

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

MARCH 2013

## CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TO THE MAX!

Jean Mattingly with this year's Junior  
Golf Champion, Max Shearer.

*More on page 2*



TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free, monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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

**Do you have a story of local  
interest that you'd like to  
share with the readers of  
TOM?**

Phone 0800 THE TOM

## E D I T O R I A L

Firstly a big thank you to Ron for taking up the creative reins of TOM again. As you will have all figured out, TOM has been taking a break but I am happy to report, normal service has resumed!



Secondly a big thank you to all the people who kept asking me to restart TOM-Oakura – your persistence paid off and TOM is back!

TOM-Oakura is a comfortable groove for me and I love bringing the community its own news. I hate to admit this but I hate asking people to advertise in the TOM – I know most people are sceptical that advertising works but I can assure you it does, sometimes not immediately and sometimes not in a quantifiable way but eventually the message is assimilated. I hate to pester people so if you want to advertise I would rather hear from you than feel I am making a nuisance of myself. That said if there is no advertising there is no TOM! Let's make it a joint effort.

The best thing someone said to me this month is "Kim you have such good energy" (love that woman). The worst thing someone said to me this month is "The TOM is poorly written let me help you" (thanks but no thanks!)

Kim



## Kaitake Golf Club FUND RAISER

# Used Book Sale

**- GREAT VARIETY -  
SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!**

*Butlers Reef  
Sunday 10th and Monday  
11th March*

## COVER STORY

# Kaitake Golf Club - Junior Championship

A group of very keen junior golfers played a 9-hole competition for the 2013 Jean Mattingly Trophy. Congratulations to Max Shearer, this year's winner. It has been a few years since this trophy has been played for but it will become an annual event at Kaitake with special Kids Fun Days and coaching during the school holidays. Watch out for information coming through your local primary school.

**The junior golfers.**  
(PHOTOS BY REBECCA SCOTT)

*More Kaitake Golf Club news on page 5.*



TOM dates to remember  
for April 2013 issue:  
Copy and ads - 15th March  
Distribution from  
29th March

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(Information from NPDC Website)

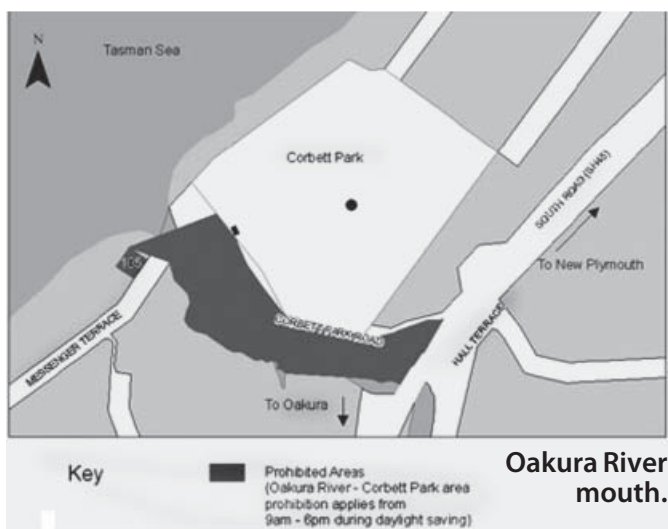
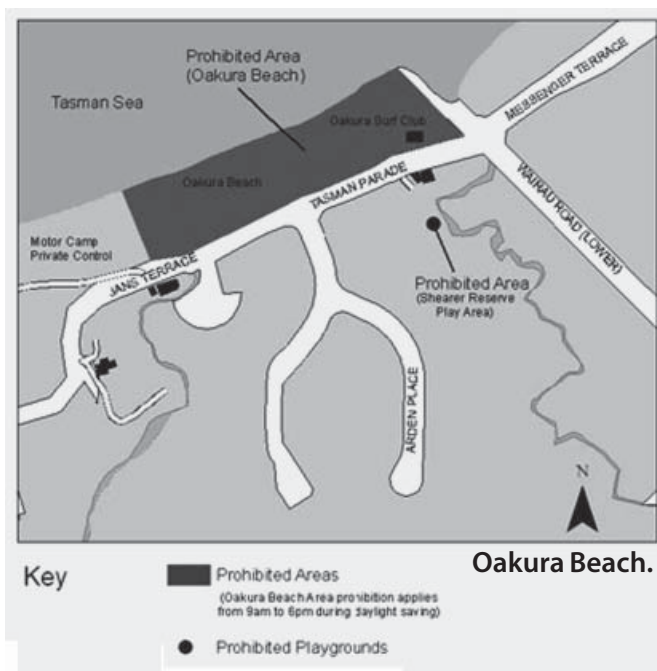
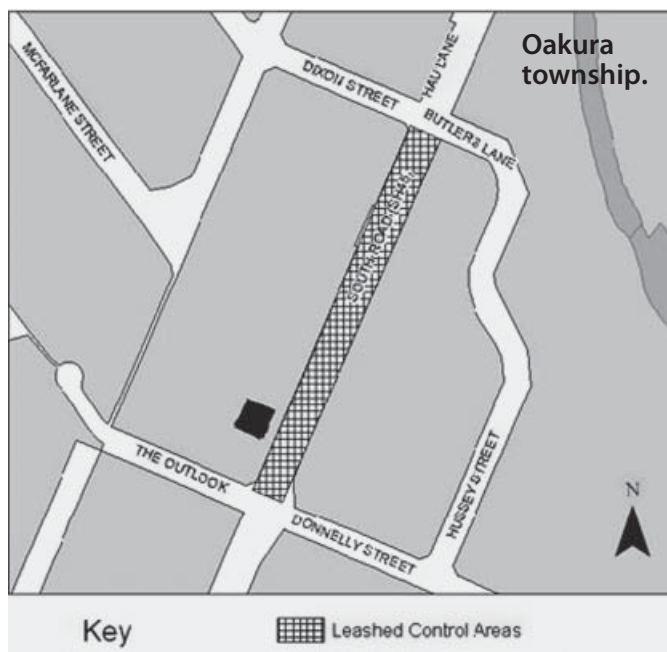
## PROHIBITED AREAS FOR DOGS (See maps, right).

