

TOM oakura

MAY 2011

Dune planting *AT AHU AHU ROAD*



Clive Neeson captures an environmental moment at Ahu's.

more on page 2



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editorial

A recent news story about the validity of homeopathy as a recognised or recognisable medical practice followed hard on the heels of a conversation I had with a friend regarding supplements. I think all these practices need to stand up to scrutiny, whether they are mainstream or alternative. My friend had been to a talk by someone from a well-regarded supplement range. The gist of his talk was the simple idea that 'we are what we eat' and that we have such poor diets we need to take supplements. My friend was regurgitating this for me and I found it a bit lame. I asked her if she had a good diet or whether she subsisted on mainly takeaways and highly processed foods and she admitted she didn't. I made the point that many of us, in fact, eat better than our parents and especially our grandparents. A choice and range of foods, produced in many different ways, is available to most average income families today (though with the recession biting choices are diminishing, I admit). What sticks in my craw about the sale of supplements is that the people who would benefit the most from them (i.e. those with a poor diet making poor food choices) couldn't possibly afford to put a supplement bottle in their weekly food bill budget. Which makes me wonder if the sale of supplements is really only about making as much money as possible, not about improving the health of the general public.

Homeopathy on the other hand is cheap and easy to use and for people like me who have tried it and have had results that couldn't possibly be explained any other way than the effect of homeopathy, it stands up to scrutiny. The only thing is, it doesn't always work and I have had failures but then what is fail-safe, idiot proof and 100% guaranteed?

Kim



cover feature Dune Planting

Taranaki surfing fans and a large contingent of locals joined some of the stars of the sport in an environmental working bee organised in conjunction with the TSB Bank Women's Surf Festival. 1600 spinifex and 400 pingao plants were planted with the help of the surfers, council staff and locals to encourage dune restoration at the end of Ahu Ahu Road.



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

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Arthouse Cinema

A lot of new things are happening at your favourite Arthouse Cinema in May!!! Of course, we're working as hard as ever to find you the best movies but we also want you to be involved in YOUR cinema. Highlights of the month are the new *Movie You Make* on Friday, 6 May (free entry) where Jason Stutter (director of *Predicament*) will show some of his short films and encourage local people to make their own movies. This night is sponsored by Make (<http://pigtitsandparsleysauce.co.nz/>) and will be a regular monthly event where local people are able to show their own productions on the big screen!

Another regular night is the monthly Seasons/Cheapskates *Extreme Sessions* with surf, snowboard, ski, skateboard and windsurf movies for only \$5/ticket! *Extreme Sessions* opening night is Friday 27 May from 7.30pm.

In addition to these great new events, we have many movies not to be missed in May, including:

Hiding Behind the Green Screen

This innovative, experimental and creative documentary seeks to bring awareness of the marijuana culture of New Zealand's youth population. Four Maori youths are given the opportunity to be mentored by two accomplished Maori musicians. They embark on a journey to the courthouse where the judge, musicians and young men meet for the first time. Parihaka, the Taranaki village famous for its passive resistance, provides a spiritual platform to share the trauma of the past and transform painful memories into music.

Taranaki-made movie, screening every Monday 8pm and 9pm.

Environmental movie of the month:

Gasland

The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. The Halliburton-developed drilling technology of 'fracking' or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a "Saudi Arabia of natural gas" just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination.

Other great movies in May: *Brighton Rock*, *Catfish*, *Get Low*, *Blue Valentine*, *Mozart's Sister*, *King George VI: the man behind the King's speech*, *The Names of Love*, *Last Paradise*, *From Time to Time*, *Queen of the Sun*, *Top Hat* and *Hook, Line and Sink*.

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Mayor Harry

Thank you to everyone who sent in a submission to the draft Budget 2011/12!

I appreciate the time that residents have taken to read the draft Budget, and to send comments in to the Council. Your feedback will help us finalise our work programme for the

coming 12 months and confirm how we will pay for it.

Public hearings have been scheduled for late May/early June 2011, where the Council will hear from residents who want to speak to their elected members about their submission.

Right now, Council officers are preparing reports on all of the issues raised by submitters. When the Council finally sits down on 8 June to consider the draft Budget, the public submissions and the officers' reports, we'll have a lot of information at our fingertips to help us shape the final Budget for New Plymouth District. This is an important document for the entire district and we want to make sure we continue to provide a great lifestyle for residents, businesses and visitors while keeping that lifestyle affordable. It is a difficult balance to strike, but that's the job we're here to do.

The public hearings and the Council meeting on 8 June are all open to the public, so you're welcome to come along and hear what is being said (and don't forget that you can watch these meetings live online via www.newplymouthnz.com, or watch the recordings of them later!). Keep an eye out for the meetings' dates and times in 7Days, the Council's weekly newsletter in the North Taranaki Midweek newspaper.

If you have any questions about the draft Budget process, feel free to give me a call on 06-759 6100!

Mayor Harry Duynhoven

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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**Oakura
Library**

Our school holiday programme was well attended with 25 children going on an egg hunt and creating a paper bunny to hold their treats. None of the Easter eggs lasted that long however! What a delightful and creative group.



Oakura Library's busy Easter activity results.

May is New Zealand Music Month and we are hosting a series of free performances. Join us on Friday, 13 May 12.30–1.15pm as Dominique Blatti and Paul Goodsell will be playing classical guitar from 12.30–1.15pm. And on Friday, 20 May at 12.30pm Devon Intermediate School Choir will perform.

