

Local Girls Flavour Culinary Fare '07



The Okurukuru Team.

Okurukuru is still basking in the warmth of winning a fist full of medals and overall Smart/Casual Restaurant of the Year at the Culinary Fare Competitions held last month.

Two local girls and the waiting staff at Okurukuru, Jendi Coxhead (17 years) and Ellee Donald (16 years) took an eight medal bag between them.

Jendi, who has been waitressing for only one year part time won a much coveted gold medal

Ellee who has only been waitressing since January and attends Coastal School as a year 11 student, won two silver medals in wine service and table setting and two bronze medals in café beverages and cocktails.

Both girls credit Caroline Medway-Smith of Hospitality Service Industry training for their success and say she made all the difference with her eye for detail and attention to detail. In fact, the two girls where the only competitors to take along their own iron and ironing board to press their tablecloths on the day. Caroline made them pay particular attention to their personal grooming and helped Jendi develop her signature Imaginative tea called Casia Bark Tea. They spent hours and hours practising the art of waiting, crumbing down and learning drinks knowledge, so much so they were practically dreaming about it!

Ellee says it was an absolute challenge and quite expensive to enter but the heart pounding experience (thank heavens for the invention of Rescue Remedy!) is something she will remember for ever. Also it will be great to put on the C.V!

Jendi just can't believe she won a gold medal

and says she has grown 'heaps' because of the experience. She says both her and Ellee want to do it again next year with an even more polished performance. The team camaraderie was amazing and everyone from Okurukuru supported each other. A special touch for Jendi was the support of her grandparents Paul and Pat Coxhead who rapidly became everyone's grandparents and Christine Bulmer Maitre 'D' at Okurukuru earned the title 'camp mother'.

Christine was involved in judging the Professional Service Person of the Year and was

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a peek inside

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Jendi Coxhead from Okurukura goes for gold.

in the 'table d'hote' (set menu) section, two silver medals in the wine service and café beverage sections and one bronze medal in the cocktail section of the Culinary Fare Competition.

editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

My turn to write again and so far no civil emergencies! The TOM team have been busy this month as we are also delivering our first edition of our Okato TOM. This will be modelled on the Oakura/Omata TOM, but will focus on stories in the Okato community. We are very excited about this as it has been in the planning stages for a long time and Okato is similar to Oakura in that it has a very strong community focus and deserves its own publication. If you live outside the distribution area and would like to subscribe to either of these publications, contact us at the address below or call 0800 thetom.

This month you can catch up with the vibrant food culture that is continuing to grow in the Village and its surrounds. It certainly shows that we are very discerning consumers and good quality will be supported. Aren't we all enjoying Snickerdoodles in their new location. And the gourmet delights from The Terrace. And the award winning chefs at Okurukuru. The list goes on.

As always there are TOM sports going on and we feature the Oakura Ski team. Make sure you read about our Kaitake Community Board member Doug Hislop to give you an insight into his commitment to the community.

Tracey

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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

Points of view expressed in contributed articles are not necessarily the views of TOM.

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Hi folks!

One of the strengths of this region is how its residents get involved in the day-to-day running of our communities – whether as volunteers or as business people with grand ideas for new projects. And now every registered voter has the chance to have a real say in the direction of their community.

Voting is closing very soon for New Plymouth District Council, Taranaki Regional Council and the Taranaki District Health Board, with a voting deadline of noon on Saturday 13 October. So if you haven't got your voting paper in to NPDC yet, you'd better get cracking!

The members of the Kaitake Community Board have already been elected as there were only four nominations for the four available seats. I offer my heartiest congratulations to Doug Hislop, Mike Pillette, Keith Plummer and Alan Rawlinson for their election.

However, Oakura residents will still get to vote for up to two candidates for the South-West Ward of NPDC.

I urge everyone who is a registered voter to have their say on their preferred candidates for NPDC, TRC and TDHB – because your vote certainly counts!

Meanwhile, the business of the Council keeps ticking along. **On Wednesday 17 October**, there will be a public information day from **3pm to 7pm** in the **Oakura Community Hall** to discuss the **Oakura sewerage project**. This is a great opportunity for property owners to talk with Council staff about the project and how it will affect their properties. I encourage everyone to turn up with your questions and get the answers straight from the horse's mouth about what the sewerage scheme would mean for you.

Finally, I'd just like to thank all the residents for their feedback and ideas over the last few years, and also the councillors and community board members for their dedication and hard work.

We have a very passionate community in this district and I am sure there will be a high turnout for this year's local body elections!

Peter Tennent, Mayor

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5.00am - - - My daily routine of a farmer's wife begins when coffee and the daily news arrives beside the bed as I struggle to wake up. Just when I snuggle down and think I will grab another 5 minutes, I hear the machines go on. Gradually, up I get and wander down to the shed to catch the milk for those hungry, bellowing calves.

But no complaints! It's a great life when you're out in the paddock, sitting on the 4-wheel bike while the calves are all feeding on the cafeteria and watching the sun rise over the Kaitakes. What a great lifestyle!!!!

And many people want this now.

At about 8.00am, I come inside for breakfast to the phone ringing for Real Estate enquiries, "Is that you Pat? Have you any grazing blocks from Warea to just past New Plymouth?" is the question I am continually being asked.

So if you are thinking of selling your farm or grazing block, whatever the size, ring me and I will let all the farmers around the coast know.

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Immigration, Work Skills and Labour Shortages

I think there is a degree of confusion about immigration to New Zealand. To clarify the situation, there are several categories under which people can immigrate: family, skilled migrant, work, study and invest. Each breaks down into several sub-groups. I'll use two of these to illustrate my point.

Bringing the family together

Someone may apply to come to New Zealand to live if they are sponsored by a family member who **must be** a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident. One or other must be in one of the following categories:

1. Partner; 2. Dependent child; 3. Parent; 4. Brother, sister or adult child.

Skilled migrants

New Zealand is looking for people with the skills, qualifications and experience to help our country grow and improve in the future. Applicants in this category must meet our age, health, language and qualification standards.

Some of the occupations listed on the long-term Skill Shortages List are anaesthetists, dieticians, early childhood teachers, secondary school teachers, university lecturers, engineers, veterinarians, scientists. The list is long but it does not include care-givers despite the fact that there is a shortage of people willing and able to care for our elderly and infirm in rest homes or their own homes.

Care of the elderly is a growing business. More and more older people are going to need support either in their own homes or in rest homes. The industry can't continue to look to cheap labour and to bring in immigrants prepared to work for less than appropriate wages while also claiming that they need a skilled and stable workforce.

It is important to understand that there is a process that everyone coming to New Zealand and hoping to remain here must follow. We cannot have an open door policy. When the process is followed, outcomes are almost always appropriate. The final outcome, especially when an individual case does not meet the criteria, is not reached in a matter of weeks or often even months. Each exception to the rule creates a precedent. Great care must be taken to investigate each claim and argument.

This is no place to re-litigate individual cases. Suffice to say, I support several individual cases to the Minister of Immigration each year, not because of political or media pressure, but because I support that individual's case. I could not support the separation of a mother and her New Zealand born child, for example. Minister Clayton Cosgrove made the right decision, but one that would have been made anyway had the process been followed to the end.

Thanks for reading this.

Harry Duynhoven



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Profile of Kaitake Community Board Member Doug Hislop

How long have you been on the KCB?

Three years

Why did you want to be on the KCB?

Originally I stood because there was no longterm strategy for the sustainable management of our area's natural and physical resources. This was putting at risk the very natural things that provide us with such a great lifestyle and which brought us all here in the first place. The slow village lifestyle was beginning to be eroded as there were no real rules to sensibly manage the escalating population growth and related development. Council had signalled sewerage reticulation was on the way and many locals were worried we could easily end up as a Taranaki version of Mount Maunganui.