Restriction prohibition shall apply from 9.00am to 6.00pm daily during the period of daylight saving for New Zealand.

Note: Dogs may be exercised at large or be present at all other times, providing the dog(s) is kept under continuous control.

## OAKURA - leashed dogs only (See map below).

i) Oakura shopping area. The road, verge and formed footpath on both sides of State Highway 45 from its intersection with Dixon Street to its intersection with The Outlook.



We said farewell to Karen Sturgess after many years as a customer services officer at Oakura Library late last year. We wish her well and welcome Charlie Robertson in her place.

*Crackerjacks* preschool story time is coming to Oakura Library on a monthly basis and this started on Thursday 7 February 2013. Please note our sessions for the year: same day, same time (9.45am), same place - 7 March, 4 April, 30 May, 27 June, 22 Aug, 19 September, 17 October, 14 November.

March is New Zealand Book Month and on Thursday 21st March from 7pm-9pm we will be holding an information evening. Our focus will be to answer questions about e-books, free internet services and data bases and accessing your Puke Ariki account.

Come in and check out our wide variety of new arrivals especially in teen and adult fiction. All our brand new

bestsellers are available for loan and free of charge. Reserve your copy for only \$1.50 if it isn't on the shelf.

We offer scanning, fax, photo copying (black and white) services.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

*Charlie and Vincenza*

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# Kaitake Community Board

It's certainly good to see TOM up and running once more. Welcome back! Many locals expressed their disappointment when Kim shut up shop some time ago so we all need to get in behind her and support the re-emergence of our useful, local publication.

We have definitely been blessed by the summer weather this year and it's great to see the large numbers of locals and visitors enjoying our local environment. The Beach Camp continues to have a high occupancy, the surf beach has been well frequented and Corbett Park and the Oakura River have experienced an ongoing and large cohort of users, all enjoying themselves in a variety of ways. The Old Boy's Surf Club had an excellent carnival and there have been some great gigs at Butlers.

There have been some hiccups along the way due to our popularity. There have been a number of horse and dog owners (not necessarily local) not abiding by the public access bylaws, dog poo left behind by lazy owners in both Oakura and Okato townships and on the beach, and boy racers insisting on doing 'their thing' on public reserves and rural roads.

Also the last recreational bathing reading taken by the Taranaki Regional Council showed an alert level of E. coli under Ministry of Health guidelines. The readings, taken regularly in front of the surf club and beach camp, can be accessed on the TRC website. Investigations show that the E. coli is related to birds and not from a human source and attributed to the large bird habitat 500 metres up the Waimoku Stream.

I guess all of these issues are the price we pay for becoming more popular with an increasing number of people of all dispositions frequenting our environment. This makes it absolutely crucial that your elected members keep their collective eye on the ball, and we do! Since the middle of last year the community board has been involved in many issues and have advocated on behalf of the community on many occasions.

First we submitted on the Long Term Plan and enjoyed some success in getting local projects included. The 10 year Long Term Plan (LTP) is updated every three years. It details all of the Council's activities, and describes the Council's budget, explaining what it plans to spend over the next 10 years and how it will manage and maintain its assets over the same period.

We certainly didn't want Oakura, Okato and adjacent rural communities to be disadvantaged by being left out of the plan so it was very important for us to know what you perceived to be the important needs in our area and for us to lobby on your behalf. What was achieved was:

Okato School Reserve playground - consultation with Okato residents to be completed by the end of April with a project commencement date in mid year.

Corbett Park drainage - upgrade scheduled to be carried out at the end of February.

Oakura traffic study to identify future highway, road and street network issues - progress on implementation to commence during the 2013/14 financial year.

Community Emergency Response Plans for Oakura and Okato - currently being progressed to completion.

Identification of all Waahi Tapu in the Kaitake Ward area - 70% completed.

Longer hours for the Oakura Library - to be reviewed by

midyear with recommendations in the 2013/2014 budget.

Sound proofing the Oakura Hall - Budgeted for in 2012/13 budget. Roof renewal work on hold until earthquake report completed.

Construction of a public toilet in the Oakura CBD - funding is allocated in the 2013/14 budget.

Better lighting for the Okato public toilet - issue already resolved.

Installation of Christmas lights in the Okato CBD - consultation being carried out and lighting designed and in place for the 2013 christmas season.

Progress on the NPDC Coastal Strategy and Oakura Structure Plan - further progress on implementation to commence during the 2013/14 financial year.

While all these are positive results you need to realise we missed out on getting any action on eight other submissions!

As well as LTP issues we have been proactive in getting extra work carried out on the Oakura beach track and Ahu Ahu beach road reserve while the restoration work, due to the major slips there, was being carried out. Currently we are working through issues to get the public toilet re-established at Ahu Ahu beach.

Council has also completed the walkway between Upper Wairau Road and Donnelly Street and reports are that it is being well used.

Before Christmas, with your help, we lobbied Transitz NZ successfully to get the upgraded road surface through Oakura changed from chip to hot mix. We also (finally) managed to convince Transitz that it wasn't much use having an electronic 'slow down' sign at the village's western boundary without any electronics in it!

Currently we are working through a range of points before a bus shelter is erected (mainly for the secondary school students) outside the Oakura hall. There will be an opportunity for public input on this.

