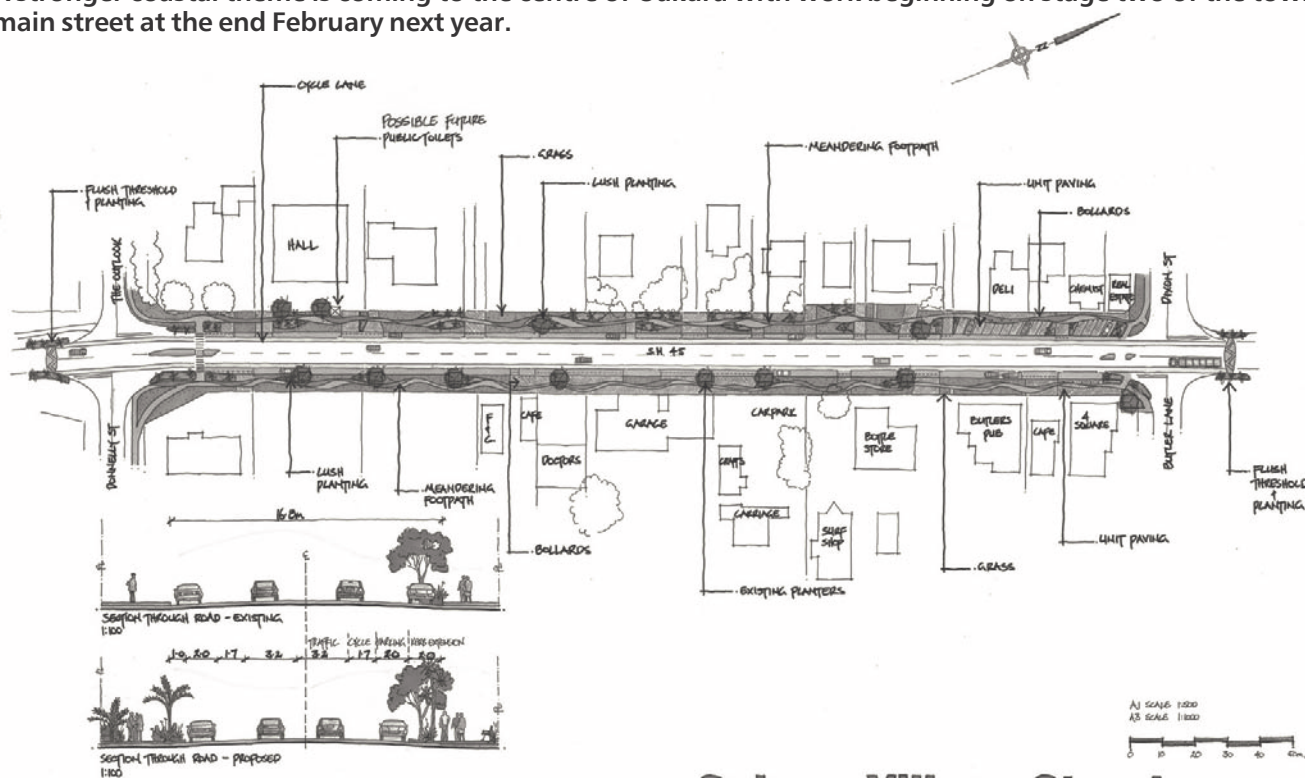


Plans Prepared for Completing Oakura CBD Upgrade

A stronger coastal theme is coming to the centre of Oakura with work beginning on stage two of the town's main street at the end February next year.



NEW PLYMOUTH
DISTRICT COUNCIL
www.newplymouth.govt.nz

RICHARD BAIN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Oakura Village Streetscape

Developed Concept Design

MAY 2005

New Plymouth District Council has worked with a group of community representatives on developing a streetscape design for Oakura which will build on the town's identity while improving safety for pedestrians and motorists.

"I think the community representatives have helped the council develop a streetscape that is aesthetically pleasing while also balancing the demands of public safety and cost," says Manager Projects Jeff Bondy.

"We've also made an effort to future-proof the design so that it can be modified if there's a significant change in the

town. For instance because of the potential for commercial activity to increase in Oakura, we've put some existing areas of low use into lawn with the idea that they can be converted to paving later if need be."

The \$500,000 project is due for completion by the end of May 2006, with the timing designed to miss the peak Christmas/New Year period in the town.

Stage two retains the existing car parking spaces as well as the width of the traffic lanes. The central painted median strip will be removed, and the streetscape has

... continued on page 10

THIS MONTH



PAGE 12

**Multi-talented
Chelsea wins
scholarship.**



PAGE 21

**Mucking in at
Laurie and
Lynda's place.**



PAGE 21

**The mighty
Kaitake.**

Editorial

Welcome to the August issue of *TOM*.

TOM was created to keep the community of Oakura and subsequently Omata informed of local events and topics of interest. You've responded positively and we welcome you to keep feeding information to us.

In this issue we cover the story of Laurie Hill, the recipient of a garden makeover by the *Mucking In* television show. The true essence of community spirit was shown in the number of people who helped out and the businesses that got behind the project.

As I write this, the sun is shining and the beach is looking very welcoming. It's this asset that keeps me here as I think our beach is one of the most beautiful in Taranaki and it probably appeals more in winter because it is more often naked of visitors but still full of interest – the colours of the sea, the changing tides, the huge expanse of sand and the accompanying vista. Oakura is truly a haven for the outdoor person and those who ski will be enjoying the possibility of a ski in the morning and a surf in the afternoon, looking back at the mountain they so recently descended.

For those who enjoy the comforts of warm and cosy indoor surrounds, I say sit back and enjoy this edition of *TOM*.

Tracey

tom

TOM is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from the city limits to Dover Road.

THE TEAM

Tracey Lusk, Co-ordinator 06 752 7875

Kim Ferens, Co-ordinator/Features 06 751 1519

Marion Chitty Advertising 06 752 7505

Writers: **Tammy Lewis**

Feona Burkett

Fiona Washer

Music Reviews: **Graham Donlon**

Proof reading: **Louise Norton**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**

The Oakura Messenger, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

www.tompapers.com

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

The Coastal Strategy public workshop in Okato on 5 July and the hui at Oakura Marae on 6 July attracted a good number of people.

The purpose of the meeting was to talk about the major themes that came out of the first round of public consultation in March, and to further develop residents' visions for the Oakura/Okato coastal area (as well as the rest of the district) for the next 20 years.

Some – but certainly not all – of the issues raised were about rural subdivision and clustered development, how to manage population growth and ensure public access to the coast, with some innovative suggestions on how the latter could be achieved. And it was pleasing to see that most people were happy to read the draft visions that came out of the first round of consultation, although with some suggested amendments.

What I am most proud of is that participants in the workshop and hui could see the benefit of having a long-term Coastal Strategy so that the Council, with the community's help, can direct how the coast is managed for many years to come.

The coastline is a key part of New Plymouth District's identity. It's right up there with the mountain as an iconic landscape and it is regularly used by nearly everyone in a variety of ways, including for recreation, business and private residences.

We don't want to lose the special nature of our coastline – that came through loud and clear in the two rounds of consultation we have held so far on the Coastal Strategy. Residents are very proud of the landscape within which we live and there is a strong feeling that we should ensure the elements that make our part of New Zealand special aren't compromised.

That's one of the main reasons for having a Coastal Strategy – so that in 20 years' time we still have a coastal area that reflects the wishes of the wider community.

Thank you to each and every one who has attended these workshops or talked with elected Council members about what they want for the coastal area, or who have contacted Council staff directly on this matter. Your input has been invaluable more feedback will be sought when we reach the next stage of consultation in December 2005/January 2006.

More information about the development of the Coastal Strategy can be found online at www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy

In the meantime if you want to forward any comments about the Coastal Strategy or talk with someone about a project or development that you think the Council can help you with, give me a call on 759 6060!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119

POLICE REPORT

Well, hello everybody.

Before I go any further, a big "Congratulations" to the mighty Kaitake boys for their "Grand slam", as the sign said, in the weekend – "Taranaki champs" has a nice ring to it. I went and watched the game and it was hard fought, but they deserved to win. I have some very reliable information that there were not only some funny looking hair cuts by the end of the night but some very sore heads the next day.

On that note did you know that "ancient drinkers warded off the devil by clinking their cups", not many people knew that.

It seems that the season had only just started and now it has come to an end, bring on the NPC I say.

Any way what about crime, I hear you say?

Since the last article things have been quiet for me, which is good news for you. But having said that there was a large burglary further down the Coast in Warea recently. For those of you who have not heard about it, the occupant of the address returned from Auckland, where it was feared his child had Meningococcal disease, to find some low-life had been into his home and helped themselves to his gear. The items included a large number of tools, a crock-pot, dehumidifier, fan heater, queen sized duvet, kitchen blender and two sleeping bags, just to name a few.

