

Two talented teachers produce a stunning story book

Oakura artist Margaret Scott and Okato Literacy Consultant and school teacher Lesley Dowding have combined their various talents to produce a wonderful storybook for children, parents and teachers alike.

Midnight at the Lighthouse is an imaginative and captivating story about a little boy called Thomas and his Aunt Jenny, and the adventure they have going to the lighthouse at night.

Lesley has written the story in a richly descriptive way to stimulate a child's (and even an adult's) interest and imagination. Margaret has done the same with her 19 original illustrations created using brushes, rollers, layering and vivid colours.

The story was inspired by a little four year old boy and his aunt who visited the Waitara Library earlier in the year when Lesley was there as part of a story telling tour. Lesley offered to write a story for the boy about the things he liked to do and really without knowing too much about him, she managed to bring to life his imagination and experiences.

When Lesley just had the bones of her story she happened upon an exhibition of Margaret's "Must go down to the sea" series of work at Real Tart. One painting was of a lighthouse and epitomised little Thomas's story perfectly. So a phone call was made to Margaret, who was at first quite adamant about not being an illustrator. But as Lesley explained that the book was

about story telling as opposed to reading, and teaching children about and exposing them to real art and using the imagination, Margaret became excited about the project. She has had tremendous fun trying new techniques and even moving into painting objects and people that she felt she previously couldn't paint. She found it especially interesting trying to paint on one page like a four-year-old child as featured in the book.

Special features of the book are the instructions by Margaret, who was once a school teacher, on how to paint, and Lesley on story-telling. Margaret describes, for example, how to paint rocks and add texture in a starry night scene, while Lesley has included story-telling techniques such as collecting artefacts then telling stories about them or making a montage with different objects and developing a story to go with it.

A four-page prototype was developed initially, which Lesley took along to the New Zealand National Reading Conference, held in New Plymouth recently, to gauge the interest of teachers and to get their feedback. Nearly all the 200 teachers at the conference wanted a copy! Progress on the storybook then moved into top gear, and Lesley and



Margaret and Lesley with their stunning new story book and examples of the art work behind)

Margaret have been working collaboratively to fine tune each page.

Margaret and Lesley have used local New Plymouth businesses to produce the story book and they are both proud to call it a local product. Graphix Explosion have worked with the two women to layout the book and Zenith Publishing

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a peek inside

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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

I wish everybody a very happy holiday time and expect we will all be enjoying our bit of paradise. It has been another great year for me with *TOM* and it has been especially good to get the Okato *TOM* up and running. If you would like to catch up on their community news, you can read it on our website at www.thetom.co.nz

Some stories will be of interest to both communities and we often debate whether or not to publish a story regarding a person or issue which is not within our area. But considering our mission – local news for local people – it does not really comply. This is where the website can benefit everyone, or you can subscribe to have the Okato issue delivered to you each month in hard copy to keep and share.

As I often say, keep the stories coming – we love the community involvement.

Until next year

Tracey Lusk

TOM

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

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Hi folks!

We're nearing the end of another very busy year, and I for one am looking forward to the summer days ahead!

Oakura has seen more than its fair share of action in these last months, particularly when the floods and tornadoes hit in the middle of the year. But once again, Oakura showed its strong community spirit and the country saw what can be done when people care about neighbours and strangers in times of need.

A particularly large project that has involved a lot of planning and discussion is the development of sewerage reticulation for the town. This project is great news for the environment – not only because it will replace many septic tanks, but also because the sewage will be fully treated at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant before being either reused (as an approved fertiliser called BioBoost) or discharged to sea (as water that is typically cleaner than that in the Waiwhakaiho River).

Such a project will provide great benefit to Oakura residents and visitors for many generations to come, and I'm very glad to see that so many homeowners have signed on.

Meanwhile, I'd like to thank the residents who raised the issue of the palm trees on Hau Lane. It is because of your feedback that the Council took a closer look at what was happening, and I'm pleased with the approach taken by the Kaitake Community Board.

If you ever have a question about what is happening in your community, or you want to give some feedback on something the Council is doing well or could do better, please do get in touch! You can phone us on 759 6060 or email enquiries@npdc.govt.nz, or contact me directly – I'm always happy to hear from residents about what is going on in their neighbourhood.

Speaking of which, you'll probably see me running along Oakura Beach this summer as I spend time in the best part of New Zealand with the family. Feel free to stop me for a chat (while I catch my breath!) if you have something you want to talk about. Otherwise, I'll just be relaxing and enjoying the sun and heat that are definitely coming our way!

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a fun and enjoyable New Year.

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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(Continued from page 1)

Two talented teachers produce a stunning story book

are printing it. Margaret and Lesley have also set up their own publishing company and website called www.lighthouse.co.nz

As TOM hits the letterboxes, *Midnight at the lighthouse* will be launched at Paper Plus, where Lesley and Margaret will autograph copies. The book sells for \$30 a copy and includes a CD of Lesley's Lighthouse Song and the story told by Lesley. A teaching resource is still in the planning stage, but will go to print soon. A signing opportunity will be held in the village soon too. The storybook will make an excellent Christmas present and can be purchased from Margaret's Art by the Sea Studio in McFarlane Street.

By Kim Ferens



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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

Manufacturers everywhere are struggling to compete in rapidly changing and intensely competitive global markets.

This struggle is not unique to New Zealand, but it is especially difficult here right now when our exchange rate has reached historic highs.

Manufacturing is changing all around the world and New Zealand manufacturing must adapt to the changes.

Our future lies in the high skills, high value end of the market where we can play to our strengths, competing on quality not price. We can't compete in all areas; nor should we try. Modern manufacturing is no longer just about producing yet another widget. It is now also about designing, branding, servicing and yes, disposing of the product at the end of its useful life.

Manufacturers have the option of competing across the board or of choosing parts to focus on depending on where they judge they can create value and increase returns. There is a strong demand for manufacturers who adapt to changing technology and changing consumer demands – the issue of sustainable, climate-friendly products being just one of the latest emerging opportunities our kiwi innovators could seize. One of several government initiatives, in response to the recommendations made by the Manufacturing Vision Group in its report *Manufacturing Plus*, is to establish the Manufacturing Advisory Group that will advise government on issues relevant to the continued development of the manufacturing sector.

The 2007 Budget provided support to manufacturers with Research and Development tax credits. By the end of next year, there will be some 14,000 people participating in the Modern Apprenticeship Programme.

An extra \$15.8 million went to help identify industry skill and training needs and to respond to those needs. There was also funding to expand the government's Market Development Assistance scheme and successful Beachheads programme.

Further support for manufacturing included \$19 million for in-market assistance and for the establishment of a Food and Beverage Product development infrastructure project. One third of all New Zealand's manufacturing output is in the food and beverage sector.

Success always depends on what each individual, firm and group does. However, government has an important role supporting and helping the sector to build a strong platform on which to grow.

Thanks for reading this. Have a happy, safe Christmas and I hope all of you are able to spend time with family and friends over the holiday season.

Best wishes,

Harry



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LANETTE

kaitake community board

The first meeting of the newly elected Kaitake Community Board attracted a large turnout, albeit due mainly to the Phoenix Palms issue. A number of deputations were heard on the subject with Bruce and Patti Hookham's presentation being particularly informative. For example I learned that palms are a totally different genus than trees. Arborists need a different skill set for trimming them. And while Council has a tree policy, it doesn't have a palm policy.

The KCB recommended to Council that we recognise the community's strong desire to retain the iconic palms and that an additional \$3000 per annum be allocated for their maintenance. There is now also some time to investigate the cost of relocating the powerlines or putting them underground. Personally I believe it's about time PowerCo developed a robust of policy of placing transmission lines underground as other power companies in New Zealand have done. The balance between being a good corporate citizen and taking profits offshore needs addressing.

There was another information sharing meeting at the Oakura Hall recently where further information was available about the sewerage project. Far fewer residents put in an appearance this time and the general opinion was that folk must be "up with the play" regarding their individual circumstances. The vexed question of individual pump stations is still causing concern for those who find they require one. Maybe these folk could look at getting together as a group from an economy-of-scale perspective for purchasing? Council reports that over fifty percent of homeowners have opted to join the scheme. Mayor Pete and I attended the official opening of the Okato Swimming Club's season and heat pump installation. What a great night. The swimming baths are a great asset, built and maintained over many years by the Okato community. TSB came to the party to enable the baths to be heated. Already this has meant over 1600 swimmers have used the facility since Labour Weekend, where in the past the pool was too cold to swim in until December at the earliest. Judging by the enthusiastic youngsters present, it won't be too long before Okato boasts some national age group champions.

We also visited the Hempton Hall, which is in a run-down state, to see what can be done. There is funding set aside in the Council budget for the Hall but should it be spent on a facility that is rarely used? There needs to be serious thought given to how this asset can benefit the community better. Jim Lawn is pursuing this with vigour – good on you, Jim.

We also stopped off at the Okato tennis courts to look at the improvements already done and learn firsthand about future plans. The efforts of the Okato tennis stalwarts is not to be undervalued, this team has carried out a magnificent

fundraising effort that needs just a little extra momentum to see the project completed.

