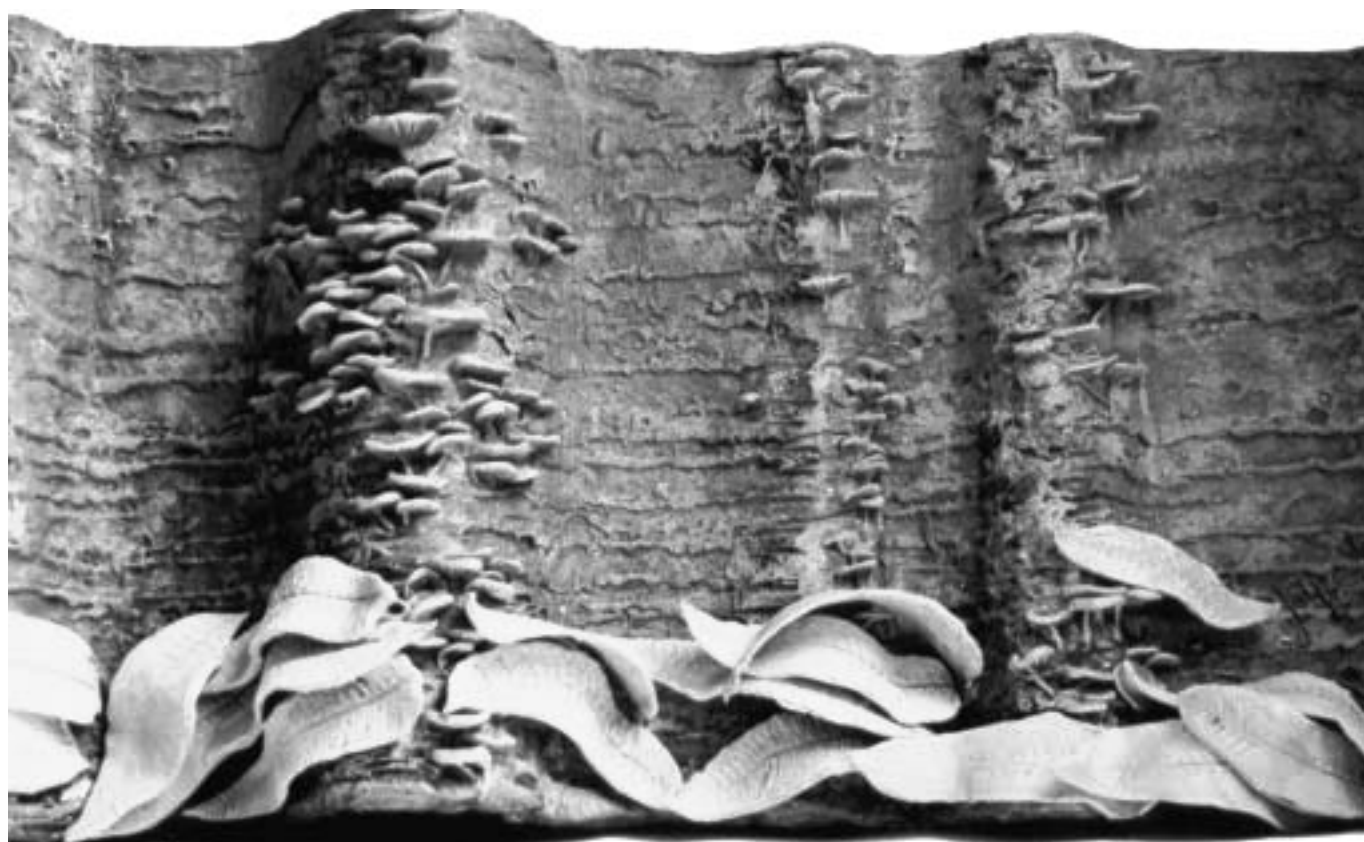


The forest floor enchants



At the Royal Easter Show in April in Auckland, Joyce Young won first prize in the Best Professional Ceramic Pottery section of the show. This follows on the heels of last year's first place. The prize was a \$1000 gift voucher from the prestigious Morris and James Studio.

Joyce's winning entry was a stunning wall hanging called "Forest Floor" and is part of her forest floor theme inspired by a fungi-covered fallen log in her garden.

In creating the winning piece, Joyce used an innovative process combining ceramic fibre, paper and clay. When the piece is fired in the kiln the paper burns out of the clay and ceramic fibre giving a wonderful texture. A similar technique was first demonstrated to Joyce 12 years

ago at a potters' conference and Joyce has gone on to develop her own recipe and process.

The clay was laid out flat then moulded over a tube. The background colour was achieved using a burnt umbre oxide. The leaves are a pale green slip stain that are glazed onto the background. Real leaves were used to get the veining. The fungi are a brilliant orange coloured slip stain. The entire creation is about 900 millimetres wide and filled two kiln shelves. Joyce was unsure how successful the piece would be and said she was "so pleased" when she opened the kiln door and it was in one piece. She feels it is one of her more exciting pieces and she has given it to her son for his birthday.

By Kim Ferens

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

Last month highlighted for me how inadequate Telecom's service is. Firstly, Telecom cannot supply broadband to my phone line. I live a mere 5 kilometres from New Plymouth and yet that is too far for a broadband service. How ridiculous! I can get satellite broadband installed for nearly \$1000 while someone less than a kilometre away can get broadband installed for \$99. It puts my blood pressure up! It's not like I live in an isolated area. Jeeez! And because I don't have broadband, last month's Kaitake Community Board report bounced out of my email box. Why didn't Telecom re-send the bounced email? I didn't know who it was from, so consequently didn't publish a very important report from the Board. What an inadequate service from Telecom I say!

This month there have been awesome stories to follow up on and I have really enjoyed being out and about talking to various locals – Joyce Young, Dave Marshall, Tess Novak, Hannah Sarten, Nick Moses, Bert Seamark, the McGregors and the Krutzs. Keep the stories coming in, they make for interesting reading.

Did you see the Census statistics? We are one of the fastest growing areas in the provinces but didn't we all know Oakura/Omata is the best area to live in anyway!

Kim Ferens

Some people have expressed interest in the TOM process, so this is what happens . . . our contributors get their stories to me by a particular deadline and I read the stories before sending them off to be edited by a professional proof-reader. When they come back, the stories and images are "laid out" by Ron, who is also busy designing advertisements. Tracey and I check the layout and Ron makes any resulting changes, then takes the completed file to be made into film. The film goes to our wonderful printers, Perry and Sharon at Top Print, who convert all our work into hard copy. Wayne at NZ Post then gets TOM out to Rural Delivery man, Peter Siffleet, and I or Tracey deliver the necessary number to Carol, the postie. For our subscribers and advertisers outside the Oakura area, the TOM is popped into the post and everyone gets a great read!

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.

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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!

We are nearing the end of the preparation of the Oakura Structure Plan – a big thanks for all of your input to date!

I know there has been a high level of involvement from Oakura residents during the planning stages of this structure plan. It takes a lot of commitment to attend meetings and speak up about what is important to you, and to write submissions, so I really appreciate the time and effort you have all put into this process.

Once the Oakura Structure Plan is in place, we will have a clear blueprint of how the Council will manage development as well as the environment in the town.

Oakura is a significant coastal area for New Plymouth District, on one of the most beautiful spots along our coastline, so it's important that we still have the kind of town that residents want in 20 years' time!

That's what the structure plan aims to do – make sure the town develops along the priorities of its residents.

Right now we are in the final leg of the plan's development, with submissions from the public being called for. The Draft Oakura Structure Plan and submission forms are available now from the Oakura Library, the Civic Centre and online at www.newplymouthnz.com

Please take a few minutes to read through the draft plan and send your feedback to the Council by the deadline of 5 pm Friday 23 June.

Meanwhile, we ended up with a record number of submissions to the Draft Community Plan 2006-2016 – a whopping 1000-plus! That leaves our previous record of 484 submissions in 2003 in the dust.

These community plans are all about a partnership between councils and their communities, and your feedback has certainly ensured that New Plymouth District Council is aware of this district's opinions!

