

TAKE ONE MOMENT

OCTOBER 2011

TOM OAKURA

SCHOOL MARKET DAY IN OAKURA

Holly Kemsley, left and Emily Breeze, right, did well at the chocolate tombola.

More on pages 2 and 3



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TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

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

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E D I T O R I A L

I hope everyone has been enjoying the rugby fest. There certainly has been some good rugby on show. I was hoping the tier two teams would give the tier one teams a bit of a fright and I think a clear message has gone out that they are improving albeit that the score doesn't reflect this improvement much – but much more dynamic rugby does. All sorts of interesting facts come out about rugby and one I like is that the teams who have improved the most are the ones with Kiwi's involved in the coaching and management. – a fine testament to our rugby dominance. We just need to win the cup now!

I would like to congratulate all the local people involved in running our World cup games, it was very well organised and a great endorsement for our region. Hats off especially to the bus services running people to and from games – efficient as a Swiss watch (where were the Swiss anyway??!!).

Another thing provoking my interest is the slow demise of the club culture in our society. This month in Oakura we see the Plunket chapter closing and also the Senior Citizens Association. I know the sports clubs struggle to maintain numbers as do many other types of clubs. Why is this? A lot of clubs have their older members dying and no younger people to take their place. Lots of families are busy working and with both parents working, there is no energy left for club life. Perhaps the club culture hasn't kept up with the changing times. Perhaps people are finding fulfilment in other ways without having to make a commitment. Or perhaps people just don't like spending their free time in a group. Funding issues are always a factor. I don't know the answer but what seems sad to me is the 40 hour working week was bought in so people could have more free time to spend doing the things they enjoy so I guess the important thing is people do get out and do the things they enjoy whatever that is.

Kim



COVER STORY

School Market Day in Oakura

Oakura School held their annual major fundraising event on Saturday 24th September - Market Day. What a great morning it was. A variety of activities and stalls meant there was something for everyone. The bouncy castle and the pony rides kept the more energetic young ones entertained and the homemade cake stall expertly baked by pupils and parents was always busy as were the lollies and chocolate tombola stall. There was a wide range of stalls for the bargain seekers selling books, clothes, toys, and plants and face painting for those who wanted to be transformed. The village hall was packed! The Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade found time to man the BBQ to keep those hunger pangs at bay and very yummy it was too! What a great community we have.

Gillian Gibbon on behalf of FOOS (Friends of Oakura School) would like to thank all the people who supported Market Day 2011. Thank you to all our families and the wider community for the generous donations of items to sell, the wonderful baking and of course for coming along on Saturday to support the event - we hope you had fun and grabbed a bargain. Thank you to the



And teddy came for the ride too! Miller Ferguson.

many businesses and organisations that also supported our event. We would also like to thank all the individuals who volunteered their time before, during and after the event - FOOS could not run such an event without them.

The funds raised from this event will allow the school to complete the Pohutakawa Kitchen project which was started in 2010.

Many thanks



The hall was packed out!



David Reilly and Jonathan Whitehead.



Willow, Bliss and Raven Baird.

Too difficult a choice, so much to choose from!



Samantha Skurr and Grace Powell get creative.





Mayor Harry

Hello everyone!

Our district's turn as host for three matches of Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2011 is over, although the party continues as we watch and celebrate the knockout stages of the tournament.

I know a lot of coastal people have been involved in the staging of the three matches in New Plymouth — either as volunteers or through their own businesses — and I thank each and every one of you for your time and effort.

Journalists, rugby fans and tournament officials talk — and I have been hearing only very good things about what we as a region have delivered for the RWC.

Heading into this tournament I said that I wanted visitors to come away saying New Zealand was great — and New Plymouth District was the best thing about it. Clearly the message in the rugby world is that our district was the place to be for the day and night-time entertainment, and for the efficiency of how things have run. None of this would have been possible without the hundreds of volunteer hours put in by our residents. You have played a worthy part in reinforcing that New Plymouth District and Taranaki can host major events like no one else — and that those who come here leave with memories of a fantastic experience.

Of course it's not just the work that goes on during a major event like RWC 2011 that matters; it's also the weekly efforts of residents in a variety of areas that make a difference. While the thousands of visitors were here for the rugby, they took the opportunity to explore our landscape and see for themselves the great lifestyle we have. From our miles of beaches to our one-of-a-kind mountain, New Plymouth District has left an indelible impression on people from around the world. Programmes such as Oakura's Blue Flag, with schools and beach-users keeping it clear of rubbish and helping out with dune plantings, play a big part in making sure we have a beautiful landscape that makes visitors glad to be here.

So to everyone who has been involved in such community events: Good on you, and thank you so much.

You've done our region proud.

Mayor Harry Duynhoven



Harry with the Irish team players.



Harry with some of the many volunteers who made the local games so enjoyable.

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Update from the Big Red Truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck,

Firstly, an apology to Fire Fighter Tran Lawrence. I forgot to mention his service award, a 5-year service medal, in the last TOM article. Sorry, Tran, and also well done. Five years' service to a volunteer organisation, such as the Oakura Fire Brigade, is fantastic. On behalf of all in the Oakura Fire Brigade I must also say congratulations to Tran, and well done on becoming a Permanent Full Time Fire Fighter based in New Plymouth.