No doubt this year will be another busy one for us. In our diverse and expanding community it is important to stay on top of all developments – they certainly do keep coming at us. Therefore we all need to stay on track and make sure 2013 is a memorable one for us all. Don't forget to check out the KCB's Face Book page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold.

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

## HI FROM THE BIG RED TRUCK.

2013 has seen the Oakura Fire Brigade go through some changes.

With sadness we say goodbye to Ian and Gill Gibbon, and their son Michael. Ian has been a member of our brigade for five years. They are leaving to follow Ian's work in Perth, Australia. See you when you get back Gibbons. Andrea Leadbetter has resigned from the brigade after seven years. Andrea has decided to focus on her family and work commitments. Andrea will be missed but we will still see her as her husband Dave has remained in the Brigade. We will miss seeing your smiley face at the station Andrea. We welcome Harrison West as a recruit fire fighter. He is the third generation of his family to be a member of the Oakura Fire Brigade. Welcome Harry, it is great to have you on board.

We also welcome Mark Stewart into our Brigade as a Station Officer. Mark has been a volunteer fire fighter for 16 years and has transferred to our brigade from New Plymouth West. Welcome Mark.

Take care and stay safe.

*Mel Breeze*

*Paperwork a real chore after a hard day?*

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## Kaitake Golf Club

Welcome to the first of the Kaitake golfing news for 2013. Members and visitors to Kaitake Golf Course have been enjoying excellent conditions for playing golf over the summer period. With the hot sunny weather and the course in excellent condition you can't wish for more. Both the men's and women's divisions, mid-week and weekend, have been playing for their respective summer cups.

Noel Boucher has proven to his fellow Kaitake golfers that golf is a game for all ages. Noel is 86 and out of the last five games, he has played three to his age. Well done, Noel.

About 130 golfers participated in the annual Beachcombers Tournament in January. This is a popular tournament to start off the year.

Twilight golf on Tuesday evenings is attracting many people to play 9 holes of golf during the week. The 'tee off' time is between 3.00 – 6.00pm. Twilight Golf is a fun social evening with the caterer supplying meals at the clubhouse after. The twilight competition is open to both golfers and non-golfers so come along and join in. This will continue until later in March.

Our special summer membership has attracted many new members and some will transfer to a full-time membership. The 2013 golf season is underway. The men and women's divisions have had their opening days and the competitions are underway. Any new members are very welcome. See Jacqui in the office or phone 752 7665.

The Taranaki Mens' Handicap Pennants is underway with Kaitake entering two teams, Kaitake 1 and Kaitake 2. Both teams had wins in Round One. A special mention goes to Kaitake 2 as they beat last year's champions.

A Book Sale is planned for Sunday 10th March and Monday 11th March. Currently the weekend women are busy collecting any suitable used books. Proceeds from the sale will go towards an electronic card system for the club. If you have any books you would like to donate please phone Janice Farrant on 752 7845 (evenings)

More information on Kaitake Golf Club can be found on the website [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz).

*Andrea Jarrold*

*Club President*

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## Fishing News

The fishing has been good and kayak fishing as a sport is growing

fast as seen by a near sell out number of entries from all parts of New Zealand for the 2013 Kayak Classic.

The 2013 Kayak Classic takes place on the weekend of 2nd - 3rd March. This year the programme of events for the weekend is:

**Saturday** - weigh in is at 4pm.

**Sunday** - weigh in at 4pm and fish auction 5pm, with a free sausage sizzle plus Tasman Toyota's "guess how many balloons are in the new Toyota 86 sports car".

There are lots of prizes to be won and as always, there will be lots of entertainment for the family, a highlight of which is to see the big fish come in.

The fish auction at 5pm is to help raise funds for the Coastguard and 'legasea.'

Tuna are running at the moment along with king fish and



**Garry with a tuna caught in February ...**

snapper. Kevin Pilcher has landed some monster kingfish from Oakura beach.

We will update readers on results and highlights of the Kayak Classic in the next issue

*Garry Harrison*

## Oakura Tennis Club

The Oakura Tennis Club is continuing to grow with an increase in families and children. Our membership is now over 142 members. The Oakura Tennis Club is lucky to have the ongoing support from Oakura School with its joint agreement allowing us to run the tennis club which sits on school land. This is mutually beneficial to both the school and the club and we thank the BOT and Lynne at Oakura School for their continued support. The club is unique given its close proximity to the school which allows the children to use the courts at lunchtime and is easily accessible after school for lessons. This season we have two junior A teams, three junior B teams, and a youth team playing in the Friday interclub competition and on a Saturday we have a B Grade and A3 Team plus our Soffe Cup team. For some of the children it has been their first season of interclub and it has been great to see the improvement.

Results so far for the teams:

### *Junior B*

Oakura	Matakai	3rd
Oakura	Koru	4th
Oakura	Kaitake	6th

### *Junior A*

Oakura	Black	3rd
Oakura	Red	8th equal

### *Youth Grade*

Oakura	2nd equal
B Grade	8th
A3Div2	4th
Soffe Cup	5th

We have thirty children taking part in the mini tennis programme run in conjunction with the school on a Wednesday afternoon and the club brings in Wes Elder,

a tennis coach from New Plymouth to coach the juniors. There are currently 40 children taking part in these lessons. For a small club we have a large number of children who represent Taranaki on a regular basis. They are Amy Benton, Poppy, Jack and Taylah Mitchell, Bailey Bruckner, Ben Wilson, Charlie and Emily Waite and Anna Oldfield in the juniors. Graeme Mitchell also makes regular appearances for the Taranaki Seniors. Each year we run the Club Champs - they will be run over the month of March. Our closing day for the year will be Sunday the 14th April from 2pm onwards and we will have a BBQ and some tennis related activities for the juniors.