Kiwi Ukulele, From Zero to Rock Hero, The Complete Book of the Guitar, and First Book of the Keyboard are just a few of the fun music books on our shelves.

On behalf of New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards, we are hosting a colouring competition and story-writing competition. First, second and third place in each competition wins a book voucher. So come in and pick up a form. Deadline is Saturday, 14 May and all entries will be displayed here at the library.

Warm regards,

Karen and Vincenza

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Government is getting into growth mode

Throughout 2010, aftershocks from the global financial crisis continued to ripple around the world.

Here in New Zealand, over the past two years, we have experienced the first of the Christchurch earthquakes, the collapse of finance companies, blizzards in Southland, drought in Northland, PSA in the Kiwifruit industry, the costs of leaky homes and schools, loss of life in the Pike River mine. Now with the devastating earthquake in Christchurch in February and the potential support package for AMI policyholders, 2011 is turning in to an extremely challenging year.

The National-led Government remains confident about our wider economic programme. We are building stronger growth based on savings, investment, and exports. We are focused on getting back to surplus as soon as possible and repaying debt. There's certainly no need to change that direction.

The Budget this month will be about pressing on with our programme. It will focus on increasing savings and investment, as well as the rebuilding of Christchurch. It will be a balanced and responsible Budget for the times.

The earthquakes and finance company collapses certainly come at a considerable cost to taxpayers, but they are one-off costs. We are responding to them. However, it's important that we don't over react. To put them into perspective, they amount to several billion dollars over the next four or five years – whereas the Government currently spends about \$70 billion a year. We are on the right track and there are some good reasons to be optimistic for the next few years.

Export prices are at record levels, up 30 per cent over the past year. The growth of our trading partners is strong, lifting the demand for our exports. We have been well served by our strong ties with Australia, and our growing links with Asia.

We have reinforced our advantages through changes to our tax system, a better regulatory system, and through our new financial markets framework. We also have a flexible labour market and certainty about our emissions trading regime.

For new home buyers floating mortgage interest rates of around 5.7 per cent are at a 45 year low and have halved in the past three years. Inflation remains low – setting aside the GST rise, for which everyone was at least compensated.

New Zealanders understand the challenges we face. They are supporting the Government's direction to be more sensible and disciplined because it is what they are doing themselves.

In the Budget, we will restrain new spending and prioritise it towards health, education, and justice. New initiatives will total almost \$1 billion. However, this will be substantially offset by reducing lower priority spending in other areas.

The challenge now is to build confidence and get on with building a faster-growing economy. The next year or two will be about getting out of a survival mentality and into growth mode. That's the only way we will create jobs, boost incomes, and provide the public services you and your family.

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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kaitake community board

Kaitake Community Board

Easter Monday rain gave way to gale force winds that gave us a real thumping. Emergency services were at full stretch as the full-scale southerly blast caused widespread damage throughout the region. Houses lost their roofs, power lines were downed, trees toppled, and vehicles were blown off the roads. My own wind speed indicator on the roof recorded a gust of 71 knots — that's 81mph or 130kph in layman's terms.

It's times like these that you really appreciate the work that folk do in the community. The local fire brigade answered a host of calls for assistance and I'm sure the same applied further around the coast. The local shops struggled along as best they could and coped with the power outages that occurred. Spare a thought, too, for the organisers of the TSB Bank Women's Surf Festival as they got this glamour international event underway in such atrocious conditions. I do hope that the surf event concluded to the organisers' and competitors' satisfaction.

It's budget time at the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and I have been attending a number of related workshops and meetings as Councillors struggle with the habitual problem of balancing the books without adding any burden to the ratepayers.

NPDC is required to follow an array of Local Government Act processes. They are explicit and must be complied with. Council must have a Long Term Community Plan (the LTP). This is a 10-year strategy setting out where the community wants to go, and is arrived at after extensive consultation. The plan must be reviewed every three years. Council is then charged with setting annual budgets to meet the community intentions in the LTP. The current budget round is year three of that cycle.

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) has made five submissions on the budget. These are requests to:

- Begin a long-term process to address the inadequacy of the Oakura Hall to serve the needs of our growing population.
- Establish a walkway/cycleway link on the paper road between Wairau Road and Donnelly Street behind the school. At a recent count there were 45 children coming to school from the Upper Wairau and Surrey Hill Roads and such a link would benefit them, as well as secondary school students who catch the bus outside the hall, and provide a pedestrian link for all residents on Wairau Road through to the shops.
- Carry out a major upgrade of the walkway/cycleway from Oakura Beach Holiday Park through to Ahu Ahu Road. The track is in a bad state of repair and figures show it is particularly well used. For example, in December 3,630 users were recorded on the track.
- Investigate and make provision for a connecting walkway/cycleway between the two pedestrian bridges over the Ahu

Ahu and Timaru Streams. The previous route over private land is unacceptable so an appropriate alternative needs to be found.

- Include a specific funding segment in the 2010/2011 budget to carry out the planned, timelined actions embedded in the Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan and the Oakura Structure Plan Implementation Plans.

