

TAKE ONE MOMENT

NOVEMBER 2011

# TOM OAKURA

## HATS FOR KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

A new hat is put to work straightaway in the sand pit at Kaitake Kindergarten!

*More on page 2*



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

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

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## E D I T O R I A L

We can all relax now that the Rugby World Cup is in the trophy cabinet and we can throw off the title of rugby 'chokers'. We know our All Blacks are the best and now we have the bling to prove it. I didn't know I could go 40 minutes without breathing but that about sums up the second half for me!

Perhaps relax is not the right word... have you seen what date it is? Nearly Christmas! It is time to stress and fret and shop and party and plan the summer holiday. Too late for saving the pennies now — it is time to be spending them. Good luck. It didn't feel so long ago I was fretting about winter never seeming to end, and now the evening fires are a memory and it is time to crank up the barbeque and get the sun loungers out.

Summer sports are underway and I hope we can all get out and enjoy these with good grace. We saw some pretty poor sportsmanship over the Rugby World Cup on occasion and the true winners to me are the ones who are gracious in defeat and victory, off the field and on. Spectators, commentators and players, we can all be good sports and surely rationalise it all as 'just a game'.

*Kim*



## COVER STORY

# Hats for Kaitake Kindergarten



Local business woman and real estate agent Anne Wilson has donated a bunch of hats to Kaitake Kindergarten to help the kindy with its sun awareness initiatives. Anne says her four children went to Kaitake Kindergarten and she really appreciated what the amazing teachers did for the development of the children. The hats will be kept at kindy for daily use and one little chap said hats were good for keeping the sun off your head and stopping freckles!

Anne is also bringing Nigel Latta back to Taranaki. She brought Nigel here to New Plymouth earlier this year and his Politically


Incorrect Parenting Show was a sell out. Funds raised from this evening will go to Oakura School and Kaitake Kindergarten. The show will be on Monday 27 February 2012 at 7.30pm At West City Church on Poplar Grove. Tickets are now available \$30 each, email: annewilson@hotmail.co.nz for the number of tickets you wish to secure NOW. Or call Gill on 7527327 Due to the overwhelming response last time get in quick – don't miss out!

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# Winchfest 2012

Taranaki festival-goers will only have to step out their back door to experience New Zealand's latest summer carnival when WinchFest 2012 hits Oakura early next year.

The country's top wakeboarders will head to Taranaki on January 28 to compete at the region's only winch park on Surrey Hill Rd, while internationally recognised bands from Aotearoa and across the ditch will complement the on-water action.

Local girl Jane Symons is the mastermind behind WinchFest. She says she has been overwhelmed with the interest the event has attracted so far. "We've got professional rider Brad Smeele coming to MC the winch competition and we've had interest from British and Australian riders who are keen to come and compete as well."

The event has attracted another local-born artist, award-winning drum'n'bass act MC Tali, who will host on the Saturday. Jane has managed to lure some of NZ's top bands to the two-day festival, including Concord Dawn, Katchafire and Cornerstone Roots, but says there are also up and coming Australian bands who won't disappoint. "We've got The Red Eyes from Melbourne, who are currently touring Australia with Salmonella Dub, and also Tijuana Cartel, who are a class act."

Jane has organised food stalls, graffiti walls and other sporting demonstrations, which will add to the experience for WinchFest-goers. She has also come up with the concept of Tent City: 50 pre-erected tents with air mattresses that will be available for hire over the weekend.

Although Friday and Saturday will be R18, Jane says that Sunday will be a relaxed, Kiwi, summer vibe, and families of all ages will be welcome to set up a spot by the river and listen to some good Kiwi music.

She says that the beauty of the venue, combined with the sport, art and music, makes WinchFest unique amongst the New Zealand festivals happening at the moment.

For ticket prices and further information go to [www.winchfest.co.nz](http://www.winchfest.co.nz).

*Hannah Fleming*



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## Mayor Harry

What a busy few months it's been in our district!

We were only just done with hosting three great Rugby World Cup matches (and thousands of enthusiastic visitors) when gardens around the region opened their gates for the Pow-erco Taranaki Garden Spectacular and

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival.

Once again, visitors came from around the country to explore our great landscape and be inspired by the creativity that home gardeners have.

The pace isn't likely to slow anytime soon. With summer we will have the TSB Bank Festival of Lights taking off in Pukekura Park and thousands of people flocking to our beaches once again — including the beautiful Oakura Beach.

The visitors who come to our district often mention how lucky we are to live here — but I believe this is something that locals know very well, and do not take for granted.

