

# TOM

OAKURA

DEC / JAN  
2014 / 2015



## OAKURA BEACH

Not the pristine haven we expect.

*More on page 3*

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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

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

**Phone 0800 THE TOM**  
or click "contribute" at  
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**TOM** dates to remember  
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## E D I T O R I A L

Recently when I talked with Tracey Lusk about her experience in Cyprus with her young son Joe who had won a trip there as a Young Reporter for the



Environment, I was impressed with the efforts some companies, schools and individuals are going to to address the rubbish and recycling issue. It certainly feels global when students from many different countries can get together and interact on this very issue.

I remember when I was about Joe's age I did a study on the local dump at Opunake. Unbelievably rubbish was taken to the cliff top and dumped over the edge into the sea just south of Opunake's main beach. I interviewed Councillors about this unacceptable practice and talked to locals about the effect of this dumping. Happily this does not go on today – imagine if everyone from Oakura took their rubbish to Ahu Ahu and dumped it into the sea! But speaking of dumping, I was really disappointed to read via social media about a power outage in Oakura resulting in sewage going into Wairau Stream and the sea. This was everyone's concern when the pump station was installed by our beach – have we learnt nothing?

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to one of our regular contributors – Mr Mac, Headmaster of NPBHS, he is leaving NPBHS to take up another opportunity. It has awesome keeping up with school news via his column each month and we will miss him as a community leader and role model for all our sons. Thank you.

*Kim*



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# Mayor Andrew Judd

Hello everyone.

We are in the final busy weeks before the Christmas and New Year break. After a cold November I'm crossing my fingers that summer arrives with fine, warm days for us all to enjoy.

Throughout this year New Plymouth District Council has dealt with many big issues, including the recent moves to improve Maori representation on the Council.

Our many projects have included delivering an Annual Plan for 2014/15, developing policies for commercial leases on public spaces and for managing open spaces, sports and recreation areas, developing an integrated approach to managing coastal erosion, continuing to assess public buildings against earthquake standards, and developing a new water supply for Okato.

We are also well into our work for drafting the Long-Term Plan 2015-2025 (LTP).

There has been a fair bit of publicity about the latter, especially around the proposal that NPDC caps its general rates at an average of three per cent over the 10 years of the LTP and what affect that might have on Council services and facilities.

I want to make it clear that no decisions have been made on this yet – and none will be made until after public consultation in the first half of next year.

Between now and then the Council will develop a clear set of proposals for the community to consider, and everyone will have a chance to have their say.

In the meantime, we have a great summer of events ahead of us!

Summer at the Bowl has kicked off with the recent concert by The Seekers at the TSB Bowl of Brooklands. This will be followed by Christmas the Bowl (14 December), Moorhouse and Nomad in concert (15 January – free as part of the TSB Bank Festival of Lights), Sting and Paul Simon (31 January), the short-film festival Tropfest (14 February), Sol3 Mio (28 February) and Womad (13-15 March).

We also have the TSB Bank Festival of Lights starting on 14 December with its very popular Summer Scene daytime activities and On Stage evening performances – keep an eye out for the full programme in your mailbox!

But most of all we have a fantastic environment to enjoy, from our beaches and mountain to the native bush and walkways.

I hope you get out into our wonderful landscape with family and friends this summer and make the most of our great lifestyle here in Taranaki.

Merry Christmas everyone, and a relaxing and enjoyable New Year to you all.



Kia ora ano,

Our Christmas Crackerjacks will be held on Thursday 18th December 2014 at 10am-10:30am. Pre-school story time will resume in February 2015.

Our Christmas holiday programme will be held on Monday 22nd December 2014 at 10am-11am. Join us for a story and craft. Ideal for ages 5 up. Booking essential.

We have a selection of recipe books full of great ideas for your holiday feasts. *Nigella Christmas* and *Christmas Baking for Children* offer more traditional recipes but we also have BBQ, salads and seafood cookery books.

Good Green Christmas, Big Book of Christmas Things to make and Do and A Very beaded Christmas are just a few of the craft books available for loan.

We will be closing at 5pm on Wednesday 24th December 2014 and re-opening on Monday 5th January 2015 at 12:00pm.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated volunteers. Your support and smiling faces have been invaluable.

Wishing you all peace, love and good health this season and a happy new year.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou.

*Charlie and Vincenza*

## COVER FEATURE

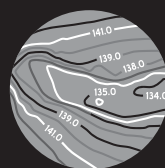
# Sewage Spill Concerns Locals

The pump station started discharging sewage into the environment late in the evening of Sunday 16 November. By the time the pump was made operational again on Monday morning an estimated 140m<sup>3</sup> of sewage was discharged into the environment – much less than originally believed – and 580m<sup>3</sup> was retained in the emergency storage.

NPDC is investigating the cause of the pump failure, and a report is being prepared for delivery to Taranaki Regional Council.

We have brought in the 'no swimming' signs on the advice of the Taranaki District Health Board and will leave the shellfish signs out until 15 December.

*NPDC*



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# Kaitake Community Board

Well another year is drawing to a close and the festive season is just around the corner. Let's hope the weather shows a dramatic improvement by then! We seem to have had all the seasons rolled into one during the past month or so.

It has been a particularly busy year for your community board. As elected representatives we get involved in many local community issues that need resolving. Some can be fixed as simply as a phone call or email, while others can follow a more protracted course to reach a resolution. It must be said that we do get a degree of quiet satisfaction when something is worked through to a positive conclusion for those involved.

The varied nature of the community board's role means we have to be proactive as well, and anticipate council strategies and policies that may have a future impact on our community. In doing that we frequently assist with the initiation and facilitation of community development initiatives and spend a great deal of time liaising with council officers who are responsible for taking action and reporting back to the decision makers around the Council table.

Several large initiatives have been a focus this year. First, the development of an Oakura Community Emergency Plan is nearing its final phase. The plan will provide a manual for local residents when there is a major emergency event in the community. The national Civil Defence policy is based on all residents being prepared to be self-sufficient for three days following an emergency so the local plan, developed under the able chairmanship of Mike Pillette aims to increase community awareness, understanding, and preparedness about what to do when an event happens. To that end the plan centres on individual and community responsibility and self-reliance.

Another has been the setting up of a focus group to be involved in the implementation of the Oakura Structure Plan. This representative group has been brought together to be involved in all the important discussions related to the strategic development of Oakura. The Oakura Structure Plan was completed in 2008 and this next stage is still in early gestation but is expected to increase in momentum in the New Year. 2015 will see the completion of the Council's 10 Year Plan, the 30 Year Asset Management Plan, and the District Plan Review. These will result in a district-wide blueprint that will have major ramifications for our community going forward.

We have also initiated and supported the setting up of ground leases for sport bodies using the Okato Domain. The leases are for 20 years with a right of renewal for a further 10 years with an initial concessional rental of a dollar per annum. This is a positive outcome for all concerned.

The board regularly makes formal submissions to Council on a range of policy issues. Our latest was on its draft Significance and Engagement Policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity for the New Plymouth District community on how the Council engages with them in various levels of its decision-making processes. Therefore it is crucial that the policy gives individuals and community groups a direct, transparent route to reach the core of the council decision-making process in a way that cannot be ignored. We believe that this policy must provide the first

line of defence against the risk of decision-making from an organisational perspective.

Currently we are considering our submission on the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy. This considers a range of issues, including the recreation, sport and leisure needs of the community and emerging trends, high performance sport needs, connectivity and use of open space for community accessibility, regional biodiversity objectives, and local identity and sense of place amenity values.

Next year we will be submitting on the Council's Coastal Erosion Strategy. Council has determined it will take an integrated approach to managing coastal erosion and its plan will be of keen interest to many of us. Generally the public has shown little interest in coastal erosion but over the past few years there has been a major change in the public mind, caused by the continuing urbanisation of coastal beach areas.

Most of issues and actions I have mentioned are closely linked so staying in tune with all of them is most important if we are to have local community input into the final decisions of Council.

Obviously the board is not the only organisation that is out there working for the community. Take a moment to reflect on the excellent job others have done on our behalf this year. Our sporting organisations rely on many volunteers to keep things humming, fire service volunteers consistently practise to be ready for any eventuality, all the CBD businesses continue to provide a fine service for us, we have a great hall (thanks Vicky), a great library, and great early childhood centres and schools. We have committed folk organising the Okato 150th Jubilee next year, others organising the Oakura School 150th the following year, and the New Year's Day Carnival Committee is hard at it. The list goes on and on and on! I acknowledge everyone's immeasurable input that adds value to the lives of all residents and thank you sincerely for it.

On behalf of Keith, Paul, Mike and our appointed councillor Richard I wish all TOM readers a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and hope you can spend lots of quality family time enjoying our great local environment over the coming summer months.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be in Okato, at Hempton Hall on Monday January 19 at 7pm.

