

TOM oakura

DECEMBER 2010
JANUARY 2011

Thank you, Mrs Hislop!

I feel most privileged to have interviewed Peta (for us students) Mrs. Hislop.

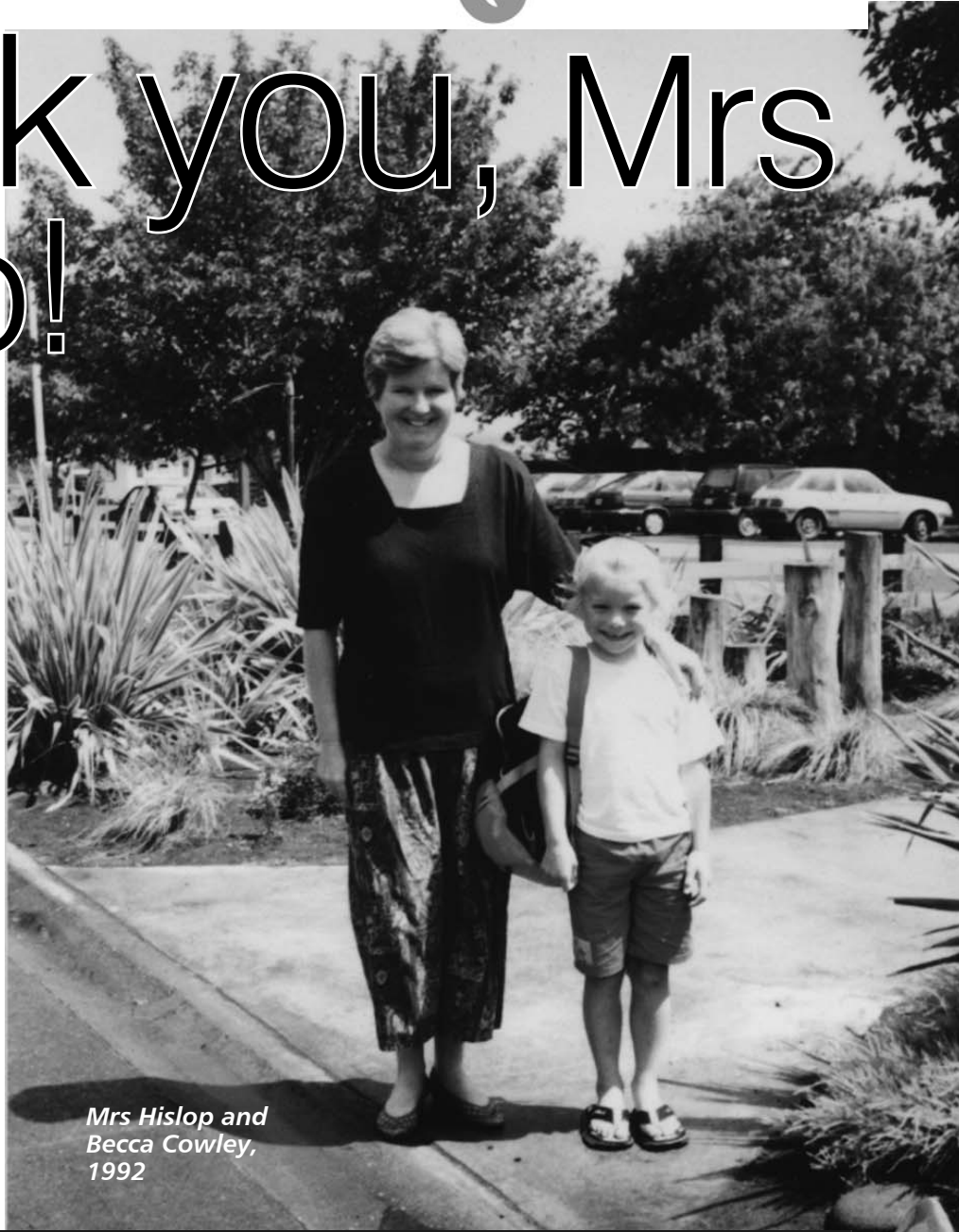
I was the fourth child in my family (my eldest sister just missing out) to have had Mrs Hislop as a teacher. As I look back on photos, all of my siblings have had our photograph taken at the end of each year with her.

For each student the end of that year would be slightly scary, as we leave her class onto a new journey with a new teacher, knowing that we have to move on, growing up.

As I'm sure other families have had a number of their children pass through and many will be pleased they got to experience a 'room two' environment with Mrs Hislop.

Peta Hislop has taught Oakura School children for a total of 30 years but done so in two stints. "The first was from 1972 until 1977 and then I returned in 1986 and have been here until now."

continued on page 2



*Mrs Hislop and
Becca Cowley,
1992*



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editorial

This end-of-year farewell is infused with much emotion as I try to comprehend the devastating loss of the Pike River miners. For many families 2010 is going to be the worst year of their lives and as I have sat each day and night glued to press conference after press conference, hoping for good news, the conclusion has been heart wrenching. May there be some brightness to lighten the darkness.



On the TOM front, 2010 has been a busy year and one where the recession has had a very real effect. I have seen many businesses struggling to stay afloat and many succumb to the pressure of trying. I thank all the TOM advertisers for their continuing support — without these supporters TOM could not bring the many and varied fascinating stories that develop in our community.

There are a couple of very successful businesspeople I would like to acknowledge because they are moving on. Firstly Nancy and Robert Mong of The Woolshed Shop. They are closing their doors after Christmas and I would like to say what an absolute pleasure it has been dealing with this couple. All the best to you both as you move in another direction.

The other is Colleen from Oakura Pharmacy. Colleen has sold up and will do locum work in the future so she can be free to pursue her life dreams. Colleen has been awesome to work with and her advertising material is always exciting to put together. Thank you, Colleen, I hope we see you often in Oakura Pharmacy.

It has been wonderful to welcome new people onto the TOM team this year — Rebecca and Rosie. I didn't think TOM would ever be the same without Jennifer Gros' fabulous photos and local input but I have been so delighted, surprised and enchanted by every effort my two new writer/photographers have made on the TOM.

Behind the scenes and entirely essential have been my nomadic graphic artist, Ron, who continues to pump out his creations monthly, and also Maryanne who reads, collates and corrects any imperfections that crop up. Any inconsistencies are usually all my own work! So thank you, thank you! Without all of you on the TOM team, and our advertisers and contributors, the community would be a poorer place.

Kim

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THE TEAM

Co-ordinator/Features: Kim Ferens 06 751 1519
kim@thetom.co.nz

Advertising: Kim Ferens 06 751 1519
kim@thetom.co.nz

Feature writers: Rebecca Cowley
bsurfs@hotmail.com

Garden and Baby feature writer: Rosie Moyes 06 752 7609
moyes.family@xtra.co.nz

Proof reader: Maryanne Rossiter Bennett

Graphics: Ron Stratford
origin@xtra.co.nz

The TOM Group Ltd, 22 Sutton Rd, RD4, New Plymouth
email: kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone: 0800 THE TOM www.thetom.co.nz

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

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I ask Peta a very hard question but I know it is on the minds all of all readers.

What are your most memorable moments?

That's a hard question because there have been so, so many! Oakura is in my heart and I've been so lucky to work for so long in a school and community I love so much. Of course it was great in the days when my own daughters were at this school as I could really be a part of their daily lives. Working with Lynne Hepworth in the past 10 years has been memorable as she is a great leader of our school and a wonderful teacher and manager. I have found her inspirational to work with and this community is very fortunate to have such a caring, capable, and dedicated principal.

You have always taught the younger age group at Oakura Primary. What gave you the desire to teach such a young age?

I've always known that children who get a positive and successful start at school go on to thrive in later years. Also I know that many parents are most anxious about their children's first school experiences. I enjoy smoothing the way during that transition period. Also Junior School teachers must build those essential foundation skills in literacy and numeracy and make learning fun for small children. For me, that makes the Junior School the most important place to be. To watch how much a child learns between the ages of 5 and 6 has never failed to excite me and I've never wanted to change class levels.

Your commitment to Oakura School has been outstanding, so many children have enjoyed your teaching. Where did it all start? Where did you study/graduate?

I graduated from Palmerston North Teachers College (now Massey University College of Education) in 1966 and my first year as a beginning teacher was at Hawera Primary School. That was followed by spells at Ohaupo Primary, Richmond IHC School in Melbourne, Kelston School for the Deaf in Auckland, and Central School in New Plymouth. After my first period here at Oakura we shifted to Northland where I worked part time at Totara North School and then full time again at Pukenui School in the Far North. When we returned to Taranaki I rejoined the Oakura School staff and have been here ever since.

What have been some of your responsibilities during your time?

I have had lots of different responsibilities over the years but my major focus has always been to help all those little ones transition successfully into school, enjoy learning, learn to get along with each other, be happy, love school — all the things that are the foundation for successful life long learning.

How many principals have you worked with?

I have worked with a total of ten principals, six here at Oakura School. Those were John Parkinson, Jim Davidson, Bob Shaw, Rory O'Rourke, Cleve Bloor and Lynne Hepworth. I have worked well with them all but working with Lynne has been a highlight, (as was working with my husband Doug in small schools in the Far North when our girls were little).

What have been some of the changes to Oakura School? From the days of the flying fox, the adventure playground, to the technology programmes and technology used in class rooms today.

There have been huge changes to Oakura School over the years just as there have been in the village. Changes have been brought about by the reshaping of the community, as our special place has been discovered by more and more people, as well as changes of government education policy. When I first started here seventy percent of the children lived on farms outside the village, there were far fewer permanent resident families in the village than there are now. There were many holiday baches, just occupied for a short time over the summer holiday season and empty for the rest of the year. All that has changed now. For example few people associated with the school today would know that there was a cowshed directly opposite the school gates.

We have moved on too from a local Taranaki Education Board with a team of experienced inspectors, respected by all, responsible for ensuring teaching and learning standards in schools to a nation-wide system which is increasingly data driven and paper oriented. Personally I find that a shame.

Oakura is a close community, especially amongst the students but what else gave you the desire to teach for so long?

Teaching is not an easy job, it takes lots of work, work at home, work in the weekends and work in the holidays, but it's still the greatest occupation.

I teach because I have always wanted to make a difference in children's lives. Growing up is not easy, being a young parent is not easy either. If I have played a small part in making the world a happy place for children to grow up in I am satisfied.

What are words of wisdom for the future Primary School teachers and perhaps those teachers you leave behind?

I have worked alongside many, many excellent and dedicated teachers over the years. My 'words of wisdom' will be no different from theirs. Follow your beliefs, enjoy each child, enjoy what they bring to school each day and always have confidence that you are making a difference in their lives. Every child in your class should be made to feel special every day. I have always tried to follow that philosophy. I thought it would be most appropriate to share moments that the students have had with our readers. Here is a tribute to one of our longest standing teachers from Oakura Primary.

