

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

DECEMBER 2011  
JANUARY 2012

## IS HE 'MADD' OR WHAT?

Cody Niederberger mid flight. PHOTO BY RICKY MALCOLM.

*More on page 3*



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# TOM OAKURA

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

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## EDITORIAL

Yippee . . . the summer holidays are nearly here. I can't wait to get down to Oakura Beach to enjoy our surf. I love Oakura Beach; it is definitely my happy place in summer. I hope wherever you get to spend the Christmas and summer holidays, you enjoy yourselves.

When I look back on the year it certainly has been tumultuous. The recession is still lingering around and with the European financial crisis happening on almost a daily basis it is a bit unsettling. Fortunately, we here in the 'Naki can be very grateful for the oil industry and the dairy industry providing a buffer of sorts against a complete nosedive. There has been some debate over the oil industry practices being hazardous to our region. The truth is there are many many things that could 'potentially' be harmful to our environment but when I look around what do I see? I see a region that has prospered through 50 years of oil industry activity and many more decades of dairying. I don't see a region blighted by oil industry disasters or environmental destruction. I see authorities actively involved in keeping our region healthy, and I want to see these authorities keeping close tabs on industry practices so we can maintain our brilliant lifestyles. Environmental issues seem to inflame passions in people whether there is a real threat or not. It's great that people care for the environment but it has to be balanced with the reality check that people have to make a living in the environment in which they live.

The election has come and gone and nothing has changed. The Rugby World Cup is but a memory, albeit a pleasant one, the Ranfurly Shield is in its rightful home. So now we can all sit back and enjoy the summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people who have contributed to the TOM this year - you all make it relevant, interesting and a jolly good read - so keep up the good work; spending your precious time writing up local events is very much appreciated.

Happy holidays

Kim



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# Is He 'MADD' or What?

Omata 16-year-old Cody Niederberger has been picked for New Zealand's MADD Gear Pro (MGP) team. Teams are chosen from Australia, Europe, America and New Zealand. These teams attend touring events and gain sponsorship as well as test equipment for the brand. MADD Gear is an international company specialising in scooter sports equipment, which started in Australia in 2002.

Cody, who has been scootering for the last two years, was chosen for the New Zealand MGP team along with three others from around the country. After giving a back flip a few goes, as well as other scooter tricks into a foam pit on the Gold Coast on a recent trip, he decided it was time to give it a try on the concrete ramps of East End Skate Park, much to the consternation of his family.

Scootering as an extreme sport is fairly new and Australia and New Zealand are on the frontier of the sport, pushing it to new limits. Cody enjoys this about the sport, even if he and others are subject to some banter about scootering not being a real sport. He seems to have proved them all wrong with his selection in a national team for MADD Gear.

When MADD Gear Australia visited New Zealand in July, Cody went and rode with the team. They saw his potential and contacted him with an offer to be in the New Zealand team — an offer he could not refuse with the promise of new gear and fame amongst his friends and the scooter fraternity.

Cody has always been riding something with wheels and is generally sporting some sort of injury, from a broken elbow to many cuts and bruises and everything in between. But this does nothing to deter him as he wants to go all over the world with his scooter by his side and try all the best skate parks in the world. Being part of the MGP team makes this dream more possible with MADD Gear taking an interest in teenagers who want to succeed in sporting realms.

by Sarah-Jane Ferens

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM?

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## Mayor Harry Duynhoven

We're only a few weeks away from Christmas now!

Our days are about to get busier as Christmas and holiday plans take shape – but it's important to also take time out for ourselves among all the 'busy-ness'.

With the weather improving and temperatures warming week by week, we have every excuse to get outdoors and enjoy the Oakura coastal walkway, our beaches and parks, and appreciate just what a great landscape we live in.

Not everyone is as lucky as we are to live in such a beautiful coastal community!

If you have family or friends from outside the region visiting during summer, take the opportunity to show them around our great public areas – they will become ambassadors for our district when they return home and recount the wonderful time they had while here.

Another reason to enjoy this time of year is that we're not far from the start of the TSB Bank of Festival of Lights!

The lights begin on 18 December, with the entertainment programme on three stages starting on 26 December.

If you haven't yet received a brochure with a detailed programme of festival events, keep an eye on your letter-box as it'll be there any day now! There are great activities and entertainment for all ages at this year's festival – every day is different, so make sure you have a good look through the brochure or download our new Smartphone application which will also launch in mid-December!

I look forward to seeing you at Pukekura Park and on our great walkways this summer. And I hope you have a very happy Christmas and a relaxing New Year.

## Update from the Big Red Truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck,

The Oakura Fire Brigade is fortunate to have received a grant from the TSB Community Trust. This grant is to assist in building a shed to house a support vehicle that we have acquired from New Plymouth Operational Support. We are using this vehicle to transport extra firefighters and brigade equipment to incidents and provide scene protection. This vehicle will prove invaluable in a civil defence emergency.

The Brigade is seeking further opportunities for fundraising or sponsorship. We would like to thank the TSB Community Trust for their kind donation. If you are able to assist with fundraising opportunities or sponsorship, please contact Matt Crabtree on 027-249 4735.

Recently the Brigade hosted The Taranaki Toughest Firefighter Around the Mountain competition down at our local campground. Thanks to Al and Jan for accommodating us and allowing us the use of Oakura Beach Camp and facilities.

This year the Toughest Firefighter award went to Julian Gooderidge from Hawera. Angela Weir once again took the Women's title. Ang is an ex-Rahotu and ex-Oakura Fire Brigade member and is now a fulltime firefighter based in Wellington.

Bragging rights within the Oakura Brigade have moved up the ranks from Deputy Chief Fire Officer Dave Reilly to Chief Fire Officer Matt Crabtree. Well done Matt, the second run was worth it!

As we approach Christmas, we would like to remind you again of BBQ safety and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All the best and stay safe,

*Mel Breeze (Sec)*



**Chief Fire Officer Matt Crabtree of Oakura Fire Brigade.**



**FF Mike Dunn of Oakura Fire Brigade.**

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## Oakura Businesses Join Forces

Business owners and other interested persons of Oakura have got together as a group to help promote local business and to brainstorm ideas to do with the community. The group got behind the recent Toughest Firefighter competition and more activities are being planned.



Local business owners and operators at a recent meeting.

Belinda and Rob, who started these meetings, are very pleased with the progress. They also say that it is not a matter of missing attractions around Oakura, but it needs the force of a community to transform these into activities for families and tourists. If any business people or community members are interested in joining this group then contact Belinda at Ringcraft Moana Jewellers 06-752 7772. You could be artists, sport groups, etc.

At the last meeting Colin from Transit tabled a proposal to organise guided tours to Oakura to enjoy local attractions (Koru Pa, the beach) and visit businesses (craftspeople, cafes), beginning next year possibly.

Another proposal presented was from Uri from itravelnz who wants to set up a pilot project in Oakura for tourists and travellers. His company offers a smart phone app that not only functions as a GPS but also has community places of interest available offline. Local businesses need to get onboard to take advantage of this innovative idea.