Council developed the Coastal Strategy, and its associated documents, at considerable cost in 2005. It sets a 20-year vision for the future of the coast in the New Plymouth District. The key priority is to implement the Coastal Strategy into day-to-day decision-making processes to ensure that activities and decisions made in relation to the coast are consistent with the overall vision. The stated focus is very much centred on implementing the key actions (there are over 100) in the Coastal Strategy. Implementing the Coastal Strategy is something Council has undertaken to do with its key partners who also influence how the coast is managed. The Board believes that can only be done if the actions are budgeted for and currently they are not.

The Board understands the current fiscal restraints and the tension between facilitating progress and the corresponding desire to minimise costs. Council therefore has some interesting challenges ahead as it sets out to 'balance the books'.

As well as researching and developing these submissions, the usual number of timetabled meetings have been attended since the last issue of TOM as well as dealing with a number of pertinent issues for residents in the area. The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be held at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday, 9 May at 4.30pm.

Ka kite ano

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

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TOM Sports

Oakura Pony Club news

Pony clubs around Taranaki are starting to wind up their very busy season. The majority of Oakura Pony Club members regularly compete their horses locally and around New Zealand, so there haven't been many free weekends over the past six months!

Recently Oakura Pony Club members have represented Taranaki at a variety of different events from Horse of the Year (Anna Hinton, who helped Taranaki win the area teams showjumping), Cambridge Show Jumping (Anna Hinton and Georgia Ferris), Taupo Dressage Champs (Anna Hinton, Georgia Ferris, Jordan Giltrap), and Timberlands one-day event (Georgia Ferris, Lauren Moorby and Nina McLean). Anna Hinton will also be representing Taranaki shortly in the NZ Champs team in Taupo, keeping up the tradition of Oakura Pony Club members making it into the Champs team.

More locally, the North Taranaki Pony Club held their one-day event (ODE), which is usually the last ODE for the season. This year the ODE was held at Waitara and Oakura riders did exceptionally well. Two of our youngest competitors, Paige Mackay on Nanteos Autumn Blossom and Isabella Hibell on Jiggysaw, came first and fourth respectively in the Intro Under 11 Years section. Paige also won the 10 Years and Under accumulator sash. Georgia Ferris on My Vagabond came fifth in the Training section; Miranda Lobb on Paparazzi Girl came first, and Robyn King came second in the Pre-Training Open Rider. Anna Hinton on Sexy B came first in the DC section, and she also won the Charlton Kotare Trophy for DC (16 Years and Under), the Misty Morn Trophy for Best Jump Faults in DC, the DC Masterpiece Trophy for DC season, and the DC accumulator sash. Oakura Pony Club won the Nicholson Shield, which is for the highest accumulated ODE results for the season, for the second year running.

Our Oakura riders have some incredible role models, and I couldn't finish this news piece without mentioning Oakura's Vanessa Way (on KH Arvan) who won the Dressage Horse of the Year title, and Matthew Dickey (on Kiwi Guard) who won the Dunstan Young Rider at Horse of the Year.

But pony club isn't all about competing, it's also about having fun and learning to care for horses in a safe and fun environment with other people who also love horses. Earlier this month we held our annual pony club camp where there was lots of fun and games and learning for all the children involved. All our riders complete theory and practical workbooks towards gaining certificates, and this month we have five riders who are sitting their theory for D and D+ certificates. In May we will be holding our end of season gymkhana, which is really low-key and fun for riders and parents alike. This will be followed by an end of year dinner and prize giving, and our AGM is set for 31 May at 7.30pm at the Oakura Fire Station.

If you have any questions about Oakura Pony Club, or if you are interested in joining the club or renting our arena please contact Diane Alder on 06-752 1008.

by Diane Alder



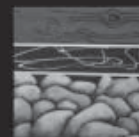
Above, Maeghan King jumping a cross country jump at the Hinton's farm, and below Brittany attacks the same jump,



The pony club kids enjoying a hack around the Hinton's farm.

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The fishing for April has remained very good. Tran Lawrence from Taranaki Outdoor Adventures reports that snapper, kingfish and even tuna are still around.

Campers in the holiday park have been catching snapper and gurnard by surfcasting in front of

the motor camp. One camper I met on the beach caught four snapper one evening then two gurnard the next night. The best time is just on dark on a high tide.

I have been doing well in the kayak, landing a 9kg snapper in mid April with lots of gurnard and kahawai still around. The fishing should be good between weather fronts for another month.

Garry



Garry with 9kg snapper caught at spot X mid April.

NZ Volleyball re-selects Jessie Muggeridge

Local woman, Jessie Muggeridge, has been re-selected to represent New Zealand in two International Open Women's Beach Volleyball competitions this year: Second Batam Open Asia Pacific Beach Volleyball Tour (Indonesia, 18–24 April 2011) and AVC Women's Beach Tour Tuan Chau-Ha Long Open (Vietnam, 28–30 April 2011).

Jessie enjoys the thrilling experience of travel. She has represented New Zealand for the past three years with trips taking her to Australia, Asia, Switzerland, Germany, France and Holland. Last year Jess and her volleyball squad travelled to Alayania in Turkey. She states, "I really enjoy not only the sporting experiences but the cultural ones too."

Jessie is a third year Psychology student at Waikato University. She wishes to pursue further study and continue her passion for beach volleyball in the future.

We wish Jess every success for 2011 and beyond.

Written by Jess' mum, Lizzy Brouwers



Jess blocking at the net, playing against Slovakian team — Turkey, 2010.



