



## In pursuit of flowers

By Anne Stembridge

**Oakura plantsman Tony Barnes managed a quick jaunt to South Africa for a seminar just before the Rhododendron Festival.**

He was a guest speaker at the fourth International Clivia Society Conference in Pretoria, early September.

The New Zealand Clivia Society representative says it was a bit daunting to be included with other international plant experts, but his speech about the plant's history in New Zealand and varieties bred here was well received.

Tony says the Clivia has become popular in New Zealand in the last 10 years because it is a low maintenance, easy-care plant. "It is shade equivalent of agapanthus."

His five-week trip included touring the habitats of the unique South African

*(Continued on page 5)*

*Ooh! That's a big one, Tony.*

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# FROM THE TOM ZONE

It has been full-on this year and amazingly, it is now nearly over.

For me personally 2006 will be remembered as the Year of Death, with not only the death of my mother but also some friends and acquaintances, and some high profile people as well. I was sad to read of Jim Bentham's passing at 99 years of age. I am so glad I got to spend some time with him speaking of Koru Road and the Oakura of nearly 100 years ago. I have been trying to view death as simply another spoke in the wheel of life – a necessary part I suppose.

TOM is part of a circle of life too and I think this year TOM has moved out of the adolescent phase into the emergent adult stage. Part of its maturity is the continual support from the community and it is also due to the redevelopment of our website. The updated site reflects the changing ways people access information these days and we at TOM Headquarters will be looking to improve this facility continuously. But of course nothing compares to the tactile experience of holding, smelling, reading and absorbing TOM when it comes in the letterbox.

So we leave behind all the wonderful inspiring stories of 2006 and look forward to bringing you news of the successes, people and places of 2007.

Happy holidays

Kim

'You may not always get what you want but life will always give you what you need'

'Everybody has a story'

Thanks everyone for your contribution to TOM. Sometimes it can get a bit crazy playing the juggling act - family to look after, house to manage, school commitments, work commitments, TOM to coordinate and yet I wouldn't like to give up any of them.

Everything has a part to play in the big picture. Have a great end of year and all the best for 2007

Tracey Lusk



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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
[newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)



## Hi Folks

Very soon the *TSB Bank Festival of Lights* will be launched for the summer season!

Word of our fabulous festival has travelled far beyond our district's boundaries. Already we're receiving many registrations through the Council's website from people around New Zealand who want to become Festival Friends, and enquiries about the festival are coming in from as far away as Australia and Hong Kong.

And without a doubt, this year's festival will be the best yet!

A big part of the TSB Bank Festival of Lights is the jam-packed daytime and night-time event programmes for young and old. In early December a comprehensive brochure on all the Daytime Delights and Tonight's Highlights events will be sent out to all letterboxes in the district – and there are some great events that will be held in and around Oakura, as well as other locations throughout the district.

Keep an eye out for this brochure! It will tell you everything you need to know about this season's *TSB Bank Festival of Lights* and how you and your family can be involved in the fun!

And if you misplace your brochure, you can always check out the festival information online at [www.newplymouthnz.com/fol](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/fol), and see the regular ads in the local newspapers.

Meanwhile, I've always said that New Plymouth District has 70,000 people on the frontline of promoting our district to the rest of New Zealand – the *TSB Bank Festival of Lights* is a great chance for you to encourage friends and relatives who live outside Taranaki to travel here for the festival and spend some time in this great part of the country!

One really good way to do this is by emailing to them the link to the Council's webpage about the festival ([www.newplymouthnz.com/fol](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/fol)), where they can find general information about this year's festival, and also be able to register as a Festival Friend and have the information brochure mailed out to them.

The *TSB Bank Festival of Lights* starts on Sunday 17 December, and I look forward to seeing you there or on the beach at Oakura, or even on the roads around the coast as I do my annual build-up to the Dutch Mill Around the Mountain challenge.

And don't forget – if you have an idea for a project that you think the Council can help you on, give me a call on 06 759 6060.

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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## KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

Weather seems to dominate my thoughts these days. It's been horrible... it's still horrible.

Thank goodness Council has had the presence of mind to allow for the Oakura CBD upgrade to be continued after Christmas. Hopefully there will be enough sun to finish the grass and plantings so the footpaths can look good for the holidays.

Rhodo' Week saw many in Oakura enjoying our local food outlets and shops, not to mention the fantastic gardens. Sometimes people lose sight of the big picture with events such as this – the overall economic benefit must be good for many (some just in small ways), but without events like this there would be minimum benefit for anyone. I met and talked with a number of people. All loved their time here and found much to do even in the rain. Sitting in the Ngamamaku Gardens, I heard several folk local and visitors praising the efforts of our gardeners. Being positive has far more impact than bleating negativity to visitors. They do not want to know what's wrong – they are just enjoying all the things that are right about our province.

The Board has not met since the last *TOM* and our next meeting will be the last for 2006. I have introduced onto the Agenda concerns for the Okato Primary School Buildings. (Sometimes locals forget we represent Okato on the Council as well as Omata and Oakura.) The primary school has already suffered vandalism and it would be a terrible waste to see such a lovely property dissolve into a derelict dump as many have already. The gardens, which were well kept with pride, now look messy and unattractive – not what we are used to seeing as you enter Okato township.

Council elections next year will see many people making promises, I imagine. I just wonder how high on local folks' priorities good representation on Council is? Now is the time to start thinking about this because times are getting tougher. Already a big hike in the sewerage costs will effect future budgets. Any person standing for Council is going to have to understand they have to do a huge amount of homework to get a handle on what they can promise to the public and what they can actually deliver. I often sit and listen to those who think they can do it better and I am constantly amazed at the ignorance of obvious facts.

I want to say thanks to all my Board Members for a good year. Because we work well, our communication with Council Officers and staff has been productive. I have taught myself much about Council and how it works. Let's remember Council is made up of about 400 staff, all just like many of us with young families grandchildren and aging parents. They have to park their cars, pay rates and have a life too.

I wish all a Happy Christmas, sunshine and goodwill to others.

Best,

Fay L



HAVE  
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**Prudent Trust Administration**

**7599119**

# THANK YOU TOM . . .



. . . and all those Oakura Residents who responded to my ad about wanting a house for a young family. We have found just what they were looking for.

It's great to see that our young families are still able to buy in Oakura and the surrounding areas.

### **I am now looking for lifestyle blocks.**

Two for school teachers and another for a corporate manager. All have young families and want to work and live in the area from Omata to Okato.

They would like reasonable houses on land up to 4 hectares.

We also have a retiring farmer requiring up to 10 hectares who doesn't want to live in the urban area, as he still wishes to rear animals.

*As before, I am acting for the buyers. You don't have to list your lifestyle block on the open market. I am the **buyers'** agent, therefore it will only be listed when the purchasers agree that your lifestyle block and house is the one for them.*

### **PAT'S TIP FOR THE MONTH:**

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MP for New Plymouth

**Climate change – we can act now**

Facing up to the fact that we are affecting the delicate balance of our planet's climate is difficult, but no longer something anyone can credibly deny.

The reality is that our way of life is something that is not sustainable. As Britain's Environment Secretary said recently, their country is living as if there were three planets to support us, not one. Well, so are we.

For New Zealanders to stand any chance of maintaining the unique quality of life that we currently enjoy, we must take action. And we must do it now.

But climate change sounds and feels like a problem that is so big, it's hard to know where to start. What can we do? Labour believes that our response should be bold. Why shouldn't New Zealand aim to be the first country that is truly sustainable – not by sacrificing our living standards, but by being smart and determined?

We've already announced a range of initiatives that start to address our level of emissions. These include proposals for a proportion of renewable biofuels to be included in petrol and the launch of the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative. This creates an incentive for forests to be planted on erosion-prone land. And we are working in partnership with local government, the agricultural sector, insurers and engineers to find ways to best adapt to the climate change that is unavoidable.

We've also made a commitment to increase the uptake of solar water heating in our homes and to improving their insulation and energy efficiency. This not only reduces energy demand, but keeps us warmer and healthier. This is an initiative that we can all participate in.

Towards the future we need to prepare our economy for a world in which there is a charge on carbon – i.e. polluting emissions of most kinds. As a recent report by former World Bank chief economist Sir Nicholas Stern outlined, the long-term economic cost of not doing anything will be much greater than acting to reduce our emissions now. We could aim to be carbon neutral.

Unfortunately it seems there are some who have their head in the sand. Recently on radio, former National leader Dr Brash was still dithering about whether climate change is really a

consequence of human activity. That's despite the enormous weight of evidence.

In the end, addressing climate change isn't so much a political issue as it is a moral issue. We owe an obligation not just to ourselves, but to future generations and to our planet. Labour believes that achieving a sustainable way of life will become one of the core values for this century. And it could be something that we as New Zealanders all take pride in achieving.

Thank you for reading my column.

Harry Duynhoven



**Hon. Harry Duynhoven**  
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**"Wush your flonies away"**

(Continued from page 1)

# In pursuit of flowers

plant, starting near the Zimbabwe border, extending down the coast to Port Elizabeth and across to Capetown. "It was amazing to see so many of our garden plants in their natural habitat in South Africa – not just the six clivia species. I could have stayed there a year."

He will be helping organise the 2008 International Clivia Conference. "It will include a Taranaki visit. Over 30 South African Clivia Society members have expressed intentions to attend, which is wonderful."



Tony Barnes caught on camera, trying to stuff his pockets with exotic African plants.



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It would be nice to say it's been a good year for Neighbourhood Support in Oakura but truthfully its been very average, with a lot of people experiencing petty crime, many for the first time, For them it's a most upsetting time, not only suffering with loss but with the emotions associated with house invasions or car break-ins.

From the police point of view it's been hard work and disappointing to find so many of Oakura's own being involved. So the only thing we can do is try harder and get more Oakura people involved in their own security.

The next few months are usually Oakura's best – the festive summer season brings out the good will in the majority and if the weather is good, all will be pleased.

From Neighbourhood Support in Taranaki, look after your neighbour, be generous, and may your god go with you.

Cheers till next year

Barrie Carline



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## Hello from Oakura Library



New books to hit the Oakura Library shelves this month *Include 1000 Films to Change Your Life, Walking Fit, The Creative Photography Handbook, and Pension Panic* by New Zealand author Gareth Morgan. New fiction titles include the new Maeve Binchy novel *Whitethorn Woods*, Janet Evanovich's *Motor Mouth*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer, *The Messenger* by Daniel Silva and *The Embers of Heaven* by Alma Alexander. For kids, we have new additions to the popular Geronimo Stilton series, the latest Artemis Fowl novel *Artemis Fowl and the Lost Colony*, and the long awaited conclusion to the Series of Unfortunate Events books by Lemony Snicket, titled *The End*.

Registrations for our Summer Holiday Reading Programme began on Friday 1 December. This year's programme is 'Don't Monkey Around – Read!' and it's a fantastic way to keep kids aged 5–12 enthused about reading during the long summer holidays. Children will be asked to 'check-in' at the library several times during the holidays to chat about the books they've been reading and discover some new authors. Registrations close 15 December and there are limited places, so parents/caregivers, please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to register your child.

Oakura Library will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period, from Monday 25 December, reopening on Wednesday 3 January at 10am. Puke Ariki remains open through the Christmas period, closing only on Christmas Day.

Wishing you safe and happy holidays,

Tara Ward

Oakura Librarian



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A desire to reconnect with family has brought Denise back to New Plymouth from Hawera, where she owned Wishing Well Flowers for 10 years.

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Denise has worked in the industry for 20 years and is an Interflora judge and examiner for NZ Professional Florists.

