

The not so norm Norm



From left - Joe Trotter, Danyon Lythgow (front), Caddison Murfitt (back), Nick Parthemore, Norm and Louis Ferens, all of whom took up the haka challenge with Norm.

Norm Hewitt is an extraordinary bloke. He was recently at Devon Intermediate School where Omata School Year 7 and 8 students visited to hear his message about treating people and animals with respect. The show is run through the SPCA and is called *One of the family*.

Norm along with Shelley from Auckland's SPCA entertained the 12 and 13 years for an hour and a half. Their message was about the mistreatment of people and animals and basically how both categories are the same and need the five basic necessities in life of food, medical care, shelter, exercise and love.

Norm is a natural raconteur and had the children, teachers and parents in stitches about his family, his dream to be an All Black, what motivated him to dance in

Dancing with the Stars and various other anecdotes. He also shared very personal information about the violence that occurred in his family life as he was growing up and how he dealt with it through the help of his pets – a very sobering and poignant message. He also spoke of the love he has for his own children and wife and how he has broken the chain of violence. Then he challenged the girls to dance with him and for the boys to do the haka with him, which they did.

By Kim Ferens

(More on Norm, One of the Family and the SPCA on page 2)

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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

As I write this I am sitting in the Eastern 'burbs of Auckland feeling claustrophobic. I am babysitting my nieces and nephew for a week, a fun thing for sure, but the sea of roofs and fences is hemming me in a bit. Give me the village any day! But at least there are shops – oh glorious shops!

The *TOM* team wishes Heelan all the best for her Olympic endeavour in Beijing and hopefully we will be able to catch up with her in the next issue.

We at *TOM* have a couple of questions for our readers regarding delivery of *TOM* and would appreciate hearing from you...

Are you missing out on your *TOM*?

Do you know someone who is missing out?

If you live in the village or RD4 and have a letterbox, you should be receiving a copy of *TOM* each month. If you are not getting your *TOM*, we want to hear from you. Email us at info@thetom.co.nz or phone 0800thetom.

Do you live in the village but don't have a letterbox and would like to receive the *TOM*? Contact us and we will see if we can help.

Kim

***TOM* dates for September**
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TOM

OAKURA

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

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

One of the family

Last year our local SPCA cared for 1,611 unwanted, unloved, abandoned, abused, sick, injured or neglected animals – all from North Taranaki.

The SPCA and Norm Hewitt are taking a stand against animal abuse. Worldwide research shows strong links between animal cruelty and family violence, and some of our worst criminals started out by abusing animals at a young age. Research also shows that teaching children empathy – caring for animals with compassion and love – encourages the same behaviour towards each other.

Norm is leading an SPCA in-school education programme called *One of the Family*, designed to teach children these positive behaviours so they don't go on to abuse animals or each other. The programme has reached over 30,000 Kiwi kids to date, and was presented to over 1,000 Year 7 and 8 children in Taranaki in July.

Jackie Poles Smith

North Taranaki SPCA

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Hi folks!

It's a messy business, installing reticulated sewerage in an existing town. Walking or driving around Oakura at the moment can be a bit of an obstacle course in places, so thank you for being patient as this work continues.

The contractors have been doing a great job on this massive project. Nearly all the trunk main from Oakura to New Plymouth has been laid, and we're just waiting on drier weather to enable the resurfacing of roads in Oakura to take place.

Meanwhile the southern section of Shearer Reserve (from the playground to the southern boundary) has been closed to the public and will remain that way for about a year while the main sewerage pump station is constructed. The good news is that the northern section of the reserve will reopen as soon as the new grass has established.

And some advice from our staff. ... While those who have agreed to be part of the reticulation network will have a year from the end of the project to connect their property to the reticulation, sooner is better than later due to the high demand that will be placed on local plumbers.

So give a thought to connecting your property soon after the lateral has been installed to your property (you'll receive a letter from the Council to advise when this has happened) rather than waiting and risking being caught up in a rush. (Note that the connection should not be made live until after the scheme has been commissioned, scheduled for August 2009).


Meanwhile, we have a Community Roadshow coming your way! This is a Council initiative as we prepare the Community Plan 2009-2019, which will identify the Council's budget and activities for the next 10 years – the first three years in detail and the follow seven in general. The Community Roadshow will give you the chance to talk face-to-face with Council staff about what your priorities are for the future of our district. So if you have any comments to make about the future social, economic or cultural path of New Plymouth District - **see our ad on this page.**

My goal for the coming months of Community Plan consultation is that we will be able to interpret what the community wants for the next 10 years and how we will pay for it, and then present to you a draft Community Plan next year that is a fair reflection of the community's wishes. To do that, we need your input now. So come along to the Community Roadshow and take the opportunity to have your say!


Peter Tennent
New Plymouth District Mayor

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Community Roadshow

This is your chance to talk about what you want for the district's future.



Your comments will help us write a draft Community Plan 2009-2019, so look for our staff on Oakura's streets and share your thoughts with them!

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No one left behind

We all know how much older New Zealanders do for us. We don't have to look far to see the invaluable work that they do for volunteer groups and community organisations, not to mention giving us a rest from the kids for a weekend or two.

We made the changes necessary to make sure that our older New Zealanders' invaluable contributions to our country are recognised. One of the first changes we made was reversing the previous government's pension cuts and ensuring that in future New Zealand Superannuation increases every year to match the cost of living.

Since 2005 we've increased Super by \$113 a week for a married couple and by \$57 a week for someone living alone. We've made retirement income fairer by removing the "sharing expenses rule", increasing Super for those with a partner in care and continuing to phase out asset testing.

We significantly lowered doctor's fees and reduced prescription medicines from \$15 to \$3. We continued to increase the value and availability of rates rebates to \$530 on 1 July. We are providing additional income to help carers – particularly grandparents – who play a vital role when children cannot be with their parents.

