



Night of tornadoes

July 5 will be a date that is long remembered in Oakura. TOM has put together a feature about the tornado (or tornadoes) that struck our town that night, but it is primarily a story of people.

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT

I think we've all come to realise our community isn't about buildings, it is about people – how we help each, how we pull together and offer support, how we care for each other, how others outside our community have helped, how our local and central governments have helped through the provision of emergency services.

There will be stories of generosity to tell for many years to come, but we have recorded some photos and stories here as a tangible public record of 'The Tornado' and its aftermath. You could say that these accounts are a series of snapshots taken without a wide angle lens. The stories by local children are especially poignant – they will never forget what it feels like to experience a tornado. If you have a tornado story you would like to share, contact TOM at kim@thetom.co.nz and we will record your story.

Firstly THANK YOU to our local unpaid fire fighters who worked themselves to the bone and beyond the call of duty to look after the community. The following quote sums up their collective character:

"If I do training and show dedication, they call me a PROFESSIONAL.

If I show compassion and caring, they call me a FRIEND.

If I show bravery and selflessness, they call me a HERO.

If I combine all of the above attributes, they call me a FIRE FIGHTER."



Senior Fire Officer, Chris West surveys McKeller Street from The Outlook.

Some homes still uninhabitable after tornadoes

A dozen Oakura properties remain uninhabitable after the tornadoes earlier this month, says the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Recovery Manager Bev Raine says life is getting back to normal for many after 73 properties were damaged when a series of tornadoes struck all over Taranaki on 4 and 5 July. But some may not be able to move back into their homes for months yet.

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

Was our Tornado the first time you'd heard you lived in a tornado hotspot?

It certainly was for me and I've lived here all my life! Maybe I'm just not old enough? If I thought that being a tornado survivor was just something you check off your list of things to experience in this lifetime, then all well and good. But as we all now know, this is not the case.

I wrote my last editorial on Mother Nature after the flooding at Hall Terrace. Well, she struck again and once again we are reminded of our place on earth. The recent devastation and trauma reaffirmed for many people how strong this community is. So much support has been offered, so much has been done and is still being done to help everyone through this. I hope you can get along to the charity concert in New Plymouth on August 15 to not only help raise funds but also to come together as a group and use it as a time to heal. Local resident Craig Meads has spent a lot of time on this and I would like to say a big thanks to him.

We have focused a lot on the tornado in this issue so we as a community have a record of how it was for us, and so in the future others may benefit from our experience.

Until next time

Tracey

tom

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(Continued from page 1)

The affected home owners are working with their insurance companies and may also be eligible for assistance from the Taranaki Disaster Relief Fund. The fund is administered by the region's three mayors and the Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council, and application forms for grants are available from District Council offices and the Oakura Library. Donations to the fund can be made at any branch of the BNZ.

Scores of tarpaulins were distributed around the region at the height of the emergency and Mrs Raine says that as houses are repaired and tarps removed, home owners should call the Emergency Management Office on 758 1110 to arrange collection. Other advice and information is available at the same number.

A mess on Messenger!



Messenger Terrace - Room with a view. Note the double bed still sitting there. PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT

PHOTO - PETER HARE



PHOTO - FAY LOONEY

TOM bits

- Recommended sandwich filling – peanut butter, raisins and chopped celery. Yum!
- The skate ramp at the playground has just had a rebuild. It is now lined with a 4mm aluminium deck, which will improve safety and extend its lifespan.
- Talks have begun with New Plymouth District Council and the community for the future development of the Linda Street tennis courts. The first step is to gather figures for the upgrade and maintenance of the area



The stories -

Grant Everest -

MESSENGER TERRACE

The Everest family didn't realise they were sitting right in the path of a tornado. A wall of water was coming straight towards them off the sea. The wall of water split in two and one wall went down the low tide line towards the motor camp and the other went up McFarlane Street, leaving the Everests covering inside their house but luckily undamaged.

They didn't realise they had just witnessed a tornado and even after talking with the neighbour and surveying the damage, it wasn't until the fire brigade came along and asked Grant to direct traffic that they comprehended they had survived something major. Grant describes the damage as unbelievable or 'surreal' when by daylight he saw the full extent of the damage that 'wall of water' had done to the village.

Grant is an insurance broker and has been dealing with various clients in Oakura who have suffered insurable damage – about 30 so far he thinks. Houses were made water proof with ply and tarpaulins initially. Each claim is placed in a register and assessors have been out to assess the severity of the damage and urgent cases have been given priority over less urgent ones. Insurance companies have sent out teams of workers to deal with the sheer volume of work to be done. Other businesses have done the same with a team of workers coming down from Hamilton from Smith & Smith Glass.

"we had survived something major"

Pat Holmes -

McFARLANE STREET

Eighty-six year old Pat knows she is one of the lucky ones, but the tornado came mighty close all the same. Pat says she was about to put on dinner when she heard a 'devil of a noise' and only just had time to grab hold of the organ leg and hang on for grim death.

Glass debris from her beloved conservatory and French doors flew around her but didn't hit her. She laughs about the vertical blind that is stuck up in a tree. Various trees in Pat's garden were

"the roof is completely gone"

up-rooted and damaged. The roof is completely gone from the potting/glass-house and half the roof came off her house.

Pat says her family has been marvellous helping pick up bucket-

loads of glass in the garden, tidy up the trees and trellis, and providing a warm bed for her. Her insurance agency has been very helpful too. Since the tornado Pat has been shown tremendous kindness by civil defence workers, builder Bruce, who has taken charge of the structural damage to her house, and other locals who have dropped in food and made offers to help.

Tracey Lusk -

JANS TERRACE

I saw the tornado that hit my house. Our house is on the cliff above the campground with stunning coastal and sea views, like living art works.

I was sitting in our living room with my son Miles (3), my sister and her husband. I had my back partially to the view and the others were looking out to sea. We could see the sky and clouds changing and then my sister said, "Look at those clouds." In the second it took to turn and look it became obvious we were staring at a tornado that was coming straight for our house.

"my heart was thumping so hard"

My sister and brother-in-law immediately rushed to see to the other four boys who were in another room. I saw the window flex and grabbed Miles and lay face down on the carpet.

I cannot now remember much about what it was like except it was extremely loud. My heart was thumping so hard I could feel it against the floor and Miles was saying how scared he was. I felt that when nothing else happened after the initial blast, we were probably safe, but of course you just don't know.

When it passed over I was amazed to see the only effects were debris on the windows and deck furniture moved around the house. We were lucky in that way, but still traumatised.

I also thought only we had had the tornado and it took a few hours to realise that the rest of the village had been affected as well. We went out at first light to survey the damage and it was like a bomb had hit. I couldn't believe the devastation from one end of the village to the other.

When Miles talked to his grandma about the tornado (which had 'claws'), he said, "Uncle Pete pushed it away."

I now look at the clouds with different thoughts running through my head. Like I say, we can't predict Mother Nature.



Pat Holmes had a narrow escape from injury.



Terry and Barbara Griffiths –

WAIRAU ROAD

Anyone for 'T' as in tornado?

I didn't go to work on Thursday as I had the trellis to stain, among other things. Barbara was due home from Tauranga,



The Griffiths' front fence - before . . .

and Steve and Holly were bringing the kids out for dinner. About 5 pm they all decided to have a spa. Ethan was still getting dressed when the power went off, on briefly, then off again. Steve looked out the window and shouted, "Twister

coming!" We got the kids away from the windows, including Kate (niece), who was about to get a scary introduction to Taranaki.

The noise I can only describe as a combination of a freight train and several machine guns firing marbles at the house. The natural light went from mid-twilight to

**"the most
frightening thing
I have ever
encountered"**

deep midnight in an instant. It was the most frightening thing I have ever encountered.

We had a quick look outside afterwards and saw cars stopped, so I went back inside and rang Fire Communications, thus turning out the New Plymouth, NP West, Okato and Oakura fire teams, and K-11 (response power authority). I rang the police to be informed that I was the first call from Oakura, but that there were other areas affected and resources were stretched.

Back outside power lines were down, trees (mine) were down across the road and traffic was stalled. By this time the police had arrived and had blocked off the village at Dixon Street, so I made my way down the line of cars telling each to turn around or go home up Wairau Road. I did this till I got to Donnelly where the last car was and then I was alone in the pitch black



. . . and after!

PHOTO - KIM FERENS

with only the distant wailing of a siren to be heard. I walked home still wearing my slippers!

At home there were a couple of broken windows, glass everywhere, outdoor furniture and BBQ tossed all over the place, and remember that trellis I was staining? All gone! Barb (especially) and I were devastated and in mild shock when we finally went to bed after numerous phone calls, offers of accommodation and visits from friends (dozens), police (x 3) and the fire service (x 4).

The following morning we put off getting up to avoid seeing the devastation but we finally went outside and compared our minimal damage to others' who will suffer for some time to come. We could hardly stop ourselves from laughing at the previous night's misconception of damage.

This adventure (for want of a better word) cannot pass without mention of the many hundreds, maybe thousands of people who just arrived in the village saying things like, "I have a ladder and a hammer, where am I needed?" or "I've got a chainsaw, where do you want me?" or "Where should I drop off this food?" or simply "What can I do?"

This does not include all the locals – what a team. Absolutely fantastic. Incredible. Unbelievable. There are not enough superlatives to convey the gratitude of all those affected in one way or another.

I think the best thing that happened to me was on the Wednesday after the blow. Our regular RUBBISH TRUCK DRIVER saw the mess and said, "Shit, you have been knocked about a bit. I will see what I can do for you." On Sunday at 12.30 pm he turned up with two sons and a son-in-law and proceeded to clean up all the pongas damaged in the wind. I will never think badly of a Garbologist ever again. Thanks guys.