If you are interested in joining Oakura Tennis Club or finding out more information you can contact Jacqui Rood our Treasurer on 752 1078 or Jackie Keenan the secretary on 752 7013.

### **TENNIS ACTIVITIES:**

Monday 9-2pm Ladies Midweek Competition (currently we have two teams in this competition)

Wednesday 3-7pm juniors private coaching with Wes Elder

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm practice night for Soffe Cup and A3 players

Friday 9-12pm social tennis for members and \$5 for non members, rotating doubles/singles- no registration required.

***Watch this space ladies, for the arrival of tennis aerobics.***

Friday 4-8pm Junior Interclub (Currently 2 junior A and 3 Junior B teams and 1 youth team)

Saturday 10-3pm Soffe Cup and A Grade Interclub Tennis 3-7pm B Grade Tennis

Sunday 3-7pm B Grade tennis

*If you require any further information contact -*

Juniors Sue Oldfield, ph 752 7715.

Competition Graeme Mitchell, ph 752 7013.

Secretary/Social Jackie Keenan, ph 752 7013.

Membership Jacqui Rood, ph 752 1078.

Media Rebecca Scott, ph 752 7829.





# Oakura Boardriders

Welcome back to the TOM let's hope it gets the support it needs to continue as a great community paper.

The surfing year got off to a great start with a lot of Taranaki success at the Surfing NZ Nationals held at Piha with Bachelor Tipene winning the over 28 men's division with Jarrod Hancox 2nd and Jamie Andrews 3rd, Bruce Collier winning the over 55's, Thandi Tipene 4th in the women's open, Daniel Farr 3rd in the U14's, Nam Northcott 4th in the women's long-board, Maukino Skelton 3rd & Tracy Skelton 4th in the kneelo's. There were also many other notable Taranaki placing's just missing finals berths.

Another notable result was Oakura local Simon Bennett winning the Open division of the North Island Body-Boarding champs held in Northland in early January - a great result. If he can follow up with success at the South Island Champs a trip to Hawaii is on offer.

Oakura Boardrider's held a round of the Surfing Taranaki Arabac sponsored Micro Groms contest in February following the Waitara and NPSRC rounds. There are quite a few Oakura Boardrider's members in commanding positions so good luck for the last contest of the series, bring home the trophies!!

The Boardriders hosted a disabled surfing day on Saturday the 16th February. This was a huge success with the disabled surfers getting a lot out of their time in the water. This is a volunteer heavy day and a huge thanks to all those that helped out in the water and with the lunch provided after. This is truly a community experience and very rewarding for all involved.

The Taranaki leg of the Hyundai Longboard tour was held at Fitzroy over the same weekend with small waves and unfortunately windy afternoon conditions with only Tyler Anderson from Oakura competing - a successful contest none the less with some good support from the Taranaki surfing community.

The good news is the TSB Bank Women's Surf Festival will be on again will all the associated contests and festival highlights as well as the Easter Masters and the Micro Grom contests it will be a busy Easter week, highlights and results next issue of the TOM.

Oakura Boardrider's Club Champs is Taranaki Anniversary weekend so start your training!

*Brent Anderson*

*President Philli Butt 752 7050,*

*Secretary Paul Lobb 752 7556.*

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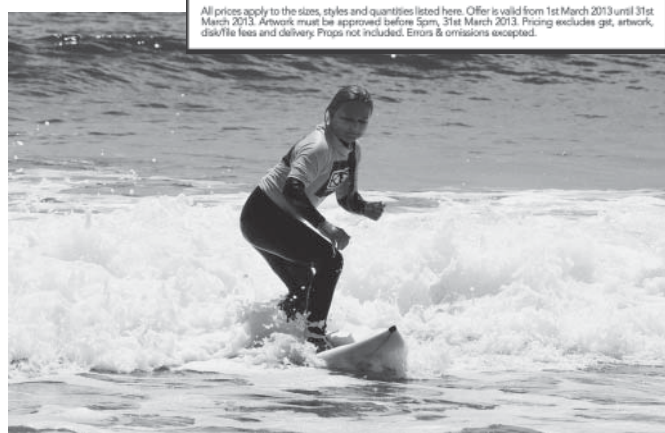
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**Ariana Shewry cruises in on a nice little wave.**



**Concentration plus.**

**Below - Disabled surfers had a great time at Oakura Beach.**



## "Move it or Lose it" Classes in Oakura

# HEALTH &



*So if you want.... FUN.... FITNESS.... FRIENDS.... FUNCTIONALITY.... Come along, we would love to see you.*

### ENDORSEMENTS:

"Awesome class! Great for the "mind, body and soul", thanks Gloria ..... M.

A lifetime of work sitting at a desk, then retirement!! A need for more person contact! Three very good reasons why I needed to develop an "of course I can do it" attitude. Armed with that thought, I joined "Move it or lose it".

A friendly group: absolutely non- elitist. It's fun, a good calorie burning session and it's reshaped my body and soul!!! I've lost weight and feel more energised and am certainly more flexible. Best of all... age doesn't matter; ANYONE can do it ..... JP.

### Local ladies moving it so they don't lose it, at Oakura Hall!

"Move it or lose it" classes have been successfully running in Oakura every Wednesday morning for 12 months or more now.

Because of the popularity of the Wednesday class we have decided to run a Friday class as well so that our very supportive class members can have the option of two days a week without needing to travel to town. We do have ladies however who make the trip from New Plymouth and Okato to attend our classes, which is fantastic. Age is not a factor as you can work to your own level of fitness and increase your intensity if and when you want to.