I recently had afternoon tea with a small group of volunteers who are Community Champions. These are the people who take ownership of a street, park, beach or other kind of public place and walk it regularly, removing litter and reporting any damage or graffiti that needs seeing to. It is quite humbling to find out that many of these volunteers have been doing this work for years, off their own bat, without expecting or seeking any recognition. With the Community Champions programme they not only get back-up for their work (with the Council removing the collected rubbish, and providing gloves, bags and first aid kits), but also the knowledge that they are part of a network of like-minded people who want to see their communities look their very best and be as safe as possible.

Visitors certainly notice the results of these efforts. I often hear comments about how clean our district looks, with little vandalism on the streets. This can make a huge difference when we have several thousand people coming here — and also, of course, it makes New Plymouth District even more pleasant for us residents. Anyone in the district can be a Community Champion, whether you live in a rural or urban area.

To find out more about the programme or to volunteer your time for your favourite Oakura area, give the Council a call on 06-759 6060 or email enquiries@npdc.govt.nz.

*Mayor Harry Duynhoven*

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## Little Blue Penguins

Puke Ariki needs your stories about Taranaki's Little Blue Penguins! Historical information about these birds is very limited but it is essential in helping researchers understand if populations are declining.

As part of 60 Springs Penguin Experience 2011 Puke Ariki and community libraries are appealing for anyone with stories or memories about Little Blue Penguins to send them in. Puke Ariki's 60 Springs educator Nathan Hills says, "I have spoken to people who have fascinating stories to tell about penguins that used to live under the bach when they were kids, or how the noise of the penguins would keep them awake at night when they were on holiday. They remember seeing the penguins, or knowing where a particular couple of penguins would nest. What can seem like just a memory to you can be a goldmine of information to us. Although data records have been kept about penguin numbers and sightings, the more data we have, the better a picture we can build about what is happening to these birds and how they are faring."

Pick up a form from Oakura Library or log on to the Puke Ariki website and record your penguin memories for posterity! The information you provide will be added to the Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society's database on the New Plymouth Kete so researchers and wildlife biologists can use it in their work in conserving penguin populations.

60 Springs is run in partnership by Puke Ariki, Shell NZ and Taranaki Regional Council.



Little Blue Penguin.

PHOTO BY MARK MEYBURG



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Authorised by J Young, Corner of Gill and Liardet Streets, New Plymouth





# Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

On Saturday, 3 September I went to Marsden Hill in New Plymouth to be part of the 'nark' event there. I was very pleased to support an event that advocates for children who are at risk of abuse. It's interesting to hear how the name 'nark' came about.

It must have taken a great deal of courage for Cherie Kururangi Sweeney to speak out when baby Serenity Scott-Dinnington died in May this year at the hands of a person or persons unknown.

Cherie's house was tagged with the label "nark" for talking to reporters and police about Serenity's death and in a small town such as Ngaurawahia it doesn't take long to gain notoriety. Cherie turned this label around into the Nation of Advocates for the Rights of Kids and that is a label that she wears proudly. She started a Facebook page to raise awareness of New Zealand's horrifying abuse record, to put an end to the anti-nark culture and highlight what a community can do. Her Facebook page lists 119 children that have died from abuse. In New Zealand children die every year at the hands of the people who are supposed to love them the most. Thousands more are confirmed to be suffering from abuse every year.

Recently the National-led Government passed a bill that further protects vulnerable children from abuse and neglect. The Crimes Amendment Bill (No 2) creates an offence of failing to take reasonable steps to protect a child or vulnerable adult from the risk of death, grievous bodily harm or sexual assault. The offence carries a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment.

The bill will make an example of adults who put their interests before that of the vulnerable especially if they have frequent contact with the victim although they may not live in the household. They must be aware the victim is at risk and have failed to take reasonable steps to protect that victim from injury. The bill also extends to a staff member of a hospital or institution where the victim resides.

While the aim of the act is to prosecute those who abuse or neglect children, it is a traumatic time for the children themselves especially if they are of an age where their testimony can be important when a case is tried in court.

National is introducing reforms to dramatically improve the way child witnesses are treated in the criminal justice system. Research shows that that 30% of children wept while testifying, more than 70% did not understand a question posed by a defence lawyer and, worse still, 65% were accused by the defence of lying. We simply must do better to ensure that the children who give evidence in criminal courts each year — the majority of them complainants in sexual offending cases — are not further brutalised by their participation in the process. Delays in cases coming before the courts and inappropriate questioning of children are reducing the court's ability to elicit reliable and accurate evidence.

The National-led Government is looking at reforms that will ensure child witnesses consistently benefit from the protection of alternative modes of giving evidence, and that there is a clear expectation on court staff, the judiciary

and lawyers that cases involving child witnesses be given priority.

In writing this I am reminded of the lines from the poem by Michelle R Kidwell: "They say it takes a village to raise a child but I say it takes a caring hand and lots of love and even one person can make a difference."

We need to step up and stand up for our children and not turn a blind eye to abuse and neglect. Thanks for caring for our kids!

