

Locals meet with DoC over Lucys Gully and tracks

Dave Rogers (DoC Stratford) and Rob Bennett (DoC area manager National Parks), addressed a meeting of Kaitake Ward folk concerned at the apparent lack of consultation regarding the closing of the Sefton Track and others in our area.

The meeting attracted approximately sixty people thanks to the efforts of Peter Morgan and Matt Redshaw who sent out information over a wide area.

Rob Bennet addressed the crowd with regard to how the closing of the Sefton Track came about. Consultation did take place, but unfortunately it appeared that the very people affected most by the closure, were the least informed.

There is no doubt every person at the meeting felt strongly that all tracks from Lucys Gully should be kept clear and in use.

In an effort to achieve the best result, DoC officers have agreed to give consideration to community help in this matter, as the group indicated there would be a number of people willing to work under DoC to achieve the best result.

Some suggestions included the following, emailed to DoC by Peter Scantlebury.

1. Approval and clearance is sought in principle from DoC to allow community effort to be effective in clearing the track(s) to acceptable standard.
2. That approval is notified (likely through TOM magazine) requesting assistance from interested parties and forming a named association thereof.



3. Returning to DoC with specific proposal and working through to approval.

4. Do the work and have the work inspected by DoC.

5. Notify a schedule of maintenance and public update of the state of the tracks under the aegis of the association.

Dave Rogers' (DoC) responded

"Thank you for your initiative and willingness to assist with resolving the issues confronting us.

I must say it was a worthwhile meeting and it was good for us all to see and understand the issues that the respective groups are faced with. Rob and I will put our heads together to formulate a formal response back to the Oakura (Kaitake) Community Board. This will be known shortly.

It must be accepted that changes have taken place and DoC's responsibility to keep everyone safe, limits the number of tracks that can be managed, budgets for this work were slashed by 9%."

The Community Board will table the report at the next meeting. Anyone is able to attend and speak in the public forum for five minutes. Please watch the paper, or email faylooney@xtra.co.nz for meeting date. Normally I could tell you but there has been a clash with another meeting and we are waiting for a new date, possibly around 26th July.

This meeting was a great way to help resolve a Community concern. Many thanks to all who attended and made it a pleasure to be a part of the process.

Email faylooney@xtra.co.nz if you wish to receive updates as they come.

Fay Looney

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

I have decided that I'm not good at winter. I really prefer to be warm. The wind and rain are the elements that really get to me. It may have something to do with getting little people in and out of car seats and in and out of the house. The errands always seem to be important on the most miserable days. However, I do like Oakura Beach in the winter, with the ever-changing tides and the almost deserted beach. I love those sunny winter days when I can walk along it without meeting another person. This is when I do a lot of thinking, often about *TOM* – what stories to cover and how to improve it.

You will notice in this issue some pages have been sponsored. There is a banner running along the bottom of the page with the sponsor's name on it. If you, your family or your business would like to become a sponsor, please contact me on 752 7875. The cost per month is \$45. This is an excellent opportunity to support a community project.

Look in this issue for our wine column, sponsored by the Oakura Four Square. It will be a great resource for those of us who enjoy the odd glass of wine, but whose wine knowledge (and therefore choice) is limited.

Until next time...

Tracey

\$

Earn a veritable fortune . . . well, \$25 . . . for any previously unpublished story submitted and subsequently printed in *TOM*. Human interest, travel, sports, local history, children, etc.

Please submit your stories by mail to *TOM*, 25 Jans Terrace, or email to oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

tom

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from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Hi folks!

It's been a busy time at the Council with councillors reading every one of the 1,037 submissions from the public on the Draft Community Plan 2006–2016.

During a week of hearings we heard from more than 100 of those submitters, and then discussed each submission and officer's report before making amendments to the Draft Plan and finalising it at the end of June.

We've had heaps of submissions from residents in and around Oakura. Thank you for getting involved in the preparation of this Community Plan and telling us what you think is important for New Plymouth District in the next 10 years!

Your comments have helped shape this Council's priorities for services and facilities, and the way that we pay for them.

I think we have ended up with a Community Plan that has a clear path for continuing the district's development over the next 10 years at a level we can afford. Balancing the wishes of so many residents is never easy, but I think councillors have taken a sensible line that will greatly benefit our wider district.

Meanwhile we've had a good level of response from residents on the draft Oakura structure plan. As you know, the purpose of the structure plan is to manage the way Oakura develops so that in 20 years' time, we have an Oakura that meets the priorities of its residents!

Such a plan requires a high level of consultation between the Council, residents and key stakeholder groups, and I'm very proud of the way that all involved have grasped this opportunity with both hands and shared their ideas and opinions.

The date for hearing submissions to the draft structure plan has yet to be set, but we will advertise it when the date is confirmed. It will be a public meeting, so please feel free to attend so that you can hear what submitters are saying and listen to the debate among councillors.

And don't forget: If you have an idea for a development or a project and think the Council can give you a hand, give me a call on 759 6060 and I'll see what we can do!

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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

I want to thank everyone who wrote, rang, sent flowers or called in to wish me well since last month's little health scare. I was surprised and very moved that so many went out of their way to do so – not only friends and constituents we've been able to assist over the years, but people I've never met also sent their best wishes. How kind and caring people are in times of trouble.

It's been a busy period despite what was meant to be "timeout" for a little while. I've taken the opportunity to get on top of my home office for a start, while still keeping in touch with what was happening at my offices.

I was delighted to join the Prime Minister and Minister for Senior Citizens, Ruth Dyson, to announce that the Older Driver's Test will be abolished in December.

Last year, we promised that we would work to get rid of the test. We understood how stressful and expensive the test is for older folk to undergo and we agreed it was unfair. I know older drivers are keen for this to happen as soon as possible, but it cannot come into effect before 4 December 2006 because LTNZ must make changes to set up the new system, prepare information for older drivers, their families and GPs, and carry out staff training.

Measures are being put in place to ensure its removal won't compromise either older drivers' or other road users' safety. For example, an extra \$550,000 will enable the effective "Safe With Age" driver refresher course to be expanded and anyone taking this course will be eligible for a subsidised private on-road driving lesson from 2007.

Still on matters concerning older people, I was gratified that the *Standard and Poor Report* finds New Zealand one of the "best placed nations" in the world to cope with the challenges of an ageing population. This is due to our strong fiscal position, now that the Government has "paid off the mortgage" and our financial assets exceed our financial liabilities for the first time in our history.

We are one of only seven OECD countries to have done this. We should all be very proud of this achievement. Many will remember how it was when our horrific national debt levels influenced nearly every aspect of our lives.

On top of the S&P Report, the World Bank Report into the ease of doing business ranks us above the OECD average in many areas and first out of 155 countries overall.

The week of 26–30 June was *Books In Homes, Government Book Week*. It's one of the greatest pleasures of my job to visit some of the participating schools during *Books in Homes Week* and to help present books to the children.

If young children and their parents get excited about books and reading they're getting a wonderful start to lifelong learning. Around 80,000 Kiwi kids benefit from this literacy programme. It was founded by author Alan Duff; and though he no longer takes an active role after years of effort and influence, I noted it is still referred to as the "Duffy" *Books in Homes* in many of the participating schools.

Along with more than 300 private sponsors, the Government is a proud supporter of *Books in Homes*, contributing around \$1.2 million. An additional \$750,000 over the next four years will go to *Books in Homes*. That will put an extra 125,000 books into the homes of an extra 25,000 children in low socio-economic areas.

Literacy is hugely important. It's so important the Government now invests around \$32 million a year to improve literacy standards in schools.



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

Oh dear, Oakura – what is going on in this surfing suburb? A positive crime wave is in progress, with assaults, thefts from vehicles, arson and the odd burglary for good measure.

It seems the local youth are hell bent on new careers in crime. The big question is why? After their destructive rampage on cars recently, their rewards have been meagre so there are obviously no budding accountants in this group. This lot seem to have the collective IQ of a light bulb and the quicker they are in front of a court, the better, before they can do much more damage.