As times get tougher, people need to be confident that our government has a plan for the future, that our government will look after all New Zealanders, that our government has delivered on its previous promises and can be trusted to continue to deliver on the promises we make for the future. That is why we made sure that Superannuitants are included in our tax cuts. Our 1 October tax cuts give a married couple an extra \$45 a fortnight and \$23 to someone living alone, and Superannuitants will continue to benefit as our tax package is rolled out on 1 April 2010 and 1 April 2011.

When New Zealand faced international economic turmoil in the Nineties the then National government responded by cutting older New Zealanders' pensions and cutting social services. They changed the law so that Superannuation would drop to 60 per cent of the average wage and tax cuts would not pass on to seniors. Poverty researchers at the time said that between a third and a half of New Zealand's elderly would end up living in poverty.

National showed us then that they can't be trusted to manage through a downturn. We are confronting a global economic downturn right now and still National and John Key won't tell us what they would do. Under National, history has shown clearly that the wealthy get the greater benefit from tax cuts and the lower income earners get crumbs by comparison.

Labour continues to make positive changes. We continue to support all New Zealanders in both the good times and the hard times. Labour has the vision and the strategies for New Zealand that will see it forge ahead but we will also make sure no one is left behind.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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Shearer Reserve closure

A section of Oakura's Shearer Reserve, from the playground to the southern boundary, has been closed to the public from Monday 28 July to enable the main sewerage pump station to be constructed. This area will be closed for about 12 months.

The northern section of Shearer Reserve from the playground to Tasman Parade will reopen once the new grass has established.

Please be aware that heavy vehicle traffic on Tasman Parade between Arden Place and Wairau Road will increase during the pump station's construction.

Mark Hall

Project Manager

Oakura Sewerage Scheme



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kaitake community board

It has been a fairly busy time since our last report in *TOM*. Board members have been involved in the realignment of the Waimoku and Wairau stream mouths; attended four different Council workshops and seven Council meetings; presented a submission on the Strategic Transport Review; attended the Council budget and bylaw submission hearings; looked into the existing capacity of the Waireka, Oakura and Okato cemeteries; participated in a range of local environment issues including the Kaitake Ranges replanting project, World Environment Day planting, Herekawe Walkway official opening and the QE2 covenant for the Moller escarpment; attended the citizen's awards presentation ceremony and the opening of the T Rex exhibition at Puke Ariki; and liaised with Council staff on a number of local issues such as rubbish collection, leaking water mains and ongoing sewerage project concerns.

The sewerage project continues in spite of the inclement weather. At time of writing the contractor (D Paku Ltd) had less than 30 metres of pipe left to install in Messenger Terrace. Progress has been slowed due to collapsing sand undermining the road despite the use of sheet piles. Sand was also encountered by Whitaker Engineering at the end of Mace Terrace, which will make the installation of the main down to Messenger Terrace challenging. Folk travelling to town during the past few months will have been able to view progress of the laying of the pressure pipe from Oakura to New Plymouth. The contractor is currently laying pipe in Omata Road and has less than 800 metres of pipe to lay to the discharge manhole in Botany Place. The pipes on the bridge over the Oakura River have also been installed and "specials" are being manufactured for the bends to link these pipes to the buried main. The next major process on the horizon is the Community Plan 2009-2019 (often referred to as the LTCCP). To that end Council is consulting widely to establish the priority of its community outcomes for the next three years as a preliminary step. The NPDC community outcomes are: Prosperous, Connected, Skilled, Sustainable, Secure and Healthy, Together and Vibrant. Once the priority of these is established, it will be the cornerstone of the new Community Plan 2009-2019 and will provide direction for which new projects should be included and at what level current services should be maintained or extended. The district's future is important to us all, with the Omata/Oakura/Okato area especially so. Therefore everyone should take the opportunity to make their views known.

Council staff will be taking to the streets as part of the community plan consultation and surveying as many people as possible about

their aspirations for the community in which they reside. There will be two opportunities in the Kaitake Ward, one on Monday 25 August at the Oakura Library next to the school and also up in the shopping area from noon until 3pm. The second will be held in the main street of Okato the very next day, Tuesday 26 August from 9am until noon. See Roadshow advert on page 3.

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



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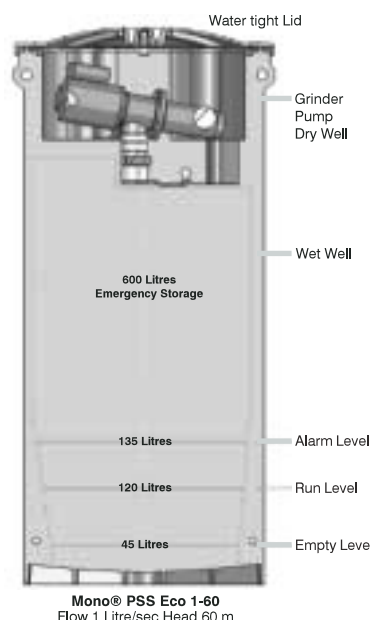
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update from the big red truck

"The wise person understands that his own happiness must include the happiness of others." ~ Dennis Weaver

Wintery greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

If you're using a woodburner to keep warm this winter, remember that it is important to keep the fire box clean and do not place combustible objects on the top of it. Look at having the fire box inspected once a year. Also take care when disposing of ashes – they can take up to five days to fully cool.

Did you know:

- 1 Cooking is the number one fire danger in your home.
- 2 Fifty per cent of all fatal house fires involve alcohol.

To avoid adding to these statistics, here are some tips:

- 1 Never leave cooking unattended.
- 2 Always watch the pan or pot when cooking with oil or fat.
- 3 If oil or fat is smoking, turn off the heat.
- 4 Snuff out a fat fire with a pot lid or oven tray. Never carry it outside.
- 5 Don't cook when you've been drinking – alcohol and cooking don't mix.

Rural residents face a higher risk of losing more property from fire than their urban counterparts because fires tend not to be noticed as quickly in sparsely populated areas. A response in rural areas can often take a longer time.

