

Tour de Paul

Paul on the summit of the Mont Ventoux.



Paul and Trevor on the summit of the mountain pass of the cross.



Paul Anderson and buddy Trevor Todd had the trip of a lifetime recently when they tripped off to France with their road bikes to follow the Tour de France.

Read about their big tour adventure on page 10.

Pet Essentials – The One Stop Pet Shop

Going in the door at Pet Essentials gives you the warm fuzzies. People go quite potty in the shop – you know like when a woman sees a new baby a shift in personality happens – she coos and talks funny. Well I see people doing that in Pet Essentials

told me so by changing his beard colour black like thunder. Fidget is a real super model and a Nikon thrust in her face is par for the course! Alison Olsen – owner of Pet Essentials will happily tell you all the ins and outs of dragon keeping and the first batch of babies are now for sale including all the necessary equipment.

Alison and David Olsen have owned Pet Essentials since 1997 when the business began across the car park in the Richmond Centre where they specialised in meat products and pet accessories. This meat range includes venison, chicken, offal, beef, fish, mutton, bones, brisket, dog rolls (mainly meat and less fillers), diced, minced and



A baby dragon tucking into some carrots.

Alison with Bella the parrot.

and who can blame them; it cooey heaven with cute little puppies, guinea pigs, rabbits and birds not to mention the fish (bit harder to coo over them I say) and of course the dragon babies.

Is this for real? Dragons? In Pet Essentials? Surely are, there are handfuls of them and they are fascinating. Mum and dad bearded dragons Bruno and Fidget look indulgently on as their babies are admired and they look pretty dapper themselves. Dragons are specialised pets that require specialised equipment but really they are easy care and absolutely mesmerising to watch. Old Bruno was grumpy when I took his photo and he



performance mixes. In 2007 the business expanded to their present premises and now the shop has a huge range of pets and everything necessary to go with each type of pet as well as their meat products.

Alison and David have seven staff, some of whom are students who work in the holidays and weekends and at any one time there are generally five staff working in the shop each day.

Pet Essentials is the cleanest, freshest and best stocked pet shop I have visited recently, possibly ever. The glass fronted puppy, guinea pig and bird cages ensure all odours and mess (I didn't

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A photograph of a bottle of red wine and two glasses on a wooden table, set against a backdrop of a modern building and a coastal landscape.

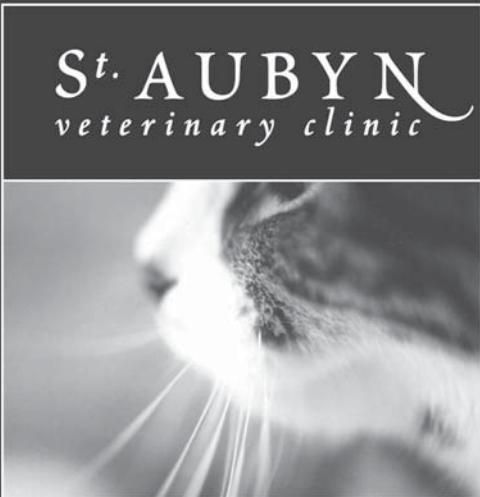
see any messes) is kept away from customers. The animals are cared for diligently with regular pen cleaning and they are all well fed and watered. Once the shop shuts the puppies get to have a run around in the shop and burn off some energy.

The latest edition to the Pet Essentials team is Bella the Indian Ring Necked Parrot. Bella has a beautiful personality and likes nothing better than sitting on the counter or on a shoulder eyeballing the customers – you just want to hug her but that wouldn't be right!

Pet Essentials offer puppy classes instore with Kate Hocking over a four week period for puppies up to 12 weeks old. They happen on a Tuesday evening and cover many aspects of a puppies life.

Contact Pet Essentials for all and I mean ALL your pets needs and even for a fun outing take the kids to see the pets instore – especially the baby dragons!

By Kim Ferens



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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

As the curtain falls on 2009 and I am left pondering where in the world the time went to, it is good to reflect on the wonderful things that make a TOM year so special, and for me it is one particular moment.



Most recently, the passing of long time resident, Rod Smith, who welcomed me into his home a few years ago to write an "I Remember When" column, reminded me the TOM is about people (not poo pipes!). Rod's granddaughter contacted me to say how thrilled she was to find her granddad on Google via the column I had written. That's what it is all about. I had some recent scathing criticism about the TOM being written by amateurs but I am sure you are all with me when I say our contributors, while being amateurs (as I am), have an honesty and an embracing of the core strengths of our community, which we all relate to. We may not write to a structured formula but we know what interests us, so thank you everyone who helps make TOM an important part of our monthly life.

And I did pass all my journalism papers this year so I am really chuffed about that, just got the other half to go!

Happy holidays and see you on the beach,
Kim

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

from **mayor pete**



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Hi folks!

Christmas is just a handful of weeks away – and I can't wait! I really enjoy the Christmas season as it's a chance to step back from the daily rush and spend time with family and friends.

And because there is no place in New Zealand that can beat it, I'll be relaxing at Oakura Beach with the family again this summer. If you see me on my daily run along the beach, don't hesitate to run with me for a chat!

It's fantastic news that, just as summer arrives, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has awarded Oakura Beach Blue Flag status for the third year in a row. Both Oakura and Fitzroy/East End are standouts in this regard: While there are 3,450 beaches and marinas in 41 countries with Blue Flags this year, our two are the only accredited beaches in the wider South Pacific. Not only does that give us a leg-up in the eco tourism stakes, but it's great for locals to know that their favourite beach has been judged environmentally sound by an independent group.

One thing we are working on – along with Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), the Department of Conservation and the Taranaki District Health Board – is the water quality of Waimoku Stream. We know there's a problem with E. coli in the stream, and TRC is monitoring the situation closely. However, FEE has said this does not affect Oakura's Blue Flag status. One thing that will be done this year is to cut the stream's channel right across the beach rather than letting it travel along the beach (as it has done on occasions in the past), so that the stream's water reaches the sea quickly and gets diluted as soon as possible. We're also all working on other mitigation issues to improve the Waimoku Stream environment.

We have a lifestyle here that is second to none, and our goal is to manage our landscape so that future generations will also be able to enjoy the very things that we cherish about our coastal areas.

Don't forget: If you have anything you want to discuss or if you have a project that you think NPDC might be able to help you with, just phone me on 06-759 6060. Otherwise I'll keep an eye out for you on the beach this summer!

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I wish to clarify one point from your article in the last edition regarding the storage of sewerage at Shearer Reserve. Sewerage will not be stored at the site for any significant length of time except in emergencies (such as power failure). A large separate emergency storage tank is provided for this purpose.

During normal operation, sewerage will be contained in a separate "wet well" which is emptied multiple times over a 24 hour period – more frequently during the peak inflow hours of morning and early evening, and less frequently during the quieter inflow hours of the afternoon and overnight.

Meanwhile, the contractor has completed construction and the site will be grassed for summer. Landscape planting will be carried out next autumn.

Mark Hall

NPDC Manager Projects



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When it comes to Oakura's storm water system, remember this simple message:

Only rain goes in the drain!


"Whatever washes into the roadside drains ends up in the Tasman Sea," says Manager Water and Wastes, Brent Manning. "Detergent from washing a car, gravel and dirt from waterblasting, and rubbish swept along the gutters will all wash onto Oakura Beach and into the sea – so please take care to let only rain go into our roadside drains."

One tip is to wash cars on lawns to let the detergent and water soak into the soil.


Plastic drink bottles, chip packets and other litter cause a particular problem in Oakura. When a big rainfall arrives, all of the litter is washed into the storm water system, flushed through the drains and left scattered along the beach.

"Please dispose of rubbish in the bins provided – and if the bins are full, take your rubbish home for disposal or recycling," says Brent. "Rubbish on the beach is always unsightly and presents a danger to wildlife, so keep in mind that everything loose will end up in the sea."

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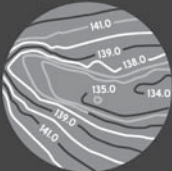
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The Year in Review

It is now that time of the year when we are getting either reruns or reality TV shows on television in an effort to provide entertainment until the Christmas Shows make an appearance. For me, looking back on the last 12 months as a new MP balancing my time between New Plymouth and Wellington, it has been a steep learning curve. Serving on select committees, attending procedures and caucus meetings, as well as being present in the debating chamber accounts for the majority of my time when the house is sitting. Locally, I have hosted eight visiting MPs, including the Prime Minister John Key and the Minister of Finance Bill English, as well as a number of morning teas for community groups.

It is also a time to look back at what has occurred during the past 12 months since National was elected. If you are viewing the parliamentary year as a "rerun" you will see that whether you're a small business owner, a graduate looking for a job, or someone at home making ends meet, this economic downturn has been tough. This has been a worldwide recession but it has been felt very much at a local level.

