

Oakura to Tijuana – Playground to Poverty

Nine people have recently returned from a life changing experience in the slums of Tijuana, Mexico. Tom and Suzanne Smithers along with seven young people, five of them from Omata/Oakura made the courageous decision to travel to Tijuana to make war on poverty by helping build houses and schools.

Tom and Suzanne are the co-ordinators of a local youth group called Body and Soul Taranaki and this couple devote endless hours supporting young people and helping them reach their potential. So when the group wanted to do something to help people in poverty, a trip to Wellington to Fuse (Youth Group Centre) and meeting the Global Tribe team was the catalyst for doing so. Each young person had to raise \$3,800 to get to Mexico and everyone threw themselves into fundraising, especially Suzanne!

Mereana Hooker, Brooke Moses, Byron, Crystal and Amber Smithers, Courtney Rose and Cerise Janaway-Davis, along with Tom and Suzanne, packed their bags and headed off to Mexico at the

end of September for 12 days, little knowing what was ahead of them. Another 36 people travelled to Mexico from Wellington. This was clearly going to be hard work and not a resort holiday. And work hard they did. Suzanne says she is very proud of the way everyone from New Plymouth worked so incredibly hard.

Once the team had unpacked, they spent half a day learning how the houses are put together and how the building teams operate, then it was down to work. Everyone was in a team of ten building a house and Brooke says the houses are only as big as a garage, but the families are so happy and joyful to get a new house with a roof, sides and a floor. The conditions the people live in were a real



Mexican family outside their old house.

eye opener and very sobering for Brooke, who says he would like to go back one day to see how everyone is getting on. Prior to getting their two new houses built for them, the families lived in shelters, cobbled together with whatever materials they could scavenge. Having a new house, albeit a small one, means the family can rent out their old shelter to friends. It also means they can work, because they are no longer scavenging for house materials. They also no longer

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One new house for a very happy family and all the volunteer workers gathered to dedicate the house to the family.

a peek inside

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TOM

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THE TEAM

Tracey Lusk, Co-ordinator 06 752 7875

Kim Ferens, Co-ordinator/Features 06 751 1519

Advertising: **Melissa Newton** 06 752 1056

Music Reviews: **Graham Donlon**

Proof reading: **Louise Norton**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**

The Oakura Messenger Ltd, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

email kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone 0800 THE TOM

www.thetom.co.nz

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DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER TOM

19 NOVEMBER 2007

Get your contributions in for the bumper holiday/Christmas issue.



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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

Books have been on my mind lately. I had a discussion recently with my son about the place books will have in our world in the years to come. He thought they would become extinct but I'm not so sure. In fact I'm totally convinced they are here to stay. Imagine a world with no books. No? I can't either.

Computers are great (mostly) but you can't curl up in bed and fall asleep holding a laptop can you? Sure there are PDAs, e-Paper (still in its infancy but with the speed of technological advancement these days, I'm sure it won't be long before it's in a store near you) or podcasts to an iPod for audio-book files, but all these lack the tactility of the book. Are parents going to read to their toddlers from a computer? Are teachers going to teach students to read and write via a screen? And that is the crux of it isn't it?

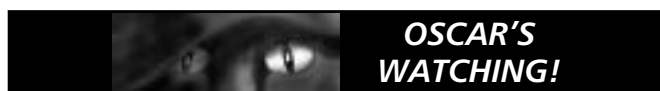
Learning to read is a tactile, interactive process that begins on a knee when a child doesn't even know how a book works but the book has interesting pictures in it that captivate the imagination. The cost of printing books is a fraction of what providing a computer for every person on the planet would be. And how often do you read and reread one book? Pass it on and share it with friends and family, hand it down from generation to generation. We have a book called *The Big Ball of String* that will one day soon (maybe not too soon!) be handed down to its third generation of readers. Would a computer programme ever be the same?

Books are our culture and heaven forbid that you could only read *TOM* via the internet.

On a more controversial but no less important issue I am taking umbrage at the horse poo down Wairau Rd. The other day I had to literally dodge my way down the road so as not to run over the giant clumps of it. I feel particularly sorry for people walking up and down the road. How can we fix this problem?

I was especially moved by my interview with the Smithers, Mereana Hooker and Brooke Moses re their trip to poverty ravaged Tijuana, Mexico. But on a more luxurious note, a trip to Ziji is not to be forsaken for anything!

By Kim Ferens



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Glen McDonald
REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN

Hi folks!

Here we are at the start of a new term of the Council, and we've got some great times ahead!

First of all, I have a big 'thank you' for everyone who voted during the local body elections. Thanks to your input, we have a very strong Council and an enthusiastic Kaitake Community Board to see this district through the next three years.

I hope to see further input from you during this three-year term. If you have any comments to make about what is happening in your community, if you have an idea you would like the Council to help you pursue or you'd just like to know what is happening, please contact a community board member, a councillor or me to discuss what is on your mind.

This community is only as strong as the people who live here and their willingness to get involved in its future – so we'd love to hear from you!

Meanwhile there are some exciting developments just around the corner. From movie announcements to significant events, this district is about to have its profile raised once more!

One project I'm particularly glad to see progressed is the reticulation of Oakura's sewage. When this project is completed we will see Oakura Beach – one of the district's finest beaches and the site of generations of family outings – protected from the possibility of sewage contamination. Unless their septic tank systems are unsanitary, home owners have a choice about whether or not to connect to the reticulation. I hope the information day held for residents last month answered any questions you had – but if you still have points you want to discuss, feel free to contact the Council anytime during working hours. NPDC staff are happy to answer your questions!

I am really excited about the opportunities coming our way over the next three years. We've got a busy term of Council ahead of us, with lots of opportunities to enhance this already great community. So be sure to contact me if you want to get involved in any way!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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two bathrooms (one an en suite) with a double shower. The gorgeous, modern kitchen is to the side of an open plan living area off a dining area, and two lounges open out through bifold doors onto the back section, giving you complete privacy for those summer BBQ's. The master bedroom opens out onto an upstairs landing where you have fabulous views of the sea,

Paritutu Rock and the coast. Lose yourself in the 3rd storey attic with windows where you can look out and see for miles and miles, while you catch

up on "a quiet time" or "time out". Take a choice of where you can park your car as their is room for 4 cars in the garages.

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At night wander up to the master bedroom, lie in bed and watch the beautiful scenery through the tinted windows. The views from these windows are magical. You would never feel alone as you watch the activity going on out at sea.