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*Denise Gray, right, with Sentiments staff members Stefanie Elsner and Sarah Ruston.*



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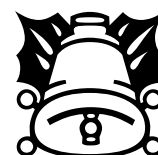
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# Keeping the peace in Timor

By Anne Stembridge

Donning riot gear to confront angry mobs armed with rocks and lethal home-made weapons was all in a day's work for an Oakura's policeman on a peace-keeping mission in East Timor recently.

Thomas McIntyre was part of a 25-strong New Zealand police contingent sent to the trouble-stricken country in July to assist in the conflict between the East and West Timorese, simmering since independence in 2001. Based in the capital Dili, he worked alongside Australian, Portuguese and Malaysian police for three months to help restore law and order after violence erupted earlier this year.

Although the situation is still volatile and will take years to resolve, Thomas thinks a level of 'normality' is returning. "A lot of the shops were opening again for business," he says.

Despite being kept busy defusing riots "of at least a 100 people", a lot of time was spent liaising with the community chiefs to help resolve disputes. "At the end of the day, it is up to them to solve their differences – we can only give them the tools to make their community safer."


Thomas says the work, dangerous at times, was rewarding. "It was unsafe to arrest in certain situations. Other times we had to release offenders due to the mood of the mob."

He says one satisfying incident – with three fellow Kiwis – was being able to make a successful arrest in a murder over money within half an hour of the crime happening. "We had been called out on our day off to help with a prison break and were returning to base and just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

A highlight of the trip for the father of three involved taking a group of about 30 orphans out "for a day at the beach."


Thomas says his time in East Timor was an amazing experience which made him appreciate the society we live in. "We don't know how lucky we are." But having to investigate 50 broken windows at Okato school on his first day back at work brought back memories of his stint away and the dangers of "mob mentality."





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(Blue Note/EMI)

Not content with being the world's best selling classical violinist, Nigel Kennedy has now turned his considerable talents towards the jazz world with this, his debut recording for the prestigious Blue Note label.

Demonstrating his salty, swinging electric violin style (which sounds like an amalgam of Jean-Luc Ponty and Don 'Sugarcane' Harris), Kennedy is supported throughout by the impeccable rhythm team of bassist Ron Carter and Jack DeJohnette. Pianist Kenny Werner and Hammond organist Lucky Peterson split the keyboard duties, while Daniel Sadownick adds deft percussive colour to most tracks. Saxophonists Joe Lovano and J.D. Allen also alternate appearances, while Raul Midon (vocals and acoustic guitar) is heard only on a potent version of the Seventies Lonnie Liston Smith jazz-fusion hit "Expansions."

Split between tasteful readings of jazz standards and fine originals by Kennedy, Carter or DeJohnette, *Blue Note Sessions* is very strong from start to finish. The cover versions include Kenny Burrell's "Midnight Blue," Horace Silver's "Song For My Father" and underrated composer Duke Pearson's "Sudel" and "After The Rain" – every one a jazz classic and delivered superbly. A funky, but previously unknown piece by Butch Cornell ("Sunshine Alley") and a moody interpretation of the old Ivory Joe Hunter R & B hit "I Almost Lost My Mind" round out Nigel Kennedy's debut jazz recording.

Throughout *Blue Note Sessions* the British violinist's playing is superb, but his two compositions, "Maybe In Your Dreams" and "Stranger In A Strange Land," stand up well in this exalted company and show such sensitivity that any accusations that Kennedy is merely a jazz *dilettante* can be easily deflected.

## Ray Sings: Basie Swings

Ray Charles & The Count Basie Orchestra  
(Concord/Universal)

Given its dubious history, this album has absolutely no right to be this good! In essence, *Ray Sings: Basie Swings* is the result of Pro Tools technological wizardry.

The recent discovery of a Seventies Ray Charles concert performance, found 'Brother Ray' in magisterial form, but everything else was too poorly captured to be usable. So all the backing tracks were stripped away from the source tapes, then, the present day Basie band overdubbed some punchy new arrangements behind the late, great soul singer's lead lines. New backing vocals were dubbed in. *Voila!*

The result, quite astonishingly, is the best Ray Charles album for decades! The combination of Ray + The Basie Band is a potent one indeed, reviving Charles' standards and lesser known numbers alike. Notwithstanding great versions of "Busted," "Crying Time," "I Can't Stop Loving You" and "Georgia," the finest tracks are a downright funky "Every Saturday Night," "Let The Good Times Roll" and "Oh, What A Beautiful Morning."

Here is a Ray Charles album that can hold its own against 1961's *Genius + Soul = Jazz* and any self-respecting fan of this unique artist will need to check it out. It's that simple.

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# The Vinaigrettes

It has been a fabulous year for New Zealand wine and the Vinaigrettes, and we are going to finish it off with an absolute corker – Main Divide Sauvignon Blanc 2006. You may remember our first column showcased the 2005 Chardonnay.

Send Santa an email and request the Sauvignon Blanc to be placed under your Christmas tree. Unwrap the bottle and you will be charmed by a crisp dry finish. The flavours are a heady (and yes, probably a decent hangover mix) of passionfruit, mango and paw paw. You will also notice a hint of freshly crushed spices. It is the festive season fermented in a bottle.

It may seem a bit unnecessary to discuss how you should hold a wine glass, but there is a right way and a wrong way and it does make a difference. If you are going to hold a wine glass with this magnificent wine then hold it the right way.

Wine glasses should always be held by the stem of the glass rather than the bowl since the heat of your hand will quickly warm the liquid. Try and remember this as you begin to get sloshed at the end of year Christmas function.

Enough said.

Now we are going to leave you with a little cellar note from the Wine Adviser to help you with your food and wine combinations over the summer.

The surest and easiest way to match food with wines is to look for sweetness, acidity or bitterness in the food and serve wines that have the same characteristics. Unless you are drinking cooking sherry, you will not come across saltiness in wines.

For instance, if your food item has an element of sweetness, your wine should also be sweet. Otherwise, the wine will seem



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sour. If your dish has bitterness (like the char on a steak) then the best match will be wine that has bitterness (from tannins in red wines). When it comes to acidity, it is easier to think of foods that benefit from the addition of acidity when selecting wines. If you squeeze lemon on a dish (like seafood) then you would want to match that dish with a wine that has higher acid content.

This 2006 Sauvignon Blanc is acidic and will therefore go with most of your seafoods and summer dishes.

“O Come all Ye Faithful Wine Drinkers ” and get this great special available at the Oakura Four Square for \$16.99. Now Santa is being generous this year and offering the chance to win a magnum of this liquid gold. All you have to do is buy a bottle and go in the draw to win one!

Yours in carols, cork screws and bottle tops

*Jillyho*

## Something for everyone at the 2007 Taranaki Wine and Food Festival

Wellington band Rhombus will be playing in Taranaki for the first time at next year's Wine and Food Festival. Their upbeat roots/dub sounds will be ringing out over 1800 people enjoying the sunshine, fine wine and food at the Okurukuru Winery Grounds.

Rhombus have achieved huge national success and a strong international following with their latest album *Future Reference* and have won numerous awards, including “Most promising New Act” in 2002, “Best Electronic Album” and “Best Album” in 2003 at the bNet Music Awards.

Recognising the importance of having a mix of entertainment to suit all tastes, in 2007 we'll start the day with some local, laid-back jazz, moving on to another local band The Smiles, before building up to the main event.

Another draw card for the festival will be the mix of locally produced wines available for tasting. As well as the fantastic fruit wines that have been produced in the district for many years, we have wine produced for the first year from Taranaki

vineyards – proof that Taranaki really is a future contender in New Zealand's Wine Industry.

The smooth running of the festival owes a great deal to the support on the day from the Egmont Lions Club, and as in previous years, a significant portion of the proceeds from the day will go to a charity chosen by the Egmont Lions Club.

Building on last year's success, the organising committee is keen to keep the winning formula, while ironing out any problems encountered last year. Numerous enquiries have already been received for ticket sales for the March 3rd event, and we anticipate a sell-out crowd.

Tickets for the festival, which attracted over 1800 people last year, will go on sale on 1 December and are available from Okurukuru Café, New Plymouth City New World and Ticketek nationwide. Tickets cost \$35 for pre-sales and will be \$40 for gate sales on the day.

For more updates in the future and further information, check out [www.taranakiwineandfood.com](http://www.taranakiwineandfood.com)

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Public	3.15pm - 7.00pm

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Spectator	\$1.00
Adult with child under eight years	\$1.20

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## Great Christmas gift ideas for EVERYONE at Oakura Pharmacy

Here is a sample of some of the delightful gifts Colleen, Sarah and Catherine have for you this Christmas. They offer free gift wrapping and can help you out with suggestions for all your family and friends.

### Under \$5

- \* Heaven "Too Delicious" lip balms in lots of yummy flavours.
- \* Mini Treats bubble baths and body lotions.
- \* Our very popular porcelain dolls in small and large sizes.
- \* Skin Treats face masks and some wonderful foot soaks, scrubs and leg gels
- \* Miki Mini nail polish (three for just \$5)
- \* Plus heaps of great stocking fillers such as soap crayons, Nemo and Wags the Dog bath foams, skipping ropes and great toys.



### Under \$10

- \* Jewel trinket boxes (large – \$8.10, small – \$6.10).
- \* Stitch Eau de Parfum perfumes, which are very close imitations of such classics as Angel, Tommy Girl, Red Door, Ralph, Chanel 5 and Baby Doll, only \$9.99.
- \* A four-pack of Stitch body sprays for only \$9.90.
- \* Mobile phone charms.
- \* A great assortment of hair accessories and hair products.
- \* Body Collection products. The aromas of these are just divine – come and try a tester of Mango & Shea butter, Oriental Orchard & Vitamin E, or Cucumber & Aloe.



### Under \$20

- \* Gift sets that smell and look stunning – the Get Fruity range of gift sets includes Pineapple/ Passion-fruit, Mango/ Papaya and Pink grapefruit/Mandarin. A great buy with body lotion, bath foam and bath sponge for only \$12.95.
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- \* A great variety of earrings and other stunning jewellery.
- \* Miki gift sets of five lip glosses or gift sets of roll-on shimmers.
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## Slow Food\* Taranaki

Time for another newsletter to keep you informed of upcoming Slow Food Taranaki events you may wish to attend and reports of previous events you might wish you had attended! We realise there are many various aspects of the Slow Food Movement and understand that not every event will appeal to everyone. In saying that, we have been very encouraged by the turn out to all of our events. Thank you for your support.

### Early Settlers Picnic on the Lawn

Anyone for cucumber sandwiches and lamingtons? Karen Eagles has very kindly offered her lovely country home and garden for Slow Food Taranaki to hold an Early Settlers Picnic (and tennis?) sometime in February. There's plenty of time to do a little research on the foods consumed in New Zealand in the early days and also what was worn. I believe ladies picnicking in those days wore lovely large hats and long dresses and the men sported smart trousers with braces, jackets and hats... more about this in our next newsletter.

### Slow Food Cycle de New Plymouth

Nelle is interested in organising a summer progressive dinner with a twist – bicycling to your supper! Envisioned is a three-course dinner, starting with a first course of summer salads at Nelle's in Spotswood, then cruising down to the foreshore for a second course of mains at one of the new waterfront restaurants and finally pedalling slowly along the foreshore to our third course of desserts in downtown New Plymouth or someone's home. Feeling adventurous? Phone Nelle on 751 0743.

### Cottage Wines Tour and Tastings

John and Denise Ingle have kindly offered Slow Food Taranaki a Tour and Tastings Event at Cottage Wines sometime in the New Year so we'll arrange this with Denise

and let you know the date. Cottage Wines are situated in Branch Road and produce many award winning fruit wines.