*Jonathan Young MP*

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Welcome to longer patches of sunshine and some chance to head outside after work in the increased daylight. Many of you will be motivated by the recent local garden festival and a chance to plant up a vegetable garden. Come and see us at the library for a great range of books on gardens and plants catering to the novice and the experienced. There is also a good range of organic gardening books for those looking for a non-spray approach.

Thanks to the new computer system installed recently, you will notice some changes when you view information on the ipac at the library. It will make a lot more information available to the public in general and has a lot of wonderful features. Please ask for help as we all get familiar with using it.

Oakura Library hosted an 'All Fired Up' pottery session for children in the first week of the school holidays. Local potter, Linda Barbour, was helped by her sons, Sam and Isaac, to set up and demonstrate how to make a wall plaque. Linda showed some essential pottery techniques such as wedging, rolling, slip work (water to adhere two surfaces), stamping, texturing, and relief work (two-dimensional additions). The children experimented with these techniques and created fabulous results! Linda has taken the plaques to be fired and all the children will be notified, probably in the second week of school, when they can pick up their finished work.

Thank you so much to Linda and her sons for giving local children the opportunity to experience pottery; they all loved it! Any adult interested in learning some pottery skills can contact The New Plymouth Potters Inc (phone 06-758 9114). A big thankyou also to Rowan Oldfield who was our impromptu photographer! If anyone involved in the session wants to view the photos taken or have a copy sent just call in and we will forward on to you.

Some new books for adults at the library include: *The Affair: a Reacher Novel* (Lee Child), *The Silent Girl* (Tess Gerritsen), *Bloodline* (Linda La Plante), *The Bourne Dominion* (Robert Ludlum), *Portrait of a Spy* (Daniel Silva), and *The Race* (Clive Cussler).

New junior reads include: *Way of the Wolf* (Bear Grylls), *Robot Riot!* (Andy Griffiths), *Ring of Fire* (Chris Bradford), and *The Rock Star Files* (H. I. Larry).

New teen reads include: *What Happened to Goodbye* (Sarah Dessen) and *Angel* (L. A. Weatherly).

Also a reminder we now have EFTPOS available.

Relax and enjoy a great read from your local library,

*Karen and Vincenza*



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# Kaitake Community Board

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) has been as busy as ever since last reporting in TOM. A quick search shows I have attended over 20 Council-related meetings and workshops involving over 500km of driving, have read and replied to numerous email communications, spent a considerable amount of time on the phone, and read Council-related mail, which often swamps our mailbox.

Sometimes I think it was a pity that my parents taught me to be such an inquisitive child. These many years later I haven't lost that early grounding and still like to find out what's going on in our community. And, of course, as an elected representative, I am duty bound to respond on local issues that affect one or many of us. The focus of this column is water related. That is entirely appropriate with summer just around the corner.

Congratulations to Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, from the New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club (NPOB), on being crowned the BNZ Manawatu-Wellington Sportswoman of the Year by Massey University. Ayla won gold in this year's open women's surf belt race in the Australian championships and the National SLS Championships. She also took out a host of places including securing the New Zealand record in the obstacle relay in the World Rescue Championships in Egypt last year. She is studying a Bachelor of Business Studies and was selected from 59 Blues award recipients representing 20 different sports. Blues recipients are recognised for their performance in representing New Zealand in their chosen sport while successfully progressing in their academic studies.

NPOB is also gearing up for another safe summer period. The community is well served by the high quality and comprehensive life saving service the club provides at Taranaki's most popular beach. It also does a great job encouraging participation by the youth of the New Plymouth region in a wide range of associated recreational activities.

Oakura Beach has retained its Blue Flag accreditation (issued on an annual basis) and the Blue Flag has now been raised. The international Blue Flag status is particularly difficult to obtain and retain. To obtain that annual accreditation there are 28 criteria to be met — no easy task. Local beachgoers can be confident that as well as the life saving service, bathing water quality meets stringent standards,

that an environmental management plan is operating with all information displayed on the notice board on the beachfront, and fresh water, clean toilets, rubbish and recycling bins, and disabled parking are available.

The recent 20 Year Anniversary celebrations by the Oakura Boardriders' Club went off with a bang and were attended by many local surfers and club stalwarts. A number of previous members who have moved to other parts of the country also came and it was nice to have a catch-up with them. And yes, local surfer Paige Hareb did re-qualify for the 2012 prestigious ASP Women's World Tour. We wish her a relaxing, quality, surf-filled summer break and very good luck when the tour recommences next February in Queensland.

Good luck as well to all those students sitting NCEA and Scholarship exams during the next month — our community wishes you well.