Someone out there knows who took these items and I for one want to catch the them, so any assistance would be very much appreciated.

I have also managed to track down a local lad for doing donuts on a grass verge in Oakura and he is now a few dollars poorer.

Which reminds, me the first major car rally won by a woman (Pat Moss) was in Rome in 1960.

I have to go now so take care and be safe on the roads.

Rich

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Flowers:

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Fruit trees:

Plant new trees. Prune established fruit trees on a dry day to avoid the spread of diseases. Paint wounds with Bascal pruning paint to prevent disease entering the tree.

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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth



Greetings to all readers of **TOM**

At the end of July I was pleased to announce a new road safety campaign designed to give drivers the information they need to drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions.

In a joint effort funded by ACC and developed cooperatively by ACC, the New Zealand Police, Transit NZ, Ministry of Transport and LTNZ, the overall objective of this initiative is to broaden the approach to speed management. The present onus has been to rely on the enforcement of speed limits and this new campaign is designed to encourage drivers to ensure they are driving at a speed that is compliant with any hazardous road conditions.

It is well documented that speed continues to be the major contributing factor to fatal crashes. Many drivers simply travel at 100km per hour whatever the conditions because that is the limit on the open road.

Think about the road conditions in your area and how these roads can become treacherous depending on the weather.

I am looking forward to seeing the positive results that I consider this campaign will bring. It doesn't matter how many years of driving we have under our belts – when it comes to the safety of ourselves and other users of the road, this has to be the most important factor.

Best wishes to you all

Harry Duynhoven MP

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FireLines

Gold Star recipients celebrate 25 years of service

Fire Policeman Terry Griffiths and Station Officer Chris West of the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade were presented with Gold Stars for 25 years service in the Brigade on Saturday 23 July. A cabaret evening to celebrate the event was held at the Oakura Hall and was attended by nearly 130 people.

The Chairperson of the United Fire Brigade Association Competition Council, Mr Colin Lawrie, presented the Gold Stars and Mr Pat Fitzell, Assistant Regional Fire Commander for the Western Region, presented a plaque to Terry and Chris. The New Zealand Fire Service Commission representatives Mr Pat Fitzell and Mr Owen Kinsella also presented the pair with a silver tray. Other presentations included a gold pin from the Gold Star Association, a plaque from the Mayor Peter Tennett on behalf of the New Plymouth District Council. Chris also received a Penn fishing rod, reel and tackle gear and Terry a Ryobi Mulcher from the Oakura Fire Brigade.

The local brigade decorated the hall using Terry's Morris Minor Fire Engine for a prop and look-alike masks of Terry and Chris were worn by the Brigade. For Chris West the award was extra special because he is the second person in his family to receive one – Roy West, Chris's father and a founding member of the Fire Brigade in Oakura, was also a recipient of the Gold Star.

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"It was a lot of fun and I was surprised how easy they were to operate", says Paul. With all the lifestyle blocks in the area now, he felt there would be market for this service.

So he purchased a 3 ton digger and a 5 ton dump truck just prior to Christmas, and within 6 months it became obvious there was a market for a smaller digger as well, and just a few weeks ago, purchased a smaller 1.5 ton digger, which has been in full use since then.

He encourages people to drive the diggers themselves, and only charges for the hours they are being used.

"As I work fulltime myself, I can only drive after work or during the weekends, so if I can hire them to be used during the week and drive them on the weekends myself if required, everyone's happy."

Paul says the truck has been a real bonus, as many jobs require the use of a dump truck. It has proved to be popular and reliable.

Although he expected his client base to be local, the hirage has been from Waitara to Opunake.

They have been used for section work, retaining walls, septic tanks, farm tracks, culverts and rubbish removal as well as various other jobs.

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Ongoing Coastal consultation

The second round of community consultation on the 20-year Coastal Strategy for Oakura, New Plymouth and Okato residents is now complete.

The New Plymouth District Council, together with Beca Engineering consultants, recently held a series of community workshops in New Plymouth and Okato to gather valuable feedback and information that will help determine what our coast will look like within the next 20 years.


The workshops, held in early July, provided an opportunity for concerned residents in the Oakura area to participate in dissecting the results of the initial consultation. Information recorded from the first series of consultation earlier this year documented Oakura as: "A vibrant village where the sun lingers and a place where residents could celebrate the wild beach and bush experiences".. There was debate at the recent meetings on whether this correctly reflects what residents envision for the area and there was considerable discussion around what issues need to be addressed when considering formulating guidelines for a coastal strategy.

A list of goals, actions and priorities affecting the Oakura area was drafted at the workshop, which was attended by more than 20 people. Common themes were the impact of coastal erosion (particularly at Oakura Beach below Messenger Terrace and the beach camp), the pressures of population growth and taking a sensible approach to subdivision rules and regulations to avoid densely built-up areas along the coastline.

Lucy Brake of Beca Engineering, who is helping the NPDC facilitate the consultation process, said she was particularly pleased with the way participants readily discussed and interpreted the many issues that were raised in the initial series of meetings. "I was particularly pleased at the level of detail that came from the meetings and how participants interpreted a range of complex issues", said Lucy. "We hope to have a summary of all the meetings posted on the website at www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy should anyone wish to review them, and we are encouraging people to get involved, as ultimately it is your coastline and this document will provide a guideline as to how it is managed for the next 20 years".

A draft strategy is now being formulated by Beca Engineers and the NPDC, with all the information and issues raised at the meetings being taken into consideration. The draft coastal strategy is not expected to be made available to the public until late November, when it will again be open for discussion and public submissions.

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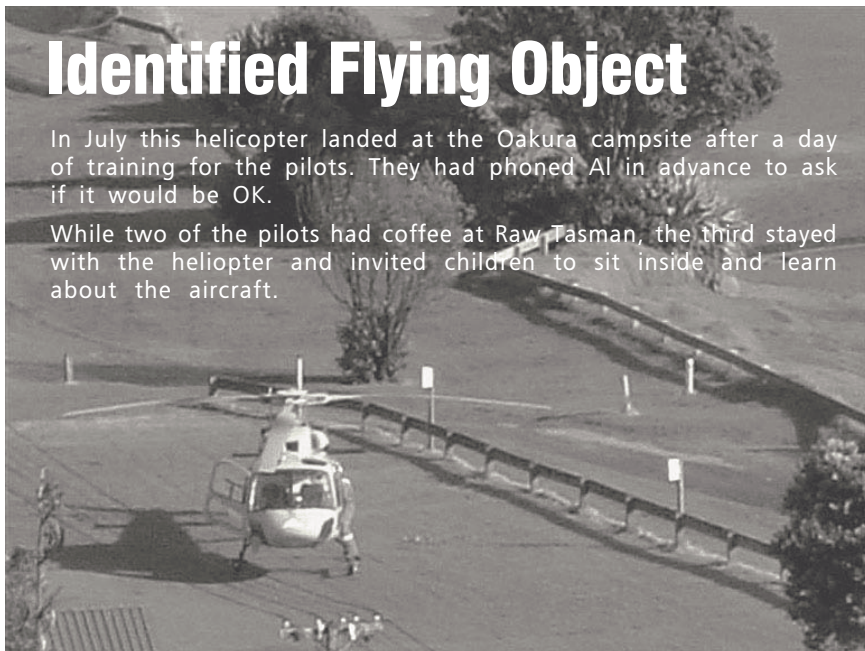
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Identified Flying Object

In July this helicopter landed at the Oakura campsite after a day of training for the pilots. They had phoned Al in advance to ask if it would be OK.

While two of the pilots had coffee at Raw Tasman, the third stayed with the heliopter and invited children to sit inside and learn about the aircraft.



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Green flashes

Have you ever had a green flash moment? A time when a flash of understanding flickers erratically as you grope at it (or with it), then glows brightly and is embedded forever in your grey matter? Green flashes are like that. I scoffed when John asked me if I'd seen the green flash as the sun goes down. It was mid-seventies and I was living next to him at Sunset – Sunset Beach in Hawaii that is. I continued to pour scorn on his green flash pro-nouncements until one afternoon he took me out and we watched the sun disappear over the horizon out Kaena Point way. And I saw the flash.

After that I learned to listen and observe more acutely rather than just rushing in and putting my spin on everything, especially those things about which I knew very little. It depends where you live on Highway 45 and how many months of the year you get to watch for flashes. You've got to be able to see the sun going down over the sea. Where I live green flash moments are gone in the middle of October and I retrieve them again at the beginning of March. Further around the coast the opposite applies. For townies Back Beach is great and you don't even have to get out of your car. Binoculars help and it pays to have a clear sky, even a little wisp or two on the horizon can screw things up. Those cold south easterly twilights in winter are best. We've had three green flashes in a row in one week. Perhaps you'll get the chance to catch it around 5.30pm tonight.