Ka kite ano

*Doug Hislop (752 7324)*

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# Jonathan Young

2014 has been a huge year on the political stage with a shocking election campaign, followed by a solid election result. I've met people all over the electorate, some traditional Labour supporters, who just did not want to see New Zealand lurch to the left, with the help of people like Kim Dotcom – and so voted for National's solid performance to continue.

That solid economic management has meant New Zealanders are better off than the people in most other countries in the world. Inflation is low, interest rates remain low, employment is increasing and wages are rising faster than inflation. People are having real opportunity to get ahead.

None of this is easy, as we all know when it comes to balance our own weekly budget. And with Christmas just around the corner, every little bit helps.

Recently we established the South Korea- New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, which will benefit New Zealand businesses by over \$65 million in the first year alone. Trade relationships are key to New Zealand's success.

We are a trading nation. 85% of what we manufacture is exported. This is critically important for the Taranaki region. Our rural areas, towns and cities depend on a strong export industry to maintain and grow our economies.

The Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) negotiations are important for Taranaki because this agreement has the potential of opening up the lucrative markets of Japan and the USA to our exports, although right now it's looking difficult to see dairy included, which for us is very important that it is.

The TPPA aims to create a regional free trade agreement involving 12 Asia Pacific countries: Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, the United States, Viet Nam, Mexico, Canada, and New Zealand.

TPPA countries account for 45 per cent of New Zealand's total trade, and 5 of New Zealand's top 10 trading partners are included. The 12 participating economies account for US\$27 trillion in GDP and over 800 million potential customers. The US is the world's largest economy, with over 300 million consumers. A Free Trade Agreement with the US has been one of New Zealand's top trade policy goals for many years.

The National government has been hard at work in its first six years to build these trading relationships. It is what has



## Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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protected us during the global financial crisis and what will keep us as a first world nation, supporting world class education and healthcare, and more jobs and better paying jobs.

There are a couple of important attitudes for us to have this Christmas season. The first is appreciation for what we have, and the second is confidence to step forward into 2015 and all that it holds. I hope your Christmas and New Year are times of both appreciation and a confident step forward. Having a hard working government that focuses on the issues that matter for New Zealanders is important for all of us.

Thank you for the support I received in the 2014 general election and I look forward to working for our community throughout this next Parliamentary term, to keep Taranaki delivering the results we all want.



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## Pretty in Pink

A holistic approach to life and healing breast cancer was the message presented by three guest speakers at the Coastal Pink Ribbon Breakfast held at Ahu Ahu Road recently. Dressed in pink, seventy women enjoyed the fundraising event organized by Louise Stevens to raise awareness of breast cancer. Stevens, a registered nurse works in the community in preventative health.

Fiona Ross, aka Fit Fi, owner/personal trainer from Rampage Fitness and Dr Rose Bruce, GP spoke about wellness.

"People prove doctors wrong all the time," Bruce said, demonstrating the power of a positive approach to healing.

A heartfelt message came from Pip Johnson, who removed her pink wig to show her hair loss as she fights her own battle with breast cancer.

"It's not the situation, it's how you handle it," she said. "Stay strong and fit, keep positive, and find humour."

Food, flowers, coffee and bubbly for the breakfast were donated by local businesses, so the \$1352 raised, will go to the Breast Cancer Society for breast cancer research.

Coastal women standing strong, in solidarity against breast cancer. (Pip Johnson, centre wearing a pink wig)  
by Jane Dove Juneau.



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# OCEP

## OAKURA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning committee met recently to test components of our plan with the assistance of Civil Defence personnel. The desktop exercise involved Civil Defence placing us in an emergency scenario where we had to react appropriately and within the guidelines of our plan. The scenario had us dealing with a tornado that had made landfall at the bottom of Wairau Road at 5.30pm and worked its way in NE direction, finally petering out at the Main Road/Dixon Street intersection – a scenario the village isn't unaccustomed to unfortunately.

As the exercise progressed, the committee discussed in-depth the sorts of things that would definitely happen and those that were a possibility and how we, in liaison with the Emergency Services, would react to them. It was interesting to note that because the scenario indicated significant damage at the Main Road intersection, this would have hampered the movement of some key personnel. Matt Crabtree, our Fire Chief indicated that if this was to happen he may only have four members of the brigade available to him and because of the storage of gas cylinders at the petrol station, the possible evacuation of a good part of the village would have been necessary. Food for thought for all of us!

After two hours we all agreed that we needed to tweak our plan a little bit and that the roles the committee members play in such an emergency were pretty much established. We hope we never have to put them into practise for real, but not being prepared is not an option for us.

We are putting the final touches to the public version of the plan, and hopefully with the assistance of Civil Defence, this will be available to us in the New Year. In the meantime please make sure you all have your own plan in the event of an emergency, especially enough food and drink etc. for a minimum of three days and we urge you to follow the guidelines in your telephone book. The committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to keep refreshed and to work through other emergency scenarios.

You can make contact with the committee via email: [oakuracep@gmail.com](mailto:oakuracep@gmail.com) or search for us on Facebook: Oakura Community Emergency Plan OCEP

*Mike Pillette, Committee Chairperson*

# Santa and his Elf Bring Some Magic to Oakura



Watch out for Santa and his elf this Christmas Eve! From 5pm onwards Santa and his elf will be out on the streets of Oakura delivering little bundles of happiness to the children and not so young at heart via some sweets.

Last year's Christmas Eve visit to the streets was such a success and thanks to the donations of many local businesses Darren Moeller and her helpers will be back again this year.

Look out for Santa on her horse and you'll be sure to be in for a sweet surprise!

Thanks Darren, you bring the fun back to Christmas.

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# SPORTS



## Kaitake Golf Club News

The 2014 golfing season is drawing to a close. Competitions have finished and it is time for closing days and prize-giving events and the Annual General Meeting. The Men and Weekend women celebrated closing day with a game of 9 Hole Irish Golf before having the annual prize-giving. A few leprechauns and others dressed in green could be seen playing the holes backwards. Well, what would you expect! Fortunately this isn't the end of golf for Kaitake golfers. Open Christmas Hamper days are happening all around the area, including Kaitake, so there is a chance to put your skills to use and win goodies towards your Christmas dinner. Summer club competitions commence almost immediately.

Kaitake Golf Club has a special summer membership of \$200 for those wanting to play over the daylight saving period. Half of this goes towards a full-time membership if you decide to continue in 2015

The first open day in the New Year is The Beachcombers Tournament. This is a very popular competition and always attracts a large field. Fortunately for some it is no longer regulation to play dressed in beach wear! Keep Saturday 17th January free for this event.

### MID-WEEK WOMEN RESULTS

Yvonne Hildred was the winner of the 2014 Shootout with Joan Gerrard runner up

### 9 HOLE NEWS

Having completed the entire annual competitions, our girls are now having a few teams events.

We held our first ever Shootout and it was such a success that it will now be incorporated into 2015 – Winner Yvonne Coxhead with Raewyn Bishop runner up.

Melbourne Medley winners - Raewyn Bishop, Thelma White and Jean Keegan

Melbourne Lottery winners - Claire Chamberlain, Sandra Wilkes and Chrissy Warden.

Twisted Putting - Jo West and Ann McMillan

### JUNIORS

Many children have taken the opportunity of the Fun Golf Days held during the school holidays over the past two years. Elliott Gunn had offered to take on the role of Junior Convenor and is planning a regular programme for children. Elliott is a Kaitake member and parent of two of the participating children. We are really excited with this development and look forward to an exciting year.

Meanwhile a 9-hole competition is planned for Wednesday 21st January competing for the Mattingley Trophy. This will be followed by a barbecue. More details will be available closer to the time.

A voucher worth \$280 for dinner and the night at The Nice Hotel kindly donated by Terry Parkes was won by Karen Kelsen and Geoff Farrant won the voucher from Headstart in Carrington Rd for \$80.

### 2014 -15 TWILIGHT GOLF

Twilight Golf was scheduled to start on Tuesday 11 November but due to the squally weather (and worse predicted) it was cancelled. Hopefully we will be well underway by the time this edition is delivered. Tee off between 3.00 – 6.00pm

Pay \$5 play 9 holes of golf. There are 2 Divisions - players and non-players. What better way to enjoy those summer evenings

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend the AGM on Monday 8th December at 7.00pm at the Kaitake Golf Club rooms.

Merry Christmas everyone and safe driving.

More information on Kaitake Golf Club or coming events can be found on the website [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz). or by talking to Jacqui in the Office, phone 752 7665

*Andrea Jarrold, Club President*

## Kaitake Golf Club

### – A LONG HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

### CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF GOLF 28 MARCH 2015

The first golf course to be used by the Kaitake Golf Club was established on the corner of the Main Rd and lower Weld Rd in 1935. The course was established on the properties of Mr Dave Harvey and Mrs Les Goodwin. It was a 9 hole course and a par 36.

