

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

APRIL 2012

## OAKURA KAYAK FISHING CONTEST

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Tony Hurring with an impressive 13.5kg  
snapper.

*More on page 3*



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New Zealand Post

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free, monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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

**TOM dates to remember**  
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## E D I T O R I A L

A piece of modern grammar (if you can call it grammar) has grabbed my attention of late. It is the yeah/no sentence and everyone, including myself, seems to do



it these days. We say yes/no in answer to a question (i.e. "Did you enjoy yourself at WOMAD?" "Yeah, no, it was great!"). Isn't the answer either yes or no, not both in one sentence? ("Yes, I enjoyed the music at WOMAD, but no, I didn't enjoy the huge crowd."). Or have we become so unsure of ourselves that we can't decide? Maybe it is a maybe!

The words yes and no are not easily classified into any of the eight conventional parts of speech and although sometimes they are classified as interjections, they do not qualify as such. They are not classed specifically as adverbs either. They are sometimes classified as a part of speech in their own right.

The NZ Oxford Dictionary classes no as an adjective and yes as an adverb.

Yes is derived from a compound of an Old English adverb yea, which means surely. No comes from an Old English adverb that means never.

The Bible says, "Let your yea be yea and your nay be nay."

I think it is time we cleaned up our oral language because, after all, we don't write that way — it looks and reads ridiculously.

My personal diary doesn't read well this month. No weight loss and only a few centimetres lost but I console myself with the fact that it is all heading in the right direction. One thought of encouragement is losing weight is first about being healthy so I press on with the exercise and reach less often for the non healthy food options!

*Kim*

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# A Snapper to Rival all Snappers!

## OAKURA KAYAK FISHING CLASSIC

The 2012 Oakura Kayak Fishing Classic was another roaring success. TOM captured a few of the memorable moments (report next issue).



Stuart Bennett and daughter Arla weighing in their catch with Jim Morwood,



A bin full of fish.



Angela Harrison and Peter McDonald auctioning off the catch.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119



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'Team Grope-her' at the weigh in.

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## Mayor Harry

We are just days away from opening public consultation on the Draft Long-Term Plan 2012–2022. From 28 March until 30 April, you will be able to send your comments in to the Council.

Our aim with this draft plan is to strike a balance between controlling costs and continuing the great progress our district has made in recent years. You can see the details of our proposals in a summary booklet that will be inside the North Taranaki Midweek newspaper on 28 March. We will also have the full document online ([www.newplymouthnz.com/LTP](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/LTP)) and at Oakura Library if you want more details. These documents are a great way for you to see the full picture of our proposals in the district for the next 10 years, so I hope you will read one of them and then send us your feedback.

The community's input into the draft plan is a very important stage of the process. Months of work has gone into getting the draft plan to this stage — including reducing the projected rates requirement by \$44 million over the first seven years of the plan — but now it's time to hear your voice.

What parts of the Draft Long-Term Plan do you support? What parts do you think should be changed?

Is there anything not mentioned in the draft plan that should be included?

Keep an eye out for the Midweek and the summary booklet in your letterbox next week — and be sure to have your say!

*Mayor Harry Duynhoven*

## TARANAKI Eco Hotspot Tour

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- Morn. 18th Dee Turner's certified organic & biodynamic property at Korito Organics.  
Aft. 18th Michael Lawley's renewable energy property and business Eco Innovation.
- Morn. 19th A guided tour with local Kaumatua through New Plymouth's inner city Huatoki Walkway.  
Aft. 19th John & Ruth Ernie's rare breed, organic, heritage livestock farm Avonstour.
- Morn. 20th A bare-all look at the early stages of Daniel & Bena's development of their 10-acre property.  
Aft. 20th Pat and Sandi's 'garden of eden' in coastal Taranaki's wind swept Warea.

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**Oakura  
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Hello everyone,

It's that time of year again. The New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards finalists have been announced.

**Picture Books:** *The Cat's Pyjamas*, *Rahui*, *Shaolin Burning*, *Stomp!* and *Waiting for Later*.

**Junior Fiction:** *The Flytrap Snaps*, *The Loblolly Boy & the Sorcerer*, *Just Jack*, *Super Finn* and *The Travelling Restaurant*.

**Young Adult Fiction:** *The Bridge*, *Calling the Gods*, *Dirt Bomb*, *Sacrifice* and *Yes*.

**Junior Non-Fiction:** *Digging up the Past*, *Kimble Bent: Malcontent*, *The Life Cycle of the Tuatara*, *New Zealand Hall of Fame* and *Nice Day for a War*.

This final category, in particular, has titles of interest for reluctant readers of all reading levels and ages.

We encourage the children to read as many of the books as they can and vote for their favourite. The winner of the Children's Choice Award will be announced based on those votes. We have the useful good book guide and resource booklet here at the library or you can go online to [www.nzpostbookawards.co.nz](http://www.nzpostbookawards.co.nz) to vote, and to find key information about the authors and local festival events.

Our free school holiday programme will be held here at the library on Wednesday, 11 April from 10-11am. Please register and bring a small box to decorate for decoupage craft session.

Our Easter Holiday hours are: Closed Good Friday through Easter Monday. We will reopen on Tuesday as normal at 9am.

Hope to see you soon,

Karen and Vincenza




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# Proposed Changes to Bail Law

We recently witnessed the street parades and interviews from those participating in supporting “Christie’s Law” promoting the strengthening of bail laws. The campaign was started by the grieving parents of a young girl who was killed by someone out on bail. The response to the campaign showed the concerns of ordinary New Zealanders to the fact that those who are granted bail go on to commit further crimes while they are “at liberty”.

The National-led Government believes that New Zealanders have a right to feel safe in their homes and their communities and we are proposing changes to bail laws to reflect that. We are looking to improve public confidence in the system and ensure that bail will be harder to get in marginal cases where the court would previously have had no choice but to release a defendant on bail. However, we recognise that a person charged with a crime has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty and these rights must be balanced against the safety of the public.

Our proposals to improve public safety fall into three categories and will be included in the Bail Amendment Bill to be introduced into Parliament later this year.

We intend to reverse the burden of proof to target defendants arrested for certain serious violent, sexual and drug offences, and those at the highest risk of offending while on bail. Currently, in most cases, if the prosecution opposes bail then it must prove that the defendant poses a risk of absconding, interfering with witnesses or evidence, or offending on bail. A reverse burden of proof means that in order to be granted bail, the defendant (rather than the prosecution) has to demonstrate that they do not pose a risk to the public. It makes it harder, in marginal cases, for those defendants to get bail and more likely that they will be held in custody on remand until their trial.

The Bill will improve the integrity of the bail system by making it clear that bail will not be granted in return for information, in other words, bail should not be used as a bargaining chip in return for information from the criminal underworld. In addition to this, the Government intends to increase the penalty for failing to answer police bail so that it is an offence punishable by up to three months in prison.

Citizens frequently voice their frustrations over the lack of accountability by repeat young offenders. The National-led Government’s proposed changes will see 17 to 19 year olds who have previously served a prison sentence subject to the standard (adult) tests for bail, as well as enabling the Court to detain defendants under 17 years of age who significantly or repetitively breach bail conditions. We are also enabling police to uplift young defendants found in breach of court-imposed curfews and return them home or to a place where they will comply with the curfew.

Listen to any talkback radio station and you will hear the frustration and helplessness of callers who have been victims of crime and who realise that the perpetrator will probably be granted bail and be back in the community. Worse still there are those who are reluctant to report a crime for fear they will be victimised themselves. New Zealanders need



## Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

---

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to know that this government believes that public safety is paramount.

With these law changes, National is looking to build a safer New Zealand for all.

*Jonathan Young, MP*

## Oakura Fire Brigade benefits from Country Music Club

Recently the Oakura Country Music Club disbanded and distributed half their funds to Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade and the other half to St Johns.

The Country Music Club has been a group of lively and likeminded people in Oakura for the last 20 years and the time has now come to centralise their group with New Plymouth and other clubs. The group is aging but still actively involved in music and dance.

Betty West presented a cheque to a gathering of volunteer fire fighters and Matt Crabtree says the funds will go towards finishing off the new support vehicle shed and other equipment.

Since the tornadoes of 2007 the fire brigade has become much better equipped and staffed to face disasters. The brigade has 19 volunteers and every month keen locals are making enquiries about joining.

The new support vehicle shed is nearing completion and the vehicle is very useful for transporting ancillary equipment to emergencies. Funding has been greatly provided by TSB Community Trust.



**Country Music Club members and fire fighters at Oakura Fire Station.**



# Kaitake Community Board

The recent media storm about the proposed rates increases to pay for “wants rather than needs” demonstrates that there are many in our community who are finding it very difficult to balance their income and expenditure. This has often been the case for those retired folk on fixed incomes but now it is obvious that a younger cohort of residents are finding it equally difficult.

After a long and somewhat acrimonious debate Council resolved to send the draft 10-year Long-Term Plan (LTP) out for public consultation. Consultation opens on 28 March and closes on 30 April. There will be two public meetings in our area (Oakura and Okato) where Council officers will be present to answer questions about the LTP. Any resident can make a written submission to Council on the LTP. For example, you can submit that items be deleted or items added. You may also request to make a verbal submission to support your written one. Councillors will hear public submissions from 29 to 31 May and on 6 June will consider all submissions and make final decisions on the make-up of the plan.

The key points in the LTP are:

Council believes its draft plan exercises ‘progress with restraint’.

It states that the global financial crisis and Waitara–New Plymouth (NP) sewer project have put pressure on its budget, particularly in the first two years of the plan, but has developed a robust financial strategy to deal with this. The financial strategy includes a revised model for release payments from the Perpetual Investment Fund. Taranaki Investment Management Limited – TIML manage the fund on behalf of Council and the annual rates subsidy will drop from \$21 million to \$17 million, ensuring its status as a perpetual fund for the benefit of future generations.

There are also proposed changes to rating differentials (types of property groups), most notably reducing the share of general rates paid by commercial/industrial property owners and increasing the share paid by residential property owners. This would be phased in over five years to minimise impact.

There is also a proposal to correct inequities in the current rating system for self-contained units, flats and town houses within rest homes. These properties would be rated as individual residences rather than the entire rest home being rated once as a commercial property. This would also be phased in over five years to minimise impact.

Another key issue is the proposed changes to the kerbside refuse collection service.

Major projects in this plan include the Waitara–NP sewer costs and necessary associated upgrade of the New Plymouth treatment plant (costed at \$33 million), the \$42 million multipurpose redevelopment project at the TSB Stadium/Pukekura Raceway site, \$10 million for the Len Lye Centre operating costs, Puke Ariki refurbishment and refreshment (\$7.5 million), Aquatic Centre learners’ pool (\$22 million), and a new access road to Port Taranaki and associated car park development (\$16 million).

Major projects considered but not in the plan include a new recycling facility (\$4 million), Urenui/Onaero sewer connection to NP (\$10.25 million), and Yarrow Stadium building components renewal (3.5 million).

The LTP is a lengthy and comprehensive plan detailing all

of Council’s activities. It describes the Council’s budget, explaining what the Council plans to spend over the next 10 years and shows how Council plans to manage its assets over the 10-year period based on each activity’s Asset or Activity Management Plan. The draft LTP been assessed by Audit New Zealand as meeting all Local Body legal requirements.

Obviously I have only touched on a few aspects detailed in the plan and it is now over to the community to have its say. The Oakura, Okato and adjacent rural communities will not want to be disadvantaged in the final outcome so it is very important that you read the plan, attend the meetings and make submissions on the issues that are significant to you. You should also let Kaitake Community Board (KCB) members know what you perceive to be the important needs in our area, as the KCB will be submitting on a variety of issues. There will always be potential threats to our environment and lifestyle and the LTP provides a process whereby our community can develop the way we want it rather than through the mindset of others so do take the opportunity to have your say.

Just remember submissions close on 30 April. You will be able to submit online as well as making written submissions. And finally, bear in mind the final outcome will be decided by the 14 councillors and mayor on 6 June.

Well, that’s it for this issue. The next meeting of the KCB will be on Tuesday, 10 April at the NPOB Surf Club at 4.30pm. Ka kite ano.

*Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson, who is the Council representative on the KCB.*

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# TOM Sports



## Kaitake Golf Club News

The 2012 golfing season is underway and competition is heating up. Margaret Phillips (pictured) made an exciting start to the year by having a hole-in-one at the Midweek Women's Opening Day on 4 February. Congratulations, Margaret. That is the ultimate achievement.

The club has recently purchased a new rough-mower (pictured) much to the delight of the green-keeping staff. These mowers don't come cheap so there has been a great deal of time spent deliberating over the choice of mower and how best to fund it. The club's finances are sound enough to enable us to fund this mower through the help of the TSB Bank with an interest-free loan, along with the club's own funds and a great fundraising effort by the Okato Lions.

As another summer of Twilight Golf draws to an end we would like to thank all the volunteers who make it possible, in particular, Marie Benton and Mike Jans. The success of this popular event is largely due to their valuable contribution.



**Margaret Phillips had a hole-in-one at Kaitake Midweek Womens Opening Day.**



**Greenkeeping staff show off their new rough mower.**



**Winners of the Clytie Vine Cup at Manaia. Reba Hunt, Maureen Neilson, Shona Burgess, Betty Adamson.**

### LADIES' RESULTS

Kaitake Midweek Women (pictured) won the Clytie Vine Cup for the first time at the Taranaki Teams event at Manaia recently. The Kaitake team consisted of Reba Hunt, Maureen Neilson, Shona Burgess and Betty Adamson. Well done.

The Midweek and Weekend Women's Pennants is underway. Round 1 has been played with Kaitake Midweek women coming away with a win. The Weekend team was due to play Patea on Sunday after that violent storm but this has been postponed to a later date.

Weekend Division Club Results: Opening Day Jocelyn Garcia trophy was won by June Neale and Yvonne Burr. Top Dog winners for 2012 are Lois Agnew and Sheryl Richardson.

### MEN'S RESULTS

Summer Cup was won by John Haylock with Steve Rundlesden as runner-up.

### COMING EVENTS

Kaitake Golf Club is planning a Junior Tournament for primary school pupils during the school holidays to play for the Jean Mattingly Trophy. Coaching will be available before playing nine holes. Information will be available through Omata and Oakura Schools. Anyone else interested in participating please contact the office.

### SPONSORSHIP

Anyone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor can contact Murray Gray on 06-7534450 or Ross Benton on 06-7527099.

More information on Kaitake Golf Club can be found at [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz).

Good golfing everyone,

*Andrea Jarrold*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Who'll Get It?**

**7599119**



# Okato Pony Club

Okato Pony Club held its Junior Sports Day on Saturday, 18 February. The weather was great, which encouraged good entry numbers on the day. A fun day was had by all.

The programme included flat classes, games, show jumping, show cross and an obstacle course. As this is the club's main fundraiser of the season it was great to get such a good turnout.

We would especially like to thank the Okato Young Farmers, who provided some manpower on the day, and our generous neighbour Mr Will Fleming for the use of a field for parking. Also a huge thank you to Coastal Meat Processors and Oakura Four Square for their generous contributions towards the BBQ.



Kate Logan enjoying the dress up and games.



Kayla Deane jumping *Lily* during the Show Jumping Phase.



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# Oakura Boardriders Club

After a weekend of what my partner Keith called 'stay in bed and read your book swell' Taranaki Anniversary Day's swell enabled us to begin our club champs and hold the junior division. Not only was there a southwesterly swell that got bigger as the tide became full, but there was also a current that our young surfers had to battle. And battle they did! Indeed we very proud of the way they dealt with the difficult conditions and demonstrated their surfing abilities and strength of character. The timing for the contest was perfect in that many of the children had just completed surfing lessons with Gary Bruckner and Brian Clark over the last few weeks (see results below).

After a day on the beach we had an early dinner and prizegiving in the clubrooms. Each year we are indebted to our very generous sponsors who never hesitate to support our club. They are Steve and Marlies of Oakura Four Square, Cleggs Furniture, Hareb Deken Motors, BC Surfboards, Snickerdoodle Café, Oakura Pharmacy, Vertigo Surf Shop, Roofing Taranaki Ltd, The Carriage Café, Puku Café, Skin Institute Taranaki and Tasman Oil Tools.

Our youngest surfers had the opportunity to compete again in a surfing competition when the third MicroGrom Contest of Surfing Taranaki's 2011/2012 Summer Series took place in early March. It was held at our beach and the Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) hosted it. We turned on great waves, a delicious lunch and a well-organised event. It was so good to see so many of our children participate and do so well. In the Push-ins (parent assisted) division Koah Shewry came first, with his younger brother Niwa coming fourth. Big sister Ariana won the U10 Girls and Moana Te Ua came third. Tom Butland again won the U10 Boys, with Harry Clegg coming third and Hamish Goodhue coming fourth. Bailey Bruckner came second in the U12 Girls division. The final MicroGrom contest is to be held in Opunake on 25 March.

April is a very busy surfing month with the running of the senior division of our club champs and, of course, the TSB Bank NZ Surf Festival. The Festival is catering not only for the Dream Tour competitors, where we will see our Paige in action, but also for our MicroGroms and our Masters! Make sure you are there... to participate, to help or to watch.

*Phili Butt*



**U10 finals - Koah, Fletcher, Hamish and Brodie.**



**U12 boys finals - Hevdon, Kieran, Nick, Jason.**



**U16 finals - Jack, Ben, Alex, Toby.**



**U12 girls finals - Lucia, Poppy, Taylor, Eva.**



**U16 girls finals - Olivia, Bailey, Eva.**



## OBC JUNIOR DIVISION RESULTS

### U12 Girls' Surfing

1st Poppy Mitchell  
2nd Lucia Nicolson  
3rd Skyler Ellington  
4th Ariana Shewry

### U16 Girls' Surfing

1st Eva Davies  
2nd Bailey Bruckner  
3rd Olivia Holt

### U10 Boys' Surfing

1st Tom Butland  
2nd Jack Mitchell  
3rd Fletcher Ferguson  
4th Harry Clegg

### U12 Boys' Surfing

1st Tom Butland  
2nd Jack Mitchell  
3rd Harry Clegg  
4th Heydon Benton

### U14 Boys' Surfing

1st Jack Davies  
2nd Timi Te Ua

### U16 Boys' Surfing

1st Toby Brankin  
2nd Ben King  
3rd Alex King  
4th Jack Davies

### U10 Girls' Bodyboarding

1st Ariana Shewry  
2nd Taylor Mitchell  
3rd Skyler Ellington  
4th Hazel Lehrke

### U12 Girls' Bodyboarding

1st Taylor Mitchell  
2nd Lucia Nicolson  
3rd Poppy Mitchell  
4th Eva Davies

### U10 Boys' Bodyboarding

1st Hamish Goodhue  
2nd Fletcher Ferguson  
3rd Koah Shewry  
4th Brodie Ferguson

### U12 Boys' Bodyboarding

1st Kieran Cullen  
2nd Heydon Benton  
3rd Nick Holt  
4th Jason Bond

## Flat Abs In Just 7 Moves - Really?????

Do you really believe that? The cover girls on the health and fitness magazines that promote the concept of getting perfect abdominals in a certain number of moves keep us stuck in the same place for months, even years, trying the same thing over and over and thinking we'll finally get it right.

To find the most effective abdominal exercise we need to know what the function of the abdominal muscle group is. Simply put, they stabilise the pelvis and lower back region, protecting the lower back from injury whilst doing daily and physical activities. This is always done in an upright position so ask yourself -

What physical activities do I do lying on the floor or on a Pilates ball?

What physical activities do I do while standing up, walking or bending down?

Do I lie down to train a muscle that functions standing up?

All our activities are performed while standing, walking, running or bending down, so wouldn't it seem reasonable to strengthen this muscle group while in a functional position?

Try the following as a starting point:

1. Make a conscious effort to pull in your belly button toward your spine while breathing out, and then maintain this abdominal position while continuing controlled breathing.
2. Burn fat off your stomach by adapting your eating patterns accordingly.
3. Get moving — do some cardiovascular exercise to burn off extra calories.
4. Start doing effective abdominal exercises that overload the abdominals whilst the body is doing full body functional movements, such as lunges, push-ups, chin-ups and squats.



## CIRCUIT TRAINING SESSIONS IN OAKURA

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS offers a great value group fitness programme for anyone who feels more comfortable in a group environment, or has a limited budget.

Each session starts with a fun warm up, a variety of challenging and rewarding exercises, followed by a cool down and stretching of the major muscle groups to end. The sessions will deliver great results and be loads of fun.

Every exercise will be fully explained and demonstrated by the fitness professional conducting the session.

Each session will have a maximum of 8 participants so that the fitness professional can safely monitor your technique, and provide encouragement and support on a more personal basis.

*Bookings are essential, so please call Estelle on*

**752 1001 or 021 119 6465**

*to get more information and/or make a booking.*

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*Printers for the TOM Group Publications*

# TOM Garden of the Month:

## PAUL AND WENDY ASKEW

At the far end of Pitcairn Street hidden behind a tropical forest of architectural planting Paul and Wendy Askew have built their home. The landscaping is a team effort with Paul building the decks and retaining walls, and leaving a lot of the planting to Wendy. It's not surprising as it seems to be in her blood with her mum and grandmother both keen gardeners.

Looking around the garden it's clear that Wendy is very talented and I am keen to know how she goes about creating a new area. Wendy explains that she tries to visualise the foliage first and its texture, and then introduces interest through splashes of colour. Around the poolside (cleverly disguising the safety fence) are pukas, king palms and cycads, with areas of vibrant red salvias and hibiscus flowering shrubs giving the poolside area a very tropical atmosphere. Large terracotta pots add to the tropical theme, planted with bird of paradise flowers dotted on the tiled areas. There are plenty of established natives too — nikau palms, lemon wood, pseudopanax, cabbage trees and lancewoods, to name just a few.

Wendy says that she enjoys the creative side of gardening then waiting and watching for the results, but it takes time and you need to have patience. At the front of the house the driveway is edged by a retaining wall that is being lovingly clad with river stones, an ongoing project which Wendy says she finds quite therapeutic, matching rocks to fit together like a jigsaw. There are two huge Phoenix palms that stand majestically at the entrance, apparently they were salvaged from a rubbish dump by the previous landowners about 60 years ago.

Wendy works at Pukeiti Gardens three days a week, where propagating rhododendrons is her speciality. How wonderful it is for your hobby and passion to be your job. Wendy is taking her passion to the next level and studying a Certificate in Horticulture through Wintec in Hamilton. She says it's a continual learning curve and admits to finding the spelling of Latin plant names her Achilles' heel, but then who wouldn't find it difficult!

Thank you, Wendy, for showing me around your lovely garden. Wendy and Paul are this month's recipients of a Fairfield Garden Centre voucher.

By Rosie Moyes



A beautiful Tiger lily from Wendy's garden.



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## INSIGHT VACATIONS

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Known as the Golden Triangle, the cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur showcase India's rich Mughal and Rajput heritage - imposing forts, sumptuous palaces and gleaming marble temples and tombs, such as the exquisite Taj Mahal.

**Tour Pace:** This tour starts off rather briskly with a full day sightseeing in Delhi followed by an early morning train departure for Agra. The rest of the tour is far more easy going, with free time and leisurely days in Jaipur and Samode.

**Hotels:** Chic, contemporary hotels in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur proudly offer the finest amenities and personalised service that savvy international travellers have come to expect. Contrast their modern architecture with the unique experience of staying in Samode Bagh's air-conditioned tented accommodations, luxuriously furnished with every comfort.

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- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage.
- Insight Traveller Welcome pack.
- Arrival and departure transfers between New Delhi airport and your Insight tour hotel.

Definite Departure Date: Saturday, 15 September 2012  
(other travel dates available).

Price Per Person Twin Share: \$3050.00 (airfares not included).

Single Person Price \$3945.00 (airfares not included).

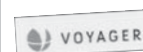
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If your luggage is looking a bit worn, Oakura Travel is now selling Voyager Luggage.



# New Plymouth Boys' High School

We are very proud of the following boys.

Congratulations to our Scholarship winners. Of special note is the effort of Alan Ansell, who won Top scholar in New Zealand for Latin.

Congratulations to the 1st XI Cricket team with a win over Hamilton Boys' High School. Rupert Young scored 78 runs and Henry Boon scored 62 runs (not out).

Congratulations to our Sailing team who won every class in the Taranaki Championships. Winners were Will Lightbody, Joe Batchelor, Campbell Graham and Dylan Taylor.

If your surname is Kettle then you are VERY good at surfing. Congratulations to Sean Kettle (National U20 Champion) and Isaac Kettle (National U14 Champion).

Our surf lifesavers excelled in the Taranaki Championships. Winner of the Flannagan Cup was Olly McCullough who swam 3.6km in the ocean in 43:15:55.

Dylan Taylor is now the National Junior Champion Paper Tiger Class, Sailing.

Julian Weir swam in the Victoria Age Group Championships — an invitation meet for swimmers in New Zealand and Australia. Julian broke the all-comers record in 100m Backstroke. In all he gained two gold, one silver and two bronze medals competing against Australasia's best. In the school swimming sports Julian broke six school records.

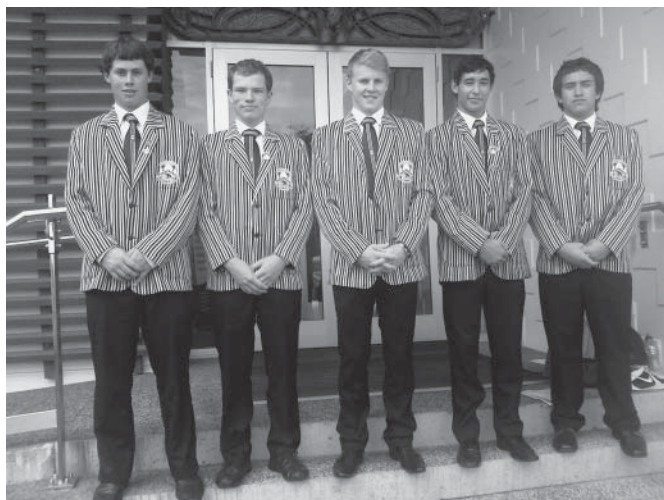
Mitchell Owen and Adam Beavis are members of the Taranaki U19 Surf Lifesaving team.

Thomas Burrell trained with the NZ Table Tennis coach.

Each year we purchase some art work from the boys and display it at school. The artwork of Jacob Kelly and Thomas Lawley was chosen.

The Yo-Yo is back in fashion — you should see Aaron Gao, who excels.

*Michael McMenamin, Headmaster*



School leaders Henry Boon, Jahi Wicksteed, Mitchell Holyoake, Derek Albertsen, Thomas Clark-Puia.

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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Perched on a hill over looking the rolling countryside that surrounds the town of Isola del Piano, sits a 600 year old monastery that today serves as a proud and symbolic headquarters for Montebello.

More than thirty years on, Montebello and the surrounding region have become synonymous with organic farming and Gino Girolimoni is



recognized as a pioneer of the organic movement in Italy. The co-operative has continued to grow with over thirty local farms joining and following its principles.



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### Dog Grooming @ the Pet Parlour

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*Safety of your dog is particularly important to us and all dogs must have their vaccinations up to date.*

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*We look forward to seeing you and your dog real soon!!*



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## Oakura School Head Pupils

We are happy to announce and to congratulate the recently appointed Head Pupils of Oakura School: Isabel Goodhue, Sophie Willis, William Pritt and Thomas Skurr. Well done!

We decided to interview the successful students and seek their views on their roles and responsibilities as head pupils.

Isabel Goodhue: "I am overjoyed and excited at the prospect of being an Oakura School head pupil. As a head pupil my main goal will be to help to extend the arts projects in our school, as that is my passion."

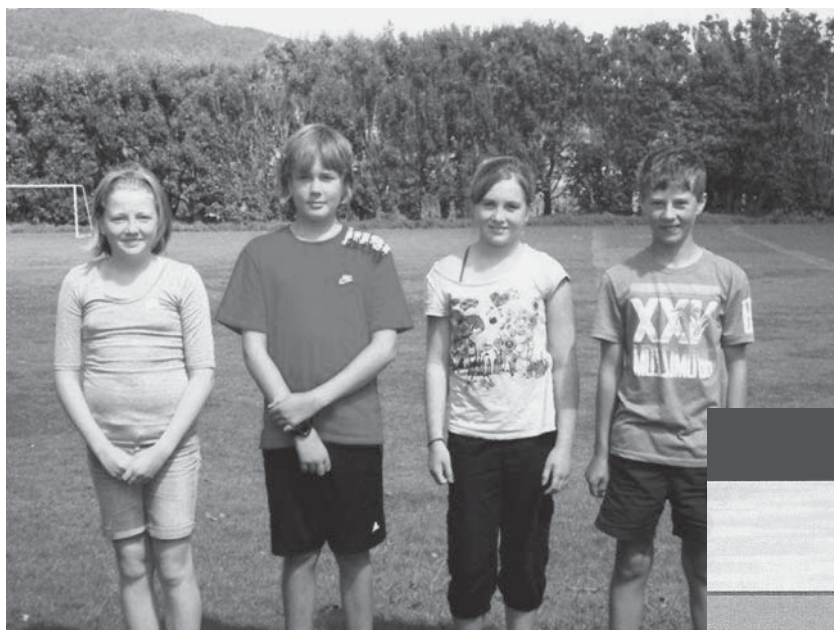
Thomas Skurr: "I am excited at being chosen to be an Oakura School head pupil. One of my goals as a head boy is to encourage our younger students to have a positive attitude to their learning and to enjoy their learning experiences at our school."

Sophie Willis: "As head pupil I would like to raise awareness in the school about children that aren't as fortunate as us. One of my ideas is to support a child in Cambodia, as many children there don't always have the opportunity of a good education."

William Pritt: "During my year as an Oakura School head pupil I would like to improve my leadership skills and to keep our school environment a happy and safe place to be."

We wish them every success in their exciting year ahead.

*by Isabel Goodhue and Nicole Watchorn (12 years)*



Newly appointed Head Pupils (from left to right) Isabel Goodhue, William Pritt, Sophie Willis and Thomas Skurr.

## Not the Day for a Swim...

Chilly bodies crowded the seats at the Okato Pool as Oakura School's senior swimming sports began. It was the first of March and a windy autumn day, not ideal conditions for a day at the pools.

Oakura's annual swimming sports are always an enjoyable event as all students from Year 3 and 4 take part and give it their best shot whether they love swimming or not. This year everyone dressed up in their house colour: Wairau (Blue), Matekai (Gold), Koru (Red) and Patuha (Green). This added something special to the occasion.

The competitions started with width races for the younger pupils then went on to the full length of the pool for the stronger swimmers. The races included breaststroke, freestyle, backstroke, bodyboard paddle and the floatation race.

Closer to the end of the day there were the house relays. These consisted of each house having a girl and boy team representing the strongest swimmers from each age group. These were really exciting with much cheering and yelling! Overall Koru won both of the relays.

At the conclusion of the swimming competition Koru had the most house points followed by Patuha and Matekai, with Wairau bringing up the rear! The day came to a happy conclusion with students enjoying hot Milo and barbecued sausages — thanks to FOOS!

*by Nicole Watchorn and Isabel Goodhue*

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# Active Children in the Junior Triathlon

Though the weather wasn't at its peak, the younger children of Oakura School were very enthusiastic about participating in their Junior Triathlon on Wednesday, 22 February. The junior students wrapped up in towels nervously, as they waited patiently for their age group to be called.

The students taking part were involved in a run, bike and swim, assisted by the Year 8 Sports Leaders. First were the Gecko Room girls, making their way down to Mrs Day, who prepared them with stretching exercises for their lap around the field. Though some found it quite challenging, they all managed in the end. Once they had completed their lap, they puffed up the hill and over to their bikes, where the Year 8 Sports Leaders helped them on and gave them a push to get them started.

Once around the field, they hopped off their bikes and were led into the swimming pool by adult helpers. Though the pool was cold and they were reluctant to get in, the girls persevered through the one width of chilly water. After the swim, the head pupils made sure they climbed out safely and were guided towards the finish line. It was a close race and at the end the dripping girls wrapped up in their warm towels.

The Gecko Room boys and the Room 2 students followed this course, while the children in Rooms 3 and 4 had the harder task of two laps around the field and a length of the swimming pool.

"It was really fun, but the pool was cold!" said a shivering but excited Erica Thompson. Many of her classmates felt the same. Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Junior Triathlon.

*by Danielle Hood and Kima Costelloe (12 years old)*



**Lindsey Ellington helps Violette Johnson begin her cycling phase.**



**(From left to right) Owen Ellington, Ed Shearer, Jack McNeil and Daniel McNiece.**

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## A Breakfast Invitation

SI New Plymouth invites you to its Soroptimist Breakfast  
with

Guest Speaker: Toni Street

Toni grew up on a local farm and in 2001 was Head Girl at New Plymouth Girls' High School. Toni is a One News sports reporter/presenter and Saturday *Breakfast* Co-Host. "Toni's an outstanding journalist and a talented broadcaster. She's known and respected for her professionalism, energy and engaging personality."

Tickets: \$30.00 via internet banking -  
Date: Monday 16 April 2012, 7am-9am  
Location: St. Mary's Peace Hall, Vivian St New Plymouth – some parking on-site  
RSVP: Please reply by 6th April to Dawn - email  
rjmills@clear.net.nz or enquiries to Mary – Phone 06 758 9990

Proceeds from this Breakfast to the St Mary's After School Care Project and UN Women

**Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM?**

**Phone 0800 THE TOM**

## COMING EVENTS

### April

- 23 Term 2 begins  
Life Education (23 April–1 May)
- 25 Anzac Day holiday
- 26 Playgroup 9–11

### May

- 2 Movement Madness Years 1 and 2
- 3 Movement Madness Years 3 and 4  
Rotary Reading starts
- 6 Pumpkin Festival
- 10 People Savers First Aid Course Year 5/6  
Playgroup 9–11am



Swimming sports

## Pumpkin Festival, Sunday May 6

Preparations are well underway to make this a 'must do' event on your calendar.

As part of the upcoming Pumpkin Festival we are looking for assistance with items that we can put into raffles or financial sponsorship to cover the running cost of the festival. Do you have your own business or work for a company that you think may be interested in helping us? This is a great way to help the school fundraiser, but also a wonderful advertising opportunity for your company. This is going to be a fun-filled day for the whole community and your involvement would be a bonus. We would be very appreciative of any assistance you can give, large or small. If you can help in any way, please call Glynis Kemp on 06-753 8855/021-124 3261 to discuss in more detail, or leave your contact information with Bronnie in the office and we will contact you.

*Joss Hobson*

*Pumpkin Festival Committee*



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## Omata School Poetry

### IF I RULED THE WORLD

If I ruled the world  
I'd cancel paying for damage  
Being told off  
And being kicked out of Sonia's house.

If I ruled the world  
There'd be 100 brain breaks every day  
Salty chips for breakfast, lunch and dinner  
And I would tell old stories, always.

If I ruled the world  
I wouldn't have losing dessert  
I wouldn't have working every day  
Or sitting and watching Claudia swim.

If I ruled the world  
I'd go to pea pole's parties every year  
School days would always be holidays  
And a person who sometimes forgot to have a sleep  
Would still be allowed to rule the world.

*by Isaac Glenny*



# Ross Bennett - Debut at The Comedy Club

On Friday, 2 March Taranaki was once again blessed with top notch comedy in New Plymouth's Basement Bar, and amongst the TV regulars of Ben Hurley and Guy Williams was Oakura's own Ross Bennett with a debut stand-up appearance in front of a home crowd — tough gig!



Ross during his debut performance.

Despite being a stand-up virgin (as it were) Ross owned the stage and displayed a natural presence that most newcomers could only dream of. His material wandered through many subjects and on occasion he felt the heat of the heckler, but nothing threw him from his task at hand. Ross managed himself, the stage and the audience superbly and after a few well-earned beers I asked Ross why on earth someone would volunteer to do 10 minutes on a stage with an expectant audience waiting to be amused?

Ross (design director by day, comedian by night) has entered himself into the 2012 Raw Comedy Quest in which amateur comedians try their luck at being funny enough to win \$2,000. As part of warming up for the official heats in Auckland during March and April, Ross chose to flex his comedy muscles (and funny bone, sorry couldn't resist) at the Basement Bar — which incidentally just won Best Comedy Venue 2011 in the NZ Comedy Guild Awards.

After whittling down hours of material to just a few choice minutes Ross was ready to take the plunge. When I asked Ross why he wanted to do it and more importantly why he did do it, I was fascinated to hear that there wasn't one strong reason, no drunken bet with a mate, not even a badly thought through New Year's resolution, just a lifetime's appreciation of comedy and a can-do attitude — I was impressed and a little envious!

So whether Ross wins the \$2,000 or not doesn't really matter, he's serious about comedy and has already achieved something many of us never do — having a dream and doing something about it. Good luck, Ross, and hopefully you'll be making us laugh down at the Basement Bar again soon.

*Jo Birnie*

**Catch the next Taranaki Comedy Club on 5 April. Tickets from Peggy Gordons, be quick they sell out fast!**

# The Best Dog

I was sitting at Butler's Reef on the morning that the Americana cars went through Oakura and across the street was the BEST dog, and me being in the pet business I had to take a photo (not the best resolution).



Brent and Jan with their dog enjoying Americana.

Anyway, this dog sat perfectly still for all the time it took for the cars to come through Oakura, he looked like he was watching a tennis match, he mirrored his owners, and looked up the street to see what was coming and his eyes/head followed the cars all the way down (and he had good taste too, he watched the flash cars longest)...

I don't know if you'd be interested in my little dog story, but it was amazing, my mother-in-law and I were charmed. I don't know who this couple is but have seen them walking their Bearded Collie (I think) in Oakura.

*Holli Marshall*

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## The One-eyed Pet

The vet clinic has had a run of eye conditions recently that have warranted the removal of entire globes from four pets. We are happy to report they are all doing well following surgery. Pets seem to adjust quickly to removal of an eye and become much happier once the pain of the condition has been removed.

One pet dog had been hit by a car and arrived at the clinic unconscious with severe facial injuries, including a ruptured eyeball. We administered emergency treatment, treated superficial wounds and stabilised her. Due to the extensive nature of the eye injury the globe was removed.

Gina referred the second dog to Palmerston North eye specialist, Dr Craig Irving. He diagnosed a small melanoma in the globe and recommended removal of the eye. It was removed at our clinic and sent to a laboratory for histology. This showed that the melanoma was restricted to the globe and is highly unlikely to have spread further. This dog seems much more comfortable now and is back to her old self.

In the third case, two kittens had contracted feline herpes virus or cat flu. This virus causes fever, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge and conjunctivitis. It can also attack the cornea, the part of the eye we see through. Antibiotics applied into the eye and supportive treatment normally clears it up in 4–7 days. However, the virus in these kittens had caused severe ulceration and rupture of a globe in each. Both kittens are doing very well post-surgery.

Feline herpes virus or cat flu is in the standard cat vaccinations offered at Okato Vet Clinic. Although the vaccine does not offer 100% protection, it will certainly reduce the severity of the disease. Eye removal is not pleasant and we would much prefer to vaccinate to protect against this disease. We strongly recommend the vaccination of cats at this time.

## Marlies and Steve take on New Challenge

It has been nearly three years since Marlies and Steve took over the Oakura 4 Square and as of 2 April they will no longer be at Oakura 4 Square but in Opunake at the Opunake 4 Square 45.

Since moving to Oakura Marlies and Steve and their two children have loved being in the store. Marlies says it has been great for the whole family and it has been a great way of being involved in the community. The family will continue to live in the village and commute to work in Opunake. Saskia and Tom will continue at Oakura Primary School and the whole family will continue to do the stuff they like doing – horses, motor cross, scootering, surfing, biking, coffees...

So Marlies and Steve give a heartfelt thanks to the community for their support and hope the support will continue for the new owners Geoff and Mark and their families. Marlies says they have given sponsorship regularly to 11 groups in the community and it has been an easy community to be involved in.

A big welcome is given to locals going to Opunake for sport or camping – call in and say hello – there will be no rolled ice creams but the same friendly smiles will be on offer.

The TOM thanks Marlies and Steve for their support to the local magazine and all their involvement in the community – it is indeed a joint effort to make our village and its surrounds the great place it is.

*By Kim Ferens*

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# TOM Baby of the Month



**Congratulations to Tara Sandbrook and Ross Fanthorpe on the birth of Susie Mary.**

Susie was born on 17 January 2012 and has a big sister, Miri, who is two years old.

They will have lots of fun together on their avocado orchard overlooking the Kaitake Golf Club.

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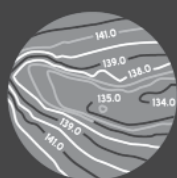


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## TOM PHONE DIRECTORY LISTINGS

**Edits to existing business listings**  
for the 2012 TOM Directory need to be  
made by 12th April.

**New businesses, clubs and groups -**  
Send in your contact details by 12th April to  
be included in the 2012 Directory.

Email ***kim@thetom.co.nz*** or phone **7511519**

## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term, 4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on 06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

### 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.

### Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

### Move It or Lose it, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays 9.30am.

Contact Gloria 752 7442.

### New Plymouth Toastmasters Club - Speechcraft Course.

Commencing Thursday 17th May, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivion at Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph

Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698. Building Confidence, Speaking Skills and Self Esteem.

### Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

### Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06-752 4804.

### 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.

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

Ladies' Midweek Competition

Club night

Juniors' private coaching

A-grade players' practice

Social Women's Tennis for

members and non-members

Junior Competition

Soffe Cup and A-grade

Competition

Club Day — Adults and children

welcome for a hit

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

### St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

### Val Deakin Dance School

Saturday morning ballet classes are held at Oakura Hall. Pre-school students from 9-9.30 and a Basic Ballet class for children aged 5, 6 and 7 from 9.30-10.45 am. Contact Val Deakin or Jane Roseman on 06-752 7743.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.co.nz

### Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

**PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING**

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Fair Play Advocate**

**7599119**

## TOM CLASSIFIEDS

### DEAD CARS

CASH paid for dead cars, we will pick up your old cars and pay you \$\$\$. Ph 027 445 8220.

### GARDENING WORK WANTED

DO YOU need help in your garden? I am a very experienced gardener with references. Ph. Glenys 751 4208. Oakura/Omata area.

### WOOD SPLITTER

FOR HIRE. Trailer mounted, heavy duty splitter. Pay only for hours used. Ph 027 445 8220.

**okato  
hair  
salon**

**20 Cumming Street, Okato**

Tuesday 9.30am - 7.00pm

Wednesday 9.30am - 3.00pm

Thursday 9.30am - 4.00pm

Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 4.00pm

**Bookings essential!**

**TEXT**

**027 276 5185**