There are special things rural dwellers need to bear in mind in order to make their properties safer.

These include:

- 1 Signposting your property. Rural property numbers are invaluable for a quick response by emergency vehicles.
- 2 Do emergency vehicles have easy access?
- 3 Is there an adequate water supply for use by emergency services?
- 4 Can portable pumps be positioned within 7 metres of open water supplies?
- 5 Is your firewood stacked away from the house?

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Oakura Library

By now many of you have visited Sue the T-Rex on display at Puke Ariki. Perhaps you would like to read more about dinosaurs – check out our newest series, *The Prehistoric World*.

Also for the juniors, we have audio books featuring Postman Pat and My Little Pony.

For teens and young adults we have Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* series and are awaiting her much anticipated fourth and final book in that saga, *Breaking Dawn*. Described as an "irresistible combination of romance and suspense with a supernatural twist", her books have created a sensation much like J.K. Rowling with the Harry Potter fans.

Artists and art lovers alike will appreciate our newest magazine, *Art New Zealand*. Empty of Shadows and Making a Shadow features lithographs by Ralph Hotere, one of New Zealand's most important contemporary artists.

And don't forget adult fiction by your favourite authors: Cathy Kelly, Patricia Cornwell, Sandra Brown and more. New arrivals weekly.


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- 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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One year on – Mainly Magazines & Lotto pop the corks!

Omata locals Sharon Harding and Dave Moses, owners of Mainly Magazines & Lotto, have recently celebrated one year in business.

The pair is absolutely thrilled with how well the retail outlet has performed over the last year. But it has been a huge amount of hard work, mainly for Sharon, who has been working twelve-hour days to turn the business around. It's all worth it though says Sharon, who is justifiably proud of the enormous range of magazines, cards and English groceries.

Sharon was previously a sales merchandiser for John Sands cards and Dave runs Sterile Services, an industrial sterilising and servicing company. I asked Sharon why she bought the rundown little business in the first place and she said that as a rep visiting the shop she could see the potential to develop it into a thriving business. It was in a good location (beside Kathmandu on Devon Street) and with the opening up of the Huatoki River, foot traffic would be high. And Sharon has proved astute in her judgement.

What does Mainly Magazines & Lotto offer? Sharon has sold a second division winning Lotto ticket on a \$6 Lucky Dip. Lotto gift envelopes are available for customers to choose a pack of tickets, which can then be posted for you on the spot. Mainly Magazines has a daily NZ Post pick up so you can buy cards and stamps and post them all in one place.

Mainly Magazines is perhaps best known for its exhaustive range of international and national magazines. Magazines are delivered to the shop three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and old magazines are withdrawn weekly. The selection includes English, German, Australian and American magazines on a huge range subjects such as hobbies, fashion, beauty, gardening, cooking, cars, slimming, pregnancy, children's and alternative lifestyle. All magazines produced in New Zealand are also stocked by Mainly Magazines. As if this range isn't comprehensive enough, Sharon is happy to order one-offs or something different if requested and will text or ring customers with updates.

Then there are the cards – a selection of cards for every occasion, age or taste. Mainly Magazines has four different companies supplying cards to ensure variety. Have you ever seen a card for your 18 year old son or daughter? No? Well Mainly Mag's have them.

The biggest change since Sharon and Dave took over is the extended range of English groceries and confectionery – Galaxy chocolates, Yorkshire Tea, Hula Hoops, Barratt Dolly Mix, Frys Chocolate, Weetabix, Gravy Granules and more. They also stock our Kiwi favourites – Cadburys, Eta, Allens, Pascalls, etc.

To wrap all this up is gift wrap, bows, ribbons and sellotape.

On hand to help customers with their Lotto, cards, magazines and treats are Chris, Kim (another lovely lady from Omata!), Christine and Raewyn. Sharon says her staff are great and have excellent customer skills. So pop in and experience the wall-to-wall magazine and card utopia.

By Kim Ferens



Sharon Harding at Mainly Magazines & Lotto.

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TOM SPORTS



Greetings all

It is still quite yuck out there, as is normal for this time of year. It's a good time to do maintenance on gear or even get some new gear – we all like getting new fishing gear!

Kayakers seem to be stranded as big swells and the cold keep

them on land. A handful of surfcasters have been persevering and a few kahawai have been coming in.

The Club recently held our seventh AGM – yes indeed, we have been going for seven years and have seen some spectacular fish, especially off the rocks by our top surfcaster, Shane Dunlop. He recently won an award for the three heaviest snapper caught in the last year, totalling 27.741 kg in weight – a remarkable effort by Shane, who has been in our Club for three years. Chris Whitaker also did well, nabbing the heaviest fish in several other categories.

Kayak fisherman Peter Florence has also caught a number of snapper over the last year – over the 9 kg mark. Fellow kayak fisher Tony Hurring is also up there, having had a few good days into the tuna – over 8kg. Quite a feat while confined to your 'yak, sitting on your butt. Both Pete and Tony had a few good kingis recorded too.

OSC & KFC now has quite a reputation throughout the fishing fraternity, both locally and nationally. This is due to the members who have put in the yards and who continue to do so. We are still the only club in the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association that recognises kayakers and we hope to get a few more 'yakers into the Association in the future.

We're into our eighth year now and we are aiming to attract a few more surfcasters in particular into our Club. The carrot here is it's relatively cheap and an easy way of catching fish – we have some excellent surfcasters who will take you out with them and teach you the ropes. There is a bit of science on spots, tides and techniques but this can be picked up easily by the novice.

If you are interested in joining the "awesomest" fishing club in the 'Naki, call me on 752 7425, Garry Harrison on 752 7255 or our new President Tony Hurring on 751 3552.

Tight lines

Debbie E

Marathon efforts



Kathryn and Lauren in action.

The girls with their medals.

Congratulations to the two Oakura girls who ran in Wellington's Harbor City Half Marathon on 22 June.