The next event coming up is our yearly fun event — art on the beach organised by Oakura Beach Holiday Park — so watch out for the adverts!

An advertising campaign is also underway to attract visitors to the area.

For more information contact Belinda on 06-752 7772.

*By Kim Ferens*



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# Kaitake Community Board

As summer begins to embed itself into our lives again and Christmas draws ever closer it is worth thinking about a couple of issues along our beachfront.

The first is about vehicles on the beach. The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) continues to receive numerous complaints from residents about ongoing problems, not only with vehicles on the beach but also the manner in which they are driven. Trail bikes, quad bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles regularly transgress and the prevailing attitude seems to be "Oh yes, we must look after our beach environment and everyone should be able to use the beach in a safe and relaxed way but that doesn't apply to me!"

Vehicles on the beach are a particularly unpleasant distraction, causing health and safety issues as well as environmental consequences. Many are travelling at speeds dangerous to other beach users and those idiots who attempt a traverse when the tide is high and take to the sand dunes are damaging the spinifex plantings that volunteers have spent hundreds of hours planting to help with sand dune restoration.

It has never concerned locals too much when the law has been casually stretched a bit over the years. Historically lots of local folk have 'putt-putted' in their vehicle along the beach to go fishing, to reach a particularly favourite picnic spot or similar. It has been part of the local way of life for generations. However it is a real shame that, due to the actions of the selfish few, the rules may have to be much more tightly controlled this summer.

For those who do transgress it should be emphasised that this Council Bylaw controls beach activity:

Beach Access 'No person may drive a vehicle on Oakura Beach — including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Road River mouth (Timaru Stream) to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east. The public is entitled to take a boat down for launching as long as they do not leave their vehicle parked on the beach.'

We seek the co-operation of drivers, and of those folk who see vehicles being driven inappropriately. If people have any concerns or would like to clarify what can and can't be done on the beach, they're welcome to contact Council on 06-759 6060.

Another issue often brought to the KCB's attention is with those dog owners who walk their dogs on the foreshore, the beach, through the campground or on other reserves but fail to clean up after their pet defecates on the ground. This is the same ground over which other walkers and beach users travel.

We are particularly lucky to live in a very dog friendly place. It's a great environment for a family pet and there are some pretty special dogs living here but there are some important responsibilities for owners.

Once again there is a Council Bylaw that covers this particular issue. It states: "The owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner shall immediately remove the faeces

from that place and dispose of it in a sanitary manner into a suitable receptacle."

The bylaw also states that: "Dogs are prohibited from the foreshore and the beach in the area between imaginary lines drawn directly to the sea from the eastern side of the vehicle entrance to the motor camp and from the western side of the end of Wairau Road." While this prohibition is treated in a relaxed way during the colder months it is certainly worth remembering that this area is no place for a dog when it is crowded with other beach users.

Well, that's enough grizzles for this issue. To finish on a more positive note can I remind everyone in the community what an excellent job many folk have done on our behalf this year.

The various sporting organisations and their never-complaining volunteers have done us proud, the Fire Brigade continue their stirring work, the businesses in the CBD, the beach camp, the hall committee and others in the community have helped keep our wonderful lifestyle intact. And no, I didn't forget — the early childhood centres and schools, their staff, boards and volunteers deserve our thanks for another year of service to the younger members of our district. On behalf of the community I acknowledge your immeasurable assistance on behalf of our children and thank you sincerely for it.

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

Ka kite ano

*Doug Hislop*

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# The Life of a Drifter –

## ADRENALINE AND RUBBER!

Oakura local, Chris Trundle, is a participant in one of the fastest growing motorsports in the country/world. Chris lives the life of a drifter! That is the adrenaline, action-packed car racing sport of deliberately over-steering your car up to and through a corner so as to go as fast as possible round a corner sideways. Sounds easy. Not so.

A car is drifting when the rear slip angle is greater than the front slip angle prior to the corner, and the front wheels are pointing in the opposite angle to the turn. To achieve this there has to be a precise balance of steering, accelerating, braking, shifting and pulling the brake to remain in the state of over-steer. This balance, as Chris explains to me, is not something you can achieve quickly or easily — it takes years of practice, lots of tyres and a sound knowledge of how your car functions.

The drifting story begins for Chris when he was a toddler. Chris's dad, Stuart, was not into racing but Chris was into "pulling stuff to bits" — anything left in his vicinity was dismantled and put back together (maybe!). Chris bought his first car when he was 14 years old — an old escort for \$50, which he bribed a mate to tow to his house. Around this time he also bought various other Escorts and their parts and cluttered up the front drive, much to his mum and dad's horror. Chris's birthday present that year was tutelage at Rally NZ's Maramarua rally school, so perhaps the family could see the writing on the wall!

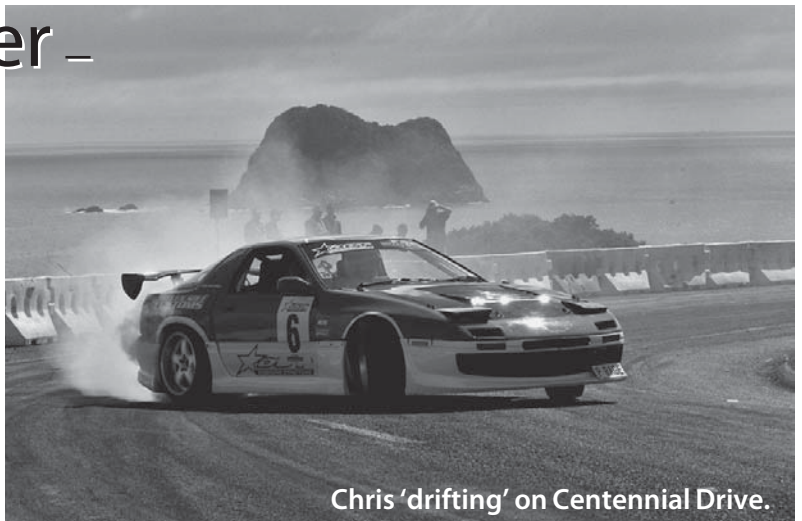
For the next 10 years Chris was actively involved in motorsport competing in the TARGA rally, D1NZ National Drifting Competition, circuit racing and many Taranaki Car Club events. According to Chris, one highlight of this time was passing the legendary Chris Amon.

After completing his Automotive Technician Apprenticeship and working for Dobson's Dyno Tune in Waitara for eight years, Chris won the 2010 MTA Top Technician Award, inspiring him to start his Oakura-based business, Trundles Automotive Ltd, in May this year.

It was in 2009 that Chris got into drifting and this year Chris is ranked 18th in New Zealand. Chris drifts a 1990 rotary 500hp Mazda RX7, which according to Chris has a "ridiculous steering lock", a twin plate clutch, backed up by a Modena dog box, and chews through 12 tyres a day and 200 litres of fuel in a weekend. Not hard to imagine then that this takes up every spare dollar and is hardly a bulk standard set up, which requires more pampering and attention than a long-suffering partner would ever receive! Fortunately for Chris his partner, Claire, also races in the Taranaki Car Club — driving her own Nissan Laurel powered by a 2.5 turbocharged 6-cylinder.

