

A new preschool for the coastal community

Kindergarten teacher, Adrienne Wilkins and partner Ian Lyall are soon to open a private preschool on the main road of Oakura in the villa that was previously Oakura Beach Bed and Breakfast.

A survey of the Oakura and Okato communities conducted in April 2005 was extremely positive and confirmed that an early childhood facility offering high quality education and full-day hours was what our coastal community has been lacking.

The intention of the owners, who both share extensive educational backgrounds, is to create a preschool of exceptional quality to serve the coastal communities. Sophia Preschool ("Sophia" meaning wisdom) will be a place where children are respected and their well being and learning of paramount importance.

The preschool will draw inspiration from the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. The preschools in the Northern Italian town of Reggio Emilia are said to offer the very best of practice in the world today. Sophia Preschool will be embracing their exceptionally high quality programmes for the education and care of the children enrolled. This special philosophy will compliment and be interwoven with Te Whariki the early childhood curriculum for New Zealand.

There will be an emphasis on work in small groups where teachers guide



The delightful front entrance to the new Sophia Preschool.

children's own exploration and engage them in short and long-term projects.

Children can be enrolled from eight months old, but because of the specialist care this age group requires, spaces will be limited. Each infant and toddler will have a consistent caregiver to build a trusting relationship with. Resources for Infant Educare (RIE) will be the specialist philosophy utilised for this age group. Everything will be done *with* the babies not *to* them.

The refurbished villa with its old world feel and park-like established garden offers children a beautiful environment to explore and be part of. Children will be engaged in learning, communication and relationships in areas specifically designed to create a sense of wonder and curiosity. For the children's well being, the preschool will have a cosy home-like atmosphere with soft furnishings and places to retreat and rest when

necessary. Alterations are being made to create a safe environment for children that complies with Ministry of Education requirements for licensing.

For interested families and community members several open days are planned closer to opening time – these will be advertised in the *Daily News*.

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

From the Ed

Another year has got off to a flying start and here we are putting the first 2006 issue of *TOM* to print. Support for our local rag continues to flow in and more and more people outside the Oakura area enjoy reading it as well, making the whole process even more worthwhile. Long live the *TOM*!

An English tourist I met while holidaying in the Hokianga this summer told me he was enchanted with the "pioneer" feel of New Zealand. Initially I was outraged at his assumptions, but then I thought, wouldn't we rather be seen to be pioneers who live in a society where we help each other? And isn't it especially true in our own friendly neighbourhood? The *TOM* is part of that helping process and while we don't belt out stories on an old typewriter and are nearly permanently hooked up to the web, I'd be proud to say I am a pioneer.

Activity in and around Oakura escalates over the summer, with the beach the focal point. There are many comings and goings of families to the camp and beach, and it is great to see Oakura so busy. This *TOM* features many stories about the outdoors and what has been going on out and about, plus many of our regular columns.

This month we bring you the first in a series of Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) funded '*Taranaki Stories*' from Puke Ariki. These unique stories capture the history of our region and are mostly human tales of guts and glory, death and danger, peace and power, bringing to life the spirits of Taranaki to provide meaning to street signs, local spots and landmarks, and names from the past.

The first story in the series is about Lucy Stevens of Lucy's Gully fame. The tragedy of the murdered German tourist, Birgit Brauer, whose body was found at Lucy's Gully in September last year, drew the attention of the nation and the world to this peaceful and very beautiful site overlooking Oakura. This is the story of why it was named after Lucy Stevens.

tom

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

THE TEAM

Tracey Lusk, Co-ordinator 06 752 7875

Kim Ferens, Co-ordinator/Features 06 751 1519

Marion Chitty Advertising 06 752 7505

Writers: **Tammy Lewis**

Fiona Washer

Music Reviews: **Graham Donlon**

Proof reading: **Louise Norton**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**

The Oakura Messenger, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

NEWS HOTLINE 751 1519

www.tompapers.com

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

Hasn't this summer been fantastic? We've been blessed with heaps of fine, sunny weather and people from around the district (and the country) have taken the opportunity to kick back and enjoy the best lifestyle that New Zealand has to offer.

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and were able to enjoy our beaches and rivers with your friends or family during the holiday season. The weather was certainly a bit better for this New Year's Day beach carnival – congratulations again to all involved.

We have a lot of projects lined up for 2006 and the Council will need your input to help us shape them.

The Council is still working with Transit New Zealand on developing the streetscape for Oakura. The input provided by the Oakura Community Board and local residents has been invaluable so far in our efforts to get Transit to revisit their decision so this project can proceed. Yes, it will really spruce up the village, but more particularly, pedestrians will be safer! I still have hope that all parties can reach an agreement that will see common sense prevail.

The Coastal Strategy, which will determine how we manage our coastal areas for the next 20 years, will be adopted by the Council in April 2006, but there is a lot of work to be done before then. I hope you managed to check out the Coastal Strategy Community Open Day at Puke Ariki on 26 January. Remember that you have until 17 February to get your submissions into the Council – check out www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy/coastalstrategy for more information.

In the meantime, be sure to circle Monday, 20 February in your calendar – this is the community meeting for the Oakura Structure Plan consultation. It's from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Oakura Hall and I'd love to see you there so you can have your say!

Another big consultation is for the draft Community Plan 2006-2016, which will detail the next three years of Council projects and budgets (with the following seven years in outline). The draft plan will be published on 12 April and formal submissions from the public will be accepted from 12 April until 12 May. We really want to have your input on this plan – as well as all the others plans under development – so that it represents your priorities and wishes for the district in the coming years.

As always, I'd like to hear from anyone who has had a great idea come to them over the summer break. It could be for a new development or community initiative, or you might have a business proposal and want some guidance or help in getting it under way. Feel free to give me a call on 759 6060 and I'll see what the Council can do to help!

I hope you all have a great 2006!

Peter Tennent, Mayor





HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

To all TOM readers, may I wish you the best of health and happiness in 2006? I hope the festive season was kind and that you and all your loved ones are enjoying the start of another new year.

Last year, New Zealand sports people and artists continued to ensure we remained centre-front on the world's stage. *King Kong*, *Narnia*, *The River Queen*, the All Blacks, the Kiwis and Michael Campbell were all stars.

Right now, it is the time to be with family and friends, and enjoy "Taranaki – like no other". That's a message that's getting heard. Other stars of the world stage are coming here to do just that, including the Doobies, UB40, Russell Watson, Amici Forever and Jimmy Cliff.

From the mountain to the sea, from the beach festivals, Take a Kid Fishing and the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Champs to the Taranaki Summit Climbs and the Taranaki Cycle Challenge, there is just so much to do and see. From Len Lye to Te Kupenga, from Whangamomona Republic Day to the Taranaki Wine and Food Festival, from "Speed" to horse trekking, Taranaki offers something for everyone, equal to the best available anywhere.

