

Coastal Karate shines at the NZ Championships



Oss fellow Karate-Ka and community members

A small mention of what the Japan Karate Association of NZ has been up to lately. On the 4th March a group of Black and Brown Belts attended the JKANZ National Championships held in Manukau, Auckland starting with a three day seminar hosted by Takahashi Shihan (8th Dan, Japan). We started with a two hour basic training period, a good place to improve one's basic techniques. After two hours we certainly found muscle groups which never got stretched in the warm up! As we hobble out of the Dojo

Jim Hoskin, Connor Anderson, Dominic Cooksley Gruys and Manu Akioka

(training hall) we get one and a half hours to down some lunch and recover then straight back into training. By the end of the day you certainly know you have had a physical day - sore feet, sore muscles and a wet Dogi (training suit). The pillow looked very inviting.

The next morning the mood is sombre, every one of us knows what is yet to come....more training. We break the

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Included in this issue is your complimentary copy of the Oakura/Omata TOM business directory. Remove and place inside your phone book for easy reference.

How do we stay positive in the face of a recession? We are constantly being reminded that it will hit Taranaki, and if it hasn't hit yet there are signs that people are being cautious. It is scary during uncertain times, however it is not something new.

My best story ever was from a man who was 97 years old. He came to New Zealand from Scotland when he was 19 years old to work on a dairy farm, as the engineering industry he had been involved in was in a slump. He assured his employer he knew about farming – of which he knew nothing – and there began a very successful career. He eventually owned his own farm and herd of cows, along with his wife brought up a family, and sat on dairy factory boards. In his working career he saw the peaks and troughs of industry.

Not too much has changed. In many ways I see this as an opportunity for our children to benefit from a dose of belt tightening. When it is their turn to experience a similar situation they will be in a better position than if they had lived only within a privileged lifestyle. It would be fair to say a recession may help us consider what is important and review our values. I am sure many people will come through this unscathed and others will be better people because of it.

We are all rich. To live in New Zealand is a privilege, to live in Oakura is even better.

Tracey

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OAKURA
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Coastal Karate shines at the NZ Championships

(Continued from page 1)

atmosphere with jokes to get our spirits up. Once we are on the floor, time seems to slow down and the two hours feel like four, but still we do it, for this is the build up to the championships and everyone wants to win.

The third day of the seminar everyone is aching but this is the day to go hardest for tomorrow is the champs. I see the students starting to add the extra effort to their techniques. I ask them all how they feel, the reply is "Bring it on." I am happy they are confident. Then the day of the champs arrives. As we enter the stadium the nerves start; I worry will Manu remember to pull his arm right back; will Sempai Connor stick to his game plan; will Sempai Dom go all right in the Kumite (fighting) with a broken middle finger. All this worry hits at once, I dare not show it as I need them to be fully focused on what they must do to win. As I take the judges chair I can see Manu and Connor Hoskin starting their events on the next court but I don't know how they are getting on as I have to focus on the events on my court. As a brown belt walks by I ask them, how did Manu and Connor H go? The reply was that Manu was through to the next round but Connor H was out.

As we enter the afternoon period I was happy to see the results: Connor Anderson through to the finals for Kata (patterns & form) and Kumite (free fighting), Manu Akioka through to the finals. Will Sempai Dom do all right? Still I worry and wonder. As the day ends with a medal ceremony it is very pleasing to hear over the PA that Connor Anderson is first in the Intermediate Black Belt Kata and Kumite, Manu Akioka is first Junior Brown Belt Kata and third in Kumite. Dominic Cooksley Gruys (Southern Region team) is second in Team Kumite - all from JKA Coastal Karate. It is a good feeling to return home with three NZ champs training out of the same dojo. It made the three days training with Takahashi Shihan and Nishimura Sensei (7th Dan) seem all worth while. The aches and pains seem to disappear as everyone feels jubilant and the trip home is very quiet, snoring coming out of the back of the van with the odd request, "where are we now," with the reply "just north of Pio Pio, go back to sleep we will be home soon."



Connor Anderson,
1st NZ Intermediate Black Belt Champion.

If you are interested in becoming a NZ champion come along to the Oakura Hall Tuesdays 5.30 – 7.00pm or Thursday s 6.00 – 7.30pm, you could be our next champion.

Oss for now,
Jim Sensei.

from **mayor pete**



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Hi folks!

Well we're in the middle of public consultation on the Draft 2009-2019 Community Plan, and the community meetings are well under way.

If you didn't get to the meeting at Oakura Hall on 1 April, there's another one at Hempton Hall in Okato 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Monday 27 April. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear an overview of the plan, and raise any questions you have with the council staff.

This year we're making it easy for residents to discuss any community plan topic with other people around the district. *Talk New Plymouth* is an online forum where you can post your comments and view what other people are saying. If you have questions, a council manager will respond with an answer. Any comments posted on **talknewplymouth.com** aren't formal submissions to the draft plan (read on for the various ways to make a formal submission), but the forum is a great place discuss and debate the issues that are important to you. If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to have a look!

The lead-up to this Draft Community Plan has been a long and detailed one, with public consultation starting in May last year through workshops, focus groups, surveys and the district-wide community road show where people gave us their views via touch-screen computers. (You may have seen our road show staff in Oakura on 25 August last year.) The draft plan under consideration is our interpretation of what 1,400 people and organisations told us during that pre-plan consultation.

Do you think we have interpreted it right? Does the draft plan reflect what you want for the New Plymouth District in the next ten years? The only way we'll know is if you make a comment on the draft plan before the 1 May deadline.

We've made it easy for you to give us your feedback. You can:

- fill in the submission form in the summary booklet that has been delivered to all letterboxes, or pick one up at Oakura Library
- fill in the online submission form at newplymouthnz.com
- email (enquiries@npdc.govt.nz), phone (759 6060) or fax (759 6072) your comments to us

Community plans are the most important of all the plans a council creates.

They are prepared only every three years, and once adopted we can't make substantial changes within those three years without going through another time-intensive and costly community plan process. So we want to get this right. The only way we can do that is to hear from you on what you support and what you'd like to change. Be sure to "Have your say by the first of May!"