Drifting is an expensive sport unless you have a sponsor but in true Kiwi style all Chris's mates help each other out with the pooling of skills and resources and they all manage to keep their cars on the track and in tyres!

The drifting season runs for five months of the year from late October, with races every three weeks or so. Drifters don't compete in Taranaki but exhibition events have been held on Centennial Drive in the past.



Chris 'drifting' on Centennial Drive.

So why does Chris drift? Quite simply it is "glorious fun" says Chris and till you have done it you can't imagine how good it feels to be going 150–200km/hour sideways while trying to get past or keep ahead of your competitor. And that's why it is the fastest growing motorsport in the world (not to be confused with the tame, lame and unskilful activities of boy racers) — the adrenaline buzz is like no other.

For those who might like to give this a go Chris recommends getting along to the Taranaki Car Club events and for a small fee getting some road racing and car handling experience before giving drifting a go.

Finally, congratulations to Chris on qualifying 6th at Pukekohe on the weekend of the 26th November and improving his ranking 12 places.

*By Kim Ferens*

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As most of you are well aware we have a new library computer system. We are happy to help you with any queries regarding your account. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for your patience during this changeover.

We'd like to welcome Sophie Arden who will be helping us with our summer reading programme for the next few months. As a former Oakura School pupil she is very familiar with the library and looking forward to working with the community during her university break.

Another bonus at this time of year is the wealth of newly released books. Some of our favourite authors — Marina Cole, Michael Connelly, Philippa Gregory, Nicholas Sparks, Di Morrissey, Cecelia Ahern to name a few — have just published new books and they available for your summer reading enjoyment.

For the teens, look out for more titles in the Angel and Juno series.

And the young ones love the Christmas-themed picture books. Some delightful new titles are Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig and the Christmas Baby, All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth and Christmas In The Bush.

Our holiday schedule is as follows: Closed Saturday, 24 December until Tuesday, 3 January. We will reopen Wednesday, 4 January at 12.00pm. You may still use our afterhours book drop during the holidays.

Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,  
*Karen and Vincenza*



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# Reflections on the Past Year

At the time of writing the general elections have yet to be held so I would like to say that it has been an honour to work with and for you for the past three and I hope that I will have the opportunity to continue representing you in the next term of Parliament.

This is also the time of the year when one gets to reflect on the past twelve months. There are the usual thoughts of "where has the time gone?" coupled with the highs and lows that New Zealand has experienced.

I have been fortunate that during the past year I have been able to celebrate the "highs" of the achievements of the National-led Government while on a local level I saw the commencement of the hospital project and welcomed several visiting Ministers to the region.

The first "low" of the year for me as well as all New Zealanders, was surely the Christchurch earthquake in February and the ensuing damage to homes and business. We witnessed the rescue efforts to recover those who were trapped in collapsed buildings. Coming six months after the first earthquake when loss of life was minimal, it was hard to comprehend the devastation and the loss of so many.

Despite the continuing aftershocks and the uncertainty of Christchurch's future New Zealanders showed a collective camaraderie. Armies of volunteers from all walks of life gave their time and expertise to assist those who were unable to deal with the liquefaction that blighted most of the properties. Donations of food, clothes and money were collected to be distributed to those in need.

More recently we have witnessed the grounding of the "Rena" off the coast of Tauranga. An environmental disaster that threatened the pristine beaches as well as the livelihood of those who rely on the visitor numbers over the summer period. Volunteers spend hours painstakingly removing the residue of oil that washed up on their beaches. Their efforts have meant that a large expanse of coastline is now opened for the enjoyment of locals and holiday makers.

During the months that Rugby World Cup was held in New Zealand we agonised about the injuries to a couple of high profile All Blacks, dreading another "low" that we might have to endure and the haunting words "four more years". We were able to give a collective sigh of relief when Steven Donald's kick went between the posts and were at last able to celebrate one of the highlights of the year.

If there is one thing that the highs and lows of 2011 have shown us, the ability of New Zealanders to come together as one. We saw it in Christchurch and again later this year when we welcomed visitors for the World Cup. The deeds of kindness, the hospitality extended and the willingness to go that extra mile were evident at both the high and low occasions.

We are an island nation which is dependent on our ability to be as self-sufficient as possible and we need to work together whether it is helping a neighbour or assisting at local or national level.

I would like to think that the camaraderie that has been shown throughout the year will continue through the festive season and into 2012.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, hopefully to be shared with family and friends.

*Jonathan Young MP*

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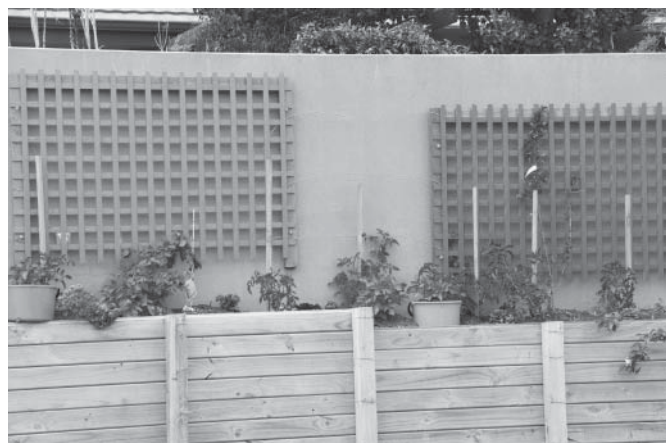
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# TOM Garden of the Month

The TOM garden of the month is more like a 'frontage' of the month this time as it was the eye-catching collaboration of colour and vegetables that drew my attention.

Trellis fencing in dazzling yellow and red form a back drop for the mixture of plants growing below. It is not every day that you see tomato plants, potatoes, grapes, fruit trees, lettuces and marigolds gracing a road frontage. Top marks for ingenuity and for this you receive a \$10 voucher from Fairfield's Garden Centre

By Kim Ferens



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# Gardening Guru's Will Gobble Up This Book!

Alan Jellyman's *The Growing World of Duncan and Davies*, a Horticultural History 1899–2010 is a comprehensive documentation of the story of a family business that in many ways has shaped our own histories as Taranaki people.

The 255-page biography tells the story of the Duncan and the Davies families and their loyal staff and many other important horticultural icons of the past 111 years.

When James Duncan purchased land in Westown in 1899, not in a million years could he have imagined the impact that purchase would have on the shape of Taranaki and even New Zealand. An example given in the book is of the kiwifruit industry. Duncan & Davies listed plants for sale in 1924 — surely at the forefront of the industry that has had a major impact on our economy. The name Duncan & Davies is world renowned, thousands of people have worked for the company, and many many thousand more have been customers.

There are many local connections mentioned in *The Growing World of Duncan and Davies*, for example, Lucy's Gully. Duncan & Davies was contracted to plant the area with redwoods, Douglas fir, eucalyptus and eventually pines, using the unemployed as a workforce.

