

## Interference to nature Infuriates a local

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Wasn't last month's issue of *TOM* jam packed with sports and sportspeople! It never ceases to amaze me how sporty our community is – and good at it too. But of course there are other things going on in the community and this month we have a look at Glen Johns and his national award for kitchen design – a wonderful achievement for him. The front page story on erosion control opens a can of worms for which there seems no easy answer to but I hope everyone has an opinion they will freely share.

With the election looming it is time to think about who we want running our country and representing us in parliament – no easy task. Despite which, political campaigns from all over the world seem to dominate the news, it never seems like the candidates can come up with anything innovative to inspire voters but instead use smear campaigns to get the upper hand. Maybe they need to take a leaf out of Sophia Preschool's book and hold regular World Peace Days!

I hope all you whitebaiters are catching enough whitebait to get a decent feed. Isn't it funny how such a small wriggly thing can taste so delicious? What a pleasurable way to spend an hour or two, sitting on the river bank, contemplating the world rushing by (but hopefully not taking the whitebait with it)! Let's hope this delicacy will be around for generations to come.

Kim

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**Copy and ads deadline – 24 October**  
**Distribution – 12 November**

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

## COVER STORY

# Interference to nature infuriates one local

TOM received the letter to the editor below from long-time resident and ex-Kaitake Community Board member, Fay Looney. While we are not investigative journalists, we are caring community members who, through the medium of a community newspaper, seek to keep the community informed about issues. We consider that the below letter raises issues that affect everyone and have sought to discover the facts behind the seawall project without bias and without the emotion that it may invoke.

## Letter to the Editor

The Oakura riverbank where generations have enjoyed the shade of the Pohutukawas out of the westerly wind; where hundreds of kids in the past have dived from the bank that has stood the test of time, has been changed forever.

The bank withstood storms and floods, until a digger came along recently and took a chunk out, exposing the tree roots and dumping tonnes of rock into the space it carved out of the bank. While storms have never managed to destroy this riverbank, man and bureaucracy have done so instead.

I am appalled that this could happen so easily without an opportunity for historic beach users to comment. Taranaki Regional Council and NPDC have acted within the law but very quietly. An esplanade reserve (publicly owned land) has been turned into a private rock dump to protect a cliff that did not need protection and I am talking about the part that runs along the riverside which also incidentally is partially owned by the Marae.

As the past Chairman of the Kaitake Community Board up until October 2008 I had no knowledge this was a done deal believing public consultation would take place. The first meeting of the new Board was informed by a late agenda item and asked for approval. Understandably they asked for a beach meeting prior to approval. At the meeting only 2 members attended. New Chairman Doug Hislop feels they were outmaneuvered as the decision had been made.

The criteria it seems is everybody else along the beach has a rock wall so why not one more. Plus if DOC consents and the local Marae consent there is no reason to say no. Interestingly DOC never once viewed the location physically but gave consent. Beach users were never asked as they are deemed to be represented by the Board, a Board that did not receive the notice in time to ask the public.

To change an environment forever from its natural landscape goes completely against the so called Coastal Strategy Plan – if this is their strategy, then God help the rest of this beautiful beach.

This is also about a community not being informed. Consultation has taken place for months and years about a sewerage scheme to protect the beach, but consultation on this did not happen, except in closed circles. Why? Because apparently it was deemed a non-notifiable resource consent. What is it that gives those who choose to live so close to our coast the right to change its environment? Do they not understand when they purchase a sea-front property that that is exactly what it is, a sea-front?

Wait until the sand grinds this down and we have rocks distributed all over the beach. Did nobody learn the lesson of the rocks removed for the port extension and the effect it had on our coast? Or do they just not care?

Fay Looney

## More on this...

The TOM team contacted the Taranaki Regional Council to discover what had transpired before work was carried out at

the Oakura River mouth. Fred McLay of the Taranaki Regional Council provided the details below . . .

A resource consent was lawfully issued for the coastal protection works after the applicant obtained written approval for non-notification from:

- NPDC (the local community board were involved because of a reserve through the land),
- Taranaki Fish and Game Council (interests in Oakura River)
- DOC (coastal interests), and
- the local iwi (the marae as neighbour of the site and coastal interests).

The application was made in July 2007 and it took until September this year to get the last approval (from NPDC). The works were partly constructed on land owned by the applicant and past erosion had resulted in much land being lost from the front of this property.

This is also the case for other properties along the Terrace and there are now minor to medium coastal protection works all the way along the northern end of Messenger Terrace that have been consented over the last ten years or so. Some of the works are covered in sand while others can be seen above the sand. Some of the historic works are of the same general scale as those recently undertaken.

The aim has been to strike a balance between providing a level of protection for the residents and maintaining the natural character of the beach environment. Some residents place sand on top of their works and plant vegetation to minimise the visual impact.

Doug Hislop from the Kaitake Community Board says that in retrospect the KCB should have become involved in the process and arranged public consultation but the new board were just finding their feet and were busy dealing with the Hau Lane Palm saga.

In his report granting approval for this project, Mark Bruhn, Parks Manager for NPDC, said, "To achieve protection from the structure [seawall], it must be constructed at the bottom of the cliff within the reserve parcel as well as across a section of legal road", and that "formalization of the occupation is an easement issued under section 48 of the Reserves Act". Most interestingly, public notification was not considered necessary as "the rights of the public in respect of the reserve are not likely to be permanently affected".

My understanding of the matter is that the landowner has obtained the necessary resource consents to carry out erosion protection to his property. But this is where it gets a bit murky. Part of the work is carried out on the public reserve or esplanade. The Council deems that work on private property does not require public notification. But if part of the land is a reserve, then shouldn't it require notification?

Fay Looney tells me that an officer at NPDC gave her an assurance that public consultation would be carried out, but this has not been done other than through the KCB.

So it is unfortunate that the seawall encroaches on what many of us consider "our" playground, when in fact part of it may be private land, and doesn't this permanently affect how we use the area?

But wouldn't most of us try to protect our land and property? And isn't the Council just trying to provide what it sees as a solution to the problem of erosion where the whole area could be lost permanently to the sea? The landowner tells me he is just trying to correct what past councils have gotten wrong with coastal development, i.e. Corbett Park.

For me personally, it leaves me with more questions than answers. I call upon the public to give me their opinion on whether they think consultation would have been appropriate before this project began and what they would like to see happen now. Email your responses to [kim@thetom.co.nz](mailto:kim@thetom.co.nz) and I will compile these to present to the council and the community.

*By Kim Ferens*



### Hi folks!

I have an enormous thank you to give to everyone who took part in one of the 12 community roadshows recently.

These travelled around the district in September, including to Oakura, with Council staff asking members of the public what is important to them for the future of our district.

Between the roadshows and the online survey, we had more than 600 people taking part – and overall, through hui, workshops, the community roadshows and an ACNielsen survey, we received more than 1,400 responses from the public on what they want for the future of New Plymouth District. This is an amazing amount of feedback and it will be invaluable as we start work on drafting the Community Plan 2009-2019. But this isn't the end of public consultation. We'll have the draft plan ready for release in March next year, and the public will be able to read it and give us their submissions from 1 April to 1 May.

And in the meantime, if you have any ideas on anything that you want included in the draft plan, please send them to me so that they can be part of this drafting process.