The submission hearings on the Draft Community Plan will be held in the middle of this month and the plan will be finalised on 27 June – and you're more than welcome to attend these meetings so you can see the decision-making process firsthand.

Remember, if you have a project you'd like to get off the ground and you think the Council might be able to help, give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

Oakura Structure Plan

Under the wider framework of the Coastal Strategy, and after two rounds of consultation, the New Plymouth District Council has developed a Draft Structure Plan for Oakura. The Draft Structure Plan will shape the future of the Oakura community over the next 20 years and provide for areas of residential expansion, recreation and coastal hazards management.

The Draft Oakura Structure Plan has been notified for submissions. **Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 23 June 2006.**

Get a copy of the Draft Structure Plan and make a submission. Copies are available from the Civic Centre, Liardet St, NP and District Libraries or check out the drafts online www.newplymouthnz.com/coastalstrategy or email submissions to coastalstrategy@npdc.govt.nz, post to Freepost 62742, Coastal Strategy Submissions, NPDC, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth.



HON. **HARRY DUYNHOVEN**
MP for New Plymouth

Just recently, I heard a radio commentator scoff at the Government's continued emphasis of our three priorities; Economic Transformation, Families Old and Young and Nationhood Building and I thought how odd that was and how short some people's memories are.

It really doesn't seem so long ago when New Zealanders were reeling in the wake of change; so many changes in so short a time with few clearly understood or mandated goals. It wasn't so long ago that many New Zealanders heaved a sigh of enormous relief when it was decided to stop and have a cup of tea.

Now a journalist is expressing boredom with a Government policy of ensuring that it listens to the people and reports to the people and sticks to the promises made to the people on the basis of what the people say is important.

And what do New Zealanders continually say they care about? That's right, first and foremost, their families, their children and their elderly.

We want our kids to grow up safe and healthy, we want them to have great schools to go to and when they leave school to have every opportunity to further their education or training or to travel or work.

We want jobs for everyone, young or old, who is able to work and that's the vast majority of us, we want fair wages for a fair day's work and, when we cannot work, we believe there must be available whatever supports and assistance we might need for as long as we need them.

Speaking of jobs, unemployment in the Taranaki area is up somewhat, from 3.6% in March 05 to 4.7% in March 06. Here's something interesting: employment was also up from 54,500 in March 05 to 55,600 in March 06.



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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Public opinion to be sought on local camping grounds

The future of the district's public camping service, including the current six Council-operated camping grounds, is now being put before the public.

Manager Parks and Recreation Assets Kelvin Shooter says, given the amount of consultation currently underway on coastal and reserve related topics, the Council wants to make this feedback process as easy as possible for the public.

"The Council is finalising the Coastal Strategy and we are well underway with the draft General Reserves Document and the Coastal Reserves Management Plan, all of which touch on various issues related to camping grounds and which have received a lot of public submissions," says Mr Shooter.

"We don't want to bombard the public with too many consultations so we're gathering relevant information that has already been provided through the Coastal Strategy and coastal reserves consultations. We will also hold a single consultation on various camping ground issues rather than separate consultations on groups of issues. We know there's a lot of interest in Council-owned camping grounds so we want to make the consultation process as easy as possible for the public."

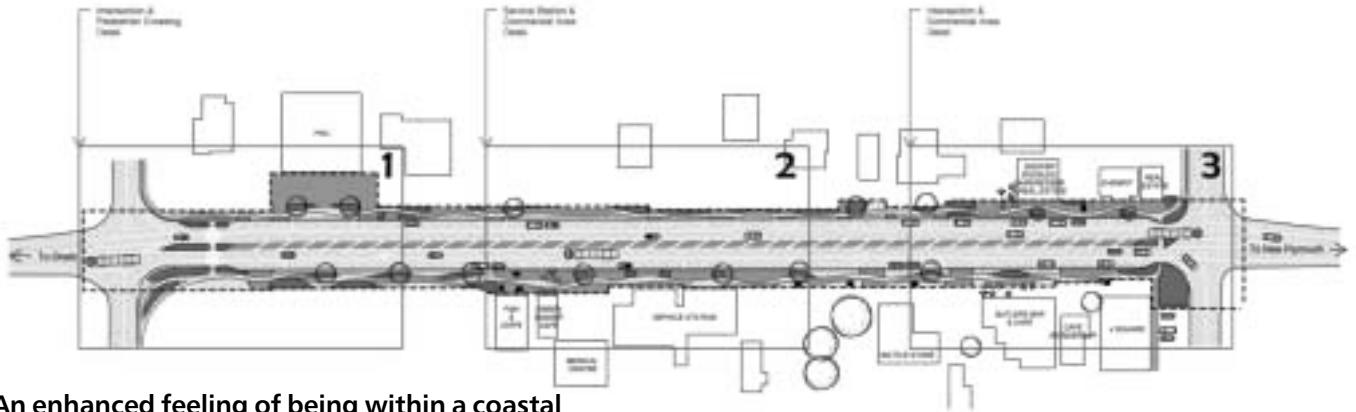
A review of the camping grounds' policies, operations and management options cannot be undertaken until the Coastal Strategy and Coastal Reserves Management Plan are finalised, as they include fundamental questions such as whether camping grounds should operate in New Plymouth District and, if so, where they should be located and whether they should be on coastal recreation reserves. The Coastal Strategy will be completed by July while the Coastal Reserves Management Plan will be completed by this summer. But in the meantime, the Council is seeking the public's opinions on various topics related to camping grounds, including:

- The preferred location of camping grounds – particularly in relation to the coast.
- Length of occupancy on camping grounds.
- Permanent or semi-permanent accommodation (whether privately owned or owned by the Council for hire).
- Landscaping around camping ground accommodation.
- The management of camping grounds.
- Access onto and through a camp site for the general public.
- The importance of camping versus the opportunity for that space to be used for other recreational purposes.
- Tourism and economic development.

There are six Council operated camping grounds in coastal areas: Urenui, Onaero, Waitara, Fitzroy, Belt Road and Oakura.

If you want to have your say, you can find more information about the review and a feedback form on the Council website at www.newplymouthnz.com or phone the Council on 06 759 6060. Submissions close at 5pm Friday 18 August 2006.

Streetcape design finalised



An enhanced feeling of being within a coastal community is coming to the main street of Oakura, with the finalisation of a new streetscape plan.

The new design follows months of discussion between Transit New Zealand, the Kaitake Community Board and New Plymouth District Council to find a design that meets everyone's requirements.

"This new design answers Transit's concerns by providing a bit more road width than originally planned for the town's main street, but still enables us to have high-quality pedestrian spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors," says NPDC Manager Projects Jeff Bondy.

"All of the main elements that were in the original design have been retained in this streetscape."

Transit New Zealand objected to the previous streetscape design as it wanted to ensure there was enough road space to handle increasing volumes of traffic along the state highway in coming years.

The approved streetscape includes a painted median strip which will run the length of the road, to make for easier traffic flow around turning vehicles.

The design also features wide pedestrian strips on both side of the road, with the mountain side the widest of the two. The strips will comprise paved and grassed surfaces, and the footpath will have a slow wave-like design to echo the sea and coastline.

The existing tree pits will be incorporated within the wider pedestrian area on the mountain side of the road. "We won't have any tree pits encroaching on the road, leaving the footpath for people and the highway for vehicles," says Mr Bondy.

Parallel parking on both sides of the road will make for safer traffic manoeuvring, and also enable the northern pedestrian area to be widened. The main street will have the same number of on-street car parks (58 parking spaces) as at present.

Construction of the streetscape will be timed to avoid the busy Christmas and summer season and the Council is aiming to have the work completed by late November.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

Moving towards winter in the Neighbourhood

So far it's been dark nights, cold mornings and sunny days – long may they continue.

Winter is a time when we should take an extra look at our elderly neighbours. Winter often compounds their frailties and if the weather gets worse and they are housebound, they often get more depressed than they should.

Changing a light bulb, getting some wood in or some milk from the dairy are small tasks to us but large problems for some of our older neighbours and they would most likely appreciate a little help.