If you'd like to talk about anything in the Draft Community Plan or you have an idea you think the council could help with, feel free to call me on 759 6100. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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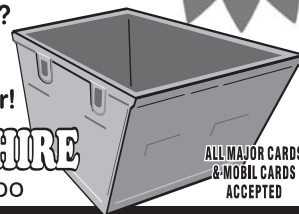
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kaitake community board

Your Community Board has had a busy time since the last TOM column, dealing with local issues and attending Council meetings and workshops. We seem to start each year slowly but then get busier and busier as the year progresses. There are some positives and some negatives regarding local Oakura village issues.

Let me give the negative ones some air first. A growing number of Village residents are very frustrated with the amount of dog faeces being deposited on lawns, grass verges, the beach, park and campground. It is the clear responsibility of each dog owner to clean up their dog's mess when it is deposited. There are some Council receptacles on the beachfront and we probably need more, but this doesn't give dog owners an excuse.

Council Bylaws are explicit on removal of dog faeces – "The owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner shall immediately remove the faeces from that place and dispose of it in a sanitary manner into a suitable receptacle."

There are also other restrictions on dogs on the beachfront, the CBD and Corbett Park as listed below:

Beachfront

That is the foreshore and beach in the area between imaginary lines drawn directly to the sea from the eastern side of the vehicle entrance to the motor camp and from the western side of the end of Wairau Rd. Dogs are banned in that area from 9am to 6pm daily during the period of daylight saving for New Zealand. Dogs may be exercised at large or be present at other times, providing the dog is kept under continuous control.

Corbett Park

Dogs shall be kept under leashed control while in the Corbett Park area. That is the area of the Oakura River, beach, foreshore and adjoining land, bounded by the State Highway 45 road bridge, the true left bank of the river (Oakura village side), the eastern edge of the formed vehicle access through Corbett Park on the east side of the river (New Plymouth side) and an imaginary line drawn across the river in a line contiguous with and parallel to the seaward side of the building housing the changing rooms/public toilets.

CBD

Dogs must be kept under leashed control at all times in the Oakura Shopping Area. That is the road, verge and formed footpath on both sides of State Highway 45 from its intersection with Dixon St to its intersection with The Outlook.

Other public places

No dog is permitted to roam or be at large in any public place unless such dog is under continuous control or leashed control. Dogs are not permitted to roam or be at large on any private land or premises, without the consent (express or implied) of the occupier or owner.'

A local has suggested that perhaps all residents should undertake one final cleanup of the lawns and verges in front of their properties and then we all should make a concerted effort to change any further unacceptable behaviour by any dog owner. Concerned people can lay a complaint by contacting Council on 759 6060.

There has also been ongoing concern about the number of vehicles on Oakura Beach. Vehicles on the beach are an unpleasant distraction, and have health, safety and environmental consequences. Council bylaws allow vehicles onto Oakura Beach (between the Weld Rd river mouth to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east) if they are rescue,

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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Electorate Agent in New Plymouth

Jan Mason

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police or Surf Life Saving vehicles; are used to carry out approved maintenance work on the beach; or are used to launch or land recreation and fishing boats. The proviso with launching or landing boats is that the vehicles should leave the beach straight afterward and park in one of the areas provided off the beach.

We have an internationally recognised Blue Flag beach and to retain this accreditation we must abide by their compliance standards, which are examined annually. Environmental Standard 17 states, "Unauthorised driving must be prohibited on the beach." We seek the cooperation of drivers and of anyone who sees vehicles being driven inappropriately. If people have any concerns or would like to clarify what can and can't be done on the beach, they're welcome to contact Council on 759 6060.

On a more positive note, KCB members have lodged submissions on the Campground Review and the Rural Subdivision Review. Members will speak to the submissions at the review hearings. The Board is also involved with the Oakura Hall Committee in preparation for their submission on the Rural Halls Review. The hall has served the community particularly well for many years but it needs development to present a more user-friendly profile. It doesn't meet current needs as it cannot cater for the increasing number of varied use requirements being asked of it. We believe the first steps for future development planning should begin now so that the hall can always meet the needs of the community.

The Board is also very pleased to see that the damaged rock walls in the Okato CBD have finally been repaired. After many meetings and workshops, Council has approved that the draft 2009 - 2019 Community Plan go out for public scrutiny. Copies will be available shortly and we urge all residents to spend some time examining what is planned and to provide relevant feedback to KCB members. The Community Board intends making a submission to the Community Plan Hearing.

We remind you that ordinary meetings of the Council, committees, some subcommittees and community boards are held on a six-weekly meeting cycle. Extraordinary meetings are held as necessary and these are advertised in the newspaper as required. Agenda papers are available for inspection at council offices, service centres and libraries before each meeting.

We hope you all have a happy and enjoyable Easter.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.

Jonathan Young, MP

The summer months have come and now nearly gone. It's been an amazing summer in North and Coastal Taranaki with copious amounts of sunshine and still enough rain to keep things looking green. Not long ago I was cycling on the New Plymouth walkway on a windy Sunday afternoon and could nearly feel the change in season that is upon us. It was also evident by the sprinkling of snow high on Mt Taranaki. Then another two amazing weeks of weather stretched summer even further in the place we call "paradise".

But North and Coastal Taranaki are connected to a world that is experiencing a change of season. The government is responding to this change of season through a number of initiatives in our Jobs and Growth Plan. We are putting strategies in place to retain jobs and see the economy come back into growth.

We have recently announced almost a billion dollars of extra investment in State Highway building over the next three years. This investment will provide a double benefit. It will bring economic stimulus to the country in employment and will help improve our transport infrastructure. Both of these things will be essential for economic productivity as we seek to grow quickly again, once the current global recession ends.

It may be difficult to see how building better roads up north will benefit us in Taranaki. If you have an isolationist viewpoint it is hard to see. However, when we recognise we live in a connected world where our industries and businesses use those roads to move their products to points of sale, we can then see the benefit to us all. A better transport network not only means greater efficiency in resources and time, but also less cost in the long run, which filters down to everyone in our country.

The challenges we face in New Zealand transport are complicated by living in a very long, sparsely populated country. This means cost per kilometre per citizen is higher than a smaller more densely populated country such as Singapore where several million people live in an area about the size of Lake Taupo.

Mr Steven Joyce, Minister of Transport, recently said that the government's roading plan would reverse the previous government's projected decrease of 9% in the State Highway budget over the next three years. "It will mean that a total of around \$3 billion will be invested across the State Highway network over the next three years," he said.