The course was designed by Frank Quin who was a professional at Ngamotu Golf Club. Voluntary labour by enthusiastic members laid out the course and when completed Mr Quin invited Mr D.V. Sutherland (a new member) to try out the course. It was declared a success and only one hole was altered.

The first president elected was Mr Frank Badley. On opening day the Headmaster of Oakura School, Mr Harry Till was invited to open the course.



**Back in the day! Left to Right, Mrs Harvey (Patroness), Dave Harvey, unidentified person, Doug Harvey, unidentified person.**



### ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP COMPRISED:

Goodwin Bros; Gary Bros; Ron and Vern Shotter; Ernie Julian; Max Smith; Bill and Pat Thomas; Jack Press; Frank Badley; Jack jans; Charlie and Cliff Price; leo and Doris Looney; Mr and Mrs Dave Harvey; Doug Harvey; Ted Garnett; Chas Head; Harold Jones; Normas Sampson; Olive Hughes; Margaret Bright; Val Hill; Rita Goodwin; Marj Goodwin; Mary Thomas; Jim and Rene Emsley.

Doug Harvey was the first school boy junior and at age seven his job was to mow and roll the greens by hand. Each green had its own roller.

Kaitake Golf Club went into recess during World War 2 and recommenced in 1946/47. It remained operational until 1967/68 when one of the farms changed hands. It was decided that the course would move nearer to town and lease was obtained on the Berridge's farm on the Tapuae Hill.

The current Jubilee Committee is working hard make the 80th anniversary celebrations a fun day to remember, so if you are an ex-member of Kaitake Golf Club make sure you are registered so we can keep you informed. Contact Raewyn Hawker on 06 751 3391 or e-mail [raewyn.hawker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:raewyn.hawker@xtra.co.nz) with your contact details.

In order to celebrate this event in true birthday style the Committee have organised a series of raffles to raise enough money so we don't have to ask those attending to pay.

Janice Farrant is still looking for photographs to scan so they can be shown on the day. If you can e-mail them to Janice can add them to the file. If they are in hard copy and you are willing to lend them to Janice for a short time she will scan and return them. This will ensure the Club has an electronic record of its history for the future.

Janice can be contacted on 752 7845 or e-mail [farrant@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:farrant@slingshot.co.nz)

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## Oakura Tennis Club News

Oakura Tennis Club currently has 130 members and with the large increase in the junior players coming through the future of the club and tennis in Oakura is looking very strong.

We have nearly 30 players in coaching groups at the club on Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoons (when this crazy spring weather allows!).

Maree Gopperth has recently secured a permanent job so is unable to continue coaching for us on a Tuesday afternoon. Jamie Simpson has stepped into this role for the remainder of the term. We are very thankful to have had Maree and now Jamie available to offer this coaching to keep our juniors keen and improving.

Wes Elder continues to hold coaching on Wednesdays and has a steady following with many of our beginner and youth players.

Kurt McNamara is also offering private lessons at the club during the day, you can contact him directly if you are interested – 027 945 4258

We have about 25 hot shots players registered for the community play sessions we hold on Wednesday afternoons. The weather has only allowed two full sessions so far but everyone is keen and lots of balls are being hit. We use low compression balls and mini nets for the younger groups. There are also hot shots tournaments held once a month at one of the North Taranaki Clubs, this allows the keen players to have some little competitions as a precursor to joining Interclub next term or season.

This season we have five Primary Inter club Teams entered in the North Taranaki competition, Two Junior A teams and three Junior B Teams which is fantastic for such a small club. They play each Friday after school singles and doubles. All teams have done well in the first half of the season and it is great to see everyone enjoying their tennis. A huge thanks to the parents who help out each week and support the teams.

As well as club competitions we have a number of our junior members who represent Taranaki for Tennis in their age group, Bailey Bruckner, Poppy, Jack and Taylor Mitchell, Beth Tvrdeich, Ben Wilson, Sammy Lewis, Brodie Ferguson and Chester Oldfield.

The Soffe Cup team have had a good start to the season with the ladies winning most of their matches. They are currently placed 5th out of 7 teams. The A2 team have had a consistent season remaining middle of the table of the 7 team competition. The A3 team competing for the Sumpter Cup are sitting first on points out of four teams. We also have a Midweek ladies teams entered in the Monday competition. Oakura has a mid week ladies team in Section 2 of the competition. The team has had a strong start and is enjoying some good tennis.

We are lucky as a Tennis Club in Oakura to have the continued support and cooperation from Lynne, the BOT and Oakura School. The proximity of the school to the tennis club makes it accessible for the school children to join and take part in tennis for Oakura, so we have a thriving club which will continue to grow.

Thanks to our dedicated committee who support the club and help things run smoothly. Also a large thank you to our sponsors who continue to support Tennis in Oakura year after year.

We welcome any new members and encourage any enquiries to Jackie Mitchell, Secretary or Ann Bridges Junior Convener. Also you can check out our Facebook page Oakura Tennis Club Inc for any updates and club news.

Don't forget the early bird membership fees end in November. This is a great offer so don't miss out!

The tennis club is continually working on new ideas and improvements to the club, we will keep you posted on these including Cardio Tennis, the addition of windbreak to the western side of courts one and two and more social tennis initiatives. Lastly for those who would like some extra practice with the Ball machine you need to check availability of this through Graeme.

### TENNIS QUOTE

*"The primary concept of tennis is to get the ball over the net and at the same time to keep it within the bounds of the court, failing this, within the borders of the neighbourhood."*



# Oakura Boardriders

Firstly big thanks must go to the NZ Community Trust. Because of the grants we have received the club has been able to upgrade and add to our equipment which will be put to very good use with our summer coaching and training programs. The NZCT grant is also allowing us to carry out a much needed major refurbishment to the clubrooms. You will see some work progressing and with the big influx of members this will really add to the club and greatly improve the asset. Big thanks must go out to all the members who have made this happen and will give their time to help with the renovations.

NZ surfers have been performing exceptionally over the last few months with Richardo Christie and Billy Stairmand close to qualifying for the WCT. A couple more good results could see more Kiwis on the world stage. It is a huge feat for the guys to qualify for the WCT with hundreds of hopefuls contesting all the events. Unfortunately for Kiwi surfer's, sponsorship is always a struggle and it is extremely expensive to do even the Qualifying Series. To surf at this level you need to be able to focus entirely on your surfing and without some serious support this is not an option for most who must make big sacrifices to try to achieve their dreams.

Paige Hareb has one event left at Honolua bay on Maui. Unfortunately Paige has had a hard year and it looks like she will drop off the elite tour next year unless she wins the last contest. She will have to do the Qualifying Series again next year to try and regain her place on the Dream Tour. Paige's first year on the Dream Tour was 2009 so she has had six years which has been a great achievement and I am sure she will want to get back on the Tour really badly. Wishing her luck in the last contest of the year. By the time this TOM issue appears all will be decided - go Kiwi's.

Contest wise in Taranaki there will be the summer series events so keep your eyes open for Facebook and email notifications. So far I haven't seen any dates but this should be advertised soon. The NZ Home Loans Series final round has been postponed twice due to unfavourable conditions so hopefully this can be completed and the summer contests can begin.

The NZ Surfing Nationals will be held in Piha this year starting early January.

Surfing NZ has also announced they will be hosting 'The Ultimate Waterman Series' commencing early next year. 'The Ultimate Waterman' is a search to find the world's best all round waterman, with invited contestants gathering in New Zealand to compete in eight different disciplines over two weeks.

The competition features body surfing, paddle boards, waka

ama, long boards, short boards and extreme tow-in surfing. Locations will be selected on the day for optimal conditions, with athletes flown in by helicopter."

Friday nights at the club are in full swing so come on down and get in the water or just have a drink and BBQ, everyone welcome.

*Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders.*

*President: John Shewry, 027 252 9190*

*Secretary: Paul Lobb 06 75 27556*

*Gary Bruckner, Surf Coaching, 021-119-6218*



**Local children enjoying themselves on opening night with Paul Tito.**



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# NPOB Junior Surf Club

Junior Surf has started up for the 2014/2015 season. Our registration day was a great success with over 40 new families registering on the day and the majority of families from the previous year registering again.

If you happened to miss our registration day but are keen to find out more about surf club, turn up on Sunday mornings at 10 to find out more or see contact information below. We have a wide range of activities, rain or shine. Parents, be assured that your child will be getting a variety of surf safety tips to keep them and their friends safe this summer while enjoying physical activity. No matter their age, your child will learn essential skills, safety and confidence, to help them be safe in our fantastic coastal environment.