Lauren Howe, from Oakura but now in her second year at Victoria University, finished in second place with a time of 1hr 44min 19sec in the Women Under-20 category.

Kathryn Grant (we featured Kathryn's dad last year when he ran the New York Marathon), originally from Canada, now residing in Oakura and in her final year at NPGH, finished in third place with a time of 1hr 46min 39sec in the same category.

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Stephen Westlake –

AJ Greaves Electrical Manager

Steve Westlake has been popping up in and around the community for a wee while now (first spotted at Omata School working in the community hall then at soccer practices and also at The Carriage) so TOM thought it was time to find out about the man behind this new face.



Steve with the 13th grade Omata soccer team.

How long have you lived in New Zealand?

Almost 18 months now – we arrived on 19 January 2007. I cannot believe how fast the time has gone and how quickly and easily we have settled here.

Why did you come to New Plymouth?

Had enough of the UK (101 different reasons) and after a fact finding tour of six or seven cities in New Zealand in 2006, we decided that New Plymouth ticked most of the boxes for us

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as a family – nice climate, nice place and nice people, Taranaki is a thriving area with growth predicted for the next 20 years, so it presents plenty of opportunity.

What do you like about Taranaki?

Beautiful part of a beautiful country, big enough that there is a lot to do and see, small enough that we got a real sense of community. Five hours from Auckland or Wellington by road.

What do you do for a crust?

I have around 30 years' experience in the electrical industry, starting as an apprentice and finishing as an operations director in the UK. I started as an electrician in New Zealand and at the moment I am manager of AJ Greaves Electrical, New Plymouth. We carry out electrical installation and maintenance work within the industrial (gas, oil and dairy), commercial and domestic markets... feel free to call me!

Tell us about your family

Debby, my wife, who absolutely loves it here, has supported me throughout. We have been together since we met in our early twenties.

Sam, our son, is off to uni' in February, looking to study teaching, currently enjoying voluntary work at Omata School and part-time work elsewhere.

Becky, our daughter, is just about to start in the dairy industry, something she has wanted to do for a long time. She is looking at uni' in a few years' time, where she plans to study farm management in one form or another.

Turbo, our Cairn terrier (dog), brought with us from the UK, youngest member of the family (our daughter's shadow).

How did you become involved in the Omata 13th grade soccer team?

Omata School is one of our regular clients. I have nearly always been involved in one form of community work or another, and following a conversation with Karen (the Principal), she arranged for me to come in and help with the 13th Grade. I have always believed that it is important to put something back into the community and coaching children is great because of their honesty... It keeps you on your toes and if they don't enjoy it, they soon let you know.

What is your coaching and soccer experience?

I played in the UK for around 15 years until the injuries (age really), keeping me off work, became too expensive for the household budget. I went into coaching instead and completed various coaching courses and modules within the English FA system. I have coached junior sides to various county standard success, worked at a private coaching school linked to the academies and schools of excellence of professional football UK clubs, senior sides within various amateur leagues in the UK, as well as school and community work.

Here in NP, last season I coached (and played occasionally) Woodleigh social club to a creditable second place in the men's premier league and this season I'm helping coach at Omata School.

Do you have any other interests and hobbies?

Debby and I love walking the local beaches and parks. I find surfcasting relaxing, not falling off the surf board can be enjoyable too and of course socialising with new friends is always good.

Any other relevant info

Favourite soccer (football) team – Plymouth Argyle (my home town).

Favourite film – *Jaws* (the original, not crappy 2, 3 or 4)

Star sign – Capricorn.

GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Paige Hareb has had another win, this time in the Aussie Pro Junior series, taking out the Fantastic Cup Pro Junior (see the press release excerpt below). She is presently in Huntington Beach, California for another World Qualifying Series contest as part of the US Open of Surfing. I'm sure we all wish her luck and hopefully good news for the next issue of TOM.

Fantastic Cup Pro Junior - Paige Hareb (NZL) and Owen Wright (NSW) take wins in great waves at Waitpinga Beach, South Australia

Surfing Australia, Saturday, 19 July 2008.

Paige Hareb (NZL) made history at the inaugural Fantastic Cup Pro Junior presented by Nippy's today, claiming victory in South Australia for the first time in over ten years.

In perfect, offshore 1-1.5m conditions at Waitpinga, on the South Australian south coast, the finalists revelled in the grinding, left-handers as professional surfing returned to South Australia.

In the girls' division, it was New Zealander Paige Hareb who took the title, defeating current World Junior Champion Laura Enever (North Narrabeen, NSW) in the final.

"I'm so stoked right now," she said after claiming her second ASP Australasia Pro Junior Series victory of the year.

Attacking the left hand waves with her renowned powerful style, Hareb accrued a series of high scores throughout the entire event, showing her class.

"I've had such a good year so far, I've been on a roll since coming second at the Billabong ASP World Junior Titles in February," Hareb added.

"I'm off to Huntington Beach after this event then I'm following the WQS (World Qualifying Series) through Portugal and France," she said.

Currently ranked third on the ASP Australasia Pro Junior after her victory at Waitpinga, and on the WQS Hareb is looking at finishing off the year in style.

"I just want to surf as well as I can in any event I in, right now my goal is to get as good a ranking as possible in the Junior's and qualify for the ASP World Tour."

Being mid-winter, if you haven't escaped to Indo', it's been snow city throughout the school holidays, with great snowboarding and skiing for those lucky enough. Mt Taranaki has had some great days as have the rest of the New Zealand mountains, so no excuses to have missed it.

Locals Nat Day and Cole from Vertigo report that they are having unreal holidays in Indonesia with great waves, good G-Land and Lakey Peak being highlights. Photos are due to appear in some of the New Zealand magazines over the coming months so keep an eye out. Other news from Indo' is that a fishing boat ran aground on Padang Padang reef and at last reports was oozing oil and fuel into the sea, which of course will be devastating for the environment. Hopefully it can be removed before too much damage is caused.

