

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

NOVEMBER 2013

THE AIM OF THE GAME

Jason Bond leaping over a barrier in the cross
country race.

Story on page 13



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TOM OAKURA

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

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Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM?

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EDITORIAL

They say a day is a long time in politics, well the past month has seemed like eternity in the political battleground!

We have a new mayor – Andrew Judd and a whole bunch of new councillors which in my opinion suggests the people want a change of direction. Promises need to be kept now – not just left in the rhetoric wasteland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harry Duyhoven for his contribution to the local community – I believe he gave his best.

Andrew has to prove himself now.

Welcome to our new KCB councillor Paul Coxhead and goodbye to Teresa Goodin who has worked away tirelessly on local issues. We can have confidence in the elected councillors.

As for that other high profile mayor and his carryings on, I'm picking he would like 2013 to hurry up and finish! One of my mother's pet sayings when I was growing up was "when people are talking about me, they're leaving some other poor beggar alone!" I guess Len could be taking the heat off some others' misdemeanours.

I'm enjoying the bird activity at the moment. This time of the year the birds are very busy singing, building and flapping around – it makes the day a little sunnier I reckon.

Kim



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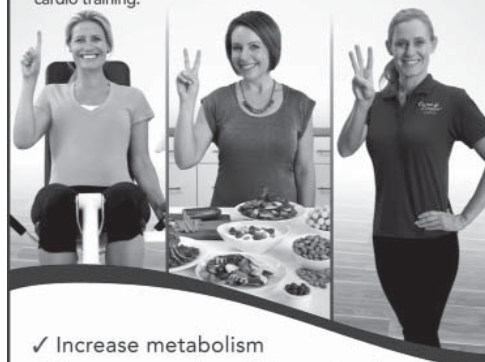
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TOM dates to remember
for December 2013 issue:
Copy and ads - 22nd Nov.
Distribution from
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Kaitake Community Board

Congratulations to those who put their names forward in the recent local body elections. It is not an easy thing to do and you certainly deserve the thanks of the community for being prepared to stand up to help make our community an even better place. Congratulations to those who were successful and commiserations to those who didn't make the cut as it were. I applaud you all for your commitment. A special thank you to last term community board member Teresa Goodin who missed out this time. Teresa put her heart and soul into her community board work. She worked resolutely on Okato community issues and created a number of opportunities to make our community a richer place. Often her work will have gone unnoticed but she will certainly be remembered by us as a person who made a very positive difference. I do hope when she travels through Okato at night and sees the festive lights or stops to give young Seb a climbing adventure on the new playground there she can reflect on her input on getting these projects off the ground.

Now that daylight saving has arrived and the first signs of summer begin to embrace our lives it is important to turn our attention to some issues along our beachfront that cause concern as more folk get out and about in this truly superb environment.

The first is about motor bikes on the beach and the beach track. The community board regularly receives complaints from residents about this ongoing nuisance. There are one or three regular transgressors, often travelling at speeds dangerous to other beach users and the same idiots seem to get perverse pleasure out of ripping up the beach track surface which has had many hours spent on upgrading it over the last few months.

For those who do continue to flout the Council Bylaw that controls vehicles in public areas here are the pertinent details yet again.

Beach Access - 'No person may drive a vehicle on Oakura Beach – including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Road Rivermouth (Timaru Stream) to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east. The public is entitled to take a boat down for launching as long as they do not leave their vehicle parked on the beach.'

And 'No person may take, ride, or drive a vehicle in a public place except on any part of a public place set aside for vehicular traffic (e.g. a road).'

Another problem that escalates over summer relates to dogs on the beach. We are particularly lucky to live in a very dog friendly place. Did you know as at 15 March this year there were 327 registered dogs in Oakura? It's a great environment for a family pet, everyone seems to have one, and while there are some pretty special dogs living here, there are some important responsibilities for owners.

The bylaw that cover this is explicit.

Dog Control - Dogs are not allowed on the areas of Oakura Beach as set out below from 9am to 6pm daily during the period daylight saving for New Zealand is in force.

'The foreshore and beach in the area between imaginary lines drawn directly to the sea from the eastern side of the vehicle entrance to the motor camp and from the western side of the end of Wairau Road.'