Daylight Savings started on 25 September. It is a good time to make sure you replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and that detectors are all installed and working. Smoke detectors do save lives.

Just a reminder for Guy Fawkes Day on November 5: If you are going to use fireworks, please be considerate of others and act safely. Remember to make sure any unused fireworks are stored safely, away from children.

Surely the BBQ weather is just around the corner...

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

Ensure your gas bottle is within 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.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting the gas cylinder to the BBQ.

Check condition of hoses and 'O'-ring (if applicable). Check for leaks after connection.

If you have a charcoal BBQ do not burn it indoors or in a confined space.

Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda and water available to put out a fire.

Light the BBQ as soon as gas is turned on. Never try to light it with the lid down.

Ensure valves are fully open or fully closed.

Prevent grease from dripping onto the hoses or cylinder. Grease build-up could be a potential fire hazard.

Ensure all valves are turned off when BBQ is not in use.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze (Sec)

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Keeping Young People in Education

National is working hard to help equip young people with the skills they need to succeed.

However we know some young people just don't fit in regular classrooms. Some young people are more comfortable taking an engine apart than studying the classics in English literature. That doesn't mean they don't want to learn. We want to help them gain better skills, better qualifications, and ultimately better job opportunities.

Considering the difficult economic circumstances New Zealand and the world have faced in recent years, good quality qualifications and training have become even more important. That's why we have developed a new approach to keeping young people engaged in education. We have focused on encouraging 16 and 17 year olds to stick with school instead of dropping out, or to return to education.

This year, the National-led Government opened eight Trades Academies around the country. Next year we are going to open 13 more. These include the three providers that had previously been confirmed to open at the start of next year. One of those academies will be the Western Institute of Technology, which will be offering 25 places in engineering, in partnership with Hawera High School and New Plymouth Boys' High School.

The Academies are partnerships between schools, tertiary institutions, industry training organisations and employers. They are aimed at young people in Year 12 and 13 who are ready to move beyond school but who still want to study, learn practical skills and gain workplace experience. These students are still enrolled in school but can study at other sites, thanks to partnerships between schools, tertiary providers, employers, and industry training organisations. Students earn NCEA credits and a tertiary qualification while gaining practical skills in the workplace. The Academies partner with local schools and offer vocational and trade training such as IT, business studies, automotive engineering, building and construction, hospitality, and hairdressing.

The value of the National Government's approach is being recognised in the trade sector. Some Trades Academy graduates will be stepping up to apprenticeships, and employers are keen to take them on. The students who decide to become apprentices will already have practical experience, a clear focus on what they want to achieve, and a sound understanding of where the apprenticeship will take them.

Local economies will also benefit from our Trades Academies, as businesses will now have more young people with better skills ready to enter the workplace. By 2014, 12,500 places will be available for 16 and 17 year olds in Trades Academies, Service Academies, which offer military-style programmes, and the wider Youth Guarantee, which offers vocational training at polytechnics and private training establishments.

We're also working to help develop clear career paths for students. Too many students who don't want to enter tertiary education are finding out too late they haven't studied the right subjects for the industry they want to work in. From next year, schools will be able to give young people a clear map of the subjects and qualifications they need for their chosen career. We're focused on five broad vocational sectors.

National is working hard to give our young people learning opportunities that suit them, the chance to gain worthwhile qualifications, and skills training that will lead to successful careers.

Jonathan Young MP



Jonathan Young

MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Kaitake Community Board

I always get an extra spring in my step when I begin seeing the whitebaiters out and about again. For me it's my personal harbinger of spring and it is soon followed by another, that public pronouncement to put our clocks forward an hour as daylight saving commences. After our winter weather I, like many others, look forward to the onset of summer. With summer just around the corner though there's a lot on besides digging and planting the veg garden.

Maintenance work is in full swing at the outdoor seasonal pools in preparation for the fast-approaching summer swimming season. Painting and tiling along with a general tidy-up are the main jobs being done. The first outdoor pools to open are at the aquatic centre on Saturday 22 October, followed by the Waitara, Okato and Inglewood pools on Saturday 5 November.

Declining karaka trees are scheduled to be removed at the entrance to Oakura on the south side of the bridge. This will also assist with traffic visibility issues when cars pull out of Victoria Road. This has been a major concern for the folk who live on Victoria Road and Hall Terrace for some time so hopefully this will alleviate some of the traffic issues down at the bridge. A New Zealand Transport Agency traffic management plan will be put in place to carry out the work so there may be some short delays while the work is being done.

Corbett Park too is undergoing some turf maintenance now that winter sports have finished. Rumour has it that a weekly kids' athletic sports event is to start up at the park. If this eventuates it will provide another sports activity to compliment the surf club's popular Nipper's programme and the local board rider's great Learn to Surf scheme. Continuing on that note our congratulations go to Glenn Anderson and Ayla Dunlop-Barret for their recent successes at the Surf Lifesaving New Zealand annual awards. Ayla was named high-performance athlete of the year for her gold medal win in the women's surf race at the 2010 world championships in Egypt and Glenn was named New Zealand coach of the year. And Paige Hareb is well on the way to re-qualify for the 2012 prestigious ASP Women's world surfing tour.