Mind you, if recent treatment by the courts of perpetrators of crime in Oakura is any indication, they won't have to pack a toothbrush. The people of Oakura can rest uneasy in the knowledge that cheque-book justice is alive and well, and these young people's criminal careers will no doubt progress to bigger and "better" things.

Moving on... With the cold weather upon us, I would like to repeat the warning about LPG gas heaters – please have them serviced correctly. They can be lethal otherwise. And again, check out the elderly in your area, that they are okay and keeping well and warm.

Some of you might be aware of the current *Are you Prepared?* campaign. This covers events from tsunami, pandemic, earthquake or volcanic eruption.

At a recent seminar of 180 people, one family had the basics to survive more than a week. Our website (www.nakiwatch.co.nz) mentions some of the things you should include in your emergency kit.

The civil defence site www.nakiwatch.co.nz is under constant review, so take a look – are you really prepared?

Cheers

BC

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My father often said, "There are none so blind as those who will not see." Even more often he would quote, "By trying to please everyone, you end up pleasing no one." Over the past few days while listening to pretty much all of the submissions to the Long Term Community Consultation Plan (LTCCP), I thought of his quotes many times.

Clearly our local daily newspaper manufactures the view of the masses. I am very sad to say the agenda quite clearly is to confuse and sensationalise, often without balance.

For me the submissions were the best learning curve I have taken in this small role on Council and gave me a greater insight into the wants and needs of the community. I listened to the bitter, the passionate, the creative, the caring. Who made the greatest impression on me? The youth, and in particular our own youth from this community. A delegation from Oakura School, under the guidance of Principal Lyn Hepworth, presented on their need for a library upgrade. The children answered with authority questions asked by Council. I was so proud of them, as we all should be. Good negotiation gets results and while they do not have everything they want, they will have another computer and they are looking at renegotiating library hours, which will release some funds towards the project.

As usual, a number of my own generation made me squirm in my seat. Thanks to visionaries, I have grown up, raised a family, worked and created a business in a fabulous community. To hear a number of my generation instructing Council to "do nothing" but mark time was counter-productive. Often this attitude is due to an ignorance of real facts. This became obvious when the Len Lye debate took place. Fact: No cost to ratepayers until \$10,000,000 had been raised by outside contributors (approximately three years away). So why, I ask, stop that process?

Huatoki development

Why, I ask, did the building owners not work with Council from the onset? Every opportunity was made available for them to do so, despite the sensationalism of our newspaper's version.

Events and tourism funding

Hotels and restaurants, I hear folk say, are the only beneficiaries from these events. How incredibly short-sighted this is. Just ask the many who have found employment thanks to the influx of tourists. The benefits reach far further than the average person would notice, so you need to ask questions of retailers, crafts people, etc to get the real picture.

On behalf of the Kaitake Community Board, Doug Hislop presented a short submission to bring attention to the Council's responsibility to the Oakura Structure plan and its implementation. The result is Council will be seeking officers' reports on a six-monthly basis to ensure that the key visions in the Coastal Strategy are considered in the day-to-day decision-making process. Officers will establish a Coastal Strategy Implementation Stakeholders group to oversee the implementation of the Strategy.

A very well researched and full submission to the Structure Plan hearings has been prepared by Doug Hislop with help from a number of interested locals, covering points from population growth, infrastructure, sense of place, and everything in between. This represents a huge amount of Doug's time and a great community spirit. I thank all of those who have participated.

Planning for the next 50 years has some hurdles to leap if we want to avoid the disasters of the Mt Maunganui and Orewas – large subdivisions look to be dividing our farmland and stretching our roading systems.

The Representation Review

Representation for the Kaitake area is vital. The new review recommends "at large" voting for the next Council elections, which will allow you to vote for anyone in the district as wards will be abolished. Use it or lose it comes to mind?

The Community Board was asked to vote on the Representation Review. The result was a very good discussion between five people who come from different perspectives, but who have agreed to retain the status quo (wards).

The Board, after discussion and reading the survey on community board use, will be submitting to the hearings on the Representation Review. The survey shows clearly that only 20% of the district's population ever visit or contact their community board member, with the majority contacting Council first. This comes at a cost of approximately \$250,000 to the New Plymouth district. Good value?

Its been a busy month and now we are turned towards summer. The beach looks fabulous – more sand than I have seen for a long time. Nature is working for us at the moment – long may it last.

Fay Looney

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Oakura sewerage update

Project manager Michael Tarboton from New Plymouth District Council confirms progress on the Oakura sewerage project...

The project is well under way, with the main design being done by GHD Consultants in their Lower Hutt offices. Design of the detailed reticulation has been sub-contracted to Apex Consultants in New Plymouth, responsible for locating the position of septic tanks and talking to property owners regarding the intended placement of pipes.

To date, 400 metres of sewer has been laid along the Messenger Terrace sea front, five metres inland of the rock wall.

Tenders for 300 metres of sewer within the CBD area closed on 20 June and this work is required to be finished early in September to enable the CBD upgrade to be done before Christmas.

During August tenders will be invited (by public advertisement) for the main works and will include contracts for:

- (a) 4 pump stations (the main one on the Shearer Reserve, a booster station at the top of the hill above Corbett Park and collector stations at the Motor Camp and Hall Terrace)
- (b) the pipeline along the State Highway to New Plymouth (11 km)
- (c) two contracts (\pm 11 km each) for the sewers and connections within Oakura.

Property connections can only be made once the sewers are all in place and the pump stations operating. Work on the connections including decommissioning of septic tanks is therefore only due to be started towards the end of 2007.

Plans showing the proposed sewers have been on display recently at the Oakura Library and in the foyer of the New Plymouth Civic Centre on Liardet Street.

Details relating to the property connections may be discussed with Apex Consultants (Daryl Edgecombe).

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The girl with the gift of the gab!



Zara Brouwers of Omata is no ordinary teenager. She exhibits an extraordinary gift for gabbling! But in the best possible way. Through her ability to talk, Zara has won a scholarship to Waikato University. The 16-year-old New Plymouth Girls High School student was part of the mooting team (with Chloe Muggeridge, Frances Kerslake) that won the national competition recently.

Mooting is similar to debating but is a lot more formal. It requires the use of statute and case law and is carried out in an actual court room. Each team is given the case material and no other material may be used. Success lies, in Zara's opinion, in knowing the material inside and out, being able to back every argument up with a statute or case, and working together as a team. In each team of three, one is a solicitor and the other two are Council, who speak in court. Each team is given a case and choose to be the respondent or repellent.

In the preliminaries Zara's team chose to be the respondent against Trident High School in a case of a woman being summarily dismissed. The girls were able to prove her innocence. Their next case was in the District Court in Hamilton against Hamilton Boys High School, where they were the appellant. They lost but made it through to the finals against Fielding High School. Again they were the appellant team in a case of unfair dismissal, this time in the High Court with real judges and cameras. And they won! Each girl receives a \$3000 scholarship to Waikato University to study law if they wish to do so.

Ms Pancha of New Plymouth Girls High and Stephen Harrop were their coaches, and Stephen acted as their practice 'judge'. Zara says she enjoys mooting more than debating because of the formality and structure – you can't just make something up on the spot. She says it was an interesting experience learning to be so formal, proper and polite. Public speaking doesn't faze her either and it have something to do with having to speak in front of assemblies at Omata School and in the Devon Intermediate debating team.

Debating has taken Zara to the North Island Champs as well and she credits her success in debating to "proving I'm always right!", although she says her mother Trish takes credit for her ability to talk. Debating is more aggressive and is more fun, but mooting is a bigger buzz. Zara has won a 'best speaker' prize for her debating.

Since taking up mooting Zara says feels inclined to take up law at university, having always thought she would do something in science. Her other interests include photography and designing and making wearable art costumes, although she find she has very little free time for anything much other than study these days.

By Kim Ferens

Dr Mike Kennedy



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Glen Johns

award-winning designer



TOM caught up with local kitchen designer Glen Johns from Glen Johns Design in New Plymouth after he won a kitchen design award recently.