### Cooking Fresh Mussels on the Beach

How does this sound to you? Sitting on the beach in front of Maryanne and Ross's house at Oakura with a bunch of Slow Foodies, eating freshly collected mussels from the ocean cooked over a gentle fire and enjoying delicious salads with fresh breads? And perhaps a drop or two of fine wine? This is an event we've planned for summer – will advise date later.

### Books for Slow Foodies

Alessandra Zecchini of Waitakere Slow Food has just published her fabulous new cookbook *Savour*, containing recipes for irresistible pizzas, pies, tarts and bread. Alessandra is also the author of the popular cookbook, *Sweet as*. The author, photographer, editor and publisher are all Slow Food members. To purchase, contact Random House NZ, admin@randomhouse.co.nz or phone 04 441 2710. \$34.00.

Another book to watch out for is *The Wedding Officer* by Antony Capella. \$35. This is a novel about a young British soldier who arrives in Naples in the 1940s and must stem the flood of young vulnerable Allied soldiers marrying the sensual local Italian girls. Tantalising smells and tastes of Italian food permeate the pages – dripping mozzarella, limoncello and other tasty morsels abound. This book is for all romantics and definitely for all foodies.

In May of this year Geoffrey Craig and Wendy Parkins launched a book entitled *Slow Living*. This book explores the growth of the Slow Food Movement and the philosophy and the politics of "Slowness". Geoffrey is the Otago Slow Food Convivium Leader and both he and Wendy were keynote speakers at *A Taste of Slow* in Melbourne in August of this year. If you require any further information regarding the book, you can email Geoffrey Craig at slowfoodotago@hotmail.com.

Slowest regards

Johanne, Nelle, Kate and Tony

# Using autism-friendly language

**Following on from my article last month, I'd like to write again about Ellen Notbohm's book, *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew*.**

The second thing on her list of ten is disordered sensory perceptions, which affect many individuals with ASD (an Autistic Spectrum Disorder). This means senses can be hyposensitive or hypersensitive. (I wrote an article for *TOM* on sensory issues a few months ago, so if anyone is interested in reading it I can email it to you – [akglenny@paradise.net.nz](mailto:akglenny@paradise.net.nz).)

Ellen is the mother of a child with autism, and her book is written as if from the child's perspective. Her third 'thing every

child with autism wishes you knew' is "Please remember to distinguish between won't (I choose not to) and can't (I'm not able to)." Ellen says when you call to a person with autism from across a room, it's not always that they're not listening, it may be that they can't understand you, due to everything going on in the room around you both or to the individual concentrating on something else.

Instead, an ASD individual may find it easier if you approach them, using their name, and speak directly in plain words. For example, "John, please put your library books in your bag, it's time for lunch." This makes the instruction clear in that you are saying what you want John to do and you are also telling him what will happen next. John will find it easier to follow the instructions if they are presented in language that is 'autism friendly', that is, concise, clear and using his name so he knows it is him you are talking to.

Next month I'll cover the fact that individuals with autism are concrete thinkers. Until then, remember, 'autism is a different way of thinking.'

Karen

# Extracts from the journal of Alfred Bluck

Alfred Bluck was born in Herefordshire in 1843 and when he was 19 years old, he set out for New Zealand. Alfred began service in the No 4 Company under Captain Carthew and was in active service during the Taranaki Land Wars, particularly around the Omata/Oakura/Okato area.

His journal isn't a definitive piece of history, merely a snapshot of how Alfred interpreted events as they unfolded around him. Entries in the journal are graphic and certainly not politically correct, but then they hadn't even invented the term in 1863. Alfred was a "normal" teenager who went to church in the morning (if he remembered!) and partied in the evening.

Alfred's arrival in Taranaki coincided with the rise of the Hau Hau movement and was a particularly ferocious and bloody time to be in Taranaki. When he was discharged he received a Crown Grant of Lot 82 in Okato township and rural lots 18 and 46 Okato. He sold these and moved to Taukau.

I think the following extracts give us a clear glimpse into the ordinary everyday life of a Taranaki Volunteer Serviceman and while Alfred's diary is not a literary masterpiece, I like the colour he manages to imbue into his writing. (I also read the diary of Zacheus Wells, another pioneer of New Plymouth, and his writings are mainly about the weather – which I'm sure we could all write tomes on at the moment!)

## 1863

*Dec 24th* – After being in Christchurch a week and not got employment I wrote to father and then joined the Taranaki Volunteers in time to go north in a schooner at night with bare boards with 1 pair blankets.

*Dec 25th* – Spent Christmas day on board that blackguard craft with nothing to eat but junk and praties (potatoes).

*Mar 1st* – Our Company march out to Poutoku. [Between Omata and Oakura Surf Highway 45.]

*Mar 7th* – A foraging party went out and brought home some peaches. A fellow of the name of Bitton shot a calf in the rump, mistaking him for a Maori.

*Mar 11th* – Kaitoke [Kaitake] attacked by 84 members of the 57th Company and a few of the Artillery who brought a 12-pound howitzer and a mortar to bear against it. Part of our Company were out in the bush to try and cut off the retreat of some of the Maoris who were seen near the town when the firing commenced. We immediately returned but only got back in time to see part of the engagement. One man was killed and an officer and six men wounded. Kaitoke is about 3 miles from Poutoko where we now are. We could see the firing on the hill.

*Mar 23rd* – The soldiers returned to the Pa for potatoes and found five horses there which they brought away with them. A party shelled Kaitoke.

*Mar 24th* – Big Jacks Pa taken by a party of the 57th and a few of ours. The artillery still shelling Kaitoke covered by 40 of ours.

*Mar 25th* – Up again at 4.30 to cover the guns shelling Kaitoke. Took a day's rations with us and went near enough to have shot at the Maoris who kept on firing on us and shouting to us to come up.

*Mar 26th* – Kaitoke taken by the Otago Companies in the rear and the 57th in the front. Our Company went alone through the bush towards the other end of the ranges then came along the ranges to Kaitoke, burning a Pa on our way from which a few shots fired on us. We were stationed at Kaitoke to defend it with a few of the artillery and 40 of the 57th.

*Mar 27th* – A Company of the Melbourne men came to help to build a redoubt and destroy the Pas and they went back at night.

*Mar 30th* – One of our men and one of the artillery were shot at, at the place we wash and get water. The artillery man was dreadfully tomahawked but our man managed to run a little way after he was wounded. The Maoris were in ambush and fired a volley on three men washing, the one not wounded ran up here and gave the alarm. 50 men of the 70th arrived.

*Mar 31st* – An old Maori caught by the patrol and sent on to town. Signals arrived. A dead chief found. The doctor skinned his tattooed ass. 16 men in a tent now; the 70th having come inside the fort now.

*Apr 1st* – The redoubt finished and now at work felling the bush.

*Apr 7th* – A party of the 70th to a number of 40 from here under Capt. Lloyd and about 50 of the Melbourne men guided by McKenna went to Big Jacks reconnoitering when cutting down the crops there, they were fired into by an ambuscade of 300 Maori and after a short fight Capt Lloyd and 4 of his men and 4 of the Melbourne were killed. McKenna and several of the wounded were carried to Oakura, the men at which point immediately went to the late scene of the battle for the dead and missing. All the dead had their heads cut off and taken away. A Melbourne man missing.

*Apr 12th* – White and Reynolds had a fight with tent peg hammers and both of them had awkward knocks on their heads which made the blood fly.

*May 3rd* – Wood arriving by steam boat from up the coast to make block houses. Our men helped to land it. Those that went on board got tight and when coming ashore, they cut the raft away, the consequence was 8 of them put in the guard tent, 2 of them had 7 days in the cells.

*May 6th* – We were all turned out soon after 11 o'clock at night, a shot having been fired by the sentry on the beach. Having turned out a party of men were discovered coming



along the beach who turned out to be 8 sailors ship wrecked 20 miles down the coast. They escaped the Maoris although wrecked opposite a Pa in the night of Sunday.

#### 1865

*Jun 30th* – I'm put under arrest for not reporting a man absent 10 minutes after time from my tent.

*Jul 4th* – I return to duty with a caution, should have no objection to being put under arrest again.

*Jul 11th* – The Alexandra steamed into the bay [Opunake] this morning with a detachment of the 43rd who have come to relieve us. We were soon out of sight of the earthworks of Opunake

*Jul 12th* – Sea very rough, one of the boats washed away, the vessel was obliged to be kept away from the coast so passed Taranaki in the night.

*Jul 13th* – Landed at Taranaki and were marched to Omata Stockade, 4 miles from the town.

*Jul 14th* – Received new rifles at Omata. Too wet to proceed.

*Jul 15th* – Marched forward and encamped at Oakura, a distance of only 8 miles, the roads were so bad it took the bullock drays 8 hours to do it. Pitched our tents in the rain on soaking ground.

*Jul 18th* – Forward again to Tataraimaka. Only 6 miles. The bullocks hardly able to pull the baggage, the roads being so bad. Again pitched our tents on cold wet ground.

*Jul 19th* – Again marched forward to the promised land and arrived at our destination – the new redoubt by the Stoney River. All wet through. A distance of 24 miles from town, having been on the road 6 days.

*Aug 5th* – The Alexandra Steamer wrecked on the White Cliffs.

*Oct 7th* – Returned to Tataraimaka Block House having seen the Col. about the rum being deficient.

*Oct 20th* – Capt. Mace and 2 mounted men wounded between Warea and the Stoney River; the Maoris having laid ambush.

*Nov 5th* – A wild cow shot in the bush.

*Dec 26th* – Col. Haltain who is Defence Minister came out, he happening to be in Taranaki at the time. The men having been drawn up in line, he told them that if they still refused to select (balloted land lots), then another Company should have the land and our Company would be sent down to Patea. He then dismissed the men for half an hour to think on it. The men were again formed in line and as their names were called they drew their numbers of selection. Those who refused, the Col. then drew for them.

#### 1866

*Feb 4th* – I have finished my whare and am now living in it. Have commenced to make a garden.

*Mar 25th* – Went into the bush after the beef. Met some Maoris in the bush and had dinner with them. They fried slices of beef by having bent sticks, one end thrust in the ground and the beef hanging on a sharp fork and the other in front of the fire.

*Apr 30th* – Petroleum discovered on the Sugar Loaves.

*May 15th* – Put down an acre of Italian Rye grass and white clover.

*July 16th* – Planted bank with 12 peach trees, 9 gooseberry bushes and 3 fig trees sent out from town by Carr.

*Aug 7th* – Took 7 hens belonging to Paice to my hen house. Paice got a bag of maize from the transport corps at Stoney River.

*Sept 28th* – Skeleton of a man found in the bush who was lost 5 years ago at the breaking out of the war; his rifle was lying by his side.

#### 1867

*Feb 4th* – Attended sale of Taukau land and bought 5 sections.



## Huge Concert Line up...

### Blackseeds

December 28

### Jimmy Barnes

December 30

### Blindspot & The Bleeders

January 2

### Shihad & The Datsuns

January 4



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## The Reservation

The Reservation is a riverside tepee campsite nestled amongst native trees and directly opposite the historic Te Koru Pa.

Come and enjoy our campfire at night and our native flora and fauna in a peaceful private setting. Bring the family or friends and don't forget the food and wine. For more info, visit

[www.tekorutepees.co.nz](http://www.tekorutepees.co.nz)



## Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club

Oakura Surfcasting Club was the first fishing club in the country to recognise kayak fishing as a sport, hence we changed our name to Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club.

We have regular Club Days through out the summer months where we all fish together or we fish anywhere with a weigh-in on the day, and we're more than happy for interested people to tag along. If you are interested in having a go at kayak fishing or even surfcasting, call one of us below and we'll have you catching fish in no time.