The Community Board Emergency Alert Toolkit has now been finalised. The toolkit provides a means to record basic information to community boards that may be vital in a local emergency. In reality it is an interim measure and next year it is hoped Council can develop a Community Response Plan, which is a separate, more comprehensive emergency plan requiring much development and consultation with Civil Defence, Local Authorities, local community groups and residents. Some people may 'pooh pooh' the need for such a plan but the Christchurch earthquake and the Rena stranding indicate the reverse. In a well-prepared community everyone knows what to do.

Don't forget to check out the KCB's Facebook page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold. While November figures are not yet available there were 2,361 views of the KCB Facebook wall during October.

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

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# Woodleigh Prepares for Garden Spectacular

I have driven past the Woodleigh Garden sign many times but have to admit to never actually finding the time to venture into the garden. So I was absolutely stoked when I arranged to meet owner, Glyn, and I got my very own guided tour.

Gail and Glyn Church have lived at Woodleigh for almost 25 years. Although originally a rhododendron nursery, when they arrived the 10-acre section was mainly paddock. Over time they have expertly planted and developed the section to form the most spectacular gardens and woodland landscape.

Glyn says their aim was for the garden to look like it had just happened. As we walk around he is able to name (and spell — no easy feat!) the plants and trees. There is such a huge range of species. The evergreen magnolias with their beautiful white blooms were thankfully unscathed by the heavy cold snap, and Glyn says the garden was beautiful in the snow. The early rhododendrons with their vibrant colours are just starting to come into bloom ready for the Taranaki Garden Spectacular, now in its 24th year. Glyn says they have opened up the gardens for the festival every year since the beginning. It's a week that he thoroughly enjoys, chatting and meeting new people. I ask Glyn if the rhododendrons need any extra care or attention coming up to the festival. He says they tend to look after themselves although he does have to spray for thrip occasionally — a mite that literally sucks the chlorophyll



from the leaves, turning them silver.

Astonishingly Glyn says he's actually a lazy gardener, placing plants that although initially may be high maintenance, in the long term will need little care, such as the mondo grass area now a thick

carpet of green. He considers texture and colour when planting and says he likes to challenge people to look at plants and trees in a different way, such as the phebalium hedge, which makes a spectacular structural edge.

The whole garden is a clever blend of natives, both evergreen and deciduous. As you turn each corner there is something different to surprise you, the amazing lake, the taro wetland and the two streams running through the grounds. Even the pergola is constructed and situated to take in the beautiful deciduous woodland area with the ground covered in a



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sea of blue forget-me-nots. It is such a natural habitat that the garden attracts a lot of wildlife. Glyn shows me a pair of kingfishers nesting in a hole they have etched into a ponga stump, and as we talk we hear the tuis joining in!

Glyn also runs a hydrangea mail order service with up to 150 different specimens, and he has 50–60 varieties in his catalogue. After 25 years Glyn and Gail are passing on their mail order service to Quin and Janica Amooore, 300 Mountain Rd, Lepperton.

Woodleigh is an amazing garden to stroll around, and one I wish I had found the time to visit earlier. Gail and Glyn's passion and knowledge for horticulture is inspiring. Thank you, Glyn, for your time — I so enjoyed my tour.

Thanks to Fairfield Garden Centre Gail and Glyn will receive a garden voucher.

*By Rosie Moyes*

## Okato Pool Opening

Okato Pool staff have been busy getting the pool up and running for its opening on 5 November. Caroline Charteris and the other lifeguards are looking forward to another busy season to match the success of the last one. The 2010/2011 summer showed an increased usage of 40% over the previous season.

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) made some improvements to the ladies' changing rooms over the



Okato pool – the village oasis.



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winter, and there is a new inflatable toy that will be very popular with the children and some adults too this year!

Okato Pool is used by Coastal Taranaki School and Okato Swimming Club. In addition, pool staff run Learn to Swim and Aquarobics programmes throughout the summer season. The pool is also available for birthday parties during public times and for private hire outside normal opening hours. Our local community is fortunate to have such a great facility.

The staff are happy to accommodate your needs if they can, so give them a call during opening hours. Call NPDC on 06-759 6060 and ask for the Okato Pool.

*Caroline Charteris*

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**For 'What's on' and other information, please call 759 6060 for further details**


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# TOM Sports



## Kaitake Golf Club News

Congratulations to Frank Regan. Frank achieved the ultimate in golf: a hole-in-one on the 7th hole at Kaitake's Monthly Open Tournament on Wednesday, 28 September. Well done, Frank!

Summer is coming and Twilight Golf is starting at Kaitake on November 8, 3.00– 6.00pm. This is an ideal time to get out for 9 holes of golf after work. Barbequed sausages and hamburgers will be available between 4.00 and 6.00pm.