Terry

Joyleen and Dominic Connell –

McKELLAR STREET

As we all know McKellar St was one of the worst hit streets in Oakura and the residents in the street and village are wondering

if it is a coincidence. Joyleen or Nubby as she is more commonly known as she has gathered quite a reputation around her as the 'attractor' of storms. The family had just moved from storm ravaged Hall Tce where their property was engulfed in flood water. The Bevans lived on one side and the Pilettes on the other. The Connells had not recovered from that devastation when the tornado hit town.

Nubby was lighting the fire on the Thursday evening when she heard an almighty bang, the house shook and the power went off. Nubby shoved her 13 year old son James under a bed. She cowered down beside him. When things calmed down Nubby went and looked out the door. "There was a ruddy great tree on the lawn! I don't even know whose it was – it wasn't the neighbours" she said. She then heard Kathy Curd screaming further down the street so she and Dominic went to help. When they got to the house they very politely took their boots off at the front door – well brought up they are, but a bit pointless when the roof is missing and there is glass everywhere! Over the course of the evening they made sure everyone had

shelter and a bed but sleep wasn't on the agenda for anyone. Nubby says she used to be a heavy sleeper but now she wakes up when it rains on the roof or the wind blows. Everyone was up by 6am and people were out surveying the damage. Fortunately for the Connell's they only had minor damage but the three houses down the street and the three houses up the street were 'pretty stuffed'. In the midst of the devastation was

also a sea of TV, radio and news-paper reporters, film crews and photographers. Fire brigade, neighbours, friends and others all

pitched in to help clear everything up. Nubby says the amount of food that came down her street was incredible. The family went without power for five days and it was fun except for having to go out to shower. They went to Butlers for dinner and to watch TV, cooked on the BBQ or gas cooker and had the fire to keep warm. Nubby says the clean up was wicked, the fire brigade were amazing and she says she certainly knows the neighbours now though it wasn't a great way to get to know them!

Nubby laughs at herself for having a day off work to "pull myself together" but I suspect it might take longer than a day or two to get over a flood and a twister as well as for being the butt of local jokes – anyone for a new neighbour?

PHOTO - JANE DOVE



Marion Cooksley gets a hug from her husband Russell. Marion is lucky to be alive as the top of their house (covered by the red tarp) was sucked off when the tornado hit McKellar Street. Marion had been sitting typing on her computer on the top floor seconds before the room was ripped off by the tornado.



PHOTO - KIM FERENS

Just after . . .



PHOTO - JANE DOVE

Terri Wickham surveys the extensive damage to the roof in her six-year-old daughter's bedroom after the tornado ravaged McKellar Street. PHOTO - JANE DOVE

PHOTO - JANE DOVE



Oakura resident Madeline Potter, 85 years old, hid in the wardrobe of her spare bedroom as a tornado roared over her home, taking the roof with it. Iron from her roof is hanging from pine trees half a kilometre from her house. Experiencing a tornado is a once in a life time experience – Madeline said, "I don't know why it had to happen now."

PHOTO - JANE DOVE



Lynnette and Ron Lawson had moved into their new home just three days before the tornados hit, felling a tree onto their house.



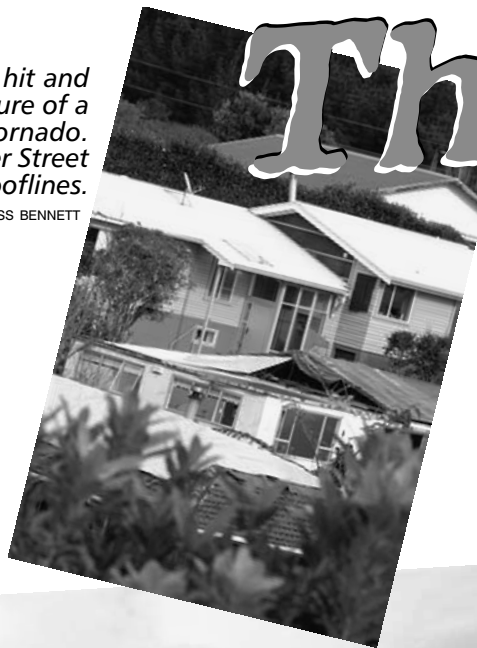
. . . and preparing to repair the damage. PHOTO - KIM FERENS



The hit and miss nature of a Tornado. McKeller Street rooflines.

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT

The



Picking up the pieces, McKeller Street.

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



Friday - Oakura was alive with the sound of chainsaws - McFarlane Street.

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



PHOTO - PETER HARE



Kaitake Kindy took a severe walloping!

PHOTO - FAY LOONEY



Going on todays prices I think the one in front is still worth \$450K. Cnr wairau and SH 45.

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



The roof of this beachfront house on Messenger Terrace lies in the neighbour's backyard.

PHOTO - JANE DOVE



Power lines lay strewn around the streets, including this one on McKellar Street, creating hazards for rescue workers.

PHOTO - JANE DOVE

pictures

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



At least it's still pointing the right way!



*Smashed power pole,
Mckeller Street.*

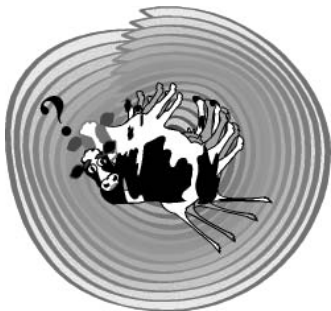
PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT

*Terry Griffiths
has burnt his last
sizzler on this
barbie!*

PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT



Total devastation at Kaitake Kindergarten



PHOTO - ROSS BENNETT

*Asked the wife to parallel
park the roller . . . typical!*

Post Disaster Fundraiser for Kaitake Kindergarten

Local Oakura woman Snoz Gibson can feel justifiably proud of her and others efforts to raise funds for tornado struck Kaitake Kindergarten. A concert was held at Oakura Hall on Saturday 14 July and over \$12,000 was raised. In a little over a week, Snoz pulled together bands, auction prizes, advertising, a venue, a bus, and a sausage sizzle. Local band "The Flys" were the feature act of the night and they rocked the hall and some 200 party goers. Prior to the taking of the stage by "The Flys" the crowd was entertained by The Anika Anka Trio, Shane Herbert and friends and Allan Manu. Throughout the evening a silent auction was going on and bidding was stiff for the 60 or so prizes. A live auction was also held and bidding was strong from the female audience for the vasectomy, not so popular with the blokes but the rugby jersey and surfboard made up for it! Local teenager Don Cooksley-Grys was a hit with the audience with his bass playing as part of "The Flys".

A great evening was had by all and the kindy kids are certainly going to benefit greatly from the generosity of local businesses, outside businesses, individual donations.

So a very big thank you to Snoz and her crew of helpers, Peter and Pauline Shannon, Denise Howe, Mike Gordon, Al Ramsay and everyone else who contributed in some way.

Maybe Neil Young knew something when he crooned "Mother Nature's on the run..." And maybe he has some sound advice with "flying Mother Natures silver scene to another home in the sun..." So perhaps we should all run away to some sunny spot and recuperate.

By Kim Ferens



"The Flys" take off at the Fundraiser.



Robyn Lander and Denise Howe sparking up. (How's the head, Denise?).



The effervescent Snoz Gibson with Linda and Adam Collins.



Anne Wilson and Penny McComb.



Andrea Leadbetter shares a relaxed moment with Ian Scott.



Lil Logan, Helen Lamb and Karyn Lehrke - "Cheers".



The children's perspective

Oakura School –

My scariest day in the holidays was the tornado. The tornado smashed windows like balls on cranes. Rip! The tornado gets roofs off houses too. But I didn't get any damage at my house. There was lightning and booming thunder. The power went off because the power lines fell down. It was scary!

Emily Husband (6)

In the holidays my Dad's Aunty Heather saw the tornado and it went towards Heather. Oh no!

Keeley Luckin (6)

I was at home when the tornado came and knocked two of the top lights out and it tipped the barbeque upside down and now it won't work any more and we've lost the key and I wasn't scared of the tornado.

Bronte Hill (6)

My cousin's roof went off. A window went on the deck. We saw the tornado. It moved my tramp and my swing chair and the police came.

Jordan Burkett (6)

Tornado!

I was just talking to my friend in the lounge when monstrous sounds appeared. We rushed to the window and a giant swish came to my face. Me and my friend got her mum and hurried to the garage. We all ducked down in a corner. Me and Molly were shaking like it was an earthquake. When the tornado had gone we saw it swerve around her backyard with all sorts in it. We all were frightened because we had never experienced one before.

Molly, Nicky, Steve, Max and I found candles and torches. After the weather settled down I started to worry about my family. Me and Molly heard a knock knock and it was my dad. I felt happier when I knew that my family was OK but I was still terrified. I still stayed at Molly's because her house was safer than mine. That night me and Molly heard fire engines go and whooshing wind banged on her window at about 2 o'clock. We both woke up freaked because we kept hearing wind whooshing on windows. So we slept in her mum's room.

The next day there was glass everywhere. It was a terrible experience.

Paloma Aston (9)

Tornado!

The big, grey, long cloud of destruction and wind came roaring off the ocean towards us. We all stared out the window, not believing what we could see. Daniel's legs were shaking. He was down right scared. The tornado was heading straight towards our home. Suddenly it changed direction, heading for the great pine trees. Then we could see nothing more. It was gone. For us. But not for the cat. It was running around like a lunatic. I was a bit frightened by the whole event.