THANK YOU MRS HISLOP AND WISH YOU WELL!!

Shannon Ryan: Great story times on the mat and I will never forget getting a gold star on my hand for not talking for a day (me and Jacob Scott had a no talking day! RAD!) (she must have loved it!) I never was a quiet pupil!

But talking for a job in sales has worked out well for me and my future! Thanks Mrs Hislop... Rock on! and all the best! What a great innings you have had!

Rachel Cowley: Remember dressing up for our 'Krazy clothes day'. All the best!

Matthew Cowley: SPORTS! Playing games of soccer and swimming sports.

Paul Cunningham: "She was my fav teacher when I was a kid and used to love singing in like every class"

Shelly t'Hooft: was my favourite teacher cause we used to do lots of art.

Rebecca Cowley: "Definitely story times, they were pretty cool. How you (Mrs Hislop) would get into character so well, it would become more than a story, you felt a part of the journey." I was also in the school production that year 'Snow White' and swimming sports

Paige Hareb: "All I know is that she was one of my favourite teachers there, so caring and loving she didn't even seem like a teacher, more like a second mum! I wish her the best and maybe she should come surfing with me this summer! :-)"

Michelle Cowley: "It was really cool going away on lots of trips! We visited 'La Patisserie' Oakura's bakery and got to make bread. Going to Woolworths as a class and have a tour, that was cool. Swimming sports, fancy dress and Pukeiti"

Timi Te Ua: 'Taking us outside for games "catch the vegetable"

Moana Te Ua: 'Reading lots of story books, poems that help you write'



Above - 1972. And below some of the 'lucky last' pupils to have enjoyed Peta's teaching.



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Oakura Library

Hello everyone,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our team of dedicated volunteers who help us throughout the year. Community service is an integral part of our vibrant township.

We hope that as the school year winds down and everyone's frantic focus is on the holidays you still set aside time for rest and relaxation. A good book will do the trick! Get away from it all and transport yourself to Jack Reacher's world, the Australian outback, or 1950's Brooklyn, New York.

Bloodlines (the sequel to *Banquo's Son*) is "filled with knights, battles, damsels, the treachery of court and the desires of ambitious men" yet it "transcends the 11th century". Fortunately for us there is another book to follow in this trilogy (New Zealand author).

As a time for reflection and thoughts of resolutions, we also have some provocative titles. They are: *The Invisible Gorilla*, *Smile or Die*, *Four Fish*, *Mindless Eating*, *Nomad*, *Infidel* and others.

We have a host of new cookbooks from our favourite chefs: *The Free Range Cookbook*, *The NZ Bread Book* and *It's Easier Than You Think*.

And, of course, those endearing picture books that are ageless in their appeal. We have *The Giving Tree*, *Cowshed Christmas* and *A Pukeko in a Ponga Tree*.

We hope you have a green Christmas. Be safe, but most importantly remember the reason for the season. Enjoy your loved ones.

Best wishes,

Vincenza, Karen, Trish, Charlie and Emily

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Dare to be a Girl Guide

The Oakura Girl Guiding unit has had a great term so far. We've perfected the Pippin Yell and each meeting it seems to get louder! We have done lots of crafts, made daisy chains and learnt some important knots — many of the activities earn badges that can be sewn onto each girl's sash. The Pippins walked to the cemetery recently and returned to find the Brownies had planned a party for us all — great fun!



The Brownies have been doing some activities around the theme of Mystery. We have set trails using sticks, stones and leaves to find hidden treasure. For Halloween, we had a Brownie Fear Factor challenge and the girls dared each other to put their hands in cow mucus, find insects in cold brains, eat jelly with maggots, hold fish eyeballs, eat dried pig noses and other horrible things. The Pippins made scary ghost costumes out of pillow cases and wrapped themselves up like Egyptian mummies!

We had a fascinating session with Annalisa Johnson learning how natural lip balm is made. Each girl took some home in a pot they had personalised.

The Brownies are planning skits in their sixes to demonstrate the Guiding mottos "Be Prepared" and "Do a good turn". We have all enjoyed learning Taps and campfire songs ready for our camp evening and then we're off on a big camp with other Pippins, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in the District in February.

Thank you to our Ranger and Unit Helper, Zoë Cullen, for all your help. Fond farewell to Dr Nicky Gaffney who has been an enormous help and fun Leader to work with. Nicky is moving for work so we wish her all the best both with her career and in Guiding.

Catherine and Robin (Oakura Girl Guide Leaders)

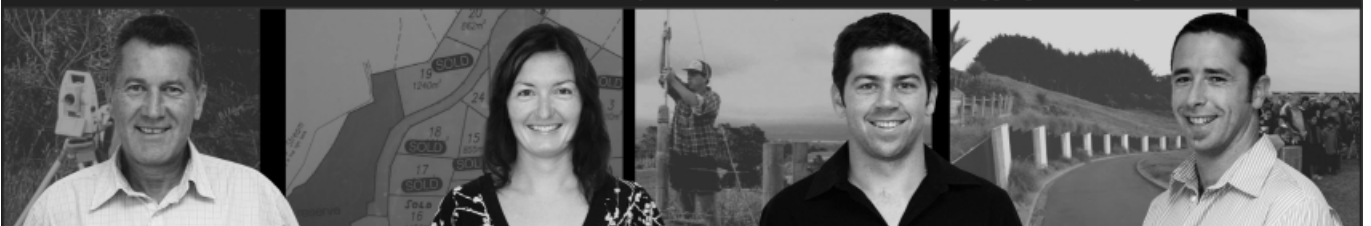
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A Pause For Thought

I wanted to write about how the economy has grown, how unemployment has dropped and that our exports are increasing. All good news for us and the Government, but when bad things happen to people, it makes bragging just a little over the top. I'm referring to the very tough time that has been happening in the South Island. The Pike River disaster will be indelibly etched into the Kiwi psyche as one of our most tragic events. Add to that the earthquake in Christchurch and the mid-winter freeze of Southland and you can see it's been a very tough time for many.

Whenever these events occur, it is always more poignant when they come close to the Christmas season.

It makes us appreciate the things we can easily take for granted. Having our families near and far; having our livelihoods and our homes. Appreciating what we have will also give us compassion for those in our community as well, who have suffered the loss of some of these things this last year. It's going to be a tough Christmas for some. It's good to think about them this Christmas. My wife, Maura, lost her Dad this year. We'll be having Christmas without him. Thousands of families in New Zealand will be experiencing similar absences around their Christmas table come December 25.

Which makes me think — let's not wait for Christmas to come around before we show some appreciation and thankfulness. Let's make every day a great day. It's good to smile and it's good to be thankful. Christmas gifts are nice and our retailers need your business! But, you can also do a lot with a smile and that word of praise for someone.

In some ways Parliament can be such a negative place. You have all these people on the other side of the House telling you how useless you and the Government are — and I guess that's their job. It's a bit sad to my way of thinking — which is why I always hope to be in government and never opposition! Have a great Christmas everyone.

My office will be closed for the statutory holiday from Friday, December 24 and re-opening on Wednesday, 5 January 2011.

Jonathan Young, MP for New Plymouth

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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Mayor Harry

What do Oakura residents need for their recreation over the coming years?

Is anything seriously lacking? What trends do you see for recreation in your town that we should be preparing for now?

These are the general questions that are being asked in a survey of the community as we begin work on the Oakura Recreation and Community Facilities Study.

All households in Oakura, as well as all existing recreation and sporting groups, are being contacted now to take part in the survey. I hope you'll take a few minutes to fill in the survey form and get it back to us on time. Your feedback is important, as it will help us identify any gaps that should be addressed by the Council in the provision of recreation and community facilities. A report on the outcomes of the study will go to the Council next year outlining options to address any identified facility needs, so keep your eyes open for more information about this.



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Meanwhile we're finally starting to feel the heat of summer, which is great news for those eagerly awaiting the Christmas/New Year holidays! Not such great news for farmers, who see their pastures drying out. And even though Oakura's water supply comes from an aquifer, so won't be subject to water restrictions if the rain stays away, it's still a good idea to practice water conservation. After all, the less treated water we use, the less money we spend on treating water. Water is a valuable resource and should always be used in moderation, even when the supply appears to be inexhaustible.

We're just a couple of weeks away from Christmas now! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and a relaxing and safe New Year.

Maybe I'll see you on the beach!

Mayor Harry Duynhoven

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A Story About Coffee

A book about coffee was a logical sequel to her book on tea, according to Oakura writer, Susette Goldsmith. In fact, it was her research for her 2006 book *Tea: a potted history of tea in New Zealand* that led to her three-year investigation of the darling Wellington coffee houses of the 1960s and 1970s. The result is the 260-page book *Suzy's: a coffee house history*, which was launched in the capital last month.



Susette Goldsmith.

Photo by Jane Dove Juneau.

While the book focuses on Suzy's Coffee Lounge, and its stylish, Dutch owner Suzy van der Kwast who dominated the capital's coffee scene for 23 years, it also romps through the coffee houses of the Arab world and of Turkey, Italy, England, the Netherlands, France, Germany and the United States. Coffee houses, it seems, have been resisting authority for more than 300 years.

This is Susette's third published book. The first was *The Gardenmakers of Taranaki*, which traces the history of some of the region's most prominent gardens and their gardeners. She has also been the editor of several books for the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and Puke Ariki, and is currently working on a book to accompany Puke Ariki's exhibition "Surf: shaping Taranaki", which opens in April next year.



Kaitake Community Board

Greetings

Like all other members of the community we have been enjoying the early start to summer and the opportunity to get out and about in our magnificent environment. The beach will be particularly inviting and the NPOB surf club is gearing up for another safe summer period. While the club encourages participation by the youth of the New Plymouth region in a wide range of associated recreational activities its main purpose is to provide a high quality and comprehensive life saving service at Taranaki's most popular beach. This year, due to the amount of sand moving along the beach there is likely to be more holes and rips than in the past and therefore it is even more imperative to swim between the flags!

By the time you read this all householders within the Oakura Structure Plan boundaries will have received a mail drop from Visitor Solutions. This organisation has been engaged by Council to carry out a survey to ascertain the future recreational requirements of the area. The board urges everyone to take the time to complete the survey and return it. Your responses will help shape Council planning so that residents' recreational needs are taken into account as our community grows.

Community board members have been busy in the period since the elections and it hasn't been useful that a full two months passed before the board held its first formal meeting of the new term. The section below lists a number of the activities attended to.

