

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

MARCH 2012

WONDERFUL WINCHFEST

MC, Tali enjoying the pre concert
wakeboarding action.

More on page 3



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

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

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E D I T O R I A L

It's great to hear the cicadas and crickets singing, it always reminds me that summer doesn't last forever and to make the most of the sunshine. Speaking of sunshine, it has ruined half my potato crop. Those nasty winds we had blew the topsoil off my spuds and I didn't notice, now they all have sunburnt top-knots! Half of the potato gets wasted when I cut the sunburn off — jolly pain, as nice they are too.



This month I was impressed to hear of Jay Evans' organisational skills when he managed to pull together an exciting event for local scooter kids with his Oakura Scoot competition to raise funds for school camp. Well done, Jay.

Last month I shared a personal journey I am undertaking — transforming my train wreck of a body into something more functional. Results eight weeks in are: 5kg weight loss, 14cm measurement decrease, a couple of dietary changes (portion size, snacking options), a definite increase in energy levels, and increased cardio fitness, strength and general well being. It's interesting how our perception of spending money on fitness is a bit warped — it's taken me ages to realise the money spent on being healthy is actually an investment in my future not money down the gurgler!

Speaking of money, those of you who are friends with me on Facebook would have seen my outrage at the waste (my idea of waste admittedly) of taxpayer money on a \$35000 bike shed — how does the bureaucracy justify this? I am speechless...

Kim

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Wonderful Winchfest

For those people who attended Winchfest 2012 on Surrey Hill Rd, the two-day sporting and music festival was a real treat.

The Symons family had transformed part of their property into a spectacular arena for the sport of wakeboarding via a winch, and also a live music auditorium. The three specially created ponds were described by contestants as world class and totally unique, and they seemed to prove a challenge for all participants. The three pools stretched downhill nearly 150m with two jumps from each pool. The overhead winch pulled the riders down and up the pools with jumps, slides, flips and grinds all awarded points to go towards to the end result.

A small crowd of onlookers were enthralled with the level of skill on show and many onlookers were keen to give the sport a go at some stage. The two-day crowd numbers disappointed the organisers, Jane and Muzz Symons, but for those who turned up and speaking for myself especially, it was magic. I much prefer it to WOMAD, but then I am not much of a crushing crowd person, and the mix of music, sport, food and a beautiful location made Winchfest memorable. Let's hope they hold it again next year.

There seemed to be an even mix of people attending for the music or for the wakeboarding competition and, without exception, everyone I spoke to enjoyed themselves. Local identity, MC Tali (daughter of Ian and Margaret Scott), was a hit with late night revellers and most people waited in anticipation for Katchafire on Sunday afternoon. Other acts on show were Cornerstone Roots, Oaka, The Red Eyes and Tijuana Cartel to name a few.

WAKEBOARDING RESULTS

1. Josh O
2. Brad Smeele
3. The Swede Carl Petterson
4. Jamie Barrow
5. Callum Farquharson
6. Riley Bathurst

By Kim Ferens



The Bloch-Jorgenson's enjoying the atmosphere and food.



Murfitt family and friends raved about the two day event.



Ms Gibson getting into the mood.



Cornerstone Roots.



The Red Eyes.



Mayor Harry

"Progress with restraint" is a phrase you're going to see a fair bit over the next few months.

This is the Council's approach in the draft Long-Term Plan 2012–2022 (LTP) — our planning document that sets out the Council's activities and budget for the next 10 years (the

first three in detail and the following seven in outline).

Yes, we want to see the district continue the great strides it has made in recent years but we must always be mindful of how much such progress can cost, and seek savings wherever possible.

For instance, we have saved \$44 million from the rates requirement for 2012–2019 but we still have proposals for major projects in the plan, such as the multi-sports development at the TSB Stadium/Pukekura Raceway site.

We have seen the real benefits that come from major projects, such as combining our museum and library services into the award-winning Puke Ariki.

The type of major projects we undertake, and their scale, comes down to making a call on cost versus benefit. To build something, we need to pay for it — so how much do we, as a community, really want or need something? Will it make such a difference to our lives that we are prepared to pay for it, and go on paying for it?

