

MARCH 2011

TOM oakura

Beach Clean-up Day



*Hamish Goodhue, Paige Mackay
and Aaliyah Anderson putting
rubbish where it belongs.*

Turn to page 2 for the full story.



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editorial

Though Sky TV says that its channels can be our 'happy place', I am sorry to inform them that my happy place is Oakura Beach. I was recently lolling around in the waves having a great time and thinking you really could find no better spot. I am sure there are many locals who would agree with me. Some of my friends swim at Ngamotu Beach but, ships aside, it doesn't have the same ambience and is too tame. Back Beach is too scary and canine. Fitzroy and East End are too far away but really there is no need to go past our own beach. Thank you to everyone who makes an effort to keep it safe and clean and my happy place.

I am constantly appalled at how much rubbish is on our Surf Highway 45. It is like a never-ending river of rubbish from New Plymouth to Oakura — why are road users so filthy?

Did you know you can see all the TOM photos on Facebook and in colour? Search 'The TOM Group Ltd' and have a look.

Kim



cover feature Beach Clean-up

On 10 February Oakura School pupils armed with protective gloves and refuse sacks set off into the community to clear Oakura of rubbish for their annual Beach Clean-up Day. The event has been taking place for almost 40 years. The whole school took the day off to clear different areas of the beach and roadside of litter. The older classes headed further a field to Ahu Ahu Rd beach and younger classes tackled areas closer to the school and river.

At lunchtime the whole school gathered at Corbett Park for a welcome cool off in the river. The more energetic enjoying jumping off the bank, supervised by Ray Priest and Murray Laird. Games on the field entertained others, thanks to the many parents who offered their time and expertise, and FOOS (Friends of Oakura School) cooked a sausage sizzle for all of the pupils. What a lovely way for the children to learn about our environment and to appreciate what a beautiful place we live in.

By Rosie Moyes



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TOM
OAKURA

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



Super cool Michael Gibbon gets ready to serve.



Grace Powell, Ellie Moyes and Nouveau Rogers enjoy a welcome cooling off.



Girl GuidingNZ

Guide Biscuits are Here!

Our Pippin and Brownie unit is going strong. We recently held a ceremony for some Pippins who have now linked up to Oakura Brownies, and we welcomed some new members. On 20 February we had a great time celebrating World Thinking Day at Opunake Beach with some of the 300 plus Guide members from Taranaki. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world observe this day.

We'll soon have news about our first big camp. It sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun!

March is Guide Biscuit month and we have plenty of plain, choc and minis! They are the 'best ever' biscuits and we'll be selling them after school and at Centre City.

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Kaitake Community Board

The planned urban road seals in Oakura will be finished by the time you read this. It's great to finally see this tidy up at last, as everything was on hold until all the sewer lines had been put in.

Visitor Solutions, who are carrying out the review in Oakura to ascertain future recreational needs, will be holding two workshops for residents in mid March. The tentative dates (yet to be confirmed) are March 13 and 14. The dates and venue will be confirmed and posted on the KCB Face Book page and the Council website. The information will also be included in MidWeek. We would urge interested residents to attend a workshop and share their ideas with others.

On another note, it is unfortunate to see the increasing number of people leaving their vehicles on the Oakura beachfront after launching their boats. During the winter months this sort of activity is not a particular issue, but it is in summer when other users want to enjoy the beach. For those who do transgress it should be emphasised that a Council Bylaw controls beach activity.

The one that applies is:

Beach Access – Prohibited Activities

28.2 'No person may drive a vehicle on Oakura Beach – including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Road Rivermouth to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east.'

b) Use of a vehicle for the launching and landing of recreational and fishing boats, provided that the vehicle leaves the beach immediately upon launch or landing of the boat.

We village people tend to be a tolerant lot but when folk flaunt the rules in this way they can expect the bylaw to be enforced to the letter. And that, sadly, diminishes the atmosphere and enjoyment for us all.