The KCB has been rather busy since last reporting. There is a lot happening, much of it under the radar of many folk. The board has submitted on the fluoride issue as well as the waste management review. There have been a series of foredune plantings of spinifex and pingao in conjunction with the Taranaki Tree Trust, NPDC and the regional council. These plants are great for accumulating and binding sand drifts as a buffer against erosion.

We have been involved also in a planned upgrade of the Oakura CBD feature gardens, the planning of the pedestrian access from Wairau Road through to Donnelley Street behind the school, the upgrade of the walkway from the campground through to AhuAhu Road, the positioning of the public bus stop in the village CBD and Okato rural roading issues. The list is never-ending and coupled with the innumerable meetings and workshops at council it certainly makes for a bust 'retired' lifestyle.

Well that's it for this issue – it's time to walk the dog. The next KCB meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 October in the NPOB clubrooms at 4.30pm. Ka kite ano.

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



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Oakura Beach Raises the Bar for the Rugby World Cup



Corbin on the left and Jack on the right.

On 10 September Jack Wagstaff and his cousin, Corbin Mills, along with their younger cousin, Aidyn, made rugby goalposts from driftwood. The uprights are approximately 60cm in diameter and have been sunk 1m deep into the sand. The crossbar is also driftwood of a smaller size and fixed in place with flax. In the sand in front of the posts they wrote Rugby World Cup 2011.

The next day we had the first of the high spring tides, which washed the words away, but the structure was left intact.

Two days later Jack received a call from his uncle, Richard Carr, saying the goalposts had just featured on *The Crowd Goes Wild* TV show.

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**Oakura
Library**

Hello rugby fans,

New Plymouth has been an 'international village' with all the Rugby World Cup (RWC) events. We have several beautifully illustrated books for you if you don't recognise all the flags, as well as language phrase books to brush up on your greetings. The library has been abuzz with visitors from all over the world using our wireless Internet access (free to all) and buying Oakura bus match tickets.

For your convenience we now have a scanner at the library. We are open Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12-6pm and Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 9am-1pm. If you miss us you can drop off your books in our night dropbox. Yes, even Puke Ariki (or any of the other district libraries) books/magazines/DVDs/CDs may be returned to us and vice versa.

At the end of this month are changing over to a new library computer system. The most exciting application will be the computer whereby you, the borrower, access the library database. In just a few short weeks you will be able to see the cover of the book you are searching, and download images, music, videos, articles and more on your chosen subject matter and save it to your own folder.

Lee Child's *The Affair* will be released any day now. Reserve your copy now!

Gabrielle Hamilton's *Blood Bones Butter: the Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef* and *Un Amico Italiano: Eat, Pray, Love in Rome* are new travel memoirs available now.

Mums and dads check out *Easy Kids' Party Food* and *Easy to Make Kids' Cakes and Party Food* before you plan that special birthday party. We have a selection of sturdy picture board books for toddlers. They are just the right size for small hands and the pages don't rip! Although you may want to keep them away from Fido — they make great chew toys.

Go All Blacks!

Karen and Vincenza

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Matekai Park Has New Friends

Last year I reported on the flourishing birdlife in Matekai Park. This is thanks to a group of dedicated and enthusiastic locals called Friends of Matekai Park, and in particular, Graeme Churchill. Since then the Taranaki Regional Council has listed Matekai Park as a significant wetland, now one of several within the Oakura area but the only one in Oakura village. The Department of Conservation has also identified the area as being of national importance.

Since the early 1980's Matekai Park has undergone extensive planting of the valley and wetland by many local residents and the New Plymouth District Council. Native and introduced bird food source tree species have been the focus of plantings and many of the early plantings are now more than 10m tall. These trees provide a winter food source for native birds such as the tui, bellbird and pigeon. The goldstriped gecko and kokopu are also resident. Upcoming work in the park includes clearing out the invading weeds, of which there are many, including willows, gorse, and jasmine. Since I visited the park a year ago, many new trees have been planted and are doing nicely.

Graeme continues a pest eradication programme and has caught three weasels and dozens of rats over the winter. These pests are caught in stoat and rat traps.

The walking paths around the park are for everyone to enjoy and the area is a wonderful link from the village hub to the seashore. Graeme tells me that lots of people use the park for walking their dogs and he is pleased to see most people use leashes to restrain their dogs in the park.

By Kim Ferens



Matekai Park in the late 1980's.



The park as it is today.

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Back in the day ... Graeme Churchill and local farmer Neil Maulder on the tractor, removing Pohutakawa trees from near the main road to replant in Matekai Park – these are well established specimens today.

Out To Brunch

- A FITTING OUTING FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON



The talented members of 'Out To Brunch'.

'Out To Brunch' is set to enliven a Sunday afternoon at the auditorium of the New Plymouth Jazz Club on 16 October. The band features some well known locals who between them have extraordinary talent. The group was formed for last year's Festival Of The Lights and their lively big band sound received very favourable feedback on this their first performance. The group consists of some of Taranaki's, even New Zealand's, most experienced jazz musicians who had played individually together for years but not collectively as a larger band. They perform a variety of material from great jazz standards to more contemporary swing, latin and funk. The harmonic blend of the two saxophones is a highlight, complementing a full sounding rhythm section and fine vocal renditions of some of jazz's great classics.

