

Augusta — A trip of a lifetime for Craig Waite

By Kim Ferens

The stuff dreams are made of came true for Oakura's Craig Waite at the beginning of April when he went on the trip of a life time to Augusta, Georgia to the US Masters Golf Tournament. Craig is still beaming from ear to ear and rightly so. Apparently there is about a 10 year waiting list to get tickets to the tournament. Fortunately for Craig he had the right contacts – Michael Campbell no less! And who wouldn't mind following him round a golf course! Craig's brother Michael is Michael Campbell's caddy and has been for the last 8 years so the family connection paid off. Practise Day tickets can sell for up to \$1000 and tournament tickets are nearly \$3000 per day, so it is a very prestigious event to get into.

The seven day trip was spent almost exclusively on the golf course for Craig who isn't sure what other landmarks or features are in Augusta, (he thinks there were some shops!) He would go to the golf course by 8 am and enjoy following the likes of Tiger Woods, Retief Goosen, Fred Couples and Michael

Campbell around doing their driving and putting practice. He says they are truly elite sports people with hours and hours spent practicing and playing the game every day. You can see the difference in the skill level from an amateur to these professionals he says, they look graceful and seemingly effortless.

When asked what the highlight of the tour was, Craig struggled to isolate one particular thing as the whole trip was such a buzz for him but he seemed particularly enthusiastic on the Par 3 tournament.

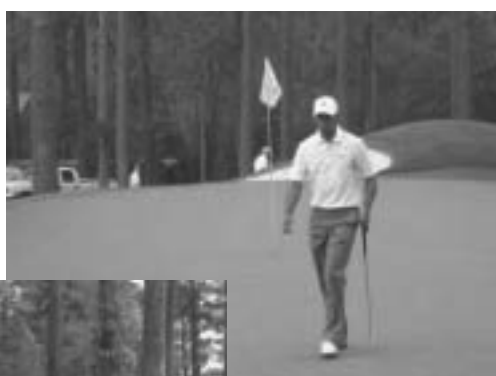
If there are other plebs out there who don't know what the par 3 tourney is (like me), it is one of the Augusta Golf Tournaments traditions. It began in 1958 and is held on a 9 hole golf course beside

the main course and is held on the Wednesday of competition week. It is basically a fun day where celebrities and even 5 year old children get to caddy and putt for the pros. Michael Campbell had a coach from his early junior days caddy and putt out on the 9th hole for which he copped some Kiwi flak, heard all over the green! Craig enjoyed watching the likes of Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus golf here. 61 hole-in-ones have been hit on the par 3 course.

The practice days also feature another crowd favourite of skimming golf balls across the lake from tee to green on the par 3 16th. All the golfers attempt to bounce the ball on the water and on to the green and when they pull it off the crowd goes berserk....it's a lot of fun.

The spectator numbers are limited at the tournament which means great viewing says Craig. You don't have to jostle to get a good viewing spot and moving between greens is easy. The tournament starts on Monday with three practice days till Wednesday afternoon when the par 3 tournament is played. The real competition begins on Thursday morning and it was amazing how you could really feel the tension in the air says Craig. After the first two rounds the top 44 players plus those within 10 shots of the leader go through to the final rounds Saturday & Sunday.

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Tiger rushes across the green to say hello to Craig.



Craig Waite (centre) just hanging out with some of his golf buddies - Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia and Michael Campbell.

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

It is a-May-zing where the time gets to! Where did January, February, March and April go?

The TOM team extend their sincerest condolences to the Carline family with the passing of our Neighbourhood Support contributor, Barrie. Barrie always wrote a lively article about crime and crims and while he often ruffled feathers, he wrote from his heart, told it as he saw it and took no prisoners in the process – and it always made you stop and think. Thank you Barrie!

We are also feeling sad about our wonderful 4 square owners leaving the business for brighter lights. I'm sure everyone is feeling nervous about losing the Lims and Waites because we have become so used to such wonderful service and produce. But at least the 4 square will still be their local too so standards can't slip! Good luck we will miss your contribution to our community.

While we are grumbling our way through winter, the TOM has some interesting stories to enlighten the doldrums. Craig Waite shares his golfing trip to Augusta with us, about as exciting as it gets for a golf nut. Tyler Anderson reveals what makes him a surfing sensation in the making. We spotlight some Oakura felines who are taking centre stage soon and profile English artist Abi Brown and her beautiful artworks. Happy reading and don't forget to call us with any local news. 0800thetom.

Kim

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Hi folks!

One thing that makes me very proud of living in New Plymouth District is how we never rest on our laurels.

Our district has gained a reputation in New Zealand as having a great lifestyle not only because of the landscape we have, but also how the community has made the most of that landscape.

Oakura's CBD is one such example. After a long time of planning and months of construction, it is nearing completion with its new footpaths, trees and road layout.

Every day hundreds of people drive through this CBD – thousands on a sunny weekend as they head to one of the country's best beaches. But rather than focusing solely on the beach as Oakura's key lifestyle area, NPDC has also freshened up the town centre to bring the feeling of seaside living inland and enhance the town's coastal image. With this new streetscape, we are celebrating Oakura's coastal environment and helping visitors (and residents) to feel closer to the sea.

This design for the town centre came about through discussions between Oakura residents and businesses, community board members, councillors and NPDC staff. It has been a long project in the planning, but a worthwhile one that deservedly puts a fresh face on one of our district's premier coastal communities.

Great things like this happen when people realise something is possible, and are determined to see it through to completion. As Mayor I see this attitude every day from people in a variety of sectors – from business to community groups to sports – and I see them succeeding, benefiting not only themselves but also the wider community.

I am always available to help anyone who needs a hand to get their great idea off the starting blocks. If you have an idea for a business or community project, just ring me on 06 759 6060 and I'll look at what the Council can do to help!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

In the First World War, New Zealand, with a military-age male population of barely 250,000, sent more than 100,000 soldiers overseas. 18,000 of those men never returned home; another 41,000 were wounded.