Faced with the worst economic downturn in decades, the National led Government took the necessary steps to support jobs and families, and created the environment that gave businesses the confidence to maintain and create new jobs.

Our ReStart package gives assistance to those who have lost their jobs during the economic downturn and with additional assistance given through government agencies, jobs have been created through our home insulation package, and bringing forward infrastructure projects.

We have maintained Superannuation entitlements, benefits for low income families, and Working for Families assistance, as it's important to give people certainty at a time of economic uncertainty.

There are signs that the economy is coming out of the downturn, however, the road to recovery will be quite bumpy and this is reflected in the financial statements issued recently. Certainly, the impact of the recession on the Government's revenue will be felt for some time.

We have already started streamlining the Resource Management Act, which will make it easier to do business. The tax cuts we delivered this year have helped put more money into the pockets of workers and our small business package put in place a range of initiatives to reduce compliance costs, help keep up cashflow, and help businesses retain staff.

We need to continue this step change by cutting the red tape that restricts business growth and prosperity, investing in productive infrastructure, delivering better, smarter public services, lifting education and skills, pursuing innovation and business assistance, and ensuring our tax system promotes economic growth. All of this will be the focus of Budget 2010.

This is my last column for 2009. I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, hopefully to be shared with family and friends.

Jonathan Young, MP

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

For constituent appointments, please contact my Electorate Office in New Plymouth

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kaitake community board

Several activities that were in the pipeline last month have recently been completed.

The Blue Flag has been officially raised once again on the Oakura beachfront. The committee is tasked with coordinating the environmental management of the beach and held its inaugural meeting recently.

National experts from The Dunes Restoration Trust held an all day workshop about natural dune form and function along our coastline, and the role native plants play as natural sand binders in dune maintenance or restoration. The Trust was formed in 2007 to continue the work of the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network. Organisations and individuals are involved in the Trust, including regional and district councils, research agencies, forestry companies, tertiary education institutes, iwi, consultants, plant nurseries, and community groups such as Beach Care and Coast Care.

The Trust provides a network for information exchange on sustainable management on dune ecosystems. It also facilitates research on dune ecosystems and promotes public awareness of proven methods for protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable management of them.

Dunes are the natural buffer between the land and sea. Over the past few years there have been regular indigenous plantings along the foreshore with Oakura School students, under the watchful eye of Council and DOC staff, carrying out most of the work. Long-time resident and local teacher, Ray Priest, has been the major influence in facilitating these learning experiences for the children, many of whom may well end up as the next generation of residents here.

Construction of the sewerage project is complete and it is almost ready for commissioning. Approximately 38km of sewer pipelines, including a pumping main from Oakura to New Plymouth and gravity reticulation within Oakura, as well as five pump stations have been constructed. The sewerage will be pumped via the pipeline along State Highway 45, finally ending up in the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment along with the city's wastewater. There have been many issues since the project was first mooted, but I am sure most will agree what a demanding task Council and contractors have had in retrofitting this underground network within the existing village. Council has a duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment caused by activities under its control, and I believe the standard of control technology and containment measures used in the sewerage system to meet that duty are particularly robust.

Meetings were held with the Oakura Hall Committee and with Okato residents regarding the future of Hempton Hall. The Community Board needs to establish how each hall relates to the community's recreation needs. This is part of the process



we are carrying out in developing a submission on the Council's Community Halls Review. The purpose of the review is to look at the existing use of halls throughout the district and outline opportunities for the future use of each hall, improving or rationalising their management and confirming Council's levels of funding; and to document what the users of halls can expect from the Council during the coming years. Prior to the submission close off, an extraordinary KCB meeting will be held to validate our presentation.

On behalf of Keith, Al and Mike I wish all TOM readers a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and do spend plenty of time enjoying our great local environment over the coming summer months.

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

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Rich Pickings

Hello all,

Well the holidays are right on top of us. With the holiday season comes my busiest time of the year and, as such, I need as much help as I can get from you, the locals.

Most of you will know by now that there was a spate of thefts from motor vehicles in the Oakura area. Some, but not all, were from vehicles that were left unsecured, and some, but not all, were from vehicles that were left on the road.

I believe that these undesirables are mostly on foot and have a fairly good understanding of the area. Locals? I hope not.

What I am proposing is this: Please remove all valuables from your vehicle, open and leave open your glove box and middle console. Why, I hear you ask? Because these low lifes who believe they have the right to break into your vehicle and take your hard-earned items do it at night, take with them torches, look into your car, see nothing is there and move onto your neighbours who have not listened to me.

I would also suggest some sort of alarm for your vehicle, if possible park it under a street light or ensure your sensor light on the house is working. If you hear something in the middle of the night, at least turn on an inside light to give the offender the belief that somebody is coming out to investigate.

Moving on to house security, if you're out the back in the garden, lock the front door, and if you're out the front in the garden, lock the back door. If out of the house altogether, yes, you guessed it, lock both doors and close the windows. Not rocket science, I know, but let's do the simple things right and not become victims.

If you must leave a window open, ensure you have double locks. Let's face it, thieves are naturally lazy and they will generally move on to an easier target, of which to date there are plenty.

If you are lucky enough to be going away for the holidays, let your neighbours know, give them a contact number and get them to clear your letterbox, maybe park their car in your driveway, and enjoy yourself, safe in the knowledge that somebody is keeping an eye on your house while it is empty.

Remember your neighbours are the best security you have, get to know them and join or start a neighbourhood support group, they are great.

Moving back to vehicles, but this time the ones that make a lot of noise and generally leave big black marks on the road. Again, without your help Police are unable to do a lot. These boys and girls have a pretty good communication network and are aware when Police are coming, but please keep the calls coming and, where possible, get a rego.

To these boy and girl racers, grow up, there are more and more legal races for you to attend. Look after your vehicle and attend these organised events.

In relation to vehicles, Oakura Beach is not a place you are allowed to drive. There is a council bylaw that prohibits you from driving on the beach, not only that, but if you do drive on the beach it then becomes a road and the usual road rules apply. Now I am not the Fun Police, but the beach is for everyone not just the loud and dangerous motorbikes and other vehicles that have access to it. Be respectful.

The bylaw says, "No person may drive a vehicle on any of the following beaches:

Oakura Beach - including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Rd River mouth to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east.

Except for vehicles launching and landing recreational and fishing boats, providing that the vehicle leaves the beach immediately upon the launch or landing of the boat."

I wish to cover one more thing before signing off. There has been an increase in minor damage done around the Oakura community. Now I am in no doubt that this damage is being caused by local youth, so parents please be aware of your child's whereabouts, ensure that they do not have access to alcohol and when they are caught, as they will be, be proactive do not bury your head in the sand and say it would not be my child because they are saints.

Even saints slip up every now and then.

Anyway, enough of me telling you what you should and shouldn't do. Did you know that it takes about 3,000 cows to supply enough leather for a year's production of American footballs to be used by the NFL? Not many people know that.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that you all stay safe.

Rich



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Artist surfer adds to growing surf culture in Fitzroy

Recently at Strandon a few new businesses have made an appearance. One quietly getting established in the local area is owned by surfer and artist Brian Clark a local from Oakura, who has opened a surf shop BC Surf Shack.

Brian who is originally from San Clemente which is about an hour south of Los Angeles has lived in New Zealand for the last 10 years. He and his wife Vincenza along with daughters Leah and Jessica moved to Taranaki two years ago after living in Whangarei for eight years.

Starting the surf shop has been an idea he has had for a while. But this won't just be a surf shop, it will also an art studio, a gallery and a base for the graphic design work he does. Brian completed a BA in Visual Arts at Northland Polytechnic and went on to teach computer graphics at the Poly tech for three and a half years. The shop in Strandon allows him to have the three dedicated work spaces for what he will be doing there.

This isn't the first surf shop Brian has owned, he had one in the US and started making surfboards in 1976. He still likes to surf competitively and recently won for the second consecutive year the over 50's section in the Del Festival of Long boards at Labour weekend. He surfs any length board from a 5' 10" fish through to a 9' 6" long board and his shop stocks boards for both the short and long board enthusiast.

Brian has been steadily getting his stock of clothing and surfboards ready to sell. He shapes and airbrushes at the Strandon site but gets the boards glassed by CSA. The shop has a rustic feel and is more like surf shops of days gone by. This was a deliberate move by Brian who wanted that kind of lived in welcoming feel to the shop, there's plenty to look at too with lots of surfing memorabilia on display. Some of his art work graces the walls and particularly eye catching is an oil painting of a Tahitian woman done in Gauguin's style with influences of Manet too. Brian plans to have more art on display as well as doing commission work. A lot of the art he is producing now involves using objects such as souvenirs from the South Pacific. This has involved searching things out at places like second hand stores to find these pieces that were once a treasure to someone but are now discarded, things that perhaps people bought whilst on a holiday in a tropical 'paradise'. The objects that he finds become part of the artwork either as they are or sometimes he paints over them. He described how his style of art came about "The luxury of looking at past representations in art has afforded me the chance to question the meaning of beauty and ideas we hold about paradise" A collection of this work will be the basis of his next exhibition 'Paradise' which I'm sure will interest both surfers and non surfers alike.