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## Great ideas for entertaining pesky visitors

Damn those visiting relatives! They come to Oakura, take space on our beach, eat our food and then want us to entertain them as well!

Have no fear, for this year you'll be prepared with some suggestions from Taranaki Outdoor Adventures (TOA) when they ask you what there is to do around here. These are the replies you will need to memorise, depending on your mood.

- If you are happy (they brought great presents): "How about some dam dropping, its TOA's great, unique, adrenaline-packed Taranaki activity – a must for all visitors."
- If you want them out of your hair for a day (their kids are driving you crazy), you can smile and say: "The Mokau Canadian Canoe trip is a great adventure that the kids will really enjoy. It has graveyards, crocodiles, incredible scenery and some nice mud."
- If you are not happy (they scoffed all the food): "I hear that TOA has a 50m abseil out at the White Cliffs that you can throw yourselves off. It'd be great. Take your time." Or "Why don't you go down, hire a kayak and find out if the stories about our Great White are true."

Or if you are too busy or too tired, just tell them to visit our website ([www.toa.co.nz](http://www.toa.co.nz)) for adventure ideas. Have a great Christmas break and see you on the beach!

Tran and Belinda

Taranaki Outdoor Adventures ([www.toa.co.nz](http://www.toa.co.nz))

Team Experience ([www.teamexperience.co.nz](http://www.teamexperience.co.nz))

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## NZ Xmas

Make Christmas decorations with a difference.

Cost: \$5 per session

Wednesday, 20 December, 11am – 3pm

Age: 6 – 9 years

Thursday, 21 December, 11am – 3pm

Age: 10 – 13 years

## Bubble wands

Construct a colourful wand with shapes through which to blow bubbles and bring to Friday's *Glow in the Park* parade.

Cost: \$5

Tuesday, 9 January, 10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm

Age: 6 – 8 years

## Light hanger

Combine electronics and mixed media to construct a lantern that glows to bring to Friday's *Glow in the Park* parade.

Cost: \$5

Wednesday, 10 January, 11am – 3pm

Age: 7 – 10 years

## Umbrellas 2 go

Construct and decorate your own crazy umbrella that celebrates nature and bring to tomorrow's *Glow in the Park* parade.

Cost: \$5

Thursday, 11 January, 11am – 12.30pm

Age: 9 – 13 years

## Art of science

Use simple scientific experiments that create surprising arty results.

Cost: \$5

Tuesday, 16 January, 10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm

Age: 6 – 8 years

## Contraption critter

Construct an imaginative creature that twitches and twirls.

Cost: \$5

Wednesday, 17 January, 11am – 3pm

Age: 7 – 10 years

Story world

Convert an old book into a miniature cut-out fantasy world that pops up at you.

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Thursday, 18 January, 11am – 12.30pm

Age: 9 – 13 years

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Cost: \$10

Tuesday to Thursday, 23 to 25 January, 11am – 3pm (three-day workshop)

Age: 9 – 13 years

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Capture the beauty of the Park on paper.

Band Rotunda, Pukekura Park

Cost: Free

Thursdays, 11 & 18 January, 2pm – 3.30pm

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## Stefan Webling for Formula One

By Kim Ferens

It might sound like a pipe dream but if my gut instinct is anything to go by, Stefan Webling of Oakura will one day be standing on top of the podium receiving Formula One racing accolades. It is still along way off though and Stefan has a lot of hard work to do to get there, but one small step for mankind...

Presently 17 year-old Stefan is involved in the National Formula First Racing Championship, Stefan was lying 7th overall after round one at Taupo, mechanical problems in round two at Manfeild has dropped him to 10th overall. So where did it begin?

If would be fair to say it began with Dad Stephen, who has been involved in the racing industry for many years, so Stefan has been in and around racing teams, cars and tracks for many years. Stefan began karting at the age of 12 and in 2002 won the Taranaki Kart Club Winter Series and the Rookie of the Year trophy. In 2003 he was Most Improved Driver in Karting. 2004 saw Stefan win the Junior Yamaha Class for the Taranaki Karting Club and came second in W.P.K.A series which is raced between Wellington, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu and Taranaki kart clubs. In 2005 he was fourth in the Taranaki Senior Light Class. This year Stefan applied for a scholarship from "Speedsport Star of Tomorrow" but missed out even though he qualified third fastest in the National Series.

Fomula First is an entry level, single-seater racing class with emphasis on driver skill and race craft. The cars don't have speedos, Stefan tells me, but he seems to have a fair idea of his speed. The cars have a range of 160-200kph top speed and have 1200cc motors.

The Formula First season has begun and Stefan has leased a car from the "Sabre Motorsport Race Team". There are various race meetings throughout the racing year, involving competing in several races over two days. It is a very intense way to spend the weekend and by the end of it Stefan is exhausted, but more importantly, exhilarated. Stefan has a fitness programme to enhance his endurance and concentration in the driver's seat – it is important to be in top physical condition to be a top driver.

It is a money hungry sport and sponsorship is an ongoing issue but fortunately "Horizon Energy Services Ltd" have given Stefan a 'leg up'. Any business who wants to promote themselves through the motorsport industry might like to consider Stefan and his racing career as a positive way to advertise their business. And it doesn't have to be in huge donations of cash but even goods and services relevant to racing like clothing, tyres, accommodation, etc.

The thrill of racing or driving fast is what Stefan loves about the sport – going fast and controlling the car. Stephen says that Stefan has the right mental attitude as well as the natural ability to do well in racing. His goal is to be as good as Scott Dixon and he wants to compete in the Australian V8 Super Car Championship too.

The 17 year-old has recently left Francis Douglas College to work as at Rotech Services NP as an Automotive Engineer where he hopes to be offered an apprenticeship and he is

enjoying the work under the bonnet as well as knowing the thrill of race driving. It's not necessary to be mechanically-minded to be a good race car driver, but it certainly helps with reporting back to the pit crews about any malfunctions with the cars.

Stefan doesn't have a lot of time for other hobbies but he played in the Francis Douglas 'A' basketball team and enjoys hanging out at the beach in Oakura.



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## Sports awards

By Anne Stembridge

Oakura was well represented at this year's Taranaki Sportsman awards with candidates in four categories.

A national surfing title, second placing at the Australian pro juniors competition and a third in this year's world championships in Australia earned Paige Hareb a nomination for the junior sports-woman category.

New Plymouth Old Boy Surf Club star Dylan Dunlop-Barrett was selected for junior sports-man with his win at the New Zealand surf lifesaving championships at Oakura in March and for smashing a host of swimming records throughout the year.

Equestrian team – Letitia Cook, Kimberly Winks, Matthew Dickey and Kirk Myers were chosen to contend the junior team award with their Saba Sam Shield win.

Oakura Boardriders' Club life member Mike Christiansen was nominated for the volunteer-administrator category by fellow members in recognition of his tireless contribution to the Club.

## Oakura Tennis Club

The season is well under-way now, despite the windy, wet weather doing its worst to disrupt many matches.

Those who played in Junior B Grade last year have moved up to the next level and are proving very competitive here. Only 3 points separate six teams! Oakura Black are 4th =, and Oakura White 8th, only 2 points behind.

Oakura Red is our team of new players in their first season. We are rotating the team members and they are currently third in their division. Well done guys.

Both Youth and B Grade teams have played extremely well, both third position in their divisions at the moment.

All these juniors are very keen tennis players and the courts are overflowing on club night. They get stroke correction, games, drills and practice, all aimed at fun and improving all aspects of their tennis.

The two A Grade teams are also very competitive this first round, despite being completely rained off this weekend. There are two or three more rounds before the Christmas break, with promotion into the next grade at stake at the end of the competition.

The senior club night follows the juniors on a Wednesday from 6pm and all members are welcome.

The president's team has struggled to fill the four men's spots each week and had to default some games. Despite this, the team is sitting second in its division. Chris would love to hear from any men, 35 years or older, who are keen for Saturday afternoon tennis from 1.30pm. It is great tennis, doubles and combines and a lot of fun. You can contact Chris on 752 7613.

For any further details about the Club, please contact Sue Pritt (Club President) on 752 7142.

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## Oakura Pony Club

The Taranaki equestrian season is now well under way. Many clubs have held their early competitions around the showjumping rings and dressage arenas, with riders establishing fitness levels and ironing out bad habits in readiness for a busy summer schedule.

The AMP shows are looming with their popular showjumping days, to be followed soon after by the many teams events for pony clubs – the North Island Showjumping Championships at Cambridge, Teams Eventing Training at Tokoroa and Wellington, the North Island Teams Dressage Championships at Taupo and Pony Club Games Championships at Taihape. Taranaki's own NRM-sponsored One Day Event series, which culminates with the National Eventing Championships (this year to be held at Masterton), will round off the season.

Oakura Pony Club has also had a busy start. Our Club has traditionally launched the competitive pony club activities in Taranaki with the Oakura Pony Club Jumping Day, a popular showjumping event involving all of the Taranaki pony clubs and also non-pony club showjumpers. This event is often regarded as a litmus test for many mounts brought in from the off-season and early training to gauge fitness and ability in the arenas. The event is well supported and is sponsored by the Oakura business community and individuals, which is very much appreciated the Club.

The event is normally held at the Waitara Pony Club grounds as they have the facilities to cope with the many horse trucks and floats as well as the space for the four arenas required for the various classes and events. Entry into this year's horse classes was down on previous years but had very good pony classes. There was also an enormous resurgence in interest in the Show Hunter classes, a style event for both horse and rider. Long-time local equestrian and Show Hunter judge and organiser, Maureen Looney was overwhelmed with riders, which I have no doubt she will be quietly happy about.

The next popular competition which is well contested is the trials day for selection of the North Taranaki Team for the North Island Teams Showjumping Championship at Cambridge. Okato Pony Club is to host the trials on Monday 4 December, which may be held in our arena. Oakura has a strong group of contenders this year, which will make for an exciting trial.

Graham Rook

## OAKURA YOGA

Last class for 2006 - Saturday 16th December at Oakura Hall

Due to expectant baby, classes will resume after Easter 2007

Watch this space for dates and times



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# Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club

## Greetings fellow fishos

With the summer coming on all fishos will want to get out and catch themselves a feed or three.

The main species we catch around these parts are Snapper, Kahawai, Trevally and Spotty Sharks. Pilchards and squid seem to be the most commonly used baits amongst our members, although some are trying the new artificial bait, with mixed results.

Ahu Ahu Road, Timaru Road, Corbett Park and the Tapuae are popular spots with our surfcasters, while popular spots for kayakers are the Port area, Waitii and some areas at Pukeahue. It must be noted that parts of the Pukeahue are now a marine reserve, now known as the "Paranini Reserve" – check if you are not to sure where you're allowed to fish. Easy access for kayak fishos to launch is Ahu Ahu Road on the northern side – if you don't want to go too much bother.

We have been pretty quite the last couple of months with the bad weather. We recently had the Ali Krutz Memorial Trophy against the New Plymouth Surfcasting Club. Quite a lot of our members fished in hideous conditions, however Shane Dunlop got a good Trevally and two Kahawai, Ali Watt got a Spotty Shark, Garry Harrison got a Red Cod and Peter Florence got

two Hiwi Hiwi. New Plymouth Surfcasting Club must have preferred the couch and they weighed in nothing. It was a good effort by our members to venture out on the day and retain the Trophy for another year.

Recent club days have been a bit sparse too. The best on was on Saturday 4 November with the weigh in at Waitii beach. Surfcaster Shane D got a good Snapper of 2.2kg, Chris Whittaker also got one of about 1.9kg, kayaker Gary McCracken got a Snapper just under 1.9kg and junior member Jacob Morgan caught four Hiwi Hiwi. In all we had about 50 fish weighed in, with a good turn out of about 20 members.