And while December house sales are always fewer than in November, this December's median price has reportedly risen, which is another indicator of New Plymouth and Taranaki's continuing growth and prosperity. Perhaps that is another message that is being heard.

My family and I have taken days here and there over the holidays to enjoy the events around the area and will continue to do so, but the business of government and local representation doesn't take a summer holiday and I've been busy with road safety issues.

Despite the overall road toll at 405 (the lowest since 1963), we've had two weeks of horror over Christmas and New Year. Twenty people lost their lives on our roads – twenty more people lost to their families and friends for whom Christmas and New Year will be forever tinged with sadness. Officials are working on a range of road safety proposals, which will be released for public discussion and input, in an effort to get the message heard and understood. Driving long distances without adequate breaks, driving on unfamiliar roads, speeding, drunk driving and simple bad judgement are all causes of crashes and deaths.

Last year, the whole world was shocked by the Boxing Day Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. This year, we must consider a possible Bird Flu pandemic and how best to prepare for it.

In spite of its tragic start, 2005 was a great year for New Zealand as a whole. I fully expect 2006 will be as good.

So, with apologies to Oprah Winfrey, "Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us all to get it right..."

Harry Duynhoven, MP

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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LANETTE

Next stage for Oakura Structure Plan

The entire community of Oakura is invited to a workshop to discuss the Oakura structure plan on 20 February.

This is your chance to comment on the conceptual structure plan, which is part of the Coastal Strategy which will guide future development and change in the district's coastal areas for the next 20 years.

The community workshop – held at 6.30pm in the Oakura Town Hall – will answer key questions such as where will Oakura grow, how will we manage future recreation needs and how will we ensure that the village character is retained? Come along to this workshop and discuss these issues with the council!

About 70 people attended a community workshop at the Oakura Town Hall in November last year to discuss their ideas on what a structure plan for Oakura should include – copies of this feedback is available for viewing at Oakura Library.

The ideas from this workshop have been taken and considered alongside technical information to develop the concept structure plan that will be discussed at this February's workshop.

- Don't forget that submissions on the Draft Coastal Strategy close on 17 February. If you have not yet made a submission, have a read of the draft and consider if there are any issues that affect you or that you want the council to know about.

Submission forms are available from Oakura library, council offices and online at:

www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy.

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A second water bore for Oakura

Construction of a second ground water bore in Oakura began on Monday, 16 January at Upper Wairau Road, following a thorough testing process by New Plymouth District Council. Results show that the water quality from the bore site exceeds national drinking water standards. The testing also confirmed that the quantity of water available from the bore will be sufficient to match current demand of some 10 to 15 litres per second. The combined capacity of both bores is likely to be around 50 litres per second or 4,000 cubic metres per day.

"Having a second bore to this aquifer gives us surety of supply – if one bore fails for mechanical reasons, we have the second there still operating," says Manager Water and Wastes, Brent Manning.


The initial bore, established in 2004, was the first time that ground water (aquifer) was used for a municipal water supply in New Plymouth District. The Council began exploring an aquifer source in 2000, with the intention of finding a supply that could not only meet the existing demand of users in the Oakura area but also adequately supply the area's expected population growth to 2020.

The previous water source, drawn from the Wairau Stream near the Egmont National Park boundary, could not meet the existing demand during summer and would have required significant treatment improvements to meet today's drinking water standards.

The search resulted in the Council drilling down to an aquifer 185m below the surface – or 90m below sea level. Although the aquifer is below sea level, the water in it comes from the mountain, seeping through porous ash layers that act as a natural filter.

Having a ground-water source also guarantees a clean water supply in the event of an eruption on Mount Taranaki, which would contaminate above-ground supplies elsewhere in the district.

Construction of the second bore hole should be completed in mid-March. Water will then be pumped from 135m-185m below ground level through a stainless steel screen. Ancillary works, involving piping to the reservoir, electrical equipment and housing is expected to be completed by July.



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Linda Street tennis courts get a spruce up



Don Harvey(left) and Al Rawlinson (2nd from left) helped out by man power recruited from the camp site.

Early in the New Year Liz O'Sullivan, a holiday-home owner in Oakura, organised a working bee to tidy up the Linda Street tennis courts. The courts have been without maintenance since the Club moved to its new location behind Oakura School in the early nineties.

Many locals feel that the Linda Street courts should remain as a public facility. Liz got donations of time and goods, including two tennis nets, one from herself and her husband Kevin and a new net from Jan and Al Rawlinson of Oakura Beach Camp,

as well as paint to remark the lines. One local resident saw the action and as she was unable to help, gave food to go with the morning tea Liz had provided. A couple on their morning walk saw the action and spent a good deal of time pitching in, as did another neighbour. Al Rawlinson (Beach Camp Manager) not only helped, he provided equipment and at one point went away and came back with another crew of helpers who were staying at the camp ground.

By the end of the working session there were many proud and satisfied people. The courts are not perfect but they can now be played on and are getting plenty of use.



Gloria and Wayne Zimmerman tidying the edges.

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The new kids on the block

The Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade has three new recruits, who have been busy learning the ropes over the last few months. Fire fighters Seamus Breeze, Mark Braddock and Rowan Oldfield are all very generous community members who have made a commitment to helping the Oakura village in a volunteer capacity. They have all been pleasantly surprised by how much they personally get out of being fire fighters and it certainly is not what they expected. You receive community support and admiration, and while you aren't a hero, a similar status is attached to you. And Seamus jokingly says you always have a team of concreters when you need them!

Mark Braddock joined in May 2005 because he wanted to give something back to the community. He works in the oil industry and has been involved in some basic fire training. He is also involved with the Powder Reef Club on the mountain. His family lives around the corner from the fire station and funnily enough he never used to hear the siren when it went off, but now it's a race to see which fire fighter is the first to get to the station (there's small group who live within cooee of the place!). The whole family enjoys the social interaction with other volunteer families.

Seamus Breeze joined in June 2005. One day he happened to be walking past the fire station and asked what the crew were doing (concreting). It must have looked like fun because he joined up! Seamus has done volunteer work in the past and feels it is an important part of village life. He enjoys the camaraderie of the brigade and with his family having lived in the village only a short while, they have met many new friends through the brigade. Seamus says he was initially fearful of joining because he didn't know if he was mentally and physically up to it, but the fear has proved to be insignificant. He feels he has learnt a lot about himself and has enjoyed the challenge of working in a team.