Attended the elected members' Strategic Direction and Decision Making workshop,

Kaitake Community Board elected members met with new Mayor Duynhoven,

Attended the elected members' workshop on Council Functions & Processes,

Dealt with the motor bikes on Oakura beachfront issue,

Attended the NPDC Triennial meeting and swearing in ceremony,

Attended the elected members' Planning and Accountability workshop,

Met with Visitor Solutions consultant re: Oakura Recreation Survey,

Attended Parks and Reserves site visit to establish the placing of Waimoku Stream signage and location of new recycling bins on the Oakura beachfront,

Helped clean up the remnants of beach party on Weld Road beach,

Attended residents' pre hearing meeting regarding the proposed McKie subdivision,

Attended the council Monitoring Committee meeting,

Attended elected members' workshop on topical issues likely to affect the next Budget-Annual Plan,

Attended a community meeting concerning the Okato Primary School site,

Talked to junior classes at Oakura School about the Blue Flag programme,

Attended the pre-season Blue Flag Stakeholders' meeting,

Arranged details for the annual Blue Flag raising ceremony on Oakura Beach,

Took part in the elected members' bus tour of council assets,

Held ongoing conversations with Kaitake Ward residents on local issues as they arose and attended various meetings

with council officers about the issues.

Don't forget that the Community Board now has a Face Book page so all you FB social networking fiends out there can access the latest and the greatest about the board and its activities.

On behalf of Keith, Teresa 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.

Ka kite ano

New chairperson: Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson who is the Council representative on the KCB.



Mayor Harry with Oakura head students Amy Benton, Bailey Hales, Jack Parsons and Jonti Hines, raising the Blue Flag at Oakura Beach.



Mayor Harry with Reagan Hudson during the beach clean up.

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Update from the Big Red Truck

Taranaki 7th Toughest Fire Fighter Around (the mountain)

"The difference between a man and a boy is, a boy wants to grow up to be a fireman, but a man wants to grow up to be a giant monster fireman."

~ Jack Handy.

And giant monster firemen want to get their hands on the Taranaki Toughest Firefighter Trophy!

WOW! Hold the press, at last the weather forecast was spot on! The windy, soggy weather had receded and the day dawned into a warm overcast, yet otherwise perfect, Taranaki day. Such was the welcome for the Oakura Fire Brigade organisers of the 7th annual Taranaki's Toughest Fire Fighter competition on Butlers Lane, Oakura. Some 40 hardy competitors, split into 5 divisions, turned up to give the course a run, cheered on by their families and supporters. Representatives from the Volunteer Fire Brigades (VFB) at Waitara, Inglewood, Oakura, Stratford, Rahotu, Eltham, Hawera, Kaponga, Opunake, and reps from Wellington and Hutt City (an ex-Rahotu/Oakura volunteer) turned out. Owing to a date shift because of weather, the reps from Manaia and Toko could not make it — see you next year!

With the new (since 2008) short-course format, there is enough time for the fastest competitors to try a second run in the afternoon to better their time. For the very competitive, it also gives individuals a chance to overcome a rival a mere few seconds ahead after the first round. This year there were eight entrants in the Women's Division (who must run exactly the same course as the men).

Dress code was strictly Level 2 fire outfit (Ballyclare bunker coat and over-trousers) and a donned BA set. The short course is based around the International and New Zealand National Firefighter Challenge formats. It involves a scaffold tower stair climb, hauling a coiled '70' hose aloft, hammer block, run, extending a charged '45' to deploy water against a target, ending with an 85kg dummy drag over 30m. It may only take between 2 and 5 minutes, but your legs, arms and lungs are a spent force as you drag Rescue Randy across the finish line. You welcome the helpful hands that strip away the weight and layers.

But why would anyone want to take part in such activities on a warm, relaxing Saturday? The primary reason is for individuals and families from the district to get together, socialise, and have some fun. But there is also an underlying link to the fire-fighting business. When a fire call goes out for a 'Structure fire — persons reported', time is of the essence. This is poten-

tially a 'snap-rescue' scenario where firefighters may have to enter a building quickly in order to remove unconscious people and to save lives. In such a situation you have to remain focussed and execute each activity in a timely manner. Hence the event is made up of potential activities: gaining forceful entry (hammer block), running up stairs in full gear and BA (stair tower), quickly hauling equipment aloft (coiled '70) and deploying it (charged '45 advance and 'water-on'), and being able to drag an unconscious person of ca. 85kg to safety. The winner (for the fifth time) of the Taranaki Toughest Fire Fighter competition again deservedly goes to Denis Gibbon from Stratford (ex-Eltham) VFB. His commitment and drive helped him break the 2-minute barrier for the first time. Well done, Denis. However it was not always going Denis's way; young Mike Wilson of Inglewood was well ahead after the first round, but a stumble during the dummy-drag on the second run possibly cost him the Title. He'll be back! Ex-Oakura and -Rahotu VFB member, Angela Weir (currently Hutt City-based as a career firefighter), retained the Women's title, having first won it in 2009. Perhaps the absence of previous winner Nicola Evans of Stratford VFB (who had eclipsed Angela on three previous occasions) made a difference? Well done, Angela.

At the Oakura level, bragging rights in the Brigade as Oakura's Toughest Firefighter have again changed hands. Despite being ahead after the first round, the only man to have held the rights more than once, SO Greg Newton, fell short at the second run to a near flawless run by DCFO Dave Reilly. Well done and well deserved, Dave — the DCM will be well chuffed. Finally, the Team Trophy has also found a new home. The sheer quality of the competitors this year meant that Oakura had to relinquish what had been a firm grip on this title, with Stratford emerging deserving winners. Good effort!

At the prize giving ceremony the local sponsors were acknowledged, including Shell Todd Oil Services, Stratford New World, M&O Pacific, Graham Symonds Transport, Fletcher Construction, Glasgow Scaffolding, Oakura Four Square, Butlers Reef, NZ Community Trust, Okurukuru Restaurant, Hookers Transport, The Taranaki Provincial Fire Brigade Association, The Plymouth International Hotel, and The Fire Sports Council. Their generous sponsorship ensures that the winners of each division are suitably honoured, and that each competitor and non-competing volunteer took home a prize for their efforts. Finally, all the firefighters were thanked for their commitment to their communities around the Mountain, and their partners and families for supporting them in their endeavours.

The competitors, their families, and supporters thoroughly enjoyed the day. Roll on 2011!

QFF Seamus Breeze



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TOM Sports

New Tennis Courts for Oakura Tennis Club and School

The two asphalt courts at Oakura School have now been re-surfaced with Astrograss. The project was completed over the winter months and the courts are now in regular use.

The courts are shared between Oakura School and the Oakura Tennis Club, with the school having use during school hours, and the Tennis Club having use after school hours and in the weekends.

The Oakura Tennis Club approached the school about the idea of resurfacing the courts last year. The school agreed with the principle, and the Tennis Club then raised the funds to pay for the project.

The total cost was \$45,000, including the new nets. The funding came from applications made to the Lion Foundation, New Zealand Community Trust, and the Four Winds Foundation. The balance was paid for by the Oakura Tennis Club's funds.

The courts are also marked for netball, and will be used for this purpose over the winter months. The new tennis nets are mobile (on wheels) so can easily be moved for netball, or for other school PE activities.

Many other schools now have multi-use courts similar to this, but not many are blue in colour! However, the blue surface matches the two other Astroturf courts at the Tennis Club, and is becoming a preferred colour for tennis as it provides good contrast to yellow tennis balls.

Astrograss is an ideal surface for tennis and other sports in Taranaki as it dries quickly after rain, and is easier on the joints than asphalt. Tennis balls last longer too.

We have had plenty of positive comments from visiting interclub teams playing on Saturdays, and good turnouts to our Club day on Sunday afternoons and junior coaching on Wednesdays. People are very appreciative of the new surface.

It has been decided not to lock the new court area, but there is a \$2 per player fee for use by the general public. We hope that people will enjoy the facility, but also take care of it.

It has been a fun project to be part of, which we hope will benefit not just the Tennis Club, but also the school and the Oakura community in general. We do thank Lynne Hepworth and Board for their cooperation with this project.

John Hardie Boys

G.S. Lindsay

(GRIMBO)

PAINTER PAPERHANGER



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Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club

The fishing has improved dramatically over the last month with some great catches being weighed in. Tony Hurring weighed in an 11.6kg snapper, which was the biggest for the month.

The first of our match fishing competitions was held on November 28 with an excellent turnout of 14 kayaks. Entrants had to catch a gurnard and kahawai each to win the cash prize. It was a lot of fun and proved harder than it looked, with lots of people catching either one species or the other (not both).

Non-club members are welcome to enter next month's comp; it will be advertised in the Daily News.

Don't forget to pencil in the Kayak Classic for next March 26/27, featuring the Oakura Seafood Festival, and fish auction.

Anyone keen on joining our Club, either surfcasting or kayak fishing, contact

Garry on 06-752 7055 or email harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz.



Garry with his 8k snapper.



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Round the Mountain Relay

Several children from Oakura competed as a team in the Round the Mountain Relay. The team, called The Big A's, was made up of nine children under the age of 12, one 17 year old, two 19 year olds, and a couple of sensible adults (yeah right!!) — for good measure, and to drive the support vehicles. The team was made up of:

Ben Wilson (8), Niall Legett (11), Devan Leggett (11), Nick Wilson (12), Jonti Hine (12), Angus White (12), Liam Scott (11), Jordan Brown (9), George (11), Emma Wilson (17), Marcus Leggett (19) and Clay (19).

All competed with quite seasoned runners and more than held their own. Niall, Devan, Nick and Jonti were at the start at 2am to see Emma begin the first leg; they ran their first legs from 5am until about 6.30am. Emma had come straight from a Francis Douglas Ball, and had 15 minutes to change from ball gown and high heels into runners and Lycra. Nick, Niall, Devan, Jonti and Liam ran with Ben from Omata to Spotswood, and all ran over the finish line together at about 3.10pm.

We are all so very proud of our Oakura boys, who all attend Oakura school. To top it all off, Liam, Nick, Niall and Devan all had a rep football match on Sunday morning!

Training for next year starts this Friday!!!!!! Do you fancy joining in???

Karen Leggett (very proud parent)

Well, the Tee shirt says it all!



Ben Wilson, Niall Legett, Devan Leggett, Nick Wilson, Jonti Hine, Angus White, Liam Scott, Jordan Brown, George, Emma Wilson, Marcus Leggett and Clay.



Kaitake Golf Club

News and Events

Greetings

We are now coming to the end of our competition season. There are a few Christmas Hampers to chase at other clubs but nothing of major note left to play for at Kaitake. It's a good time to get out onto the course and play a more relaxed game of golf. There's no real pressure put on you to score well, other than pride and the chance of winning a beer off your mates.

We've had a very good year at Kaitake with good participation from members in most events. I'd like to congratulate all the winners of those events and commiserations to the ones who haven't been quite so successful.