What stands out for me is the amount of community spirit in Okato in spite of all the trials and tribulations resulting from the coastal schools' closure debacle. Long may that spirit continue. The Blue Flag concept has finally been adopted for Oakura Beach. We are the very first beach in New Zealand to achieve this international accreditation. Fitzroy and East End have now achieved accreditation too.

Blue Flag is all about environmental education and information, bathing water quality, litter disposal, adequate clean and sanitary toilet facilities, disabled access and safe bathing, etc.

The official raising of Oakura Beach's Blue Flag was held on Saturday 8 December on the beachfront. This was in conjunction with the North Island's IRB champs and Oakura School was involved too.

Leading on from that, Seaweed takes place in the first week of March next year. Seaweed is a national event, coordinated by the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) and the Sir Peter Blake Trust. The aims include raising awareness of the coast and ocean and encouraging all New Zealanders to help look after their local marine areas.

The focus species for Seaweed next year is the Little Blue Penguin. This is especially relevant for Oakura as the beach is a Blue Penguin habitat. Back in the 1970s most beaches on the seaward side of Messenger Terrace had families of Little Blues living under them. I wonder how many are left today?

On behalf of Keith, Al and Mike, I wish all *TOM* readers a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and plenty of time to enjoy our great local environment over the summer months. Cheers

Doug



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A LOAD OF GARBAGE

What a load of garbage

Recently I was stung by the garbage truck.

Every Wednesday for the last eight years I have put my wheelie bin on the kerb where it has been picked up at between 8.30am and 8.45am. This time when I put it out at 7.30am, I noted some rubbish had already been collected. Strange, I thought to myself.

A bit later on in the day I noticed some of the rubbish bags previously still out when I put mine out had been picked up. Nice of the garbage man to keep coming around. By the end of the day I noticed that there were some wheelie bins still untouched.

I rang Waste Management and was told the truck had changed its route, and the pick up time was now 7am. Apparently they can pick up your rubbish from 7am on its collection day. They can also change their route without any notice. So after some tense moments on the phone, I was also told it is written on our contracts that we sign. Not in the fine print as I sarcastically suggested, but on the very front page. Alas I have not viewed or could even find mine from eight-odd years ago. Do they have to inform us? No. Would they come and get our garbage? No. However, I was allowed to put out extra bags with no Council sticker on them the following week.

The following week I was very conscious of already having a full wheelie bin and tried to work out ways to minimise my rubbish. Without much effort, I think my rubbish came to quarter of what it usually was. I have been composting, folding cardboard and reusing containers that would normally never see beyond my kitchen bin.

Could it be that this all happened for a reason? Was it fate? Was I meant to spend another whole week with what could have been easily recycled trash? Yes, I was.

Now instead of cursing the team at Waste Management, I am quietly thinking they can collect my rubbish every second week from now on.

At the end of the day let this be a gentle, smelly reminder that maybe missing the weekly cycle of collection is not such a catastrophic event after all!

Jo



HELP MAKE IT A CLEAN BEACH THIS SUMMER

With summer at last coming to Oakura it's time to remind everyone of some of the things that will make it a better place for all to enjoy.

Washing your car, lawn mower or other oily items on the road means that the oils, grease and soap will enter the stormwater drains which lead right down onto the beach. Yuk! Not exactly where you'd like your child to play.

Also a reminder that vehicles - motorcycles, quad bikes, tri bikes, 4 wheel drives and all others - are not allowed on the beach. They create pollution that affects sea creatures and shell fish, they create noise pollution and they present a definite hazard to pedestrian users of the beach. Keep your vehicles on the road and only your feet on the beach and all will have a much safer summer.

Thanks,

Jane Roseman



SEEKING OPAWA EX-PAT'S

I am seeking any expatriates from Opawa - one of Christchurch's eastern suburbs and one of the first settled in 1850 - living in your paper's circulation area with regards to my recently published book, *Opawa - the Outpost on the Banks of the Heathcote*.

Even in the short time the book has been published a mass of additional information has flowed in, so an upgrade edition is in the pipeline. I would appreciate if any your readers who where born, lived, worked or schooled in the settlement of Opawa could contact me at 74a Norwood Street, 03 332 3689, noel.design@xtra.co.nz or via my website at noelgillespie.co.nz

I appreciate your assistance.

Noel Gillespie

Author of *Opawa - the Outpost on the Banks of the Heathcote*



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The Christmas House

Sometimes local rascals phone Mrs Christmas and ask, "Is Merry there?" She replies, "Not just now, but call back in half an hour and she might be." They never do, says Mrs Christmas. Mrs Eileen Christmas of Fitzroy was one of this year's many visitors to The Christmas House in Oakura's Kaitake Place.

A Surf Highway 45 Crafters and Quilters fundraising project, Joy and Murray Burmeister's holiday home was the scene of The Christmas House during Taranaki's 2007 Rhododendron Festival. This year, it raised \$2,700 for "A House for Karen", the refuge-by-the-sea on Tipoka Road for cancer sufferers and their families.

Open during the Festival for four consecutive years now, The Christmas House just gets better and better. While every corner of the two-storey Lockwood home was filled with little bits of magic, special features this year included a White Christmas Room, a Pink and Pretty Room, Bears Under the Stairs, Santa in the Bath (one young visitor found it so inviting he hopped into the bath too) and an extensive outdoor lighting display. These were made possible by the huge efforts of the craft group and the generosity of their sponsors.

Members of the group worked hard to produce new works for the displays and spent an entire week setting it up, while Glamourpuss, Nicci Goodin Designer Florist, Santa's Trees, Spotlight and The Girlz Garden Centre generously loaned stock to add the finishing touches. Terry Griffiths of Tern Corner at Oakura set up a spectacular outdoor lighting display, which included Santa arriving on the roof in his sleigh and reindeer grazing on the lawn. The House was open from early morning 'til late at night so visitors could enjoy the magical atmosphere by day and at night-time. During the ten days of its opening, thirty-five group members helped "woman" the house twenty-four hours a day.

New this year were the raffles. The bright and beautiful quilt made by members of the craft group was won by Linda le Fleming of Auroa, while the Christmas cake, baked by Dianne Honeyfield and iced (by me) like a boxed and beribboned present, was won by Allie Quinn, who was too young to voice her excitement when I rang to break the news to her. Her Mum, Lara, sounded excited though!

Entries in the visitors' book this year declared The Christmas House "dazzling," "wicked," "magical" and "an inspiration." And while one visitor pronounced herself "gobsmacked," another told us she was, simply, "speechless!"

Watch out for us next year during the Rhodo Festival. We'll be back!

Story and photos by Kerry Lilley.



The white room, decorated by Dianne Moffitt, Kathy Appert and Marie Martin



Joy's turkey dinner.



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Save our Village Palm icons

You'd have to look much further to find someone as interested in and knowledgeable about growing palms as Bruce Hookham, but you certainly don't have to look any further than Bruce to find someone passionate about our village. Put the two strengths together and it's easy to see why Bruce and his wife, Patti, felt they had to present a deputation at the Kaitake Community Board's November meeting to work with New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) to save the Phoenix Palms on Hau Lane and develop a maintenance programme that continues their long and safe life as icons in the Oakura community.

The palms have been deemed a safety hazard by Powerco and NPDC and were marked for removal. Bruce and Patti (and all residents on Hau Lane) recently learnt of the palms' fate by letter drop and they acted quickly and successfully to postpone the intended removal. Since then they have contacted palm experts around New Zealand and received confirmation and support for going forward and challenging their removal.

Other locals supported Bruce and Patti's efforts with a petition and supporting deputations to the Kaitake Community Board and NPDC. Such supporting and equally passionate deputations came from:

- 1 Sam Sutherland and Des Horton, who emphasised that the palms have a presence in the village;
- 2 Clive Neeson, who explained that the palms feature in the 'Last Paradise' movie, which specifically seeks undestroyed spots *worldwide*, and urged the NPDC not to make them Taranaki's *Lost Paradise*;
- 3 Ash Heydon, who described his long history in Oakura, in particular his instrumental role in promoting the installation of underground power lines through the village CBD;
- 4 David Marshall, who highlighted that similar palms were saved in Raglan and hoped our Council would do the same. He quipped that the palms were only *suspected* to have caused power outages and that people were not normally executed on mere suspicion;
- 5 Andrea Needham, who spoke about the Council's apparent lack of expertise in palm maintenance and requested that they use Bruce's vast knowledge along with other New Zealand palm experts to develop an appropriate and effective plan of palm specific maintenance;
- 6 Jim Lawn, who told of taking his out-of-town guests along the walkway and their amazement on seeing the palms.

It was later passed at the meeting that the Kaitake Community Board recommends to the NPDC that they investigate ways to save the palms.

As Bruce explained to the meeting, "the Phoenix *Canariensis* (Phoenix Palms) are iconic and part of the village history. They were planted pre/around 1940 and have been a welcoming sight to Oakura visitors and users of the public walkway ever since. If properly maintained and trimmed, there would be no safety hazard. Palms are not trees – and as such require different planning, planting and maintenance and I urge Council to develop a sound maintenance programme carried out by individuals or an organisation with palm specific expertise".

Sound advice and perhaps the NPDC need look no further than Bruce either.

By Bob Fleming



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At Taranaki Outdoor Adventures (TOA) we are passionate about getting out there and experiencing life to the full. For a couple of years Tran and I have been kicking around the idea of a club where like-minded people can get together, have fun, learn new skills and have new experiences. The talking stage is over and we are now getting this exciting project off the ground!