Speaking of the New Zealand magazines, their photographers have been busy around Taranaki over the last few months so we should see some locals appearing in the next few issues. There was a great article in the recent *Kiwi Surf* about boardriders clubs around New Zealand, with Oakura featuring – well worth a read.

On the contest scene, the Rip Curl Gromsearch in Gisborne was held on the last weekend of the school holidays, with the only

Taranaki competitor, Mark Parthmore, coming third in the Under-16s. As we go to press, the second of the NPSRC Westgate Winter Series is about to be held at Fitzroy on the weekend of 26-27 July.

Remember the Surfers' Ball coming up in October – keep an eye open for tickets and get yours early. It should be a good night. There is a Boardriders Club Champs DVD available for \$10.00 each. Anyone wanting one can contact Paul Christophers on 027 406 5654. It's a well made, 30 minute DVD featuring local Oakura surfers carving Graveyards.

Staying with the Prez, he surfed Arawhata on Saturday 19 July with the Hyundai Pro Longboard crew in clean one metre waves. They had a photographer with them so no doubt there will be a spread in mags soon. Maybe Prez will get his mug in the mags!

The Boardriders Club AGM will be at the end of August. Details will be advertised after the August committee meeting on Wednesday 6 August. Members of the community are welcome to attend and of course we welcome any new members who wish to join our Club.

The Surfing New Zealand AGM is set for Saturday 27 September in Hamilton. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

The Oakura Boardriders Club rooms are available for use by community groups. So far we have the Plunket coffee mornings and Belly Dancing classes in the facilities. For enquiries about using them, contact Paul Christophers on 027 406 5654.



Paige in great form.

NPOB Surf Life Saving Club

As you may have heard the World Lifesaving Championships are currently being held in Germany. New Zealand is represented by 12 of our best and we are extremely proud to say that athletes from New Plymouth Old Boys are a very strong force in the team. Ben Willis, Alya Dunlop-Barrett and Glenn Anderson from our Club are doing brilliantly and are no doubt enjoying such a fantastic experience as they compete against 4000 other athletes.

Ben, Ayla and Glenn have trained extremely hard to get to the level they are at and as at 25 July their training is definitely showing dividends. Glenn has won a silver for his Super Lifesaver and a silver in the men's 4x50 relay, and Ayla a Bronze and a new national record for the 200m obstacle swim and her women's 4x25 team gained a silver. At the time of writing, pool racing has finished, with New Zealand at the top of the leader board – now they move on to beach events and we wish them all the very best as we wait to hear more results.

Congratulations Glenn, Ayla and Ben – your team at NPOB is 100% behind you.

Nicky, Club Coordinator
NPOB

Tom Smithers

– a maverick among men

Part 2

The Sixties were drawing to a close and the surfing culture was changing in New Zealand. The era of the “teddy boy surfer” – a clean cut, tie-wearing youth – was segueing into the druggie, drop-out era. This culture attracted rebellious teenagers by the hoards – Tom with it. This was now his family.

At fifteen Tom found himself making surfboards with Dennis Quane, albeit only briefly. Dennis told Tom the shattering news that “he didn’t have what it takes to be a fibreglass surfboard maker...” So out the door he went (with tears in his eyes and a resolve to prove him wrong).

At seventeen Tom moved to New Plymouth and worked on and off for Nigel Dwyer at Del Surfboards while travelling around the country in search of the best surf spots. While working at Del, Tom made his first four boards bearing his name: “Del Surfboards by Tom Smithers”. I wonder where those boards are today?

In the same year Tom finished fourth as a junior in the senior men’s Surf Nationals in Australia, a result he is proud of. While in Aussie Tom learnt more surfboard construction techniques from legends like Bob McTavis, Nat Young and Jeff McCauley of Keo Surfboards, picking up some of the finer points.

At the end of that year Tom returned to New Plymouth and set up shop at an old farm house just south of Oakura where he made surfboards in the chicken coop. Life was sweet, board production really took off and the money rolled in (and out just as fast!). Rent was \$4 per week shared between four and Tom sold about four boards a week for around \$60 profit each. The average weekly wage for a youth in 1972 was about \$50

per week. Tom’s affluence meant he could travel around the world surfing in the winter season and he checked out all the great surf spots in Hawaii, Bali and others. In 1974 Tom bought a 1972 HQ Holden station wagon and in this he was able to transport a big order of twenty surfboards to his old boss Dennis Quane in Christchurch. Dennis had ordered two batches of twenty boards from Tom, who had to beg, borrow and grovel for favours to get the materials to build such a big order. The HQ must have looked a sight with fourteen boards inside and six or more on the roof! Tom enjoyed the moment he dropped those boards off to the man who hadn’t believed in him and Dennis went on to sell many of Tom’s boards.

At the peak of his board making, Tom made anywhere from fifteen to twenty-five boards a week and had a small bunch of guys working for him including his brother Dave, Ton Deken and Dave (Sparrow) among others.

In the Eighties the enterprise moved from the chicken coop to the cowshed at Tapuae where it has been ever since. In 2000 Kaine Aldridge took over surfboard making and Tom pursued his skate park construction business. Cheap Chinese imports caused a brief dip in sales but most people now realise the worth in purchasing a quality custom made board with a resale value that imports do not have.

Surfboards have changed very little over the years. You start with a blank (foam) which these days is lighter, stronger and whiter. Then you apply the fibreglass and resin, which is also stronger and clearer than the old days, but the principle of making the board is still the same.

Tom finishes up by saying some of the old surfing guys get religious (no pun intended!) about the good old days, but not him. He quips, “Surfing did nothing but keep me broke for twenty years!” But it did teach him a thing or two – how to survive on very little and how to manufacture things for which he still has a passion.

By Kim Ferens



Above, Tom in 1968 at Campbells Bay, Oamaru and below, Tom surfing Bali.