Our main aim in running these classes is to improve people's general fitness by increasing core strength, improving flexibility and balance and last but not least improve cardiovascular fitness. By working all of these elements, we can tackle everyday life with ease

and enjoyment, without the aches and pains and other medical problems that can occur as we move through life.

We do recommend that you check with your GP if you have any health issues or injuries before you begin our classes otherwise if you have a clean bill of health, we will be pleased to help you keep that way.

Just so you know that you are in safe hands when attending these classes, all of our instructors are qualified in group instruction and hold first aid certification.

Gloria has over 25 years experience in the fitness industry and enjoys every class she instructs and also the people she associates with. She thinks she has the best job in the world!!!!

If you are not able to attend the classes in Oakura, we also have classes in Westown, Fitzroy, Bell Block, Waitara and Urenui.

## Move it or Lose it

TARANAKI

**Where**..... Oakura Community Hall,  
Main Road, Oakura.

**When**..... Wednesday and Friday  
mornings at 9.30am - 10.30am

**What to bring** ....water, a towel, a mat and *heaps*  
of enthusiasm!

**Cost**..... \$4 per person.  
*FIRST CLASS FREE FOR NEW  
MOVERS!*

**Contact Gloria 06 752 7442 or 027 284 9111**

*For information on other classes available, please contact  
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Your skin tends to reflect what's happening on the inside. If your body isn't eliminating toxins efficiently, this can result in dull, devitalised skin, and can contribute to many skin disorders such as acne, blemishes and eczema.

It is also important to support your liver to ensure that you have all of the pathways for detoxing open and clear, to help eliminate the "liver loaders" such as additives,



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preservatives, coffee & alcohol to name just a few.

All designed to bestow you with clearer, more radiant skin. If you would like to learn more about your inner health and wellbeing enquire at Emerge Beauty & Wellbeing about our 8 week Wellbeing courses starting in March.

Special promotion – In February and March every container of *Bestow Be Cleansed* purchased, comes with a complimentary natural bristle, body brush to dry skin brush those toxins away!

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## Reading Food Labels and What to Watch for

**FOR THOSE WANTING TO ACHIEVE WEIGHT LOSS, FAT REDUCTION IS IMPORTANT AS IS PORTION CONTROL, AMONG OTHER FACTORS.**

To lose weight you don't want to consume more than 30g – 40g fat daily, but never less than 20g, as we do need healthy fats in our diet. As we become focused on the 'FAT' factor we're attracted to the information on the front of packets or jars, stating Fat Free, 99% Fat Free, Lite, Lean and so on. The nutritional information you really want to focus on is at the BACK of the package not the clever marketing on the front. Below I have included an example food label from a dietician. She followed this with a table on general guidelines for some of the foods we consume and what to look for first on the label, also noting any exceptions to the 'Food Label' table (please note all comments in BOLD).

	Per Serve	Per 100g (always read this column)
Energy (kJ)	610	1340
Protein (g)	4.4	11.3
<b>Fat (g) should be less than 10g/100g</b>	1.4	3.1
<b>Saturated fat (g) less than 2g/100g</b>	0.3	2.4
Carbohydrates		
Total (g)	25	65.1
<b>Sugars (g) - aim for less than 10g/100g</b>	2.3	6.0
<b>Dietary fibre (g) - aim for more than 6g/100g</b>	5.2	13.3
<b>Sodium (mg) – less than 350mg/100g</b>	110	270
Potassium (mg)	130	350

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STRENGTH TRAINING?

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**WHEN BUYING SPECIFIC FOOD TYPES, HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

Food	What to look out for	Exceptions to the general guidelines
Breads	Fibre	N/A
Breakfast cereals	Fat, Sugar, Fibre	Sugar <15g/100g Fat <5g/100g
Crackers	Fat, Fibre, Sodium	N/A
Milk and Yoghurt	Fat, Sugar	Fat <1.0g/100g, <2g/100g



**Functional Fitness instructor Estelle Williams with her Wednesday fitness group at Corbett Park.**

# A Story of Solar and Days of Free Power

As days of sunshine roll into one another the decision to install solar power at our house begins to make very good economic sense. Since December we have purchased \$35 worth of power. The previous year for the same period our power bill was in excess of \$400 so the savings make a very good story.

We have power sucking devices installed (induction cooking, steam oven, oven, microwave and I won't part with them!) so our daily consumption is high. On a new build you would probably consider installing gas appliances and electrical appliances that are low consumption devices. The installation of a solar system to either an existing home or a new build is a simple one. We also installed a spa pool – another power hungry device so being able to reduce our power bill is quite extraordinary when you consider what we run.



**The installed solar panels.**

The installation of 30 solar photovoltaic cells, two 3 kW inverters, new meters, wiring and backup generator was taken care of by Alex Rodger from Flexible Electrical – Oakura's local electrician and Michael Lawley – Ecoinnovation. We also installed four solar hot water collectors, two to heat the hot water cylinder and two to heat the spa pool. These collectors and all the associated pipe work and cylinder were taken care of by David Johnson from Sunworkz. Since we installed our system the price of solar panels have come down considerably, which means it's now making more economic sense for any system. This is the beauty of new solar systems because the power is utilised in the home primarily, with the excess being exported. The system does not require batteries either.

We connected into the power and began buying and selling power on the grid from April 17 last year. Since then our daily log tells us we have produced on average 25 kW's of power per day – maximum generation has been 52 kW's per day. Obviously over winter we make less power and pay more to our power supplier but over summer the equation

is round the other way. As I said earlier our household is a high user at 30-40 kW's per day but it would be possible to not be buying any power at all if our house was set up differently.