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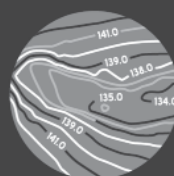


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SPORT

Kaitake Golf Club news

The members of the Kaitake Golf Club are continuing to enjoy a mild autumn and good golfing conditions. However, there have been one or two reminders that winter is not too far away.

Competitions are well underway as you can see by the results.

Weekday Women

Silver Division 36 Hole Strokeplay Gross winner R. Robins with J. Ross runner-up
Bronze Division 36 Hole Strokeplay Gross winner M. Barrett with J. Gerrard runner-up
Silver Division 36 Hole Strokeplay Nett winner T. McElowney with K. Brown runner-up
Bronze Division 36 Hole Strokeplay Nett winner B. Adamson with J. Reid runner-up
Silver Division 27 Hole Strokeplay Nett winner J. Ross with K. Brown runner-up
Bronze Division 27 Hole Strokeplay Nett winner S. Aspinall with J. Gerrard runner-up
Other competitions completed include the Askew Cup won by L. Regan with T. McElowney runner-up; Fougere Cup won by P. Ellicock with M. Benton runner-up; Consolation Trophy won by A. Murdock with J. Seamark runner-up.

The Nancy McCormack is a 36 Hole Foursomes supported by Srixon and played nationally. Winners of the Kaitake weekday event were S. Kwon and J. Mattingley with M. King and J. Fisher runners-up.

Finally the Kaitake Masters team, consisting of K. Vernon, M. Neilson, J. Beggs and K. Brown, will represent Kaitake Golf Club playing at Hawera for the Taranaki Masters.

Weekend Women

Top Dog winners were L. Agnew and M. Pettigrew; the Monnie Hannan Trophy (senior/junior) was won by J. Neale and J. Jupp; Aotearoa Cup was won by K. White; J. Neale won the Coronation Medal; the Nancy McCormack 36 Hole was won by M. Pettigrew and J. Farrant. The Aotearoa Cup, Coronation Medal and Nancy McCormack are all national competitions supported by Srixon.

Currently underway is the Ladies Trophy Matchplay competition, and the 36 Hole strokeplay is coming up.

Men's Division

While there are no results to report this month, the men are playing for the Presidents Trophy. Top Dog starts next month.

A correction from last month: Geoff Andrews was the winner of the Summer Cup Flight not Scott Neale as reported. Apologies to Geoff. Congratulations to all the recent competition winners and runners-up.

Coming Events

Tasman Toyota 2 Ball Best Ball competition for men will be held at Kaitake Golf Club on Sunday, 8 May. Entry fees are \$25 per person or \$50 per team. For further information and tee times contact the club office on 06-752 7665. Kaitake Mixed Canadian Foursomes will be held on Sunday, 5 June. Starter sheets at the office.

Changes are afoot. After serving Kaitake Golf Club loyally as a member and more latterly Club Secretary/Manager, Raewyn Hawker plans to retire from work (but not golf!). This is an opportune time to thank Raewyn for all she has done for the club and to wish her well for a long and enjoyable retirement. Raewyn is to be succeeded by Ian Buttimore.

Until next month, good golfing everyone.

Andrea Jarrold

Kaitake Golf Club



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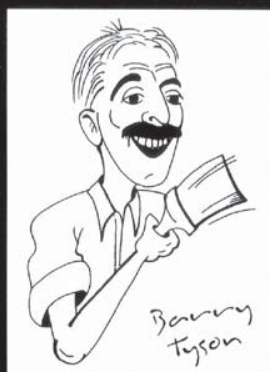
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Oakura Boardriders Club

The Easter holiday always seems to bring a crowd of visitors hungry for waves. There's also the annual Master's Competition on and a crew of Christian surfers who come together at this time each year for fellowship in and out of the water. Locals either do a 'dawnny', compete (if they are old enough) in the Masters, join the Christians, moan as they hassle for a wave or leave town!

On Good Friday surf at a few favourite spots was great. However, much later in the day and into the next, a northeasterly wind changed these ideal conditions and keen surfers had to travel further south to get the goods.

Unfortunately the eight surfers from our club who participated in the Masters had to join the other competitors on Saturday and Sunday at Fitzroy where it was onshore and messy with a dropping swell. Apparently the organisers had to cater for those competitors who were much older than our boys (one was over 70!) by being close to the clubrooms. It sure was a change from the chest to head-high, offshore surf they had at Rocky Rights on Friday.

However they all competed exceptionally well with Neil Pullen winning the Grommets division, Brian Clark winning the Masters division and Biscuit (Brett Hollis) coming a very close second. Crawf (Alan Crawford) came third in the Legends and Brent Anderson came third in the Plate division. Brian Clark was also placed in the Dunga Derby contest where he came second. In this event the competitors catch a wave then come in shore to skull a Mike's Mild Ale before paddling out again. So not only does our club produce accomplished surfers but we also are accomplished in other pursuits that involve liquid!

The hard luck story of the contest involved Johnsie (Glen Johns.) He won his first heat in true Kelly Slater-style with two waves in the nines before anyone else in his heat had even caught a wave. But in his next round, in appalling surf, he had a dubious interference called against him, which denied him the opportunity to progress further. The other two competitors from our club who competed were Mike Hareb and Stu McKinnon, who also made us very proud.