"This is great music for both listening and dancing to" says band spokesman Ross Halliday which augers well for an enjoyable Jazz Club Day on Sunday.

Band members are Ross Halliday (vocals/guitar), Robin Wellaway (saxophones), Stewart Maunder (saxophones/flute), Chris Gimblett (vocals/keyboards), Phil Cook (drums) and Mark Stevens (bass).

Pop along to the New Plymouth Jazz Club at 4pm on Sunday 16 October and be prepared to have your socks blown off.

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Predisposing factors are advancing age, soft diets, and pug-nosed and toy dog breeds.

Periodontal disease starts with plaque, which calcifies to form tartar, and the gums become inflamed and infected. Tartar build-up and infection results in receding gums and loss of bone around the tooth roots. Eventually the teeth loosen and fall out.

Affected animals will have bad breath, and may have difficulty eating, loss of appetite and weight loss. Infection may spread to the liver, lungs and kidneys.

Mild tartar build-up may be removed in a co-operative patient during a routine consult but an anaesthetic is required for a thorough dental procedure. Teeth are ultrasonically scaled and polished, and antibiotics are administered. Early treatment is essential to avoid tooth loss and annual follow up is advised.

Prevention includes regular health checks, daily care such as brushing, and dental diets and chews.

If your pet has bad breath, inflamed gums or tartar build-up (observed by raising the top lip on each side of the mouth), then you should seek veterinary advice.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Daves PC Services



Dave performing open heart surgery on a PC!

Our local Oakura and Okato computer medic David Skurr is on the mend after a eventful winter in and out of hospital. What started out as simple 'man flu' /virus put him in hospital on a life support with pneumonia. Unfortunately due to an underlying heart defect his health continued to deteriorate. Thankfully Dave is now recovering from open heart surgery, and making great progress supported by his family Katy and their children and their friends. Dave and his family would like to thank all his friends and customers for their patience and support through the difficult times. Dave is looking forward to slowly and steadily getting back into the 'swing of things'. Dave it's great to see you looking so well and we look forward to seeing you out on the road again performing open heart surgery on our ailing PCs!

By Rosie Moyes

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Kaitake Golf Club News

September at Kaitake Golf is Club Championship time. The weather has been reasonably kind and the course in good condition for all those men and women competing.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Weekday Women's Results

Silver Division: Winner R. Robins,
Runner-up K. Brown
Bronze 1 Division: Winner J. Prater,
Runner-up J. Gerrard
Bronze 2 Division: Winner V. Todd,
Runner-up H. Whyte
Flight: Winner J. Seamark,
Runner-up N. Lawrence

Weekend Women's Results

Silver Division: Winner J. Neale,
Runner-up R. Hawker
Bronze 1 Division: Winner S. Richardson,
Runner-up J. Farrant
Bronze 2 Division: Winner L. Agnew,
Runner-up M. Pettigrew

The club held the Weekday/Weekend Women's Golf Challenge recently. The Weekend Women won the overall day and will hold the Betty Cowan Shield over the summer. The individual winners were K. Vernon from the Midweek section, and S. Richardson from the Weekend section.

MEN'S RESULTS

Senior Division: Winner R. Sim,
Runner-up S. Spurdle
Intermediate Division: *(to be played)*
Junior Division: Winner S. Lock,
Runner-up R. Jonas
Limit Division: M. Bordman,
Runner-up R. Ellicock

Congratulations to all.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday Night Twilight Golf started in October.

The club recently purchased a golf cart. This is available to hire through the office.

You can find more information on Kaitake Golf Club on www.kaitakegolf.co.nz.

Until next month, good golfing everyone.

Andrea Jarrold



At last the fishing is on the improve. We have been catching kahawai at the river mouths as they chase whitebait up the rivers, and been catching gurnard and the odd small snapper out of the Port.

Some of the northern beaches have produced good fishing for snapper, and surfcasters have been catching snapper up to 4kg. Boat fishing is still hit and miss; some days good and some days lots of sharks and barracuda.

Spring has arrived and fishing should improve from now on.

Regards,

Garry



German student, Johannes, with his first ever fish caught at Mokau River mouth.