Overall we are delighted and excited by the prospect of producing our own power and supplying our own family's needs. If there was a fly in the ointment it would be the difficulty in dealing with the power company – they may all pay lip service to households consuming less power but the reality is solar technology is taking custom away from them and they don't like the associated fall in profits. A point in case is the recent drop in the pay out for kW's exported – our power company used to pay 25 cents per kW but they now pay 25 cents for the first five kW's then 10 cents for the subsequent kW's exported – hardly an incentive to get consumers to hook up. On a high note the price of PV cells is dropping all the time so the set up cost is falling.

Alex Rodger of Flexible Electrical has installed another nine systems since installing ours in March last year and says most installs are hooked into the grid within two days. Everything is supplied so it is a very painless and quick

process. Alex says another consideration these days is to help the planet and to utilise our resources wisely for the future. When you consider the life span for these panels is guaranteed for at least 25 years this is a great way to contribute to the well-being of our planet.

Contact Alex for more information on 0275244004 for an obligation free quote to power your new home, existing home, cowshed, shearing shed, bach, business, school or club.

As an end note I would like to say our decision to go solar was not only an economic choice but also an independence and lifestyle choice.

*By Kim Ferens*

**(06) 752 4494 • 027 524 4004**

**alexrodger@xtra.co.nz • www.flexibleelectrical.com**

*I'm also on face book at "flexible electrical solar"*



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# Cute Eyes Aren't All They Offer -

As well as being highly decorative in the home paddock, alpacas produce a unique and exclusive fleece which is used in a wide range of products in New Zealand and overseas. The physical attributes include a hollow cell in the middle of the fibre (similar to possum fibre) which enhances insulation properties; making for a 30% warmer garment compared to one made of sheep's wool: the smooth surface of the fibre, as seen under the microscope, eliminates the 'prickle factor' that many wearers find with sheep's wool against the skin: high end fashion fabric woven from the finest alpaca fibre has a unique sheen and drape that emphasises its luxury qualities.

But this is no new discovery. The Inca civilisation 800 years ago prized the finest fleece alpaca herds from which garments were made fit for royalty. Surprisingly, Incan artefacts analysed with modern equipment, have been shown to be made from fibres measuring 13 or 14 microns. Even today, with knowledge of genetics and science of breed improvement, farmers are struggling to reach this level of fineness.

The best alpaca fleeces measure 15 microns as young cria. Under 20 microns is a very good fleece especially if it is uniform: it will feel soft to the touch. As the animal ages, the fibre diameter will increase year by year. Old alpacas may produce fibre in the 26-36 micron range and even coarser still.

The quality of the fleece shorn from an alpaca (and the colour) will determine the best use for that fleece. White fleece can be dyed any colour and so has higher commercial value. Coloured fleece, natural colours ranging from fawn through browns and greys to black, has great appeal to crafters, who appreciate the earthy tones in their products.

Pooled together fine fleece (under 22 micron) scoured, carded and spun into yarn (and possibly dyed) is used for knitting yarns, hand or machine knitting for sweaters, scarves, singlets etc. Coarser fleeces processed into yarn would be more suitable for hats, gloves, socks and work jerseys.

Even the coarsest fibre has uses: scoured and carded to form insulation batting used in duvets, for instance.

Felting and felted knitted fabric, combined with other fibres such as silk, provide endless possibilities for the resourceful and enterprising craft minded alpaca farmer.

So – Dad - alpacas will be much more useful than just lawnmowers!

*By Trish Watson*



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*Printers for the TOM Group Publications*

## OAKURA SCHOOL END OF YEAR AWARDS 2012

Each year Oakura School farewells it's year 8 students in a special end of year assembly held at the Oakura Community Hall. This is a chance to celebrate their achievements over their years at Oakura and to acknowledge those students who have excelled in various areas.

The 2012 leaver's cups are summarised below:

**ATHLETICS CUP** - During athletics our senior children compete in the 12/13yr old heats. The boy and girl who receive the most points at the end of the day win the trophies. The male winner for 2012 was Thomas Skurr and the female was Maya Page.

**NETBALL CUP** - The coaches of our year 7&8 interschool teams select this student based on all around ability and attitude towards the game. The 2012 winner was Maya Page.

**RUGBY CUP** - The coach of our year 7&8 interschool rugby team selects the player that he feels contributed the most to the team in terms of skills and commitment. The 2012 winner was Jakob Roper.

**SPEECH CUP** - This is awarded to the person who wins the senior school speech final and goes on to represent Oakura School in the New Plymouth Toast Masters speech competition. The winner for 2012 was William Pritt.

**DEBATING CUP** - This is based on speaking ability, team work, commitment to practices and personal homework. Score sheets are also used to tally the top speaker over the debating competition. The 2012 winner was Sam Raumati.

**MUSIC CUP** - This is awarded to the student who has shown high ability in the musical performance area. The 2012 winner was Isabel Goodhue.

**ARTS CUP** - This is awarded to a student who has both high ability in performing arts and/ or visual arts. The 2012 winner was Sam Raumati.

**SPORTS CUP** - This is awarded to a student who shines in the sporting field, and who may have represented Taranaki, North Island or New Zealand. The 2012 winner was Leo Scouller.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY CUP** - This is normally based around road patrol or peer mediation and is someone who always fills in and is committed to their role in supporting the health and safety of others. The 2012 winner was Kima Costelloe.

**CITIZENSHIP CUP** - This is awarded to a student who relates well to their peers, teachers, members of the community, visiting groups and also the younger pupils of the school. The 2012 winner was William Pritt.

**DILIGENCE CUP** - This is awarded to a student, who produces quality work, has excellent work habits, always completes work on time, takes great pride in their work, and is committed to any extra responsibilities given. The 2012 winner was Isabel Goodhue.