So next time your in Strandon pop in to have a browse and chat with Brian in his Surf Shack.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Oakura Library has a summer reading programme for ages 5–12 called "Dive Into Books". Registration closes Sunday, 13 December. We ask that the first check-in be done before Christmas Day. Regular check-ins are encouraged and incentives help motivate children to read throughout summer.

Our school holiday programme "Creative Christmas" takes place on Wednesday, 23 December from 10–11am here at the library. Open to children of all ages, however, spaces are limited so book in early. We ask that each child bring a very small, inexpensive item for this craft.

We are very grateful to all our hard working, dedicated volunteers who work throughout the year in the library. We value your community spirit and smiling faces! Thank you.

For those of you hosting visitors, we do have visitor membership here at the library. Don't forget to mention our free Internet access.

We have a host of beautiful new gardening and cooking books. And don't forget to pick up some hot new reads for lounging on the deck or beach. Check out the latest fiction by Cecelia Ahern, Penny Vincenzi, Diana Gabaldon, Anita Shreve, Ian Rankin and many more.

Don't miss these Christmas themed children's books, *Merry Christmas Splat*, *Cowshed Christmas* and *The Battle For Christmoos*.

We will be closed from Christmas Day until 4 January 2010.

Wishing you all a holiday season full of love and laughter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Karen and Vincenza

Oakura Ladies' Book Club

Oakura Ladies' Book Club met in November at the Oakura Village Cafe to discuss their two most recent books, *A World To Come* by Dara Horn and *Everyman* by Phillip Roth.



Tim Costelloe shares his Guard family speech.

The group was surprised by a special guest, local Tim Costelloe, who came to the book club to read his recently completed speech about the Guard family. The Guard family was the subject of a book previously read by the book club, *The Captive Wife* by Fiona Kidman. It was a very special treat, and the book club is grateful for Tim and his inspiring insight into the lives of Betty & Jackie Guard.

For more information on joining the book club, please email jenniferhgros@gmail.com.

cover story

The mad keen cycling duo packed their road bikes into cases and headed to Europe for what was their first ever trip to the continent.

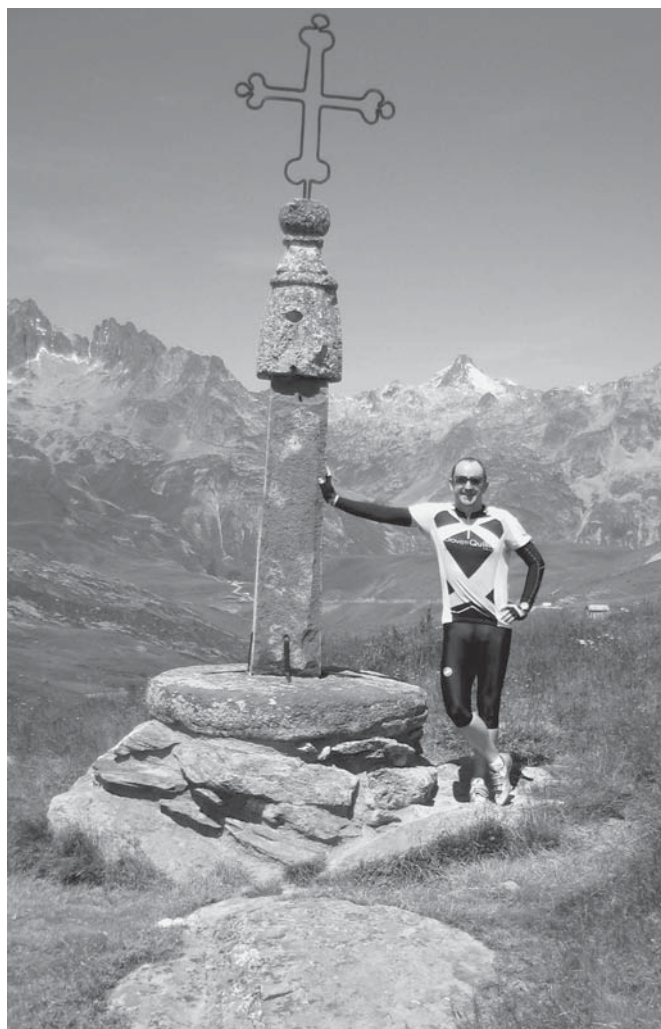
It would be stating the obvious to say the reason for the trip was to experience one of the greatest if not the greatest road bike race in the world. The Tour de France is also one of the biggest staged events in the world and to be part of it was a dream come true for Paul.

But the trip started well before any bike was pulled apart and folded into a case, it started with "Uncle Google", the friendly helpful know-it-all of everything. Paul and Trevor spent many long and happy hours researching and planning their trip. Along the way they received many helpful tips from others who had followed the Tour de France and with the magic of the internet they managed to put together a very creditable tour package. Of which, there were no major hiccups on the trip.

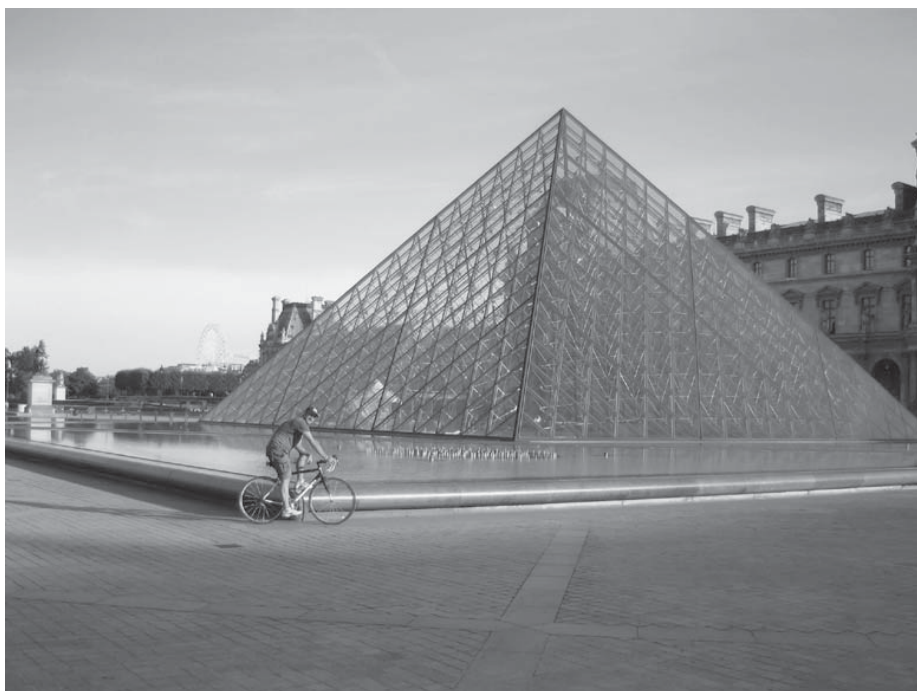
The itinerary was an action packed full on two and half weeks starting in Paris.

The plan was simple and that was to follow the tour for a day then shoot off and do their own thing by biking parts of the route and sightseeing then rejoin the tour and be part of the spectacle again. Paul said they did a lot of it "on the fly" and not having children (or wives!) in tow made it easier as they had freedom to do their own thing.

The pair travelled 3000 kilometres in the two and half weeks and got to see what Paul describes as "little" France, that is the smaller villages and back roads that organised tour groups probably don't see. They would often stay in a small village up to two hours away from the Tour de France stage, mainly because everything is booked out close to each stage but this meant they got to experience great hospitality, great food and great scenery (the thousand or so photos would indicate this!).



Above, Paul beside the 'la Croix de fer' and below, in Paris.



Everyday Paul and Trevor got their bikes out and did a ride and one particular highlight is biking the notorious Mont Ventoux which is nearly three quarters as high as Mt Taranaki but hellishly steep. They did it in two and quarter hours where as the Tour de France riders do it in one hour! But they did it! They also spent a few hours in the early morning biking around Paris, sightseeing

at all the famous landmarks of Paris. Paul says they were never bored and he would definitely go back again.

The Tour de France is a huge event with world wide television audiences and hundreds of thousands of spectators. Paul and Trevor would have to wait at the roadside to see the Tour riders go by anything from five hours before the riders were due to go through – such was the interest in each stage.

Another eye opener for the two men was the level of marketing and promotion going on around the actual tour. Buses, cars and trucks are all out hawking their companies goods and on a daily basis you can receive numerous giveaways.