Welcome to the brand new TOA Adventure Club – where everything is achievable and fun is the name of the game. We will have lots of cool adventures happening over the summer that you can join in with if you are keen.

We are planning:

- 1 Family adventures (have a great day out together)
- 2 Singles' adventures (a new way to have fun and meet new people)
- 3 Senior adventures (for the more mature)
- 4 Kids' adventures (a chance for the kids to learn new skills and get away from the TV)
- 5 School holiday adventures (there's always something to do!)
- 6 Women only adventures
- 7 Men only adventures
- 8 Couple adventures (have some bonding time in the great outdoors)
- 9 Mother/daughter, father/son, grandparent/grandchild, etc adventures (for those who want a shared experience with a special someone).

We will have everything from short, new skills evenings to multi-day adventures – but we'll try to keep them as affordable as possible, and you're guaranteed to meet some fantastic people.

To become a TOA Adventure Club member all you have to do is to provide us with your contact details and some basic information about yourself and we will then enter you into our Club database. At this early stage, there will be no membership cost involved. It's simple, you will receive regular updates and newsletters from the TOA Adventure Club Team letting you know what is coming up and you will then drop us a line telling us what you are keen on doing. If at any stage you no longer wish to be involved or kept informed, just let us know and we will remove your details from the database. The membership database will only be used to inform you of upcoming events and will not be seen by anyone other than the TOA team.

All feedback is great – we want to offer the adventures that you want so tell us what you are keen on, what pushes your buttons, what gets you excited! If there is anything you would really like to do, drop us a line and maybe we can make it happen.

The more, the merrier so spread the word to anyone who you feel may be interested in getting out and having some fun!

To become a member, just drop us an email, send us a letter or pick up the phone and we will send you a registration form. Easy as that, so get moving!

Happy adventuring – see you out there!

TOA Adventure Club

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Taranaki

belinda@toa.co.nz

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Myanmar upheaval reverberates all the way to Oakura

A big hello to everyone back home.

The past month in Myanmar has certainly been an eventful one. The protests originally started up in Pakokku near Mandalay, with the monks there protesting the recent hike in fuel prices.

Fuel in Myanmar by international standards is still relatively cheap, but when one looks at it in relation to the average income, it tells a different story. Probably less than one percent of the population holds the wealth and there is an obvious lack of any real middle class. Hence when something like fuel is increased (by as much as 500%) it has a huge impact upon the general population.

The monks' protest in Pakokku was met with a very heavy-handed response from the authorities, with warning shots fired and several of the monks beaten. When government representatives were sent to the monasteries to try and resolve the issue, they were kidnapped by the monks and had their vehicles set alight. In support of the monks up north, monks from all round the country started taking to the streets demanding an apology from the government.

In Myanmar there are only two real forces with any power – the military, which runs the country, and the monks, who are revered by nearly all.

The marches in Yangon started each afternoon at Shwedagon Pagoda and then made their way down to Sule Pagoda. The sight of thousands of monks dressed in their saffron robes, marching barefoot in absolute defiance of the regime truly was an incredible sight. As the protests gathered momentum, so did the reasons behind them. It started as a protest about fuel prices, then about wanting an apology for the treatment of the monks in Pakokku, and within a week had developed into a call for a change of leadership.

Originally the monks asked that the general population not get involved (I guess for fear of a repeat of the events of 1988), however as the number of monks marching grew, so did the number of civilians who came out to support them.

On about the fifth day the army decided enough was enough. Truckloads of troops were brought into Yangon and the crack-down began. Gunfire was heard around town for the next two days, the monasteries were sealed off and hundreds if not thousands of monks and ordinary civilians taken away. The number of people who have been killed or who have simply disappeared is anyone's guess. Even now the authorities continue to round up those they suspect of being involved.

The difference from what happened in 1988, when an estimated 3000 were killed, has been technology. Surprisingly the authorities did not cut the internet for about five days and in that time hundreds of photos and videos made it to the outside world. In a cruel twist of fate however, those same images that allowed the world to see what was happening, are now being used by the regime to try and identify and arrest those involved.

One Burmese friend told us how in her township, where there are three monasteries, they set up a bell system, so the monks could alert the locals if they felt threatened. Two times on the first night the bell was rung and out came all the locals with sticks and stones to surround the monasteries and protect the monks. This happened for two nights and then on the third night the army arrived and instead of targeting the monks,

simply started going house to house rounding up those who had come out on the previous two nights.

The curfew in Yangon was lifted last weekend and although life seems to have gone back to normal, there is a very real anger in the people. As I mentioned earlier that the monks in Myanmar are revered and in choosing to go against them in the way they did, the regime really has threatened the very fabric of this country.

So will things change here? The answer is, I don't know! I believe there would have to be a split within the army for anything positive to happen in the short term and if that happens, I suspect it is more likely to come from one of the younger, more ambitious generals.

Would this be good for the country, or would he simply want his slice of the pie while at the top? It's anybody's guess! What I am sure about though is that the general who does finally take control and hands power back to the people will be read about in history books for the next 100 years. He will be held up there with fellow Myanmar heroes, such as General Aung San.

The call from the outside world at the moment seems to be for increased sanctions, however unless these sanctions are targeted specifically at the hierarchy it will be mainly the general population that ultimately feels the brunt of them.

I believe there are a number of misinformed individuals out there, who love to champion the Myanmar cause, by advocating that tourists should stay away from Myanmar, as it helps support the military regime. If one was to put the Junta's revenue sources under a microscope, I believe money from tourism would fall well behind the income they receive from the major oil companies and even behind the timber and gem revenues.

That's not to say they don't take a substantial slice of the tourist dollar however! But take it a stage further and look at the trade off between benefits to the ordinary people and money for the Junta. Tourism is not a huge money earner for the regime, yet provides a huge benefit to the ordinary people of the country. Well that's my opinion anyway!

Undercover and anonymous in Myanmar for safety reasons

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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update from the big red truck

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." William Penn (1644-1718).

Seasons greetings from all at the Big Red Truck.

November has been generally quiet for the Brigade as we progress into Summer. The only major incident was a call to assist at the large fire at the disused Fresha fisheries factory in New Plymouth, with 11 Oakura personnel committed in two phases. The crews were kept very busy, especially in the early stages, and displayed good fire-fighting skills – a reflection that the recent recruit training and ongoing Brigade training really pays off.


The BBQ season is upon us, so its time to check over the gear before firing it up. Here are some BBQ fire safety tips:

1. Check the condition of your gas cylinder and ensure it is within its test date (every 10 years).
2. Cleaning, maintenance and regular safety inspections must be part of your summer barbecuing routine.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting the gas cylinder to the barbecue.
4. Check the condition of the hoses and 'O'-ring (if applicable). Check for leaks after connection.
5. Light the BBQ as soon as gas is turned on. Never try and light it with the lid down.
6. Ensure valves are fully open or fully closed.
7. Prevent grease from dripping onto the hoses or cylinder. Grease build-up could be a potential fire hazard.
8. Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda and water available to put out a fire. But remember, water may cause the fire to increase in size, especially if used on hot cooking oils or fats. In all cases if unsure, please call 111.
9. Keep children away from the barbecue.
10. Ensure all valves are turned off when barbecue is not in use.



All the best and stay safe.

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The Vinaigrettes

TOM Wine of the Month:

Villa Maria's Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2007

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Oakura Four Square

OPEN 7 DAYS



By now you will all be seasoned and experienced wine drinkers with each month's TOM-featured wine under your belts, so you'll know where I'm coming from with this month's offering... a classy one, Villa Maria's Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2007.

It's the perfect barbeque accompaniment for Summer 2007/08. Especially with those spicy sausages or chilli marinades. Especially on the deck, or on the boat, or a little bit of class to take to the boss's Christmas barbeque. In fact, I can't think of an inappropriate moment (ummm, maybe when you wake up?) to drink this sauv'y.

Villa Maria says its cellaring potential is till 2010 so that tells you it is good, not that Moi is into cellaring!

The Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc was a silver medal winner at the 2007 New Zealand International Wine Show.

I love reading winemaker stories and Villa Maria's Andrew Fistonich's is a good read... Croatian immigrant works in gumfields, takes up market gardening, makes the odd bottle or two of wine for himself and friends, launches his wines onto market. Son takes over, goes into receivership in the 1980s, new part-owners inject cash, then several owners later the Fistonich's buy back the lion's share and become a family of winemakers again – and you now see one of them featuring in TV ads. A genuinely iconic Kiwi tale of rags to riches!

Anyway you'll enjoy this limey, gooseberry and passiony sauv'y if you like a light wine with a fruity bouquet and you want to spend less than \$20 on a bottle. I certainly did, and when I get a handle on how a cellar works, I'll be stock-piling the Villa Maria. Normal price – \$24.90, special 4-Square price – \$19.99.

Yours in cellars and screwcaps

Jilly Ho

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Humpback whales cruise the coast

A humpback mother and calf gave a dramatic performance off the coast of Taranaki during the third week of November. A flat sea and clear sky provided perfect viewing conditions as the two made their way around the coast on a beautiful Monday evening. Frolicking just 500m offshore, their antics included vigorous tail-slapping, spy-hopping (swimming vertically with the head out of the water) and breaching (leaping clean out of the water) as they made their way down the coast past Oakura.