Rowan Oldfield joined around the same time. For the Coastal School schoolteacher it was about giving it a go because his head boy Connor was in the brigade and had told him to look into it. Connor was leaving to join the Army and there was a place to fill. It wasn't really a push because Rowan had also looked into joining in the United Kingdom but they don't have a volunteer service over there. Rowan feels strongly about



All geared up for action, Oakura Fire Brigade volunteers, Mark Braddock, Seamus Breeze and Rowan Oldfield.

giving to the community too. When the siren goes off, you could spot Rowan flying down the road on his bike in his pajamas, he's that keen to get there first!

What impresses me is that you only need to be an ordinary everyday healthy person to be useful. Considerable resources are spent on training and the latest high tech gear is supplied. All you need is a tiny inkling that you might like to give it a go.

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By Kim Ferens



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LYN JURY

Neighbourhood Watch with growing interest

The summer is ticking along quite nicely with moderate weather. With Christmas over, the family guests have all gone home, the school holidays have only a couple of weeks to go and the body count for the whole festive season has been remarkably low. I thought nothing could upset the tranquillity of this peaceful town at this late stage... and then along came JAWS.

The phone rang and a well educated female voice spoke: "Are you setting up a shark watch or something?" *No Madam! You engage lawyers at your own risk.*

My off the cuff reply was greeted with, "Not funny young man, this a deadly animal we are discussing". Feeling duly flattered, not having been called a young man for forty years, I made the mistake of asking what we should do. "Well," the voice said, "Perhaps a contingent of police can go out on surfboards with mini-cameras and warn everyone when it's there." My mind envisaged the sergeant with constable in tow, cameras strapped to their lower regions, notebooks in their teeth, coming alongside the shark: "You're under arrest and anything you spit out will be used in evidence." Reality kicked back in when the voice said, "Well, what do you think?"

Madam, I can bring your suggestion to the attention of a senior officer. The voice said, "Thank you" and the phone clicked off.

I was aware of a large figure at my shoulder. "What the hell was all that about?"

Well Sarge, it's like this... My explanation was greeted with a moderately lengthy reply in a language I could clearly understand. In short, the answer was no.

Undeterred, I drive down to the beach. There were several surfers out on their boards doing very little. After a couple of minutes I started the car and was on the verge of leaving when one stood upright on his board – I was about to have my first ever religious experience. He took two steps down his board and continued into the sea, resurfacing to swim the fastest 100 metres I have ever seen. He was joined by several mates, who on reaching the beach explained that a man-eating log had just floated by.

The phone rings: "Every time I put my washing out a blackbird craps all over it – can you help?" Now that's a more reasonable problem!

Cheers,

Barrie Carline

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MUSIC REVIEW BY DON JUAN

Lookin' Out

Terry Callier (Mr. Bongo).

The finest unknown songwriter in the world. The *nearly* man. The comeback king! Critical darling. Folk poet. Social commentator. Jazz mystic. Soul master. Subtle swinger. Terrence Orlando Callier is all of these things and more. To steal the words of Duke Ellington, Terry Callier is truly "beyond category."

A baby-boomer who was raised in Chicago's infamous Cabrini Green housing projects, Callier is a near-contemporary of Curtis Mayfield and, like the former leader of The Impressions, his work is infused with the spirit of gospel combined with a gift for highlighting the plight of those on the margins of society.

Blessed with a rich baritone voice that sometimes recalls the easy delivery of Gil Scott-Heron, Terry Callier's recording career dates back to a one-off date with the soon-to-be legendary producer/arranger Charles Stepney in 1962, although his musical education began with piano lessons from the age of three years. The success of his 1963 debut album *The New Folk Sound Of Terry Callier* was scuppered when its producer disappeared with the master tapes, eventually releasing them five years later, by which time the folk scene had dried up! Callier then hooked up with Jerry Butler's Chicago Songwriters Workshop, writing songs for The Dells and other soul acts. The 1972 Callier-penned Dells hit "The Love We Had Stays On My Mind" encouraged Stepney to sign Callier to the adventurous Chess subsidiary label, Cadet Records. The three Cadet albums, *Occasional*

Rain (1973), *What Color Is Love* (1974) and the following year's *I Just Can't Help Myself* are the cornerstones that Terry Callier's reputation has been built on.

In the late seventies, two further albums for Elektra followed, before Callier retired from the music business to raise his daughter. Working as a computer programmer and earning a degree in sociology, Callier's professional musical career might have ended there, but in 1991, he was rediscovered by Acid Jazz label founder, Eddie Pillar. Highly revered tours of Britain and the USA sparked the final and perhaps greatest phase of Terry Callier's musical life, with the magisterial *Time Peace* (1998), *Lifetime* (1999), the in-concert recording *Alive* (2001), *Speak Your Peace* (2002) and *Lookin' Out* (2004) all following in comparatively quick succession. The critical re-evaluation that followed Callier's magnificent "comeback" album *Time Peace* also ensured that the Cadet recordings were anthologised under the title *Essential: The Very Best Of*.

Sadly, what this means for the punter, is that no single album captures all of Terry Callier's finest pieces! The *Cadet* collection *Essential* is exactly that, but *Timepeace* is equally indispensable. To confuse matters further, *Lookin' Out* is on a par with these other definitive Callier recordings! Perhaps, the simplest and most relaxed of all Terry Callier's recordings, *Lookin' Out* reveals new layers of richness with every playing. The bluesy swagger of "Midnight Mile" and the laidback "Paris Blues," an understated version of The Beatles' "And I Love Her," the midnight ballad "Jazz, My Rhythm And Blues," the modern day 'torch song' "Blues for Billie Holiday" and the title track are just some of the highlights from this deep, subtly sophisticated recording. Do I need to mention that this is my favourite album of the past year or so?

Dux Taranaki Coastal Schools 2005

Local student Kristy Barlow was named dux for Taranaki Coastal School 2005. This year she is starting university at Massey in Wellington to study photographic design.



tom

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* Flowers:

To ensure maximum growth and flowering, deadhead to extend flowering, water regularly and feed with *Thrive Soluble Fertiliser* or *Lush Liquid Fertiliser*. Water regularly to keep plants growing. Mulching will help conserve water.

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The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

I looked into the mirror the other day and noticed two creases on my forehead. I tried to blame the dry winter weather sucking all of the moisture out of my skin, then I was sure that it was due to the over-exaggerated facial expressions I have to perform to explain words to my Korean students. Finally I admitted that I'm getting older. Everything that I've injured playing rugby tends to smart once the temperature plummets below zero. Nevertheless, I still run around like a chook with its head cut off on the field every year and Catherine even bought me some "man-moisturiser" for Christmas, so it can't be too bad. It did get me thinking about the anti-ageing process and the differences that exist between Korea and our slice of paradise...