And at Corbett Park -

'That area of the Oakura River, beach, foreshore and adjoining land, bounded by the State Highway 45 road bridge, the true left bank of the river (Oakura village side), the eastern edge of the formed vehicle access through Corbett Park on the east side of the river (New Plymouth side) and an imaginary line drawn across the river in a line contiguous with and parallel to the seaward side of the building housing the Changing Rooms/Public toilets.'

Another issue often brought to the community board's attention is with those dog owners who walk their dogs on the foreshore, the beach, through the campground or on other reserves but fail to clean up after their pet defecates on the ground. This is the same ground over which other walkers and beach users travel and often where little kids play.

Once again there is a Council Bylaw that covers this particular issue. It states: 'The owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner shall immediately remove the faeces from that place and dispose of it in a sanitary manner into a suitable receptacle.'

It is also timely as well to remind horse riders of their obligations over the summer months.

Horses - are not allowed on 'Oakura Beach (including the foreshore and beach area located between the Ahu Ahu Road West of the Oakura Motor Camp to the west, and the Oakura River mouth to the east) from 9.00am to 6.00pm daily during the period daylight saving for New Zealand is in force.'

The beachfront provides a wonderful place to ride one's horse or walk the dog but as beach users multiply during summer it is not possible to meet all the competing recreational uses without some restrictions in place. If people have any concerns or would like to clarify what can and can't be done on the beach, they're welcome to contact council on 06-759 6060.

Finally on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, new member Paul Coxhead and Councillor representative Richard Jordan I wish to reiterate that the Board will continue to work hard for the whole district and its residents. We are all only as far away as the phone or email and don't forget that the Community Board maintains a Face Book page so all you FB social networking fiends out there can access the latest and the greatest about the board and its activities.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop



Delivering Security, Wellbeing, and Respect to Older New Zealanders

JONATHAN YOUNG MP

Older New Zealanders deserve to enjoy their retirement. They deserve to know they are being taken care of, and the financial support they rely on will still be there for them, despite the difficult global economic conditions we've faced as a country. Older people built our economy and our society. They continue to contribute to our communities and our nation's prosperity during their later years through their unpaid and voluntary work.

This is why Prime Minister John Key promised all New Zealanders that the rate of superannuation would remain at 66 per cent of the average wage for a married couple, under his leadership. I'm proud to be part of a National Party that is giving seniors the security they deserve about their future. National is also committed to supporting older New Zealanders in other ways too.

National continues to support older New Zealanders to be healthier and independent in their own homes or in aged care. In recent Budget announcements, our Ministers of Health announced aged care and dementia services will benefit from an extra \$70 million over the next four years. This is good news for New Zealanders who have a relative in care.

Another issue which I know concerns many older New Zealanders is feeling safe both at home, and in their

communities, National is committed to cracking down on crime.

We've boosted the police force by 600 officers. We've overseen the lowest crime rate in 30 years. There are fewer young people in court. And police have more tools to do their jobs even better.

We're also working extremely hard to support your grandchildren, by improving our education system so it delivers for every child. There are more children attending Early Childhood Education than ever before. National Standards are successfully measuring progress at our primary and intermediate schools, ensuring parents are fully informed about their child's progress. And there are more young people reaching NCEA level two, before they go on to tertiary or vocational study.

I am privileged to meet with many older New Zealanders across our region. I am constantly inspired by their stories, and by the things they have achieved, as well as the sacrifices they've made to help their families succeed. It's great that this Government is ensuring the security, wellbeing, and respect, all older New Zealanders deserve.



Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Coastal Young Farmers

Just a quick update from the Coastal Young Farmers Club. We are whizzing into our third year as a club, with most of our members recovered from the calving season and now straight into AB.

Our club has organised many gatherings throughout the year. In March, there was a drought dry off meeting at the Tataraimaka Hall with many farmers from around the district getting together and having a good catch up.

The 'Gumboot Ball' was held May and from reliable sources, it sounded like a good night! Credits especially go to Tegal and Nicole who helped organise the event! Recently a small group drove down to the Kakarama Pub to join up with

the other Taranaki clubs to have a few drinks and celebrate the end of the calving season. Events like these are a great chance for members around the region to get together and network.

There are many events being planned for the upcoming summer months. Abacus Insurance is planning a golf day which starts at 10.30am on Friday the 8th of November at the Kaitake golf course. The club is also thinking about what our entry will look like for the Okato community Christmas parade.