Kayak fisherman Andy Bailey got a real goodie at the beginning of October of 10.150kg – just under the current Club record.

We also had junior member Michell Hurring weigh in the first ever flounder for the Club – great to see the juniors getting into it.

## Weighmasters report to the end of October

Surfcaster:	1 Snapper	Kayakers:	13 Snapper
	5 Kahawai		5 Kahawai
	4 Spotty Shark		3 Gurnard
	1 Trevally		3 Blue Cod
	2 Hiwi Hiwi		
	1 Spotty		
	2 Red Cod		
	1 Flounder		

## October's fish of the month

Surfcaster: Shane Dunlop – Trevally (2.950kg)

Kayakers: Andy Baily – 10.15kg

Tight lines

Debbie E

Garry Harrison 7527055 ,Peter Florence 7532547,  
Debbie Edgecombe 7527425

*A sample of some of the fish we catch around these parts . . .*

*. . . surfcaster Shane Dunlop with a 2.95kg Trevally.*



*. . . kayak fisho Andy Bailey with a 10.15kg Snapper.*

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## Triathlon Q & A By Kim Ferens

A good number of Oakura sportspeople entered the triathlon event held in November. TOM asked them a few questions about their experiences.

### Local participants:

Louise Davey – 3rd in her category, 145 overall.  
 Claire White – 1st in her category, 105 equal overall.  
 Sue Oldfield – 20th in her category, 57th overall.  
 Jill Barron – 24th in her category, 63 overall.  
 Nicola Davies – 13th in her category, 45th overall.  
 Daniel Hine – 10th in his category, 10th overall.  
 Chris Ferguson – 14th in his category, 151st overall.  
 Andrew Glenney – 10th in his category, 103rd overall.

### Why did you enter?

*Louise:* I wanted to complete an Olympic distance course before Half Ironman.

*Claire:* To support a local race and to see if I could improve on last year's effort.

*Sue:* To see if I could do it and from suggestions from friends.

*Jill:* I had done some of the shorter distance events last year and I wanted to try a longer distance that I felt I could complete. It was a chance to be part of the huge weekend including the kids and elite athletes.

*Nicola:* I had never done a triathlon before, and after watching the ITU last year, thought I would have a go.

*Chris:* Good training race for build-up towards the Tauranga Half Ironman.

### Did you enter last year?

*Louise, Sue, Jill, Chris, Nicola:* No.

*Claire:* Yes.

### Are you going to enter next year?

*Louise, Jill, Sue, Claire, Nicola:* Yes.

*Chris:* Maybe.

### What were your goals?

*Louise, Chris:* To finish in under 3 hours.

*Sue:* To finish and try to do it in 1 hour 30 minutes.

*Jill:* To finish it, but I wanted to do a good time for me. I didn't want to be last!

*Claire:* Competing in the new national cup series, improving times on last year, can I do it twice?!

*Nicola:* To finish.

### Did you achieve them?

*Louise, Claire, Nicola:* Yes.

*Sue:* Yes and in 1 hour 35 mins!

*Jill:* I was 22 seconds over what I wanted to do. A mix up in transition with tops may have taken that long to sort out!

*Chris:* Yep, by 2 minutes.

### What are your goals now?

*Louise:* To finish Half Ironman in January 2007.

*Sue:* To do the full length triathlon.

*Jill:* To try some of the longer courses available with the local multi-sports club. I would like to keep competing and keep improving.

*Chris:* Tauranga Half Ironman in January.

*Nicola:* To continue my training. I will enter the Mountain to Surf

*God, it's good to get out of there!*



Marathon as part of a team, and head out to the Track in Inglewood this summer to better my running times.

*Claire:* Rehabilitate the body! And then complete a few more races in the series.

### What training did you do?

*Louise:* 3 or 4 swims/week, 3 or 4 runs/week, 3 bikes/week.

*Sue:* I do regular exercise anyway (run, cycle, yoga, tennis, swim – but not regularly enough When I decided to do it three weeks

before the race, I followed the NZ Triathlon scheme from their website – swimming 3 x, running 3 x and cycling 3 x each week. Yoga always helps me to stretch as well (thanks Sarsha).

*Jill:* 2 swims, 3 runs and 3 bikes a week, if time allowed. Closer to the event we did some sea swims to get used to the open water.

*Chris:* About 5-6 hours a week of swimming, biking & running.

*Claire:* Swim/run/bike 3 x each week for each discipline.

*Nicola:* I had 12 weeks to train so I had to start swimming and cycling (2 new disciplines). I trained about 8 hours a week. I joined an adult squad class at the Aquatic centre.

### Did anyone help you?

*Louise:* Yes, Graham Park.

*Sue:* No. Ideally I would have liked to joined a swim squad for more practice. Friends/colleagues always help and support though, that is very important as a lot of information is through word-of-mouth.

*Jill:* Yes, I had heaps of tips and encouragement. Friends helped with child minding, my husband Paul has done more than his fair share of cooking so I could go off to squad, and Nicky's husband Glen took the boat out in less than ideal conditions so we could do the open swims. We had the opportunity to train with Graham Park and some of the elite competitors too.

*Chris:* John Woodward from the O2project bike shop in Stratford has been coaching me for the last six months.

*Claire:* My husband and friends who have looked after my three children at various times... invaluable! Thankyou!

*Nicola:* My family and friends were very supportive! My friend Hayley Shearer wrote a training programme for me.

### Where did you train?

*Louise:* Bell Block Aquatic Centre and Oakura.

*Sue:* In Oakura and the Aquatic Centre.

*Jill:* Around Oakura for the runs and biking. The Aquatic Centre for the swims.

### How difficult was the training?

*Louise:* It was time consuming but fun.

*Sue:* Difficult having enough time, that is why I only did the short course. It puts a lot of strain on the rest of family life, especially with three kids. It also means you have to cut out other activities, ie less yoga, surfing. You have to be very disciplined to exercise every day.



*Concentrated effort from Andrew Glenny.*



*Claire White looking a tad too happy.*



*Jill:* It is hard to fit it all in and some days it's not possible to do any. With three kids, after school activities, work, family and other commitments, some weeks were write-offs. The changeable spring weather didn't really help either. I found lots of excuses on the wet, windy days not to go for the long ride or run I should have done!

*Chris:* Hard at the start but once you are into a routine, it becomes easier and more rewarding.

*Claire:* A wet and cold winter made it harder to motivate myself to get out and various injuries impaired training on a regular basis... also 'life' just gets in the way of training!

*Nicola:* I am not a swimmer or a cyclist so training in these disciplines was all new to me and I had a lot to learn, which was a challenge. The sea swimming was pretty cold!

#### **What did you get out of the event?**

*Louise:* A sense of achievement.

*Sue:* It was very enjoyable, especially with all the Oakura support. It also makes you realise what you are capable of.

*Jill:* I set myself a goal and managed to achieve it. I managed a distance I would not have been able to do last year. It just makes you feel buzzy!

*Chris:* A free racing top!

*Claire:* Huge adrenaline buzz and 1000 pts!

*Nicola:* It was a great experience and I realise I still have a lot to learn!

#### **Did you enjoy it?**

*Louise, Chris, Nicola:* Yes

*Sue:* Not just before the start. Once you get going it's good, though the sea swim was awful.

*Jill:* Not the run! I'm just not a natural runner! But looking back it was great to be a part of.

*Claire:* Never before, always afterwards!

#### **Could the event be improved?**

*Louise, Nicola:* I can't fault the event. It was great.

*Sue:* No swimming in the sea! Not sure if that's possible?

*Jill:* It seemed really well organised. It had a very positive feel about it.

*Chris:* Bigger swim buoys. Other than that, a great event.

*Claire:* The shift to March in 2008 will be good, warmer sea temperatures and a chance of more consistent weather. More international athletes will come for the first race of the season and it is always inspirational seeing these elite athletes in action on your front doorstep.

#### **How do you feel post race?**

*Louise:* Happy

*Sue:* Tired and sick but then elated.

*Jill:* Really tired straight after, but really glad I competed now.

*Chris:* Took a few days off training, but am keen to go again and go faster.

*Claire:* Great and relieved it is over, wishing we could have had better weather for the athletes on Sunday and visitors from out of town

*Nicola:* Enjoying relaxing for a while!

#### **What other sporting interests do you have?**

*Louise:* Surfing.

*Sue:* Tennis, yoga and surfing.

*Jill:* Tennis and windsurfing, tramping.

#### **Credits to anyone?**

*Louise:* Graham Parks

*Sue:* My family of course! Rowan, Molly, Anna and Chester.

*Jill:* Husband Paul, kids Amy, Daniel and Rebecca, and all my friends who have been so supportive and interested in how it has all gone.

#### **Anything else you'd like to add?**

*Sue:* Good to start with the short courses that Taranaki Triathlon Club hold – anyone can do those. It's always good to know a good massage therapist (thanks Kate)

*Nicola:* I was in the advertising for the ITU because... My name was given to Richard Sceats from Triathlon NZ as he was wanting five people who were entering the different races over the weekend to be in the photo. Hamish Carter was originally going to be in the photo also, but he retired so they superimposed Debbie Tanner in as she was supposed to enter the Elite ITU race, but she didn't end up doing it either.

#### **Giving way was not on the agenda for Nicola Davies (left, and Jill Barron, right).**



*Claire White*

# GETTING WET!



## Oakura Boardriders Update November

Will this weather ever let up?? As we head into the summer contest season things kicked off with the Corona surfing series opener in Gisborne. After a slow start where the comp was put off a week because of no swell things got under way the weekend of Nov 11-12th with a small swell that was messy at times but still contestable Makarori beach.

A contingent of Taranaki surfers traveled over with Nat Day of Oakura leading the charge in the men's division with a 1/4 final berth after driving from Dunedin sleeping overnight at home then driving to Gisborne the next day, good result and great effort. The woman's division was won by Oakura's Paige Hareb, a great start to the season for both these surfers with plenty more to come.

Next up some of the Oakura school team and dedicated parents traveled to Gisborne for the National Primary school championships, over 90 grommets competing, the surf small but mostly clean, with mostly sunny warm weather!!! so ideal for the majority of keen kids entered.

Oakura had some good success with Connor Anderson coming in 4th place in the hotly contested Boys championship division, Eloise Stevens getting to the semi finals of the girl's championship division and Lucy Brankin coming in 2nd in the girl's plate division after her early elimination in the championship round. This is a great effort by the surfers involved and also the parents as Gisborne is not an easy trip for a weekend.

Just after TOM goes to press the first of the Volcom "Totally Crustaceous Tour" comps at, Lyall Bay Wellington Dec 6th followed by the Taranaki Gromsearch the weekend of Dec 9th and 10th, will be held open to all U16 surfers in respective divisions, I hope some of the local surfers entered and had a go, entry forms for all Surfing NZ contests are available on [www.surfingnz.co.nz](http://www.surfingnz.co.nz) there is an entry pack with T Shirt and freebee's and there are lots of extra activities so come and have a go as there are a lot of events over Summer and well worth entering.

"Surfing Taranaki" was launched on Friday 8th December, along with "Expression Session". This was a showcase of some of Taranaki's older competitive surfers.

The penultimate event of course will be the NZ Surfing Nationals held on the Taranaki coast January 13th -20th 2007 hosted by the Oakura Boardriders club.

The local clubrooms and village in general will be the venue for a lot of after competition activities with one proposed evening being organized by Vertigo Surf shop seeing the skate park bowl filled with snow/ice for a snowboard session also featuring live music and rage night.