Not only are the views absolutely magnificent, but so is the house. Immaculately presented, the home has six bedrooms, three bathrooms, a two car basement and storage room, plus a landscaped section and swimming pool.

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(Continued from page 1)

Oakura to Tijuana – Playground to Poverty

have a dirt floor, will be healthier, drier in the rainy season and have somewhere to store their meagre possessions. Plus they have a functioning toilet rather than the unhygienic long drop on the edge of a cliff. The families can't afford electricity, but everyone pinches it from the power companies by running wires from the power poles so there are live wires running all over the ground! Tom was impressed by how efficiently Hector the local Global Tribe co-ordinator organised all the building and materials and made the job flow so that each house was well constructed, quite a feat considering most of the volunteers had no building experience.

Brooke couldn't get over how happy all the children were. They had nothing and no hope of getting anything (no welfare system, health system, minimal education), yet they were content. A very profound experience for teenagers who think they need everything to be happy.

The other project was to build another classroom onto the school. This is a school attended by over 1000 students who come to school in shifts morning and afternoon. Schooling costs about \$200 per student a year and the hourly rate of pay is about \$2 so for many families education is too difficult. Byron attended school one day and spoke via an interpreter to the class. All the children love playing soccer, so Byron and Brooke bought a bag full of balls and a pump for the kids and they spent many happy moments playing soccer. Playing soccer with the kids was a highlight for Mereana and she said while they may not be highly educated they certainly know all the soccer rules!

Another aspect of being in Tijuana was visiting the orphanages and detoxification centres. Suzanne was particularly moved by the plight of children abandoned on the streets by drug addicted parents. And the special people who take these children in and care for them. But the highlight for her would be seeing the excitement on the faces of the families when they got their new house and the question they ask "why do you want to help us?"

Amber's highlight would probably be finding the huge tarantula spider under the wood pile!

So far Global Tribe has built about 1400 houses in Tijuana and Brooke says they really stand out. The Global Tribe built houses are all painted pink, blue and yellow and all over the slums there are pretty little houses springing up!

The group stayed in a hotel in Rosarita, outside of Tijuana and enjoyed the comforts most of us take for granted, but each night they were glad to return to their flush toilet, shower and comfy bed. The contrast between the haves and the have-not's couldn't be greater. But tired! Were they ever tired! And sick of tortillas and tacos! Mexican food in Mexico isn't like Mexican food in New Zealand. Nothing grows in the arid landscape, so there are no tomatoes, avocados or lettuce, only cucumbers and coriander. Everyone drinks Coca-Cola too, as it kills the bugs in the gut, whereas the water would probably kill you!

Crystal Smithers proves this trip really wasn't a holiday.



Below: The new classroom added onto the school and note the new uniforms the children are wearing, also donated by Global Tribe.



All three Smithers children want to go back again next year and Suzanne says it was wonderful doing something like Global Tribe together as a family so who knows, they just might, but they'll get the fundraising underway a bit earlier! Cerise is so keen to go back that she has emailed the local Baja Ministry crew to see if she would be able to live in Tijuana for a while and serve and help the people there. Now that is life-altering.

To find out more about Global Tribe visit:
www.globaltribe.com

By Kim Ferens

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kaitake community board

Now that all the local body election commotion has settled down, it is back to business for the Kaitake Community Board.

The Board held its first meeting on Tuesday 13 November at NPOB Surf Clubrooms on the beachfront.

Other than myself, long-serving Keith Plummer continues his membership of the Board and we are joined by new representatives Al Rawlinson and Mike Pillette.

Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson is our Council appointee and I know he will continue to work hard for our area, which also encompasses Omata and Okato. It's very important that local folk understand we represent them and we can provide a very useful sounding board and support for issues that concern them.

I was personally disappointed, as I know were many other folk, that our previous Chair, Fay Looney was not elected to Council. Fay didn't miss by much, beating a couple of sitting Councillors in the voting, but unfortunately it wasn't to be. Fay decided not to seek a further term on the Kaitake Community Board, but knowing her passion for the district I doubt if her influence and commonsense approach will be completely lost to the local scene.

There are a number of current issues that the Kaitake Board will be keeping a close eye on, with the sewerage scheme implementation the big one. Another one we are working on is the fate of the Phoenix Palms at the eastern end of Hau Lane. Currently these 75-year-old palms are threatened with removal due to the cost of trimming to keep them away from the adjacent power lines. They are on NPDC roadside reserve so technically speaking they belong to the Council, but we believe they are iconic specimens, adding much to the village entranceway and surely commonsense can prevail and the palms can remain.

Another idea that is gathering momentum is the setting up of a monthly Farmer's Market down in the Oakura Beach Camp. While this idea is only in a gestation phase at the moment it is certainly one that everyone I have spoken to is enthusiastic about. What do you think?

We have also been working in partnership with the Department of Conservation to revert the last piece of grazing lease land to be returned to the Mt Taranaki National Park. See the article on this elsewhere in *TOM*.

For a number of years I have operated an Oakura email tree. We have found it is the best way to get information quickly disseminated throughout the district. If you wish to be included, please email me at doug@central.school.nz and I'll add you to the list.

On behalf of Keith, Al and Mike, I wish to reiterate that the Board will carry on the good work of past members and continue to work hard for the whole district and its residents.

We are all only as far away as the phone or email.

Cheers, Doug

Sewerage Scheme Update

Work has started on the pumping station in Shearer Reserve. The fence around the site is temporary during the construction of the station.

More details on the future development of this area will be published next issue. Any queries regarding the sewerage work can be made to Brent Manning NPDC.

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Featuring Kaitake Community Board Member,

Alan Rawlinson

How long have you been on the KCB?

This will be my first term.

Why did you want to be on the KCB?

Since arriving in Oakura and taking over the Holiday Park in 2001, my wife Jan and I have had many dealings with both the NPDC and the Kaitake Community Board and it seems to be a natural progression to become part of the Community Board. I look forward to my 'term' with Keith, Mike and Doug and am sure we can put forward the community's issues to the NPDC.

What do you think the role of the KCB is?

I think the main role of the Community Board is to listen to the concerns and aspirations of the community, to resolve them if possible or highlight issues to the NPDC or other relevant parties with suggestions on how they may be resolved.

One of its other roles is to monitor information coming from the NPDC and ensure that affected parties in the community are aware and that their concerns are taken on board.

What qualities and characteristics does it take to be a board member?

The main qualities of any board member are to have the good of the community at heart and to do their best.

What do you think you can achieve?

Try to build on the excellent job the Board has done in the past.

