

## Kayaks and Fishing are Coming to Oakura

The Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic kicks off in Oakura. This fishing competition promises to be a lot of fun, not only for those keen fisher people entering the contest, but also for all the locals in Oakura. You will be able to see how many fish are caught and how big they are at the weekend weigh-ins. You can attend registration night and catch up with Bill Hohepa. You will be able to bid at the fish auction on Sunday. You can have a great time and also be supporting our local kayak fisher-people as they try to take out the top prizes.

Organisers Garry Harrison, Tony Hurring, Peter Florence, Bruce Howson and Stefan Martul, of the Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club, have put in a tremendous amount of work. They started way back in August 2008 to ensure that this increasingly popular event is a success and a heap of fun. It is evident that kayak fishing is a growth sport. This is only the third year the Classic has been running and it has grown from 60 entrants the first year to 98 last year and a possible 150 this year. The Fishing Classic begins with registration at Butlers Reef on Friday 3 April from 7pm. There is a big draw card at the registration evening - Mr Bill Hohepa - and everyone is invited. He will be providing the entertainment, and Garry says Bill is very funny with his many humorous anecdotes. Bill is one of New Zealand's most iconic fishermen, so it is an evening not to be missed.

For people wanting to enter the competition, entry forms are available from [www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz](http://www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz). On the weekend of the Classic entrants need to come along to Butlers on registration night, get their entry packs, then head out into the deep (within 5 kilometres of the shore) on the Saturday and Sunday, and return by 5pm and 4pm respectively - with their haul of fish!



*Bronnie Vanlithe of Canoe & Kayak and Gary Harrison of Oakura with one of the donated prizes of a 'Catch 390' Kayak*

The prize pool is huge this year, with over \$15,000 worth of prizes to be won. There are spot prizes, a lady's prize, a team's prize and an average weight prize, as well as 1st and 2nd prizes for the biggest fish in each species. There are eight species that qualify for prizes, including snapper, gurnard, king fish, tuna, John Dory, trevally, blue cod and kahawai.

Many local businesses have provided sponsorship for the Club so it is a real community event:

- a \$1500 travel voucher from Oakura Travel.
- discounted accommodation at the Oakura Beach Camp for entrants
- a cash prize from Heydon Priest.
- Butlers Reef are hosting the event as well as providing the prize for the biggest snapper.

- Canoe & Kayak from Waiwakahio are supplying two kayaks for spot prizes.
- Every entrant gets a Gazza's Bait voucher to be redeemed at Hunting & Fishing.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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Service is on my mind at the moment, having recently been the recipient of both some outstanding service and some downright shoddy service.

Why is it so hard to give good service? Are people too busy or too lazy? They don't consider it important or simply do not know what it looks like? I nearly had forgotten too, until I went into the Tranzit Bus office with a query regarding the price of my son's bus ticket. The woman in the office was so helpful and obliging, and far exceeded my expectations. I came out of the office in shock, wondering what had just happened to me. What a pleasant surprise and how wonderful!

Then I went with my son to the ASB Bank to open an account on Monday, only to be told I could make an appointment and come back later in the week. I was outraged. How dare they turn our money and us away! Make an appointment? We weren't taking out a mortgage, credit card or personal loan; we merely wanted to put funds in their bank. Needless to say, we won't be giving them our money. What a poor show of providing service.

I've worked in retail and the golden rule is not to let the customer out the door without taking their money. You would think in these times of recession that you would want all the customers you can get. What a poor introduction for a young man wanting to open his first bank account. Imagine if we mothers said to the family, "Come back later in the week for dinner, I can't be bothered cooking!"

Anyway, I hope all of us have more stories of great service than whinges about poor service.

Kim

## TOM dates for April

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# TOM

OAKURA

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

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

### Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

So far this year the Oakura Brigade has attended ten call outs. Please be cautious driving your vehicles in the heavy rain and on roads that may have become greasy after the hot weather. Daylight saving comes to an end at 3.00am on Sunday 5 April. This is a good time to change the batteries in all your smoke detectors and check that they work. Test your family (especially children) on what they should do if they hear the smoke detector going. Discuss things such as your escape plan and your family's safe meeting place.

### What to do in a fire:

- Crawl low and fast to escape smoke. "Get Down, Get Low, Get out."
- Shut doors behind you to slow the spread of fire.
- Meet at the planned meeting place.
- Once out, stay out – never go back inside.
- Phone the Fire Service from a safe phone.

### What to tell the Fire Service

- House number
- Street
- Nearest intersection
- Suburb and city
- Rural ID number, if you have one

### Fire Facts

60-65% of 111 calls are non-genuine.

Just having a smoke alarm in your home cuts your chance of dying in a fire nearly in half.

Only 7 out of 10 New Zealand households have working smoke alarms.

50% of all fatal house fires involve alcohol.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze. (Sec)

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Property & Business Deals**

**7599119**

## Fire cuts Power

On 29 January at about 9pm a small splitter transformer on Russell Drive went bang and caught fire, cutting power to a few nearby houses.

Vaughn Garrett was first on the scene, calling the fire bridge and Powerco, who were both on the scene quickly. The fire eventually burnt itself out, enabling the Powerco guys to start on the repair job. They worked through the wee hours and restored power sometime around 3am.

Cathy Ardern



The remains of the offending splitter.

from **mayor pete**



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## Hi folks!

Thank you to everyone who has sent in comments on the campground user survey and the rural review. While these are separate consultations, they both deal with the kind of environment we want for our enjoyment as well as the enjoyment of future generations. It can take a bit of time to read the information we provide and then write a submission, so I appreciate the efforts of all those who sent in their feedback.

Of course we have a very big consultation coming up shortly: The draft Community Plan 2009-2019. First, the council will meet on 18 March to approve the draft plan for consultation. Then the consultation itself will begin on 31 March, running until 1 May.

The Community Plan is the most important document we consult on as it lays out our planned activities and budget for the coming three years (with an outline for the following seven). Because of that, we need to make sure that everyone has the chance to have a say on the draft plan.

This year we're putting in place a comprehensive consultation process – and we're lining up some new and innovative ways for people to send in their feedback. We'll reveal all closer to the time of consultation, but there will be a community meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 1 April at Oakura Hall. Locals will have an opportunity to talk with Council staff about the draft plan and have their questions answered. I hope that we'll see you there!

Meanwhile it's been a top summer so far with some great events already under our belt (including a number organised by some fantastic operators in and around Oakura), but there are also heaps more coming up for fans of sports, music and culture. Some of the biggest ones are WOMAD from 13-15 March in Brooklands Park, the Multi-Ethnic Extravaganza on Saturday 28 March at Yarrow Stadium, and the NZ BP Surf Rescue Championships on 28 and 29 March at Oakura Beach.

A quick way to see what's happening around the region is to check out the Events Calendar on [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com). Also, remember that if you have an event coming up you can list it on the calendar by submitting it online.