It's been such a relief to see some blue sky and sunshine for a change! The weeks and weeks of nearly solid rain in the middle of winter played havoc with our moods and made things "interesting" for the contractors working on the Oakura sewerage reticulation, so to get a break from the constant rain has been a blessing for everyone.

We are reaching some significant milestones, with work well under way on the main pump station at Shearer Reserve and the trunk main from Oakura to New Plymouth being very, very near to completion.

Hopefully as we drag ourselves away from winter and can feel that, yes, the drier days of summer are starting to head our way, we can make even better progress on this project and have an easier working environment for both the contractors and the passing public.

And remember, if you have any ideas for a project that you think the Council can help you with, give me a call and I'll see what we can do!

Keep the passion! *Peter Tennent*, Mayor

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## kaitake community board

I really love this place. I've lived here since 1970. Peta has longer and stronger connections than me, stretching back to 1950. Our kids have grown up here. They are gone now but they delight in coming back whenever they can.

It is a similar story for many long-term residents and some certainly go back a great deal further than us. The beach brought us here, as it has brought many others who have followed. Generations of neighbourhood kids have grasped the superb developmental opportunity provided by the local environment. They do move away but still retain a deep affection for the place.

What do we have in common? Political persuasion? Not likely. Similar employment? Not really. Keeping up with the Joneses? No way. Living the suburban dream? Never.

Lifestyle? Oh yes. Our place, beaches, ocean, surf and proximity to the ranges and mountain are treasured. An undeveloped lifestyle where folk can just be. Community? Well that certainly used to be important but ...

Times are changing. We have escalating conversions of farmland to residential subdivisions. Population and development pressures. Development threats as the New Plymouth urban sprawl intensifies and sewerage reticulation comes along.

What are the risks? Will there be growing polarisation between developers and environmental interests? And what about private property rights versus public access? Will loopholes in the Resource Management Act be used to manipulate local zoning laws? Maybe piecemeal solutions, short-term thinking and no long-term plan will become the order of the day.

Surprisingly enough, these issues are the same the world over. The closer people come to the seas, the greater is the damage. More and more of the narrow strips of land along the world's coasts – and their habitats – have been ruined by a host of poorly planned and badly regulated activities. The pressures are particularly exacerbated as more and more people and

businesses demand oceanfront properties. They are attracted by what's there and help destroy it through their arrival.

Our local coastal environment exists in a constant state of change. Climate, waves from the Southern Ocean and volcanic activity over many thousands of years have an influence on our coastline. Yet it is the effects of human activities that have proven to be the most contentious. You only have to read the daily paper to recognise this escalating threat and the latest *North and South* magazine makes a succinct case on a national level.

Many of us realise that it is important to manage the effects of human activities within the coastal settlement areas of our district so that the natural and physical resources of the surrounding coastal and rural environments are not degraded. But are there enough of us who really care? Can we just leave it to a few "watchdogs" to protect what we came here for in the first place?

Our environment is under threat. We need a carefully managed plan if we are to retain the values that are so important to us rather than play catch up, trying to return something unique to its original state. Well, we do have that overarching plan in the NPDC Coastal Strategy and drilling further down we have the specifics of the Oakura Structure Plan. Both were developed over time with significant effort. These are the route maps to control the residential and business development here.

But these plans need helmsmen. Can we rely on Council officers to be on top of all the local issues or do we have to manage those ourselves? Who will secure our preferred future? Can our wider community unite and become that relevant again?

Here ends my polemic.

The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board is on Tuesday 4 November at the New Plymouth Old Boys' Surf Club at 4pm.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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## update from the big red truck

### Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

We have now officially left winter behind. Surely that barbeque weather is just around the corner...

If your barbecue is ready to come out of hibernation and make an appearance, we have a few safety reminders for you:

- 1 Ensure your gas bottle is within its test date and does not leak. A simple mixture of dishwashing liquid and water brushed around the valve will show if your gas bottle has a leak. If it does, bubbles will be created.
- 2 Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting the gas cylinder to the barbecue.
- 3 Check the condition of hoses and the 'O'-ring (if applicable). Check for leaks after connection.
- 4 If you have a charcoal barbecue, do not burn it indoors or in a confined space.
- 5 Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda and water available to put out a fire.
- 6 Light the barbecue as soon as the gas is turned on. Never try to light it with the lid down.
- 7 Ensure valves are fully open or fully closed.
- 8 Prevent grease from dripping onto the hoses or cylinder. Grease build-up is a potential fire hazard.
- 9 Ensure all valves are turned off when barbecue is not in use.

Another reminder, Day Light Saving ended on Sunday September 28. This is a good time to replace all the batteries in your smoke detectors and to function-test them.

On 15 September, Oakura Playcentre made a visit to the Fire Station. The parents brought their children along to have a look around the station, climb over the appliance (fire engine) and they then got to dress up in fire-fighter suits. If it hadn't been raining, they would also have had the opportunity to squirt some water from the hoses (or "branches" as they are officially called!).

The Oakura Fire Brigade would like to remind the different groups in the community that we are available for such visits. If anyone is interested, please contact the Fire Station on a Monday night after 7.15pm.

As I write, a number of our fire fighters are off to Wanganui for the day to participate in a RFTB (realistic fire training building) course. This course involves various practical exercises in extremely intense heat. It is a physically challenging day but is something they repeat on a bi-annual basis. It is the most realistic fire training our Fire Fighters are allowed to participate in.

While I sit here typing, the Toughest Fire Fighter challenge is still a week away. If you made it to watch the Oakura boys and girl (well done Fire Fighter Leadbetter J), we hope you had a great time. The dummy drag – 80kg of incredibly hard work – was enough to put me off even making a slight attempt to participate!

Stay warm and safe.

Mel Breeze (Secretary)

### Okurukuru Award Snippet

At Culinary Fare 2008 in Auckland recently, the Okurukuru team did extremely well and defended their title as the Smart/Casual Restaurant of the Year winner. Simon, the Executive Chef, also competed in the Global Chefs Challenge and won a bronze medal.



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**It's that time again readers . . . and hasn't the last three years flown by?**

New Zealand goes to the polls on November the 8th to decide who their Government will be for the next three years.

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Voters need to be enrolled by 08 October 2008 to have their details on the printed electoral rolls that are used in polling and advance voting places.

All those voters who are enrolled by this date will receive an EasyVote information pack – an initiative of the Chief Electoral Office that will include an EasyVote card to make voting easier and more straightforward.

Anyone who cannot get to a polling place on Election day or who will be overseas will be able to vote in advance.

Advance voting opens from 22 October 2008

Those not enrolled by 08 October can still enrol (in fact this is a legal requirement) but will have to cast a special declaration vote on Election day, which can take up to five times longer.

Enrolling is compulsory for all citizens and permanent residents over the age of 18.

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## Roll With You

Eli "Paperboy" Reed  
& The True Loves

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## music review

by Don Juan

With a minor glut of comparatively recent recordings by Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Nicole Willis & The Soul Investigators, Bettye LaVette, James Hunter, The New Mastersounds, Candi Staton, and, yes, even Amy Winehouse and Hollie Smith, it seems that good, old-fashioned soul music is making a comeback. Of course, for the diehards, the music never went away, but the marvellous thing about the new wave of soul is that it seems to appeal to today's "hip young things" (many of whom would have no idea who Sam & Dave, Wilson Pickett, James Carr or even Otis Redding were) and does so without alienating the old soul duffers!