Recently council sent letters out to the 220 plus property owners who signed up to connect to the Oakura Sewerage Scheme and hadn't yet done so. Back in 2005 when the scheme was still in its gestation phase the Community Board argued that there should be choice in whether a property owner decided to connect or not. And this was the course of action decided upon. Each landowner could make a considered decision to connect or not to connect. The signed consent constituted a binding contract between the individual and council. Council then supplied at no cost to the owner, on the basis of consents received, a lateral pipe from the sewer to the boundary of that property. There was obviously a cost however (to be borne by ratepayers) and further planning specifications were added to the overall scheme, based on the number of connections indicated by the consent forms. Now council is contacting all those who opted to join and have yet to do so. The council has signed off on a process to charge a part rate to those who still do not connect. This will be included in the draft budget and a final decision on that course of action will be made in June. Those who are opposed to this action will be able to make a submission when council calls for submissions on the draft 2011/2012 budget and ask to be heard by the Council at that time.

Kaitake Board members all pay tribute to Parihaka kaumatua and former New Plymouth District Council staff member Lindsay MacLeod who passed away recently. Lindsay worked tirelessly to build meaningful, effective and enduring relationships between iwi and the Council, and the wider community. He was an honest, humble man of

great integrity who was able to walk in the two worlds of tikanga Maori and local government, and do so eloquently, with grace and good humour. He will be sadly missed. On behalf of the community the board passes on its condolences to Lindsay's whanau. Moe mai ra e Ta. Haere, haere atu ra.

Don't forget to check out the KCB's Face Book page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold. From 18 January to 16 February the number of times people have viewed a news feed story on the KCB page has risen to 8,845 from 7,423 the previous month.

Well that's it for this issue.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Oakura Fire Brigade

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck,

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Interesting Facts:

- In New Zealand there are:
 - 440 fire stations;
 - 960 fire appliances (approx);
 - 1707 career firefighter positions;
 - 524 management and support positions (full- and part-time);
 - 76 communication centre staff;
 - 394 volunteer urban brigades with a total of 7,921 volunteers, 12% of whom are women. One in 10 of all volunteers works in an operational support role.
- The busiest fire station in New Zealand in 2007 was Auckland City with 3,177 callouts. Christchurch City Station had 2,600 and Wellington City Station 2,502.
- The New Zealand Fire Service plays a major role in providing an emergency response to New Zealand communities. Most of these communities depend on volunteers for their everyday fire protection.
- Men and women from many walks of life are volunteer firefighters. Volunteers include the self-employed, mothers at home, shift workers, people looking for work, tradespeople and professionals.
- Volunteer firefighters are all people who care about their communities and want to be actively involved in them.

All the best and stay safe, *Mel Breeze (Sec).*

fire
brigade

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

7599119



Oakura Library

Welcome back to all the fresh-faced, happy schoolchildren (and teachers). Best of luck to all those moving on to an exciting and stimulating university student life.

To celebrate New Zealand Book Month, we have invited guest speaker Lindsay Wright, author of *Blue Water: Stories from a Life Afloat*, to visit us on Thursday, 10 March at 1pm. Come along and hear Lindsay talk about stories from his many adventures at sea, including "an action-packed journey to the Arctic Circle, encounters with whales and storms, and being shipwrecked on the Galapagos Islands." Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Karen and Vincenzo

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Taking Action on Crime

If you watch TV One News on Monday night and stay viewing you will no doubt find yourself watching Border Security. As reality television goes it isn't too bad. No one gets voted off, no one has to perform menial tasks, but there can be interpersonal meltdowns in the Customs hall. If you are a follower of the programme you will marvel at the stupidity of inbound travellers to Australia who think they can bring any number of prohibited items into the country, especially illicit drugs. Travellers come up with ingenious ways of concealing drugs, hoping to avoid detection, but Australian Customs seems to have a high success rate if the programme is anything to go by.

In New Zealand, Police and Customs officers had their own successes in 2010, making it a difficult year for P dealers. Last year Police and Customs seized a record 30.4kg of methamphetamine, or P. This was an increase of 46% over 2009 when 20.8kg was seized. The seized drugs have an estimated street value of \$30 million. Police and Customs had further successes in early February this year when they confiscated vehicles, cash, firearms, cannabis and methamphetamine.

These seizures show Police and Customs have done an outstanding job. Their good work in reducing the amount of P on the streets weakens the criminal gangs that sell the drug. It also reduces crime in the community, making our neighbourhoods safer for hard-working Kiwi families. The National-led Government is sending a clear message to criminal gangs and those who import P or any other drugs, that we're coming after their business and will use every tool at our disposal to destroy it.

We're also making progress with the Alcohol Reform Bill. This focuses on minimising alcohol-related harm, including crime, disorder, and public health problems. It zeros in on where harm is occurring, particularly around young people. The Government has called for submissions from the general public concerning this Bill and it plans to have the law in place by the end of 2011.