We live in a great part of New Zealand, due in large part to the people who live here, who get in involved in their community,

and who are passionate about this district and the future we can build for the coming generations. Keep in mind that you can get in touch with me anytime with comments, suggestions, or requests for help for an idea you have – just call me on 759 6100.

I look forward to hearing your ideas on our draft Community Plan later this month!

*Peter Tennent*  
Mayor

## Jonathan Young - MP

Martin Luther King Jnr gave us some keen insight into the character of people. He said "The ultimate measure of someone is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge." Simple yet profound words.

Challenging times will bring either the best or the worst out of people. Optimism is a wonderful attribute to have. It is a positive outlook to life. No matter whether surrounded by comfort or challenge, the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty, while the pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. Success and growth always starts with an attitude that says 'we can'. Of course, that is the famous phrase of American President Barak Obama. If any need to be convinced they can, it must be the American people at a time such as this. When people think they can't – they stop trying and so their thinking will powerfully dictate the outcomes of their life.

The National led government has just completed its first 100 days in office. It has been a busy time in the House of Parliament bringing in a raft of legislative changes that aim to improve life for New Zealanders and to make changes that better position us during the challenging times that are occurring around the world.

The Prime Minister, John Key recently said "Today marks 100 days since my government was sworn in. The plan covered actions on the economy, law and order, education, health, and electoral law. Every item has been ticked off. The Government announced its voluntary bonding initiatives, Plunketline funding, and our plans to tackle waiting lists. I am proud to lead a Government that kept its word and implemented its pre-election commitments, and within the deadline we set. However, the Action Plan is not the end. There will be other ideas and initiatives to come, some of which will arise out of the Jobs Summit being held in Manukau."

A strong first 100 days can give us confidence that the next 100 or next 1000 days can be better. And there is a next 1000 days that we need to continually work towards. When challenge comes your way, may you see the opportunity hidden in the difficulty rather than difficulty in every opportunity? As you do, you will find challenging times become developing times.

*Jonathan Young*

### Jonathan Young



MP for  
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## kaitake community board

We are very close to completion of the reticulation inside Oakura township and many property owners are now considering the installation of their private drainage. There has been some confusion about the work that a property owner is permitted to do at this stage so the KCB has sought clarification on this from Council. The official word is set out below.

Despite much of the pipe work having passed testing, Council cannot yet allow anyone to connect their private drainage into the lateral provided at their boundary. Under the terms of the contract, Council must issue a certificate of practical completion before you can use the pipe work. This will be issued once all the pipe work within a contract has passed testing.

**Therefore, at this stage a property owner can:**

- Apply for building consent
- Install any pipe work needed within their property, i.e. lay a pipe from the location of their lateral to the location of their septic tank or gully trap

**A property owner cannot:**

- Connect their drainage to the lateral at the boundary.
- Connect the plumbing from their houses into the drainage (i.e. they cannot make it live).

**There are advantages of installing pipe work within a property now. They include:**

- Takes advantage of better weather conditions at this time of the year, making reinstatement easier (also work will be complete in time for the autumn growing season, making grass reinstatement easier)
- Ensures that they can procure a plumber to do this work as it is anticipated that there will be a high demand for plumbers once the scheme is commissioned

**There are disadvantages of installing pipe work within a property now. They include:**

- Installing pipe work now will require the plumber to re-excavate the lateral to make the connection at a later date, resulting in potentially added cost for this additional excavation
  - There will be further disruption as the plumber must return to make the connection
- Each property will be different and you should discuss the advantages and disadvantages with your plumber before making a decision on whether to proceed now or wait.

Council will send a letter to each property owner who has elected to join the scheme. It will notify you when you can connect to their lateral. Another letter will be sent later in the year, following commissioning of the scheme, to notify you that you can make your connection live and decommission your septic tank.

Well that is the official word. My personal opinion is that it is probably beneficial for property owners needing long connections inside their boundaries to get on with it, while those needing short connections should probably wait until receiving the Council letter. Regardless of what you decide, you can begin by getting a building consent now. This is the first part of the process and consents are valid for a year.

On another note, the walkway between McFarlane Street and The Outlook will be closed to the public while a sewer is constructed. The work is expected to commence within the next 4 weeks and the walkway will be closed for about a week.

Your Community Board keeps up to date with all Council activity in the Kaitake Ward. We have been closely involved in the review of our cemetery and recently completed submissions on the camping ground review and the rural review project. We keep a close eye on beachfront activity and issues in the CBD, and are always available if you have concerns you wish to air.

We remind you that ordinary meetings of the Council, committees, some subcommittees and community boards are held on a six-weekly cycle. Extraordinary meetings are scheduled as necessary, and by requirement these are advertised in the newspaper. Agenda papers are available for inspection at Council offices, service centres and libraries before each meeting.

We hope you are enjoying this great weather while it lasts and keeping your suntan in good shape!

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting is on **Tuesday 17 March at 4pm at the NPOB Surf Club.**

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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We would like to enlist your help in making this the best little library in Taranaki.

We have feedback forms at the counter and will be conducting a survey beginning the week of 30 March.

Feel free to share your wish list of books with us. We will do our best to order books you would like to see us carry. The same goes for magazine titles.

#### Some new arrivals in adult non-fiction

*The Pavlova Story: A Slice of New Zealand's Culinary History.*

*Pick Preserve Serve.*

*Tractor Tracks (Vintage Tractors in New Zealand).*

*Hamish Keith's Native Wit and Scandinavian Design.*

#### Some new arrivals in adult fiction

*Five People You Meet in Heaven.*

*People of the Book.*

*Black Orchids.*

*The 10pm Question*

Check out our new titles rack that changes weekly.

We host a free school holiday programme at the end of each term and we are always searching for new ideas. If you have a talent, skill, occupation or craft you would like to share with an enthusiastic crowd of children (age 5-12 yrs.) give us a call. Story time is as fun for the storyteller as it is for the audience!

By Karen and Vincenza

## Oakura Ladies Book Club

By Jennifer Gros

January brought the club an easy and enjoyable summer book. *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka was very funny, although tragic in many ways. A very unlikely and colourful character named Valentina brings two sisters in a sibling rivalry and their eccentric older father together. We all came to love the diversity of the characters, especially Valentina.

February's book is *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai. This book was the winner of the Man Booker Prize in 2006, and everyone in the club is looking forward to reading it.

## Simply Red Ticket Winner

It was a great evening. Taranaki weather gave way for a dry, clear evening, obviously too hot for some who had to cool off in the lake. Simply Red played all their old favourites plus some of their newer stuff. It was great to hear all the old songs performed by the man himself. As usual, the bowl was an excellent venue for these guys who proved to be true professionals.

#### Thanks

Brian and Shelly Husband

## Curiosity on the Main Road

By Jennifer Gros

There has been much speculation about what is going to be built on the corner of Wairau Road and the main road. Huge mounds of dirt being moved by dozers and diggers have been piquing everyone's curiosity for months now.

The answer is that on the day the tornadoes came through Oakura in 2007, Dave Clarke and Anne Tankard purchased the land while they still lived in Wellington. They have since moved to Oakura with their three sons.