What was the award you won?

I won three awards: Taranaki Regional Winner 2006, Best Renovated Kitchen 2006, Kitchen Designer of the Year 2005 (Runner up).

This isn't your first award, what else have you won?
International Designer Award for Kitchens 2004

NKBA Kitchen Designer of the Year 2003

Home Ideas Kitchen and Bathroom Award (Commendation)

Best New Home Kitchen Central Region 2002

Home Ideas Kitchen & Bathroom Awards (Commendation)

Best Showroom Central Region 2001

Applico Group Award Best Renovation 2000

NKBA Kitchen Designer 2000 (Runner up)

NKBA Kitchen Designer Regional Award 2000

NKBA Kitchen Designer Regional Award 1999

NKBA Kitchen Designer Regional Award 1998

NKBA Kitchen Designer Merit Award 1998

How did you get involved in kitchen design and do you specialise only in kitchen work?

I started an apprenticeship in the kitchen industry as a cabinet maker, then became qualified. I progressed into the design area and started my own business in 2002. I also design and manufacture bathrooms and furniture.



There are many kitchen designers in New Plymouth so it is obviously a busy industry, can you elaborate?

Yes, there is a large market in Taranaki but there are only two certified kitchen designers.

How long have you lived in Oakura?

For 24 years

Do you consider yourself a local and what do you think it takes to be a local?

Yes, to be passionate about living and enjoying Oakura and surrounding areas.

What is special to you about Oakura?

The beach, the friendly people, no wind or a south east wind.

What are your hobbies?

Surfing, golf, snowboarding, touch rugby, camping.



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Honorary Ambassadors of New Plymouth and Oakura/Omata

On Thursday 22 June Mayor Tennent presented some of our locals with 'Honorary Ambassador' status as they prepared to represent New Zealand overseas in their chosen fields. Each recipient was presented with a badge and certificate and treated to refreshments.

Pam Livingston from Omata is in the New Zealand Open Bridge team to compete in the Pacific Asia Championships in Shanghai. The competition will run for nearly two weeks and the team will compete against 14 other countries. Half the cost of the trip is being funded by the national association. "The New Plymouth Bridge Club is running a fund raising event for me on 11 August, which is very much appreciated," says Pam. "There are six in the team. There is also a Women's team and a Senior's team competing. There has only been one other woman to represent New Zealand in the Open team in more than 50 years," Pam states proudly.

"To get in the team, my partner (Wayne Burrows from Palmerston North) and I had to play in trials, which lasted for six days, and we played for about eight hours each day – very tiring, but challenging and fun. Bridge is a partnership card game, which is sort of a cross between 500 and chess. It is complex and strategic, but it can be played at either a very basic level or a highly competitive level. Bridge has a huge world-wide participation with people of all ages and there are many professional players, teachers and authors," explains Pam. We wish Pam all the best and will hear more about her experience when she returns.

Val Deakin and Jane Roseman, along with Inge Vink, Shelley Prestney, Davina Moffat, Laura Sommerville and Sarah Davis from the Val Deakin Dance School, are also travelling overseas representing New Plymouth. The group are going to the Arundel Arts Festival in the United Kingdom in August. Val says it is a huge honour, as their show "Dance Magic" is the first dance to ever be included in the festival. A video of the groups' work was sent to the organisers and they were selected from that. The group has worked tirelessly to fundraise to get to the UK and are still seeking funds. Last week they performed a 'show case' of their festival dance, with the proceeds going towards their trip. Any financial help would be gratefully accepted. We will profile their trip in the TOM upon their return.

By Kim Ferens

Pam Livingston receiving the official certificate and badge from Mayor Pete.



Val Deakin Dance School group are lightfooting their way to the UK, and who said Peter Tennent shouldn't give up his day job?



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There's gold in them thar hills

Another in our series of articles from Puke Ariki, funded by the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET).

Gold in Taranaki? It had been found in the Coromandel and down south – so why couldn't it be found in the shadows of the mountain? This is a story of a search for gold that lasted more than 100 years, and man's ever hopeful dream of striking it rich.

As early as 1852 a cash reward was on offer to any person who could find a payable gold field in the region. None was ever found and the outbreak of war in 1860 frightened off any prospectors who still lingered on in hope of striking it rich.

In the gloomy days of the Taranaki Wars aftermath, the region was in an economic depression. So in 1865 when the local government raised the reward for finding payable gold to £1000 people got excited. Eager prospectors scrambled to fossick in every stream bed and river throughout the region. They did find some – the creeks near the mighty White Cliffs along Taranaki's northern coastline yielded a smidgen of gold – but never enough to claim the reward.

A chance encounter

It was three years before any decent amount of gold was found in the region. During an afternoon stroll along Oakura Beach a man named Wilson couldn't believe his luck when he came across a piece of quartz lying on the black sand. When tested the stone revealed 13 specks of gold. Word soon got around and the lure of the yellow metal brought young men in droves to the lush bush-covered Kaitake Ranges towering above the beach. Harris Ford is said to have been the first man to begin prospecting on the range in September 1868. He was joined soon after by Robert Hughes. They both worked in the Boars Head Gully testing seams of quartz.

More miss than hit

In November the two men pooled their resources and formed the Perseverance Prospecting Company. It was to prove a prophetic name. By the end of the year their tunnel (aptly named the Hit or Miss Mine) was around 25 metres into the hard rock. But they had yet to strike it rich – all they had come across was plenty of sulphur that stank and played havoc with their eyes. The work was slow and laborious. Every piece of the hard rock had to be blasted out before being broken up with pick and shovel and hauled out of the horizontal shaft.

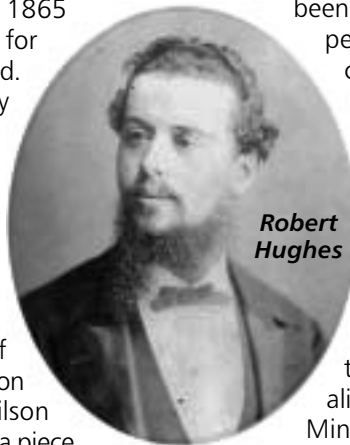
The lure of gold

By this time they weren't alone – up to 50 men were scrabbling around in the creek and its tributaries, scrambling up rocky outcrops and fossicking in the bush. A mining camp was set up along the creek and yet more men poured in as word of the gold spread around the district. But in February 1869 everyone fled. The massacre of Reverend Whiteley and his family at Pukearuhe in North Taranaki raised fears that

another war might be imminent. However, the lure of gold proved too much and within a few weeks everyone was back at work.

Later that year the *Taranaki Herald* described the scene:

"Entry is along the Weld Road, thence to Hatter's Creek. The first spot seen is the Lucky Hit drive, forty feet long. Then up the creek a chain or so to where a short distance above the Perseverance Coy had the day before commenced a drive into the Boars Head Reef. This mass of quartz faces the creek. About a chain farther down the creek is a waterfall of some twenty-five feet height. Below this fall, the Perseverance Coy have commenced a drive in order to reach the reef at a lower level, which will avoid pumping. Four or five companies have been formed and some seventy chains have been pegged off. A meeting has been arranged to consider purchasing a stamper battery."



Robert Hughes

A fruitless search?

How much gold were they finding? Harris had taken quartz to Thames to be tested at two mining companies. Both agreed there was gold – one suggesting up to two and a half ounces (75g) per ton of quartz, the other "equal to one ounce eleven pennyweights per ton". It wasn't a lot, but enough to keep interest alive. But was it really gold from the Hit and Miss Mine? How much of the precious metal was from the Kaitake quartz and how much was "left overs" already on the stamper plates from other tests? Years later experts suggested it was more likely the latter. The flame of hope had been kindled in the hearts of prospectors back at Boars Head Creek, despite the fact that nobody had found a nugget, no one had found a seam or even a speck of gold glinting from a pan swilled through the icy waters of the creek.