Trevor Davies (Mr Trevor) developed the customer self-service garden centre concept we enjoy today and Duncan & Davies opened their first such centre in Papakura in conjunction with Foodtown to take advantage of the supermarket's extended opening hours — all very much the norm now.

Neville Davies (Mr Neville) developed the polythene mulch system at the Waireka Block (now Dow Agro Science), which is widely used in the strawberry-growing industry today.

There are many people mentioned in the book who are



still active in our community and indeed many in our community have had a hand in putting together the book. Dr George Mason and Norton Moller were board members and consultants among other things. This book is edited by Susette Goldsmith and designed by Jennie Aitken-Hall of Hall of Design.

Alan Jellyman, the author, began an apprenticeship at Duncan & Davies in 1957 and completed his National Diploma in Horticulture (also receiving the Cockayne Medal for excellence). He became assist-

ant curator at Pukekura Park in 1962. In 1977 he was appointed New Plymouth Director of Parks and Recreation. Alan has served on the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Board and chaired the Advisory Committee for Eastwoodhill National Arboretum. In 2003 he was awarded the Gold Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain in recognition of services to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture. He is also a trustee of the Sir Victor Davies Foundation for Research into Ornamental Horticulture.

*The Growing World of Duncan and Davies* is available from Fairfields Garden Centre and would make an ideal Christmas gift or addition to any library collection.

*By Kim Ferens*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Prudent Trust Administration**

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# TOM Sports



## Local Skateboarders Compete at Nationals

In the last weekend in October the best skateboarders in the country converged in Auckland at the Armageddon Festival to compete at the 2011 Cheapskates Skateboarding Nationals.

Local skaters competed at the Taranaki regional qualifier event held at our local East End Skate Park a few months ago, with Vance Hoskin winning the Open Men's title and Chad Hoskin taking second place. The Under 16 section was won by Finn Robertson, aged 15. Cheapskates sponsors all three skaters and their success at this local event meant they qualified for the Nationals.

Our local Cheapskates store sent a whole team to the Nationals at the Armageddon event. As well as the competing skaters, Cheapskates store manager Jesse Smith, Caleb Smith, Henry Johnson, Ben D'Ath and Jamie Hartley all went along to work as volunteers at the Nationals, and film and take photos of the skaters.

Leaving early on Friday in the distinctive white Cheapskates van, the first stop on the boys' road trip was at the 'Wrong' skate park in Hamilton, which Jesse tells me is one of the last remaining indoor parks in New Zealand. Here the boys had an hour to let off some energy and then it was off to Auckland to check into their inner city accommodation and check out the ASB Showgrounds, the venue for

the Nationals. The course was set up in a huge empty hall at the showgrounds and on Friday afternoon it was open to competitors to have a free skate and get used to the layout. The boys took advantage of this to check out the course.

The New Plymouth skaters competed on Sunday with Vance and Finn progressing as far as the semi-finals and Treigh making it all the way through to the Under 16 finals. Unfortunately none of the local skaters came away with a medal but all enjoyed the experience and it will no doubt be the first of many road trips for the boys.

*By Jackie Tomlinson*



Left to right: Vance, Ben, Caleb, Jesse, Jamie, Finn, Treigh and Henry.

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# Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing

Summer is coming and the fishing is improving. It's still a bit hit and miss with one day good and the next in the same spot not so good.

We have been getting good catches of gurnard and snapper from the Port, and I have managed the odd snapper and kahawai from Oakura.

There have been some big fish caught from Opunake including a good haul of crayfish to Tony Hurring, the crayfish getting tangled in the line and hauled up with rod and reel. Tony also landed this monster snapper.



## Bountiful catches from the kayak.

The Kayak Classic is set for 10/11 March next year and we look forward to Mat Watson and the ITM Fishing Show coming to Oakura for the event. We have the fish auction and Egmont Seafoods will be available to fillet the catch once again.

We will also have the Taranaki Music Collective playing jazz in the garden, while you enjoy a wine or beer and fresh fish from Sushi Ninja, or sample Fogdog beer batter and panko crumbs.

Many thanks to local businesses Oakura Four Square, Oakura Travel, Heydon Priest, McDonald Real Estate, and Jackie and Jimmy Lim from Stratford New World along with Tasman Toyota and Butlers Reef for supporting this event.

We are just about to set off on a club trip to Great Barrier Island using a charter boat as a mother ship and launching kayaks from the mother ship. The aim is to catch a hapuku and kingfish, I'll report on our success or failure in the next TOM.

On 17 December, Canoe and Kayak are running an open day at Lake Rotomanu from 10am until 4pm with all types of kayaks available for demos plus experts on hand with advice on fish finders, rigging kayaks for fishing, etc.

If you are fishing or putting out a longline, please remember the beach is for everyone. Every summer I see longlines all along the beach where people are swimming and surfing; that means 25 hooks in the water where people are trying to enjoy the water — in my book that's an accident waiting to happen.

Have a great Christmas and happy New Year.

# Kaitake Golf Club

## RECENT EVENTS

Twilight Golf is underway at Kaitake every Tuesday from 3.00–6.00pm. This is an ideal time to get out for nine holes of golf after work. Barbequed sausages will be available from 4.00–6.00pm.

The Open Christmas Hamper tournament was held on Saturday, 20 November and attracted 115 entries this year. A great day's golf was had by all, with a number of locals taking home a hamper.

## LADIES

Congratulations to all the ladies representing Kaitake at the Champion of Champions and Taranaki Rosebowl competition held at Stratford recently. The Weekday team, consisting of Robyn Robins, Jacqui Prater and Sally Kwon, came fourth in the Taranaki Rosebowl competition. Lois Agnew, from the Weekend section, was the Bronze 2 nett runner-up in the Champion of Champions.

Jan Davies won the final weekend competition for the year, the Men's Cup, with Lois Agnew runner-up.

## COMING EVENTS

Tuesday night Twilight Golf 3.00–6.00pm.

A mixed Ambrose Competition is planned for the club closing day on Saturday, 3 December. Assemble at 10.30am, shotgun start at 11.00am and prizegiving will follow.

The Taranaki Men's Champion of Champions will be held at Kaitake on 10 December. The course will be closed to members.

Ladies' Christmas Hamper, Thursday 15 December. Telephone Kaitake Golf Club to book a tee time.

The annual Beachcombers tournament will be held on Saturday, 14 January 2012.

## SPONSORSHIP

Recently Alan Bennett of Oakura, a member of the club, sold his house through Anne Wilson, McDonald Real Estate. Anne is a sponsor of the club and kindly donates \$500 to the club when a member, his/her family or a friend of a member sells their property using Anne and her team. This is a fabulous avenue for the club to raise money. Well done, Alan, and thank you, Anne, for your support.

Kaitake will be holding a Sponsors' Day on Sunday, 12 February 2012. This will be a fun day and a good chance for the club to say thank you to the sponsors who have been great supporters this year.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Murray Gray on 06-753 4450 or Ross Benton on 06-752 7099.

You can find more information on Kaitake Golf Club at [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz).

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and if you are travelling, stay safe.