Mike, Brent and Crawf have recently returned from a boat surfing trip off the Mentawai Islands in Indonesia where they had an amazing time. As well as getting excellent surf every day, which at times was scary, they also caught an abundance of fish.

In the afternoon of Sunday, 27 March at Oakura Beach a contest was held where the contestants were certainly of the much younger variety than those in the Masters Competition. This was a Groms contest, which involved not only Oakura Boardriders' kids but also those from the New Plymouth and Waitara Clubs. Everyone had a lot of fun, as you can see from the photos, and it was so good for our young Taranaki surfers to surf together.

This was also the day that we should have been celebrating our win once again over the New Plymouth Club in the annual cricket match but it was postponed till this month due to the wet weather.

As you read this the Taranaki Festival of Surfing will be all over. We will have been there cheering for Paige willing her to have the opportunity, even with a cracked rib, to impress the judges with her skill, her style and her courageous spirit.

Go Paige!

Philippa Butt



Groms enjoying the
Easter waves.
Photos by Daisy Day.

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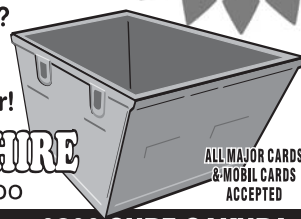
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TOM Garden of the Month: photographer's paradise

Steve and Linda Cox and their son, Kyle, live on a 12-acre secluded back section on Surrey Hill Road. An idyllic position nestled in the rolling hills of Te Koru Pa.

I first met Steve at the New Plymouth Camera Club and his garden came to my attention when a professional photographer used it for a bridal wedding shot. Now it's at this point that I have to digress a little from the garden and mention Steve and his own amazing photographic achievements. He has just been awarded a gold and a silver in the Photographic Society of New Zealand National Exhibition. Congratulations, Steve, an amazing achievement. Something that never ceases to surprise me is the hidden talent our small community has, so I approached the garden with some excitement expecting that it would have an artistic flare and I wasn't disappointed. The formal garden is mainly laid to lawn with islands full of natives, shrubs and trees. There are hostas in the shade, toetoe and kowhai trees. There are splashes of colour from the pink and white Japanese anemones, and the bronze foliage of the maple tree breaking into the emerald lawn. Whilst wandering along the paths, an image springs to mind of young children running around playing hide and seek and exploring, or teenagers with paintball guns lying ready to ambush the opposing team. The section slopes gently to an amazing stone architectural koru laid out on the lawn, the spiral at its largest extending some 10m, and a small foliage-disguised pergola with table and chairs — perfect for that glass of wine (or two!) as the sun goes down. Fir trees surround the section and there are two or three paddocks, which at present are leased out.



Steve says that the section is surprisingly low maintenance apart from the regular grass cutting (a ride-on mower does the trick nicely). He cuts back the trees and shrubs and they fend for themselves.

Now that their family have grown up, Steve and Linda have recently made the decision to move on; they have subdivided 8.5 acres from the original section (leaving 3.5 acres with the existing house) and are building a new home for themselves next door. They love the area so much — the sea views, the wildlife and the peace and solitude — they couldn't move far! Thank you, Steve, for showing me around your lovely garden. Thanks to Fairfield garden Centre Steve and Linda will receive a \$12 garden voucher.

By Rosie Moves



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"Thank you" from Colleen and Catherine

Thank you so much to the Oakura, Okato and wider coastal community that has supported us in our business at Oakura Pharmacy over the last five and a half years. We had a wonderful time meeting you all and being available to help with all of your pharmacy needs. We sold the business in January this year and even though there has been a transition period over the last few months, we now move on to other things—Colleen to do some locum work, travel and hopefully get some rest and relaxation, and Catherine to run, work in and manage the busy 7-day Vivian Pharmacy and the 16 staff that work there.

Thank you again for your support, friendship and encouragement and we wish the new owner, Philip Robertson, all the best at Oakura Pharmacy.

Colleen Froude and Catherine Keenan



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May Checklist

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.

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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Hello to everyone in Oakura/Okato and Okato. I am the new pharmacist at Oakura Pharmacy and my name is Jin Kim. You will see me everyday in the pharmacy because I am here to help out Phillip and manage Oakura Pharmacy. If you have any problems or queries with your medication come and ask see me. I have a keen interest in making sure everyone is taking the right medication and has a good understanding of their prescriptions.



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Oakura School Mud Run

It was Friday, 2 April and Room 10 and 11 from Oakura School were going on a mud run just out of New Plymouth at Meeting of the Waters.

Tran and Martin, the instructors, sat us down and told us what was going to happen. First they said, "Every school always asks where the mud is... every 5 seconds! We actually go on a bit of an adventure before we get to the mud. This is the most dangerous part of the trip."

At last we set out in search of the mud. Just to annoy Tran we kept saying, "Where is the mud?" We walked for a bit then we came across a river. All of the students stumbled into the water, grabbed a friend's hand and walked across. Suddenly I heard a scream as a close friend of mine fell into the water. Most of the adults cheated because they used the bridge.

When everyone was finally out of the water we headed into an untamed bit of bush. It was really hard to walk in a straight line because we had to dodge big sticks. We also had to watch out for people because when they walked past something it would fling back and hit you in the face (trust me, from experience). We kept on walking, we finally came to the mud pit and everyone jumped in... well, not everyone. Every time I got up I would get pushed back in. It was awesome but after a while it got really annoying.