National is making the biggest changes to the criminal justice system in 50 years. Justice delayed is justice denied. Often the prosecution of a crime is months and sometimes a year after the offence has occurred. Such delays mean that the victims are in limbo waiting for an outcome and while there may be less sympathy for the defendant, his or her life is also on hold. We want to see timely justice delivered for victims, witnesses, defendants, and the community. The current system is clogged and needs fixing, that is why National introduced the Criminal Procedure (Reform and Modernisation) Bill late last year. It contains long overdue improvements to simplify and speed up our justice system.

The National-led Government is delivering on its promise to take action on violent crime. We're clamping down on gangs and P, confronting alcohol problems, and improving the justice system. These initiatives are helping make our neighbourhoods safer for families and building a brighter future for our communities.

Jonathon Young, MP

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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Mayor Harry

Haven't we had a summer of extremes this year? We've experienced heavy downpours and extended dry spells, making for a real mixed bag of weather.

But in all of this I've seen people throughout the district taking part in great community events during the

last several weeks.

There have been great activities organised as part of the TSB Festival of Lights, and we have only just completed the five-week Wild West Bike Fest during which people of all ages took part in a wide variety of bike-themed events. I hope you took the chance to try a new cycling activity with your friends or family!

The Wild West Bike Fest is just one part of our Let's Go programme, where we're encouraging people to leave their cars at home and go by bus, foot or bike instead — even if it's just for a quick trip to the shops or down to the beach. It's about creating a new habit, and making cycling or walking part of your everyday life.

We still have the chance for a few more weeks of warm, summer-ish weather ahead, so I hope you feel encouraged to get the bikes out of the garage and take your family or friends on cycling tours of Oakura. Seeing your town from a bike rather than from inside a car will give you an entirely new appreciation for the place you live!

Cheers,

Mayor Harry Duynhoven

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Podiatrist in the Village

Local podiatrist, Karyn Lehrke, has recently started practising from a room in her home in Oakura. This enables her to be flexible with the hours she works and she can book appointments at times to suit most people.

A podiatrist diagnoses and treats various foot conditions such as corns, calluses, hard cracked heels, ingrown toenails, thickened toenails and fungal conditions. They also do simple nail cutting, diabetic foot checks, give footwear advice, and prescribe and supply orthotics.

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Karyn at her specialist consulting and treatment room.

Karyn graduated with a National Diploma in Podiatry in 1992 and worked in private practice in South Taranaki for a number of years under her maiden name Karyn Gilbert. She was employed for two years as a podiatrist in the United Kingdom and has worked in the hospital system in both Taranaki and Dunedin. After working part-time at an established practice in Southland, Karyn moved back to Taranaki in 2005 with her young family. Three years ago she returned to podiatry on a part-time basis in New Plymouth and she is excited to be now treating people from her own home in Oakura.

Karyn has vouchers available for those who like to give practical gifts, and she is also ACC registered.

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TOM Sports



Fishing Report

The fishing has improved with the weather. Lots of snapper, kingfish and tuna are being caught, and as well as a marlin caught in 40m off Oakura Beach on 21 February.

Tran (from Taranaki Outdoor Adventures) and Al (from the Oakura Holiday Park) report lots of big kingfish on the reef, although they can be hard to catch on lures. I guess they get to be big by being smart?

Kayakers are getting lots of tuna, and several of us have been targeting snapper in the shallows and kingfish in the Port. Lots of fun being towed around by kingfish in a kayak!

The Kayak Classic is not far away and I can report record entries from outside Taranaki. Oakura will be humming with visitors from all over the country so let's show them a good time and show off our wonderful village and beach.

Don't forget the fish auction on Sunday 27 March at 5pm to raise funds for Coastguard Taranaki. The experts from Egmont Seafoods can fillet all fish purchased. The public can also try out sushi and learn how it's made with Sushi Ninja.

Until next time.

Garry Harrison

Jim Morwood catching kingfish in Port Taranaki.



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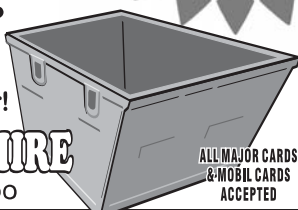
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Introducing Philip Robertson: Oakura's new pharmacist

Philip Robertson has taken over the reins at Oakura Pharmacy and is finding the small village pharmacy a fresh and busy challenge.