The biggest apparent difference between the two cultures is definitely the Korean obsession with appearance. After almost three years, I'm still not used to watching men preen themselves in front of any available reflective surface, whether it's a window on the subway train or the omnipresent mirrors in the elevators. However, the biggest shock had to be the active marketing of a makeup range for men.

I first noticed this phenomenon as I walked around the cities of Seoul. Large posters showed one of the Korean World Cup soccer stars, Ahn Jung Hwan (their answer to David Beckham), next to a bottle of what appeared to be foundation. Furthermore, his skin was flawless and he looked almost feminine with his streaked, permed hair. I discovered that these were advertisements for Somang Color Lotion, which I guessed was an alternative term used to tout makeup for fellas.

The metrosexual wave that seems to be taking over the world is ever apparent in Korea. The men dress in clothes that would make an Okato dairy farmer gasp for breath. All frills and lace, velvet coats and accessories. Hairstyles have literally taken hours to perfect, so as to emulate favourite comic book characters. It is here that I first heard of "Lookism", whereupon a person will get a job solely based on if they are handsome or beautiful. I even taught an adult student who mentioned that the new person at their job was hired because she had the best smile.

This was even evident when we first arrived. Having had no teaching experience before coming to Korea, we were worried about getting a good job at a reputable teaching academy. Upon our arrival in Seoul, our employer told us that we were hired because we looked honest and friendly in our CV photos, hence we would be good teachers. Interesting...

I guess it'll be a while until this hits our home shores, in particular the trend for men to look more feminine than women. These models even bear the Korean term, *Kkotminam*, meaning "flower men". The macho culture of New Zealand will likely stave off these products for the time being, what with all the beer, rugby and farming, and a certain All Black wearing eyeliner... wait a minute!

Annyonghi keseyo

Kelly Ryan

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Annual Street Party

On Friday 16 December Arden Place and Shearer Drive had their annual street party and BBQ. We have been holding it now for about the last four years and we usually get a good attendance from residents. It's a time to say hello to existing residents and sometimes meet new people who have moved into both streets. As most people have busy lives, sometimes it is the only time of the year we actually get to see each other!



CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

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Mini Groovers:

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St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

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

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over.
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7-8.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 7.30-9pm.
Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

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Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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Duchesne Alder – Oakura's Teen Princess

Oakura Beach NPOB's beach carnival proved to be a triumph for Duchesne when she was crowned Miss Teen Taranaki on New Year's Day. The stunning teen had a wonderful time throughout the event: from meeting the other contestants (who Duchesne says she is firm friends with) to the cocktail evening with speeches, being on parade at the holiday races and fronting up to a home crowd at Oakura Beach on New Year's Day. She thinks her sponsors, Cactus Jacks, are awesome and in fact she gave her speech on shopping!

Duchesne is not new to the stage – she has a fairly comprehensive dancing history behind her, beginning at age two. For her dancing is an absolute passion. Local dance instructor Raeleen Luckin teaches Duchesne jazz and hip hop and Alison Paterson teaches her ballet. She practises dance almost every day, but all that practice is no chore – it's relished!


At the moment Duchesne is busy practising for the upcoming production of *Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat* at the TSB Bowl of Brooklands. Duchesne dances the part of Zebulon's wife (Joseph's sister-in-law) and is nearly always on the stage. The experience has her completely hooked and she now has her sights set on auditioning for the Operatic Society's *Godspell* production later in the year. First though, there is a daunting number of singing lessons to get through to enable her to sing confidently.

The Alder family lived in Rarotonga briefly and while there, Duchesne was also able to find a way to dance and sit dance exams. Her practices were sent over on CD and Duchesne practised early every morning in preparation for returning to Oakura to sit the exam. Her mum Diane says Duchesne is extremely self-motivated and not once did she have to drag her out of bed in the morning to practice.

While in Rarotonga Duchesne set up her own dance school where she taught local kids jazz and hip hop (about as foreign to them as us doing the hula!). She also choreographed the Miss Cook Islands Beauty Pageant. Since returning to New Zealand, she joined the cheerleading squad for the rugby season last year, sat NCEA Level 1, performed in the Sacred Heart Tennessers. Singing Group and made it to the hip hop nationals in Wellington where she was placed in the top 20 in New Zealand. No doubt we will be seeing and hearing more from this young teen in the near future!


By Kim Ferens





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Greetings from Vietnam

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. We trust you all got into the festive spirit of things – ate too much, drank too much and made New Year's resolutions that you will no doubt have to repeat in a years time! In our case, it's yes, yes, and let's just wait and see what happens with the resolutions!

We left Yangon on 16 December and spent a night in Bangkok catching up with friends (which turned into an early morning!). Suffering and wishing we'd stuck to our original plan of having an early night (famous last words, I know), we caught the morning flight to Hanoi. Hanoi is a city of motorbikes, wonderful architecture, motorbikes, fantastic coffee and motorbikes! Unfortunately reaching that "fantastic coffee" often required crossing the road – not an easy task with all the motorbikes!

We hired a motorbike one day and rode to a small silk-making village about 15 km out of the city. While three hours of looking at silk is not high on my list of preferred things to do, I'm pleased to say the day ended with Hayley having purchased the silk for her bridesmaids' dresses. A good result!

From Hanoi we went up north to Halong Bay and spent a night aboard a Chinese junk exploring the area. The beautiful turquoise water and wonderful clear skies we'd seen in the brochures were replaced by overcast, foggy skies and a brownish coloured water. While it was still a beautiful part of Vietnam to see, my advice to any would-be travellers is don't visit Halong Bay during December!

From there we returned to Hanoi and then took a pleasant 18-hour bus trip down to Hoi An. Hoi An is a beautiful city that still has abundance of old architecture, both Asian and European, and which has thankfully received protection and funding under UNESCO. The streets are lined with tailors, art shops and cafés, and it really is a wonderful place to relax and watch the world go by while sipping a latté (especially after an 18-hour bus trip!).

Like a dormant volcano erupting into life, our credit card (useless in Myanmar) took on a life of its own in Hoi An. Under the pretence of doing her bit for a struggling country – with just a few short visits to the tailors, Hayley has managed to keep the Vietnamese garment industry alive and well for another year!

We spent a day visiting the old Champa pagodas of 'My Son' outside Hoi An, which unfortunately were decimated by American bombs during the war and after having seen the likes of Bagan (Myanmar) and Siem Reap (Cambodia) were somewhat of an anti-climax.

Another 12 hours' drive south and we arrived in Nha Trang – a bustling seaside resort town that will no doubt become the Surfers Paradise of Vietnam in a few years time. Unfortunately with that comes the "social ills" of prostitution and crime. In the two days that we were there, we came across three people who'd had their wallets and money belts stolen while drinking in bars – beware the light-fingered ladies of the night!