Our membership is on the rise as people have become more aware of the Club and what it has to offer. There has been an increase in interest from our local community, which is great as I really want to see the Club become more involved with the community in the future.

I would like to thank all those people who have helped at the Club this year. The list of names is simply too long to publish here but a special mention must go to the Club Captains and their committees, the course committee, the helpers on the course, Geoff Farrant for the huge workload he has put in, and June Neale for all her work doing the starting and running the bar. To all those who are not mentioned here, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your work too.

Well done too to our staff members, Domenic and Raewyn, who have often put in extra time when needed. Domenic has had the course looking great all year and it really has been a course to be proud of.

Next year is already stacking up to be quite a year. The Club is likely to undergo a few changes in the way we do things. I'm expecting people to be more hands on in the administration side of things and I also sense there is a willingness to strive to achieve a more professional outcome than we have

in the past. We have some very good people within our Club, with positive attitudes, and they are keen to succeed.

Watch this space in the future as I'm sure there will be plenty of good news stories to come out of the Club.

I wish you all a very Merry Golfing Christmas and a Happy Golfing New Year.

Ross Benton

Kaitake Golf Club



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getting WET



NPOB Swimming and Surf Club

We've backed the Double! 2011 New Years Day Oakura Beach Carnival is celebrating its 41st Year and SLSNZ (Surf Life Saving NZ) its 100th Year! NPOB Swimming and Surf Club (NPOB) is celebrating already, the Carnival is a great fun day for ringing in the New Year and this year's carnival looks to be growing "Like No Other!"

The Carnival raises awareness of the beach as NZ's No 1 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. Branded now as "It's What We Do!", this statement sums up what Taranaki thinks of this event. All of NPOB services bring the community together and this is seen so clearly at the Carnival. The Club's continually growing membership highlights the inclusiveness and family-friendly service it provides for the community.

As part of its education and service, NPOB trains world class lifeguards. At present we have an internationally acclaimed coach, and NZ team captain Glenn Anderson, with Club Captain, Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, another NZ team member. Between them they brought home some five gold medals amongst a bevy of other bling from the worlds! This team ensures an excellent standard of fitness and technique is maintained by all guards and members while mentoring an incredibly fun surf programme.

Our IRB teams are set again to light the season up with their first carnivals under their belt, and the U21 team golden boys trail blazing into 2011 already. The first and fastest response means IRBs continue their critical involvement in NPOB with their traditionally raw displays and expertise seen in practice.

So why this year so special? This year's Carnival joins all the NZ clubs in celebrating 100 years of service. With it we bring a freshness for you all that reflects our region. We combine local produce with local talent. The Farmers' Market has come to town and with it our very own West Coast School of Rock. Everything homegrown from food to music, gifts to displays. They all have a twist. The usual favourites will be there with the Miss Taranaki competition, sky diving, helicopter rides, kidzone playground and food galore. For our 41st year join us in the new market village! With great giveaways and spot prizes, you'll feel like it's Christmas again. View the guards of yesteryear and enjoy a Kiwi favourite: strawberries and ice-cream in the sun. Then just when you feel all nostalgic check out the comedy, magic and hypnotic talent of David Upfold! Three generations of sensational humour and intrigue! Our Zamba dance troupe will then lure you to shake out that seasonal stress and get you partying all over again. IRB and life guarding displays are all sure to keep the New Years Day Carnival set to wow the crowds, and national wakeboard champs join the fray too. NPOB, alongside so many voluntary services, draws on every possibility just to continue so please: Come and enjoy the anniversary celebrations. The day is a way for the Club to say "Thank You".

Oakura Beach, New Years Day, 11.00am start

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Oakura Boardriders Club

It's coming towards the end of November as I write this final article for the year of 2010. The warm weather has seen the snow line on Mt Taranaki slowly begin to recede as Alwin, a keen snowboarder from Okato, just completed his sixth summit and sixth snowboard down from the top of the mountain in four days!

As I look back over the year the highlight has to be the TSB Women's Surf Festival held in early April. At this extremely well run event what a treat it was to watch the world's best women surfers do what they are great at. We turned on some fabulous weather and very contestable waves. And regardless of the controversy leading up to the competition we were able to live up to our image of 'Paradise'.

Of course we wanted our favourite local girl to win and Paige Hareb attracted huge crowds whenever she surfed. The winner, however, was 17 year old Clarissa Moore from Hawaii, who won the hearts of the Waitara Bar Boardriders Club.

Paige has just completed her final world tour competition at Sunset Beach, Hawaii. She again has been a wonderful ambassador not only for Aotearoa but also for Oakura. Paige has shown to the surfing world that we are a force to be reckoned with and Australia may lose its domination! The international surfing world was dealt a devastating blow with the tragic and unexpected death of three times former ASP World Champion and current competitor, Andy Irons from Hawaii. This overshadowed the outstanding achievement of American Kelly Slater who just after Iron's passing went on to win his tenth world title at the age of 38! Slater said, "It's been a week of extremes for me. If it wasn't for Andy there is no way I'd be here in this position right now. I don't know what else to say. I'm a little overwhelmed right now. I want to dedicate this to Andy and to my family." Slater is the best competitive surfer of all time. He is to surfing what Michael Jordan is to basketball or what Tiger Woods is to golf!

Perhaps we, at the OBC, are producing another champion like Kelly Slater and Andy Irons as a result of the lessons we have been giving to our young club members. These lessons have just begun again for the summer and we have been so impressed with the numbers wanting to participate. Gary Bruckner, a qualified coach, is taking the lessons, with the help of Casey Stevens.

Now that the summer weather has arrived, do remember that we would love to see you down at the clubrooms on Friday nights. We don't need much of an excuse to fire up the barbie, the basketball hoop has been resurrected waiting for some three on three action, and there are some beginners' surfboards eager to be ridden!

Do have a very happy Christmas time with family and friends. May the new year bring us all big swells, offshore winds and warm hearts!

Philippa Butt



Paul Lobb undercover!

3

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Hit the Waves with TaraWave

This summer Gary Bruckner of TaraWave Surf School, based at Oakura Beach, will be busy passing on his knowledge of the waves to dozens of willing trainees of surfing. Surfing is a lifelong obsession for Gary, having begun at the age of eight on a finless surf board. At 10 years old, much to his parents' anguish, Gary progressed to a finned board and promptly scarred his face for life — some would say this adds to the charm and character of a face well lived!

The former U.C. Santa Barbara university student worked his summer holidays for the City of Manhattan Beach teaching beach volleyball and surfing lessons to 7–15 year olds. This passion for volleyball produced a NZ Beach Volleyball champion here in 1992, as well as a NZ Men's Team indoor selection.

The South Californian-born 48 year old and his wife, Becky, are well and truly inducted locals now, having lived here in Oakura since 1998 and in New Zealand on and off since 1987. The couple first came to NZ on their OE and in 1990 Gary held a teaching job at Ratapiko School. In 1992 Becky and Gary went back to California so Becky could complete her teacher training, and their son Keegan was born in the States. The pull of the 'Naki and the 'Naki surf brought the family back to NZ and both Gary and Becky took up positions at Te Kiri School — Gary as teaching principal and Becky as teacher. Gary says the goal was always to get to Oakura and trips around the coast on surfing forays only confirmed this.

Back a couple of decades Oakura was very much a sleepy little seaside village and totally desirable to the wave junkie. So it was that the Bruckners came to Oakura, and not long after, daughter Bailey arrived. Gary started work at West End School in New Plymouth where he has been ever since — well sort of! The couple devised a lovely plan where they job shared the same classroom — first as a 50/50 split so they could care for their young children, and Gary could help out Heather Dent with her surf school and Greg Page with Tandem Surf Taranaki. The part-time surf lessons were a natural progression, it seemed, with a teaching background, a love of children and a love of surfing. When both these operators moved on it was an ideal time for Gary to start up his own school and TaraWave was born.

The 50/50 job split has shifted on its axis to a slightly different ratio as Gary took on the role of classroom release teacher with a focus on health and physical activity in this release period, which he says is the best job in the world. It also means Gary can concentrate on his other passion — his surf school, especially in the summer when it is peak season.

Gary is an internationally qualified level one surf coach (administered worldwide with guidelines and qualifications), has a first aid certificate, Surf Life Saving bronze medallion, and over 20 years' experience as a surfing coach. Gary also has a good understanding of local surf and weather conditions, as well as which spots are suited to various surfing abilities.

Oakura Boardriders have been utilising Gary's expertise through their learn-to-surf lessons and many schools and groups do the same.

If the waves are beckoning you or your family this summer, then TaraWave is your one stop shop for learning the surfing ropes. It doesn't matter if you are five or 75 years old

— everyone is able to learn as long as they are fit and injury free. Gary provides the onshore knowledge and pre-water practice and training, along with all the gear (surfboard, wetsuit and accessories) for in-the-water coaching, as well as transportation to other locations if it isn't lesson time at Oakura Beach.

Contact Gary for further details (see ad below).

By Kim Ferens



Gary and Bailey dual carrying their surfboards

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Okato Pool Up and Running for Summer

Things are looking good for a great summer at the Okato Pool. The pool has been open since 6 November. The water is already up to 26°, which is a very comfortable temperature for swimming. The heat pump does a great job of keeping the pool at a fairly constant temperature, and with the help of the pool covers, the temperature is still around 24–25° at 6am.

The pool is open for lane swimming from 6–9am Monday to Friday throughout the season. A 6-week course of aqua aerobics is underway, with 10 committed participants who find the classes rewarding and enjoyable. Another 6-week course will begin on 17 January. The pool staff also run swimming lessons, which are always well supported.

The local community really benefits from the New Plymouth District Council's management of the pool. The Council is constantly looking to make improvements that benefit the pool and its surroundings. Last season, a sunshade was erected over the tots' pool. This season, we have a revamped garden area, which is really looking great, as well as improvements to the mens' changing room and a cover for the tots' pool. We have a dedicated staff of local life-guardians who are committed to keeping everyone safe and making the pool run successfully for the community.

From 20 December, the pool is open for the school holidays from 12.30–7pm daily (as well as the morning session). The inflatable toy will be up as often as the weather permits. So if you have never been to the pool, come along and check it out during the holidays. You will struggle to find a better locality for a community pool.

Caroline Charteris

Okato Pool Emphasis on Swimming Lessons this Summer

The swim instructors at the Okato Pool see the benefits of swimming lessons first hand.

We have three experienced swim instructors at the Okato Pool, Fiona Lacey (Head Instructor), Claire Richardson and Tania Andrews. They all live in the Okato District and have been teaching Learn to Swim lessons for 5 years, (Fiona) and 4 years respectively (Tania and Claire).