Running a pharmacy is nothing new to Philip, having owned and operated pharmacies since graduating from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in the mid-1980's. His first pharmacy business was in the city of Messina, bordering the Kruger National Park. Marriage and children followed and then the family emigrated to New Zealand in 1997.

They chose New Zealand as the most suitable place to live in peace and tranquillity with its clean, green image. A far cry from what the family had experienced in South Africa where violence, corruption and political unrest are everyday events.

Philip had to redo his pharmacy internship when he settled in New Zealand. This began in Taumarunui and included many other cities from Bluff to up north.

The family finally settled in West Hamilton where Philip set up a pharmacy in conjunction with a new doctor's practice. Philip's two sons, Ivan (now 18 years old) and Juan (now 16 years old), attended Hamilton Boys' High School. Juan is currently completing his final year at high school while Ivan is studying medicine at Auckland University. A change in family circumstances has meant selling the thriving West End Pharmacy and Philip is now settling into life in rural Omata.

Philip's love of pharmacy began back in school when he had a passion for physics and chemistry. After leaving school there was a compulsory stint of military service in the South African Defence Force artillery division, and after two years Philip left as a commissioned officer. Philip is an ex Gunner and would love to get together for a 'Tiddler' with other ex Gunners while here in Taranaki. They say there is nothing like a group of old soldiers reminiscing together!



Our new pharmacist, Philip Robertson outside the shop, along with outgoing and now part time pharmacist Colleen and Sarah, Pharmacy Technician and Health Products Manageress (right).



In his spare time Philip likes to spend time with his sons sailing, fishing, tramping or sightseeing. Philip also has a keen interest in photography. He has joined the local photography group and plans to have his camera out as much as time allows.

In the meantime Philip is excited about his new beginning and is looking forward to working with the community to enhance the well-being and health of its members.

By Kim Ferens

Caitlin Henry comes to Oakura Pharmacy

Oakura Pharmacy's newest staff member is Caitlin Henry from New Plymouth. Caitlin is looking forward to working as a retail assistant in Oakura Pharmacy and has previously worked at Rodney Wayne Hairdressing Salon. Pop in and say hello to Caitlin, she is enjoying meeting all the regular customers who visit the pharmacy.



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Philip Robertson (B.Pharm)

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Oakura Boardriders Club

February has been a quiet month at the Oakura Boardriders Club. There have been moments of very good surf and with the warm, balmy days of summer we've experienced, the beach has been the place to be. It's been great seeing so many of our children out in the water, especially on Saturday mornings with Gary Bruckner, who they have had lessons with. There have also been lessons taken by some of our committee members for children who are new to surfing on Sunday mornings.

Our Friday nights at the club rooms are in full swing again and we love to see families take advantage of our basketball and barbecue facilities. We are investing in a ping pong table so are keen to hold some friendly competitions to discover the table tennis fanatics amongst our members! At our last committee meeting we discussed the possibility of marketing the clubrooms as a venue for businesses and organisations to hold seminars, teambuilding activities or for social events. We look forward to developing this further.

While February was a quiet month March has been busy with our club champs, the Taranaki Interclub competition, the cricket match against the New Plymouth Surfriders Club and of course preparing for the TSB Festival of Women's Surfing to be held at the end of April. You will be able to read all about these in the next TOM.

The New Plymouth Surfing Club did hold a seventies retro contest/express session on February 11th and to quote Brent Anderson, "our local contest junkie Brian Clark competed." The competitors had to dust off their single fin boards from the seventies to surf on and in the evening dust off their favourite seventies attire to party in. It sounded like everyone had a fantastic time, just like we always did in the seventies!



Brian Clark at the 70's retro/express session on his single fin board.

At the time this goes to print Paige will have competed in her first WCT event, the Quicksilver Pro on the Gold Coast. Paige continues to be such an amazing ambassador not only for Aotearoa but also for Oakura and our club. We wish her a wonderful and successful year.

Continue to enjoy Taranaki's coastline,
Philippa Butt

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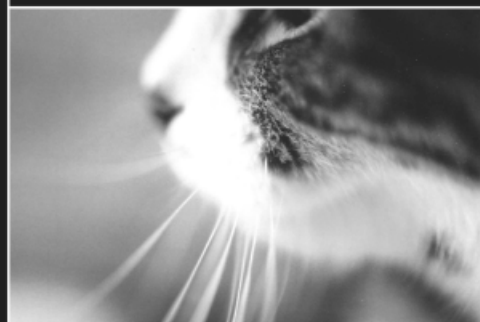
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Garden Delights

The Val Deakin Dance Theatre resumes its annual Garden Delights programme of music and dance this year with three sets of performances planned for March.