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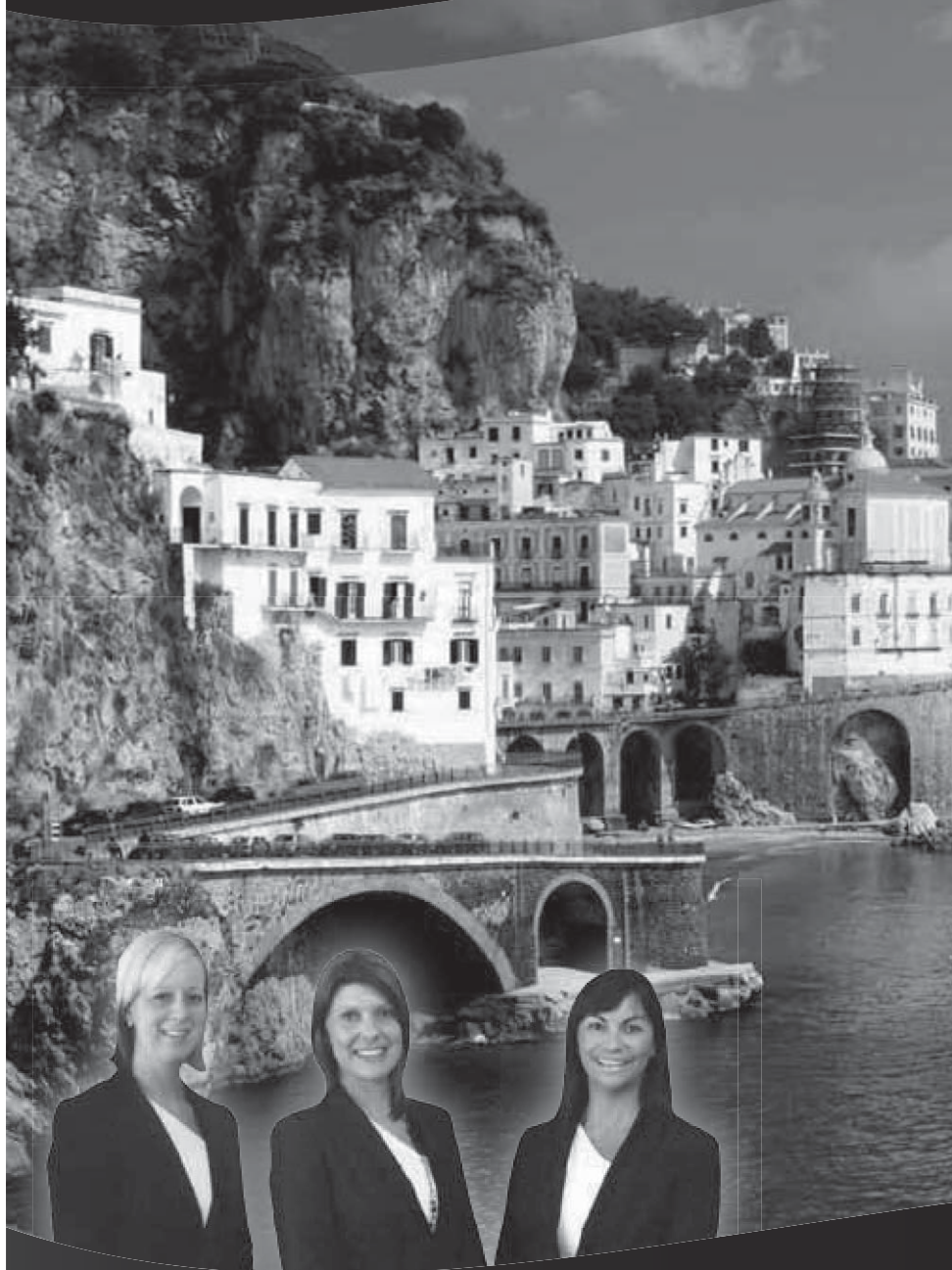
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Travel in Fitzroy



Mother & daughter team - Marie & Andie Brown

For the last 15 years Andie has been employed by touring travel companies in Europe and for the last nine years has chosen to live in Rome. The language, people, politics, art, opera, landscapes, plus of course wine and food, are all very dear to Andie's heart, and is the driving passion behind her living in her adopted country.

From the time of her original OE Marie has enthused about travel. She has travelled parts of Italy with daughter Andie and appreciates her love and feeling for the country. Marie has experienced first hand the rapport Andie has with the people of her adopted country.

After escorting the Bellezze d'Italia group in 2010, it will be a special pleasure for Andie & Marie to be able to escort members of the tour group again in 2012.

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Oakura Boardriders

I remember many years ago when I was on the committee and took on the role of writing the newsletter. Pete Day was secretary and Liz Dobson and Jan Anderson were also very much involved in helping to run the OBC. In my first newsletter I wrote about the roles that more women were taking in a rather masculine dominated club and the positive benefits that only women can bring. As chief writer I even foolishly pondered the question; is the pen mightier than the surfboard?

So over the years us women have taken on various jobs, but have never been the chief! However at this year's Annual General Meeting I became the president or 'prez' as Paul Christophers, the outgoing president, affectionately calls the title. I look forward to taking on this new challenge although Paul's shoes will be hard to fill. Just prior to the AGM most of the Christophers family had a great holiday in Bali for some rest and relaxation and of course some waves. You can see from the photo of Hamish that there were plenty of good waves to ride.

My first task as president will be to watch, cheer and then be presented (I'm sure) with the much coveted cricket trophy-our equivalent of the rugby world cup! I've noticed in the past that presidents have played in this competitive game against the New Plymouth board riders, but unfortunately my right bowling arm is injured, with a torn rotator cuff. (My yoga teacher tells us that all injuries are a blessing. I've now discovered mine!) As you read this the outcome of the game will have been decided.

My second task will be to welcome everyone to our 20th Anniversary Celebrations over Labour Weekend which I wrote about in the last issue of TOM. I've received a number of replies to our festivities so if you haven't replied and want to join in please get in touch with me ASAP. It will be a fun weekend and a great opportunity to catch up with new and old friends.