Can you share some of your background with us?

I worked for nearly 20 years in the aircraft manufacturing industry in the UK, Canada and the US. Then my wife and I came over to New Zealand. We had been interested in owning a campground for many years even while in North America. New Zealand provided the opportunity we were looking for.

I am a member of the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade and my interests include motorcycling, fishing and walking... and (believe it or not) camping!

What do you think of the sewerage scheme?

The sewerage scheme has been debated over since before 1980 (in fact, during the recent tornadoes, a document from the Oakura Community Council blew into our garden from the West's house next door . . . the subject: "The Sewerage Scheme", dated 13 August 1980!).

How do you think the foreshore in Oakura should be looked after?

The foreshore and beach are for everybody to enjoy and we should all try our best to keep it one of the best places in New Zealand.

Do you have anything to add?

Due to the diverse community in Oakura, there are many different views/objectives brought forward to the Community Board and the NPDC. Not everybody will be happy with some of the decisions made. However, I will try to be objective and impartial and am open to discussion.

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update from the big red truck

"Listen, can you hear it? Spring's sweet cantata. The strains of grass pushing through the snow. The song of buds swelling on the vine. The tender timpani of a baby robin's heart. Spring."

~ Diane Frolov & Andrew Schneider.

Greetings again from all at the Big Red Truck.

Some crew updates

Congratulations to Ian Gibbon who recently completed, and passed, his basic training, breathing apparatus (BA), and First Aid courses, and thus graduated to a fully qualified member of the crew.

A fond farewell to FF Mark Braddock (for now!), who is on an overseas assignment, and SFF Angela Weir, who has taken up a post in the Fire Service call centre down South. Many thanks for your valuable contributions to the Brigade and all the best in your new endeavours.

The Brigade held their annual Honours night on a beautifully sunny evening in late October. The turnout of 45 was excellent, comprising invited dignitaries, current members, Life Members, Gold Star recipients, and of course their partners.

During the evening the contribution of the following individuals was recognised:

SO Greg Newton: 14 Year Good Conduct Medal. Presented by DCFO John Nicolls on behalf of the NZFS.

QFF Alan Rawlinson: 5 Year Medal. Presented by President Bevan Chapman on behalf of the TPFBA.

DCFO Matt Crabtree: 2 year Silver Bar for 9 years Service. Presented by President Bevan Chapman on behalf of the TPFBA.

SFF Chris West: 2 year Gold Bar for 27 years Service. Presented by President Bevan Chapman on behalf of the TPFBA.

DCFO Matthew Crabtree: the Annual 'Griff' Award for Dedication, Participation, & Attendance to the Oakura Brigade over the past year. Presented by Gold Star recipient FP Terry Griffiths on behalf of Oakura CFO Craig Scott.

Finally, a special mention for RFF Mike Dunn who took out the hotly contested 'Oops I broke it!' award.

The night was a huge success reflecting all the hard work put in by the organising committee: Sharon, Al, Jan, Ange, Rowan, & Mel - well done team, and thanks from us all.

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Lindauer Blanc de Blanc

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Lindauer Blanc de Blanc is a not your average cheap plonk. This is classy stuff and I reckon even Patsy would drink it and laugh all the way to the bank. The name Lindauer conjures up images of good cheap bubbly and you'd have to agree that Montana has this market well and truly sown up, with New Zealanders drinking more Lindauer per capita than any other nation on the earth – at last count more than five million bottles per year.

But can they produce and sell more refined bubbly? I'd say "yes" if it is Blanc de Blanc! (I'll be buying it!)

Blanc de Blanc means 'white of whites' as it's made entirely from chardonnay grapes, making it a delicately flavoured, yeasty, dry wine reminiscent of a good lemony fruit cake. The yeasty overtones dissipate as it sits in the glass waiting to be sipped at. It's definitely not a Kath and Kim wine but more a Pru and Tru tippie. Great as your early evening aperitif, served with glorious seafood and fish – nothing too spicy or rich to overpower it. (I didn't wait for anything as refined as food!) Think strawberries and peaches, pineapple and melon.

Blanc de Blanc has a reputation for aging well so get in now and if you're lucky and it's still in the cupboard at Christmas, it will be well aged (anything over a week is well aged in my cellar!)

Did you know there are over 250 million bubbles in a bottle of methode traditionnelle (this being the name for sparkling wine made in the fermented manner outside of the Champagne region, France).

The Four Square is offering this fabulous wine at \$19, usually \$22.

Other interesting wine happenings at the Four Square are their wine and food tastings. Tim tells me these are going really well, so pop in when you see the tasting sign out and sample the selection of food and wines on offer.

Yours (hic) in bubbles

Jillyho

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November Checklist

Vegetables

Continue sowings of beans, lettuce, cucumber, courgette, melons, radish, silverbeet, sweetcorn and tomatoes.

Feed all citrus trees with Butlers citrus Fertiliser.

For continuous harvesting of vegetables, make sowings at three weekly intervals.

Rosemary has been harvesting her new potatoes. Isn't it lovely rummaging around in the warm soil for the waxy tubers, then cooking them with lots of lashings of butter!

Flowers

Mulch around flower beds to conserve moisture in the soil.

Sow seeds of summer flowers: cosmos, marigold, petunias, portulacas, verbena and zinnia.

Plant new roses using plenty of compost. Water all roses at least once a week.

Rosemary's roses have aphids so do check for the little beasties and spray regularly.

Lawns

Apply Butlers Lawn Fertiliser when rain is due or water in.

Spray with Turfix for broad leaf weeds and Prickly Weedkiller to control Onethunga weed and stop summer prickles.

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Ziji – Beautiful minds and beautiful bodies

Ziji is the newest addition to downtown Oakura and it is a very welcome one. Ziji is a Day Spa for wellness and beauty opened recently by Forest Hepi-Te Huia in the old Snickerdoodles premises.

Forest invited me along to experience Ziji firsthand and what a truly amazing experience it was. When you walk through the rustic front door you could easily be stepping into another world. This world begins with Forest enveloping you in a gracious heart-felt welcome to relax and be transformed into a more beautiful mind and body.

Ziji is a Tibetan word meaning inner radiance, confidence and dignity, and this Ziji 'force' is what makes the Day Spa so special. The emphasis is on rejuvenating from the inside out and enabling the body and mind to assist in making the outside more beautiful. How does Forest do this? She revealed her secrets to me.

Forest has had 10 years experience in the beauty industry having co-managed Elysium, Centre City, for three years and prior to that working as a beauty therapist at the Spa de Seville on Auckland's Viaduct Basin. Owning her own Day Spa is the next step in Forest's personal journey and



Ziji owner Forest with Helen Aitchison from England enjoying special treatment at Ziji.

she is relishing the opportunity to give people the tools to help themselves have optimum health and beauty. And being able to do it in the village where she lives is the icing on the cake. Forest has carefully selected the Janesce range of products for the Day Spa. Janesce is a whole philosophy – belief that you need to care for yourself and your skin inside and out. Janesce is an organically based range of products grown in the

Adelaide Hills, Australia and is produced and packaged on-site. Every ingredient is listed on the packaging and each one is totally pure, containing no preservatives, emulsifiers, stabilisers, colouring agents, perfumes or animal ingredients. Forest tells me your skin absorbs about 10 kilograms of product over your lifetime and that is potentially 100% chemical, unless of course you use Janesce. The products are highly concentrated so you need only apply a very tiny amount. They feel gorgeous on your skin – not heavy, cloying or greasy, but refreshing and light. Working alongside a Janesce Naturopath, Forest will assess you and your skin's needs and recommend a specific course of action to take to bring out a more beautiful you.

But back to the bliss of Ziji and a soothing back massage to loosen up those tight spots, the nimble fingers and warm towels ease away the aches and pains. Gently roll over and sink into the bed for a rejuvenating facial then sit up and feel 10 years slip away

just like that! The finishing Forest touch is selecting an aromatherapy oil that makes your senses tingle and is dabbed on a ribbon to wear around your wrist to remind you all day that you've been to Ziji.

Ziji has come about through the inspiration of Forest and Ross (Forest's partner), but thanks to the skills of Matt Hood, builder, their ideals and dreams have sprung to life. Matt has done a superb job creating a very special feel in Ziji, which now boasts a waiting room, two consultation rooms and bathroom facility.

Ziji offers facial treatments, body treatments, manicures, pedicures (called Footsies in the Grass – how cute!) waxing, eye treatments, makeup, tanning, spa experiences, male treatments, shiatsu and gigong healing, and the very special Ziji Escapes.

Ring Forest at Ziji on 06 752 1374 to make a booking for your own personal out-of-this-world experience.

By Kim Ferens



ziji DAY SPA

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1136 South Rd, Oakura
Contact Forest, ph 7521374 email info@zijidayspa.co.nz

Tidbit


Many thanks to all who supported me in the recent elections. Life goes on and there is always plenty to do.

The Community Board is your best connection to Council and I wish them well.

Fay Looney

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The Taranaki Art Review 2007

Local artists were well represented in the prize-giving at the recently held Art Review at Opunake.

There were over 300 art works on display, many depicting the landscape around us, in particular sea and mountain. The overall winner was an acrylic painting of Stent Road by Wendy Boulter.

Locals who were placed were Margaret Scott with a painting called *Exodus*, Dale Copeland with a sculpture called *Play Me*, Joyce Young with a sculpture called *Tree Stumps Foyer Pots* and Joanna Brown with a Fibre Art Clutch Purse called *Peony*.

By Kim Ferens



Margaret Scott and her committee's choice art work.

Joyce Young with her work, "Tree Stumps Foyer Pots".



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River: The Joni Letters

Herbie Hancock
(Verve/Universal)

River: The Joni Letters serves as an admirable companion piece to Mitchell's own *Shine*.

Following on from his disappointing celebrity bun-feast that was *Possibilities*, its successor finds Herbie Hancock in magisterial form, playing with the kind of delicacy that is usually only reserved for the works of Bill Evans, Debussy or Satie.

The band is marvellous also, although this is not too surprising, given that it is comprised of Wayne Shorter (soprano and tenor saxophones), bass master Dave Holland, drummer Vinnie Colaiuta and a new African guitar star in Lionel Loueke.

Alternating vocal pieces with instrumentals, *River* is a delight from start to finish, even the normally histrionic Tina Turner delivers a superb, understated version of "Edith And The Kingpin." Other highpoints include a rhapsodic instrumental version of "Both Sides Now," "Tea Leaf Prophecy" featuring Mitchell herself plus "Court and Spark" and "River" (featuring Norah Jones and Corinne Bailey Rae respectively).

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Meet the Librarian - Judith Schumacher



Oakura's new librarian, Judith Schumacher is settling into the swing of things at the local library and is really enjoying meeting everyone in the village. She says she has been made to feel very welcome.

Judith comes to Oakura from the Taranaki District Health Board's Medical Library, where she had worked for over four years.

Prior to working at TDHB, Judith worked at the Inglewood Library, so community libraries are not new to her. Judith trained to become a librarian later rather than earlier in her working life, having only finished her library training in 2004, but the career change is suiting her down to the ground.

Books have always been a passion of Judith's and working at a community library such as Oakura means she can really indulge that passion. Judith has a love for contemporary and historical fiction plus an avid interest in food and cooking.

A community library gives Judith an opportunity to do a wide variety of library work and she loves seeing the process through from selecting books to cataloguing to issuing. Hearing people's views on the books they have read is also an enjoyable part of the job. The books become like personal friends to Judith.

Part of the work at a community library is the involvement of community members and the school. Local volunteers come in on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings to work with the school issuing and returning of books and all ten volunteers enjoy their interaction with the school children.

Another pleasant part of the job is purchasing books that community members have specifically requested and Judith is very happy to try and accommodate everybody's interests. So far Judith has noticed a very diverse range of interests within the village!

Judith is hoping to establish a book group early next year, which would meet on a regular basis, say on a Thursday morning. If you are interested in joining a book group, contact Judith at the library.

By Kim Ferens

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Closely Held Companies

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Hello from Oakura Library

We have recently added some lovely new cook books to our collection. Bill Granger's *Everyday* features great food for everyday cooking. Plenty of inspiration there, and also in Julie Biuso's *Sizzle: sensational barbecue food*. New books are added weekly so do pop in and check out the latest titles, or browse through our new book folders for the adult, teen or junior collections.

We also have a small collection of regularly changing DVDs, CDs, audio-books and large print books.

We change our displays monthly and base them around a particular theme. Recently our spring display had a gardening and Taranaki Rhododendron Garden Festival focus. Some of the books used in these displays have been sourced from Puke Ariki and other district libraries, but all displayed books related to the theme are available for loan.

As we near the end of the year it is a good time for those children moving on to High School who are not currently library cardholders to join the library. Membership is free. A parent or guardian needs to complete the less-than-18 registration membership form, and ID and proof of address are required. Call in and see us – Karen or I will be happy to assist you.

Christmas / New Year holiday period

The library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Monday 24 December through to Wednesday 2 January 2008.

Normal hours resume on Thursday 3 January 2008. These are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 12 noon to 6pm Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday – 9am to 1pm.

Judith Schumacher, Oakura Librarian

Kaitake Plantings continue . . .

The last Sunday of October saw 21 keen volunteers, many from the Oakura community, plant another 1800 trees at the top of Kaitake Road. The last grazing lease in Egmont National Park is now on its way to being transformed back to trees from paddocks. Oakura School is assisting this project by growing seedlings from the area, which will be planted at the site and form part of this new forest. The Oakura Community Board has provided outstanding support for the project. A big thank you to Doug Hislop, Graham Thomas and all the volunteers for their time and assistance. The first year has been a resounding success and a great example of how a community can get behind a project.

Paula Marshall

Programme Manager, Community Relations, DoC



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LANETTE

Organics coming to the Coast

Here's yet another great reason for living on the coast.... opening in Okato on Thursday 15 November is SEED COASTAL ORGANICS . . . located on Surf Highway 45 (Carthew Street) in the site formerly occupied by the Okato Dairy and opposite the Waiting Room Coffee Shop.

The idea to open an organic outlet on the coast was born from three mums, Lindsey, Mel and Jacqui, who were passionate about feeding their families spray-free, local and organic produce without having to go "out of the way" to get it. They are now committed to bring you (wherever possible) locally grown produce from within Taranaki and New Zealand. As they say, "Taranaki has heaps of organic growers and we wanted to make it easy for people to buy local while supporting spray-free growing, which helps to take care of the environment and keep pesticides out of your families' diet".

Also available in-store at Seed Coastal Organics store will be 'Nana's Pantry', where Hayley Burwell will be selling wholesome homemade hot and cold takeaway foods, fair trade products, milkshakes and rolled ice cream.

Seed Coastal Organics will be initially open four days per week; on Thursdays and Fridays from 12noon to 6pm; and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Opening hours are thoughtfully structured to cater for daytime, after work and weekend shopping. How good is that!

So watch out for the flyer in your letter box, take it in with you during November and most of December (till the 15th) – make a purchase - and go in the draw to win a yummy organic hamper – just in time for Christmas.

And the final word from the girls themselves....."As Okato's newest business we will be supplying you with quality local, organic, spray-free produce and environmentally friendly products that are affordable and good for you and your family".

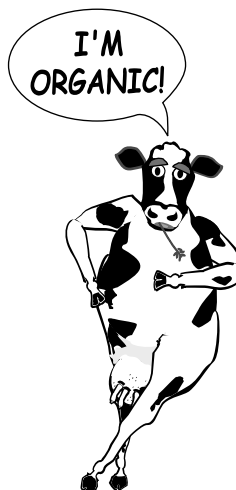
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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

You may have noticed a new Oakura resident of the Oakura River in recent months: Ping, a big white duck. He suddenly appeared about four months ago and had obviously been washed down the river from a farm further upstream, possibly during a winter flood.

He resided in the river between the bridge and the Marae and because he had a crippled leg, he couldn't spend time on land and didn't fly either. He was happy sharing a white baiter's lunch or just swimming around enjoying his new environment.

That is of course until some local decided to kill him and pluck him on the river bank that he thought was home. Hopefully karma will one day reciprocate to these idiots in the same awful way that Ping met his undeserved end.

R.I.P Ping – sadly missed.

Jendi Coxhead

TOM readers are given a peek into the life of some of our outstanding young people and this month we are up-front and personal with Jendi.



Jendi (left) at the Culinary Fare 07 Competition with Caroline Medway-Smith, Christine Bulmer and Ellee Donald.

What schools did you go to?

Oakura Primary 1994 to 2002, NPGHS 2003-2006

What did you do when you left school?

I am at WITT studying the Certificate in Visual Arts- next year I will be starting the Batchelor of Visual Arts degree.

Do you work?

Yes-Part time at Okurukuru Restaurant.

Tell us about your achievements?

Passing NCEA Level 1 and 2, Winning four medals at the NZ Culinary fare,

Winning the dance section in the Taranaki Star talent show with our all girl hiphop group "Mezmerise".

What are your interests?

Graphic Design, Photography, Dancing, Netball and Snowboarding.

What do you like about working at Okurukuru?

The atmosphere, the awesome team. The customers and the beautiful view.

Tell us about the Culinary Fare and what it meant to you?

The NZ Culinary Fare was a huge learning experience, it involved a lot of time and commitment and practise. I have only been waitressing for one year part-time so to win four NZ medals, gold for table d'hote setting, two silvers in wine and beverage service and café beverages and one bronze in classic cocktails was exciting. The huge amount of the team support from the Okurukuru staff and the training we received from Caroline Medway-Smith and Christine Bulmer (Camp mother!) was appreciated. I have grown heaps from the whole experience and I am looking forward to entering again next year.

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years time?

Running my own design business and married to my partner of 2½ years, David.

What do you enjoy about living in Oakura?

I love the sunsets, the beach, the mountain views, and the supportive community.

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Okato Pool

The Okato Community Pool opened on Labour weekend and the public swimming sessions are Monday to Friday 12pm-1pm. See www.newplymouthnz.com/visitingNewPlymouth/Attractions/DistrictPools.htm for other opening times and fees. Aquarobics are held at the pool – Monday and Thursday evenings plus Friday mornings. As an introductory offer, you may bring a friend for free for the month on November.

The pool staff also offer learn to swim classes in blocks of eight lessons. There is a pre Christmas course starting on December 3 and a school holiday course starting on January 21.

Please remember that all children under eight years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16. The Okato Pool is a Poolsafe facility and a lifeguard is on duty at all times.

Caroline Charteris



The Girlz Garden Centre

Spring is upon us even if the weather is a step or two behind the play. It's time to think about getting those yummy veges in and feeding those juicy fruit trees.



The Girlz Garden Centre is picturesque at the moment.

If you have never been to our colourful and interesting garden centre then its time you did. The flowers are blooming and the bees are buzzing. We have something for everyone and lovely gifts to boot, from the unusual to the beautiful. We hold a wide range of annuals and vegetable plants. You should check out our cool displays. The Girlz is a great place to hangout and collect some inspiration to take home to your own garden. We offer advice and service with a smile.

Hey adults, lets encourage our younger generation into some gardening basics, and all you clever Oakura Primary School students, you could teach some adults a thing or two.

It's a fun challenge to be involved with the earth and growing living plants. You can start gardening at any age. Picking herbs and veges from the garden that you have grown yourself and nurtured, then adding them to your meals is something special. It is healthy and a great start in life.

Let us help you with organic fertilisers, veggies and ideas. "Go gardeners!"

Our rhododendrons are beautiful and in flower right now along with the azaleas. Our maples are an attractive display and the foliage is grand. Try perennials for that dainty cottage look or natives for a sturdy strong landscape

It's all here at the Girlz so front up and take time to smell the roses. Try a plant for a gift along with a pot. We will gift wrap for you, add some ribbon and a card too.

So we will see you one day soon, except Mondays when we hang up our gloves and deal with our own gardens.

Happy gardening and enjoy nature – it's a wondrous and enriching hobby.

"The Girlz"

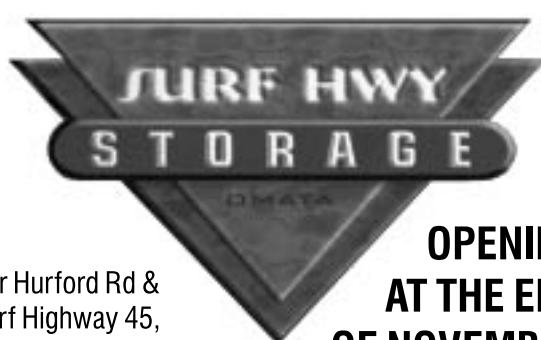
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Greetings all

Well, what an absolute fizzer we are having. The month started off alright but then the equinox winds kicked in and we have been hammered. Not many kayakers have been able to get out and not too many surfcasters have been on braving the elements either. (I don't blame them!)

The Fish Anywhere scheduled for the middle of October wasn't that flash, with no one keen. Hence, our Members' Luck Jackpot prize was worth about \$100 bucks heading into the draw on 10 November. All members go into the draw but must be present at the weigh in to claim the prize.

The Labour weekend weather was bad again. Sunday was the day of the Ali Krutz Memorial Trophy, fished for between us and NP Surfcasting Club. Hideous conditions greeted us in the morning. Shane D turned up at 7.30am on the dot to plan his attack after catching up with the man who pulled a 12 kg Snapper out of the Tapuae the day before. Peter Florence was at Ahu's soon after but both were beaten by the conditions. A few also ventured to Corbett Park and the Tapuae.

We didn't see any NPSC people for quite some time and wondered if we'd gotten the day wrong. However a few turned up later and made an effort.

Ali Watt and Grant M were the only people to catch anything – Ali, a 1.7kg Kahawai and Grant, a Banded Wrass of 1.195kg (a new Club record) – so again the Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club retained the trophy. Well done to the dozen or so crazy buggers from our Club who made an effort.

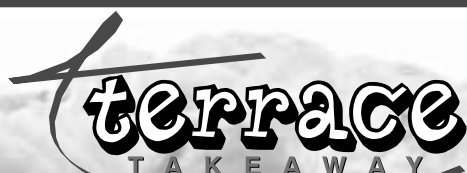


Pictured are Grant & Ali with the winning fish on the Ali Krutz Memorial Day.

Tight lines, Debbie E

Weightmaster's report to the end of October

"Not many!"



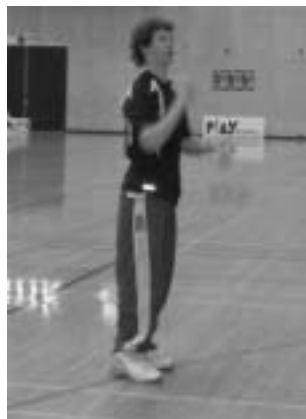
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Sport Shorts



Thornton Davies warming up for his rep basketball game.

- The Under 15 Taranaki Rep basketball team came 14th in the National Championships held in the school holidays in New Plymouth. Local boy **Thornton Davies** played in the team. While not the result the boys were hoping for, it was the first time in many years a New Plymouth Under 15 team played in the Nationals. The boys displayed good sportsmanship and were great ambassadors for New Plymouth.

held in Dunedin in the school holidays. Two local boys represented the region – **Matt Everest** and **Jack Wagstaff** along with ex local **Ricky Riccitelli** and ex Omata School student **Ben Mitchell**. The parents and players had fundraised furiously and had a wonderful time in Dunedin.

- The Under 12 Ravens Inline Hockey team won a gold at the National Championships held in Mt Maunganui in the holidays. Local boy **Louis Ferens** played in the team in his first ever rep tournament. Alan Henderson had very unselfishly coached the team all season and was speechless following the teams win.

- **Cameron Meads** and **Jack Wagstaff** have been selected for the Under 12 Rep cricket team along with ex Omata school pupil **Ben Mitchell**.

- **Ayla Dunlop-Barrett** is rep-representing NZ surf lifesaving this month in Germany, competing for the German Cup.

- **Dylan Dunlop-Barrett** lowered four Taranaki records at a Central North Island swimming competition in October

- **Finlay Neeson** has had a very successful winter on the slopes for 2007:

North Island Champion in Giant Slalom;

North Island Champion in Slalom;

New Zealand Champion in Giant Slalom;

New Zealand Champion in Slalom;

Selected for Regional Talent Development program with NZ Academy of Sport;

Selected for NZ National Development Team;

Was selected for Whistler Cup, Canada, April 2007, however Finlay didn't go because of the cost and lack of other NZ athletes attending.



Louis Ferens with the silverware and his gold medal



Oakura Tennis Club

The season has begun with the usual windy, squally Spring weather patterns making the tennis difficult at times.

Labour Weekend saw a record number of juniors participate in the Taranaki Junior Tennis Open. Congratulations to all who played in very trying conditions.

Results:

- 1 Josh Walden was winner of the 18-year doubles and singles runner-up.
- 2 Tei Walden won the 16-year doubles
- 3 Miaana Walden was winner of the 16-year doubles and singles runner-up
- 4 Jamie Simpson won the 12-year plate.
- 5 Brady Simpson won the 10-year plate.

John Salisbury held another coaching clinic, quick fire tournament and adult doubles clinic on the Monday of Labour Weekend, which was well received by those who made it. Hopefully John will be back in November, December and the January school holidays for more.

The last weekend in October sees all the other teams taking to the courts. Again we have several teams of very keen juniors: two Junior A on Friday nights, two Youth and a B Grade on Saturday mornings, A2 and Presidents on Saturdays also.

In the first ever match, Oakura came up against Rotokare, and had a great start, winning five out of eight singles. Rotokare were the eventual winners, but with three third set tie-breakers, they had to work hard for their points.

Midweek Ladies started with a wet Monday, and some teams are still trying to finish their first round matches. Our four teams are back into it after a break over the Labour holiday.

Club Night has started on Wednesdays, juniors from 4pm, adults from 6pm.

Also on Wednesdays at 9am we are trying a casual ladies' morning for those who would prefer just a social hit.

The recent working bee saw members and non-members helping to tidy the clubrooms and grounds. Thanks to WildCat coffee for sponsoring the refreshments and all those who gave up their Sunday lie-in to make such a huge impact.

For further information about joining the Club, you can contact Dave Marshall (President) on 752 7370, Becky Bruckner (Treasurer) on 752 7474, or Jill Barron (Secretary) on 752 7262.



John Salisbury and the junior players coaching clinic in the school holidays.

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Surf Highway 45 and 15min
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Worker bees, Dave Marshall, Sue Oldfield and Becky Bruckner.

Oakura Junior Athletics

Ready, Set, Go!! And we are off and running, jumping and throwing again for the 2007/8 season.

Four years ago when we first started holding mini-athletics at Corbett Park, we had about 30 children turn up to our sessions each week. On our first night this year we have had about 80 children register. What an amazing turn-out for our little community. Children are now turning up from New Plymouth and Okato.

To the casual observer it may look somewhat chaotic but believe me having 80 plus children, siblings and parents participating each week means it is anything but.

We were told some time ago that this little idea of getting children between 2 and 7 to participate and learn the fundamentals of athletics would grow and become 'big'. Children arrive full of excitement and anticipation. It's like being part of a Wiggles/ HI 5/Metallica concert each week!! They cannot wait to get moving and involved in the skills sessions. The response to our Monday nights show us that children are finding sport an enjoyable and rewarding experience and hopefully developing a positive attitude to physical activity and health.

Our season will take a break for Christmas on the 10th December and restart in early February.

Day: Mondays Time: 5.45-6.30pm

Cost: \$10 per child, \$15 per family and \$2 per casual visit.

If you have children that may be keen to join or would like to know some more about what we do then feel free to contact us: Jo Hill 752 7899, Melissa Waite 752 7907, Rose Parker 752 7288.

Milo Have A Go Cricket

Starts on Thursday 15th November.

Venue: Oakura School (the back field).

Time 5.00pm, however by the time this goes to print in the TOM it may have changed to 5.30pm.

Any queries, phone Taranaki Cricket or Jo Hill, 752 7899.

GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Hope the weather picks up soon. It's especially hard for those of us who spend a lot of time overseas . . . Oh, for some warmth!

The big news this month is the naming of three Oakura Boardriders members in the NZ junior squad who have a chance to make the New Zealand team for the junior world champs in France next year. Paige Hareb and Keone Campbell have been selected before, but this is the first time for Tyler Anderson. This is a great achievement for Taranaki when our isolation from the surfing industry can count against us at times.

There's not a lot to report lately on the home front, except a local kitchen designer seen practicing every day in marginal conditions – just need to get out the 9ft board as the Club longboard comp' will be held on the weekend of 10 November.

Paige has been busy competing in Australia. She made the quarter finals in the pro junior in Wollongong, then she came 1st in the Queensland Classic at Duranbah, 3rd at the Bells Beach pro junior, and made the semi-finals in the trials of the Layne Beachley WCT comp' in Manly. She headed to the Gold Coast for another Queensland comp, then went to Hawaii for the women's series.

The school holidays saw a lot of Kiwis in Bali and surrounds with reports of some good surf. Club President Paul Christophers is one who enjoyed good surf and good times, and Tyler Anderson also had some great waves and adventures for a few weeks with some of New Zealand's grommets – an education that will be appreciated for years to come.

Local surf shop owner, Jono Heath, is presently in Indonesia, hopefully enjoying good waves too.

The other Contest being held was the Maori Nationals which saw the final day held at Oakura a challenging comp in challenging conditions but enjoyed by all who attended and thanks to NPOB surf lifesaving club for the use of their clubrooms for the final day of surfing.

Upcoming events

30 November – A party night with the Fly's playing so come party! All members welcome, come along and kick off Summer with a get-together.

President's night will be held each Friday, kicking off on 9 November from 5.30pm. The bar will be open and there is a barbie for general use if you want a cook up, so come down for a get-together.

Also it has just been announced that the Surfing NZ Nationals are to be held in Gisborne from 12 to 19 January 2008.

The NPSR Club Winter series is over and dates for the Summer series are yet to be announced. Oakura will hold a comp' and Opunake too, so enter and show your support.

Anyone interested in joining the Oakura Boardriders Club can contact the officers below or I am sure any member will give you details. All new members welcome.

Oakura Boardriders.

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Wearable Arts

A stroll down the catwalk? Definitely not! Oakura School's entry into the Taranaki Daily News Fashion Art Awards was far from a piece of cake.

The eight students spent their lunch times and after school designing and creating their "Tornado" dress. The dress was complete with headpiece and floating debris. The materials they used were purchased at Spotlight. They entered the "Off the Wall" category and came away with a "Highly Commended".



Eloise Stevens, Jahla Tran-Lawrence and Miriam Stewart.

"The Tornado" was created by Milla Novak, Lucy Brankin, India Aston and Rhea Procter, and was modelled by Miriam Stewart. This was the first ever entry from Oakura School.

Jahla Tran-Lawrence and Eloise Stevens also entered individual outfits.

By Max Hardie Boys, JG Coughtrey and Patrick Costelloe

Year 8 Planting Day

Enthusiastic senior pupils walked from Oakura School to the Beach Reserve, where they planted trees to help protect against erosion and to preserve our beach area.

Oakura School Year 8s planted a range of trees, from Flax to Kowhai, with the help of John Leslie from the Council and Mr Priest. The land for planting is just past the campground to Ahu Ahu Road, and was owned by Mr Moller.

The project has been done in partnership with the New Plymouth West Rotary Club and the City Council. This project will become an annual event for Oakura School Year 8s.

By Patrick Costelloe, JG Coughtrey and Max Hardie Boys

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kaitake kindergarten



The tornado stricken kindy.

The week commencing 8 October was a momentous one for the children of Kaitake Kindy, as on the Thursday they were able to return to their McKellar Street "home".

The children entered the building as if they had never been away. Much is the same but a few changes have been made. We have a new entrance and some of the internal spaces have been redesigned to make them more workable. Robyn and Eleanor chose a bright new colour scheme for the walls, which the children are now covering with their art work.