These very successful programmes have delighted past audiences with their mixture of dance — classical, contemporary and character — and music by the wonderful flute and guitar duo, Flutarra (flautist Jocelyn Beath and guitarist Ross Townsend).

This year's Garden Delights began with performances at Taylor's Garden in Egmont Village on Saturday, 5 March at 3pm. This lovely garden, owned by Valma and Murray Taylor (formerly owned by the Scotts), has a wonderful lawn and beautiful large trees, which form a perfect backdrop for the outdoor performance.

The programme starts with the charming and romantic Pas de Quatre — a recreation of the 19th century performance of the four reigning ballerinas of the day. These ballerinas from different countries had different strengths and the ballet is a look at their different fortes as well as the subtle rivalry amongst them.

Other dance works on the programme include a Circus Follies section, with a comedy piece for a ringmaster and two elephants, a circus polka, a tight-rope walker and a clown's dance. The finale for the programme is a lively Spanish Suite set to music by Moritz Moszkowsky. There are also contemporary and character pieces set to a lively range of music.

Performers include some of the Dance Theatre's most skilled and experienced performers: Jane Roseman, Donna Kelly, Inge Vink and Laura Sommerville. They lead a cast of 20 in this varied programme.

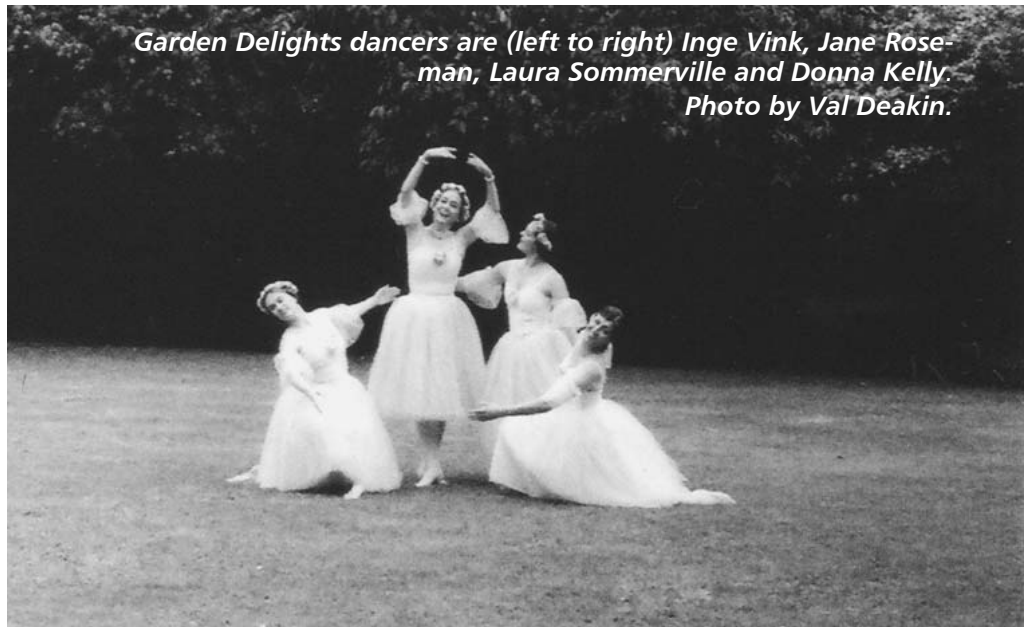
There are also performances planned for a garden in the Eltham area on Sunday, 27 March at 3pm.

All these lovely gardens are perfect for an afternoon of dance and music — bring a picnic to round off the outing!

Tickets can be purchased at the gate, or in advance by phoning 06-752 7743 (after 9.30am). Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$7 for children (special family discounts available).

The Dance Theatre Trust is grateful to the Taranaki Electricity Trust for assistance with touring this programme.

By Jane Roseman



*Garden Delights dancers are (left to right) Inge Vink, Jane Roseman, Laura Sommerville and Donna Kelly.
Photo by Val Deakin.*

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Contemporary dance group inspires appreciative crowd

A recent dance performance by Three: Contemporary Dance Collective at the Little Theatre in New Plymouth highlighted the talent of local Oakura woman and mother of three, Sarsha Hood, along with her dance partners, Connor Kelly and Rachel Masters.

