

## Waireka Cemetery looking for friends

Just over a year ago the New Plymouth District Council held a public meeting to discuss the future of the Waireka Cemetery. Some felt that the cemetery was not being properly maintained and was going to rack and ruin. One year on, what has happened?

Minor maintenance around the fringes of the cemetery was carried out at the time of last years meeting. A new grazer was found, who has a small flock of sheep grazing the cemetery, with instructions not to overgraze. It was the general consensus that the rural feel of the cemetery be retained, rather than have a perfectly manicured and mown cemetery.

The issue of car parking has never been addressed and neither has the issue of locating unmarked graves. BUT INTERESTINGLY, plot prices have risen and now cost \$760 (the same as Awanui), while a year ago they cost only \$110. Plots can no longer be reserved, so if you are a local and you want to be buried at Waireka and you put it in your will, you'll have to take "plot luck" when you die (assuming they haven't run out of room).

There has been no upgrade of service in keeping with the rise in plot price. Last year the Council said there would be insufficient funds to bring in costly ground penetrating radar to locate the unmarked graves that (supposedly) dot the lower cemetery grounds and so this would be unlikely to occur. Councillor Merrick recently told me that this is likely to happen in the "next couple" of years. While vague, this is more than the Council would concede last year, although a "couple" could easily become 20, I imagine.



Of more concern to me and several other community members is the need to preserve and maintain the cemetery as an important historical asset for the future. Cemeteries are important to a huge range of diverse people and they tell us a great deal about our past. They often have rare and heritage plants and shrubs growing in them (Waireka has some of the oldest Camellia bushes in the area). Cemeteries are very important to researchers, genealogists, artists, photographers, biographers and documentary makers. In the future as society changes, I doubt we will see cemeteries in the form of those created 150 years ago. If we don't preserve them the historical links found in them will be lost forever. The craftsmanship and materials used in tomb work will be replaced by other things.

While it isn't the Council's responsibility to maintain individual graves, I think they should be more responsible in ensuring that further damage isn't done to the graves.

My aim is to work alongside the Council

to restore and maintain Waireka Cemetery as an important historical asset. This can be done with the help of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand by setting up a group of passionately interested people as "The Friends of Waireka Cemetery". The Council is keen to work with such a group so if you would like to support such a group phone me on:

751 1519 or email  
kimferens@xtra.co.nz

By Kim Ferens

**Stop Press on Waireka Cemetery - see page 13 . . .**



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# FROM THE TOM ZONE

Winter has well and truly got us by the ankles and is giving us a good shake, but I suppose you can't expect anything different at this time of year. It's rather alarming to think we are over half way through the year already – where has the time gone?

*Last month's issue of the TOM* was such a good issue. I am so pleased with all the contributions from the community – it certainly makes for good reading. This month is just as good. Will we ever run out of stories? Absolutely not, with so many talented and exciting people living in and around Oakura. Don't be shy about sending in your human interest stories, they are all interesting.

Kim Ferens

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Prudent Trust Administration**

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# 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

Music Reviews: **Graham Donlon**

Proof reading: **Louise Norton**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**

The Oakura Messenger Ltd, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

[oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz](mailto:oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz)

NEWS HOTLINE 751 1519

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from **MAYOR PETE**

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## Hi folks!

Early next month we'll be announcing the recipients of this year's Citizens Awards. This is always a high point of the year for me as I have a lot of respect for the people who give so much of themselves for the betterment of the community.

Without dedicated volunteers, much of what we take for granted in this district would grind to a halt. Sports events wouldn't run, health services would be reduced, support during difficult times would be harder to find and much local history would be lost – to name just a few areas where volunteers give so much of their time. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community and I take my hat off to each and every one of you.

Meanwhile it's great to see work beginning on the reticulated sewerage system for Oakura. Stage one of the development is taking place beneath State Highway 45 now, so that this work gets out of the way before the streetscape development begins in late August.

I'm really pleased to see these two projects get off the ground as they will greatly benefit Oakura. Thank you to everyone who took the time to look and give feedback on the plans for the sewerage reticulation and the streetscape design.

Thank you also for your patience over the streetscape project. It has taken a lot of work by the Kaitake Community Board, councillors and Council staff to get the sign-off from Transit New Zealand, but the time taken will be worth it in the end when the centre of Oakura reflects the town's dynamic coastal location.

Back to the sewerage project: It's worth pointing out that when the system is connected next year, all of the town's sewage will be pumped to the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant. The material that is treated at the plant is separated into solids (which is thermally dried into the fertiliser Taranaki Bioboost 6-3-0 and sold in stores throughout New Zealand) and cleaned water (which is discharged out to sea).

It's the ultimate in recycling! So not only is reticulated sewerage in Oakura a plus for the town, but it's a plus for the environment too.

Don't forget: If you have a project you think the Council can help you with, give me a call on 759 6060 and I'll see what we can do!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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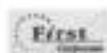


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**HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN**  
MP for New Plymouth

**"See You There – Safe As"**

For the 12 months ending 30 June, the number of people killed on New Zealand roads was 363.

There has been an enormous increase in the use of the road network over that time. Without the improvements made, we'd now be looking at an annual road toll of around 1000 people.

We do need to keep working to get this toll of preventable death and injury down.

Last year, eight people died on Taranaki roads. This year, already, seven have died.

You'll note, I didn't write "only 363 people" died. Every one of those 363 people belonged in a family and their sudden loss was a tragedy for all who loved them. For every fatal crash we have about eight crashes that cause serious injury. Some of those injured will never recover fully – another tragedy for everyone who knows and loves and cares for them.

And far, far too many of those killed and injured on our roads are our young people who are pedestrians, cyclists and passengers as well as drivers.

When young people die it's a tragedy for the whole country. It is an international concern – young road users all around the world face greater risks than other, older people. We believe addressing those risks will improve young people's chances of survival.