During the Second War, New Zealand once more made a massive commitment. Over 200,000 men and women served in our Armed Forces and 135,000 of these were mobilised overseas. With some 36,000 casualties, our casualty rate was proportionally the highest of Britain's Commonwealth allies.

Over the years, New Zealand's role on the battlefields of countries all around the world has had a huge impact on New Zealand families and communities.

Our Service personnel have served in many conflicts, emergencies and peacekeeping operations all over the world. Those deployments include J-Force, Korea, Malaya and Borneo, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf, East Timor, Bougainville and Afghanistan. Some are still in progress, most notably in Afghanistan.

In 2006, the "Year of the Veteran", we had the opportunity to show our veterans that our appreciation of their service had not dimmed with the passing of time or changing circumstance.

In December, Defence Minister Phil Goff and Veterans Affairs Minister Rick Barker announced a formal memorandum of understanding had been signed between the government and representatives of Viet Nam veterans, the Ex-Vietnam Services Association (EVSA) and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA).

The package is targeted at the key concerns of veterans and their families; their own health, the health of children and grand-children, the hurt that has remained with them for decades over the way their exposure to toxic environments has been denied and handled and the manner in which they were treated on their return to New Zealand.

The Vietnam War was New Zealand's longest and most controversial military engagement of the last century. At last, in the Year of the Veteran, our Viet Nam Veterans received the recognition for which they had waited so long.

On ANZAC Day, 25 April 2007, we were able to remember *all* those who fought, and especially those who died, for our country and for our way of life. I was proud to be, asked to present the address at the civic parade in tribute to those men and women, from the armed forces and the merchant service who served us of future generations so valiantly.

This year the dawn parade saw vastly increasing numbers of people as, we gathered together across the country and at commemorations around the world to pay our respects to those who went to war with no guarantee they would ever return to the land and the people they loved. Last year I had the privilege of officiating at the combined New Zealand and Australian ANZAC Service held in Riyadh, Saudia Arabia.

For the first time, we had a focus for our commemorations in London. The magnificent new, New Zealand Memorial honours the relationship between Britain and New Zealand. It honours also our national identity as New Zealanders, our unique character and our small, multi-cultural, beautiful South Pacific country's enormous commitment to peace and to peace-making through-out the world.

Thanks for reading this.

Harry.



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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

The late summer weather and beautiful beach conditions are a real bonus for travellers and locals. The beach is practically deserted during the day and the water still inviting. It's great to see crowds of folk eating outdoors in the restaurants and the streets busy in the weekends.

The upgrade is getting there slowly. I see a blue wave wending its way down the footpaths as a finishing touch.

The Council has listened to concerns regarding the intersection at Dixon Street and Main Road and has extended the Stop sign to overcome the problem. I have just driven down to check it out and as with all intersections, you still need to take considerable care, but visibility to the South is now improved.

Sometimes it may seem that concerns expressed directly to me are not taken care of. I can assure you I report them immediately and follow up on them. Street lighting is one that has been on the back burner for sometime, but I have been assured that, along with the other dozens of requests, it has a place on the list and will at some time in the future be considered.

Land requisition Okato

A meeting was held in Okato last week with Council Senior Policy Officer Laura Hernandez to explain the process of future land requisition possibilities. Only nine people attended, which is disappointing given the importance of the subject.

Community Board and Council meetings

We are in between meeting cycles presently. The next **Community Board meeting is 8 May** and the next Council meeting is 22 May at 4.30pm.

Communicating with the community is a dilemma and so often I hear "we didn't know about the meeting" so I would like to point out to all the *Midweek* gives an overview of current Council activities and meetings. *TOM* also provides a great opportunity for communicating but sometimes deadlines don't allow current notices to be just that, current. If you need any information about meetings, you can also call the Council on 759 6060.

I have been in a state of depression since learning the Lim team are moving their smiling faces to Stratford. The Stratford people are delighted – I know because my sister lives there and can't wait to have them back. It's great to hear they will still reside in Oakura but I know that, like me, many folk will miss them on a day-to-day basis. The Community would I am sure like to say a big "Thank you" to Team Lim for their professional super-friendly delivery of our every-day purchases at 4 Square and wish them all that is wonderful in their new venture.

Fay

Letter to the Editor

Dear *TOM*

Having been away from Oakura for a few years I was pleased to return and see that not much had changed in this little piece of 'Taradise'. But alas things have to change, although I thought things normally change for the 'better'!

Watching the highway alterations from day to day, I was first dumb-founded at why one would narrow the road? Is this to endanger pedestrians and motorists alike when attempting to cross the road or pull out of Vertigo surf shop parking or any of the areas on the mountain side of the highway?

Whereas previously you could step/pull out past the row of parked cars and be safe in the unused extra wide lanes running through the village, now you cannot even get out of your car without having your door taken off by a passing car, let alone cross the road without stepping out into traffic to see if anything is coming (a bit late when you've already been hit).

I have seen many people attempting to leave the BP petrol station and quickly having to find reverse to get the front of their cars out of the on-coming traffic when trying to see around the parked cars.

What is the solution? Lose more parking spaces? It seems to me that Oakura is becoming yet another town on the highway that is just a 'drive through town'. Why stop when there is no 'easy stop' parking, as most of the street parking is normally taken up with locals going about their normal daily routines.


This then leads to the atrocious new pathway with its awful attempted wave effect with garish blue stripe (mmmmmm, nice) and to the 'traffic stopping' pedestrian island, which has become an added obstacle for anyone wanting to turn across the road to the Four Square. What was wrong with being able to wait and turn from the median?

I am sure that I am not alone in some of these observations and would love to know the reason behind these changes and final cost. I was unaware that Oakura was an accident black spot, but I feel that these alterations may help towards making it a worse one.

I know it's all a little too late for all this bleating but sometimes it is just nice to vent a little.

Cheers

Nick



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(Continued from page 1)

Augusta - A trip of a lifetime for Craig Waite

The course is world renowned for its park like grounds. Each hole is named after a plant i.e. the 10th is known as Camelia. Even the bridges and lakes are commemorative. Sixty One 150 year old magnolias line the driveway. Paper napkins are the exact colour green of the grass so they blend in when dropped!