The crime statistics to December have been published and it's nice to see another reduction in crime, albeit very small. The police have recently conducted a survey to get the public viewpoint and their priorities and while the results are yet to be published, it's a safe bet to believe that drugs will feature high on the list. While this is quite rightly regarded as a serious issue, alcohol is by far a bigger component of crime.

While drink driving is on a continuing downward path, the drunk on foot is increasing "wilful damage" crimes at a great rate – letterboxes, fences, solar lights, cars parked on the roadside are all targets, and if you are on a pub route or a major road, its not likely to get better.

The situation does not improve when they lurch through the door at home to find some irate spouse or parent waiting – not a recipe for harmony in the home.

Having been known to partake in a beer or two or even the odd dram, it would be hypocritical for me to say I did not enjoy them. But I would not be surprised if there is a whole new set of laws governing the serving and selling of liquor in the near future. Age is not the problem with drinking, but the quantity and ability to handle it certainly is.

Lastly, a safety issue. Could the people who have LPG gas heaters please have both the bottle checked and the appliance cleaned professionally. There have been some very bad accidents with this type of appliance due to inadequate maintenance.

Cheers for now

Barry C, Neighbourhood Support

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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

Sorry if you missed us in the last *TOM*, the electronic highway hiccuped.

Community Consultation for Draft Plan submissions

The Board would like to thank all of those who have taken the time to submit to this year's Community Plan. Doug Hislop has done an enormous amount of work preparing submissions and lobbying the Council. Thanks Doug.

1026 submissions have been received and many will give oral submissions over a five-day period starting 1 pm 12 June. Having read most I am pleased to note much support among our community for projects. The sad part for me are the dissenting ones who literally do not want anything to happen. Many of my generation seem to want to put a stop to progress. Fortunately they are the minority.

I remember well the same battles when Daisy Lean's Council took on the sewerage debate, the development of the pool, Puke Ariki and many other great facilities the community enjoys today – thank goodness for visionaries!

Humour also within the submissions. Devon Intermediate School students were given a wish list, it seems, and some of the wishes range from airport runways to our own Waterworld theme park.

Two things are sure, the "wants" far outnumber the "don't wants" and nobody wants to pay rates.

I often wonder just how many of our residents actually understand the way Council works or do they simply rely on newspaper reporting to form an opinion? Big mistake.

Oakura streetscape

Our upgrade is now go, and hopefully our new look streetscape will greet us when summer arrives, just in time for people to enjoy a wander through the village to eat enjoy a coffee and shop.

No parking spaces will be lost and parallel parking will reduce some of the visibility problems, I imagine.

I have received several e-mails regarding lighting around the village. Max Aves, Manager of Roding Assets, has told me that once the Community Plan has been adopted by the Council, lighting priorities throughout the district will be addressed. What this means is that if the Budget provisions stay intact, our lighting requests will be in the queue and, more importantly, that they have been noted.

Oakura Structure Plan

The Oakura Structure plan is now out there for your questions to be answered – please ask many.

Section sizes? Height restrictions? Have your say. Be very vocal. How do you want Oakura beach to look in 20 years' time? Like Mt Maunganui, or just like it is now? How aware are you of present sub-divisions in our rural community (a lot more than I was, I hope). Did you know that presently, the required distance for your rural neighbour to build on is only 5 metres from the boundary? Whatever happened to view shafts?

Telecom

After many emails, talks, misinformation and dollars spent erecting satellite dishes by some, Telecom have done a complete turn around and the good news is a new box on Plymouth/Koru Road corner will be delivering broadband in the future.

Lucys Gully Meeting with DoC

29th June 7.p.m. Oakura Surf Lifesaving Clubrooms. This is your chance to relook at the track closing in this area.

Fay Looney

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Local fire highlights liability laws

Taranaki Anniversary Day is a day Dennis and Heather Krutz of Omata won't forget in a hurry. It's the day their house nearly went up in smoke when a supposedly extinguished rubbish fire reignited and rapidly spread up the valley towards their house. Dennis had lit the fire on Saturday morning to clear away rubbish from wood chopping. The fire had basically burnt down by lunch time and Dennis hosed it over in the afternoon. On Sunday evening a rather gutsy south east wind arose and combined with the drought like conditions of previous weeks which had dried out the soil and underlying roots – the fire sprang back into life. The first the Krutz's knew about it was when Heather drew back the curtains on Monday morning and commented to Dennis about the smoke. By this stage much of the vegetation around the house was on fire. Dennis rushed out with the garden hose but soon found it was like ".....pissing into the wind..!" The 111 fire call was made with local Oakura Fire Brigade and the city Brigades attending. In fact five trucks attended and it took over three hours to extinguish. Now the Krutz's have a huge fire bill to pay. Fortunately they have public liability insurance which covers vegetation fire fighting on rural properties. This raises an interesting point for those who live in rural areas. Do lifestyle block owners in rural areas know they have to foot the bill for vegetations fires they lit?

Lester Barnes of New Plymouth District Council outlined the council's position. The New Zealand Fire Service covers at no cost the suppression of all fires in urban areas and structural fires i.e. buildings, in the rural areas.

In rural areas the NZFS will attend vegetation fires at no charge for the first hour only. Following this the NZFS will charge the designated fire authority (in Oakura/Omata) – the NPDC and the Department of Conservation, for all expenses i.e chemicals, personnel, appliances, materials etc. Both the council and DOC have fire suppression parties which may also be required for long term fires. The fire authority (NPDC and DOC) will then recover all costs from the person who lit or caused the fire in the first instance and in for some fires the landowner even if he did not light the fire. The Department of Conservation areas include a 1 kilometre buffer around all DOC areas i.e. National Parks and Scenic Reserves. These areas carry a permanently restricted fire zone 365 days a year unless a permit is granted. A permit does not remove the liability from the person who lights the fire, generally the rule of thumb is "the person who lights the fire is liable for all costs if the fire gets out of control".

A wise property owner will have public liability insurance and Mike from McDonald Everest tells me this insurance can be added to existing clients premiums for \$50 per year for \$250,000 fire cover and \$1 million overall coverage. New policies will cost \$250 per year. The only hiccup here is if a fire restriction is in place and you don't have a permit then you aren't covered for any fires.

Dennis's advice is too make sure you have public liability insurance and with regards to fires is to "... drown the bugger ... !" If you have any further queries ring Lester Barnes at NPDC or check out the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

By Kim Ferens



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Terry Griffiths having a scrub in the shower. Wonder if he sings too?

A see-through solution

Are your shower doors all gunked up? If you live in Oakura the answer is most likely yes, because Oakura's water supply has lime and calcium in it that builds up on glass. Local couple Terry and Barb Griffiths have been in business as See Thru Doors for six weeks now and have a string of happy customers with glistening shower doors.

Terry and Barb use a product from Belgium along with some old fashioned hard work and grunt with a polishing machine to remove the film that accumulates on the glass. Once this film has been removed, a sealer is applied in two coats to prevent the film reappearing. They also supply a squeegee to use after showering to remove excess water from the glass.

The See Thru team will also seal new shower doors and walls, so if you are building a house, getting Terry and Barb in to seal the doors before the shower is used will help prevent that unsightly build-up.

There are several theories on what causes the film, but it is certainly worse in Oakura than in places where rain water is used. Terry also feels that the quality of glass these days is another factor because modern houses tend to have worse build-up. Some people blame soap and have changed to the liquid variety, but so far Terry has found no evidence to back this theory, with apparently little difference in build-up between the showers of both kinds of soap users.

But if you want the brilliant new look back in your shower, call Terry and Barb on 752 7888 or 027 2733 8478.

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Oranga Whenua:

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

Artist Jo Tito prints photographs onto home-made flax paper, giving the ancient harakeke firm links to modern art . . .

Elevated inspiration

High against the Taranaki bush line, not too far from New Plymouth, Jo Tito makes flax paper to print her photographs on. She has lived in a rustic yellow cottage on the upper reaches of Carrington Road for almost four years. It's a wonderful environment, she says, a link to life and art, where even the weather becomes an integral part of her wild artistic landscape.