*Andrea Jarrold*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Benefits for Beneficiaries**

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# GETTING WET

## Join NPOB Surf Life Saving Club at the Oakura Beach Carnival!

The Oakura Beach Carnival on New Year's Day is New Plymouth Old Boys' (NPOB) biggest fundraising event of the year and a great fun day for all. The Miss Taranaki, Miss Teen Taranaki and Junior Miss Taranaki winners will be announced. This year's New Plymouth Old Boys' Carnival at Oakura Beach will also feature a host of attractions for all the family including:

NPOB Surf Life Saving display; BECK helicopter rides; Zumba; Kidzone playground and bouncy castles treasure hunt; Tegel Chicken tent; strawberries and ice cream; local artists; give-aways; spot prizes.



New Year's Day beach-goers will also get to meet local Volunteer Surf Lifeguards. While aged from 14 years old, do not underestimate the lifeguards' knowledge. Many life members within the club have helped guide our club and vision over the years. Lifeguards work hard on their skills and are committed to the safety of the beach-going public, not just in summer but all year round. Each day during summer our beach patrols set out the red and yellow flags to show the safest place to swim. Every season we train new Surf Lifeguards on how to identify potential victims and dangers, and work with the public to prevent people getting into trouble in the first instance. That is why last summer New Zealand Surf Lifeguards performed over 100,000 preventative actions during 155,000 hours of beach patrols. Come and meet the men and women keeping you safe at the beach — find out what we do and why we do it!

Our current lifeguards also train the lifeguards of the future through our Junior Surf Programme — you may have seen our Nippers, Rookies and Cadets hard at it on the beach every Sunday morning!

Competitively, NPOB is the top-ranked Taranaki surf life saving club and ranks in the top 10 clubs in New Zealand. This year our coach, Glenn Anderson, was named DHL Coach of the Year and our Club Captain, Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, was awarded DHL International Performance of the Year for her win in the Open Women's Belt Race at Aussie Nationals and was also named BNZ Manawatu-Wellington Sportswoman of the Year by Massey University.

This year's Carnival aims to bring something new to New Year's Day, and all money raised on the day goes toward preventing drowning and injury at Oakura Beach, so come and enjoy the celebrations from 11.00am on New Year's Day!

If you are interested in learning more about NPOB Surf Life Saving, or sponsoring an event at the Carnival, please contact the Event Co-ordinator, Michelle Cowley on 027-891 2687.

## A Twin Hull to add to the Stable



NPOB's Surf Club members are delighted to have Horizon Energy Services donate a twin hulled surf canoe to the club recently. Steve Webling, local Oakura resident and Operations Manager for Horizon says the Taranaki company who does 90% of its work in Taranaki providing Production Operations expertise to the oil and gas industry, was keen to put something back into the community and the

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Steve (left) and Craig beside NPOB's new twin hulled canoe.

A twin hulled canoe is operated by a four man team so team work is vital or as Craig puts it "being in unison with each other and the waves".

The canoe weighs 80 kilograms, is just over two metres long, seats four, and has dual steering and a rudder. Club members from 15 years to seniors and both male and female will be able to operate the canoe and compete alongside other clubs. The craft was built by Tony Power of Boulder Bay in New

Plymouth and will be sign written by Keith from Taranaki Signs. We look forward to seeing it out on Oakura Beach over the summer.

In other exciting news, congratulations must go to Glenn Anderson who won Senior Sportsman of the Year and Coach of the Year and to Ayla Dunlop-Barrett who won Senior Sportswoman of the Year at the Taranaki Sports Award presentations. It is of course true that behind every great sports person is a great club so congratulations to all the dedicated members of NPOB Surf Club.

*By Kim Ferens*

surf club is the ideal recipient with its large contingent of children and adults participating in surf life saving. Plus the community as a whole benefits from a strong surf club through beach patrols and competitions over the summer.

Craig Eaton, long time NPOB's club member says the canoe adds another dimension to the club which has been missing up till now as NPOB's was the only club without a twin hulled canoe. Having the canoe encourages young people back into the club. Surf clubs lose many of its most valuable members when they leave for university and work pursuits and the time isn't available for training.

## Oakura Boardriders Club

You saw the photos in the last TOM of our 20th Anniversary party. This issue you are treated to photos of the surfing competition we held as part of our celebrations.

There were several moments during our anniversary weekend celebrations that I knew it had been a success. One of them was the surfing competition for all our past open men's winners. It was such a great idea to have some of our top surfers today surfing against each other, as well as against the best from the past. There were nine competitors with Kodie Fisher and Paul Moretti travelling from the north to participate and Dan Fanthorpe journeying from Australia. We were certainly treated to some impressive surfing. At times the surf was messy but the guys still managed to show us that the OBC has produced some awe-inspiring surfing talent. Simon Deken was the overall winner and took home the trophy.

Another moment was Friday night when we had over 100 people enjoying each others company over a delicious barbecue meal. At one point in the evening I thought we could have invited the whole village and what a wonderful opportunity that would have been to bring our community together.

A final moment was party night where many of us older members of the club were enjoying ourselves with our offspring and they too were enjoying themselves! During the evening Paul Lobb spoke of the delight in having grandchildren become members of the club. The OBC after 20 years is still in good heart!

The following Sunday we were busy again. This time we were at the Kaitake Golf Course running a fundraising golf tournament which was initiated by A1 Homes. It was a most successful day and the golfers that participated all enjoyed themselves, eating, drinking and hitting the odd golf ball around the course.

*Philli Butt*



Above, Dan Fanthorpe shows his style and below, Kodie Fisher exhibits some great control.





# Winchfest Prep



Jane and Muzz Symons with the winch pool development behind.



The development of the Winch-Fest park on Surrey Hill Rd.





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## The Elderly Feline Patient

Elderly or geriatric cats are amongst our most common patients. Just like their human counterparts, elderly felines need extra care and it is important that owners are able to recognise clinical signs that may be associated with the common geriatric diseases. A cat is considered to be senior at 11–14 years of age (human equivalent 60–75 years) and geriatric at 15+ years (human equivalent 76+ years).

Common health issues in senior cats include kidney disease, overactive thyroid glands, diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, cancer and deterioration in mental state. Obviously, the clinical signs in each of these conditions will vary but most commonly will include:

- a change of appetite (increase or decrease)
- a change of weight (increase or decrease)
- increased/excessive thirst
- increased/abnormal urination or bowel motions
- a change in daily routine (becoming less active or more active).

If you do notice any of the above signs in your cat, a visit to the vet is strongly recommended. At this visit, the cat will have a thorough clinical examination and, depending on the findings, blood samples and possibly a urine sample may be taken.

Senior cats should have a health check every six months, even if they appear healthy. This will allow even subtle changes to be identified. Routine blood tests are also a good idea to give a baseline for future testing. They can identify any slight changes that indicate that treatment should be initiated, ensuring the best outcome for the patient. Early detection of the diseases described above is important. Although many of these diseases cannot be cured, the aim in looking after an elderly cat is to improve its quality and, if possible, its length of life. Important factors with regard to quality of life include:

- adequate food intake
- normal daily routine e.g. following the sun around the house, greeting the owner
- being able to reach food and water bowls, toilet sites and rest areas
- good days outweighing the bad
- freedom from pain
- normal digestion and toileting.