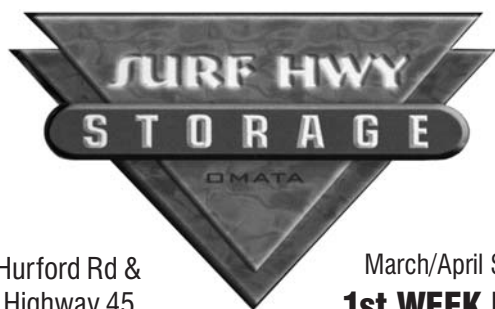
Part of the land is in the QEII Trust, including bush and wetland areas bordering the property. The original plan called for the



*The Clarke's development.*

land to be developed into six sections. Dave and Anne intend to complete the original development, building their own home on one section and only selling two of the sections. One section will be just under 900 square metres and the other will be just over 1000 square metres. They hope that the land will be ready to sell by the end of March.

Anyone interested in purchasing one of the sections can contact Dave or Anne on 752 1122.



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(Continued from page 1)

## Kayaks and Fishing are Coming to Oakura

- \$1000 of Gazza's Bait is being donated by Egmont Seafoods.
- Good old Barney from Classic Hits will be M.C. at the prizegiving following the weigh-in.
- NPOBs will be running a sausage sizzle during weigh-ins.
- Numerous other businesses have also been generous including James and Margaret Crighton of Tasman Toyota and Lee and Christine Drummond of Tasman Marine.

A new feature at the Classic will be the Sunday auction that will be run by McDonalds Real Estate. The proceeds from the auction will go to Taranaki Surf Lifesaving. This will be a fun event and if you fancy a decent feed of fish, get along to Butlers sometime after 4pm and spot the fish that takes your eye. Everyone is welcome.

Kayak fishing is a relatively new sport, and for the Oakura Surfcasting Club it was a new division that began about four years ago. It has caught on really well because you, well, catch more fish than when surfcasting. It is a much cheaper sport to get into than boat fishing. A start-up cost is around \$2000, for all the equipment. Kayaks are easier to launch than boats and can literally be launched from anywhere, unlike a boat that needs a boat ramp or suitable beach. Kayak fishing has revolutionised the kayak and they have come along way because of the sport. These days a keen kayak fisherman will be kitted out with GPS, fish finder, VHF radios, in-built rod holders, storage tanks. A good kayak is highly manoeuvrable, stable, light and fast.

Garry Harrison is one excellent, keen kayaker and he says it is good fitness plus he loves fishing. He has been fishing all his life, beginning as a child fishing with his father. Long-term village residents will know Garry from the Oakura Fish & Chip Shop where he was a purveyor of the freshest fish. Going out in a kayak is a great leveller and it is you, your kayak, the weather and the fish – man against Mother Nature and it doesn't matter if you are a lawyer, a firefighter, or a car salesperson – it is your fitness against everyone else. Kayak fishing is also a social outing for Garry, who enjoys getting out with his mates and fishing anywhere along our Taranaki coastline. His kayak is a 'Fish & Dive'. The biggest fish he has caught in his kayak is a 12lb snapper.



Gazza (Garry Harrison) with his catch.

  
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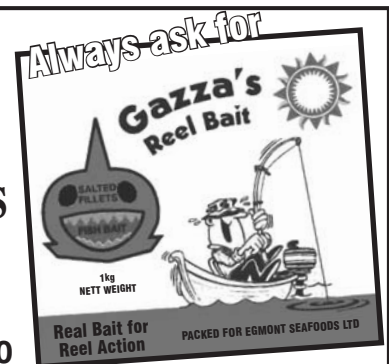
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Bruce's catch.

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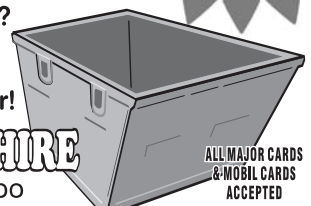
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Debbie Edgecombe is another member of the Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Club and, while she is not as keen on kayak fishing as Garry, she occasionally gets out in the Yak and goes for a paddle. Debbie says that a lot of women are indeed getting into kayak fishing and a number have entered this year's Classic. Debbie is a keen surfcaster.

I was interested to find out what Debbie and her family, partner Grant and son Jacob enjoy about fishing. Debbie sums it up as the allure of the outdoors. Most days you will find Debbie, Grant and Jacob at some local fishing spot, surfcasting away the afternoon or evening. She describes the excitement as she recalls the 14lb snapper she caught one day – it's not something she will ever forget. On most trips there is always at least a bit of action, be it a few bites, strikes or a fish or two in the bag BUT there is something seductive about the possibility of catching a good snapper or trevally. Trevally are the greatest of fighters and the challenge with these powerful deep fish is to keep them straight as they have the tendency to take you around the rocks, Debbie says. This keeps her going back for more, especially trying to "out-fish the boys!"

The love and simplicity of heading off to a favourite spot, whether it be the Tapuae or Fort St George, and hunkering down for an hour or two is what it is all about.

Debbie is an Executive member of the New Zealand Angling & Casting Club and travels around New Zealand to various fishing competitions and has taken several National casting titles and is seeded 2nd in this year's National casting event. Readers may recall her tale of Ahipara, Northland from last year's TOM, and she no doubt has many other fishy tales to tell of the big one that got away.

So don't forget to get along and support this huge local event at Butlers.

**Friday – Bill Hohepa**

**Saturday – from 5pm weigh-in**

**Sunday – from 4pm weigh-in, Fish Auction and prizegiving.**

*By Kim Ferens*



Thinking of escaping to a tropical paradise?

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# Recipes From Around the World

By Jennifer Gros

There are many Oakura residents with family links to South Africa. This month's recipe originates in South Africa and is contributed by TOM reader, Etienne Johnson. His mother, Marti Johnson, was born in South Africa and lived there for 35 years. This is her family recipe. Usually made from leftover leg of lamb, Etienne remembers Bobotie as a popular family meal. I had the pleasure of trying this dish and it is delicious!

## BOBOTIE

- 1 kg ground lamb
- 1 thick slice white bread
- 2½ cups whole milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons good curry powder (imported type)
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon salt or to taste
- 2 tablespoons apricot jam
- Juice of 1 lemon or lime
- ½ cup seedless raisins
- 6-8 slivered almonds
- 1 cup Granny Smith apple (or any other sour apple), grated
- 2 tablespoons apricot brandy (inexpensive type)
- 6 lemon or bay leaves
- 2 eggs

I grind the lamb myself, very coarsely, or you can buy ground lamb. (Beef can be used.) Soak bread in 1 cup of the milk and mash with a fork. Brown lamb in butter; remove with slotted spoon. Sauté garlic, ginger, and onion in the same pan.