This was the third reported sighting of humpback whales off the coast of Taranaki this season. The others consisted of a solitary juvenile and another mother with her calf. After spending winter in the tropical breeding grounds of New Caledonia and/or Tonga, many pass southwards past New Zealand (often passing through Cook Strait) on their way to feeding grounds in the Ross Sea, Antarctica.

Humpback whales are easily recognised by their knobbly head and long flippers. Their dorsal fin is low and stubby and their body and flippers are coloured blue-black to dark grey with partially white undersides. Their flukes are broad and unique colour patterns allow individuals to be identified.

Photographs of individuals taken in New Zealand waters are added to a catalogue and contribute to our estimates of the South Pacific humpback population size and movements. Using a biopsy dart, a small skin sample is taken for genetic analysis and helps determine the relationship between individuals seen in New Zealand and other populations.

As the Department of Conservation DOC contributes to whale management programmes, prompt reporting of all whale sightings is appreciated by DOC. If you are lucky enough to see one (or more) of these magnificent creatures, please contact DOC on 06 759 0350 between 8am and 4.30pm or 0800 DOC HOTline (0800 362 468).

For more information about the feeding, biology and DOC's work with humpback whales, visit www.doc.govt.nz

Callum Lilley, DOC Marine Ranger



Callum Lilley captures the beauty of the beasts.





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What is the story with horse poo?

The public and community are often not impressed by the large mammalian manure deposits that horses leave on the roadway and other areas, plus there are the smell and flies associated with it.

The simple answer to horse droppings on public roads, and the beach for that matter, is found in Council bylaws.

There is indeed a bylaw covering horse manure, however the the Council would rather educate and advise the public, on the by-laws. Lloyd Crow, Enforcement Manager – NPDC advises that greater harmony would be achieved for all if the rider of the horse acknowledged these issues and endeavoured to return and pick up the deposit later in the day. He also had the following to say:

Why return later in the day you might ask? When the bylaws were established it was recognised there were two major issues:

- The community generally does not want the manure on the road and it should be removed.
- The rider of the horse should take responsibility – but it was acknowledged it would be difficult and dangerous to alight from one's horse at the time, and try and control the horse, while removing the manure.

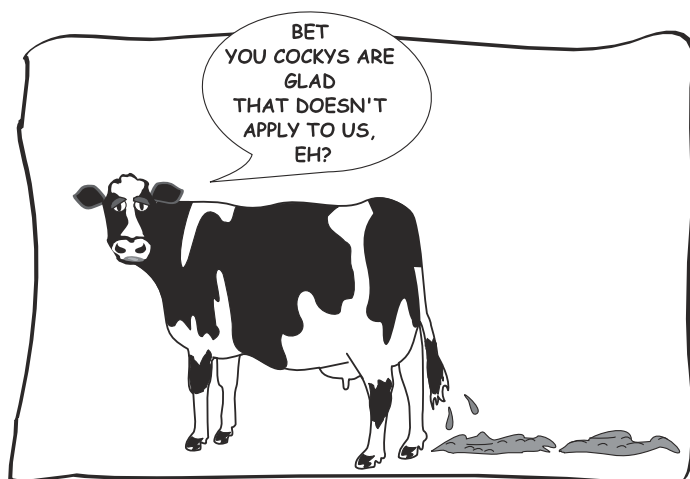
Hence we ended up with our current bylaw which states:

When a rider is in an urban area and the horse defaecates, the rider shall on the same day (come back at some stage) remove the faeces from that place and dispose of it in a sanitary manner into a suitable receptacle or other means. If it placed in a litter bin it is expected to be suitably wrapped (eg in paper) to prevent fouling of the bin.

Council's responsibility (in the enforcement area) upon receiving information (and identification) of persons who are not meeting the requirements of the bylaw, would be to follow-up with those persons with the intention of firstly making them aware of the bylaw requirements in the first place (if they are not already aware) and then endeavouring to encourage and ensure that these events are not repeated. It is a bylaw requirement after all and legal action could apply in a worst case scenario.

So let's hope everyone is now clear about horse poo, and while horses are welcome in and around the community, riders have to be responsible for cleaning up after themselves as I'm sure the majority of riders are.

By Kim Ferens



Are you missing some photos?

Oakura Pharmacy has the following photographs which have not been claimed. Have you perhaps forgotten to pick them up? Are they yours or do you know whose they might be?

Name	Subject
<i>Martul</i>	Reprints of photos from Northpoint Baptist Church
<i>Green</i>	Hang gliding
<i>Ivess</i>	Beach bach
<i>Wynne Jones</i>	Horses & quad bikes
<i>Reid</i>	Reprint of very old photo of three ladies
<i>Snowden</i>	Basketball
<i>Wood</i>	Building of house and retaining wall
<i>Howe</i>	Holiday in Rotorua/Taupo

Drop by and collect them if they are yours.

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Congratulations

to Tim and Anna from the 4 square on the safe arrival of Chloe on Monday 26th November weighing in at 7pound 11ounces.

From the Rolling Stones to Butlers!

From 15 December Jamie Morton is coming to run the restaurant with a new menu and new look.

Jamie has just returned from Auckland where he prepared and cooked meals for Justin Timberlake. And there are other famous stars in his black book – The Rolling Stones, Gwen Stefani, Nickleback and The Police. So Jamie is good but don't take my word for it, go in and try for yourself.

So who is this Jamie Morton?

He tells me he was born in Scotland, but I swear he sounds like an Aussie, which indeed is where he used to live. He has also done stints in the Solomon Islands, but has lived in New Zealand now for nearly six years and his two sons are Kiwis. Jamie has 18 years' experience in the hospitality industry and has worked in many award winning bistros and cafes throughout Queensland, Australia. For the last 3½ years Jamie has worked at Practical Education, where he has trained many medal winning teams of chefs for national competitions. And then there is his bit on the side – catering to the stars! But from 15 December he is at Butlers to whip the kitchen into shape.

Oakura, we can expect fantastic, flavourful food! Simple gastro pub grub, good portions made with local produce, and different styles; all with fast, efficient and consistent service. Jamie says he is going to "pump the food out" and the standard will always be high. Side kick Jonny is also totally committed to keeping the customers happy and the lunch cabinet full.

Tanya Farrant is Butlers Reef Events Manager and is another person passionate and committed to Butlers, with the bonus of being a local through and through. Tanya has been working at Butlers Reef nearly all her life, I think! While she was too young to work at the pub, Tanya babysat Evan and Kay Mita's three children and then she started working in the restaurant as a 17-year-old and has worked at Butlers Reef on and off ever since.

You will have noticed the big changes out the front of Butlers Reef with the two new decks and indoors the restaurant area has been extended and now seats up to 60 diners. The Pokies room has moved out by the back bar. The front bar boasts a new counter and the steins are displayed behind the bar.

Butlers Reef has some top gigs lined up for the summer and Tanya says tickets will sell fast so all you local musos, get your tickets early. 28 December sees Shapeshifter playing, New Years Eve is Supergroove, then The Black Seeds on 3 January and The Dudes on the 5th. There are two more possible bands later in the month.

Kymon and the team want you to come and try out the new menu and have a refreshing drink on the deck and enjoy what Butlers now has to offer.

By Kim Ferens



Jonny 2nd in charge of kitchen, Toby Morton 4yrs and Jamie Morton head chef.



Tanya and Bless.

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Oakura's adopted son to return!



Shaun Preston and Jenna Green at TSB Showplace.

Pianist, singer and songwriter Shaun Preston recently returned to New Plymouth and performed at Puke Ariki for TVNZ's weather report with Tamati Coffey on Good Morning NZ.

And if you missed his outstanding performance at the Tornado Relief Concert, make sure you catch him on the evening of 12 January, when he will perform again at the Festival of Lights in Pukekura Park. This concert will be even bigger and better, with some new songs, including the first live performance of "New Plymouth, my kind of city", written by Shaun.

If you missed Elton John's performance at the Bowl, then be sure to catch Shaun. You won't be disappointed!

By Craig Meads

Shearer Drive and Arden Place party it up!

On Saturday 24 November, Arden Place and Shearer Drive had their annual street party. Once again it was a wonderful night, which included a visit from Santa, who arrived in the large fire engine to see all the children and to give them sweets.

The evening proved to be a lovely time to catch up with everybody and also a great occasion to meet the new residents and welcome them to our special community.

Bernice Duff



Shearer Drive and Arden Place xmas party-goers.



Even Santa showed up!

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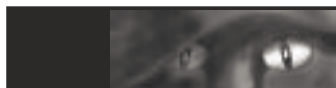


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Tomcat tidbit

A local Wairau Road resident recently went out to the letterbox sleepy-eyed and when she turned around to come back in she spied wine bottles, beer bottles and drink bottles planted upside down in her garden and pot plants. Said lady thought there was about a supermarket bag full and commented about the hilarious pranksters, "The least they could have done was leave full bottles!"


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**THANK YOU to the
Oakura and coastal
community for your
fantastic support over
the past year.**

Our annual Christmas
evening caused a buzz with
almost everybody receiving
a spot prize.