Lastly, our next meeting is our AGM and it is on Thursday the 14th of November at the Okato Bowling Club, Kaihihi Road. Come along at 7pm if you are interested in joining Young Farmers. It is a great way to meet new people, especially if you have just moved to the district in June.

Laura Richardson

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM?

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Congratulations to New Zealander Eleanor Catton winning the prestigious Man Booker Prize for 2013. Her lengthy novel, the Luminaries is "an astrological mystery set in 1866 Hokitika". Book your copy now!

Our final crackerjacks (preschool story time) for this year will be held on Thursday 14th November 2013 at 9:45 am. No booking required all welcome.

Over the school holidays we shifted our holiday programme to the library deck. It was a glorious morning for a story and painting craft. I read *Stuck* a humorous picture book by Oliver Jeffers.

Local Oakura resident Isaac Drought has recently published Alphabet Squabble. We have a copy of this delightful children's picture book that delivers a powerful message.

Christmas/New Year holiday hours: we will be closed from Tuesday 24th December 2013 to Sunday 5th January 2014. We will reopen on Monday 6th January 2014 at 12:00pm. From then on we will have normal opening hours throughout the summer.

Charlie and Vincenza



School holiday fun.

Oakura Beach (near the Boardriders Club)



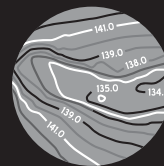
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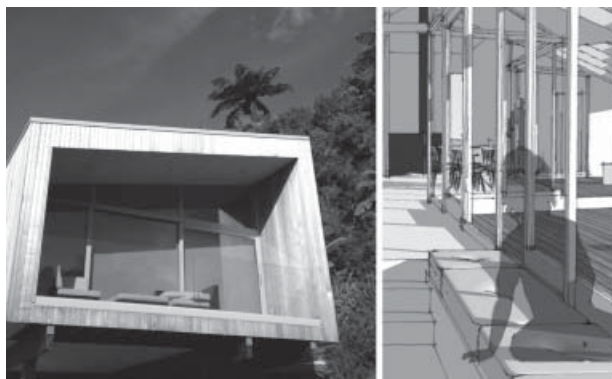
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My philosophy with my design work, is that each client is unique. I take the time to establish exactly what you want, and deliver a design that is unique to you, and offers the best style and solution for your needs. I am open minded to different design styles, alternative building solutions, and the incorporation of sustainable ideas. Within my design process, I also take into consideration the nature of the site, the surrounding land, neighbouring properties, views, and climatic conditions.

I moved to Oakura three and a half years ago with my husband and two children, who both attend Oakura School. We quickly realised what a special place we had moved to, and immersed ourselves into the community and outdoor pursuits. When looking around for an existing home to purchase, we realised that we could build a new home



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My goal at Kate Whittaker Design Ltd, is to provide an architectural design and drafting service of the highest quality that will exceed my client's expectations.

If you would like to book a no obligation, free consultation, please phone Kate Whittaker on 752 7672 or 022 0789790.



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Kaitake Kindy Fundraiser a Great Success

Kaitake Kindergarten's annual art auction 'Art on a Plate' once again proved to be a great success. With \$13,300 profit raised, we are another step closer to the veranda building project upgrade for the kindergarten.

This was all made possible by all the people who contributed. So a huge thank you needs to go out to the various people involved.

This includes ...

*Anne Wilson (our MC) and Peter MacDonald (Auctioneer) who managed to entertain and auction to those who attended.

*Sohnke Danger, our chef and host at Okurukuru . . . the 3 course meal was outstanding.

*All the local artists who provided their amazing art.

*The MOST FM and TSB Stadium for their support.

*The Kaitake kindergarten parents who gave up their evening and were extra helpers on the night.

*The people who bought tickets and attended.

*The fantastic committee team who got the job done.

So with yet another successful art auction fundraiser behind us, the committee is already focussing on ways to improve next year's event. Without the support of the community it would be difficult to have and maintain such a high standard of kindergarten for our children. If you have pre-school children please feel free to drop by and check out Kaitake Kindergarten for further information.

Opening hours are: Mon - Fri (8.30 to 2.30).



Robyn and Anne welcoming everyone to the auction.



One of the excellent works of art being presented for auction.