The Masters Tournament is considered the most elite and important golfing competition on the golfing calendar by golfers and spectators alike. The top 50 golfers in the world attend along with special invitees only. It is famous for its green jacket which is given out to the winner of the tournament and can only be worn at the golf course and multiple winners like Jack Nicklaus (6 times winner) only have one jacket. Another tradition is the champions dinner which the previous years winner hosts. Winners of the tournament include Tiger Woods as the youngest winner at 21, Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and this year Zach Johnson.

Members of the 300 strong club include Bill Gates and membership costs around \$50,000 per year! There are no women members.

Craig scored himself a driver from Michael Campbell, autograph and all and is keen to get out and try the driver for himself. Cambo discarded it as he didn't drive well with it, so look out at Kaitake for Craig when he's using it! Craig enjoyed meeting Campbell again and says he is a top bloke. He didn't quite make the cut, being one shot off the pace. Getting his photo alongside the Kiwi was quite an experience.

He almost got carted off by security for being on the 17th fairway! What was he thinking, an unknown Kiwi bloke from downunder rubbing shoulders with the worlds best golfing pros!

Craig's not keeping his fingers crossed for another ticket to the Masters but he'd be there in a shot if he could. Seven 12 hour days of golf isn't too much for this golf enthusiast.



Fairway? Looks more like a highway!



A dodgy-looking couple of caddies - Craig with brother Mike (after a round at the 19th no doubt?).



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Calling all drovers!

Ruth Low, freelance oral historian, is researching the history of droving. Prior to the advent of large stock trucks, increased traffic and changing Council bylaws drovers were often seen moving stock between farms, to freezing works and sale yards. Before the history of what was a key element in New Zealand's agricultural history is lost, Ruth is keen to hear from:

- anyone who worked as a drover
- farmers who employed drovers
- stock agents who may have worked with drovers, or
- those who had a family member who was a drover.

She can be contacted by email at markruth.low@ihug.co.nz or on 03 6849009.



Oakura Library

New books this month include *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth, *Two Caravans* by bestselling author Marina Lewycka, the latest thriller from Nicki French called *Losing You*, and the fun *Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs.

Did you know that library members can use the internet for free at Oakura Library? Our new broadband connection makes using the internet much easier, and many of our customers are now checking their emails, researching their homework and surfing the internet at the library. If you're not a member, it's free to join, and membership gives you access to Puke Ariki and the other district libraries in North Taranaki.

Tara Ward

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Most individuals with ASD are visually orientated

"Because language is so difficult for me, I am very visually orientated." This is Number Six from Ellen Notbohm's book *Ten things every child with autism wishes you knew*. Ellen, a mother of a child with ASD (autistic spectrum disorder), writes her book from the person with ASD's perspective. She explains that if you "show" someone on the autistic spectrum how to do something, rather than just "telling" them, it will be easier for them to remember. You may have to show them many times, but the good news is that repetition helps many people with autism to learn.

Visual schedules help relieve stress and make the day predictable. It is less stressful for the individual with ASD as they can relax knowing what will happen next. Most of us use diaries ourselves and we expect our instructions on "How to put together the new bookshelf" to contain diagrams as well as words. Having a visual schedule doesn't lock you into following the day's plan to the minute. Obviously things change, and sometimes the change is out of everyone's control. You can visually prepare the person with autism for that change before it happens, whether you give them two hours or two minutes warning of the change. They may feel "panic" that something is going to happen that they weren't planning on, but because they are visually orientated, the picture with or without words will be the easiest way to get the information that there has been a change in the schedule through to them, and to reassure them as to what will happen instead.

It is important not to "fade out" the visual schedule as someone on the spectrum gets older. Since we all change as we age, the schedule may take a different form, such as words and icons, or even just words – just like the diary most of us have! I would be lost without my diary reminding me of appointments, when library books are due back and when friend's birthdays are, and so forth.

That's all for this month. Next month I'll write about focusing on "what I can do rather than what I can't do."

Karen



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Abi Brown – an artist in residence



Adding her considerable talent to Oakura's already formidable stable of artists and craftsfolk is Abi Brown from South West England, currently exhibiting her work at Wunderbar.

Along with builder partner Nick Hackling, Abi has made Oakura home because of the wonderful lifestyle. Both are "outdoorsy" types who have "got stuck" in Oakura... that is, stuck into surfing,

snowboarding, painting and photography! Abi and Nick have been in New Zealand for seven months now and are eagerly awaiting the ski season here – they have already purchased their season tickets!

Abi is currently working at Coastal School as a part-time English teacher and reliever, but her passion is for art so she is hoping to get an art teaching position in the near future. In the meantime Abi runs art classes after school at Coastal School and this term is tutoring art classes with a nature theme at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery every Sunday.

Abi has been into art since she was tiny and has always been creating art works for friends and family. Creativity runs in the family with her mum expressing her creative bent in card and gift making and her dad through architecture. Abi has a degree in graphic design and photography plus a post graduate certificate in teaching. So far she has worked in publishing educational books and also in advertising for Honda, designing promotional material. Winters were spent in France as a Chalet Host in a small village while enjoying the perk of being able to snowboard regularly.



**Ahu Ahu Road
Sunset.**



Pukearuhe Cliffs.



Memory Boxes

Weld Road Sunset.

On completing her teaching certificate, Abi has worked in various schools in England, from small rural secondary schools to large urban schools.

Here in New Zealand inspiration for her art has come from the local landscape, especially from walking along the many beaches in Taranaki. Abi loves capturing the changing light and its effects on the landscape. She uses many different mediums to express her art and has just finished a piece with buttons and painted paper to reflect the sea. Her favourite medium is photography. Her work has an endearing quality with a crisp and clean colour palette.