The government is not convinced that simply raising the driver's licensing age is the answer. We know young drivers are seven times more likely to be involved in crashes than any other group of drivers but one of the reasons for that is inexperience and you don't gain experience just by delaying it. We need young road users to want to be safe and to want this enough to modify the risk-taking behaviours normal at this age.

One thing is clear. We will not resolve this issue by listening to a lot of older people telling us what younger people ought to do. For that reason, we are asking younger people themselves to tell us what motivates them and what sorts of incentives might encourage them to use the roads safely.

Recently, I opened the first "See You There – Safe As" workshop. These workshops represent a major milestone in the effort to bring stakeholders and the community fully into the

discussions and debates that need to be held about road safety policy and practice.

I think some of us consider the road to be another playground just like the sports-field, the beach and the bush, a place where you can push the boundaries and test your prowess and skill. It isn't and that sort of thinking has to change.

It is hoped that those who attend the workshops will take away with them the drive and the tools to go home or back to their workplaces, schools and marae and run their own workshops.

Workshop debates and ideas will be posted on the website at [www.safeas.govt.nz](http://www.safeas.govt.nz) where debate is already going strong. I believe this site will become an authoritative source of community views and agencies like ACC, Police, LTNZ and Ministry of Health will access those views to assist their development of effective road safety policy.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and see you there – safe as.



**Hon. Harry Duynhoven**  
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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## The bus service

At our most recent Board meeting we were delighted to welcome Mr and Mrs Wagstaff and their daughter, Antona. Mrs Wagstaff informed the Board of the inadequacies of the new bus service. Boldly advertised as "New Plymouth City Bus: quick, cheap and convenient", from all accounts it is anything but! As a result I have just put down the phone to Taranaki Regional Council who acknowledge that the bus trial is causing considerable comment.

How do we fix this? Through continued dialogue with TRC, who point out that the service is in trial phase. Jo Spencer at TRC was most helpful and I have no doubt they want to make this work. They welcome written comments on how individuals see a good service working and what is needed. Jo said she has already had comments from a number of Oakura residents and welcomes more.

It would be useful for them to know just how many people would take advantage of a service as we all know numbers make economic sense. Perhaps just twice a week might work, with pick ups and drop offs that are convenient in the city centre not on the outskirts as I understand is happening now. But let's also remember that Okato's and possibly Omata's needs will be different to Oakura's and it's a matter of finding that balance. Good things really do take time.

## Structure Plan hearings

All members of the Board attended a very long process to present our submission on the Structure Plan to the hearings committee. I might also add we were the only Board to front up. The professional document prepared by Doug Hislop and contributed to by many was commended and had a very fair hearing.

The Surf Club also presented on their plans for a very big upgrade of the premises, which include a suggestion of road changes along Tasman Parade. I stayed on for the rest of the day to listen to the discussions and now await the outcomes, which will be discussed and adopted at the next full Council meeting in early August.

## Rubbish

I see there are still some totally selfish people who do not put tickets on their rubbish bags when they put them out for pick-up. Why the rest of us should subsidize these folk (we know who you are), I cannot understand.. Watch this space.

## Representational hearings

These were held at the special Council meeting on Tuesday, 25 July, along with the parking debacle decision. How you can vote at the next Council election (either in a ward system or at large) seems to me to be one of the most important decisions we make as we can't go back to wards if it changes. It would seem, however, that parking is more important as the crowd disappeared like water going down plug hole when the decision on who we can vote for was to be made.

Three local submissions were presented. One from Okato was made in writing in support of voting at large as many feel alienated by the fact they are represented by an Inglewood Councillor (most can understand the frustration).. Rural ratepayers it was felt may miss out on representation if wards were abolished. Kaitake Board voted for the status quo.

The result is you can now vote for all of the Councillors. Community Boards will stay and they will become very important for local input, particularly if the area does not pull together and make sure we are represented at the Council table.

Now is the time to start looking for and encouraging a candidate or two to stand.. The time for voter apathy is over. Only 53% voted last time. Let's do better next time.

## Various

The Board has asked Michael Tarboton, from New Plymouth District Council, to report to Tom on the progress of the sewerage contract on a reasonably regular basis.

The Department of Conservation have sent their report on the recent meeting and ways to help keep tracks open. While I made the offer of an email trail for this, only one has been received so far, but now there is a way forward, I hope those interested will pick up the trail.

The next hearings round that affects us will be the Recreational Space and Campsites hearings. Submissions need to be in by 19 August.

Time flies. It's about time for the whitebait to run again and some seem to have only just put away their nets?

*Fay Looney*

## Thank You . . . Kaitake Community Board

In the February 2005 edition of the TOM the New Plymouth District Council Mayor – Peter Tennent discussed the development of a Coastal Strategy and a Draft Oakura Structure Plan. Now 17 months later and after many meetings we are almost at the end of that process and on Monday morning 23rd July the District Council heard the last of the submissions on the draft plan.

Many of the Oakura and surrounding district residents do not know that during this last 17 months Chairperson Fay Looney and Deputy Doug Hislop have either together or individually attended every meeting associated with the process, as well as special meetings with council officers when further information or clarification was required. They have both been well supported by board members Barney Proctor and Keith Plummer.

I suspect that hundreds of hours have been spent on the Plan in addition to the normal board business and it is appropriate that we, the residents, express our thanks for their exceptional effort to preserve the Oakura way of life. To see the full Kaitake Board attend the Council meeting on the 23rd of July was in itself a demonstration of their commitment to this district.

Thank you and well done

*Norton Moller*

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LYN JURY

# Omata Meat Processors becomes Coastal Meat Processors

In the last week of July an Omata icon was laid to rest when the Omata Meat Processing signage was taken down and the butchery closed its doors.

Omata Meat Processors had been operating in Omata for over 23 years and had served the community well. Omata Meat Processors was set up by Gordon Kurth in 1983 and he continued in the business till 1998 when he sold it to Graham Mumby.