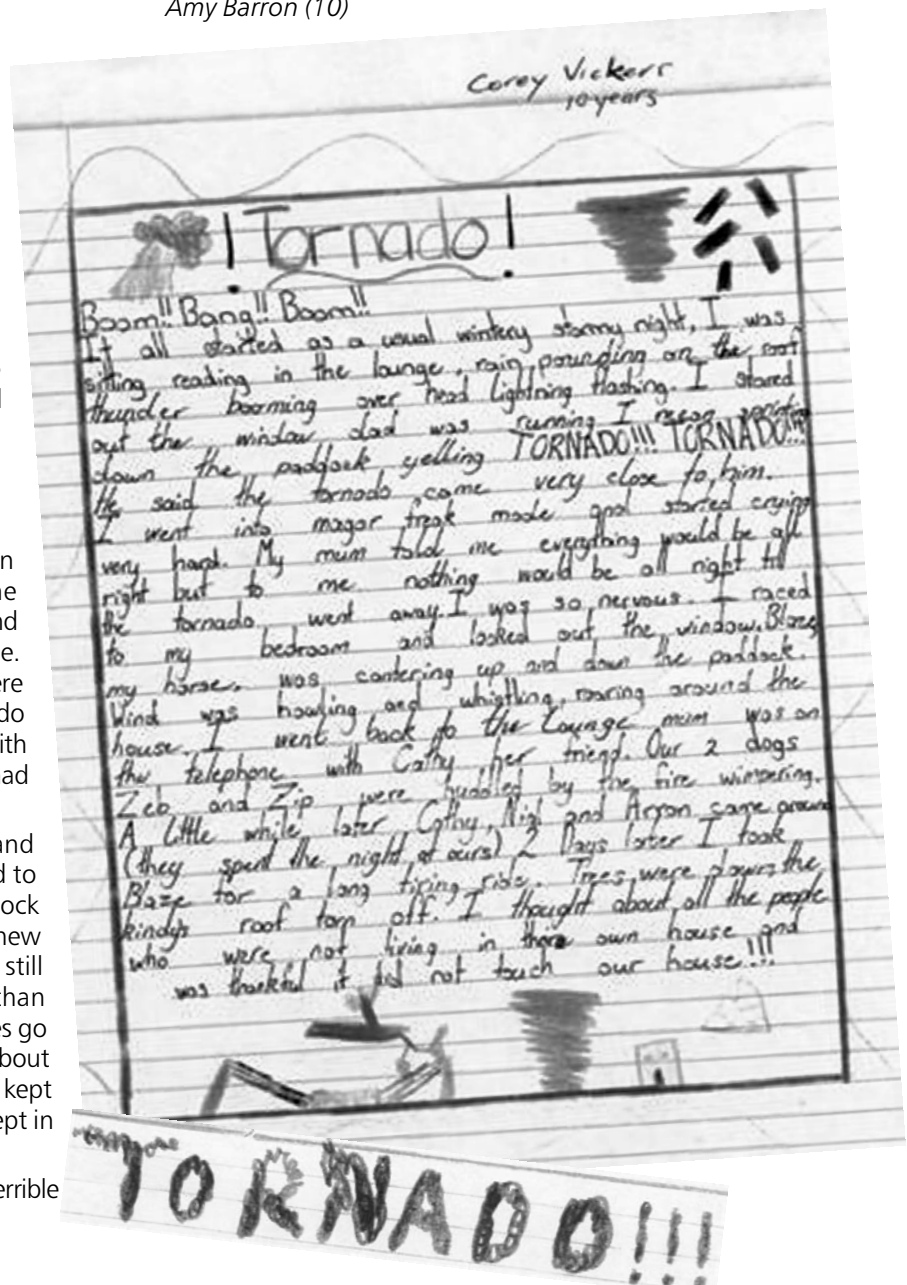
Our babysitter opened the door. He could hear people swearing and sirens blaring. Apart from the sirens and swearing it was silent. I shone it [the torch] brightly into the darkness. We could see the tall pine trees and hear them cracking and falling over. My brother was a bit upset – he knew he wouldn't be able to watch TV for a while.

I kept wondering if the tornado had wrecked anyone's homes. It didn't look like it though. The path the twister had taken was all bush.

I was a bit frightened in case of another tornado. But there wasn't.

The next day we went for a walk around the village. I felt sorry for the people whose homes were damaged. I hope this tornado never occurs again.

Amy Barron (10)



Omata School –

A big disaster

A big strong wind came and took the roof off Placemakers. Then they had to clean everything up. It was a big mess. They were scared when their homes were broken.

David Robinson (6)

Badly damaged roof

The tornado tore the roof off Placemakers. The people had to clean it up quickly on the road. Lots of police and fire fighters were there. The roof landed on a tree. It's good the roof didn't land on a car, house, café or person.

My dad went on the side of the tornado. It's good he didn't die because he was on a motorbike. It was fun when the power went off because Madison and I were running round in the dark. We got told not to go by the big big door because it was glass and Madison went by one.

Sasha Mueller (6)

What a disaster!

Last Wednesday a tornado struck Taranaki. There was an 18 year old girl who lived in Oakura. She was getting out of the shower when the tornado hit her window and the glass hit her body and her hands because she was protecting her face. The fence got ripped out of the ground and landed on the big tree.

Olivia Mason (7)

What a disaster!

This is a disaster because there's heaps of stuff on the ground. There was a tornado. There were trees on the ground and a big fence on the ground as well. It was in Oakura. I was really scared when it happened to us.

Amber Donald (6)



Update from the Big Red Truck

Kindness is an inner desire that makes us want to do good things, even if we do not get anything in return. It is the joy of our life to do them. When we do good things from this inner desire, there is a kindness in everything we think, say, want, and do. ~ Emanuel Swedenborg

Greetings again from all at the Big Red Truck.

Where does one start? How can we begin to recall and thank the long list of people and businesses that gave their unwavering support following the tornado strikes on 5 July? Not just people from within this marvellous community of ours, but from all over Taranaki and even beyond. Not since Cyclone Bola nearly 20 years ago has the community of Oakura been called upon to rally in such a selfless manner. Though the tornado events themselves were certainly unwelcome, the strength of the community spirit was often very moving to behold. Thankfully there were no serious injuries reported, which seems to have been the result of timely action on behalf of some, and sheer luck for others (not home at the time, etc).

The Volunteer Fire Fighters of Oakura were certainly kept busy, but so too were the Volunteer Fire Fighters from Okato, New Plymouth West, and the Fire Police Unit and two crews from Central Fire Station in New Plymouth. In addition so much more was achieved with the assistance of the virtual army of helpers, builders, handymen, roofers, plumbers and sparkies that made themselves quickly available after the tornadoes had passed through. A huge and well deserved thank you to you all.

Previously we have given advice on Fire Escape Planning. Following recent events, it is timely to cast the net further. This month here is a link to New Zealand Government site: Prepare for Natural Disasters (<http://newzealand.govt.nz/record?recordid=28469>). Take some time to look through the sections at <http://www.eq-iq.org.nz/kitsandplans/survivalkit.aspx> for details of:

1. Your Emergency Survival Kit – what will you need to hand as soon as the power goes out? Where is it?
2. Your Emergency Plan – where in your home is your bolt-hole that will give maximum protection?
3. Your First Aid Kit:
4. Your Getaway Kit – what essentials might you need if you have to evacuate? Are they safe and handy?

Also see <http://www.getthru.govt.nz/How-to-get-ready.56.0.html> for some excellent information on how to better prepare your home and family for such natural disasters.

Hopefully we never see the like again in our special part of the globe. But it would do no harm to be prepared for it!

Stay warm and safe, FF Breeze

PHOTO - ROSS BENNET



Firefighter, Matt Crabtree surveying the damage.

Thank you Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade

Over the last couple of months the Oakura Fire brigade volunteers have been out a record number of times dealing with a myriad of different and challenging scenarios. Tornadoes and flooding being added to the standard house fires and motor vehicle accidents. Talk about multi skilling!

Looking at the most recent of our local emergencies the presence of these volunteers was essential and the effort and coordination of their team response has earned praise from all quarters.

This is your chance as a member of our Oakura Community to say your special thanks to all the members of the Oakura team and their families who also make a huge sacrifice for all the hard work, commitment and hours of time they have donated to our village over the last few months.

A billboard of images will be available to sign and place a personal message on if you so wish over the next fortnight. We hope to produce something that the fire brigade team will be able to put up in the station as a reminder of not only their efforts but the effect that they have had within our community.

The brigade have identified the need for an independent power generator on site - a need which was highlighted with the



New Plymouth Mayor, Peter Tennant personally thanks the Oakura volunteer firefighters.

recent power outages that had the coordination team working with only torchlight. So please feel free to donate for this cause and let the team know your thoughts, how much you appreciate their commitment and how we all value them as an integral part of our special community.

Donations are able to be made at either the Oakura Four Square, The Oakura Pharmacy, Butlers Reef Bottle Store or Heydon Priest BP station and pledges can be made online to info@thetom.co.nz

Shaun Preston to perform Tornado Relief Concert

Amongst his private shows and his single release this month, Shaun and his white grand piano are to perform a concert to help raise funds for victims who were affected by the recent tornadoes in Oakura. The concert will be held at the **TSB Theatre, TSB Showplace** and takes place on **Wednesday, August 15th at 7:30pm**. Tickets will be available through **Ticketek (Adults \$30, Child \$10, Family \$70)**.

Shaun will be supported by two local bands, and proceeds will go to helping people affected by the tornado in the Oakura area. These funds will be distributed via the Taranaki Disaster Relief Fund. Applications to the fund can be made by filling out an application form which is available at Oakura Library and applications will be accepted in the next few weeks.

Event promoter and organiser, Craig Meads says, "I was on my way to Wellington at the time and felt so helpless. Having witnessed the Tornado in Gover St the day before, I could just imagine the carnage. With my wife alone in our house at the time with no power, not sure what was going to be hit next, and then viewing the images on the late night news in Wellington, it hit home. When Shaun, in checking up on us and how we fared, volunteered to perform a charity concert, I could not let the opportunity slip, to put back something into our community.