A fair trial

The Taranaki Provincial Council Government was supportive – finding a gold field in Taranaki would have attracted investment and brought new blood to the province. They negotiated with local Maori for the rights to prospect on the range. A road was built allowing stores to be carted within a kilometre of the workings and the Council paid for a man to work a quartz crushing machine the companies had bought. The miners needed this encouragement. The Perseverance Company were living up to their name. Despite digging 20m into a new claim at Boars Head they had found nothing. By March 1870 the specimen crusher was biting its way through a ton of stone from the Boars Head mine. The results dashed everyone's hopes. C Rennell, supervisor of the crusher, said, "It was a fair trial and the true explanation of not getting gold out of the stone is a very simple one – there was no gold in it." The Perseverance Company had little to show for years of work – Harris had his share of gold made into a small ring. Prospectors drifted away, the mines closed and the Boars Head Gully returned once again to a peaceful bush setting.

Better luck next time

But gold always draws people back. Within seven years another attempt was made to find gold in the Kaitakes. In 1877 a cash reward was again offered for a discovery. Despite the past disappointments and the increasing rumour that there was in fact no gold on the ranges, men once again flocked to the little creek in the bush high above the shores of Oakura. Who knows? This time someone might strike it lucky! Once again the sound of hopeful voices and the clink of tools echoed around the Boars Head Gully. Many of the old workings had fallen in so a new drive was started, reaching 10m into the rock face by Christmas 1877. But it wasn't to be a happy New Year for the handful of miners still drawn by the lure of gold. The workings were soon abandoned and the last large-scale prospecting for gold in Taranaki came to an end.

Not everyone gave up. Two amateurs, F Holdsworth and Reginald Bayley, devoted their annual holidays to the task, finding traces of gold, silver and copper in 1888. On the strength of their findings the Government sent geologist Alexander McKay out to do a survey. He found copper and minute traces of silver – but no gold. Ten years later Captain Capel put in a drive near Konini Creek, a branch of the Ahuahu Creek north of the Boars Head workings. He found silver and traces of gold – but the small returns didn't justify the labour to extract it and soon he too abandoned the search, leaving empty handed.

Other prospectors have come and gone, some with more determination than others. During the 20th Century R W Davies was the only serious prospector. He knew the Kaitakes well and cut tracks through the bush, which opened up the ranges to the public. Over 50 years he sent samples of quartz off to be tested. Each revealed minute amounts of gold, but never enough.

Since then prospectors have come and gone – each hoping they will be the ones to trip over a nugget or happen upon a payable seam of gold. Various reports have confirmed that traces of gold occur in the quartz of the Kaitakes, but nothing to get excited about. The old mine shafts are still there, now home to cave wetas and ferns. It's a pleasant stroll up to the mines from the end of Weld Road, but potential prospectors shouldn't take a pick and shovel – it's now illegal to fossick for gold in the Egmont National Park that embraces the Kaitakes. Whether there really is a payable goldfield in the ranges may now never be known.

By Sorrel Hoskin

Search for gold

*We've coal, jet black, on yonder hill
Manganese close by the mill
Sulphur near old Egmont's base
Ironsand all over the place
Nickel too if we are right
Signs of silver rich and bright.*

*And where's the man who dares to tell
But that a gold mine's there as well.*

Author unknown (1844)



Entrance to the Boars Head Mine as it is today.

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Ron raises the bar for youth

By Ron Lawson

I've had a real heart to help young people for a long time, even though I am young myself, still only 23. So I started a mentoring group for young men between the ages of 11 and 18 in February this year.

My focus with this mentoring group is to steer young people away from the harmful things often considered cool at their age – drugs, alcohol, sex, and just all around disrespect for authority. By teaching them life lessons I've gone through or someone else I know has gone through, I hope to show them that you can still have fun without doing those types of things or being those types of people.

From the beginning I had the boys set goals that are obtainable for them this year, so they can see what they can actually accomplish with a little self-confidence, brain power and the backing of someone who believes they can do it. These young guys are awesome and I'm glad I get to be a part of their lives.

Now I have a goal for this group and the goal I had in mind before I came to New Zealand from Hawaii was to take a group of young people to Hawaii for an awesome youth camp that happens every July on the island of Maui. It's put on by the church that I attended since my third year of school. It was definitely the highlight of my year and I know it would be the highlight of their young lives. Not only would they get to go to Hawaii, but they would get to experience a new culture together with young people their own age. The camp lasts for 4 or 5 days and it's full of games, obstacle courses, learning and just hanging out and having fun. The plan is to get them there for the camp, and then to take an extra week to just travel around and show them the island I grew up on – the beaches, the food and yes, even a luau.

I've met with the parents already and they are willing to let their sons go, but not without working for it. So . . . here's where you (the readers) come in. We are asking anyone who has work to do around the house or yard to put our young men to work. Yes, we are going to hire ourselves out – 2, 3, 4 or even 8 at a time. We are asking \$15 dollars an hour for two of us working at a time. We can do just about anything you ask and are willing to do so.

We will also be having bake-sales with the help of Snickerdoodles Coffee and Bake Shop, with a generous portion of the earnings going to the group. Not only that, look out for car washes, garage sales, and even a movie night to give you the opportunity to bless these young men.

Some of the parents of the group members will be coming along on the trip as chaperones, which is cool (they just wanna go to Hawaii – hahaha!). We actually wanted the parents to be involved, so yeah, it's great.

So if you have any questions or if you would like to put us to work, just call me, Ron, on my home phone 752 7989 or my mobile 027 440 3999 or at Snickerdoodles on 752 7227, or just come on by Snickerdoodles.

By the way, my group is open to any young men between 11 and 18 years, and I hope you'll come and hangout with us cool guys on Tuesday nights at 6.30 pm at 52 Surrey Hill Road. Hope to see you there.

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Homestay in Faga Village, Samoa

Jane Bowden shares her Samoan experience with our readers.

People should surround themselves with beauty, delightful nourishing fare and uplifting fragrances. Staying with the good people of Faga Village will provide for all these dimensions of your happiness.

Situated on the east coast of Savaii Island, Samoa, Faga is accustomed to hosting the small groups of tourists that come for a traditional Samoan beach fale experience. Head Chief of Faga, Tui and his wife Vaelua, facilitated the stay for our group of twenty, assigning guests to different families in the village. We had entered a place of extravagant hospitality, thirty-degree temperatures, a turquoise lagoon and white sand.

The majority of Savaii's coastline is characterised by layers of basalt formed into dramatic cliffs, sea arches and blowholes. Evidence of the most recent volcanic activity on Savaii can be viewed at the Saleaula lava field. This dramatic pahoehoe (non-explosive) flow from Mt Matavanu was continuous from 1905-1911, forming sheets that stretch 13 kilometres to the coast. Faga Beach is one of the remaining sections of reef-protected lagoon on Savaii with safe swimming. One main road rings the island. On the seaward side coconut palms and beach fale rest on coral sand, while on the inland side are large meeting fale (rectangular or circular open walled houses), common areas and family homes. The senses are filled with the sights and sounds of children, chickens, pigs, dogs, cars and muffled stereos. Family-owned plantations of coconut, banana, taro and pineapple provide the backdrop to (and lifeblood of) this lovely domestic scene.

Night arrives and after travelling, an ava ceremony, swimming with half the local primary school and a feast of fish and taro, it is time for rest. A mosquito net and modest sleeping attire is all you need in your open fale bedroom. The night time sea

breeze is more comfortable than the air-conditioned sanctuary we sought in Apia. It is warm and a deep Pacific rumble on the outer reef is overlapped with gentle ripples on the shore. The other lullaby I hear is the rustling leaves of the coconut palm – Sina's gift. This is the legend of the princess and the lovesick eel. In an act of sacrificial love, since they could not be together, he instructed her to cut off his head and plant it to receive his gift. The coconut grew in this spot and Sina had the nut (or niu) for sweet milk and flesh. The face of the eel is on every coconut and his reward was that Sina had to 'kiss the eel' to drink from the coconut shell. The people are proud of their culture and happy to share tradition and history with an interested audience.