Next we got out of the slop and washed ourselves in the river that wasn't very clean. So everyone walked along and jumped back into some fresh clean water. It was really fun! When we got back, we all took turns jumping off this little bridge into some water. We all went more than once because it was so much fun.

Finally we got out of our wet clothes and into some dry ones. I was glad it was over because I was exhausted. I can't wait to do it again.

by Megan Vickers (12 years)



Oakura School children enjoying getting dirty.



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Entree	Dinner	Free Range Chicken Breast
Pumpkin Pate and Sprouts \$15.50	Honey Glazed Lamb Legs or vegetables \$25.50	roasted with herbs and olive oil \$38.50
Brussels & Cauli Soup \$12.50	Egg Roll 250g on bread with veg \$21.50	Grilled Jilly Dory on Apple, potato, onion and veg \$38.50
Lunch	Beef & Gherkin Pie \$16.50	Grilled White Boudin of traditional vegetables, sauce & herbs \$18.50
Smoked Salmon, Eggs \$14.50	or Free Range Pork and veg	
Mediterranean Chicken, Spinach, or Potato \$16.50		

Winter by the Fire
 Come in and enjoy a warm winter open fire in the back bar
 Phone Tanya to book your function, meeting, family gathering etc by the fire in the back bar
752 7765

The marquee is gone!

Gale force winds on Tuesday 26 April wreaked havoc in the outdoor bar at Butlers and now the clean up is continuing.



Kymon surveys the damage at Butlers



Kris White, ARTIST

Taranaki is such an inspiring place to live, is it any wonder that there is so much talent on our doorstep? Kris White lives with Greg and their three children Jakob, Portia and Rhiarn on Surf Highway 45 overlooking the beautiful Taranaki coastline.

For the last two to three years Kris has been following her creative side by painting contemporary New Zealand landscapes in acrylic on canvas. Kris has not had any formal training but has developed a unique style of her own. She admits that the more work she produces the more the style evolves. As a busy mother of three, she mostly works at night (not great for the lighting she admits) and



Right, Kris at work and below, some of her artwork.



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on the kitchen table, so she has to tidy away her materials. She masks areas off and uses a roller for larger areas of block colour, giving it a smoother finish, but it's the black outlines that define the finished painting, giving it impact and Kris' own style. Kris has a favourite saying by Picasso: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." How fantastic is that? She has painted it onto a small canvas.

Something that surprised me was the amount of research that Kris does before embarking on her artwork. She showed me a folder full of cuttings, cards, letter fonts, postcards and wrapping paper that she has gathered. Images that she likes and hopes that she may be able to adapt in her own work. She draws her inspiration from the amazing countryside around us too, and the many local artists and photographers in Taranaki such as Barbara Clegg, Fay Looney and Daisy Day.

Kris paints mostly as gifts for friends and family; she gave Jennifer Gros a Taranaki-themed canvas when she left to return to the USA, and one based on Oakura for Peta Hislop on her retirement. Kris would like to take her hobby to the next level. "I'm still waiting for my first commissioned painting," she jokes.

She has plans for a studio, to be built by Greg, looking out over the panoramic coastal views she loves so much, with correct lighting and a display area where she can hang her work. What better environment could you have to inspire creativity? I am truly impressed with Kris' talent and passion and wish her every success.

By Rosie Moyes

Coming Events

May

- 11 Year 3/4 Ball Skills at Oakura 1pm
- 12 Rotary Reading begins
- 23–27 Book Fair in the library
- 24 Year 8 go to Young Leaders' Conference in Palmerston North
- 31 Rooms 1 and 3 visit Lake Rotokare

June

- 2 Rooms 4 and 5 visit Lake Rotokare
- 3 Rooms 2 and 6 visit Lake Rotokare
- 6 Queen's Birthday Holiday

Busy Term

This term has raced by so quickly and so tragically for some. After the initial shock of earthquakes and tsunami, we all dug deep to support our neighbours in Christchurch and Japan. Now as we settle back into our daily routines, somewhere in our thoughts we remember that many people are still struggling to cope with loss and putting back together lives that are nowhere near 'back to normal'. In our quiet Omata way, we acknowledged and gave generously with \$1200 raised in one day. Thank you.

Already we are looking forward to next term and planning for Life Education (look out for Harold's truck) in week one. The continuation of our recently begun rich topic is going to be exciting with a school outing and an art exhibition planned. For those of you who attended the last 'Winter Wonderland' exhibition, you will be looking forward, I hope, to the visual feast we are conjuring up for you this time!

Buddy Classes

We have six classrooms and each room has a buddy class. Every week buddy classes get together to share learning experiences; anything from reading to each other, crafting a piece of writing, collaborative activities or sharing something they have been doing. The experiences they have together have many benefits for the older student and the younger student alike. Teaching something to someone else is one of the most powerful ways to embed knowledge and skills. Giving feedback and sharing experiences is a way to gain empathy and understanding of others' points of view and different ways of solving problems. Mentoring and supporting goes on during the buddy time, as well as



creating a family atmosphere within the school, where all the students feel connected to other students regardless of age.

The photos here show students in Rooms 1 and 6 during last week's buddy time, where the Year 3 and 4 students were sharing their wonderful 3D artworks with the Year 7 and 8 classes. They were proud of their birds and explained how they were made and the ideas behind their creations. The senior students were able to give feedback and genuine praise for the amazing sewing and creative skills the younger students had demonstrated.