Our Junior Surf mornings are well planned, with plenty of action and a variety of exciting activities. We teach the importance of identifying dangers on the beach and simple tips to help our members stay safe. Rookies and Cadets (10-13yrs) extend on these activities and include surf swims, paddle boards and lifeguarding skills. These older club members are encouraged to not only develop their own abilities, but be positive and supportive team members and role models for the younger members.

Our first Sunday session saw 70 hardy children (and their even harder parents) heading to the beach in what was not overly pleasant conditions. The cold wind and messy seas did little to dampen their enthusiasm however as they were put through their paces. Fun games, beach flags, sprints and run wade run relays were completed by everyone. After all that energy was expended they still had enough in the tank for the final sprint of the day to the hot showers and sausages awaiting them.

It was great to see such enthusiasm, the smiles on the children's faces and the number of parents prepared to help on the day. Being a family friendly environment, we welcome all positive parent involvement whether you have any knowledge of surf club or not.

Our primary role for NPOB club is to keep the beach safe



and prevent injuries and drownings. You may have noticed – that despite not really being ideal swimming weather yet – our lifeguards have started their weekend patrols. Please feel free to talk to the lifeguards at the beach if you have any queries or concerns and remember to swim between the flags at all times!

If you think you would be keen to learn more about Junior Surf please contact Nova Robinson on 0275218200 or [npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz)



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|------------------------------|--------|
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| Children                     | \$2.00 |
| Spectators                   | \$1.00 |
| Adult with child under 8 yrs | \$2.00 |

### "Learn to swim lessons"

5 lessons, 12th - 16th January and again, 19th - 23rd January.  
Registrations essential.

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



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

# Local Design Firm Wins National Award

TGM Design owner, Andrea Leadbetter says, "Receiving a Speciality Award for print and design is recognition of our values and goals as a design firm to produce bespoke solutions for clients. Julia has shown a unique approach to meeting the client brief and has taken a basic product and created something beautiful and exciting."



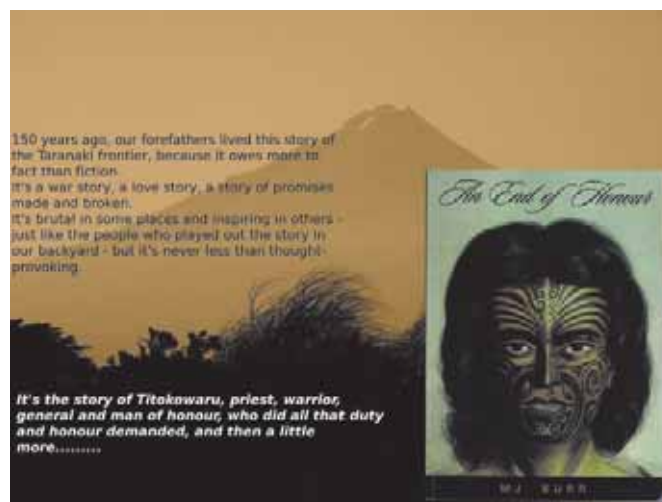
Designer Julia Berry looking over her award winning design.

**Project Brief:** The client required a diary that was functional, fun and consistent with their brand. It was important to the client that their youthful target demographic liked the diary and would continue to use it. They required a cost effective full colour product so True Press Printing was chosen to complete the project.

**Criteria:** This is the design for a special/bespoke product printed through our Guru Service. Products that are so customer specific and personalised that we cannot fit them into the standard PDC range - amazing print runs that are really special.

Judges, with 30 years of design experience between them, commented: "We were blown away by the designers ability to take something as mundane as a diary and handbook and turn it into a exciting and interactive print product. The great use of colour coding sections, well laid out diary days, easy to read complex information and the amazing double fold cover to keep you up to date throughout the year. We could see that the client brief was met and their expectations were exceeded. A truly great design that shows even the most practical print piece had become a master-piece."

# An End of Honour



'An End of Honour' is a novel of Titokowaru's War by Oakura author and historian Michael Burr.

Now in its second edition, this is the story of a genuine New Zealand hero and one of our finest generals as he struggles to find a way of leading his people to accept with honour colonist land-hunger and the inevitability of land loss, because "...if one has no honour, one has nothing...". Set in Taranaki during the mid-1860s, most of the action takes place only an hour's drive down SH3, and even less down the Surf Highway.

Reviewer comments include "...a story that owes more to fact than fiction..."; "...a good yarn, well-written..."

(Taranaki Daily News);

"Colonial NZ is vividly brought to life in this story of a complex, dangerous and thought-provoking world..."

(Rotorua Daily Post).

'An End of Honour' is available in both e-book and print form. Contact the author at 7527 501; [mjb1@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mjb1@paradise.net.nz) or visit his website at [www.mjburr.wordpress.com](http://www.mjburr.wordpress.com) to read more about the book and download a free sample.

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 and views.



# Dance School Recital

The Val Deakin Dance School will have its annual Dance School Recital on December 6 and 7 at the Dance Centre in New Plymouth. Students from the New Plymouth, Hawera and Oakura studios will perform many dances in a range of dance techniques including ballet, jazz, tap, character and contemporary dance. There are over 65 performers who range in age from 4 to 60+! There will be a wonderful range of music and some lovely and colourful costumes to suit the story and abstract dances on display.

There are several Oakura residents performing in the Recital. They include Hana and Lia Barton, Gemma Wright and Catherine Reilly-Leadbetter (who come to New Plymouth for classes) and from the Oakura studio – Tylah Alders, Gabriella Brady, Helena Rollins, Reija Treacy-Wolnik and Lily Coutanche. Unfortunately for us, Imogen Webber, who is also in the dance, is away the weekend of the Recital.

Tickets for the three performances can be obtained by phoning 752 7743 (after 9:30 am).



Shelley Prestney, Inge Vink, Emma Ries, Laura Sommerville. Cinderella Seasons Ballet at the Dance Centre.

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**Thursday**

Alignment Class 9.15am - open class

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# Riding for the Disabled

## – AN OASIS IN THE BUSH

One wet day (not unusual was it!) in November I visited the Riding for the Disabled Group for the first time and was very surprised by how beautiful the location was.

They are located just off Poplar Grove on Alba St amidst native forest and well established trees, gardens and arena. The horses graze along Barrett Domain for which the group has a grazing licence from NPDC. It is a very tranquil and inspiring place.

Riding for the Disabled is a national charity whose core purpose is to provide interaction with horses for children and adults with physical, intellectual, emotional and social challenges and to develop increased ability, independence and self esteem.

The New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled branch has a long history and is one of the biggest branches in New Zealand. The group traces its history back to Omata and the property of a Zym Machnacki (property just outside the New Plymouth boundary above the Herekawe Stream). He ran the Carpathian Riding School more than 40 years ago from this property and following his death left a bequest that has helped establish the Riding for the Disabled – an endeavour Zym was passionate about and many others like him who understood the therapeutic benefits of horse riding. In 1981 land was acquired from the Council at Barrett's Domain and fundraising was carried out to fence, build an arena, stables and develop the pastures. The RDA was officially opened on 30 October 1982 by the Deputy Mayor Mr Ron Barclay. The group has continued to grow since that day.

An independent committee is responsible for running the charity and it complies with the NZRDA operating standards and values. Volunteers provide much needed assistance with the horses, the children, the grounds and administration. Local businesses and families have also provided much needed funding through sponsorship and community grants. Each of the nine horses has an individual sponsor and the contributions from sponsors help meet the regular costs of looking after these horses. Many of the business sponsors have been involved for a very long time – 25 years and currently there are 11 business sponsors.

### LET'S MEET THE HORSES.

Each of the horses has an 'interesting' past and unique personality to which the riders are matched. The oldest horse is Maiden (23 years), there's also Smudge, Deanna, Cricket, Buddy, Toby, Muddy, Pippin and Peggy. None of them appreciated the wet weather the day I visited!

### LET'S MEET THE VOLUNTEERS.

Probably could say each has an 'interesting' past and unique personality to which the horses and children are matched! There are more than 35 volunteers so I'll just profile a handful!

Elizabeth Chapman is the Patron and has been involved in RDA for 33 years and has held every position on the committee except Treasurer and has been on the National Council for NZRDA for six years.



**Volunteers at the Riding for Disabled. Left to right: Merle Troy, Judith Heeley, Angela Sands, Elizabeth Chapman, Dave Chapman, Jenny Pool.**

Merle Troy is the Head Coach and has been involved since 1997 and Head Coach for four years. Merle manages the programme and mentors the volunteers. All riders are assessed by Merle and Fran and then an individual riding programme set for each rider.

Angela Sands is the Assistant Coach and has been involved since February 2014. Her job is to work with the horses, manage the riding programme and mentor the volunteers. She is currently training to meet the NZRDA qualification.