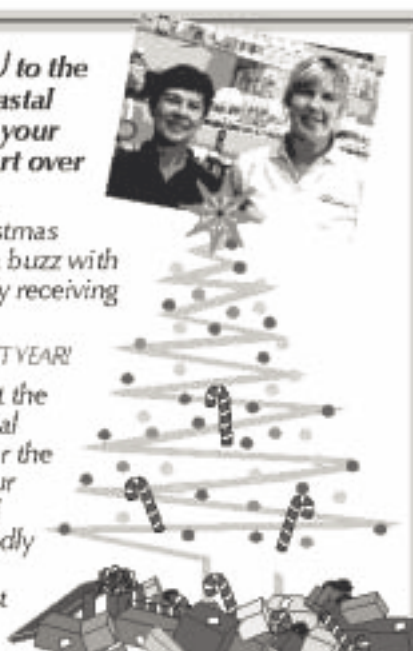
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CHRISTMAS

*A very special time for keeping in touch with
friends and family*

Many of you have moved homes over the last year and are
going to enjoy Christmas in your new home.

To all who are a long way from home and families this
Christmas, like Lynn and Kristin, we wish you all a very
special Kawi Christmas and as you shed a few wee tears when
you think of those back home, know that we are thrilled that
you have chosen to live and buy your property through us and
are now resident in this very special place in New Zealand.

To all of you that have family, especially children and
grandchildren, all over the world, we also know what it is like
not to be with them at Christmas. Just remember "Families
are Forever".

To those people who have lost someone so very dear to them
over the last year as some of our clients and team have, please
enjoy the holidays as best you can... remember you are not
alone. And we do care about you.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
and look forward to working with many of you in the future.

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January

What a start to 2007 colourful umbrellas and not much else!

Visitors to Oakura Beach camp experience a closed beach due to huge surf but still manage to canoe surf.

February



The Elder family from Wellington enjoy summer sun at Snickerdoodles.



Tyler Anderson-NPBHS Top Surfer and holder of OBC Champions Trophy

May



Head students of Oakura School, Dom, Rhys, Lucy and Hannah.



Craig Waite, centre, hangs out with some of his golf buddies Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia and Michael Campbell.

a colourful year

March



Omata School visit Oakura Beach to learn beach safety from NPOB's Surf club.

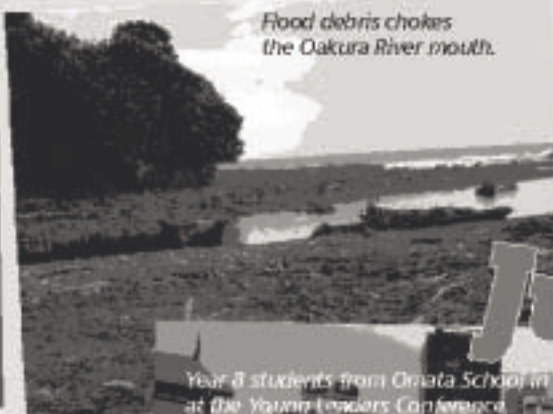
Debbie Edgecumbe proudly holds the NZACA Top Ladies Shore Angler Cup.

April



Alice and Grace Fleming at Kaitake Kindy with their Nickle Nickle masks.

Flood debris chokes the Oakura River mouth.



The Bevin house on Hall Tce boasts a new moat following the May 23rd flood.



June

Year 8 students from Omata School in Wellington at the Young Leaders Conference.



Year 7 & 8 Oakura students at J Rock stage challenge in Palmerston North.





Matthew Dickey on his horse Wilfrid at the National Show Jumping Championships.

How to repair a tornado ravaged house!



Tornado fundraiser for Karake Kindy Robyn Lander and Denise Howe.



August

The big event - July 5 tornadoes.



And the poor old kindy!



This Messenger Terrace house is now a memory.



I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!

September



Tornado victims, Charlotte Curd and Jenna Green, meet Shaun Preston who donated his time to perform a concert for the Taranaki Disaster Relief Fund.



Hannah Sarten world no 1 in BMX racing.

October

The winning Okurukuru team who won overall smartcasual restaurant of the year at the Culinary Fare competition.



Oakura School ski team came 4th in the North Island Senior competition held at Whakapapa. Left to right Meyer Neeson, Toby Brankin, Max Hardie Boys, Tai Juneau and Lucy Brankin.



Crystal Smithers in Tijuana building houses for charity.



November



Paige Hareb in action.



Quality
NZ art,
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Raymond working on the perimeter fencing.

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ron's ramblinZ

Foolishly, somebody from the *TOM* executive team invited me to write a column about our caravan travels. This, at last, was the break I had been looking for. Finally given the opportunity to 'make a difference', I grasped the offer with both sticky hands, realising that the fame and accolades I so deserved were just a few paragraphs away. No more of that anonymous, furtive, lurking behind my computer, trying to make *TOM* look good – this was my chance for real stardom.

However, I thought that telling sophisticated *TOM* readers about all the wonderful places there are to visit in New Zealand, complete with pictures of me hitching up the caravan in Taupo, again in Hahei and once more in the Whatchamakallit Valley, was a bit like preaching to the converted. You are travellers. Worldly-wise people. You've been there and done that, eh? So this is more a record of things that happen along the way, not necessarily in chronological order – just stuff.

Having said that, some background wouldn't go astray. It's hard to believe, but over a year has passed since Marion and I left our beloved little cottage in Weld Road to take up life on the road, dragging a caravan around New Zealand. At the time, the prospect of it all was daunting to say the least – and exhausting! Packing up belongings, selling vehicles, furniture and surplus items previously deemed 'iconic', storing the things we considered keep-worthy, buying a suitable towing vehicle (thanks here to the guys from Hareb Deken Motors), followed by the big 'house clean-up', finding tenants and sorting out untold numbers of teething problems with our new (to us) caravan. Added to all this was the apprehension of what we were about to do – take off with our 'house on wheels' in the middle of winter, to who-knows-where, with no experience of towing such a beastie or the gypsy life whatsoever. What were we thinking?

Finally though, with the help and encouragement of our many loved friends, daughter Susan, son-in-law Brent, our fabulous neighbours (the Carnachans) and buckets of vodka, we got under way . . . all the way to Oakura Beach Holiday Park! We ended up staying there for about three weeks, firstly to get acquainted with our new way of life and secondly, it was time for me to put an issue of *TOM* together.

Parked on the beachfront, just below Tracey's home, she and I were able to exchange cellphone calls and stupidly wave to each other at the same time. We had thought about taking a crash course in semaphore, but in the end just stuck to phoning and more stupid waving. Being parked in that position also offered the possibility of receiving new copy wrapped around a rock and hurled from Tracey's balcony to the beach below. Fortunately, the deadline wasn't that tight and it didn't come to that, but the people enjoying the water's edge during that week or so, just didn't realise how close they came to suffering severe lacerations and permanent brain damage in the name of *TOM*. Now, I don't mean to be disparaging in any way of Tracey's rock throwing ability. I feel sure that she can hurl a rock as well as anybody (sometimes she has a strange glint in her eye when she has something heavy in her hand). But the wind factor would probably have been very hard to calculate, especially if the sun had been in her eyes and that glint perhaps more of a satanic glare.

A more serious note here about Oakura Beach Holiday Park. Well looked after, great facilities and a choice of being right by that wonderful beach or tucked further back in greener, calmer pastures, close to the village, golf, the city, surf beaches and so on and so on – this camp is something Oakura can be justifiably proud of. I give it a thousand stars. Don't forget to keep reminding the Council how great it is!

It is sad to see so many coastal campgrounds giving way to progress(?) and being turned into over-designed, under-thought, garish, eave-to-eave, housing abominations for which some of our wealthier citizens will pay a veritable fortune, just to obtain a sea view next door to the Jones's. There go another few slices of irreplaceable Kiwi beauty, with the local councils (perhaps eyeing the future pay-cheques from these highly rateable properties) encouraging such ugly growth – not that it would happen in Oakura, of course! Just something to think about, especially with the phenomenal growth of overseas motorhome tourists and the revenue they bring with them. These people don't come here to see houses lining the coast (they can see that at home), then have a struggle to find somewhere to park their vans for the night.

Anyway, back to the story. With *TOM* finished we were able to begin our expedition proper and headed roughly towards Taupo, but the *TOM* team have edited out the rest so, I know it'll be hard, but you'll have to wait until February's issue for more Ramblinz! Meantime we wish everybody in Oakura all the best wishes for a very merry Christmas and an extra happy New Year.

Ron



Marion and I enjoying a well-deserved slurp after a tough 20 minute stroll into dense bush in the Wentworth Valley, near Whangamata.