This summer, the pool is running four block courses of swimming lessons, to give every family the opportunity to get their children some swimming lessons. The first block course runs from December 13–17, being a five day course, and two more block courses run on January 5–13 and 24–28. Our last course of seven lessons will run from February 3–11.

The instructors guide the swimmers through a structured lesson plan designed to take each swimmer to the next level of their ability. It is definitely gratifying to see how much improvement there is in just one or two weeks. We often see youngsters who are afraid to get their head and eyes wet, then progressing to fully submerge after just a few classes.

Learning to swim is a good way for children to be active, healthy and improve co-ordination, not to mention saving lives, Fiona says. "The water confidence and skills they learn, are skills for life."

Instructing at Coastal Taranaki School and Rahotu School over the past two years, Fiona comments that the children who have had swimming lessons really stand out. The ability to swim opens so many doors for children. They can swim just for fitness and enjoyment, or join a swimming club, a surf lifesaving club, or participate in any other water sport. Swimming can also help you recover from injury.

The Okato Pool now has a heat pump, which is an asset to all pool users, as well as the Learn to Swim programme. The new addition of a tots' pool cover helps to keep the temperature up.

For any further information or to make a booking for lessons, please phone the Okato Pool on 06-752 4825.



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For 'What's on' and other information, please call 759 6060 for further details

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Megan Stewart

Conquering the desert

This month we continue the marvellous adventure of Megan Stewart in the Sahara Desert.

The race is divided into six stages and competitors have a race passport in which they get signed in and out of the checkpoints along the way. There is a cutoff time each day by which competitors need to have reached the checkpoint. Megan recalls one day seeing a fellow competitor at a water stop in really bad shape but still insisting, against the doctors' advice, that he wanted to go on. Megan waited with him until he was hydrated and well enough to continue, she then explained to the doctor that she was a paramedic and would walk with him to the next checkpoint.

There's no doubting this was a hard race with many younger, fitter and more hardcore competitors not finishing. Of the 157 that started, only 117 completed the race but Megan says at no point did she feel like giving up. Other than motherhood, she says, it was one of the best experiences she has had and one that she feels humbled and privileged to have been a part of.

It was, perhaps, the attitude that she took into the race that helped. She was determined to get as much out of the experience as she could and she says there were many times she was just in awe of her surroundings. She recalls the open air museum where she saw six million year old whale fossils, and one night seeing a meteor in the desert sky. In her race blog she describes her surroundings: "The rock formations are amazing, like being on Mars or the moon," and also about her time in the desert, "Well, this entire experience has blown my mind — the people, the place, the camaraderie, and the blisters!"

Those blisters a week later back at home still made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up when I saw them! She was unlucky enough to get blisters on day one and once you have them, that's it, she says. She literally had blisters on her blisters and when the doctor examined her at the race end, he was horrified at the state of her feet.

There were definitely highs and lows but during the more difficult times she would think about conversations she'd had with Oakura local, Don Brash, about his time as a soldier in the desert. As she says, "I knew when I was next go-



Megan with her incredibly well deserved medal.

ing to get supplied with water; those soldiers that fought in the desert they didn't, and they faced real hardship. I also thought of my partner, John, who lives with chronic back pain as a result of an injury. I had blisters, so what!" Having the NZ flag on her sleeve also filled her with a huge sense of pride, and thoughts of her family back home kept her strong.

Each day started early at about 5.00am, getting up, fed and prepared. Race briefing was at 6.00am and the race started at 6.30am, with everyone wanting to cover as much ground before 12.30pm when the heat in the 'oven' went from bake to fan bake. Some afternoons it was 48-50°C with a 40 knot wind. She remembers the ridiculous moment of vying for space with another competitor under a tiny desert bush just to experience a little shade. In these conditions Megan says it was vital to concentrate on what food she ate, fluids she drank and even the very placement of her foot.

Trailing the competitors were the 'camel sweepers' whose job it was to pick up any casualties and remove all trace of the race so that all that remained was their footprints.

Camp at the end of these long days was a welcome sight, well organised and with phenomenal security, it was a safe refuge from the intensity of the days. Local volunteers assembled the competitors' tents and the 'hot water boys' had water boiled so they could add it to their reconstituted food for dinner. There was no water for washing, only for eating and drinking, with everyone given three bottles of water at night, which had to last them through to the next day's first checkpoint. Megan says you wore the same clothes for the entire race and washing was a quick wipe down with a wet wipe. The race was not a place for the modest and everything was cut down to the basics of life. At night she and Lisa shared a tent with five others and these people have become lifelong friends. Their tent was also to be the only one where all seven people would finish the race.

The finish itself was no less incredible than the race itself, with locals, race officials and fellow racers all coming out to beat drums as the finishing racer arrived to run along a beautiful handknotted rug and past all the countries' flags to the awaiting site of the Egyptian pyramids.



Megan and her team raise the flag for NZ at the finish.





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The body guards – note the gun bulge.

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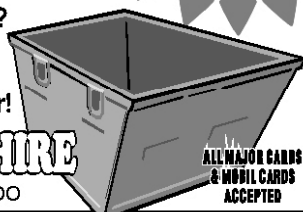
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I asked Megan if she had plans for any other such adventures. She told me no, but she does plan to have some tramping adventures with her 12 year old son, Cameron, perhaps doing the Milford Track again. She explained why one endurance race is enough for her. "I absolutely loved it, but there is a huge amount of risk involved, it's very hard on families with both the training and the time away. I'm really happy to just have finished the race. It taught me many things about myself and in terms of the true value of things in my life. I feel privileged to have had this opportunity to put things in perspective."

For those of us who will never aspire to conquering anything so great it is a privilege to share her experience.

Jackie Tomlinson



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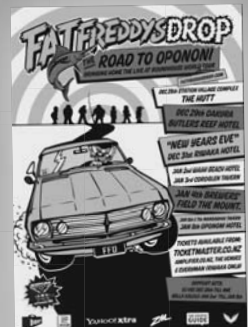
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Gardening

TOM Garden of the Month

A Blooming Marvel

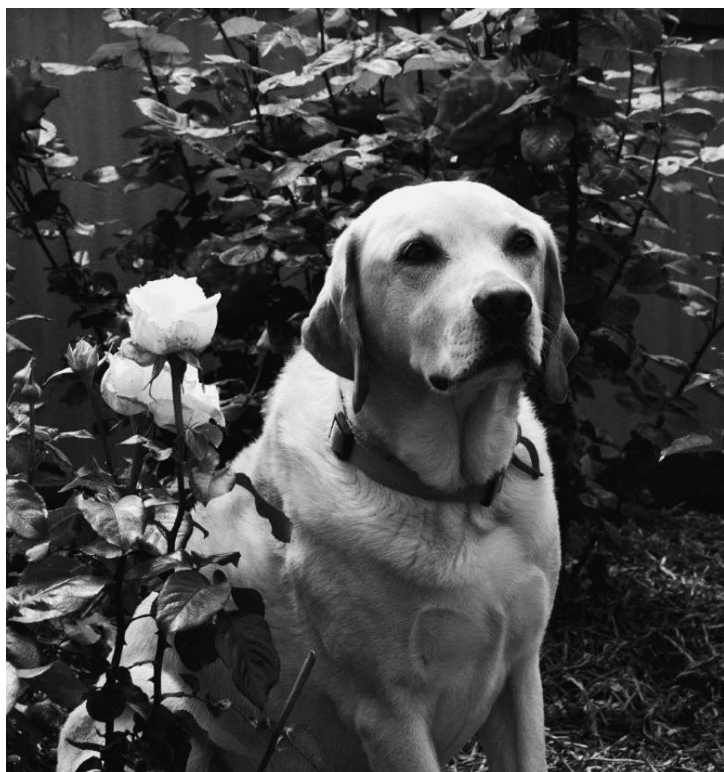
When I was a child my favourite book was a 'scratch and sniff' book. For those of you who have no idea what I am talking about, it was a picture book and on every page there would be, say, a picture of a strawberry, and when you scratched it it smelt of strawberries. Well, I really wish that this month we could have a 'scratch and sniff' TOM garden page!

Steve Thomas has, for 18 years, nurtured his rose garden. He tells me that the first flush, or blooms, have the strongest scents and they continue to bloom for nearly nine months till June or even July. I was lucky enough to visit the garden just as the first flowers were coming into bloom. The mass of colour and perfume was overwhelming.

Steve took over the rose garden when his father became too ill to maintain it. Since then he has increased the display beds and lovingly nurtured the rose bushes, some of which are over 30 years old. It's hard work. Every year in August he lays on four tons of horse manure to nourish the soil and pea straw to keep the moisture in. Plants also have to be heavily pruned, right back to 12-15" high every year. He fertilises the soil every three months and regularly sprays to remove aphids and protect from black spot fungus.

As we wander around the the flower beds, closely followed by Sam the Labrador, one of the softest dogs I've met, he tells me the names and special qualities of each variety of rose, such as Deep Secret, the blackest rose you can get, Iceberg Burgundy, a new specimen only a few years old, and The Lady in Red "a good picker". I ask him which is his favourite out of all the amazing roses. Without hesitation he says Big Chief, because it has perfect deep red blooms, and the specimen is no longer propagated.

Occasionally he loses a bush through old age. He replaces them when necessary, saying he is eagerly awaiting a new bush Aotearoa Long White Cloud to balance out the white roses in the beds.



Sam in the flower bed.

Inspired by their beauty, I ask Steve what I would need to do to make a rose bed. He says it's all in the soil preparation — eight months' hard labour digging in horse manure and feeding the soil. Hmm... maybe next year, I think!

I come away feeling inspired, impressed and with a magnificent bunch of cut roses. Thanks, Steve, they look and smell beautiful on my kitchen table.

Thanks to Fairfield's Garden Centre, Steve is the recipient of a \$12 voucher.



Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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Steve's favourite rose - Big Chief.



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Our Family Project

A fundraising drive at a local club inspired Hamish Tait (aged 4) and his Mum and Dad (a bit older) to think outside the square and combine interests. They decided to hold a plant and produce sale utilising the fruit they had in their garden and growing plants from seed.

Hamish was involved throughout the project: counting the veggie seeds into pots, checking the height of the plants, identifying vegetables as they grew in the garden, and watering the seedlings. He was most engaged, however, with fruit collecting as this involved ladders and hanging from branches! Despite his hair-raising antics they collected 90kg of fruit and had two trailer loads of seedlings to sell. The sale was well supported by locals as well as garden festival-goers and they made \$300 for the Taranaki Harmony Chorus (affiliated with the internationally recognised Sweet Adelines).

Keen to supply those who missed out and fulfilling requests for certain plants, Fy and Hamish have another sale planned on Sunday, December 12 at 9.30am — check out the sale on Dixon Street just down from the Fire Station.