My third and final task for October will be to say a formal thank you to the team at A1homes and the Kaitake Golf Club for hosting the Ambrose Fun Golf Day on Sunday October 30th. All funds raised during the day will go to our club to help with surf coaching for our young members. If you would like to play and join a team please contact Paul Christophers on 06 752 7126.

The life of a president appears to be a busy one. However I hope it gives me plenty of opportunity to experience and discover the answer to that foolish question I pondered many years ago!

Phili Butt 06 752 7050 or pbutt@clear.net.nz



Hamish Christophers surfing Uluwatu.

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Vision Okato

Spring has arrived and, with the season, the ideas and designs mulled over winter germinate into existence.

Vision Okato would like to announce the spring market *HOME SEWN*, to be held on Saturday, November 5 from 11.00am–2.00pm at Okato's Hempton Hall. This market's main aim is to encourage and support all the creative and extremely talented individuals we have in this community. It will also give us the opportunity to support local and come away with something unique and beautiful for our family and friends (Christmas is close) or ourselves.

Everything will be home sewn, grown, knitted, spun, painted, baked and more. And, of course, the Vision Kitchen will be running with homemade yummys. The market will coincide with the Fringe and Rhododendron Festivals so will be a great attraction en route.

If you would like to use this opportunity and have a table to share your wares, please phone Mel on 06-752 4225 or Racheal on 027-2765185, or email vision.Okato@gmail.com before October 6. We would love to have you there!

Happy Spring

Mel – Vision Okato

Pint Sized Pocket Rocket



Raymond and Bronte with their trophies, aboard their V8 D Class modified 4x4.

Oakura locals Bronte Hill (10 years) and her dad Ray are this year's club champions in the Mt Egmont 4 Wheel Drive Club – a great achievement for a wee girl who has only just grown enough to reach the brake levers!

Ray is the driver and Bronte is the navigator, or probably more correctly the co-driver, because the duties of the navigator are to operate the five levers on the passenger side of the vehicle – right front brake, left front brake, back left brake, back right brake and differential lock. A very important job to get all the right levers working in synch with the driver so the vehicle can get through a round of hill climbs, mud runs, swamps and ruts.

To win the club champs the team had to win the best of three rounds out of five over the winter season. The club now moves into national competition phase. Unfortunately Bronte isn't old enough to compete in the nationals series, but they are hoping to get a change to the rules so people as young as 13 years can compete as navigators.

The national series starts here in Taranaki on October 22 at 968 Mountain Rd, 5 kms north of Inglewood and clubs from all over New Zealand compete. Raymond says it is a great spectator sport and they draw crowds of 2000 plus. Get along and enjoy a bit of grunt and mud.

Ray has been competing in 4 wheel drives for about 16 years off and on and it was Bronte that got him back into it when she was about four. Bronte has been on board for two years and says it is fun and social and she has made lots of friends. She is the youngest female member competing. Raymond's wife Joanne says it's just like little boys in the sandpit with their trucks and they get out and have a vegemite sandwich when they are finished, but in this case it is big trucks in a big muddy pit and then they finish and all have a drink together. The family enjoy the camaraderie of the club and say everyone is very friendly and they get to see around the country, not necessarily on the road either – could be cross country from one town to another! Ray says it is one of the cheaper forms of motor racing that you can do and he loves playing in the mud, getting dirty.

This year Ray is competing with John Jenkins as navigator so we look forward to hearing how the national series unfolds.

Get along to Mountain Rd on the 22 October if you fancy watching some noisy, dirty, exciting off road motor racing!

By Kim Ferens



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Rippa Rugby World Cup, CTS-style

Wednesday, 14 September started out as a windy and wet spring day but as the day progressed the weather improved enough for the Coastal Taranaki School Rippa Rugby World Cup tournament to take place.



A rippa of a game at CTS.

The whole school assembled on the lower soccer field, along with parents and community members, to share in the fun afternoon. Twenty Rugby World Cup teams were divided into the school Whanau groups, Whenua, Moana, Maunga and Awa. All students got into the spirit and dressed in their assigned countries' colours. The teams were categorised into age-related groups of Years 0-2, 3-6 and 7-13. Countries went head to head in the hope of coming out on top. In the end the final winners were New Zealand in the Year 0-2 group, Canada in the Year 3-6 and Tonga in the Year 7-13.

Despite the freezing wind all the kids had a 'rippa' of a time and we all would like to give huge thanks to Miss O' Connor for organising the event.

By Ella Beaumont & Imber Hawksley

Jamie Linn and Rebecca Winter get an Argentinian glow on.