Judith Heeley is the Vice President of the committee and has been involved since 2003. She is known as the 'horse woman' and has been riding (and still does) horses for most of her life on 80 years! Apparently she is the comedian in the group also (possibly one of many)!

Jenny Pool has been involved as a volunteer for about 18 months. She wanted to be around horses after a long absence but without having to own a horse and RDA satisfies that need. Smudge is her favourite horse.

All of the volunteers have a desire to help make a difference in the lives of others and along the way they get enormous personal satisfaction. The smiles, feedback and comments from the riders and their families make it very worthwhile. A volunteer working with the children or horses needs to have a good empathy for disabled children and or horses, a reasonable level of physical fitness (the walking tracks are long and varied) or if not this then administration, fundraising skills, or cleaning tack, doing gardening but generally a desire to work within a group of caring people – age no barrier.

Unfortunately I didn't get to meet any of the riders because the day's session was cancelled due to the weather. There are 64 riders with a waiting list for further riders.

Riders are referred to the school by health professionals and each rider is assessed by therapist Fran Newsome. A goal plan is formulated and reassessed along the way for each rider. Some riders have low needs, some have moderate needs and others are more physically disabled. Their goals may be strengthening of muscles and more control of muscles by being led on a horse or they may be able to canter independently and jump small hurdles or they may just socialise with a horse.

Many different groups of people are associated with the school such as medical students (physiotherapists, occupational therapists) and Gateway students studying towards their equine certificates.



I have discovered that RDA is definitely not a group of people taking kids for a nice stroll around on a pony but rather a highly dedicated group of volunteers who are providing a very specific and enriching therapeutic equestrian programme to children (and adults) with a wide range of disabilities. While everyone does have fun in the multifaceted facility, no one loses sight of the end goal of rehabilitation.

There are many ways we as a community can be involved and the school would love your help: be a volunteer – fundraising personnel, horse skills, children skills, cleaning,



A bedraggled bunch of horses waiting for the weather to clear.

and gardening or through sponsorship. If you have a spare hour or two each week that's all it takes. You can leave bequests to the RDA or make regular donations. They have 2015 calendars for sale for \$10.

Contact the RDA on phone 7513601, postal P O Box 5015, email [newplymouth@rda.org.nz](mailto:newplymouth@rda.org.nz) or Jenny Pool at [jennydave@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennydave@xtra.co.nz) or drop into the school on Alba St.

The school is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – school term from 8.30am to 1.00pm.

By Kim Ferens



The arena and waiting area.

## Crop Swap

We are quickly coming to our last crop swap of the year which will be on December lucky 13. Dee Turner, lecturer at WITT will be speaking on permaculture. So if Crop Swap Oakura is something you've been meaning to do please join us at 4 pm at St James Church Hall. This should be a good one! A few of us are away over summer so if Aileen or Mary decide to run a swap in January they will let you know on Facebook, email, or, if you are not on our contact radar, you will need to watch out for a poster at the 4 Square notice board. Probiotics, as a show and tell topic at November 8th's swap drew a good crowd with lots of stories to tell and things to show. As well as stakes for the garden, seedlings and some veges, kAfrs and sour dough's were present. The idea of ingesting these foods that team with beneficial bacteria and yeasts is that you keep a healthy gut because they start to grow in it. This is the idea of probiotics.

A healthy gut flora lessens the chances of bad bugs growing just through competition for space! The acidity level is also changed by good bacteria and so inhibits bad bacteria. Gut microbes produce enzymes that we don't. These enzymes help us to digest food. If we cannot digest certain foods we don't get food value out of them.



Keen swappers trying probiotics.



Willie Klever, enthusiastic to share news at November 8 Crop Swap about what she called her flowering "penis lily." Apparently it has a pretty flower but smells like a dead horse unless you perform surgery and cut off the long, sticking up appendage. People were warmly invited to come and view her handiwork!

(That is just tooooo scary.)

We may even get an aggravated gut and exhibit allergies. Bugs add bulk so their cells add to dietary fibre in keeping you regular. Vitamin K and some B vitamins come directly from gut flora so we need to think about keeping our gut healthy and restocked, especially after a course of antibiotics. If you are not really into these hippy type SCOBYS, symbiotic communities of bacteria and yeast, you can just buy probiotic powder or yummy chewy probiotic tablets from the health food shop. We are so lucky to have antibiotics and having access to them is fantastic. I would never suggest to anyone to ignore a doctor's advice to take an antibiotic. I would always however encourage someone to restock their gut afterwards, or even at the same time if you have enough time delay between doses, with a probiotic.

Being proactive when well by taking a probiotic to keep your system healthier is a good idea. It was great to see so many different home grown varieties of probiotic at the crop swap. Happy holidays! Stay well and have fun in the garden this summer.

Nathalie Pronk-Jones.

# Holy Guacamole

– WE ARE STILL HERE!

It's hard to believe it's been nearly a year since we opened our hatch for the first time! Even though we had planned on being closed for the winter, a very kind offer from Ash at the BP meant we had a place for the winter. Well that, as well as the fact that several people pleaded with us to remain open! This summer will be a little different (no sadly we're not talking continuous fine weather and light winds) as we have a few new additions to what we will be offering.



**The spot to find a great Mexican feed  
– healthy and delicious.**

We will be opening again on the beach at our normal location from the 13th December. On that weekend we will again offer \$10 Burritos as well as having an opening night celebration with music, face painting for the kids and a few other treats!

We will also be changing our hours this summer. On the weekends we will be open for breakfast from 8.30am-11am. We will be serving up breakfast burritos, sweet and savoury quesadillas, smoothie bowls and fresh fruit and vegetable juices. What is also exciting is that you can also enjoy an expertly made espresso coffee just a matter of metres away at our good mate Francois's new venture, 'High Tide' a custom made coffee and baked goods caravan. In the evening we will resume service from 5-9pm offering all your usual favourites.

The days we are open will now be fixed, Wednesday-Sunday, rain, hail or shine. We will continue to take phone orders, but due to the complexities of cell phone coverage, only one number will be serviceable which is 0212051406.

We're really pumped for the upcoming season, we have t-shirts printed, new menu items planned and select special events in the pipeline!

Thanks to all those who have continued to support us in our little green venture.

Gracias,  
*Isaac and Cathi*

# Great Photographs Result in a Trip to Cyprus

Local Oakura student Joe Wagstaff (11 years) from Omata School and his family - dad Robert, mum Tracey and younger brother Miles have just returned from a trip to Europe including Cyprus to which Joe won an all expenses paid adventure as a Young Reporter for the Environment in the Wrigley's Litter-less Campaign.

Joe was the only student from Taranaki to travel to Cyprus along with delegates from Wellington, Tauranga and Auckland. 70 delegates from Portugal, France, Montenegro, Malta, Romania and New Zealand met in Nicosia the capital of Cyprus for a four day workshop.



**From left, Billie, Lizzy, Victoria, Joe, Michael  
and Meg. The New Zealand group pose beside  
the YRE banner.**

Joe tells us of his experience:

***Perhaps if we start with a short introduction on how  
you won the trip - the photos and their meaning.***

I was told about four days before the entries were to be entered that the competition was low on entries from NZ and that there was a high chance of winning the prize of going overseas. I decided to do the photography entry and produced in the end a strip of eight photos involving litter around the school. My main thought of the strip was our goal, and tried to show what we wanted to achieve here at Omata.

***How did it feel to win a trip to Cyprus and what is your  
interest in: Photography; Environmental issues like  
rubbish and recycling?***

I was told that I had won the trip about a month later (when I'd almost forgotten that I had entered) in front of



the school and parents of students in our weekly assembly. I couldn't let off too much excitement but I had an uncontrollable smile and didn't know what to say. I have quite a bit of interest in photography and I feel a good feeling whenever I take a good, professional looking photo. I don't know about it as a job but I think taking photos and making videos of the enviro situation to open people's eyes would be cool.



**Photo taken from top of 7th century castle looking onto Girne (Kyrenia) harbour North Cyprus.**

***What are your impressions of Cyprus and would you go back there again?***

Definitely go back again. I loved the heat, food, culture and feel of the city, Nicosia, where we were staying and did most of our conference work. I guess after going to the workshop I did notice the rubbish, but it all seemed to be pushed away in the corners. Not piled up or anything but it was there. Cyprus is also half Turkish controlled and half Greek. There is actually a patrolled wall that you can walk up to and touch but not cross without your passport.

***Describe your experience being involved in the four day workshop - The fellow students you worked with; The locals you were involved with; The organisers/co-ordinators/speakers of the workshop.***

All of the students that won the trip were all really awesome fun and keen to know about NZ! Most countries can speak English now so it was easy to talk and communicate with them. They were all around the 13-17 year old range but there were a couple of 22 year olds and a 12 year old girl. We weren't involved with many locals but they were keen to talk to us. The main organiser, Michael Lerides was very cool. He was good to talk to and he seemed like a father to all of us kids. Haha. He would be taking videos of us and putting on music, buying us food. Lots of food!