Being a whinging bystander wasn't going to be much use so after a fair bit of 'umming' and 'ahhing' I threw my hat in the ring for membership of the Board.

Three years down the track I decided to stand again as there is 'work in progress' that needs continual monitoring, reflection and comment. I guess I could say the job is not finished yet.

Over the past three years, under the very able chairmanship of Fay Looney, the Board has accomplished a huge amount of 'behind the scenes' activity to promote and protect the values and aspirations of our community. I would urge everyone to vote for Fay as councillor – she will bring another local dimension to the Council decision-making table. She is a sound thinker and always does her homework.

What is the role of the KCB?

It sounds trite but we are the 'voice' of the people. We listen, observe and learn about local issues and promote them to Council. I know individuals can do that and some choose to, but being on the Community Board provides access to Council information and Council people, the opportunity to be heard at Council forums, and to learn much more about how the Local Government Act works.

I've always been a nosey person – I like to know what's going on and have never been short of a word or two. We have been taken seriously by Council in all our submissions to them.

What characteristics or qualities does it take to be a Council/Community Board representative?

Being yourself, being honest with and supportive of your fellow members, and having a sense of humour. It's a bonus if you are a very good listener, can sort the wheat from the chaff, have some vision, a broad skill set, and a fair dose of commonsense.

What do you think you can achieve?

Who knows – I'll be giving it my very best shot though.

What do you think of the sewerage scheme?

The sewerage scheme is a done deal, decided on by Council well before the last elections and after consultation with the community. Incidentally, the large majority of the community were in favour of the scheme. I am in favour of sewerage reticulation as there are many underperforming septic tanks in the village and that's certainly not environmentally friendly.

Unfortunately there has been a blow-out in the cost of the scheme and indications that had been made to residents about likely join-up costs now can't be met. That is regrettable. Council have now developed a new 'best fit' joining plan and posted it out to all ratepayers. They will shortly be holding a community meeting where residents can air their concerns. I would urge everyone to go along to that meeting if they can.

Folk should also be aware the sewerage installation will be going on for many months and there will be inevitable disruption, noise and dust issues for us. The Community Board has kept up with the play from the outset and will continue to work hard to ensure best practice is maintained during the installation period.

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

As far as I am concerned the beach is our 'jewel in the crown' and needs to be nurtured now and in the future. There are, and will be, ongoing threats to the beach such as erosion, contamination, stormwater discharge, inappropriate use, swimming safety, increasing vehicle presence on Tasman Parade, possible tension between different user groups and so on.

It's not just the Community Board's responsibility to monitor what's happening along our foreshore, it's the responsibility of all of us.

Any other points of interest?

How long have you got?

Can you give some details on your background?

I have been a ratepayer and/or resident of Oakura since 1970. I am principal of Central School, and married to Peta, who teaches here in Oakura. We live in Mace Terrace. We have two daughters, Emma and Ana, who are both teachers and reside in Wellington. I have spent many years surfing and sailing along the Taranaki coast. Among other things I like kids and dogs, get pleasure from a good read, enjoy travelling, listen to an assorted range of music, and am a keen gardener.

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update from the big red truck

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead

Greetings again from all at the Big Red Truck.

The quiet period has thankfully continued into September. With Spring in the air and Summer around the corner, let's continue to be vigilant in our homes, business and vehicles. A reminder of the changes to Daylight Saving... From this year, Daylight Saving will run for a period of 27 weeks, three weeks longer than in previous years. It now commences on the last Sunday in September (this year, 30 September), when 2am becomes 3am, and ends on the first Sunday in April the following year (6 April 2008), when 3am becomes 2am. Take the opportunity to check the functionality of your smoke alarms, and plan to hold a family/business evacuation drill.

From occasional bit of feedback we've heard that some members of the community believe there is a charge if the Fire Brigade are called to their home. This is not the case. We are a volunteer service here in Oakura and make no charges for callouts. We urge people not to hesitate if they believe an emergency service is required. Simply dial 111 from a safe location.

Following the tornadoes back in July, the generosity and support from the local and wider community has continued to be magnificent. We'd like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the following:

- 1 The Southern Trust, whose donation to the Brigade enabled us to purchase a laptop, projector and screen, which have already been put to good use on training nights.
- 2 The William Francis Gordon Bequest for the funds to purchase a standby generator for the station. Also to Powerco who have offered to set up the connections to the mains system free of charge.
- 3 The Kaitake Kindy team for holding a cake stall sale up at the Four Square in mid-September, with proceeds going to the Brigade.
- 4 Also to all the special individuals who have made their own personal donations to the Brigade.

A warm thanks you to all.
Stay safe. FF Breeze.

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The Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society

Last month the Department of Conservation held their Taranaki Conservation Awards for 2007. These awards are given out to recipients who have made a longterm positive contribution to conservation in the region.

One of the three awards was to the Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society. As we all know, the proposed Ngamotu or Tapuae Marine Reserve is the big blue bit of sea out our front windows, our local fishing spot.

I thought I would find out why and how the Society came about. Firstly let's recap on the status of the Reserve. Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation gave his approval for the Reserve last year. Jim Anderton, Minister of Fisheries gave his agreement earlier this year for a reserve of 1426 hectares of sea and shore with boundaries from the Tapuae Stream in the south to Herekawe Stream in the north, including the offshore islands.



Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society representatives with their Conservation Award from DoC.

The Reserve does not formally come into existence until it is gazetted later this year, after which it will be managed by the Department of Conservation with a local committee comprising of iwi and other stakeholders.

Ten years ago the idea of a no-take marine reserve at the Sugar Loaf Islands was first suggested by Mr Peter Winter (now deceased). A group of locals including Peter Winter's son Peter Junior, divers, fishers, scientists and conservation-minded people picked up the idea and held the first meeting of the Society in August 1997. On the committee were iwi representatives both supportive and opposing. One local to join as a founding member was Val Deakin, who says she joined to help protect the diminishing sea life. Dr Bill Ballantine visited from the Leigh Marine Reserve Laboratory up North and helped sharpen the debate on whether to create a reserve or leave well alone.

The project required a tremendous amount of community education and consultation with fishers, boaties, iwi, community and conservation groups. There were tenacious submissions to Councils and government select committees, and longterm liaisons with scientific groups, not to mention scrupulous study of the Marine Reserves Act. All these to-ing and fro-ing meant the project moved along very slowly.

The Society attracted some top speakers and experts in the marine field and included Dr Bruce Hayward, Chris Paulin, Dr Ken Grange, Chris Turner (Kapiti Marine Reserve), Wade Doak, Peter Batson, Peter Crabb and Steve O'Shea.

Other support for the Society has come from the local George Mason Charitable Trust, which funded a training marine biologist to study the area. Many other charitable trusts and societies also helped out with funding and support.

In 2004, seven years after incorporating, the application was formally made to make the Tapuae Marine Reserve a reality and this year, nearly ten years later, this has finally happened.

Anne Scott was very happy to receive the Conservation Award on behalf of the Society and says 'We are delighted that Taranaki has another 'nursery area' where all marine life is protected. We are grateful to Nga Mahanga A Tairi and the wider community for supporting the reserve. We look forward to understanding our coastal ecosystem better. We know that there will soon be more and bigger fish inside the marine reserve; good news for fishers, scientists and the next generation.'

By Kim Ferens



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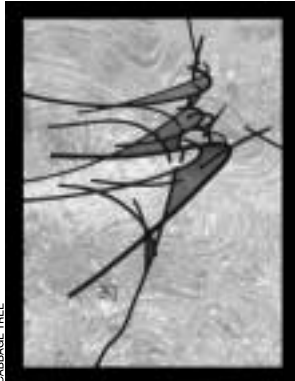
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Sally Laing Jewellery and Enamel Studio Update

The studio has been a hive of activity over the last few months.