Despite his youth, 24-year-old songwriter, guitarist, keyboard player and vocalist Eli "Paperboy" Reed is "the real deal", having served his musical apprenticeship with Delta blues drummer Sam Carr and former Chess soul queen Mitty Collier, before striking out with The True Loves.

With the release of their second album, *Roll With You*, this band can be added to a growing list of impressive R&B acts that have recaptured the excitement and greasy sound of genuine Sixties' soul. James Brown is a major influence on many of these artists, but Reed also seems to reference some more obscure sources such as O.V. Wright, Howard Tate and Don Covay.

The party animals will gravitate towards the up-tempo soul stompers here ("The Satisfier", "Take My Love With You" and "I'm Gonna Getcha Back"), but for me the real highlights are the deeper, darker soul ballads. These tracks, which include "It's Easier", "I'll Roll With You", "Fooling Myself" and "She Walks", could easily mistaken for forgotten Southern soul classics. In fact, these songs seem so authentic, so soulful, that it's almost impossible to believe that they are being delivered by a pasty-faced kid from Boston!

### Music review by Graham Donlon

*Mr Donlon has been writing music reviews for well over thirty years. He also hosts the near-encyclopaedic radio show, Music Without Frontiers, spinning the latest and classic jazz, blues and world music every Sunday between 10am and 1pm on The Most (100.4 FM). Miss it at your peril!*



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## Rich pickings

### Hello all

It is a very sad time in the Police, with another colleague gunned down while on duty in Auckland. This drug P has certainly established itself as one of the most dangerous substances available – the addictive nature and harmful affects are incredible. I urge anybody who is connected in any way to this horrible drug to seek help.

On a brighter note, things in the area have been really good of late. The arrest by Hawera police of a New Plymouth local for the spate of copper theft from around the coastal area seems to have put a stop to that type of offending, for the mean time anyway.

For those of you who didn't know, there was a break-in at Butlers last month and a large amount of alcohol was taken. Fortunately, the offenders were not that bright and left most of it hidden a short distance away. I am making progress on the case and have a number of leads, but would appreciate any information that may lead to the offenders. It is obvious that they did not have access to a vehicle at the time of offending but may have returned with one.

You may have seen someone acting suspiciously in the area. If so, give me a call – no matter how insignificant you may think the information is, I would like to hear from you.

Around about the same time some fishing equipment was taken from a boat. The two incidents may be linked.

I attended a motor vehicle crash on the corner of Pitone Road and the main highway recently. For those of you who drove through the scene, flashing lights on Police, Fire and Ambulance vehicles do not mean speed up while trying your best to have a look!

I lost count of the number of vehicles that drove through the scene without a care for the emergency staff who were trying to make it safe. Be respectful – especially of the volunteer fire brigade, who are trying to make the scene safe for everyone.

Enough of crime... On the sporting front, the 'Naki have had an up and down season to date, but I am sure that by the time you read this they will have had a big win over Otago and will be back on track.

What a test we watched the other day. I felt the All Blacks showed some real determination and guts, perhaps something the netball girls could do with.

Also, by the time you read this, the log of wood will have found a new home at the Cake Tin and the Warriors will be one step closer to the finals.

On a farming note we are now the proud parents of two lambs, which my children are busy training for Lamb and Calf Day at school. I can't wait for them to go back to the farm they came from, that's for sure.

The chickens are laying and the roosters are all gone, so no more requests for rooster eggs please.

Anyway, must go. Take care and be safe.

Rich

## Rugby League stars make girls' night

Tracey Murfitt was out celebrating her birthday at the Corner Stone Roots Concert at Butlers recently when her sister Amanda spied Stacey Jones and Tony Kemp having dinner in the restaurant. The pair were more than happy to have their photo taken with the birthday girl!



Tracey Murfitt (right) and Amanda Waters with Stacey Jones and Tony Kemp at Butlers.

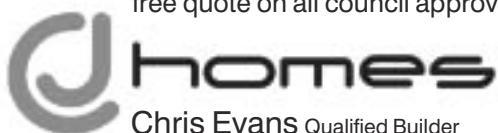
## Oakura Village Café has new owners

A new development at the Oakura Village Café is the buy out of the lease from Karl Riepen by the buildings owner – Ian Scott. Ian and Margaret plan to return the Café to its former glory when you could get an honest meal for an honest price.

## Spring is here!

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NEW ZEALAND Labour NZ



**Hi all**

Did you know that the birthstone for October is opal? We have some beautiful books on gems, jewellery design, beads and beading.

Young and old will enjoy pouring through record books such as *Animal Records: Amazing Feats and Fascinating Facts* and *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Currioddities, Seriously Weird!*

Graphic novels and comics are as popular as ever. Just in – the *Mammoth Book of War Comics*, *Tintin* and *Lucky Luke* titles.

For the tennis player, we have *Doubles Tennis Tactics* and for rugby fans, we have *All Blacks Myths and Legends*.

If you weren't lucky enough to make it to the Rita Angus exhibition at Te Papa in Wellington, she is currently featured in the spring issue of *Art New Zealand* magazine.

Hope to see you soon

Karen and Vincenza

## New book club in Oakura

A group of Oakura friends who love great literature have formed the Oakura Ladies Book Club. Led by Beth Plonk, the Book Club meets once a month to discuss the book that they have chosen to read.

They are currently reading *The Departure Lounge* by Chad Taylor, a New Zealand novelist. The most recent meeting was hosted by Beth Plonk and included lots of tasty treats as well as juicy discussion of the last book read by the group, *The Sea*.

The group is being organised through the Puke Ariki Book Group. The Library provides books for the Club, which the ladies choose from a list provided by Puke Ariki.

By Jennifer Gros



Book clubbies get together.



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## New TV Towers at Tapuae

Two new TV translator towers have recently been installed on the Tapuae hill opposite Plymouth road.



The new twin towers on the Tapuae hill.

The big tower receives and transmits TV1, TV2 and TV3 television and the smaller tower transmits radio FM to thousands of coastal residents and were recently upgraded and moved to a more suitable location within the new farm park Tapuae Country Estate. The towers are significant in that they bounce signals received from the Hen and Chickens on Mt Taranaki and sends them onward to coastal residents in Oakura and via the Pukeiti translators to Okato residents and around the coast as far as Rahotu.

"The new towers are a real asset for the coast – without them coastal people wouldn't be able to get any TV or FM radio reception," says local man Chris Curd who installed the new towers on behalf of Auckland based telecommunications company Kordia Ltd.

The old towers, situated close by, are currently being dismantled and property owners John and Mary Washer have put a post and rail around the new towers and planted beneath them in keeping with the landscaping architecture of the Tapuae Country Estate farm park.

*Tapuae horticultural team: Spence Guthrie, Maureen McGregor & Kathleen Brophy by the new towers that transmit TV coverage to coastal residents.*





*Rose Sharrock*

Oakura Medical Centre is pleased to introduce Rose Sharrock, new beauty therapist for Skincare Taranaki. Rose is a highly qualified beauty therapist, who has recently moved back to this area from Auckland.

She is offering a full range of beauty therapy, specialising in microdermabrasion (an amazing exfoliation for the skin), as well as laser hair and tattoo removal, non-surgical face lifts, waxing, tinting and more.