***Could you tell us about the area/city you stayed in and how did it differ from Oakura?***

It's a very pedestrian-friendly place. All the cars drive slowly around people and there are lots of walking only areas like all the shops. That meant all us kids could walk off and buy food or shop in our free time. We had lots of free time in the afternoons also.

***Tell us some interesting facts about Cyprus that we probably wouldn't know.***

Half of the island is Turkish and the other half is Greek. This is because the two countries are very close but neither

are connected. The Turkish side is so so so much different from the Greek side in many ways. All the buildings look different, different language, different food and different religion. Though one thing they have in common is that there are lots of cats - everywhere. Some are sick and hungry but others are healthy and looking for food.

***What have learnt about environmental issues such as littering, recycling?***

That there are lots of organisations that are set on getting rid of the rubbish and litter and together they cover all the bases. There are ones set on marine litter which is very serious everywhere because it can travel very far in the water. They also focus on litter in streets and landfills.

***How does Cyprus compare with Oakura/Taranaki/New Zealand? Is there something you learnt in Cyprus that we could change here?***

Definitely all the pedestrian areas. I think it would be awesome to have some part of Oakura to be made into a space for everyone. Maybe the road that goes along the beach by the skatepark and campsite.

***What would you recommend about Cyprus and why?***

The heat! If you love hot weather like me the heat there is awesome. It's not heavy and it goes through the evening so it's nice and comfortable. And everywhere in Cyprus there is air conditioning if you need to escape. And free WiFi everywhere too!

***What was your favourite experience in Cyprus?***

Swimming in the sea. Some beaches are blue and flat like glass and some have nice swells for surfing and others just totally smash you, if you like that.

***What sort of food did you eat and did you enjoy it?***

There is lots of pork and lamb over there and also nice desserts that are sweet and satisfying and also healthy - said the guy!

***Has your trip changed how you view littering and do you think environmental issues will be something you continue to be interested in in the future?***

I don't know if I'll focus my career and life on it but it could be a good hobby to have and do.

*By Kim Ferens*



**The YRE group after their rubbish count at blue flag beach Agia Thekla South Cyprus.**



## Introducing our new Six Course Tasting Menu

Six Courses - \$60p/p

I

Fresh Kia Ora King Salmon Tartare atop  
Wakame Salad, Honey Mustard Dressing,  
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II

Free Range Chicken & Forest Mushroom  
Ravioli with Truffle Butter

III

Pan Seared Scallops atop  
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IV

Earl Grey Sorbetto

V

Cutlet of High Country Venison, Smoked  
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Dauphine

VI

Strawberry "Eaton Mess"

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## Three Course Lunch Special

\$30p/p

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Croutons, Micro Greens

Or

House Smoked Field Mushroom,  
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Petite Salad

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Cous Cous Salad, Bois Boudran Sauce

Or

Hawkes Bay Lamb, Aubergine & Haloumi  
Cannelloni, Slow Roasted Tomato,  
Pumpkin Chutney

### *To Finish*

Strawberry "Eaton Mess"

Or

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# Eye Popping Pop Up Shop

– PETAL PUSHER FLOWERS AND COCO T HOME DECOR

On Okato's main street just along from the Café is a delightful little shop selling a huge range of home décor items, fresh flowers and plants.

The pop up shop will only be in the village till the end of December and is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

The shop is collaboration between Pip Jones from Petal Pusher Flowers and Rachelle Tapara from CocoT – the stylish entertainer, an online website that has been up and running for 18 months.

CocoT – the stylish entertainer is a range of home décor items of superior quality and features New Zealand and Australian brands such as Pony Rider, General Eclectic, Karlsson, Lumiere Art & Co.

You will find inspiring crockery, glassware, tableware, clocks, mats, lamps, candles, poufs, fouta towels, posters, ornaments, pots and bags to name a few. All the items are contemporary designs and colours.

Without a doubt a great place to buy Christmas gifts, birthday presents, wedding presents, treats for yourself or the finishing touch to your own home makeover.

Petal Pusher Flowers has been running from Pip Jones's rural studio for two years and is growing steadily. The opportunity to take up a casual lease within the Okato village has proven to be a great opportunity to expand clientele and have a place where people can come and smell and touch the flowers. With a focus on wedding and event flowers Petal Pusher can put the wow factor into your upcoming celebration. With a variety of sweet smelling flowers and floral arrangements, terrariums, potted orchids and house plants, the flowers are a riot of colour and Pip will make to order any bouquet that you require.

Fresh flowers are coming in all the time so either give Petal Pusher Flowers a call and talk through your options or drop in and discuss your requirements – whether they be a wedding, a special celebration, a funeral or a gift.

Call in and enjoy a refreshing browse through some very delightful and tasteful homewares, flowers, plants and gifts.

[petalpusherflowers.co.nz](http://petalpusherflowers.co.nz) or [cocot.co.nz](http://cocot.co.nz)

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gifts,  
flowers and  
homewares.

# Oakura School Leavers

What secondary school are you going to?

What was the highlight of your time at Oakura School?

Future aspirations?



**HAMISH GOODHUE:**

New Plymouth Boys High School  
Camp Wellington  
To be a singer songwriter.



**CHARLIE WAITE**

Francis Douglas Memorial College.  
Becoming Head Pupil and being able to lead school assemblies.  
I want to meet Xavi, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar (professional footballers) and play a match against them all.



**LACHIE WHITE**

New Plymouth Boys High School.  
Geocamp and leadership opportunities.  
Work in the field of science.



**JADE WILLIAMS**

New Plymouth Girls High School  
Camp Wellington.  
To break in wild horses.



**ANNA NEWTON**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
Knowing almost everyone at one school.  
Becoming a doctor or a nurse.



**OLIVIA WHITEHEAD**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
National Young Leaders Day.  
I would like to become a musician.



**PORTIA ROPER**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
Having so many opportunities and having everyone include you in everything.  
I would like to be a zookeeper.



**SKYLER ELLINGTON**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
The people/friends.  
Unknown.



**FINN VAN BERGEN**

New Plymouth Boys High School.  
Activity week.  
I want to become a genetic engineer.



**MATTHEW WHITTAKER**

New Plymouth Boys High School.  
This was activity week because I got to participate in experiences outside of the classroom.



**PHILLIPPA MARSHALL**

Spotswood College.  
Activity week in year 7.  
To become a makeup artist.



**JIMMY ELLIS**

New Plymouth Boys High School.  
I had the most fun when we went to Camp Wellington.  
I want to go to university and then own my own business.



**KAIA MEAD**

Spotswood College.  
Being a Kapa haka leader and Activity Week.  
To become a welder.



**JORDAN BURKETT**

New Plymouth Boys High School.  
Camp Wellington.  
To go into the army and become an architect.



**JADE MAULDER**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
Camp Wellington, Art and Activity week.  
Work with animals.



**SAMANTHA SKURR**

New Plymouth Girls High School.  
Camp Wellington and Activity Week.  
Early childhood teacher or a Nurse.



**HENRI LEHRKE**

Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Being able to compete in the AIMS Games.

To do well in my football and become a house designer.

**GEORGE CLARKE**

New Plymouth Boys High School

Going to Tauranga to compete in the AIMS Games.

To be a famous sailor or scriptwriter.

**ELI GOODKIND**

New Plymouth Boys High School.

Activity Week.

Software Engineer.

**ALEX CRAIG**

Spotswood College.

Being an Environment Leader.

To become a pilot.

**BEN GILTRAP**

New Plymouth Boys High School.

School Rugby tournaments.

I want to be an Astronaut.

**JACOB WOODMAN**

Spotswood College.

Camp Wellington.

To be a Scientist.

**HENRY BREDIN**

New Plymouth Boys High School.

Camp Wellington.

Go to University.

# Oakura Playcentre

**BOWLS, FRIJOLES AND ROLES**

Bowling and Mexican food recently made the Oakura Playcentre AGM a lively affair.

A great turnout of parents enjoyed celebrating the successes of the recent year over ten pin bowling and a substantial feast at New Plymouth's Mexico Restaurant.

Highlights of the year have included the "Love An Area" initiative which has seen the Science and Family areas revitalised; creation of the Secret Garden with musical pagoda; fairytale feasts; a trip to Parihaka Marae; a Teddy Bears' Picnic at Pukeiti; a trip to see the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter; and Playball sessions with Coach Mike.

The last few months have also seen an increase in the number of tamariki. President Maryanne Rossiter Bennett exclaims "What a year of blooming bellies and bonny babies! Oakura Playcentre has never seen such a lot of gorgeous babies born in such a short time. What a lovely thing it will be for these babies to grow up together".