"My inspiration is right at my door. I love it here. I love the rain and the mist."

Taranaki links

Although Tito holds firm Taranaki connections, she came here from Auckland, almost as though her tupuna (ancestors) were pulling her strings. "Definitely. I grew up in Rotorua. My mum's Te Arawa. I moved to Auckland for a couple of years and became part of the Maori Women's Dance Company, with my cousin and her sister. I started off being their photographer and then a kind of manager. Then I became a dancer, which was a wonderful experience and something I'm still pursuing. But when I was in Auckland, I had this urge to be in Taranaki. Just come back, reconnect and come home, even though I've never lived here. The mountain, the land was calling me to come."

Hoki ki to maunga

Kia purea ai koe e nga

Hau a Tawhirimatea

Return to your mountain

To be cleansed by the

Winds of Tawhirimatea

Thinking outside the square

On the narrow, bushy road that winds past Pukeiti, with a viewing shaft down to the distant sea, Tito lives without power. Other artists' work grace the walls of her home. But her own talent is alive and well in the continually evolving process of being deposited on paper made from flax.

"I've been doing photography for about 12 years," she says. "I started at polytech but I felt it really hindered my creativity, so I bought a camera and pretty much taught myself. I've always been one to think outside the square, and with photography, it's quite a contemporary medium and so I wanted to keep the photos organic, so they looked like they came from nature."

Photos in the sun

Tito brings out a fine collection of images and spreads them on sun-warmed wooden steps that lead off into the wilderness. Plants unfurling, sharp leaves jabbing, a single palm dancing. Every snapshot is made more interesting by being printed on textured paper.

"I was quite pleased how they turned out, actually," she offers shyly. "They're quite stunning."



THE FIBRE AND FILM ART OF JO TITO

Perspective is the big thing, Tito says. "Getting in close, not standing back." Somehow, the paper has given the shots more depth. Unlike glossy photos, these make a person want to lean forward to touch them.

"I've had some framed but at the moment I'm selling them like this. They've all got stories to them. These are what I took after coming out of a 10-day meditation course. This dark bit here is a camera fault, but I was quite pleased with the result."

Lightly, she runs a finger over each image. "This one has mountain toe, so it's quite textured. Some I've mixed up. And then, these ones are kiekie. Kiekie is interesting because it bleaches in the sunlight and goes quite white when you weave it. It's wonderful and strong, makes good woven kete, and is really quite unusual."

Paper from an ancient plant

It's easy to catch her awe for the ancient harakeke plant, now providing a canvas for new photographic work. "I just love flax. It's such a wonderful medium. It's strong. See this flax over here? It's just beaten by the weather but it's resilient."

Tito waves a tattooed arm in the direction of several large clumps. Bands of blue-black ink weave around her wrists and ankles. These, too, carry stories. "My legs are about the connection to the land and the importance of the land to my people. I rarely wear shoes."

She knows of no one else doing what she does, but "possibly, soon, they might, if they hear about it," she laughs. "But that's neat. I think it's great if people go off and try it."

Making paper

Tito began learning how to make paper a decade ago in Rotorua, but it took seven more years and three well-run workshops before she really caught the bug. It's fun, she warns, but a lot of work. "It's a long process but the actual making of it takes just a few seconds. Like weaving, it's the preparation that goes on beforehand that takes the time."

First the flax is cut from the plant and chopped into small pieces to be boiled in water for about three hours. Then it's blended into pulp. Next, the pulp is put into clean water and pulled through a mesh screen to scoop up the fibres. These fibres are turned out and left to dry. The result is usable – and wonderfully variable – sheets of organic paper, which can be fed through a coloured printer to capture photographic images.

"I have a guy who does my printing," Tito explains. "When I first went to him, he was really open to the idea."

Parihaka and other plans

Last year, Tito exhibited in Gisborne, where her collection of prints and cards was well received. In March 2006 she headed for the Parihaka Peace Festival.

And after Parihaka? Tito looks far into the distance, over the tops of trees and down to the sea. A young kauri raises his head to the sky. "I've got an exhibition that I'm throwing together; of perhaps six women aged 20 to 70s, to allow them to tell their stories. Some may have survived cervical cancer."

As a contracted women's health worker, Tito's specialty is cervical screening. She knows that for Maori women, these things are often too difficult to talk about. She hopes to be allowed to capture their stories on film.

"Cervical screening is invasive. The whole idea of the exhibition is to use a different medium. It's more about holistic health and perceptions. These won't be just portraits, but different photographs of them in their own environment."

Rocks and new roads

Tito also paints rocks and yearns to find a way to get her images onto even more ancient material. "Yes, I'd like to get my photos onto rocks. That would keep them organic, too. There is a process, a blueprint process that uses natural light. A little like a stencil. I'm quite interested in that."

She adds, "I like painting big, although I paint on rocks, which are small. But it's nice to have some movement in the brush. I do like painting, but it's more of a therapeutic thing. I just paint. It's instinctive."

Her motto has evolved over time. "Creations to inspire, uplift and heal." It's become a personal mission statement, and when asked where she expects her art to take her, Tito replies softly:

"This is definitely a journey, and it's more about the journey than the destination. I do have goals, but at the end of the day, it's not really about them. My art is my voice, my way of speaking. I guess it's like my ancestors – we speak for the land. It's a wonderful way for me to tell my story. I want to be able to inspire people, for my work to have an effect on people and not just be another photo. I want to conjure up some emotions. That's what I want."

By Rhonda Bartle



Jones & Sandford

MITRE 10 Gardening

Gardening with Rosemary Herb

JUNE CHECKLIST

✦ Flower garden:

Cut back, lift and divide perennials such as asters, achilleas, dahlias and phlox. There's still time to plant lilies.

Plant new roses.

Rose pruning can start later this month.

Prune deciduous trees in dry weather.

Mulch all plants with compost.

✦ Kitchen garden

Plant strawberry plants.

Plant new trees: citrus, apples, pears, plums, peaches and nectarines.

Spray deciduous fruit trees with Champion Copper and Conqueror Oil to protect from pests and diseases.

Plant asparagus crowns into well drained soil.

Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, winter lettuce, spinach and silverbeet.

Plant garlic and shallots.

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RSVP to Nelle by Friday 9 June please

Lots of exciting things are happening in the Slow Food Movement around the world. Right here in Aotearoa there are now 7 local Convivia (groups) - Taranaki, Otago, Christchurch, Wellington, Kapiti, Auckland and Waitakere City. The new Convivium in Waitakere City is holding a fundraising event for Terra Madre with a Meet Your Local Producer series. Terra Madre is a Slow Food International event, where food communities, chefs and university representatives from all over the world will gather in Italy in October 2006 and take part in building, as Carlo Petrini says, a food network incomparable with any other in the world. 1500 food communities from 5 continents, 5000 farmers, breeders, fishermen and traditional food producers, 1000 cooks and 200 universities will meet in Turin, Italy to share experiences and discuss the development of a new concept of agriculture and good, clean and fair food. This will be a diverse set of people- small farmers from Africa, village cooks from rural Asian food communities, professors from prestigious universities- all of whom share a belief in preserving and nurturing food communities that are sustainable, respect nature, and respect humanity. Many artisan food communities around the world are under threat from urbanization, globalization, environmental degradation and cultural capture of society by the fast food lifestyle. At Terra Madre, people will together seek to regain a common language based on three knowledge bases: the traditional knowledge of the producer, the empirical knowledge of the cook and the scientific knowledge of the official researcher. Have a look at Terra Madre on this Slow Food website: http://www.terramadre2004.org/terramadre/welcome_eng.lasso

And how about building our own local Terra Madre food community in Taranaki? Come along to A Taste of Childhood on June 17th and join in good food and company while discussing ideas to help Slow Food Taranaki make a start on creating and building a vibrant network of producers, cooks and educators in our own region.