Rose is available by appointment for skin consultations, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and Tuesdays until 7pm. You can be prescribed for your particular skin type and concerns. Oakura Medical Centre is the exclusive stockist of Ultracuticals skincare products. Ultracuticals is a results-driven skincare, with very high percentages of professional ingredients.

Previously, Rose worked in Auckland at the Milford Caci Clinic for three years before opening her own business called ISIS Beauty on the Northshore. She studied at Elite School of Beauty Therapy, and holds NZQA accreditation as well as CIBTAC and Cidesco qualifications.

## Skincare Taranaki introduces new beauty therapist

*By Jennifer Gros*



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*Dr Diane Nowak.*

## Dr Diane Nowak joins Oakura Medical Centre

*By Jennifer Gros*

Diane Nowak has joined the Oakura Medical Centre as a family practice physician and general practitioner. She is practicing in Oakura on Mondays and Thursdays, and works in the Opunake clinic on the remaining three days.

She has located here from Baker City, Oregon in the US, where she practiced for eight years in a rural community of about eight thousand people. Her spectrum of work included family practice, hospital inpatient care and obstetrics.

Originally from Montana, Diane is a graduate of Montana State University. She received her medical degree from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her residency was in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

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<b>Spicy Lamb</b>	-	Spiced Lamb, Pumpkin, Eggplant & Feta.
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<b>Salami</b>	-	Salami, Mushrooms, Capsicum & Olives.
<b>Four Cheeses</b>	-	Blue, Brie, Parmesan & Feta.

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<b>PIE MEAL</b>	-	-	-	-	\$10.00
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**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK TONIGHT'S MEAL!**

(Changes Daily) **\$14.00**

**Summer Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10am - 8pm**



# New faces in Oakura

By Jennifer Gros

## Marriott Family

Karina and Craig Marriott have recently settled in Oakura from Cumbria in the UK. They have been in Oakura since June, and have really enjoyed living here so far. Karina and Craig have three children: Melissa (10), Sarah (6) and David (4).



While in the UK the couple began discussing where they would like to live... anywhere in the world... and both Karina and Craig thought that New Zealand would be the best place. So, from that point, they began an eighteen-month plan to get here. They were ready for a lifestyle change for their family and they have certainly found that in Oakura.

Craig is a Lead Engineer with Transfield Worley in Hazard & Risk Assessment. He likes his job and has settled in well. Karina is an archaeologist looking to get back into her field, and is currently at home with their son. All of the children love school, and have settled in very easily. Karina says that there are so many more options for her children in New Zealand and activities are more accessible. They have a special kind of freedom here.

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# TOM SPORTS



## Greetings all

The weather has improved and the fishing has definitely picked up.

On our last Club Day in August a good crowd of about 10 members turned up at the weigh-in to see Okato kayak-fisherman Martin Rook's Snapper of a bit over 7kg. This was a boost for us all as we were starting to forget what the fish looked like! (He also caught a smaller one.) The day before, surfcaster Chris

Whitaker got a nice Trevally off the breakwater. A couple of weeks later a few kayakers ventured out, getting a few Kahawai and Gurnard from around the Sugar Loaves – by all accounts it was pretty hard fishing too.

The next weekend paid off again for surfcaster Chris Whitaker, who landed a Snapper of about 7kg from around the White Cliffs. This put a smile on Chris's face, as it had indeed been a long, long time between drinks.

This month we are fishing against the NP Surfcasting Club for the Ali Krutz Memorial Trophy. The day of the challenge is Sunday 19 October, with the weigh-in at Butlers at 4.30pm. This year the boundaries have changed and now extend to the south end of the Opunake beach, given the Tapuae Marine reserve implementation.

By the time you read this, we'll have had the first day of the Surfcasting Tri Club comp'. Hopefully, we will have pics from this in the November issue of TOM.

The November comp' is on the 8th and 9th. To be in on this all you have to do is join our club, NPSC or the NP club fishing section. There are excellent prizes up for grabs. You can join your family up to Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club for only \$40. Contact us for more information: Debbie – 752 7425, Garry Harrison – 752 7255 or President Tony Hurring – 751 3552.

Tight lines

Debbie E



## Kaitake Golf Club



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For more information

**Phone (06) 752 7665**



*Pictured: Chris Whitaker and Martin Rook with a couple of well earned snappers.*

## Oakura Junior Sports Club

**By Jennifer Gros**

The Oakura Junior Sports Club (OJSC) was formed in 2000 for the children of Oakura and outer areas. It is run by a wonderful group of parents and volunteers who work closely with Oakura School. All school-based, non-curriculum sports are under the umbrella of the OJSC, and the Club has proven to be a huge success!

This year the OJSC has run five different sports and approximately twenty-five teams. It is really amazing when you see so many children being active, and so many parents with great skills stepping forward to run these sports! The sports include soccer, netball, cricket, basketball and mini-ball.

The main goals of the Club are to decrease the school's workload, to apply for trust monies not available to schools,

*Nigel Barbour and Dom Squatriti handing out certificates to the Oakura Warriors soccer team*



# Oakura Pony Club News

By Diane Alder

Oakura Pony Club held their opening rally on Sunday 14 September. It was a great day to kick off the riding season and we would like to welcome new members Paula Harvey and family and Fountain Peebles.

The following Sunday 21 September was our major annual fundraising event – a Jumping Day competition held at Waitara Pony Club. This will feature in next month's *TOM*.

Rally dates until the end of 2008 have been organised:

- 15 October (Wednesday), 5pm start – unmounted turnout theory rally.
- 25 October (Saturday), 10am-12pm – fully mounted rally (i.e. full Pony Club uniform), working on gridwork and jumping.
- 19 November (Wednesday), 5pm start – mufti rally, working on games and team trials.
- 20 December (Saturday) – Christmas party (details to be advised).
- 14 January (Wednesday), 5pm start – fully mounted rally.

Rallies from February onwards – dates to be advised.

At our AGM in August there were no changes of office – Linda Knudsen will continue as chairperson, Diane Alder as secretary and Libby Hinton as treasurer. If anyone is interested in joining the Pony Club please feel free to contact me on 7521008.



Above, right: Georgia riding her new pony, Charlie, at the Oakura Pony Club opening rally on 14 September.

Right: Jess riding her new pony, Percy, at the opening rally.



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Rose taking miniball practice with Julia and Max Crighton and Tom Parker

to encourage children to return and continue playing locally after leaving the school, and to recruit players to complete teams from surrounding areas. They also work to improve player skills by establishing coaching clinics, as well as preparing players for future sports.

The OJSC has proven to be very successful, with most children enjoying more than one sport. The children are always being commended for their good sportsmanship. The Club has a close working relationship with the Oakura School, utilising their facilities for playing, practicing and coaching. It has also taken pressure off the teachers, allowing them to focus on teaching, while the Oakura Junior Sports Club takes care of sporting interests.

Rose Parker (Chairperson), Jules Everest (Secretary) and Jo Hill (Treasurer) lead OJSC. Each sport has a representative: Dom Squatriti – soccer, Helen Reid – netball, Al McDougal – cricket, and Rose Parker – basketball and mini-ball athletics. Co-ordinator for Jill Barron is the newsletter



# TOM SPORTS

## Tenacity and talent the key for Stefan

Oakura teenager Stefan Webling has been very busy since TOM last talked to him in 2006. Stefan is involved in motor racing, specifically Formula First, Formula Ford and MTA Formula Ford Championships.