Graham, and partner Dee, have taken over the business of Okato Home Kill and now operate as COASTAL MEAT PROCESSORS. Gordon Kurth, although wheelchair-bound, will continue to be involved in the new venture.

Coastal Meat Processors will process all meat and pack it to their customers' requirements in either free-flow or fresh-packed bags. Small goods such as sausages and savaloys, and bacon and ham curing will also be available.

They welcome all their existing customers to phone the new business for processing. New customers are also encouraged to ring.

Coastal Meat Processors guarantee "Total Satisfaction!"

The phone number is the same as it was for Okato Home Kill (752 4280), so give the team a call to process your meat order.



*End of an era . . . Graham Mumby takes an axe to the old Omata Meat Processors sign . . . and down she comes..*



*Dee, Gordon and Graham ready for their new venture.*



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## Hello from Oakura Library!

Looking for a great read during these long dark winter nights? We have an excellent selection of new books, including Sarah

Waters' World War II novel *The Night Watch*, popular author Jane Green's latest book *Life Swap*, and Martina Cole's gripping bestseller *The Take*. We also have a variety of magazines to borrow, including *North and South*, *Australian Vogue*, *New Zealand Surfing*, *New Zealand Gardener*, *Cuisine* and *Horse and Pony*. There's something for everyone!

The library is looking fantastic after the interior of the building was recently painted. Customer feedback has been very positive, and the bright colour choice of browns, oranges and greens has certainly given the building a fantastic boost.

Oakura Library book discussion group is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 5.30pm-6.30pm. You're welcome to join us for a relaxed and informal discussion about what we've been reading, what we recommend – and what we don't! This is a great way to discover new authors or sample a different style of writing.

Don't forget that we are open each Wednesday night from 5.00-7.00pm. This is proving to be a great family time to visit the library, as well as a good opportunity for students to find information on their last-minute assignments! Our other opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10.00-12.30pm and 1.00-4.00pm.

Happy reading,

Tara Ward



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*Liz!*

*Do you want my Nana Pat to sell your house, 'cause she sells houses?*

*Maybe, but I need to talk to her.*

*Okay, I'll tell her to ring you.*

*Click! (the phone goes off)*

*Keeley, who was that?*

*Just Liz. She wants you to ring her for her house.*

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# Chefs go nuts over macadamias

At the beginning of July our local gourmet growers of macadamia nuts – the Charteris's hosted a hugely significant event for the New Zealand Chef Associations 49th Annual Conference. *emacadamia* put lunch on for over 40 delegates including chefs, food writers and food suppliers from all around the country.

The luncheon involved transforming the Charteris's implement shed into a restaurant and with the help of local floral artist Joyce Young who created a magnificent center piece using material from the macadamia orchard and inspired dishes created by Aaron Lock and Johann Tschurtschenthaler the event was a triumph. The luncheon was a continuous menu of finger food and featured polenta cakes topped with macadamia crusted lamb loin, macadamia smoked salmon skewers, grilled scallops on stir fry vegetables with macadamia butter.

Following the meal groups toured the orchard and fully functioning factory. Christine Charteris says she was delighted with the feedback and comments from the conference. *emacadamia* also provided product for the gala dinner and supplied product for the conference packs for the delegates. The conference also hosted the "Global Chef's Challenge" which had macadamia slices as an ingredient. Rex Morgan conducted a culinary chef's master class entitled "Tastes of Taranaki Indigenous Cuisine".

So all in all it was an extraordinary experience for local producers to promote their unique products and *emacadamia* were able to showcase their delicious nuts and Oakura was once again back on the national radar. For *emacadamia* the experience proved invaluable and it was great to meet some of the chefs Christine had previously only heard about or spoken to over the phone. The Nutcracker Suite is still open for tours by arrangement and interest groups such as clubs, work social groups and schools can call Christine to arrange a time to visit the truly nuttiest place in Taranaki.

By Kim Ferens



Above and below, Christine Charteris gives the conference delegates a grand tour inside the emacadamia factory.

Bottom, Bill Charteris escorts them around the orchard areas.



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# The Vinaigrettes

Welcome back to our monthly whining, oops wine column. A bit too much of the red stuff downed this month.

I trust you enjoyed a sip or two of the Main Divide chardonnay featured last month. We are getting a bit more grunty this time, a bit more power under the bonnet so to speak. Sit back and enjoy the ride that Wyndham Estate BIN 555 2002 (or 03) will take you on. This is a traditional Australian premium Shiraz, origins from the Hunter Valley in New South Wales.

It is dark and it is juicy. It delivers a rich plum and berry fruit flavour with hints of pepper and spice with tannins. "What are 'tannins'?", I hear you slur over the rim of your glass.

The WA (remember him last month, with lots of know-how?) will tell you that it occurs naturally in grape skins and stalks and is predominant in red wine. They cause the mouth to 'pucker' (and so could possibly help with your kissing technique!), leaving a drying sensation at the end of the wine.

The WAW (the lovely wife) suggests we drink this with beef, lamb or game. She even serves it with pre-dinner nibbles and strong flavoured cheeses.

Drink this wine now over dinner with friends or you could cellar it for 2-3 years.

This wine is excellent quality, verging on outstanding. This month you can buy it for \$12.99 at the Four Square. All the Wyndham Estate wine will be at this special price for the month.

Don't forget that wine card!

By Jillyho



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## That's no wine cooler, Jo

Oakura resident, Jo Scott won the recent wine competition draw at the Oakura Four Square and found herself the proud owner of an outside table top heater.

Jo hasn't divulged how much wine she had to buy in order to win, but we are assured that she didn't drink it ALL by herself.

And then, is there not a little question of déjà vu going on here? TOM seems to remember another win by Jo at the Four Square . . . not too long ago! Hmmm!



Craig of Oakura  
Four Square  
presents the  
winning prize to  
Jo Scott.