Slowest regards,

Nelle, Johanne, Kate and Tony

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A Kiwi in Senegal

Scott McGregor left Oakura to go to Auckland University to study to become a Marine Engineer for the New Zealand Navy. At twenty-four he is now a sub-lieutenant on the Te Mana in Singapore. Scott is a top-class athlete, achieving a silver medal in the under-18's 2000m steeple chase and competing in several marathons. He was also selected to carry the Olympic torch in New Zealand in the lead up to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

After completing a Systems Engineering Management course in England last year, Scott took three months off to travel and he ventured to Senegal to catch up with a friend. Scott's grandparents, Hazel and Freddy McGregor of Oakura, kindly share his account of that adventure with us...

On leaving Senegal – after the heat, the flies, the frustrations of toilets and taxis, and counting down malaria tablets – I was surprised by my intense feelings of sadness. I was leaving behind many wonderful experiences, amazing Senegalese hospitality and a truly beautiful race of people.

Djibril Diawara, my good friend from my 2001 voyage on the French helicopter carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and since then my internet correspondent, had invited me to his home in Senegal. My previous travel in Russia and the UK – by Kontiki – had been about the sights (paying a decent whack of cash for "express" sightseeing with similar people), ease of travel, modern conveniences, shopping and souvenir-buying, with few beggars.

In Senegal, a former French colony and still a French speaking country, I realised that the many people who called out "Bon jour" to me were not asking for something, they were just friendly people, and I learnt to reply with the same ease and grace. Even to the beggars (usually kids), you could say "Non, merci" until they got the idea. In Senegal the people are beautiful, and the haggling and begging is a game that you play, always with a smile on your face.

One day Djibril asked me "Would you like to play rugby, Scott?" I didn't really comprehend what he was saying until he pointed out that just behind us was a semi-organised rugby game, complete with coach. I went and introduced myself, telling them, "Je suis un Neo Zelandais," and by coincidence I had my All Blacks shirt on (actually I'd had it on for the last three days!).

The coach offered me a chance to play and I couldn't resist, stepped a few, put in three good tackles and after five minutes came off because the training was for the benefit of the locals. I showed a few interested people how to spiral pass but it's not the easiest, especially when you don't speak the language. Really, I just enjoyed the opportunity to rip out a few passes.

The Senegalese national rugby team was founded only about a year ago and was receiving support from the International Rugby Board. The coach was in fact the President of Senegalese "rugga" and was taking the game out to the kids, trying to raise interest in and awareness of the sport.

I gave him my contact details and Djibril translated that the coach was pleased because I came from a "great rugby nation" (I wanted to say "the only rugby nation"!) and he hoped to get a few contacts off me. I'm probably the wrong guy but hey, I'll see what I can do. The coach was doing a week of training and asked me to come back but alas, I had to say "au revoir" as it was my last day in Senegal. I can't think how rugby will compete with football – these kids eat, sleep and breathe football from dawn till dusk. The thing that I really liked was that the kids were all having fun and that's where any sport's popularity and success will stem from.

Djibril informed me that the Mosque of Touba was a building worth seeing, and that Touba, the religious capital of largely Muslim Senegal, was a city worth visiting. We jumped on a rickety

old bus at 5.30 am, as this was the only way to reserve a seat, and waited... "Djibril what are we waiting for?" "They are saying their prayers." So divine providence was a requirement to make this journey? Looking at the state of the bus, I began to say a few prayers of my own.

Senegal had been really hot and muggy and I was struggling quite a bit. I began to wish I had brought more water. But that problem was soon solved. Lightning flashed in the distance and the monsoon heavens opened, exposing the fact that the bus roof was also fairly open... and my seat was the worst affected. It didn't take long for me to decide that standing dry was decidedly better than sitting wet. It was quite crazy – cool to stare out the window and watch the Senegalese grass plains and brazenly protruding trees whiz by in the dawn half-light, starkly illuminated by the forked lightning. After an hour the rain eased off. Thankfully Djibril's friend Azize let me have his seat and within 2 minutes of sitting down I was fast asleep.

After one hour we came to a road blocked by flooding. Luckily, the bus driver knew a detour (I just feared we would have to traverse the whole country). The detour must have paid off, because three hours, some thatched huts, donkey carriages and herds of cattle later, we arrived in Touba.



Azize, Djibril and Scott.

The Touba Mosque is a mosque and a half – the biggest in Africa they say. I had a good tour of the area then hooked up with some of Azize's insider contacts, who got us through the check point to see the Khalifa (pronounced "haleef"), the Muslim spiritual leader in Senegal and effectively the most powerful man in the country. Checkpoint Two was a door into the garden of the Khalifa's house that would only open from the inside so that only one person (or three squashing) could pass through at a time.

When people exit the door, the 30 or so people waiting outside would surge at the gap trying to push past the heavies with the guest list... The door opened and a wave of people surged forward. For an instant the heavies held the tide, then a little old lady dove in low with her arms over her head, lower than the guards could stop, and the human dam burst open. I mauled like an All Black and "pop!", there I was successfully in the Khalifa, a lone white dot wearing a Speights T-shirt in a sea of black people. To put it in perspective, Djibril had been going to the area for 27 years without success – it's like gaining an audience with the Pope.

After being blessed by the Khalifa we went back to Azize's house for some very sweet Touba coffee. The Senegalese culture is one of community, they are a superbly friendly bunch. After the coffee and some lunch we had the traditional tea. It takes about two hours to make and drink – needless to say the socialising is definitely more important than the tea! I had an in-depth discussion with Djibril and his friends about Islam and many other topics. It was great to hear about the Muslim community from the mouth of a Muslim. I certainly had many misconceptions, as he explained to me many different aspects of their religion.

Well, from a pretty tough start to an amazing day, it couldn't end simply. We got to the transport place – 7-seater "inter-city" taxis and buses interlocked with a myriad of people trying to get places or sell stuff. The 7-seaters weren't running due to the floods, so the prices were up. We climbed in a big van with a dozen others then waited for the driver to round up another four to make his capacity of 18. In hops the driver, all I can see across the broad shoulders of this huge man is the embroidered nickname "CLENCH". What's he trying to tell me? I thought I had done enough clenching on the first bus ride!

Thankfully Clench turned out to be the most cautious driver in all of Senegal, and the three-hour drive back to Dakar was made in relative safety and comfort.

My experience helped me cement my friendship with Djibril and his family, and left me with treasured memories of a country filled with wonderful people. One day I will return . . .

Godspell

Godspell is looming big for some of our more talented locals. The Operatic Society show is being choreographed by Raeleen Luckin, working alongside director Warren Bates. The two worked together on *Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat* so the show is sure to be a stunner. The show opens on 20 July and runs until 29 July.

Taking part in the show is Dave Marshall of Ahu Ahu Villas. Dave has been squeezing practices in three times a week while trying to build at the Villas. He has one solo song but says there is heaps more work as the cast members are all on stage for the whole production and there are lots of harmonies to work through. "I am not hot on harmonies as I am used to singing the melody. I had a role in *Godspell* 26 years ago and that is enough years to erase pretty much all of it from my memory banks. The songs "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord" and "Day By Day" were still in the files though. The show is a mix of soulful and upbeat songs interspersed with dialogue telling some of the parables of Jesus. It is a show to be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

"I had no intention of doing the show but tenors are hard to find so with a bit of gentle persuasion, here I am. If you see me early in the morning out at the end of Ahu Ahu reef waving my arms about, I'm not in trouble but just working on my voice, trying to reach the high notes." I'm sure he'll do a terrific job.

Tess Novak is another multi-talented cast member. I saw her perform in the School Stage Challenge Series and thought she was absolutely stunning. In *Godspell*, Tess plays Gilmer, a comic role she imbues with much of her own personality. Tess has one solo to sing (her very first) and also sings in the harmonies. This is Tess's first singing role but she has taken part in two other shows – *Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Tess says she has enjoyed getting to know everyone in the cast and has relished the challenge of building up her character with the help of Director Warren Bates.

Practices have been underway for two months now and by the time opening night rolls around in July, *Godspell* will be a show not to be missed!