On one occasion Paul and Trevor found themselves staying close to a cycling pitstop and were able to have a 'behind the scenes' look at one of the buses which was support crew to one of the teams. The bus carried reservoirs of

water, more bike parts than a bike shop, support staff (massues, physios etc) and technical advisors.

As the tour wound its way in and out of France, up and down the country Paul and Trevor did the same and it can be best summed up by Paul with the words "we loved it!"

By Kim Ferens

Arthouse Rides Again

When will you be back? What are you showing this season? Will there be surf movies? These frequently asked questions, and more, will be answered if you dare read on, dear reader.

This year Arthouse Cinema will be screening at Butlers Reef on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12 January 2010 through to 9 March, with 20 of the most finger-lickin' good comedies, dramas and wet, wet surf films that we can dredge from those sticky Auckland fingers.

Meanwhile, in an old abandoned cinema in the very middle of town . . . Oakura locals are providing a little bit of their sparkly tinsel magic to the glamour starved who reside in town. Because we, at Oakura, felt our hearts bruised for movie lovers in town having to drive *all the way out*, we put our shoulder to the wheel (actually our firemen's shoulders) to reopen the mothballed Mayfair. Last seen showing flicks when Luke Skywalker was the sticker you got with your iceblock. This has enabled Arthouse to "really go ballistic", as Ross Bennett (of Cause & Effect Design), Arthouse Creative Director, brand skipper and all round good guy announced, when faced with the prospect of eight sessions, five times a week, sometimes twice a day. Should you wish to know what is showing, when, kindly refer to your handy, inserted Arthouse schedule in TOM (you won't get another so shove it on the fridge) or to our website www.arthousecinema.co.nz. Above all DO NOT ring the directors Ross, Rose, Maryanne or Claire, as they are taking a step back from the front and employing Françoise and Nico; two personable garçon who know their tear-jerking dramas from their chick flicks.

It looks pretty exciting if you take a step back and eyeball the schedule. Faced with a glut of movies that haven't shown EVER in Taranaki, at least not since Chewbacca was negotiating floating mortgage rates, Arthouse did what it does best and just rolled over and faced the wall and said YES, why not? Accordingly, Oakura film buffs will have to tolerate such obscure goodies as an opening night starring Ben Kingsley and Penelope Cruz in an illicit romance (*Elegy*); some call it a meditation on aging and desire, others an apologia for randy older men — all call it Cruz's best performance to date. Hard on the heels of this disturbingly smart story about love and mortality comes *Sunshine Cleaning*, where the high-school cheerleading captain now finds herself a thirtysomething single mother . . . persuaded to go into the crime scene clean-up business with her sister. An eccentric comedy drama that is a solid indie effort. Remember Colin Firth? Granny undies? Damp lakes? Large sidies? He makes a comeback in *Easy Virtue*, written by the creator of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, in a period romantic comedy that takes an under-the-brisket stab at the British upper crust — did I mention Kristin Scott Thomas?

Lest you wonder what is going on here, I will enumerate the lovely fare for you . . . *Amelie*, *Flame & Citron*, *Departures*, *The First Day of the Rest of Your Life*, *Gone with the Woman*, *Red as the Sky* (Italian Festival winner), *North Face*, *In the Loop*, *Billabong Odyssey*, *The Woman*, *Love the Beast*, *2 days in Paris*, *The September Issue*, *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *Bra Boys*.

Tickets at Butlers Reef are limited to 100 seats in order to allow easy viewing. Cushions are free and prices are now \$13 in the country and \$15 in town, which has 90 seats. Unfortunately, in order to employ front-of-house staff this is the way it has to be, but we hope you understand. Those intrepid explorers who find their way to the refurbished cinema for Arthouse at The Mayfair will notice EVEN MORE MOVIES, including a French Film Festival, an Italian Film Festival, a Green Night Out, and

matinees at 5.15pm featuring classics on Sundays like *Gone with the Wind*, *High Noon* and *Casablanca*.

In order to fund the reupholster of the divine 1950's red leather seats, Arthouse Cinema takes great pleasure in releasing Arthouse Boho Cards, perfect for you hedonists, or a great gift for your loved ones or corporate clients! For only \$55 these irresistible little cards give you entry at a special price of \$11 per movie to 5 movies at the Mayfair and/or Butlers Reef — usual price \$15 and \$13 respectively! Please note, the Boho Card is not a ticket, you'll need to front up with your Boho Card to purchase your tickets at this reduced price. These unique one-off Christmas presents will be on sale at Butlers Reef in Oakura, and Matinee and Kina in New Plymouth from Monday, 7 December until our opening night on Tuesday, 12 January 2010.

Arthouse maintains the intermission and relaxed ambience it is famous for, and is proud to present two great venues and 58 mesmerising movies over 38 hot summer nights. Please visit www.arthousecinema.co.nz for screening times, movie info, and Boho Card purchase. Movie tickets will be available from Butlers Reef, Oakura and Matinee, New Plymouth in early December for Oakura and New Plymouth sessions respectively.

Arthouse Cinema wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architecture who underpin the Arthouse Summer 2010 Season, Cause & Effect Graphic Design, TSH Audio, Butlers Reef, Mike Radich WinemERCHANT & Wildcat Coffee. See you at the movies!

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Oakura Pony Club News

During the pony club season there are generally a number of events that are open to teams made up of secondary school students. One recent event was the North Island Secondary Schools Show Jumping tournament, which was held at St Peters College in Cambridge. St Peters has a great equestrian facility, and lots of space for large competitions like this. Oakura Pony Club members often do very well representing their schools at these events, and this event was no exception. Spotswood College put together a team of local girls Andrea Brewster and Anna Hinton from Oakura Pony Club, and Darelle Martin and Rachael Terlinden from Okato Pony Club. The Spotswood team came third overall, with a field of 42 competing teams from around the North Island. The same team came third last year as well, which is a great achievement.

Earlier this year Spotswood College sent two teams to the North Island Secondary Schools Dressage tournament. The team comprised Oakura Pony Club riders Catherine West, Anna Hinton and Andrea Brewster; and Okato Pony Club rider, Hayley Beekman. The team came third equal, out of 55 teams. In 2008 the same team won the tournament.

The girls really enjoyed their trips away to Cambridge, with a huge part of the St Peters school grounds dominated by horses and all things equestrian.

Meanwhile in Oakura, the pony club will soon be enjoying the addition of several new jumps – purchased with money raised at our various events mentioned in the last newsletter. We have several rallies planned over Christmas and will be having our usual Christmas party and pony club camp after the school holidays. As usual, if anyone is interested in joining Oakura Pony Club please contact either Paula Harvey on 753 5335 or Diane Alder on 752 1008. We'd like to wish all pony club members and their families and, of course, the fabulous Oakura community who support us so often a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy new year.

Libby Hinton and Diane Alder

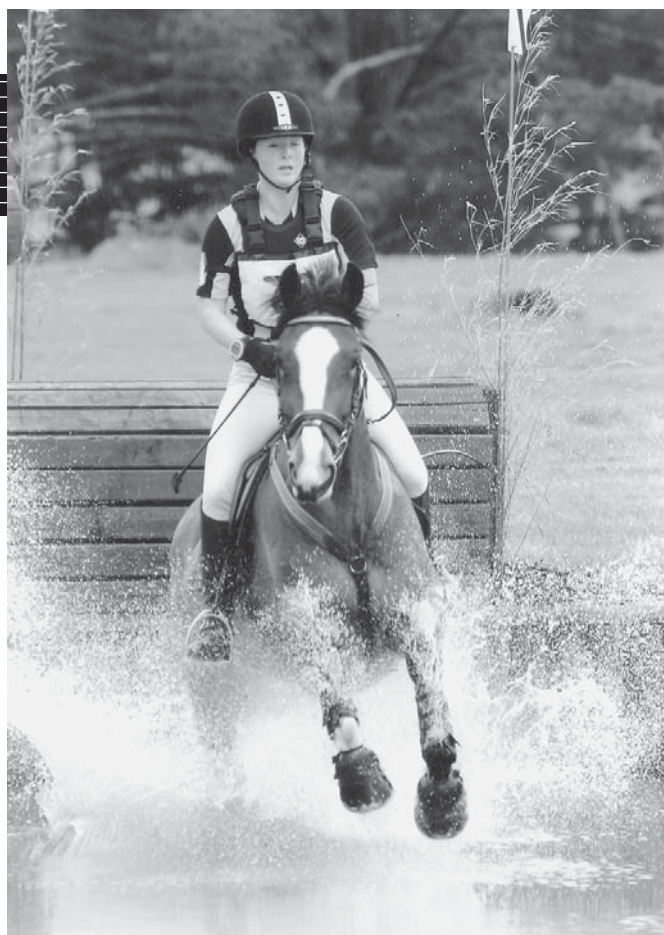


Andrea Brewster riding Kennebrook Twylyte.)