Going! Going! . . . Gone!



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TOM Sports



Oakura Pony Club

Hi it's been a busy, fun time for Oakura Pony Club.

Oakura Gymkhana was a great success, congratulations to all our riders.

Winter Dressage congratulations to Molly Lumb Dressage Taranaki Winter Series Level 3 Champion selected for dressage NZ young rider training camp.

Winter Showhunter Series Pony Champion Maya Henderson.

North Taranaki Showhunter Champs Foxton team came second with Oakura riders Summer Henderson and Maya Henderson.

C Cert passes congratulations - Isobella, Maeghan and Kate!.

Oakura held a jumping day at Waitara grounds. It was great to see Marlise enter with her daughter and win a ribbon. It's never too late to join Pony Club. Everyone made it such a fun day a big thank you for all support. Maeghan King did very well in the higher classes.

OAKURA ARENA USE:

Please pick up a key from Heydon Priest BP Oakura for arena use, a bond will need to be paid. Also contact Pony Club if you would like a key for the season. Phone number the on sign at Pony Club.

We would like to thank Heydon Priest BP for supporting us.

Please phone for next rally, and remember you can come mounted or unmounted, members welcome.

Anthea.



Maya Henderson on Mill the Filly Showhunter champion.

PHOTO BY KIRSTY STACHEN



North Taranaki team.



Malise, Charlie, and Maya at Oakura jumping day. Well done.



Summer, Saskia, and Georgia Oakura jumping day.

G.S. Lindsay

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Oakura Boardriders

I guess we are all looking forward to summer and the end to this volatile weather; it starts to wear a bit thin at this time of year. Now that daylight saving has started we will also start our Friday club nights. After school we will have a surfing - coaching session, parent or helper needs to be present. Initially \$5 per head for each learner but later we plan to have subsidised coaching for those really keen ones especially those wanting to enter competitions. Following the surfing the club will be open, complimentary BBQ for the kids and the bar will be open for the adults. Fridays will back to normal from 1st November. Interested parties can contact Gary Bruckner on 752 7474 or talk to a committee member.

The Dylan Walsh Memorial Longboard contest was held over Labour weekend at Fitzroy and hope to have some results for next month's issue of the TOM. The last of the 'New Zealand home Loans Series' also held at Fitzroy, has been postponed until January.

From the 7th of December to the 4th of May 2014, Puke Ariki's summer exhibition will be 'Surf: Shaping Taranaki' as well as the static display's there will be interactive displays



Ariana Shewry

and videos and will be well worth a visit so add that to your list of things to do this summer.

Paige Hareb has finished her competitive year with a 5th place in Portugal, she requalified for the ASP women's tour again next year and with the proposed restructuring of the ASP and more contests at better breaks for the women, will be looking forward to nailing some good results next year.

There are some members with surfboards for sale so anyone looking for a 2nd hand board for their kids can call 752 7171 and you can be directed to something suitable with any luck.

Kaitake Golf Club

WOMENS 72 HOLE FOURSOMES

The Kaitake Golf Club annual matchplay foursomes was played on the 16th and 17th October and attracted 88 players from around the country. Unfortunately the weather forced a number of players from the Waikato to withdraw due to flooding. However some tenacious women from Taumarunui managed to get through Mt Messenger after waiting an hour either side for the slips to be cleared.

The winners were: Kaitake Section - Sally Kwon and Moira Gray(Kaitake), Pouakai - Jane Shaw and Shirley McClutchie (Urenui), Tapuae - Helen Whyte(Kaitake) and Veronica Hignett (Stratford).

MENS DIVISION

19 men battled in the Men's Shootout final which was won by Jono Heath. Congratulations.

9 HOLE NEWS

Super 9 Results - Final of the Series 1st Section - Raewyn Bishop, 2nd Section - Claire Chamberlain

Champion of Champions and 9 Hole Open - Due to poor weather, tournament postponed until 21st October so results next month.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP.

Welcome to all the summer members who have already taken advantage of the \$200 membership fee and joined Kaitake recently. Did you know that for \$200 you can enjoy golf over the summer months with the option of \$100 going towards becoming a full time member in 2014? This is a really good opportunity to ease into playing golf. Remember you are eligible to join in all club events over this period. See Jacqui in the Office for more details.