By Kim Ferens

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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

Candi Staton

His Hands (Honest Jon's Records/EMI)

Since the turn of the decade, several 'soul' stars have delivered albums that compare favourably with their seminal recordings. The best of these 'comeback' albums were Solomon Burke's "Don't Give Up On Me" (2002), Al Green's "I Can't Stop" and Howard Tate's "Rediscovered" (both 2003) and the all-star recording "I Believe To My Soul" (2005), which featured, among others, Mavis Staples, Ann Peebles and Allen Toussaint. With their recent albums, two recently superannuated soul sisters, Candi Staton and Irma Thomas can also be added to this short, but prestigious list.

Since her hits dried up, Candi Staton has remained active in the gospel field. "His Hands" is a welcome return to secular music for the Alabama-born Staton and follows the reissue of her sixties FAME recordings two years ago. The secret to making a good soul album is not 'rocket science,' you just need good songs, a great voice and a tight support crew. All these ingredients are present here. The band, led by Muscle Shoals session veteran Barry Beckett (keyboards), is crisp and clean, supporting Staton, but never intruding. Staton herself is in fine voice, her years in the gospel arena have clearly kept her instrument well-primed. In fact, she is very much the *soul belle* of old here. As with classic country music (arguably the 'white trash' equivalent of soul), the finest soul recordings chronicle love lost, deep hurt and dark-as-midnight despair, Staton apparently has a history of abusive relationships and she draws on this well of pain to telling effect throughout "His Hands." Beautifully produced by Mark Nevers of Americana collective Lambchop and featuring songs by Merle Haggard ("You Don't Have Far To Go"), Charlie Rich ("You Never Really Wanted Me") and alt. country singer/songwriter Will Oldham's title track, "His Hands" would have made a superb country album if tackled by, say, Trisha Yearwood.

However, with Candi Staton upfront, the result is nothing less than pure Southern soul. Aside from the songs mentioned above, the other highlights include "When Hearts Grow Cold," "In Name Only" and "When Will I," the first two also penned by the obviously resurgent Staton. A remake of the Solomon Burke/Betty Harris sixties soul hit "Cry To Me" is the only track that fails to fully impress on this 'deep soul' gem.

Irma Thomas

After The Rain (Rounder/Elite)

Even when it seemed to be a forgotten art form, Irma Thomas continued to be a standard bearer for classic soul. Long regarded as 'The Soul Queen of New Orleans,' Irma Thomas tasted success with the sixties hits "Time Is On My Side," "Wish Someone Would Care" and her signature song "It's Raining." Her new album simultaneously references that perennial Crescent City favourite, while also alluding to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Despite being full of stormy, dark imagery, "After The Rain" was sequenced, but not recorded, before the disaster hit. If the Staton disc, at times, hints at country, then this album allows Thomas to put a soulful, but minimalist spin on blues standards "Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor," "Another Man Done Gone" and "Soul Of A Man," while tilting at redemption with "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free." "After The Rain" also contains other superb songs like Arthur Alexander's "In The Middle Of It All," Kevin Gordon's "Flowers" and "If You Knew How Much." Despite losing all of her possessions in the aftermath of Katrina, Irma Thomas still has her greatest assets, her voice and spirit. Backing is elegantly simple throughout and delivered by Sonny Landreth (slide guitar), Corey Harris (guitars), Dirk Powell (guitars, banjo and fiddle), David Torkanowsky (keyboards), James Singleton (string bass) and Stanton Moore on drums.



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Barney – just an ordinary bloke with a big voice



This month it was a privilege to have a peek into the life of the Classic Hits Breakfast host – Barney Procter. Barney (Brent), his wife Nicki and their three children Rhea, Charlotte and Jackie have a life in Oakura – as far removed from the hustle and bustle of a radio station as you could imagine. And that's the way Brent wants it – family life in one compartment, work in another. So who is Barney and where did he come from?

Firstly Barney is a nickname he acquired in childhood – possibly something to do with his stature and funnily enough he has a friend called Fred so I guess Rhea is lucky she wasn't named Pebbles! The name Barney is mostly his radio name and persona these days and since we are up close and personal I'll call him Brent.

Brent grew up in New Plymouth, attending Central School and Highlands Intermediate before heading off to the traditional family college – St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton. It would seem that the young Brent was a bit of an entertainer, debater, actor and natural scholar – confessing to never, ever studying for any exams, but nevertheless credits St Paul's with a life defining education. When Brent left school his family had shifted to Palmerston North where Brent's dad had a position in the New Zealand Fire Service and so Brent began an apprenticeship as an electrician with a civilian contractor at Ohakea Air Base. The career of electrician was a second choice to being a vet, but a bad experience of watching a vet 'put down' a horse put him off that career. Unfortunately the life of an electrician held no fun for Brent, and one day as he was wiring his way around a 12 story building, he decided enough was enough. He rang up the boss and said "come pick up your van, I'm not coming into work tomorrow!" It seems the four walls didn't 'talk back'.

Brent had only the vaguest idea he wanted to be on the radio and so for all of a year (1992) he was out of work apart from doing the odd bit of landscape gardening to pay the rent. He knocked on the door of a Palmerston North radio station. Radio in the 90's was in down-size mode, with computers taking over many personnel jobs, so most stations were firing not hiring, but Brent was not fazed – he swept the floors, made the cups of tea, worked the weekends, did the odd pre-recording, basically did anything. He got himself noticed in the radio world and scored his first radio contract in Greymouth where he began the radio "circuit". Two years in Greymouth, two years in Blenheim, two years in the Hawkes Bay. Brent won his first award on radio in the Hawkes Bay in 1998. Many awards have been won but they're not something Brent dwells on. They're not the reason he's in radio. A loose plan was unfolding whereby Brent would work his way back to his home town of New Plymouth – a place he felt comfortable bringing up his family. A memorable achievement was being head hunted by Radio Hauraki but they couldn't lure him away from New Plymouth. He did become the corporate voice for Hauraki for a year doing voice overs.

The reasons Brent is so successful on Radio? He says he loves to take an idea and run through its pro's and con's (the debater). He loves to have fun (not at someone else's expense though). It's the people who get him out of bed every morning at 4.15am – interacting with people. He lists his characteristics as shy (ha?), impatient, competitive (he only plays squash to win). He blames his bad hair do on head phones (at least he's got hair!) and rates family and having fun as paramount but most of all he loves peace. The family is building their dream home on a few acres just outside Oakura and they spend any free time they can at the family bach at Awakino.

While the job of radio breakfast anchor continues to provide enjoyment, Barney's is the voice that will caress you out of the morning fog and night stupor – but only if you listen to Classic Hits.

By Kim Ferens



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Number One for Hannah



Hannah Sarten of Oakura holds the number one spot in BMX racing for her age group. She raced to first place at the National competition held in Cambridge over Easter. But it's not the first time the plucky 10 year old has come first. In 2004 she was also the winner of her age group race and she has won the North Island competition twice. Hannah is part of the 'Crupi' race team but races out of the New Plymouth Club. (Crupi is a top American brand of BMX bike and they sponsor a team of elite racers in New Zealand). BMX racing is a sport that involves a huge commitment financially, physically and in time. Top racing bikes can cost upwards of \$4000, helmets \$500, plus all the safety apparel. Most riders have several sets of wheels – trainers and racers, and most have several different bikes. Hannah trains once a week with Coach Clive Telford at the New Plymouth BMX track and also attends Club night once a week to compete against other team members. Most often Hannah races against boys and relishes nothing more than beating them! At home Hannah hoons around the family home on her bike. Every second weekend during the BMX season (September to April) the family usually travel away to compete. Father, Jon, manages Hannah's gear for her and it makes a big difference to the race result if Hannah has the right tyres and gears for the specific tracks. So far Hannah has broken her wrist three times but she doesn't let a mere break put her off the sport. When asked why she likes BMX racing she said she likes winning and getting trophies plus she loves going fast and not letting anyone get in front of her. Over the winter months Hannah is playing soccer for Oakura and hopes one day that Oakura will build its own BMX track.