Return lamb to the pan and add curry powder, black pepper, salt, apricot jam, lemon or lime juice, raisins, almonds, apple, apricot brandy, and bread mashed in the cup of milk. Mix thoroughly and simmer for about 10 minutes. Place the mixture in a glass, oven-proof dish and spread evenly. Press the lemon or bay leaves into the mixture in various places.

Bake at 180 degrees C, for 45 minutes.

Meanwhile beat eggs with the rest of the milk (1½ cups) and a pinch of salt. Pour over bobotie and press milk mixture into the meat until lightly mixed into meat. Don't stir! Bake for another 10 to 15 minutes until egg-milk mixture is cooked.


Serve with yellow rice, chutney, and grated fresh coconut.

Please send your favorite family recipe from around the world to [jennifer@thetom.co.nz](mailto:jennifer@thetom.co.nz).



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## Oakura Pony Club News

By Diane Alder

We are currently full swing into the pony club season with competitions every weekend in and around the Taranaki region. Recent club successes: Catherine West won the NZ Junior Dressage rider trophy at the NZPCA Dressage Champs held in Taupo. At the same event the Taranaki Team, which consisted of Oakura riders Amber Parkes, Caroline & Hayley Beekman, Catherine West, Anna Hinton and Kelsi Bolstad, came second overall!

I mentioned last month the two Oakura teams that were selected to represent Taranaki at North Island Zone Games. Libby Hinton managed one of the teams and has written about the event -

*The Zone 3 competition was between 20 teams from the lower North Island, hosted by Taranaki this year. The event was held at the Hawera showgrounds since their facilities for horses are excellent and there were more than 100 horses to be stabled overnight.*

*The sport of Mounted Games is an annual event and is popular with young riders because it is such a fun, exhilarating and exciting sport. The riders ride with one hand on their reins, which are knotted together, leaving their other hand free to pick things up and drop them off while galloping. They also frequently must mount and dismount to climb over obstacles or climb into sacks for the sack race.*

*The Oakura Pony Club had two teams entered in the Mounted Games competition. Each team was made up of four riders. One team had the more experienced riders, Amber Parkes, Anna Hinton, Catherine West and Jessica Moorby. That team was placed second overall out of the 20 teams, behind the winning team from the New Plymouth Pony Club. Our second team was Nina Mclean, Georgia Ferris, Lauren Moorby and Bronte Alder, most of whom had only competed in games events this season. The Okato Pony Club also had a team in this competition. Our second team and the Okato team both competed well but were not placed.*

*This year the conditions were perfect and our two teams camped overnight at Hawera along with all the other visiting teams. The following day consisted of practise sessions in the afternoon and a combined dinner/talent show in the evening.*

*The competition in the final heats is intense and many hours of practise are required to get the rider and pony performing their games skilfully. It was very exciting for Taranaki to get in the top two placings.*

Libby Hinton



Amber Parkes, from Oakura Pink team, putting the final letter on the pole in the Pony Club pole race.



Georgia Ferris and Bronte Alder from Oakura Green in the sack race.

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# You Never Forget How to Ride a Bike

By Jennifer Gros

## Amazing Otago Rail Trail Adventure

Elayne Kessler of Oakura has just returned from an amazing biking trip on the Otago Central Rail Trail. I caught up with Elayne over a cup of tea, and really enjoyed hearing about her adventure!

She and two friends left from Dunedin on New Year's Day on the old Taieri Gorge Railway heading to Middelmarsh. The bike trail is 150km between Middelmarsh and Clyde, and you can begin at either end. They began at Middelmarsh, starting with picking up their bikes and then having lunch at the Kissing Gate Café.

Elayne and her friends, Jude and Daniel (who, by the way, are all over age 60) did the bike trip in 5 days. Elayne tells me that it can be done in only 3 or 4 days, but she and her friends wanted a slow and easy trip. Because it was once a railway line, there are no steep climbs, only relatively gentle uphill and downhill. The trail has been gaining in popularity, and Elayne says they saw many families with kids riding their own bikes or little ones on the back of their parent's bike.

The trail is dotted along the way with accommodation ranging from backpackers or old hotels to newer, picturesque places. Elayne's personal favorite was the Otago Central Hotel in Hyde. Between Middelmarsh and Ranfurly, this former historic hotel has been restored and is now a bed & breakfast and café. A lovely retired teacher has restored the hotel and named it after the nearby town her father was from. It was obvious to Elayne that she is very proud of the hotel and thoughtfully provides those extra touches that make the experience so special. The rooms are comfortable and decorated with care. The meal was fantastic and prepared by local long-time residents of the town of Hyde. Family-style seating allowed the guests to meet others who were riding the bike trail, which tends to create an immediate bond. The owner said it was "the teacher in her" that made her tell all of us the history of the hotel and to recite a poem about the place.

There was one day that Elayne says was very difficult because of an extreme headwind, the likes of which the locals had not seen in all the time the rail trail has been open. Elayne and her friends persevered nevertheless, and the rest of the trip was in very nice weather. They used a company called Trail Journeys to organise their trip, and were very pleased. The company met them at the train, organized their rental bikes, booked their accommodation and transported their luggage from one place to the next each day.

The farthest the friends had to bike in a day was about 35km; with most days about 27km. "The scenery was beautiful and changed a lot. Some areas were lush green, some were pale hues, and some were rocky outcrops. There were historical signs along the way identifying the history of the various areas as you passed through," states Elayne. "There were a few tunnels that were very dark... we had to use torches or bike lights (which we were advised to bring ahead of time) and walk our bikes through them." Once the trio reached Clyde and turned in their bikes, they took a bus to Queenstown and spent the next day there. What a great end to a fabulous five day adventure!

For those who are not familiar with the Otago Central Rail Trail, it has some very interesting history. The trail was built on the foundations of the Otago Central Railway. The 150km gravel-surface Rail Trail can be cycled, walked or ridden on horseback in either direction. The railway from Middelmarsh to Clyde took 16 years to build (1891-1907) and was used for 83 years servicing the Maniototo and Central Otago areas. The Otago Central Rail Trail opened in 2000 and was developed by the Department of



Elayne and Jude boarding the train.



Elayne's friends Jude and Daniel at an historic tunnel

Conservation (DOC) in partnership with the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust.

The elevation begins at 170m in Clyde, and reaches its highest elevation at 618m. The trail then slopes back down to a 201m elevation in Middelmarsh. There are restaurants and accommodation throughout the trail, and many guides willing to transport your luggage and provide everything you need, including rental bikes and panniers. If you would like more information on the Rail Trail, visit [www.otagocentralrailtrail.co.nz](http://www.otagocentralrailtrail.co.nz).

Elayne is a nine year resident of Oakura, and works for the Ministry of Education in Special Education as a Service Manager, and for the TOM as a proof reader. She is a naturalised Kiwi citizen, originally from Long Island New York but mostly from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has two grown children, one in Albuquerque and one in Brisbane.

Thanks Elayne for sharing your adventure with us.

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# GETTING WET!