JUNIOR GOLF

Another junior golf day was held at the beginning of the school holidays. While there weren't as many children as other holidays the group enjoyed a comprehensive coaching session with Dominic Barson then put their skills to practice by playing a few holes.

The next junior say will be in January 2014 when those attending will play for the Mattingly Junior Trophy.

BOOK SALE

The weekend women are planning another spectacular book sale on Sunday 24th November 12.00 - 3.00pm at Butlers Reef. Make sure you come and get stocked up for your summer reading. All proceeds go to Kaitake Golf.

TWILIGHT GOLF

The longer evenings and warmer days are not far away. If 9 holes of golf during the week sounds good look no further. Twilight Golf will start at Kaitake Golf Club on Tuesday 12th November. Tee off between 3.00pm - 6.00pm.

HELP WANTED.

Are you a student looking for a few hours work during the summer period through December/January. Kaitake Golf Club would like someone to look after the office, collect green fees and welcome visitors to the course. For more information see Jacqui in the office or phone 752 7665.

COMING UP

Womens Open Christmas Hamper Thursday 7th November.

Open Christmas Hamper Sunday 24th November

More information on Kaitake Golf Club can be found on the website www.kaitakegolf.co.nz.

Andrea Jarrold, Club President

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80% Good Nutrition and 20% Exercise = Fit, Strong and Healthy

Nutrition has become a very controversial subject, especially with one expert saying "Low Carbs, High Proteins" the next saying "Cut out all sugar" and the next saying "Cut out all fats". What really works? Common sense, balance and moderation. And yet, so many of us still battle the bulge, struggle to eat correctly or even know what to eat. Let's throw out the 'good and bad' food labels and let's focus on getting a balance.

You may ask "How?" I would like to introduce you to a fantastic Nutrition Online package. It is a web-based nutrition and meal planning application that can be accessed by you. You will be able to tailor-make an entire week's meal-plan, recipes and shopping list in less than 15 minutes. All recipes and shopping lists can be tailored to serving sizes according to how many people are at each meal. Quick, easy and user-friendly! Catering for vegetarians, gluten free diets, dairy free diets and many more. Using your personal information it calculates your recommended calories per day, planning your meals to have a balance of carbohydrates, proteins, fats and fibre. For less than a \$1 a day, why wouldn't you join.

To access this fantastic package you don't need to be a client of Functional Fitness, this package is for everyone. All you will have to do is contact Functional Fitness to have a consultation to discuss your requirements, to assist you setting up the program and getting your first week's meal plan and shopping list ready for you. We will then forward you your Username and Password and you're ready to roll. We will be keeping an eye on your progress and will be available for questions, queries or just to chat.

Let's not forget exercise, it's so important for our physical and mental health. Unfortunately, many find it hard to get started or are just not motivated, so why not team up with a buddy and join Dynamic Duo's at Functional Fitness. You can now get strong, fit and healthy with your buddy. Enjoy strength training in my studio and join a group class together, challenging and motivating each other, becoming a dynamic duo.

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Estelle Williams



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Oakura Travel closed its doors in 2011, but Leeana is now back in the travel industry.

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To contact Leeana, either email leeana@mondotravel.co.nz or send her a text on 027 281 1408. The office free phone is 0800 482 368 or check out the website www.mondotravel.co.nz for all the latest deals and select Stratford as your store.



Leeana in her pretty car.



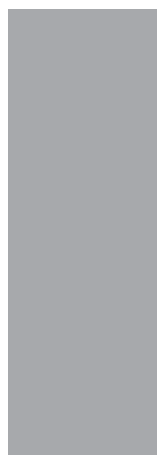
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COMING EVENTS

November

- 11-15 Y7/8 Camp to Wellington
- 14 Y1-6 Folk Dancing Display (fancy dress) 5:30-7pm
- 26 Parent Help Morning Tea 10:30-11am
- 27 ALL Library books returned please
- 28 Playgroup Christmas Party 9am

December

- 13 Music Assembly
Reports Issued
- 17 Big Day Out
- 19 Prize Giving 11am
Year ends 12pm

2014

Stationery Sales and Lists

The office will be open Saturday 1st Feb from 9am-12pm

School year

Commences for students on Monday 3rd February.



Monica Joyce and Toby Denton-Woolley are practicing their ball skills ready for the inter school coming up at Oakura.