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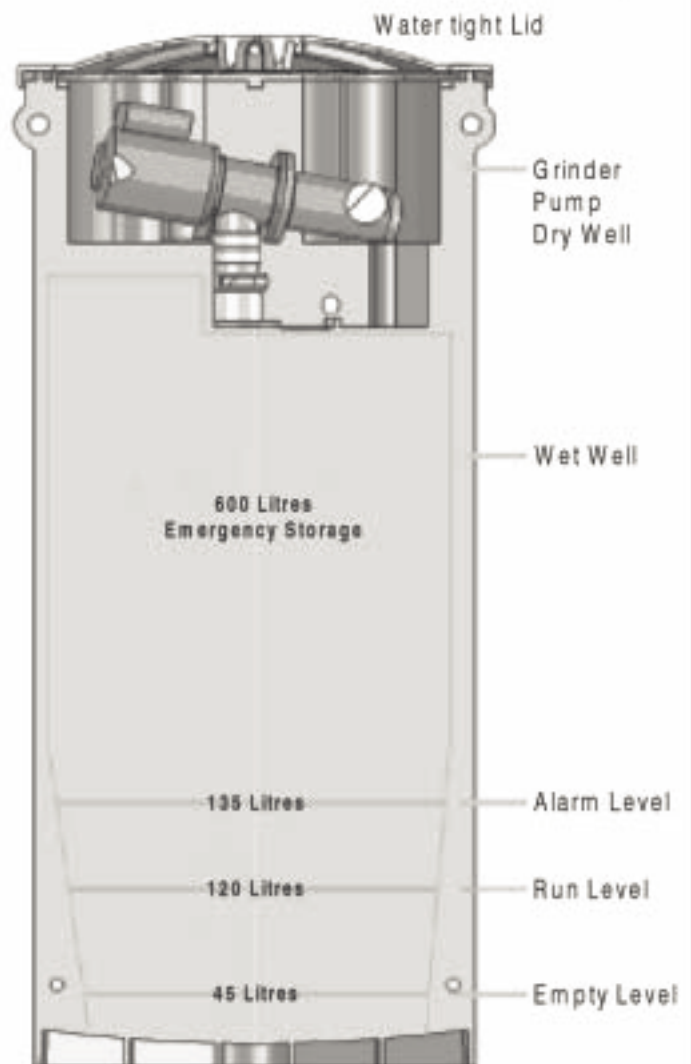
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TOM SPORTS

Greetings all.

No sooner had I started writing this article by mentioning the seemingly inevitable bad weather, when it all became fine again – if you can get over the westerlies.

Still not a great deal of fish being caught but there are quite a lot of members getting out on the beaches and ocean. The kayakers have been out there catching a feed, but the surfcasters would be absolutely starving if they had to depend on their catches for food.

The recent Club Day at the beginning of November saw what both surfcasters and kayakers commented was "bloody hard fishing." The same day was our Lucky Members Draw in which all members go into the draw to win a great prize, this time it had triple-jackpotted with stuff worth about \$100. Lucky member Tony Hurring scored the bootie, while Garry Harrison got the kayakers Fish of the Day – a 1.485kg Snapper. A few smaller Snapper, some Gurnard, a couple of Kahawai and one Trevally were also caught

The organising of the next Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic Comp is well under way, and the date is set for Taranaki Anniversary Weekend, 8-9 March 2008. We have been able to tee up two Cobra Kayaks as prizes, one of which will be given away as an Early Bird prize – these tickets are on sale now for just \$60 and would make fantastic Christmas presents. As with this year's comp we have excellent prizes up for grabs, so get in early to get your tickets.

More info is available on www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz or tickets can be purchased by email from tkfc-info@xtra.co.nz or dogfish@kayakfishingclassic.co.nz. Peter Florence (753 2547) or Garry Harrison (752 7055) will also be able to help you out.



Meanwhile this year's winning 12.880kg Snapper, caught by local man Andrew Wright, is soon to be mounted in Butlers Reef Hotel, so keep an eye out for it – it's massive!

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and may your lines stay tight all summer long.

Debbie E

Weighmasters report to the end of October

Surfcaster: 1 Kahawai, 2 Snapper, 1 Banded Wrass

Fish of the Month: Shane Dunlop 7.590kg Snapper

Kayakers: Specific results unavailable, from all accounts about 12 fish caught. Peter Florence was the only kayaker to record any fish for October.

Cheers, *Grant M*, Weighmaster



Tony Huuring gets the bootie from President Garry Harrison on our members day draw. He won vouchers to spend at Hunting & Fishing plus Tim & Anna from Oakura 4 Square sponsored 4kg of Southern Bait.

Kaitake Golf Club

Our Green fees are:

- 1 Nine Holes – \$15
- 2 18 Holes Affiliated – \$20
- 3 18 Holes Non-affiliated – \$25
- 4 School Age Under 12 years – \$5
- 5 Junior Non-affiliated – \$5
- 6 Twilight Nights (every Tuesday) entry fee – \$5



Business House on Thursday nights with a collective start at 5.45pm

Meals and bar available.

The Open BeachComber tournament is on 19 January 2008.

Congratulations to Robbie Sim on his representation in the Taranaki Masters Team and how well they competed!

On 11 November we had a "Try Golf" day at the Club and some 15-20 golfers came to have a go and get instruction from Grant Moorhead. Thanks to those Club members who came and helped.

Raewyn Hawker

Secretary/Manager

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Oakura's Marathon Man



Robin Grant – Marathon Man.

Last month Oakura local Robin Grant travelled to New York City to run in the world famous New York Marathon along with two other runners from New Plymouth, Cheryl Leuthart and Max Dravitzki.

Robin ran exceedingly well and finished second in the 50-54 year age group and 147th overall – that is 147th out of 40,000 people! That is nearly the population of New Plymouth all running in one event!

Imagine the logistics of organising a race of that magnitude. And imagine the logistics of competing in a race with 39,999 other people. Fortunately for Robin, he had a qualifying time that put him in the top 1000 runners, which meant he started his race at the front of the field. But it still took him ten minutes to get a clear space to run in.

Robin says the course was a picturesque one, starting on Staten Island and travelling through five boroughs of New York City and over the longest suspension bridge in the world. Scenic highlights were the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State

Building, but Robin assured me he only gave them a fleeting glance as he powered past. As well he might with a personal best time of 2 hours, 43 minutes. Robin is justifiably proud of his achievement and says it's, "pretty good for an old guy!" Not bad for young ones either, I'd say, and in fact about the first 50 runners over the finish line were elite athletes.

Running is a relatively new sport for Robin, who only started running seriously in 2002 when he joined a friend in Canada who was training for a marathon. Since then he has done three more marathons in Canada, where the family used to live, and the Mountain-to-Surf Marathon here. Earlier this year Robin won the Daily News Half-Marathon. He said it was a originally just a training run for him but then he realised he could win it, so he just put the accelerator down and went for it.

Robin runs regularly with Energy City Harriers and says they have really helped him with his sport. He is amazed at how good the level of fitness is in Oakura and that everyone is so focussed on being healthy. I asked him what he got out of running and Robin, who is an anaesthetist at Taranaki Base Hospital and Southern Cross Hospital, says it is a good stress release plus it is a bonus running in a group of people where you are one of the young ones! He has met some nice people through running and while it is an individual sport, it can be very social too. Running also makes him feel healthy.

Training for the New York Marathon involved a lot of hard work, with at least 100 hours of running a week. That is six days of three hard runs and three recovery runs. Robin fondly calls the recovery runs, "My little recovery runs of 10 km around Oakura"!

Next up for the Marathon Man is the Two Oceans Ultra Marathon in Cape Town, South Africa, where Robin originates from and then it is off to the New Zealand Road Relay Champs in Otago with Murray Laird from Oakura and a posse of over 50 year olds from Energy City Harriers.

Robin and wife Jill have two daughters, Megan who is at Otago University and is a keen surfer, and Kathryn who is at NPGHS.

By Kim Ferens

Oakura Junior Sports Club – Mini-Athletics 2007-2008

We are all go here at Corbett Park on Monday nights. Again this season we are up around the 80 children registered mark. This year we have been fortunate to have some great parent volunteers and have been able to set up a roster for leading each of the age groups.

We will resume our second half of the season on Monday 11 February.



Ready set go – off and racing . . .

Remember we have the mini-athletics barbeque available for hire over the Summer. Contact Jo on 7527899 if you're interested.

Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all back ready to run next year.



. . . and through the hoop you go!





GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Another great year is coming to a close with the prospect of a great summer – compliments of the season to everyone from the Oakura Boardriders Club.

The Club longboard champs were held in early November. Congratulations to a new member, Brian Clark, for taking the 2007 title. The surf was small on Oakura beach and Brian took it to the other finalists. Chris Davies came in 2nd, with Tyler Anderson in 3rd.

The following day was the NP Surfriders vs Oakura Boardriders annual cricket game for the Mike Norris Memorial Trophy, this year won by NP by one point. It was a great game with some new members adding to the usual colour and close contest. A great batting chase by Glen Johns, Mike Hareb and John Lovell in the last few overs wasn't quite enough to get us over the line, but it was a great afternoon's entertainment all the same.

It was contest time again with the Gisborne Sequence Surfshop pro in early November. Tyler Anderson made the quarter finals in the Under-18s in small clean East Coast conditions.

Next up is the final Rip Curl Gromsearch at Piha on 8-9 December.

Paige Hareb missed Gisborne but contested a Queensland circuit contest, winning the Under-20 division and coming 3rd in the Open, so a worthwhile outing on her part. She is presently in Hawaii as we go to press, getting some valuable experience and no doubt enjoying the waves too.

Remember President's Night is every Friday night with the bar and BBQ going, so come down, have a catch up and socialise.

Oakura Boardriders

President: Paul Christophers – 752 7156

Secretary: Paul Lobb – 752 7556

Treasurer: Brent Anderson – 752 7171



Tyler, Brent, Brian, Chris – longboard finalists.



Longboard champ, Brian Clark shows how it's done . . .



. . . and accepts the trophy from Paul Christophers.



