start in this world has learnt to love life with a family that loves her.

Star Anise Café Adds Spice to the Café Culture

The newly opened café on Buller St brings new flavours to the city's café scene while also providing the good Kiwi basics we all love. Star Anise brings a North African theme to its food with the flavours of Algeria and the south Mediterranean.

The café is located in what was once the Seventh Day Adventist Church and has had a makeover in a Moroccan type decor resplendent with fittings all sourced from Morocco but the building retains its original features of a church. It also features some wonderful aerosol artworks of the desert.

Star Anise café is a family oriented business. Sue Ellen Annane is the chef. Sue Ellen is back home in Taranaki having gone overseas for a year to travel. She of course stayed away longer than a year and returned home with a husband (Nabil) and three children (Leila, Maya and Sammi). Nabil is Algerian and he and Sue Ellen are bringing their children up as Muslims. The difficulty in sourcing halal (lawful) food started Sue Ellen on her quest to provide such food in New Plymouth. Sue Ellen has been a chef for 16 years and before opening her café, worked at Sushi Ninja.

Sue Ellen's mum Suzanne owns the building and has done so for 14 years. Some readers may remember it housed the McDonalds Toy Museum. Suzanne's parents Meg and Richard Cardiff have also lent a hand by doing building work and gardening. Suzanne also helps out with looking after the children and has already been roped into helping out in the café when they were busy over opening weekend.

Mark Parkinson is responsible for the eye catching painted wall featuring an as yet un-named camel and also the sand dune and oasis painting on the front fence. When I visited a competition was underway to name the camel and the winner of the competition was Riley Barrett age 12 - the camel is now called "Couscous". Interesting murals and ethnic influences alone don't make a great café, the food does. I can't personally review the food as I didn't try any but the menu certainly caught and kept my attention as did the display of cabinet food. Sue Ellen says she has put her own 'tweak' on the familiar food on the menu and as



Suzanne on left and Sue Ellen on right, outside the newly opened Star Anise Café.

she loves experimenting with food this could be a favourite haunt for me. The main flavours of north Africa are based around the harissa sauce in savoury dishes (a combination of chilli, cumin, coriander and garlic made into a paste) and cardamom, honey, mint and nuts in sweet dishes. Star Anise has a daily tagine of the day, soup of the day and pasta of the day all at a very reasonable prices. Also on offer is sweet mint tea served in delicate patterned glasses - the tea originates from the Sahara - a refreshing revitalizing drink I am sure.

Off street parking and wheelchair access make this a café everyone can visit.

Star Anise is open 7 days a week – Monday to Friday 7am-5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-2pm.

By Kim Ferens





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New Plymouth Boys' High School

THE SCHOOL IS VERY PROUD OF THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

In the Chamber Music competition, winners were a combined Boys' High/Girls' High/Francis Douglas MC group with Adrian Robb playing violin.

Highly commended - a NPBHS group comprising Nathaniel Manning, Christopher Raines, and Alan Ansell.

NPBHS Sax Quartet, comprising Jacob Tomlinson, William Livingston, Jordan Hughes, and Adrian Robb won the KBB prize.

Our cross country team performed well in the Nationals at Ashburton, with Matt Baxter gaining a silver medal. Our senior team also came second.

Logan Toa has been chosen to represent NZ at the World Boxing Championships in Kazakhstan.

Tom Burrell is Taranaki Champion in Table Tennis.

Jayden Davy has been selected to compete in the 2011 UCI BMX World Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Liam Paterson has been invited into the National Orienteering Development Squad.

Joel Robertson won the Super 8 Public speaking.

Jay Maaka and Sunjay Modgill excelled in golf.

Jerome Sale has reached B2 grade in squash.

James Stockwell has been chosen for the NZ U-13 NZ Indoor Cricket Team to play South Africa.

10 Pin Bowling winners - Taylor Pritchard, Eddie Konijn, Chris Aebig and Cory Adams.

Nathan Hartley with the Year 9 music group.

Jake Church whose group "Living Lightly" won the Rockquest competition.

DJ's Logan Woodhead and Campbell Younger.

Connor Wilson-Puhara - awarded a Tiger Jacket for athletics.



Matt Baxter.

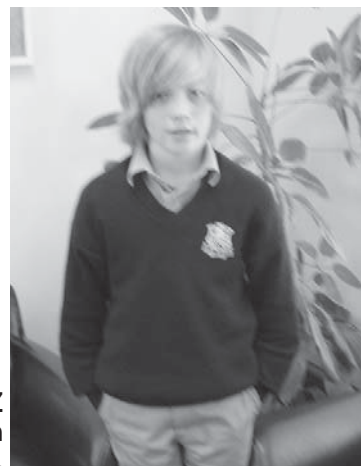


Logan Toa.



Tom Burrell.

Jamie Stockwell, NZ Indoor Cricket team to play South Africa.



Tiger Jacket recipients, Back Row: Billy Rodenburg, Shaun Burton, Chaz Hall, Jay Rodger, David Avery. Middle Row: Matthew McDonald, Liam Paterson, Edward Lawley, Sonny Nguyen, Robbie Wood, Michael Lloyd. Front Row: Callum Old, Matt Baxter, Darren Alexander, Josh Girvan, Lachlan Bunn, Jake Parker.

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THE MAKINGS OF AN ATHLETE

A group of local New Plymouth Boys High School boys have recently returned from Ashburton where they participated in the annual secondary school cross country championships. The best runners from all over New Zealand get together to compete in their age groups and this year the NPBHS runners did very well. Ross Stembridge, a year 9 student was one student who did very well and he answers some questions about his experience.

Where did you come at the cross country nationals in Ashburton?

10th (10.10min) in the 3km.

Where did your team come in the teams event?

I came 6th in 6 man team event.

What other x country events have you been to this year and where did you come?

Super 8 competition in Tauranga - 6th, Auckland Grammar sports exchange - 3rd; Whanganui sports exchange - 1st; Taranaki X country 1st; NPBHS 1st (broke school record) 19.51mins.

How long have you been in the NPBHS X country team?



Cross country runner and hockey player, Ross Stembridge.

I started this year.

How long have you been running?

I have participated in school x country races every year since I started school.

What is your practice regime?

Train twice a week with NPBHS x country team - 2 hours a week.

What do you like about running or why are you in the x country team?

I joined the team as fitness training for hockey.

What is your inspiration?

Hockey.

Other interests?

I love anything to do with sport especially hockey and rugby.

(Ross's current goal in hockey at the moment is to make the 1st XI at NPBHS and to go on play at a level to the best of his ability and ultimately become a BlackStick. He is in a development squad this year and has played for the 2nd XI in a couple of school exchanges this year.

Hockey is a fast game that requires a high level of fitness, so he thought the x country would help him achieve this. He is currently playing in Taranaki U15 boys team and the coach is insisting all boys be physically fit. They play in a National Tournament in Timaru 23-30 July.)


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Merrilands Kindergarten

Kia ora! We have been very busy in this funny and changing weather. We had an adventurously fun and bumpy ride on the bus to the TSB Showplace to watch a show called, Songs of the Sea. A large conch shell whispered stories of the ocean to children playing by the sea. There was a funny taniwha who was being teased by some fish and he made the children laugh with his animated antics and cheeky words! It was a wonderful, bright, experience with beautiful songs and creatures, that was enjoyed by all.

We have been celebrating Matariki, the Māori New Year. We dug out the strawberry plants in our māra/garden to make room for new plantings of vegetables. As Matariki reminds us to share and give, we potted the strawberry plants and offered them to anyone who wanted them. They were all gone by the end of session so that was wonderful to see people had accepted our gifts. In our garden we planted cabbage, celery, beetroot, cauliflower, lettuce and kumara. We also planted some rīwai/potatoes in the centre of two tyres that we'd stacked upon one another. There are some very capable and skilled gardeners at our kindergarten. Go, you green thumbs!

We harvested the silverbeet from our garden and tapahi/cut it or ripped it into pieces. Into two pots it went, with some water, and we boiled it up. The leaves wilted and darkened before being given a dollop of butter and a sprinkle of salt. It was delicious! Some children who didn't want to try it saw someone else having a taste so they decided to give it a go too, only to find out they wanted more! It was rawe/fantastic to see so many tamariki enjoying the beautiful silverbeet! What a treat!

A special visitor came to our kindergarten. It was Walnut the Clown and he was very funny. Children laughed heartily when he squirted water through a flower on his shirt, when he sang funny songs, and when he made things disappear. He came in with no makeup at first and then showed the children how he puts it on which was very interesting and less threatening for some children. We all laughed



Walnut the Clown.

when he had trouble putting his jacket on, too. He tried to put his legs in the sleeves!

We have been having an exciting term and hope you are all well and are keeping cosy as the beautiful huka(snow) dusts our maunga and fills the air with a crisp freshness.

Ka kite, from the teachers and staff at Merrilands Kindergarten:

Libby, Yvonne, Fortunate, Denise and Brenda



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Mah Jong Afternoon

Soroptimist International New Plymouth @ Mission invite Mah Jong players to join them for an afternoon of Mah Jong to help raise funds for our Soroptimist projects.

**Sunday 7th August,
Beach Street Hall, Fitzroy, New Plymouth**

Cost: \$10.00

This includes prizes and afternoon tea. Raffle available.

A basic knowledge of Mah Jong will enable you to participate, meet other players, enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and win prizes.

Arrangements for play: Positions will be allocated by chance on the day. Play will be for tokens. Loosies (jokers) will be used. National Tournament rules for 2011 will apply. These will be available on enrolment and request. Most of you will notice only small variations from the hands you are used to playing.

Programme:

First session play: 1.30 pm - 3.00pm

Afternoon Tea break: 3.00pm - 3.30pm

Delicious afternoon tea prepared by Soroptimists

Second session: 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Prize Giving: 4.30pm

There will be prizes for hands of the session, spot prizes, and the highest score of the day will win two tickets for Marbles Buffet.

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Soroptimists are an international organisation, affiliated with the United Nations who work to improve the lives of women and children in their local communities, regions and internationally.

FITZROY CLUBS & GROUPS

East End Indoor Bowling Club meets in the Community Hall Sackville St Fitzroy at 7.30 pm every Monday evening. New members are very welcome. Please phone Betty Death 757 9968.

Fitzroy Outdoor Bowling Club. Season now open and new members welcome – both men and women. Join our friendly members who play on two greens with an upmarket clubroom and fine facilities. Contact President Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or Secretary Sherylle Watkins 755 0125.

Fitzroy Scout Group. For boys and girls from age 5. Keas meet on Tuesdays from 5pm - 6.15pm, Cubs meet on Mondays 6.00 - 7.30pm, Scouts meet on Mondays 6.30 - 8.00pm at The Scout Den, Clemow Road Fitzroy (near Lake Rotomanu). Visit us to see what we do. The first term/part term is free! For further details contact the following: For Keas (years 1-3) phone Ashley on 06 7583918 / 021 292 2686. For Cubs (years 4-6) phone Cory 06 759 9312 / 027 291 7334. For Scouts (years 7-10) phone Vinnie 06 755 0328/027 486 6210. Or email: fitzroyscoutgroup@xtra.co.nz

Fitzroy Men's Probud Club meets in the Beach Street Hall, Fitzroy, at 10am on the second Tuesday of every month (except January). New members welcome. Please phone Ian Raine 06 757 5825.

Fitzroy Womens Probud. Beach St Hall, meet 10am 1st Wednesday of each month. New Members welcome. Phone Margaret Stening 757 8890.

Freemasons Worldwide are ordinary men in the community, 21 years and over, of all religions and backgrounds, who share a concern for human values, moral standards, and the rights of individuals. Meeting monthly in Fitzroy. Phone Roger Marshall, 06 759 1755.

Mahjong. There will be Mahjong starting at the Beach Street Hall, lounge room, on Sat 12th March, 1pm-4pm then every Saturday. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy Mahjong, cup of tea and biscuits. There will be a small prize for hand of the day, \$3.00 each. For details phone 758 1957 or 757 5913.

New Plymouth Chess Club. Every Tuesday 7.30 pm. Clubrooms: 11 Gilbert St (next to Model Trains). For further information contact Errol Tuffrey 758 2626.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing.

New Plymouth Croquet Club

Winter months at New Plymouth Croquet Club Rooms, East End Reserve. *Cards & Rummy Kub* every Friday afternoon starting April 2nd, 1pm - 4pm, \$3; *Mah Jongg* every Saturday afternoon starting May 7th, 1pm - 4pm, \$3; *Winter Croquet* will start on Wednesday 1st June, new members welcome, \$3 session. Please ring Barbara 758 2710 for more details.

New Plymouth Pakeke Lions meet on the last Monday of the month at the Fitzroy Golf Club, 11.30am. Contact President David May 758 4427.

New Plymouth Swords Club - Fencing. At New Plymouth Boys' High Old Gymnasium, off Hobson St. Every Monday night of school term. Juniors 6-7pm. Seniors 7-9pm. For more info contact: John Calcott, Ph 753 9186, jcalcott@paradise.net.nz

Rotary meets every Wednesday night at 5.15pm at the Beach Street Hall. Enquiries to the Secretary, Ross Smith, phone 758 4194. Email: rossandanne@slingshot.co.nz

Santa Rosa Country Music Club meets every Friday night at the Fitzroy Hall, Sackville Street Fitzroy, at 7.30pm till 10.30pm. Information regarding club please ph 021 265 9230 or email lancasters@xtra.co.nz. Entry \$3 non-members, \$2 members. Supper provided.

Taranaki Model Powerboat Club holds a Club Day on the 1st Sunday of every month (weather permitting) at Lake Cowley, just before the Go cart track in Waitara. Contact John Nicholls on 769 9166 or 021 299 4168.

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.

Tasman Club situated at 35 Octavius Place, New Plymouth. Tasman Clubrooms are available for hire. Further information phone 758 5186 clubrooms.

TSB NP Contract Bridge Club plays Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs at 7.20pm and Friday afternoons from 12.45pm at 70 Hobson St. Ph the President 758 8985 or the Secretary 759 0258.

U3A New Plymouth. Monthly meetings are held at the Trinity Church Hall, 8 Henui Street, Fitzroy at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month (except January). Contact the Secretary, 752 3801, for more details - never too old to learn.

Victoria League Bridge Club. Very social bridge, every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm. Phone 757 5913 for more details.

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