What's on Top?

Due to the great run of weather this year, our Cross Country events have been able to be run on the allocated days for the first time in quite a while. Participation in the cross country was outstanding. Our thanks once again go to John and Lynda Mathews and their team of horticulturalists, led by Jon Paul, for the use of the stunning Waireka Estate. Visiting schools commented on our fantastic venue and course. Congratulations and thanks also to Pat for organising and running the four events. Pat has it down to a fine art!

3D conferences (parent, teacher, child interviews) have been completed and we hope everyone found them informative and useful for supporting students to achieve success in all areas. Parents are welcome to take the time to speak to teachers as often as they feel the need throughout the year about progress or issues; they do not need to wait for interviews to do this. Communication is the key in any relationship and our relationship with our community of parents is the key to success for our students. So thank you for your attendance and continued support of the school.

Continuing to learn and keep up to date professionally is a key part of what all of our staff do. Professional development refines and develops our skills. We are all learners and are responsible for continually enhancing our practice. 'Who dares to teach must never cease to learn' - John Cotton Dana. Professional development for staff has centred around a Ministry funded writing project, 'Accelerated Literacy Learning', and leadership development. Some staff have also been involved in special education training and of course, Pat has been involved in extensive science development during his fellowship.

We are very proud of our year 7 and 8 students for both the quality of their learning outcomes and the growth in maturity that happens during their last two years at Omata. This time in R6 enables our students to enter their secondary years ready and able to adapt to the secondary system. Pat Murphy and Jemma Glasgow (who also teaches regularly in Room 6) are expert, experienced teachers for this very critical stage in a child's life when they are entering adolescence. They provide a challenging learning programme along with the emotional and social support that is needed during the student's growth towards independence. While adolescence is a time of tremendous potential, it is also a time of considerable risk, during which social contexts exert powerful influence. Ensuring students get positive guidance during this time of physical, emotional and intellectual change is so important.

The Y7/8 class is off to Wellington this month for a week. Thanks to everyone who has supported their fundraising endeavours and we look forward to hearing about their exciting experiences in the capital.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the community survey recently. We appreciate your ideas and opinions as we review and prepare our strategic plan.

Karen Brisco, Principal

BoT Update

At the last Board meeting Bridgit Barleyman and Vicky Aylward presented curriculum reports. Bridgit with Special Needs spoke about how we deal with all different students needs and when support staff is brought into the class, along with professional development for teachers that has taken place.

Vicky tabled the Social Sciences report and talked us through how the social sciences area is covered and the way it is worked into the whole curriculum throughout the year and all linked together to help develop a well-rounded student.

The Student Council is very active within the school and gives regular reports to the Board of Trustees. These are

valued by the Board and show us the high level of self-management and student voice within the school. Well done Student Council. 3D conferences were well attended and give us another opportunity to be involved in our child's learning along with informative discussions with staff.

Many thanks to those who took the time to fill out the parent survey. We have had a good amount of feedback, with both things that are going well and some that we could review. We, as your Board, value your input and ideas and are taking the time with a special meeting to go through all of your feedback and review how we can continue to improve. Again many thanks.

Hamish Logan, BoT Chairman

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COVER STORY

The AIM of the Game!!

Have you ever heard of the AIMs Games? It's the biggest intermediate international sporting championships in New Zealand. On the week of the 16th of September, Oakura School, for the first time participated in the 10th year of the AIMs intermediate school games. Eight students from Oakura School participated in various events in Tauranga. We entered three events: cross country, golf and tennis.

Congratulations to our participants, Jason Bond, Tasmin van Bergen, Max Shearer, Poppy Mitchell, Emily Waite, Charlie Waite, Lachie White and Skyler Ellington.

"The race was huge and it was an amazing race to do. I would love to do it again next year," said Lachie White. The games were on all week and many of the students who competed in Tauranga had the time of their lives.

The competition was extremely difficult and our cross country runners found it hard to even get in to the top 50.

"The race was really hard, but also extremely rewarding by just finishing it," said Tasmin van Bergen. She would have loved to do it again, but sadly can't because she is a year 8.

We hope that all of the year 7's will participate in the AIMs Games next year as year 8's. We had a great time and enjoyed every second of it.