We spent an afternoon relaxing at a thermal mud spa and then took a boat trip out to the islands the following day. We got to spend a wonderful few hours floating in life-rings, drinking Vietnamese red wine from a floating bar in the ocean. The

afternoon turned into a party on the boat with international performances, including a two-man haka – wrong words and wrong actions, but the crowd seemed to love it!

Another long bus trip south and we arrived in Mui Ne – only to discover that all the accommodation had been booked out! It took two hours riding around on a motorbike to find a place for the night and then another hour to find somewhere for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. I'm pleased to say it all got sorted though and it was a wonderful few days of seeing in the new year, with massages and cocktails on the beach. New Year's Eve was a big party on the beach, finishing around 3am with a motorbike ride home – we could only hope that the motorbike taxi driver hadn't been partaking in the New Year celebrations to the same extent that we had!

We are now in Saigon and spent this morning visiting the War Remnants Museum (it used to be called the Museum of Chinese and American War Crimes, but they changed its name to avoid offending Chinese and American tourists). The museum is a very horrific and graphic account of the war from the Vietnamese perspective.

Tomorrow we fly back to Bangkok for a few days and then it's back to Yangon. We finish in Yangon in June and have decided not to renew our contract for another year. While we love the country, the people and the lifestyle, we have found it increasingly frustrating working in a school that is primarily a business first and a school second. We are currently applying for jobs and will keep you posted on where we end up.

All the best to everyone for the New Year.

Hayley Cunningham and partner, Stu.



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KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

Regional first as Kaitake Kindergarten wins award

Kaitake Kindergarten has become the first early childhood centre in North Taranaki to earn the National Heart Foundation of New Zealand's Healthy Heart Award (HHA). This award is for pre-schools of all types that are proactive in developing healthy lifestyles for their children. The award was presented to the children and staff at Kaitake by Taranaki Heart Health Advocate, Felicity Gallacher in early December.

This award recognises the hard work of everyone connected with Kaitake Kindergarten. "It takes effort from teachers, children and parents for a centre to achieve an award. There are high standards to meet and Kaitake Kindergarten should be very proud of their achievement in meeting them," says Ms Gallacher.

In working towards achieving this award, the Kindergarten had a "Physically Active Day" for parents and children with Sarah Mori, Active Movement Coordinator from Sport Taranaki. They also held an evening with two dietitians for parents and staff attended training on Active Movement organised by Sport Taranaki. The children have been busy with creative and fun active movement activities every day, and benefit from the nutrition and active movement policies developed to meet HHA criteria.

The HHA programme is a complete resource to assist early childhood centres like Kaitake to guide pre-schoolers into healthy lifestyles. "The award is a framework for organising the work and gives a way that the parents, children and staff can all work together towards achieving the award," Ms Gallacher said. "The under-fives' area is an exciting place to work, and there are so many creative and exciting ways of encouraging healthy lifestyles starting at an early age."

The programme encourages lunchbox guidelines, active movement activity policies, curriculum links, parental involvement and professional development. Through the HHA, Kaitake has access to a vast wealth of information, planning tools and curriculum guides to put children on the path to a heart healthy lifestyle.

The Heart Foundation is funded by the Pinnacle Taranaki Primary Health Organisation (PHO) to provide the HHA programme, which aligns well with other Pinnacle Taranaki PHO funded projects such as Sport Taranaki's Active Movement programme.

TOM TIDBIT

CONGRATULATIONS to Oakura resident, Debbie Coltman, who has won a year's supply of milk after entering Taranaki Fresh's school bottle cap competition. Debbie says that fortunately, she uses a lot of their milk (well, the mind boggles!!)



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Mild Mike and the Blue Bus

Have you ever biked or walked along the walkway, crossed over the bridge and gone around the hillock to Weld Road? I have many times but until recently I didn't know I was traversing private land. I thought it was Crown land and accessible to everyone. But within the last six months the land has become home to a blue house bus and its chirpy occupants.

House-bus owner, Mike Ure has family ties to the land and is seeking to protect those ties while letting locals enjoy the area as they always have. It isn't financial interests that provoke Mike to talk to the TOM but the love of his family history – the land is a physical link to his ancestors. Mike's occupation of his family's land is personal and he doesn't wish to prevent people from enjoying the area, but he does ask, "How would you like people wandering over your land all the time without asking or even saying hello?" I say "I didn't know it was private land" and I suppose a lot of other people are the same. Mike says he wants to work with the community and the Council to divert the walking track around the family land. His ideal outcome would be for people to be able to use a walking track along the cliff top or the beach and his family could enjoy their land in peace. But he is realistic enough to know these things are never straight forward, especially knowing the land was once the site of Hauranga Pa.

So who is Mike Ure and from which ponga did he pop up from under?

He begins his story with the death of his children's mother Marise. When she knew she was dying from a brain tumour, she wanted to trace her genealogy. After Marise died in 2003, Mike felt the need to find out about his own roots and so began his journey to Weld Road. Fortunately other family members had already begun the genealogical search so Mike was able to gather data from his cousin Shirley Perrington.

Ure is an ancient Scottish name, not readily associated with Maori lineage and neither is Mike obviously Maori, but the links are well documented. His great, great, great grandfather George Ashdown, a merchant seaman, came to New Zealand in the late 1820's alongside Dicky Barrett. George married a Maori girl called Mata Pekianu TuHiata, who it is claimed was the sister of the childless Patara Runga Raukatauri (Butler), a chief of Oakura and Kaitake Pas.



The blue bus dwellers, Mike Ure with children, Samantha and Cole and their dog, Pare.

The Ashdown family migrated south with the Taranaki tribe when the Waikato tribe, led by Tewherowhero, attacked the Taranaki tribe. They worked in the whaling industry with Dicky Barrett before going to Lord Howe Island. The couple had numerous children and, along with the family of James Bishop (whose wife was half sister to Mata), were a very close unit.

It has taken hours of research to find all the birth and death certificates and supporting documents that confirm Mike's history, but now he's found it, he's at peace with his calling to the land. His children Samantha and Cole attend Oakura School and now call Oakura Marae their own so for them they've come home.

By Kim Ferens



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OAKURA School news

Upgrading in 2006

During the summer holidays, work to maintain and upgrade the classrooms took place. New roofing iron was put on rooms 4 and 5 and the Gallery, and most of the classroom interiors were redecorated. The administration area and classrooms 1 to 3 and 6 to 9 all had new carpet laid. So, the school looked very smart and tidy for the start of the 2006 school year.

The children will find the temperature of the swimming pool a little more comfortable this season. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Oakura School committee, Mayfair Pools installed solar water heating at the end of last year.