The one-hour show delighted the audience of adults and children alike and was a wonderfully inspiring collection of work by the three women. The show was called 'Beneath the Surface' and featured individual dances by each woman and group dances featuring all three. Sarsha, Connor and Rachel choreographed the dances and selected the music for each piece, which featured James Taylor, The Kronos Quartet, Loreena McKennitt, Rammstein and The Books — all very well suited to the dances.

The group have been practising this sequence of work for two months, and have been dancing together since 2006 when they performed at the Festival of Lights. Since then they have met each Monday to dance and rehearse.

The purpose of their dance is to express their unique movement vocabulary through a connection with the audience. Each dance has personal meaning and the women hope that the audience will relate to the dance through their own experiences. Sarsha says having an audience gives the dance purpose of completion otherwise you would just go on creating new moves.

Sarsha has been dancing since she was five years old and her dance training includes UNITEC, Southern School of Ballet, Helen Winchester, Catherine Chappel and the Meenan School of Dance in Dunedin. She has also trained with various New Zealand choreographers and currently teaches yoga in Oakura. Asked whether she enjoys dancing or the creative process of choreography more, Sarsha struggles to separate the two, saying the two exist so closely together it isn't really possible to individualise each.

What is inspiring about these three women is the fact that they are all 'mature', yet as nimble and graceful at moving in and out of the floor as five year olds. Twisting and turning, falling and rising, lifting and placing, springing and bending with bodies that defy the fact that at least one of them is 50-ish years old — such strong, balanced physiques.

At the end of the performance children from the audience, along with their parents, rushed on stage to emulate the freshly witnessed dance moves.

The group plan to keep up their rehearsing, so we can look forward to further performances in the future.

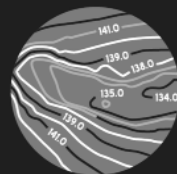
By Kim Ferens



Left to right: Sarsha Hood,, Connor Kelly and Rachel Masters.



Sula and Maryanne Rossiter-Bennett and Maia and Erica Read enjoying an impromptu dance moment.



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Community hall available for hire

Did you know your local community hall is available for hire? Halls are local, great value for money, and can cater for a broad range of activities, meetings and social functions.

Information about Oakura Hall, including photos, floor plans, rates and how to make a booking are available on the Council website www.newplymouthnz.com/halls or by calling 06-759 6060.

The Entwining of Talent

There is a growing abundance of arts and crafts people in Oakura and surrounds — you never know when you might bump into one. They don't have artist or potter or painter or knitter or sculptor tattooed on their forehead so how do we know where to get in touch with this talented bunch?

This is the focus for one of Oakura's more recent arrivals, Deborah French. Deborah is keen to get an art collective underway. Deborah is calling fellow artisans to join together to share knowledge and perhaps set up an arts trail. Deborah says she has come across some very talented people in and around Oakura and it seems like a great idea to all work together and help expose Oakura's diversity of talent to tourists and other locals.

Deborah and her husband and children have recently moved to Surrey Hill Rd where you will find the family enjoying an almost bohemian lifestyle in the shadow of the Kaitakes. Chooks, a dog, a pony, birdlife, gardens and orchards blend together in harmony.

Deborah is currently setting up a studio in a large shed where she plans to sell her expansive range of creations when not busy creating new pieces. Deborah says her current medium of choice is clay, and many interesting and fun pieces are in various stages of completion. On display are paintings, prints, books, sketches and pottery. Along the art journey there have also been wire creations, recycled material creations and etchings. Deborah is hoping to spend more time developing her potting skills and is taking a step back from school teaching with only a handful of hours a week devoted to the classroom.

So the call goes out to all the arty folks of Oakura and surrounds — come join the local arts collective and let's put Oakura on the map as a melting pot of art and craft. Deborah will compile a list of everyone and their interests and talents with contact details so everyone can keep in touch.

Contact Deborah French phone 7527414 or email frenchpearce@xtra.co.nz for more information.

By Kim Ferens



*Linda Barbour –
potter extraordinaire.*



*Deborah French –
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Arthouse in March

What bounty we have for your viewing pleasure at Arthouse this month!
Utterly fabulous... the long awaited...