By Kim Ferens

Hi there Fishos

We are really getting into winter now, and this is reflected in the low number of fish caught in the last month or so by both kayakers and surfcasters, alike. Recent club days have been hampered by the weather, with only one or two members keen to take the elements on.

The Sutherlands Sports May Tri Comp was no exception. No fish were weighed in and therefore the \$100 prize has jackpotted to \$200 for June.

Kayak fishing has also slowed for the time being as the snapper seem to have gone out a bit further too.

We do have a busy month ahead for June as all of our members go back to "0" points. We can tell you the top kayak fisher for the 2005/06 season is New Plymouth man Peter Florence and Shane Dunlop, also from New Plymouth, has blitzed the surfcasting. Well done to these guys – it reflects their dedication and fishing skills.

We are holding a casting day on Saturday 17 June. This tests casting accuracy and distance. if you would like to come for a look or a go, contact Garry H on 752 7055 or me on 752 7425 for more details.

Our AGM and prize giving is to be held at the NPOB Surfclub on Tuesday, 20 June at 7 pm – all welcome

Weighmasters report to the end of April

Fish of the Month:

Kayakers: Peter Florence – 8 kg snapper

Surfcaster: Grant Morgan – 3.25 kg snapper

66 fish were weighed in during April

Surfcaster: 19 snapper, 2 kahawai, 1 blue cod, 7 gurnard

Kayakers: 31 snapper, 2 kahawai, 2 blue cod, 1 gurnard

Some of you will know our kayakers went to a kayak competition in Whitianga just after Easter. Although the fishing wasn't that flash, they had a great time and managed a few prizes between them. According to organisers, they stole the show – GO, GO, GO!

Tight lines, *Debbie E*



Tony Hurring – out in the 'yak at the Whitianga comp.



This TOM Sports page is generously sponsored by
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Kaitake Golf Club

"The victorious Kaitake Weekend Ladies Golf team who have recently uplifted the Taranaki trophy, the "Taplin Cup", in a matchplay competition from the Urenui Ladies who had successfully defended this trophy for the past two years. Team from left to right are: Mary Pettigrew, Lynda Corkill, Janice Farrant, Raewyn Hawker, June Neale and Jan Davies. Their next challenge will be Inglewood during May on their home course at Oakura."

Lynda Corkill

Kaitake Weekend Ladies Club Captain





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GETTING WET!



Grommet set to graduate from Surf School

PHOTOS BY MARK DWYER

This month we focus the spotlight on local Omata teenager Nick Moses (16 years), a member of the Oakura Boardriders Club and avid surfer for three years. And in three years the talented surfer has crammed in a lot of surfing.

Nick began surfing on a board borrowed from his cousin Kane (son of Merv Moses featured in *TOM* three months ago). He quickly made his way into the New Plymouth Boys High School Surf Team, which he remained part of until he left school at the end of last term. Surfing has taken Nick to many corners of Taranaki, New Zealand and even the world.

The highlight has definitely been his trip to the Mentawai Islands, Bali last year with Caine Aldridge, Keone and John Campbell and Mark Dwyer of the *Daily News*. The group was on a 12-day cruising, surfing holiday aboard the 53 ft 'Kadu Laut'. Nick says it was just awesome to wake up and literally dive out of bed straight into the sea and onto the waves. It was basically surfing from dawn to dusk in some of the best surf conditions Nick had ever surfed in, although he does have scars to remind him how close the coral reefs were to the surface of the water (just a couple of feet below the surface).

There was a chef to take care of the cooking and he pretty much wore the same clothes (not very many of them either!) everyday so there was no need to do washing. Personal hygiene was basic with a quick lather up on the deck and into the water. The water was warm enough to surf in board shorts so Nick enjoyed the freedom of movement that wetsuits prevent. One particular highlight was catching the only fish on the expedition so maybe fishing skills run in the family too! Nick plans to return one day to surf the Mentawais and recapture the tropical bliss of the surfing paradise.

Here in un-tropical Taranaki Nick favours the "Groin", Waiwakiaho, as his favourite surfing spot but says surfing is about being with your mates so it doesn't matter where you are. It seems surfing is like a legal drug because once you start you can't get enough of it and if "dudes" come in from surfing and you haven't been out and they're raving about how good the surf was, you feel gutted. You just have to get out and get a surfing "fix".

Nick has left school to do a G & H building course, with his sights set on becoming a builder and so far is relishing the new challenge. When he isn't surfing, and that is nearly every day, he is having driving lessons and learning karate.

Nick's resume of surfing achievements, while not running often to first place, is very consistent and worthy of note. Over the last few months Nick has been placed second in his heat in Round 1 of the Scholastic Surf Champs at Oakura, a fourth in heat in Round 1 of the Billabong Grom Series at Mt Maunganui, a second in Round 2 of the Smokefree Scholastic Surfing Champs in Dunedin, a first in Round 1 of the Hyundai National Surf Champs at Ahipara and he was ranked 46 out of 75 for 2005 in the NZ Christian Surf Series.

By Kim Ferens



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Oakura Boardriders update

The National Scholastics Surfing Championships in Dunedin ended with our members having some good results.

Tyler Anderson made the finals of the Quiksilver "King of the Groms" and the semi-finals of the under-16 boys scholastics. Paige Hareb made the finals of the under-18 girls scholastics and won the under-16 girls division of the RipCurl Dunedin Gromsearch. Casey Stevens made the finals of the under-14 girls in Dunedin Gromsearch and Keone Campbell the final of the under-16 boys scholastics.



It has been a busy month since for Paige Hareb, who has been to Brazil where she competed in the World Junior Championships as part of the New Zealand team. Paige got through quite a few rounds and gained some valuable experience. She still has a few years left in this age group so we expect some big things in the future. I haven't caught up with Paige or her family since their return but I bet they had a great time and have some good stories to tell.

Also in the last month a crew of Taranaki grommets, including Oakura's Tyler Anderson, went down to Castlepoint to contest the Christian Surfers Wellington region contest, which is part of their national circuit. Great results ensued with Tyler taking first in the open and Juniors, followed by Michael Mallalieu and Sean Parker from New Plymouth in third and fourth respectively. Considering these three are all under-16 surfers, this was a great result against stiff competition and no doubt peeved a few older surfers.

The NP Surfriders winter series has kicked off with the first contests being held. For any younger surfers interested in making the scholastics team, the selectors watch this series as well as the national circuit, so enter and have some fun.

There will have been quite a bit of action with the Black Sand contest over Queen's Birthday weekend and Oakura Boardriders will be running a Snow and Surf contest over the winter.

For more information, contact Brent Anderson 752 7171

Upcoming events

- Mid-winter contest (kids only) – 24 June.
- Club mid-winter dinner (it's our 15th birthday!) – early August. More details next month.

Brent Anderson
Oakura Boardriders

Mason fourth in World Junior Surfing Championships

Airini Mason, ex-Omata School student and Oakura resident, has surfed to an excellent fourth place in the girls' under-18 division of the Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championships at Maresias Beach, Brazil in May. Airini, now based in Australia, was the highest placed New Zealand surfer at the event. The occasion was capped off when the team placed third in the ISA Cup "tag team" event behind South Africa and Australia..

Airini fell off the pace in the final and needed a further two excellent scoring rides to challenge for the lead. She surfed ten heats over the week, including a massive six heats over the last two days, and the huge work-load may have taken its toll on the young surfer.

The result is the best achieved by a Kiwi girl since the World Junior Champs was expanded in 2003 and the best the Rip Curl New Zealand Surf Team has achieved in the past three events. Mason was touted as one of the early favourites after sealing the Australasian Pro Junior (Under 20) Tour in April with an event to spare. Airini's previous best result at the World Junior Championships was ninth in 2004.

The result bodes well for the young female surfers in the New Zealand surfing team. Both Airini and Paige Hareb (Tara) have a further two years remaining in this age group and Wini Paul another one year. And there are a number of girls around New Zealand's shores that are snapping at their heels to make the team.