While old age is inevitable, it is the owners' responsibility to ensure that their cat's twilight years are as comfortable as possible. If you have any worries regarding your senior cat, please contact the Okato Vet Clinic.

## Pet Sitting Over Summer

Pet Sitting Plus is looking forward to a busy holiday season. Due to the varied clients PSP services have evolved. A normal workday includes moving fences for the cows, feeding and rugging your horses, walking dogs and feeding cats. I have even booked a guinea pig to look after over Christmas.

Word of mouth has been PSP's greatest asset. If only the pets could talk. Two dogs I looked after recently greeted their parents with the big bones I had given them, as if to say, "See what Holli gave us!"

If you're going away please give me a call and I can come by and discuss your pets' and your needs, or have a look at [www.petsittingplus.co.nz](http://www.petsittingplus.co.nz). Please tell your friends about Pet Sitting Plus — I have heard the kennels and catteries are booked for Christmas and hopefully I can help.

Holiday Greetings from PSP and my four-footed friends!

*Holli Marshall*



**Hollie and friends.**



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## Oakura School Leaver Profiles 2011

We asked all our Year 8 school leavers the following questions:

- What were your highlights of 2011?
- What high school are you going to?
- What are your future aspirations?



**ANGUS WHITE**

School camps, PREP, and being a head pupil.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
To become an engineer, architect or doctor.

**CHARLOTTE PROCTER**

Activity Week, Camp Wellington.  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To become a dairy farmer and a photographer.

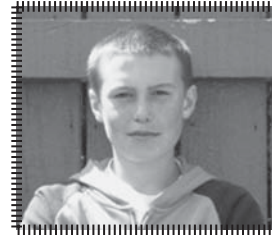


**DANIEL BARRON**

Camp Wellington and Activity Week.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
To become a doctor, policeman or pil

**DEVAN LEGGETT**

Camp Wellington, Activity Week and PREP (Enterprise Studies).  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
To become a butcher, chef and a professional cricketer or football.



**DEVIN LEWIS**

Camp, Activity Week and inter-school sports.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
Future aspirations: To become a helicopter pilot.

**DIONE RILEY**

Camp Wellington, PREP and Activity Week.  
Spotswood College.  
To become a teacher or photographer.



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**ELLIE MOYES**

PREP (Enterprise Studies).  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To become a horse breeder or a vet.

**EMILY STEWART**

Swimming sports, Camp Wellington and PREP.  
Sacred Heart.  
To become a farmer.



**FINN SMITHER-MAY**

BP Technology Challenge.  
Francis Douglas Memorial College.  
To become an engineer, professional scooter rider or be in the military.

**GEORGE TVRDEICH**

Camp, cross-country and the Extension Homework group.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
To become a pilot or doctor.



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# OAKURA SCHOOL LEAVERS



## GEORGIA CRABTREE

Camp Wellington, Activity Week and PREP (Enterprise Studies).  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To own a cake shop or become a teacher.



## LIAM MCBREEN

Going to Toastmasters (speech competition).  
Francis Douglas Memorial College.  
To become an accountant.

## GRACE POWELL

Camp Wellington.  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To own a café/restaurant/bakery/cake decoration shop.



## GIAN SQUATRITI

Camp Wellington, Activity Week.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
To become a professional footballer.



## JACK O'DONNELL

Dam dropping.  
Spotswood College.  
To become a DJ.



## MEGAN VICKERS

Camps, Activity Week and PREP (Enterprise Studies).  
Spotswood College.  
To go to teachers' college.



## MELISSA MARRIOTT

Activity Week, Coastal Athletics and designing products for our PREP unit (Enterprise Studies).  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To be an interior/fashion designer or an author.



## JOSH VAN BERGEN

Camp, receiving my excellence award, cross-country/running races and activity week.  
New Plymouth Boys' High  
To continue to develop my sailing and running ability, do the best I can academically, and become an engineer of some kind.



## NIALL LEGGETT

Camp Wellington and Activity Week.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
Professional footballer or professional scooter rider.



## NOUVEAU ROGERS

Camp, Technicraft and my friends.  
Spotswood College.  
To become an artist, singer, actor or fashion designer.



## KELSEY HUSBAND

Camp and Activity Week.  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To become a vet, basketball player or cricket player.



## NICK WILSON

Taranaki Ski Champs.  
New Plymouth Boys' High.  
I'm still deciding.



## LHASA COOK

Cross-country races, Activity Week.  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
Future aspirations: To become an artist or a runner.





## OAKURA SCHOOL LEAVERS



### RUTH BOARDMAN

PREP (Enterprise Studies), Camp Wellington and Activity Week.  
Spotswood College.  
To become a Marine Biologist/scuba diving teacher.

### SUNNY PEEBLES

Activity Week and Cross-country.  
Spotswood College.  
To reach university and become a computer game designer.



### TIMI TE UA

North Island Champs (first place, snowboarding).  
Spotswood College.  
To become a professional snowboarder, skateboarder or park trainer for snowboarding.



### ZAKI DIN

Camp Wellington, PREP (Enterprise Studies).  
Francis Douglas Memorial College.  
To become a comedian or an architect.



### MOLLY LUMB

Camp Wellington and Coastal Athletics 2011.  
Spotswood College.  
To become a vet or a professional horse rider.



### PAIGE BURROWS

Activity week.  
New Plymouth Girls' High.  
To become a vet.



## A New Face in Oakura - EMERGE BEAUTY & WELLBEING

Just recently Ziji Day Spa changed ownership and names – it is now called Emerge Beauty and Wellbeing. Emerge is now owned by Paula Holdt and Leah Rowe.

A new name and new owners might mean new faces in Oakura but the same excellent service plus more is on offer.

The two Jenna's – Jenna Thomas and Jenna Hartley are still part of the team and working their magic on their loyal customers.

Emerge still offers the wonderful Janesce and Pure Fiji range of organic skincare products plus all the same treatments – facials, waxing, spray tans, massages, manicures, pedicures.

In addition Paula and Leah have introduced the Jane Iredale organic mineral skincare make up range which includes everything from foundations, primers, powders, blushes, lips and eyes. This range does not contain dyes, chemical preservatives, synthetic fragrances or fillers.

Both women are nail technicians/therapists and specialise in Gelish gel polish. Gelish is a soak off gel polish which gives up to 21 days of colour with no fading and stays glossy and vibrant. They also are accomplished nail art painters and can design and paint nails in almost any pattern.

And to top these new services off Emerge is also a 'wellness' centre where both Paula and Leah offer Reiki treatments. They have many more 'wellness' ideas for their new business and their philosophy is that "you will be the centre of our attention" when you visit.

Gift vouchers are available and make wonderful Christmas gifts.

Emerge is open Monday to Friday and Saturday by appointment. They are open Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Check out Emerge's Facebook page and their soon to be up and running website.

Over the Christmas holidays Emerge is open up to Christmas Eve then shut till Wednesday 4th January.

Pop in and say hello to Paula and Leah, they will make you welcome and give you professional advice for all your beauty needs.