Mr Joyce also said that the new draft Government Policy Statement shows investment in State Highway infrastructure continuing at around 33-34% of the total fund over the ten-year horizon, instead of dropping to 22-24% as predicted in the previous government's Government Policy Statement (GPS).-

"This will provide around \$10.7 billion over ten years for investment in the State Highway network," he said, "and that is a much more appropriate level given the importance of the network to New Zealanders."

Jobs and growth are the two critical strategies needed right now in order to cushion people from the worst effects of the global recession and to grow our way out of it.



Autumn is upon us and Daylight Savings has drawn to an end. Those long summer days are over and as the cooler weather is looming closer, this is a good time to visit us at the library and find a great read to curl up with at home.

Some new New Zealand non-fiction titles that have arrived during the last month include: *Architecture Uncooked* by Pip Cheshire and Patrick Reynolds, Jane Dove Juneau's *Listen to the Heartbeat of the Earth*, *Light the Flame* by Christine Rankin and something for a good laugh, *Life among the Larrikins – Tales of Kiwi Ratbags* by Terry Sheehan. New fiction includes *The Lieutenant* by Kate Grenville, *On Top of Everything* by Sarah-Kate Lynch and *Tender Morsels* by Margo Lanagan. We are expecting the arrival shortly of *Scarpetta* by Patricia Cornwell, *Fishing for Stars* by Bryce Courtenay and *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* (the latest No 1 Ladies Detective Agency title, book #10) by Alexander McCall Smith.

Stephenie Meyer's series for teens beginning with *Twilight* is still very popular and the recent release of the movies has added to this. If your teen is absorbed in this series you may be interested in Meyer's recent adult science fiction, *The Host: a Novel*.

For the children there are many new titles on order including six in the *Beast Quest* series, *Jane Blonde: Spy in the Sky* and three new titles in the *Mr Gum* series by Andy Stanton. They may also like to try some of the books nominated as New Zealand Post Award finalists for 2009. These are the best New Zealand books for children and teens published in 2008. We have posters on display in the library of the books that were nominated and we would love to have children place a vote for their favourite in our voting box. The winners will be announced in May.

The end of the first school term is close, and the Oakura Library has planned a great school holiday activity to coordinate with the Puke Ariki exhibition *Taranaki Culture: Fresh Out of the Box*. On Tuesday 21 April between 2-3pm we are fortunate to have Ngareo Akariri join us to show children how to make poi and to perform some poi actions. This will involve making specially plaited strings and the poi itself, and as time allows learn a few actions. There will also be poi on display in the library. Join us for this fun activity that is aimed at 9-13 year olds. Spaces are limited and registration is essential so don't delay! Contact us if you have a child interested, phone 759 6060 or call in and see us at the library.

The computers had extra use during the holiday period with lots of interesting tourists taking advantage of the free usage and of Skype. Don't forget this service is available to everyone in the community and you don't have to be a library cardholder.

Come and visit us and find a great read.

Also a big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have helped out during Term 1.

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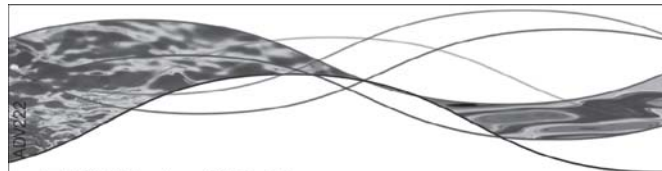
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Pump Suppliers Display for Residents

For those residents who will need a pump for their sewerage system, there will be a pump suppliers display on 15 April, 3pm to 7pm in the Oakura Hall. Several pump suppliers will be there to answer questions, and they will have examples of their pump stations for inspection.

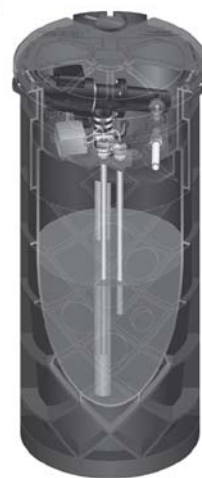
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Arthouse Cinema Moving to Govett Brewster for Winter Season

Summer season at Arthouse Cinema has ended, but never fear, Govett Brewster is near. For those chilly winter nights, Arthouse Cinema lovers can find their favourite movie screeners at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Tickets for the cinema will be sold exclusively by Govett Brewster and seats are limited to 100.

The winter season is opening with a mini Italian Film Festival comprised of five movies that were the pick of the last three film festivals. They are all smash hits, light romantic comedies with excellent cinematography. Vetro Gourmet Foods plans to sponsor this event, so there will also be lovely nibbles!

Dinner before the movies can also be very special. From 15 April through 16 June, Café Govett Brewster is planning to have a gorgeous menu and will be serving on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 7pm. Dinner will be \$25.00 per person, which will include a glass of Monowai wine. Phone 759 2038 for reservations. Here is a sample of the menu:

Garlic and mustard roast beef with oven roasted vegetables and onion jus.

Mushroom, spinach and pine nut risotto with shaved parmesan.

Salmon Caesar salad with poached egg, croutons and parmesan cheese.

Roasted chicken breast over roast pumpkin, sage, feta and pine nuts with tomato tapenade.

Guests should mark their calendars for 29 April, which promises to be a fantastic night since Vincent Ward may be joining Arthouse Cinema for the showing of *River Queen*. Taranaki filmed and award winning short, *Aphrodite's Farm*, will be showcased that night as well, with a special introduction by its director.

Special thanks to Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner who have come on board as Golden Sponsors, enabling Arthouse Cinema to have a winter season. The Most FM is continuing their sponsorship into the winter season, as is Cause & Effect Graphic Design. This will keep Arthouse Cinema going into the new year and on to the forthcoming 2010 summer season.

Arthouse is continuing their association with Wildcat coffee for their loyal caffeine addicts, and are also introducing Mike Radich Fine Wines with primo glasses of specially chosen vintages for intermission.

For more information on Arthouse Cinema, go to:
<http://www.arthouseoakura.blogspot.co.nz>.

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Garage Sale Benefits Fire Victims

By Jennifer Gros

After seeing photos of the destruction in Australia on the Internet, Sian Tran-Lawrence wanted to do something to help the fire victims. She decided to coordinate a garage sale in February at her home in Oakura to raise money for them.



