

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

MAY 2012

LOCAL CROSS COUNTRY HEROES

Max Hardie Boys (right) looking strong on
the Malta cross country course.

More on page 3



TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

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

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E D I T O R I A L

A group of us were chatting recently and someone made a comment about how great the mall in Rotorua is for café dining, saying it would be great to have something similar in New Plymouth. This reminded us that the central part of Devon St used to be a mall with a big fountain in the middle. I spent many lunchtimes sitting at the fountain eating my lunch and enjoying the weather. I think reinstating the mall with the extension of the Huatoki Plaza would be a fabulous idea, and not just because it is nostalgic but because a semi-covered (sun, rain and wind shades) pedestrian area would suit the lifestyle we lead these days. Shopping and al fresco dining seem to be a favourite weekend activity for the masses, if the Easter city chaos was anything to go by. Makes more sense to block off the street rather than reduce the speed limit to 30km/hour in my opinion. Interesting to think that such notions have been tried before — there really is nothing new under the sun!



We welcome the TOM-Okato into a wider publication this month. Economically it makes more sense to have a combined TOM-Okato and TOM-Oakura until such time as the economy picks up so I hope everyone will enjoy reading a slightly broader spread of stories. The communities are close in proximity but quite different in personality so we will see how it goes.

The personal diary is in a state of flux. Circumstances seem to be conspiring against all efforts to settle into a focussed routine of exercise and diet but in saying that I have lost a further kilogram, a few more centimetres overall and some visible muscle definition is happening. My household has been chaotic with a fairly major renovation taking up a lot of my time and energy so hopefully now that it is all finished I can refocus and achieve some good results.

Kim



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Malta World Secondary School Champs

Local cross-country runners Will Jones and Max Hardie Boys recently returned from the World Secondary School Champs in Malta where the crème-de-la-crème of school-age runners from 25 countries competed against each other. The two boys went as part of the New Plymouth Boys' High School (NPBHS) team, the only New Zealand boys' team to compete. The team finished 11th overall out of 25 teams, with Liam Jansen 40th, Max Hardie Boys 44th, Chris Kelly 50th, Will Jones 60th, Matt Furze 80th and Ross Stembridge 117th.



The Malta boys, 3rd from right Max Hardie Boys and 2nd from right, Will Jones.

The boys and their families had raised half the money for the trip before they left so a big thank you to everyone who supported the team, especially to Mr Dominokovich, cross-country coach and teacher from NPBHS, and Dr Kelly, team doctor.

Will Jones rates the trip as an eye opening experience; he says he can now appreciate how big the world is. He is keen to travel some more to compete in other running events.

Max Hardie Boys says the whole trip was an amazing experience, but the highlight of the trip was the race itself, as it was like a whole new kind of racing. The pace was really quick and it was quite physical, a lot more than the New Zealand Nationals. The last few days spent in Malta after the race were also a highlight, as everyone was really laid back, and it was basically just a holiday! He says he loved being able to train and race with new people who had different training/racing styles to all the runners from New Plymouth that he regularly trains with, and being able to train in Hyde Park in London was amazing! It was also really cool to make new friends from the New Zealand team, and also from overseas as well. The event had a really nice vibe to it, in that everyone was really friendly and got on really well.

The boys started their experience in Holland Park Youth Hostel with training sessions in Hyde Park and lots of sightseeing trips around London: double-decker bus tour,



Will Jones (left) heads for the finish line.

the London Eye, Thames ferry trip to Greenwich, London Dungeons, Covent Garden, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, Piccadilly Circus.

For Will one of the trip's highlights was going to St Albans School in Hertfordshire. The school boasts one of the oldest and biggest churches in England and also has an excellent sports centre. The boys trained with the St Albans team who were also going to Malta.

Two days before race day the team flew out to Malta. Prior to race day the team walked the 5300m cross-country course. Will says the course was dead flat, quite unlike courses here in New Zealand. The race was still no easy feat with all the boys feeling the pressure to do their very best. Will says he did better than he thought he would do and thinks everyone ran well compared to other countries, especially considering how small our country is. It was a revelation too, how respected the Kiwi athletes are — the New Zealand kit was highly sought after when it came to kit swapping!

Jet lag and exhaustion sums up the return home to New Plymouth! Tough — cross-country season has just started in New Zealand!

Well done to all the boys.

By Kim Ferens

PHOTOS BY LESTER KELLY



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Mayor Harry



Have you had your say yet on the Draft Long-Term Plan 2012–2022? There are just a handful of days left for you to get a submission in — the deadline for any public feedback is 5pm on Monday, 30 April. So far we have received hundreds of submissions from the public, which is great to see, and I expect we'll receive a lot more in a last-minute rush.

The Long-Term Plan is the Council's guiding document for the next 10 years and it's vital that residents get to have their say about what proposals they support and what items they think should be changed. If you haven't seen the draft plan or its summary booklet yet, you can read them online at newplymouthnz.com/LTP.

You can also send your submission in online, or pick up a submission form from the Oakura Library or the Civic Centre in New Plymouth — but be sure to return it before the deadline. After submissions close, they will all be delivered to elected members for them to read before the public hearings begin in late May. Council managers will also write reports on the submissions for the elected members.

This is a lot of information for elected members to plough through, but we all know the importance of reading the comments provided by residents who want to be involved in shaping the future of our district. Just remember that it's not too late to be part of this. If you have an opinion, let us know about it!

We'll make sure than anyone interested in following the public hearings can do so. You're welcome to pop into the Civic Centre and sit in on the hearings, but we'll also have them online as a live broadcast and as a recording for later viewing, via newplymouthnz.com/meetingvideo. Keep an eye out for more information about this!

Mayor Harry Duynhoven



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



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Hello,

We were fortunate enough to host New Zealand author Diana Neild. Her Piggity Wiggity Jiggity Jig picture books feature a large family of pigs and their antics. Junior students at Oakura School dressed up in costumes depicting the characters in the family, including baby Piggity-Wiggity. They are delightful books and we carry all her titles.

Our comfy couch is a great place to curl up and read picture books to your littlies. We have a selection of chunky board books for toddlers, too!

Don't forget we have a free housebound service. If you are unable to access the library but would like some books delivered to your home please contact us.

Plenty of recently released movies have been based on popular, well-written books i.e. The Help, The Hunger Games. Read for yourself and see what all the fuss is about!

Happy reading,

Karen and Vincenza



Diana Neild visits Oakura Library.

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Youth Mental Health Package

Young people will shape the future of our communities and many of them are already on the right track. They are learning, achieving and have high aspirations for the future. However some find the transition from childhood to adulthood tough going. One in five young people will experience some form of mental health problem during this crucial time.

Recently Prime Minister John Key announced a \$18.6 million comprehensive youth mental health package designed to ensure young people with mental health problems receive better, faster and more modern help.

Youth workers trained to recognise mental health issues will be put in selected secondary schools and Youth Stop Shops as part of the National-led Government youth mental health package. Nurses are already in decile one and two schools and will start working in decile three secondary schools to undertake youth development checks and make referrals where necessary.

Young people are tech-savvy and use the Internet as a second home. We need a modern approach if we are to reach the kids we want to help. National will invest \$2.7 million in e-therapy for young people. It is an interactive computer administered therapy and will provide a treatment that will focus on the common problems of anxiety and depression. We are launching a Social Media Innovations Fund to support providers of youth services to better use social media technology, including smart phone apps



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and Facebook-related programmes. We will ask for support from the private sector to boost this fund.

Parents, families and friends have a big part to play in identifying mental health issues in young people close to them. However many parents say that they are unsure where to go for advice on the children's behaviour. It can be difficult for parents to tell the difference between normal adolescent behaviour and mild mental illness. When they are worried about someone it is important that they have access to straightforward, authoritative information that helps them understand what they are seeing and what they can do about it. They need to know where to get help. The National-led Government will fund non-government organisations to get that information out to parents, families and friends.