The classes in jewellery making or enamelling for adults have been administered by Ace Taranaki (0800 223 827) since May, and have been proving very popular. These will increase from 2 to 4 per week from next term, with enamelling classes in Stratford as well as Oakura continuing.

A schedule of classes for next year will be coming out shortly.

Children's classes have also been very popular, both through the sponsored Out of School Art programme and Sally's privately run holiday programmes. Children discover the excitement of working with hot metal, producing individual art works, pendants, rings and badges.

Sally has been busy creating work for a focus exhibition at Avid Gallery in Wellington, entitled "Evoke", where a body of 23 new pieces was shown.

Sally's Studio will be open during the Rhododendron Festival for anyone curious to visit, with a selection of work on display and for sale.



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The Ultimate Adventure

Chick Corea

(Stretch/Concord/Universal)

They say you can never go back. However, with his latest album, recent New Zealand tourist Chick Corea has gone back, way back to the sound of his bestselling, if sometimes naïve, Seventies tone poems. If you can imagine an amalgam of the 1972 classic *Return To Forever* with *My Spanish Heart* and *Romantic Warrior* (both 1976), then you have good idea of the sound that is *The Ultimate Adventure*.

Based on an "Arabian Nights" fantasy written by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, flutes and ethnic percussion instruments add the necessary hint of spice here, but it is Chick Corea's Arabic-Iberian soundscapes that provide the substance. On *The Ultimate Adventure* pianist and keyboard master Corea is joined by his accomplished working band, which is comprised of Tom Brechtlein (drums), Carles Benavent (bass, handclaps), Jorge Pardo (reeds and flutes) and percussionist Ruben Dantas. He also hooks up with several former colleagues, including master drummer Steve Gadd, guitarist Frank Gambale, Brazilian percussionist Airtio Moreira and flute virtuoso Hubert Laws, alongside relative newcomers like Arabic percussionist Hossam Ramzy and drummer Vinnie Colaiuta.

Throughout Corea shows both his taste and digital dexterity, with perfect touch on the grand piano, adding a hint of mystery with his synthesiser playing, but best of all, showing off the bell-like tones of the Fender Rhodes electric piano, most notably on the album centrepiece "North Africa". Other highpoints include "Three Ghouls

– Part 2", "Queen Tedmur" and the two-part "Arabian Nights".

They say you should never go back, but then again, *they* say lots of things. Now, if only Corea could be persuaded to revisit the ethereal, sound pictures that characterised the work of the original 1972 version of *Return To Forever*, the band with Airtio, Flora Purim and Stanley Clarke, perhaps with Hubert Laws or Jorge Pardo filling in for the late, criminally underrated Joe Farrell. That would be magic!

The Toys of Men

Stanley Clarke

(Head's Up/Elite)

Aside from occasional sideman appearances with artists like McCoy Tyner and Eliane Elias, I have not followed bassist Stanley Clarke's post-*Return To Forever* career. However, on the evidence provided here, Clarke's extraordinary facility on his instrument is very much intact.

Having said that, his compositions are nowhere near as strong as his playing. However jazz fusion fans will delight in such fine pieces as "The Toys of Men" suite and his lovely Tony Williams tribute "Châteauvallon 1972", both of which are closer to the sound of rival Seventies band Mahavishnu Orchestra than anything by *Return To Forever*!

"Come On" shows that Clarke can still pop those funky basslines, while "La Cancion De Sofia" and "Jerusalem" bring out his melodic gifts. The album would have been strengthened by the inclusion of another piece of this quality and could have been further improved by losing one or two of the solo bass features. Despite my carping, *The Toys of Men* is a promising start for Stanley Clarke's association with his new label.



Hello from Oakura Library

We have a great selection of new books.

Hairy Maclary's *Hat Tricks* is another adventure his young fans will enjoy. Beautifully written and lovely to read.

The first of the *Zac Power* series have arrived. These are popular with young boys in the 7–10 year age group.

Recent new arrivals for adults include *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain, *Simple Genius* by David Baldacci and *The Tin Roof Blowdown*, James Lee Burke's latest.

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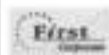
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Taranaki calendar

Several photographs of Oakura feature in a new Taranaki 2008 calendar. On the cover is a sunset photograph of Mt Taranaki paired with a wave breaking at Oakura Beach. A stand of trees at Koru Pa illustrates April and May is represented by a surfer at Stent Road, while the bonus month, January 2009, has an orange sunset photograph of Oakura Beach.

The calendar, published by Oakura photographer Jane Dove Juneau, has selection of beautiful landscape photographs of the Taranaki region. The photographs are seasonal and have been selected to represent the appropriate month. Mt Taranaki reflected in the Pouakai Tarns illustrates January, a great month for hiking, and an early snow photograph taken on The Plateau above Stratford represents June.

To add a unique slant to the calendar, local event dates are noted along with photographs of some of the main attractions. March has a compilation photograph of various WOMAD artists, October features Pukeiti as part of the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival month, and December is represented by a photograph of the Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park.

The calendar grid has been designed with easy to read numbers and plenty of room for handwritten notes. Along with New Zealand public holidays, a number of international holidays are included for overseas recipients of the calendar. The phases of the moon are also featured along with a unique tide chart developed for the Taranaki coast. Located on the back page, the chart enables people to work out high and low tides by looking at the phases of the moon.

Requests for a local calendar from retailers and bookstores inspired Jane to put together the Taranaki calendar. Ideas for the design came from studying calendars from the United States. "I have quite a collection of calendars for 2007," Jane said.

The Taranaki calendar will be printed annually. "I already have a number of photographs lined up for my 2009 Taranaki calendar."



The fabulous cover of Jane Dove Juneau's new 2008, Taranaki Calendar.



Mt Taranaki reflected in a Pouakai tarn gives hikers a glimpse of what they're heading for in January.



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The best pies in town walk out the door!

The Terrace Takeaway has been run off its feet since winning the prize for best cosmopolitan pie with their chicken and leek offering.

I called in one Wednesday afternoon well after the lunch time rush, expecting a quiet word with Jan Roebuck, but the customers just kept rolling in. One lady from around the coast exclaimed, "Oh, we've found it! We've been looking all the way to glory and back for the award winning pies!" Her and her husband happily went off with their chicken and leek pies for the following evening's dinner. Then just as I was settling in with my pen and paper, 17 more people breezed in for coffees to takeaway and drink outside in the glorious sunshine following their four-hour tramp. Jan tells me she has customers coming in from as far as field as Uruti and Fitzroy just for the pies.

But the scoop is this – the support Jan and Matt have received at the Terrace has meant that their expectations have been more than exceeded and in fact Matt has left his job to work fulltime at the Terrace! Jan used to think a busy day was selling 18 pies, but now a busy day is 120 pies!

People around the village are constantly being asked where the award winning pies can be found and it isn't immediately obvious I have to say, but Jan assures me that the Terrace Takeaway sign will one day go up! In the meantime it is the delicious smell of pies baking that lure the customers by their droves through the door.

The Terrace Takeaway are in the running for a placing at this year's Halamoana Awards to be held in October. The Halamoana Awards are run by the hospitality industry and are judged by those working within the hospitality industry.

By Kim Ferens



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2a Kawaroa Close

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87 Ngamotu Rd

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6 McKellar St

Bach/small family home, immaculate. Lovely back section.

1 Mace Terrace

As new villa on large section with sea views, 3 beds, ensuite, double garage.

12a Mace Terrace

Private, lovely section, 3 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, garaging and hobby room.

13 Linda St

Potential Plus, solid home sea views and private.

4 Tui Grove

New 4 bedroom, ensuite exec. Landscaped gardens.

23a Hickford Place, Okato

Immaculate, brick 3 bedrooms, 2 living areas, large garage.

225 Ngamotu Rd

Immaculate, 2 bedroom plus 2 hobby rooms, townhouse alternative.