The 2½ hour show featuring Shaun will also be supported by Backlash and MMC, a local Oakura band that promises to be the talk of the community.



So who is Shaun Preston?

This review from Wellington Journalist Jane Hart at his show last week.

"It's no wonder this man is the "talk of the town" in the entertainment industry. If its piano playing you like, the talent in his fingers alone tends to make your jaw drop, where if it's his singing you like, he has the ability to grab the attention of everyone in the audience to the point where you could hear a pin drop.

From a voice that sings all out full tilt rock songs to a voice that can sing a ballad, Shaun captures the hearts of people all over the country from the young to the old earning himself the position of being one of New Zealand's top piano showmen.

Over the past 6 months Shaun has taken his show to an audience of thousands, from the Rugby Sevens in Wellington to the TSB Festival Of Lights in New Plymouth as well as Hastings, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch and Nelson to name a few, and has just returned from Brisbane Australia where he not only sold out of his CD's during the first show but landed a contract to return every three months due to the success of creating such a large following.

Shaun's public shows are a must see as he tends to always be heavily booked with private shows. From the dazzling stage setting and tear jerking Marilyn Monroe tribute, to Shaun's energetic, captivating and rather "sexy" stage presence, Shaun will have you singing along even if you hadn't planned on it! This is one very well respected entertainer throughout the country and he earns more and more respectful hearts with every song he sings."



Hi folks

What a time we've had!

The tornadoes have done a huge amount of material damage, but I have never been so proud or so grateful to call Taranaki home. Neighbours, friends and complete strangers turned up to lend a hand to those whose properties were damaged by the tornadoes.

Only in last month's *TOM* I was paying tribute to the tireless efforts of the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade with the flash floods. Once again their caring, their hard work, and their community leadership have been phenomenal.

The way this community has banded together has shown this country the depth of community here in Taranaki. To everyone, a HUGE thanks and congratulations – you are all fantastic!

Over the past decade, the world has started to appreciate how special this region is. People have moved from around New Zealand, and around the world, to live here in Taranaki. The reason is very clear – what we have is a very special lifestyle. I believe, second to none.

The reality is there are many beautiful places around the world where one can choose to live. Many of those places have surf beaches or are near a mountain, or have great cafes, or beautiful parks and gardens, or museums, or art galleries, or sporting stadia. What truly defines this place though, is its people. The warmth and generosity of the people of Taranaki have to be experienced before it can be truly understood and appreciated.

The aftermath of the tornadoes has highlighted the difference that is Taranaki. I repeat again – I have never been so proud or so grateful to call Taranaki home!

My heart still goes out to those most affected by the tornadoes, though. As a region we will need to continue to do what we can to assist as you all get your homes and businesses back in order. That will take time and it will take resources. To all who have already contributed to the BNZ Taranaki Disaster Relief Account or the TSB Kaitake Kindergarten Fundraising Account, my thanks.

If there is anything I or your Council can do to assist, please let me know.

Similarly, if you have some ideas to help make the best place in the world even better, then please give me a call on 759 6060.

Keep the passion!

Kind regards, *Peter Tennant*, Mayor

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

TOM talks to Harry Duynhoven about Tornadoes

Where were you when the tornadoes hit Taranaki or more specifically Oakura?

I was in South Taranaki.

What did you do?

I got a phone call about the tornadoes so I came back to New Plymouth immediately. On the way I visited homes in Normanby, Stratford, Egmont Village and Waitara. On Friday morning I went out to Oakura to see the folks out there. In the afternoon I went back to Oakura with Hon. Rick Barker, Minister of Civil Defence and met with the fire crews and civil defence crews. We also visited homes to make sure the occupiers had the essentials of life, had somewhere to go and the kids were looked after.

What was the devastation like?

In Cyclone Bola there was about 500 houses damaged, in these tornadoes the damage was in an unusually tight area. I visited one particular house on Messenger Tce and I have never seen so much broken glass in one place. It was incredible how the community all got out and helped each other. There were farmers with tractors and people with chainsaws, the line crews and fire brigade worked themselves to a stand still.

How do you think it has affected people?

People reacted magnificently. This is a significant period of time for the people of Oakura and everyone is extremely lucky to have such good neighbours who all looked after each other. The fire brigade was outstanding and after 20 hours work, non-stop, extremely knackered! It was amazing to see one home owner had a new roof on by the Friday afternoon.

The tornadoes have highlighted the need to have an escape plan and to plan carefully for a catastrophe – have water supplies, have food stores, have a safe area to escape to and make sure insurance cover is adequate

What can you as MP for NP do for the tornado victims?

Initially I went out to offer support and to make sure everyone had somewhere to go. Government agencies like WINZ, Housing NZ can provide assistance for people who need somewhere to go like a motel. Everyone was well helped by their neighbours and friends in Oakura. Once I was satisfied that people didn't need help then my role as MP was finished. I am also a practical person and would have happily got up on a roof to help.

Since the tornado I have been available and are still available to take calls from residents with concerns or who are looking for advice as to what to do possibly with insurance companies.

Oakura is an outstanding community.

By Kim Ferens



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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While many have lost so much and others escaped, the aftermath of these past terrible weeks has shown just how great this community is when the chips are down. To quote Terry Griffiths, "I am so glad I live in this community." Me too! Even one minor injury is too many, but to not have any serious injury or loss of life from the recent tornado is a miracle, especially as the stories are still emerging of so many close calls.

There will probably still be people out there who have not asked for assistance and feel their problems do not rate highly next to those who no longer have their homes. But it is my hope that if you have any queries, you will contact Civil Defence or let me know as the debrief needs all the input, good and bad. Thank you to the Fire Brigade and your band of committed volunteers – words fail me as I once again reflect on everything you have coped with over recent weeks. It is so reassuring for all to know how dedicated your team is.

Fundraising is one way people can help. The Kindy has been well looked after with the Council replacing lawns and gardens and a successful silent auction has been held in the Hall to raise funds to pay for repairs. TSB also has a relief fund and it's important now that all relief contributions go through one channel so they are able to be properly administrated.

Craig Meads has done a huge amount of work towards the relief concert on 15 August, pulling together a wonderful programme of music and entertainment many thanks to all the sponsors of the event. Let's be sure we support this big fundraiser.

Even in the devastating aftermath of tornadoes, the housework still needs attention...

Pedestrian lights on Main South Road – It was brought to my attention that these are desperately needed, especially with the early darkness during Winter. Max Aves is talking with Transit on the community's behalf and we hope to fast track this.

Signage – Two horse signs will be erected on Wairau and Surrey Hill Roads.

Sewerage – The first stage has been contracted to Keenan Contracting Ltd, Wanganui. Work is to start in August and it is expected to take 30 weeks to complete the sewerage line from Oakura to New Plymouth.

Reticulation contracts (2) closed on 17 July and pump station construction closes 26 July.

I have just come back from another rugby triumph for the Kaitake youngsters at Tukapa's club grounds. It's great to see parents and families encouraging the children's sports at all levels. Today we caught up with old neighbours and friends, grandparents like us, who used to do the same thing with the parents of the kids we now watch.

Our local sports achievers do us proud! Congratulations to Paige Hareb who has achieved international status. Keep it up – it inspires others!

Daffodils, Kowhai blooms, lambs and calves are beginning to herald Spring already. My hope is all will be well for everyone to enjoy a settled period for the coming season.

Fay



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Penguin mauled by dog

The Department of Conservation is asking dog owners to keep their pets on a leash after a little blue penguin was attacked and killed on Oakura beach on Wednesday 25 July. A member of the public brought the penguin in after finding it on the beach in the afternoon. The penguin had received severe injuries and later died. DOC has also fielded phone calls the same week from members of the public concerned about young fur seals being harassed by dogs. "Dogs are naturally curious and will sniff out wildlife," says DOC New Plymouth Programme Manager Biodiversity Bryan Williams. He warns that the Department will prosecute dog owners if their pets are seen harassing wildlife. "People walking their dogs should have them under control, preferably on a leash."

For more information contact: Bryan Williams ph 0274 458268

Letters to the Editor

Aussie knocking

I do enjoy reading Tom but was not pleased about the comment that was written on the front page (4 square new owners July issue), Paragraph 3, line 3, "down here that's like being an Aussie."

I myself am an Aussie and take real offence to this comment that has absolutely nothing to do with the article.

It is appalling how it got in and typical of the way some people in Oakura look down at others not from their area. There are a number of Australians and English and so forth that live in this area and do not appreciate being categorised. My family were in Oakura during the twisters and helped out friends in the area during this terrible time.

Fiona Proctor

* * * *

O-a-Wa-wa-kra?

Okay! How do you pronounce Oakura "correctly"? It's so confusing! I have friends that pronounce it something like "WA-kra", and on TV 1 this week – as you've been in the news :- (– it's been "o-a-KU-ra". My wife comes from Northland and knows Oakura Bay near Whangarei as "wa-kra bay", and I just heard Miriama Kamo mention on TV 1 that she pronounces it that way as well.

What does the Messenger say?

Cheers.

Charles Thompson, Wellington

Note from Ron, our illustrious graphics nerd, who escaped the tornadoes to enjoy the recent gales and floods in Northland.

It is interesting to hear the way Northland folks pronounce "Oakura", as mentioned above by Charles Thompson, which is very nearly the way that our "Oakura" used to be pronounced by the locals, and still is by many. However, with New Zealanders becoming more culturally aware these days (and good on 'em for that), we often seem to be trying a tad too hard. Now, I'm no expert but I reckon this is probably a lot to do with the fact that those of us born listening to English, have great difficulty in saying words without some form of stress on syllables and even we have trouble with that sometimes, e.g. "con-trov-ersy" or "con-troy-ersy"? If you listen to a Maori speaker, you'll notice that there is little or no syllablic emphasis, with diphthongs and vowels delivered very subtly. We will probably never quite get it right, of course, until we take time out to properly learn the indigenous tongue of our wee islands, but meantime, perhaps "wa-kra" will have to do (more 'wahk' than 'wack' and don't forget to roll the "r" very slightly!!).