# Arts & Crafts

# tom



Plate 2 - Hughes Triptych

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## MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

### ***Boulevard De L'Indépendance***

**Toumani Diabaté's Symmetric Orchestra**  
(World Circuit/Elite)

If there is a more heavenly sounding instrument than the twenty-one string African harp known as the *kora*, then it has escaped my attention. The current acknowledged master of the instrument is Toumani Diabaté, fifty-third in a familial line of *griots* (the hereditary master musicians whose lineage dates back to Sundiata Keita's ancient Malian empire, circa 1230).

The last Diabaté recording was his World Circuit debut *In The Heart Of The Moon* (2005), an understated, Grammy-winning album with the recently deceased 'desert blues' guitar master and fellow Malian, Ali Farka Touré. Recorded at the same time as *Moon*, *Boulevard De L'Indépendance* is as contemporary as its predecessor was timeless. Under the adept stewardship of Diabaté, the Symmetric Orchestra grew out of Friday 'sessions' at The Hogon Club in the Malian capital, Bamako. With *Boulevard*, Toumani has achieved nothing less than a musical recreation of the Mandé Empire, drawing its core members from Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. The symmetry that gives this band its name refers to the perfect balance between traditional African and modern electric instruments. Thus the traditional *balafon* (*marimba*), the lute precursor known as the *ngoni*, Peul flute and the various hand drums (*sabar*, *djembe*, *dundun* and *ntama*) can be heard alongside piano, keyboards, electric and acoustic guitars, electric bass, trap drums, occasional strings and a horn section under the command of former James Brown arranger, Pee Wee Ellis. Against this marvellous backdrop of ancient and modern sounds, the leader's dazzling *kora* bursts with laser accuracy, playing basslines, stating the melody or improvising with dizzying virtuosity.

Whether he is working with other Malian greats or musical voyagers

from outside of Africa, the musicianship of Toumani Diabaté never ceases to astonish. *Boulevard De L'Indépendance* is not only one of Toumani Diabaté's finest works, it is one the outstanding African albums of the decade. While no track disappoints, the standout tracks include the up-tempo opener "Toumani", the Latin-flavoured "Salsa" and the potent, slow-burning "Mali Sadio".

Other recommended Diabaté recordings are *Kulanjan*, his collaboration with bluesman Taj Mahal, the previously mentioned outing with Ali Farka Touré, *New Ancient Strings*, his album of *kora* duets with Balaké Sissoko and the stellar collection *Jarabi*, which sums up Toumani's work up until last year.

### ***Lagos No Shaking***

**Tony Allen**  
(Honest Jon's/EMI)

As the bandleader and drummer for 'Afrobeat' founder Fela Anikulapo Kuti's classic Africa 70 band, Tony Allen was so crucial to his friend and employer's success that when he left the band, he ended up being replaced by three drummers!

*Lagos No Shaking* is fairly typical of Allen's post-Fela albums. Picture an African response to James Brown: circular, hypnotic drum rhythms, in-the-pocket bass, chanking guitars, heavy brass and Yoruba-derived call and response vocals. Featuring two other former Fela veterans, saxophonists Lekan Animashaun and Rilwan Fagbeni, *Lagos No Shaking* also introduces a 76-year old former 'Palm wine' singer, Fatai Rolling Dollar, who, on the four tracks that he is featured on, damn near steals the album from the four-limbed groove monster Tony Allen.

Highlights include "Ise Nla", "One Tree" and "Awa Na Re", the latter a sparse piece that marks something of a stylistic departure for Tony Allen.



Life in Oakura for the Days began in May 1979 when the young couple moved from Tokoroa to teach at Oakura School. Peta had previously visited the village on holiday, but it was Allan's first time here and he was looking forward to the surf. Barry Slyfield was the relieving principal and the school boasted five classrooms. Allan and Peta lived in the school house (now the library) for the first 18 months. One of their jobs as resident teachers was to look after the swimming pool in the summer. In the winter Alan would often get roped into playing netball on a Sunday afternoon to make up the numbers, as husbands teamed up against wives. The afternoon 'tea' with the Harrisons, Feavers, Farrants, Morrisises and Mosses was often a protracted affair.

The Days moved to Prudence Place, where they bought their own house. At the time there were five empty sections in the street so Oakura has certainly grown in 25 years since. The school house became the community library thanks to the Community Council, of which Allan was a part. Prior to this, the library was just a cupboard in the hall. Peta says it was strange initially going into the library and seeing shelves of books in what was once her kitchen. The school house was shifted back from the road and added on to. Another project the Council of the time was involved in was establishing Matekai Park.

School life in the Eighties was a little more carefree than today. Allan remembers going on school outings to Koru Pa, with everyone walking there and back; going on billeted school trips to the Waitomo Caves and Tokoroa; when the school held a raft race down Oakura River to the river mouth; when the yearly event was a calf and lamb day, not an equestrian day;

and when the sheep in the school paddock were slaughtered for the school raffle.

Allan taught at Oakura School for nine years before becoming deputy principal of Okata Primary then Principal of Warea, Moturoa and now Spotswood Primary. Peta took a break from full time teaching when their two children Kara and Nat were young but was a relieving teacher in many schools from Okato to Puketapu before returning to teach at Oakura 12 years ago. Some teachers and principals have come and gone like Eddie Betts, Rory O'Rourke, Adrian Smith and Bob Shaw while others including Peta Hislop and Ray Priest have stayed.

Life in Oakura was at first a bit daunting for the young couple. The village seemed to be mainly older people with very few newly marrieds. But the pub owner, Evan Mita Senior, was a long-time family friend of Peta's and took them under his wing. Roddie James was the shopkeeper at the time.