Abi has had exhibitions in England and is now exhibiting in Wunderbar, where her work is selling well. Abi is also keen to do commissions – either paintings or photographs – and is especially keen to get into wedding photography. Contact Abi by email at brownabi@hotmail.com

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The Holiday



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Flicka

The heartwarming story of Katy a rebellious teenager who finds a wild mustang, Flicka, who she wants to make into a riding horse. Katy's father wants her to go to college and may even have to sell the family ranch. Will they pull through?



The Pursuit of Happyness

Will Smith plays a single father who battles against all odds to raise his son and improve their future. The movie is based on a true story and also features Will's son, showing the love, care and affection of the father and son relationship.



MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

Red Earth: A Malian Journey

Dee Dee Bridgewater

(DDB Records/Emarcy/Universal)

Despite a patchy start to her recording career, Dee Dee Bridgewater is, for me, today's finest contemporary female jazz singer. What lifts Bridgewater above her two major rivals, Cassandra Wilson and Dianne Reeves, is her adventurous musical spirit, a freewheeling spirit that has seen her devote whole albums to the French *chanson* tradition and to the works of such diverse artists as Horace Silver, Ella Fitzgerald and Kurt Weill.

Red Earth finds Dee Dee striking out in yet another new direction. Described by Bridgewater as "my journey home", *Red Earth* is split between Africanised versions of jazz standards (including such classics as "Afro Blue", "Footprints", "Four Women" and "Compared to What") and Malian traditional music, the latter interpreted through jazz sensibilities.

The second track "Bad Spirits (Bani)" can be viewed as the album in microcosm, with Malian *griot* (traditional musician and storyteller) Kassé Mady Diabaté and Dee Dee trading phrases in Bambara and English, deftly supported by Bridgewater's own band and assisted by such Malian masters as guitarist Djelimady Tounkara, *kora* (African harp-lute) virtuoso Toumani Diabaté and Baba Sissoko on percussion.

While Bridgewater is marvellous throughout, she is not the only diva heard here, with Malian stars Oumou Sangaré, Ramata Diakité, Mamani Kèita and Fatoumata 'Mama' Kouyaté also heard to telling effect on tracks where their more piercing vocals are contrasted against Dee Dee's lush tones. Other significant Malian artists heard on *Red Earth* include *n'goni* virtuoso Bassékou Kouyaté (with and without his incredible Ngoni Ba band), Peul flute master Aly Wagué and balafon player Lansiné Kouyaté, to name just a few. A special mention must also be made of African keyboard player, percussionist and vocalist Cheikh Tidiane Seck, who was responsible for bringing these remarkable Malian artists together with Bridgewater and her band.

Red Earth is the latest addition to a select group of seminal Malian 'crossover' albums that includes Salif Keita's majestic *Soro*, Hank Jones's *Sarala* and Ry Cooder & Ali Farka Touré's award-winning *Talking Timbuktu*.

Since her birth in Memphis in 1950, Dee Dee Garrett (as she was christened) has travelled from the red dirt of Tennessee to the red earth of Mali, a long journey geographically, but perhaps not quite such an odyssey spiritually?

Other recommended Dee Dee Bridgewater albums include the Horace Silver homage *Love And Peace*, her gorgeous Kurt Weill tribute *Lost In The Stars*, the incendiary in-concert disc *Live At Yoshi's* and the salute to classic French art song, *J'ai Deux Amours*.

What is a Jellicle cat?

Jellicle cats are given three names each, one name given by their human owners, one name that is unique and fits only that cat's personality, and one secret name that is so divine that only the cat knows it. It is the contemplation of these secret names that keeps felines deep in thought. The most special thing about Jellicle cats is that they are able to have the opportunity to be reborn.

A musical masterpiece by any definition, CATS will set you purring. Composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* and other poems by T. S. Eliot, CATS is one of the most popular musicals of all time.

It is the night of the annual Jellicle Ball where the wisest Jellicle Cat, Old Deuteronomy, will decide which cat is to be given the chance to be re-born. Munkustrap, acts as the Master of Ceremonies for the five cats, Jennyanydots, The Rum Tum Tugger, Bustopher Jones, Gus The Theatre Cat and Skimbleshanks, competing for the place in Heaven. Grizabella, the former glamour cat, is uninvited and despite her begging for the chance to be reborn, is constantly ostracised by her peers. The Magical Mr. Mistoffelees outwits the evil Macavity in this high-energy night of entertainment. Only one cat will be chosen to ascend to the Heavyside Layer and be re-born. Who will it be.....?

Join us at the Jellicle Ball !

Cats tickets on sale now

Andrew Lloyd Webbers' Tony Award winning, all-time hit musical *Cats* is coming to New Plymouth, for a limited season.

Tickets for the production, to be staged by the New Plymouth Operatic Society at the TSB Showplace from 15 June are now on sale.

The musical, adapted by Lloyd Webber from T S Eliott's book of poem's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, is one of the biggest musicals ever to hit the world stage. *Cats* debuted on London's West End in 1981 and a Broadway production opened soon after, beginning what was to become a record Broadway run of 7,485 performances, a long standing record only recently surpassed by another Lloyd Webber hit, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Since then the professional show has toured the world, including a visit to Auckland in 1994, with more than 50 million people having seen the show worldwide.

The current New Zealand season represents the first time the rights for *Cats* have been released for amateur producers, like the New Plymouth Operatic Society. "We have joined with several other societies throughout the country to secure the production rights, and to design, fund and build the marvellous set, costumes and props for this production," says Jenny Murray, Marketing Manager for the New Plymouth Operatic Society. "It's a real coup for us and for Taranaki," says Mrs Murray. "This is the first time the rights have been released to an amateur group in this part of the world."

The *Cats* cast reads like a who's who of Taranaki's most celebrated performers, including Lisa Abbott as Grizabella, John Ainsworth as Old Deutoronny, Mark Leuthard as the Rum Tum Tugger, and Scott Jonas as Bustopher Jones. More than 300 people auditioned for the onstage cast of

37 when auditions were held in November last year. "We have assembled an absolutely amazing cast," says Mrs Murray. Local cast members feature strongly with Tim Costello as Macavity, Tess Novak as Cassandra and Duchesne Alder as Rumpoleteaser.