* * * *

Heartfelt thanks

Thank you to all those who assisted us with clearing up our property after the tornado. A hoard of volunteers helped us with all manner of jobs from picking up tiny fragments of glass to chain-sawing huge pohutakawas. Our heartfelt thanks.

Catherine Ongley and Iwan Bridge – McFarlane Street

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**TOM Wine of the Month:
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The Vinaigrettes are back, out of rehab and ready to drink, eat and be jolly sloshed again!

We are currently on the 12-step programme to recovery. Step 1 – Chardy, Step 2 – Sauv' Blanc, Step 3 – Merlot, Step 4 – Pinot Noir . . .

This month we're profiling the Bensen Block Pinot Noir 2006. This is a young red from the South Island. May we suggest you buy two or three bottles? Drink one now and then reward yourself by cellaring the other two for a couple of years – you'll just love the fully developed flavour and extra weight that can only come with age.

The flavour of this Pinot Noir is reminiscent of sweet red berries, plums, cherries and at times of earthy wood-like flavours.

Drink it by itself in front of the fire on a winter night. It is also well paired with poultry, beef, fish, ham, lamb and pork. It will play well with creamy sauces, spicy seasonings and may be just one of the world's most versatile food wines.

Normally we would never pair up a Kiwi and an Aussie and expect them to be friends. However, if you start off your evening with the Pinot and then finish it off with the following dessert wine, then we are sure they will just love each other . . .

The 2002 Botrytis Noble Late Harvest from the Barossa Valley in South Australia is a delicious dessert wine. The grapes for this are picked just as they are about to decompose. The sugar concentration is high and it also develops a unique orange peel/apricot flavour, which is the signature of late picked botrytis style.


This is a classic mouth-filling dessert wine. A superb accompaniment to desserts with a tart finish or blue cheese. If you drink it now you will find it clean and fresh with lovely peach, oily notes. Yes, do cellar this for a couple of years and you will enjoy a more intense experience.

Again the Four Square are really coming to the party and offering you these wines at a very competitive price. This month you can buy the Pinot Noir for \$20.95, normally retails for \$26.95.

The Noble Late Harvest is \$15.99 and normally retails for \$18.99.

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Profile of an Artist –

REBECCA MOONEY

A few days ago I had the pleasant experience of delving into the life of artist and gallery owner Rebecca Mooney. We spent what seemed like minutes talking about, what I'm sure, is only a small portion of the cornucopia that makes up 'Rebecca Mooney' and 'Kina' the art gallery.

Firstly Rebecca no longer lives in Oakura but is these days a very frequent visitor – the weekly swims at the beach with friend Dianne Brien, the yoga sessions with Sarsha and visits to other friends. Oakura holds a special place in Rebecca's heart as the place of her childhood summers. She says the family would holiday every summer in a different bach or caravan in Oakura. The Oakura River was a favourite haunt and as is the case today with children, the thrill was of swimming across the river and then jumping off the cliff. And didn't the river seem so wide back then!

Rebecca's creative life took shape formally when she completed study at the Auckland Interior Design School thence taking up work as a designer for Ashley Wallcoverings in Wellington designing wall paper. Her focus then turned to art rather than design when Rebecca began installing art works at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth. There were also other odd jobs for art galleries like the Auckland Art Gallery installing exhibitions – notably one by Andy Warhol. The Kina Art Gallery opened in 1999 and its owner Fiona Cameron also engaged Rebecca to install art works. The second exhibition at Kina was by Rebecca Mooney herself and was called "Walking on tender green". The exhibition was a mixture of nudes and collage works based on and around music and dance. All Sold. Rebecca lived and created her art works across the road from Kina in an apartment above Peggy Gordon's, now a dance studio. Rebecca began working for Fiona and would go on 'tiki tours' around New Zealand collecting art works to sell in the gallery. She bought the gallery in 2004. I didn't know this before but Kina only features art works made and designed in New Zealand – a significant point of difference. Rebecca says this has meant she has not been able to stock as many art works because they may have been made in overseas countries but it has kept the integrity of her stock.

Kina has now gone world wide with the development of the



Rebecca keeps the integrity of Kina by stocking only NZ created artworks.

Kina website. This project has taken a year to develop but the end result is very pleasing. It is worth a visit, www.kina.co.nz Join and become a "Friend of Kina" for monthly updates on exhibitions and other news.

Rebecca gathers inspiration from her environment and says she loves the landscape – the sea, the mountain and she likes to 'feel it'. She likes her figure work (as in nudes and people) as it disciplines her mind. Life is most frequently frantic but still the guitar sits in the corner and waits to be played.

In August Rebecca's artwork is going to Port Moorby, Canada with Dale Copeland and 20 other artworks from around Taranaki as part of the Cities- of- art exhibition. Virtual Tart is running a raffle to help raise funds. Visit www.virtual.tart.co.nz/raffle to support this adventure.

By Kim Ferens



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Forecast: Tomorrow**Weather Report****(Columbia/Legacy/SonyBMG)**

Multi-disc box sets are either status symbols for the affluent or musical motherlodes for utter fanatics! Most boxes are played through a few times, then filed away for posterity and only brought out into the light, if at all, in an act of musical veneration. As a result of this, a few years ago, I decided that I was not going to buy any more box sets. Instead I would focus on 'classic albums', a principle that I adhered to until *Forecast: Tomorrow* spoiled my resolution. If you know nothing of Weather Report, then you need to be aware that this was a unique group, a near-telepathic collective who were impressionistic sound painters, creators of movies for the ears. Sonic alchemists, then, who stood above and far beyond the reach of their jazz-fusion peers. A number of fantastic musicians passed through Weather Report's ranks, but its core was two composers – the Austrian-born pianist, keyboarder and pioneer synthesiser virtuoso Josef Zawinul and master saxophonist Wayne Shorter, a gentleman whose high school nickname was 'Mr. Weird'. The creative tension between the works of the supreme melodist Zawinul and Shorter's quirkier compositions is what made the music of Weather Report so gripping at the time. This partnership of contrasting styles has also kept their recordings sounding fresh and still contemporary over twenty years after the band dissolved. Commencing with the serene tone poem "In A Silent Way" from an epochal 1969 Miles Davis session and finishing with a 2005 DJ Logic remix of "125th Street Congress", *Forecast: Tomorrow* chronologically works through every Weather Report album, selecting the very finest pieces. Each album of this superb set has its own character. Disc One features the more experimental side of the band, this is an electro-acoustic chamber group playing mini-symphonies for the space age. Brilliant, but somehow chilling too! Key tracks include

"In A Silent Way", the eerie "Unknown Soldier" and the group's initial move into groove territory with "125th Street Congress". The second album further develops the groove-focussed vamping, but also incorporates elements of what is now called World music. Its key tracks include the gorgeous, but enigmatic "Badia" (my all-time favourite Weather Report piece), "Black Market" and the group's biggest hit "Birdland". The third album finds the band consolidating, neither as *out there* as on the first set nor as world music-influenced as on the second. Key pieces here are the mysterious "Dream Clock" and the vamp-based "Procession".

To suck in the collectors, each album has a treasure, a piece never released until now. However, the icing on the proverbial cake is a tremendous two-hour plus DVD by what is widely regarded as the most potent line-up of the group: Joe Zawinul, Wayne Shorter, the supremely-gifted electric bassist/composer Jaco Pastorius and rock-solid drummer Peter Erskine, who were thankfully captured for posterity in-concert at Offenbach, Germany on 28 September 1978. This is Weather Report at the top of its game, playing with an almost-frightening degree of intensity and almost levitating off the stage in the process.

Reflecting on *Forecast: Tomorrow*, the music here is, by turns, earthy, majestic, frightening, strange, full of tenderness, exotic, funky, mystical, joyous, cerebral, playful, quixotic, haunting, beautiful, comforting, powerful, tantalising and, on occasions, unbearably sad. In short, most aspects of the human experience are reflected in the work of this pioneering (and still unsurpassed) group known simply as Weather Report!

For those wanting to sample the climate (or for whom a box set is out of the question), I would recommend the magisterial 1974 release *Mysterious Traveller*, an album that remains the apogee of jazz-fusion.

**Hello from Oakura Library**

The new opening hours at Oakura Library began on Monday 2 July. The great news is that the library is now open on a Saturday morning, which gives families a great opportunity to visit the library on the weekends. Our longer afternoon opening hours mean that school children can visit the library after school for homework and research, or people working in town can still call into the library on their way home in the evening.

The new library hours are:**Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 12 pm – 6 pm****Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm**

Take advantage of our new opening hours and check out the wonderful new books in the library.

Two of our most popular authors have recently published new books: Anita Shreve's *Body Surfing*, which tells the story of Sydney, who is trying to find her feet again after being once divorced and once widowed, and Josephine Cox's bestseller *Lovers and Liars*. Please call in and browse the shelves – there is sure to be something to suit and Karen and I are happy to help you discover your next great read.