Several months of work has gone into developing the preliminary draft LTP (which will be confirmed as the draft plan at the Council meeting on 13 March). Public consultation on the draft plan starts on 28 March and there will be plenty of ways to have your say.

Please have a read through the draft LTP when it is released for consultation, and send us your thoughts on the proposals.

It is only with your input that New Plymouth District will have a Long-Term Plan that best reflects the priorities of its community.

Mayor Harry Duynhoven



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Oakura Fire Brigade

It's been a great start to the New Year, and it's fantastic that we had a quiet time over the holidays with very few callouts.

The good news from late last year is that the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade received funding from the TSB Community Trust towards a shed to house a second support vehicle, which we recently acquired. The idea for the support vehicle came after the tornados in 2007, when the Brigade needed to assess a large number of houses, to check for life risk, and to prioritise the hundreds of emergency

calls that came in. We'd like to thank the Trust on behalf of the Oakura community for understanding the importance of having this extended service available within our community.

What we are now looking for is community support/sponsorship to go towards purpose building the shed to house the support vehicle and the related fire fighting and rescue equipment. This is not a major project in terms of cost, but it falls outside government funding, and as a volunteer community organisation we are looking for assistance. We have started our own fundraising activity, but we see the value of having this resource available more urgently.

As well as the obvious value to the community in times of national disaster, this support vehicle will also be used to transport extra manpower and equipment to all local emergency calls. We have found it especially useful for traffic control and scene lighting at motor vehicle crashes at recent incidences.

If you or your business are able to support our local volunteer brigade with this project, even if only in a small way, please contact Matt Crabtree on 027-2494735 or David Rielly on 027-6758378.



Dave and Katherine Rielly with the new support vehicle.

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Investing in Our Children's Education

We are now at the start of a new school year. Book-lists to be purchased and perhaps uniforms as well. For some children it will be a new experience. Perhaps they will be joining an older sibling or maybe making the transition from a primary school to an intermediate or secondary school.

Parents invest heavily in their children's education, both financially and emotionally. And we need to make sure there is a return on this investment. For our part, National wants to be sure all Kiwi kids receive a quality education that will set them up with the skills they need to move on to training or tertiary education and work.

Our focus is squarely on raising achievement in education, in particular for those groups of students who have historically underperformed. Modern teaching has changed. Our schools need to be flexible enough to support this. The National Curriculum and our new National Standards are helping teachers focus on the education outcomes that our children will need in the 21st Century.

We have introduced plain language reports for parents at least twice a year so they can understand and contribute to their child's progress. We have allocated \$36 million to fund new intervention programmes for students identified as falling behind.

Over the next five years we will invest \$1 billion to modernise and transform our schools. And we will establish the national Network for Learning (N4L). This will allow students to use ultra-fast broadband to connect to each other across the country and access the latest teaching and learning resources online. This will strengthen accountability and performance measurement so that parents and students are getting the most from their schools.

The National-led Government will enhance teacher competency and develop our education workforce. Through scholarships we will attract highly qualified graduates into teaching in low-decile areas, as well as continue to support vocational training.

We are opening 13 more Trades Academies where those enrolled at school can work towards a trades-related nationally transferable tertiary qualification in Levels 1 and 2. As well we are expanding the Youth Guarantee Programme to 12,500 places by 2014. These year-long programmes will enable those 16 and 17 year olds who have already left school to move into jobs or tertiary study.

We know that small schools in our rural areas can sometimes struggle to get the resources and experience more readily available in larger areas. Therefore we will promote the shared governance model and use Student Achievement Practitioners to help schools work together.

National is focused on improving performance in the school system and lifting student achievement. It's vital that every child gets the opportunities they need to succeed and contribute to New Zealand's future.

Jonathan Young MP



Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Kaitake Community Board

Well, the sun came back as soon as the kids went back to school. This seems to be a time-honoured tradition down through the years — as soon as the classrooms are full the weather comes right with a vengeance. Let's hope we get some decent weather for the next couple of months but we need to keep our collective fingers crossed as things can quickly change weatherwise.