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Farm, lifestyle and pump gurus – Dairy & Water Specialists

Steven and Angela Bevan of Dairy & Water Specialists are without a doubt the experts when it comes to farm engineering, water pumps, sewerage systems and swimming pool pumps. Steve has been in the industry for 14 years and for the last four, he has owned his own business. And when you consider that Steve and his serviceman, Andy, are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there is a lot of time to accrue the much needed experience and expertise.

Dairy & Water Specialists are also the people to call for Oakura residents considering putting in sewerage pumps/grinders. Steve has put together some package deals for customers that include high quality Mono or Onga pumps. The package also uses local contractors, Digaway and Coastal Electrical, to do the excavation and electrical work. So in effect, you can ring Dairy & Water



John and Noeline VanDerPol's new cowshed milking system installed by Steve.

Specialists with your section size and system requirements and they will take care of the work for you. With of course the 24 hour backup service.

I was interested to find out what else Dairy & Water Specialists had to offer our *TOM* readers because its not every day I find myself in a shop with gadgets and gizmos like Steve has on show plus the necessary product knowledge to go with them.

For people on lifestyle blocks there are water pump sales and repairs, water tank cleaning, water filters, UV systems, water tanks, water quality advice, septic pumps and chambers, and swimming and spa pool pump sales and repairs.

For farmers, Dairy & Water Specialists are installers of Waikato Milking Systems, effluent systems, irrigation systems, farm water systems and filtration systems. Basically your one-stop farm system shop.

Give Steve and Angela and their team, Sue Hartigan (office manager), Andy Lane (serviceman), a call to discuss your sewerage options, farm system options or lifestyle block requirements.

By Kim Ferens

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New faces in Oakura

By Jennifer Gros

The Davies Family – Kent, Melissa, Lila and Jack

September of 2007 brought the Davies family from Clare in South Australia to Oakura. Kent Davies works for Dow Agro Sciences as a Research Biologist at the Waireka Field Station. Melissa absolutely loves Oakura and says that they are really enjoying the lifestyle here. The weather is cooler and they really loved spending their summer at the beach. They have enjoyed being able to tour around New Zealand and have already visited Auckland, Rotorua, Taupo and Wellington.

They have two children – Lila, who is three and a half, and Jack, who is eighteen months. Lila especially loves kindy and Melissa has found it a great way to meet people. When asked what the Davies love most about living in Oakura, Melissa answered, "Lifestyle and the sense of community. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming."

The Brown Family – Ryan, Amanda, Emma and Nina

Although the Brown Family have had many opportunities to live in other parts of the world, they chose Oakura as the place to raise their family. They have been living in Houston, Texas for the past three years, but prior to that, they lived in Oakura for two years, and Amanda is originally from New Plymouth and Ryan grew up between Omata and Oakura.

Amanda says that lifestyle was the number one reason for choosing Oakura "The ability to do so many activities in one place – you can go to the beach, the mountain, the river, go on walks, pick fruit from your garden and live around so much nature. These are the things you can't do in a big city," she says.

Their daughters Emma (9) and Nina (7) are enjoying Oakura school. They both love playing soccer, going to the beach, and playing with their new kittens, Smokey and The Bandit. Ryan is working for Origin Energy, and Amanda is a geography teacher at Sacred Heart Girls College.

The Van Bergens – Rik, Tania, Josh (9), Tasmin (7), and Finn (6)

Rik, from the Netherlands, and Tania, a native of Opunake, met in New Zealand in the early 1990s while working on the Maui B project. When the project was finished, Tania went back with Rik to Holland, where they eventually married and began their family. They lived in Holland for almost fifteen years, but as the children grew, it became clear to Rik and Tania that Taranaki was where they really wanted to be. They have been living in Oakura since January of this year.

They love the coast and wanted to give the kids a village upbringing, similar to where they had grown up in Holland. "We love that Oakura is between the sea and the mountain ranges. We love to tramp and we love the water. It is also easy to get to know people quickly here. The kids love school and really love their classes. They have always loved school, but they love this school even more. They are doing homework now – in Holland they didn't even have a school bag," comments Tania. Josh (9) enjoys skateboarding and playing basketball. Tasmin (7) enjoys dancing and Finn (6) plays soccer. Rik is really enjoying working in New Zealand and Tania loves being home for the kids and settling their new home.



The Davies family- Kent Melissa, Lila and Jack.



The Brown family – Ryan, Amanda, Emma and Nina.



The Van Bergen family – Rik, Tania, Josh, Tasmin and Finn.

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Richmond Blues

Cephas & Wiggins

(Smithsonian Folkways/Elite)

Guitarist and vocalist John Cephas and his harmonica playing sidekick Phil Wiggins are the modern-day equivalent of Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee, the famous blues duo that popularised the Piedmont blues tradition. Like their forebears, Cephas & Wiggins play a complex, but pleasing acoustic style that not only pre-dates the prevailing electrified post-Chicago sound, but also, in some cases, came before the birth of the blues!

Richmond Blues encapsulates the Piedmont sound, which is not only rich in blues classics, but also includes rags, old time string band music, gospel and popular ballads. The culmination of a thirty year plus musical partnership, this excellent album features tracks by Blind Boy Fuller, Rev Gary Davis, Big Bill Broonzy, Memphis Minnie, an original written by Wiggins and a reworking of a Fats Domino piece. The Piedmont sound may be close to a century old, but it still sounds fresh in the hands of Cephas & Wiggins. Highlights include the title track, "Black Rat Swing", "Pigmeat Crave", "Going Down The Road Feeling Bad", "Step It Up And Go" and "Great Change".

Visions

Hans Theessink & Terry Evans

(Blue Groove/Elite)

Another fine blues duo, albeit one of a far more recent vintage than Cephas & Wiggins, is the collaboration between Dutch guitar virtuoso/singer Hans Theessink and Mississippi-born vocalist/guitarist Terry Evans (formerly with Ry Cooder).