*By Kim Ferens*

Forest would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all of Ziji Day Spa's many valued customers. Ziji was a challenge and a phenomenal success and I will always treasure this experience. Congratulations to Paula and Leah, I wish them well on their journey.

Have a beautiful Christmas and a joyous year's end.

"All we seek is within us."

*Forest (and Jenna & Jenna)*

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Sat: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (during summer time)



## COMING EVENTS 2012

### January

- 31 Office open for stationery lists and sales,  
9am-12noon.

### February

- 1 Office open for stationery lists and sales,  
9am-12noon.  
2 School starts for students.  
6 Waitangi Day (holiday).  
9 Rooms 1, 4 and 5 Picnic Day.  
10 Rooms 2, 3 and 6 Picnic Day.  
14 Information evening/BBQ .  
16 Playgroup starts, 9-11am.  
23 Year 5-8 Camp Out at school.

### March

- 1 Playgroup 9-11am  
7 Swimming displays

## Omata School Leaver Profiles 2011

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

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

### EVIE LINDSAY

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Performing in the Marimba group. The Young Leaders' Conference in Palmerston North was great! Our Year 8 soccer team winning! The 'Campout' at the start of the year. The piano duet Mia and I did. The Room 6 Wellington camp coming up! Having awesome friends!
3. Not sure but possibly something in Design.



### ZAC MCLEOD



1. Spotswood College.
2. Wellington Camp. The school camp when we got to cook our own food. Young Leaders' Conference where we got to hear leaders speak. Swimming at Kawaroa. Thirteenth Grade football. The Big Day Out

when we got to go swimming at the pools.

3. Chef or a football player.

### REBEKAH SMITH

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. My friends in Year 8. Jump Rope, being able to help the little kids, being the oldest year group at Omata!
3. Teacher.



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### MANU AKIOKA

1. New Plymouth Boys' High.
2. School camp, Wellington camp and the 2011 Young Leaders' Conference. I enjoyed the school camp, especially because of all the commotion going on around our campsite. I liked the Young Leaders' Conference because I like going to places really early.
3. I'm still thinking about it.



### LUISA WILLIAMS

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. I've enjoyed being in the Marimba group this year. I've also enjoyed the Jump Rope for Heart sessions. I liked preparing for camp and I am excited to be going to camp soon. The biggest highlight of this year definitely has to be athletics training, it was awesome.
3. Architecture or Car Graphic Design.



### ELLIOT GRANT

1. New Plymouth Boys' High.
2. Going on camps with the people in my class. Playing football for Omata and with my friends. Being an ambassador and having Year 7/8 privileges.
3. Not sure.







## MICHAEL ANDERSON

1. Spotswood College.
2. Getting ready for camp was fun and being in the Marimba group was really fun. Being able to go to Tech at Devon was good. Playing in the Year 8 soccer team. Staying in the tent at the school camp and eating the food we had to cook. I've enjoyed all the iPads and all the laptops we got to use.
3. Architect.

## MAEGHAN KING

1. Spotswood College.
2. I enjoyed the overnight camp, the 2011 Young Leaders' Conference and the Marimba group.
3. Chef.



## CHARLOTTE JONES

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Marimba group, especially performing. My main highlight has been being a Lead Ambassador and all of the opportunities, like when the Russian rugby team came to Omata. Being in the soccer team with a really good coach. Having great friends.
3. Architect.

## KAYA FALOON

1. New Plymouth Boys' High.
2. Preparing for the end of year camp, music classes, listening to music on Fridays, swimming sports at the start of the year, and the technology that we can use.
3. Vet.



## OLIVIA LISTER

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Marimba group going away to Auckland. Vertical Horizons in 2010. Athletics and the Big Day Out throughout the time I have been here. The privileges in Year 7/8.
3. Mechanic.



## MIA WEST

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Having a winning soccer team! Performing marimba! The Young Leaders' Conference — fun! Start of the year camp! Vertical Horizons camp in Year 5! The build up for camp! Me and Evie's piano duet! Having some of the best friends you could ask for.
3. Something to do with Design and Modelling.

## BREYDON FARMER

1. Spotswood College.
2. Dressing up as Ace Frehley at the 2009 Fancy Dress. Scoring 39 goals for Omata in the 2011 football season. The 2011 school camp. Playing guitar with Zac on bass at the music assembly.
3. Professional footballer.



## MATHEW SCOTT

1. Spotswood College.
2. Marimba group, soccer team, laptops, Food Tech, cooking appliances.
3. Marine Biologist or Geologist.



## ANTON BAAS

1. New Plymouth Boys' High.
2. I liked the school camp because we got to cook our own food. The 2011 Young Leaders' Conference was a great experience. Marimba group was a great experience as well. Room 6 camp will be great fun.
3. Photography or Zoology.



## SUMMER HENDERSON

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Jump rope, Movement Madness, being in Room 6, the 'People's Court'. I enjoyed Jump Rope and Movement Madness because I like fitness and hanging out with little kids. I enjoyed being in Room 6 and doing work like 'Peoples Court'.
3. Teacher or a Riding Instructor.

## SCARLETT TROTTER

1. New Plymouth Girls' High.
2. Highlights have been all the really good teachers who have helped me with my dyslexia. All the great opportunities I've had at Omata and having lots of good friends. I'm really looking forward to the Room 6 camp too.
3. Not really sure but I'm interested in Architecture.

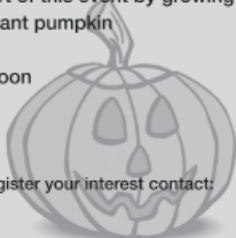


**Omata School Community Event**  
It's Pumpkin festival time  
Sunday 6th May 2012

Become part of this event by growing your own giant pumpkin

Free giant pumpkin seedlings available soon  
Business and community section  
Take up the challenge - let the fun begin!

For your free giant pumpkin seedling and to register your interest contact:  
Joss (751 3301) or Bronnie (751 2308)



# A Heartfelt Thankyou

I wish all our passengers, the young and young at heart, occasional and regular commuters, a very special Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your patronage, friendship, laughter and thought-provoking conversation over the past year on the Oakura-New Plymouth CityLink bus service.

Your "local" bus driver, Chris



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Chris.



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If you have a special place in mind, a piece of music or a verse, don't leave it to chance – write it down.

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Adults	\$3.00
Children	\$2.00
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Adult with child under 8 yrs	\$2.00

"Learn to swim lessons" - January 9th - 13th, 5 lessons \$35.  
January 23rd - 27th, 5 lessons \$35. Registrations essential.

Aquarobics every Wednesday 5pm - 6pm with Gloria Zimmerman,  
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# Busy Pippins and Brownies

We've just got back from a great camp at TSB TOPEC with 77 Taranaki Brownies! We were very lucky with the weather and had an amazing time. The girls were divided into groups for a round-robin of activities including the Flying Kiwi, rock wall climbing, abseiling, crafts, baking, and a bush walk with a personalised monkey souvenir hanging from the bridge for each girl to find. Cooking pancakes on hobo stoves was also fun.