Gainsbourg

In the 60's, singer Serge Gainsbourg mixed pop outlawry with lechery to blaze his own hipster manifesto, seducing Brigitte Bardot, Juliette Gréco and Jane Birkin in the process. His persistent iconoclasm and famous personal degeneracy made him a fixture in French public life until his death in 1991. His song *Je T'aime Moi Non Plus*, was widely blacklisted and condemned by the Vatican. In France, Gainsbourg is now a national icon.

At his funeral, which brought Paris to a standstill, the then French President François Mitterrand said, "He was our Baudelaire, our Apollinaire... He elevated the song to the level of art." Gainsbourg has several famous fans: Jarvis Cocker, REM's Michael Stipe, Portishead, Tricky, Placebo and Cat Power, to name a few. (Music, Doco; French with English subtitles).

Environmental Films

A Crude Awakening

What if the price of oil is much too low given its limited availability and its unique qualities? What if the price of oil doubles, if war is the only way to secure the remaining fields? What does it mean to all of us, our economies, our countries, our civilization? Is the sky really falling, or are we just crying wolf? Some believe peak oil production is happening right now.

Saturday, March 26 at 5.30pm.

Force of Nature

David Suzuki is a world famous environmentalist, legendary author and much honoured and awarded scientist. From his childhood interned with his parents as an alien in Canada during WWII, he grew to passionately defend the country that had adopted him. This entertaining five-star film is the most persuasive argument yet that saving the environment is the most critical fight for human rights occurring today.

Saturday, 9 March at 12noon and Saturday, 12 March at 5.30pm.

News

- Arthouse Mums & Bubs \$12 sessions are every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am, under fives completely free.
- There is a \$5 discount for anyone cycling to Arthouse Cinema, any session!
- Special discounted sessions are available to schools for the National Theatre's King Lear, a masterpiece with a famous director and lead actor filmed live in London. Playing on 8 March. For further details and prices contact francois@arthousecinema.co.nz.
- Watch out in early April for our 10am School Holiday Sessions.
- Coming soon! The Surfing Film Festival in conjunction with the Girls Dream Team World Tour.



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Now is a great time to start your weekly organic fresh produce box. A fantastically convenient way for you and your family to have super tasting and nutritious organic fruit and veges every week. We give you a seasonal mix of fresh goods saving you time and peace of mind knowing you're eating spray free organic food. At the moment a box is likely to contain, potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, salad mix, spinach, cucumber, avocado, bananas, blueberries, plums, new apples, oranges and lemons. We follow the seasons and source local organic as much as possible to ensure the freshest possible produce. Everyone who signs up for a weekly box in February and March goes in the draw to win a luxury pamper box loaded with organic goodies worth **\$100!** If there's an item you grow yourself or don't eat we'll happily substitute something else. We also deliver to Opunake, Oakura and New Plymouth. For more information call in store, phone us or check out our website. 67 Carthew St, Okato. 7524888. www.seedorganics.co.nz.



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Gardening

TOM Garden of the Month: Sunflower Spectacular

Putting a smile on people's faces, that's what Kath and David Warren can proudly say they have achieved this summer. The talking point of Wairau Rd has been their magnificent sunflowers standing almost 4m tall, with the seed heads 24cm wide — and that's without the petals!

So why did they get so big? I had to go and find out the secret, after all, my weedy specimens at just 1.5m are embarrassing in comparison!

Kath says she bought them as seedlings from St James Church fair in New Plymouth, and placed them in the flowerbed just outside the kitchen window thinking she would see them nicely through the window when they bloomed — she didn't expect to need a second floor window! When she planted them she dug cow manure into the flowerbed and then set about watering them daily. Sunflowers take 90–100 days to bloom. As they grew David had to use bamboo canes to support them, and as they grew even more David extended the canes, tying them through the kitchen window. When Kath and David went away on a working holiday to the South Island to help family move,

a neighbour kindly stepped in to water them when necessary. By the time they returned, the sunflowers had grown past the kitchen window and porch and were heading for the roof apex — much taller than they had anticipated! Eventually they stopped growing in height and four magnificent blooms erupted, attracting many bees and insects. The sunflower heads turned with the sun (a process known as Heliotropism — this is where the sunflower gets its scientific name from, Helianthus — Helios meaning sun in Greek, and Anthus meaning flower). The four blooms sadly became three overnight, one mysteriously disappearing. David says that he found the supporting cane on the roadside, what a shame. Kath picked the remaining blooms and dried the seeds (a single flower head can have 2000 seeds).