Although percussionist Phil Bloch appears on half of the album and Richard Thompson's electric guitar graces two tracks, Visions is just basically just two men, singing and playing together. Their enjoyment and musical understanding is obvious, both on the original compositions and covers. Standout tracks include Evans's "Come To The River", Theessink's "Going Back Home" and "Vicksburg", plus their readings of Memphis Slim's "Mother Earth" and Wilson Pickett's "Don't Let The Green Grass Fool You".

music review

by Don Juan



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Okurukuru Winery supporting the next generation

Heidi Waters (16) and Khasmin Groendijk (18) have taken up the challenge of a three year modern apprenticeship with Okurukuru Winery, choosing to continue their professional development within the Hospitality Industry through the Hospitality Standards Institute.

It's great to see the enthusiasm of the two young adults as they start their careers...

From hundreds of applicants Heidi Waters received a \$5,000 HSI scholarship, which was presented in Wellington on Monday 7 July. During the presentation Heidi took time to thank her older brother Troy (a chef at Okurukuru Winery) for being such an inspiration, and Simon Houghton (Executive Chef at Okurukuru Winery) for his coaching and support and for making it fun to learn.

Okurukuru Winery is committed to our community and we see supporting the next generation in training as a huge part of that. We have also just completed a successful fundraiser with the NPGHS Young Enterprise Team for New Plymouth Food Bank.

In September Okurukuru will host an underage band night with local school bands in a safe environment. September will also see the local Okurukuru staff compete in the national hospitality competitions in Auckland, an event that builds skills as well as confidence and demands careful planning and time management.

Come and see Heidi and Khasmin at Okurukuru as they continue on the journey of their apprenticeships – we look forward to seeing you!



Heidi with her mum and her award.

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Oakura dancer brings the “Cuban groove” to New Plymouth

By Jennifer Gros

Local dancer and Oakura resident, Suzee Freeman, has always been very passionate about dance. She believes that once you learn to dance, you can fly! Her love of dancing is a passion that she wants to share with the world.

She and four other Taranaki dancers have been instrumental in organising *The Cuban Groove*, a weekend of Latin dance on 12-14 September in New Plymouth. The *Cuban Groove* will feature workshops taught by world-renowned Cuban dancers, Vivio and Greydis. This is the first time these artists have ever been featured in New Plymouth and it's thanks to Suzee and her team, Latin Dance Taranaki. A dance party and a floor show will also be part of the excitement.

The weekend will be filled with sizzling and breathtaking moves to inspire you. Everyone is invited – there will be workshops geared to the beginners and to the intermediate. Friday night will be a meet-and-greet and registration sponsored by The Brook Ale House in New Plymouth. Saturday will include three workshops at the New Plymouth Club and end with a dance party and floorshow by Vivio and Greydis. Sunday will also include three workshops. All workshops include free entry to the Saturday dance party and floorshow. The price for one workshop is \$35, and it gets cheaper as you add more workshops. You can participate in all six for only \$100.

Suzee Freeman met Vivio and Greydis when she was attending the Salsa Congress in Wellington earlier this year with a group of dancers from Taranaki. She had decided to leave early one evening and met the world-renowned dancers by chance in a taxi ride back to her hotel. She asked them if they would ever consider performing in New Plymouth. They said that they would, so Suzee quickly got to work with her friends and decided to make it happen. The five friends pooled much of their own money together to book the Cuban couple as early as possible. Based in Auckland, the couple stays very busy, performing around the world.

Suzee Freeman has a long history of dance in Oakura. She has taught dance in the village for many years, and she choreographed many of the dances at Oakura School and worked on quite a few school performances with Ray Priest. She has since earned her teaching degree and now teaches dance and drama at New Plymouth Girls High. This is the first year that dance is being included in the curriculum at NPGH.

Suzee didn't learn to dance until she was almost 20 years old. Her first show was at 21. She learned ballet from Allison Patterson, and is also trained in ballroom, Latin, salsa, ceroc and modern jive, and studied creative dance with Virginia Adams. Her ambition is to introduce people in New Plymouth to dancing and she is very excited about The Cuban Groove weekend. She says that people in New Plymouth would normally have to travel to participate in a dance event of this high calibre. She believes that you are never too old to learn to dance and that everyone should give it a go.

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From left:
Janey
Jensen, Terry
Harris,
Charles
Banks and
Suzee
Freeman.
Missing:
Christine
Berridge.



Wearable Arts

As a part of our sustainability unit, on Friday 20 June the children worked with their buddies to create a wearable arts costume based on the theme of recycling. They created a wide range of costumes from fairies to pirates out of newspaper, rubbish bags and left-over packaging. The morning finished with a parade of costumes, giving each pair of buddies the opportunity to show their finished creations. At the end of the day the students took their costumes home where hopefully they recycled it once again.



Wearable arts.



Tabloid sports.

Tabloid sports

On Friday 20 June Oakura School had its tabloid sports afternoon. It was set up and run by the Year 8s, with the whole school taking part in the events. The ten activities were all a series of fun relays including obstacle courses, three-legged egg races and sack races. Groups of twelve students of mixed ages had six minutes at an activity before moving on to the next one. It was a fantastic day that wouldn't have been possible without the Year 8s and the teachers of Oakura School.

J G Coughtrey,
Oakura School Journalist.

Kyle Cox, Isla Dunn and Grace Hoskins
at the bowls tournament.

Coastal schools bowls tournament

On 3 July, teams from Okato, Omata, Opunake, Oakura and Rahu primary schools went to the Okato Hall to compete in the Coastal primary schools bowls tournament.

Four teams from Oakura were entered in the competition, with four people in each team. Each team had one four-person game, two games with pairs, then they finished off with four single games.


Near the end of the day a member from every team was selected to bowl for \$10, \$2.50 each for the winning team. The idea was to bowl as close to the \$10 note as you could and the team with the closest bowl won.

At the prize giving the Oakura team of Niko, Isla, Grace and Kyle finished an amazing second, while Rahu finished first.

A big thank you to Marjorie Sharpe and her helpers, who organised and coached the Oakura teams, for making all of this possible.

J G Coughtrey, Oakura School Journalist.