Also underway is the construction of a new paved courtyard area behind what used to be the dental clinic. This landscaped area will have seating so that it can be used as an outdoor learning and congregation space. The old dental clinic building is to be converted into a multi-purpose room that will open out onto the courtyard. The funding for this project was made available by a grant from the TSB Bank and a contribution made by the Friends of Oakura School committee.

Further upgrading planned for 2006 is a covered walkway to rooms 6 and 7, and work on the middle school girl's toilet and staff toilets.

All of these projects ensure there continues to be a safe and comfortable environment for the pupils of Oakura School to learn in and a school to be proud of.

Cathy Ardern

New Year's Eve at Oakura Beach Camp

While other areas in Taranaki may have experienced trouble on New Year's Eve, Oakura Beach Camp enjoyed a very well behaved crowd and the many families who stayed had a very pleasant night. Camp managers, Jan and Al Rawlinson were very pleased the camp maintained a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

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Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Arthritis

Arthritis can affect people of all ages and people with arthritis get swelling and pain in their joints and their ability to move some joints or to move about is often restricted

"Pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory medicines such as aspirin, ibuprofen and paracetamol can be very effective in treating the swelling and pain associated with arthritis. However, they must be used with caution, especially if needed for long periods, and it is necessary to get the right dosage for each individual," says Colleen.

"It is not unusual for a person with arthritis to have to try different medicines and treatments or a different combination to find what is helpful for them" says Catherine. "Glucosamine and Chondroitin are proving to be very effective alternative medicines for people with arthritis" adds Colleen, "so do come in and have a chat about what will be best for you".

As well as sharing their knowledge about medicines and their effects, pharmacists can also help with information and advice about other ways to make life more comfortable, and help keep people more mobile and independent.

There is no cure for arthritis and two of the better known types are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Osteoarthritis, the breakdown of the cartilage of the joints, usually occurs later in life and in people who have overworked or injured joints earlier in life e.g. sports people. Joints most often affected are the knees, hips, spine and hands.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an inflammation of the lining of the joints and is often associated with inflammation of other body tissues.

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This half metre high, iron vessel was found on an Ornata property when road alterations were done in 2002. It was found on a historically significant site the St Patrick's Redoubt. The redoubt was built in 1861 and was in regular use in 1863 by 7 officers and 220 non-commissioned officers and men. In 1864 a blockhouse was built on the redoubt and was known as Poutoko Blockhouse. In 1950 the redoubt structure was reasonably intact but was destroyed when a residence was built on the site.

If anyone has any ideas on what the vessel might be contact
akuramesseenger@xtra.co.nz or phone Kim 751 1519.

A man was driving along in his car behind a large truck. At every red light, the truck-driver got out of his cab, ran to the back and banged on the truck door. After seeing this at several sets of lights in a row, the car driver followed the truck until it pulled into a parking lot. Once again, the truck drive jumped out, ran to the back and started banging on the rear door. The motorist went up to him and said, "I don't mean to be nosy but why do you keep banging on the rear door when you stop?" To which the truck-driver replied, "Sorry mate, can't talk now, I've got 20 tons of canaries and a 10 ton load limit, so I have to keep at least half of them flying at all times."



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To be a squaw!

During the summer break our family and a few friends treated ourselves to a night at the Reservation on Koru Road. And it certainly was a treat. Not camping as we know it, Jim, but no fuss and no messing about with boot loads of gear – just your sleeping bag, food and drinks sort of camping. The rest is provided, down to flush toilets, showers and kitchen facilities (not much of a squaw's life!).

The hunting and gathering had been done at the supermarket so the braves set about the process of fire making, smoke signaling and general laying about, which involved a very refreshing swim in one of the many swimming holes in the Oakura River.

The back drop to all this relaxation is of course the beautiful Te Koru Pa, with its magnificent tree cover and native bird life. Our Wellington friends couldn't get over the fact there was no wind, being used to a regular 60 km breeze! We cooked our dinner over the brazier in the fire pit and the sausages, steaks and chops had never tasted so good. The kids entertained themselves with various games from skipping stones to spotlight, sardines, throw-the-hoop, charades, tall stories and toasting the marshmallows before dossing down in their teepee for the night.

The teepees are absolutely fabulous. There are three, one of which Tom Cruise used in the Last Samurai movie. We put the eight kids in one and the adults had another. Steve Looney, the Reservation proprietor has made wooden floors to put the mattresses on and it is just magic lying in bed listening to the Oakura River tumble over the rocks while you are cosy and warm in bed. Through the peep hole in the top of the teepee you can see the stars and what a magnificent show the Milky Way put on for us when we were there. The Wellingtonians had never seen stars like it (you don't hang about down there looking up at the stars!). In the morning a light drizzle descended but it could in no way dampen our spirits after what had been a really terrific night out.

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By Kim Ferens



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Show your colours!

Taranaki rugby fans are being urged to paint their towns in readiness for the big Super 14 clash between the Hurricanes and Western Force at New Plymouth's Yarrow Stadium on Saturday 18 February.

Western Force is one of two new teams in the competition and the New Plymouth game will be their first appearance in New Zealand. To ensure a real Taranaki welcome the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, Taranaki Newspapers Ltd and New Plymouth District Council are running the True Colours competition. The contest will allow Taranaki rugby fans to decorate their properties to show their support for the match – and hopefully the Hurricanes.

The True Colours competition will run across the region from 30 January until the winners are announced on 16 February. "Anyone can decorate their property and enter the contest and we will award prizes to the best entry from the Waitara, Inglewood, New Plymouth, Stratford, Opunake, Eltham and Hawera areas. The best decorated property in each area will receive four tickets to the 18 February match, when there will be a marquee and full catering," says Bryan Whittaker from the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce.

Taranaki Newspapers Advertising Sales Manager Alex McDougall said the True Colours competition is a great opportunity for people in the region to show how passionate they are about first class rugby.

"We have missed out on Super 14 games for a season or so and it's fantastic to have one at Yarrow Stadium this year. We are hoping people come out and decorate their properties in such large numbers that the Hurricanes franchise makes Taranaki an automatic choice when it comes to allocating matches," says Mr McDougall. "Hopefully people will get behind the competition and come up with some impressive decorations that draw attention to what's going to be a fantastic game of rugby."

The Taranaki Chamber of Commerce will have material such as posters and tape available to decorate properties. Entry forms will appear in the *Taranaki Daily News*, *Midweek* and *South Taranaki Star* over the next week.

Mr Whittaker urges Taranaki businesses to get behind the True Colours competition. "The Hurricanes match in New Plymouth will attract visitors from many parts of the country and the benefit of that will be felt right around the region."