4 Benbow Place, Westown

Immaculate, 3 bedrooms. Lovely gardens. Has to be seen!

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(Continued from page 1)

Local Girls Flavour Culinary Fare '07



Soyna Mathias, Simon Houghton and Christine heads down and serious.

part of the team as Maitre'D' in the Restaurant of the Year section. Jendi and Ellee kept their medal successes a secret from Christine and enjoyed her rapturous response when their names, along with Okurukuru's was announced at the prize giving ceremony.

Other Okurukuru staff to pull out the stoppers, and produce medal winning performances were Sonya Mathias – chef of 12 years, with a bronze medal beef dish. The dish featured beef fillet served on rosemary, bacon and potatoes with green beans exotic mushroom and blue cheese sauce, finished with a spicy macadamia nut and blue cheese filo cigar. For Sonya the competition was more about competing with herself in the one hour cook off, than competing with fellow chefs. One thing she learnt was "I have to smile more and pretend I'm not concentrating so hard!" Sonya has now moved on from Okurukuru and Simon, head chef is already missing her talents.

Troyden Waters was another bronze medallist in the 'Hot Presented Cold Main' section. This is where the main is cooked hot like you would serve it but presented cold. The aim is to achieve consistency, fabulous colour, perfect size and wonderful presentation. The dish was a olive crusted filet mignon with turned carrots, courgettes and flaming cherry tomatoes and anna potatoes in a red wine jus.

And to the grand finale – Simon Houghton, Sonya and Christine and their prestigious title of 'Restaurant of the Year' – Smart/Casual. This section can only be entered by applying with a written expose on why your restaurant should be in the category. Simon's idea was about promoting Taranaki as a food destination. In the competition the team had to replicate the style of food and service that is on offer at Okurukuru and included an aperitif, a chicken roulade with ricotta cheese, ribbon vegetables, an aubergine cone, porcini risotto and an intense chocolate mousse with rhubarb compote. All produced from a supplied box of ingredients. The waiting staff (Christine) had to serve the dishes impeccably. Simon says the award is an opportunity to put Okurukuru on the map and for the team it is a great experience working along side other chefs from all over New Zealand.

Owner Christine Hayward is absolutely 'delighted' with Okurukuru's success and along with daughter Kate's gold medal winning Sugarloaf Sauvignon Blanc, the name Okurukuru could very well continue to ring out in dulcet tones well into the future.

By Kim Ferens

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The Vinaigrettes

TOM Wine of the Month:

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OPEN 7 DAYS**




Featuring the Sugarloaf Sauv' this month is very timely because it is the perfect accompaniment to whitebait. Unfortunately for me, I ate my feed of whitebait last weekend so had to have the Sugarloaf with my fish and chips. But don't be deceived! It was the best drink I've had with the old fish and chips.

Do try it with any seafood or chicken dish or herb-flavoured foods, or if you can't wait for food, just enjoy it on its own. It is sufficient.

Usually \$15.99, this month the Sugarloaf Sauvignon Blanc 2007 is on special for \$14.99.

Yours in corkscrews and bottle tops,

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Gardening with Rosemary Herb

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER CHECKLIST

Things to do in September:

- Sow new lawns in previously prepared ground.
- Finish planting trees and shrubs before the drier weather sets in.
- Feed roses with Butlers Rose Feed and mulch with Butlers Organic Compost.
- Hoe the ground regularly to keep young seedling weeds at bay.

Things to do in October:

- Install a hose irrigation system now before the dry weather hits.
- Trim back Spring flowering climbers and shrubs.
- Feed existing lawns with Butlers lawn Feed.
- Trim tender plants such as Hibiscus, Ixoras and New Guinea Impatiens.

Colour in the Garden:


- Plant pastel colour for instant affect- Impatiens, Nemesis, Petunia, Salvia, Snapdragons, Marigold and Zinnia.
- For bright & colourful Summer displays fill pots and baskets with Calibrachoa.

Food from the Garden:

- Plant veg and herb plants now, as well as Strawberries and other Summer fruits.
- Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers, Courgettes, Pumpkin and Melons can also be planted now.

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Snickerdoodles

"The sky's the limit now," quips Lynette from Snickerdoodles, referring to the potential following their recent relocation into revamped and larger premises at the 'other end of town'. "We were turning down jobs in the old location and now business is up 80% on last year."



With the larger capacity, Snickerdoodles is able to offer outside catering for at-home dinner parties and

functions as well as hiring out their premises in the evenings for events such as birthday parties, suppers and coffee & dessert evenings. Hmmm, definite potential there, I'm thinking!

Also new is the artwork currently on display (and for sale) by local artist Brian Clark. Brian and his family recently moved to Oakura from Northland where he designed and sold surfboards. Northland's loss is definitely our gain.

Spring is just around the corner, and so is a new Spring menu.

Lynette says customers can also look forward to the return of the popular breakfasts in summer, along with extended hours from November through to March.



Meanwhile, Snickerdoodles is open Monday to Friday, 6.30am to 4pm and Saturdays from 7am to 3pm ...with Sunday being a day of well-deserved rest.

By Bob Fleming

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The Woolshed Shop

It started in a small way, retailing mostly imported and some New Zealand-made slippers and boots some two years ago. Now the Woolshed Shop has come of age.

Our store has been extensively renovated and expanded so we can provide the largest possible range of exclusive New Zealand-made sheepskin and Possum Merino products, always keeping in mind the need to search out the best quality goods at the best price so we can pass these on to our valued customers.

We stock sheepskin rugs, and slippers, scuffs, toasties and Ugg boots for both men and women – all sourced from Auckland, Napier or Christchurch. Canterbury Leather International gives the Woolshed an exclusive on their sheep-skin footwear range in the province.

Possum Merino knitwear is an addition to our range – jumpers, cardigans, jackets for men and women, plus scarves, gloves, socks and other exciting accessories galore.

We are exclusive stockists of Manawatu Knitting Company Possum Merino knitwear, with lots of styles, colours and sizes up to 3XL. The fabric is so lightweight and warmer than conventional merino, with a "no pilling" factor.

Bobux Babywear is another of our exclusive ranges. It's New Zealand-made from all natural fibres. Cotton and superfine merino wool are blended to create bodysuits, jumpers, singlets and blankets to wear against Baby's sensitive skin. Bobux Baby Footwear – the shoe that stays on Baby's feet – is a New Zealand bestseller. We have a great range to select from as well as BabyCare sheepskin rugs and stroller liners. The timeless hand-knitted sheepskin booties are here too.

Gift ideas a-plenty are in-store for both home and overseas giving. We post overseas too.

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NO-ONE IS
LOOKING.

Local blonde pole dancing diva was recently spotted leaving a café without paying for her coffee and her friends had to foot the bill!

Global warming is being blamed for store-bought broccolli that is limp and pale.

Local woman has flitted off to the Rugby World Cup, leaving behind a dozen or so kids when really she should have taken them with her!

Oscar

Kaitake planting a great success

The Oakura community was out in force recently, helping the Department of Conservation plant out part of the last grazing lease in Egmont National Park.

More than 30 people from the local community turned up with shovels and a good dose of enthusiasm to help DOC staff plant 1000 tree lucern on land at the end of Kaitake Road. The lucern will provide a cover crop for native under-planting and will assist with the dispersion of native plants through birds attracted to the species.

The longterm project involves the re-vegetation of the entire 3.8ha of grazed pasture over a period of 10 years.

"This project would only be possible with the help and cooperation of the current lease-holder, Graham Thomas," says DOC Community Relations Programme Manager Paula Marshall. "We'd like to thank him and all those volunteers who turned up on the day."

Special thanks also to Doug Hislop from the Kaitake Community Board for coordinating the volunteers.

Organisers are keen to develop a partnership with DOC and the Oakura and wider community encompassing a number of projects with community conservation outcomes.