Cyclone Bola was a defining moment for the village and highlighted how strong the community was. Allan as part of Civil Defence had the job of checking on the old people after and remembers dropping in on Jessie Luckin in McFarlane Street. She gave him a cup of tea brewed on the primus as the power was off and assured Allan that she was fine. But when he went in her kitchen there was the top of a Norfolk pine lying on her bench, blown through the roof in the storm. Another positive memory from Cyclone Bola was eating lots of whitebait – Doreen and Malcolm Perry had a freezer full of it and with the power off for three days... well, someone had to eat it!

Community spirit is what makes Oakura special, the Days think. Allan remembers Rex Ward selling T-shirts with "I'm an Oakura Lover" on them and that everyone was (and still is) passionate about looking after the beach and planting trees and shrubs to beautify the area. That same community spirit sees the second generation of children being taught by Peta and the amazing thing is that almost all the village children seem to go on to be successful adults. Some stay in the village and produce more successful children or move away and then come back to the village for a lifestyle that can't easily be found elsewhere. As Alan says, "It takes a whole village to educate a child." And obviously Oakura does that well.

Life outside of teaching is an active and creative one for Allan and Peta. Allan is involved in rugby refereeing, masters tennis, surfing and golf, while Peta likes printmaking, designing and creating. Oakura certainly has the Days firmly in its grip.

*By Kim Ferens*

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# Breaking news on Waireka Cemetary

I met last month with Mike Merrick at Waireka Cemetery and he promised to follow up on what is likely to happen at the cemetery. Mike met with council staff and the following information brings us up to date with proceedings.

- 1: council staff would be happy to work with a "friends of Waireka cemetery" group
- 2: the ground penetrating radar survey will be carried out within the next 18 months
- 3: new signage will appear within 2 years
- 4: more parking spaces between the two gates is in the 5 year plan
- 5: a seat will be installed on the upper level within 3 or 4 months
- 6: weed spraying is carried out 3 times a year
- 7: no money has been allocated to spend on the graves
- 8: rabbits are a big problem at the moment and are more of a threat to the graves than sheep. They are taking steps to deal with the rabbits
- 9: Mowing the upper level is viable and would cost approximately \$3,000 per year; they believe they can do

this within existing budgets. They are going to look into this some more

10. they believe there is merit in applying to TSB Community trust for funding to improve the graves, but any work would need to be done under the guidance of council

Kim Ferens

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## Why properties don't sell!!!

*We have all experienced, or have seen others experience, the unsatisfactory result of not selling their property. The reason for the non sale of a property can be spelled out with the THREE P's:*

**PRICE – PROMOTION – PRESENTATION.**

This month let's look at the first one: **PRICE.**

Pricing is probably the most difficult part of the selling process for vendors to come to grips with. A vendor's biggest challenge is usually understanding and getting comfortable with the fair market value of their home.

### How is the selling price determined?

The cardinal rule of pricing is that the selling price for your home is determined by the buyer. YOU put an asking price on it, but the selling price is what a BUYER is willing and able to pay:

### What does NOT determine the price of your home:

- How much you hope you can get
- How much the neighbours think you'll get
- How much you need to get to pay off your mortgage, divorce settlement, new home, etc.
- How much money you spent renovating your home
- How much you love your home

Time and price are interlocked to some degree. If you don't mind waiting you can hold out for a premium price. If you want a quick sale, the price needs to reflect this. Few vendors want to have their home languishing on the market for months on end.

Your home can have many appealing features. But nothing will be more attractive to a buyer than an attractive price.

Conversely your property may have some very unappealing features such as traffic noise, no sun all day etc., and these can be overlooked if the price is right.

We have a saying in the industry that "there is always a price that will allow a buyer to overlook the challenges of your property".

### PERCEIVED VALUE:

If you got six property valuers to value your home tomorrow, they would most likely come back with a fairly tight range of valuations, for example \$480,000 - \$520,000. Valuers use a formula based on factors such as comparable historic sales, the size of the land and home, the condition of the home and improvements, and so on. Obviously there is some room for individual interpretation, hence the range of valuations.

Now, on the other hand, if you have six buyers to look at your home, they might price it from \$450,000 - \$550,000.

Buyers work out their offers based on the selection of homes they have seen and what they know about the current market. It comes down to **PERCEIVED VALUE.**

In summary, in order to set a realistic asking price, look at the facts, be objective, and be prepared to put aside your preconceptions, and you are well on your way to a successful property sale!

Regards, Garry Mclean

Mob  
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Aft Hrs  
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## Immune System Boosters

Our immune system has the phenomenal task of supervising and managing the daily onslaught of stresses from organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites that continually bombard our bodies. These organisms can be found literally anywhere, so if our defences are weakened or these invaders are unchecked, our bodies can become damaged causing mild or serious states of illness.

The equivalent of a personal army, our immune system ideally overcomes these organisms with a minimum of disruption to our lives and indeed most of the time we are blissfully unaware of the inner battles being waged. Keeping our immune system in tip-top fighting condition is paramount for a fit and healthy existence.

Oakura Pharmacy now stock a full range of Immune System Boosters that can be taken as part of your regular supplement regime, or added in when an acute condition arises such as the common cold, or more severe respiratory viruses. Some of the ingredients include: Olive Leaf Extract, Zinc, Echinacea, Vitamin C, Garlic, Slippery Elm, Pau D'Arco, Elderberry and Propolis.

Preventative medicine is still the ideal approach for maintaining optimum health and by keeping our immune system in a healthy condition with natural immune supportive compounds, our body is better equipped to combat invading bugs, and minimise the negative effects of the daily barrage of organisms our immune system keeps in check every day.

So if you feel the "sniffles" coming on, just can't shake off the "winter flu", or are still fatigued after a dose of antibiotics then call in and see Colleen, Catherine or Sarah about your supplement requirements today and ask about joining the Vitamin Club.

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## Sensory issues and ASD

Does the screeching of fingernails down the black board send shivers down your spine?

This is a sensory experience. Just thinking about it gives you the shivers – you don't actually have to hear it, you have a memory of it. Individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) often have sensory sensitivities, which means they can be hypersensitive or hyposensitive to different sensory input.