**GOOD ATTITUDE AWARD** - This is based on the student's attitude to school and life in general. It is awarded to the student who is positive in the face of challenges, gives everything a go and has a 'can do' attitude. The 2012 winner was Nicole Watchorn.

**2012 DUX** - This is awarded to the year 8 pupil who has the highest academic achievement. Test results, competitions entered and all round teacher judgements are used to select this student. The 2012 winner was Maya Page.



Thomas Skurr.



Jakob Roper.



Leo Scouller.



Isabel Goodhue.



Nicola Watchorn.



Maya Page.



William Pritt.



Sam Raumati.



Kima Costelloe.



# New Outdoor Education Centre Underway at Oakura School

A new outdoor education centre is in development at Oakura School. The education centre will feature an outdoor classroom where students will experience pathways to foster connections with native trees, local birds and wildlife. In the planning stage is a habitat corridor from the Kaitake Ranges - to the school - to Matekai Park and through to the beach - for native bird and animal life like the endangered Gold Striped Gecko. Beyond its use for daytime classes it will include a community orchard which will involve students and the community in its establishment, ongoing development and maintenance.

To support the build of this new outdoor education centre, Oakura School is holding a Gala on Sunday 14 April, 11.00am-2.00pm.



**The new outdoor education centre starts to take shape.**

"The gala is set to be the biggest yet and we've already had a great response with regards to sponsorship from local businesses. However, to enable us to reach our goal of creating a fully functioning education centre that promises to deliver so much to our community we would appreciate the help of more businesses," says Anne Clough, member, Friends of Oakura School (FOOS).

Geared for everyone in the family, the Gala is a draw for anyone who wants all the fun, food and entertainment that the Oakura School Gala has to offer as well as having a day on the coast enjoying the beautiful Oakura beaches. School Gala committee members are thrilled with the support and response from the community.

"We're well underway. We have services, merchandise, and raffle prizes donated from several Taranaki businesses such as TGM Design, Cory's Tyre Service, Hareb Deken Motors, The Crafty Fox, Café Mantra, and Moana Ringcraft to name a few," says Nicky Thompson, coordinator of the sponsorship committee.

Contact Nicky by 19 March at 06 752 7742 or [garry-nicky@xtra.co.nz](mailto:garry-nicky@xtra.co.nz) to donate a raffle prize or sponsor a stall, and "like" the Oakura School facebook page [www.facebook.com/OakuraSchool](http://www.facebook.com/OakuraSchool).



## Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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NEW PLYMOUTH OFFICE  
 Corner of Liardet and Gill Street  
 Office hours: 9am - 4.30pm Mon- Fri  
 P: 06 759 1363 | F: 06 759 1364  
 E: [newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz)




## Raising achievement for our kids

It seems a while ago when we as parents were attending end of school functions and prize-giving's and now the new school year is upon us with many children now back at school, or in the case of university students, preparing to return. Some children will be new entrants and that is why our Government is working hard to ensure all our kids get a better education from the outset. We have set Better Public Service targets at early childhood and secondary school, and have also set a target at the critical bridge of National Standards in between.

We want to see 98 per cent of all school entrants having participated in early childhood education (ECE) by 2016, and 85 per cent of all 18 years olds having achieved NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent qualification by 2017. In order to do this, we are investing \$1.4 billion into ECE, of which \$49 million is targeted to communities where participation is low. To reach our ECE target we need to get 12,000 more kids enrolled. We are making good progress with an additional 2,383 children enrolling last year, and a further 2661 places being made available.

At primary and intermediate school level we are aiming to get 85 per cent of kids at, or above, the National Standards in 2017. At the moment around 70 per cent of kids are able to read, write, and do maths at or above their year level, but overall boys are trailing girls, and Māori and Pasifika are trailing everyone.

National Standards data is invaluable in supporting students, their parents, and teachers. We are working with schools to better understand and use their data. To reach our target of 85 per cent of 18 year-olds having achieved NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent qualification, we need around 3650 more kids to pass. So we have set up taskforces to work with schools and their communities.

We know the most important thing we can do to raise achievement is improve teaching quality and leadership so we are again focused on that this year.

The way our children learn today is very different. That's why we're investing nearly \$200 million in connecting schools to ultra-fast broadband. By 2016, 97.7 per cent of schools will have broadband connections. Education is a passport to a better life. That's why National is focused on raising achievement for all our kids.

*Jonathon Young MP*

## COMING EVENTS

### March

- 5 Swimming Displays  
7 April Easter Holiday

### April

- 4 Y5-8 Interschool swimming sports at Bell Block

**Term 1 Ends 19 April**

**Term 2 Begins 6 May**

## 2012 PRIZE GIVING

Congratulations to the winners of our 2012 Year 8 cups.

*Community Cup for Arts and Culture* - Ruby Crawshaw.

*Home & School Cup for Sporting Excellence* - Oliva Mason.

*Staff Cup for Responsibility* - Jessica Whittle and Javani Boyce.

*Principal's Cup for Leadership* - Fabian Johnson.

*Board of Trustees Cup for Academic Excellence* - Blake Tanner.

## PIRATES OF THE CURRY BEAN

Productions are one of those special events from school life that will be remembered by students long into the future and are a highlight for families. Last year's December production 'Pirates of the Curry Bean', was no exception. Jan Aiello, our music teacher, was keen to try another outside performance after the huge success of WOMATA six years ago. While risky, as we have to rely on the weather, there is a special charm that comes from an evening outdoor performance. We are so fortunate to have the fantastic skatepark as a multi-level stage. Well done to the amazing team of supporters and teachers who toiled behind the scenes to make magic happen on stage last year.