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) was involved in a myriad of 'behind the scenes' issues over the holiday period and now we are beginning to turn our focus to the consideration of projects within the community over the next 12 month, three year and 10-year timeframes for the Council's Long-Term Plan. This will be followed by the preparation of submissions to Council on identified needs.

The 10-year Long-Term Plan (LTP) is updated and consulted on every three years while the Annual Plan is produced in years two and three of the cycle. The LTP details all of the Council's activities, and how these activities contribute to Community Outcomes. It describes the Council's budget, explaining what the Council plans to spend over the next 10 years and shows how Council plans to manage its assets over the 10-year period based on each activity's Asset or Activity Management Plan. This allows the Council to take a long-term view of its responsibilities while enabling it to adjust for changing financial factors and keep its budgets up-to-date.

The draft 10-year LTP has been sent to Audit New Zealand to be assessed as to whether it meets all local body legal requirements, and it will be available for the consultation round commencing on March 13. Major projects in this draft plan include the Waitara to New Plymouth sewer and the multi-purpose redevelopment project at the TSB Stadium/Pukekura Raceway site.

During the LTP consultation Council will also consult on the proposal to change the kerbside rubbish collection service to one with recycling/food waste bins and pay-as-you-go rubbish bags.

The Oakura, Okato and adjacent rural communities do not want to be disadvantaged in the final outcome so it is very important that you let KCB members know what you perceive to be the important needs in our area, and don't forget individuals or other groups can make their own submissions too. There will always be potential threats to our environment and lifestyle and the LTP provides a process whereby our community can develop the way we want it rather than through the mindset of others, so do take the opportunity to have your say.

Submissions to the Long-Term Plan will close on 27 April 2012. This year is another busy one for us. In a diverse and expanding community it is important to stay on top of all developments — they will certainly keep coming at us. Therefore we all need to stay on track and make sure 2012 is a memorable one for us all. Don't forget to check out the KCB's Facebook page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold.

Well, that's it for this issue. Ka kite ano.

Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson, who is the Council representative on the KCB.

Hi everyone,

We hope that our students have made a smooth transition into their new school year. Farewell and best wishes to our university students, especially Sophie. She was a great help this summer and will be missed.

A highlight for us this summer was hosting talented storytelling duo, Mary Kippenberger and Peter Charlton-Jones. It was part of the summer scene programme and, with a fine day, the capacity crowd spilled onto our deck. By the end of the hour all the children (and adults) who wanted to perform and participate had a turn. Mary was very supportive and highlighted each actor's strengths. What a talented bunch! A hilariously good time had by all!



Mary Kippenberger and Peter Charlton-Jones.

March is New Zealand Book Month. Check out their website or call in to the library for a full schedule of local events celebrating how "Books change lives".

If you haven't been to the library in a long time (or ever) you'd be amazed at the ever-growing collection of exciting, stimulating books. It takes just minutes to get a library card and it's free.

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Here's hoping for a few more weeks of lazy summer weekend reading.

Karen and Vincenza

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Fair Play Advocate

7599119

TOM Sports



Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing

At last the fishing is on the improve, the tuna are in close to the Port and some monsters are being caught. James Crighton landed a 14.5kg monster along with several others. Al Munroe had a great day on the water and landed several huge snapper, including this beauty (pictured below) from his spot x possie. Al tells me he will tell the location to anyone who buys him a beer at Butlers.

We have also been doing well landing nice snapper and trevally.

Surfcasting is just coming good with kahawai and snapper moving into the shallows to feed up after spawning.

The Kayak Classic is nearly here and we have a record number of entries from as far away as Greymouth. I hope we see you at Butlers on the 10/11 March to enjoy the entertainment. Bring your wallet and bid for fish at the auction to raise funds for the new coastguard rescue boat.

Garry



Left: Al Munroe with a monster snapper.

Below: Garry scored a beautiful trevally from his kayak.



James Crighton with his catch of the day including a 14.5kg tuna.