Anyway back to the future: The green flash moment by the New Plymouth District Council last year has meant substantial funding for developing an integrated coastal management strategy, something desperately needed for long-term sus-tainability of our second iconic resource (after Maunga Taranaki).

Regards , Doug Hislop



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Canadians bring energetic folk music to Taranaki Festival of the Arts

"Mauvais Sort is energy, enthusiasm ... dynamite! But more than that, it is emotion." – La Soleil, Canada

Prepare to be enchanted by the magic of Canada's Mauvais Sort as they meld traditional folk lyrics together with contemporary arrangements for energetic and passionate performances at the Taranaki Festival of the Arts in August. Direct from a tour of Scotland, Mauvais Sort are setting out to bewitch New Zealand, performing at both the Taranaki Festival of the Arts and Christchurch Arts Festival. They perform in Christchurch on 3 August, before heading to Taranaki where they tour the region performing in Hawera (4 August), Opunake (5 August), Makahu (6 August), Eltham (7 August), Stratford (9 August), Urenui (10 August), Inglewood (11 August) and Kaimata (12 August), before greeting a sold-out show in New Plymouth on Saturday 13 August. Due to popular demand, an additional New Plymouth show has been added on Sunday 14 August at 7pm.

With a passion for folk music, the five talented musicians of Mauvais Sort (French for "bad spell") revisit traditional songs and give them a new twist, drawing on jazz, rock, reggae and pop music influences. Their blend of traditional lyrics with contemporary music results in a unique musical flavour and their live performances are legendary for their onstage energy and enthusiasm. Mauvais Sort has toured extensively in Canada and Belgium and has released two albums, *Sans Dessus Dessous* and *Jettatura*. Mauvais Sort perform at the Taranaki Festival of the Arts, which runs from 4 to 14 August. Their New Plymouth shows are on 13 August at 8.30pm and 14 August at 7pm at the Theatre Royal, TSB Showplace.

The Taranaki Festival of the Arts follows the sell-out success of WOMAD New Zealand 2005. Both events are organised by the Taranaki Arts Festivals Trust. Tickets and programmes for the Taranaki Festival of the Arts are available from Ticketek and the full programme you can find online at www.artsfest.co.nz

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Oakura Library with Brenda Cash



Greetings!

You are all invited to join the Oakura Book Club, which meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 5.30 to 6.30pm. To celebrate the second meeting of the Book Club on Wednesday 7 September, I am delighted to introduce our new Puke Ariki Manager, Bill MacNaught, CBE, who will discuss his passion and knowledge of libraries. The Oakura Book Club has been formed to meet a growing number of requests from patrons who are keen to discuss new books and different genres, and to share and compare authors.

The July Holiday Programme was a sell-out success with children decorating the library in prayer flags in honour of the Sir Edmund Hillary exhibition and also special library flags, which are now hanging in the library for all to enjoy.

The Mobile Library Bus now stops at the corner of Lower Pitone Road on alternate Thursdays from 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

The next major exhibition at Puke Ariki is one for all the family. *Space – A Galaxy of Adventure* opens on Sunday 28 August until 24 October. The show is interactive and offers children a chance to learn about science, physics and technology in a hands-on and entertaining way.

Happy reading, keep warm and see you at the Oakura Book Club on the first Wednesday of every month.

Brenda

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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

In the Heart of the Moon

Ali Farka Touré and Toumani Diabaté

(World Circuit/Elite)

A treat of intense richness, *In the Heart of the Moon* finds two of the undoubted treasures of Malian acoustic music engaged in a deep, spontaneous and intimate musical dialogue.

Produced by Nick Gold and recorded by Jerry Boys (the Buena Vista Social Club team) in a makeshift studio on the top floor of the Hotel Mandé, overlooking the River Niger in the Malian capital Bamako, *In the Heart of the Moon* was captured in just three two-hour sessions, which in itself is a testament to the genius of these masters! The pieces that make up this album all come from the sub-Saharan public domain and were, invariably, captured in a single take, after minimal discussion and with no rehearsal! Uncanny.

The veteran Ali has known Toumani since his childhood and these Malian virtuoso musicians are both household names throughout West Africa. But musical genius and mutual respect aside, they actually have very little in common. From Northern Mali – of Peul and Songhai ancestry – the legendary guitarist and vocalist Ali Farka Touré is the acknowledged master of the "desert blues", but these days he is primarily a farmer, the elected Mayor of Niafunké and only a musician part-time. Toumani Diabaté, the master of the twenty-one stringed harp-lute known as the kora, comes from the opposite end of the country and is from the aristocratic, ancestral griot caste, traditional Mandé musicians whose history dates back to the ancient Malian Empire of Sundiata Keita. Although Buena Vista veterans (including Ry Cooder, acoustic bassist Orlando "Cachaito" Lopez and per-

cussionist Joachim Cooder) and a couple of African traditional musicians are tastefully deployed here, *Heart Of The Moon* is very much the end-result of the magical empathy between the two principals.

The emotional and musical heart of this sublime recording is the track "Kaira", a gorgeous piece, which is obviously precious to both men and was popularised by the kora master Sidiki Diabaté (Toumani's late father). When artists are as finely attuned to each other as these two, simple is more often than not best! *In the Heart of the Moon* is a subtle, understated gem, which reveals its riches slowly but surely. When many of the contemporary stars of African music are long forgotten, this organic collaboration between Ali Farka Touré and Toumani Diabaté will continue to enchant.

Italian Café

Various

(Putumayo/Elite)

Although it ranges from the late Fifties through to the present day, *Italian Café* captures the elegance of the affluent years of La Dolce Vita (The Sweet Life), the post-War years of plenty. This is music with its heart in the days before rock and roll. Think jazz and hints of bossa nova, combined with Italian style and sophistication! From vocal groups (Quartetto Cetra) through to louche lounge crooners (Fred Buscaglione and Giorgio Conte), this is a charming collection that does not pall with repeated listening. *Italian Café* makes for a pleasing alternative to the plethora of English language "easy listening" compilations that have flooded the market in recent years. Hey, was that Sophia Loren that just went past?

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Plans Prepared for Completing Oakura CBD Upgrade

been designed to encourage traffic to slow down by creating an environment that feels less like part of a state highway and more like a central urban area.

Wide footpath areas are a key feature, with an additional one metre of width on the northern berm and an additional two metres of width on the southern berm. "The berms combine paved and grassed surfaces, and the path has a slow wave-like design to echo the sea and coastline," says Mr Bondy.

There will be parallel parking on both sides of the road along with the existing angle parking, and pedestrians will have a shorter route when crossing the main road.

In addition, a sewer pipeline will be laid beneath the main street during the development of the streetscape so that the infrastructure is in place for the development of reticulated sewerage in Oakura.

More...

Stage one of the CBD upgrade included the use of traffic islands, trees, bollards, picnic-tables and seats. Additional native plants, tables, seats and bike racks will be brought in as part of stage two, and the planned lighting will create atmosphere and improve security.

Copies of the stage two design will be displayed in the town and in the Civic Centre's foyer shortly, and are available on the council's website: www.newplymouthnz.com



Proposed view looking east in front of 4 Square



Oakura Plunket

The coffee mornings continue through term time on Friday mornings from 9am to 10.30am at the St James Church hall on the corner of Donnelly Street and Surf Highway 45. It has been great to see so many new faces this term as well as our regular attendees. The home baking has been especially spectacular so make sure you get along for a cuppa, cake and a chat – a great way to meet other parents and young children.

Look forward to seeing you and your young ones on Fridays. All welcome.

Catherine Keenan, Oakura Plunket Committee



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The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

As the summer months roll by, Korea can be quite an unbearable place to live. The temperature soars into the early thirties, the humidity screams at you and threatens to block your path as you walk the streets, and the mosquitoes molest you at any given moment. The lack of swimming pools and pollution-free waterways mean that taking a cool dip in the Seoul area is out of the question.

The annual Boryeong Mud Festival provides a simple answer to all the struggles of summer. A large group of forty or so Kiwi, Australian, Canadian, Irish and French ex-pats made the journey south of Seoul to a delightful seaside city called Daecheon. The city is known for its skincare products, and in particular a special type of beneficial mud. I am sure, knowing Koreans, that any number of government-funded tests have been done on this product to ensure its amazing life-altering capabilities. But for us foreigners it was just a good excuse to get out of Seoul, cover ourselves in mud, drink excessive amounts of liquid refreshments and have a great day in the Korean alternative to the outdoors.

I hadn't had much experience of the beach culture in Korea. I'd heard stories of middle-aged Korean women swimming completely clothed, having to purchase spots on the beach to put up your umbrella and the over-excessive use of life-jackets by swimmers. Daecheon Beach seemed a little different. The sand was golden and clean looking, the sea had no bad odours or unusual floating substances and the Koreans were wearing standard togs. Perhaps it was the overabundance of foreigners at the beach, but it seemed just like a crowded day outside the Old Boys' Surf Club.

We made our way to the mud section and the fun began. Buckets and buckets of mud were lined up, all ready for application in whichever way possible. After a matter of minutes all that could be seen was a swarm of brown bodies and eighty or so green, brown and blue eyes peering from their mucky midst. The Korean photographers went crazy. We felt as though we were famous Hollywood stars, unable to turn anywhere without being snapped and flashed by the ever-present cameras. The mud wrestling ring was another attraction, with a bunch of slightly inebriated Kiwi and Aussie boys taking full advantage of the inflatable ring and covering themselves in a multitude of scratches and grazes. Needless to say, the Kiwis won.

After a day of mud, swimming and touch rugby, we made our way back to our yeogwan, a motel where you sleep on thin padded mats on the floor. It had been a great experience, very unlike the standard day-to-day living in Korea. It was refreshing to see the locals, who are usually completely opposed to getting dirty, getting amongst it and have a great time along with the michin (crazy) foreigners. If you ever come to Korea, I recommend you take time out and head to the Boryeong Mud Festival.

Annyonghi keseyo

Kelly Ryan



Ooh! This looks like *SERIOUS FUN*, Kelly
(Some people get all the good jobs).

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Chelsea Brett points her way to Wellington

Chelsea shows off the silverware.



Local teenager Chelsea Brett recently won the Jean White Memorial Scholarship for dancers aged 12 to 20 years of age. The competition involved two dances plus an open-class character dance.. The scholarship is a \$500 grant to a dance workshop and Chelsea is planning to use it to attend a summer dance school in January next year at the Advance Foundation of Dance in Wellington. The workshop will involve five days with five lessons per day and will be a good warm up to exams that follow shortly after. The next exam for 13-year-old Chelsea is an advanced jazz exam that 15 or 16 year olds usually attempt.

Chelsea has been dancing since she was three years old. Mum, Adele, is a dance teacher at the Patten Academy of Dance and says Chelsea's hard work and natural talent have both contributed to her outstanding results (she usually attains distinction in her exams). Chelsea does ballet, jazz and contemporary dance, but enjoys jazz the most. She enjoys performing in front of an audience, especially knowing that her performance is the result of all her own effort. She takes dance classes four times a week and, as she is also a talented sports-person; she juggles dancing with netball and basketball practices and games. Chelsea attends New Plymouth Girls' High School, where she is in the Year 9 'A' netball team and the junior 'A' basketball team. She thinks her future will probably involve something to do with sport – she isn't too sure about dancing although the stage does hold some allure (her dad Barry recently gave an outstanding performance in the role of Fagan in the Operatic Society's show *Oliver!*), but it would have to be dancing or acting as singing is not one of her many talents!

By Kim Ferens

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Kevin Richardson – another community minded volunteer

Last month *TOM* profiled the beautiful people who are our volunteer ambulance officers, but we have another volunteer in our community who works in a slightly different capacity to the "vollies". As a "Taranaki District Health Board First Response Officer", Kevin Richardson is most likely the first trained assistance people will receive when they call 111 from the area between the Oakura village boundary and Puniho Road in Okato.



A First Response Officer is a trained volunteer who is sent out to emergencies to administer help before the ambulance crew arrives and that early help can be crucial. Kevin has been the area's First Response Officer for the last 10 years, but he has been involved with the Ambulance Service since 1990 – he worked first as an observer in a three-man team, then as an ambulance officer. Prior to working for the Service, Kevin did volunteer work with St John's at rugby games and events. He has been trained in cardiac, defibrillation, first aid and asthma care, and he regularly does refresher courses to keep his skills current.

Kevin is notified of call-outs via pager and he then rings through to the 111 call centre for details of the emergency. The local Lions Club bought the first pager for Kevin's use and he uses his own vehicle to get to and from emergencies with the specialised first aid equipment. He says his knowledge of the local roads and who lives where is an advantage he has over the ambulance crews. One thing that would make his job easier is better cell phone coverage in the area. Both providers of cell phone networks fail to supply extensive coverage in the coastal area so Kevin has to rely on land lines.

His wife, Marian, is very supportive of her community-minded husband and says he copes very well with the traumas he comes across (although the sight of his own blood is a different story!). It's been a busy life for the farming couple and their six children, Sean, Alice, Laura, Liam, Claire and Deirdre. Marian works full-time as an ICT teacher at the local Coastal School in Okato, while Kevin takes care of the farm.. Some weeks there are no call-outs but sometimes there can be several in one week. The types of calls Kevin responds to most are medical emergencies such as heart attacks rather than road accidents, something that has changed over the years.

Kevin says he likes the work because it gets him off the farm and he likes to give something back to the community. Thankfully for the community, he has no plans to retire from the Service any time soon!

By Kim Ferens



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OAKURA school news

Arbor Day

School pupils, teachers and parents attended the Arbor Day planting at Matekai on 6 July. The planting was organised by Lois Leonard from the Department of Conservation with plants supplied by the Taranaki Tree Trust and Oakura School. NPDC Parkscape Services organised the digging of the holes and will maintain the planting in the future. The trees are native plants ideal for the site and for providing shelter and food for birds.



Methanex Maths Spectacular 2005

Last month's *TOM* featured the photos of several Year 7 and 8 pupils showing their entries in the 2005 Methanex Maths Spectacular. Sixteen of our pupils received placings or merit awards for their entries...

Bronte Alder: First place, Year 7 Central Design (for 2006 poster).

Kieran Adlam and Keelan O'Donnell: Second place, Year 7 Statistical Investigation.

Connor Anderson: Third place, Year 7 Tessellation.

Henry Saleman and Jake Andrews: Second place, Year 8 Statistical Investigation.

Sophie Ardern and Troy Jury: Third equal, Year 8 Central Design.

Merit awards were awarded to...

Melissa Muggeridge: 3D artwork.

Leo Pritt and Dylan Bennett: Statistical Investigation.

Seth Marshall and Michael Muggeridge: Statistical Investigation.

Bronte Alder: 3D artwork.

Ashleigh Clarke:

Johnnie Fletcher: Individual Project.

Connor Anderson:

All the pupils put many hours of work into their maths projects and artwork with some fantastic results. They gained knowledge and many new skills as a result, making this another very worthwhile venture.



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KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

The Creative Kids' Day held in the July school holidays was a roaring success. 145 children attended with parents, grandparents and other caregivers watching over them while they painted, wove, glued and created some fantastic works of art. There were ten activities offered on the day ranging from flag making, magnet painting, rock painting and weaving to mask making, flower pressing and "creating creatures" out of all sorts of weird and wonderful materials.

The lunchtime entertainment by Dance Highway 45 was a huge hit and the kitchen was buzzing with activity and offered all sorts of delightful and nutritious snacks. A big thank you must go to Linda McBreen, Margaret Crighton and their vast crew of volunteers for organising and running such an awesome event. Kaitake Kindergarten is grateful for the support from the community and hopes to run a similar event next year (once the organisers have recovered from the buzz of this one!).

We are well into the third term now and the children are enjoying the many activities on offer at the kindergarten. There has been a mix of indoor and outdoor play and as always the story and music times have been especially popular.

The older children who attend the Wednesday group have been making some beautiful food during cooking time and these goodies are always enjoyed at morning tea time. This popular activity always attracts a large group of children and teaches them simple maths skills as well as turn taking and working together as a group.

Until next time...

Kaitake Kindergarten Committee



Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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OMATA school news

Omata Idol at Omata School

The last assembly of Term 2 at Omata School featured the inaugural "Omata Idol", which was a huge success. There was a wonderful turnout of parents and grandparents to see and support the performers and no one could have gone away with anything but a smile on their face!

We had it all – from the Taylor brothers' "balancing trick" to three likely lads who would give Michael Jackson a run for his money on the dance floor. There were ballerinas, pianists, solo singers (without any accompaniment!), funky dancers and many more. And then there were the judges! They were an item of entertainment in themselves.. Unlike the harsh NZ Idol judges, the "wild and crazy" Omata Idol judges lavished the performers with well earned praise. And what a talented bunch of performers they were. Well done to all involved!

Shiann Jolly just rocks.



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*Olivia Holt gets
down!*

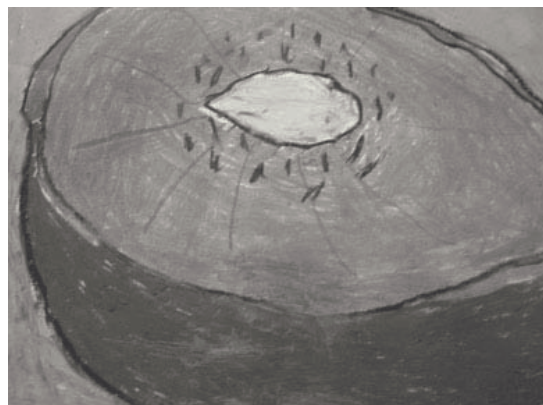


Briar Mclean, a study in concentration.

O is for Omata School
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T is for the cool teachers
A is for the school's athletics
S is for the Spanish lessons
C is for the computer technology
H is for the homework
O is for all the obedient kids
O is for all the opportunities
L is for the lessons learnt

That is why Omata School is the best
little school in the west.

by Kim Avery



**And the fantastic
artwork from
Omata students
keeps on coming:**

*Left: painting by
Charlotte Jones*

*Right: painting by
Cameron Barlow*

GOOD WORK!



Oakura PLAYCENTRE



The hot topic for the Oakura Playcentre this month is fundraising. The new carpet we had laid is a vast improvement on what was initially there and makes for a much warmer and cosier centre, but unfortunately comes at a cost and the nearly completed building will be having its finishing touches added with a fully enclosed deck. We are therefore looking to raise money to help pay for our nearly completed centre.

A sausage sizzle was held at The Warehouse in town on Sunday 7th August. Thank you to Ian Scott, Livestock Rep for Richmond Ltd, who kindly donated the sausages for the sausage sizzle - it was very much appreciated.

Upcoming events are:

Garage sale – Sunday 14 August

We are looking for quality used or new goods to be donated to our centre for the garage sale. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, please feel free to contact Feona Burkett on 752 7067 to have it picked up or if you would like to drop your items off, please ring Melissa Newton on 752 1056 for further details.

Theatre visit to see The Farm at the End of the Road – 10am Wednesday 31 August.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for children and parents to enjoy a touch of theatre in a relaxed atmosphere. The trip has been organised by Lil Logan. If you like to join us, please contact her on 751 5505 for further information.

Mums and dads from the centre have also been selling raffle tickets around Oakura with great success. They were available at the Four Square and Butlers One Stop Bottle Shop, and on Saturday mornings, Melissa, Sue and Feona ventured to the shop to harass the general public. A tremendous amount of support was shown – thank you. The raffle closes on 9 August and the winner will be published in the *Taranaki Daily News* on 13 August. Good luck to all those who purchased a ticket or tickets.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for the raffle:

Lee Newton – *Inner Beauty*


Kate Evans – *Sports Massage Therapy*

Gavin and Linda Knudson – *Butlers Reef Hotel*

Pam Sole – *Top Town Cinema Five*

With the start of the new term upon us, we would like to invite any new families to come along and see what our centre has to offer. We are open on Monday and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm and you can find us on Donnelly Street next to the library in Oakura. If you would like any further information, contact Feona Burkett on 752 7067. We look forward to seeing you.

Feona




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Savoir Faire Lighthouse re-brand launched



The "Lighthouse Network" chain of independent lighting outlets have recently released their new brand, which now sees them all trading under the "Lighthouse" name and trademark, preceded by their individual store identities. Formerly trading as individual members of the NZ Lighting Network, the decision on the new branding was a major step taken at their recent successful Melbourne conference. It also coincides with the appointment of their own Christchurch-based marketing manager and the release of their third annual catalogue.

Local members, Jenny and Chris Hill, say that one of the benefits of common branding is the recognition it gives the eighteen outlets, which are spread from Whangarei to Invercargill. The group's next conference is set for September and will see further development decisions made as they look to maximise the benefits of their rapid growth to date.

Jenny and Chris have owned Savoir Faire Lighting since 1996, starting in Interior Concepts in Queen Street. They have been in their present premises on the corner of Gill and Eliot Streets since 1998, where they supply quality light fittings, lamps and outdoor lighting along with expert advice and friendly service.

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Colleen, Sarah and Catherine look forward to being of service to the Oakura and Coastal communities

Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Welcome to a new column presented by Oakura Pharmacy. Topics will include minor and major medical conditions and situations that Colleen and Catherine come across during the course of their day as pharmacists.

First up, some helpful information and advice on . . .

Head lice

Sometimes the start of a new school term can bring with it an outbreak of head lice, a common problem that affects nearly all New Zealand children at some time.

But if your child does get head lice, the staff at Oakura Pharmacy are ready with advice for parents about how to treat it and stop it from spreading.

Head lice are small flat insects about two to three millimetres long that breed all year round. They live on the human scalp, feeding on blood about five or six times a day. The lice move by swinging from hair to hair, clutching tightly with their claw-like feet. They spread easily when children play close together as lice can swing from one child's head to another. Children can also spread lice by things like hats and combs.

There is no need for parents to feel embarrassed about their child having head lice. "It is not poor hygiene – in fact head lice prefer clean scalps because it is easier for them to feed on," says Colleen.

To make it easy to search for head lice on your child's hair, it is best to wet the hair first and comb it with a fine tooth comb. You can wipe the comb with some tissue to check for lice. Adult lice can be all over the scalp, but look for eggs stuck firmly to the base of the hair especially around the back of the neck and behind the ears. Some children may scratch their head a lot if they have head lice but others may not complain of itchiness.

You can get products, both medicated and natural to treat head lice. Colleen or Catherine can advise you about the different varieties of shampoos, cream rinses, sprays and lotions available and suggest one that is best suited to your child. Oakura Pharmacy also has a good range of metal fine-tooth combs, which are an essential part of the treatment.

It is important to use the head lice treatment correctly. "Read the instructions carefully," advises Catherine. For the best results use enough of the product and leave it on the scalp for as long as stated. Some products need to be applied to dry hair – check the instructions. Repeat the treatment you use in one week's time because you may not get all of the eggs the first time and when these hatch in 7 to 10 days, the repeat application can kill the hatched lice.

Parents often ask pharmacists how to prevent their children from getting head lice. Here are some simple steps you can take if there is an outbreak of head lice in your community:

- Brush your child's hair thoroughly every day. Brushing can kill or injure lice and prevent them from laying eggs. Everyone in the family should have their own hair brush and comb and not share with others.
- Check all the children's hair once a week for lice because the sooner you detect head lice, the sooner you can treat them and prevent them from spreading.

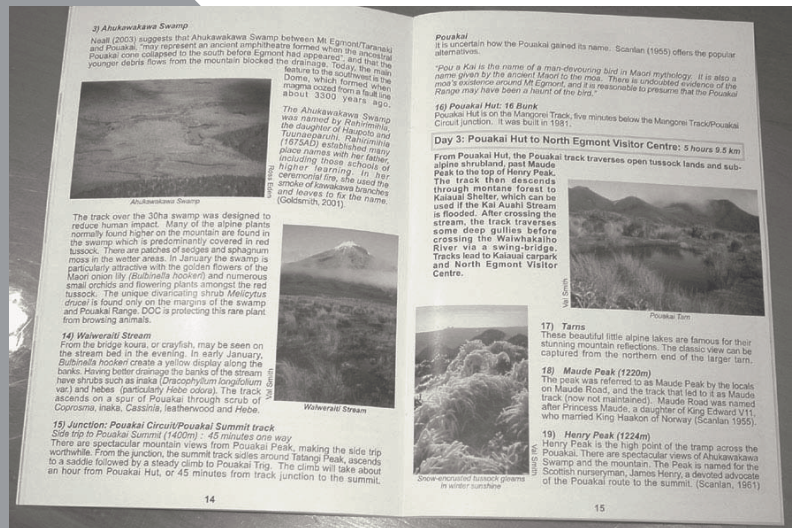
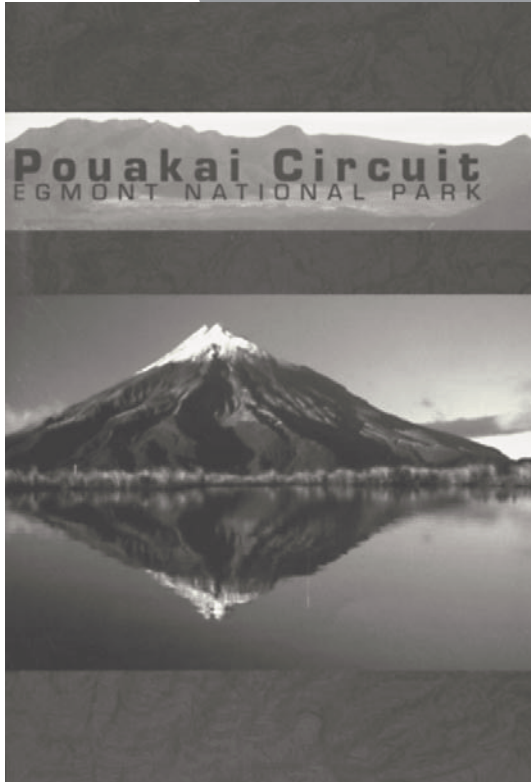
- Tell your child's teacher if your child gets head lice so they can inform other parents and help to minimise the spreading.

For more information about head lice treatment and prevention, phone or call in at Oakura Pharmacy on the main road in the Oakura village and talk to Colleen or Catherine. Make sure you get a copy of the self-care fact card on head lice.

For friendly, helpful advice and service call in to Oakura Pharmacy today.



The Pouakai Circuit



A new booklet has been published by Venture Taranaki on the Pouakai circuit in Egmont National Park. The editors Sue Hodson, George Mason and Elise Smith have put together a guide booklet that has been designed to provide comprehensive information about the tramping route around the Pouakai Ranges. The booklet includes information on landmarks, geology, climate, huts, tramping distances and times, profiles on the plant, bird and insect life found in the area, a concise history of past mountaineers and explorers, a map and a selection of postcards.

The Pouakai Circuit booklet is well presented with beautiful glossy photographs, many by Rob Tucker, Jim Clarkson, Ross Eden and Val Smith. It's an easy read, and not just of interest to trampers, but also to those who are interested in facts about our neighbouring high veldt. Taking the Pouakai Circuit booklet along on an expedition on the Pouakai's would certainly enhance the depth of the experience.

Pouakai Circuit is available from Wadsworth Bookcentre, Centre City.

By Kim Ferens

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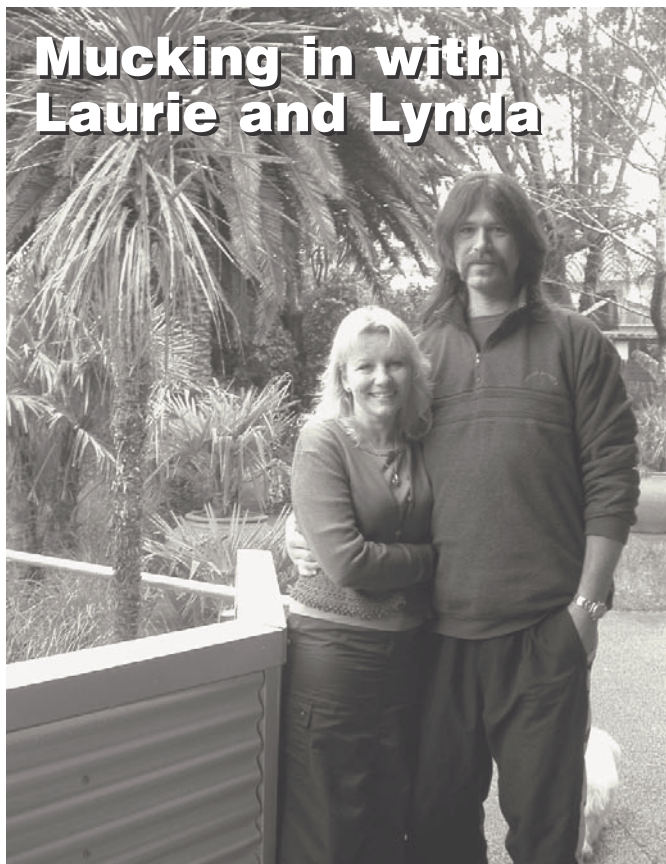
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Mucking in with Laurie and Lynda



In July TVNZ's *Mucking In* programme featured a garden make-over for local school teacher Laurie Hill. The Pitcairn Street property where the Hills live was given a total top-to-toe make-over that ran into the thousands of dollars and hundreds of man hours.

It all came about when, after seeing an episode of *Mucking In*, friend Suzee Freeman thought Laurie was just the sort of person who'd qualify – he's given so much to many needy children of New Plymouth and coached dozens of others in

basketball, rugby and inline hockey that he deserved to have something done for him. Suzee had visited the Hills when they were doing alterations indoors and the garden was a mess. The house had been tenanted for over 10 years and had huge piles of rubbish out the back. On going home Suzee watched *Mucking In* and during the programme they asked for people to nominate someone who might be worthy. She immediately thought of Laurie so she wrote away to TVNZ and they agreed that he would be a good candidate. After nearly two years with much detective work and many hours tracking down people Laurie had worked with, the stage was set for the make-over. Suzee had the enormous task of liaising with all the catering teams, the Urenui Lions, Marfell School, Inline Hockey and local neighbours. It was a truly exhausting experience but absolutely fabulous to be part of, says Suzee.

Over 24 hours of filming had gone into the 30 minute programme and the look of surprise on Laurie's face when he opened the door to the *Mucking In* team was genuine. Wife Lynda and others had kept the whole thing a secret. Pitcairn Street was full of volunteers and machinery waiting to begin work so Lynda's job was to keep Laurie away from the kitchen window where he might spy the unusual activities in the street.

Much of the programme was devoted to the extraordinary gift Laurie has for bringing out the best in children and many of these kids came along to help "muck in" and revamp the garden. Laurie and Lynda were sent off to the Wairarapa for the weekend while close to a hundred people, including the couple's two sons Jayden and Carlin, helped demolish, build, dig, paint and plant the Hill's section. The end result was, according to Laurie, "awesome". "I don't know where they get their ideas from. I would never have come up with this plan. Mike Mansvelt is very clever and Jim Mora is such a nice guy. He's the same off the camera as he is on the camera. The most amazing thing was they kept thanking me. They considered it a privilege to be a part of my "Mucking In" and I was busy trying to thank them."

The garden now features refurbished decks that the family enjoyed entertaining on over the summer, new outdoor furniture by Black Dog, a state-of-the-art Rinnai barbeque, huge pots from The Girlz garden centre, native plants from Atawhai Industries, ready-lawn, a new patio, a tundra with grasses, and bark and palms.

Mike Mansvelt visited Lynda a month before the filming (in December 2004) to discuss the type of plants and things that Laurie would like (all in secret of course). The property borders the Maketai Reserve and Laurie loves native trees that attract tuis and wood pigeons and he doesn't like fussy "old lady" plants! The garden needed to look after itself so Laurie can continue his coaching without worrying about weeds and



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lawns – Lynda says Laurie isn't too good at lawn-mowing! Six months on the garden has lived up to expectations and the Hills still love it. They are looking forward to the spring growth and to watching everything mature.

On the night the programme aired on TV One Laurie and Lynda booked the big screen at Butlers Reef Hotel and shouted drinks for those who had helped. It was no easy task trying to track down those people involved because the Hills weren't quite sure who had helped. Suzee had taken a short video, but other than that Laurie and Lynda had had no idea how the weekend had unfolded.

Life hasn't quite been the same since the programme aired. Laurie has been embarrassed at all the attention so he feels he now knows how it feels to be a celebrity. When Laurie turns up at the inline hockey rink children recognise him and ask if it was him they saw on TV, at which the gentle giant seems at a loss for words. But when it comes to thanking all the dozens and dozens of people who gave up their free time to help him; the many local (and not so local) businesses, clubs and families who all chipped in to help, he's certainly not at a loss. It's evident that everything he has ever done for kids comes from his heart and doesn't give a thought to the personal cost or the attention it brings.

By Kim Ferens



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Talented, young Taranaki rugby players

Brooke Moses

PROFILE



Brooke Moses is on his way to realising a lifelong dream of becoming an All Black. The 13-year-old ex-Omata School pupil was selected recently to play rugby for Taranaki in the ASB Taranaki Primary School Rugby team. Brooke was initially selected for the Ross Brown West team and the four Ross Brown teams (West, South, North and Central) played in a tournament at Rugby Park and it was there that the Taranaki team was selected. The West team won the tournament. Brooke plays in the 1st 5 position.

Brooke has been playing rugby since he was five years old when he joined the NPOB's 15th grade team (now 5th grade) and until being selected for the Taranaki team, played in the 12th grade black NPOB's team. Brooke currently goes to Devon Intermediate where he plays in the second 15 rugby team and also the Intermediate's rugby league team. When asked what he enjoys about rugby Brooke says, "I like playing with my mates and I like playing hard out, but having fun at the same time. I like contact sports and learning new skills." His rugby heroes are Daniel Carter and Christian Cullen because they are so skilful. "It's having skills that makes you a good player," he says. He also thinks his new coaches in the Taranaki team have lots of skills they can teach him. Brooke says he became interested in rugby because of his dad, Dave, who likes to watch it. Mum, Robyn, says Brooke has always had exceptional ball skills and very good hand-eye coordination and is generally good at all sports. He also has the strength of character to make him a good sportsperson: determination, stamina, persistence and natural talent.

Brooke wants to be in the senior NPOB's number one team and make a career out of rugby in the NPC and Super 12, then be an All Black one day. But in the meantime this talented teenager will enjoy playing for Taranaki, hanging out with his mates, riding his motorbike and playing more rugby.

Teihorangi Walden

PROFILE



Amazingly, Teihorangi has only just started playing club rugby this year and plays for Kaitake in the 11th grade in the 2nd 5 position. Prior to this Teihorangi played soccer and has represented Taranaki in the past. His only other foray into rugby has been for interschool sports exchanges at Oakura Primary.

Teihorangi likes rugby because it's fast and furious and is a lot of muddy fun. Dad Kevin says Teihorangi is a great tackler and mum Denielle makes sure he gets lots of sleep and good food. Teihorangi favourite rugby player is Richie McCaw and has his fingers crossed for Kaitake 11th grade to win their grade final this season. Teihorangi also enjoys basketball, tennis and swimming in his spare time and has represented Taranaki in both under-12 tennis and under-14 basketball. When he grows up he has his eyes set on being either a Marine Biologist or a builder.

The ASB Taranaki Primary School rugby team is coached by Evan Hoskin and assistant, Phillip Scorringle, and the manager is Tony Standen. The team travelled to Palmerston North recently, where they played in an annual quadrangular tournament with Manawatu, Wanganui and Rangitikei. The team won the tournament with two convincing wins over Wanganui and Rangitikei and draw against Manawatu. They will also play Wellington during the NPC season in New Plymouth. The other players in the team are Jordan King, Chevy Edwards, Daniel Hornby, Jade Fleming, Adam Nicholls, Steven Haami, Ben West, Zachary Bunyan, William McBride, Jared Wallace, Lane Mitchell, David Bryan, Nicolas Childs, Jade Hintz, Phillip Baldwin, Ben Caskey, Nick Long, Roydon Broughton, Jayden Oliver and Ricky Curtis.

By Kim Ferens

Kaitake,

Rugby Champions



Sands on attack.

long – there was only so much they could say and I think the team knew exactly what had to be done. Bring on our little star winger, Matt Sturmer – he raced up the sideline to cross over for the only try of the match. Boy, did the crowd on the northern side of the field get noisy then. It was just what Kaitake needed to lift their spirits and it was all on from there. No more tries were scored but two more penalties got Kaitake that much further ahead (not that it takes much to get further away than zero!). The final score was 16–0 to Kaitake, and all agreed was a well-refereed match by Murray Evans. A bus-load of supporters made their way out to Corbett Park to start the celebrations and to await their heroes. Well done Kaitake Senior Reserves – you earned this win!

And while we're on the subject of heroes, we can't forget our hard-working coaching duo, Bruce Sutton and Bruce Jackson.

You have done a great job with this team and I bet the guys have really enjoyed being under your wings.

Thanks also to our management staff, captain, supporters, committee, caterer and sponsors. It has been a team effort and like the captain from Southern mentioned in his speech a couple of weeks ago, "You're a small club with a big heart". It sums up what this club is about: its people. Let's keep Kaitake alive.

Play the game...Kaitake.

By Tanya Farrant

These are the words we have been wanting to hear all season – KAITAKE WON THE FINAL!

Not since 1989 has Kaitake held a championship cup and it's been said all season that it would be a repeat of last year's final – Kaitake vs Tukapa. This was to be the third time they would meet on the rugby field this year and the third time that Kaitake would be the victors!

The first time the teams met was at Sanders Park, Tukapa's home ground, and it was a wet, miserable day. But despite the conditions, Kaitake played an absolutely fabulous game of rugby and blew Tukapa away with their attacking game to win 32–10. Talking to some of the players before that match, I discovered that most of them were very nervous going into the game and hadn't slept very well the night before. It was an important game – the last time the teams had met was in the final of 2004 when Tukapa outplayed Kaitake, but all was not for-gotten and Kaitake wanted to rectify this.

The second time they met was at Corbett Park, where won Kaitake again, scoring 27–5. This confirmed that the win two weeks before had not just been a good day for the Kaitake players, it was that Tukapa were beaten by a well prepared and very determined team.

This season there has been such enthusiasm exuding from the Kaitake squad. They have all been showing up for training and really enjoying their rugby, even though there are about 32 of them and there is only room for 15 on the field at any time.

It's always been said that people will support a winning team, but this year there were a lot of supporters who really believed in the Kaitake team and felt that it was time for them to take the senior reserves title.

It was then onto the final match, and I bet that once again some of the guys didn't sleep the night before. One thing I did notice was that there was a real focus on this game – there was no way they were going to lose this one, especially since they were so far unbeaten in the season – to lose their last match would have been a real "kick in the guts".

The first half felt like it took forever. Kaitake was on defence for most of it and had possession of the ball very little. Tukapa were really taking it to them, but Kaitake's defence was outstanding and they managed to hold them off and get three points on the board for themselves. At half-time they were 3–0 up and our coaches, Bruce and Bruce, didn't seem to stay with the team for



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Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall.
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St John's Omata:

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St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

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454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

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

Senior Citizens:

Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.
All Welcome.

OAKURA SURCASTING CLUB

Hi Fishos

Not a great deal is happening at the moment as far as the fishing goes.. with only one or two fish being weighed in so far this season (starting from June).

However, as far as Club internals go, we have had a change in presidency and also a new concept introduced.. Gary Harrison is the new president of the Club as Bruce Madgwick has stepped down. For those that did not attend our recent AGM, we are in the throws of introducing a "Kayak Fishing Section". This is a whole new and exciting concept that no other fishing club has yet initiated. There is a growing number of people using Kayaks as a means of getting to where the fish are. The Committee may consider a change of Club name and logo to acknowledge this development.

Of course, we will still be accommodating surfcasters and shore-based fishers as our Club was originally based on shore fishing when it was founded in May 2001. When you belong to the Club, you are able to "fish for points", eg a snapper gets 43 points and 9 points for every 500 grams that it weighs. Fish get recorded with our weighmaster and the points are tallied up at the end of each month. This creates a bit of "friendly rivalry between mates".

If you want to know more get hold of our club contacts below.

Tight lines

Debbie E

Club contacts

Bruce M 752 7712 a/h

Gary H 752 7055 a/h

David P 758 8528 a/h

Debbie E 752 7425



From the President

Hi there.. I'm Gary Harrison, new President for the Oakura Surfcasting Club.

As some of you will already know, OSC has been involved with two other surfcasting clubs over the last year in the Sutherlands Sports Tri Comp. This has run for a year and was on a pre-designated Sunday each month. The prize for each day was \$100 for the highest point-scoring fish based on the host club rules. The heaviest snapper of the contest would win a \$400 custom-built rod by Leon Jury or reel to the same value. The final competition was on Sunday 24 July and we can say with much pleasure that one of our club members, Grant Morgan, won the day prize of a Sutherland Sports voucher with a 1.780kg kahawai.

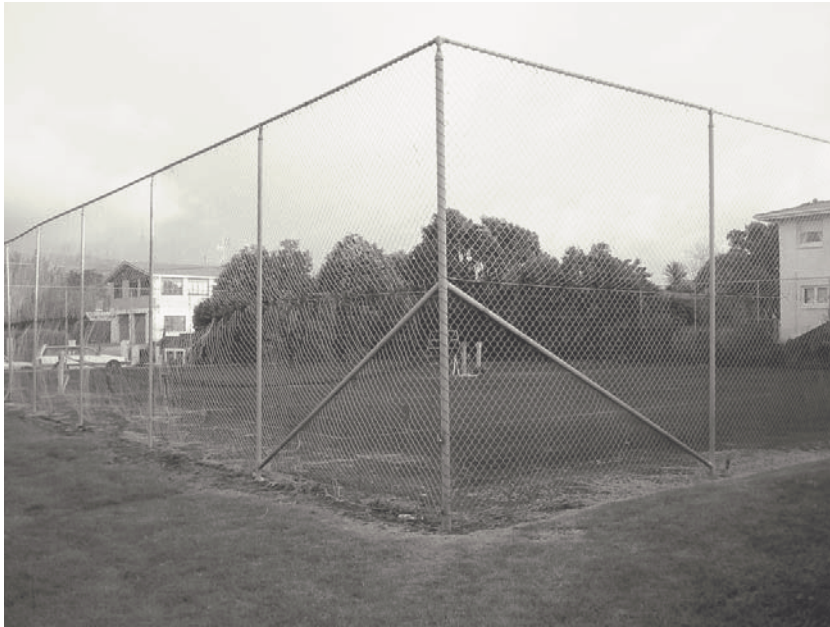
Congratulations also to Debbie Edgecombe with a 6.855kg snapper on the March competition day.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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OLD COURTS PENDING FATE



Oakura's oldest remaining tennis courts, located on Linda Street are yet to have their impending fate determined in a round of community consultation.