Pirates of the Curry Bean production.

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## NEWS

Congratulations go to Alex Hood who married Shae over the summer break and has returned as Mrs Alex Baker, and Mr Pat Murphy who became a Department of Conservation worker for the first half of this year after winning a science Fellowship.

Mrs Anne Wester and Mrs Jemma Glasgow will be teaching the Year 7 and 8 students in Room 6 while Pat is away.

Omata Playgroup is up and running again and will be on every Thursday in the hall from 9am until 11am.

*'If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.'* - Abigail Van Buren.

Ka Kite Ano, Karen Brisco

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# New Plymouth Boy's High School



**Josh Dowsing – head boy for 2013.**

The Head Boy for 2013 is Josh Dowsing. Josh was a hostel student for three years until his parents moved to New Plymouth. Josh, proudly of Samoan descent is a good academic and capable sportsman. He has natural leadership qualities and will lead the boys well this year.

We are very proud of the boys who achieved their full potential in the NCEA exams. Highlights included -

- Level 1 - 70% pass rate.
- Level 1 - 16% gained endorsement with excellence.
- Literacy and Numeracy are both over 90%.
- Level 2 - 81% pass rate.
- Level 2 - 32% gained endorsement with Merit.
- Level 3 - 73% pass rate.
- Level 3 - 25% gained endorsement with Merit.

The boys gained 15 Scholarships this year and the star was a Year 12 boy.....Alan Ansell. This remarkable young man gained four scholarships and is top in New Zealand in Latin and mathematics with statistics. Alan also attended the summer camp for NZ Olympiad in Informatics and was selected to continue training for team selection.

The top athletes in the school went to Dunedin for the NZSSA competition and achieved outstanding results - Jono Brownjohn ran in the disabled section and gained first place in 100m, 200m, long jump and high jump. Javon McCullum came second in the 400m (a time of 51.34 seconds) and Matt Baxter won the National 3000m title in a record time of 8 minutes 15 seconds)

Congratulations to Jack Anderson who ran in the Coast to Coast Challenge crossing the Alps in 5 hours 34 minutes.

We are also very proud of our surfers and life-savers who are competing in National events. Cricket and Tennis results follow in the next issue. We await our swimming sports when Julian Weir will swim and break the records!!

Nicholas Kjestrub came second in the National Rubics Square/Rings competition.

We are delighted to have so many boys from the Oakura area. Please let the Headmaster know if you have any concerns.

*Michael McMenamin, Headmaster*

# Arthouse Returns to its Oakura Roots

A full house of movie enthusiasts packed out Butlers Reef marquee on the night before Valentine's Day, when Arthouse Cinema re-opened with a flourish featuring Woody Allen's new movie *To Rome With Love*.

Arthouse Cinema is back *al fresco* for a summer season at Butlers Reef, running most Wednesdays and Fridays until 8 March. If all goes swimmingly, they hope to extend the season to the end of March. As of old, the marquee is moodily lit with candles and movie-goers are encouraged to buy a glass of wine or an ice-cream to enjoy during the film. This time though, there's no intermission and special Arthouse cushions are provided free of charge!

Arthouse Cinema Trustees say they are delighted to be back at the birthplace of Arthouse and to be providing some great films to loyal Arthouse supporters who have been hanging out for a good movie since Arthouse closed at short notice last year. Trustees have been working hard since then to locate a great permanent venue for the cinema but so far to no avail – a summer season back at Butlers seemed a great interim plan!

Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar and Brebner Team Architecture continue their unwavering support, stepping forward as the major sponsor for this Arthouse season. Butlers Reef has also been really supportive, as ever, and great to work with, say the Trust. Arthouse would like to thank TSH Audio and Video for sponsoring the screen and helping out selflessly with emergency technical support when the projection gear all played up the night before opening, as well as Corey Singe and Aingie O'Luain for ongoing, willing expertise and calm!

Two highly acclaimed movies remain in the scheduled season: romance/comedy *Hysteria* (Wednesday, March 6) based on the true story of the invention of the vibrator, and laugh-out-loud *Sightseers* (Friday, March 8). Check out [www.arthousecinema.co.nz](http://www.arthousecinema.co.nz) for trailers and information.

So come one, come all! Stroll up to your local in the last rays of summer sun, grab a glass of wine, pull up a beanbag or chair and catch up with your all friends while you eagerly await a great film. Grab your tickets now from Butlers Reef!

## OKATO POOL

<b>Open weekends, public and school holidays, 12.30pm - 6.00pm</b> <small>Lane swimming, Mon-Fri from 6.00am - 9.00am</small>	<b>Admission Charges</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Adults</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">\$3.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Children</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">\$2.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Spectators</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">\$1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Adult with child under 8 yrs</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px;">\$2.00</td> </tr> </table>	Adults	\$3.00	Children	\$2.00	Spectators	\$1.00	Adult with child under 8 yrs	\$2.00
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Children	\$2.00								
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Adult with child under 8 yrs	\$2.00								

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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### 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 - fitness classes**, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

### New Plymouth Toastmasters Club - Speechcraft Course.

Commencing Thursday 17th May, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivon at Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph

Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698.

Building Confidence, Speaking Skills and Self Esteem.

### 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 Darryl Gibson, Ph 06-752 4804.

### 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

Ladies' Midweek Competition

Club night

Juniors' private coaching

A-grade players' practice

Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members

Junior Competition

Soffe Cup and A-grade

Competition

Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

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

Pre-school dance class on a Saturday morning from 9am to 9:30am and a beginners' ballet/dance class from 9:30am to 10:15am. Oakura Hall. Contact Val Deakin or Jane Roseman on 06-752 7743.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.co.nz



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