By Skyler Ellington (aged 11) and Phillippa Marshall (aged 11)

Room 3 students show off their amazing costumes, ready for the fancy dress.

Next time you're online, have a look at TOM's new community website -
www.thetom.co.nz

Junior School Fancy Dress

On Thursday 26th of September, the junior school had a special fancy dress day at the Oakura Hall. Each classroom had a prepared dance to perform to the parents on the day. There were also two dances that all of the classes performed together. Below is a story written by one of the students who took part.

By Tessa Keenan (aged 13)

Dance! Dance! Dance like a frolicking lamb. Wow, guess what happened on Thursday 26th of September? It was junior fancy dress. Hip hip hooray! I dressed up as a brave warrior. First we did the grand march and showed off all our super costumes. Next, all the rooms danced the Hokey Tokey. After that room Gecko did their item. Their dance was called Carnavauto. There were lots of leaders then they went crazy all over the place. People watched with excitement. Finally it was my class's item. I felt really embarrassed but we had to do it. When we finished our dance, we did the bird dance. All the adults were involved, what a spectacular time. But next time I won't be embarrassed. When I got home I felt as hot as a toasting fire!

By Otis (Room 3)





Visual and Performing Arts

Spotswood College has a vibrant and highly successful visual and performing arts programme operating in the school.

The teachers in charge give a brief overview of recent events and areas of current focus within the arts at Spotswood College.

SPOTTY IDOL WITH MR HILL

Spotswood College's annual talent show, 'Spotty Idol,' was held on the 26th of September.

For the last nine years 'Idol' has showcased the abundant talent of Spotswood's performing artists and 'Idol' 2013 was no exception.

The acts this year ranged from Hayley Mapley's soulful rendition of an Amanda Palmer piano ballad to Matt Everest's soaring Steve Vai guitar solo.

The performer crowned 'Spotty Idol' was Abby Christodoulou, whose beautiful voice and ability to tell a story through song really impressed the judges.

According to judge Mat Benton, Abby's performance of Lady Antebellum's 'You're Never Alone' was "outstanding".

"She's a natural born performer who oozes charisma. Definitely one to watch in the future," Mr Benton said.



Abby Christodoulou – Spotty Idol winner.

DANCE WITH MS TAHUAROA

The Dance and Drama Departments at Spotswood College are always busy as students and teachers work together to learn the tools of acting, dancing and performing. Students learn to celebrate and investigate their diversity, their inclusiveness and their care and encouragement of each other through their dance. We are keen to understand how people think and respond. Focus is on unlocking the students' voice (their opinions, points of view and attitudes) while searching for depth and articulation through the medium of the performing arts.

This year a group of senior dance students placed second at Spotty Idol. It's the first time ever a contemporary group has been placed. The students used this piece for their

ensemble assessment basing it on real and authentic learning around the suicide prevention theme. They used 'Sail by Awolnation' as their music track and the performance was stunning.

The students created an Arts Showcase event called 'Our Voice, Our Place' where their own work was showcased to an audience. The teachers empowered the students to operate the sound, lighting and back stage management as well as performing.

The success of the event was the humble nature of the students, their willingness to bring new work to the stage and their ability to support and encourage each other. It surpassed the students' desire for credit recognition of their work and was an honest gift from performer to the audience.

MUSIC WITH MR GREENFIELD



Senior students Graceyn, left, Kiara, centre and Ariana, right, perform their stunning routine.

At Spotswood we accommodate a wide variety of musical tastes with an emphasis on practical performance skills, with our performers and composers all playing and/or singing.

We are able to offer students lessons with highly skilled tutors in a wide variety of instruments.

Song writing and composing is highly valued. Many students discover they can write personal and relevant songs. The ability to create something from nothing is very useful in music and can be applied to creative processes across many aspects of life.

Successes in song writing are evident by the results in recent years for Rockquest and Play It Strange competitions.

We have a well-equipped recording studio enabling students to produce high quality recordings. We offer a course at senior level for this technical learning.

Musical performances feature at most school assemblies and then celebrated in our extremely popular talent show, Spotty Idol.

Every year we host the Taranaki Secondary Schools Orchestra Day at Spotswood College. Musicians work throughout the day to put pieces together showcasing them in a public concert.

Our Concert Band involves lots of instruments in a setting where students can learn to read music effectively. For those who are Jazz inclined Hatrix offers a chance to extend their improvising, reading and musicianship skills.