The two tennis courts were originally established in the 1950's following the Jans family's subdivision of their dairy farm in the village that required them to donate an adjacent area to the then Taranaki Council for the purpose of forming a community sports area. The courts were maintained by the local council over succeeding years, but with dwindling membership numbers and the establishment of the primary school courts, the Linda Street courts have rarely been utilized. Having been decommissioned in recent years, it has been suggested that the future of the public courts be decided upon in a round of community consultation.

Local man Ross Fanthorpe, who was a key figure in facilitating the sale of Oakura's original, now defunct tennis facilities on Hussey Street, says it would be nice to see something positive done with the ailing Linda Street tennis courts. All proceeds from the sale of the dilapidated Hussey Street courts in the 1970's were donated to the local primary school courts and their ongoing maintenance. The question must be asked if perhaps a similar fate will be encountered by the Linda Street courts or if they will, in fact, be resurrected by the community for the ongoing enjoyment of locals and holiday campers?

New Plymouth District Council Manager of Parks and Recreation Assets, Mr Kelvin Shooter, says that the Oakura tennis courts have been maintained by the Council on an ad-hoc basis over the years, but Council will be entering into community consultation talks to determine what is to become of the facility. The area is currently classified as Reserve and some have mooted that it be made into a recreational park. However if it is reasoned that the area is surplus requirement to the number of parks already in existence in the locality, then a number of possible alternative options may be recommended and considered. Mr Shooter said that consultation regarding the Linda Street tennis courts will not begin until next year due to the Coastal Strategy taking precedence.

Tapuae whitebaiters and fishermen . . .

Please note that access to the river and beach is still via the original route as in the past.

Due to Council regulations, the new sealed road is not yet open to the public. Parking is available inside the old entrance. Dogs are not welcome and please follow the walking track signs

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Acme Storage's facility will appeal to people going through the transition of selling and moving houses, those moving into smaller, or temporary homes, tradesmen who wish to store all their equipment/goods in one central location, sports clubs to store all their seasonal equipment, etc.

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Last month we featured Hayley Cunningham and her fiancé Stuart's trip home to New Zealand through Laos and Cambodia. This month, Hayley has generously shared her experiences in Myanmar with us . . .

Life in Yangon

Well firstly, Mingalaba (hello) everyone.

We are currently back in New Zealand for a few weeks holiday, enjoying the cold weather and the friendliness of Kiwis. We've loved our first year in Myanmar and have been fortunate enough to see a lot of the country, as well as visiting neighbouring ones.

We live on the tenth floor of an apartment complex in the centre of Yangon. While it is a very small one-bedroom apartment, it does come with some hidden luxuries, such as being serviced everyday – beds made, floors vacuumed and dishes washed! Yes, we could become very lazy! The complex contains a pool, spa, gym, squash court and a number of restaurants, bars and shops. It's almost an unreal world when one only has to step outside the apartment to see the poverty all around.

Each morning we are picked up from our apartment at about 7.15am and taken to school for an 8.30 start. I was teaching a split-grade half class this year (5 to 7-year-olds) and had sixteen delightful kids. While the majority were Burmese, there was also American, French, Swiss and Indian children in the class. They were all keen learners and I'm pleased to say behaviour management has not been an issue. We have been following an American curriculum, with all instruction being in English. The school day finishes at 3pm and by 4pm we are back at our apartment. While our day might finish there, for most of the children they have another few hours of English tuition, Chinese tuition and then a homework tutor – yes even the five year olds!

We buy most of our fruit and veges from the local street markets and for the more luxurious items, we have a supermarket about 10 minutes walk away. There we are able to get quite a few New Zealand products: dairy, green-lipped mussels, meat and even gala apples. The only down-side is that once they run out of stock, it generally takes another month or two before you see them again on the shelves.

Yangon has a very small, but close-knit ex-pat community, consisting of mainly NGO, UN, diplomatic and oil industry people. There are about fifteen Kiwis living over there and we regularly get together for barbeques, rugby, Waitangi Day, hangis and so forth – well any excuse for a party really!

Bartering and asking directions is about as far as we have got with the language so far, but I am determined to improve on that in the coming year. The Burmese really do love it when you can speak to them in their own language and you'd be amazed how quickly the prices come down when you do! All transactions are done in cash and there are no money machines or credit card facilities in the country (and no nasty credit card bills to have to worry about at the end of the month!).

We play touch rugby every fortnight with a group of ex-pats and Stu played in the national cricket competition this year. As he loves to tell everyone, his team won the competition and so he is now a National Champion. What he forgets to tell people, is that there are only seven teams and two cricket pitches in the entire country!

We've made some wonderful friendships during our year in Myanmar, but unfortunately the ex-pat life being what it is, we are also constantly having to say goodbye to friends who are moving on to other locations. I guess in another years' time it will be our turn. Enjoy the rest of winter and we'll see you again in a year's time.

Hayley

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TOM KID PROFILE



Name: Phoebe Livingston.
School and teacher: Omata School, Mrs Aylward.
My favourite food: Noodles.
My favourite activity: Running.
My favourite game or sport: Cricket.
Best movie: Star Wars: Episode 3.
My pets: Two zebra finches, a puppy and five chickens.
Exciting place been to or activity done recently: Ten pin bowling with my uncle.
When I grow up I am going to... be a vet.

WHY DID THE TAP
DANCER RETIRE?
HE KEPT FALLING
IN THE SINK.

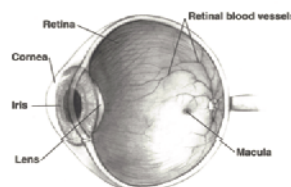
What is round as a
frying pan, deep
as a cooking pot,
but can never
be filled
with water?

What do you give
an elephant
with big feet?

Plenty
of room.

SIZE
300

EYE FACTS



Your eyes are the most complex organs you possess except for your brain and are composed of more than two million working parts.

Under the right conditions, the human eye can discern the light of a candle at a distance of 23 kilometres.

A human eyeball weighs about 28 grams.

The average person blinks about 12 times a minute. That's an amazing 10,080 blinks in a kid's day (14 waking hours).

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Animal eyes:

An eagle can see a rabbit from over one and a half kilometres away, whereas the average person needs to be about 500 metres away to see the same rabbit.

"The Tarsier has the biggest eyes of any land mammal. It is a small primate that lives in the forests of Borneo, Sumatra and the Philippines. Their eyes are so large that they would be equivalent to grapefruit-sized eyes in a human being.

Chameleons can move their eyes in different directions at the same time.

An ostrich's eye is larger than its brain. (SO IS MY BROTHER'S)

Fish eyes

The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

What do you get if you cross a lion
with a parrot?
An animal that talks your head off.

The name "Kangaroo" came about when some of the first white settlers saw this strange animal hopping along and they asked the Aborigines what it was called. They replied with "Kanguru", which in their language means "I don't know".

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Cows go.
Cows go who?
No, owls go who, cows go moo!

THE FROG AND THE DOG

The frog and the dog,
Took a picnic lunch,
And went off to eat in the park.

The frog and the dog,
Had a jolly old munch,
And they stayed there almost 'til dark.

Said the frog to the dog,
As they sat swapping chat,
"Now I fancy some dinner, don't you?"

The dog eyed the frog,
Green, juicy and fat,
And said, "Yes, sweet Frog... I do."

The frog said to the dog,
"But we've eaten our food,
There's naught left for us to chew."

Said the dog to the frog,
"Yes there is, and it's good,
I'm afraid, Frog, my dinner is you."



Anne Wilson

06 752 7775

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- A 3 bedroom home, plus office, up to \$500,000, preferably fenced for dog.
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2 Parkview, Frankleigh Park

4 bdrm executive family home, surrounded by other houses of the same high quality.

Sold 22 Russell Drive, 3 bdrm + SC flat and office. 51 Woodleigh Street, 3 bdrm, first home buyers. 31 Tukapa Street, 3 bdrm, Californian bungalow. 43 Doone Street, immaculate, 3 bdrm bungalow.

Thought for the Month

If you spend all your life laughing and joking, you will have no time for a serious illness.

HARVEYS
Park City Realty Limited MREINZ

PEOPLE and PROPERTY

Park City Realty Ltd - MREINZ
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