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119



Above and below: Andrea Brewster (Kennebrook Twylyte) on Cross Country course at Taupo Horse Trial in mid October 2009.



Anna Hinton riding Oddspot at the North Island Secondary Schools Show Jumping Tournament.



Tennis Club

Tennis is in full swing (!) as the season progresses. We are having great wins in the Soffe Cup as well as the A2 team. The B team is comprised of Lucy, Abbey, Isaac, Bradie and Molly, from age 11, and they are doing great. We also have the Junior B team with Poppy, Maddie, Amy, Anna, Bailey, Kima and Sophie.

If you fancy social tennis, then Business House tennis is on Tuesday night from 5.30-7pm and there is casual tennis on Friday morning from 9-11ish. You either need to be a member or pay \$5 for the Friday morning.

If you would like to join then contact Becky Bruckner on 752 7474, she can also sort out keys for you.

Don't forget, if anyone needs extra coaching whether private, group, adult or junior, contact Wes Alder on 757 5182. He's been getting some great results with the junior coaching! Contact me (752 7715) if you think your child would like to do the group junior coaching, as we will start new sessions next term. Any other concerns, then contact our President, John Hardie-Boys.

Enjoy the tennis and don't forget you need to be a member to use the Astroturf courts, but the public can use the hard courts (until we get funding for more Astroturf). There are also public courts at Linda St.

Susan Oldfield

Tennis For Fun

Oakura's Friday Tennis Team meets at 9am at the Oakura Tennis Club for little bit of tennis, and a lot of fun!



Friday Tennis Team - Mona, Anna, Liz, Tania, Clare, Jennifer, Jules, Belinda, Angi.

Absent are: Claire, Charlie, Laura Lee, Noelle, Jayne.

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2010 New Years Day Oakura Beach Carnival is celebrating 40 Years!

NPOB Swimming and Surf Club are already saying a huge thank you for the community's ongoing support of the New Years Day Carnival! In this present climate, now more than ever, the club feels people's generosity is just amazing. As surf life saving is such an iconic Taranaki and NZ institution, the Carnival is a great fun day for celebrating just that.

The Carnival raises awareness of the beach as NZ's number one playground, and how to keep safe whilst enjoying it. This is annually the biggest fundraiser and NPOB constantly see Taranaki people having such open hearts. When speaking to sponsors this year, NPOB have been reminded of the can do attitude that our region is known for. The prizes, gifts, and donations not just in goods and services but in time, are second to none. The classic statement about the New Years Day Carnival is:

"Oh it's just what we do on New Years Day!" Presently, NPOB's position is as Taranaki's No 1 junior and senior club and is holding the number four position nationally from the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Pool Champs held recently in Wellington. All of NPOB services bring the community together and this is seen so clearly at the Carnival. The clubs growing lifeguard membership highlights the inclusiveness and family friendly service it provides for the community and this day is a way for the club to also say "Thank You"

NPOB has recently recast its vision: Family First, Community Service, Excellence in Surf Sport. As part of its education and service, it trains world class lifeguards. At present they have an internationally acclaimed coach, and NZ team captain Glenn Anderson, with Ayla Dunlop Barrett another NZ team member. This dynamic duo ensures an excellent standard of fitness and technique is maintained by all guards and members while mentoring an incredibly fun surf programme.

NPOB alongside so many voluntary services, draw on every possibility just to continue so this years Carnival does have a twist. All the usual favourites will be there with the Miss Taranaki competition, Sky diving, helicopter rides, kidzone playground and food galore. For our 40th join us in the new sponsor's village! With great giveaways and spot prizes, you'll feel like its Christmas again. View the guards of yesteryear and enjoy some jazz in the summer sun. Then just when you feel all nostalgic check out the fantastic dance troupe who have been national champs and praised by Neo and Brittany Spears choreographers! Faithful dare devil life guarding displays and are all sure to keep the New Years Day Carnival set in the diary for the next 40 summers!

Enjoy the anniversary celebrations.

NPOBs

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Prudence Place Gift shop and Baby Range

Last month TOM featured the new Prudence Place Boutique Lodge and Spa. This month we reveal another outstanding opportunity available in Oakura, baby wear and good quality gifts from the same location.

Prudence Place Boutique Lodge is the exclusive Taranaki supplier of Nurtured by Nature, a range of infant and toddler wear produced from New Zealand Merino yarn and organic cotton yarns. Nurtured by Nature prides itself on having a soft, non-irritant product that is easy care, fire retardant and beautiful to the touch and on the eyes. Nurtured by Nature also sets the highest standards of manufacture in an ethically sound factory environment, with the ethos to use biodegradable and recycled materials in their packaging wherever possible, and by keeping printing to a minimum.

The summer range of clothing features "cocoon cotton", a soft, non toxic and chemical free selection of baby and toddler wear ideally suited to our climate here in Oakura. The Nurtured by Nature philosophy of cocooning and caring for the new infant is something Nikki Keegan is passionate about and with a newborn at the lodge, Nikki is personally able to indulge her passion.

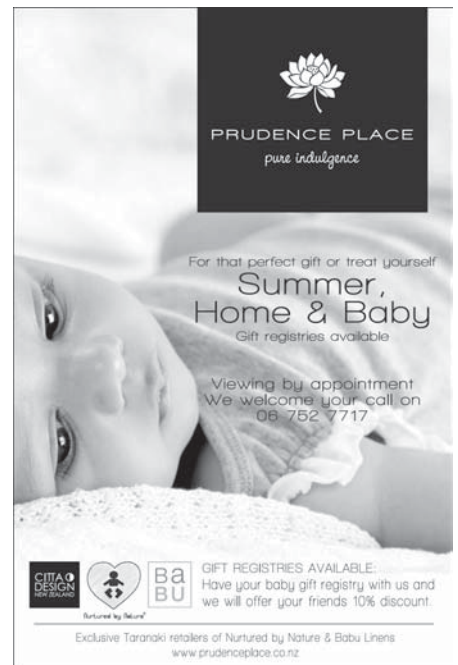
Another range on offer at Prudence Place is the Babu range of baby bed linens. This range is made from certified cotton, designed here in New Zealand and is the ultimate in bed linen for infants. The linens are practical, easy care and long lasting as well as having many other outstanding features. Also, be on the look out for the new bamboo range arriving in October.

For those who aren't in the infant and toddler market the Prudence Place gift shop has many summer/Christmas gifts available. Nikki stocks the Citta Design range of beach bags, overnight bags and beach kaftans (bigger sizes also available). If outdoor living is on your agenda for summer then you may want to consider the hurricane lamps, fine knit scarves and bags.

Nikki says each of her products is checked to be certain they are either local Taranaki or New Zealand designed/made, of high quality and reasonably priced. As with the infant wear, they are products she has used and enjoyed personally and wants to share with others.

Phone Nikki on 752 7717 for more details or to set up your baby registry, which then allows friends to enjoy a 10% discount.

By Kim Ferens



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TOM Girlz Garden of the Month – Peas for Tea

This month TOM begins a new column about gardens, and The Girlz Garden Centre will give the featured garden a \$10 garden voucher to be spent at their garden centre. The featured garden may not necessarily be an award-winning garden but it will be one that has caught my eye. It may be a colourful corner or an interesting plant so I hope you enjoy the peek over the neighbours' fence!

Aren't fresh garden peas the epitome of summer and Christmas? Shelling the peas was always a Christmas morning job and, to this day, fresh peas speak of luxury and indulgence to me. Mike Vickers of Hussey St shared one of his first pea pods with me recently when I went along to talk vegetables with him. For Mike has a prodigious vege patch. It is orderly, varied, weed free, healthy and flourishing.

Vegetable gardening has had a bit of a rediscovery lately, but it is a lifetime activity for Mike who began gardening while still at Omata School probably 60 years ago. In those days school gardening was the norm and each child got a packet of seeds, which they took home and grew. A panel of judges came around and appraised each child's efforts and awarded the best garden prize, not that Mike remembers ever winning. As a child growing up back then, every family grew a garden and now Mike's own children grow their own gardens too.

What keeps Mike in the garden is the delight of fresh vegetables, and only when his own are not producing do Mike and wife Val resort to store bought veges. There is also the attraction of heading out to the vege patch and relaxing amongst the potatoes and tomatoes at the end of a busy and often stressful (past tense) day of being a public figure (nine years on Council). This is one of Mike's gardening tips: Talk to your veges to make them grow! I wonder what he said to them?

Deeper down, there is a much more sticky secret to a fruitful harvest and that is burying dead fish carcasses (and probably much more than a fish or two), into which the veges send their roots. I must say the soil was friable, free flowing and the kind you want to run through your fingers, fish scales excepted!