The clubrooms will be open evenings showing the days video footage and for general socializing. Registration and opening night will be Friday the 12th of January. This is a perfect opportunity for local surfers to have a go, so let's see plenty of local entries as there are plenty of divisions in all age groups.

Taranaki surfers have traditionally done very well in home waters so let's hope history repeats.

The Oakura Boardriders will be needing member support so if you can help out let a committee member know or give president Paul Christopher's a call on ph. 7527126, or 0274065654.

Anyone with a house to let over this period please let Jan Anderson know details on ph.7527171.

Also remember the Club is open Friday evenings for socializing leading up to Xmas.

*Brent Anderson*

Oakura Boardriders.

*Successful surfing trio, Eloise Stevens, Connor Anderson and Lucy Brankin.*



*Eloise Stevens.*



*Connor Anderson.*



*Lucy Brankin.*



**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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# The Blue Flag programme

The efforts of an Oakura 'local' have helped establish an international environmental organisation in New Zealand, with Oakura Beach being a potential pilot beach.

The first Blue Flag Marina was Westhaven, where Auckland mayor Dick Hubbard raised the flag last year. Oakura may be the first Blue Flag Beach in New Zealand. This would be an enormous environmental achievement for Taranaki.

The Blue Flag programme, which was started in France in 1985, has become one of the leading coastal environmental programmes in the world. The Blue Flag now flies over beaches and marinas in 36 countries in Europe, North America, the Caribbean, Africa and elsewhere.

New Zealand joined the programme in 2003 through its parent body, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

Essentially, Blue Flag provides environmental educational and management criteria for the measurement of a beach or marina's environmental performance to an international standard. Previously, Kiwis and others have relied upon the standards implemented by local and regional authorities, which are generally very good, but there has never been an internationally recognised standard for environmental beach management.

Blue Flag is a highly regarded programme that is endorsed by the United Nations and is used by many countries as a base standard for good environmental beach management. This means that it tends to help lift general awareness of good environmental beach management, not just for beach users, but also for other parties involved in coastal management.

New Zealand has first-rate policies generally and our membership of Blue Flag means we can also more readily exchange ideas and advice on issues in which we are expert. For instance, New Zealand's huge coastline – the eighth longest in the world – means we can take what we know in New Zealand and help other countries to apply some of our hard-fought lessons and environmental expertise.

The New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council are currently looking into the possibility of Blue Flag for Oakura and Fitzroy beaches. Local Community Board member Doug Hislop is also very keen on the idea and says the Blue Flag concept has great potential and would create a 'win-win' situation for everyone here. "There is no doubt," he says, "that environmental education will be an integral part of schools' teaching and learning programmes after the introduction of the new nation-wide compulsory New Zealand Curriculum next year."

"Taranaki educators are already at the forefront of many national educational initiatives and Blue Flag provides a wonderful opportunity to provide valuable learning opportunities for the next generation. And it is the next generation who will be ultimately responsible for sustaining the conservation values of our coastal environment."

Investigation into the feasibility of Blue Flag accreditation for Oakura Beach has now been included in the New Plymouth District Council "Oakura Structure Plan" (August 2006).

Oakura could potentially become the first beach in New Zealand to be awarded the Blue Flag, joining over 3200 communities and marinas around the world.

The process would involve a pilot phase (lasting for a period of approximately one year), during which the flag does not fly. If compliance with 25 of the 29 environmental criteria is

met, the beach is awarded the Blue Flag. Compliance is reviewed annually to ensure that the beach remains environmentally sound well into the future. The flag flies at the access way to the beach, not on the beach.

Many of the international Blue Flag beaches are exposed to similar elements as we experience in Taranaki – strong winds, heavy seas, strong rips and erosion.

The primary goal of the Blue Flag programme is to educate people on the unique environmental and ecological aspects (such as protected species of marine flora and wildlife) surrounding any given beach, and ensure that the water quality is consistently at a high standard. Internationally the Blue Flag programme requires that at least five educational programmes are undertaken on and around the beach each year to promote environmental sustainability. This offers a great opportunity for young and old to learn more about the issues affecting their coastline.

If you would like any further information on Blue Flag, visit [www.blueflag.org.nz](http://www.blueflag.org.nz), or email [rob.acton@blueflag.org.nz](mailto:rob.acton@blueflag.org.nz)



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# Rhodo Festival blues

By Anne Stembridge

Coastal gardeners say a positive attitude and better communication is vital for the continued success of the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival.

All three veteran Oakura participants – Ngamamaku, Woodleigh Gardens and The Garden Shed Studio – agree this year's Festival was very successful even though they say numbers were down.

Ngamamaku's John Sole and Tony Barnes are happy with the Festival's outcome despite the introduction of a new ticketing system and the atrocious weather at the beginning of the event. "We had three bus cancellations involving about 150 people on the first Sunday," says John.

He acknowledges there was confusion with the ticketing system initially but says the "hiccups were resolved throughout the Festival" and the many national and international visitors liked the idea of not having to carry lots of cash around with them. "We like the new systems put in place by the Taranaki Arts Festival Trust" (TAFT).

John says problems arose because of a lack of understanding by some Festival participants and the public, and they should have asked questions if they were not sure. He believed an increase in garden entry fees was essential as Festival organisers needed an attractive package to draw tourists and to ensure continued sponsorship for the event.

Oakura potter and artist Joyce Young has been associated with the Rhododendron Festival for 19 years and although her numbers were down by 50 percent, she's looking forward to being involved next year too.

She says the confusion from TAFT in notifying the public that all gardens were going to sell tickets did not help. "I am sure the Trust through their experience this year will benefit for organising next year's event. The gardeners need to communicate with the Trust more – rather be told what to do," says Joyce.

The avid gardener says general comments from visitors have been encouraging and some are already booked for next year.

Hydrangea expert and garden writer Glyn Church says the increased number of overseas visitors is partly due to Taranaki having so many gardens of significance. He says their response has made all the time and effort of producing a garden "in my lifetime" worthwhile.

Glyn thinks there is room for the Fringe Festival and people should not worry about competition. "The Edinburgh Arts Festival has successfully embraced the fringe activities as have other festivals throughout New Zealand."

Margaret Scott opened her four year-old coastal garden for the first time and has mixed feelings about the Festival.

She says the Oakura gardens did well as they were in a cluster group and because two of them were gardens of significance, but Okato's Stony River Pottery garden missed out by being further away.

Although Margaret had "lots of amazing feedback" about her garden, the newcomer felt like the "meat in the sandwich" as she had to field many of the complaints about the new ticketing system.

She says it is a pity the Rhododendron and Fringe Festivals are in opposition to each other and that they should be working together. "Organisers need to put aside petty differences and run it as one festival. If the bad feelings between the two organisations continue, it will be to the detriment of the Rhododendron Festival."

Event manager, Louise Stevens thinks the Festival went really well considering it was a year of transition. "The gardens were superb and there were lots of tourists. The Festival is going from strength to strength," she says.

"Changes were made this year to entice overseas visitors to the region but the Festival will always be there for the locals."

Louise says misunderstandings may have come about because of "a big publicity campaign with a lot of change to take in."

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# Hayley and Stu

## Hola from Bogota and hi everyone

We have now been in Bogota for about two and a half months and apart from the fact that my Spanish doesn't seem to be improving, everything is going well. Hayley once again is showing her ability to acquire another language and it is only when she gets in a real jam that she calls upon my more advanced sign language skills!

Our 12th floor apartment is in the district of Cedritos, Northern Bogota and although the area itself is clean and safe, it is not the most aesthetically pleasing, with tall brick apartment buildings everywhere. Fortunately we are very close to areas like Uciquen and Zona Rosa that are filled with boutiques, beautiful cafes and restaurants. The Colombians we have met so far have been extremely friendly. They are sophisticated, polite and love to party. Finishing a night of dancing (and boy can they dance!) at 5am seems to be the norm, rather than the exception.

The traffic is fairly horrific, but they appear to be on the right path (excuse my pun!) to fixing the problem. They have created special lanes just for buses and if you own a car, then one day a week you are unable to drive between 6-9am and 4-7pm. Every Sunday between 10am - 3pm the main road that runs almost the length of Bogota is closed off to traffic and becomes a sea of cyclists, joggers, rollerbladers and so forth. They have a crazy rule here that if you have an accident, you are required to leave the cars exactly where they are until the police have come and photographed the scene. Hence one little fender-bender can block a two-lane highway for an hour!

The school we are working at is a small British school and with the buildings, trees and flowers, looks more like an old Spanish villa than a school. Of the 23 children in my class, I've got nine different nationalities, including English, Peruvian American, Colombian, South African, Brazilian, Ecuadorian and Italian. Hayley has 13 children in her Year 1 class with a similar mix of nationalities. Our workload here is a lot higher than in Myanmar and we arrive home most nights around 5pm feeling pretty exhausted. No more Wednesday night drinks down at the Savoy for us! We're managing to keep pretty active though - Hayley is coaching basketball at school and is looking to join a soccer team soon. I've started training with the Barbarians rugby team and have declared myself a Sevens specialist (don't laugh!) - I don't think my ageing, spindly body is quite up to 80 minutes of rugby anymore. I haven't seen the other teams, but our team has some very, very big boys in it - six of whom are in the Colombian National team.

Try to imagine what Pablo Escobar's henchman would have looked like - that's these guys!!

To give you an idea of the security here... To get into our apartment you have to first get buzzed in by the two guards at the front reception, then go up 12 floors in the elevator and open the four locks on our front door. After trying to open all four locks at 4.30am one morning, (somewhat the worse for wear) we have now decided to only use two of the locks - hopefully we won't regret it! The army is everywhere and while this may sound all very unsettling, the flip-side of it all is that you do actually feel very safe. To do just about anything here requires having to give fingerprints. To get our identity cards (everyone in the country has one supposedly) meant having to give a print from every finger and both palms. Fingerprints to join Blockbuster video, fingerprints to open a bank account, fingerprints to change money!

Just like Myanmar, a large percentage of the kids here have drivers and some even have bodyguards. I have already made the mistake of going up to one child and saying, "So Juan, this must be your father?" "No Mr Bennett, this is my bodyguard!"

On the whole, things are pretty cheap here. Probably slightly more expensive than in Myanmar, but obviously cheaper than New Zealand.

We have been to a couple of soccer matches here, which is quite an experience. 40,000 people going absolutely nuts, with just as many police, army, firemen, bomb disposal and water canon trucks present. We are now confirmed Santa Fe supporters.

The other week we headed about 40 minutes out of Bogota to one of Colombia's more famous restaurant/bars to celebrate Hayley's birthday (the Big Three O!) 700 hundred tables jam-packed, finishing at 3am with everyone up dancing!

We had an international day at school last week and trained some of the kids up for the haka. I'm pleased to say that they did a great job. One of the parents joined us and as a reward for doing so well, has invited us all to his factory to fire machine guns at the cars he armour-plates. So confident is he, that apparently I'll be able to sit behind the wheel while Hayley fires at the windscreen! (She'll love that!) Murphy's Law - I'll get the one reject windscreen in the batch!

We are heading down to Buenos Aires, Argentina tomorrow to catch up with Hayley's sister, Amy ( who is at UCA University there as an exchange student) and Mum for a week. Then it's back to New Zealand in December for Christmas and a wedding - ours!

Hayley & Stu



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# Oakura Junior Sports Club: Mini-Athletics

Ready, set, go! And we are off and running, jumping and throwing again for the 2006/7 season.

Three years ago when we first started holding mini-athletics at Corbett Park, we had about 30 children turn up to our sessions each week. On our first night this year we had about 65 children register. What an amazing turn up for our little community. Children are now turning up from New Plymouth and Okato.