We got to sleep rather late on Friday with the excitement of being with friends and settling into cabins. Then we enjoyed a very busy Saturday and slept well after a campfire and songs.

The previous week our Brownies went for a boat trip around the coast with Chaddy's Charters. The conditions were perfect — just enough wind and waves and, as ever, the funny and educational commentary from Chaddy.



**Taylah Sharp and Jorja Sole out with Chaddy's Charters.**

This term we've also had a fun day at the YMCA, made summer skirts and started the Get Going Challenge, which was organised by Girl Guiding NZ, Outward Bound and Hubbards.

We are now planning a District get-together to celebrate the end of the year with outdoor games and fish and chips at a garden party.

We would like to thank Dave Biggie Smithers at Sirroco who kindly donated all the materials for three beautiful toadstools that are now wonderful totems for our unit. They made the enrolment of our six new Pippins in November very special indeed.

We are looking for more volunteer leaders to help us run the Brownies and start a Guide unit. If you would like more information, please contact Catherine on 06-752 7388 or Robin on 06-752 7509 or email [OakuraBrownies@live.com](mailto:OakuraBrownies@live.com)

*Robin and Catherine*



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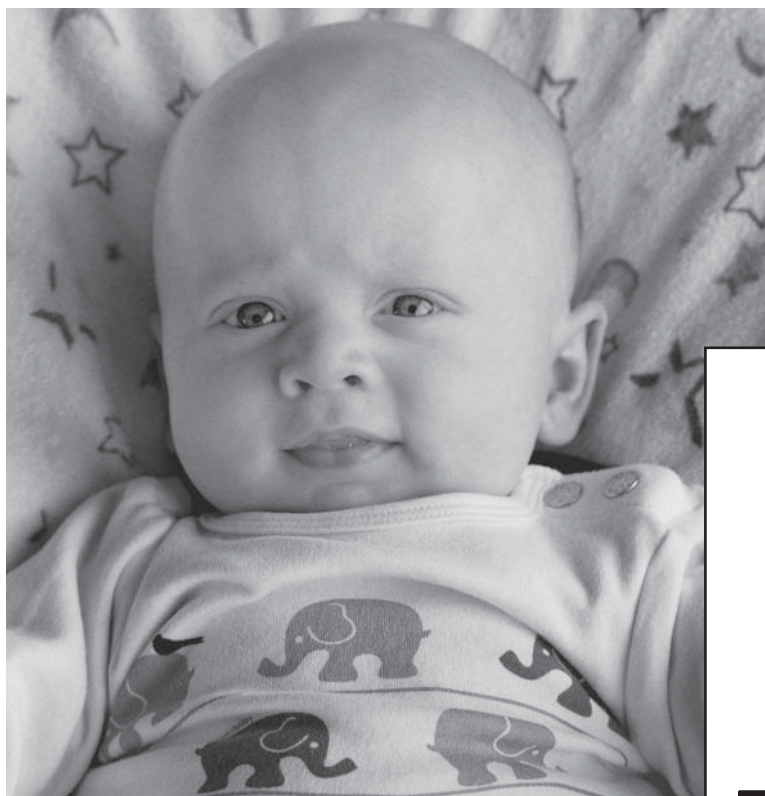
**ANIMALS IN THE FAMILY.**

**477 ST AUBYN ST, NEW PLYMOUTH**

**PHONE: 06 7513000 (24 HOURS)**

# TOM baby

**TOM BABY OF THE MONTH**



Very many congratulations to Kerry and Bruce Neale on the birth of Olly. Olly was born on 12 July 2011. He is absolutely gorgeous.

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**www.cyf.govt.nz**

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Telephone 06 752 7199

*Dear patients*

*Please take note of our opening hours for December and January Holiday period.*

*Should you need medical assistance – please call the emergency numbers:*

**0800 611 116, or 111.**

DECEMBER OPENING HOURS	
Friday 23rd December 2011	8.30am – 5pm
Monday 26th December 2011	CLOSED
Tuesday 27th December 2011	CLOSED
Wednesday 28th December 2011	8.30am – 5pm
Thursday 29th December 2011	8.30am – 5pm
Friday 30th December 2011	8.30am – 5pm

JANUARY OPENING HOURS	
Monday 2nd January 2012	CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd January 2012	CLOSED
Wednesday 4th January 2012	8.30am – 5pm

*We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our patients a safe and happy holiday.*

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*Includes: 2 nights' accommodation, hotel taxes, 1 day Calgary Transit Pass, admission to afternoon rodeo, evening chuckwagon races and stage show, one day admission to stampede grounds, Canadian GST.*

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*Note: 25 May '12 is the last date that Stampede Package reservations will be accepted.*

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If your luggage is looking a bit worn, Oakura Travel is now selling Voyager Luggage.



# Rich Pickings

Hello all,

Wow, just about Christmas, seems just like yesterday that the New Year celebrations for 2011 were underway.

This time of year tends to become busier for me, with a general increase in petty crime, the odd smashed letterbox, etc., however this year we have had a large plant theft in the Oakura area. I believe that this theft is related to a number of similar thefts in the western end of New Plymouth of garden-related products, such as plants, sculptures and furniture. I am after any information about this theft or any others that may have gone unreported in the past. Please report any theft to me, no matter how small it is.

I have also spent some time in the Oakura area at the end of the school day and have been disappointed in the number of adults setting a bad example to our children by not wearing their cycle helmets. Now I don't care if you are just going down the road or will get hat hair, wear your helmet.

It is also a good time to remind all of you out there who enjoy riding your motorbikes along the beach: you're not allowed. It is a Council Bylaw and will be Policed, so please don't do it.

On a good note I still have my All Blacks flag flying — what a great tournament! I, like lots of others, had withdrawal symptoms with no rugby to watch. Never mind, what would I do without my Sky?

Anyway must go, I hope you all have great Christmas holidays and all keep safe.

Take care,

*Rich*



## The National Bank Young Farmer Contest 2012

### Taranaki District Final

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**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

Practical Day 8.30am to 2.30pm  
Quiz Night 6.00pm till late

**Come along for a great day of fun,  
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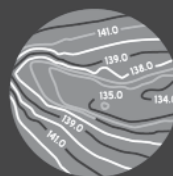
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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Country and Western Club

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

### GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term, 4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on 06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

### 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.

**Move It or Lose it**, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays 9.30am.  
Contact Gloria 752 7442.

### Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

### Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

### 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.

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm	Ladies' Midweek Competition
Tuesday 5.30-7pm	Club night
Wednesday 3-6pm	Juniors' private coaching
Thursday 5.30-7.30pm	A-grade players' practice
Friday 9am-12noon	Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members
	Junior Competition
Friday 4.30-6pm	Soffe Cup and A-grade Competition
Saturday 10am-4pm	Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit
Sunday 3-5pm	

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.  
Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

### 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.

### Val Deakin Dance School

Saturday morning ballet classes are held at Oakura Hall. Pre-school students from 9-9.30 and a Basic Ballet class for children aged 5, 6 and 7 from 9.30-10.45 am. Contact Val Deakin or Jane Roseman on 06-752 7743.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.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.

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