It has taken tenacity and of course natural talent to have come out on top at the end of the 07/08 season. The 06/07 season had more lows than highs but things are on the rise for this young man.

In the 07/08 season Stefan won the "rookie" of the year competition in the Formula Ford Championship with a 4th place overall.

He has also won a MTA Formula Ford Scholarship. This scholarship is a serious investment (\$70,000) by MTA Formula Ford in Stefan over two years. It is also only a fraction of what is needed to succeed in the industry each year. But the scholarship will help Stefan develop his skills, help get him recognition and give him the opportunity to be noticed by top racing teams.

Stefan has also been named the "Triple X Motorsport Junior Driver" for 08/09. This means Stefan will be involved in the Triple X team as their junior driver and will give him the opportunity to test drive a 997 Porsche GT3. He will also get to work alongside the likes of Craig Baird and David Reynolds. Earlier in the year Stefan worked with the team at the Hamilton Street Race.

Stefan is also under the tutelage of the Elite Motorsport Academy for the next two years and they have provided him with a sports psychologist, a nutritionist and a personal trainer – Fiona Ross. This is aimed at increasing his fitness, health and strengthening his winning attitude.

The Formula Ford Series kicks off in early October at Taupo race circuit and Stefan is hoping to put a few wins on the board with his main goal of becoming the overall champion in the MTA Formula Ford championship. Then the world is his oyster! Stefan says he is as keen and committed to motor racing as he is ever been and all the sacrifices he has to make to pursue his dream of racing is worth it.

In the meantime Stefan is busy completing his Automotive Technicians apprenticeship at Max Penningtons Auto City New Plymouth. Then there is his modelling career! Have you noticed Stefan as the 'pin up' boy for WITT!

By Kim Ferens



Stefan on the winners podium.



Stefan driving the ultimate boy toy.

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onga WAIKATO



# Kitchen Designer of the Year – Glen Johns of Glen Johns Design

By Kim Ferens

I am quite blown away that a kitchen designer from New Plymouth could take out a supreme New Zealand kitchen design award, or awards should I say. And the awards recipient has also been an Oakura community member for 26 years – there must be something in the air that inspires top achievers in our village!

Glen Johns won the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association "Kitchen Design of the Year", and also "Regional Winner for Taranaki", the "Certified Designers Society Award" and "Best Kitchen – \$50,000 and over". Over 60 kitchens were entered in the competition.

Glen transformed an uninspiring kitchen into a stylish, artistic and functional masterpiece. The judges commented that the design showed a stunning and unbeatable transformation and that the cantilevered extractor was a wonderfully unusual and creative solution to the ventilation requirement.

The new kitchen has the dramatic Stony River as a backdrop and this element has been integrated into the design. The white-toned cabinetry is a reflection of the clear water of the river and the stone look of the Corian bench-top imitates the river boulders. The floor is Tasmanian Oak, which blends nicely with the trees outside. The layout is designed to maximise the view and an existing staircase is cleverly disguised behind the cabinets on the back wall. The drawers and cupboards have self-closing mechanisms and there are no visible handles. The cantilevered extractor caused quite a few headaches for the designer but I'm sure all the engineering grief was worth the effort. The owners of the kitchen chose Glen as their designer after visiting his showroom and liking his display kitchens, both of which are beautifully crafted.

The process of entering the annual awards, now in their twenty-fourth year, requires designers to submit design boards detailing the kitchen project. These boards show intricate drawings and details of the wiring, plumbing, lighting, tapware, flooring, appliances and cabinetry.


Glen tells me there are only two certified kitchen designers in Taranaki, of which he is one. He did four years of study to gain certification. Glen is a cabinet-maker by trade, having done his time with Henry Brown. He branched into kitchen design seventeen years ago and then into business for himself seven years ago. Glen says he really enjoys the design side of his business. He also enjoys seeing the end result of his kitchen design installed in a client's home. Glen sees a kitchen design not just as a job to do, but as a piece of art.

Speaking from experience, I would say engaging someone of Glen's expertise in kitchen design would certainly pay off if you are looking to put in a new kitchen. And then there are all the new toots and whistles that new kitchens boast today – soft-close drawers and cupboards, electronic opening cupboards and drawers, innovative cooktops, stylish tapware, toe-kick storage. Toots and whistles that not only look good, but are very practical.




*The award-winning kitchen - Before (above) and after (left).*






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## 2008 General Election – 8 November

If you haven't enrolled then you better be quick as enrolments close this week on Wednesday the 8th October.

Statistics New Zealand has collated the following data as at 30th June:

In the New Plymouth electorate (also the Maori Te Tai Hauauru electorate) which southern boundary is the Stony River, Okato there are 53,125 eligible people enrolled to vote and the biggest age group by far is the 60+ group. Only 10% of 18-24 year olds have enrolled.

In the Whanganui electorate (also the Maori Te Tai Hauauru electorate) which is south of the Stony River there are 30,906 eligible people enrolled to vote and again the largest group is the 60+ and only 10% of 18-24 year olds are enrolled.

92 % of the entire eligible voters in New Zealand are enrolled.

### Polling Booth Locations

**Warea Hall SH45.**

**Pungarehu Hall SH 45.**

**Coastal Taranaki School Carthew St, Okato.**

**Oakura School Donnelly St, Oakura.**

**Omata Community and School Hall, Holloway Rd, Omata.**

**Spotswood Primary School Hall, South Rd, New Plymouth.**

**ADVANCE POLLING BOOTH: Atkinson Building, Devon St, New Plymouth.**

### Harry Duynhoven and the Labour Party

On 8 November you'll be asked to make two choices: one for the person you want to represent you and New Plymouth in Parliament, and one for the party you want to run the country.

I was born in New Plymouth and have lived here all my life. I am a husband and a father, I have been a tradesman and a teacher, and I bring a practical approach to the role of New Plymouth's Member of Parliament. I can work with people and I'm experienced in our district and I'm experienced with our issues.

New Plymouth is a confident, exciting and optimistic city; we can all take pride in the way we work together to get things done.

That confidence just wouldn't be there under a National government.

Last time National was in power you had to line up at the cash register as you left the hospital, unemployment was huge, and roading was a mess.

I'm proud to be part of a government that has delivered cheaper doctors visits and prescription fees and the biggest public hospital building programme in New Zealand's history.

Labour has also delivered record low unemployment, and it has invested in roading projects right around the country so that the people of New Zealand, and New Plymouth, can get moving again, safely.

**New Plymouth and New Zealand are headed in the right direction. Don't risk it: Vote Harry and vote Labour.**

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*Non stick pan.*

- 1 Season both sides of the fish.
- 2 Smear the pan with **lemon olive oil** and put on med/hot heat.
- 3 Place the **Dory** fillets skin side down.
- 4 Fry for 1-2 minutes (depending on the thickness of the fillets).
- 5 Turn and lower heat and fry for 1 minute.
- 6 If fillets are large and thick put into 180 deg oven for 2-3 minutes.
- 7 In a separate pan add the pre blanched **beans** and start to heat.
- 8 Season with **sea salt and pepper, herbs** and add the **lemon olive oil**.
- 9 Toss together for a couple of minutes until the beans are warmed through.
- 10 Add the **mustard** and some more oil if required.
- 11 Remove and pile onto a serving plate.

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# GETTING WET!