Brett (Biscuit) Hollis bowling like a pro!



The two cricket teams.



Paul Christophers stoically bearing the pain of handing over the trophy to Steve Sadgrove.

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Idyllic Oakura, 1930's style



How's this amazing photo of Oakura camping ground and beyond, c 1930? Not a house in sight, no chimney at Paritutu, fabulous cars, classy tents, surf's up, but no-one's surfing (mind you, a digital enhancement may well reveal surfing legend, Nigel Dwyer trotting down the beach with a 17' log under his arm, followed closely by Oakura's (also part of the legend) Doug Hislop, who of course, would not have such a large one).

In the light of recent fears concerning coastal development, It would be interesting to hear from someone who can remember this era and find out their views on the development of Oakura as it is now. Can anyone tell us more about this photo, or life down on the beach during those years? We are always keen to gather historical information about our stretch of the coast.

One thing is certain - that Oakura has been a great summer venue for very long time and whatever changes take place in our area, we can be fairly sure that it will remain a wonderful place to enjoy surf, sun and sand well into the future, too.

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Library and new block official opening

Mayor Peter Tennent and MP Harry Duynhoven were here at school along with tradesmen, parents and other invited guests to mark the completion of our major property project.

Our newest pupil, Kohana Clothier, who was having her first day of school, cut the ribbon to open the new block. Our Lead Ambassadors Julie Richardson, Amber Clement, Daniel O'Keeffe and Cody Niederberger assisted her.

Visitors had a chance to wander around the new areas and many commented on the positive differences and quality of the outcome for the school. The new Library and 'Theatre' room were highlights, and along with the colourful, large classrooms, the whole project has resulted in modern and flexible spaces that our staff and pupils love.

Zone for Omata

The Ministry of Education have confirmed our school zone that will be in place for the beginning of the 2008 year. It stretches from Koru Road in the west to Barrett Road in the east and overlaps slightly the zones of Frankley and Oakura Schools. The zone does not affect pupils who are already attending Omata School as they are able to stay.

Any queries at all, please call me on 751 2308.

Have a safe and happy festive season

Karen

Omata School Leavers 2007

We asked each school leaver three questions:

- 1 What school will you be attending next year?
- 2 What were the highlights at Omata School?
- 3 What are your aspirations for the future?

Shayla Boyce

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The Young Leaders Conference in Wellington because I met lots of new kids and I enjoyed playing soccer for Omata School.
- 3 I want to be a teacher.



Anahera Awhitu

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I have only been at Omata School for two terms but I have enjoyed making new friends.
- 4 I want to be a teacher.



Latesha Whakatutu

- 1 Coastal School
- 2 I have only been at Omata School for a few weeks but I enjoyed going to tech and making a clock in woodwork.
- 3 I want to do something in the arts.

Kohana Clothier cuts the ribbon at the new library's official opening, and below, His Worship the Mayor, Peter Tennent along with Harry Duynhoven and other invited guests are on hand at the opening.



Bobbie Johnston

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp to Auckland and I especially enjoyed going to Kelly Tarltons.
- 3 I want to be a writer and write murder novels or maybe an Early Childhood teacher.



Jessica Brewster

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Going on the Years 7 & 8 camp to Auckland and going to Clip & Climb because it was so thrilling. I have also enjoyed meeting friends at Omata School.
- 3 Maybe study to be a lawyer but I would really like to travel.



Julie Richardson

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp and going to Clip & Climb because it was so challenging. I have enjoyed being a Lead Ambassador for Omata School.
- 3 I want to be a designer.



Lesha Whakatutu

- 1 Coastal School
- 2 I have only been at Omata School for a few weeks but I have enjoyed meeting new people here.
- 3 I want to be a model.

Liam Izett

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp to Auckland and going to Clip & Climb because I enjoy climbing.
- 3 I'd like to go to University and do something to help other people.



Daniel O'Keeffe

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp and I thought the Willow Park Camp site was great because it had so many facilities. I have enjoyed being a Lead ambassador for Omata School.
- 3 I want to be a professional snowboarder or maybe go to university.



Taylor Brisco

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp to Auckland and going to Clip & Climb because it took lots of confidence and it was a challenge. I have enjoyed using technology such as the computers at Omata.
- 3 I want to be a commercial fisherman.



William Livingston

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Being able to make movies and do lots of drawing. I also enjoyed the Years 7 & 8 camp and the Young Leaders Conference. I also have enjoyed having a good teacher in Mr Murphy.
- 3 I'd like to be a cartoonist or a filmmaker.



Mihiata Morgan

- 1 St Marys, Stratford
- 2 The Year 6 camp to Rotorua and doing all the activities there. I have enjoyed being at Omata School with Year 7 & 8 kids. Mr Murphy is pretty cool and knows lots!
- 3 I'd like to be an air hostess.



Nikau Hoeta

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 The Years 7 & 8 camp and I liked the campsite. I have enjoyed using all the different technologies available at Omata, like laptops, cameras and videos.
- 3 I want to work with my dad in scaffolding.



Amber Clement

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Being a Lead Ambassador and I liked Mr Norris as a teacher.
- 3 I want to be a musician.



Cody Niederberger

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Being a Lead Ambassador and I enjoyed playing lots of different sports for Omata School.
- 3 I want to be a pilot.



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Hello from Oakura Library

Holiday time can be a good chance to catch up on recreational reading. Call in and check out the latest titles or read those books you've always wanted to read. If you are in need of inspiration, Karen, Trish and I will be happy to help you discover your next great read.

Our hours for the Christmas / New Year holiday period:

The library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December through to Wednesday 2 January 2008.

Normal hours resume on Thursday, 3 January 2008. These are:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 12 noon to 6pm

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday – 9am to 1pm

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a good New Year to follow.

From the library team,

Judith Schumacher, Karen Sturgess and Trish Whitney.

Fantastic Fossils

Oakura Library, Wednesday 10 January, 1.00pm

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Oakura Plunket

Coffee mornings: Wednesdays, 9.15am to 11am at the Oakura Boardriders Club

Towards the end of October, the Plunket coffee mornings re-started down at the local Boardriders Club and there's been a steady stream of mums and babies/toddlers attending ever since. No dads as yet, so there's a challenge for you blokes! It's a great time to catch up and chill out with others "in the same (mostly fantastic) boat" while the kids play together. While we target the 0 to 3 year olds, no-one is turned away, so come along and join us.

Our thanks to the Oakura Boardriders Club for allowing us to use their clubrooms and to everyone who gave so generously at the recent Plunket appeal, helping to make our coffee mornings possible. Thank you.

For further information, contact Bob Fleming on 752 7048 or Claire Florence on 752 7889.

celebrate life

Tay Gregory Burkett

Born at Taranaki Base Hospital on 17 February 2006, weighing in at 7lb.

Tay is the second son of Todd and Feona Burkett, younger brother to Jordan and Holly, and grandson of Brian & Val Burkett and Gordon & Kath Brown.



Sula May Rossiter Bennett

Born calmly at home on 21/10/2006. Birth weight: 7lb, 7.5oz.

Parents: Maryanne Rossiter Bennett and Ross Bennett.

Hobbies include: impersonating the coffee machine and being a duck.

What she most wants: grapes, kiwifruit . . . and world peace.

Most likely to win: Iron sand eating competition.

Most likely to become: sound effects actor for Police Academy 10.



Sula Bennett enjoying the musical selection at her 1st birthday

oakura school news

Oakura School students embrace Cinderella show

A large group of Oakura students auditioned and gained a place in the cast of the Cinderella show presently running at the TSB Stadium. The show closes on 15 December.

Funds raised from the production go towards the Taranaki Hospice. The show is directed by Jane Martin, choreographed by Raeleen Luckin and Jo Suren is Musical Director.

There are 50 children in the show divided into two groups, and Raeleen says all the children are having a blast. Rehearsals began in October so everyone has been working very hard.

Jahla Tran-Lawrence says she loves dancing and auditioned because she thought it would be exciting. She has enjoyed watching the really good dancers. Jahla plays a bird of paradise, a gate crasher and a maid. Another Oakura school student having a blast is Jessica Clark, who says she also auditioned to do something exciting, plus her friends were doing it! She says she is going to enjoy performing in front of people. Jessica is a fantail and a fairy.

By Kim Ferens



Cinderella cast from Oakura School - Front row L-R Isla Dunn, Milla Novak, Lucy Brankin, Jahla tran-Lawrence, Jessica Clrk, Madeline Parker, Meika Watson-Burrows. Back Row L-R Bailey Hales, Kima Costello, Siani Tran-Lawrence, Julia Crighton, Isabel Goodhue, Erin Kelly and absent was Kaye West.

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Oakura School Leavers 2007

We asked each school leaver three questions:

- 1 What school will you be attending next year?
- 2 What were the highlights at Oakura School?
- 3 What are your aspirations for the future?

Scott Neale

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Performing at J Rock because I like performing on stage. I also liked Activity Week, especially dam dropping.
- 3 I would like to be a zookeeper or vet.



Anne-Marie Sarten

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Making the Year 8 A netball team and playing in the final. Also J Rock and canoeing down the Mokau River in Activity Week.
- 3 I want to be a famous netball star and make the Silver Ferns if I'm lucky.