"There is a planned upgrade of Lucy's Gully and the possibility of the 'Three Peaks' track that we would value community involvement in," says Paula. "It would be fabulous to foster this relationship and continue developing the partnership with the Oakura community."

Further plantings in the area are planned for the near future, with a second planting on the Kaitakes on 28 October and help would be welcome. Interested people should contact Paula Marshall during work hours on 759 0357 or e-mail pzmarshall@doc.govt.nz



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Oakura Tennis Club

The Club held a very successful new season's open day in mid September. Despite the faint morning drizzle, many of the juniors came for a hit, and it was so great to see all the courts full with new and familiar faces in the afternoon with the seniors. Welcome to all our new members, and welcome back to our existing ones.

This year we have input from John Salisbury, a professional coach from Palmerston North, who will help set up some drills for our juniors, including activities aimed at improving their hand-eye coordination and skill base as well as being a lot of fun.

John has run two coaching courses here in the past, with more planned throughout the coming season to maintain and refresh what the kids already know.

This season sees our top team competing in the Soffe Cup for the first time in the Club's history. In addition we are looking at an A2, B, Youth, Presidents and several junior teams. We also have four midweek ladies' teams competing. Good luck to all teams this season.

We are planning a working bee for Sunday 14 October, starting at 9am and followed by a casual hit. The more hands helping to spruce up the grounds, the quicker we can get onto the courts for a game, so bring along your gardening/cleaning gear and we will see you there.

We'll also be having a Club night on Wednesday 17 October: Juniors 4–5pm, Intermediates 5–6pm and seniors from 6pm.

Preliminary dates for competition starts

Soffe Cup – 13 October; Premier – 25 October; Junior 26 October; A Grade, Presidents, Youth and B grades – 27 October.

Please contact the Club if you are interested in joining, whether for casual hits or competition.

Dave Marshall (President): 752 7370

Becky Bruckner (Treasurer): 752 7474

Jill Barron (Secretary): 752 7262

Kaitake Golf Club

Our Club Champ Finals have been played and here are the results . . .

Senior Men: Robbie Sim 11 – 10 Geoff Farrant

Intermediate Men: Phil Larkin 3 – 1 Stephen Wood

Junior Men: Martin Nield 7 – 6 Mike Jans

Limit: Roger Gregory 1 up Peter Clemance

Flights Senior: Doug Aiello 4 – 2 Craig Waite

Flights Intermediate: Colin Upson 1 up Gavin Benton

Flights Junior: Dean Simpson 1 up Alan Johnston

Senior Ladies: To be played at another date

Bronze 1: Janet Jupp 6 – 5 Mary Pettigrew

9 Hole Ladies: Marlene Balsom 1 up Donna Garica

Thank You

Raewyn Hawker (Secretary and Manager)

Oakura Surfcasting Club

Greetings all

A slow start to the our club season saw no report last month, however it has indeed picked up dramatically both fishing and weather-wise.

Great weather over the last few weeks has galvanised our members off the couches and out to the beaches and ocean. Surfcaster Shane Dunlop caught three good Snapper over the 3kg mark in August, most of the Surfcasters got motivated when Shane brought a 17lbber in to be weighed, although the dreaded Red Cod and occasional Kahawai are being landed for those venturing out at the moment.

October has in the past seen some excellent sized Trev's being landed off the rocks, let's hope these are the order of the months ahead. Trevally are a real challenge to land due to their ability to go for rocks as soon as they're hooked and they fight like demons.

Kayak Fisho's are getting their fair share of fish too, good size Snapper, Blue Cod, Kahawai and the occasional Johnny have been turning up not to mention another dreaded fish Spikey Dog Sharks, these are the pest of all fisho's at this time of the year.

The Club has recently introduced a Lucky Draw Club Day in which all paid up members go in a draw to win a great prize, members must be present at the weigh-in to claim, or the prize gets jack-potted until the following month. September's Prize was jackpotted and the October prize is worth about 60 bucks, *all right to win just for turning up at the weigh in on the day.*

Plans are well underway for the next Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic. This is to be held on Taranaki Anniversary next year and again, will be a highlight for our club. Also in April next year we have strong interest in members attending the NZACA Nationals at 90 Mile Beach, with the whole of the North Cape to fish, this will be an adventure to say the least.

Unfortunately the weighmasters report isn't available at the time of writing, so expect a biggie next month.

Tight lines

Debbie E



Above, Kayaker Peter Florence with a goodie off Bell Block last month and, left, Surfcaster Shane Dunlop with a goodie from Waitara.



Oakura well represented at junior schools ski championships

The North Island Primary and Intermediate School Ski Championships were held at Whakapapa in early September. They are now the largest single sport primary school event in New Zealand and with 333 competitors, the largest skiing event held on Mt Ruapehu.

Monday's practice day was fine and sunny, but a storm came in overnight and racing was postponed the next day as the upper mountain was closed. Wednesday morning was fine with a chilly -4c, plus wind chill to around -10c. Skiers' goggles were completely icing up riding the Valley T-Bar. On Wednesday all skiers completed at least two runs on giant slalom courses, with a head-to-head dual slalom race for team points on Thursday.

Taranaki was represented by three teams: Oakura School, a combined Coastal Schools team with skiers from Coastal, Oakura, Omata and Woodleigh, and a team from Francis Douglas in the intermediate section.

In the team competitions Oakura School placed third equal in the Senior Primary Schools with Kings School, but moved to fourth place after their fifth skier's time was included to break the tie. Kristen School teams took both first and second place. The Combined Coastal team placed fifth in the Junior Primary section behind National Park, Ohakune and Diosesan. The Francis Douglas intermediate team was placed 26th.

In the individual placings, Meyer Neeson from Oakura was on the podium with third place in the junior girls, and Elsa Linders of Combined Coastal was 22nd. Finnley Binsbergen from the Combined Coastal team took fourth in junior boys and Angus White 25th. In a tightly contested race in the intermediate boys Tai Juneau was sixth and Max Hardie Boys 29th, both of Oakura. Lucy Brankin (Oakura) was 19th in the intermediate girls.

Oakura Team: Lucy Brankin, Toby Brankin, Max Hardie Boys, Tai Juneau, Meyer Neeson.

Combined Coastal: Elsa Linders, Finnley Binsbergen, Cole Hareb, Isa Mather, Angus White.



NI Primary GS, Tai Juneau 6th.



Oakura team came 4th in the NI Seniors, left to right: Meyer, Toby, Max, Tai & Lucy

Lucy Brankin, 19th in the Intermediate Girls.



Meyer Neeson, 3rd Junior Girls.



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Oakura Pony Club

We had our opening rally and registration day for current and new members on Saturday 8th September. It was great to see some new faces and ponies, and a welcome return of some senior riders hoping to gain places in representative teams.

We've had great success already this season with some of our members performing at a high level. Just recently we had 4 members qualify for the inaugural North Island Show Hunter Champs in Feilding; Good luck to Dominica Wearne, Kathryn Grant, Jess Knudsen and Jordan Giltrap.

The Winter Dressage series in Palmerston North was wrapped up in September. This involved five weekends over winter to compete against a wide range of horses and riders. This series is a huge commitment for riders, horses & especially parents. Well done to Jess Knudsen & her pony Little Red Ted who was Reserve Prelim Pony Champion.

August also saw the final of the Taranaki Dressage series in Hawera. Again congratulations to Jess Knudsen – Prelim Champion, Amber Parkes – Training Champion, & Zoe Laing Reserve Champion, Jordan Giltrap 3rd. = with Catherine West. Amber was also Elementary Champion, and Catherine was 3rd in the novice section.

We are very eagerly awaiting news on funding from the TSB Charitable Trust to do major renovations to our club rooms. This will be a huge boost to our Club and hopefully the wider community. Big thanks to the parents involved in the arduous task of preparing our application.