Paige Hareb has been living and training on the Gold Coast for the last few months to prepare for the start of the ASP contests, the first being the Quiksilver Pro at Snapper Rocks. By the time you are reading this we will know how she has fared. We all wish her the best of luck as she chases her dream on the "Dream Tour".

Tyler Anderson spent some time with Paige and her brother on the Gold Coast. He reported that she is up at 5am and in the water every morning for her first surf of the day, no matter what the conditions. This, in addition to her exercise schedule, should see her well prepared for competition this year. Now she just needs the luck element and all could come together for a great year.

Both the New Zealand Corona Series and the Grommet Series have been plagued by very small surf. This doesn't affect the really small competitors but the bigger framed surfers have found it a struggle. The internet provides such accurate forecasting that many do not bother even to enter when the surf is tiny.

The Whangamata contest was postponed until March with hope for some waves, as the January date provided no swell at all. Taranaki surfers generally struggle in these types of conditions. Few made the effort, Tyler Anderson and Keone Campbell being the only two to get through a few rounds at Mount Manganui then finally being beaten by conditions in the Quarter Finals. Mount Manganui surfers took the first three positions in the U20s and two of the Open Finals positions. As the TOM goes to press, the Rip Curl Raglan Pro is on and once again the surf has not cooperated. Rain and strong NW winds made Raglan look more like a beach break, and the contest a complete lottery in the way of results.

The Mike Norris Cricket Trophy, contested between the Oakura Boardriders and the New Plymouth Surfriders, is safely screwed back on the clubhouse wall with a win secured with over's to spare. The only damage was a ball to Alan Crawford's eye, leaving a painful lump but showing true courage in helping the team to a good win.

Upcoming events are the Club Champs on 21-22 March, another Kids' Surf evening and the Friday Open Club nights through the summer. On 28 March the band *Rima* will be playing at the clubrooms. Remember Subs are due and only financial members can compete in the Club Champs.

The New Plymouth Surfriders held their club champs 14 February. The only competitor from Oakura was Connor Anderson. Connor made two finals, 3rd in the U16s and 4th in the U18s. It's always good for Oakura to be represented in New Plymouth and to make our presence felt.

*By Brent Anderson*



*The two presidents, Paul Christophers and Steve Sadgrove scrapping over the coveted Mike Norris Cricket Trophy.*



*The boardriders' successful cricket team.*

## NPOB Update

### Hello Oakura

Wow what a February it has been for surf sports. With the performance of the NPOB team at Northern Regional Champs and the Taranaki team's recent surf league triumph, our team is on track to achieve some good results at Nationals.

Nathan Zieltjes and Glenn Anderson have emerged as a strong Board Rescue team with real medal chances. Ayla Dunlop Barrett continues her dominance of the open woman events and Caitlin Coughtrey is beginning to stamp her authority on the under 16 woman swim events.

However, the beach in February 2009 belongs to the Stevens sisters. Casey (aka Whitebait, 15) and Eloise (aka Weez, 13) firmly cemented themselves as the quickest in New Zealand on the sand for their respective age groups. At the recent inter-districts competition these two girls dominated sprints and flags, with Eloise winning both events on both days in the under 14 arena and Casey mopping up the competition in the

under 16 flags arena. "Whitebait" then backed this up competing for the under 19 team and finishing a credible second behind New Zealand team member, Chelsea Maples, in flags. This is a remarkable achievement by both girls and suggests that more successes are on the horizon in the near future.

On the patrol front, NPOB is on track to log well over 1000 patrol hours this season. With only about six minor rescues this season, a big thank you to the users of Oakura beach for their sensible swimming.

Just a reminder the BP IRB Rescue Champs will be held in Oakura March 27- 30. IRB is a fantastic spectator sport and an area of surf sports that Taranaki clubs have traditionally enjoyed much success in. NPOB will be sending a small team with potential for some quality performances from under 21 crew Daniel Charteris and Drew Whitehead. If you have a spare 30 minutes on that weekend come down for a bit of a look, and see what it's all about.

Hope to see you there.

New Plymouth Old Boys SLSC



## Tai Chi in Oakura

Tai Chi classes are once again underway in the village at St James Church hall.

I went along at the invitation of Joanna Smith Holley to see what Tai Chi is about and it was a very pleasant way to spend an hour. A handful of village ladies attend the class and all get an obvious enjoyment and benefit from Joanna's class.



*Tai Chi exponents, from left Winsome, Joanna, Dianne, Brenda and Chrissy.*

Peggy Faulkner said Joanna was a very patient instructor who explained the Tai Chi movements clearly and for a novice like me, I would have to agree.

These Tai Chi classes are ideally suited to people wanting to do exercise but don't want to or can't jump around. Tai Chi is a very fluid, gentle strength enhancing form of exercise said to be of particular benefit in preventing falls and muscle debilitation. It is easy to follow but is also deep and meaningful with peace and relaxation another benefit. It aids stress reduction, increases flexibility, co-ordination, circulation and balance as well as improving the memory.

Brenda McAsey says she practises at home but often forgets the right sequence of moves and Joanna is quick to reassure her it is about finding the serenity in the moves not tension. Joanna would love to see you along at her Tai Chi classes and I am sure the health benefits will soon evidence themselves with regular attendance.

*By Kim Ferens*

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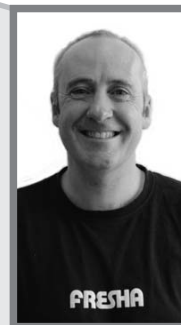
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100mls oil (not extra virgin olive oil!)  
Lemon wedges  
Crisp salad leaves  
Maison Therese Tomato Chilli Salsa*

Season the cod fillets then press the fillets onto the Panko breadcrumbs, both sides. Heat the pan with the butter and oil to a slow fizz.

Fry for 1 minute on each side.

Remove and drain on kitchen towels then transfer to a serving plate.

Serve simply with lemon wedges, the tomato chilli salsa and crisp salad leaves.

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# Freewheeling into the Sunset

Oakura couple Trevor and Sally Stewart are about to embark on another epic motor home adventure.

*Epic* because they are going to Australia for at least 12 months and travelling down the West Coast from Darwin to Adelaide. *Another* because this isn't the first trip the wanderlust couple has done. In fact they have covered more than 30,000 kilometres of the Australian countryside over the last couple of years. Looking at the map, I imagine their West Coast trip, culminating in the crossing of the Nullabor Desert, will have their odometer registering another 30,000 kilometres.

So what bought about this wanderlust? Daughter Rachel says she remembers finding a piece of paper dated in the eighties with her Dad's goals on it. It said, "Retire" and "Tour Oz in a bus". He has been working towards this for more than 20 years! It's clear he has achieved his dream of touring Oz in a bus but I am not so sure about the retire bit - Trevor seems too full of life and energy.