The Taranaki Harmony Chorus is an active, supportive and dedicated group, which is engaged in the craft of women's acapella 4-part harmony singing (Barber-shop style). Always keen to welcome new members, any enquiries welcome. Contact Sandra 06-754 6272, cell 027-6323126.



Hamish nurturing his seedlings – nearly ready for sale!



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Protect our Paradise this Summer

The irony isn't lost on me, having watched Clive Neeson's movie *The Last Paradise*, that we are in danger of losing paradise because a select few do not treat our environment carefully. Here are a few tips on how to have a safe and happy beach and seaside holiday.

I have been out to take photos of beach-goers leaving a bonfire burning, and bottles, broken bottles and rubbish littering the foreshore (see attached). If this mess wasn't cleaned up by people who care about the environment then it is not hard to imagine what the end result would be — a tip. Take your rubbish with you but continue to use the beach and have good clean fun.

There still continue to be issues with beach users using the beach as a road — clearly it is not (see attached). Regulations state you can drive down to the sea to launch a boat then immediately depart. If your vehicle doesn't have a boat on the back — get off the beach! Rocks placed at Weld Rd beach access points have now been moved to allow locals to continue to use the beach as generations have done for decades but be mindful of all beach users.

Speaking of beach access — locals will notice a change at the beach camp from Christmas with a new barrier gate being installed. This gate will be opened via a swipe card for campers. The general public will not be able to drive through the camp. Walkers and cyclists will be able to access the area. Al says the plan is to improve safety for campers and their children and to prevent cars parking on camp sites. The new gate will be installed about 100 metres in from the existing gate so people will still be able to park and picnic beside the Waimoku Stream.

And then there are dogs — gorgeous dogs — everyone loves a well-behaved and friendly dog. But they do do poos! Pick it up if it is your dog so our kids don't walk in it. Dogs aren't allowed on the beach either (even if they have a boat on the back!!) between the Surf club and Waimoku River mouth. If you want to go to the beach with your dog take it outside this zone. You can, however, walk your dog on the beach between 6pm and 9am. Jim Aitken from the NPDC Animal Control Team hopes all dog owners will enjoy many hours with their dogs on Oakura beach this summer. While encouraging dog owners to head for the beach Jim reminds all to never leave home with a dog leash and TWO pooper scooper bags. (The crabs do not appreciate it buried in the front yard). And do remember that the hot iron sand burns dogs feet just like ours so avoid the hottest part of the day for your dogs sake.

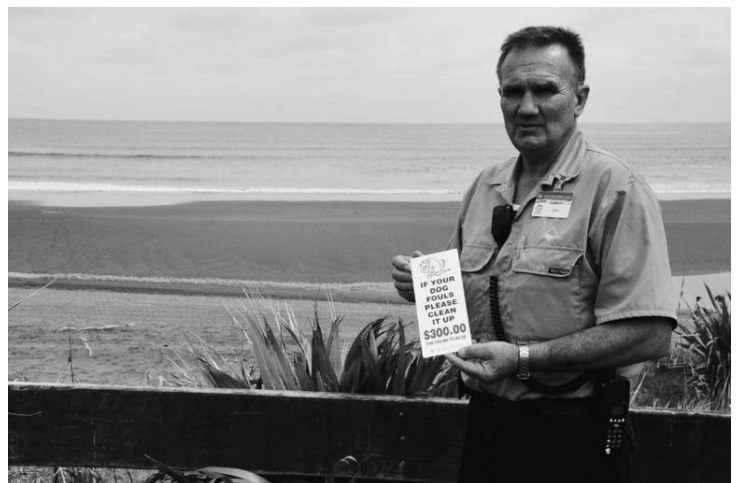
By Kim Ferens



An unattended bonfire and debris on the beach.



Bike users illegally using the beach.



Jim from NPDC animal control with a sign erected on the beach front explaining the consequences of poop offending.

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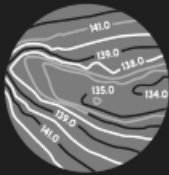


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Pohutukawa Demise Distresses Local

In early November Don Sarten of McFarlane St was distressed to discover a mature Pohutukawa tree was being removed from the street by the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) in the interests of safety, but without consultation with neighbouring residents.

Don says the tree has been on the roadside longer than he has lived in McFarlane St so it has to be more than 20 years old and was approaching its Christmas glory flowering period, something he enjoys immensely.



Don beside the stump of the pohutakawa tree.

The Pohutukawa is certainly damaging the footpath with cracks appearing and a very uneven surface — a possible trip hazard and a costly maintenance issue — but Don questions whether trees should be cut down willy-nilly. He feels the tree could have been judiciously trimmed to retain its shade-giving properties.

Don says he is not a tree hugger, having retired from farming where trees are managed as part of everyday farming practice, but there is a time, fashion and place to cut down established trees. Don has no desire to see Oakura denuded of its trees and his afternoon vigil beside the Pohutukawa trying to save its life was in the interests of the wider community.

I spoke with Conrod, the Council arborist about the cutting down of this Pohutukawa and the problem was quite a deep one. A fibre optic cable and sewer pipe run beneath the roots of the tree so it wasn't an option to leave the tree in its present spot. Another tree will be planted nearby next year and other along the street to keep within the Council tree policy. This policy can be viewed online at the NPDC website for guidelines on tree management.

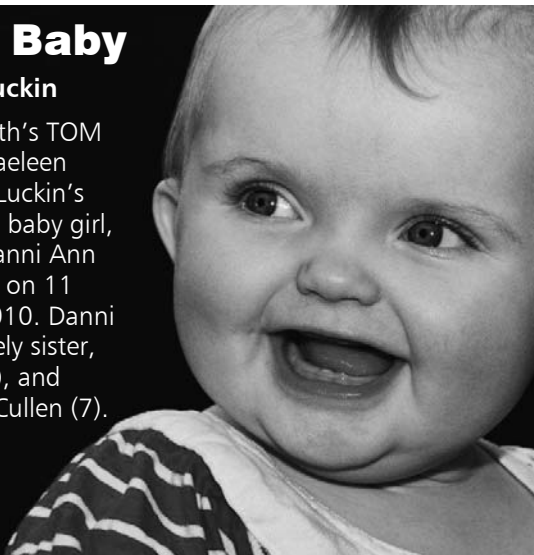
Kim Ferens

TOM Baby

Danni Luckin

This month's TOM baby is Raeleen and Dee Luckin's gorgeous baby girl, Danni. Danni Ann was born on 11 March 2010. Danni has a lovely sister, Keeley (9), and brother, Cullen (7).

*Photo
by Rosie
Moyes.*



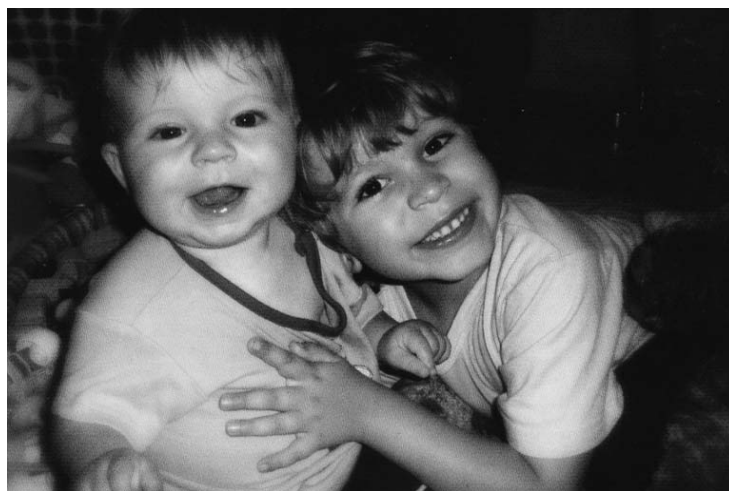
TOM BOYS

TOM Boys

Harry and Max Allen

This month we are lucky to have a TOM boy and his baby brother.

Harrison (Harry) Allen was born on 1 April 2006, soon to start school and currently attending Kaitake Kindergarten. His baby brother is Max and he was born on 7 September 2009. Mathew and Hayley Allen of Omata are the parents of these two delightful little fellows and grandparents Don and Joyce Hinton of Oakura are especially proud.





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Local eXposure

Some of Oakura's Best Talent

Our local eXposure student update:

Moana (9) and Timi Te Uu (11) of Oakura Primary School
Class: Mr. Laird (Moana)

Mr Ruddman (Timi)

Timi: Snowboards, surfs, skates, swims, used to play for Kaitake Rugby Club.

Moana: Snowboards, swims, surfs, plays basketball, netball, is a Hip Hop dancer (silver and bronze), and has gained her Jazz grade 1 with Rayleen Luckin.

Cool pets: Roxy, the chocolate Labrador

If you ask Moana and Tim what their favourite sports are you will be presented with more than the response of "Snowboarding by far!!" The excitement lights up their eyes and they smile from ear to ear. "Because we get to travel away and we can go as far up the mountain as we can. Travelling away with the family, Kath and Ron. The Mountain Adventure turns into a family adventure. "Spending all day trying new tricks and different runs."

Their favourite thing to do out of school time is snowboarding because "out of all the sports I do, it's the one I'm best at," Tim explains. "I got third in the Under-15's at the Peanut Butter Rail Jam at Turoa (Mt. Ruapehu). It's awesome because it's free entry and we get to be amongst heaps of cool riders from all over. I've represented Oakura Primary at the Primary Ski and Snowboarding Champs at Turoa and it was cancelled because of bad weather. Volcom, as my sponsor, hooked me up with outer wear this year as well."

Moana's Interests also include singing to Katy Perry songs and Tim has a huge passion for pencil drawings. His latest collection are dragons and dolphins.

While Moana runs inside to show me her netball awards, Tim tells me that being a main character in the school production has definitely boosted his confidence in many areas. It was really fun, he gained heaps of experience but found it tricky learning lots of lines. Moana is back and presents me with her awesome team photo. Moana loves her game of netball and is a 'valuable team player'. "We are the 'Pink Pungas' (aka Rockets) and won all of our games, so it was really exciting! I also really love basketball," she enthuses.

No pressure kids but the big question is... What do you want to be when you grow older?

Moana is very interested in becoming a famous singer while Tim has his eyes set on snowboarding instructing in the South Island, Japan and definitely Canada with the pro's.

What do you love doing in the summer?

Swimming at the beach in Whananaki, and jumping off the longest foot bridge in NZ. It's an awesome beach up north in Whangarei, where we spend time with our family and friends.

Shout out!

Moana would like to make a shout out to Anna O, Aaliyah, Paige M, Keeley and Sam R.

Timi's shout out is to Jonti, Daniel B, Tane, Jamal, Jahn and Reve.