On offer the day I visited were an almighty selection of peas, tomatoes (Mike rates Beefsteak as one of his favourites), corn, gourmet lettuces, iceberg lettuce, beetroot, cabbages, Brussels sprouts, leeks, red onions, Pukekohe Long Keepers (white onions), tiger beans (a yellow bean with purple blotches) and cauliflower (including a cheddar variety — yellow heads and you don't need cheese sauce!). Mike rates new potatoes served with lashings of butter and fresh mint as his ultimate garden

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vegetable. He grows a year's supply along at his son Bryce's place too.

An interesting fact I unearthed while talking to Mike and Val was that their garden (and house) are located on what was once Oakura's tennis courts — more than 50 years ago. They brought in the topsoil and Mike's rubbish has done the rest in producing his bumper crops. Speaking of bumper crops, Mike tells me he once supplied television gardening personality, James Sterling, with a bag of his spuds following the said gardener sampling them at the Taranaki Bowling Open, for which Mike supplied the potatoes.

Happy gardening

Kim Ferens



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By Golly that's a Cauli!

Robbie Penwarden of Oakura sure knows how to grow cauli's and all vegetables for that matter. He rang me recently to come and see his gigantic specimen and it was indeed impressive, but you would have to like cauliflower a lot to get through this veg. Robbie says he free flows it and freezes it to use throughout the year.

His giant cauli weighed in at four and a half kilograms and measured 35cm by 40cm. The variety is White Cloud.

Robbie thinks his cauli's grow so well because of the homemade compost he uses and a dressing of blood and bone.

By Kim Ferens



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GARDENING WITH ROSEMARY HERB

Your December Checklist

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Lawns:

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If cut too short, lawns will dry out more quickly.

Fruit:

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Leeana wishes all her clients a very merry christmas and a happy new year.



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Main Road, Oakura Village - Opposite Butlers
leeana@oakuratravel.co.nz

Alleycat Pottery Shop Closes the Door

It is with both excitement and regret that Suzanne from Alleycat Pottery is closing the door on her business.

She has had eight wonderful years of selling pottery and crafts in Oakura village and Suzanne says she will really miss the day-to-day interaction with her customers and the villagers. Her business has grown and grown to the point that Suzanne cannot do everything she wants to do, so she is following her heart up Surrey Hill Road.

Up Surrey Hill Road is where Suzanne will be found potting and pottering on her one and half-acre property. She will be fulfilling the creative urges she has running around in her head and heart. These are presently just ideas and Suzanne would really like to fulfil these ideas, especially as potting is her first love. We look forward to her new creative artworks.

Alleycat Pottery has provided part-time employment to two ladies who have gained many skills from Suzanne, and Suzanne says she will miss these ladies.

Alleycat Pottery will be available exclusively in Oakura at the Crafty Fox. Suzanne says John has been very obliging in stocking her range of craftwork and she is looking forward to continuing to supply her customers via the Crafty Fox.

Alleycat Pottery closes its doors on 31 January 2010, and for the last two weeks of January Suzanne will be holding a closing down sale. This will be an ideal opportunity to purchase some of her crafts.

So as Suzanne reaches for her dreams in the hills of Oakura, we wish her well and thank her for providing us with beautiful craftworks that always make fabulous gifts or personal indulgences. We will miss her smiling face and presence around the village, though I am sure we will still see her on the beach or having coffee, but only once she has finished painting the house and establishing an extensive garden, oh, and keeping up with her pottery orders.

If you wish to contact Suzanne regarding commissions or specific orders you can find her details on her website www.alleycat.co.nz

By Kim Ferens



Suzanne happily creating a kingfisher.



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Dear Customers

After eight wonderful years, I am going to close AlleyCat at the end of January and move my pottery studio home.

I will be selling my pottery exclusively in Taranaki at The Crafty Fox.

For the last 2 weeks of January I will be having a closing down sale.

'Many thanks'

Suzanne

Over 100 events...
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There are over 100 events in this year's TSB Bank Festival of Lights, in both the On Stage and Summer Scene programmes.

Check out the line-up in the brochure which will be out in the second week of December, or visit the website www.festivaloflights.co.nz.



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Advent angels

Angels are coming to Oakura! Newly appointed Minister of the Cooperating Parish of Okato/Oakura, Robert Allan, and his wife Barbara, reckon we're a crafty bunch around here and are encouraging us to create angels. Recently retired (then back out of retirement within 12 months by choice), Robert and Barbara moved to the area and settled at Okato in September. They're saying goodbye to the camper truck they've travelled in and sometimes lived in through most New Zealand, but they are glad to be here. Since arriving, they've enjoyed both "very loving" communities and are happily settled with their 16-year-old cat, Minnie (of the Goon persuasion).



Robert and Barbara.

Carving and painting are two of the Allans' passions, as well as their family who are scattered around New Zealand.

The idea of the community contributing to make angels is derived from the motif of angels as God's messengers. The angels may well be people we know, and photographs or drawings to depict these angels will adorn St James' (and St Luke's in Okato) church during the season of Advent from November 30 until Christmas Eve.

For Christians, Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

Robert has an open door policy for all people at both Parishes. He also gladly acknowledges the fact that there is now fluidity between Christian denominations. Whether you wish to celebrate Christmas with a Christian focus or wish to have a time to reflect, remember or simply see the angels, you can be sure of a warm welcome at either of the following services at St James Church over Advent:

13 December at 10.30am

25 December at 9am.

By Sharon van Dijk

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Locals on song for Grease

In February Raeleen Luckin is putting on the show *Grease* to raise money for the Hospice. Many locals are involved and we look forward to profiling them in the next TOM. Below are the cast — you will see it is a star-studded line up of local talent.

Grease Cast

T-Birds:

Martin Quicke (Danny)
Fil Whelan (Kenickie)
Chris Murray (Roger)
Simon Coles (Doody)
Sam Mitchell (Sonny)

Pink Ladies:

Duchesne Alder (Sandy)
Emma Christieson (Rizzo)
Maree Aiello (Jan)
Tracy Robbins (Marty)
Emily Bain (Frenchy)

Other Leads:

Will Wright (Eugene)
Tess Novak (Patty)
Bill Williams (Johnny Casino)
Anneke Brouwers (Cha Cha)
John Lawson (Vince Fontaine)
Rebecca Uphill (Miss Lynch)
David Marshall (Teen Angel)

Ensemble:

Nadanya Simkin, Sophie Gargan, Sean Piercy, Shree Anaru, Holly Newsome, Bryce Allen, Bayley Rolance, Hannah Andrews, Regan Tate, Alex Mullin, Katie Alexander, William Isbister, Rebecca Barrett, Georgia Rudd, Jordan King, Asha Martin, Lauren Laque, Jeremy Scale, Tess Bennett, Daisey Wells, Thomas Steventon, Kelsey McEwan, Georgia Allen, John Manu, Kirsten Edge, Milla Novak, Hosea Rabaka, Deborah Gilkonson, Jodie Donald, Ethan Hartley, Acushla Sutton, Jahla Tran-Lawrence, Aashan Khatri, Courtney Muggeridge, Rebecca Walsh, Caitlin McKee, Sharlene Duthie, Olivia Thame, Nicola Duthie, Kirsty Wood, Ashleigh Jackson, Ellee Donald.

Backing Vocals:

Melissa Peters, Katheryn George, Jan Aiello, Catherine Burton, Dee Peck Aro, Lisa Maloney, Melissa Sutton, Richard Bain, Catherine Duynhoven, Martin Baker, Paula Stieller, Coralie Andrews, Erin Tate.

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The Nutcracker Suite

The Val Deakin Dance Theatre Trust presents *The Nutcracker Suite* (Act II of *The Nutcracker Ballet*) at the Dance Centre (306 St Aubyn Street) on:

Friday, December 11 at 11am


Saturday, December 12 at 2pm and 5pm

Sunday, December 13 at 2pm and 5pm.

This very popular Christmas story ballet has delighted audiences worldwide since it was first performed in Russia in 1892. It is the story of a young girl's journey to the Land of the Sweets where she meets and is entertained by dancers who represent various drinks and sweets, including the Sugarplum Fairy, Russian bon bons, Chinese tea, Arabian coffee and the marzipan Mirlitons.

The Dance Theatre will be transformed into a magical and intimate theatre presenting an exciting live dance experience to the wonderful and tuneful music of Tchaikovsky. Jane Roseman, taking the part of the Sugarplum Fairy, leads the cast of 35 dancers. Other experienced cast members dancing in the show include Donna Kelly (Spanish chocolate dancer), Inge Vink (delicious marzipan Mirlitons), Rosanne Taylor (a sultry Arabian coffee dancer), April Krijger (a very funny Mother Ginger) and Kristina Rodgers (a Russian bon bon dancer). In addition, there is the famous and swirling Waltz of the Flowers. Lots of delightful and delicious dances!