## Boardriders update

Lookout for a few Grom comps to be held on the beach this summer.

The Boardriders AGM was held in late August. There are some new faces on the committee (see below) and there is a plan to put some focus on our young

local talent and help to develop the next crew to keep the old boys honest.

Oakura Boardriders Committee 2008-2009 -

- 1 President – Paul Christophers (phone 027 406 5654).
- 2 Secretary – Paul Lobb.
- 3 Treasurer – Brent Anderson (and Jan) (phone 752 7171).
- 4 Committee – Chris Davies, Mike Hareb/Fiona Turner, John Glucina, Bryan Goodhue, Mike Christiansen, Gary Bruckner, John Lovell, Brian Clark.

We welcome back John Lovell and Gary Bruckner, and welcome also a new committee member - one of Oakura's newer residents and last year's longboard champ, Brian Clark. Looking forward to another good year on the beach.

Unless you have been living under a rock, this month's big news was another win for Paige Hareb, this time taking out the Billabong Pro Junior at Nelson Bay, Port Stevens (on the central coast of NSW below Newcastle). Paige won in difficult, stormy conditions, beating all the top Aussie girls. I believe its Paige's third pro junior win of the year, which is a huge achievement in itself. It will be her last pro junior though as she is heading back to Brazil for a couple more World Qualifying Series contests to try to realise her dream of making the World Circuit Tour for 2009 – we wish her the best.

Her recent win has given her a wild card into the women's final World Championship Tour event of the year at Honolua Bay on Maui in Hawaii, and I am sure no matter what happens she will be trying to make her mark there.

It is school holidays again and some of us are off to warmer climes to get a head start on summer. My family and I are off to Bali and I believe the Pres' will be there too.

Remember the Surfers' Ball on 18 October. You can get tickets from a committee member.

Also the last of the Westgate Port Taranaki NPSRC Winter Series contests will be held during the day of 18 October at Fitzroy, so get along and enjoy.

The Taranaki longboard contest will be on 25-26 October, with a great party night planned with live music at the NPSRC.

Subs time again, members, and we welcome any new members, so, once again, talk to a committee member. All welcome...

Roll on summer!

Regards

Brent Anderson



Paige the Port Stevens winner.



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## Eye-catching Exhibition at Snickerdoodles

Snickerdoodles is currently exhibiting photographs by local residents Jennifer Gros and Hayley Ingram. Entitled "Over Coffee" the exhibit features photographs compiled by the two friends when they would get together to compare and enjoy each other's work. All of the photographs were taken in the Taranaki area, and the majority were taken here in Oakura. Jennifer Gros and her family settled in Oakura from Lafayette, Louisiana in January. Hayley Ingram and her husband Alex are originally from England, and settled in Oakura about two years ago



Jennifer's foreshore photograph.

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## Bronze Medal for Cake

Snickerdoodles' new cake decorator, Ruth Shaw, scooped up a bronze medal at the Culinary Fare 2008 in Auckland.

Ruth's creation was a wedding cake with a bit of a difference. The three tiered cake was fashioned to look like a lopsided hat and featured flowers and wired lettering out the top.



Ruth Shaw's fantastic cake.

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# Danceabout

The VAL DEAKIN DANCE THEATRE TRUST will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with exciting performances at the Theatre Royal in New Plymouth on 17, 18 and 19 October 2008.

*DanceAbout* is all about diversity in dance!

The programme will be a mixture of classical, contemporary, character, comedy and jazz dance with new works and some of the best-loved pieces from the Dance Theatre's extensive repertoire. The Dance Theatre is New Zealand's second longest running dance company, and over the years has presented more than 100 different dance works in over 470 performances. These have ranged from small, intimate modern works to large-scale, full-length classical ballets. In addition they have performed in hundreds of schools and theatres all over New Zealand and on television. All thanks to director Val Deakin's talent, energy and 18 years' experience overseas dancing, teaching and choreographing in England, Turkey and the USA.

Kicking off the programme will be the *Guide to the Orchestra* – an uplifting work that shows all the various instruments and groups of the orchestra set to music by Benjamin Britten. The humorous choreography, aided by narration, slides and props, makes this a great fun piece for both audience and dancers.

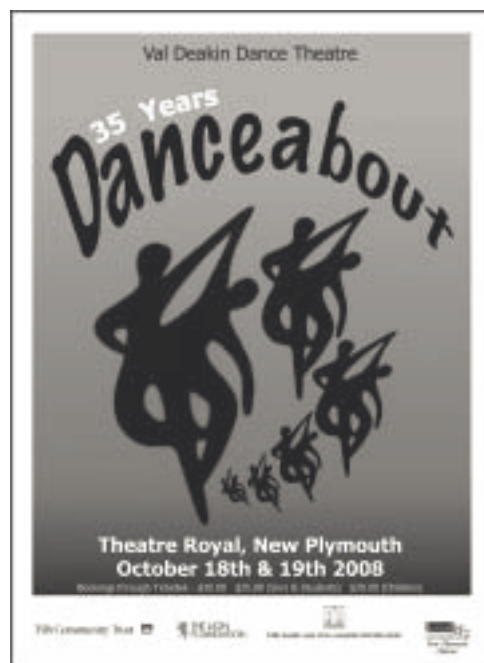
There will be a new work to Tchaikowsky's lovely music – a special *Coral Suite* to celebrate the Dance Theatre's 35th anniversary. Also featured will be one of Deakin's most dynamic and yet poignant pieces, *For Roberto*.

Other favourites on the programme will be the playful Dwarves' dance from *Snow White* and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party from *Alice*.

The programme will also contain selections from the cheerful favourite *La Boutique Fantasque* (the Magic Toyshop) and reprise the ever-popular, now "retro" jazz work, *Mill 'n' Round*.

The cast of approximately 35 of all ages will be led by American-born ballerina, Jane Roseman. She is well known in Taranaki for her work with the Dance Theatre in public and schools performances in a wide variety of roles. Other very experienced and exciting dancers performing in the programme include Donna Kelly (originally from Stratford), Davina Moffat, Inge Vink, Michael Takarangi and Catherine Donlon.

Tickets for this swinging and varied celebration programme are available from Ticketek and are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and students and \$20 for children (15 and under). There are also special group, family and Dance Theatre Friends discounts. We hope you will come and celebrate this CORAL ANNIVERSARY with us!



## Strawberries coming to town

Watch this space... Oakura is only days away from getting the ultimate summer taste sensation with the impending arrival of big, juicy, sweet strawberries.

Former local Fiona McIntyre (nee Washer) and her husband Jason are growing three acres of strawberries near Silverdale, north of Auckland, and will be trucking them south to Oakura every second day.

"We love coming home to Taranaki but realised strawberries are not that readily available down here, so as well as supplying our local market up north, we decided to try something new and send some of our finest fruit down country as well," says Fiona, who helps her husband grow and pick the berries on their farm at Waitoki.

"We will be picking the strawberries in the morning and then trucking them south to be sold the same afternoon, so unlike supermarket strawberries that are days old, ours are guaranteed fresh."

The strawberries are the Camarosa variety and were a big hit in Auckland last year – celebrity chef Alison Holst and visiting rockstar Justin Timberlake just couldn't get enough of them!

Despite recent wet and windy weather, the strawberry season is now well underway and fruits from the first harvest are expected any time from early to mid October.