When a young person with a mental illness seeks help in the health system, it is important that we deliver. We are increasing funding for primary mental health care and ensuring that more young people benefit from that money. We will set new wait-time targets for Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service to reduce waiting times as well as improve post-discharge follow-ups.

When it comes to delivering for young people, National is interested in what works. Young people who have used — or might need to use — mental health services will be consulted on the detailed design of these initiatives to ensure they meet young people's needs. An online survey will be emailed to over 5,000 young people nationwide. The consultation will also be advertised on the Ministry of Youth Development Facebook page and promoted to the youth sector by Ara Taiohi.

The Youth Mental Health package fills gaps in our current system and builds on the good work our mental health professionals are already doing in this area.

Jonathan Young, MP

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Update from the Big Red Truck

GREETINGS FROM ALL AT THE BIG RED TRUCK.

The high winds in March have prompted me to ask that you make sure we are all cautious with high winds. Please ensure any loose timber, tarps, etc. are adequately tied down and be aware of any rotten or broken trees around your home.

They also brought to my attention how important it is to have a battery-powered radio handy (this is the only way Oakura School was able to advertise the closing of the school for the day) and to have an analogue phone available in your house.



Mel with Mayor Harry at the Relay for Life.

WINTER IS FAST APPROACHING.

It is time to get heaters serviced and chimneys cleaned in preparation for the winter.

Check that any matches or lighters are stored out of sight and above the stretch zone line (an imaginary line around each room that is above the reach of children).

Move portable heaters away from play areas. Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture.

Ensure your electric blanket is in safe working order; replace frayed cords and broken plugs. Turn your electric blanket off before you get into bed.

A year or two ago ACC had over 400 claims in relation to children, pyjamas and fires/ heaters. "Low Fire Danger" labels on clothing does not mean "No Fire Danger".

Stay warm and safe.

Mel Breeze (Sec)

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TOM Garden of the Month:

HELEN AND IAN IVESS

This month I had the pleasure of visiting Helen and Ian Ivess' garden on a back section of Wairau Road. The garden opens out onto Matekai Park and merges beautifully with the fruit area of the park.

Helen and Ian have owned the house for almost 25 years and have gradually modernised the house and landscaped the garden. Helen admits to not wanting to be tied down by the garden, and with that in mind has created, with advice from landscape gardener Philippa Holdam, a low-maintenance easy care garden but with an amazing creative and structural feel.

Helen likes to consider the structure and foliage of the plants first with ground cover for easy maintenance, such as star jasmine. A mixture of structure and colour like yuccas both variegated and ordinary give a tonal range of greens. Helen doesn't like a lot of colour but she groups together similar colours to add splashes of white or red colour, such as red salvias.

Helen says that when designing an area she thinks in odd numbers, something that I had never thought about before. It does make perfect sense that an odd number, say three cabbage trees, are more pleasing to the eye than an even number, then balanced with three in an opposite bed — clever stuff. She says they start out with an overall plan but then it seems to evolve and change. I think it all works perfectly; I love the feel of the tropical garden. The steps made from sleepers and stones and the structural foliage from nikau, cabbage trees and even the 60 year old Phoenix palm all create a very artistic garden.

Thank you, Helen, for showing me around your lovely garden. Helen and Ian are this month's recipients of a Fairfield Garden Centre voucher.

By Rosie Moyes



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New Zealand Selection for Long Distance World Triathlon Champs

Local Omata resident Andrew Glenn has been selected to represent New Zealand in his age group at the Long Distance World Triathlon Championship in Spain on July 29 this year. The ITU champs are being held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, North Spain and Andrew is one of 50 people from around New Zealand selected to participate, three of whom are from Taranaki.

So now the pressure is on! The long distance triathlon is a 4km swim in Lake Ullibarri-Gamboa, a 120km bike over the Alava plains and around the lake, and the 30km run is through the streets of medieval Vitoria-Gasteiz.

Andrew gained his selection through the Tauranga Half Ironman, and is a regular participant in other national events having entered the Taupo Ironman five times. He has been competing for six years. He says the training and competing are great stress relievers and provide a balance to an already busy work and family life. The training can be up to a staggering 20 hours a week but a very supportive wife means it is achievable. The whole family is involved in similar disciplines: Karen competes regularly in women's triathlons and running events, and their two children Isaac and Samantha have competed in the Weetbix triathlon.

Andrew says he is looking forward to representing New Zealand as a 'weekend warrior' and while he is competing against others, the greatest competition he feels is against himself, always pushing himself to achieve better and better results.

A stress fracture in his foot isn't helping training at the moment but he has access to the best professional advice and is confident he will be ready to compete by the end of July. Unfortunately too, the triathlon season has just ended so there will be no build-up events before the Worlds.

When asked what he enjoys about competing, Andrew says it is the challenge and the feeling of exhaustion having left everything on the line. Running is his favourite discipline.

The couple have never been to Spain or to compete in overseas events so they are both looking forward to the two-week experience. Karen is looking forward to sightseeing and taking in the history of the Vitoria-Gasteiz area. Andrew, of course, will be focussed on doing his best for his country and himself.

We look forward to hearing about their trip when they return. Good luck and have fun.

By Kim Ferens



Above, Andrew out of the water and below, on the bike phase.





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Oakura Pony Club News

Horse of the Year 2012 was held at the Hawkes Bay Showgrounds in Hastings, March 12–18. This event is the most prestigious of all the riding events for the year with 2,500 combinations of horses and riders.

Once again Oakura Pony Club was well represented at Horse of the Year, this year we had four members who each had to qualify to compete in this amazing event.



Jordan Giltrap on ChaCha getting lots of air.



Paige MacKay, riding Little Red Ted (aka Reddy), placed 4th in the Paced and Mannered, 138cm and under, Saddle Hunter Pony of the Year. This was a huge achievement for Paige who is only 9 years old!

Jordan Giltrap, riding Celtic Limelight (aka Limey), rode extremely well, achieving Level 3 Reserve Champion Open Dressage Pony of the Year. Jordan also rode her new pony Lets ChaCha (aka Mackie) in the Show Jumping.

Catherine West continued her successful season riding Anarocz (aka Joey) in Level 4 Dressage, achieving 3rd overall. Catherine also rode her new horse Amici II (aka Alvis) in Level 2 Dressage.

Anna Hinton, riding Sexy B (aka Sexy), represented the Taranaki region in the Pony Club Show Jumping Teams Event. As an individual rider she came 1st in the Show Jumping horse 1.10m, 2nd in 1.15m, and third in the Gamblers Stakes, which was a 1.10m course, but the last jump was 1.30m, which Sexy cleared with ease.

All of the Oakura Club riders rode extremely well and had plenty of support from fellow members, past and present, who went along to watch this outstanding event.

By Nicky Lumby

Kaitake Golf Club News

RECENT EVENTS

The weather continues to play havoc with the course bringing several trees or branches down. The recent damage closed the course for three days while the debris was cleared away. Thank you to all those people who volunteered to assist Domenic with this task.

RESULTS

The club competitions are underway with several competitions in progress. However the Midweek and Weekend women have completed the first of the National competitions. The Coronation Medal for the Silver Division was won by Sally Kwon (Midweek) and June Neale (Weekend). The Aotearoa Cup for all divisions was won by Jean Mattingly (Midweek) and June Neale (weekend). The best gross went to Robyn Robins, and Jean Mattingly won the Vets Trophy. The Midweek Women 9-hole division have completed the Cooper Challenge won by Heather O'Sullivan. Congratulations to all the winners.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, 6 May: Tasman Toyota 2 Ball Best Ball Trophy. This is always a popular competition. Phone the Kaitake Office to book a tee time. \$30 per pair.