Good luck to Lydia Quay who made the big move with Clearwater Riding School to her new property in Carrington Rd.

We have also come to a decision to lock both our gates to the grounds. For approximately \$2 per week these grounds are available to non members, or \$5 per casual rider.

Thanks to all our local families and businesses who have kindly sponsored our annual jumping day in October. This is our major fundraiser for the year and your support past and present is very much appreciated.

Lastly a huge public thank you to Graham Rook our past President for all his dedication and hard work to Oakura Pony Club, he will be a hard act to follow.

Regards

Linda Knudsen

President

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Surfing Update

The Oakura Boardriders AGM was held in late August and saw a few changes of office and some new "Life Members" recognised. These were Paul Lobb, Brent Anderson and Chris Davies for their services to the Club since its inception.

The Club Long Board Champs will be held on the weekend of 10–11 November, with a band playing at the clubhouse on the Saturday night to kick into Summer with a party. All invited.

Local surfing news was the NPBHS surfers making their presence felt at the NZ Secondary Schools Surfing Championships at Raglan in late August. They lived up to their potential and the team (comprising Tyler Anderson, Michael Mallalieu, Mathis Smith, Tom Smith, Sean Parker, Mark Parthmore, Connor Anderson, Chad Jones and Rueben Atkinson, under the watchful eyes of teacher Kane Rowson and Brent Anderson) showed New Zealand's top junior surfers how it is done. They swept aside the opposition to convincingly win the coveted teams trophy as well as individual honours. An outstanding effort by all involved.

Here is a Surfing NZ press release about the event . . .

The Raglan Area School Surfing Academy organised and ran the NZ Secondary Schools Surfing Championships last week. Despite gale southwest winds, Manu Bay produced some more than surfable waves and the seething mass of 138 groms from 33 schools around the North Island obliged. The groms went out to wrestle the team's title off Mount Maunganui College, who won it in 2006, as well as make a claim for the four individual titles up for grabs in the Eversion under-18s, Volcom under-16s, Reef under-14s and the Roxy under-18 Girls divisions.

New Plymouth Boys High School won the overall teams title, thanks to outstanding surfing from Michael Mallalieu and Tyler Anderson, who took out the Eversion under-18 and Volcom under-16 Boys respectively. Mount Maunganui College placed second and Whangamata Area School finished third overall.

Local Surfer Paige Hareb has been in Australia contesting the Pro Junior's with a quarter final finish at Wollongong south of Sydney and I believe a win in the Juniors of a Queensland contest as we go to press.

The New Zealand boys were in Manly for the Hornet Pro Junior with some good success in the first round. Unfortunately the second round saw them all exit the competition, with the exception of Morehu Roberts from Raglan who was still remaining as we go to print.

The school holidays have seen a lot of Taranaki juniors and seniors lucky enough to be in Bali and all reports are some great surf so hopefully we'll have some pictures for the next issue of TOM.

Also rumour has it that Spring is definitely in the air because a few local groms were treated to a glimpse of five Topless Teenage Mermaids frolicking in the waves on the first Saturday of the school holidays. As it was raining the bathing beauties thought no one was watching...

Oakura Boardriders

Paul Christophers (President): 752 7156

Paul Lobb (Secretary): 752 7556

Brent Anderson (Treasurer): 752 7171

Remember annual subs are due again!



Connor Anderson.



Michael Mallalieu U18 Winner.



New Plymouth Old Boys Swimming and Surf Club

OPEN DAY

Sunday 4 November , 4–7pm Oakura Beach

IRB Rides – Demonstrations – BBQ – Fireworks –
Registrations

Family fun: Come and experience a taste of Surf Club life.

All past, present, new and interested members
welcome.

Subs: All members \$15
Family \$50

Uniforms available for purchase

Junior fancy dress ball

Exciting things have happened in the junior classes of Oakura School this term. One of them included the Junior Fancy Dress Ball, which was held on Thursday 20 September at the Oakura Hall. This involved children from Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4. The children dressed up in fancy dress and danced for a fun end of term event.

The ball included traditional folk dance, Jump Jam and modern dances taught by Raeleen Luckin and Sarsha Hood. Three students from Room 6 guided the classes through their routines.

In the junior school, folk dancing happens every second year and is part of the physical education curriculum.

By Jahla Tran-Lawrence and Hannah Andrews



Oakura School fancy dress.

Oakura School fundraiser

This term Oakura Primary had a fundraiser for the Cancer Society on Daffodil Day. We did this by asking the school to dress up in yellow and bring along a gold coin donation. The students then placed these coins on a coin trail that said the word "HOPE." At the end of the day we added up the money and it came up to a total of \$263.

Thank you to all the Oakura students who gave a donation to the Cancer Society that day!

By Jahla Tran-Lawrence and Hannah Andrews.



Oakura School Daffodil Day.

Oakura School Cross Country

On Thursday the 30th of August it was the 2007 senior cross country at Oakura School. Unfortunately the weather was appalling but it still went ahead. The grass was muddy, slippery and really wet, but everyone was still brave enough to get out and give it a go.

All the students concentrated hard on their running. There were about five races. The races were up to two kilometres long, but everyone did at least one lap around the whole course.

The age groups were eight year olds up to twelve-to-thirteen year olds. All the races were lucky to escape the rain except for the twelve-to-thirteen year old boys, as it started to pour down with rain just as their race was about to begin. The course was shortened and the race was still run.

All the students who ran worked hard to prepare for their races and ran hard. Thanks to Mr Laird who set up the track in the disgusting weather, and also thanks to the supporters who came and cheered for the racers.

The first ten placings in each race went on to compete in the Coastal Cross-country held at Omata School.

By Niko Mead

Year 7, Oakura School

Oakura School cross-country results

5 year girls: 1st Beth Tvrdich, 2nd Natalia Hutchinson, 3rd Anna Oldfield

5 year boys: 1st Jimmy Ellis, 2nd Charlie Wait, 3rd Aden McBreen

6 year girls: 1st Rebecca Barron, 2nd Eva Davies, 3rd Rhagan Hudson

6 Year boys: 1st Ben Willis, 2nd Reef Raumati, 3rd Jacob Farrant

7 year girls : 1st Danielle Hood, 2nd Kima Costelloe, 3rd Penny Johnson

7 year boys: 1st Ben Aim, 2nd Jack Aim, 3rd Jakob Roper

8 year girls: 1st Danni Fletcher, 2nd Meg Parsons, 3rd Lhasa Cook

8 year boys: 1st Daniel Barron, 2nd Liam Scott, 3rd Gian Squatriti

9 year girls: 1st Libby Antunovic, 2nd Anaka Kahu, 3rd Dione Riley

9 year boys: 1st Angus Tinson, 2nd Isaac Hardie Boys, 3rd Truman Edwards

10 year girls: 1st Amy Barron, 2nd Tallulah Robertson, 3rd Zoe Cullen

10 year boys: 1st Faris Petty, 2nd Lachie Stevens, 3rd Jack Parsons

11 year girls: 1st= Jessica Clark & Jessica Knudsen, 3rd Hayley Cocker

11 year boys: 1st Jessie Grayling, 2nd Toby Brankin, 3rd JG Coughtrey

12 year girls : 1st Eloise Stevens , 2nd Miriam Stewart, 3rd Hannah Andrews

12 year boys: 1st Sean Kelly, 2nd Matthew Everest, 3rd Felix Page

13 year girls: 1st Lucy Brankin, 2nd Catherine West, 3rd Amelia Lyall

13 year boys: 1st Domenico Squatriti, 2nd Jackson Hine, 3rd Jeremy Riley

(Continued overleaf)

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NEW PLYMOUTH

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Coastal Schools Group Cross-country placing results for Oakura School participants. Venue: Omata.