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kaitake kindergarten

The children were very excited to get back to Kindergarten for the third term of this year. We have the addition of a pair of lovebirds and hopefully we will soon be able to enjoy baby birds with the children. The birds are slowly settling into the environment of Kindy and we will have names for them soon – a list is being compiled by the children and their families.

As you walk in the Kindy doors you will notice that the children have been busy making a communal weaving (wall hanging). This is an ongoing project and the children are collecting bits and pieces at home that we can add to it. It is hanging from the ceiling rafters with two large tree branches top and bottom with string supporting the middle. The effect of the materials being used is amazing – so far we have peacock feathers, flax, ribbons, Christmas decorations, wool, plastic tapes and other coloured feathers. It has even been mentioned that a wiggly eel could wiggle in and out of the string! The children are learning different skills in coordination, working together to thread the different media in and out of each side of the pieces of string. A gap has been made to make a window to one side of the wall hanging. Robyn (Head Teacher) has been showing the children how to use a spinning wheel and they love to push the peddle up and down as Robyn feeds the wool into the wheel.

As the Oakura community grows larger more young families are joining the Kindergarten. A new book template called *A Book About Me* has been designed using photos and text to ensure that each new child has a smooth and pleasant transition time into Kindergarten and that they feel part of our Kindergarten as soon as possible. Features in this book include: my family, things that give me comfort, what makes me special and my favourite experiences. They are proving to be very popular with other children and their families.

Feel free to come into our fantastic Kindy anytime. The children would love to show off their many talents!

Kris



Israel Mead and Jorja Sole weaving.

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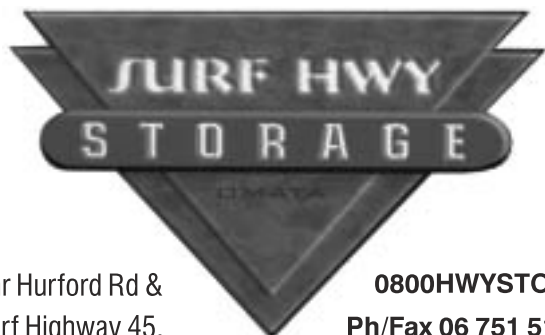
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Coming up

August

- 22nd Teacher Only Day
- 28th Omata School Cross Country

September

- 4th Coastal Schools Cross Country at Omata
- 17-18th Year 5/6 camp to Vertical Horizon (Inglewood)

New hardcourts

This new multi-purpose court facility for Omata is located by the road at the end of the field. The children are delighted to have such a large area to use and we hope that this will be an asset for the community to enjoy as well. Thanks to the Pelorus Trust for contributing \$3430 towards the cost of our basketball and netball goals. Our thanks also to the Jones, Ferens and Wagstaff families for contributing towards the purchase of a mobile tennis net.

Been bush

With our "Going Bush" topic now concluded the children have been evaluating their success and looking towards future goals for sustaining the bush.

This is from *Evie Lindsay*, Year 5:

What I found out

The bush is damp in some places but dry in others.

The bush isn't as good as it could be because:

- 2 people trample all over the baby seedlings
- 3 the ground is hard because people walk all over it which makes it difficult for seedlings to grow
- 4 people have also created other paths
- 5 there are invaders
- 6 we need pest control.

What needs to happen

Weeds need to be pulled out.

More seedlings need to be planted.

Paths need to be made more visible.

Maybe fences need to be put up to stop people making new paths and standing on baby seedlings.

Regards

Karen




Cameron Stewart on the new hard court.



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Open for business



The Oakura Village Café and Restaurant was unveiled on 26 July with an opening night.

The premise has had a makeover and is looking sharp. The exterior is light and bright and Margaret Scott's fabulous art work graces the restaurant signage. Indoors the space has doubled in size with a new function-cum-dining area which is fresh and airy. New furniture and art work compliment the décor.

The Village Café has lots of exciting day and evening events lined up including "Italian Night", "Mexican Night", "Afternoon Tea with a Poet", "Wine Sampling" and many more.

The menu is crammed with New Zealand delicacies such as marinated lamb, pan-fried fish, seared mussels, sautéed scallops, steaks and mushrooms.

Perhaps the biggest change is the restaurant's new manager, Monique Modlmayer-Henn. Monique is a blend of cultures – Argentinean and Mexican. She spent her childhood commuting between countries and loved it, saying it gave her a sense of

her place and worth in the world. When she left school Monique became a model but finally found the thrall of being a commodity without a brain tiresome, so took up hotel management training and public relations. Furthering the blend of cultures Monique married a German, who applied for a position in New Zealand, working for another German – businessman Karl Reipen. Thus Monique found herself managing his mountain resorts (Mountain House and Dawson Falls) along with the newly acquired *Wunderbar*, now called *The Oakura Village Café and Restaurant*. They arrived in New Zealand in April and have hit the ground running!



The sharp, new interior of the Village Café.

The Modlmayer-Henn family love New Zealand and can't get over how friendly and direct everyone is here and of course, our gorgeous scenery.

Italian Night

To get the party atmosphere going in the village, *The Oakura Village Café & Restaurant* is putting on an Italian night featuring delicious Italian foods, wines and beverages and of course music so look out for the date sometime in late September.

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Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women
meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Una Shotter, phone 751 0971.

Farmers Market Taranaki
Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am noon. Currie St, New Plymouth.

Plunket Coffee Mornings
Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months held at Attendees Homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett 752 1132 or Claire Florance 752 7889 to find out where.

Mini Groovers
Tuesday mornings 10.00am Oakura Hall. Gold coin donation.

Playcentre
Playcentre, Donnelly Street
Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

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

St John's Omata
Morning worship 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura
Morning worship 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu
Monday & Thursdays 6.00-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

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

Yoga
Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.00pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome.
Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

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 753 5705 for enquiries.

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

Country and Western Club
Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8.00pm
Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816.

Volkswagen Club
Events Range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing of good family times and knowledge.
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