Kaitake Golf Club has recently acquired a defibrillator, which will be kept in the clubhouse. This is in addition to the ones already held at the Oakura Four Square and the Oakura Fire Station and is available to anyone who might need it.

Sponsorship is vital in this economic environment for any club to progress and continue improving their facilities for their members. Recently, Anne Wilson from McDonald Real Estate in Oakura has become a sponsor at Kaitake Golf Club. If a club member, family or friend engages Anne as a sole agent and she sells their property, the club will receive a \$500 donation.



**Frank Regan, who achieved a hole-in-one on the 7th hole at Kaitake's Monthly Open Tournament in September.**

The club is planning a Sponsors' Day on Sunday, 12 February to show their appreciation to the businesses that support Kaitake Golf. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Murray Gray on 06-753 4450 or Ross Benton on 06-752 7099.

### WEEKDAY WOMEN'S RESULTS

A field of 128 golfers registered to play in the 72-hole Tournament organised by the Midweek Women's section at Kaitake on 19 and 20 October. Unfortunately rain delayed the start on Wednesday and the competition had to be shortened. The winners of the Kaitake 72-hole Tournament were K. Wyatt and K. Luxton.

This was the 20th year this tournament has been held and the occasion was celebrated with Trixie Harvey and Lynette Boswell cutting the cake. Trixie and Lynette have been partners at this tournament for 19 of the 20 years.

### WEEKEND WOMEN'S RESULTS

Competitions for the Weekend Women are almost at an end, with the final games of the Men's Trophy to be played over the next few weeks.

A group of Stratford women joined the Kaitake Weekend Women last week for a round of golf. This was a lot of fun and we hope to make this a regular feature.

### MEN'S RESULTS

Men's 'Shootout' played over 18 holes was won by Brian Lewer, with Roger Cloke as runner-up.

Congratulations to everyone.

### COMING EVENTS

Tuesday night Twilight Golf starts on November 8  
Kaitake Club Christmas Hamper, Saturday 5 November  
Open Christmas Hamper, 20 November  
Kaitake Mixed Ambrose and Prizegiving, 3 December  
More information on Kaitake Golf Club can be found at [www.kaitakegolf.co.nz](http://www.kaitakegolf.co.nz).

Until next month, good golfing everyone.

*Andrea Jarrold*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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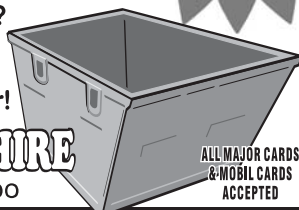
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# Fishing Report

The fishing is on the improve, with good catches of gurnard and snapper all around the coast. The big school snapper seem to be at the 80m mark, but some big moochers have been caught in close.

Most whitebaiters seem to be having some success with good hauls from the Oakura River. We have been having fun catching kahawai at the river mouths. On Sunday, 16 October we held the annual Ali Krutz Trophy Competition between Oakura and New Plymouth. Unfortunately New Plymouth won the trophy for the first time in 6 years; we will have to try harder next year.

The Oakura club is enjoying a good number of surfcasters and kayakers at the moment. We welcome both and have competitions and fish-together days for both types of fishing.



Calvin Bishop surfcasting at Weld Rd.



Club President, Bruce Howson, hands over our beloved Ali Krutz Trophy to the New Plymouth Surfcasting Club.



Cory and Joseph with their first ever fish caught at Oakura River.



**Vivian Pharmacy now stocks an extended range of Leppin Sport High Performance Nutrition Products**



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# GETTING WET

## Oakura Boardriders Club 20th Anniversary

The 20th Anniversary of the Oakura Boardriders which was held over Labour Weekend was a huge success. Over one hundred people attended the barbeque on Friday night and it was great to catch up with many past members who travelled from afar to help celebrate!

Saturday night was party night and as you can see from these photos everyone came adorned in their 'tropical island' attire...



**Skye Bradshaw and Casey Wiltshire.**



**Jean Cook with Kathy and Paul Lobb.**



Simon Deken giving a speech after accepting the OBC 20th Anniversary Classic trophy. Also in the photo are some of the other contestants who participated in the Open Men's competition- Johnsie, Jimmy Lovell, Dan Fanthorpe, Hamish Christophers and Kodie Fisher.



**Jeremy Freeman, Rick Christiansen, Hamish Christophers and Skye Bradshaw.**



**Crawf and Chappie.**

**20  
YEARS**



**Allan and Peta Day.**



**Bob and Maria McLean with Ali Borlase from Palmerston North (Tom Brankin in the background).**



**Brian and Vincenza Clark.**



**Not to mention the bevy of "babes" ...**



**... and more "babes".**



**Victoria (Tori) and Glen Johns (Johnsie)**



# Taranaki Business Provides 'Primo' Wireless

PrimoWireless is a professional telecommunications company that provides high-speed broadband services spanning the hard to reach areas of Taranaki. It started out as a small network linking two friends to play computer games, but it soon morphed into a business.