"Visitors spend on a wide range of products and services and the chamber acknowledges that events are a significant stimulator of regional growth. Whether it's spending by visitors on accommodation, petrol, food or clothing, or the employment opportunities from a match such as the Hurricanes fixture, there will be significant economic benefit. We are urging Taranaki communities to recognise that economic impact by showing their True Colours," says Mr Whittaker.

Oakura Pony Club

Equestrian events around the country and within the Taranaki interclub competition are now getting underway. The first week of January saw the New Zealand Young Rider dressage competition held in very hot conditions at Taupo. Only two riders attended from the Taranaki region, both are members of Oakura Pony Club (OPC). Amber Parkes and Samantha Everest put in some great performances against the best of New Zealand's young dressage riders. Amber was placed 4th in the Elementary Class and Samantha 6th in the Pony Class.

The North Taranaki Pony Club, to which this club is affiliated, has selected a team to compete at the North Island Pony Club Showjumping Championship to be held at Cambridge on 23-24 January. Once again OPC members feature strongly in the team. Oakura riders Lauren Rook (team captain) and Claire Hinton are the senior riders, Samantha Everest and Andrea Brewster the Intermediate section, with Okato Pony Club riders Kimberly Kalin and Ashley Downes representing the junior section with Kelsy Bolstad (OPC) as junior reserve rider. The team will compete against 45 North Island teams, with some 270 riders competing. We wish the team well at this very extensive and colourful event.

The first of the Taranaki pony clubs' One Day Events series is fast approaching. Riders intending to compete at the New Zealand Pony Club Eventing Championships, to be held at Whangarei this year, should obtain a nomination form for this from Denise Howe on 752 7737. Cross country training for these events is available at the Waitara Pony Club on Thursday evenings. There is also a Cross Country training course with Mathew Grayling being held at Waitara on 27-29 January. Interested riders should contact Denise Howe for further details.

Graham Rook



Kate Evans
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Greetings Fishos

The weather hasn't been that great yet and we've got our fingers crossed for the February and March fishing, which is generally quite good. However, we have had a some goodies weighed in over the last six or so weeks, with kayak fisho Jason Bond getting a good few snapper towards the end of December. We also had a few smaller snapper weighed in by surfcasters.

Recent club days have been well attended, despite rough conditions hampering fishing efforts (see below for December results). Chris Whitaker caught a good snapper of 2.1kg and also a sting ray weighing about 5kg. The kayakers also got a few fish on the 15 January club day, with Garry Harrison catching a 2.8kg kahawai and new member Tony Hurring catching a couple of gurnard.

The Wilson Cup, in which all Taranaki surfcasting clubs can compete, had to be rescheduled from 3 January to 21 January because of the weather. Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club were the hosts this year. We'll let you know the results next month.

December results

Surfcasting: 13 snapper, 3 kahawai, 1 gurnard

Kayak: 2 snapper, 3 kahawai

Fish of the month:

Surfcasting – Debbie E, 7kg snapper

Kayaker – Jason Bond, 3.4kg snapper

Club days for February:

- 12 February – Sutherlands Sports Power Tri Comp
- 19 February – Fish Together for both surfcasters and kayakers. Corbett Park, 12 noon. All welcome to come and check us out

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GETTING WET!



News from the Lifeguards

The New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Lifesaving Club members would like to thank the Oakura community for once again supporting the Club on New Year's Day. The carnival was a fantastic event, only made possible by the support of Oakura residents. This fundraising event will help train and resource local lifeguards to ensure your beach is patrolled and safe over the summer holiday period for all beach users.

With hotter and more settled days resulting in an obvious increase in swimmer numbers, the lifeguards have noticed an encouraging trend of safety consciousness. Not only are people observing the "swim between the flags" rule, but less people are being treated by the lifeguards for sun burn and heat related ailments. It's wonderful to see so many people looking after their skin and wearing appropriate protective gear.

We have a very busy programme in the competition sector of lifesaving this season. Mid-January we played host to the central regional champs, which attracted competitive lifeguards from all

over the lower half of the North Island and a few clubs from outside the region too. In mid-March we host the national surf lifesaving champs. This is the big one. Oakura beach will be a hub of activity when a few hundred lifeguards from all over New Zealand converge to compete for national titles. It will be an action-packed weekend not to be missed.

Our own competition team is tirelessly training twice a day to improve skills and stamina for events. We are all eagerly awaiting the world lifesaving champs in Melbourne in February when our very own local girl Ayla Dunlop-Barrett will be representing New Zealand in the open women events.

Surf lifesaving in New Zealand is a very well respected tradition that turns ordinary people into extraordinary individuals. Being part of a well organised service is incredibly rewarding. If you would like to join your local surf club, don't hesitate. Pop down, make yourself known or contact Julie Neilson, our club administrator (she's lovely), on 752 4462. Being a member of a New Zealand surf lifesaving club will give you skills and friends for life.

Have a fun and safe summer.

Bruce MacDonald

Club Captain

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TOA is back!

Hi everyone, it's great to be back! After the last couple of years being based in town we are very happy to be back at the beach now. Life got a bit hectic (having a third child and another business venture definitely contributed to that) and the decision was made to take the business back to a home based one that would work around children and lifestyle choices. What better place to do that than in Oakura? The kids are looking forward to heading back to Oakura school after the holidays and, although the summer weather has not been great, we have still managed to spend a fair bit of time at the beach since we moved back just before Christmas.

TOA (Taranaki Outdoor Adventures) has been exceptionally busy in the time we have been away and there are also exciting developments planned for 2006. By far our most popular area is the unique TOA Corporate Adventure Teambuilding. TOA now has a range of popular standardised Corporate Adventures, as well as constantly creating new exciting teambuilding adventures and events to suit individual clients. We have also assisted in bringing many companies into the region for conferences and events by providing a one stop shop for all their accommodation, food and activity needs. The list of what we have been up to in this market is pretty long and varied! Dam Dropping Adventures, TOA style amazing races and treasure hunts, company family days, military style boot camp and hijacking busloads of employees to name a few. Many fun times and great experiences have been had by both staff and clients. We, as directors, are extremely proud of the unique niche that we fill for corporate Taranaki. Whether it is a full on adventure a company is after, some 'soft' teambuilding or a small activity as part of a larger conference we are there to create a activity to fill the gap. All ages and levels of physical ability are catered for so that everyone is part of the experience and the experience is only limited by our imaginations which are pretty big!

TOA also continues to offer discounted rates to schools and has been involved in many school camps. Some of you may have children who went on the Oakura School camp in Eltham last year, where the kids got to experience the Flying Kiwi and Faraway Tree activities as well as Dam Dropping and Canadian Canoeing. It is wonderful to see the enormous boost that these experiences can give a child's self confidence and they literally feel on top of the world. In these increasingly PC times, where it seems that children are less and less able to physically challenge themselves, being able to do so in a safe environment (where someone else is taking care of all the risk management!) is an important part of their development.