We are excited about the year ahead, as old and new families continue to work and play together.

*Angela Veric, Public Relations Officer*

752 1300/027 6345 543, [angela.veric@gmail.com](mailto:angela.veric@gmail.com)



**Sienna Bennett and Phoebe Bennett enjoying the sun at our Teddy Bears' Picnic at Pukeiti.**

PHOTOS BY ABI HACKLING.



**Two of our more recent additions, Liam Bennett and Max Veric making friends.**

**G.S. Lindsay**

(GRIMBO)

PAINTER PAPERHANGER

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A/HOURS: 06 752 1113

## COMING EVENTS

### December

- 18 Prize-giving 11am.  
School year finishes 12pm.

### February 2015

- 2 Open for enrolments, stationery lists and sales,  
8am - 2pm.  
3 Term 1 begins.  
6 Waitangi Day.  
11 Beach Education years 4-8,  
East End Surf/Lifesaving Club.  
12 BBQ and Information Evening, 5:30-7:30pm.



## Omata School Leavers

What school are you going to next year?

What has been the highlight of your time at Omata School?

What are your aspirations for the future?



### ISAAC GLENNY

Spotswood College.  
Working with Karen Humphries and having brain breaks.  
Not sure yet.



### JOSH GILMOUR

Spotswood.  
Wellington camp – Government House, Parliament, photo challenge through the city.  
Technology - computer programming.



### CALLUM ASTWOOD

Spotswood.  
Lead Ambassador.  
Be an engineer.



### KATELYN CHAPMAN

Spotswood.  
Music with Jan.  
Hairdresser.



### KIARA FARMER

Spotswood.  
Lead Ambassador.  
Something to do with animals



### MAX HAYWARD

Spotswood.  
Wellington camp - staying at the cabins with my friends.  
Computer game designer.



### CHRIS HOBSON

Spotswood.  
Wellington camp – everything about it.  
Super kids in Mrs Barleyman's class and the big day out.  
Writer/lawyer or involved in games workshop.



### LEO LISTER

NPBHS.  
Going to coastal athletics and hanging out with my mates.  
Create a skate business with Joe Wagstaff.



### JACKSON MESSANA-PIGOTT

NPBHS.  
I am going to miss being in a multi gender school and I am going to miss having a playground.  
Hoping to go to Greece and go to IT school and get a degree.



### OLIVER SCOTT

Spotswood.  
Productions - Curry Bean.  
Work at Weta Workshop - sculpting.



### WILLOW SMITH

NPGHS.  
Going on the school trips and camps - Auckland for Marimba.  
Vet.



### JOE WAGSTAFF

NPBHS.  
Room 6 - all my friends in my class, trip to Cyprus.  
Have a skate shop with Leo or architect or builder.

ohb

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# IED The Lifting Centre Ltd Oakura New Year's Day Carnival

**OAKURA BEACH 1ST JANUARY 2015 11AM START**

Join us, to start 2015, on the mega water slide at Taranaki's New Year's Day Carnival at Oakura Beach. At least twenty metres long, it'll be heaps of fun for kids of all ages - and their parents. The IED The Lifting Centre Oakura New Year's Day Carnival has been able to secure great entertainment for the day.



Tom Batchelor, X Factor favourite, wanted to come back to Taranaki to headline the stage acts. The acts include Blistered Fingers and Plain Motion from NPBHS.

FMX freestyle motocross professional riders Nick Franklin and

Luke Price will also feature performing tricks mid-air that will wow the crowd and are the aerobatics that have given these stars license to ride with Nitro Circus and the Crusty Demons. Nick is keen to show off some of his tricks that have him keep touring the world as a Red Bull X Fighter.

Old favourites like the Little Miss Taranaki and Mr Muscles contests for under 10 year olds are back, and there'll be The Great Big Dig, helicopter rides and plenty of food options, from kebabs to ice cream as well as an array of retail stalls.

Admission is free, with a gold coin donation being gratefully received.

"We are excited to be able to offer the carnival again to children, families and wider Taranaki community and we also hope that through the generous donations we are able to give back and support groups that practice within our



community," says one of the organisers, Sara Greensill-van Prehn.

Volunteers who will help out on that day – for just one hour – will receive free lunch!

People attending will also be encouraged to help the community by buying a ticket, or tickets, in the quick fire raffles that will run on the day.

**ADMISSION** - free (gold coin donation)

Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/oakurabeachcarnival](https://facebook.com/oakurabeachcarnival).



# Spotswood College



Term IV has been extraordinarily busy as we have formally celebrated student achievement through the year at the following prizegiving ceremonies:-

Sports Prizegiving

Senior Prizegiving

Senior Maori Students Graduation

International Students Graduation

Vocational Pathways and Gateway Prizegiving Luncheon

These events are wonderful occasions to acknowledge the hard work and success of our students across the areas of academic, sporting, cultural, art and leadership pursuits.

The joy of teaching is seeing the learning and progress our young people make in a year and celebrating that progress with them and their families.

After five years it is extremely satisfying to farewell our Year 13 students as they pursue their next step in life equipped and ready for the challenges and excitement of adulthood.

Our 2014 Dux Sarah Messenger summarises her Spotswood College journey below:

I have attended Spotswood College for the past 5 years and I have enjoyed being part of the Spotswood community of students and teachers who have all encouraged and supported me, enabling me to achieve my goals. I have loved being a member of concert band, playing flute and I also play piano, achieving grade 6 with distinction. I have been studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus and French and thank my teachers for all their help, wisdom and time which has allowed me to excel in these subjects. I was lucky enough to be selected to attend NanoCamp and the Aurora Astronomy School this year. Both camps have inspired me to pursue a career in science. I am both sad and excited to be leaving school and facing the next step of



Left, Ashlin McAlpine (Proxime Accessit) and on the right, Sarah Messenger (Dux).

studying at Victoria University. I intend to study Applied Physics and Biotechnology and someday I would love to be working at the cutting edge of these fields in order to make a difference in the world.



Kiara Quirante (Head Girl) Luke Abbott (Head Boy)

## 2015 PREFECTS:

At our Senior Prizegiving we announced our Prefects for next year.

### Females

Erin Barrett, Deputy Head Girl  
Jannaha Henry, Deputy Head Girl  
Joanne Cummings Niamh Kelly  
Aimee Kopeke Akisi Naumotu  
Libby Needs Siany O'Brien  
Taryn O'Donnell Jennifer Reidy  
Olivia Smith

### Males

Jayden Monaghan, Deputy Head Boy  
Mahana Nathan, Deputy Head Boy  
Lachlan Brewster Brandon Clarke  
Matthew Hufton Matthew Reed

## 2015 TERMS AND HOLIDAYS:

**Term 1** Monday 2 February – Thursday 2 April  
Waitangi Day Friday 6 February  
Anniversary Day Monday 9 March

### In holidays

Good Friday Friday 3 April  
Easter Monday Monday 6 April  
Easter Tuesday Tuesday 7 April

**Term 2** Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July  
ANZAC Day Saturday 25 April  
ANAZC Day – "Mondayised" will mean that Monday 27 April will be a Public Holiday  
Queens Birthday Monday 1 June



**Term 3** Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

**Term 4** Monday 12 October – Monday 14 December  
Labour Day Monday 26 October

**Note:** that with the "Mondayisation" of ANZAC Day we will need to remain open on Monday December 14th.

**The start-up dates will follow other years**

Week O – Week beginning 26 January  
Staff Only Day – 30 January

Week 1 – Monday 2 February – Y9/13 begin  
Tuesday 3 February – Y9/13 & Y11/12  
Wednesday 4 February – All Students  
Thursday 5 February – All Students  
Friday 6 February – Waitangi Day

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, a wonderful New Year and a safe and relaxing holiday.

*Mark Bowden, Principal*



## New Plymouth Boys' High School

We have had a wonderful year and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. We look forward to another year even more than the break!!!!

The following two boys were our top academics in 2014

### CHARLIE BOON

Charlie Boon is the NPBHS proxime accessit for 2014.

In 2012 Charlie gained his NCEA Level 1 Certificate with an Excellence endorsement and was the top student in his year group. In 2013 he gained his NCEA Level 2 certificate with an Excellence endorsement, the highest aggregate score and gained individual Excellence endorsements in all six subjects that he entered for and was duly rewarded with an Academic Tiger Jacket in Year 13. In 2014 he is studying level 3 Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Economics.

Charlie who was also the Head Boy for 2014, is an extremely hard working and self-disciplined young man and has a big future.

### THOMAS SPENCER

Thomas Spencer is the NPBHS Dux for 2014. As a student in Year 13 he is studying 13 Biology, 13 Chemistry, 13 English, 13 Physics and 13 Mathematics with Statistics.