Keep up the awesome work, Moana and Timi. I'm sure we will be hearing lots more of your achievements in the future!
Becca Cowley



Timi's awesome snowboard award from the Peanut Butter Rail Jam.



"The next best thing to snowboarding!"



"We love our trampoline!"



"Roxy! We LOVE our dog!!"



Christmas At The Bowl

"A Christmas Extravaganza" is the theme to this year's Christmas At The Bowl — Taranaki's own celebration of Christmas, with a host of talent guaranteed to entertain the whole family. An event for the community by the community!

Gates open at 5.30pm to this iconic venue so bring along the family and your picnic dinner to really enjoy the atmosphere of the evening. Pre-show entertainment starts the show from 7.00pm, followed by the biggest Taranaki Variety Show this year at 8.00pm with great entertainment from NP Brass, Living Harmony, Dave Ritchie Smith & Mostly Martha, Bryony Williams, John Ainsworth, Lavinia Winter, Patten Academy of Dance, NP Rock 'n' Roll, Beats Per Minute and more. MCs Glen Bennett and Gordon Gray-Lockhart are the hosts with the most and, of course, Santa will be making a special guest appearance sometime during the evening — so tell the kids to bring along their letters.

Entry is by gold coin donation with candles, holders and songbooks all provided at the venue. Around 9.30pm sit back, gaze skywards and enjoy our Christmas At The Bowl Fireworks Spectacular. This is also the official launch of the 2010/2011 TSB Bank Festival of Lights so exit via Pukekura Park and really make a special night of it!

Postponement night is Monday, 20 December in the event of bad weather. See www.christmasatthebowl.co.nz or become a friend on Facebook at Christmas At The Bowl — Taranaki for regular updates.

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Freeze-dried Penguin Helps Out His Mates

Little blue penguins head inland at times, perhaps for a kilometre or more. This little one was standing on the centre line near the Rapanui Stream, Tongaporutu, trying to cross State Highway 3 when Linda Paterson and her son were returning to New Plymouth.

"We passed the penguin on the hill," says Linda, "where he was dodging cars and waiting for a chance to nip across. We turned around, went back and ushered him across the road and into a paddock."

Linda moved to a safe spot further down the road and phoned the Department of Conservation's hotline to check if she could help the penguin further but that's when the little explorer's luck ran out. He stepped out on the highway again and was hit and killed by a car.

"I was so upset," says Linda, "and I cried when I phoned DOC back. We lifted him up off the road, took him home and a ranger picked up the penguin the next morning."

The little blue went into DOC's freezer and every so often he was popped into a chilly bin and taken to a school or kindy where children learnt more about the world's smallest penguins and the dangers they face.

"He did a good job for a frozen penguin," said Mike Tapp, a community relations ranger at DOC Taranaki. "During Sea-week he travelled right around the mountain visiting children at libraries and preschools along the way. He smelled like a penguin later in the day."

Linda next saw her penguin in a DOC newsletter where a photo showed him visiting the Manaia preschool with Anne Scott from the Ngamotu Marine Society. She phoned DOC and offered to pay to have the little bird freeze dried

so it could be used for education purposes for years to come.

Freeze drying is a method of taxidermy where the animal goes through a dehydration process which achieves a very lifelike result. Lepperton's Richard Lee did the job.

"The little penguin is already proving useful," said Mike Tapp. "He's even had a photoshoot for a DVD focusing on good dog ownership and control so we're very grateful to Linda. He'll do a lot for his mates in his afterlife."

For more information phone Mike Tapp at DOC's New Plymouth Office

06-7597193 or email mtapp@doc.govt.nz.



*Linda Paterson
with Little Blue,
DOC's freeze
dried little blue
penguin.*

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Colleen is saying goodbye, but Sarah and Christine will still be providing the usual friendly and efficient service.

We wish the coastal community a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy 2011.

Thank you for your loyal support in 2010 and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New year.



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Graphix Explosion

Graphix Explosion has moved its New Plymouth print business — all the way across the road.

'Graphix Explosion provide printing and graphic design services to small and medium-sized businesses Taranaki-wide. They design and print a wide range of products including business cards, rack cards, flyers and brochures. They can also supply promotional items such as note pads, pens, coffee mugs and fridge magnets. Before starting your next printing project ask Graphix Explosion for a free, no obligation quote.'

Owners, Shane and Sharon Devlin, have uplifted their business from the Devon St West premises they have occupied for the past seven years and relocated into the former Whopping Big Carrot building, which they have looked at for all that time.

Now Shane says, "Look for us in the old Carrot building." The 100 year old Carrot building has been substantially refurbished for the change. From the outside, Imagine Design's Tony Biesiek has given it a radical renewal with fresh imagery and new joinery, and inside there's been a reworking of the space to create an attractive and efficient working environment.

It's also an environment that's home to the latest colour printing equipment from Fuji Xerox — a Colour 1000 digital press, the only one of its kind in Taranaki and fresh off the boat from Sydney. "We have always had two machines, so we can have a back-up if one breaks down," Shane says. "That way we can ensure our 'Right first time and on time' guarantee."

There's a touch of irony in Shane's business being at the cutting edge of print technology — he began his printing career as one of the last apprentices to be trained in turn-of-the-century linotype processes.

That's turn of last century, not this century. Linotypes were first invented in the 1880s and used molten lead to form slugs of lettering that were then cramped together to create a page of type for printing. They lasted into the 1970s when they were gradually phased out in favour of newer and more efficient methods of printing.

Shane started his apprenticeship on the Taihape Times twice-weekly newspaper, moved to Taranaki Newspapers' commercial printing division in the 1980s to develop his trade, and then left in November 1995 to set up his own printing business. So this month marks 15 years in business — a happy coincidence with the move into the new premises.

In that time, Shane has experienced and embraced the rapid and continuing development of digital printing processes. The older processes were a benefit, however, he says. "I loved it ... it was a mechanical process that you had to think through. It required a logical train of thought."

Shane appreciated the "really good grounding" in the basics of the printing industry and when the computer industry eventually gained ascendancy in printing, he was in the right frame of mind to run with it.

Sharon and Shane could see opportunities and these prompted the couple to make the move into business for themselves, and consequently into hundreds more businesses and business people through a focus on business cards. They became specialists in that area and built up a loyal clientele.

That loyalty is two way, Shane emphasises. "We believe in doing right by our clients and go out of our way to give them the best product at a reasonable price. Many of our first clients are still with us today."



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In 2002, Shane and Sharon purchased the Vision Print business in Hawera to create a Taranaki-wide printing operation, adding Aries Print to the fold six months later. The Taranaki network was boosted several years later in 2008 when they bought Shore Print in Hawera and merged that business with the former Vision Print operation to create Graphix Explosion Hawera. The more conventional offset printing equipment there complements the digital focus in New Plymouth.

"Most offices have copiers that can do something that is of passable quality. But we can take it to another level. The difference is great design and the print finishing — we are trained and skilled in doing what we do, and that counts in terms of the final product."

The new Xerox equipment helps provide that superior finish — in more ways than one. As well as the countless colours it can create, the Xerox can add a clear varnish to the surface of the printed product. "That's truly unique," Shane says. "It can achieve a 3D effect by running it through multiple times and building up the layer of clear lacquer. It has a tactile effect for a greater impact."

A good business doesn't just depend on a Xerox machine, it is the people who make the difference and Shane pays kudos to his team for making it possible. They are:

Mark Laurence, Manager; Christine Wilson, who you will find at their new front counter; Matt McDonald, Head Designer; Giles Scott, Sales and Marketing Manager; Pat Coxhead, Bindery; and Bob Burdoff, Digital Press Operator.

Graphix Explosion are now ready to bring a whole new level of print to Taranaki so pop in and check out their new premises and discuss your printing needs with their team of professional and friendly print experts.

During December Shane will be giving guided tours of the new premises and demonstrations of the new press.

There is also a fantastic competition running during December with the chance to win a Mystery Break Weekend and a Fujifilm digital camera. You can enter when you visit! Also available during December is a 2 for 1 special offer on all card printing. So if you need business cards, Christmas cards or rack cards now is the time to place your order. Full details are available in store.

Why not visit Shane and the team for a cup of coffee, a piece of fudge, and to discuss your next print project?

Arthouse News

Arthouse will be one year old in January! Watch out for fireworks... from hired guns to our own community cinema in 12 months is not bad so we will have a shindig!

It won't be hotter than a beach holiday in the cinema this summer; the heat pump is also a cold blessing and you need not wear muslin or singlets out to the theatre.

The final instalment of the Swedish smash hit *Millennium Trilogy*, *The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest*, opens on Boxing Day. This final 2½ hour, dark-as-aortal-blood thriller is the best of the bunch. The milieu is authentic and the characters completely in sync with their literary counterparts as the tension ratchets up with each passing minute. *Hornet's Nest*, which begins only moments after the second film (*The Girl Who Played With Fire*) ended, immediately plunges the viewer into the nightmarish and ominous twilight world so brilliantly established by the late crime author. Bottom line: a smashing conclusion. Arthouse is playing all three of Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist's foreign language thrillers in our *Millennium Trilogy Marathon* days (26 Dec and 8 Jan) — your chance to see these excellent actors before Daniel Craig and a pretty American actress take over with the Hollywood remake due out 2012.

Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo and Annette Bening appear in the outrageous, uproariously funny *The Kids Are All right*. Two kids bring their sperm donor father into their lesbian parent's lives. "Funny, smart and sexy", "It charms audiences into a state of enlightenment".

Five-star drama, *Winters Bone*, has had reviewers on the edge of their seats around the globe. "A blend of low-budget realism and crime thriller, it is an absolute knockout," declares Salon. "Young Jennifer Lawrence is sensational as Ree, fierce teenage scion of an Ozark family of bootleggers, outlaws and meth-cookers. When she finds out that her dad has put up her family house and 300 acres of virgin timber on bond and then jumped bail, Ree has a week to track him down or be evicted, along with her younger sister and brother and her near-catatonic, pharmaceutical-addled mother. Problem is, the only people who might know where Pa is are the meanest and scariest members of her extended family, and what they know might not be stuff Ree wants to learn."

A noir film set in hillbilly country, already in Oscar contention.

Just plain comedy is *City Island*, where a New York family is doing everything but tell the truth to one another — a Bronx Dad, hot-tempered wife, jailbird son and pole-dancing daughter all keep secrets from one another. The white lies start to pile up with hilarious results.

Les Miserables The 25th Anniversary Concert at The O2 will host a company of over 500 actors and musicians, including Alfie Boe as "Jean Valjean", Nick Jonas as "Marius", Norm Lewis as "Javert", Matt Lucas as "Thénardier". The New 25th Anniversary production is filmed live in HD at the Barbican, London, and will feature "I Dreamed a Dream", "On My Own", "Stars", "Bring Him Home", "Do You Hear the People Sing?", "One Day More", "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables", "Master of the House", and the magnificent score. Limited sessions at Arthouse for the Christmas holidays.