This year Hatrix practised and worked well as a team winning Silver at the Waikato/BOP Band Festival in August.

The students themselves reflect the popularity of the Music

Department, and the numbers enrolled for music at Spotswood College are higher than any other secondary school in New Plymouth.

THE ART ROOM WITH MR UPSON

The engagement, that's what strikes you when you enter a Spotswood College art room. You look around at the diversity. You ask questions and hear the intense confidence of the students as they consider their art and its origins.

Generating, modifying, evolving, visualising, trialling are the processes as students focus on their ideas and individualised inquiries. It's the sound of inventors in a workshop rather than hollow pretty picture makers.

Rather than imitating an art style, Spotswood art students are taught predetermining any outcomes is uncreative and static. Experimenting with new combinations and being open to new possibilities is where more learning takes place.

You leave the art rooms feeling energised and perhaps slightly envious of the creative flurry, focus and passion. You realise it's not just a hotbed for budding art students but a place open to all students needing to learn life-long creative and innovative thinking for our future technological culture.

This concludes the artistic journey as you have now experienced the passion, drive and national successes in the Performing Arts and Music Departments.

You will find that the arts at Spotswood use the language of life. Relate, combine, evolve, develop, persist, time manage, choice, decide, feel, turning points, the basic elements of the arts are those of everyday existence.

Sharyn Smart is a WITT journalism student



New Plymouth Boys' High School

We are back for the last term of school, where the senior boys are doing the external assessments for NCEA. We are delighted that some of the boys leaving this year have already received Scholarships from Universities – this is a real credit to the boys. The former days of Year 13 (7th Form) being solely for boys going to University are gone – now boys stay longer at school and half our Year 13 are beginning a career that does not involve going to University. I am pleased with the number of boys who have jobs already organised or who are going to WITT to further their chances of a good career. As a school we are about offering opportunities for academic, sporting, cultural and leadership success, but our major focus is the academic opportunities we offer the boys.

The following boys have done very well in their area of strength.

TSS Chess:

won by NPBHS.

NZSS Swimming:

Julian Weir: gold medals in 16-18 men's 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke.

Silver medals in the 200m freestyle, 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke.

NZ Under 16 Football:

Gian Squatriti was in the 16 player squad that toured Malaysia.

AWD TSS Basketball Competition:

Team: Jono Brownjohn, Matt Giddy, Brodi Miller, Jake Heayns-Larkin, Roberto Sanchez, Caleb Patu, Daniel Holmes, and Louis Paulin. Won the tournament.

DanceNZMade:

Open section: 3rd place - Ron Guansing, Whatu Ngatai Tangirua, Kallee Newton and Hamish Phillips.

NPBHS Inter-house debating competition:

won by Barak.

Michael McMenamin

Headmaster

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OAKURA COMMUNITY - WHAT'S ON

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.

Ringcraft Moana jewellery classes

Every Saturday 10-11.30am. RSVP information online - www.nzpearl.co.nz

Move It or Lose It - fitness classes, Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

NP Toastmasters Club

Meets every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of the month, 5.30pm at Bell-ringer Pavillion. Everyone welcome. Ph Faye 0274 250 354 or 751 081.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 3pm-6pm: Juniors private coaching.

Tuesday 5.30-7pm - Club night.

Wednesday 3-6pm - Juniors private coaching/Hot Shots Tennis.

Thursday 9-12pm - Social Womens tennis for members and non members.

5.30-8pm - A Grade players practice.

Friday 4-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.

Saturday 9-4pm - Soffe Cup and A Grade Competition.

Contact Jackie Keenan Secretary 752 7013.

Okato Squash

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

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon. Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

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

Probus Club

Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Barry Goble 752 7254, or Betty West 752 7816.

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

Pre-school dance class on Saturday morning from 9am to 9.30am. Beginners' ballet/dance class from 9.30am to 10.15am. Oakura Hall. Ph 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: kirk@taranakivw.co.nz and Secretary: bryan@taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga Classes

Oakura hall 7.30 - 9.00pm. Running during the school terms - Tuesday nights. Some gear available - beginners welcome. Ten classes \$120 Casual \$14. M. 027 715 6188. P. 75 27 050. E. keithplummer@clear.net.nz

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