Sunday, 20 May: Mixed Club Ambrose. This is an opportunity to welcome and get to know new members. Shotgun start at 11.00am.

SPONSORSHIP

David Hosie of HRV is a keen golfer and member of the Kaitake Golf Club. He has offered to contribute \$200 to the Kaitake Golf Club for each HRV system sold to members through the club during the months of April and May. Any Kaitake Golf Club member wanting to learn more about how HRV works or book a free home assessment can contact David on 027-6622558 or email davidh@hrv.co.nz. Kaitake Golf Club appreciates the generous support sponsorship brings to the club. Anyone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Murray Gray on 06-753 4450 or Ross Benton on 06-752 7099.

You can find more information on Kaitake Golf Club on the website www.kaitakegolf.co.nz.

Good golfing everyone,

Andrea Jarrold



Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club

The Kayak Classic has been and gone for another year (results next page). This year's was the best ever with great weather, a record 190 entries, 1.9 tons of fish caught, and some huge fish landed. The auction raised \$3,500 for the Coast Guard. Butlers Reef bought the winning 13.5kg fish and will mount it and put it in the bar. The Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club would like to thank all the locals who helped and who brought fish at the auction, with special thanks to Peter McDonald, Ash Heydon, Al and Jan Rawlinson, Leeanah Hughes, the team at Oakura Four Square, and the team at Butlers Reef.

Mat Watson tells me the Kayak Classic should be on the ITM Fishing Show in September. Mat was great, he spoke well and posed for photos with the kids, and some big kids should be on TV in September. All in all the competitors voted the event 10 out of 10.

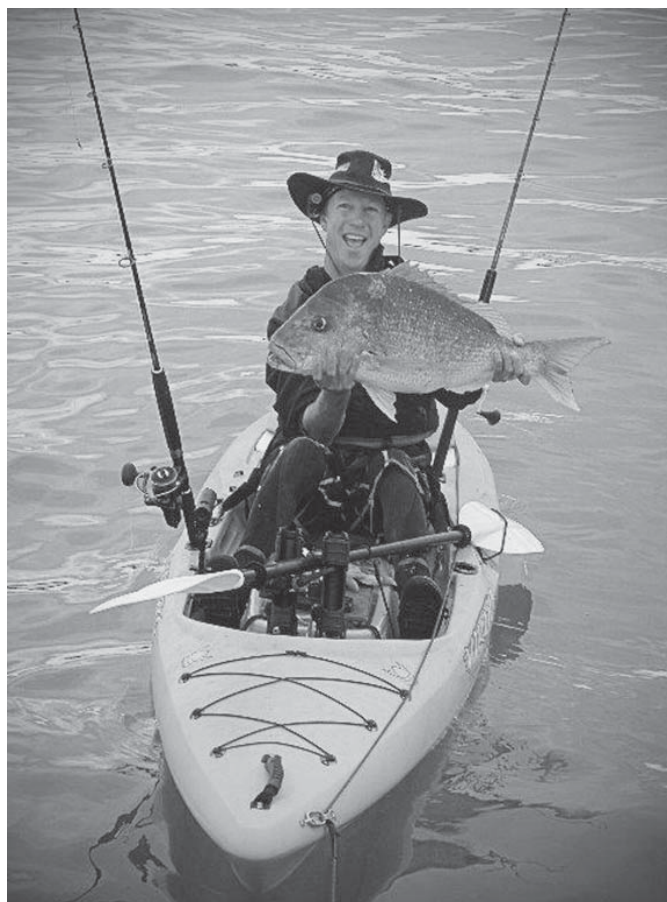
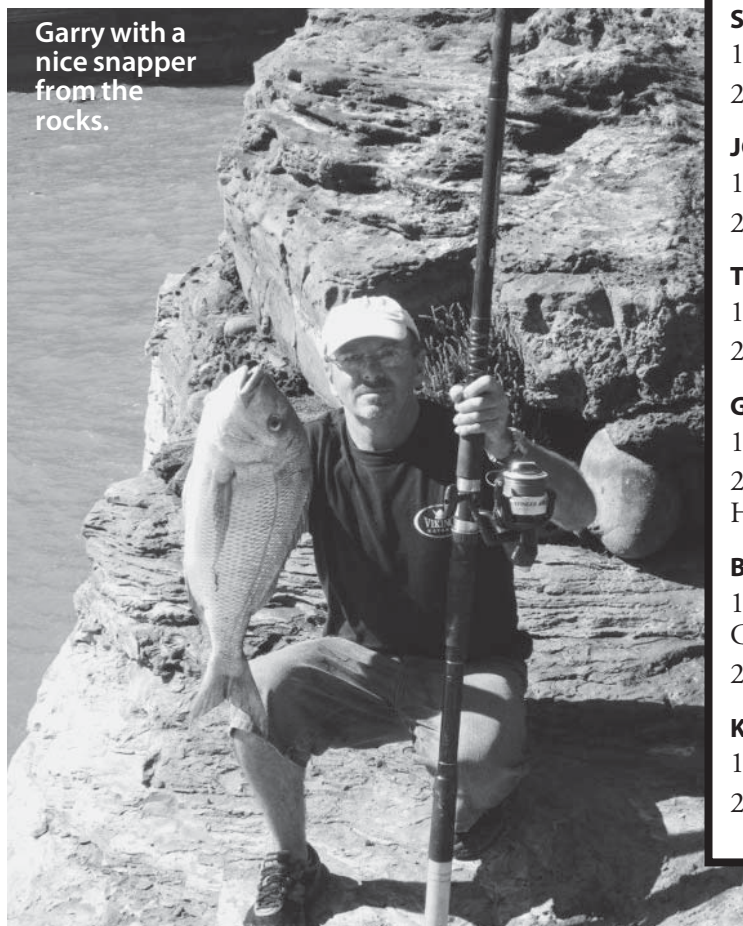
The fishing continues to be good and the tuna and snapper are still about in good numbers. Surfcasting is good with big snapper in close; we have been getting them in as little as 5m of water. I even managed a good snapper fishing off a ledge near Whitecliffs over Easter.

We still have a few club events before winter sets in, including a mini comp. Details are on the club website www.oakurasurfcastingandkayakfishingclub.com.

Our club will be holding our AGM in June and we invite new members to come along and join in. More details as they become available.

Cheers, Garry

Garry with a nice snapper from the rocks.



Mat Dobson with a great score from his kayak.

RESULTS OF THE KAYAK CLASSIC

KINGFISH

1st, Steve Tapp
2nd, Simon Carter

SNAPPER

1st, Tony Hurring
2nd, Dan Filihiakava

JOHN DORY

1st, Nik Pylesman
2nd, Kevin Pilcher

TREVALLY

1st, Mike la Franchie
2nd, John Nichols

GURNARD

1st, Bryce Rae
2nd, Grant Hemmingway

BLUE COD

1st, Shelly Bradish Cooney
2nd, Jason Walker

KAHAWAI

1st, Brian Boyd
2nd, Garry Harrison

TUNA

1st, Adrian Clarke
2nd, Steve Tapp

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SONY TV ALL TICKET DRAW

Peter Michael

JUNIORS

Caddison Murfitt

LADIES

1st, Shelly Bradish Cooney
2nd, Deidrie Krutz

MANUFACTURER'S CUP

1st, Viking Blue Team
3,872 points
2nd, Team Viking
2,594 points
3rd, Oceans Team
1,732 points



Oakura Boardriders Club

If you love to surf and had arrived in Taranaki a few days before Easter, you would not be wrong to think you had found paradise.

I'm writing this the day after the conclusion of the TSB Bank New Zealand Surf Festival and they are still forecasting another week of fine weather as well as a continuation of the endless swells we've been experiencing.