Sian went door to door on her street asking for items to be donated to the garage sale. She then sent emails to the local Playcentre and Fire Brigade, and put ads in the school newsletter and The Daily News. It was a lot of effort collecting and sorting everything. Despite the rainy weather Sian raised over \$500 for the Australian Bush Fire Appeal! (She donated the leftover items to the Corso Shop in Waitara.)

Sian received a special Principal's Award certificate from school, and was presented with a letter and hand-knitted teddy bear from the CEO of the Red Cross in New Plymouth. Great job Sian! You are an inspiration to all of us.

Sian Tran-Lawrence



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Marking the end of an era at Pukeiti

The final act in the celebration of Graham Smith's thirty nine year career as Pukeiti's Curator and Director took place at the recent Autumn Member's Day for the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust with the official opening of the Graham Smith Walk.

It is timely to recount a little bit of the history of the area. Early on, Pukeiti already had a variety of large leaved rhododendrons including seedlings raised at the Brooklands Nursery by Jack Fairbrother that had come from the wild collections from the last seed collecting expedition from which our iconic Rh. Pukeiti along with Charisma and Rh. elliotii originated. In addition to species donated from existing New Zealand collections other plants were raised from seed obtained from some of the great Scottish gardens.

The first of these were planted in the late 1950's and in Pat Greenfield's book on Pukeiti you can find a photograph of Betty Elliot standing proudly by one of these. John Goodwin set these out and many thought he had placed them far too far from the path little knowing the grand stature they would attain as we see them today.

So the next big planting was made and included seedlings from the Pukekura Park Rh. macabeum one of which was named "Ina Hair". The Hairs lived in the Lodge and Ina was daily on hand to greet visitors and to prepare morning teas for staff and working bees.

Graham Smith explained "the 'new' Graham Smith Walk has had a slow, almost sleepy, introduction to the hierarchy of walks through the greater garden. The Valley of the Giants was established in the 1960's and when I joined Pukeiti in 1969 it was pretty raw."

He went on to state "about 20 years ago I was looking through the area between the White Walk and the Valley of the Giants for a possible link track site. Within twelve months we had mapped out the planting sites for the new R. prostratum (R. Pukeiti) and these were duly planted when large enough to compete with the native regrowth. We continued to plant more rhododendron species into the clearings and these included R.s, sinogrande, grande, manicum, a new Vietnamese large leaf species and the late flowering R. excellens from the Madderdenia section. These are all growing well and the first flowers have started to appear this past season."

In due course the Valley of the Giants realized the dream even though many of the plants turned out to be hybrids and not what we all hoped they were. Nevertheless today they provide some of the most spectacular displays and match the best of collections anywhere in the world.



Graham Smith officially opening the 'The Graham Smith Walk'.

The path that takes you through this area links to the lower walk of the Valley of the Giants and it is fitting that this new development should be named after Graham Smith who can be justifiably proud of his contribution to Pukeiti and particularly the development of the Large leaved rhododendrons which are one of Pukeiti's stunning displays and among the best in the world.

On having the track named after him Graham stated "The large leaf area has always been very special to me and I think it is the most unique plantings of these amazing plants anywhere in the world." On the first sighting the opened track he commented "as with all such projects it is a 'work in progress' and something I am intensely proud of."

At the opening ceremony Trust Chairman Lynn Bublitz addressed the eighty assembled members prior to proceeding down to the large leaf area "It is appropriate that you are all here, especially so that Graham's children are present ..." Both of Graham's daughters were brought up in the early years at Pukeiti.

Graham then led the way for both his immediate and his extended Pukeiti family, who were all enjoying the Taranaki sunshine, to the start of the latest addition the many great walks at Pukeiti. After using a saw to cut the red danger tape, used instead of a ceremonial ribbon, all members followed Graham and his family along the new walk.

A great day was had by all and everyone present was proud to be there to honour the contribution of Pukeiti's longest serving Curator and employee.

By Alan Jellyman and Josh Cleaver



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Oakura Pony Club News

By Diane Alder

At the time of writing, the Horse of the Year week is in full swing and I am just heading off there myself in a few hours. We have a number of riders from Oakura pony club competing this year and I will write all about that next month.

In the meantime we decided that all too often this little article mentions all our competitive riders, but very rarely our younger riders. To achieve a little more balance we will be profiling a few of our youngest riders over the next few months.

Ty Stevens

Antayla or Ty as she prefers to be known, has been riding for over two years. She has a pony called Bessie who is her first pony and for Ty, Bessie gives her the greatest joy. There is a great bond between the two and come rain or shine Ty is out caring for her pony.

Just recently all the help from mentors Claire Brignall, Ingrid Anderson and Emma Stewart has paid off with Ty displaying some good skills and techniques. Along the way Ty has learnt about horsemanship (well horsewomanship really), responsibility and determination. Next season promises to be a busy one for Ty.



Ty on Bessie.

Paige Mackay

Paige is 6 ½ years old and has had Abby, a Welsh grey mare 11.2hh, for two years. Paige has been involved with Pony Club for two years, and she says the things she enjoys most are having fun, getting to learn lots of things and playing fun games. She thinks Abby is so cute and says that she is good most of the time. She loves riding and is currently learning to do more jumping. Best of all for Paige is going to gymkhanas and winning lots of ribbons.



Paige on Abby.

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Greetings all

We are right in the thick of it now, with very few members going out and returning home without a feed or two. Surfcaster Chris Whitaker has had a whale of a time just lately, struggling with the weight of the bag returning along the beach. Go, Chris!

Lots of Gurnard seem to be showing up, well within casting range, from about Tongaporutu and to the north. The recent Surfcasting Tri competition held a couple of weekends ago was no exception. Many Snapper and Gurnard were weighed in and so was the first Trevelly to be caught in the contest so far. Holding weights for the competition so far are Kahawai 2.8kg, Trevally 2.7kg and Snapper 4.8kg. They are quite achievable by the novice, and with only one more contest to go you may want to have a go and get some of the bootie up for grabs. Join our club and be in the win. oakurasurfcasting@paradise.net.nz

More biggies to appear were an 11.6kg Snapper that kayak fisher Jim Morewood nailed a few weeks back, and about an 8kg'er that Bruce Howson got on the same day. Lots of smaller Snapper near the 3-4kg mark have been keeping many of the Yakers going back for more. Also there have been a good many big Kingi's around with many "beating" the anglers. The tuna seem to have tailed off a bit. The recent "Hook a Huge One" day was a shocker and no one got anything. The dreaded Southwester was the order of the day over the Taranaki Anniversary weekend club days, too.