We also have a small collection of DVDs available for hire for \$4 per week and CDs for \$2 per fortnight.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Judith Schumacher

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LYN JURY

Oakura is the Holy Grail for Foodies

The recent edition to Oakura of the Terrace Takeaway has firmly established the village as a Mecca for fine food. We are so lucky to have so many fabulous places to eat. Wunderbar always has consistently good a la carte dining and café food. The fish shop has yummy fish and chips. Snickerdoodles is the best bakery and now café this side of the Shroud of Turin. Butlers café serves basic but sturdy pub food and now the Terrace serves ab fab takeaways and French breads. There are not many places that serve food as good or if not better than you can cook yourself but the Terrace do. Curry lamb pies with pastry that dissolves on your tongue, bacon and egg pies that have a texture, flavour and are of a size to die for. Salmon pizzas with the most heavenly base, not at all greasy or stodgy but thin, puffy and smothered in fine toppings. Burgers with fillings that surpass even the best advertising image you ever saw. I can't vouch for the dish of the day but if the variety appearing on the sandwich board is anything to go by then home cooks, throw away the pots and pans and start eating at the Terrace. The Petit Paris breads are a whole new eating experience again. What excites me the most as a averagely good cook is that the word takeaway now has new meaning. No longer does it mean high fat, low nutritional value, cheap and poorly cooked. Takeaways now mean the Terrace!

By Kim Ferens



A beef, mushroom and red wine pie from the Terrace Takeaway.

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TOM bits

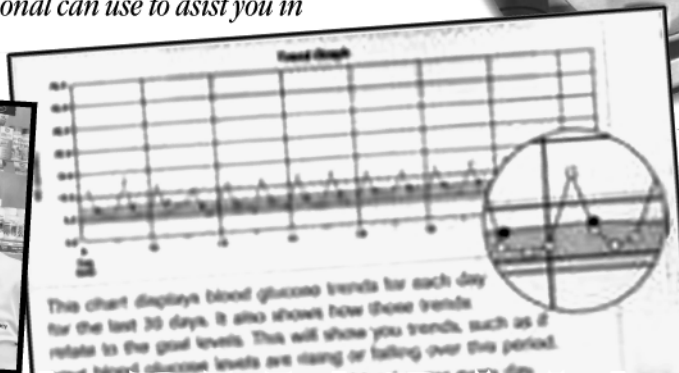
- Kaitake Kindy are always on the lookout for art and craft supplies such as cardboard boxes and packaging, wool, fabric. Call Gill Gibbon on 752 7327 if you can help.
- Playgroup in the Omata School Hall is held every second Thursday. Next sessions are 16 and 30 August, and 13 September. Cost is \$1.50 per child or \$2.00 per family, plus a piece of fruit to share. Phone Omata School for more information on 751 2308.

DIABETICS

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Call in and talk to Colleen or Sarah for friendly and helpful advice

New bus service off with a whirl

Wild weather did not put passengers off a new coastal bus service launched last month.

Funded by the Taranaki Regional Council, the once-a-week return South Link service connects Opunake with New Plymouth via Oakura and Okato on Fridays. Other South Link services connect Waverley with Hawera and Opunake with Hawera.

The new Opunake-New Plymouth service, operated by Pickering Motors, was launched at the height of the tornado emergency and the Council is pleased with the passenger loadings of 12 on the outward leg and 11 on the return leg. The Opunake-New Plymouth Friday service departs Opunake at 9.15 am, Okato (opposite old fire station) at 9.50 am and Messenger Terrace in Oakura at 10 am, arriving at the Ariki Street bus station in New Plymouth at 10.15 am.

The bus leaves New Plymouth at 1.30 pm, Messenger Terrace in Oakura at 1.45 pm and the old fire station in Okato at 1.55 pm, arriving at Opunake at 2.30 pm.

One-way fares are \$3 to or from Oakura and \$4 to or from Okato.

While the buses can be hailed from anywhere on the route, bookings are preferred. Call Pickering Motors on 0800 221 120.

For full details of fares, times and routes, see www.trc.govt.nz.

Once-a-week bus services available for Oakura residents

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SouthLink

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Opunake - Oakura - New Plymouth return service
EVERY FRIDAY

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Oakura - Messenger Tce.....	10.00am
New Plymouth - Ariki St Bus Station.....	10.15am

	RETURNS
New Plymouth - Ariki St Bus Station.....	1.30pm
Oakura - Messenger Tce.....	1.45pm

Book at
Pickering Motors Ltd - 06 761 8363 or 0800 221 120

Get your free timetable from the operators, South Taranaki i-SITE and Library Plus centres, New Plymouth District Council, and TRC offices or www.trc.govt.nz

Community support is essential for the success of this 18-month trial
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Hire Centre saves a hike into town

Oakura Panelbeaters have launched a new business venture – the Oakura Hire Centre. Jarrod Wickham says being able to hire small machinery and equipment in Oakura will save the home handyman, farmer and so forth an hours drive into New Plymouth. Imagine how fast you could have that backyard tidied up!

The range of machinery for hire is ever-expanding, but currently includes chainsaws, a 8.5hp garden mulcher that will handle branches of up to 40mm in diameter, a petrol powered hedge trimmer, a 65cc scrub cutter capable of cutting gorse and such like, a petrol powered 2500 psi water blaster, a concrete mixer, a 15 cfm compressor, belt sanders and drills, drop saws, nibblers (steel cutters), jack hammers, a generator, and indoor and outdoor scaffolding. The indoor scaffolding is lightweight and fold-away, suitable for painting, gib-stopping and wallpapering. The outdoor scaffolding is more robust.

Oakura Hire Centre also caters for the lifestyle block farmer who may need a trailer with stock crate, and coming soon is a double horse float that could be used for furniture removal as well as transporting the kid's pony. Jarrod says he is also willing to look into supplying any other equipment that people may want and Oakura Hire will even hire out man-power if it is required.

Hire rates are very similar to those in town and Oakura Hire will deliver free to anyone in the Omata and Oakura area.

Phone Jarrod on 752 7485 or 027 544 0005 for more details or to book your equipment for that next garden make-over!

By Kim Ferens



some samples of the tasty "bloke" stuff for hire from Jarrod at Oakura Panel Repaires & Hire Centre.

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The Serious Business of Coffee



If you love coffee then you'll be serious about good quality freshly roasted coffee. One person who is serious about good coffee is local roaster Jude Nagel of WILDCAT COFFEE.

Wildcat Coffee is a boutique coffee business that specialises in roasting small quantities of four types of Arabica coffee beans – Columbian, Papua New Guinean, Kenyan and Guatemalan. These four types of coffee beans come raw to Wildcat. Jude roasts and blends them to make either mild coffee like 3B, medium strong like Espresso or strong like Jude's new blend called

'Wildcat'. I speak from personal experience that this blend is exceptionally good, and there are not many coffee's I say that about. It has a good balance of acidity and body, and is smooth and velvety on the palate, with a chocolaty aftertaste.

Wildcat Coffee was previously called Capers and was based in Stratford. Jude has doubled turnover since taking over a year ago and hopes to double again in the coming year. Jude and husband Russell came up with the new name 'Wildcat' while walking along the beach one day when Russell mentioned the oil industry term wildcat, meaning an exploratory or unproven well. Jude knew instantly that 'Wildcat' was the new name for her business.

Roasting coffee is an absorbing business and Jude has immersed herself in learning the finer nuances of roasting each batch of beans to the right 'toastiness'. It takes 15 minutes to roast a 5 kg batch of beans and the process is very hands on. A moment's distraction can burn the batch! The process has been one of experimentation too with Jude testing various blends of the four types of beans and then analyzing the finished product.

Wildcat Coffee will make up batches on demand and grind the beans or supply whole beans. It can be delivered to your door within hours and is priced very competitively at \$30 per kg for orders of a kilogram or more, or \$32 per kg for orders under a kilogram. Delivery is additional or you can pick up.

Jude belongs to the New Zealand Coffee Roasters Association which promotes the sale of New Zealand roasted coffee for its freshness, rather than imported roasted coffee which by its nature is less fresh. Through this association Jude also has access to industry knowledge, experience and support.

Do you know how long to keep your coffee and how to store it? Jude says freshly roasted coffee beans are at their peak 2-7 days after roasting. Ideally beans should be consumed within two weeks of roasting and ground coffee should be consumed immediately. Coffee should be transferred from its bag to an airtight container immediately upon delivery and should be stored in a dark cool place – not the fridge.

Phone Wildcat Coffee on 0800 227 377 for your next wild hit of 'WILDCAT'.

By Kim Ferens

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Jones & Sandford

MITRE 10 Gardening

Gardening with Rosemary Herb

AUGUST CHECKLIST

Flower garden:

- ✂ Plant new season's roses in rich, well drained soil with plenty of compost. Complete rose pruning 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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tom

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Profile of a Karter

— HAMISH SCOTT

17 year old Hamish Scott of Surf Highway 45 is living the dream of every petrol head boy who likes driving fast and he loves it. Hamish is fast filling up the family mantel piece with trophies from his numerous successes at go-karting.

Hamish who is a year 13 student at Francis Douglas has been karting since he was 12 years old and like most boys like driving flat tack! His most recent achievement was winning the KartSport New Zealand National Schools Championship in his class at Te Puke. Hamish races in the Rotax Max Heavy 125cc Class. Strict rules govern each class and Kart Sport New Zealand has specifications for the chassis and engines, which must be followed. The kart has no gear box and no front brakes. Driver and kart must weigh more than 185kg combined, run on specific tyres and fuel.

Hamish enjoys other forms of racing too and plans to compete in the Gear Box Series, the Road Race Series and the Blossom Sprint Meeting in the near future. Hamish says most the top car racers begin their careers on a go-karting course and progress through the stages to Formula One. . Gear box racing is more exciting than non gear box racing as you can get up to speeds of around 130kph.

Hamish belongs to the local karting club Taranaki Kart Sport Club at Waitara and has amassed top points in the club over the season. Most points in the Open Series, the Max Light Series and the Grand Prix Trophy Points Tally. He also has the best lap time of 26.9 seconds around the 640meters with an average speed of 72kph. You'd certainly need your wits about you and quick reaction times at those speeds and with only rear brakes.