In New Zealand open plan living means modern designs with multi-use cooking, dining, living areas, or knocking out walls of existing homes to create spacious, communal areas. In Samoa an 'open house' is more literal. Open walled fale serve most daily living requirements in Samoa, hurricanes aside. Natural materials such as palm leaves are used with creativity and care. In the main room of Tui and Vaelua's colourful house there is a communal dresser and large mirror. This is where we all groomed ourselves for church – hair, hats, ties. A little awkward at first but I soon decided this was a wonderful, normalising ritual. No locking ourselves away to preen in private and emerge fantastically made up. Here little brothers, sisters, grandparents and teenagers are part of the whole process. The household is not only physically welcoming, but it's in the spirit of hospitality that oozes from every pore of our hosts. It's the Samoan way, I am told. Any member of the extended family is welcome and put up at any time – it's a given.

As guests we were treated royally. Served feasts, waited on and discouraged from helping at every meal. We were entertained by a fiafia celebration with hilarious singing and dancing, and given gifts on our departure. The Faga Village homestay was only three days of a three week experience in Samoa, but had the greatest impression on the group. It was overwhelming to come with clumsy Western assumptions into a largely subsistent community and receive so much. Sensory overload has never been so enjoyable.

Happy holidays,

Jane



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The Vinaigrettes

The best wine is the wine you like the best (we came up with this after our second bottle). So begins our monthly wine column courtesy of The Vinaigrettes

It's Friday night and about 4 degrees outside. A girlfriend arrives with a bottle of Main Divide Chardonnay 2004. We pour the first glass and immediately the working week is forgotten.

As for taste, it has a delicious buttery and nutty flavour with hints of citrus and apple. There is no kickback in the throat, just a lovely smooth satisfying glide.

My personal Wine Adviser (WA) informs me that this is due to Malolactic Fermentation. This is a process whereby hard acid is converted to softer tasting lactic acid, which softens the flavour of the wine. You can read this on the label and it will give you a good indication of whether the wine will be soft in flavour.

The Wine Advisers Wife (WAW) tells me that it goes well with white meats such as pork and chicken, as well as cheeses and nuts. Tonight we had it standing alone and found it very nice, thank you.

The team agree that this is a \$20 wine with a \$30 flavour. Share it with a good friend and if you don't have any then buy a bottle from Craig and Co at the Four Square and see what happens! Don't forget when you do buy it to join the wine club and get a stamp for each bottle you buy. When you've bought a dozen, you'll receive \$12 off your next bottle!

Yours in Corks and Screw Tops

Jillyho



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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

Original Greatest Hits

B.B. King

(Virgin Records America/EMI)

Born in Itta Bena, near Indianola, Mississippi on 16 September 1925, Riley B. King is, quite simply, the greatest living bluesman (and many would say the greatest ever)!

Although he was the son of a sharecropper and, as a youth, worked on a plantation, B.B. King is also the most urbane of all the great bluesmen. Influenced by early blues masters, including his cousin Bukka White, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lonnie Johnson and T. Bone Walker, King also drew inspiration from the fervour of the church and the sophistication of jazz pioneers Charlie Christian, Django Reinhardt and Lester Young.

Original Greatest Hits contains "Miss Martha King" and "When Your Baby Packs Up And Goes," King's first recordings for Bullet Records (1949), but the unique style of 'The Beale Street Blues Boy' was not yet fully formed. After signing to the Bihari brothers RPM/Modern group of labels in 1950, 'Blues Boy' King gradually synthesised all of his influences, learning to project the emotional power of his blues and gospel influences and discovering how to let his guitar 'tell a story' like the great jazz soloists he so admired.

From 1951 through to 1964, B.B. King (as he was now known) cut the seminal sequence of hits that established his name. These included "3 O'Clock Blues", "Every Day I Have The Blues", "You Upset Me, Baby", "Sweet Little Angel", "Sweet Sixteen", "You Done Lost Your Good Thing Now", "My Own Fault", "Downhearted (How Blue Can You Get)" and "Rock

Me Baby" – all on this CD, alongside such curios as "Mashed Potato Twist", "On My Word Of Honor" and "Neighbourhood Affair". A year after the last of these recordings, B.B. King cut his classic *Live At The Regal*, the apogee of his career and the album that launched the blues great out of the ghetto and into the world at large. But that's another story...

Konkan Dance

Amancio D'Silva

(Vocalion/Elite)

Despite fusing electric jazz with the music of his Indian homeland, Goa-born guitarist Amancio D'Silva (1936-1996) will be unknown to all but the most well-informed of music lovers. In 1967, the former 'Bollywood' session guitarist D'Silva and his family migrated to Britain, where he cut five superb, but criminally underrated albums at Lansdowne Studios, London. The last of these recordings, *Konkan Dance* (1974) remained unreleased until this year, which is astonishing, given how incredibly fresh it still sounds!

Aside from D'Silva (electric and acoustic guitars), these four long tracks feature two of Britain's finest jazzmen, Don Rendell (saxophone) and Stan Tracey (piano), with Alan Branscombe (flute, vibes and electric piano) and sterling support from bass, sitar and tablas. D'Silva's playing is tasteful on "A Street In Bombay", "What Maria Sees" and "A Song For Francesca", but on the title track, he unfurls some proto-grunge guitar that any rocker would be proud of. Amancio D'Silva may not be a household name, but his body of work is ripe for rediscovery.

Arts & Crafts

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**Exhibition
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An exhibition of paintings by 11 adult students from Art by the Sea Studio will hang at Café Wunderbar from the 11th of July for 6 weeks.

The class, which has met for 2 hours, each Tuesday morning for 12 weeks, has been introduced to a variety of interesting techniques and produced a wide range of subject matter. Tutor Margaret Scott is pleased with the standard of work that is achieved in her class especially as most of the students have never painted before. Some of the work is for sale.

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Views from aloft

Back in the 1960s, Garry Litherland was an aerial photographer/salesman. In those days, Garry took pictures of farms from the air using black and white film, which were then finished by hand colouring. Although these pictures were a long way from the satellite mapping and gps technology we have today, they would have been infinitely useful and, of course, personally interesting to the land owners of the day. Here are a couple of Oakura Beach from Garry's collection.



To Auction Or Not To Auction

When I went through training school to become a real estate agent, our instructor at the time was of the opinion that every property should go under the hammer, and he had some persuasive and legitimate reasons why this should be the case. We came away from school with our briefcases under our arms, ready to take on the world and armed with the idea that we should send every property to auction. It didn't take long in the real world to find out that not every property is an 'auction' property. An even stronger reason for not taking every property to auction is the fact that not every vendor is an 'auction' vendor. Having said that, if the right criteria are present, auction is a very good way to sell your property.

Following are some benefits of auction, using the word "UNITS" to remember them by.

Unconditional: when the hammer comes down, the property is sold. This brings a finality to the sale, there is no waiting while conditions are met (or not met) and you can move on with your future plans with certainty, knowing the result of your sale. One of the objections people have to auction is that it can be too emotional, but when you think about it, most of the emotion is taken out of it at the end of the sale, as opposed to a regular set-price sale, which sometimes involves waiting weeks for a conditional offer to be verified, or sometimes not going through at all.

No price: which means that "no one knows the highest price you will take. They might pay more and no one can attack your price because they can never know it." I believe this point is especially relevant to some properties in Oakura. For instance, how do you put a price on water views, or some of the magnificent lifestyle properties that are here? If you do expose your price, you may be under-selling and a purchaser may have been willing to pay more than you expected.

Intensive marketing: marketing is simply a way of drawing as many people out of the market and into the sale of a property as possible. Auctions in themselves have the propensity to create inquiring minds to come along and find out more. The fact that no price has been advertised, gives more people the belief that they may be able to afford the prospective property. A good marketing campaign will set up the

auction day nicely, with every prospective buyer from far and wide having been drawn to the auction in the belief that they have equal opportunity to purchase the said property. An auction's success or failure can often be determined by the agent's efficiency and skill in actively marketing their listed property and the auctioneer on the day can draw his or her confidence from this.