The strawberries will be sold daily from 3pm to 6pm at the Bull Shop on the corner of Surf Highway and Koru Road in Oakura.



Jason and Fiona McIntyre with Rusty the dog and the new strawberry sign ready for installation.

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- Plant tomatoes.
- Continue planting cabbage, broccoli, lettuce and parsley.
- Plant main crop potatoes and kumara.
- As weather warms begin sowing beans, cucumber, pumpkins, peppers, eggplants and courgettes or plant out seedlings from Mitre 10.

#### Lawns:

- Sow new lawns. Uncoated seed is best.
- Re-sow thin or bare areas using Easy Grass – a grass seed, mulch and fertiliser all in one.

#### Flowers:

- Sow seed or plant out summer flowering annuals.

*Enjoy all the spring blossoms. My plum tree is looking magnificent with all its lovely white flowers, and the citrus fruit make the garden a picture even on dull days. Don't underrate fruit trees as an eye-catching landscaping tool.*

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*Len Jury in the 70's carefully inspecting 'pretty little pieces of paper' and various post marks.*

## A History Bite

**Len Jury has been buying and selling postage stamps for over 40 years.**

The Omata dairy farmer, now living and working in Auckland, first opened a stamp shop in New Plymouth in 1967 and in that time had one of the biggest stamp packet and wholesale businesses. Len sold the Stamp Shop and

Philatelic Distributors so he could concentrate on stamp auctions and stamp catalogue production. In 1977 he produced the first New Zealand Stamp Catalogue in full colour and his company continues to do this today.

But stamp collecting has dwindled in recent times and there is a whole generation, possibly two, who may not know what the hobby of stamp collecting involves and why so many children and adults indulged in this in the past. TOM asked Len to explain the ins and outs of the hobby of "pretty pieces of paper"...

Collecting stamps was once the most popular hobby in the world. Even in the electronic world of today, stamps are still a fascinating interest for young and old. Many older people remember the hours of enjoyment they spent with their stamps as youngsters. They are an intriguing window on all countries. Many countries show tourist scenes or sporting highlights. Will New Zealand produce stamps showing our gold medal winners in the Beijing Olympics?

Once stamps only showed the head of the reigning King or Queen. Nowadays a huge range of topics are featured. Large collections have been formed of medicine on stamps. Our annual health stamps come under this theme. Other popular topics are birds, animals, fish, dinosaurs, fire engines, racing cars, stamps on stamps, fairy tales, lighthouses and legends. There are many, many more, limited only by your imagination.

Many people collect the stamps of only one country. New Zealand is a popular country with collectors worldwide because of its famous scenery. It was one of the first countries to move away from featuring monarchy, with the scenic series in 1898.

Another fascinating interest is to collect all the postmarks of a country or a particular area. Did you know that Omata had a post office in 1855? Or that the first postmaster was the famous landscape artist, John Gully? One of his paintings is featured on a New Zealand stamp, in a set honouring famous New Zealand artists. Omata was one of the first offices opened



outside of New Plymouth but it didn't have a postmark. Early postmasters used to write the name of the post office across the stamp and these are extremely rare. As New Plymouth was so close, the mail may have been taken to that post office and postmarked there. So any letters headed Omata are very rare and much sought after.

Hurford is one of the rarest postmarks in New Zealand. It was used for a very short time at the Hurford Road Dairy Factory between 1921 and 1924 on telegraph forms. It is so rare that none are known in any current collections. So if you have any early telegrams date-stamped Hurford in your grandparents' or great grandparents' papers, you could be sitting on a very tidy sum of money. The factory manager was a Mr Lynch and his wife Mary was the telephonist.

As collectors we are always hopeful that one of the postmarks will one day turn up in a long-forgotten stamp collection.

Would you like to collect stamps? There are many places to start. Perhaps one of your parents or grandparents has a collection they could let you have. You could buy stamps at some of the bookshops or at the Stamp Shop in New Plymouth.

Naturally the post office always has all the latest stamp issues on sale. Complete years can be bought as well. Watch your papers as the local Stamp Society have Stamp Fairs and Stamp "Sales" in New Plymouth and a number of dealers from other cities attend. You can check through their stocks to find stamps on your particular subject. Talk with the dealers and they may have other stamp items that would fit into your collection.

A word of warning! Many people have old envelopes in which they have filed papers. These old envelopes can have scarce or unusual postmarks on them. NEVER tear the stamps from old envelopes until you have checked them with a more experienced collector.

*Len Jury*

*Len's fascinating glimpse into the world of philately continues next month.*

*If anyone has stamps or letters featuring local history, we would love to hear from you. Contact Kim at TOM on 0800thetom or email kim@thetom.co.nz*



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## Go Green with Blue

Think globally, act locally – and do it blue!

Waste Management's popular blue wheelie bins are being joined by a blue option for businesses. The new blue front loaders are available for commercial use and are already proving a hit!

Words Jolene Stockman

All Taranaki people have access to recycling facilities - kerbside collection is available free through the council but if you want commercial recycling options, or the convenience of a blue bin, Waste Management can help.

Blue bins provide mixed or co-mingled recycling, meaning all your recycling (glass / plastic / cardboard / aluminium) goes in the same bin.

Businesses can utilise a range of options, including flexibility in collection, numbers and types of bin, and recycling with the new range of blue front loaders (that can be used for all recyclables except glass or cans).

Cardboard-only bins are available, or if you have the space, Waste Management also offers a loose cardboard collection.

With more individuals and businesses looking to go green, and the *Waste Minimisation Bill* imminent, now's the time to take advantage of Waste Management's recycling options.

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## North Island Ski Champs

Hundreds of primary and intermediate school skiers raced to Mt Ruapehu for a week full of fun and to compete in the biggest kids' ski-racing event of the year. The competition ran from Monday 1 September to Friday the 5th, and involved giant-slalom and dual-slalom racing.



The event gives young people the opportunity to try ski racing and provides more experienced racers with a great race to compete in. It also gives kids a good excuse for a week off school!

The race courses were set up in "The Valley", a ski run that has nice, hard snow and that usually stays firm throughout the day – perfect for racing. There were four divisions: Primary Boys, Primary Girls, Intermediate Boys and Intermediate Girls. The four courses varied in length and difficulty, with the girls courses being easier than the boys. Parents and volunteers acting as race marshals would slide down the course throughout the week to get any ruts or thick patches of snow off. Ski patrollers were on hand the whole time, and an ambulance and helicopter were there just in case.

Oakura School results were: Meyer Neeson – 1st out of 50 primary girls; Max Hardie Boys – 18th out of 144 intermediate boys; Angus White – 12th, Truman Edwards – 35th and Isaac Hardie Boys – 44th out of 93 primary boys. The Oakura School Ski Team finished 4th equal out of 40 North Island School Teams.

The week was great fun.

By Max Hardie Boys

## Years 7 and 8 Interschool Rugby Team

Our Years 7 and 8 school rugby team had an undefeated 2008 season, which allowed them to advance through to the final for the Taranaki Trophy.

Unfortunately they lost to a strong Rahotu team in the final but fought hard right to the end, scoring three tries in the last ten minutes of the game.

By Max Hardie Boys

## Watch this space!

The 2008 Oakura School production *In Our Hands* is scheduled for the second week of Term 4.

The production is original, written by Ray Priest and Peta Day, with an environmental theme.