Omata Playgroup

Rachel Shotter invites all preschoolers and parents to playgroup, held every second Thursday in the hall. Please give her a call if you would like more information. Next playgroup is 12 May, 9–11am. Phone Rachel on 06-751 4529.

Umbrellas

We are selling golf umbrellas with 'Omata' printed on them for \$20 as a Home and School fundraiser. Come along, we have them in the office to buy. Great for Saturday sports watching, etc.

Karen Brisco



BROWNIES What a camp!

I'm thrilled to report that the recent weekend camp for our District's Pippins, Brownies, Guides and Rangers was a huge success. We had beautiful weather and 67 girls plus leaders and parents had a great time. I am so proud of our girls, many of whom had never stayed away overnight, let alone in tents with only long-drop toilet facilities on site!

With each leader taking responsibility for a different area of the camp, everything ran very smoothly. We enjoyed a night walk through some woods to see glow worms, and did a nightline up a hill. On the Saturday, we set up a series of activities to strengthen teambuilding and strategic thinking. After lunch, there were several quieter craft options and then everyone enjoyed the waterslide and river dip. In the evening, there was a huge campfire and we sang and enjoyed each group's funny skits.

Sunday brought new activities and then it was time to strike camp and share a final horseshoe before heading away. Our daughters could barely talk they were so tired when they got home!

Since then we've had more weekly meetings and our dear neighbours, the Askew family, very kindly allowed us into their beautiful home for two pool parties. I know the girls had a brilliant time and we really appreciate your generosity, thank you.

We still have a waiting list and would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us as Girl Guide Leaders.

Catherine Cave and Robin Green

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1/1.5kg Angus Beef Brisket
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450g Carrots Cut in Chunks
700g 1 tsp Soft Brown Sugar
350ml Beef Stock Potatoes Peeled Cut in Chunks
2 Celery Stick thick sliced
2 tbsps Plain Flour
500ml Dark Beer
3 tbsps Fresh Thyme
2 tbsps Wholegrain Mustard
1 tbsps Tomato Puree
1 Bay Leaf
Sea Salt & Black Pepper to season

METHOD

Preheat the Oven to 180C/Gas 4. Heat the Oil in a Large flameproof casserole pot and brown the Brisket all over until golden brown. Then remove from the pot. Add the onions, carrots, celery and cook for about 4 minutes over medium heat.

Stir in the flour and stir for a minute. Add the potatoes, thyme and bay leaf. Pour in the beer and beef stock until well combined and bring to a low boil stirring continuously.

Add the tomato paste, sugar mustard and plenty of seasoning. Place the beef back in, cover with a tight lid. Cook for about 2½ hours or until the meat and vegetables are tender. To serve remove the meat and carve into slices. Serve with vegetables and plenty of gravy. Enjoy.

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Peter and the Wolf

Fun and frolics for all the family are promised in the Val Deakin Dance Theatre's forthcoming performances of Peter and the Wolf throughout Taranaki. Performances are during May as follows:

Senior Citizens' Hall in Waitara — Sunday, May 8 at 1pm

St Andrew's Church Hall in Inglewood — Sunday, May 8 at 4pm

Oakura Hall — Saturday, May 14 at 2pm

Urenui Community Centre — Sunday, May 15 at 2pm

All Saint's Church Hall in Eltham — Sunday, May 29 at 2pm.

This much-loved, off-beat version of the popular tale features a snorkel-clad Duck, a softball-playing Wolf and a Bird a la Snoopy complete with flying helmet! These and other characters bring to life this children's classic with humorous choreography by Val Deakin, music by Sergei Prokofiev, and narration. It is also the ideal vehicle to introduce children to the sounds of the various instruments of the orchestra.


Caroline Weston will be taking the part of Peter. She is pleased to be able to sharpen up her dance and roping skills in the role! Some familiar dancers take the other parts in the production: Jane Roseman and Donna Kelly as the hungry Wolf, Inge Vink as the delightfully dumb Duck, Laura Sommerville as the bouncy Bird, Davina Moffat as the very vain Cat, Michael Takarangi as the crusty old grandfather, and a whole host of comic, hopelessly short-sighted hunters who include Kaye West, Kristina Rodgers, Zac Gillespie and Eila Stevenson.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children and there are group, family and Dance Theatre Friends' discounts available. Reservations are strongly recommended as previous seasons of this favourite dance work presented in New Plymouth have sold out. Phone 06-752 7743 after 9.30am to reserve your ticket.

Oakura dance classes

The Val Deakin Dance School's new classes at Oakura Hall have got off to a good start with an enthusiastic group of young children enjoying the Saturday morning classes. There are classes for young preschool-aged children as well as a class in basic ballet for 5 and 6 year olds. The children have learned a variety of movement skills, participated in a great range of story and play dances, and used their imaginations to great effect! This term the older children will start learning a dance as well.

No previous experience is necessary to join the classes and advice can be given regarding dancewear for classes. For more information contact Val Deakin on 06 752 7743.



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TOM Baby



Congratulations to Amanda and Chris on the birth of their son, Josh Terry La Franchie. Josh was born on 17.1.11. As you can see from the photograph, at just 10 weeks old he is a little superstar!