By Ben Kennings, Surfing New Zealand

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Taranaki's Toughest FireFighter competition

Congratulations to everyone who competed in Taranaki's Toughest Firefighter competition on Mother's Day. Well done! The Plunket Society did a sterling job with a sausage sizzle to keep everyone warm on such a nasty day, weatherwise.

In case you haven't heard, here are the times, class placings and overall placings (in that order) from the event.

40+ years

Mark Braddock (Oakura) – 5:42:58 1 6
Seamus Breeze (Oakura) – 6:03:55 2 10
Rob Berry (NP Ambo) – 6:04:00 3 11
A Rawlinson (Oakura) – 8:10:57 4 29

Women's

Nicola Evans (Stratford) – 7:38:00 1 21
Jo Scott (Oakura) – 7:41:98 2 22
Carole Ashman (Manaia) – 8:01:75 3 23
Angela Weir (Oakura) – 8:39:01 4 26
Justine Stewart (Manaia) – 10:04:98 5 28

30 to 40 years

Dennis Gibbon (Eltham) – 5:03:45 1 2
Greg Newton (Oakura) – 5:46:04 2 7
David Rielly (Oakura) – 6:02:72 3 9
Craig Scott (Oakura) – 6:28:20 4 13
Matt Crabtree (Oakura) – 7:12:80 5 19
Adam Rubie (Opunake) – 7:19:69 6 20
Jaun Parker (Inglewood) – 8:43:40 8 27
Robert Puncheon (Manaia) – 8:14:80 7 25

Open

Andrew Meuli (Okaiawa) – 4:52:12 1 1
Andrew Bourke (Patea) – 5:35:59 2 3
Shane Taylor (Manaia) – 5:37:60 3 4
David Waite (Eltham) – 5:57:00 4 8
Bazel Jones (Eltham) – 6:33:51 5 14
Antoney O'Hannlan (Eltham) – 6:50:01 6 16
James Greenough (Manaia) – 6:55:30 7 17

Novice

Blake Marston (NP West) – 5:40:92 1 5
Alex Chambers (Oakura) – 6:20:38 2 12
Rowan Oldfield (Oakura) – 6:33:88 3 15



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OMATA school news

Young Leaders' Conference

A group of eight Year 8 students went down to Wellington with me in early May to a conference to inspire, empower, motivate, educate and promote them to become great leaders through inspirational and positive role models sharing their experiences. Speakers this year were: Norm Hewitt (ex-All Black and *Dancing with the Stars* champion), Linda Vagaana (Silver Fern), Dr Mark Orams (sailor and head of Sir Peter Blake Trust), Rob Harley (investigative journalist) and Captain Sara Harrison (Army).

Here are excerpts from Aden Lowe's evaluation . . .

It taught me that to go far in life you have to take risks and step out of your comfort zone. All the speakers were amazing. Norm Hewitt was very inspiring with his story about dancing with the stars. Linda Vagaana had a cool story about when they beat the Aussies and she forgot what changing room the New Zealand netball team were in so she opened the door and said "Yesssss!" but she was in the Australian changing room.

I learnt a lot from Dr Mark Orams and his sailing trip around the world. I think he was the speaker that I enjoyed the most. I liked the way he told me how to learn from your mistakes and how he looked up to Sir Peter Blake. I really enjoyed one

Soaking it up -
Dylan Dean (left)
and Aden Lowe.



story when they were sailing around the world and on one of the sail changes when it was really stormy. Dr Mark started shouting, "We've already done thousands of sail changes and we'll just have to change it back when the wind changes again," and he gave up. Then Sir Peter Blake, who was not supposed to be doing the sail change, came up beside him and helped him with the task without saying a word. After that Dr Mark was changed and that's when he started to notice Sir Peter Blake as a great leader.

Karen Brisco

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OAKURA School news

This month we're profiling our four head pupils . . .

Teihorangi Walden



Age: 13

Sports/interests:

Rugby, soccer, tennis, basketball, swimming, surfing, cricket, touch rugby, cooking, spelling, going to the movies with my friends.

What do you think you might like to do when you leave secondary school?

Go to Otago University (yet to decide what to study).

What do you hope to achieve from your new leadership role as head pupil?

To be a positive and caring leader for the younger children to look up to.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I love to play sport in my leisure time.

I'll be attending Francis Douglas Memorial College next year.

Eve Coltman



Age: 12

Sports/interests:

I love to play netball and inline hockey, I like to swim, surf and play touch rugby. My interests are baking, writing and watching movies.

What do you think you might like to do when you leave secondary school?

Umm... Go to uni, either try to be a hairdresser or physiotherapist. Then

travel the world.

What do you hope to achieve from your new leadership role as head pupil?

To be a positive influence on others, while still having fun in my last year.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I love music and the words. I will be going to Sacred Heart Girls College next year. I'm into writing poems. I hope to achieve selection in the New Zealand Junior World Team, which will be going to Aussie.

Zachary Power



Age: 13

Sport/interests:

Rugby, cricket, tennis, basketball, surfing, touch rugby, running and biking.

What do you think you might like to do when you leave secondary school?

To study law.

What do you hope to achieve from your new leadership role as head pupil?

To be a great role model to others.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I will be going to Francis Douglas Memorial College next year.

I was in the Year 7 debating team and am now in the Year 8 team.

Hogan McKee



Age: 12

Sports/interests:

I LOVE to run, play tennis, swim, read, play tag, play soccer, be a friend, write, bake, social studies and play trumpet.

What do you think you might like to do when you leave secondary school?

Go to Princeton and then I want to work for *National Geographic* writing

articles and studying other tribes and people, and also to travel.

What do you hope to achieve from your new leadership role as head pupil?

To be a great leader for Oakura School and try my best at all times.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I was born in Hawaii, USA so I am American. I love to play sport. I am going to Sacred Heart Girls College next year as a third former. I LOVE my trumpet and hope to become a jazz player.

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TOM KID PROFILE



Name: Jackson Braddock-Pajo
Age: 12
School: Oakura School
Year: 8
My Favourite Things:
Food: Corn & Zucchini Fritters
Activity: Watching T.V
Sport: Rugby & Skiing
Movie: Napoleon Dynamite
Book: Just Disgusting
Best Friends: Mitch, Seth, Keelan, Tai.
When I grow up I am going to be: a Pro Skier.

If a butcher is 200 centimetres tall, wears size 110cm trousers and size 12 shoes, what does he weigh?

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In 1939, a shower of tiny frogs fell on the English town of Trowbridge. Strong winds had carried them aloft from streams and ponds.
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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
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Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

Senior Citizens:

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Twilight Bowls:

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Anne Wilson

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DSELLA

\$5 Million Club Member
2003/04 Rookie of the Year, Harveys NP Office

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Properties Wanted

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SIGN BOARD AT THE RAW TASMAN CAFE

Buyer A. Still looking for one level on the flat close to the shops – cash buyer up to \$450,000.

Buyer B. Cash buyer for a house that has a flat or a sleep-out that could be rented out. Anything considered pref. under \$500,000.

Buyer C. Cash buyers wanting a house around the \$350,000 - \$380,000 mark.

Buyer D. Cash buyer up to \$600,000 looking for a bach like home with sea views close to the beach.

Properties For Sale by Anne



10 Russell Drive, Oakura

I have just listed this immaculate, low maintenance, brick, 3 bedroom home + office and ensuite with the added bonus of a bedsit.



43 Tokomaru St, NP

Investors, first hm buyers, 3 bdrm + study FANTASTIC LOCATION, new kitchen and carpet.



204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

Near New, 5 bdrms + study on 6010m² of land.

Call Anne for pricing.



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.



Wairau Rd Sections

ONLY 4 LEFT!

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

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

118 Wairau Road, Oakura. 4 Holloway Road, Omata. Wairau Road sections, Lots 5, 14 and 15.

Thought for the Month

"Opportunity knocks at the strangest times. It's not the time that matters, but how you answer the door."

HARVEYS
PIONEER CITY REALTY LIMITED MEMBER

PEOPLE and PROPERTY

Park City Realty Ltd - MREINZ
A MEMBER OF THE HARVEYS GROUP