9 years & under girls : 1st Elisabeth Antunovic, 2nd Danni Fletcher

3rd Anaka Kahu: 9 years & under boys

1st Angus Tinson, 2nd Truman Edward

10 year girls: 2nd Amy Barron, 3rd Zoe Cullan

10 year boys: 2nd Faris Petty

11 year girls: 2nd= Jessica Knudsen, Jessica Clark

11 year boys: 1st Jesse Grayling, 2nd JG Coughtrey

12 year girls: 1st Grace Hoskin, 3rd Miriam Stewart

12 year boys: 1st Sean Kelly, 2nd Felix Page

13 year girls: 1st Catherine West, 2nd Amelia Lyall, 3rd Anna Hinton

13 year boys: 2nd Domenico Squatriti

Medal winners and top 10 finishers from Oakura School at the Taranaki Primary Schools Championships. Venue: Hawera Showgrounds

9 years & under girls: 1st Elisabeth Antunovic – gold medal

10 year girls: 9th Amy Barron

10 year boys: 3rd Faris Petty - bronze medal

11 year boys: 7th Jesse Grayling

12 year boys: 9th Sean Kelly

13 year girls: 2nd Lucy Brankin – silver medal, 10th Catherine West

13 year boys: 5th Domenico Squatriti



9 years and under podium – Libby Antunovic (1st)

10 year boys podium – Faris Petty (3rd)

13 year girls podium – Lucy Brankin (2nd)

13 year boys – Previous medal winner Domenico Squatriti with a fast finish.



Oakura School representatives in the 9 years & under girls category at the Taranaki Cross-Country Champs. L to R: Dione Riley, Meg Parsons, Libby Antunovic (1st), Anaka Kahu, Brianna Hutchinson.



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Celebrate Life with TOM

Oliver Luis Braddock & Jack Ellis Braddock, both 12 months old!

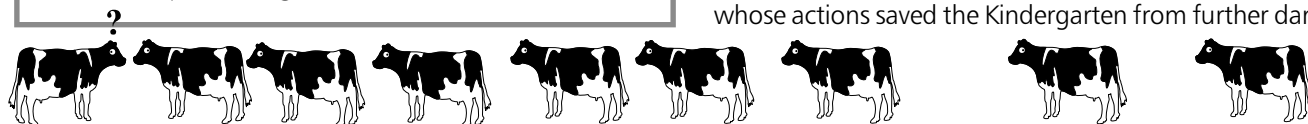
They are happy boys who love to be out and about and like meeting people. So if you see us around, say hi... You could well get a wee smile in return! Proud mum and dad are Kylie & Rick Braddock, originally from Gloucestershire in the UK but have not lived there for a long while. Jack and Ollie were born in New Plymouth.



Each month TOM profiles the comings, goings and bits in between of life in Oakura and Omata. If you would like to celebrate the life of a newborn, cherish the memory of the passing of a loved one, share an engagement or marriage, then we would like to feature these people on our *Celebrate Life!* photo page. Think of it as a permanent historical record that you are preserving for future generations.

Email photos and relevant details of births, deaths engagements, marriages or any other celebration from last year or this year to kim@thetom.co.nz or phone 0800thetom for more details.

If you would also like to feature your *Celebrate Life!* TOM person on our website for \$10, contact bob@thetom.co.nz



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kaitake kindergarten



Feeding time - Cara, Michael & Adam.

It was a lovely Wednesday morning and St James Church Hall was filled with the excited voices of some 30 children awaiting the arrival of the bus to take them to Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.

Children, parent helpers and teachers all piled on the bus and we were off. A few songs were sung and a few games of "I spy" played, and then we were there. We had a quick stop for morning tea before we started to explore.

Stoney Oaks is a wonderful place that brings children and animals together. It is home to different breeds of deer, highland cattle, donkeys, llamas, kunekune pigs, rabbits and many more wonderful creatures. The children could pick up the rabbits, tickle the pig's tummy and feed the Jacobs sheep lambs. There is also a short bush walk that is just perfect for little legs. We all had a wonderful time.

The Kindergarten building on McKellar Street is well on its way to being repaired but there is still some way to go. We hope to reopen the building in the middle of next term and everyone will be invited to join the celebration.

We would also like to thank everyone who supported our recent cake stall. The money raised will be donated to the Fire Brigade, whose actions saved the Kindergarten from further damage.

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Reports of the Auckland camp for Years 7 and 8

Mihiata Morgan

We had to be at school before nine o'clock on Monday morning, grab our books and put some sheets in. The first thing that popped into my mind when we arrived at Willow Park, Buckland's Beach was a cold sleep-out right outside flash houses, but that's not what we got – we got a nice place that had so many things to do. We had seven rooms, three for the boys, two for the girls, one for the adults and one for Mr Murphy. We had comfortable bunk beds and very uncomfortable double beds.

My favourite part of staying at Willow Park would have to be winning three times against Taylor in golf and playing sports and shooting hoops. We had delicious meals for breakfast and dinner and we even had yummy lunches our groups made.

The campsite was shared between us and a group of elderly people. They were on camp as part of a programme called 'Prime Time'. They were very funny and full of happiness. My favourite old lady was called Margaret, who I had a number of conversations with, including one very interesting about Hi 5s.

We had an awesome stay at Willow Park. It was a great campsite and we had lots of fun. It was one of the best parts of camp.

Regan Jeffery

Our first visit on the Tuesday was to Clip'n'Climb, a modern climbing venue with automatic mechanical belays and a wide range of climbing challenges. When we walked inside our instructor taught us a few things about our safety with the rope and harness.

I was the first to start rock climbing and to complete the Leap of Faith. The Leap of Faith is a three-poled course where you have to climb up the poles and jump to a trapeze eight metres above the ground. I was surprised to see that Liam was going up the series of giant green steps metres above the ground blindfolded! I mean that's crazy isn't it? But I was so wrong and it turned out to be a great challenge.

After a while I decided I had better look around, so I went into an unusual room. It was called the Glow in the Dark Room, where I noticed Cody high up in the sky.

When I was on the timer wall I shouted to Caddison, "Ha, ha, it's slippery isn't it?"

"Ya' think that's hard, you want to try this climb," he replied.

For many of us Clip'n'Climb was one of the highlights of the camp.

Taylor Brisco

On leaving Clip, n' Climb we travelled to Cornwall Park and had lunch, before entering our next venue, the Stardome. When we first walked into the Stardome I thought "boring..." but then the projector fired up and the stars popped up on the HUGE screen and my thoughts changed.

We sat down on seats and it felt like we were in some sort of cinema. A movie came on about how the Maori found their way to New Zealand and how they would use the stars and where the sun was and stuff like that. The star they used to locate New Zealand was called Rehua (Antares). Soon after that we looked at the stars and the instructor showed us some combinations that stars form. These are called Constellations. He showed us the Southern Cross and then zoomed right out way beyond our galaxies.

Louis Ferens

On Wednesday our first visit for the day was the Auckland Museum. We started outside the Museum, which had a really weird sculpture which I thought was a pointless thing to have. Everybody was talking about how TV2's Sticky TV show is filmed outside the Museum.

Eventually at 10:30am we were able to go into a class inside the Museum with Florence our guide, where we learned about ancient Egypt and the tombs of the pharaohs.

I was most interested in Emperor Chin's tomb with thousands of clay warriors with weapons, some of which actually set off when



Amber goes up . . .

. . .and Cody goes down.



Jess Brewster and Amber Clement at the Sky Tower.



Camp Mother and the "Cook".



Group photo at the Devonport Naval Base.

the tomb was broken into. This was to stop Emperor Chin's gold from being stolen but unfortunately the tomb was broken into and gold was stolen anyway. We also learned how the Maori and Egyptians made and used drills.

After the teaching session we got the chance to have a look around the Museum so William, Bodean and I had a look for the dinosaur exhibit. Eventually we got there to find a moa with a foot the size of my head (freaky!).