We all know the five senses: taste, smell, sight, hearing and touch. But when dealing with individuals with ASD, there are two other "sensory systems" to be mindful of:

- The vestibular system deals with balance and tells us whether or not we or our surroundings are moving.
- The proprioceptive system deals with body awareness and provides information about the force required when using our body parts.

Any of these seven sensory systems can be over- or under-active for the person with ASD. A light touch may feel like a hit. A lot of noise or a certain type of noise may be torturous. Alternatively, someone with ASD may seek to increase their sensory input by running, jumping, rocking, hand flapping or making repetitive noises. With ASD, the person's sensory organs function typically, but their brain processes incoming sensory information differently. Sometimes this causes frustration and leads to a meltdown which may be perceived as a tantrum. They also may have difficulty cueing into more than one sensory modality at a time or shifting their attention to different senses.

So how can we help to make the individual with ASD make sense of his or her sensory world?

Firstly, they need to be taught some form of communication so they can tell us when the environment is too much for them. To say "It's too loud" or give a picture card with an icon on it meaning "loud", and then to either have the sound turned down or move away from the noise, whichever is more appropriate, is self-regulating and far better than them getting to the point of losing control and having a meltdown.

Making visuals showing what will happen throughout the day, including any changes from the usual routine, can help. Seeing something written down on paper or drawn means more to someone with ASD than a verbal instruction. Also, desensitising in a safe environment helps the individual get used to small amounts of sensory input slowly.

I guess that's all I've got time for so I'll save talking about anxieties and ASD until next time.

Karen

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## Head lice woes?

Head Lice and nits are an unpleasant and difficult problem to cope with. Children and adults with the "cleanest" habits are unfortunately, no less susceptible than others. The biggest obstacle to overcome with these little creatures is their sheer tenacity, plus the common fact that although one family may have temporarily defeated them, another family's may not have. Consequently, this allows the lice to re-infest, starting the cycle all over again.

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## Greetings All

Well, straight into it... The fishing has been marginal over the last month or so. Red cod seem to be filling up the weighmasters' sheets for surfcasters and the kayakers are getting a few more fish, but not a great deal either.

The recent Casting Day we held up Surrey Hill Road was great – good weather, a fair number of casters and a good effort by all that came. A few surprises and a few really bombs of casts were seen.. Merv Krutz got the furthest distance, with a cast of just over 170m. The results are sent to the NZ Angling & Casting Association to be entered in a national competition.

July 30th saw the very last Tri Comp between our Club, New Plymouth Surfcasting Club and the fishing section of their New Plymouth Club, with a \$300 jack-potted prize. I assure you, everyone will be out there. 8.55kg is the heaviest snapper holding the annual prize of \$400 (caught by veteran surfcaster Leon Jury).. I'll keep you posted on the results.

## Weighmaster's report to the end of June

42 fish in total

Surfcasters: 2 kahawai, 2 red cod, 1 spotty sharks

Kayakers: 16 snapper, 6 kahawai, 10 blue cod, 5 gurnard

## Future events

Whitebaiting season is coming up soon and a few of our members are keen on giving this a whirl.

Meanwhile, during August all Sundays are "Fish Together" days – give us a call if you are interested.

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Tight lines

Debbie E



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## World champs lure local lads

Japan Karate Association (JKA) Coastal Karate Club Inc. is alive and kicking!

Through the dedication of local Sensei Jim Hoskin (2nd Dan), JKA Coastal Karate has developed into a strong and very popular club, with up to 30 karate proponents training with a range of ages and belt grades. The club has two dojos for training: one at the Oakura Community Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the other at the Opunake Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The karate club has seen many locals pass through at various times and there is still a great number moving through the grades today. Grading and special instruction is held twice a year by Takahashi Shihan (7th Dan), who has been travelling to Australia and New Zealand from his university lecturing position in Japan for 27 years to impart the traditional teachings of JKA Karate. Sensei Mark Willis (5th Dan) of Turangi also conducts grading and special training sessions.


The latest milestone is the selection of Dominic Cooksley-Gruys (17, Oakura) and Connor Anderson (13, Oakura) for the JKANZ Karate team that will travel to Sydney to contest the JKA Karate world championships in August. Both these students have New Zealand titles to their names and they are training hard under the guidance of Sensei Jim, fellow club members and visiting instructors in the lead up to the world champs. Good luck, Dom and Connor!



Connor practices Kata with other JKANZ national team juniors and Sensei Wayne Edmonds from Auckland.



Dominic spars with Shane Field (Opunake) under the close scrutiny of Takahashi Shihan (Japan).

tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom tom ? 

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# GETTING WET!



## Oakura Boardriders – Oz groms contest

Some New Zealand groms have been over the ditch, contesting the Occy Grom Comp and the Rusty Gromfest, including a large Taranaki contingent comprising of Oakura's Tyler Anderson and Paige Hareb, and New Plymouth's Mathis Smith, Keone Campbell, Michael Mallalieu, and Sean Parker. Also competing from New Zealand were Ryan Hawker, and Tane and Zen Wallis from Piha, Johnny Hicks and Adam Cranston from Gisborne, Ben and Alexis Poulter, Grace Spiers and Karne Pitcher from the Coromandel.

The surf at Dbah for the Occy was marginal at best, although there were some good waves to be had if you were lucky! Unfortunately nearly all the Kiwi's failed to progress more than one heat, with the highly competitive Under-16 boys struggling to make an impression. Having said that, competition was tough and that's what they are there for. Keone Campbell sneaked through a couple of heats but that was that.

The Rusty at Lennox was great after the hustle of the Gold Coast and the surf pumped. We had a bit more success here, although the boys learned that if the heat is close, the Kiwis won't get through – funny that! Anyway, see the results below. Away from the contests the Kiwi kids showed they surf every bit as well as the Ozzies. They just seem to lack the contest savvy – they need to hustle. Most times they were beaten by inferior surfers, but just out-played in their heats. But Taranaki's 15-year-old Tyler Anderson and 16-year-old Keone Campbell were seen charging good-sized Lennox head-point surf. If they can transfer this to contests, New Zealand's surfing future will be in good shape. Great experience was gained by all the kids as well as an insight into what it will take to make an impression on the international scene.