Kaitake Golf Club News

Golf during the holiday break was hampered by the changeable weather but that didn't affect the turnout at the annual Beachcombers Tournament in January. It was a good day for golfers and non-golfers alike. The Twilight competition each Tuesday evening is attracting many people wanting 9 holes during the week and will continue until later in March. Tee off between 3.00 – 6.00pm. This is a great social evening with fun had by all. This is open to both golfers and non-golfers, so come along and join in.

A Sponsors' Day Ambrose was enjoyed by many recently. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the important role the sponsors play in the running of the club.

The 2012 Golf season is underway. The Men's and Women's Divisions have had their Opening Days and the competitions begin. The course is in great condition and we look forward to some good golf. Any new members are very welcome. Just see Jacqui in the office.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Len Julian. Len was a Life Member of the Kaitake Golf Club and has worked countless hours on the course especially on the mowers. His contribution to the Club has been immeasurable and his happy smiling face will be sadly missed.

Finally, Kathy's cafe at the club is open 6 days a week, closed Mondays. If you are looking for something tasty to eat during the day visit Kathy in the clubhouse and enjoy some delicious food.

Andrea Jarrold



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TOM is Read in Sweden!

If there was any doubt that TOM is international or relevant then the letter below proves how far reaching and long lasting its readership is. Thanks for sharing this letter, Garry, and keep up the fishing!

"Hi Garry, I have sent you a photo from your newspaper TOM and Jim is the guy in the middle, the others are Justin and Craig McEwen and I am searching for my mate Jim Dowling who I met 1982 in Sydney when our paths crossed... backpackers from Sweden and New Zealand — not very common at the time... he has been visiting me here in Sweden as well... sailing in the Swedish archipelago. Anyway we have been friends since then. I went to his wedding at Tauranga when he married Sharon and I was at the time pregnant with Emelie so she was with me in a way... and I had a great time skiing at a volcano in the North Island and the wedding was fantastic. When Sharon and Jim married it was in winter 1990. My daughter is coming to New Zealand on the 1st of February — she is now in Australia. I have tried to find him (Jim) because I lost his address when I was moving to a new place. I have the address that he gave me in Sydney 1982/83: Jim Dowling, 55 Fernleigh St, New Plymouth, then he lived in Tauranga and then I think he moved with his wife for a while to Auckland or outside, they also got some children. I do think his parents come from New Plymouth.... and he obviously likes to fish otherwise he shouldn't be on the photo at your competition in fishing. Anyway my name is Ewa Ericxon as married — my name who Jim knows... is Ewa Axelsson from Sweden... My lovely daughter is travelling by herself and I would love if they could meet up so I try to find him.

Sincerely

Med Vänlig Hälsning Ewa



LOOKING FOR JIM ...

Jim, pictured centre on the cover of TOM, April 2008.






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SPORT Oakura Scoot

Given the challenge to make some money for school camp, local boy Jay Evans decided to incorporate his passion for scootering and hold a competition. His mum and dad were totally impressed with his entrepreneurial skills. He secured sponsorship from Vertigo, Oakura Four Square, CJ Homes, Oakura Beach Camp and Kate Evans Remedial Body Therapist for prizes and within a week he had registrations for 33 competitors. It looked like he had hit upon a great idea!

The competition was split into three levels: beginners, intermediate, and advanced, with first, second and third at each level. It was a huge surprise to the Evans family how many people turned up to watch the competition and Jay's mum, Kate, nearly lost her voice calling time for the competitors. Jay and his dad, Chris, did the judging. Competitors were judged on accuracy, difficulty, style and flow. Each competitor had a minute to show their best stuff and the top five had a further minute to compete for the top three places.

Everyone was amazed just how good all the kids were, and for the kids it was great to see what the next level up looked like!

SCOOTERING RESULTS

Advanced: 1st Oscar Robertson, 2nd Hayden Benton, 3rd Felix Ferris.

Intermediate: 1st Tom Butland, 2nd Timi Te Ua, 3rd Isaac Kneepers.

Beginners: 1st Ed Shearer, 2nd Jacob Donlon, 3rd Jayden Lamb.

Everyone really enjoyed the competition and lots of people have asked Jay to run another one, so watch this space — maybe it could be a regular thing!