Theatre: this means that "the auctioneer is able to create atmosphere and urgency in one place, putting buyer vs buyer rather than buyer vs seller/s". A good auctioneer is like poetry in motion to watch and I personally believe that we have the best in the business with Gundy and Roland.

Structure: means that "everybody involved knows what is going to happen, and when – there are no surprises and no risks. The sellers are always in control and you can be assured of two things – no one is going to argue with you about how much you want for your property and you will be aware of every offer."

The reality is that not every property gets sold there and then and some reasons for this can be that the agent hasn't done his job properly, or the auctioneer wasn't capable. It is also just as true that many homes that get passed in are sold to the highest bidder on the day after the auction. If the reserve hasn't been met, a good auctioneer will emphasise that opportunity several times throughout the auction so as to prompt the last bidder.

I hope this information may have enlightened and perhaps even encouraged you to go to auction with the next sale of your property.

Regards Garry Mclean

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Churchwood Bridal's first birthday



Jo-Anne Boys

Churchwood Bridal opened for business a year ago in June 2005. The salon's initial range was aimed at the "Real Woman", with sizes 14-28. This gave all women a chance to feel special and be treated like a princess when searching for the ultimate wedding gown. Twelve months on Churchwood is still providing the same unique personal service and can now boast that they cater for "Women of ALL BODY SHAPES" (sizes 4-28).

Churchwood Bridal has recently become the Taranaki/Manawatu stockist of Essense of Australia (bridal gowns) and Raylia (bridesmaid gowns).

Both can be seen in the current bridal magazines or at www.churchwoodbridal.co.nz

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The Kircher Girls Came Back!

Well four out of the five Kirchers have come back to live in Oakura. That is Sue (Thompson), Kay(Ikink), Pat(Coxhead) and Gail. Bill lives in Wellington. The four sisters share their happy memories of growing up in Oakura. The family association with Oakura begins with grandparents Frank and Effie Kircher who were the earliest permanent European residents in the village with a beach bach (built by Frank and others in 1935) on Messenger Tce now owned by Chris and Chris Davis. Frank and Effie sold their bach to Dick and Mary Ford and moved to a new larger home across the road at 66. An agreement was made with the Fords to keep the Pohutukawa trees trimmed, they didn't so Effie crept across the road one dark night and ring barked them! Problem solved!

Effie and Mildred Head the post mistress ran the local theatre group called 'The Playbox Theatre Group'. They would put on plays at the Oakura Hall. The village ladies made the stage curtains that are still there today. Effie was involved in acting all her life and she passed this onto the grandchildren –they had a love of dressing up and role playing. Bill (William has chosen Acting/Directing for his career). Even son Keith possessed a certain wit and humour that he imbibed into the girls' childhood. The lawns didn't get mowed but there was always time for fun, music and plays– a magic childhood.

The girls' parents were Keith and Iris Kircher. They lived in Wellington. The family would come up from Wellington each summer holiday and everyone would spend a glorious summer frolicking carefree around the village. The young Kircher family shifted permanently to Oakura in 1959 where they lived in 64 Messenger Tce. Neighbours Stan and Nance Vickers along with their two sons Mike and Grant made the newcomers very welcome by introducing them to all the locals and taking delight in watching the 'townies' get around the village in bare feet on the metal roads.

Keith was an avid member of the Vintage Car Club and was always restoring some old car. Gail remembers being envious of the other locals with their big modern type cars when her dad dropped her off at school in a vintage baby Austin. He was also a prodigious photographer of the family and others. He had a darkroom in New Plymouth at their silk screen printing business upstairs above the Sykes Cordial Factory in King St (now the Operatic Society).

Life was certainly different then as the girls remember. . . . The milkman delivered the milk. The girls would play tricks on their mother by putting notes in the bottles along with the coupons, saying she wanted to meet him, hoping their dad would find them! The 4 square was a dairy run by Ron Cave and you would order your bread in white uncut loaves. It made a great feast on the way home from the shop. Ron was also the local taxi driver. Sue worked in the dairy one summer selling ice creams and she sold so many she couldn't eat ice cream for years after. Geoff Hill was the owner of the 4 square then and he was famous for his variety of cheeses. On Saturdays and Sundays the groceries had to be covered up as it was illegal to sell groceries in the weekends. Aunt Mildred Head was the post mistress and she also sold haberdashery. Sue, Kay and Pat would knit booties and she would sell them for them. At the beach store you could hire wooden surf boards and at



The family home on Messenger Terrace in the 1960s.



The girls today -Gail, Pat, Kay and Sue.

Childhood fun.



Cruising on Oakura beach with family friend Barbara Hill (left..



Christmas time there was a beach mission in the circle. They would run night movies and we used to take our blankets along and all snuggle up.

Another holiday tradition was the "first footing" on New Years Eve after midnight when everyone would follow a bagpipe player around the streets and into peoples living rooms trying to raise money for the Surf Club. On one occasion Stan Vickers threw \$20 on the ground and told the group to 'bugger off'! In those days there was a campsite in Pitcairn St with a row of little cabins for hire. Fish and shellfish were prolific, even the local barber Bill Jefferies' cat could catch fish! Mussels and pipis were easily harvested straight off the beach and would often be eaten on the side of the road with Bruce McKay. Mike Vickers would take them crab catching at the Tapuae's.

Swimming was another favourite past time and you could do it anywhere or anytime and without adult supervision. In their teenage years it was especially exciting to sneak out of bed at midnight in pyjamas and walk around the block or dash off for a 'skinnydip' in the river or sea before returning to bed all

sandy and cold! Punishment for misdeeds was to weed the very large asparagus patch or being grounded.

Gail was friends with Ray Keightley who was attacked and killed by a shark in the bay. Gail had chosen to swim in the river that day.

Another fun activity was raiding the local orchards, especially the Shearers or lighting driftwood fires along the beach and cooking sandy sausages, spud and mussels.

As the girls got older their first responsible job was babysitting and doing housework for Ash and Nona Heydon while Nona worked in the garage.

Dad Keith was kept busy monitoring the 'boyfriend' situation! Mum Iris was obviously busy sewing and knitting matching outfits for the four girls who until their teenage years were nearly always dressed identically

Today all four women live in Oakura and continue on with the family ties to the area.

By Kim Ferens

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Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Well its official – Colleen, Catherine and Sarah have been operating Oakura Pharmacy for ONE year!

You will have noticed some great new signage and the support they have had from the local and coastal community has been fantastic. Last week the pharmacy ran a very successful "Birthday Bash" week, with daily specials and lots of discounts to be had. "I hope everyone managed to grab a bargain and the comments we have had about the products and services we are offering has been wonderful," says Colleen.

Over the past year the team have tried to maintain the services that the previous owner, Lionel Nesbit, offered as well as add their own touch and additional products and services.

"In our time here we have tried to give the community what it has requested and as a result have introduced some new services and product ranges," Colleen explains. New services include the introduction of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill and Xenical Weight Loss capsules and counselling. "We can also test your blood pressure, and for diabetics we offer free batteries for your meter, a computer printout of the data on your meter and calibration too," adds Colleen.

Sarah has been busy making the shop look inviting and her window displays have attracted some great comments. Come in and take a look at the natural skin care range from The Herb Farm, which is very reasonably priced, and the Jason's Organic range for babies is particularly "pampering". The Vitamin Club has been a real hit with our regulars and our range is constantly expanding. We now stock Radiance, Good Health, Natures Way, Thompsons, and Kordels as well as the Leppin and Peak Fuel (by Mark Inglis) ranges for sports people.

Colleen, Catherine and Sarah are only too happy to help customers with their health or beauty queries, or provide ideas for gifts. "It has been a satisfying first year for us and we are always looking at ways to improve our products and services. Feedback is always welcomed," concludes Colleen.

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OAKURA • TARANAKI

Hello fellow fishos

The weather has really put a spanner in the works for the meantime and the good days seem to fall on work days – bummer! Not much has been happening over the last month or so, with surfcasters preferring to stay home by the fire and kayakers feeling the same. However, there is always the mad few who venture out and they have indeed been rewarded. Kayaker Tony Hurring bagged a snapper of just over 8 kg for the first fish of the new season, plus a few smaller ones were caught between himself and another one of the keen members, Peter Florence.