"I had a friend who lived 10km out of town and we liked to play online games," says founder and managing director, Matthew Harrison, of Inglewood. "We'd be playing and he would get disconnected all the time. It was pretty frustrating, so I started looking into wireless technology, which was quite new then (five years ago). We then went halves in a link between us, which worked quite well. His neighbours then found out and they wanted it too, then other people in the area."

Matt Harrison set up the company four years ago. It's grown to involve a couple of business partners, Matt's wife Jasmine, and two contractors. They're still based in Inglewood and most importantly still local but now have over 20 sites around the mountain beaming wireless Internet to its customers. "We're building a network around the mountain," says Matt. "We've basically put them in areas where Telecom has no infrastructure or no plans to do anything. The sites run off mains electricity if they are close enough to a source. Three sites use solar energy. The system makes fast broadband available to people who may not have even had dial-up. Satellite broadband is often too slow for these clients, or signals can be blocked by trees and hills near their homes."

The Primo network gives customers up to 5MB of download speed, compared to about 0.5MB with satellite. Kim Ferens from TOM has been using PrimoWireless for a couple of months now and she says it has made a huge difference to her life. Most of the TOM work is done via the Internet so it is extremely important to have a reliable connection. Telecom has never been able to provide a

reliable service with outages occurring for days at a time. PrimoWireless is so much faster — music files, for instance, download in about 10 minutes where previously it was 45 minutes. Another plus is that when you need help you get to talk to real people and quickly, unlike other providers who first put you in a queue then ring you back then put you on hold...!

"It's all done through wireless antennae that link back to our equipment and servers in the Transfield building in the New Plymouth CBD," says Matthew. He says PrimoWireless is the only ISP in Taranaki specialising in wireless technology, although there are others around the country. The company focuses on connecting customers in rural areas, although they provide Internet and phone services to a few businesses in the New Plymouth CBD and Bell Block industrial areas on a case-by-case basis. The company is able to connect people in areas that the big operators class as non-viable.

"The Government is talking about getting rural broadband to people who don't have it, at a speed of 5MB, and that's what we are already providing and it's here now. We're not part of the Government's plan, but we are already building the network."

For more information contact PrimoWireless on 06-756 6620 or [info@primowireless.co.nz](mailto:info@primowireless.co.nz)

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# Overseas Students Love Oakura

Oakura is privileged to have four overseas students staying with host families Angela and Garry Harrison, Sue and Rowan Oldfield, and Christine and Jim Morwood. I had the opportunity to talk with the students about their experiences and observations of their time in New Zealand and Oakura. Three of the students are from Germany — Juliane is 15 years old, Johannes is 16 and they both live near Hamburg. Erik is 16 and comes from the Saxonia Province in Germany. Raphael is from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

While here the students attend school to keep up with their studies. Juliane goes to New Plymouth Girls' High School and the boys to Spotswood College.

One of the first questions I ask them is what made them decide to come to New Zealand? They all agree that when researching the country the spectacular landscape was a big draw. Johannes says he first became interested with the Lord of the Rings films. The students all wanted to improve their English language skills and were interested in the New Zealand culture. They all agree that English is a very important language to learn. Raphael says that in Brazil they go to school between 7am and 12noon. Many then go to an English language school as an extracurricular activity to improve their skills. Erik was in an accelerated English class in Germany. He has been in the country since January and now thinks and even dreams in English (amazing!).



**Juliane.**



**Erik, Johannes and Raphael.**

When they first arrived in New Zealand they all felt it was better than they had expected. All four comment on the friendliness of people and the less stressed, laid-back lifestyle; they were all used to living in busy cities. Johannes feels people are not so busy here with more time to have fun and relax. Juliane says that everything is very green here and she loves the nature. She says that the stars are so bright in the night sky (I agree Juliane, I remember thinking that coming from the UK)!

What do they like about Oakura? Well, they all agree they enjoy being so close to the sea for surfing, and to the mountain for skiing or snowboarding. They love nature, the fresh air and the friendly, happy people. Juliane says that in her spare time in Germany she would shop in the city with her friends and maybe play a little tennis. Here she loves to walk and go running along the beach in the fresh air. The boys have had a lot of fun learning to surf, and Erik and Johannes enjoy cycling. If you bump into them on the beach say hi! They all are very grateful to their host families for making them so welcome and happy during their stay.

The students all hope to travel a little during their stay. Although Erik leaves in two weeks, he hopes to travel with his parents and grandparents for another month or so before returning to Germany. Raphael hopes to go to the South Island and Fiji, and Juliane to Australia with New Zealand Education Tours. Johannes has travelled around the North Island including Taupo and Wellington.