When we had finished in the dinosaur exhibit we left, only to get lost in the war exhibit where we found a cool fighter plane. In the room next to the fighter plane we saw some samurai swords and old rifles and after a while we somehow found the rest of the class in the war memorial.

We quickly got bored with name after name, wall after wall, of the war dead, so we walked all the way back through the way we came and had a look in the volcano exhibit. This had a house that has a vigorous earthquake, which was a new experience for me.



Liam Izett tries drilling holes the old-fashioned way at Auckland Museum.

Jack Wagstaff

On Thursday at 10am we arrived at Kelly Tarlton's. Kelly Tarlton's is an aquarium in Auckland. It was originally a sewer treatment plant so most of it is underground.

After you've studied the penguins, you walk through an old cabin, a replica of Scott's hut in Antarctica. The walls are lined with canned food and old tools. The smell in the cabin is probably the first thing you notice. It is caused by seal fat and seal skin that had been used in there. A room full of people and fish overwhelms you as you come out of a smelly old Antarctic cabin.

A life-sized submarine suddenly caught my eye and I rushed over to it with a group of other people. You crawl into a medium-sized tube with buttons and joysticks with a bubble on the end.

The first fish tank you see is in the same room as the submarine. We were all interested in the big fish we were seeing, until someone said there were stingrays in there as well. We all rushed around to try and find them. In the end we found seven or eight all in a bunch at the end of the tank. We then went on the snowcat ride, which started in a room with rotating walls that make you dizzy, just as if you were in a white-out. As you came round the corner you saw all the penguins and in the middle of them all was a massive penguin – a baby penguin. Its name was Phoenix and it really was huge.

They had some massive eels – one was at least forty years old. There were also crayfish, seahorses, poisonous fish and a rockfish. Finally we went and had a huge look in the gift shop before going into the Learning Centre.

In the Learning Centre we had a teacher called Viv. She talked to us about Antarctica. She had been there before so she knew a lot about the place and she had a lot of pictures.

I thought going to Kelly Tarlton's was one of the best things we'd done after Clip'n'Climb. I liked the snowcat ride the best and my favourite animals were the turtles.

Oakura Plunket Coffee Morning Revival!!

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understanding autism

If you are a family member, please love me unconditionally

Ellen Notbohm, mother of a child with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), believes that with support and guidance the possibilities for individuals with ASD are broader than we might think and she has written a book about this, *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew*.

Ellen says that with support, the individual with ASD's chances of successful, self-reliant adulthood are great. Here is an extract, written from the perspective of a child with ASD:

"Thoughts such as, 'If he would just...' and 'why can't she...' don't actually help. You didn't fulfil every last expectation your parents had for you, and you wouldn't like being constantly reminded of it. I didn't choose to have autism. Remember it is happening to me not you. It all comes down to three words: Patience. Patience. Patience. Work to view my autism as a different ability rather than a disability. Look past what you may see as limitations and see the gifts autism has given me. I may not be good at eye contact or conversation, but have you noticed I don't lie, cheat at games or pass judgment on other people."

This will be my last article for *TOM* on autism. I have thoroughly enjoyed writing about a topic very close to my heart due to our six year old son having autism. I am frequently reading, going to conferences and talking with others to understand more and be able to help my son

By Kare Glenny



Bring on summer!!

At the end of last Term, we had a great session. Four of us had attended a 'Water Workshop' and we came away with lots of inspiration. Some were ideas that we had seen and done before, but had forgotten. So armed with new enthusiasm, coupled with a beautiful day, the children (and adults) had a blast.

We started off with washing David Rielly's car! The hose was going, the bubbles were flowing, children were giggling and I think David's car finished up cleaner?? Such was the excitement for water play, the children ended up making a water slide! Yes, it was just warm enough!!



From left: Willow, Bella, James and Violette having some good old fashioned fun!!

We also had some interesting large blocks of ice. One encased flowers and the other had kina shells, bark and glittery pipe cleaners. We placed them in a large container for the children to touch and observe during the session. As it melted, and pieces were exposed, the children would try to pull the objects out of it. Belinda set up some hot water and spoons and asked the children "What happens if I put my hot spoon on the ice??" They were able to try it themselves and found this interesting. We have new families popping in to check us out all the time. It's always great to see new faces and enthusiasm.

We have a Planning and Evaluation Meeting scheduled in October. This is a chance to look at our children's learning stories and plan for the following term. More ideas for fun and learning!

Playcentre is a great way to meet people in your community, make friends and learn about children. Our session times are: Mon & Wed 9am – 12pm. For more information, phone Melissa Newton on 7521056.

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ACCOMMODATION

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CHRISTMAS ACCOMMODATION

WANTED in Oakura for 4 adults and 3 little ones. Our family regularly stays in Oakura over Xmas, but now family has grown we need some extra room. Can you help? The dates we have in mind are 22nd - 30 Dec. Please call Summer (Wgtn) 04 972 0034 or email summeracton@hotmail.com

clubs & groups calendar

Mini Groovers:

Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall. Gold coin donation.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street
Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.

St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

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

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs 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 Meditation Group

Zen Bhuddist based - all welcome. Ph Tove Jensen-Monroe 752 1350. Email tovisssm@mac.com for details. Monthly, evenings.

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.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816



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Fax (06) 753 3497
topprint@clear.net.nz



Leonie Harrington

Professional, Experienced, Ethical

B: (06) 758 0489

M: 021 332 301

AH: (06) 758 0016

leonie.harrington@harveysnz.co.nz



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 and will be sold at the Auction Sunday 28th October at 12noon on site (unless sold prior). This marks an opportunity for a young family to enter this area at an extremely affordable level!

www.open2view.com ID No 162763

Auction



OAKURA - Ultimate Kiwi Beach Bach

Seize the rare opportunity to secure your piece of 814m² freehold paradise close to the main Oakura beach on a quiet cul de sac bordering the beautiful Matakai reserve. This sunny, sheltered property has mountain views and the potential for sea views, all just a short stroll from the surf club. Whether you use the two 'cabins' as your holiday accommodation or live in them whilst you plan your dream home - the choice is yours. Suitable sites in such close proximity to the beach are truly scarce in Oakura, and this one is fully serviced.

www.open2view.com ID No 154522

Offers over \$375,000



Architecturally Designed Home With Fabulous Seaviews

This stunning family residence has been constructed using the highest possible materials and standards and is fully equipped for wheelchair access throughout. Comprising 3 double bedrooms; provisions have been made at the design stage for it to be easily adapted to a fourth. The high ceilings throughout give the home a beautiful sense of space and there is excellent indoor/outdoor flow to undercover verandas on 3 sides. Excellent car accommodation and manicured gardens complete this immaculate home which is located just minutes from the town centre and Oakura beach.

www.open2view.com ID No 153132



Brand New Home in Highlands Park!

Superbly constructed & designed this meticulously presented brick home is situated on a easy care 827m² landscaped section enjoying elevate urban views. Boasting 4 double bedrooms plus a computer nook, 2 bathrooms, elegant formal lounge & dining area, quality fitted kitchen, light filled family room and fabulous outdoor entertaining area. Features include wiring for surround sounds system, reverse cycle heating/cooling and extensive double garage.

www.open2view.com ID No 155673

\$599,000



Retire to Fitzroy Village

This easy care 2 bedroom unit is located in the heart of Fitzroy Village and features open plan lounge/dining area, a morning sun filled kitchen with plenty of storage and internal access from a single car garage. The surrounding units are owner occupied and offer a secure friendly environment to live in. Plan for the future now by securing your little piece of Fitzroy!

www.open2view.com ID No 157442

\$385,000

HARVEYS

people and property

Park City Realty Limited MREINZ (A Member of the Harveys Group) 336 Devon Street West, New Plymouth