The May Tri Comp for surfcasters was poor as well. A few of our members endeavoured to win the jack-potted prize of \$200; but only ended up with a red cod, which unfortunately don't count in the competition.

We recently held our AGM and prize giving, and I must say thanks to all who came. We nearly had a full muster – great effort. We have a new committee and look forward to an exciting year ahead, with a few good ideas being tossed around already.

Weighmasters report to the end of May

May results

Surfcaster: 1 trevally, 2 kahawai, 2 sting rays, 2 spotty sharks.

Kayakers: 2 snapper, 3 kahawai, 3 blue cod, 6 gurnard,

Total fish weighed in: 21

May Fish's of the Month

Surfcaster: Bruce Howson (2.55kg trevally).

Kayaker: Peter Florence (1.1kg snapper).

Surfcasting winners

Heaviest Gurnard – Shane Dunlop (9.4kg); Heaviest Snapper – Grant Morgan (3.25kg); Heaviest Trevally – Grant Morgan (2.66kg); Heaviest Bag, Club Day – Shane Dunlop (10.09 kg); Heaviest Fish, Junior – Darren Spademan (1.8kg); Heaviest Fish, New Member – Shane Dunlop(4kg); 3 Heaviest Snapper – Shane Dunlop (7.13kg); Heaviest Snapper, Club Day – Merv Krutz (2.19kg); Heaviest Shark, Snapper & Trevally – Shane Dunlop (8.43kg); Most Species – Shane Dunlop (10 species),

Most Overall Points, Men – Shane Dunlop (4,307); Most Overall Points, Ladies – Debbie Edgecombe (758); Most Overall Points, Junior – Darren Spademan (95); Most Overall Points, Midgets – Jacob Morgan (10),

CLUB CHAMPIONS: Most Club Day Points, Ladies – Debbie Edgecombe (204); Most Club Day Points, Men – Shane Dunlop (2,164); Most Club Day Points, Junior – Darren Spademan (43).

Kayak fishing winners

Heaviest Snapper – Jason Bond (10.425kg); Heaviest Trevally – Bruce Howson (2.4kg); Heaviest Red Gurnard – Peter Florence (1.12kg); Heaviest Kahawai – Gary Harrison (2.83kg).

Most Overall Points – Peter Florence (3,457); Most Overall Points, Junior – Johnathon Brunning (84).

CLUB CHAMPION: Most Club Day Points – Peter Florence (1,126); Most Club Day Points, Juniors – Johnathon Brunning.

Thanks to all the trophy sponsors.

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Club

Well hasn't the snow been great, and from all accounts a lot of Oakura-ites have been up making the most of it – long may the good snow continue.

This last month has seen the Taranaki Longboard contest, with our junior members dominating and performing well:

Juniors Under-18

1st – Tyler Anderson, 2nd – Kaye McKee, 3rd – Keone Campbell
4th – Connor Langdringham

Women

2nd – Anita Crawford

Then the Blacksand Taranaki Surfing Championship was held over Queens Birthday weekend with Fitzroy turning on good waves on the holiday Monday, once again OBC members put in good performances:

Open

1st – Jarrod Hancox, 2nd – Keone Campbell, 3rd – Hamish Christophers, 4th – Jason Mathews

Juniors

1st – Conan James, 2nd – Sean Parker, 3rd – Tyler Anderson, 4th – Michael Mallalieu

Also over Queens Birthday weekend the Kaikoura Classic was held down in Kaikoura, where Simon Deken took a 3rd place – another good effort.

A night for the Grommets was held on the 16th June, unfortunately the weather was atrocious and we had only a small turnout. We will be running more of these, so keep an eye out for dates, to be decided.

Upcoming dates to remember

- The Surf & Snow contest – to be held on the most suitable weekend of the first three in August. If you're interested, call Mike Christiansen on 752 1272.
- Mid-Winter dinner for club members – July 15th. For tickets, contact Paul Christophers on 752 7126.

Over the coming weeks we have some junior members competing in Australia at a couple of the Grom Comps and if nothing else, this will be great experience for them and exposure to world class opposition. Report coming in the next issue of TOM.

Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders

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JULY CHECKLIST

✦ Vegetables:

Plant broad beans, asparagus crowns, onions, garlic, shallots, cabbage and spinach.

Add compost and lime to vacant soil in readiness for spring planting.

✦ Flowers:

Sow seeds of alyssum, delphinium, larkspur, dianthus, sweet pea and cornflower.

Lift and divide dahlias, cannas and phlox. Prune roses. Spray with Champion Copper for control of fungus diseases and Conqueror Oil for control of scale insects and mites.

✦ Fruit trees:

Plant new fruit trees.

Prune established fruit trees on a dry day to avoid the spread of diseases. Paint wounds with Bascal pruning paint to prevent disease entering the tree..

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Wunderbar revamped

Our local restaurant Wunderbar underwent an image makeover last week. Patrons can now expect a much more relaxed and affordable experience. Danger has had a yearning to create an eatery where you just call in to have a drink and a bowl of pasta or something as simple and tasty as a plate of breads, an espresso and dessert, or go out to for a special dinner. He wanted to get away from the exclusivity factor and make Wunderbar "the best place to have a good time in" without costing a fortune. But in true Danger style, he will never ever compromise on quality – diners will still get the very best of wines and produce.

The inside of Wunderbar has been improved. The counter area has been pushed back into the kitchen and the café now seats 45. Wunderbar also boasts a new eat-in menu and a take-out menu that offers exceptional value for money so locals will be able to afford top nosh every week, rather than only going out occasionally.

So pop in and enjoy the warm ambience of the Wunderbar Café and see what you, the local connoisseur, think of Danger's makeover.

By Kim Ferens



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Oakura Playcentre

Children from the Oakura Playcentre enjoyed a trip to the theatre in June. The Capital E National Theatre for Children put on a work of musical theatre at the Theatre Royal called 'On Our Street', which took the audience on an adventure based on the people, pets, sights and sounds of an ordinary street.

The children loved the humour, the music and the puppets.

Oakura Playcentre is well set up, with musical instruments, puppets and a puppet theatre as well as a small stage, and the children enjoy putting on their own performances. We're expecting them to be even more inspired to do so now.

The Oakura Playcentre in Donnelly Street is open Monday and Wednesday from 9am to noon. New families are always welcome and the first three sessions are free. If you are interested in joining us at the Playcentre, feel free to just turn up to a session or for more information, phone Jamie Silk on 752 1000.

Did you ever see the movie Rainman?

I find that's what most people associate with autism – either a 'genius' or a person who can't speak and rocks in the corner in his or her own world. But autism and it's high functioning variant, Asperger Syndrome are on a spectrum and are often referred to as 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder' (ASD) as they affect individuals in different ways.

Hi, I'm Karen. I'm certainly no expert on autism, but we do have a young son who is 'on the spectrum'. In this column I'd like to share with you some bits and pieces that we've learnt since he was diagnosed almost four years ago.

ASD is a lifelong neurological disorder that affects a person's ability to interact with the world around them. It affects three to four times more males than females and it's on the rise, with twice as many individuals being diagnosed today than ten years ago in the United States. Scientists believe it is probably caused by a mixture of genes and environmental triggers.

Individuals with ASD usually have problems with:

- Communication – Their speech may be delayed (but not always) and they may 'echo' what you say (echolalia) or echo portions of books or videos like a 'script'.
- Imagination – They may have difficulty with 'abstract' things and find imaginary play hard. More concrete ideas using letters and numbers are usually easier for them to understand.
- Social skills – Sometimes they have a hard time joining in as they may struggle with reading body language and facial expressions. They usually want to make friends, but they aren't sure how to.

Individuals with ASD, as we have found out with our son, can learn the things that don't come naturally to them. By breaking skills down into small steps and reinforcing successes, as well as teaching different social skills, we are equipping him with some of the things he will need to function in the world and enjoy life.