To the casual observer it may look somewhat chaotic but believe me having 65-plus children, siblings and parents participating each week means it is anything but.

We were told some time ago that this little idea of getting children between 2 and 7 years old to participate and learn the fundamentals of athletics would grow and become 'big'. Children arrive full of excitement and anticipation. It's like being part of a Wiggles/HI 5/Metallica concert each week!! They cannot wait to get moving and involved in the skills sessions. The response to our Monday nights shows us that children are finding sport an enjoyable and rewarding experience and hopefully developing a positive attitude to physical activity and health.

Over the winter break the committee completed Sport Taranaki Run, Jump, Throw course. Updating and purchasing only good quality equipment has been possible through a NZ Community Trust Grant and fundraising through our weekly sausage sizzle, with items donated from the Oakura Four Square.

Our season will break for Christmas on the 4th December and restart in early February.

If you have children that may be keen to join or you'd like to know some more about what we do feel free to contact us:

Jo Hill – 752 7899

Melissa Waite – 752 7907

Rose Parker – 752 7288



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## Volcanic activity at Oakura Playcentre

Making volcanoes is one of many favourite sandpit activities at Oakura Playcentre. The children pile up sand into a volcano shape. Into the crater goes some baking soda and when vinegar is poured over the top, 'lava' flows out. The effect is even more dramatic when red food colour is added to the mixture.



*The volcano comes to life.*

Note the newly completed deck in the picture. Thanks to all the Oakura locals who recently bought raffle tickets to raise money for the deck. And also a big thank you to all the businesses that put up the prizes. They were: Ahu Ahu Villas, the Oakura Beach Holiday Park, Taranaki Outdoor Adventures, Butlers Bar and Café, Ringcraft Moana, Kate Evans – Massage Therapist, Café Wunderbar, Snickerdoodles Coffee & Bakeshop, Oakura Four Square, Skincare Taranaki, Oakura Pharmacy and Toptown Cinema 5. The first prize was won by Feona Burkett and second prize went to Rodney Hall and Petra Packheiser.

The Oakura Playcentre in Donnelly Street is open Monday and Wednesday 9am to noon. New families are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us at the Playcentre, feel free to just turn up to a session or for more information, phone Joanna Syme on 752 7144.

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*December 2006*

Monday 11 – Thursday 14	8:30am – 6:00pm
Friday 15	8:30am – 7:00pm
Saturday 16 – Sunday 17	9:00am – 5:00pm
Monday 18 – Thursday 21	8:00am – 7:00pm
Friday 22	8:00am – 7:00pm
Saturday 23 – Sunday 24	9:00am – 5:00pm

<i>Christmas Day</i>	Closed
<i>Boxing Day</i>	10:00am – 4:00pm
<i>Wednesday 27</i>	10:00am – 4:00pm
<i>Thursday 28 – Sunday 31st</i>	Normal Hours

*January 2007*

<i>New Years Day</i>	Closed
<i>Tuesday 2</i>	Normal Hours

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a fantastic New Year**

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# A day in the life of Kaitake Kindergarten

A typical weekday starts with the teachers (Robyn & Eleanor) arriving well before the first children to prepare the kindergarten for the 60 enrolled children who will attend one of two sessions during the day. It may seem a totally spontaneous environment filled with the sound of happily playing children, but the kindergarten teachers follow a curriculum, set themselves term, weekly and session plans, and also remain flexible on how each day unfolds.

As each child arrives for the session, Robyn, Eleanor and our teacher aide, Jane, greet each family and help settle each child into the session. There are often exchanges between the parents and teachers, updates about what the children have been doing recently at kindergarten and at home.

An ongoing process that begins when a child commences kindergarten is to collect artwork and stow in a rapidly growing portfolio, tracking progress from the first painted brushstrokes and handprints to finally recognisable drawings of people that the children off to school magically produce.

This portfolio forms a link between kindergarten and school as each child takes the portfolio to school when they commence. It gives the new entrant teacher an insight into the interests and abilities of each child.

Each session lasts two hours and the teachers position themselves inside and outside to facilitate play and learning. They move between groups of children, asking questions and quietly encouraging interactive play. The equipment, animals and children's flower and vege garden are all very well utilised each session. Part of the daily routine is to ensure the rabbits (Lucy and Bessy) and birds are fed and their cages kept clean. At morning and afternoon tea the children are offered a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables brought from home and shared together. Quite often parent helpers prepare the food and also join in the activities, helping with artwork, playing with the children and engaging them in conversation.

All too soon it's circle time, a chance for the whole session group of 30 to get together for songs, group activities, a book read to the group and finally the goodbye song before the passing back individually of each child to parents, who have quietly arrived as the group worked together.

Between sessions, the teachers revise lesson plans, complete endless paperwork, order resources, and always have time for one-on-one chats with any parents who have concerns about their child.

With sandpit covered, rabbits safe in their hutch and all the toys back in their respective storage places, the teachers head home for some well deserved rest before another day tomorrow.

Thanks on behalf of all of us at Kaitake Kindergarten for the ongoing support of the community in the running of the kindergarten, contribution to our fundraising efforts and donations of time and resources

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Susan Henderson

Committee



*Teacher planning.*



*Reuben hanging up his bag*



*Young artists at work.*



*Parent helper and Bessy the rabbit.*

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# Oakura School Leavers 2006

We asked the Year 8 children at Oakura School three questions -

1. What school will you be attending next year?
2. Name or list highlights of your final year
3. What are your aspirations for the future?



**Hayley Beekman**

1. Spotswood.
2. Camp, coming 1st in the cross country and 2nd at coastal.
3. In teams for Taranaki or NZ for equestrian.



**Jackson Braddock-Pajo**

1. Boys High.
2. Camp, end of year breakup because it will be fun, coming 3rd in North Island ski champs.
3. A wife and kids, ski patroller in winter, ski designer in summer.



**Zachary Butler**

1. Spotswood.
2. Playing interschool soccer because I scored two goals in the final game.
3. Playing soccer and making new friends.



**Renee Cadenhead**

1. Sacred Heart.
2. Production, camp, Wearable Arts.
3. Lawyer, pro horse rider, actor.



**Shannon Day**

1. Spotswood.
2. Coming 2nd in interschool netball, becoming class councilor, 3rd in cross country, enjoying my last year at Oakura School.
3. Finish high school, go to university and become a photographer, travel the world.



**Johnny Fletcher**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Cross country- coming 3rd, 2nd and 3rd in Taranakis, coming 3rd in Taranaki soccer reps.
3. I would like to earn a lot and be a surgeon or a footballer.



**Connor Hoskin**

1. Spotswood.
2. Friends just hanging out, Inline hockey.
3. To be a pro inline hockey player and to make a lot of money.



**Adam Landers**

1. Boys High.
2. Rugby, cricket and basketball finals.
3. Pro sportsman or an engineer.



**Tobias Looker**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Ski racing team got third in North Island.
3. To be a vet or be part of SPCA.



**Seth Marshall**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Sports, winning rugby final, athletics, cross country.
3. Finish high school and go to university to study.



**James McDougall**

1. Boys High.
2. Winning -division one cricket, Taranaki division of the Milo Cup, interschool rugby. Making basketball final.
3. Play cricket for New Zealand.



**Chelsea McKessock**

1. Spotswood.
2. Production and being part of the year 8 netball finals.
3. To be a famous dancer or an actor.



**Hogan McKee**

1. Sacred Heart/Spotswood.
2. Technocraft because I brought home delicious things and learned how to cook. Cross country because I discovered I liked running.
3. Work for the National Geographic magazine- studying people, the way they live and how they deal with the world's changes.

# Oakura School Leavers 2006



**Keelan O'Donnell**

1. Spotswood.
2. Being in year 7 and 8 interschool rugby team and winning the final.
3. Go to uni to study architecture.



**Beatrice Petty**

1. Spotswood.
2. Camp, athletics, coming 3rd in both school and coastal cross country.
3. Either being a biologist or a horse whisperer.



**Hannah Ross**

1. Girls High.
2. Athletics, camp, captain for our netball team and coming second/runner up, cooking at technocraft.
3. Go to high school and do well at university so I can be a silver fern, an actor or a professional dancer.



**Joshua Thomson**

1. Boys High.
2. Winning- interschool rugby, Taranaki milo cup for cricket, Saturday cricket competition.
3. To play cricket professionally.



**Molly Coates**

1. Spotswood.
2. Playing in the interschool soccer team. Just being in Mr Luckin's class for year 8.
3. Finish high school and go to university to study history and journalism.



**Bronte Alder**

1. Sacred Heart.
2. The production and school disco.
3. Um... to become a famous equestrian! And go to the Olympics on my pony Husky!! Heelan Tompkins, Lydia Quay and Matthew Grayling are my idols!



**Ashleigh Clark**

1. Spotswood.
2. Wearable Arts, production, marae visit and staying the night, netball.
3. To be a dietician.



**Eve Coltman**

1. Sacred Heart/Spotswood.
2. Being head pupil, camp, having a good time with my mates/peers.
3. Gain selection in a NZ Inline hockey team, do well at high school, become a hairdresser.



**Emma Glucina**

1. Spotswood.
2. Cross country and just being a year 8.
3. Would really want to go to Italy or some other place in Europe. And eat Italian food.



**Taryn Page**

1. Sacred Heart.
2. Production and camp.
3. To be successful in whatever I do.



**Emily Pipe**

1. Sacred Heart/Spotswood.
2. Production, Wearable Arts, Marae visit.
3. Psychologist nanny.



**Keiran Adlam**

1. Spotswood College.
2. Winning the rugby final against Eltham and scoring a try!
3. Try my best at sports and aim to be a pilot.



**Connor Anderson**

1. Boys High.
2. Being selected for the NZ karate team and competing at the world champs in Australia.
3. An engineer or an architect but if that's too hard I'll become a street mime.



**Mate' Antunovic**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Moving to Oakura and setting up our lolly business.
3. I want to be a businessman and work in some big company or I want to be a stock-broker.

**Wade Lewis**

1. Boys High.
2. Camp, sports.
3. Unknown.

**Max Lumb**

1. Boys High.
2. Winning the rugby finals.
3. Um I dunno, maybe a surfing photographer.

**Michael Muggeridge**

1. Spotswood.
2. Playing lead role in production, 3rd in Toast Masters speech comp, 1st place in Oakura speech comp, being part of school band.

**Zachary Power**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Rugby final, debating, cricket final, basketball final, speech finals.
3. To keep playing my sports and go study law.

**Kyja Street**

1. Boys High.
2. Interschool rugby, milo cup cricket.
3. Represent Taranaki or NZ in sport.

**Teihorangi Walden**

1. Francis Douglas.
2. Being head pupil, lead role in production, camp, winning rugby final for the first time in history.
3. To be successful in what I do, do well with my rugby and other sports. My dream is to become an All Black .

**Mitchell Walker**

1. Boys High.
2. Getting 1st in 'Off the Wall' section at Wearable Arts, learning to play the bass guitar.
3. Electrician. In spare time do street performing.

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# OMATA school news

## Look out for . . .

- 14 December – WOMATA Festival Evening (starting 5:30pm)
- 20 December – Big Day Out reward day
- 21 December – School closes 12 noon

Our Womata "World Of Music And The Arts" Festival is set to be a real highlight for the year. Thanks to Jan Aiello, our music teacher, who has been the driving force in getting our Festival off the ground. Each class has been studying the culture, music and dance from a different part of the world and we all come together on the evening of the 14th to share food, music, arts and dance from those areas. Tickets for a meal will be able to be purchased in the week prior to the Festival. Fine weather is ordered and we invite all community members to come along and enjoy the evening with us.