Rehearsals are well underway under the guidance of a very experienced creative team headed by Warren Bates and Shirley Murphy, with Carolyn Murphy and Raeleen Luckin choreographing. "We are all very excited, rehearsals are going very well. The show is going to be sensational, it will be a sell out," Mrs Murray predicts.

Tickets are on sale now from Ticketek and the TSB Showplace.

Cats Rehearsals.





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Vegetables:

- ✂ Sow broad beans, peas and onions.
- ✂ Plant garlic and shallots. Set garlic cloves 2-3cm apart. Shallots 10cm apart with top half of bulb exposed.

Flowers:

- ✂ Last opportunity to plant spring flowering bulbs.
- ✂ Dahlia tubers and gladioli corms should be lifted and stored in a cool dry place.
- ✂ Plant polyanthus, primula, nemesia, pansies, violas, stock and calendula for early spring flowering. stock, antirrhinums and bulbs.

Fruit trees:

- ✂ Begin pruning fruit trees once leaves have dropped. Protect pruning wounds with Bacseal Pruning Paint to protect the leaf scar and prevent disease.

Lawns:

- ✂ Rake over and re-sow bare or thin areas of lawn with Easy Grass or Mow-it-Less lawn seed.

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Greetings all

Where do I start? Most locals will already know that local man Andrew Wright got the muntiest snapper you have ever seen in the first ever Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic hosted by the Club last month.

Support for the event from both the local fishing fraternity and the sponsors was absolutely overwhelming. Without that help there would

not have been a contest, so a big thank you to everyone who took part, be it entrants or sponsors – excellent effort and congratulations to all the winners!

I am sure we will be able to turn it on again next year.

For those that don't know, Andrew's snapper weighed in at 12.88kg – a new Club record for kayakers. Peter Florence had set the previous record just last month with 10.5kg, which had looked quite safe until the comp. But you can be sure that Peter will be out again as soon as possible, trying his hardest to get it back!

April was a biggie for the surfcasting section of the Club too. Shane Dunlop got a new Club record on Good Friday with a snapper weighing in at 7.41kg. Chris Whitaker also got the first ever mako shark off Wai-iti towards the end of March weighing in at 3.380kg.

Snapper and kahawai are still being caught off the rocks at low tide by surfcasters and good numbers of gurnard and sizable snapper are still being nabbed from the 'yaks.

May is the last month of our season and we start all the points back on 0 again as of 1 June.

Our AGM is on Sunday 24 June so if you are interested in joining the Club, come along

Tight lines

Debbie E

Weighmaster's report to the end of March

	Kayaking	Surfcasting
Snapper	18	26
Kahawai	14	6
Gurnard	20	2
Trevally	1	2
Conga Eel		1
John Dory	1	
Mako Shark		1

March Fish of the Month:

Kayakers – Peter Florence (10.5kg snapper)

Surfcasters – Shane Dunlop (3.15kg snapper)

Cheers

Grant M

Head Weighmaster



Andrew Wright with 12.880 kg snapper - club record for kayakers.



Shane Dunlop, record surfcaster.



Lads at White Cliffs - Andre Van der Eist, Garry McCracken, Keith Maw and Stefan Marteau.



Andre of Waitara, winner of fully kitted-out kayak with Peter Van Lith from 'Canoe and Kayak'.

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Oakura Pony Club

The pony club season has now come to a close after the rush of end of season club competitions and trials culminating with the National Pony Club Eventing Championships, this year held at Masterton, and of course our own end of season, closing gymkhana. It has been a very busy year for our Oakura Club riders, many of whom have been selected for the Taranaki provincial pony club teams or North Taranaki teams at the various National and North Island events.

My previous comments regarding the rather controversial Blue Flagging proposal for the beach touched a nerve with some. NPDC Mayor Peter Tennant and another Council official made personal and appreciated contact with assurances that there is and never was any intention to restrict or ban equestrian access to the beach. The Pony Club's desire to ensure its members' and the public's continued equestrian access, like that of past members and residents, was all that was called for. Their assurances were very much appreciated by Club members and the equestrian community about the village.

This year's Taranaki representative team to the National Eventing Championships is the first in many years not to have Oakura rider representation. Our Club this year suffers, as do many Taranaki clubs, from a lack of experienced senior riders at this level of competition, as they depart for universities and greener pastures across the country. We should regard this as a blip in our Club successes, as there is a new bubble of riders emerging into this level for the first time this year and we are looking great for 2008 and beyond. Many of the riders in this group have either trialled for the Championship competition this year or been involved in the various lead-up events.

This year the Club was able to field an eventing team to Battle Hill near Wellington. This is a team competition for up and coming championship level riders and is a good introduction to this level of the sport. Senior team members Dominica Werne and Kelsie Bolstad, and junior members Anna Hinton, Jess Knudsen and Hayley Beekman all performed well in the dressage and showjumping rings, but had a few hiccups around the cross country course. Hayley had a great clear round weekend, finishing 3rd in the junior individual competition.

Oakura Club rider Zoe Aitkin-Laing was selected for the North Taranaki Pony Club team (with other members from Okato, New Plymouth and Waitara pony clubs) dispatched to Tokoroa for the Timberlands, North Island teams eventing competition. This annual event is a great tester for riders at championship level and this year was held in challenging conditions slippery from recent rains. Club members Dominica Werne and Andrea Brewster also rode at this event as members of a composite team from the Matamata Pony Club. Dominica and Andrea had a particularly successful event, their team finishing 9th in the 24 team competition. Riders competing in this event are generally experiencing top level pony club competition, and are those riders that may have missed selection for the Taranaki Area Pony Club provincial team to the National Eventing Championships, or were competing at championship level throughout the season. The North Taranaki team completed the event in 16th position.

A Taranaki Dressage Team was away to Taupo earlier this year for the National Pony Club Dressage Championships. Club riders Amber Parkes and Kathryn West were selected for the team. Kathryn unfortunately was forced to withdraw after her mount suffered a leg injury prior to the event. Amber, a consistently performing Taranaki dressage rider, finished the competition in 14th position with the Taranaki team finishing 3rd overall.

The North Taranaki Team dispatched to Cambridge for the North Island Showjumping Championships contained local riders Dominica Werne and Zoe Aitkin-Laing along with riders from the Okato and Waitara clubs. Dominica achieved an 8th placing in a field of 80 talented riders in one event, with the team finishing 16th in a field of 40-plus teams.

This year OPC was able to send our own club team away to Taihape to the Lower North Island Pony Club Games. These teams consist of mainly younger riders with great horsemanship skills with ponies that are highly manoeuvrable and not shy of games equipment and the razzle dazzle of what is a fun (but serious) competition. Our new striking pink and black Club colours drew plenty of attention on the day with the team of Andrea Brewster, Kelsie Bolstad, Anna Hinton and Lauren Terrill (NP club) finishing 7th of 20 teams and were the best performing Taranaki team.

Our season closing Club gymkhana was held over the school holiday break at our property at Ahu Ahu Road in somewhat damp and slippery conditions. There were some thirty riders – Club members and a good contingent from Lydia Quay's Clearwater Riding School – competing in the Flat competition (horse and rider presentation and riding ability), and in what is a new aspect to equestrian competition in this country, a show-cross competition. This is a combined, continuous, timed showjumping and cross country event, and was well received by both riders and parents. A second showjumping round immediately after re-entering the arena from the cross country course tested the skills of many riders and their mounts in the soft conditions. Winners of the age group classes on the day were:

Junior Flat – Jordan Giltrap

Intermediate Flat – Jess Knudsen

Senior Flat – Carolyn Beekman

Junior Showcross – Georgia Ferris

Intermediate Showcross – Anna Hinton

Senior Showcross – Andrea Brewster

So it's been a great season, with some good results and achievements by all of our members. Many thanks to the parents and helpers who have taken time out to support travelling teams and assist at local events. Your enthusiasm and efforts are appreciated

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting is to be held on 9 May at the Oakura Fire Station.

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Oakura Boardriders Update

What a month it's been for a couple of our local surfers! Paige Hareb continues her good form in Australia with a win in the Under-18 division of the Billabong Girls Easter contest on the Sunshine Coast and a fourth round finish at the latest pro junior on the Gold Coast. She now heads to Portugal as part of the New Zealand junior team to contest the world junior champs along with another Oakura Boardriders member, Keone Campbell, who was a late inclusion in the Under-18 division. Good luck to both surfers!

Tyler Anderson is the other local surfer to stand out. After winning both the Under-16 and Open divisions in the Club champs earlier last month, he followed up with winning the Under-16 and Open divisions in the NPSRC Summer Series final contest. A 2nd place in the Under-18 division of the Growcott Memorial contest at Stent Road led to finals appearances in three New Zealand rated contests: a 3rd place at the Billabong Grom in Piha, first place at the Ripcurl Gromsearch in Gisborne, and another final placing at the NZ Scholastics in Gisborne. He has also qualified for the Volcom VQS series finals by placing in two of the series qualifiers early in the year.

The Growcott Memorial contest (run by the Waitara Boardriders) was held at Stent Road in great surf. In addition to Tyler Anderson, Simon Deken and both Motu and Dwayne Mataa were other Oakura surfers to contest finals. It was a great weekend's surfing and a very social event with a lot of Taranaki's past and present champions and local characters adding to a great atmosphere.

The Annual Easter Masters contest was held over the Easter weekend and as always it attracted surfers from all over New Zealand along with good weather and waves. The sponsors always give this lots of support with many prizes, including a car, an overseas trip and a surfboard to name a few.

Highlights for local surfers were Glen Johns winning his division, Brett Hollis coming 2nd in his division, Chris Davies making the final in his division (and yet again letting Gisborne's John Gisby sneak it away from him!). Alan Crawford and Brent Anderson battled to the semi-finals in the plate division. An enjoyable weekend for all.



Tyler Anderson, Gisborne Winner.



The Taranaki team finished a close second at the NZ Scholastics Surfing Champs in Gisborne over the second week of the school holidays. The team was sponsored by O'Neil, Vertigo Surf shop and Glen Johns design – their continued support is most appreciated.

The team was in with a chance of winning the team standings but the small surf in the final days gave the advantage to the East Coast teams in the end.

Tyler Anderson, Gisborne Gromsearch April 07.



Dano with Growcott trophy.

Dwayne Mataa Growcott division winner.



Chris Blain Growcott division winner.



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2	Taranaki	(7410)
3	Waikato	(7245)
4	Coromandel	(7175)
5	Auckland	(7045)
6	Northland	(6828)
7	Canterbury	(6615)
8	Gisborne	(6530)
9	Otago	(3145)
10	West Coast	(2835)
11	Hawkes Bay	(2350)
12	Wellington	(2185)

Local surfers to place in the finals were:

Tyler Anderson – 4th in the Under-16 Boys

Casey Stevens – 1st in the Girls Kneeboard

Anita Crawford – 3rd in the Girls Kneeboard

Simon Bennett – 2nd in the Under-18 Boys Bodyboard

Mathis Smith – 2nd in the Under-16 Boys Bodyboard

Sean Parker – 4th in the Under-16 Boys Bodyboard

As TOM goes to press and a mad dash to Raglan by those who qualified to contest the Volcom VQS series finals, the latest news on hand:

18 and under final results:

Matt Hewitt 1st, Keone Campbell 2nd, Tyler Anderson 3=, Billy Stairmand 3=, Michael Mallalieu 4= and Braedon Williams 4=

14 and under final:

Alex Dive 1st, Tane Wallis 2nd

Good luck once again to the NZ juniors heading to Portugal.

Tyler Anderson

Profile of an up-and-coming surfer

By Kim Ferens



Tyler claims Club Champs trophy.

Fifteen-year old Tyler Anderson of Oakura has been hitting the headlines lately with good results in surfing competitions around the country.

The New Plymouth Boys High School, Year 11 student has a surfing resumé many would envy and is turning heads with his results. He won the Ripcurl Gromsearch competition in Raglan recently. He made the finals in both the National Scholastics in Gisborne and the Volcom series in Raglan.

The win that he is most proud of is the Open Men's final in the Oakura Boardriders Club champs this year and he is looking to retain the title for many years to come! At the same competition he won the Under-16 final as well. Other wins are the Junior division in the Surf and Snow Comp and the Junior and Open division of the Christian Surfers Waiarapa comp. Tyler has also made the finals of the Quiksilver King of the Groms for three years in a row.

Tyler has been surfing for about nine years and follows in the wake of father Brent, also a keen surfer and writer of our excellent and informative monthly local "Oakura Boardrider Updates". Tyler has a passion for surfing and really loves the surfer lifestyle, "There's nothing like it!" he says, "and the people are great." Mum Jan says he has a real flair for surfing or any board sport and while he is competitive and enthusiastic, his natural ability is the X-factor. When asked how often he surfs, Tyler looked askance as it seems surfing is like breathing – something you have to do all the time!

Tyler's favourite spots to surf are Rocky Point down the coast and the "Shippies" in Northland.

Tyler has his eyes set on surfing to an elite level and would ideally like to be selected for the New Zealand team in the next few years. A lot of hard work is necessary and it is often hard to get the right exposure in a small country like New Zealand. The dedication of his mum and dad in taking him around the country to competitions certainly help in getting exposure. Jan says she enjoys the trips away and she gets to see some interesting parts of New Zealand, and even though she is often up at dawn cooking food, the sacrifice is worthwhile.

Tyler has picked up some other sponsors in Ocean & Earth who provide surf accessories, Wolfgang who provide clothing, Jason Primrose who provide surfboards, Odyssey who provide 20/20 eyewear, and Breakers Café and Bar who provide financial support. Tyler has a special "Thank you" for our local businessmen, Biggie and Jono at Vertigo, who have provided support and help over the years.

Tyler is sitting Level 1 NCEA at school and hopes to go to University when he finishes to do something like architecture. He also enjoys snow boarding, music and travelling, and plays for the NPBHS inline hockey team. Phew!

We wish Tyler all the best in his surfing and he is a wonderful ambassador for our community.



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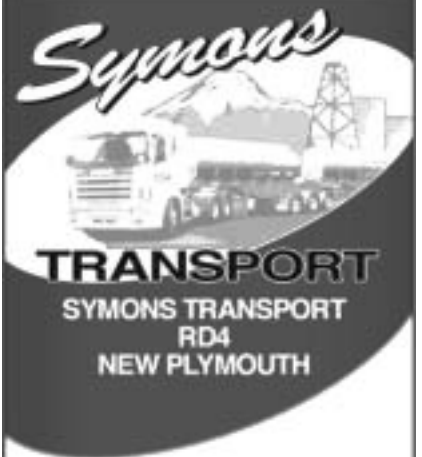
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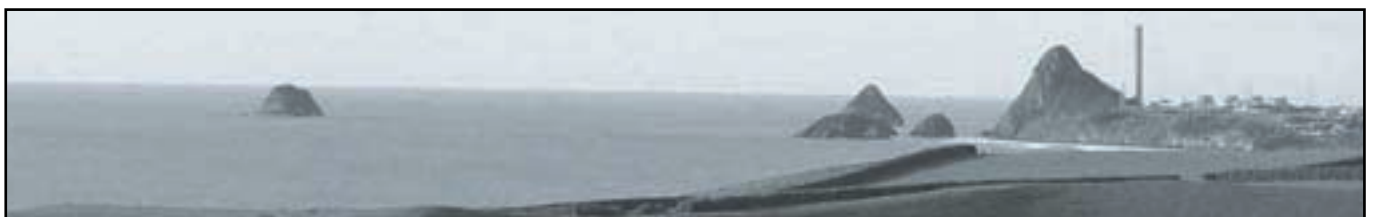
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OMATA school news

Term Two Rich Topic- "Ready, Set, Go"

We are having a Physical Activity focus this term, learning about keeping active and healthy. Children will be learning about their bodies and how they respond to physical activity, with visits from health professionals with their monitoring equipment.

We are also being creative with games and working co-operatively to make up new games. One of the most powerful ways of learning is to teach others and our students will be involved in teaching other classes the new games they have created. Our classes all have a buddy class and younger children will be working with their older buddies to create games.

It is going to be a really exciting and active term with a mystery tour during week 6 and then culminating with an active games day when parents can come along and join in.

Our Omata students are an active group, both at school and with sports and weekend activities. We really want them to be able to continue to be active throughout their lives.

Thank you to all the candidates who stood for our Board of Trustees. It is encouraging to have so many parents interested in helping with the governance of the school. Welcome to Andrew Crawshaw, who joins Catherine Jones, Paul Anderson, Hamish Logan, Tracey Lusk and Pat Murphy as our new BoT.

It is an interesting time for the school with the building and development projects underway and the Ministry are



Two of the *Mountain Airs* players visit Omata School to give coaching to the senior basketball players.



requiring the school to put in an enrolment scheme which will be in place later this year. This will mean that the school will be zoned and from then on will accept students automatically if they fall within the zone and any students from out of zone who wish to attend will only be able to do so if there are extra spaces available. Two other schools in the area already have enrolment schemes in place, Oakura and Frankley. This is the Ministry's way of making sure that a school does not become too big at the expense of other schools. At present we are engaged in the consultation process before the scheme and zone are put in place so if you have any queries or comments, please contact myself or Catherine Jones, our BoT Chairperson.

Karen Brisco

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Kaitake Kindy

The cooler, damper days have seen the children spending more time in doors lately. Robyn and Eleanor have been busy introducing them to new games and activities designed to encourage sharing, develop problem solving skills and also to improve manual dexterity.