What does the future hold for them... more travel they all hope! I think they may have been hooked! Juliane wants to go into Hospitality and Hotel Management and hopes to go to university. Erik and Johannes both intend to continue further education on their return and Raphael wants to study Administration at university.

What amazing young people they are, so happy and confident. I wish them all the best in their future plans and travels.

*By Rosie Moyes*

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## The West Coast School of Rock

### ROCKS IN THE HOLIDAYS

The West Coast School of Rock held a rock circus in the holidays and two local teenagers joined a group of other budding muso's to belt out some entertaining music. Pictured are Martin Leith, second from left and Louis Ferens, on the right, who put together a band called 'Anonymous' and spent four days composing and rehearsing rock music.



**"Anonymous".**

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## Oakura School Junior Playground Nears Completion

With the allocation of two new classrooms at the end of 2010 it became evident that the junior playground at Oakura School needed to be relocated. The much-loved sandpit and playground were located on the site of the proposed new classroom block, so it was planned to redesign a new and improved playground at the front of the junior classes.

In Term 4 2010 the junior classes spent time planning what they would like to see in this new playground and made designs and models to share with the planners and Board of Trustees. These were taken into account when deciding on

the final designs. What we now have are two very different areas, which complement each other and combine to provide a varied and exciting new play area.

The first stage was completed in Term 3. Components of the existing playground were relocated and added to in order to form a ship-like play area. It includes a swing bridge, slide, monkey bars, rolling barrel and climbing wall. As an added safety feature artificial turf was used for the base.

In Term 4 Oakura School pupils will see the completion of the second stage of the playground, which will feature a natural plant and rock area as well as a large sandpit. Our junior students are loving the new playground and are looking forward to using the new sandpit area this summer as the playground project is completed.



The junior playground.

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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# Wiltshire Interiors and Design

Casey Wiltshire is just beginning her own business venture called Wiltshire Interiors and Design and for the local young lady it is tremendously exciting and scary.

Wiltshire Interiors and Design is the business you need if you want to get expert advice and designs for any facet of the inside of a building. This might be drafting up house, apartment, bach or office and in particular interior plans, lighting plans, furniture designs (drawing up bespoke furniture designs for specific requirements), kitchen and bathroom designs, interior colour schemes, plans for floor coverings and furnishings, home staging (setting up your home to maximise its true potential when selling). And let's face it, there are so many options for all of the above these days it is extremely difficult to make the right choice and having a qualified designer help with these decisions could help prevent costly design boo boos.

Casey gained a Bachelor of Design majoring in Interior Architecture from Victoria University and interior design is something she has always been interested in. Casey tells of building polystyrene houses and furniture right from when she was little and her dad was a furniture packer with lots of polystyrene floating around.

Casey and her family are ex Omata residents and Casey attended Omata School. Actually she attended school even before turning five! The family lived opposite the school and Casey would 'runaway' from home and hide under Mrs Burton's desk and her mother would get a phone call saying "Casey is at school again!"

In recent times Casey has applied her design skills on a temporary contract with Boon & Goldsmith and also at Mode Kitchen & Bathroom Design. Most latterly Casey has been doing plans for her and her partner Ben Plummer's new house on Lower Weld Rd. Casey has designed the house to fit in with the landscape and also co-ordinated the colour scheme and fittings to reflect the seascape just out the front door.

Locals may have seen Casey participating in the Vertigo



Snow Jam over the winter and in fact Casey was the first girl to participate in the event. Obviously she has a passion for winter sports and enjoys getting up on Mt Taranaki to snow board. Ben has also persuaded her out into the water to give surfing a go and Casey rates herself as a 'budding' surfer. On other occasions you'll find Casey out walking her dog Jimmy who is a cute little bundle of fluff or alternatively Casey will have her camera out taking shots of eye catching scenes.

If you are planning on building a house, are renovating an existing dwelling, building a spec house or rental property and want expert advice on how to maximise your property's potential then Casey would be the right person to call.

*By Kim Ferens*



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## Coming Events

### November

- 17 Year 5/6 Athletics at Okato
- 18 Year 7/8 Athletics at Okato
- 23 Room 1 Cushion Concert 6pm
- 24 Parent Help Morning Tea
- 28 Year 7/8 Camp to Wellington

### December

- 1 Year 1-6 Folk Dance Display and Fancy Dress 5.30-7pm

Playgroup Christmas Party 9am

- 9 Reports issued
- 13 Big Day Out
- 15 Prizegiving 11am-12pm then  
School ends for 2011

2012 year begins for children on Thursday, 2 February.

Stationery sales and lists on 31 January and 1 February from 9am-12noon.

## 2012 Pumpkin Festival

Calling all giant pumpkin growers; seedlings will be available soon for the 6 May Pumpkin Festival.