Both father (Wayne) and son enjoy spending time together karting and have traveled to many different places in New Zealand and made many friends along the way. Wayne says Hamish has learnt a lot about motors and how to strip one down and rebuild it. When you are coming first in races the officials will often check each component on the kart and that means pulling it all apart so it certainly pays to know how to put it back together again. Local mechanic engine builder (Maurice Frost) has been invaluable in building motors for Hamish and both Wayne and Hamish are very grateful to Maurice for his input. Q8 Oils have also provided sponsorship by way of supplying two stroke synthetic engine oil for Hamish's karts but by and large the family finance their passion themselves. Hamish works part time at Seymour Aluminum and hopes to get an apprenticeship as an electrician when he finishes school. He enjoys playing rugby and dodge ball for his school and if he gets time Hamish likes to go snowboarding, surfing and fishing.

So for a young man who like nothing better than having at least three wheels airbourne, karting is the ideal sport! Club days are the last Sunday of every month, rain or shine at Joll Road, Waitara.

By Kim Ferens



Kaitake Golf Club

Kaitake Golf Club would like to congratulate our 9-Hole Ladies convenor Mrs Pat Cottam for winning the Club & Taranaki and the NZ Sue Bunt Competition.

Well done.

Raewyn Hawker

Local girl does well in hockey

Twelve year old Oakura local, Francine Madgwick was selected recently for the Taranaki Under-13 Girls' Hockey Team. The team has been invited to a tournament in Napier this month and in September they are off to Dunedin to represent the region in the Girls' Under-13 Nationals.

Francine has played Right Wing for a number of years and has represented Taranaki for the last two. Last season she was named as the "Most Valuable Player".

Francine currently attends Devon Intermediate and hopes to play next year at secondary school level, but recons it will be much harder to get into the rep teams, given the amount of people to choose from.



Once again it has been a quiet month on the fishing front. But the keen ones have been taking advantage of the easterlies that have blown the sea flat for the last month or so.

The occasional Kahawai has shown up for surfcasters and also few Gurnard up towards Waiiti. We can also report that Chris Whitaker recently nabbed a couple of Barracuda. These are the first to be recorded for the Club, and although they're not the most desirable fish, firsts for the Club are always good.

Hapuka Hunting.



Kayak fishers have been getting a feed too with Blue Cod and some Snapper around the 3 kg mark. In another first for the Club, last month kayaker Peter Florence got a Tarakahi of just over a kilo. I'm not sure exactly how far they were out, but I do know they were out pretty far off the Cape targeting Hapuka, but got hammered by Spikey Dog Fish (indeed a long way out!).

Tight lines

Debbie E.

Weighmasters report to the end of June

	Kayakers	Surfcasters
Kahawai	4	1
Snapper	4	
Gurnard	3	

June Fish of the Month

Surfcasters – Terry Parker, 1.700 kg Kahawai

Kayakers – Tony Hurring, 3.985 kg Snapper

Grant M

Chief Weighmaster

Oakura Tennis Club

Despite the weather being most un-tennis like, the courts have had a fair amount of visitors on the better days. This included a four-day coaching clinic with professional coach John Salisbury over the school holidays. Fourteen of our juniors were involved, and they had four two-hour sessions. Feedback has been very positive and it seems everyone really enjoyed themselves. Including the coach! John was very impressed with all his students, and enjoyed seeing the improvement in everyone. He covered grips, swing lines, footwork patterns, and serving among other things.

There will be another clinic in the September holidays, just in time for the up-coming season!

The AGM is at 7 pm on Tuesday 14 August at the clubrooms, and all existing and new members are invited. Come and help the committee with ideas for the next season.



The juniors at John Salisbury's coaching clinic.



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Junior skiers

Taranaki junior ski racers competed in the North Island National Points Race Series at Whakapapa on the weekend of 20–21 July 2007.

On Day One Tai Juneau won the silver medal in the K1 men's category with a 2nd and a 3rd in the two slalom races. Jackson Braddock-Pajo finished 6th overall in the K2 men's category with two 6th placings, while Findlay Neeson did not finish the first race, but came 1st in the next to finish the day in 3rd place.

On Day Two novice Finnley Binsbergen completed three excellent runs as a forerunner testing the course before the racers. Meyer Neeson won silver competing in the E2 women's event. Tai Juneau again won the silver medal in the K1 category with two 2nds and two 3rds in the four slalom races. Jackson Braddock-Pajo finished 5th overall in the K2 category with two 5th placings, a 7th and an 8th. Findlay Neeson was in blazing form with three 1sts and a 2nd to win the gold medal and lead the series in the K2 men's division.



Tai Juneau scores silver in the men's K1.



Jackson Braddock-Pajo finishing 5th at Whakapapa.



Finlay Neeson takes gold in the men's K2..

Junior ski racers from Taranaki will next compete in the Rossignol Junior Race Series to be held at Turoa Ski Area 4-5 August. For details call Clive Saleman, Stratford Mt Club Race Coordinator, on 027 290 6636.

Kaitake Netball 2007

The Kaitake girls are currently sitting in 2nd place on the ladder in the Championship A Reserve Grade at Opunake. As TOM goes to print we are heading into the money end of the season. With only two losses we are looking good, but need to make sure we have enough uninjured players to get us through and hopefully hoist that silverware up at the end.

RESULTS

Round 7

Kaitake 36 – Rahotu 18

Wunder Player of the Day: Claire – A great night for our Goal Shooter with some great shots and baseline moves under the hoop.

Round 8

A bye

Wunder Player of the Day: Bob – Big off court play at Butlers. Awarded in spirit for her contribution to the pool games and being the last man standing.

Round 9

Kaitake 31 – Opunake HS9A 13

Wunder Player of the Day: Anna – Another game where she gives her all and shows she is a well oiled machine in any position on the netball court.

Round 10

Kaitake 18 – Arahi RD1 West 19

Wunder Player of the Day: Melissa D – A great defensive game up against a shooter who was not missing many of her shots.

Many thanks to Wunderbar for providing us with a Coffee and Muffin Voucher for this award. Remember girls, support your sponsor.

Player Injury List as of Game 10

Shuvvy – Retired

Jo – Rolled ankle during last quarter, but thanks to the Watties frozen peas will be back on the court within the week.

Bob – Ankle

Keep up the good work, girls, and give those coastal players a run for their money.

Yours in netball

Sherelle McMahon

Downhill mountain biker, Amy Laird

So many people tell me I must be crazy to race downhill! I don't think you need to be crazy – you just need to love riding bikes and being challenged by different tracks. You also need to be able to get back on after a big crash and do it again, so I suppose a bit of grit and determination help. But most of all, you just need to have fun!

Downhill mountain-biking, or DHMB, is mountain-biking down a hill on a purpose-built bike. The tracks normally include obstacles such as rocks, rock gardens, jumps, and really steep terrain; and depending on the weather, the track can be dry, slippery, or tacky. When you race, riders are set off at timed intervals and the fastest time wins, so it's a race against the clock. Riders need a bike (obviously!), full body armour (preferably) and a full face helmet, gloves and goggles.

The first time I rode downhill I knew it was the sport for me – just so much fun and so exciting. After my first race, which was a nationals race actually, I was hooked. It's not just the fun you have racing, it's all the great places you get to travel and ride, and the awesome people you meet on the way.

I first became involved in 2003. I was at uni in Dunedin and a few of my guy mates rode downhill. They always wanted me to drive them to the top of the hill, then pick them up at the bottom, then back to the top of the hill again. I started wondering where they went on the way down so I convinced Mum and Dad to buy me a bike and never looked back.

I train wherever I'm living. I live and work in Christchurch at the moment so I train here, but I can't wait to move back to the 'Naki one day! (I grew up there and went to Oakura primary school, which was great, and Spotswood College, which was so much fun!) I train six days a week, sometimes twice a day. My coach Lloyd Harwood is awesome. I have different programmes depending on the time of year. I do three sessions of strength and power stuff at the gym, two interval training sessions (sprinting), one endurance ride on my cross country bike and four sessions of skills stuff which is mostly downhill with a bit of BMX in there. I do snowboarding and riding BMX for fun, but don't have heaps of time to fit these in!

I compete all around New Zealand in summer when our national series is on. I've raced for New Zealand at Oceanias in Australia, and all over America and Canada at various American National races and World Cup races. I've been selected to race for New Zealand at World Champs in Scotland in September so I hope to get there if I can fundraise enough, and the weekend after that race is a World Cup in Slovenia that I will do. I feel pretty lucky the places I get to see. It's an honour to be selected to compete for your country in any sport, but it also justifies all the hard work, training, time and money you put in!

My main achievements this year and end of last year have been coming 2nd in the New Zealand National Championships 2007, making the podium at the American National race in Utah Deer Valley, which was exciting and the 14th World Championships 2006.

I'm hoping to be in the Top 10 at the World Champs this year. Eventually I want to make the podium World Cup and World Champs races but it's only my second season racing internationally so that's probably a few years away. I'm just 25 and it's good to have a few goals to work towards! Big thanks to my sponsors – Ironhorse Bikes, Industry Nine Wheels, Bike Works and Kris, and to the TSB Community Trust for their donation. Special thanks also to Mum and Dad, Lloyd my coach, my work (which is Duncan Cotterill – I studied Law at Otago University) and my great boss Paul Dorrance for giving me so much time off, and my boyfriend Cam Cole, who is the best to ride and hang out with.

By Amy



Amy riding the World Championships, 2006.

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Another month has gone by, this time with some wild weather. Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the tornadoes and we hope your lives are back to normal soon. Also condolences to those who have lost family members, it's never an easy time.