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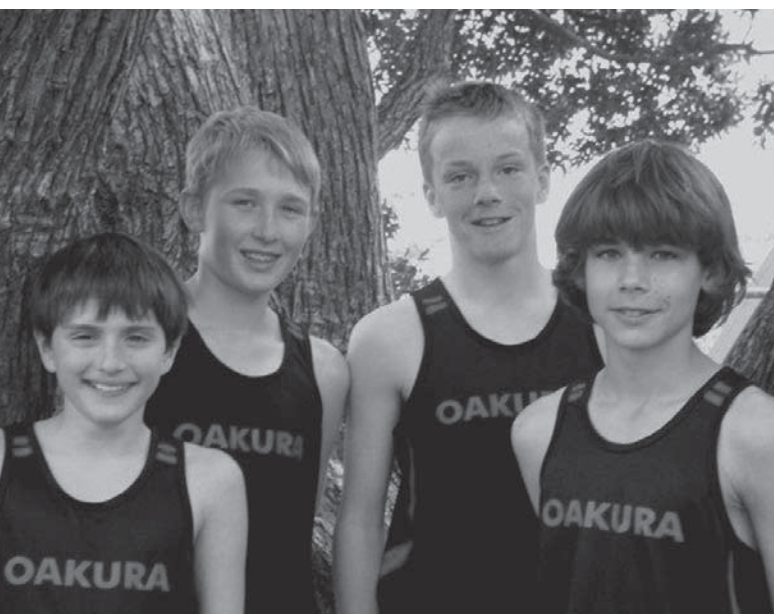
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Oakura Relay Results

On 5 September four Oakura students travelled with New Plymouth Boys' High School to Wanganui for the 33rd Wanganui Round the Lake Relay. These boys were Angus White, Josh Van Bergen, Nick Wilson and George Tvrdeich. They raced as a team in the Intermediate Boys' category against 18 other teams and won the event by over a minute, with a time of 32.15 minutes for eight kilometres. Second place went to Wanganui Intermediate School and third to St George's School. The race was tough and Oakura definitely deserved their first place. All in all it was a fun and successful day.



Angus White, Josh Van Bergen, Nick Wilson and George Tvrdeich.

A week later the same team was again racing at the Taranaki Road Relay Champs.

On Monday, 12 September 12 Oakura School students attended the Taranaki Road Relay Champs. After a rainy morning the weather finally cleared just in time for the event. There were over 20 teams competing from all over the Taranaki region. The Oakura team, made up of Angus White, George Tvrdeich, Nick Wilson and Josh Van Bergen, won the event by over two minutes, smashing the course record by over a minute. Runner-up was Oakura Two team, made up of Daniel Barron, Gian Squatriti, Devan Leggett and Liam McBreen. Third place went to Inglewood. The Oakura girls' team came 20th overall and eighth in the girls' division.

By winning the event the Oakura team brought home the trophy for the third time running, as well as \$100 prize money for the school.

All Oakura teams have done exceedingly well over the season and have placed in every race they entered.

By Angus White & George Tvrdeich (aged 12 and 13 years)

School Houses

This term Oakura School introduced a new system of school houses. All students have been allocated houses that they will compete for in various school events. The names of these school houses are Matekai (gold), Patuha (green), Koru (red) and Wairau (blue). The school hopes that this will add interest and encourage further participation in school-wide sporting and cultural events.

The school ran a naming competition to try and find a suitable name for the houses. It was a really hard decision and a lot of thought and effort went into it. There were many good entries but it came down to a combination of four significant land features in our local environment: a Kaitake peak (Pātuha), a pa site (Koru), a stream (Wairau) and a reserve (Matekai).

Having school houses gives students an opportunity to make new friends, have fun and get out there and do something active.

School houses are a new aspect to Oakura School and I hope it becomes a significant part of the school's history.

By Angus White (aged 13)

Chess Competition

On Friday, 27 August the Oakura School chess team (Angus White, Daniel Barron, George Tvrdeich and Melissa Marriott) went to compete in the Year 7 and 8 Regional Chess Competition at Oakura Hall.

Oakura played against four other schools but unfortunately the team got knocked out of the competition.

Despite the loss the four team members thoroughly enjoyed the experience and, along the way, got to meet new people and even play against the New Zealand under-20 chess champion!

Melissa Marriott (aged 12 years)



The chess teams cross swords.

Senior Cross-country Race



The senior cross country gets under way.

On Friday, 2 September Oakura School pupils walked down to Corbett Park to compete in the annual Oakura School Cross-country. All children aged from 8 to 13 years competed in this event.

This was the first time that we had held this event at Corbett Park for a number of years, and the venue proved popular with both students and parents. This was also the first time that a school house competition was a part of the cross-country. Students cheered on the members of their houses and it added a new level of interest to this event. In the end Matekai (gold house) came first, Wairau (blue) was second, Patuha (green) was third, and Koru (red) was fourth.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

8 year old girls: 1st Emma Dashorst, 2nd Isabel Evens, 3rd Rosie Bolger.

8 year old boys: 1st Fletcher Ferguson, 2nd Simon Bond, 3rd Louis Newton.

9 year old girls: 1st Skyler Ellington, 2nd Anna Newton, 3rd Anna Oldfield.

9 year old boys: 1st George Clarke, 2nd Henri Lehrke, 3rd Lachie White.

10 year old girls: 1st Rhegan Hudson, 2nd Kate Newton, 3rd Rebecca Barron.

10 year old boys: 1st Jason Bond, 2nd Max Crighton, 3rd Reef Raumati.

11 year old girls: 1st Maddie Hardie Boys, 2nd Danielle Hood, 3rd Kara Wellaway.

11 year old boys: 1st Oscar Robertson, 2nd Hayden Benton, 3rd Jakob Roper .

12 year old girls: 1st Lhasa Cook, 2nd Paige Borrows, 3rd Atalya Fakavamoeanga .