The garden has also had a make-over, with new grass and plants. The play area is now all on one level and soft safety matting has been installed beneath the swings.

Gill



The refurbished kindy.

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Anyone for chess?

As the new library was being constructed we came up with the idea of inserting a chess board into the concrete. We purchased the black and white pavers and a couple of parents, Roger and Lil, laid the pavers.

Our Chess Club has been popular with some dedicated players and we thought we would be able to involve more students and even some of the parents. To fund the giant chess pieces and also a set of draughts, all manufactured in Germany, we received a grant from the Trusts Charitable Foundation. We thank them very much for their generous support and know that we will enjoy many hours of fun and challenges.

Kare Brisco

Omata Idol

On 26 October a huge number of people gathered in Omata Hall to watch students perform in Omata Idol. The talent was amazing and ranged from comedians to mime artists, classical music to rock.

The groups and soloists that presented pieces were M Bop Dance Group, Stephanie Galvin-Perry – vocal performer, Katie Pullen – poetry recital, D.C. Guitar Duo, Kristina Hunt – Irish dancing, Lucy Mitchell – vocal performer, Back in Black – guitar duo, Regan Jeffery – comedian, Toni Marshall – dance, Skye Cameron – vocal performer, and last of all (as stupid as he looks) a piano concerto by William Livingston!

We thank our judges Vicky Aylward (Victorious Vicki), Jemma Glasgow (Jemma G) and Bronnie Read (Bronweena) for helping organise the performances and giving great comments on the day. There were many laughs and everyone enjoyed themselves. Overall it was a great morning and the next Omata Idol is already eagerly anticipated!

By Bailey Hoosen and Tamsin Robinson

Upcoming events

November

- 15 Parent evening from 7pm: 'Talking to your child about sexuality'
- 19 Official opening of the new library and Main Block renovations
- 23 Years 5 to 8 Athletics at Okato
- 28 Year 3 and 4 tabloid sports

December

- 3 Life Education Truck arrives
- 6 Playgroup Christmas Party



Roger Jones and Lil Logan laying the chess pavers . . .



. . . and the students are quick to test out the board.

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Have you noticed a baby boom in Oakura? It is certainly noticeable at Oakura Playcentre.

We are thrilled to have welcomed several new families recently, all with children under 18 months old, and our new designated Baby Area is being well used.

The Baby Area has new carpet, new shelving and new equipment. It was great fun shopping for all those age appropriate toys and equipment. As well as all the stacking toys, rattles, blocks, balls, toy vehicles, books and puzzles, we have also collected together many objects for Heuristic Play.

Heuristic Play is play for babies, infants and toddlers that actively encourages exploration and discovery. Heuristic Play items give babies the opportunity to experience cause and effect, develop problem solving and decision making skills, discover spatial concepts and develop perception of space, form, size, patterns and colours. The items we have collected together include natural and man-made objects that are different in weight, softness, hardness, roughness, etc so that babies can explore all these different properties.

Of course one of the best things you can give a baby, to keep them amused, is another baby. Our designated Baby Area is a great space for babies to interact with equipment and each other. And when the babies are happy, the parents have time for a cuppa and a chat.

So, if you have a baby, come along and check out Oakura Playcentre. We are open Mondays and Wednesday, 9am to 12pm. You can come for a whole session or just fit in around your baby's sleep times.

Of course, the Playcentre also caters well for older pre-schoolers too. It was our pleasure to have been able to provide the children from Kaitake Kindergarten with alternative premises while the tornado damage at the Kindergarten was being repaired. We thank them for the care and consideration they showed towards the Playcentre during their time there.

Jo Symes

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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clubs & groups calendar

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St John's Omata:

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St James Church Oakura:

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Kung Fu:

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

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Oakura Yoga - Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm, Oakura Hall. Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Indoor Bowls:

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

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NEW LISTING

Appealing Single Level Home on Flat Section

A lovely mix of both light and space feature highly in this immaculate four bedroom home in Highlands Park. The property is in perfect condition both inside and out and offers a low maintenance alternative to a family home. Features include a beautiful northerly aspect, two generous living areas, a well equipped kitchen and stunning private gardens! Provisions have been made in the pricing of the property so that buyers wishing to add additional shedding have the opportunity too! **160 Mela Road, New Plymouth**

www.open2view.com ID No 165579

\$455,000-\$460,000



NEW LISTING

Close to Schools & Shops in Westown

This updated 1950's property is well positioned on an 809m² sunny section and has a private front garden and a fabulous view of the mountain to the rear. Well equipped kitchen/2 living spaces, a separate dining area and a fantastic multi-purpose storeroom or work shop underneath are just a few of the features! This home has huge potential to extend or further renovate and is located just around the corner from Westown shops and Westown School! **101 Clawton Street, New Plymouth**

www.open2view.com ID No 164023

Offers over \$299,000



NEW LISTING

Fantastic House & Land Package Inglewood

This is a fabulous opportunity for a young couple to enter the new home market at a very affordable level! This house and land package is located in the newly developed Estate Grove in Inglewood and will be fully decorated! The Hardy plank home will comprise 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms and huge North facing living area plus a double garage. Secure this brilliant package today and be a part of building your new dream! **Lot 43 Miro Estate, Inglewood**

www.open2view.com ID No 166064

\$280,000



NEW LISTING

Brand New Home in Estate Grove Inglewood

This fantastic new 3 bedroom home is well underway and scheduled to be completed by Christmas, the perfect gift for any young family looking for a new home. The property is located in the newly developed Estate Grove in Inglewood and is very central to schools, shops and sporting facilities. Secure now if you wish to add your personal touches to the property and be in for Christmas! This affordable property should be inspected if you are contemplating building in the Inglewood area all the hard work is done. **Lot 48 Miro Estate, Inglewood**

www.open2view.com ID No 166063

\$350,000



Secluded Family Home In Merrilands

Tucked away and set in private surrounds is this architecturally designed family home in Merrilands. The home boasts MANY angles, captures the full Northerly aspect and has a brilliant indoor/outdoor flow with stunning gardens and native birdlife. Inside the wonderful open plan lounge/dining and kitchen is lovely and warm and opens to a fabulous elevated outdoor deck surrounded by mature gardens. This property is positioned beautifully in Merrilands and comes under both the Merrilands and Mangorei school zones, is close to shops and transport. **40E Karina Road, New Plymouth**

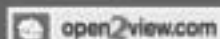
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