The computer is now available for the children to use and they love playing with it. A system has been developed where the children put their names on a list, ensuring that everyone gets a turn, and an egg timer is used to show the children when their time on the computer is finished. A great way to learn about taking turns.

The children's fascination with animals continues to grow with the introduction of four new friends to the Kindy. We now have four young bantam chickens which the children love to feed. Their introduction has helped Robyn & Eleanor continue the theme of responsibility with the children.

Fundraising continues to be a major part of the Kindergarten Committee's responsibilities and we would like to say a Big Thank You to everyone who contributed to and supported our two recent events. The Easter Raffle raised \$532 and the Cake Stall held on 24 March raised \$594. We would like to extend our appreciation to Jimmy & Jackie at the "Four Square" for once again allowing us to use their premises for the Cake Stall. We would also like to thank all those involved in the Horse & Carriage Rides, which took place on 17 March, in Okato as we received a donation of a \$100 from them.

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PLAYDOUGH

Playdough is something that almost all children enjoy. The common variety is bright and attractive. Mostly it gets used for pretend baking using rolling pins, cookie cutters etc.

Have you ever thought of making black play dough? It's great for making roads. Get out the old matchbox cars and create a town. Talk to your child about what's in their town, streets, houses, people, schools, shops, beaches, rivers, mountains. Snow can even be added with a flour shaker! Let them lead the direction of the conversation, asking them questions along the way. It can be interesting to see how they view their community!

So next time your wondering what to do on a cold, wet day, make some nice warm play dough. It's not just for preschoolers, older kids still enjoy it too!

To make black Playdough we use either non toxic black tempa paint or black powder paint. (can be bought from the Playcentre Shop in Inglewood Ph: 756 7570)

Parents are the first educators of children, and this is enhanced at Playcentre as both parents and children learn and grow together.

Playcentre is a great way to meet people in your community, make friends and learn about children. Our session times are: Mon & Wed 9am - 12pm. For more information, phone Melissa Newton on 7521056

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OAKURA school news

Oakura School's head students

By Kim Ferens

I was charmed to meet the four head students of Oakura School recently. Their parents and school can be proud of them. The four are Hannah Andrews, Lucy Brankin, Dom Squatriti and Rhys Vickers, all Year 9 students.

They weren't sure why they had been chosen to be head students but were quick to point out each other's talents and strengths. Lucy is a good organiser, Rhys is very intelligent, Hannah is also bright and popular with everyone in the school, Lucy and Dom are accomplished sportspeople, and Dom is a good speaker. It was awesome to hear them giving each other praise.

Hannah says her interests are soccer and surfing, dancing and being creative. She'd like to be a good role model for the school.

Lucy has an action-packed week of sports, with swimming five days a week, plus surfing, surf lifesaving, netball, tennis, skiing and running. She also does dancing and enjoys doing her school work.



Dom, Rhys, Lucy and Hannah.

Rhys is a good keen bloke with interests in hunting and fishing. Any other spare time is spent on the family farm and he's brainy to boot!

Dom is another sports nut with soccer, golf, surfing, motorbike riding and running in his repertoire. He is also joint captain of the Taranaki 12 and under soccer rep team.

Kip McGrath OKATO Phone 0800 TUTORING or (06) 757-8916
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CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

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

St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Tove Jensen-Munroe. Ph 752 1350, or email tovisma@mac.com for weekly morning class schedules & bookings.

Oakura Meditation Group

Zen Bhuddist based - all welcome. Ph Tove Jensen-Monroe 752 1350. Email tovism@mac.com for details. Monthly, evenings.

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Twilight Bowls:

Fridays 6.00pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club. All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm. Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street. Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.



Do you have a story of local interest? Send it in to us.
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SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTACT DETAILS



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Properties For Sale by Anne

View all my properties and more at www.open2view.co.nz
find an agent: Anne Wilson

3 Tui Grove, Oakura.

New Listing. As new, executive solid 5 bedroom home with 2 lounges.



12a Mace Tce, Oakura

New Listing. Family Home with Tranquil Private Gardens and large trees. 3 bedrooms with mezzanine floor, garage and carport plus. Offers.



2 Rahui View, Oakura

New Listing. Brand New for Retirees/Families or Couples. 3 bdrms, study, ensuite, double garage and rural views. Flat fenced section. O/O \$525,000.



68 Phenev Road, Omata

New Listing, 5 bedroom board and batten home with 4 car garaging and utility shed on 6.5 acres.



65 Cutfield Road. Photo

New listing. Central, Sunny with Possible Subdivision Potential. 3 Bedrooms, internal access garage, sea views. Offers.

20 Record Street, Fitzroy

New listing. Close to beach and golf course. 3 bedrooms, sunny modernised and immaculate home.

16 Fox St, Okato

As new 3 bdrm home, with lge utility shed. O/O \$290,000.

Tui Grove, Oakura,

New - 4 bdrms, 2 lounges. Construction well under way.

3 Butlers Lane. Oakura

1700 m² right in the village with large home and fabulous garden. Very private, swimming pool and rural views. Offers over \$650,000.

31 McFarlane Street, Oakura

Deceptively large 3 bedroom brick home on private sheltered section. Price range \$420,000 - \$460,000.

47a Whiteley St, New Plymouth

Immaculate Character home, 3 bedrooms and study with 3 plus garaging for cars and boat. Freehold. \$470,000 - \$510,000.



6 Lydford Place,

O/O \$285,000 4 bdrms, lge storage and tandem garaging.

224a Tukapa Street

Down driveway, large immaculate 4 bedroom family home with 2 living areas and swimming pool. Secluded section surrounded by mature trees. House and 1130m² O/O \$420,000, or with 2285 m². O/O \$510,000.

460 Devon St West

Spacious executive 3 bedroom home with sea views and SC 1 bedroom flat on lower level with triple car garaging. Offers over \$775,000.

12 Govett Ave

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69 Fulford St

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19 Pitcairn Street Oakura. Flat building site on Pitcairn Street with potential for sea views from first floor. Offers.

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