Next time I'll talk about some of the sensory issues and anxieties faced by individuals on the spectrum.

Karen

Oakura Plunket

It's the holidays at the moment, so we have a break from Plunket coffee mornings for a couple of weeks, but we are kicking back into it on Friday 21 July.

Our coffee mornings continue to be well attended and we always welcome new faces to come and have a chat and a cuppa, while the children have a play and a healthy snack. Even the cold mornings haven't deterred our most hardy attendees and the older children have enjoyed playing on the slide in the secure and sheltered outdoor area.

Thanks to all those people who supported the Radiothon on the weekend of 23-24 June. Your support of such a worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

This term we have organised a couple of speakers to come and talk to the local parents at the Coffee mornings.

Friday 28th July (9.30am) – Sarah Mori who runs the Active Movement Program for Sport Taranaki is coming to talk to us about Active Movement for Under-5s.

Friday 18th August (9.30am) – A representative from Barnardos is coming to talk to us about the PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS (PAFT) program that they successfully run in Taranaki. This is an educational program to nurture learning in the home environment, so do come and listen to how this could work for you or pick up some ideas for educating and entertaining your littlies.

Oakura Plunket is proud to be able to offer the free coffee mornings for local parents to attend, share ideas and meet other parents with small children. Having a supportive network of friends is often the "saving grace" when it comes to parenting so do try to come along on Fridays – starting 21 July 2006. There is somebody there from 9am so turn up any time after that and enjoy the fun until 10.30am.

St James Church Hall, Corner of Main Road and Donnelly Street, Oakura Village

Fridays, 9am – 10.30am.

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OMATA school news

Open day this year was a great success, with displays in the hall from our Term 2 "All Wrapped Up" Rich Topic. A highlight of the last few weeks has been the opening of Cafe Omata on Fridays after our assembly. Espresso, latte, cappuccino and fluffies have been sold along with yummy baking, all in the name of fundraising for the Year 5/6 camp. Many thanks to Kim and Catherine for bringing in their coffee machines. Staff and parents have not been able to resist the smell of fresh Havana coffee and those delicious cakes. The cafe was also open all morning during our open day and was a really nice way for families to mix and mingle.

It was great to see so many people brave the icy conditions to wander around the classrooms and see what the children were doing. During our topic this term children have been having time in factories. These are mixed age, small groups of children who spend an hour at a time engaged in an activity to do with being "all wrapped up". From wrapping paper to rap songs, the students took part in eight different activities over a six-week period. They enjoyed interacting with other students from different classes and being taught by different teachers each time.



Omata School Dancers Mia West, Olivia Lister, Evie Lindsay.



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13th Grade Soccer Report

The season is well under way and the team looks fabulous in their new kit. Parents of other schools have commented enviously on how good the children look and have made other comments like their can't afford such gear but we only look so good because of sponsorship. Our team sponsors deserve a huge thank you: *Peter and Sandra Lewis, Jones and Sandford Ltd, Floteck Consultants Ltd, Murray Hoosan and Dental House*. Thank you too to the manager Tracey Lusk who organised all this.

The team includes 9-13 year olds competing in a predominately intermediate aged competition. Assisted by our coach Phil Parthmore, all our players have shown great commitment and are playing well in this grade. Every team member is a good ambassador for Omata School.

Karen Brisco



Omata 13th Grade Soccer Cody, William, Ethan, Aden, Phillip.

It's time to start studying for . . .

THE OMATA SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT



WHEN: Saturday, August 5th 2006

WHERE: Omata School Hall

WHAT TIME: 7.00pm start

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT

So bring along your loose change, as this is the major fundraiser for the Year 5 & 6 Camp in September. Get together a team of 6 people, come dressed in theme, be in to win excellent raffles, BYO and have a great night.

Barney from **Classic Hits** is our MC, so it should be a great night . . .

Loads of prizes for things like . . .

SPOT PRIZES, BEST THEMATIC DRESS, BEST NAME, FIRST PLACE . . . even LAST PLACE!!!

Tickets will be \$10.00 a person (\$60 a team). For this you will get 'Nibbles throughout the night and a Supper'.

This is going to be an AWESOME NIGHT, so be in quick to purchase your tickets.

They will be on sale in the school office, Week 1 of Term 3.

When you purchase your tickets, be sure to give your team name.

OAKURA school news

During Term 2, Oakura School has been participating in the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart programme. This has been a really worthwhile programme, with the children's skipping skills and fitness levels greatly improving throughout the term. The school had a 'Jump Off' on the last day of term.

Rooms 4, 5 and 6 have also been learning 'Jump Jam' routines. This is another fitness programme that involves a combination of aerobic type activities, coordination skills and dance moves. It is a great way to start the day, warm up and switch on for learning.

*Rooms 4 and 6
getting fit with
Jump Jam.*



*Room 2
children
practice
their Jump
Rope
techniques..*



Oakura School Wearable Arts Show

Well-known local photographer, Jane Dove Juneau captured some of the amazingly creative designs from the recent Oakura School Wearable Arts Show.

Max Hardie Boys



Neon Glow by Hogan.

Mitch Walker.




Jack Thomson.



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tom kids ★ **FACTS POEMS JOKEs**

TOM KID PROFILE



Name: **Jasmine Donald**
 Age: **8 years**
 School: **Omata, Room 2**
 Teacher: **Ms Aylward**
 Favourite movie: **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
 Favourite book: **The Upside Down Girl**
 Favourite food: **blueberries and strawberries**
 Favourite activity: **reading**
 Interesting places: **Sydney**
 Friends: **Hannah, Brittney and Skye**
 When I grow up I want to be... **a journalist.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fly 1: Can I read your book?
 Fly 2: No, stick to your fly paper.

How many blondes does it take to change a lightbulb? None there are a dozen men fighting to do it for them.



Oakura
PANEL REPAIRS

JARROD WICKHAM
 1 Victoria Road, Oakura,
 RD4, New Plymouth
Ph/Fax: 06 752 7485
Mobile: 027 544 0005
oakurapanel@xtra.co.nz

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CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

Plunket coffee Mornings:

Friday mornings 9.00 -10.30am at St James Church hall.

Mini Groovers:

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

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:

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.
 All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
 Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street
 Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.

"Grandma, you're teeth are like stars, they come out at night!"



Top Print

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Anne Wilson

06 752 7775

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As a celebration of my success- How would you like a meal out?

\$100 meal voucher to a restaurant of your choice AND \$100 donation to a club/school/kindergarten of your choice on the successful sale of the property you referred to me. Call Anne for more details and conditions, offer open until November 30 2006.



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Properties For Sale by Anne

CHECK OUT OUR SIGN BOARD AT THE RAW TASMAN CAFE



10 Russell Drive, Oakura

3 bedrooms, plus large study, ensuite and bedsit. Seaviews. Motivated vendor wants offer now - House Vacant. Huge price reduction from \$570,000 to \$525,000.

Wairau Rd Sections

ONLY 4 LEFT!
Buyers around \$200,000 should act now before it's too late!



204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

Near New, 5 bdrms + study on 6010m² of land. \$750,000



Atkinson Rd section

1 flat acre with mountain views, privacy and only minutes from town. Plans for a 4 bdrm + study contemporary home available, \$230,000.



25 Arden Place, Oakura

Low maintenance, 4 bdrms, 3 bathrooms, internal access double garage, sea views, close to main patrolled beach.

OAKURA

New Section Opportunity x 2

NEW LISTING. 2 new sections available now. Buy now PAY LATER. If you have always dreamt of living in Oakura this may be your chance to secure an affordable plot to build your dream home.

If you are wondering about buying or selling in Oakura, do let me know, I often have a few properties that you may not know about - it's worth a call to check what is coming up!

Properties Sold by Anne

Atkinson Road section and 25 Arden Place, Oakura

Thought for the Month

"Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully."

HARVEYS
PARK CITY REALTY LIMITED MEMBER

PEOPLE and PROPERTY

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