One major attraction in Australia for the couple is two beautiful grandchildren. Trevor and Sally's son Steve and his family live in Cairns. There is a place called Lake Placid about 20 kilometres north of Cairns which has a tropical Tourist Park where Trevor and Sally park up for a length of time in their bus and enjoy the unequalled pleasure of being Nana and Popa. But it is not all pleasure. Trevor has a part time job working in the Park and for his efforts he has been granted royal entrance to another 'bloke's shed'

Trevor and sheds are synonymous. By his own admission, Trevor is the quintessential "shed bloke" and is as happy as "a pig in mud" when tinkering about in his shed. Of course this is where he fitted out their bus before transporting it to Australia.

It began more than 29 years ago with another bus purchased from Okato Buses – a 1948 Bedford. Trevor decked this old girl out for the family to holiday in and they enjoyed many holidays around New Zealand in it. So it goes on with two other buses until Trevor purchased the present seven metre Toyota Coaster. It took 12 months to kit it out with toilet, shower, air conditioning, bed, kitchen and awning. Trevor is a cabinetmaker and also a mechanic, two handy trades to know when building a motor home and travelling around the great expanse of Australia. Fortunately the couple have never had a major breakdown – no doubt testament to Trevor's fine abilities as a mechanic.

The Stewarts have enjoyed many places on their retirement journey including Brisbane (where the bus was shipped to) to Cairns a number of times, a trip through Outback Queensland to Mt Isa. Cairns to Alice Springs, Ayres Rock down to Coober Pedy and Adelaide. From there across to Broken Hill, Mildura then down the Great Ocean road to Melbourne. They then followed the coast road up the east coast through Sydney, Brisbane and back to the grand kids in Cairns. Along the way, they have made lifetime friends and enjoyed visiting the open spaces of Australia and having a very relaxed and laid-back lifestyle. Travel by motor home is very popular in Australia and it has been said that at any one time there can be half a million people travelling the roads. The most common sort of campground is free parking, usually in a roadside byway. This is where new plans and friends are made. Sally says the grand children are always the highlight but she especially liked the contrast of the landscape in Kings Canyon.

Both agree they are glad they can have their freewheeling lifestyle while they are still 'young' and physically able, yet they have found no place in Australia they would trade for life in Oakura.

Oh but they haven't toured the entire length and breadth of New Zealand yet and there are definite plans afoot for that adventure – it has something to do with Trevor on Trade-Me but I'm sworn to secrecy!

We hope Trevor will send us an occasional email about their trip around the West Coast of Oz, so keep your eyes peeled.

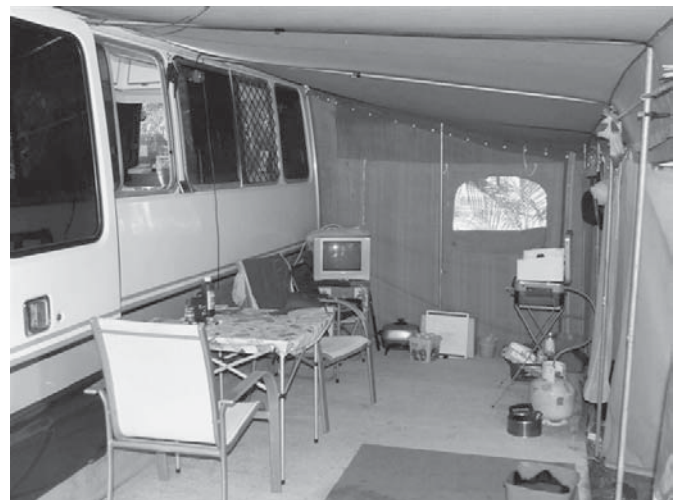
By Kim Ferens



*Sally & Trevor on their motor home adventure in Oz.*



*The 1948 Bedford – Trevor's first motor home do-up.*



*The Stewart's current mobile living room!*



# Young Living – A new philosophy

Young Living was founded in 1989 by Gary Young on his farm in Washington, USA. From a humble beginning the company has grown to become the largest supplier of essential oils in the world, and it is also the world leader in the research and development, production and distribution of therapeutic-grade essential oils. Due to its growth in the international market place the company is soon to launch its newest office here in New Zealand.

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There is a significant difference between essential oils that are used for their aroma and those that are therapeutic grade. The idea of an essential oil being able to enhance ones physical well being or assist the body to heal itself is one that may be foreign to some of us. Yet numerous studies have shown that essential oils contain naturally occurring plant compounds which when carefully distilled so as not to damage or fracture their delicate molecules, and when produced free of synthetic chemicals and carrier oils, have proven to be extremely beneficial for every body function. Plant distillation is the only method of extracting therapeutic compounds from plants which allows the essential oil, or the "life blood" of the plant to remain intact.

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## Oakura Year 8 Graduation and Prize Giving



On 18 December Oakura School held its final graduation assembly to farewell and acknowledge the achievements of their 2008 Year 8 students. The programme included speeches from the four head pupils and entertainment provided by graduating students in the rock band "No Quarter". All students received graduating certificates, with the following students receiving cups to acknowledge their special achievements.

### Awards 2008 Oakura

Dux - Max Hardie Boys  
 Good Attitude - Jessica Clark  
 Diligence - Renee Landers  
 Citizenship - Grace Hoskins  
 Music - Matthew Everest  
 Sports - Hannah Sarten  
 Arts - Jahla Tran Lawrence  
 Health, Safety and Environment - Alex Clifton  
 Events Cups (presented throughout the year)  
 Swimming Champion Boys - Max Hardie Boys  
 Swimming Champion Girls - Abigail Cullen  
 Debating - JG Coughtrey  
 Netball - Abby Wilson  
 Speech - Abby Wilson  
 Rugby - Thomas McDougall & Mason Farrant (shared)  
 Athletics Champion Boy - Matthew Everest  
 Athletics Champion Girl - Jessica Clark  
 Equestrian - Jessica Knudsen  
 Congratulations to all our 2008 Year 8 students!



The Year 8 graduates.



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## Beach Clean Up Day

On Thursday 19 February, Oakura School had their annual beach cleanup day, which has been happening since 1972. All 246 students took part, combing the beach to live up to the meaning of the Blue Flag that identifies Oakura Beach as a healthy, clean beach. While the year one and two students walked down to the Oakura River the rest of the school took care of their areas, gathering rubbish along the beach from Ahu Ahu Road to Corbett Park. The whole school then gathered at Corbett Park for the rest of the day, swimming, making sandcastles and playing with the sports gear.

The school use environment friendly cleanup bags funded by Tangaroa Blue WWF and Stephan Sait, the New Zealand co-ordinator of Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society. The clean up was very successful and Oakura School picked up 250kg of rubbish. Bottles, sweet wrappers, old tyres, bubble wrap and a variety of other things were found washed up or thrown on the beach.



Cleaning up the beach.

It's the first year that the information has been entered on a national database along with the rest of the country. "We want to find out what's washing up, what's being illegally dumped. We're doing it to keep the oceans clean, to stop sea life ingesting it and to stop the birds getting tangled," said Mr. Sait.

The rubbish was sorted, looking at what could be recycled and where it might have come from. Mr. Sait said that many things would have come from ships.