"Bloody great surf," was a comment from one of the 120 surfers who took part in the Masters competition held at Puniho and Fitzroy Beach in near perfect conditions. This is an annual competition organised and run by the New Plymouth Surf Riders Club and takes place over Easter. The different age divisions have wonderful names like grommets, grovellers, legends, masters, gidgets, icons, and surf gods and surf goddesses. You have to be over 70 to be a surf god and over 60 to be a surf goddess. Definitely something to strive for!!

Our club was well represented and Johnsie (Glen Johns) came first in the grommets with Biscuit (Brett Hollis) coming second in the masters, and Paul Christophers also coming second but in the grovellers division. Chris Davies and Brian Clark were aptly named legends and took third and fourth place respectively.

Brian, Paul, Biscuit and Chris were part of a team of six Taranaki surfers who competed against a team comprised of six surfers from outside the province. The Taranaki team were convincing winners and our Oakura boys would have to take most of the credit for this!!

A microgrom competition for all 12 and under children was also held as part of the Surf Festival over Easter. The Taranaki Christian Surfers ran the competition on the Saturday at Oakura Beach. The conditions for these young surfers were challenging at first, with large waves breaking close to the shore. However, it got better with the outgoing tide. Ten Oakura Boardriders Club members participated and Tom Butland took first place in the 10 and under boys, and surfing novice, Skyler Ellington, came third in the 10 and under girls. These are wonderful achievements as the competition was open to all young New Zealanders.

Many of our keen microgroms participated in an earlier competition on Sunday, 25 March to end a very successful inaugural Arabic Summer Series, initiated by Surfing Taranaki. This time it was held at Opunake Beach and the Boardriders Club there were wonderful hosts and put on a great comp as well as a delicious lunch. Ariana Shewry came first in the 10 and under girls' division with Skyler Ellington coming third. Tom Butland placed second in the 10 and under boys, and Harry Clegg and Hamish Goodhue third and fourth. Nick Holt was fourth in the 12 and under division, and George Lehrke came fourth in the push-ins.

Huge congratulations must go to Tom Butland and Ariana Shewry who were the series winners in the 10 and under boys and girls respectively.

Of course, I can't finish this article without commenting on the highlight of the Surf Festival — the Dream Tour contest. Much has been said and written and many amazing photographs have been taken of the 18 true goddesses of the surfing world, so there's little left to write . . . except that Paige, we are so proud of you and it was a real joy to watch you surf with such commitment and passion. You will always be our hero, our surf goddess!

by Phillipa Butt



Paige at Fitzroy Beach. PHOTO BY HBN

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A New Member for Boardriders

Local resident Ian can't get his daughter Jade to surf but has no trouble at all coaxing his dog Shoba to take up the sport! It came about one day when Shoba ran towards him and Ian said 'hop on boy' and Shoba did and then he messed around in the shore break and Shoba didn't want to get off. It was time to try the big stuff and Shoba just loved it out further. Shoba just loves being with Ian and Ian loves having his 'best friend' on the board with him.



Shoba, a dog with attitude.



Ian and Shoba out paddle boarding.

TOM Baby of the Month



Congratulations to Krystal and Mark on the birth of Max Steven Duynhoven. Max was born on 20 December 2011. What a handsome chap, with such a great smile.

By Rosie Moyes

CONGRATULATIONS also to Rosie Moyes on her recent gold medal and trophy award for a photograph entered in the Photography Society of New Zealand's National Exhibition. Rosie won the George Chance Trophy for a colour print. Interestingly Steve Cox from Oakura won the same award last year.

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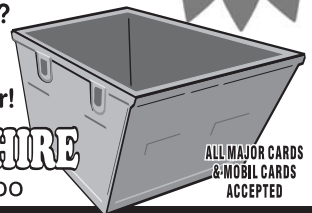
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Girl Guides in India!

One of the four international centres of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is in Sangam, India. The others are in London (Pax Lodge), Switzerland (Our Chalet) and Mexico (Our Cabaña). We studied India last term and our finale was a Bollywood-themed party on 31 March. With 60 girls plus lots of leaders and parents, we dressed up in saris and wore bindi and bangles for the occasion. We played a game outside then were treated to a presentation by a leader from Inglewood who spent four months volunteering at Sangam. After a feast from India Today, we practised some Bollywood dance moves with the very talented Farhana from the New Plymouth Indian Community.

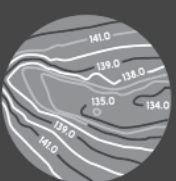
Seven girls were enrolled into Pippins and Brownies at the party. Our District numbers continue to grow and we would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a GirlGuiding Leader.

Catherine Cave

oakurabrownies@live.com 06-752 7388



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There is Something About Alpacas...

It's their eyes that do it for some people. Deep wide and black. With long black eyelashes. Inviting conversation with their attentive gaze.

For others it is their expressive ears, first pricked up then laid back along their neck, that first enchant then endear alpacas to their owners.

Whatever the initial attraction, there are numerous reasons for keeping alpacas either as pets on a small lifestyle block or as herd animals on a larger-scale farming situation.

By nature alpacas are curious, inquisitive and attentive animals with a gentle disposition, which allows the farmer to move amongst them in the yard without fear of injury. At mating time the machos can become aggressive amongst themselves but generally the herd remains amiable and placid. It is readily apparent that family bonds endure when you see animals cushed together on the ground, grandmother next to mother next to the newborn cria.

They quickly learn the routines of the farm and gather at the gate as feeding time approaches or when a change of paddock is due. Having been herded to the yards previously, it takes little persuasion from a couple of herdsman to get them to amble back to the yards on the next occasion when some husbandry is required.

Alpacas have adapted well from the mountainous tussock country of the Andes and thrive on Taranaki farmland, browsing on the pasture and adding further fibre to their diet with hay. Stocking rate is often five to the acre, which means even small lifestyle blocks are large enough for a few alpacas "to keep the grass down." Because alpacas don't challenge fences, a 6 or 7-wire fence, even without battens, is adequate. There is no need for dagging, and flystrike is not an issue. Toenails require trimming occasionally and injections for drench, vitamin D and vaccinations are given a couple of times a year.

Shearing occurs once a year, in the spring, before the weather gets too hot.

Of course, for some owners it is the fleece that attracts their interest — long, fine, strong warm and light, in a myriad of natural colours, with exciting possibilities for crafters. But more about that another time.

For whatever reasons others keep alpacas, I find plenty of satisfaction just getting out amongst our herd. And checking whose eyes look the deepest today.

By Neil Watson



Portrait of Dodi.



Dodi and her woolly crew.



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Vertical Horizon Camp

CATWALK

by Nina Brown 10 years

It was finally my turn to go on the catwalk! I was all buckled up in my helmet and my legs felt as though they were going to fall off because my harness was so tight, but I was ready. Brianna had made it look easy, but once I had got up there I realised that she must have done it before, because when I looked down a long, cold shiver ran up my spine. Boy, it was a long way down!

I slowly began to make my way across the wooden log that I was meant to "bravely" cross. I stumbled a bit in the middle and got a huge jolt in the stomach. Even though I was in a harness it still didn't stop me feeling as though I was dead meat. It was a big relief when I reached the other side and I positively squeezed the log as though it was a good friend that I was going to lose forever.

When the instructor told me to walk back to the middle, I think I had been secretly hoping for her to say that, because I was looking forward to abseiling down off the log. It looked awesome! I reached the middle and slowly lowered myself down off the log. I felt as though I was strapped into a magical flying chair and it was taking me down from heaven. But it wasn't that comfortable, I have to admit.