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Mark's robot

The Rubik's Cube has to be one of the most frustrating puzzles designed, well, for those of us who have never been able to solve it. I have spent many hours, and I am sure I am not alone in this, frantically twisting the Cube trying to get the six colours all on the same side but never quite succeeding. But for 10 year old Mark Huitema it's all in a day's work for his Lego robot!

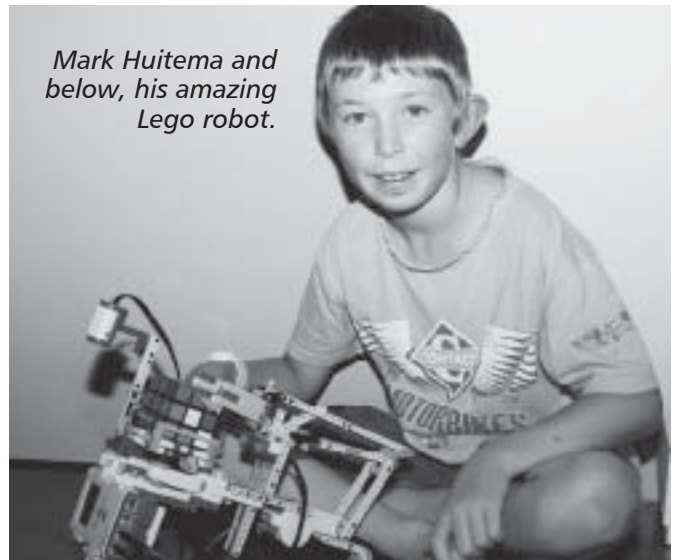
Mark is, it has to be said, a bit of a Lego fan! As I look around his bedroom there are shelves of Lego constructions from diggers to boats and cars, Lego poster and, of course, boxes of Lego! Mark tells me that he has even made a scale model of Te Rewa Rewa Bridge on the walkway, finding dimensions on the Internet and scaling them to a Lego man. His construction ended up being 1.4m long! But there was one kit Mark really wanted: the Mindstorm Nxt 2.0. Mark worked hard to earn money by collecting, bagging up and selling pony poo, doing jobs for his parents Joanne and Peter, and even selling an old Lego kit. When he had enough money he bought the Lego robot set, which comes complete with a mini-computer you can program. Mark proudly shows me the kit and I have to say I am blown away!

The technology of this 'toy' is astounding. By downloading programs from the internet a robot can be constructed to shoot balls at certain colours, say, when it sees red — something that Mark's little brother, Aaron (aged 6), laughs about, saying it shot at him when he was wearing his red shorts! It can colour-sort balls, sense and shoot at moving objects, to name but a few skills.

But Mark had his eye on the Tilted Twister version that can solve the Rubik's Cube. It didn't take him long to follow the instructions and build the robot (about 2.5 hours), and then he downloaded the program from the Internet. Mark puts the Rubik's Cube in the robot to show me. The robot receives the cube politely, saying "Thank you", and after a few twists for scanning tells us how many manoeuvres it can be solved in. Then it gets to work and it has to be seen to be believed! Youtube "Tilted Twister" to see it in action. But it does actually twist and turn the Cube until all the colours are on separate sides of the Cube and then it says "Game over"! Wow!

I ask Mark what next and he says ... wait for it ... I want to make one that can do Sudoku! And yes, it is possible the robot holds the pen and writes the solutions in the tiny squares. What an amazing educational 'toy' Lego has become, way beyond the little Lego kitchen I grew up with! Thank you Mark for showing me your robot. I am totally amazed!

By Rosie Moyes



Mark Huitema and below, his amazing Lego robot.





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Before school hours are:
7.30am to 9.00am with breakfast available till 8.15am.

After school hours are:
3.00pm till 5.30pm, includes afternoon tea.

Billy Lids is approved by Child, Youth and Family (CYF) as a service provider of OSCAR programmes under Regulation 25 of the Social Security (Childcare Assistance) Regulations 2004 (SR 2004/268). Some families may be able eligible to claim the Work and Income OSCAR subsidy. Please contact Work and Income directly to check if you are eligible.

For further information parents are welcome to phone
Sheryl or Jane 752 7766,
or call into 11 Donnelly Street, (Cor Donnelly and Hussey Sts), Oakura.
Email — oakura@billy-lids.co.nz

Need Childcare, Training or Work?



Ph 0800 023 456
www.PORSE.co.nz

TOM CLASSIFIEDS

FOUND

ON lower Donnelly St on Saturday, 16 April an iPod & cellphone.
Contact Oakura Four Square to identify and claim.

HOLISTIC COUNSELLING & THERAPY

GENERAL life issues, including anxiety, depression, emotional issues, illness.
Safe, confidential, effective.
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info@meegancare.co.nz
Phone 752 4826,
www.meegancare.co.nz

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davespcservices@xtra.co.nz

if you have a story of local
interest that you'd like to share
with us, phone 0800 THE TOM

YOGA IN OKATO

44a Carthew St

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday nights
7pm – 8.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and
Saturday mornings
9am – 10.30am

BEGINNERS WELCOME

Phone Darren

029 4272 627

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Excellent for:

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Ladies' Midweek competition
Club night.

Juniors' private coaching.

A-grade players' practice.

Social Women's Tennis
(members/non-members).

Junior competition.

Soffe Cup and A grade comp.

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

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

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

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes. 11.00am
(please contact 027 228 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406, to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact Brian Goodhue, the EI Presidente 752 1290, email podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

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

Ph 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing