

TAKE ONE MOMENT

OCTOBER 2011

TOM FITZROY

LOCAL CHOIR MEMBERS FOR RUGBY WORLD CUP

The choir having some fun and filling in time while they wait in their room below the grandstand prior to singing at the Wales v Namibia game.

- 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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EDITORIAL

I am no history buff but having Welsh people in town in their droves had me asking why so many people were wearing daffodils and what the significance of it was. So after the Wales/Namibian game, I gamely asked one gaily dressed daffodil why she was thus dressed so prettily. Apparently it is all to do with David – that is St David who is the patron saint of Wales. His death is celebrated on the first day of spring – 1 March and of course we all associate spring with daffy's. Funny though, this tradition wasn't celebrated till the 18th century and marked as an official public holiday as late as 2000. St David was born in the 5th century – obviously they are a bit slow to catch on over there! Anyway a bit of digging unearthed a few facts. St David founded a Celtic monastery in which he was a bishop and teacher in the Valley of the Roses and a Cathedral stands there still today. Celebrations on St David's Day included wearing the leek but some decided that was a bit ordinary so an alternative emblem was adopted – the daffodil (imagine dressing up as a leek). The leek is said to be St David's personal symbol

and (I find this hard to believe) he ordered his soldiers (I thought he was a bishop) to wear the leek in their hats to distinguish them from the Vikings when they went into battle. Apparently leeks and daffodils have similar names in Welsh – Cenhinen (leek) and Cenhinen Pedr (daffodil literally meaning Peter's leek). Confusing because I thought the daffodil was about David not Peter! But when I thought about

the actual plants, the stalk of a daffodil is similar to the stalk of a leek so I'll concede and say there is a slight connection there. I note the Welsh are very big on symbolism with three feathers also embroidered on the rugby player's shirts – the three feathers of the Prince of Wales but that is rather a dark tale of Black Princes, battles, conquests and murders so best leave that to another day!

Roll on summer!

Kim



The daffy's out in display with pride and passion.

COVER STORY

Choirs for Rugby World Cup Feature Several Local Residents

When the New Zealand Choral Federation was asked to provide choirs to sing the national anthems at all the 2011 Rugby World Cup games the call went out for singers nationwide to audition in the all the centres' hosting games.

Throughout New Zealand nearly a thousand singers answered that call to audition, resulting in over five hundred people singing in the World Cup choirs.

In Taranaki back in July fifty six singers attended an anthem workshop and auditioned for a place in the local RWC choir.

Choral director David Squire led the Taranaki workshop where the singers went over the national anthems of the five teams to play in New Plymouth being Russia, Ireland, Wales, Namibia and the U.S.A. Either before or after the workshop, singers had a two minute audition where they sang God Defend New Zealand in either English or Maori followed by a short ear test.

(Continued on page 5)

TOM

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Fitzroy Lotto & Mags are now NZ Post Agent

The closure of the Fitzroy Post Shop was a sad day – no community likes to lose valuable services but fortunately for Fitzroy locals NZ Post approached Fitzroy Lotto & Mags to be an agent for postal services – they willingly obliged – and are now one of only five agents in New Zealand.

Fitzroy Lotto & Mags is owned and run by Ollie and Mina

and they have been the owners for a year and have enjoyed meeting and helping the community with their stationery, lotto and now postal services.

Fitzroy Lotto & Mags offer all NZ Post services except Kiwibank and of course the PO boxes are still in their original location behind the shopping centre.

Ollie says he likes to provide a fast, friendly and efficient service. On offer in the shop is a photocopying service, overseas posting, nationwide posting, parcel pick up after 8.40am each morning, bill payments, lodgements, stationery including all the NZ Post stamps, envelopes, boxes, bags and courier pouches. There is also a large range of cards, magazines, maps, gift wrapping, postcards and lotto available for customers – there is no need to go into town – it is all in store.



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To make an appointment with Peter Marra, Acupuncture Professional phone 06 7581857 in 60b Buller Street, New Plymouth.

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World Cup Choir

(Continued from page 2)



The Taranaki Rugby World Cup Choir about to board their bus to go to the stadium.