Enquiries to Joss Hobson 06-751 3301 if you would like more information on how to get your seedling.

## Jump Rope

We raised over \$1000 for the Heart Foundation and enjoyed improving skills and fitness levels during the lead up to our Jump Rope Display at the end of Term 3.



Jump Rope.

## Nga Manu Exhibition

During our Nga Manu rich topic, children made amazing 3D artworks, which were displayed in a bush exhibition at the end of last term. We turned our native bush into an enchanted forest for the day and it was an outstanding display.



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Until rugby strikes the stadium again

*By Ned Crawshaw age 8*



Jodi Astwood with her sons, Callum and Chase, checking out the wildlife.





The wildlife.



Tina Johnson, Velma Smith, and Suzanne and Jemma Tanner enjoying the exhibition.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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# Acupuncture for Health and Beauty

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To make an appointment with Peter Marra, Acupuncture Professional phone 06 7581857 in 60b Buller Street, New Plymouth.

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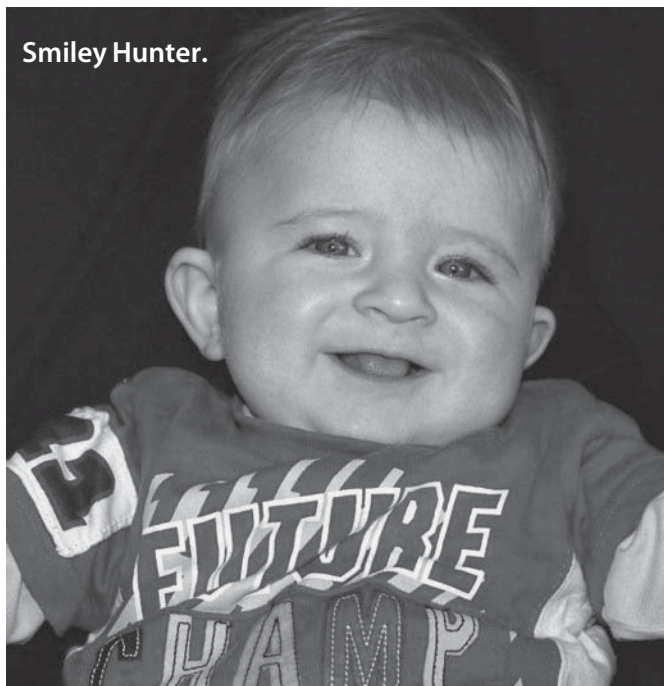
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# TOM baby

TOM BABY OF THE MONTH

Smiley Hunter.



Congratulations to Gill and Rod Campbell on the birth of their son Hunter. Hunter was born on the 18th May 2011. The family moved into their new home on Plymouth Road about 12 months ago. My goodness Hunter is such a smiler!





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Feed all citrus trees with Butlers Citrus Fertiliser.

**Flowers**

Mulch around flowerbeds to conserve moisture in the soil.

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

**Lawns**

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## Plunket Nurse Service Still in Oakura

As noted in the last issue of TOM, the Oakura Plunket volunteer committee has sadly had its final meeting. However, Plunket services are still very much in good health with the nurse continuing to do home visits and hold clinics at Oakura School.

Appointments can be made by phoning the Taranaki Area Office on 06-769 5453.

To talk to a Plunket nurse 24/7, ph PlunketLine 0800 933 922.  
[www.plunket.org.nz](http://www.plunket.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/TaranakiPlunket](http://www.facebook.com/TaranakiPlunket)

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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Country and Western Club

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

### 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.

### 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 Cheryl 06-752 4097.

### Omata Playgroup

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

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm  
Tuesday 5.30-7pm  
Wednesday 3-6pm  
Thursday 5.30-7.30pm  
Friday 9am-12noon

Ladies' Midweek Competition  
Club night  
Juniors' private coaching  
A-grade players' practice  
Social Women's Tennis for members and non-members  
Junior Competition  
Soffe Cup and A-grade Competition  
Club Day — Adults and children welcome for a hit

Friday 4.30-6pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Contact John Hardie Boys on 06-752 7592.

**PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR  
CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING**

### 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](mailto:huw@taranakivw.co.nz) or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - [julie@taranakivw.co.nz](mailto: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.

## MONSTER GARAGE SALE

**19 November 8am to 1pm**

*To be held at the Jones and Sandford site,  
285 St Aubyn St*

### HEAPS OF GOODS - ESPECIALLY BARGAINS!

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All proceeds from the garage sale are going to help fund the NPBHS Cross Country team which has been selected as the school team to represent NZ in the World Secondary School Cross Country Champs in Malta March 2012.

**CONTACT CATHERINE JONES PH 7513305 FOR MORE DETAILS**

## TOM CLASSIFIEDS

### DEAD CARS

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