Ryan Hawker – Under-16 boys, 1/4 finalist  
Paige Hareb – Under-16 girls, 3rd place  
Grace Spiers – Under-14 girls, 4th place  
Alexis Poulter – Under-14 girls, semi-finalist  
Tane Wallis – Under-12 boys, 3rd place

The Mason family members, Canning and Sarah (Arini's younger brother and sister and ex-Oakura and Gisborne residents) had some success with Canning making the Under-14 boys semi's and Sarah taking third place in the Under-12 girls. Eli Jacobs (ex-Taranaki and now resident on the Gold Coast) made the 1/4 finals or a round below in the Under-16 boys, showing the contest savvy that living and competing on the Gold Coast give you.

*Brent Anderson*

Oakura Boardriders

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## Young stars sought for achievers awards

Do you know a young person who deserves recognition for their success?

Nominations for the Young Achievers Awards 2006 are now open and New Plymouth District Council's Youth Subcommittee expects to receive many nominations across the 10 categories of the awards.

Manager, Community Development Bry Kopu says the awards are essentially by young people, for young people, with the Council's Youth Subcommittee (comprised of representatives from high schools and the community) marketing and promoting the awards, judging the nominees and running the awards ceremony.

"In past years we've had more than 100 entries so if you want someone to be nominated, pick up a form early and make sure it's sent in before the close-off date. Even just having their names put forward will be a huge boost to the young people nominated," says Ms Kopu.

The aims of the Young Achievers Awards are twofold, she says. "The first is to recognise and congratulate our young residents, and the second is to show the wider community that youths benefit the district through their talents and dedication and hard work.

"In all sectors of the community we have young stars who are working hard making great personal achievements. They are role models for others – both young and old – and the Young Achievers Awards is one way to encourage them and others in their efforts."

The 10 categories in the awards are youth development, sports achievement, cultural development, environmental, arts, music, community services, community well-being, trainee of the year and employee of the year.



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## OAKURA PLUNKET COMMITTEE – AUGUST 2006

We are on the lookout for parents to join the local Oakura sub branch of the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society. We meet about once every two months, that's only six meetings a year, so if you would like to have some input into how the local Oakura Plunket service is run then please contact Claire White, our president, on 7527229, or come along to the regular coffee mornings on Fridays at 9.00am in the St James Church Hall in Oakura.

### Think before you drive

Plunket is all about educating and supporting parents and also keeping children safe. The "Think Before You Drive" campaign promotes simple road safety messages, highlighting actions that take a few seconds but could save your life and the lives of those travelling with you.

Think	<i>Always Use a Child Seat</i>
Think	<i>Always Wear a Seat Belt</i>
Think	<i>Adjust Your Head Restraint</i>
Think	<i>Check Your Tyre Condition</i>
Think	<i>NEVER Drink and Drive</i>

### Child Restraints

- A crash at just 5 kmph can kill an unrestrained child
- Never travel with a child on your lap or in your arms – in a crash, your child's weight effectively increases by up to 20 times, making them impossible to hold.
- Never place a rear-facing seat on a front passenger seat equipped with an airbag.
- CHILD RESTRAINTS SAVE LIVES – ALWAYS USE ONE.
- Use a suitable restraint for the size and weight of your child. If you are not sure, check with Plunket House Car Seat Co-ordinator Ph: 7599076
- 90% of injuries could be avoided if child restraints are used correctly – follow fitting instructions carefully and again, check if you are not sure.

The New Plymouth branch of Plunket offers a Car Seat Rental Scheme and they can be contacted on 759 9076.

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#### AUGUST CHECKLIST

##### ✦ Flower Garden

Plant new season's roses in rich, well drained soil with plenty of compost. Complete pruning of existing roses in time for spring growth.

Plant new perennials. Lift and divide clumps of existing perennials.

Plant trees and shrubs now to maximise spring growth.

##### ✦ Lawns

Evenly apply lawn fertiliser to stimulate new growth.

Moss can be a problem in poorly drained or shady areas of lawn. Rake the area thoroughly and apply a solution of Sulphate of Iron (10g per square metre) to kill moss.

##### ✦ Kitchen Garden

Prepare the garden for spring planting. Add generous amounts of compost. Now is the time to add lime if necessary.

Plant new citrus and deciduous fruit trees.

Prune passionfruit vines and feijoas to encourage new growth and fruiting.

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# OMATA school news

Omata School staff are involved in Physical Education and Physical Activity professional development this year. We are gaining new curriculum ideas for use in our PE programmes and we are also making sure that our students get maximum physical activity while they are at school. We hope that students will develop a love of physical activity that they can carry with them throughout their lives. Our playground plays a major role in this by providing a variety of interesting equipment and environments that encourage our students to be active at break times.

Our skateboard park is usually a hive of activity – not just for the typical skateboards, roller blades and scooters, but also for toy cars, trucks and running. The bush area is a great place for hide and seek, and for making huts. Last year an awesome adventure course was built on the end of the existing playground equipment, with two flying foxes, a climbing wall, rope swings and climbing net. The tennis court, basketball and netball court, and rugby and soccer fields are great attractions, along with traditional four-square, for which our students seem to invent an endless supply of creative new rules. Marbles proved to be a great hit during Term One and skipping does the rounds in popularity as well.

During these times when “Child Obesity” and the “Health of the Nation” are of such concern for health providers and politicians, schools are out there doing their bit to promote healthy living and activity for students. It is great how supportive the community is in doing their bit to help students gain skills and participate in physical activity through games. We are really grateful to our parents who provide coaching, transport and encouragement to children playing sports, and to those who come along at lunchtimes and to play outside with students, keeping them physically active and improving their ball skills.