This year for the first time since the 1960s, Omata School has Year 8 students leaving to attend local high schools and the Board of Trustees, Staff and Home & School have initiated these cups to present at the end of the year:

- Staff cup for Responsibility
- Principal's Cup for Leadership
- BoT cup for Academic Excellence
- Home & School cup for Sporting Excellence
- Community cup for Arts and Culture

It is wonderful to be part of establishing new actions that will become traditions for Omata School.

Speaking of "new", you may have seen some building work happening out the back. Pepper Construction has been awarded the contract for the refurbishment of our old block and construction of the new library. Once the new library is well underway, work will begin on the new admin. area. This will mean a new front entrance to the school, which our architect Bill Jackson has designed to be sympathetic to the historic style of the building. We are relocating the staffroom and teacher resource area to the old library and are remodelling the interior of the main block to include a new sick-bay and music room. All classrooms are being enlarged and will include offices for our teachers.

The Board is also undertaking a much needed "makeover" of our school pool. This term the pool will be resurfaced inside and out, and new stainless steel rails will be fitted so it will be ready to roll for summer – we just need a little sunshine!

You may have noticed that our school roll has been creeping up in recent years and is now over 150. Although this growth was always predicted by the Board of Trustees (through analysis done in the days of the Coastal Schools Network Review), we are now getting close to the Ministry of Education generated capacity figure for our school. Because of this, the Ministry have requested that we put in place an enrolment scheme (you may know it as "zoning").

The Ministry has delivered the Board a large amount of reading matter on the setting up and running of such schemes and we are currently becoming familiar with how the process works! Before any scheme is put in place there needs to be a significant amount of consultation with our community and neighbouring schools over suitable zone boundaries, etc. So we will be back in touch with you when we have a better understanding of what is involved. In the meantime, be assured that this does not and will not affect anyone who is currently on our roll, whether they live inside or outside our eventual zone.

*Merry Christmas from Karen Brisco.*

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



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# Omata School Leavers 2006

We asked the Year 8 children at Omata School the same three questions -

1. What school will you be attending next year?
2. Name or list highlights of your final year
3. What are your aspirations for the future?



**Ben Taylor**

1. Going to Francis Douglas.
2. Highlight was the Year 6 camp.
3. I'd like to do something with horses, like a riding school.



**Ethan Boyce**

1. Going to Spotswood College.
2. Highlight was indoor bowling.
3. I'd like to be a pilot.



**Jacob Tomlinson**

1. NPBHS because I like their computing, sporting and music areas and the NP Sword Club is located there.
2. Highlights were WOMATA, Mr Norris and Mr Murphy. I have learnt more from Mr Murphy than anybody else.
3. Pursue piano and computing as a career and be a high grade fencer.



**Holly McLeod**

1. Spotswood College because both of my sisters have achieved well there and my parents and I would like me to achieve well too.
2. Highlights are the Young Leaders Conference, the Year 7 camp, making my movie, doing cross country and representing Omata School at the Toastmasters speech competition.
3. I would like to be a doctor and become a lifeguard in my spare time.



**Amalie Blackman**

1. NPGHS.
2. Highlight was doing cross country.
3. I would like to play basketball professionally.



**Joshua Sands**

1. Home school.
2. Highlights were making clay tiles and starring in homemade movies.
3. I would like to be a geological surveyor.



**Joshua Kenny**

1. Spotswood College.
2. Highlight was using the Apple laptop.
3. I would like to get into the music industry, become a well known sport player, become an artist or be a driver.



**Alana Foster**

1. Spotswood College.
2. Highlight was going to the Leaders Conference in Wellington in May 2006.
3. I would like to be a veterinarian.



**Hayden Marshall**

1. Spotswood College.
2. Highlight was learning lots on the computers and cameras, and going to the school disco.
3. I would like to be a squash player and work with computers or at a bank.



**Aden Lowe**

1. Spotswood College.
2. Highlight was the school disco.
3. I would like to do something in car design.

## Some shots from the recent Omata/Oakura Schools' Yrs 1 & 2 Sports Day



*Ben Scott struggles with his sack . . .*

*Now, here's a sack under good control!*



*. . . while Kate Logan hops the hoops.*



# Senior prizegiving for New Plymouth Girls' High School

## Anita Crawford

Distinction Award for Surfing  
First in Year 12 Computer Skills

## Paige Hareb

Distinction Award for Skiing and The Sally and Katie Wolfe Cup for Best All Round Skier

Distinction Award for Surfing  
Merit Award for Snowboarding  
The Barry Marnoch Cup for High Performance in a chosen sport

## Grace Power

Distinction Award for Netball  
Merit Award for Cross Country  
Merit Award for Hillary Challenge

## Michelle Cowley

Diligence Award  
First in Yr 11 Graphics Design (shared)

## Kathryn Grant

Diligence Award  
The Hamerton Wilson Prize for Botany  
First in Year 11 Agricultural and Horticultural Science and the Washer

Cup for Agriculture and Horticulture  
The Karen Fox Cup for Orchestra

## Jenna Green

Diligence Award

## Chloe Evans

Diligence Award

## Tara Harvey

Diligence Award  
The Year 13 Printmaking Prize (shared)

## Zara Brouwers

Year 12 Diligence  
First in Economics (shared)  
The Jane Tuson Cup for Debating (shared)  
The Burgess Cup for Senior Speech  
Overall Scholar Award

## Jessica Ruddlesden

Diligence Award  
The Taylor Cup for Deputy Head Girl (shared)  
The Alumni Award for Deputy Head Girl  
The Penny Butt Cup for Promotion of School Spirit

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SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTACT DETAILS

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### WORK WANTED

DO YOU have a job for me? I have been teaching English and dance overseas as a volunteer and need a job until March – or any amount of time – and anything considered! Previous lifetime: secretary, word-processor operator, waitress – and can babysit, dogwalk, garden, clean and whatever! Phone 752 7357 or email me at [sprestney@yahoo.com](mailto:sprestney@yahoo.com)

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

A PIECE OF PARADISE, Koru Road (approx 2½kms up), 5 acres with title.

98% flat with Mountain & sea views, plus native bush On school bus route. Happy neighbourhood with lots of children. Established shelter belt. Covenants will apply after discussion. Realistic offers only considered for this highly desirable property. Phone 021 410 030.

### WANTED

FIREWOOD . Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club requires firewood for fundraising, preferably Pine or Mac. We can round it up. Must be easy to access and not too far to cart back to our stock piling spot at Oakura. Phone Debbie on 75 27425 or Garry on 752 7055.

### DOMESTIC CLEANER

AVAILABLE. Oakura area. Ph 752 7699

### BABYSITTER AVAILABLE

OAKURA area. Friday/Saturday and school holidays. Ages 2-12 yrs. Ph 752 7699.

### WANTED TO RENT

IN OAKURA, 23-26 December. A house for 5 people. Ph 07 543 1276.

### WEEKEND RETREAT

COMFORTABLE accom. Suitable up to 3 couples. Quiet, private, relaxing. Just a stone's throw from all Oakura Cafés. Ph 06 757 2350.

### CHILDCARE

AVAILABLE. Loving, caring, warm, safe, educational, home-based preschool care from experienced, qualified caregiver. Financial support available. Ph Pat 752 7559.

### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

I have people wanting holiday accommodation. If your house is available for rent over the summer period, please contact me - tracey@thetom.co.nz, or ph 752 7875.

### HOUSE WANTED

FOR RENT in Oakura for family of 4. Contact Oakura Beach Motels.



## CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

### **Plunket coffee Mornings:**

Friday mornings 10.00 -11.30am at St James Church hall.

### **Mini Groovers:**

Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall. Gold coin donation.

### **St John's Omata:**

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

### **St James Church Oakura:**

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

### **Kung Fu:**

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

### **Kick Boxing & Self Defence:**

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs 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:**

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7.00pm-9.30pm. Saturdays - level 2: 7am-8.30am. Beginners: 9am-10.30am. Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494.

### **Oakura Art Group**

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

### **Senior Citizens:**

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

### **Twilight Bowls:**

Fridays 6.00pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club. All Welcome.

### **Indoor Bowls:**

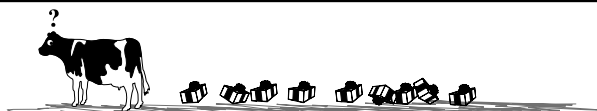
Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

### **Country and Western Club**

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

### **Playcentre**

Playcentre, Donnelly Street Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.



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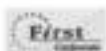


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on 06 753 4711 or mob 021 478 277



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# Anne Wilson

06 752 7775

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I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and hope that you enjoy a great summer in Taradise. Thank you for all your support in what has been a fantastic 2006 for me. Keep smiling, and Happy New Year, Cheers, Anne.



## Properties For Sale by Anne

CHECK OUT OUR SIGN BOARD AT THE RAW TASMAN CAFE

### 17 Mace Terrace, Oakura

\$440,000. Very private 3 bedroom home with garage. Redecorated in modern colours, fantastic landscaped garden, with wonderful outdoor living areas. Quick, flat walk to shops.

### 18 Russell Drive, Oakura

OAKURA Retirees, Small families or Couples. NEW LISTING. 3 Bedrooms, ensuite, double garage. Private and sunny. Enjoy sitting in the sunfilled living Call Anne for more details. Offers over \$490,000.

### 69 Fulford St, New Plymouth

New listing. Charming 2 bedroom character cottage + self contained 1 bdrm bedsit. Fabulous city & sea views with intimate outdoor living. Tender.

### 42 Alberta Rd

Brand new 3 double bedrooms with open plan living. Great indoor/ outdoor flow on fully fenced section. Quality chattels and solid materials throughout. Offers over \$449,000.

### 16a Barriball St, Fitzroy

Large 2 bedroom unit with single garage. Flat section. Gas amenities. Offers over \$269,000.



### 70 Barrett St, New Plymouth

Fabulous family home 4 bedrooms, 3 lounge areas, 2 bathrooms. Living areas open to private sunny section and deck. Lovely modernised fireplaces. Informal living area that can be used as self contained area. Offers over \$475,000.



### 60 Messenger Tce, Oakura

4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home on 2071m<sup>2</sup> section. Buy the house only, or the house and land. Tender. \$850,000.

### 22 Carthew St, Okato

4 bedroom brick home with 2 large lounge areas and good deck. Offers Over \$230,000.

### 5 Whalers Rise

Offers over \$555,000. 4 bdrms, 3 living areas. Exec. home with great elevated views and choice of outdoor living areas.

### 488 Nevada Drive, New Plymouth

\$720,000. Large, spacious 3 bdrm + study Lockwood. Large living areas and self-contained studio. Fabulous section with lake, on 11000m<sup>2</sup>. Lifestyle within the city.

### Flat 1, 5 Hawea Street

Front Unit with tenants on 3 1/2 year agreement.

## Sections For Sale

### Wairau Road, Oakura

Last 2 sections available in subdivision. Offers.

### 130 Wairau Road, Oakura

963m<sup>2</sup>, flat section, with 3 choices of building plans, offers over \$199,000.

### 58 Townsend Road, Bell Block

5 acres with great building platform. Flat and sloping paddocks. Offers over \$280,000.

### Tui Gr, Oakura

Brand new, executive 5 bdrm home with two large lounge areas, nearly complete with fabulous landscape plan.

## Properties Sold by Anne

316 Frankley Road, New Plymouth, Flat 2, 5 Hawea St. 13A Arden Place Oakura, 24 Arden Place under contract, 20 Redwood Crescent New Plymouth. 25 Roy Terrace, New Plymouth.

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