On my second go I felt a little more confident and I knew what to do now. "This time I'm going to put in my own little spin to it," I thought. I knew just what to do. I was going to walk like a supermodel! Once I started doing it, I found it was quite hard to sway your hips madly around while balancing on a log high above the ground. I kept on, narrowly missing falling off. This time when Wendy, our activity instructor, told me to go back to the middle, I walked, well, stumbled across to the middle a little faster. As I was going down I got that familiar feeling of being strapped to a flying chair that had won the uncomfortable award.

I approached Mel to undo my harness and she had a big grin on her face, "You rocked that log, girl!" she said. I felt my cheeks burn red and I couldn't help smiling back.



George Clarke on the catwalk at Vertical Horizons.

Years 7 & 8 Camp to Wellington

Every two years the years 7 & 8's from Oakura School travel to Wellington for a week's camp. We stay at Silverstream Retreat in Lower Hutt and travel in to Wellington daily to take part in a range of activities that we don't have access to in our province. These include visiting Parliament, Te Papa, a day at Capital E where we produce a TV show and have a go at making a 3D computer game, a visit to the Weta Cave, an Amazing Race in the city centre, and a night sleepover at the Wellington Zoo.



Capital E TV - Cream Dowdall, Sian Tran Lawrence and Jason Bond in the control room of Capital E TV studio.



Capital E- Oliver Williamson and Thomas Skurr on studio cameras.

This year's camp was the week of the big storm, the 19th to 23rd March, and we really lucked out on the weather, (although I think it was better in Wellington than here). This didn't stop any of the activities though and it was one of our most successful camps to date with everyone making the most of the experiences offered.

The parents that accompanied us were fantastic, helping out with all the activities and making great Oakura Idol judges for our talent night. They took on the roles of Simon, Randy and Paula to a tee and had the crowd both

cheering and booing with their post performance comments. It is only through the support of parents that we can continue to offer these experiences and we are so lucky to have so many parents willing to take a week out of their busy lives to accompany us.

Take a look at some of our photographic highlights.

Sandy Taylor



Tasmin van Bergen, Taneal Jones, Georga Sanders, Hayden Benton & Ryan Wynne-Jones at Te Papa.



Lindsey Ellington, Cream Dowdall, Olivia Muggeridge, Maya Page outside the Weta Cave.



Amazing Race - Hayden Benton, Taneal Jones, Georga Sanders and Tasmin van Bergen on the Wellington waterfront.

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Babies: 1 teaspoon three times per day.

Children: Up to ½ cup three times per day.

Adults: 1 cup three times per day.

Note: If bed wetting for children is a concern give all three doses by 4pm.

If symptoms persist, please consult your regular doctor.



The Fabulous Fondue Four

Well, you could have heard a pin drop, which is not unusual in perhaps a library or a church, but fairly unusual in a room containing Year 7 and 8 students, competing fiercely for a place in the Maggi Intermediate Schools Cooking Competition Team.

I was invited to help Oakura compete in the competition, this being the first time the school has entered, and I had to firstly figure out how to choose just four children from the 27 students who wanted to be in the team. My initial exotic plans were discarded as being far too time and energy consuming — both of which are in short supply at this busy time of year — and I finally settled on a nice, simple yet effective selection event. We set up the school hall with all the necessities to make a Peanut Butter/Raspberry Jam & Banana Club Sandwich. In fact, 27 Club Sandwiches and the participants had just 15 minutes to make their creation and clean up.

The success criteria was based on:
listening skills and ability to follow instructions;
food and knife handling;
neatness and timing;
presentation.

Honestly, it was so funny to watch. All these budding master chefs with their blobs of peanut butter and bits of banana dotted about the plates. They watch TV! They know how it's done! It was gorgeous. And there was absolute silence throughout the entire procedure. I made it clear that anyone talking out of turn would be 'liberated' to the playground and out of the selection. There was no liberating necessary. It was heads down surrounded by peanut butter, jam, bananas and crusts and everyone earnestly working away. It wasn't easy to choose, as plenty of the children were doing a very good job, however we could only have four people. After 15 minutes I made my selection.

Isabel Goodhue, Nicole Watchorne, Sian Tran-Lawrence and Georgia Sanders. Well done!

Over the next couple of weeks, The Fondue Four and I prepared recipes for a meal for a family of four, which had to contain at least two Maggi products. We're hoping that we've hit on a winner. Our dish is both gluten-free and vegetarian and we've used our Maggi products in innovative ways, so now we'll be practising making:

Pan-seared Haloumi on Pumpkin Puree with Parmesan Gnocchi and Green Vegetables.

Maggi will initially choose the competing schools on their recipe (using two Maggi products) and their written entry form answers. They will firstly choose 12 schools from each of three regions to be in the semi-final cook off on June 1

(I think there are about 40 schools competing for a place in our region). From that cook-off they will choose one winner from each region for the finals.

We find out in mid-May if we've made the cut to be in the semis. We're waiting with bated breath!

Barbara Olsen-Henderson



The Maggi Team offer their selections.



Above and below, the selection process.



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WITH LISA VANCE

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Diets are generally based on calorie restriction/deprivation or some type of food restriction. Once you start a diet you have to end a diet and go back to normal eating. This generally occurs before the diet is completed due to physiological and psychological deprivation. Once you've gone back to normal eating, or eating more than before because you've deprived yourself during the diet, you will gain extra fat.

So how do you get to a point where you can safely lose weight and make it a lifelong change — no beginning and end, it just becomes a way of life? No one telling you to eat foods you hate and don't touch foods you love. Having a healthy relationship with food!!!

If you don't have the answers you may enjoy meeting and listening to Lisa — the Nutritionist (with a major in psychology). Just common sense and logical, research-based information, delivered with genuine care AND from a nutritionist who **STRONGLY** believes in exercise and strength training.

If you'd like to know more about what Lisa has to say on Weight Management, email Estelle at functional.fitness@xtra.co.nz and I'll send you her link (the only investment will be your time).



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

'School Closed'

March 20 marks the date we had our first school closure. Due to the extraordinary winds and damage, we had to close the school to students. The health and safety of students and staff are our priority at times like these. I arrived at work at quarter to seven, after a buffeted drive around the coast, encountering tipped vehicles and tree debris.

Power was out, but even in the dark I could tell this was going to be a day like no other. Gusts were whipping the shade sails into a frenzied dance while trees bent, cracked and twisted, throwing off weak branches to the whim of the wind.

No power means no toilets as our sewage pumps are out of action. Wild winds made outside a dangerous place to be as corrugated plastic flew past and doors became new threats to fingers and limbs. I rang Hamish, our Board of Trustees Chairman, to alert him of our situation and found him dealing with his own emergencies on the farm. The bus company had already decided not to run the buses on the treacherous roads, so we made the hard call to close the school.

Bronnie arrived to help with calling our community with the news, followed closely by other staff who manned cell phones to get the word out. Radio stations carried the news along with a great network of texts and calls from one parent to another.

It was an extraordinary day, which I hope not to repeat. Amazing that most trees held up, although there are some that are in for a major haircut.

Professional Development

Teachers' professional development this year is predominantly around writing. We are learning from Gail Loane, author of *I've Got Something to Say*, and recipient of a Queen's Service Medal for services to literacy. Teaching writing is very complex and Gail's support and inspiration is proving invaluable. Refining and developing our skills is part of our approach to education at Omata. We are all learners and are responsible for continually enhancing our practice. "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn."

— John Cotton Dana.

Regards

Karen Brisco

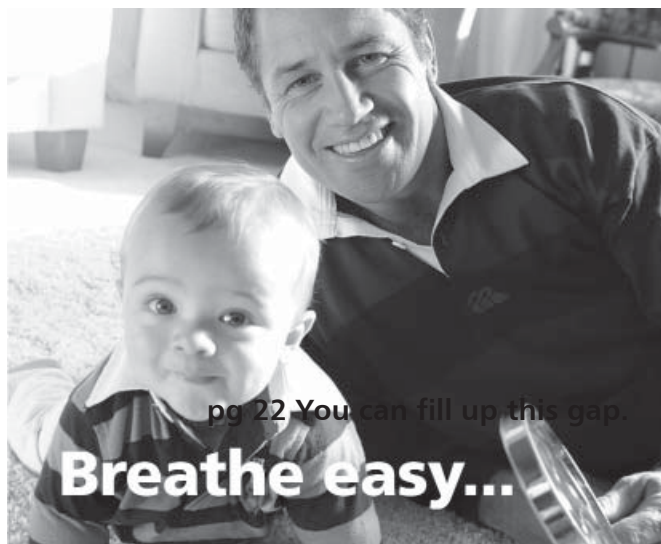
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New Plymouth Boys' High School Successes

It was noted in a recent school assembly the large number of boys at New Plymouth Boys' High School (NPBHS) who represent New Zealand or who have made a New Zealand team, and that is great, but much more extraordinary is the high correlation between boys who succeed in a sport or performing art and their attitude towards success in school work. Many of the boys below also excel in a subject studied at school and thus deserve our accolades.

We have some LEGENDS in our school and the names of Kettle, Weir, Baxter will not only be remembered for their sporting prowess, but as young men who manage time well and have the discipline to succeed in a variety of endeavours.

Congratulations Liam Paterson (pictured on right) who was selected for the New Zealand Orienteering team to go to Slovakia in July for the World Championship.



Jay Cadman-Kennedy won the U-19 title for New Zealand Secondary School Open Water Championship and Olly McCullough won the U-16 1600m event — two National titleholders!

Rhys Bishop was selected as Captain of New Zealand Athletics team in Malta — his team came second in the world!

Jai Grant chosen for the NZ U-17 Touch team.

Jono Brown-John won the NISS Athletics High Jump. In the same meet, Matt Baxter won the 3000m, breaking 8min 30sec, as did Angus White in the Juniors. Other champions are Javon McCallum and Michael MacDonald.

Ajit Rai was chosen for the New Zealand Age Group Tennis team.

Congratulations Ben Crombie who was selected for the New Zealand U-18 Basketball team.

In Rogaine — TSSSA, NPBHS students won all the boys' divisions: Senior, Charles Barnes/Mitchell Holyoake; Intermediate, Tom Spencer/William Adlam; Junior, George Tvrdeich/Angus White/Angus Timson.

Congratulations to the Tennis Team, who competed in the National finals and came 8th in the country.


The Junior Cricket XI performed well in the National Top 8 Tournament. Great news for the future of cricket in the school. Kaylum Boshier, who scored 101 not out, has a big future. Brodie Lilley 47; Sam Morrison 44 and Davis Mills took 4 wickets.

Julian Weir broke SIX records at the swimming sports... and has gone on to break the national 50m backstroke record.

We had a wonderful School Athletics Day, the boys competed well. Congratulations to Rhys Bishop (800m in 1.54). We have rising stars in Javon McCallum (sprinting), Angus White (longer distances) and Michael McDonald (who threw the discus 45m). It was the last school Athletics Sports for Matt Baxter and Derek Albertsen (pictured right, broke the school high jump record 1.90m). Senior Champion Connor Hobbs; Intermediate Champion Jordan Young; Junior Champion Michael McDonald. At the Ocean Athletes Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Champs Javon McCallum placed 1st in beach sprints, 2nd in beach flags, 1st in beach relay. Zach Howath placed 1st in beach relay (both pictured right).

We recently invited two very special old boys back to their old school for a visit. Sir Graeme Douglas and Sir David Levene met with fellow old boys and walked the school. They then attended a special assembly where they were presented with NPBHS Alumni Merita.

Headmaster, Michael MacMenamin



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A Village Community in Action

“You are not alone in this.”

In memory of Hope Rebekah Davidson

24 NOV – 25TH NOV 2011

Four months ago we said hello and goodbye to our baby girl, Hope. This is without a doubt a sad story, but it has a silver lining. This is a story of an incredible community.

In the mid-year holidays last year, my husband and I loaded the car, with our two children in tow, for a 24-week follow up anatomy scan of our unborn baby girl. We knew the previous scan was inconclusive, but we were confident all would be well. However, instead we received the devastating news that our preciously awaited baby girl had a severe form of spina bifida, known as anencephaly. It is a neural tube defect where the neural tube failed to close at the top end of the spine. This meant our baby had little if any brain and no skull. The prognosis was terminal and we were told we would be lucky if she was to be born alive. The following hours were very dark, filled with much anxiety and dread.

How could planning the arrival of our third child become the planning of a possible funeral? We decided to face the situation with courage and faith, we would take our girl to full term and allow her to have a birthday. We focused on her life and didn't plan a funeral even though we were told it was imminent. Instead we chose to let her come as she was and let her go, if that was to happen. We haven't got funerals planned for our other living children 'just in case', so instead we focused on bringing her home alive.

The following four months were by far the hardest journey I have faced in my life, telling our family and friends and trying to keep life as normal as possible for the sake of our other two children. This is where the community stepped up. I was offered endless help, meals, childcare, and given gifts. Hope was given gifts, and people respected our decision and looked forward to Hope's arrival. She was a very much wanted baby, not just by us but also by our extended family... Coastal Okato! So many lovely things were coming our way, cards, flowers, well wishes and warm words of encouragement, that I decided to start a journal to record such acts. By the time of Hope's expected due date there were over 100 items listed in my 'Book of Hope'.

Hope arrived nine days overdue, covered in vernix, she fed, cried, and we brought her home alive. She lived for fourteen and a half hours. Quite a feat for a child whose



condition meant she had a 25% chance of surviving the birth. We brought our girl home; she was held by family and friends her whole life and died peacefully in our arms.

Hope's life put a community into action, flowers arrived, food, offers of help, and we didn't have to worry about a thing. It all just seemed to happen and different people took on different jobs to help us celebrate our little girl. My husband felt like the mafia boss as people handed us envelopes of cash, "To help with funeral costs," said one, "For petrol, food or whatever," said another.

We can never put into words our gratitude for the acts of kindness and generosity shown to our family. Hope brought a community together in a way I have never experienced. Some people say living in a small community is a hassle, as everybody knows everybody's business. Well,

I can say wholeheartedly I am thankful for that. It was so important to us that Hope's life was acknowledged and respected; please don't feel you can't mention her name. It brings great comfort to know others remember her. I always have photos on me, so please ask to see her.

Some of you may not know, but I used to work at Coastal Taranaki School (CTS). This is why the school closed for an afternoon on the 29th of November. Some of you knew a baby had died, but perhaps were not aware of the unique circumstances around her life. I am so thankful to the students and staff at CTS who helped in any way towards Hope's farewell. Especially you students, I will cherish that. My husband is a teacher at Opunake High School. They also closed the school; everyone stood with us. To sum up how we felt, children of dear friends sang at Hope's service. The chorus rang, "You are not alone in this"... something I remind myself when I have a day of sorrow.

Thank you, Okato. You will always be dear to my heart as you held us through our heartache. This will always be a special place because of how you cared for our taonga.



Orlando and Miley meet Hope.



A balloon release for Hope and her family.

A LETTER TO HOPE, AS READ AT HER FAREWELL PARTY....

My Dear Hope

Oh, the joy when you entered the world. There was not one sad moment in my heart for 14 and a half hours.

When you were born we couldn't believe how perfect your little body was, how long your fingers were and how every part of your body was completely formed. Your head was as they said, but you are perfect to us and as you should be. The prognosis was good, maybe a few days, some parents get minutes or no time at all. We are so blessed.

During my pregnancy you were so gorgeous. Every time I was discouraged or felt I couldn't carry on you would coach me and kick and prod to say, "You can do it, Mum"

Five hours into your life we saw you had changed colour; you were looking beautiful. Suddenly we thought our time had come to say goodbye. We kissed you, prayed over you and released you to Jesus' care, but no my courageous girl, you knew we weren't ready yet, you fought to stay longer. Thank you so much, we are so proud of you, and know it couldn't have been easy.

During your life you drew our family together. We loved to cuddle and kiss you. Now you are gone Orlando wants you to be well and is so devastated that you are not. Miley wants to know why are you not going? Where is your button? How your big brother and sister love you. They wanted you so much. Their heartbreak and bringing their granddads to tears through theirs is one of the most beautiful memories of your life.

From the time we received the news of your condition the outpouring of love on our family was incredible. You, Hope, enabled a community of people to see what love really is. Look at today! See so many people have come to farewell you and support your family. You did this. Choosing life and giving you a birthday is one of my treasured accomplishments. You are created in His image and have shown us a little piece of heaven on earth.

My dear Hope, some may say you weren't a miracle, but I would disagree. Fourteen whole hours of life is more than enough. You did everything we asked for and more. Your delivery was textbook and gentle. You took your first breaths, cooed and tried desperately to communicate with us with a few cries. You breastfed and breathed on your own. You came home alive and died in our arms.

Thank you for fighting so hard to be with us. You are and will always be our beautiful daughter. I love you, sweet cheeks. Today we release you into heaven, go meet your Maker, be healed and have fun.

Love MUM xxx

By Emily Davidson

Coastal Young Farmers

Tumahu Golf Club offered Coastal Young Farmers a really great fundraising opportunity: to paint the Golf Club. Four sunny days later we are almost there — with just a small touch-up needed the painting is almost complete. The club has moved its monthly meetings to the Okato Bowling Club for the time being. They have events coming up which include a potluck dinner and a visit to the Silver Fern Farms Plant. A Duck Shoot will also be hosted by the club on May 5 — all entries are welcome and if you would like more information contact Andrew Gray on 027-8194818 or Alexandra Lawn on 027-6659280.

Kind regards,
Alexandra Lawn



The painting fundraiser at Tumahu Golf Club.



Coastal Young Farmers



Marie and Graham Dudley:

TARANAKI MASTERS GAMES WALKING MEDALLISTS

Graham and Marie Dudley are enthusiastic walkers. They're up almost every morning, breathing the early morning air and taking their exercise together. And they have walked in almost every one of the 15 annual Olex Fun Run/Walk Series — a summertime series of nine 2.5–10km events held at venues around Mt Taranaki.

Marie and Graham proudly display their medals.



For the past 10 years or so, Graham has also entered the Taranaki Masters Games. "He has a binful of medals. The grandkids think that's exciting," laughs Marie. However, for Marie entering competitive events is a new challenge and winning is a previously unknown pleasure. Until this year, that is! "We're fairly fit by the end of the Olex Series and I thought I might as well give it a go," she says. "But I only did the 10km because Sport Taranaki made a mistake and entered me in it."

This year's running and walking events were held in Stratford on 15 and 17 March. The 10km race was held on the Thursday evening. The youngest entrant was 30 and, in Marie's words, "The oldest was an amazing, fit little old 86-year-old man who walked the course in 1 hour 25 minutes. He looked as fit when he finished as when he had started," she marvelled. You didn't know who was who because they just wrote a number and a letter on each competitor's hand and, unsure what to expect, Marie just set out to see how she went. As it turned out, she surprised herself. There were 11 competitors in her group and she won a bronze medal. Meanwhile, Graham won his race from seven others and yet another gold medal to add to his bin.

The 5km race, run on the Saturday, saw Marie with a little more race experience and fire in her belly. She felt really good and, reminding herself of her previous achievement, she got really stuck in. The result was golden. Graham's effort in the 5km race earned him gold too.

All things being equal, Graham will undoubtedly continue on his winning way next year. I ask Marie whether she will do it again. Of course she will! She's "got the bug!"

Story and picture by Kerry Lilley

Coastal Weddings

Ben Burmeister and Deborah Carr were married on 24 March 2012 at The Bungalow on Pitone Road.

Despite Deborah having a conversation with both the groom and best man three hours before the wedding in which they were adamant it would not rain, the sky did open up and the rain began 30 minutes before the wedding. However they were able to move the wedding indoors at The Bungalow. Although the weather did not go to plan the wedding was amazing and we were truly amazed at the effort our friends and family made to share the day with us.



Deborah and Ben join forces at The Bungalow.

Deborah's bridesmaids were Kristen Watson, Emma Brien and Deborah's sister, Brenda Carr, who all looked amazing in their 'jewel'-coloured dresses. Ben's best man, James Perry, travelled home from China for five days to share the day with us, with Jeff Bevins and Mike Erb as groomsmen. Ben and Deborah are very thankful for the support and the many laughs the bridal party provided on the day. Their two-year-old son Ryan was also an important guest at their wedding.

Ben is the son of Murray and Joy Burmeister and grew up in Warea, and Deborah is the daughter of Pat and the late Linda Carr and grew up in Rahotu. Despite Deborah and Ben growing up less than 10 minutes away from each other it was not until a chance meeting at a legendary 'band night' at the Stoney Hotel that they began their relationship.

Ben and Deborah live on Stent Road in Warea where they are 50/50 sharemilking for Ben's parents. Deborah also works in New Plymouth as an accountant for BDO. They were able to take some time away from all this and enjoy their honeymoon to Port Douglas in Queensland after the wedding — and it never rained once!

By Kerry Moffitt

TOM Okato Baby of the Month

Meet Albie Emil Staunstrup Moore, who was born on 6 November 2011. Albie's mum, Ida, describes a happy, natural birth after labouring in the birth pool at Taranaki Base Hospital. Ida was delighted that her special friend, Michelle, was there to share the occasion with her and Albie's dad, Jim. Amelie (2yrs) is thrilled with her new brother. As you can tell from this photograph, he is thriving and enjoys exploring his world.

By Kerry Moffitt



Albie goes exploring.

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Beauty Business Booms on the Coast

The great little community of Okato is not only increasing in population, it is also increasing in popularity. Rachel Kruger of Okato Hair Salon, recognising that the demand for her services has outgrown her existing business, has now expanded her venture to include an additional hair stylist. Hayley Julian will work alongside Rachel and Angela. Hayley has previously worked at Clever & Moore in New Plymouth. Not only has Rachel added another hair stylist, she has provided a new beauty therapy room that employs two additional qualified staff, Arna Baird and Rosie Hira. Rachel says she is "...stoked that all the girls working for me are local, the coast rocks!" and she is also very proud to provide business for local people.



Hair girls Angela Childs, Rachel Kruger & Hayley Julian.



The beauty girls Rosie Hira and Arna Baird.

Now renamed as Okato Hair and Beauty, the new business is poised to meet the growing beauty needs of the local community. To cater for this increase, Rachel has now revamped her original garage and transformed it into the new salon it is today. The new salon has expanded to incorporate an additional two chairs. Having an extra stylist will allow more late nights for those who have been unable to attend other appointment times, and will provide greater flexibility for clients, says Rachel. The existing hair salon is now converted into a beauty therapy room.

Both new beauty therapists live locally, and will job share, allowing them the opportunity to work part-time. The beauty therapists will complement one another. Arna is skilful in massage therapies and provides Reiki, while Rosie specialises in facial and skincare services. The therapists will provide a host of beauty services, offering an exciting new range of nail care products, such as the new Shellac Manicures/Pedicures which are complete with a chip-free polish,

made for extended wear lasting up to 2–3 weeks — very addictive! Dermatech products used for facials are simple, made in New Zealand and really work.

Why not treat yourself? Give Rachel a text on 027-2765185. If you phone, the girls will endeavour to answer your call. But if they are unable to, please phone again later or preferably text.

See advertisement for opening hours.

By Milly Carr

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RACHEL KRUGER

okato & HAIR & BEAUTY

Okato Hair Salon is now Okato Hair and Beauty

Introducing Beauty Therapists:

Rosie Hira and Arna Baird.

BEAUTY

SERVICES INCLUDE:

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**Rachel Kruger,
Angela Childs
and Hayley Julian.**

20 Cumming St, Okato
027 276 5185

Okato Playcentre

Wow, Term 1 has already been completed!!!

As always it was a fun-packed term with our focus being "BIG and little". The most significant demonstration being how at the start of the term we had a little group attending but finished the term with a big group coming along to our fun place. It was great to see. We are a little community with big support!

We celebrated Playcentre Awareness Week in early March; although the weather wasn't at its best the coffee and cake at Lahar made up for it.

The children enjoyed excursions to Pitone Road beach, where we saw many big waves and had lots of little pools to play in and explore. The Okato Pools were the answer for the hot summer days as well. The children also benefitted greatly from all our fresh fruit and vegetables we planted before Christmas last year. Morning teas fit for a king some days!!

Back in Term Four last year Okato Playcentre applied for a grant through Grass Roots funding. It is a Fonterra-based group that supports the social needs of current and future generations as well as initiatives that aim to take care of community wellbeing in rural areas.

We decided that our science area would benefit greatly from the funding. We purchased a light box and numerous viewing objects and this has proven to be a very fun and interactive activity that can be enjoyed by all ages! The children learn various science topics such as light and colour to animals and biology through the x-rays of animals and people.



Lucas Ripia at the light box.

The new magnetic polydron set is a variation of construction blocks. Magnetic shapes join together to create 3-dimensional shapes and designs. Children can learn about shapes, geometry, and space and magnetism as they build.

A set of interlocking construction gears has shown cause and effect with each piece interlocking with the next. As one gear is moved, children can see the flow-on effect as each gear moves in turn. Creating moving structures with spinning gears is a visual way to show how things move and provide answers to mechanical and engineering questions.

Our Playcentre is about to take on a new look! We are only in the early stages of planning but once a group of women

get together a project can move swiftly!!!! More about this in the next issue.

All families are warmly welcome to come along and join in with sessions. It is a good time to come and experience the new science area for yourself.


We are open each Tuesday and Thursday during the school terms from 9.30am till 12.30pm. Next session will be on 24 April see you then.

Friends of CTS Spot

Are you guilty of hoarding treasure? Need a good clear out to fit your car back in your garage? Spare room overflowing with bits and bobs too good to throw away? Kids all grown up but still storing your baby paraphernalia? Tripping over too many toys? Or maybe you are a crafty character with fabulous creations crowding your living space, or an artist waiting to be discovered? Got surplus firewood? Perhaps your veg garden is overflowing with produce? Selling your wares can be a bit tricky out on the Coast. Never fear, FOCTS have the solution for you!


Our latest grand scheme is a Car Boot Sale to be held in the CTS school car park (Oxford Road gate) on Sunday 20th May from 9am to 11am. This is a chance to do a bulk clearance of your second hand goods, sell fresh produce, or display art and craft. As long as it's legal and fits in your boot (or on your ute) you can bring it along and hope it sells. Vendors will pay a \$10 entry fee to FOCTS at the school gate and then open up their car boots to display their wares to the public. Other community groups are also welcome to use this retail opportunity to run a quick fire fundraiser from a car boot e.g. selling baking etc. Bargain hunters; please note this great shopping date in your diary! This event will go ahead rain or shine, so keep your brollies handy.

Friends of Coastal Taranaki School (FOCTS) have just had their AGM. This was an enjoyable evening at Café Lahar celebrating the achievements of the year behind and preparing for the year ahead. Office holder positions have all been filled. It was great to have some new parents at the meeting, and FOCTS would like to encourage more people to come along and get involved. Next meeting is Wednesday 16 May at 7pm in the CTS staffroom. Come along and help us cook up some more great ideas for fundraising activities and discuss ways to best use funds to support our kids at school. Any enquiries about FOCTS or our Car Boot Sale can be made to Kerry ph. 752 8095.



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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

GymSports Oakura

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

Move It or Lose it, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays 9.30am. Contact Gloria 752 7442.

New Plymouth Toastmasters Club - Speechcraft Course.

Commencing Thursday 17th May, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivon at Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698. Building Confidence, Speaking Skills and Self Esteem.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06-752 4804.

Omata Playgroup

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am–2pm	Ladies' Midweek Competition
Tuesday 5.30–7pm	Club night
Wednesday 3–6pm	Juniors' private coaching
Thursday 5.30–7.30pm	A-grade players' practice
Friday 9am–12noon	Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members
Friday 4.30–6pm	Junior Competition
Saturday 10am–4pm	Soffe Cup and A-grade Competition
Sunday 3–5pm	Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Val Deakin Dance School

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

Volkswagen Club

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

Yoga

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

Please phone 0800 THE TOM for additional listings or amendments.

OKATO CLUBS & GROUPS

Care and Craft

Get together Thursday fortnight at St Luke's lounge. 10.30am - 2.30pm. Contact Thea Fisher 752 4290.

Coastal Garden Circle

Meet every 3rd Monday of the month. Contact Rae Hooker 752 4086.

GymSports Oakura

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

Highway 45 Craft

Meet weekly on Monday mornings 10am - 12noon at members' houses. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

Historical Society

Meets quarterly in the Community Trust Hall. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

JKA Karate, Okato

Monday and Wednesday 6pm - 7.30pm in Coastal Taranaki School Gymnasium. Contact Nicci 752 4529 or 027 259 6223.

Kaitake Community Board

Teresa Goodin (027) 454 3585 or teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

New Zeal Church

Service 10.30am, Sundays at St Luke's Hall. Contact Angela and Kevin McFetridge 752 4993.

Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards. President Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509, Contact women's section Laureen Bright ph 752 4874.

Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

Meet bi-monthly, first Wednesday of the month in St Luke's lounge, 1pm. Lorraine Whittle 752 4359. Harvey 752 4568.

Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm.

Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

Okato Squash Club

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm. Everyone welcome. Phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

Playcentre

Main Road, Okato (over the Stony Bridge). Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30 - 12.30pm. Contact Rachel 752 4463.

Playgroup

St Lukes Hall, Main Road, Okato. Wednesday morning 10am-12 noon. Contact Danelle 752 4916 or Angie 752 4445.

Plunket

Meetings held every second Thursday of the month. Phone Leisja Richardson 06-752 4194.

Pony Club

Contact Michelle Beekman on 7527056.

Probus

Meet every third Friday at the Oakura Golf Club. Contact Margaret Hodges 752 1371.

St Patrick's Church, Okato

Saturday evening mass 7pm. Inquiries to Steak Goodin 752 8160 or Nora Fox 752 4062.

St Paul's Church

10am services. Congregate first and third Sunday of the month. Contact Jan Putt 752 4188.

St Peter's Guild

Meet 4th Friday of each month. Angela Montgomery 752 7738.

Tennis Club

Contact Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466.

Tumahu Golf Club

Roly Harvey 752 4314. Sunday: Mens golf day, Tuesday: womens golf day. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month: mixed golf.

Tumahu Rural Women

Meet every second Wednesday of the month, 1pm at alternate members' houses. Contact Joyce Downes 753 4122.

Warea Tennis Club

Contact Jan Brophy 06 763 8666.

Please contact Milly 752 4425 for additional listings or amendments.