The results of these auditions saw a choir of thirty selected and amongst these were some people from our local community. One couple that have had a particularly busy time with the choirs during the time New Plymouth was hosting RWC games, were Merrilands locals Chrissy and Peter Jackson. Chosen as RWC Choir co-ordinators for the Taranaki region as well as singers for the choir I asked them how they found this exciting challenge: "The whole experience has been awesome. Our biggest challenges were the Russian and Welsh anthems, but they were a good workout for the brain and are a blast to sing. We loved working with a great bunch of singers from around the region as well as some from around the country." The NZ Choral Foundation wanted the RWC project choirs to be a mix of singers with diversity in age, gender and ethnic background and the Taranaki choir seemed to meet that brief well. Two locals in the younger age bracket were Sacred Heart Girls College Year 13 student Christina Levi and Spotswood College student Phoebe Tomlinson aged 15. I asked the girls what were the highlights, challenges and special moments for them as members of the RWC Choir. Christina says, "Highlights for me were meeting new people from New Plymouth and the fact that both young and older people were involved giving it a real community feel. Another highlight was being able to stay and watch the matches after singing."

Phoebe said she also enjoyed meeting all the "amazing people involved in the choir" and highlights for her were "Being on the pitch, you get a really good vibe off the crowd. Standing, watching and hearing all the fans from the different countries

sing their national anthems with us. It was a real honour."

There was no doubt amongst the singers that the anthems that proved the most challenging were the Welsh and Russian ones. Another local resident that was involved with the choir was Gabrielle Barr. Gabrielle outlined the process of learning all the anthems and performing at the games.

"We had five anthems to learn via recordings on the NZCF website. Those of Ireland, USA and Namibia were all sung in English but the anthems of Russia and Wales presented the challenge of their original languages, it was quite daunting as they had to be pronounced absolutely correctly and memorised. On the evening before the game we had a two hour rehearsal with the out of town conductor ...yes, two hours for three minutes of singing! On the day of the game we parked cars in town five hours before kick off and were taken by bus to the stadium where we had sound checks and three entry procedure rehearsals. This all took a total of thirty minutes then the rest of the time was spent in lock up beneath the Grandstand until 7.00pm. It was all good humoured but involved a lot of waiting around. However when we finally got on the field to sing, it was with the backing of the NZ Symphony Orchestra which felt wonderful. It was a thrill to hear the enthusiasm of the team supporters as they both sang and cheered."

There is no doubt that this once in a lifetime experience was relished by all the singers involved in the Rugby World cup choirs and that the visiting teams would have loved hearing their national anthems sung so beautifully.

What every New Zealander will now be hoping is that at the Rugby World Cup final the anthem being sung will be the one that all the singers originally auditioned with, our very own God defend New Zealand.

By Jackie Tomlinson



The choir and USA.

ITL Engineering Open Day

ITL Engineering held an Open Day on the 8th October and a large crowd enjoyed visiting the historic building which of course used to be the RSA. It has been beautifully refurbished and will be an important part of Fitzroy Village life. The Great Taranaki Steam Band among others was on hand to entertain the visitors and many also enjoyed cup cakes in the boardroom.

Garnett Henderson, Design Office Manager says everyone was blown away with the response from the public and it was awesome to see so many of the old RSA members come to visit and to hear their appreciation for the renovation.



The open plan workspace swells with curious locals
Denby discovers the cupcakes.



A new paint job and a once abandoned building
springs back to life.



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ITL wish to thank those who made it to our open day.
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and enjoyed viewing the revitalised RSA building
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Waiwaka Tennis Club

Well if you haven't dusted off your racquet yet, now is the time. Junior club days and senior club nights are in motion, and interclub squads are on the courts practicing and always in need of keen players.

The club will be fielding three teams in the Taranaki Tennis Association A grade competition this season and likely to have eight teams in the Northern Districts competition for Juniors, Youth and B-grade, which is run in North Taranaki.

Any school age players wanting to play need to contact Yvonne before the end of this school term.

A holiday programme will be running in the second week of the upcoming school holidays, and a Grasshopper programme on Fridays for beginner 5 to 8 year olds in the final school term. Parents are urged to contact Yvonne as soon as possible to register for both of these.

Thanks to the Lion Foundation, the club is in possession of a new Lobster ball machine which will be a great coaching and practice aid.

Junior Club days are for all current junior members, new players, and those new to the sport. The club provides free group coaching to all junior members on Junior Club days. These sessions are grouped and graded by age and ability.

For any juniors or seniors wishing to give tennis a go, or develop their existing skills in a supportive and fun environment, then the club environment is the ideal forum. Waiwaka Tennis Club has resident coaches that are Tennis New Zealand registered and certified, who provide free coaching on Junior Club days, and offer additional tuition to groups or individuals of ALL ages and ability, Seniors included. Not forgetting to mention Club days and evenings which offer players a friendly environment to try out your skills, have a go, and meet a great bunch of new people. The club also holds smaller midweek groups (subject to interest). Membership entitles players to court access at all times, subject to competition fixtures.

The Club wishes to acknowledge its sponsors for their continued and valued support.

So, pick up that racquet and come on down to Waiwaka Tennis Club, Chilman Street, Lower Merrilands to stretch some strings and muscles.

For any enquiries, please contact Bob on 758 4044 (ah), 021-1400151; or for Juniors only, contact Yvonne on 757 4232 (ah) OR John on 758 1026 (ah).

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East End Surf Life Saving Club

Summer is just around the corner, daylight saving is here, the water is getting warmer, and our Lifeguards are training hard to up-skill themselves so that they can ensure your safety at the beach.

Over the last month our lifeguards have been up-skilling in Marine VHF Radio Operations, IRB Driver Theory, IRB Practical, SLS Level 1 First Aid, SLS Level 2 First Aid and looking forward to the next month, our Lifeguards will be up-skilling in IRB Motor Workshop, New Lifeguard Examination, and more First Aid training courses.

For the 2011/2012 session our voluntary patrol hours will be held on Saturdays 12.30pm to 5pm and Sunday 10.30am to 5pm commencing 26th November 2011 and finishing Taranaki Anniversary weekend 2012.

To help us help you stay safe when relaxing and swimming at the beach please remember a few safety tips:

- . Swim between the flags
- . Remember to slip on a shirt, slop on some sun screen, slap on a hat to prevent sun burn
- . If you get into trouble in the water please put your hand up

Remember our Lifeguards are there to help you and keep you safe.

We are having our registration open day for new and existing members Sunday 6th November starting 10.30am, hope to see you all there.

We are very proud to be able to say that four of our members were recognised for their services at the Surf Life Saving New Zealand Awards earlier this month, so a big congratulations to: Sam Julian, who received the SLSNZ Service Award, and

Trevor Corkin, who received SLSNZ Life Membership. Dave Emmett and Mick Julian received the SLSNZ 50 year Badge. The awards are awarded to Surf Life Saving members in recognition for voluntary work done at club, regional and national level.

One of our Lifeguards, Fiona Climo, has been selected to go to Pakistan as part of a nine person Surf Life Saving New Zealand delegation to help develop Surf Life Saving in Pakistan.

Our Junior Surf members have been keeping fit over the winter and have been training hard at the Bell Block pool. Our Seniors have been training hard over winter and our club coach, James Morwood, is very pleased with the way the training has been going.

At the end of September we held our preseason training camp for our seniors which involved early morning running, board paddling, swimming, tree climbing, paddling IRBs down the river and out to sea, fitness training sessions, damn dropping, visiting the call out squad's headquarters where they got to see and have explained all the equipment used, then off to the Rescue Helicopter's hanger to see the helicopter and equipment that is used there. The weather was in true Taranaki form and had us on our toes with changing plans to keep in line with the weather! A big thank you must go to Brendan Bellamy from Tricky Tree Specialist, Andy Cronin and Bruce MacDonald for the use of their tree climbing equipment, Phil Dwyer (Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust) for explaining and

showing us the Rescue Helicopter and equipment, Dean Jolly from Studio Athletica for the fitness training session, and not forgetting our clubbies who organised and helped out over the weekend, James Morwood, Sarah Sharp, Kirsty May, Murray Fisher, Andy Cronin and Fiona Climo.

Here are some photos of our training camp adventures



Dam Dropping.



IRB Paddling.



Rescue Helicopter Hanger.



Tree Climbing.

We would also like to thank Powerco Ltd for their fantastic sponsorship of our junior surf. The sponsorship is greatly appreciated and will be put to great use in purchasing training equipment. We would also like to thank Methanex for the awesome donation for the purchase of portable first aid packs.

As a community based voluntary organisation, sponsorship and donations are very much greatly appreciated. It is through fundraising, sponsorship and donations that we are able to provide our voluntary Lifeguarding services to the wider community and keep you safe when relaxing at the beach and swimming in the sea.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe summer.

East End Surf Life Saving Club.

New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

After a wet winter, September's rainfall was well below average allowing some albeit short fine periods to sneak inbetween the westerly winds and provide surfers with some much needed time in the water. October is also the time the New Zealand Scholastics Championships are held and a strong Taranaki Team departed in the second week intent on going one better in 2001 than their second placing last year.

The contest is held at Ahipara in Northland and so requires long drives and much voluntary support from the parents and convener of the team Brian Kettle. Brian's huge efforts in supporting junior surfing were recently recognised by the NPDC when he was awarded a 2011 Volunteer of the year.

The 2011 Surfing Taranaki Scholastics team is:

Under 18 Boys: Eli MacDonald, Josh Kettle, Tom Pilkington, Chad Jones, Matt Sanger, Seth Marshall.

Under 16 Boys: Sean Kettle, Mahorahora McLeod, Brodie Arbuckle, Toa MacDonald, Jordan Hart.

Under 14 Boys: Te Rapai Barbich Love.

Thanks to Surfing Taranaki for providing the team tee shirts and portable gazebo for shelter and a team meeting place. Thanks also to Port Taranaki for sponsoring the six Port Taranaki Series, the results of which assist in determining the team.

With our 20th Anniversary all go for the weekend of November 5th the first weekend in October saw the members rip into a major upgrade of the club's kitchen/bar facility. Thanks to the support of the TSB Community Trust we are able to proceed with this first step in a long-term upgrade of the clubrooms.

Tickets for the Anniversary dinner which has legendary surfer/shaper Alan Byrnes as guest speaker and followed by entertainment from Midge Marsden are selling rapidly. So if you haven't replied to your invite do not delay.

While almost all the country was obsessed with World Cup Rugby the visiting Russian players had other things on their minds and looked up Arch and Daisy from Beach Street Surf shop to take them surfing at Fitzroy. The conditions were not inviting but true to the resolve and strength they displayed on the rugby field the six husky Russians took on all that Fitzroy could throw at them and loved it.

The American Eagle's back Coach from San Francisco was also hanging put for a wave and enjoyed some after surf Taranaki hospitality.

Allen Pidwell



Johnny Mac enjoying a spring day at Fitzroy



Club members commence the major upgrade of the kitchen/bar area.



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Rugby World Cup Fever Grips the Town



Arch and Matt, the Eagles back coach, enjoying an after-surf bonding.

PHOTO BY DAISY DAY



Clowning around with a bit of brass.



Six Russian players took to a gnarly Fitzroy surf under the watchful eye of Wayne Arthur, and here he enjoys some one-on-one with Arch.



Namibia standing tall.



Ailis Lay (age 8) outside the Devon Hotel with Brian O'Driscoll (captain) and Paul O'Connell of the Ireland World Cup team.



A glorious evening for Wales V Namibia.

Wales v Namibia.





US Marine Corps band marching down Liardet St.



The huge crowd that followed the Marine band through town and brought the central city traffic to an impromptu stop.



A bit of rain doesn't dampen the Cold War – USA v Russia.

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TOM Gardens of the Month

The 2011 Powerco Garden Spectacular features three beautiful and very different gardens from our local area. This month we feature all three in our TOM garden column.

TE KAINGA MARIRE

Te Kainga Marire or 'peaceful encampment' located at 15 Spencer Place in Merrilands down by the Te Henui walkway and bordering a Maori pa site. The property is owned by Valda Poletti and David Clarkson and is one of few private gardens awarded the status of Garden of International Significance. Valda explained to me that when they began work on the property in 1972 it was half an acre of clay soil covered with gorse, fennel and blackberry, today she says it is the realisation of the dream and vision they had in creating a true New Zealand native garden, a controlled wilderness is how she described it to me. The garden was put in place before the couple built their home there and they have bought to it all the things they love of the New Zealand mountains and outdoors. Open to the public from September through until April, Valda and Dave have the garden well set up for visitors to self tour. Maps at the garden entrance and signage guide you through this native wonderland. Walking through the garden on a beautiful spring day I was struck by the bird song, in fact I remarked to Valda it was much like taking the bush walk on Tiri Tiri Matangi, a bird sanctuary in the Hauraki Gulf. It's certainly not just the beautiful plantings that make this property a pleasure to visit. Tui, wax eye and wood pigeon were all evident and are encouraged to the garden by bamboo feeding troughs filled with sugar syrup water.

Although the garden with its wilderness charm almost appears like it would look after itself, a huge amount of work obviously goes into the property. With the frosts we experienced in July and other cold weather, Valda and Dave have been kept busy keeping ferns and other plants free from more damage by covering them with frost cloth. The July frost did damage certain parts of the garden whilst completely missing other parts. Valda described it as almost like an icy breath blew through the property being very specific about what it touched. With the recent change to warmer spring weather the garden is rapidly recovering and a lovely potted 30 year old Zeronema that had to be severely clipped back after the frost is now sprouting lots of self seeded new growth.



Ferns and other greenery line a moss covered path.

There's so much to see at Te Kainga Marire and Valda says visitors often linger for long periods of time just enjoying the peaceful surroundings. The garden has specific areas along with specific plantings. The alpine area has mountain daisies, tussock, hebes, cushion plants and spear grass whilst the wetland and pond area which is home to some large gold fish has bulrush and purei.

Walking along the path lined by pungas and ferns with its brilliant green mossy carpet really felt like I was a long way from suburban New Plymouth. The path heads towards a fernery and tunnel where glow worms reside.

Although the native plantings make up 90 per cent of the property the other 10 per cent includes a large vegetable garden and plants from Valda's grandmothers' garden. Valda says the vegetable garden along with the fruit trees



Looking across the lawn where a huge Kowhai is filled with native birdlife.



The pond and wetland area in the foreground.

Grant Crossan

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kept their family well fed. The citrus trees are currently laden with fruit and there's also a large passion fruit vine, raspberries as well as an apple tree and lots of healthy looking vegetable plants.

I love the children's old fort in place near the vegetable garden and the bush hut and camp fire in reference to Dave's time as a deer culler in his younger days. These personal references to the family only serve to make the garden more welcoming.

When I was describing Te Kainga Marire to a friend she said she thought she had seen it on a BBC garden show. Indeed she had, the garden was featured in the BBC documentary 'Around the World in 80 Gardens'.

How fortunate we are to have this internationally recognised garden in our garden festival and literally on our doorstep in our local area.

THORVETON

Mary and Barry Vinnicombe have had Thorveton their garden at 83 Heta Road in the festival every year bar one since 1997.

Mary described her 560 square metre garden as a little garden designed to look like a much larger one, Strolling around the property Mary showed me how she and Barry had achieved this by using a clever garden plan that uses curves and plantings to lead the eye to a focal point in the distance so that you are aware there is always something more around the corner, she went on to say "It's a garden that can show people what's achievable in a small space."



Camelias cover all the wooden fences around the property.


There is a lot packed into this small property but it just doesn't feel or look like a small garden. I asked Mary how much time she spends in the garden, and her answer was that it's on an as needed basis, little and often is she says how she approaches her gardening. Gardening is not her sole interest though and the walls of her home are testament to Mary's other passion, embroidery. Many of these intricate art works feature plants and outdoor scenes. Mary enjoys spending time embroidering and often has pieces on display when the garden is open. A member of the Embroiderers Guild, she will have work on display in the Regional exhibition which runs during the Garden festival at the Percy Thompson Gallery in Stratford opening on the 1st November. Prior to this from October 1st through to the 31st there is a combined exhibit with Creative Fibre at New Plymouths Real Tart Gallery.

Mary comes from a teaching background but spent several years working for Duncans Nursery where she learnt more about botany and plant propagation. These skills have obviously been put to good use in developing her garden.

The property has undergone many changes since Barry and Mary have lived here. Gone are several large golden macrocarpas, a sloping boundary and bare wooden fences. Mary says the bare fences were one of the first things that they changed. Instead of bare wood, small leaf hybrid camellias now grow over the fences. She chooses this variety as they flower early, avoiding petal blight. The camellias have been espalliered to cover the fence. Mary says she also chooses trees that have a naturally droopy form and then she simply wraps the long branches around a wire to hold it in place while the tree grows. She has also carefully trained




A Splendour apple tree carefully trained as an espallier.



**Andrew
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a Splendour apple tree as an espallier which when it is covered in fruit must look spectacular.

Because of space constraints many trees have been chosen for their ability to grow upright. One such tree is a Burgundy Star magnolia and a tall slim copper beech which grows upright like a poplar. Mary also has a gorgeous holly tree that she chose for its unusual shape and she says she has shaped it to emphasis this.

This is a garden with a huge variety of plants and there are points of interest everywhere with different plant groupings like an area devoted to tiny low growing conifers or another area devoted to some lovely orchids in flower. At the front boundary three 'Michelia' magnolia grow with their small perfumed cream flower and underneath them lots of different plants are growing in a rock garden. Mary says she doesn't have a favourite plant and says, "there's always something new to enjoy." As well as many lovely specimens of plants found more often in local gardens I liked that Mary included many plants that are less likely to be seen, like the delicately flowering miniature nasturtium which was growing up toward the fence. Mary says this tuber plant dies down in summer and about mid winter comes up again. Another feature I liked were the hanging baskets that Mary had created. The baskets are all covered in ivy that Mary has trained around the basket frame. To renew the plantings Mary lines the baskets with a plastic liner which she simply lifts out and changes the plants as necessary. She says other than keeping them well watered they are easy to look after.



Curved lines keep the eye looking round the corner in the garden.

Thorveton has been assessed over the last six years by the NZ Garden Trust and it is designated a 'New Zealand Garden of Significance'.

So while it may be classed as small there is a lot to see in this self confessed 'plantaholics' garden. Fortunately with Barry and Mary greeting visitors to their garden during the festival they will be able to point out the many special plant treasures that could otherwise be missed.



Tiny Nasturtiums climb up towards the fence.

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PUKEMARA

Pukemara or Garden On the Hill is the third garden I visited on this local trail. Situated on the crest of a hill at 5 Tyne Place the property is the home of Alan and Cath Morris. When they first moved here in 2001, the courtyard garden on the flat area directly around the home was a fenced off lawn for the previous owner's dog. It is now a beautiful area with potted plants and gardens filled with low growing shrubs, roses and vireya that lead visitors onto the property. Two of the roses planted in this area that were favourites with festival visitors last year were 'Hamilton Garden' and 'Colour Break' Last year was the first time Alan and Cath have had their garden in the festival. Alan says friends had suggested he open his garden to the public but it was only after selling his business Creative Curtains and retiring that he had the time required to get the property up to festival standards.

Their property is really comprised of two completely different gardens, the first being the courtyard garden at the front and the vegetable and lawn to the rear of the house. The second garden is the steep slope on the south west side of the property. Whilst the previous owners had created

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paths to make this area accessible the trees and other planting were less than successful. With colour, structure and leaf form in mind Alan has transformed this space into a really beautiful garden with a woodland feel. A huge magnolia was putting on a wonderful show when I visited and the vast array of rhododendrons was covered in buds and ready to burst into flower in the coming weeks. As well as the many large specimen trees this garden is home to many vireya, hostas, viburnums and azaleas. Alan has everything planted thickly to keep down weeds and says this steep part of the garden can be tidied up in an afternoon. Just as well with lots of other interests including fishing, whitebaiting and tramping keeping him busy. Tramping in Nepal and his love of the Himalayas has seen Alan introduce some Nepalese plants into his hillside garden including a stunning Agapetes Serpens in brilliant red flower and a Nepalese Arisaema with its 'cobra' like head.

There are seats in several spots in this part of the property and Alan says when festival visitors disappeared for long periods last year they were often found sitting down here enjoying the plants and bird life. No doubt there will be many more festival attendees happily 'lost' on Alan and Cath's this year when it opens to the public.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Rhododendrons line one of the hillside garden paths.



The courtyard garden.



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New Plymouth Boys' High School

THE SCHOOL IS VERY PROUD OF THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

Those students involved in Arts Week - speeches, debating, photo competition, carving, busking, pavement art, yoga, a visit from Aranui Theatre Company and debating. Lots of fun and high levels of participation by the boys.

Interhouse Singing was outstanding and hit the right note.

The Senior Music Showcase was again well attended and displayed the talent of our musicians.

Methanex Mathematics Competition was won by our Year 10 team of Teague Harvey, Tom Spencer, Joel Robertson, and Matthew Boswell.

Martin Salisbury and Alistair Fisher are Vice-President and President of CANTEEN.

Sean Kettle is NZ U16 Surfing Champion.

Speech winners are James O'Donovan Y9, Jake McComb y10, Seb Eastman y11, William Livingston (Senior and overall winner).

Taranaki SS Cross Country. The Juniors came 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 8th; the Intermediates came 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th 9th and the Seniors came 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th.

Jareb Milner competed in the Cross Country and played Rugby.

Liam Paterson has made the U21 National Orienteering Development Squad.

Taranaki SS Cycling Jason Thomason won the Seniors and Tom Spencer won the Juniors.

Haoro Hond-Goffe has been accepted into the Toi Houkura Arts Course in Gisborne.

Jackson Braddock-Pajo is our Skiing champion.

Connor Anderson is our Snowboarding champion.

Matt Lamb made the New Zealand SS Brass Band playing Trombone.

Bodean Davis is our skateboarding champion.

Taylor Nixon is a cartoonist of merit – his latest cartoon is entitled "Mine Man".

The school welcomed back Sir John Graham and distinguished Old Boys as Alumni Merita. The boys welcomed him to school and a presentation was made.

Michael McMenamin



Sean Kettle.



William Livingston.



Jareb Milner.



Liam Paterson.



Martin Salisbury and Alistair Fisher.



Teague Harvey, Tom Spencer, Joel Robertson, and Matthew Boswell.

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Merrilands Kindergarten

There is always something exciting happening at our kindergarten. The children are enjoying in a big way a range of socio-dramatic play activities which include preparing and cooking food for picnics and parties using play dough. The children decorate 'party venues' prepare food and write invitation letters to their friends to attend the party.

The children's interest has led to real cooking with the teachers and linked to big books like The gingerbread man (baking the gingerbread man) and Goldilocks and the three bears (making porridge). These activities provide children with opportunities to experience an environment where developing good relationships is nurtured and children take responsibility as members of a group in a common task. Through these interactions children learn to take another's point of view, empathise with others, to ask for help, to see themselves as a help for others and to discuss or explain their ideas to adults or to other children.

The Top 10 Life Insurance Myths

Life insurance is for those of us who want the peace of mind knowing that when we die, our loved ones won't need to worry about paying the bills. Life insurance is for the benefit of others, not ourselves and purchasing it is the most unselfish thing that anyone will ever do for their family. Understanding life insurance can be complicated and sometimes overwhelming to figure out.

If you've ever considered taking out life insurance but then decided against it, the chances are your decision was based on one or more of the most common life insurance myths. Whether you think it's too expensive, that you don't need cover because it won't happen to you, or that it's too much like hard work, you might want to think again.

Below, I reveal the 10 most common excuses people give for not having life insurance:-

- 1) I'm single and have no dependents, so I don't need any cover
- 2) I'm covered by my employer
- 3) Only the main breadwinner needs life insurance
- 4) I've got life cover with my mortgage, so I don't need more
- 5) I'm better off investing my money than buying life insurance of any kind
- 6) The state will take care of my family
- 7) Life insurance is too expensive
- 8) It won't happen to me
- 9) Buying life insurance is a hassle
- 10) Life insurance companies don't pay out

If you recognise any of these myths yourself, do yourself a favour and give me a call. I will take the time to educate you on your choices and help you make a well-informed decision that is just right for you and your family. Buy a life insurance policy that fits, because just like marriage (well, most anyway), it's till death do you part.



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TOM Pets of the Month

Names: Penelope and Ginevra (Penny and Ginny).

Breeds: Penny is a British Blue and Ginny a Ginger cat.

Age: Penny is 18 months and Ginny is 17 months.

As well as having multiple gardens of the month this issue, we are also featuring multiple pets. Whilst visiting Mary and Barry Vinnicombe's garden in Heta Rd their two cheeky felines made their presence felt following Mary and I around her beautiful garden.

These two youngsters absolutely love being out in the garden with their owners and get up to all sorts of mischief together. They had been busy rearranging the stones in a water feature the day I visited.

Mary says Penny, the gorgeous British Blue with amber coloured eyes, likes to think she is the dominant one of the pair but Ginny is more than capable of looking after herself and keeping her sister in check.

When not in the garden they like a comfy bed to sleep on. However at night they share the laundry to sleep otherwise Mary says they would be sure to start playing or squabbling in the middle of the bed during the night.

One things for certain visitors during the festival will have plenty of four legged company as they tour the Vinnicombe's garden as this inquisitive pair are sure to be out greeting each new arrival.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Above, Penny and below, Ginny.



LOST

Our family has lost our pet – a black male cat - 5 years old. He answers to the name of Ali. He disappeared from Strandon/Fitzroy area on Saturday 30 July. He is very timid.

Please phone Robyn 027 4 592 360 or 757-3444 if you have seen him or think you may have seen him.



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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.

Exercise to Music.

Fridays 9.30am-10.30am (for everyone 50+). Te Henui Church Hall, Henui St, Fitzroy. Contact Sonia for more details 06 759 8918 or Gloria 06 752 7442.

Fitzroy Outdoor Bowling Club.

Season opening on Sunday 18th September. – two club days per week – Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. New members welcome - both men and women. Join our friendly members who play on two greens with an upmarket clubroom and fine facilities. Contact the president Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or the secretary Sherrylle Watkins a/hrs 755 0125 or Club Pavilion 758 9062.

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 Te 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 Mahjong Group

At Beach Street hall lounge room, every Saturday 1-4pm. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy Mahjong, cup of tea & biscuits. There will be a small prize for hand of the day. \$3 each. Note: There will be a break from 3rd December and restart 4th February 2012. For details phone 7581957 or 7575913.

Fitzroy Men's Probus 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 Probus.

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.

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.

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 Floral Art Club.

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month. Venue: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Henui St. We have two meetings, one during the day, the other at night to cater for working women. Further information from: Shirley 758 9090 or Beryl 751 0309.

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 Potters

Meet every Thursday between 10am - 4pm at the Te Henui Vicarage, 288 Courtenay Street. Monday evening classes for members 7pm-9pm. Thursday evening open classes 7pm-9pm. We welcome new members. Contact Gail, ph: 753 6207. The Te Henui Vicarage Pottery is also open on Saturday and Sunday 1pm-4pm.

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.

Sit and be Fit.

Tuesdays 9.30am-10.30am (this class exercises in chairs), Te Henui Church Hall, Henui St, Fitzroy. Contact Sonia for more details 06 759 8918 or Gloria 06 752 7442.

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.

For the regular notice of U3A New Plymouth meeting: please note the Secretary's phone number has changed. It is now 753 3574. It is worth noting that you do not have to have had a university education to join.

Victoria League Bridge Club.

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