Tickets are family priced to allow families to enjoy this wonderful holiday treat. Adult tickets are \$10, children \$7, with family and group discounts available. Tickets can be obtained from Pianoworks, 163 Devon Street East, New Plymouth (ph 758 3114), or at the door.



Val Deakin Dance Theatre
presents

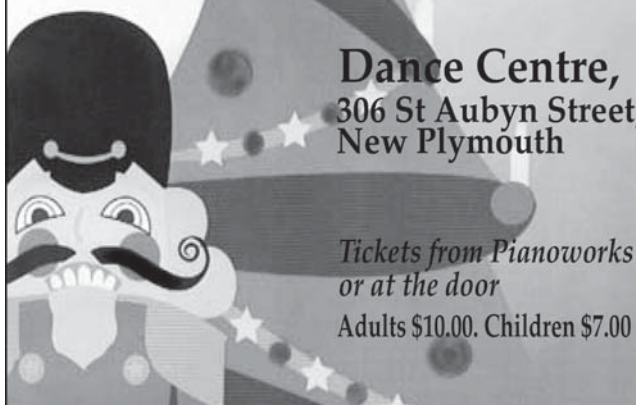
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December
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12th, 2pm & 5pm
13th, 2pm & 5pm

with
Jane Roseman
& a cast of 45

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A Little Bit of India in Oakura

Ziji Day Spa has gone a little bit Indian with their specialising in Indian head massages.

Personally I had never heard of Indian head massages so Forest invited me along to Ziji to enjoy one of these massages carried out by her newest staff member, Jenna Hartley.

Jenna has just started at Ziji and is a qualified beauty and spa therapist. Indian head massages are one of her passions along with body scrubs and wraps, facials, waxing, reflexology, aromatherapy, massage and Reiki.

Jenna (Cibtac, Cidesco) was trained at the Elite International Campus in Hamilton and is now enjoying being out in the work place, and especially in Oakura village.

An Indian head massage is unique in that your hair is massaged as well as your back, neck, ears and face. A warm, enriching oil is poured onto the scalp and gently massaged into the head and onto the back. This stimulates the nerve endings, promotes hair growth and beautifies each strand. My hair was left fragrant, smooth and moisturised (that is, once I had washed the oil out!). The oil is good for all types of hair and helps many scalp conditions.

Indian head massage is a traditional Ayurvedic (meaning the science of life) technique carried out for centuries by Indian people on babies, pregnant women, children and women in general.

Jenna also used chakra stones to help with balancing the body and it was a most relaxing way to spend an hour. I came away feeling revived and energised, but not long after dinner I had to go to bed and I slept like a baby!

By Kim Ferens



Jenna has ways of making you feel great at Ziji Day Spa.



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Oakura School Leavers

Year 8 students from Oakura School were asked the following questions -

1. *What High School will you be attending next year?*
2. *Name or list the highlights of your time at Oakura School?*
3. *What are your aspirations for the future?*

1. Saxon Mackinnon

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Activity Week, Market Day, Art project.
Professional Freestyle Skier.



2. Jack Powell

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Activity week, the art subjects, Golden time.
Musician.



3. Farrell Robertson

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Head pupil, Beach clean up, Interschool.
Brand Owner



4. Meika Watson-Burrows

Sacred Heart Girls College.
Activity Week, Head pupil, Dance and Drama.
Doctor.



Ruby Tinson

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity week, Interschool, Dance and Drama.
Vet.



6. Milly Gooch

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity Week, Career education, Tree planting.
Oncology Doctor or Nurse.



7. Becky Gooch

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity Week, Tree planting, Dance and
Drama.
Early Childhood Teacher.



8. Jessica Clark

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Interschool, Activity Week, Golden time.
Professional Netball Player.



9. Ben McLean

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Market day, Interschool, Sports leader.
Car Designer.



10. Ben King

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Activity Week, Interschool, Surf competitions.
Marine Biologist.



11. Zoë Cullen

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity week, Art, Technocraft.
Kindergarten Teacher.



12. Gabriel Whitters

New Zealand Boys High School.
Meeting new people, Technocraft, Art.
Doctor.



13. Alex King

New Plymouth Boys High School.
Activity Week, Interschool, Art.
Chef.



14. Emma Shiels

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity Week, Interschool, Rippa Rugby.
In the Navy.



15. Mary-Grace Milam

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Meeting new people, Art, Activity Week.
Doctor or Scientist.



16. Madison Wood

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity Week, Interschool, Art.
Plunket Teacher.



17. Ellie Tvrdeich

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity Week, Head pupil, Interschool.



18. William Conquest

Spotswood College.
Activity Week, Head pupil, Interschool.
Architect.



19. Declan Pickering Gibbs

Spotswood College.
Activity week, ICT leader, Interschool.
Electrician.



20. Daniel Kleinhans

Spotswood College.
Activity week, Interschool, Technocraft.
Vet.



21. Molly Oldfield

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity week, Interschool, Art project.
Artist or Interior Designer.



22. Amy Barron

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity week, Interschool, Journalist/Media
Team.
Interior Designer.



23. Isla Dunn

New Plymouth Girls High School.
Activity week, Interschool, Journalist/Media
Team.
Paediatrician / Children's Doctor.



24. Anna Costelloe

Sacred Heart Girls College.
Activity week, Interschool, Art.
Architect.



25. Jamie Scott

Sacred Heart.
Activity Week, Interschool, Art.
Journalist or Interior Designer.



26. Faris Petty

Spotswood.
Activity Week, Sport, Fitness.
Pilot.



Martin Leith

New Plymouth Boys High
School.
The friendliness of the teachers.
To be an airline pilot.



Happy Campers

Al and Jan Rawlinson, Oakura campground owners for almost eight years, have been making some changes. The paint has been brushed, floors polished, macrocarpa bench revarnished, storage area and staff rooms created — the couple (sporting paint-spattered hair to prove they've done a lot of the work!) are excited about the busy summer ahead.

The refurbished office (now located in the old Terrace Takeaway shop) is inviting and currently provides space for access to the Internet. Plans are well underway to install a dedicated Internet cabin in the next weeks for campers who wish to use Skype or e-mail, or Google their next NZ destination.

Basic holiday needs will be available to buy — milk, cold drinks, ice-creams, snacks and sunscreen/bugspray.

At the campground, two BBQ's have been installed behind a stone wall enabling guests to gaze out to sea while cooking their steak. There is also a thriving garden full of veges and herbs, which can be freshly picked for eating.

"We were ready to make changes," says Jan, "and with the camping season getting longer and busier, we've asked more staff to join the team." The place is buzzing.

In case you're wondering where those pizza and pie makers, Matt and Jan, have gone, they've moved on to Westport and are continuing in the food industry there, with well wishes from the Rawlinsons.

By Sharon van Dijk



Jan, Al and Abbie the dog.

Omata School

Coming Events

December

- 11 Reports issued.
- 14 'Big Day Out' Reward Day.
- 16 Year 8 Luncheon 11 am.
- Prize giving 1 pm.
- School finishes 2 pm.

2010

Stationery Sales: 28 January and 1 February 9am–12pm.

School starts: Tuesday, February 2.

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Omata School Leavers

Year 8 students from Omata School were asked the following questions -

1. *What High School will you be attending next year?*
2. *Name or list the highlights of your time at Omata School?*
3. *What are your aspirations for the future?*

1. Nick Parthemore NPBHS.

Highlights were being a Lead Ambassador and the leadership that was part of that, all my friends and everyone at Omata.
I plan to go to America to join the Air Force there.



2. Matheson Lee NPBHS.

Highlights were the camps and playing Inline Hockey for Omata.
I want to travel. I'm not sure what I want to do for a career but maybe own a business of some kind.



3. Jeremy Bennetts NPBHS.

Highlights were the School production, all the computers and sports.
I want to own a farm, be an All Black and join the Navy.



4. Bailey Hooson Spotswood College.

Highlights were being a Lead Ambassador, the School production, and doing Surf Life Saving and swimming with Mrs Nielsen.
Something to do with writing, something creative.



5. Shae Diamond Wanganui Collegiate.

Highlights were the camps and last years Big Day Out.
I'm not sure but I would like to be a pilot.



6. Joe Trotter NPBHS.

Highlights were the School production, assemblies and the camps.
I'd like to travel and maybe be a builder.



7. Phoebe Tomlinson NPGHS.

Highlights were having Mr Murphy and Mrs Gurnick for my teachers this year, Wellington camp, all my friends and having the chance to be a Lead Ambassador.

I'd like to travel for a bit and maybe be a Policewoman. Next year I want to gain selection for the NZ Junior Women Inline Hockey Team.



8. Nico Baas NPBHS.

Highlight was camp. I really like all the Apple computers, the sports facilities and the bush at Omata too.

I'd like to travel for a year with mates then join the British Army SAS.