We are all busily practising our songs, dances (choreographed by Raeleen Luckin) and our character roles. Each and every student in the school has a role to play – all 275 students!

Make sure you buy your tickets soon, as this is one show you won't want to miss.

By Max Hardie Boys



The ski team. Left to right: Max Hardie Boys, Isaac Hardie Boys, Truman Edwards, Meyer Neeson and Angus White.



Yr 8 rugby team. Left to right, back row: Sean Dillon (Coach), Patrick Costelloe, Sean Kelly, Dylan Burrows, Matt Everest, Taelor Palmer, Thomas McDougall, Finn Robertson, Niko Meads, Mason Farrant. Left to right, front row: Jack Powell, Keegan Bruckner, Saxon McKinnon, JG Coughtrey, Ben McLean, Farrell Robertson, Cameron Mead.



Production practice in full swing.



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# Sophia Preschool celebrate World Peace Day

On Friday 19 September Sophia Preschool children celebrated World Peace Day by decorating paper windmills with their parents, then taking them along to the lawn outside Ziji Day Spa and planting them in the grass and garden.

The morning was breezy and the delightfully decorated windmills spun furiously in the wind sending out peace to everyone in the world. The children then painted colourful pictures.

Adrienne said the day began particularly early for the teachers with a special session focused on peace and how the preschool could take their little charges and message of peace out into the community. Adrienne says she would like to see the peace of the day go beyond to every day of the year.

By Kim Ferens



*Sophia Preschool children planting their windmills with teacher Kayla Caldwell, at Ziji Day Spa.*



*Above, Dylan doing his bit for world peace and below, Violet does the same.*

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## What's on?

### October

- 13th Term 4 begins.
- 15th NIE Year 7&8 quiz night.
- 17th School photos.
- 21st Home and School Meeting, 7pm.
- 23rd Concert for the Blind.
- 24th Parent morning tea at Okurukuru, 10am.
- 28th Year 7&8 Information evening, 7pm  
and Waireka Topic Presentation, 6.30pm.

### November

- 6th Year 1&2 Tabloids, 1pm.
- 13th Year 3&4 Tabloids, 1pm.
- 18th Year 7&8 Athletics at Coastal.

The Year 7 and 8 students are studying the early history of European settlement of Omata and will produce a digital story of events. It has been really interesting for them to investigate, especially as several of the children live on or near the sites where many of the historic events took place.

Mr Pat Murphy, their teacher, has inspired the children into some investigative research where the answers aren't easy to find. It is easy to research and find knowledge on many topics by simply searching Google, but try googling our local history and see what you get! The information is sparse when looking for more detail and there are often conflicting accounts. Having so little local information on the internet is something that many of the children have found a real challenge, with book sources and Puke Ariki being crucial places to find and assimilate the information.

A sense of historical perspective has also been talked about by Pat and his students. Trying to imagine how the European settlers and the Maori may have felt about events at that time is quite a challenge and we await their documentary with interest.



## Coastal Cross Country

We hosted the Coastal Cross Country on 4 September and it was a lovely afternoon. Congratulations to the following students, who were placed in the top 10 in their age group:

- 9yr girls: Charlotte Jones (6th)
- 9yr boys: Tegan Wilkinson (10th)
- 10yr girls: Olivia Holt (7th), Jacinta Harrop (9th)
- 10 yr boys: Lleyton Taylor (4th)
- 11 yr girls: Phoebe Livingston (1st)
- 11 yr boys: Keegan Foley (10th)
- 12 yr boys: William Jones (2nd), Bodean Davis (2nd), Jack Wagstaff (4th), Joe Trotter (8th)

The Taranaki champs were held on Wednesday 24th September and William Jones was placed 22nd, Phoebe Livingston was 24th. Congratulations to all our other top 100 finishers.

Regards  
Karen



William Jones.



Phoebe Livingston.



Jamie Barrett.

## Interested in history?

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# Omata School Play Group

A little while back we gave the children a mid-winter treat of a trip to Bananas. They had such a great time that now we're thinking that a morning tea picnic at Brookland Zoo would be fun (when we get some decent weather!).

At the moment the children are busy creating joint and individual artwork. We plan to display their work in the hall to show everyone what budding artists we have, so look out art dealers!

The play group is a great way to meet people in the community. If you plan to send your children to Omata School, the play group is a great way for your children to meet other children they will go to school with.



*Our children visiting Bananas.*

The group runs during term time on alternate Thursdays (starting the second Thursday of each term) from 9am to 11 am. We have lots of cool things to keep children of all ages busy, The children especially love the outdoor play area and sand pit. Pre-school packs are also available.

We are a small, friendly group and we welcome new families. For more information, phone Nell on 769 5852.



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**NEW PLYMOUTH**

## kaitake kindergarten

This has been another busy term at Kindergarten. The children have continued to make scarecrows, which are all very unique and a delight to the eye. We have purchased new carpentry tools and the children have enjoyed building with these. It's great to see the creative thinking that happens in this area.



*Eva Hilliam and Taylor Mitchell "on the tools" at kindy.*

There have been a lot of children following their individual interests this term, including making masks, water play, lego, etc. We appreciate having a lot of parent support to help with these activities.

Constable Corry visited our Kindergarten to talk to the children about keeping safe and discussing with the children safe people who can help us. He emphasised that children should be encouraged to know their full names, their parents' names and if possible, where they live. He showed the children all the equipment he carries and we all had a look at the police car and listened to the siren. This was an exciting visit for the children.

There have been a lot of bugs around this term. Thankfully the warmer weather is on its way and the approaching holidays should mean we will be rejuvenated and full of energy for Term 4.

Safe and happy holidays everyone.

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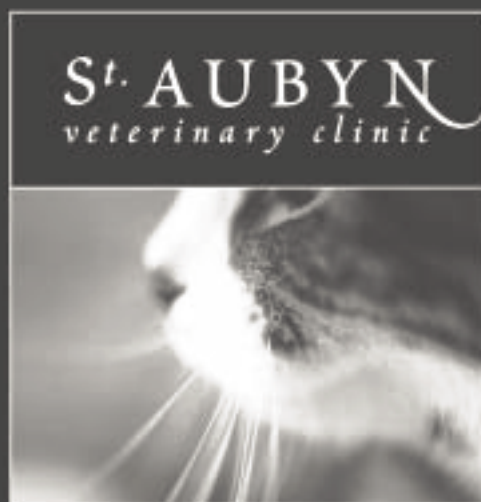
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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders club. 7.15pm to 8.30pm. Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380

### Country and Western Club

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

### Farmers Market Taranaki

Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am noon. Currie St, New Plymouth.

### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Una Shottler, phone 751 0971.

### 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.

### Oakura Art Group

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

### Omata Playgroup

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

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street  
Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

### Plunket Coffee Mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months held at Attendees Homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett 752 1132 or Claire Fiorance 752 7889 to find out where.

### Senior Citizens

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

### St James Church Oakura

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

### St John's Omata

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

### Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church Weds 9.30-10.30, 10.30-11.30am and Fri 9.30-10.30am Ph Joanna Smith Holley 752 1016 for details.

### Volkswagen Club

Events Range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing of good family times and knowledge.  
Contact Bryan Goodhue the El Presidente 752 1290, email podsnaill@xnet.co.nz. www.taranaki.vw.co.nz

### Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.00pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome.  
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Want your event to be included on this page? Then visit:

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and email us your info!