TOA's Adventures in Taranaki for the adventure tourism market continues to tick along and we are often called on to host tourism, media, and international education representatives to showcase our beautiful province and tell the world what we've got.

Oakura locals may be interested in a new service that is being offered to both locals and visitors. Our fleet of kayaks is available for hire at hourly, half daily and daily rates. We are happy to drop off and pick up to anywhere in the village, beach, or river and, of course, all life jackets, paddles etc... are included. So if you or the kids have always wanted to give kayaking a go but have not had the chance do take advantage of this.

We are looking forward to a great 2006 and catching up with old friends and making new ones. Feel free to drop in any time to 17 The Outlook, visit our website www.toa.co.nz, or give us a call.



PH:0800 200 6254 WEB: www.toa.co.nz

History Bite . . .

This month **TOM** brings you the first in an ongoing series of Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) funded '**Taranaki Stories**' from Puke Ariki. These unique stories capture the essence of our region, as they are mostly human tales of guts and glory, death and danger, peace and power. The aim of these stories is to bring to life the spirits of Taranaki; to provide meaning to street signs, local spots and landmarks, and names from the past.

The first story is about Lucy Stevens of Lucy's Gully fame. The tragedy of the murdered German tourist, Birgit Brauer, whose body was found at Lucy's Gully in September last year drew the attention of the nation and the world to the peaceful and very beautiful area overlooking Oakura. This is the story of why it was named after Lucy Stevens.

Lucy of Lucy's Gully By Rhonda Bartle

In days gone by Lucy Stevens, an old Oakura identity, would sit outside the blacksmith's shop selling bundles of whips for a shilling. But what else do we know of the woman Lucy's Gully was named for?

A connection dating back to 1820

Among the towering redwoods of Lucy's Gully rise clumps of native trees. They seem to have scant regard for the work done by Sir Victor Davies, who cleared the land in the 1920s and planted 150 back-breaking hectares of exotics. It seems more a tribute to Lucy Stevens, who grew up in Lucy's Gully, that the bush is trying so hard to return to the way it used to be.

Lucy was born in a whare next to the Waimoku stream in 1820. Old Maori fortifications had stood on that ground since ancient times when the land was extensively planted in crops. Lucy's iwi gardened the sunny ridges, keeping a watchful eye out for invaders down on the coastal plains.

A local personality

When she married, Lucy left the Gully and lived at Okorotua Pa beside the Oakura River where Corbett Park is today. She would sit outside the blacksmith's shop selling whip-ends (or "crackers") made of dressed flax to bullock drivers. A bundle of 50 would fetch a shilling. She also sold ketes filled with mushrooms and blackberries plucked from the Kaitake slopes.

Though her deeply tattooed face sometimes frightened children, Lucy was noticeably fond of the young ones, both Maori and Pakeha. With dark eyes peering out from beneath her black shawl – on which she often wore a wreath of kawakawa – she would happily waylay any child or adult who wandered past. There was nothing she liked more than a chat. Some days she would walk all the way to Okato, down



Lucy of Lucy's Gully with Olivia Street at Okato - Pukeariki Pictorial Collection

Hampton Road to Parawaha Pa by the Mangakino stream, to catch up on family gossip.

When her husband and two sons died, she buried them in a small gravesite at the gully she knew so well and every year would trek there from Oakura to hold her own private tangi. She would spend an entire day and night there, fasting and lamenting the deaths.

An opinionated woman

Lucy was called a "Queen's Maori" during the Taranaki Wars because she backed the Government against the Hauhau, yet everyone knew her to be kind and compassionate, one on one.

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War comes to the Gully

In 1864 Government troops attacked two pa sites south of Oakura. Howitzers, rockets and mortars flew over the bush while a force of bushrangers attacked from above. When the defenders fled, the Kaitake Redoubt was built to stop them returning to claim the land.

Following the attack, the 57th regiment found themselves ambushed while harvesting crops on the plateau close to Lucy's Gully. They suffered heavy casualties from Hauhau warriors who had hidden themselves in a zig-zag trench camouflaged with fern.

Captain Lloyd lost his life and his head, which the Hauhau took to Wanganui to impress potential followers. After the ambush, bushrangers chased the war party through the bush, burning whares at Te Ahu Ahu pa and Waikukupa pa, both of which had been abandoned.

A whiff of gold

The Lucy's Gully area created a brief flurry of interest in 1868 when a man named Wilson found a lump of quartz containing a speck of gold on Oakura Beach. Suddenly, all eyes turned to the hills as a pair of men began prospecting at Boar's Head Creek. They called the mine "Hit or Miss" – somewhat prophetic as it didn't produce enough gold to even dream on.



PHOTO BY RHONDA BARTLE

The Gully today

The road to Lucy's Gully was put through in 1963 and today falls under the care of the Department of Conservation. The exotic redwoods planted at the request of the National Park Board in 1826 are all gone, except for the grove at Lucy's Gully and one small stand at the top of Wairau Road.

Though little information survives on Lucy Stevens, the Karaka trees planted by her ancestors still abound in the Kaitake Ranges. And though the small plot where she buried her men is no longer in evidence at the gully that bears her name, perhaps the site might still be found if you look hard enough

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Huge price reduction. Offers over \$775,000 Near New, 5 bedrooms plus study on 6010m² of land.



SOLD BY ANNE

1840 Seaview Rd

Very private 3+ bdrm home, sunny living areas, loads of space, plus beautiful park-like 3062m² section in the city. Well worth viewing, lots of potential here.

Wairau Road Sections

7 fantastic Oakura sections. Opportunity to obtain views of Kaitake Ranges and sea from most sites. Choice of flat or flat/sloping combination sites, bordering Wairau Stream.



17 Kinross Drive, NP

Large modern executive home with 4+ bdrms, 2 living areas, lovely sunny private back yard and room to entertain.



48 Karina Rd,

Character bungalow on popular Karina. Tucked away with lovely potager gdns, Cedar clad home with 3 bdrms, lge sunny dck and dbl gg. Close to Mangorei School.



44 Frankley Rd

Central, huge home or B&B. Very private, sunny, 4 bdrms, 3 ensuites, spa, dbl gg, 2 living areas. Lovely decks for relaxing or entertaining. Walking distance to town.

Properties Sold by Anne

20 The Outlook, Oakura. 3 Whakawhiti St, NP, 15 Ridd St, NP. 1840 Seaview Road, NP.

Thought for the Month

"Always look to what you have left. Never look at what you have lost."

Robert H. Schuller

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