If you would like to help at school during lunchtime, please contact me on 751 2308. There are countless ways you could help, and the more adults we have out there encouraging children to participate, the better.

Help us to become an even more active school.

Karen Brisco



*Caddison Murfitt scoring a runaway try from one end of the field to the other.*



*Year 5-6 sports exchange with Tikorangi School.*



*Jared O'Keeffe, Lucy Mitchell, Aorangi Amohia-Lykles, Kael Johnson.*



*Michael Anderson from Room 3 participating in the physical activities programme.*

## OAKURA YOGA

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*Omata Home and School Parents participating in an activity evening with PE advisor, Lynda Hill and Nancy Vincent from Sport Taranaki.*

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## The new, 'wunderbar' Café wunderbar

You will probably have noticed that Wunderbar Café has undergone some changes recently. Owner Sonkhe Danger closed the café for a week while alterations were made inside.

While still providing the same fine restaurant style food for which his café is well known, Danger has also created a more casual atmosphere where people can come in, relax, have a glass of wine and nibbles, or a great meal at a reasonable price. A new take away menu is also available. Wunderbar!



## Linda Street Tennis Court Update

- Submissions close on 18th August for stage two of the Coastal Reserves Management Plan. This includes Linda St tennis court. Submission forms and copies of the draft plan can be obtained from NPDC, libraries and online, [www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalreserves](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalreserves)
- The council is also seeking feedback on their role in the provision of camping services in the district.

## Kate De Goldi Visits Omata School



Doing a Barbie make-over by shaving her hair and giving her a disease with a green felt pen are things that the audience at the Omata School Assembly on Friday 28th July could really relate to, as they listened to Kate De Goldi speaking about her writing.

Kate is a well-established and award-winning author of teenage fiction (written under the pseudonym, Kate Flannery) and a regular reviewer of children's literature on National Radio and Television. Kate's book for younger readers, *Clubs*, set in a small school like Omata, is a firm favourite with many students and adults alike.

Kate's visit to Omata School was facilitated by the New Zealand Book Council through their Writers in Schools programme. After speaking to all of the students and

parents at the morning's assembly, Kate then spent the rest of the morning working with groups of students from Year 3 to 8, exploring the writing process and sharing *Billy*, her up-coming sequel to *Clubs*. The chance to connect with real writers is an inspiring, motivating experience and certainly supports excellence in writing at Omata School.

The following is from one of Kate's first forays into the field of writing when she was only six years of age.

### Chapter One

Once upon a time there were ten good little children. Their names were Christine and Beverley Timothy and Patricia Ingrid and Terry Jenny and Elizabeth and Gail and Mary-Lou and that's all. And their mother was Kathleen. They had a little house in the middle of a deep wood. Now you could see what they looked like, they looked beautiful. They had beautiful dresses and beautiful coats and shoes. And in the woods next to them there lived a bear. He was a very nice bear. But he thought he was a dog. However the girls looked after him and so did the mother. And that's how they lived.

### Chapter Two

One day Christine and Beverley were out hunting and a bad witch saw them and put them in a dish and turned them into witches, poor, poor children. When mother looked out the window she burst into tears and fainted. Now at that time the rest of the children were hunting and when they got home they said in aloud voice "what is the matter"? and she got up and said "I saw Christine and Beverley near a witches house and she turned them in to witches". "Never mind" said the children we will get that witch. But when they said that the witch came in with not an angry voice, not angry at all. She came in with a smile. She said I turned your children in to witches for fun. Oh you naughty witch. Never mind because I used to be a Fairy and at that moment she turned in to a Fairy and disappeared. She went back to her house and turned Christine and Beverley in to children then they had a Christmas party.

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Age:	11	11
School:	Oakura	Oakura
Room:	8	8
Favourite ...		
Food:	Sushi ☹️	Pizza ☺️
Activity:	Swimming	Hip Hop Dancing
Sport:	Netball	Netball
Movie:	Anchor Man	Dick and Jane
Book:	Anything by Jaqueline Wilson	Baby Sitters Club
Best friend:	Milla Novak	Miriam Stewart
When I grow up I'm going to be ...	a fashion designer and make-up artist	a dancer.

*If there was a race between a hare and turtle, which one would win? The turtle ... it was a swimming race!* ★

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**CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER**

**Plunket coffee Mornings:**  
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**Mini Groovers:**  
Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall.  
Gold coin donation.

**St John's Omata:**  
Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**St James Church Oakura:**  
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**Kung Fu:**  
Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over.  
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

**Kick Boxing & Self Defence:**  
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**JKA Karate**  
Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.  
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.  
Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

**Yoga:**  
Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7-8.30pm.  
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 7.30-9pm.  
Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494

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

**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.  
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**Indoor Bowls:**  
Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

**Country and Western Club**  
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# Anne Wilson

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I have cash buyers up to around \$350,000 looking for their new home in Oakura.

Cash buyers up to \$500,000 to buy as soon as they can.

Please do ring me for a no obligation chat if you are considering selling sometime in the next 6 months. I have a lot of overseas enquiries still coming in.

## Properties For Sale by Anne



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### 204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

Near New, 5 bdms + study on 6010m<sup>2</sup> of land.  
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3 bdrm, central, brick home, situated with fabulous views of the Te Henui Walkway, river and bush. Unique property with a tranquil setting for the entire family to enjoy. OFFERS.

### Main Road Sections

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### Wairau Road Sections

I have only 3 left, so be in quick to secure your plot of land.



### Oakura - New home to be built

Location is set with fantastic rural and sea views from this site. Included is a new home ready to be built in the finest materials. With 5 bedrooms, 2 living areas and a choice of 2 outdoor areas. Are you ready to have a new home without all the decisions and hassles of building? If this is you, call me for more details.

## Thought for the Month

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." — Antoine de Saint

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