I wonder what the tallest recorded height of a sunflower is? My good friend, Google, says that in the Netherlands in 1986 one was recorded at over 7m tall, wow! Maybe we should have a TOM challenge next year!

Kath and David only really started getting into gardening some 14 years ago when they left the family farm on Upper Timaru Rd. Kath belongs to the Coastal Garden Group, which meets once a month at a member's garden or on an organised excursion. It's a social group, Kath explains,

with approximately 30 members with a shared passion for gardening. They pass on ideas (and seedlings). I expect Kath will have plenty of people asking for sunflower seeds!

Some recent building work has given David the opportunity to start



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a veggie garden. He says his neighbours have supplied him with plants to grow: leeks, lettuces, cabbages and cauliflower. He used a lot of cow manure to get the bed started... now if that's the secret to growing those enormous sunflowers, I just wonder how big David's pumpkins will grow!

It was lovely to meet you, Kath and David. Thank you for your time, and the piece of lovely fruitcake your neighbour had just delivered (recipe from the Rural Women of New Zealand Book)! What a fantastic job I have!

Thanks to Fairfield Garden Centre, Kath and David are the recipients of a \$12 gardening voucher.

By Rosie Moyes




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TOM Baby

Very many congratulations to the Edwards family on the birth of little Mali, born on 18 September 2010. She has a big sister, Tanwen (aged 10), and brother Osian (aged 7). Mum and Dad, Alwena and Jim, moved here from Wales 10 years ago and say it is a fantastic country for the children to grow up in.

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**Gardening with Rosemary Herb
March Checklist**

Vegetables:
This month is an important time to be planting the winter seedlings of beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, spinach and silverbeet, but do watch out for white butterflies..

Flowers:
It's bulb time already! Plant daffodils, tulips, ranunculus, anemones, grape hyacinths, irises, freesias, crocuses, etc.
Cut back, lift and divide perennials.
Feed and dead-head all roses.
Feed ornamental trees and shrubs while they are in the active autumn growth.

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Coming Events

March

- 8 Home and School Annual Meeting
- 14 Taranaki Anniversary Day (no school)
- 17 Playgroup 9–11am in the hall
- 22 Room 2 and 6 Science Roadshow
- 24 Year 6–8 Full Primary Interschool Swimming Sports, Bell Block Pool
- 29/30 3D Conferences (school finishes at 12pm on these days)

April

- 1 Playgroup 9–11am in the hall

2011 Lead Ambassadors

Congratulations to our Lead Ambassadors for this year: Charlotte Jones, Evie Lindsay, Zac McLeod and Michael Anderson.

Swimming Focus

We are determined that all of our students will become confident and competent swimmers and this year we have put extra support and extension into our swimming programme. Year 7 and 8 students are having most of their swimming sessions at the Aquatic Centre and we are fortunate to have Mrs Julie Nielson again this year to instruct our students towards Surf Lifesaving competence. Julie has also been giving extra swimming lessons for other groups of students during lunchtimes, and supporting teachers with their swimming programmes.

A grant from the Taranaki Sport Trust has also enabled us to have an Aquatic Centre swim instructor at school twice a week to instruct small groups of students. These initiatives have tied in well with the two Beach Education Days we had at Oakura Beach, run by Surf Lifesaving. The children had two beach-perfect days to learn more about water safety and, of course, enjoy the warm surf in the afternoon.

"A safe, fun and educational day at the beach" is what they aim to provide and our two days provided just that.

Karen Brisco

Lead ambassadors left to right Michael Anderson, Evie Lindsay, Zac McLeod and Charlotte Jones.



Leo Lister at Beach Education Day.



Beach Education Day.



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TOM DIRECTORY

The 2011 TOM Directory comes out free with every TOM in the April issue.

Local businesses, clubs and groups, etc., can list their contact details for free.

This year we are including email addresses.

Contact Kim
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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Ph Chip, 027 6214999 or 752 1004.

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Ladies' Midweek competition
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Junior competition.

Soffe Cup and A grade comp.

Club day (adults and children
welcome for a hit).

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

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.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ring Bridget on 06-752 7223

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10am). Contact Tahnee Corr 027 829 1476, Fe Brown 027 228 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406, to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

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 Sunday of the month.

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 podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

Ph 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing



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