12 year old boys: 1st George Tvrdeich, 2nd Josh van Bergen, 3rd Gian Squatriti.

13 year old girls: 1st Dione Riley, 2nd Molly Lumb.

13 year old boys: 1st Nick Wilson, 2nd Sunny Peebles.

It was a great afternoon with the sun shining and everyone doing their best.

By Megan Vickers (aged 12)

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omata school news

Russian Invasion

We had 24 hours' notice that some Russian team members may be visiting so it was a matter of putting together a programme and "russ'n" around to bring everything together. I was taken aback by the interest from the Press and it looked like the paparazzi at the front gate on the morning of their arrival. Rather serendipitous was the realisation that we had several items that we could perform off pat with a Russian flavour to mingle with a taste of NZ.

It was a very exciting visit and I was really proud of how our young leaders stepped up and had their welcomes learned in Russian, and how our students responded so warmly to our special guests.

By Karen Brisco

Our school ambassadors pose with some of the Russian rugby players.





Ms Brisco sheepishly getting an autograph from a Russian team member.



Students' versions of the Webb Ellis Rugby World Cup.

Coming Events at Omata School

November

- 17 Year 5/6 Athletics at Okato
- 18 Year 7/8 Athletics at Okato
- 24 Parent Help Morning Tea
- 26 Election Day
- 28-Dec 2 Room 6 Camp

December

- 1 Playgroup Christmas Party
- Years 1-6 Folk Dance/Disco
- 9 Reports issued
- 13 Big Day Out
- 15 Prize-giving 11am
- School finishes



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TOM BABY OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to the Barrett family Milou, Tim and big brother, Corey, on the arrival of Luke.

Luke was born on 12 August 2011 and is photographed here at just 5 weeks old, "just chilling!"

By Rosie Moyes

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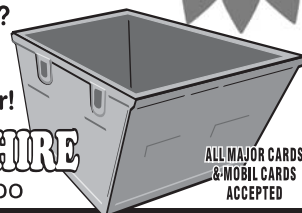
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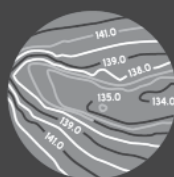
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As weather warms begin sowing beans, cucumber, pumpkins, peppers, eggplants and courgettes or plant out seedlings from Mitre 10.

Lawns:

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Flowers:

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Plunket closes its chapter in Oakura

For 35 years Plunket has been a part of the Oakura village but sadly no more. Last month a farewell was organised to close the local chapter and celebrate the valuable contribution two community members had made to the organisation – Sue Henchman and Vicki Jury. Club president (of 8 years) Claire White acknowledged the fact that the occasion could be viewed as sad but wanted everyone to celebrate the fact that Plunket had been represented in the village for 35 years and had been crucial in the development, support, education and raising the standard of childcare in NZ.

As a local committee many services have been offered to families, particularly new mothers – coffee mornings, educational speakers, Christmas celebrations and more recently 'welcome home' packs. The group have worked tirelessly to establish and maintain local Plunket rooms and have set a strong and supportive relationship with Oakura School. The committee has also had a good relationship with the local fire brigade for more than 10 years and each group has helped each other.

Sue Henchman became involved in Plunket 33 years ago when the clinic was held in the St James Church hall kitchen. Over the years Sue has held all the different positions on the committee. She has also been New Plymouth branch president and a longstanding NZ Councillor for Plunket. Claire went on to say Sue has an exceptional knowledge of the organisation and it is because of Sue making her feel so very welcome that Claire stayed on the committee. Sue says it wasn't always easy, juggling lactating cows and lactating mothers but her involvement has given her a great deal of enjoyment. Sue will continue to be affiliated with Plunket at an area level.

Vicki Jury has been part of the Plunket family for 21 years having joined when her eldest child was a baby. Vicki has been an active member of the committee, holding key roles and is well known for her hard work and enthusiasm. She jokes that her husband knows Plunket meetings always come first!

So it is in a time when volunteers are few and far between that especially two people like Sue and Vicki and also the other committee members have worked so tirelessly for the community – we all are very grateful for your commitment. Claire White and Bob Fleming went on to present Sue and Vicki with a floral thank you and also a donation to Rowan Oldfield of Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade in recognition of the relationship the two groups had enjoyed.

Karen Eagles of Plunket Taranaki was also on hand to applaud the fine contribution Sue and Vicki have made to Plunket.

Thank you Plunket Oakura – you will be missed.

By Kim Ferens



Plunket heroes, above - Sue, Claire, Bob and Vicki and below - Rowan and Claire.



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Country and Western Club

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

GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term, 4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on 06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

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Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

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

St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: Huw Griffiths - huw@taranakivw.co.nz or Secretary: Julie Salisbury - julie@taranakivw.co.nz

Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

TOM CLASSIFIEDS

DEAD CARS

CASH paid for dead cars, we will pick up your old cars and pay you \$\$. Ph 027 445 8220.

OAKURA PLAYCENTRE

Playcentre seeks POTTERY WHEEL for the delight and education of Oakura children. Please phone Bridget on 06-752 7223 if you have one available for sale or donation.

WOOD SPLITTER

FOR HIRE. Trailer mounted, heavy duty splitter. Pay only for hours used. Ph 027 445 8220.