9. Kristina Hunt NPGHS.

Highlights were the great teachers, the good subjects, the camps and productions.
I want to be a Doctor.



10. Bayly Ireland

Kings College Auckland.
Highlight were the camps.
I want to be an Entrepreneur.

11. Logan Clark NPBHS.

Highlights were the camps and I really liked the school cross country.
I don't know but a job involving sports would be good.



12. Keegan Foley Spotswood College.

Highlights were the computers and camp.
I'd like to build my own car, maybe work as a mechanic.

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Artistic Flair At Coastal Taranaki School

Any of you who have driven past or head to the junior side of the school will have seen the fantastic wall of art outside the Oxford Road entrance.

This amazing piece of art has been initiated by local artist and Arts Co-ordinator at school, Karla Jorgensen. Whilst looking on the website for funding opportunities, Karla came across the Artists in Schools Programme, funded by the Ministry of Education. "This was the perfect opportunity to see art displayed around the school and brighten up the area," says Karla.

Karla, along with another local artist, Ché Rogers, and art teacher, Sandi Hickey, all had to apply in writing for the application to be valid. "I was over the moon when we were notified that the full \$10,500 had been granted. Ché and I were very excited to work with the students on such an amazing project," says Karla.

The Ministry of Education advisor, Jan Bolwell from Massey, was assigned to the project and was there throughout the process to explain or answer any queries that Karla or Ché had. "Jan was very supportive," says Karla.

Karla and Ché discussed their ideas for the mural with the art teachers and classroom teachers. Teachers then chose two students from each class in Years 4–9 to be involved in this exciting project. The fortunate participants were predominantly chosen for their creative flair, ability to work well, and responsibility within a group.

One of our local Okato home-school students was also asked to participate.

"The aim of this project, besides adding colour to the school, was to teach the students the processes involved in creating a mural and how to apply art on such a large scale. The kids really enjoyed the experience and were very committed," says Karla.

"I thought it was really cool to be able to paint something on the wall, and in the future, if I have children they will be able to see what we painted," says Brittaney Carr, one of the students involved in the project.

Term Two involved Karla and Ché working with students to understand the processes. Students then designed their own patterns for the mural. Patterns were to complement an overall composition based on our environment, culture, the lines and angles within the school, and colour scheme. Ché used ideas from the group, based on these themes, to create the overall layout of the design and rainbow colour sequence.

Term Three was the fun part where the students put their designs and patterns on the wall. Karla relates that the weather was not always on their side, resulting in a delay in the timeframe, and they were granted an extension. Karla also explains that many students worked on the mural outside of school hours and this showed their passion and dedication towards the project. You guys were fantastic.

There are many images relating to Taranaki portrayed in the mural: the lahars, Taranaki surf, black sand and stones, the windwand, an aerial view of the mountain, our coastal students, and more. The patterns designed by the students enhance these overall images representing their own personal views. Students covered such issues as: our responsibility to the environment and the human effect on it, represented by fish and trees and plants; jandals and the star people relate to the human aspects within our community; the gumboots represent the farming aspect; art within our community and the surf were also portrayed as well as other aspects of our scenery. You must



The proud artists and the wall - left to right: Karla Jorgensen, Ariarna Hickey, Elyza Burwell-Hikaka, Ruby Luke-Hurley, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Kelly-Anne Doyle, Brittaney Carr, Phillippa Grayling, Clare Henderson, Thomas Morgan, Tiana Jorgensen, Lily-May Baker, Xoki Perkins, Ché Rogers.)

take a look to see the true scale of involvement and thought that went into the mural.

The two faces you can see on the mural are Thomas Morgan and Ruby Luke-Hurley, representing the students within the school.

Within the mural area, Friends of Coastal Taranaki School (FOCTS) have also funded a new bench that was designed and built by local builder, Paddy Hickey. Along with aesthetically enhancing this area of the school, it has created a nicer area for the students, one that is more user friendly.

A plaque will be placed beside the mural stating that it was unveiled by Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand on 29 November 2009, along with the artists' and students' names.

Karla and Ché would like to thank and congratulate all of the following students for their wonderful work towards this project: Lily-May Baker, Xoki Perkins, Tiana Jorgensen, Thomas Morgan, Brittaney Carr, Ruby Luke-Hurley, Kelly-Anne Doyle, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Phillippa Grayling, Clare Henderson, Ariarna Hickey, Jasmin Warren, Elyza Burwell-Hikaka.

A big thanks to Resene for their very generous discount of 50% off all paint. Karla and Ché are very grateful to the company for their support.

Karla and Ché would also like to thank Allan Miles, the Principal, for allowing this project to take place at Coastal Taranaki School, and for his support. They would also like to thank all the staff for their co-operation and support.

Mobile: 027 27 27 017

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TOM Babies



Corey Malone Barrett



Corey Malone Barrett at 8 weeks, born 11 August 2009 to Tim and Milou. New brother for Emma, Brooke, Rebecca and Mikayla.

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Kaitake Kindergarten

kaitake kindergarten

Fun at Brooklands Zoo.

The children have been showing interested in eggs and what hatches out of them, especially now that our canaries at the kindergarten have had their babies.

We have been talking to them about birds, fish, insects and animals that come out of eggs and decided that a trip to Brooklands Zoo would be great.

Our Wednesday session group was picked up by the bus and taken to the zoo where we spent the morning looking at the animals and birds. The zoo keepers were there and they talked to us and took us for a walk around all the cages.

We all had an exciting and fun filled morning then caught the bus back to the kindergarten.



*Some new
"monkeys" at the
zoo!*



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Ode to the Pohutukawa

This poem was written at Sarsha Hood & Meegan Care's November Red Dress Birthday Party.

All attendees had to wear red dresses and were then taken on a 'Mystery Tour' of New Plymouth. The tour included a team competition with yoga on Back Beach, relay races at Ngamotu Beach, relays at the Aquatic Centre Playground, and 'Odes to the Pohutukawa' at Corbett Park. Following is the 'Ode' written by Adrienne Wilkins and E. Connor Kelly.



*By the blue sea sky
While the tuis fly by
Pohutukawa rooted with earthly sigh
The moon wanes as the bees fly high
Awaiting crimson pleasures
Of Christmas flower treasures
Where carpet lines the coast
Aotearoa, you are the most.*

By Adrienne Wilkins and E. Connor Kelly

*We wish all our readers a very
merry Christmas, and all that you
would wish for yourselves for the
New Year and 2010.*

*Looking forward to providing you
all with more local news and local
'people' stories again in our next
issue, February 2010.*

The TOM Team



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Farmers' Market Comes to Oakura

Oakura has held its first Farmers Market and according to Christine Frey it was well, a bit slow. But with the Mountain Rally being on at the same time, quite a few people were probably engaged there. We do have high hopes for the coming months, though – with the holiday season approaching, and tourists around at least says Christine.

A lot of people came for what looked like a reconnaissance so hopefully they will be back next time with money in their pockets to spend.



Personally for me, I had a great time. At first glance I didn't think there were many stalls but what was there was really worthwhile buying. There will be no more store bought hummus or dips or pita breads for me, the weekend of the Farmers Market! I was delighted with my vegetable plant purchases and they are growing happily in my garden. The organic bacon barely had time to settle in the fridge before it was gobbled up by my teenagers! Christine says each stall holder prides themselves on having high quality produce, and we're constantly working to attract more of the same. Next time, our Organic Rarebreeds Meat supplier will be there as well; plan for some extraordinary chops, chickens, nitrate-free bacon or roasts. We might also bring some live chooks for sale – that should liven up the market a bit.

The background live music was worth pausing for and enjoying too. People seemed happy mingling and milling around and others I have spoken to are all definitely going back next time so check it out on December 12th.

By Kim Ferens



FARMERS MARKET TARANAKI

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

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Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders Club. 7.15 to 8.30pm. Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380.

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

Indoor Bowls

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

JKA Karate

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

Mini Groovers

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

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

Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048, or Fe Brown 752 7377, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley 752 1016 for details.

Volkswagen Club

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

Contact Brian Goodhue, the El Presidente 752 1290, email podsnail@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

Tuesday 7.30-9pm with Sarsha ph 752 7977.
 Saturday 9-10.30am with Keith ph 752 7050.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM with any changes to your listing.

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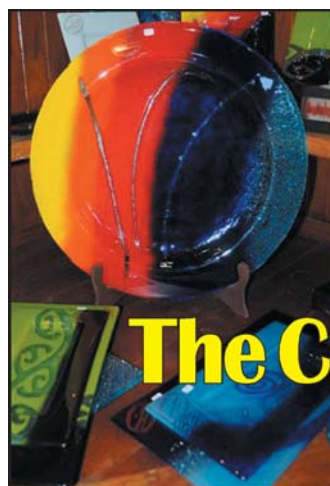
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