Jay would like to say a huge thank you to his sponsors, especially to Steve at the Four Square for providing so much — the tent, the competitors' packs and the spot prizes. Also to Oakura Beach Camp for providing some spot prizes as well.

Some of the scooter action, captured by Scott Lamb.



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Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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GETTING WET



Oakura Boardriders Club

So, where were you during the last weekend of January? I know there were a few members of our Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) out at Waitara competing in a comp (which I will write about later) but what about the rest of you? Wind-surfers could be excused as it was a typical southwesterly in Oakura with plenty of wind, and many schoolteachers I'm sure were preparing for the start of school. But again I ask, where were you? I ask because you missed a wonderful local experience, Winchfest, held at the Symons' farm up Surrey Hill Rd. Unfortunately I only attended the Sunday and although numbers were better than the Saturday, we noticed your absence!

It is the perfect setting for a festival with its natural amphitheatre, beautiful bush and a river with waterholes to swim in, meandering around the perimeter. The three huge man-made pools where the wakeboarding took place are equally impressive and the quality of the music playing throughout added to the ambience of the scene. We were certainly treated to wakeboarding at its best as wakeboarders from around the globe did the most amazing manoeuvres.

If this extremely well organised and unique festival takes place next year, make sure you are there!

On the surfing scene, four of our micro-groms, Harry and Wilson Clegg, Nick Holt and Tom Butland, competed with 30 others in the second event of the Surfing Taranaki 2011/2012 Summer Series. It was held on Sunday, 29 January and hosted by the Waitara Bar Board Riders Club (WBBRC). The waves were ideal for these junior competitors and the WBBRC were perfect hosts. Tom came first in the Under 10 Boys, Nick in the Under 12 Boys, and Wilson second in the Push Ins (Parent assisted division).

OBC will host the next competition in the series on Sunday, March 4 at Oakura Beach. Hopefully many of you who have been taking lessons with Gary Bruckner, Brian Clark or Casey Stevens will be inspired to participate. Everyone can compete, no matter your ability, and afterwards there will be a barbecue and no doubt, spot prizes. So keep that day free!

I'm sure there will be more than the odd barbecue happening around the Australian Open being held in Manly on 11-19 February. This is Paige's first Qualifying Series competition for 2012 before she heads to the Gold Coast for her first Dream Tour competition in late February/early March. Check out www.aspworldtour.com for all the action.

Don't forget that we are holding our Club Champs on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. It is always a very special weekend and we love to have as many competitors and spectators as we can. Also don't forget that our clubrooms are open every Friday night until daylight saving ends, and you can hire the clubrooms for any form of function.

As our immediate past president Paul Christophers says... "May the wind be offshore, the swell straight and the sun shining."

Phili Butt

The crème de la crème of wakeboarders battling it out.

PHOTOS BY ALEX FERENS



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Cooks Circumnavigate the World

This year promises to be an exciting one for the Cook family of Oakura. Craig, wife Jo and their three children Lhasa (12 years), Santé (11 years) and Essala (9 years) are off on an 18-month adventure around the world.

Craig says the timing is right for the family to head off, with the trip not impacting on the children's education but, in fact, likely to enhance their learning. Craig admits it probably is all a bit of madness, with some friends suggesting so and others saying it is just what they would expect the Cooks to do.



The world adventure is planned in stages with the first stage beginning in Europe. The family plan to travel around the European nations for a few months taking in the history and culture of different countries, including being in Gallipoli for ANZAC Day. The plan is then to put down roots for two or three months and immerse themselves in the local culture.

Next stop is planned for another continent: Africa, more specifically Kenya, for a safari adventure. Then they head on to Sri Lanka to immerse themselves in the culture and lifestyle of the Sri Lankan people. Plans are for surfboards to arrive from New Zealand so the family can enjoy the beaches and surf of Sri Lanka — that is when not playing cricket with the sports mad country.

Nearing the halfway mark the Cooks then head off to India and Nepal. Craig and Jo have been to Nepal in the past and are keen to take their children back to the hilly nation for some trekking. India will be a mind-blowing experience.

Along the way the children will be learning and discovering new friends and how other people live; altering their perception of the world and the people in it and realising how lucky they are to live in such a wonderful place as Oakura.

Part of the experience will involve camping, with respite taken in apartment living when the family put down their roots for a few months at a time.

Next stop is USA and the national parks, theme parks and Vegas. For a bit of fun Jo and Craig are going to renew their wedding vows (on their 20th wedding anniversary) in Vegas. Then it is off to Central America, Costa Rica for more surfing and wildlife adventures.

Hopefully everyone will still be talking to everyone because it is then time to head home and reflect on the memories, the fun, the adventures, the new friends, and where all the grey hair came from!

The Cooks plan to send regular travel blogs through to the TOM, and friends and family can follow their adventures online at www.cooksworldtrip.com

By Kim Ferens

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If your luggage is looking a bit worn, Oakura Travel is now selling Voyager Luggage.

Functional Fitness Opens In Oakura

A private women-only studio is now open in the village of Oakura. Estelle Williams, International Fitness Professional registered with REPS and Fitness NZ, is qualified to help women achieve their personal goals in health and fitness. Estelle focuses on functional training, which simply means training our bodies to better perform the types of movements we use for everyday life. To get better at these daily movements, strength training is a must and at Functional Fitness they focus on functional exercises and body posture.

We all have individual and unique goals, so clearly defined goals are set by YOU, the Client. Estelle then designs a programme and assists with nutritional advice to help you achieve your health and fitness goals. She considers your individual likes and dislikes so that the programme becomes something you stick to for the rest of your life.

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For more information call Estelle today on 06-752 1001 or 021-119 6465.



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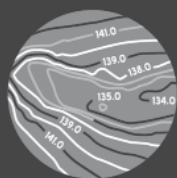
Stop your *thighs* rubbing together?

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Heart Start Award for Oakura School

Congratulations to Oakura School on achieving the Heart Start Award from the Heart Foundation.

The award was presented by Anne Berrie, Health Promotion Coordinator Taranaki, during the school assembly on Friday, 10 February.

“The Heart Foundation’s free school-based programme promotes healthier eating and physical activity to the whole school community, laying the foundation for students to develop lifelong skills to keep their hearts healthy. It is in line with the school goal to develop students who are confident in making decisions to support a healthy lifestyle.”

The school completed five modules to qualify for the award including a jump rope workshop, a Food for Thought nutritional educational programme in the classroom, and even a trip for some students to the supermarket to analyse the nutritional labels on food packets. The school veggie area also teaches the children to value and enjoy growing fresh produce, under the expert guidance of Ray Priest. The children who worked so hard last year to plant and maintain the garden are able to see and taste the results of their efforts. Healthy eating, healthy heart.

Lynne Hepworth, School Principal, says, “Promoting healthy choices has always been a priority at Oakura School.”

Congratulations to all the staff and children; it is so reassuring to know that the younger generation is being so well cared for.

By Rosie Moyes



Shaelyn Hattle with one enormous potato.



Pot of potatoes! Rebecca Barron, healthy eating - healthy heart.



Anne Berrie presenting Lynne Hepworth with Heart Start Award.



OAKURA SCHOOL VEGE GARDEN GURUS

Back row: Ray Priest, Rhegan Hudson, Tessa Keenan, Lynne Hepworth, Abigail Holdcroft, Taylah McQuaig, Juliet Squatriti, Taneal Jones, Rachel Page
Middle Row: Sophie Crabtree, Jackie Procter, Kate Newton, School Scarecrow, Emily Waite
Front Row: Emily Husband, Shaelyn Hattle, Rebecca Barron, Max Shearer.

Environmental Kiwis at Oakura School

Rubbish! This is one thing we do not want to find on our family outings to Oakura Beach! Pollution is one of the major problems that we have on our beaches here in Taranaki.

Oakura School students from the Gecko Room to Room 11 paraded down to Oakura Beach on February 2 for our 40th annual Beach Clean-up. Each class was assigned to clear one section of the beach. Later we made our way down to the river for lunch and a swim.

Most of our classes were divided into groups of three and shared one plastic rubbish bag between each group; we also wore plastic gloves and were instructed not to touch syringes or broken glass — this was the teachers' responsibility!

This year was one of our best years yet for the beach clean-up, as there was not as much rubbish as we expected. We believe people are growing more aware about the environmental dangers to our sea life and our New Zealand beaches. We hope that the ensuing years will get better and better until there is no more rubbish to pick up!

After a satisfying day of making Oakura Beach a cleaner and safer place to be, Oakura School pupils strolled down to the Oakura River where they had a chilly but refreshing swim. This was a great time to socialise with classmates and parents, to enjoy swimming and jumping from the riverbank.

Following the river activities the children enjoyed barbecued sausages. They also engaged in cricket, Frisbee throwing, skipping, and creating interesting driftwood sculptures on the sand.

Despite the overcast weather, we all had a wonderful time and walked slowly and wearily back to school after achieving our goal of making Oakura Beach the stunning and healthy place it has always been.

By Isabel Goodhue, Nicole Watchorn, Kima Costelloe and Danielle Hood



Keeley Luckin and Bronte Hill work together to keep our beach clean.



(Left to right) Emily Crummey Hills, Izabel Evans, Jackie Procter, Jay Evans, Olivia Muggeridge and Miles Dunn with some of the rubbish bags collected on the day.

COMING EVENTS

March

- 12 Taranaki Anniversary holiday
- 15 Playgroup 9–11am
- 28 3D Conferences
- 29 3D Conferences
Playgroup 9–11am
- 30 Year 6–8 Swimming Sports at Bell Block

April

- 5 Last day of Term 1
- 6 Good Friday (holiday)

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO) REPORT

We are very pleased to report that the November ERO visit to Omata confirmed we are making a positive difference to student achievement and education. My appreciation goes to all our staff, Board of Trustees (BoT), and parents whose efforts combine to make Omata a great place to learn. The full review is available online now at www.ero.govt.nz. The reports are not too long and quite easy to read. It was reassuring to us that the reviewers easily understood what our school was all about and that 'the way we do things around here' is having a positive effect on student achievement and wellbeing.

PUMPKIN HARVEST FESTIVAL

Coming up on Sunday, May 6 — Put this date on your calendar!

Any queries or offers of support can be made to Joss Hobson, phone 06-751 3301.

Regards

Karen Brisco

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Personal Testimony
At 35 I am 2 sizes smaller than I was on my wedding day nearly 13 years ago, and I have gained confidence to wear clothes I wouldn't have dared wear back then. It's only taken three 30 minute workouts per week and healthier food choices to lose weight, gain muscle and change my body shape. Trudi



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Garden Delights 2012

It's time again for Val Deakin Dance Theatre's wonderful Garden Delights programme that includes music and a range of dance in some lovely Taranaki gardens. Programmes are planned for the Taylor's wonderful garden at 115 Kaipi Road, Egmont Village on Saturday, March 3 and for Lindsay Maindonald's Redwood Oaks Garden on King Edward Street in Eltham on Sunday, March 4. Both performances are scheduled for 2pm to allow for enjoying the performance and picnic all afternoon!

The programme includes a variety of dances from the Dance Theatre's extensive repertoire. Included will be some ballet dances — in a classical style from *Sleeping Beauty* — and a romantic style to music by Arensky. These lovely new Arensky dances are a joy to watch and perform.

There are two different modern dances on the programme — one to a delightful Vivaldi guitar concerto and a new work set to some music by Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos. Another ballet dance to Lehar's *Gold and Silver Waltz* provides an opportunity for some of the younger Dance Theatre members to perform, as does Golliwog's *Cakewalk*, set to Debussy's music.

A fun retro jazz dance, *Swing Down Chariot*, will bring the programme to a rousing conclusion.

The well-known flute and guitar duo, Flutarra, will be an important part of the programme. Jocelyn Beath and Ross Townsend will play a mixture of duets — some new and some old — that are sure to please.

Dance performers for the programme include some of the Dance Theatre's most experienced performers, Jane Roseman, Donna Kelly, Inge Vink, Davina Moffat and Catherine Donlon. They will be leading a cast of 20. All the dancers look forward to the performances and enjoy the wonderful freedom that comes from dancing in these lovely garden settings.