On the surfing front I have been lucky enough to spend the school holidays in Queensland and Northern NSW for the Grom Comps. At least the weather was great, although cool morning and night with Oz having its coolest winter in 20 years.

The surf, unfortunately for the Occy Grom comp, was 2-foot at Duranbah and barely contestable. Kiwi Matt Hewitt managed okay getting to the final and achieving 4th place, all the Mt Maunganui training paying off. The other Kiwis all struggled with the conditions.

The Rusty Gromfest was also plagued with tiny conditions, and the contest was moved from Lennox to North Wall Ballina for the first few days. Unfortunately, same again – most of the Kiwis were out in the first couple of rounds. On the third day the swell jumped and there were great waves to be had – free surfing around the place, memorable sessions at Lennox Head, South Wall Ballina and around Byron for those who know the area. Locals Tyler and Connor Anderson, Tom Dobson and Keone Campbell were seen having a blast and making the most of it. The Gold Coast was also pumping but, being school holidays, the crowds were unreal everywhere and some ugly scenes unfolded, especially around Lennox, which were real eye openers for a lot of the Kiwi kids. Surfing is fun . . . isn't it?

Back home and the Ripcurl Gromsearch Taranaki contest was held on 13 and 14 July at Back Beach, again in marginal conditions, especially on the low tide. The heat scores by the Under-16s who had to surf the low tide on Saturday make

you wonder! Anyway New Plymouth's Mathis Smith managed a 3rd placing despite the tiny conditions. The next one is in the Wellington area in the next holidays.

Local Paige Hareb has been to the X Games in Mexico. Unfortunately I missed her in Australia as she has slipped off to Indonesia with her sponsors. By all accounts she surfed some big waves, but the international team was beaten in the end. I hope to have some pictures and an update for the next issue of TOM. If you're interested though, check out Paige's blog at <http://www.mtwoodgee.co.nz/page.php?id=22>

Upcoming events

- The Taranaki Surf and Snow comp. So come on get into it! It's always a fun time. You can get entries and info up at Vertigo.
- The Boardriders mid-winter dinner on 28 July. Contact Paul Christophers on 752 7126 or Mark Braddock on 752 7035.



Tyler Anderson at Lennox Head.

An OBC T Shirt at Lennox.



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SESSIONS



R.E.D.



Celebrate Life with TOM

Nate Florence
Born 18 July, 2006.
Home birth
Weight 7lb, 12oz.
first child of Luke and
Claire.



Stan at 7 months

Stan Tymen Parker
Born 19 November, 2006.
Weight 8lb.
Precious son of Rose and
Scott.
Brother to Madeline and
Tom.



Scarlett Chloe Dinnis

Born 28 May, 2007,
at home at 9.57am.
Weight 8lb, 13oz.
Daughter to Charles and
Rachael.
Little sister to Ellie.

Each month *TOM* profiles the comings, goings and bits in between of life in Oakura and Omata. If you would like to celebrate the life of a newborn, cherish the memory of the passing of a loved one, share an engagement or marriage, then we would like to feature these people on our *Celebrate Life!* photo page. Think of it as a permanent historical record that you are preserving for future generations.

Email photos and relevant details of births, deaths engagements, marriages or any other celebration from last year or this year to kim@thetom.co.nz or phone 0800thetom for more details.

If you would also like to feature your *Celebrate Life!* *TOM* person on our website for \$10, contact bob@thetom.co.nz

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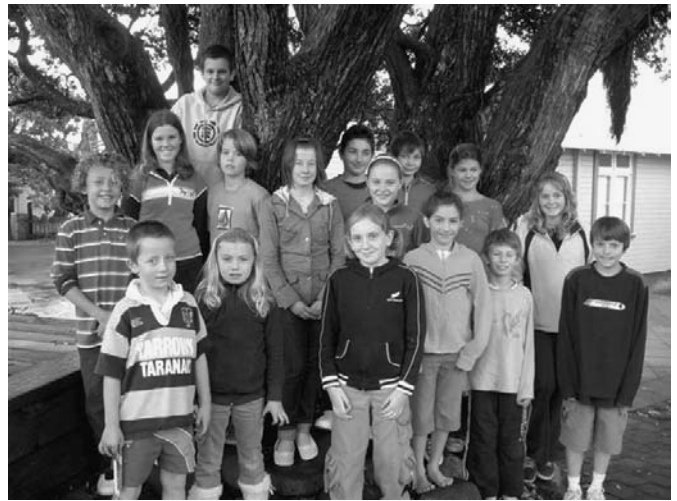
OAKURA school news

Every year our senior classes elect two pupils each to be representatives on the School Council. School Council meetings are held twice a term and provide an opportunity for our pupils to share their ideas and to have input into school developments. The meetings are chaired by our head pupils: Hannah Andrews, Lucy Brankin, Rhys Vickers and Dom Squatriti.

This year the pupils have identified the pool changing sheds as a building that needs improvement. They have gathered ideas from their classmates, brought these to a meeting and prioritised the ideas. They will now have the chance to present their ideas to the Board of Trustees property representative so that the changes can be implemented later this year.

Other projects that the School Council are currently working on are:

- a 'Wild Hair Day' fundraiser this term with the proceeds going to the Kaitake Kindergarten to assist them following the tornado damage
- a renaming competition for the old dental clinic building
- actioning suggestions from their classmates on school improvements.



The council members.

2007 School Councillors

- Room 5 – Julia Crighton, Liam McBreen
- Room 6 – Danni Fletcher, Angus Tinson
- Room 7 – Isla Dunn, Faris Petty
- Room 8 – Lucy Kettlewell, Toby Brankin
- Room 9 – Catherine West, Keegan Bruckner
- Room 10 – Amelia Lyall, Matthew Sturgess

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OMATA school news

We're In!

At last our building work has been completed and we started the term using the new reception area and classroom spaces. We will be organising an official opening, but for now we are happy to be in our new, light and bright spaces. Our thanks to Bill from Jackson Architects, Lewis, Graham and Harley from Pepper Construction, all the subbies, Helen Peters and special thanks to the teachers, students and to Bronnie who have endured the months of waiting and inconvenience. It has been well worth the wait.

Please feel welcome to come and have a look around at any time and join us for a tea or coffee in the new staffroom.

Karen Brisco

Kip McGrath
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Wow, what a wild time of late! As I sit gazing at my 'new look' plywood windows, I look forward to the days Mack (aged 14 months) and I escape to explore the wonderful world of Playcentre!

Thanks to Jo Syme we received a grant from the Scottwood Trust for canvas windows that now surround our deck. The canvas makes a great warm and sheltered space outside for the children. This gives us more usable space on those wet winter days.

As mentioned last month, Jo and I attended an introductory course about S.P.A.C.E. (Supporting Parents Alongside Children's Education) held by the Hutt Playcentre Association. This is a programme especially designed to support new parents and babies. While we came away very excited, there is a lot involved in getting such a programme up and running in Taranaki. The wheels are in motion but it will take time. You can find more information about the programme at www.space.org.nz. In the interim we are working on a more baby-friendly corner in our centre where new mums can come along during a session to meet other parents.

For those who are interested, we have some great workshops run by the Playcentre Association. For example, I myself have booked into two 'Area's of Play' workshops this term, one on Clay, the other on Water, and also a 'Taste of Virtues' workshop (the Virtues Project™ is focused on sharing a simple philosophy and five strategies to help you develop the gifts of character in your children, yourself and others). These workshops are free for Playcentre members and the daytime workshops have childcare available, so you can take your children with you.

By the time this goes to print, hopefully we have been able to help the Kaitake Kindergarten teachers and whanau by opening

the doors of our centre for them to use as their own. The children of Oakura are the heart of our community and we look forward to supporting them in this time of need while the Kindergarten is rebuilt. I'm sure there will a 'positively fabulous' future to come out of such a disaster. With Robyn and Eleanor leading the way, I have no doubt. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all!

Playcentre is a great way to meet people in your community, make friends and learn about children. Our session times are Monday & Wednesday, 9 am – 12 pm. For more information, phone Melissa Newton on 752 1056.

See you there!

He aha te mea nui o te Ao?

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UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Autism and the 'Social Scene' continued . . .

Last month I talked about the difficulty people with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) have with social situations and reading non-verbal cues, which includes body language, the emotions of others and facial expressions. It is quite an involved topic and therefore I will continue it this month.

Ellen Notbohm in her book *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew* states, "There's no shortcut, magic bullet or eureka cure to your child's becoming comfortable with social interaction. It's a mosaic of thousands upon thousands of petite opportunities and encounters that coalesce into a core of self-confidence." Ellen has a child on the autistic spectrum, so she writes from experience. She talks about people with ASD often not being aware of non-verbal communication. Sarcasm is difficult to understand as are puns and metaphors. Physical space and personal boundaries are hard to estimate

and of course, these things can change from culture to culture as well as from person to person, depending upon your relationship with that person.

At every turn in our lives, social navigation is necessary, whether it be at school, work, in the community or even just with family at home. It is often difficult for individuals with ASD to be 'flexible' in their thinking and to be able to see and experience the world from standpoints other than their own. To be able to 'roll' with unforeseen changes in routine can also be hard.

Building self esteem of people with ASD is imperative, especially when they are children. They make great friends as they are often loyal, don't cheat or lie and can be relied on. Social skills can be taught and it helps to foster relationships with others with similar interests as those with ASD can be confident about their 'special interest' or 'topic' and we all feel socially more confident with people with similar interests and ideas to ours. Next month I'll deal with the "All that child needs is a good telling off" line that us Mothers sometimes get at the supermarket. In Ellen's words, "Try to find out what triggers my meltdowns." When it comes to ASD, behaviour is communication – it's just sometimes hard to work out what the person with ASD is trying to communicate.

Karen



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