Thomas entered NCEA Level 1 in 2012 gaining 166 credits and a NCEA Level 1 Certificate, with an Excellence endorsement.

He entered NCEA Level 2 in 2013 gaining 159 credits and a NCEA Level 2 Certificate, with an Excellence endorsement.

During his schooling at New Plymouth Boys' High School



Thomas gained numerous academic awards and accolades. In Year 9, he was placed second overall and was top student in English, History and Mathematics. He also was placed second overall in the Methanex Taranaki Maths Fair. In Year 10, he was top student in Economics, Latin and Technology and gained a Distinction in the ICAS Maths Exam. In Year 11, at school, he was the top student in Latin and Mathematics, gaining the highest number of Excellence credits in his year group and receiving the Hatherly Memorial Prize. He gained Level 1 certificate with an Excellence endorsement in English, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics and Science. In Year 12, Thomas was placed third overall and was top student in Biology, Chemistry, English and Latin. He gained Level 2 certificate with an Excellence endorsement in Biology, Chemistry, English, Latin, Mathematics and Physics.

Tom is well-known for outdoor pursuits, especially adventure racing which explains his inner discipline to succeed.

*Mr Michael McMenamin, Headmaster*

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# Amy Benton

## – AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

Local Oakura student Amy Benton has been named Head Girl of New Plymouth Girls High School – an outstanding achievement, well done Amy, you are a great role model for all young girls in our community. We talk with Amy about her time at NPGHS



Amy in the centre, with deputy head girl Olivia Eaton on the left and Jordyn Healy, deputy head girl on the right.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AT NPGHS

#### *In School:*

NCEA Levels 1 and 2 Endorsed with Excellence.

NPGHS year group Full Year Scholar 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

#### *Outside of School*

Attended the 2014 Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC and New York, USA.

Honorary Ambassador of New Plymouth District (as a result of above).

Selection into the National Leadership Program for SADD (Students Against Dangerous Driving).

Attended the 2014 model student Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Wellington.

Spirit of Adventure 5 Day Voyage 2012.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MY TIME AT NPGHS SO FAR

I have been lucky enough to be accelerated in my education at Girls' High, so I have been able to work one year ahead and complete NCEA Levels 1 and 2 (and hopefully 3!) a year earlier than normal. This has challenged me and really pushed me to do the best that I can; it has made me set higher standards for myself and because of this I have strived to achieve more. The accelerate program has also enabled me to study more subjects than I would otherwise have been able to as working a year ahead means that I have been able to put some subjects aside for a year and study something different, so I will have a broader base of subjects by the end of next year.

I have also been fortunate enough to have been offered several life changing experiences through NPGHS, the most significant of which was attending the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC and New York,

USA in July this year. This is undoubtedly the most incredible experience I have ever had – 280 students from all over the world came together for ten days to develop their leadership skills while discussing world issues and modelling the work that is done by organisations such as the United Nations. Here I met some of the most amazing people I will ever meet and made friends from every corner of the earth, as well as developing my skills as a leader and my understanding of some of the world's biggest issues.

### WHAT I'VE STUDIED THIS YEAR

Economics, History, Classical Studies, English, Maths and Chemistry.

#### *Studying in Year 13*

Economics, Accounting, Social Studies, Statistics and Scholarship English.

#### *Beyond School*

Hoping to study Law and Commerce at university and then move into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and hopefully travel!

### OUT OF SCHOOL INTERESTS

Sports – tennis, netball, indoor netball.

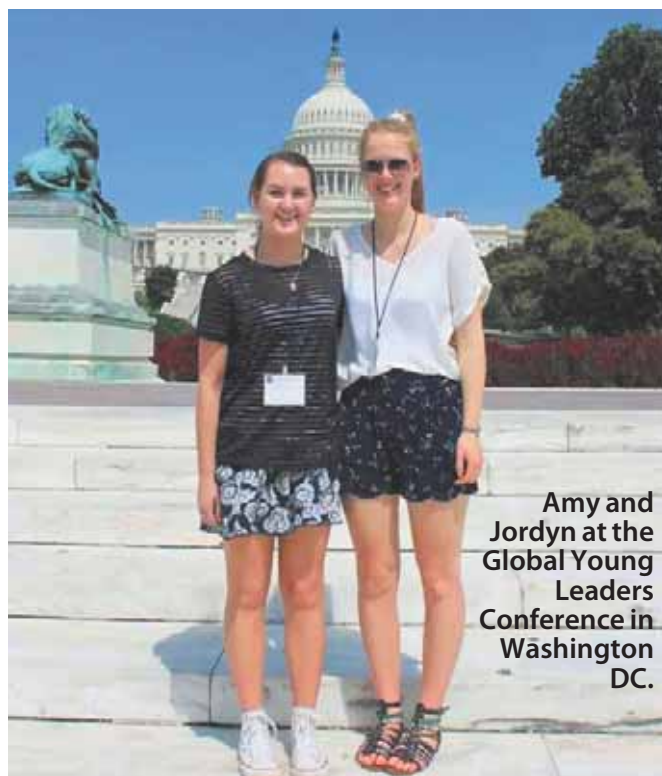
Music – piano and guitar.

What I like to do in my spare time – go to the beach, listen to music, cook/bake and spend time with friends and family.

### THOUGHTS ON 2015 AS HEAD GIRL

I am incredibly honoured to be given the role of Head Girl and am really looking forward to the opportunity to represent the school I am so proud to attend, and to be able to give back to the school in the best way – service. I will be forever grateful for all the fantastic opportunities I have had through NPGHS so far and to finish my time there as Head Girl will be a great honour. I know that 2015 will be an amazing year, I will have two great friends by my side – Jordyn Healy and Olivia Eaton as Deputy Head Girls – and I cannot wait to see what we are able to accomplish!

*By Kim Ferens*



Amy and Jordyn at the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC.



# Corbett Park Vandalism

What a disgrace! The idiots who think it is ok to come to our lovely Corbett Park and do such wanton destruction to our local facilities are not welcome in our community.

If you know who did this please contact the police and please keep an eye out if you are down at Corbett Park and see people acting suspiciously. The pictured vandalism happened on the 20th November.

*Very angry Kim Ferens*

Right, the gate post smashed out of its moorings, and below, wheelies on the grassed field.



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Email: [holli@petsittingplus.co.nz](mailto:holli@petsittingplus.co.nz)

## Local Business Directory



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## OAKURA COMMUNITY - WHAT'S ON

PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING

**Crop Swap.** Next Swap 13th December – every two weeks on Saturdays 4pm Oakura Church Hall.

**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.** Music and movement for preschoolers! Tuesdays 10am during school terms, now at St James' Hall (opp. Oakura Hall). Gold coin donation. Contact Maryanne on 06-2811197.

**Move It or Lose It - fitness classes.** Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

**Oakura Playcentre.** 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Maryanne on 06-2811197.

**Oakura Pony Club.** Contact Robin King ph 751 0300.

**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 Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

**Omata Playgroup.** Meets every Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

### WANTED TO RENT

WE ARE LOOKING for a 3 – 4 bedroom house in Oakura Village for long term professional family moving into the area from mid December.

Phone David on 0276 758 378.

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm - Ladies Midweek Competition.  
Tuesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching.  
Wednesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching / Hot Shots Tennis.  
6pm-7.30pm - Ladies practice night.  
Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm - A Grade players practice.  
Friday 4pm-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.  
Saturday 9am-4pm - Sofie Cup and A grade Competition.  
Contact Club Secretary, Jackie Mitchell on 06- 752701.

**Probus Club.** Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Barry Goble 752 7254, or Betty West 752 7816.

**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.** Pre-school dance classes are from 9:30 to 10 am and the Beginners' Ballet dance class from 10 am to 10:45 am.

**Vigor Fitness.** Tuesday and Thursdays 10am – Outdoor Pure Grit Training. Phone Aneka Carlson 021 404 642.

**Volkswagen Club.** Regular events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge.

Contact President: kirk@taranakiwv.co.nz and Secretary: bryan@taranakiwv.co.nz

**Yoga Classes.** Oakura Church Hall Monday and Thursday 9.15am. Everyone welcome. Contact Kate Evans 027 203 7215.



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## DAIRY PROPERTY INVESTMENTS



**Farm Venture** is a farm property investment and supervision company based in Taranaki with investments in Taranaki & King Country.

The main land use is with dairy cattle producing above the top 10% of productive performance in the areas farmed.

Substantial returns are achieved through increasing the productive capability which in turn creates large wealth gains and allows higher returns through a lower cost of capital.

The only persons who may subscribe for securities are persons excepted or exempted from being members of the public in terms of section 5(2CBA) of the Securities Act 1978 (NZ) (the Act).

For more info please contact Farm Venture on  
**06 758 3688 — [www.farmventure.co.nz](http://www.farmventure.co.nz)**