Molly Cattell from Oakura School was thrilled the day went so well. "I'm glad we had the beach cleanup. It was fun playing at the river and I'm glad that we're helping protect our oceans."

Anna Costelloe Oakura School




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# Shine Shone in Oakura

*Summer Shine*, a well-being expo held recently at the Oakura Hall, was the brainchild of local holistic health practitioners Kate Evans, Ingrid Van Amsterdam, Lisa Lister, and Gail Kircher. Gail stated that the day "...was a fabulously successful Oakura event! *Summer Shine* provided a grand opportunity to experience a variety of healings available in our healthy, thriving community."

There were stalls selling books and crystals and health practitioners promoting homoeopathy and osteopathy. Even our local Veterinarian (from Koru Road) was there to inform the public of what healing modalities she could offer for their loved family pets.

Demonstrations of a range of healings, Reconnection Therapy, Sound Therapy, EMF energy healing, Colonic Irrigation, and Cooking as a Spiritual Practice had visitors lining up and wanting to experience all they could on the day. "I was thrilled at the amount of people who came along to ask questions and seek healing. It is a sign of the times that so many people are open to see for themselves first hand just how potent these healing practices really are," said Lisa Lister.

Informative lectures were scheduled, and interested people filled the room to hear new and innovative healing practice methods. The belly dancers demonstrated their dance to a large crowd, while many other people walked around talking to therapists and taking their cards. Samples of organic health products were offered by Miessence 100% Organic Skincare, The Sanctuary, and Club Health. Fresh organic produce was available from Seed Organics in Okato. Many visitors sampled the fresh wholesome foods created by the parents of Sophia preschool.

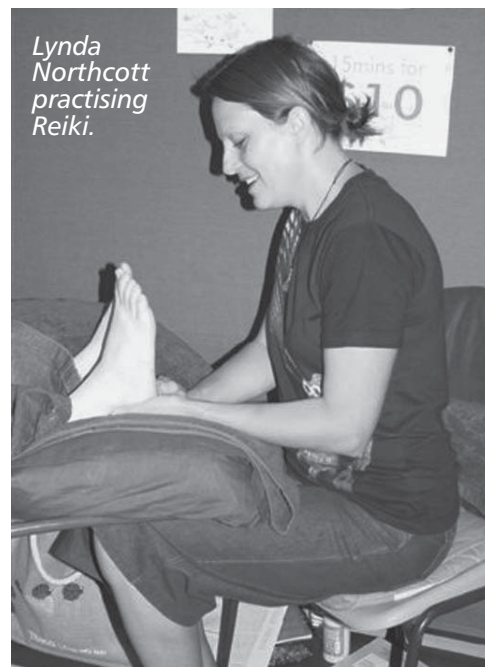
Ingrid Van Amsterdam said that the positive attitude towards setting up the event had reflected on all the stallholders and subsequently on the visitors coming through the door. Over 300 people came to experience, view and sample what was on offer.

The feedback from stallholders was that this event was full of buzz, excitement and great networking. They were thrilled at the number of visitors who spent the whole day soaking up the atmosphere, trying various healings including readings, reflexology and Auric Magnetic Energy Healing. Local sponsors also helped to make this day a huge success by contributing many amazing prizes, money and support. Kate Evans said that the team is now planning a *Winter Shine* well-being expo.

Place August 1 and 2 in your diaries for the *Winter Shine*, as it's destined to take away those winter blues. We look forward to seeing you there.



*Not just for people, says Dr Petra Packheiser from Koru Vets, pets can benefit too!*



Lynda Northcott practising Reiki.



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## Williams Family

Belinda and Dave Williams have embraced a complete lifestyle change for their family.

Belinda is originally from Wellington, and Dave is originally from Nelson.

They lived in Auckland for ten years before moving here recently for Dave's job at Yarrows. He is the Group Chief Financial Officer in Manaia.

They left the city to live in the Oakura countryside with their two daughters, McKenzie (7) and Nicole (5) and pet dog, and now have four sheep and two cows too. The girls are enjoying Oakura School and both really like being part of the Kapa Haka group.

Belinda says that living in Oakura has been great and that they really love the village atmosphere



*The Wilsons, Dave, Nicole, McKenzie and Belinda.*

## TOM Babies Solomon Pearce

A very special welcome to Solomon Pearce, born 2 December 2008, 8lbs 14oz. Proud parents are Amanda and Jack Pearce and his big brother is Max (2). Solomon is settling in well to life in the Pearce household, having already been off on an overseas adventure to the UK for Christmas and his uncle's wedding. Current interests include cuddles and feeding!



## Matthew Graham Cave

Born 5 August 2008, Matthew weighed 8lbs 5oz. He is the beautiful son of Catherine and Chris Cave. His two very proud siblings are Rachel (5) and Jodie (4). Matthew is very happy, lively and is loved to bits!



*If you would like to feature your new baby in the TOM, please email [jennifer@thetom.co.nz](mailto:jennifer@thetom.co.nz).*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

**Prudent Trust Administration**

**7599119**

## Go Green with Blue

Think globally, act locally – and do it blue!

Waste Management's popular blue wheelie bins are being joined by a blue option for businesses. The new blue front loaders are available for commercial use and are already proving a hit!

Words Jolene Stockman

All Taranaki people have access to recycling facilities - kerbside collection is available free through the council but if you want commercial recycling options, or the convenience of a blue bin, Waste Management can help.

Blue bins provide mixed or co-mingled recycling, meaning all your recycling (glass / plastic / cardboard / aluminium) goes in the same bin.

Businesses can utilise a range of options, including flexibility in collection, numbers and types of bin, and recycling with the new range of blue front loaders (that can be used for all recyclables except glass or cans).

Cardboard-only bins are available, or if you have the space, Waste Management also offers a loose cardboard collection.

With more individuals and businesses looking to go green, and the *Waste Minimisation Bill* imminent, now's the time to take advantage of Waste Management's recycling options.

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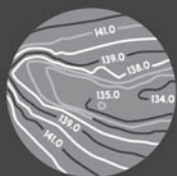
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## music review

by Don Juan

### The Very Best of Éthiopiennes

(Amha/Buda Musique/Manteca/Union Square)

There are guitars that chop out rhythms the JB's would be proud of, smoulder with acid-rock intensity or spin-out jazzy solos, horns section that sounds like a mutant version of the Memphis Horns, gravid saxophones, wistful piano musings, sleazy, sometimes chattering Blaxploitation-era keyboards, eerie vibes, sparse folksy pieces and much more.

Then consider the singers, simple bluesy stylists, vocalists that exhort and funkitize like James Brown, are redolent of gargling goats (to the novice Western ear) or croon with a smoothness that even Marvin Gaye would appreciate. "The Very Best Of Éthiopiennes" evokes highlights across the whole black music spectrum, albeit skewed given an unfamiliar, almost oriental, but intriguing slant. Welcome to 'The Golden Era of Ethiopian music!'