By the time you read this the Kayak Competition will be over so look out for the report in the May issue. After Easter a good many members are heading to the mighty Coromandel for the NZACA Nationals. I'm expecting us to do really well, as we have a strong team of top fishers going.

Debbie E



Here's a couple of beauties (not the blokes, the fish that is) - Bruce Howson with his 17lb snapper and Jimmy Morewood with his 26lb snapper.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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Okato Squash Club

Many of New Zealand's small rural communities are blessed with having diverse cultural and recreational facilities, and the Oakura and Okato areas are no exception. We are able to use first class facilities that are constructed and run on shoestring budgets with thousands of voluntary labour hours. The Okato Squash Club is a classic example of how we are still benefitting from the hard graft put in a generation ago.

The clubrooms and the two original courts were opened in September 1980, constructed within the Okato Domain. During construction voluntary labour hours exceeded 5500. A third glass-back court was added in 1999 with more volunteers put back to work. This cost-effective method of construction, coupled with prudent management from subsequent committees and local sponsor contributions, have set the foundation for a successful family-friendly club. The squash committee are keen to keep it that way and make squash a healthy and affordable sport for anyone and everyone.

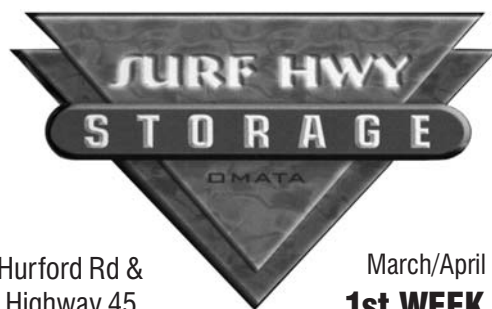
The Club's annual membership structure ranges from full senior membership (\$160) to social memberships (\$80). We also have discounted subs for couples (\$260), 18-19 year old students (\$100), families (\$300) and juniors (\$40). All members except juniors have free key access to clubrooms and courts, and can play at any time the courts are not being used for club purposes.

The Okato Squash Junior Programme is run by the Club's second highest ranked player and local vet, Peter Morgan. (As a point of interest the highest ranked player is 17 year old Daniel Charteris.) The Junior Programme runs during Terms 2 and 3. The players are divided into two or three groups for coaching, dependent on ability levels. Last year we had juniors as young as six years old, and all players showed great improvement throughout the year.

During the 2008 season Okato hosted a Taranaki Junior Tournament, a Taranaki Secondary Schools Tournament and a National Secondary Schools Tournament, all involving our juniors. Junior club nights will begin the first Monday of Term 2 at 6.00pm, when we will have registration and a fun night for all those interested.

Okato is only ten minutes down the road from Oakura. Come down and join us. Your body will thank you for it!

Phone Pete Morgan (President) 752 7455 or Daryl Gibson (Secretary) 752 4804.



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GETTING WET!



Boardriders

The biggest news of the Month is Paige Hareb's dream start to her assault on the Women's ASP World Title and the Tour in general. Finishing third at the Quiksilver Pro and knocking over some big names on the way has set her up with something to

build on, and has given her a great confidence boost. I'm sure her supporters are wishing her the best and I know we are all watching with keen interest. As the TOM goes to press Paige is in West Australia preparing for a WQS contest at Margaret River (which she won last year). Following this, it's down to Bell's Beach for the famous Easter contest.

Closer to home, the Taranaki Scholastics contest was held in good waves at Back Beach with Michael Mallalieu taking the U18 by 0.1 of a point from Tyler Anderson, with some great surfing going down. The Kettle brothers, Sean and Josh, took out the U16 and U14, respectively, giving Boys High the team's result. Kendra Hartley from NPGHS took out the U18 girls. It was a great day and great contests. This year's New Zealand Scholastics will be held at Raglan in the second week of the coming school holidays.

The NPSRC Summer Series has been completed, with the last contest held in small waves at Fitzroy. Tyler Anderson took out the U18 and Open Divisions, Connor Anderson the U16, Sean Kettle the U14, young Te Rapai Barbarich-Love from Waitara the U12 and Emma Croton the U16 girls. The Series Winners from both the winter and summer series are yet to be announced.

As the TOM goes to press the Boardrider's Club Champs are half way through, with the Juniors Divisions having been run. Unfortunately a lack of swell forced a postponement of the Seniors until the following weekend, so those highlights will be in next issue.

Thanks to all our sponsors for their continued support. When the prize giving finally goes ahead there will be some great prizes to be won from Vertigo, Oakura Village Café, the Oakura Pharmacy, Snickerdoodles, Skincare Taranaki and Roofing Taranaki. It's well worth entering the Club Champs!

The first inter-club team challenge will also be featured next issue. With an initiative from Surfing Taranaki, an inter-club contest between teams from Oakura, New Plymouth, Waitara and Opunake will be competing. This has drawn a lot of interest



U12 girls and 21b of U14 boys battling it out at Back Beach.

so we are hopeful for a good turnout and good parochial support. The contest will be followed by a band at the Club so a good night is to be had.

Coming up in Taranaki will be the World Kneeboard Surfing Champs to be held in the Opunake area and the annual Easter Masters Contest. The University Games, which feature a surfing contest, will also be held in Taranaki. There will be no let-up from the crowds of tourists.... let's hope for some surf!

Remember, all new members are welcome. Contact Paul Christopher on 0274065654. The Club is also being used for belly dancing classes and Pilates classes. If either of these interests you, contact Paul.



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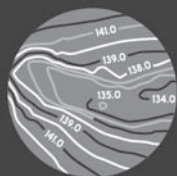
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Family Friendly at the Carriage Restaurant

The Carriage Restaurant has firmly established itself as a destination for discerning diners and now they are offering further options for a wider market – The Te Wera family and conference room is open and available for patrons with children or those in a large group.

The Te Wera family and conference room is situated in the 100 year old building alongside the carriage and is the perfect location for private functions or gatherings of up to 16 people. The refurbished room is also ideally suited for family groups who have small children as there is scope for the children to well 'be children' and mum and dad can relax without having to worry if the other diners are being disturbed.