Chloe Evans

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 J Rock because it was something different the school hadn't done before and canoeing and dam dropping in Activity Week.
- 3 I would like to be a journalist.



Rosa Garner

- 1 Sacred Heart Girls College
- 2 Getting into the Taranaki finals for cross country.
- 3 I would like to be a great horse rider, plus a vet.



Domenico Squatriti

- 1 Francis Douglas
- 2 Abseiling and canoeing at Mokau in Activity Week.
- 3 I would like to be a professional football player or a builder.



Nina McLean

- 1 Sacred Heart Girls College
- 2 Learning the dances for J Rock, travelling to Palmerston North and technicraft because I got to learn how to make different things.
- 3 I want to ride my pony Freckles at the "Horse of the Year"



Rhea Procter

- 1 St Mary's Girls College, Stratford
- 2 Playing in the netball finals, dam dropping and J Rock.
- 3 I want to be a chef or a TV news presenter.



Eloise Stevens

- 1 Sacred Heart Girls College
- 2 J Rock because I got to go to Palmerston North and see other High Schools and being in the netball final.
- 3 I want to be a famous sportswoman.



Jackson Hine

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 There have been lots of highlights but the best would be Activity Week and canoeing, abseiling, a fun walk and fun activities.
- 3 I want to be a professional downhill mountain biker and travel the world doing it, or be a welder or engineer, building cars and motorbikes.



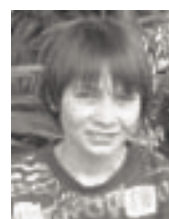
Jeremy Rielly

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Rugby, basketball and Activity Week, because I am a thrill seeker.
- 3 I want to work in a skateboarding shop, or something to do with skateboarding.



Matthew Sturgess

- 1 Either Frances Douglas or Spotswood College
- 2 Going on Activity Week. and doing dam dropping, which is something I have never done.
- 3 I want to be a graphic designer.



Rhys Vickers

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Being head pupil, Activity Week and J Rock.
- 3 I want to pass NCEA levels 1, 2 & 3 and become an engineer.



Anna Hinton

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Highlights were J Rock and Activity Week, because I had a really good group and we had lots of fun.
- 3 I want to keep horse riding and keep working on my sports.



Troy Phillips

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Going to Palmerston North for Activity Week and dam dropping.
- 3 I want to be a musician or rugby player.



Lucy Brankin

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Being part of the ski team, J Rock, Head Pupil, going to the Young Leaders conference and being in the netball final.
- 3 I want to be a lawyer.



Victory Peebles

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Highlights were J Rock because it was something different to do and the excitement of dam dropping.
- 3 I would like to work in some way with horses, but I am not sure – maybe a vet.



Hannah Andrews

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 J Rock because it is cool dancing in front of a big audience and Activity Week because I like doing adventure things in the outdoors. I liked being a head student too because everyone looked up to you and we had privileges.
- 3 I want to be a chef or do something with animals.



Jack Thompson

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Sports, friends, teachers and stage challenge.
- 3 I want to be a bartender or builder.



Samuel Newman

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Technicraft because we made cool stuff, the class atmosphere and Activity Week.
- 3 I want to be a professional soccer player.



Tai Juneau

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 I enjoyed our Activity Week, especially five people in a canoe going backwards over the dam, and skiing for Oakura School.
- 3 I want to be a professional skier or design skis.



Braiden Jensen

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Activity Week, especially dam dropping which was 'adrenaline pumped'
- 3 I want to be a motorbike engineer.



India Aston

- 1 NPGHS
- 2 Activity Week, interschool netball and basketball.
- 3 I want to become a lawyer and a Silver Fern. I would also like to have a job as some sort of business woman to meet new people.



Niall Cole

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Activity Week, because we got to do stuff we hadn't done before and I like outdoor stuff.
- 3 I want to be a zoologist or vet.



Joel Bennett

- 1 NPBHS
- 2 Activity Week, because I enjoyed being outside of school and kayaking was a challenge. I also liked technicraft and having good teachers like Mrs Batten, who is fun.
- 3 I want to be a future sports star or physical education teacher.



Catherine West

- 1 Spotswood College
- 2 Activity Week, interschool sports.
- 3 I want to go to the Olympics as a dressage rider.



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Being active: Why physical play is so important

During the last term break, Robyn and Eleanor attended a course run by Gill Connell on the importance of physical activity in young children. It has been shown that through active play our children develop not only stronger bones and muscles, but better brain and eye function and improved speech, language and memory skills.

The course also discussed the way children gain confidence and build self esteem as they progress through the different stages of rolling, crawling, jumping, crossing the midline, and hopping and skipping.

While enjoying physical play with our children there are many things we can do to help develop self worth. Children feel good about themselves when adults use encouraging words and display positive body language. If we reinforce the positive and tell our children that they have done well balancing on a beam or jumping and landing on two feet, they know what to feel pleased about and will want to repeat the action. The best thing is that children love doing the same things over and over again. We see this every day at the kindergarten as we watch the children playing outside on the adventure playground equipment.

When children have reached these stages of development they have a better ability to cope with the educational tasks required. Children need to develop their major locomotor skills before they develop the small muscle control that would enable them to hold a pencil or a pair of scissors, for example.

Gill spoke of our children developing an "integrated brain", one that allows messages to pass quickly from nerve endings to itself. Once there, the messages are interpreted and a responding message returned to the muscles. If a brain is not integrated this process is slowed.

If you would like to learn more about this subject, check out our new resource material *Moving to Learn* or the Sport and Recreation New Zealand *Active Movement* pamphlets or visit www.sparc.org.nz

Hope you all have a safe and active holiday.

Gill

Fun In the sandpit.



Kaitake Kindy's reopening

It was wonderful to visit Kaitake Kindergarten recently on their open day and to see how well the preschool had recovered from the devastation of the July tornado.

Outdoors the play area has been completely regressed and is looking lush and inviting. The sandpit has been refilled with new sand and new bark has been laid under the swings.

The Kindy boasts a new entranceway that has been expanded and is more user-friendly. There are no more bottlenecks of mums, dads, children and bags and boots.

Indoors the walls and floors have new coverings and there are two new office spaces – one for the teachers and one for meetings (or sleeping babies!). All the toys have either been washed or thrown out and a host of new ones have been purchased.

Robyn Lander, head teacher is delighted with the finished product and is glad to be "off the road", so to speak, but she marvels at how accommodating the community has been in housing the Kindy in the interim. In fact they are all extremely grateful to everyone who has helped put the Kindy back on its feet – whether locals, builders, insurance, fundraising committees or businesses. Everyone has helped make it a super new Kindy and the children look delighted to be back home!

By Kim Ferens



George and Louis Newton in the playground.

Catherine Keenan and Theo inside the revamped kindy.



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clubs & groups calendar

Mini Groovers:

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



Playcentre

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

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:

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

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Yoga has finished for 2007. Thanks to all those who attended our last class. All koha received has been donated to Women's Refuge. I will resume classes on the 22nd of Jan 2008! All new people welcome. Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

Indoor Bowls:

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

Country and Western Club

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

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www.open2view.com ID No 163350

Fitzroy Bungalow Close to Beach and Golf Course

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to own your own immaculate home in popular Fitzroy, which is a very quick walk to the golf course, beach and walkway. This sunny 3 bedroom abode is tastefully presented so you can just walk on in and enjoy the indoor/outdoor living areas and easy care gardens and enjoy life to the full.

20 Record Street, FITZROY
\$395,000

www.open2view.com ID No 152320



A Delightful Discovery in Fitzroy

A stylish renovation has given this bungalow a contemporary edge which you will absolutely delight in. Good taste shines through with a fabulous kitchen, two spacious bedrooms plus sun room or office. You will enjoy the easy care fenced section that not only offers loads of space for the children, but great off street parking for a camper, boat or extra vehicles. This home offers immediate readiness for enjoyment in a quiet, immensely convenient and popular location with easy access to the beach. So whether you are a busy couple, or small family or just someone missing a carefree lifestyle by the coast then we highly recommend your earliest viewing.

22 Rapihi Street, FITZROY
Auction Thursday 29th November 6pm on site (unless sold prior)

www.open2view.com ID No 167239

The Best That Money Can Buy!!!

Privately located in front of a reserve, this enchanting timber family home offers a delightful verandah entrance perfect for an evening drink, a generous 3 bedroom floor plan with an updated kitchen/meals area, a sunny lounge room which overlooks a North facing patio and garden. There is a DVS system ducted throughout and a pot belly for heating, extensive stable garaging and excellent off-street parking or parking bay for boat/trailers. This home offers a relaxed lifestyle that's ready to be enjoyed immediately with fabulous alfresco areas to entertain over the summer months in what seems to be a very popular family location!

15A Sycamore Grove
\$345,000

www.open2view.com ID No 168206



Spacious house spilling out to a stunning bush setting!

Superbly located in the Mangere & Herrlands school zones and beautifully sited on a substantial bushed allotment measuring 730m² this exceptional setting is bound to inspire! Inside Features merge with a huge comfortable open plan lounge/dining area a spacious well appointed kitchen and dining area all with a backdrop of bush from every angle! In summer enjoy a fabulous North facing deck with sunken spa bath. This stylish family home presents an irresistible opportunity to add some connective touches to an already secluded residence with spacious interiors brimming of nature!

74C Karina Road
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