From the NY Metropolitan Opera HD live series, Don Pasquale will play Sunday, 19 December at 10am and an extra session on Tuesday, 22 December at 5.30pm. Don Carlo will play on Sunday, 30 January and as well as another session. If you

haven't caught a Met Opera live yet they are every bit as stunning as traveling to New York; no expense has been spared to capture these performances.

New Zealand films *Home by Christmas* and *Predicament* come back for the holidays. Finally *Last Paradise* features every Monday at 5.30pm for friends and family. This film of unparalleled beauty is an adrenalin festival and a celebration of the Taranaki we want to preserve.



Annette Bening and Julianne Moore play a lesbian couple whose sperm donor children suddenly locate and bring their donor dad (a foxy Mark Ruffalo) into their lives.

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Oakura Year 8 Profiles 2010

We asked the Year 8 students at Oakura School the following questions:

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



Paloma Aston

High School: New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations: Silver Fern, PE Teacher.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, athletics, production, technicraft, activity week.



Tane Street

High School: New Plymouth Boys' High School.

Future Aspirations: Builder.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Athletics, camp, activity week.



Jamie Williams

High School: Spotswood College.

Future Aspirations: Builder, rugby player.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Athletics, camp, production, activity week, fun run.



Daniel Clark

High School: Spotswood College.

Future Aspirations: All White, builder.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, athletics, technicraft, activity week.



Tallulah Robertson

High School: New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations: Drummer in a band.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, athletics, production, activity week



Anaka Kahu

High School: New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations: Band and professional dancer.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, activity week.



Rose Lovett-Tuhua

High School: New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations: Band singer or dancer.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, activity week, production.



Jordan Giltrap

High School:

New Plymouth Girls High School.

Future Aspirations:

Vet, professional equestrian.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, Activity Week, Production.



Jack Parsons

High School:

New Plymouth Boys' High School.

Future Aspirations:

Professional football player, photographer, professional skate boarder.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Friends.



Jonti Hine

High School:

New Plymouth Boys' High School.

Future Aspirations:

Professional surfer, racing car driver.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, activity week.



Amy Benton

High School:

New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations:

Journalism, teaching, professional sportswoman.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Activity week, camp, production, leadership.



Bailey Hales

High School:

New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations:

Professional choreographer, lawyer.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, leadership, activity week, production.



Liana Haslip

High School:

New Plymouth Girls' High School

Future Aspirations:

Hairdresser, chef

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, production



Caleb Davis

High School:

Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Future Aspirations:

Architect.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, activity week.



Maddee Bourke

High School:

New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Future Aspirations:

Professional dancer, band member.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Sitting on chairs in assembly, being a journalist, dance.

**Paige Leggett**

High School: New Plymouth Girls' High School

Future Aspirations: Soccer player, dancer.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, production, activity week.

**Richard Conquest**

High School: Spotswood College

Future Aspirations: All Black

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, interschool

**Jamal Mead**

High School: Spotswood College.

Future Aspirations: Welder.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, sports leader.

**Jessie Webster**

High School: Spotswood College.

Future Aspirations: Chef, contracts manager.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Chef, contracts manager.

**Finn Bourke**

High School: Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Future Aspirations: Farmer.

Highlights of Year 7/8: Camp, activity week



New Plymouth Boys' High School

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Summer opening schedule is as follows:

Closed from Friday, 9 December, 2010,
re-opening Monday, 5 January, 2011.

Opening times from 5 January, 2010 until start of
Term 1:

Monday to Friday :10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Saturday : 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Sunday: closed.

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Omata School Leavers 2010

We asked the Year 8 students at Omata School the following questions:

What high school will you be attending next year?

What were the highlights of your final year at Omata School?

What are your aspirations for the future?



Hamish Dunn

1. New Plymouth Boys' High
2. Making new friends and building my confidence over the whole year.
3. My goal is to get in the RNZAF as an Aircraft Technician.



Jade McGaw

1. Spotswood College
2. The Marimba Festival, being a Lead Ambassador and the Young Leaders Conference.
3. Journalist



Hannah McKenzie

1. Spotswood College
2. The Young Leaders Conference, the Marimba Festival in Auckland and the production.
3. I would like to work with animals, so maybe become a vet.



Samuel O'Sullivan

1. Francis Douglas Memorial College
2. Having Mr Murphy as a teacher, being an ambassador, all the kids in Room 6 and cooking at tech.
3. I haven't decided but I'm interested in something to do with computers like designing games.



Tenesee Murfitt

1. Spotswood College
2. Getting to go to the Marimba Festival in Auckland. Going to the Young Leaders Conference in Rotorua.
3. I want to become a Chef.



Alisha Harrop

1. New Plymouth Girls' High
2. The Marimba Festival
3. To work with animals.



Catherine Barlow

1. Spotswood College
2. Going to Rotorua for the Young Leaders Conference. Being a Lead Ambassador.
3. I want to be an actor on a TV show like 'Glee'.



Olivia Holt

1. New Plymouth Girls' High
2. The Young Leaders Conference, Marimba group, the pantomime/production. Being a Lead Ambassador.
3. To achieve well at high school and go to university and get a degree. I want to be involved in more sports.



Bo Marsh

1. Sacred Heart College
2. Going to the Young Leaders, our Marimba concert, and the production.
3. To do well at high school and go to university and get a degree in Veterinary Science.



Phoebe Livingston

1. New Plymouth Girls' High
2. The Young Leaders Conference, Marimba group, pantomime.
3. I'd like to write some novels, and working in the field of engineering or vet interests me.



Jasmine Donald

1. Spotswood College
2. Getting to go to Auckland for the Marimba Festival. Going to the Young Leaders Conference in Rotorua.
3. I want to become a movie director.



Jacinta Harrop

1. New Plymouth Girls' High
2. Marimba trip to Auckland (the pools were so cool!).
3. To work at a big cat wildlife reserve.



Erin Barrett

1. Spotswood College
2. The pantomime, athletics and swimming.
3. The field of Veterinary Science would be interesting.

school leavers

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

7599119



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Ton Deken: 06 752 7405 John Kurta: 06 758 1872

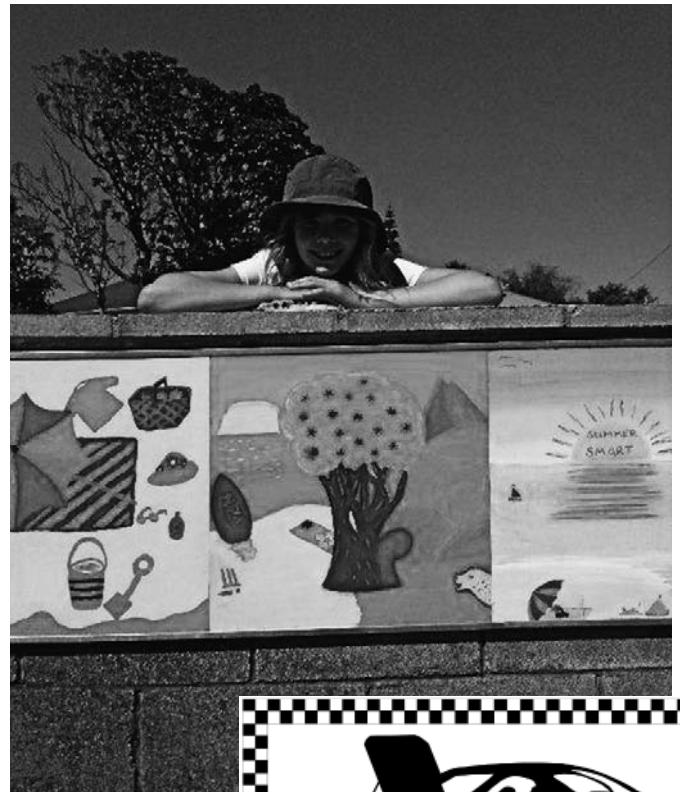


Sun Smart Mia

Mia West was chosen to do an artwork at Omata School for the Cancer Society's Sun Smart campaign. The theme was Summer NZ and the colours used were supplied by Resene. There were a number of entries from various Taranaki schools.

Mia and her mum, Gaylene, attended the unveiling of the Sun Smart Wall of Fame on Monday, 8 November at the Society's rooms, 71 Lorna Street, New Plymouth. Harry Duynhoven did the honours, which were followed by a morning tea for the pupils and guests. The Taranaki province was the first in the country to have a Sun Smart Wall of Fame, the rest of the country followed the next week during actual Sun Smart week.

Mia and the Sun Smart mural.



TOM CLASSIFIEDS

CHILD MINDING/

BABYSITTING

UNIVERSITY student (22yrs) available from 20 December to 20 January. Any hours. Own transport and references available. Phone Cleo Wood 027-300 8124.

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STOLEN

LES PAUL ELECTRIC GUITAR recently taken with case from NPBHS music room. Good reward will be paid to anyone who can provide information leading to recovery. Please phone Marty Leith, 06-752 1155.



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Big 900gm punnets (limit 6 per car) \$10 each

***All other days sales from 2:30 - 6pm unless sold out prior**



Gardening with Rosemary Herb

December Checklist

Lift spring-flowering bulbs once leaves have died down completely. Store in a cool, dry place.

Raise the lawnmower up a level for the summer season. If cut too short, lawns will dry out more quickly.

Feed fruit trees for bumper crops later.

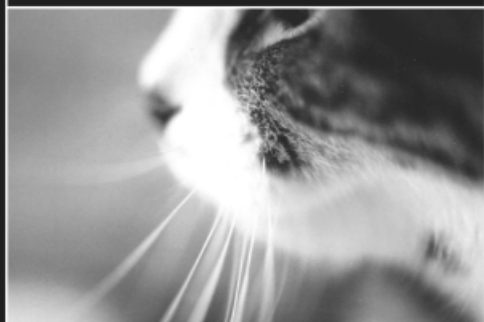
This is a month of rapid growth. Pay particular attention to watering, weeding, feeding and spraying.

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

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 Chip, 027 6214999 or 752 1004.

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Ladies' Midweek competition

Club night.

Juniors' private coaching.

A-grade players' practice.

Social Women's Tennis (members/non-members).

Junior competition.

Soffe Cup and A grade comp.

Club day (adults and children welcome for a hit).

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

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, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ring Jo on 752 7144.

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10am). Contact Tahnee Corr 027 829 1476, Fe Brown 027 228 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406, to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

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.

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 podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

**The TOM Team wishes all their readers a happy
Christmas and a fabulous summer holiday!**