Speaking of children, The Carriage has a wonderful children's menu and while the menu sounds similar to many children's menu (after all children are predictable eaters – picky!), it is the detail that is note worthy: No added flavourings, colourings, preservatives; the meat is organic, the chicken free range and everything is fresh and cooked to order. Have you ever tried Shaun's chunky hand cut fries? The Carriage offers three courses for \$10 for the kids and while they gobble up their healthy nuggets, parents could indulge in a gourmet beef, pork or chicken meal. These have been specially designed as a good value dining experience on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and priced at \$35 for two courses and \$45 for three courses with complimentary bread and vegetables, they are indeed great value.

There is much to check out at The Carriage Restaurant so book early and get the family along for a night out.

By Kim Ferens

The refurbished Te Wera rooms at The Carriage Restaurant.



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Recipes From Around the World

By Jennifer Gros



Lalei Green sampling a fresh blueberry.

Blueberry Banana Pie

Tahiti is a beautiful country and we are very lucky to have a native Tahitian living within our village of Oakura. Robin Green is the mother of three beautiful girls, and is married to Oakura native, Kelly Green. I was able to catch up with Robin and her family near Okato recently while picking blueberries. Their family picks blueberries every season and freezes them to use throughout the year. One of their favourite recipes is a Blueberry Banana Pie.

I tried this recipe with the blueberries I picked, and it was not only delicious but also made a beautiful presentation!

- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ cup self raising flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 40 gm butter, chopped
- 95 gm (1/2 cup) soft brown sugar
- 125 ml buttermilk (regular milk can be used)
- 200 gm blueberries
- 2 ripe bananas
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbs raw sugar (or soft brown)

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Spray pizza tray with oil.

Put flour and spices in bowl. Add butter and brown sugar. Rub until similar to breadcrumbs. Make a well, and add milk little by little until a soft dough. Roll dough on lightly floured surface until about 23 centimeters diameter. Form the edges into a rim. Spread blueberries over the dough. Slice bananas and toss in lemon juice. Lay bananas on top. Sprinkle with sugar.

Bake 25 minutes or until base has browned. Serve immediately and enjoy!

Please send your favorite family recipe from around the world to jennifer@thetom.co.nz

Cats Musical for Local Girl

Ex local Duchesne Alder has landed a big part in the musical *Cats* and is about to be launched onto the big stage. She is playing the part of the choreographer's cat, which is called "Anoushka". (I had better check that spelling, but it looks right to me.)

Tina Cross and Shane Cortese also star in the show, which will be playing at the Civic in Queen Street, Auckland from 6-20 June. Opening night is already sold out so the season may be extended an additional week.

Rehearsals began 15 March so it's been full-on for Duchesne. Rehearsals are five evenings a week and eight hour Sundays. These, of course, intensify as it gets closer to opening night. Tickets are available on 0800BUYTICKETS or www.catsnz.com. Duchesne is at University in Auckland. She'll be down here for a visit Easter weekend and then not again until July, after the show has finished.

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Oakura Head Pupils

Congratulations to the Oakura School Head Pupils for 2009, Meika Watson-Burrows, Farrell Robertson, Ellie Tvrdeich and William Conquest. The role of Head Pupil includes running school assemblies,



Meika Watson-Burrows, Ellie Tvrdeich, William Conquest and Farrell Robertson.

welcoming visitors and chairing school council meetings. The Head Pupils also participate in the Young Leaders Conference and have regular meetings with Miss Hepworth and Mrs Taylor. These pupils represent our school at events and are role models for the rest of the school.

By Jamie Scott

ICT Leaders

*ICT Leaders,
from left to
right: Declan,
William, Ruby,
Jack.*



The Oakura School ICT Leaders for 2009 are Ruby Tinson, Jack Powell, William Conquest and Declan Pickering Gibbs. This role includes going to NPGHS and learning more about computers and technology from the ICT teachers there. The ICT Leaders assist our classroom teachers and help them learn about computers and the internet. At the end of each weekday they check our laptop pods, and make sure there are no problems and that no settings have been changed. They are a great help to teachers and students when someone needs assistance on the computer.

Senior Swimming Sports

On Thursday 12 March Oakura School held their annual Senior School Swimming Sports. From Year 4 to Year 8, everyone competed in at least one race.

This event was held at the Okato swimming pool. There were butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle races, and a few fun events such as the three-length medley, the two-length freestyle, the boogie board race and width races for those who couldn't swim lengths.

This year the teachers introduced something new to the students. The two best girls and two best boys from each year

Media Team



Media Team, left - right, Amy, Molly, Isla, Jamie, Anna.

Amy Barron, Molly Oldfield, Isla Dunn, Jamie Scott and Anna Costelloe are this year's Media Team for Oakura School. The Media Team takes photos of school events and makes sure that everything is recorded, written and ready to be published in the TOM magazine for all of Oakura to share. All the articles for this month about Oakura School have been written by the Media Team and you can expect to see much more from them throughout the year.

By Isla Dunn

Sports Leaders



Sports Leaders, left - right: back row: Emma, Ben, Alex. Front row: Jack, Jessica, Amy, Saxon, Daniel, Faris.

The Sports Leaders for Oakura School in 2009 are Amy Barron, Faris Petty, Jessica Clark, Ben McLean, Emma Shiels, Ben King, Alex King, and Daniel Kleinhans. All of the Sports Leaders are seriously into their sport and most of them have been selected for representative teams in Taranaki. At the end of the week the Sports Leaders organise and lead the sport for the senior school. The games that are involved are volleyball, netball, rugby and soccer. Also as a part of the Oakura School P.E programme they will help with cross-country, athletics days and other sporting events.

By Anna Costelloe

were selected to compete at the Full Primary Bell Block swimming competitions. Unfortunately this year's swimming sports were cut short due to bad weather. Cold and disgruntled children left about halfway through the day to return to school. Because it was cut short, we weren't able to do the width dive races or other fun events. As was expected, the unreliable sun came out just as the children were ready to leave!

Most of the students really enjoyed this event, and are looking forward to next year when the annual Swimming Sports are back on. We hope the weather is kinder to us next time.

By Amy Barron



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Welcome Committee

The Oakura School 2009 Welcome Committee Leaders are Milly and Becky Gooch. The role these girls have taken on board is based around welcoming new entrant children. Each new entrant is given a buddy who is a Year 8 student. The buddy writes a letter to the child before their arrival at school, welcoming them and telling a little bit about Oakura School. When the buddy begins school the Year 8 student takes some photos of their buddy and creates a PowerPoint. The PowerPoint is given to the child as a record of their first few days at school and is taken home to share with their families.



*Welcome Committee Leaders,
Milly and Becky.*

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Junior Swimming Sports

Oakura School's Junior Swimming Sports display was on Monday 16 March. Rooms 1 - 5 showed their proud parents the skills that they have learnt throughout the swimming term.

The small Oakura School swimming pool area was full and buzzing with parents, teachers and children. Each class had half an hour to present their skills in freestyle, flotation aids and handstands. The satisfied children put on an excellent presentation with great enthusiasm.

By Molly Oldfield.



*Room 3
showing
their skills at
the Oakura
School
Junior
Swimming
Sports..*

Oakura Playcentre

By Sarsha Hood

One of the things that I love most about Playcentre is the opportunity for me, as a parent, to help decide on our children's learning needs and interests. At the beginning of each term we get together and have a planning and evaluation meeting. There we decide on what our fun projects and trips will be that will stimulate learning during the upcoming term.



Bella and baby possum.

This term we decided that one of the trips would be to visit Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park. On a brilliant February morning (there weren't that many of those), we set off. Stoney Oaks is about a forty-minute drive from Oakura. It is not well sign posted, so it's a good idea to talk to someone first who knows where they are going. In saying that, it is well worth the effort. Set in amongst rolling farmland, Stoney Oaks has a wide variety of animals ranging from the small, cute variety, like guinea pigs and rabbits, to the bigger cute variety, such as calves, goats and llamas. The enclosures are spacious and the animals seem happy and at home there. Stoney Oaks also offers a lake with a rowboat, a gorgeous wooden playhouse and a short bush walk.

The children delighted in cuddling the baby rabbits and feeding the calves, while the mothers enjoyed allowing the children to roam freely in a safe, well-fenced environment. With all the snuggles and running, the children were soon ready for food. The picnic tables, complete with sun umbrellas, offered a welcome refuge for an outside morning tea overlooking the lake. Of course some of the children were keenly interested in the water, so arm muscles were worked as various mothers took turns at rowing the boat around the lake. By lunchtime beds were calling for tired children. We made our way back to our vehicles saying one last goodbye to the animals. It was a fabulous day with much learning and fun for everyone.



Ella and Stan petting a baby deer.

Playcentre is a wonderful way to meet other mums while spending quality time with your children. It is open to all families in the community, and you are invited to drop in any time during our sessions, which are Monday and Wednesday 9am to noon.

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TOM Babies by Jennifer Gros

Lia Elizabeth Barton

Welcome to Lia Elizabeth Barton, born on 9 October 2008 and weighing 6lbs 2oz. Lara and Andrew could not be more proud, as is big sister Hana (2). Lia is a very smiley, happy girl with lovely, bright blue eyes.



Kohen Hareb-Hine

An awesome little man arrived on his due date, 15 January 2009, at 9lbs 4oz to very proud parents, Rach & Aaron. He is already looking forward to following in his Auntie Paige's footsteps. The new Grandparents are stoked!

Robert Iain Harrison

Russell and Bridget welcomed Robert Iain into the Harrison family on Pitcairn Street on 3 February 2009. Robert was born 7lb 7oz. Big sister Joanna is particularly pleased to see her new little brother!



Ethan Tristan Tarr

Hayley Thorpe and Shaun Tarr of The Carriage Restaurant are the proud parents of a baby boy born four weeks early by C-section on Sunday 22 February 2009 at 1440, weighing 4lb 11oz. His name is Ethan Tristan Tarr.

If you would like to feature your new baby in the TOM, please email jennifer@thetom.co.nz.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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Coming Events

April

27th Term 2 begins.
Week 1
Life Education Week.

May

7th Year 1 and 2 Ball Skills.
11th 'Flying Wombat' Show 9am.
Choir performing at 'Kids for Kids' TSB Concert
14th Kyle Mewburn, author and NZ Book Award nominee, visiting at 9am.
Year 3 and 4 Ball Skills.
18th Book Fair in library.



Omata School Profile: Mrs Bronnie Read

Mrs Read, or Bronnie as she is more commonly known, is the secretary at Omata School. Some of the things she enjoys about her work are the children and that she has a variety of different jobs. No two days are ever the same. Her favourite phrase is "A stitch in time saves nine."



The last movie she saw was *Mamma Mia!!!* and the last book she read was the telephone book!!! Bronnie's hobbies include fishing, bowls and doing crosswords. Outside of school you would most likely find her bowling.

Three words her friends might use to describe her would be "happy", "kind" and "fun".

Bronnie would really like to own the latest VW. Her favourite place to eat is *India Today*. The person she admires most is Bill, her husband because he's the best!! Something about her that might surprise you is that at college Mrs Read was a champion runner and swimmer.

THE ARTS Rich Topic

Our school-wide rich topic will be in Term 2. We will be focusing on 'The Arts' so we will be calling on our creative community to come along and share their passion, skill and creative energy with us. Please give us a call if you would like to participate in any way. We wish to have visiting artists of all kinds and to run art-intensive workshops.

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been looking closely at the self-portraits of Vincent Van Gogh and have really harnessed their personality by using creative effects with light and colour. Their works are currently exhibited in Room 6. Feel free to pop in and have a browse.



Self portraits,
Keegan
Foley . . .



. . . and
Matheson
Lee

Omata School Students Have a Blast in Surf Comp

Two Omata School students, Bailey Hooson and Phoebe Tomlinson, entered the Intermediate Surf Competition held at Fitzroy Beach in March. Bailey finished second and Phoebe finished third. TOM interviewed them to see how they went.

Phoebe

How did you feel before the competition?

Very, very nervous. I didn't know what to expect because it was my first time doing a competition. I suppose I could say I was a bit scared as well but that soon wore off once I got into it.

What made you decide to enter the competition?

Well I guess it was partly to do with Bailey because I wanted to do it with a friend. I also entered because it was something new to me. I also wanted to see what it was like being in a competition.

What was your favourite part of the competition?

I would have to say my favourite part of the competition was once we started our heat. I liked riding the waves into shore and it was even more interesting because when I stood up I had to start running so I didn't trip up when I hit the shore. It was annoying because the waves were breaking right on the shore so that didn't give us much time to "kinda ride it!"

When did you start surfing and what got you into it?

I'm not completely sure when I started but I think what got me into it was my dad. Having a best friend like Bailey who does it is even better and will probably keep me at it.

Do you have any surfing idols? Who and why?

Yes, I do have quite a few. Paige Hareb, Eli Jacobs, Jason Lellman and my dad, David Tomlinson. I like them because one day I hope to be as good as them. They are all good surfers and I look up to them all.

Bailey

What was your favourite part of the competition and why?

This may sound really silly but my favourite part was actually waiting for our heat - when there is five minutes left in the heat before we are allowed to paddle out and wait for the signal. During this time, a huge set of waves came in and I got completely and utterly smashed since we are not allowed to catch the waves until the heat starts. I love anything extreme and that was extreme, and somehow I managed to cut my finger!

Are you planning on entering any surf teams this year?

No, but I am thinking of joining a Board Riders Club. I am not sure which one yet. There is debate in my family whether to choose Fitzroy or Oakura. Joining a club will probably get me out surfing a lot more and I always enjoy making new friends, especially ones that love to surf.

When did you start surfing and what got you into it?

I fully decided to start surfing in summer 2008. That was when I was delighted to get a board for Christmas and was in the water everyday. I had been surfing for some years before that with my friend Phoebe and she got me into it. For that I would love to thank her a lot because now I can't imagine a life without catching a good wave every now and then.

What do you think you will be doing in later years involving surfing?

Well I hope to be a lot better than I am now for sure. I will probably enter more competitions but I don't think surfing will be my main thing. It's just a hobby and a good way to keep fit, make new friends and spend Sunday afternoons at the beach.

Who are your idols and why?

One would definitely be Paige Hareb. She is an awesome surfer and comes from around here so she is a really good inspiration to me. Another surfer would be Bethany Hamilton. It is amazing how after getting her arm bitten off by a shark she was still able to brave the water and, better yet, keep surfing! She is really dedicated to surfing and I like that.



Phoebe Tomlinson and Bailey Hooson.

Go Green with Blue

Think globally, act locally – and do it blue!

Waste Management's popular blue wheelie bins are being joined by a blue option for businesses. The new blue front loaders are available for commercial use and are already proving a hit!

Words Jolene Stockman

All Taranaki people have access to recycling facilities - kerbside collection is available free through the council but if you want commercial recycling options, or the convenience of a blue bin, Waste Management can help.

Blue bins provide mixed or co-mingled recycling, meaning all your recycling (glass / plastic / cardboard / aluminium) goes in the same bin.

Businesses can utilise a range of options, including flexibility in collection, numbers and types of bin, and recycling with the new range of blue front loaders (that can be used for all recyclables except glass or cans).

Cardboard-only bins are available, or if you have the space, Waste Management also offers a loose cardboard collection.

With more individuals and businesses looking to go green, and the *Waste Minimisation Bill* imminent, now's the time to take advantage of Waste Management's recycling options.

To discuss your waste management solution, call Shane Robbertsen 757 8381.

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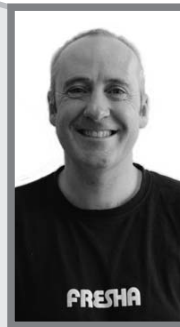
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Balsamic roasted tomatoes with sea salt and thyme

Cut the snapper fillet to size if large and score 2 slashes into the skin.

Mix the citrus zest with 1 tablespoon sea salt flakes and 1 tablespoon chopped herbs.

Work the rub into the snapper skin and leave to marinate for minimum 10 minutes in the fridge.

Heat a heavy based griddle or pan and wipe with olive oil.

Sear the snapper, skin side down, on medium/hot heat for 2 minutes. Turn and griddle for 1 minute.

Serve the snapper with roasted tomatoes and salad greens.

Roasted Tomatoes

Halve ripe tomatoes and lay face up on the tray. Sprinkle with sea salt flakes and fresh ground pepper.

Fleck with the faintest hail of sugar.

Drizzle balsamic vinegar across the tomatoes and some olive oil.

Drape with plenty of fresh thyme and roast in a 170 degree oven for 30 minutes.

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On March the 18th 2009 it was a very exciting day for the Kindergarten Wednesday Group, we were going to Stoney Oaks.

The bus arrived, it was so exciting we all piled onto the bus and off we went. It seemed quite a long bus trip and we were very excited about seeing all the different animals and taking our lunchboxes with our morning tea and lunch. Finally we arrived, sat down in the sun and enjoyed our morning tea. It was a lovely sunny day, Gail the lady who owns Stoney Oaks came and told us a little about the animals and which paddocks were safe to go into and pat the animals. The paddock with the Llama's and donkeys in was good fun, that cheeky Llama was very friendly and wanted lots of pats.

The guinea pig was fun to hold, you had to be very careful not to let it go, lucky Meredith (Josh's Mum) was there to help catch the tricky guinea pig. The deer were fun to feed, some lucky children got a turn at holding the bottle. We also were able to feed the Scottish highland calves, you had to hold onto the bottle very

tight, just as well there were some adults around to enjoy this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Some children saw the crocodile in the pond, lucky it didn't bite anyone. Boris the eel was also swimming around. We were able to feed some of the animals our sandwich and fruit scraps, the donkeys loved it when we feed them.

What a great day had by all the mums, dads, aunts, and grandparents who came and helped us see the animals and helped keep us safe. We hope you all had a great time at Stoney Oaks as well.

Watch This Space - The Kindy has a few events planned for this year (and not all for Kiddies), kicking off with a fundraiser evening in June of "An Evening of Tasting" at Okurukuru, last years one was so good we're doing it again! Look out for the fliers about it soon.

Kris Roper



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Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8.00pm. Contact Betty West,
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Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members
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Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.
Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Merial/Riverlands/EcoLab:

Fun Tournament 27 and 28 March Okato Domain, Kaihihi
Road, Okato, Ph 7524804 (entries close 20 March).

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.
Gold coin donation.

Oakura Art Group

Tuesdays 9.45am to 12 noon, February to late November at St
James Church Hall.
Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night begins 16 March.

Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall.
Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-
schoolers welcome.

Playcentre

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Plunket Coffee mornings

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