There are plans afoot for further Taranaki performances on March 24 — watch this space!

You can buy your tickets at the gate, or in advance by phoning 06-752 7743 after 9.30am. Tickets are still only \$10 for adults and \$7 for children, with family discounts available.



Last year's recital by the Val Deakin Dance School. The children, dancing a Sunbeams dance, were part of three performances given in New Plymouth by students of the school from Oakura, New Plymouth and Hawera. The performers ranged in age from 5 to 55, dancing ballet, character, comedy, contemporary and jazz dances.



The Sunbeams are (left to right): Caja Hancock, Ella Bolger, Ellie Dinnis, Gemma Wright, Cinnamon Danger.



Last year's pre-school children's class in Oakura with assistant Kaye West. They are just delightful!

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Weight Management Clinic

Sharron Skipper is well known to many as the 'Weight Loss Challenge Lady'. Sharron has hosted this challenge three times in Okato and is currently running it in Opunake. Generally the Community Weight Loss Challenge has 30–40 participants with weekly meetings over 12 weeks. The Challenge has proved so popular and successful that Sharron has decided to open a Weight Management Clinic at her home in Okato. Sharron says, "I think there is a demand for it. I want people to have a place they can come to where there's support and they can meet like-minded people."

The Weight Management Clinic will kick-start with an Open Day at 10am on Tuesday, 13 March at 191 Perth Road, Okato. As well as finding out what is offered, it is an opportunity to voice what we'd like to see in the clinic to benefit the community. There will be a healthy lunch provided, and a free prize draw for a \$150 weight management product. Attendees can also get in first to register for a midday Mini Weight Loss Challenge group, which will be capped at 10 people and run in ongoing 12-week blocks. Tuesdays will be the pop-in clinic day. Sharron will give first-time visitors a free Wellness Consultation analysing height, weight, BMI, protein factor range, and resting metabolic rate.

Whether people choose to join the Mini Weight Loss Challenge or prefer to have one to one consultations, they will have a weekly weigh-in, cover topics such as nutrition and exercise, and set individual weight loss (or weight gain) goals with Sharron's assistance. People can also get information about weight management products, or look into becoming a weight loss coach themselves. For more information phone Sharron on 06-752 4844 or text her on 027-7422282.



Sharron with the \$150 worth of personal scales to be won.

Weight Management Clinic Opening Day

Tuesday 13th March 2012

*191 Perth Road,
Okato, R.D. 4, New Plymouth*

10am onwards

Come along and be a part of our Grand Opening in a friendly environment where we are dedicated to helping you with your weight management goals.

Introduction and explanation of the Weight Management Clinic. Also an opportunity to voice your say on what you would like to see in a weight management clinic to benefit the community.

Registrations for Daytime weight loss challenge. Limited to a maximum of ten people. A chance to be a part of a supportive group while you are losing weight!

Draw for a free weight loss programme valued at \$150.00.

Lunch / mingle – A chance to socialise while you enjoy our nutritious shakes. (Shake/Protein Bar/Thermo Tea combo).

For more information phone

Sharron 06 752 4844

or txt **027 742 2282**



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TOM Baby of the Month

Congratulations to Katy and Greg on the birth of their little girl, Lyla Constance Sheffield. Lyla is lucky to have a big brother, Finley (aged 2). Lyla was born on 4 January 2012 and is pictured here at just two weeks old, very laid-back and chilled!



If you have recently had a baby we would love to include a picture in the TOM. Please contact Rosie on 7527609.

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term, 4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on 06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

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.

Move It or Lose it, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays 9.30am.

Contact Gloria 752 7442.

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

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.

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

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

Ladies' Midweek Competition

Club night

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Competition

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Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

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

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.

Val Deakin Dance School

Saturday morning ballet classes are held at Oakura Hall. Pre-school students from 9-9.30 and a Basic Ballet class for children aged 5, 6 and 7 from 9.30-10.45 am. Contact Val Deakin or Jane Roseman on 06-752 7743.

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get together and sharing good family times and knowledge.

Contact

President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or

Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.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.

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