Largely recorded between 1969 and 1974 by a young, adventurous entrepreneur Amha Eshété, this mid-price two disc set has been whittled down from the acclaimed series of over twenty reissues on the French Buda Musique label. Only a fetishist or a millionaire would want the lot (although the standard is incredibly high throughout the whole series), so for most of us "The Very Best Of Éthiopiennes" is the sensible way to go. This set includes the near-mystical instrumentals of Mulatu Astatké or Tesfa Maryam Kidané's more mainstream take on 'Ethio jazz,' the funky urgings of Alèmayèhu Eshété, the pre-blues sound of Alèmu Aga, the impressionist piano musings of Tsegué-Maryam Guebrou, the work of Ethiopian icon Talhoun Gèssessè and much more. Check out this "Éthiopiennes" sampler and you too could get hooked on this unique musical melange.

Chiefly recorded in the hiatus between the liberal, late rule of Haile Selassie and the onset of the repressive Derg regime, "The Very Best of Éthiopiennes" captures what Elvis Costello describes in the sleeve notes as "...a glorious explosion of soulful, sorrowful and joyful music." Believe it!

Music review by Graham Donlon

Mr. Donlon has been writing music reviews for well over 30 years. He hosts the near-encyclopaedic radio show, "Music Without Frontiers" every Sunday between 10am and 1pm on The Most (100.4 FM). Miss it at your peril! He does not snorkel in his bathtub.

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## Coming Events

### March

- 13th Art Gallery visit - Room 6
- 18th Music with Jan Aiello begins for all classes
- 25th BoT Meeting
- 31st 3D Parent Interviews. Classes finish 12:00

### April

- 1st 3D Parent Interviews. Classes finish 12:00
- 9th Last day of Term One
- 27th Term Two begins  
Life Education



## A Swimming Start to the Year

What a great start we have had to the year. Everything is running very smoothly and the children have kicked off their swimming lessons with great enthusiasm. It has been fantastic to see the community enjoying our pool over the summer. Huge thanks to Lil Logan and her team of volunteers who keep the pool clean and safe for everyone to use.

With a horrific number of drownings in New Zealand over the holiday period, it is very important that we continue to operate the pool for swimming lessons. Also important is the beach education programme that the school does every second year. The Oakura Surf Lifesaving Club runs that programme. Our year 7 and 8 students have swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre twice a week with Julie Neilson. They get deep water training and really develop their strokes and water survival skills.

## Lead Ambassadors 2009

We were very pleased to announce our Lead Ambassadors at the final assembly last year.

Jeremy Bennetts, Nick Parthemore, Bailey Hooson, Phoebe Tomlinson

All of our Year 7 and 8 students undergo training at the start of the year in peer mediation and student support strategies. We are impressed with how well our senior students support the younger students by running ambassador games at lunchtimes and roving in the playground. The Lead Ambassadors are selected to take on leadership within the school. They run the Student Council meetings, welcome visitors, liaise with staff, officiate at events and are role models. Student voice is an important part of our school. It is how we provide the best possible environment for our students so they are able to engage fully in their learning and develop positive relationships across all ages – with their peers, our parent community and all of our staff.

*Karen Briscoe, Principal*



2009 Lead Ambassadors, Bailey Hooson, Phoebe Tomlinson, Nick Parthemore and Jeremy Bennetts .



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# Kaitake Kindergarten

Another year at the Kindergarten is now in full swing and we have plenty of new families starting. Welcome to you all.

## AGM

Our AGM will be Wednesday 11 March 2009 at 7.30pm and we invite everyone to come. We are hoping to encourage new committee members to come on board so if you are keen to help, please let us know.

## All About Me

The Kindergarten is running the safety programme "All About Me". There will be a parent education evening on Tuesday 3 March 2009 at 7pm to inform all parents what is involved in the programme. The programme teaches the children personal safety skills and what makes each of them special and unique. Parents attending the information evening will learn about child abuse, its signs and symptoms and agencies that offer support.

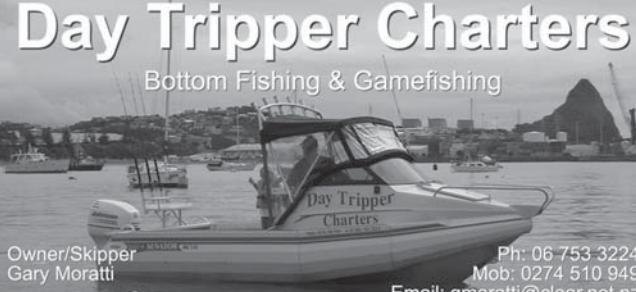
## Professional Family Portraits

On Sunday 5 April 2009 the Kindergarten will once again have Maia from Propix (previously Icon Photography) along to take professional family photographs. Sitting fee is \$10.00 and for this you receive one free photograph. Her photo packages are reasonably priced. Maia takes beautiful photos in either colour, black and white or sepia. If you would like to make an appointment, please phone Mel on 752 1111. Appointments will be made upon receipt of the \$10.00 sitting fee.

Kris Roper

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**Flowers**  
It's bulb time already! Plant daffodils, tulips, ranunculus, anemones, grape hyacinths, irises, freesias, crocuses, etc.  
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Feed and deadhead all roses.  
Feed ornamental trees and shrubs while they are in the active autumn growth.

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## Open Day Manna Healing Centre

Manna Healing Centre will be holding its annual open day on Sunday 15 March at 2pm.

The trustees and the staff extend a warm invitation to you all to come along and see what Manna is all about. The centre will be open for people to inspect the guest rooms and the rest of our facilities. Afternoon tea will follow.

Manna takes in guests that need time out for a few days in quiet and peaceful surroundings. Our staff take excellent care of our guests and provide tasty meals. Our grounds are currently looking very beautiful.

For further information, please contact either Russell Martin on 753 3467 or Merv Hooker on 752 4066.

## TOM Directory 2009- April Issue

If you are a local business and want to be in the TOM Directory or want to change your details

Email [kim@thetom.co.nz](mailto:kim@thetom.co.nz)

If you are a business based outside of the TOM distribution area but would like to be on the directory, we have advertising space available.

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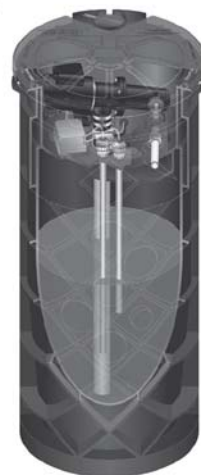
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### Country and Western Club

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

### Farmers Market Taranaki

Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am - noon, Curried St, New Plymouth.

### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Una Shotter 751 0971.

### Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.  
Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

### JKA Karate

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

### Mini Groovers

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

### Oakura Art Group

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

### Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall.  
Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.  
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### Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752 1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

### Senior Citizens

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome. Phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

### St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

### Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley 752 1016 for details.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge.  
Contact Brian Goodhue, the El Presidente 752 1290, email [podsnail@xnet.co.nz](mailto:podsnail@xnet.co.nz)

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Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome. Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

**Please phone 0800thetom with any changes to your listing.**