

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

SEPTEMBER 2011

SNOW, SNOW AND MORE SNOW

Seth Marshall at Pukeiti marvelling
at snow so close to home.

PHOTO BY DAVE MARSHALL

*See more snow photos on pages
10 and 11*



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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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Points of view expressed in contributed
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The TOM

E D I T O R I A L

The weather must have been the most talked about thing in the last few weeks, what with snow falling in places snow ought not to fall. The excitement it caused — you'd think it was the one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and perhaps in Oakura it was! The phrase 'Once in a lifetime' is such an overused cliché these days with it being bandied about for just about anything slightly unusual, but I think you'd all agree that snow falling in and around Oakura, and even New Plymouth, was a 'once in a lifetime' experience.



I grew up on Wiremu Rd, one mile from the National Park and I don't ever remember snow falling on our farm, but it did snow there last month. I have lived in Omata for 20 years now and it has never come close to snowing here, except it did last month. So with a few decades under my belt I feel I can safely say that the snowfall was a once in a lifetime experience for me.

It seems to me that the snow fall has become a bit of a marker point. How many conversations have you had where you are asked or you ask: "Did you get snow?" And a whole conversation develops. We will look back and say: "When I was 15 I got stuck in Stratford and couldn't go to school because it snowed so heavily the road was closed." Or: "Do you remember the year we had a snow fight in the car park at Top Print?" Or: "Do you remember when you built a snowman on the deck?!"

Thank you to all the people who sent snow photos in, they are awesome!

Kim

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**Copy and ads
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Kaitake Community Board

The recent and disastrous Christchurch earthquakes highlighted the inadequacy of most residents' preparations for a major emergency, which could strike at any time. It also highlighted the gap between what Civil Defence can do, and the support it will provide in such cases.

Learning from the Christchurch earthquakes the Kaitake Community Board (KCB), in conjunction with Council and other community boards, is developing an Emergency Alert Toolkit. It will help identify the role of the community boards during emergencies and guide them in providing assistance to the District Council and the Taranaki Emergency Management Office in a co-ordinated and task-focused manner, and to effect the best possible response from locally available resources.

We all know disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods and storms can strike at any time, sometimes without warning, but we usually don't give it more than a passing thought. We also realise all disasters have the potential to cause disruption, damage property and take lives, so it is vital that individuals and communities plan how to protect themselves, but far too few of us do. The KCB is putting together the toolkit to be prepared before a major incident happens. Having a plan and knowing what to do during and after any disaster will also support the community to keep safe and get through.

The toolkit is a local resource and does not set out to replicate the work that Civil Defence would do. The Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) is based on Marsland Hill in Robe Street, New Plymouth. It is the purpose-built nerve centre for the response to any major emergency or incident in the region. However, it is only activated in response to a major incident or incidents that require a high degree of co-ordination and support among the agencies involved. If a Civil Defence emergency is declared the response is directed from TEMO.

The KCB toolkit will be useful in smaller more localised emergencies and is being developed with that in mind. A parallel could perhaps be drawn between the toolkit and the Neighbourhood Watch programme operated by the New Zealand Police.

However, we all need to keep in mind that a major emergency could strike at any time of the night or day. Many such disasters will affect essential services and possibly disrupt your ability to travel or communicate with each other. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, emergency services will not be able to get help to everyone as quickly as needed. You may be confined to your home, or forced to evacuate your neighbourhood. This is when you are likely to be most vulnerable so it is important to plan to look after yourself and your family for at least three days or more in the event of a disaster.

Consequently, you need a functional emergency plan that helps you respond safely and quickly if a disaster happens. For example, a household emergency plan will help you work out:

what you will each do in the event of disasters such as an earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, flood or storm;

how and where you will meet up during and after a disaster;
where to store emergency survival items and who will be responsible for maintaining supplies;

what you will each need to have in your getaway kits and where to keep them;

what you need to do for members of the household, family or community with a disability or special requirement;

what you will need to do for your pets, domestic animals or livestock;

how and when to turn off the water, electricity and gas at the main switches in your home or business;

what local radio stations to tune into for civil defence information during an event.

There is a very good emergency plan checklist that can be downloaded from the government's civil defence headquarters: www.getthru.govt.nz

Residents in Christchurch soon discovered the following articles were invaluable during their earthquake disaster and far too few had many of them on hand.

Water in containers — at least 3 litres per person per day

Non-perishable food (canned or dried food);

Food, formula and drinks for babies and small children;

An analogue phone — can be purchased from The Warehouse;

A portable camping gas lamp or lantern — available from camping stores;

LED lamps — available from camping stores;

A first aid kit — available from camping stores;

A personal emergency radio with built-in power generator that recharges the internal battery through a hand-crank — Sony has a good model available from Mason Appliances;

A solar shower — available from camping stores;

A good torch;

Hand sanitiser;

Candles and matches;

Spare batteries;

A barbecue;

A can opener.

They also said it pays to keep your mobile phone fully charged and your vehicle's fuel tank topped up.

Well, that's it for this issue. Ka kite ano.

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

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Mayor Harry

So, have you chosen your 'second team' to support in Rugby World Cup 2011? The tournament is underway in New Zealand and we're about to see the first of our three games at Stadium Taranaki: USA vs. Ireland on 11 September. We've

also got USA against Russia on 15 September, and Wales playing Namibia on 26 September — three great opportunities to adopt a second team and support them in their pool play at our stadium.

If you're going to a game, the great news is that you can leave your car at home and travel by bus! You can buy tickets for the Oakura regional bus from Oakura Library — and then leave all the driving to someone else.

We've got lots more information online about travel, road closures, what can be brought into the stadium and more — just go to www.taranaki.info or www.newplymouthnz.com.

It's going to be a fantastic few weeks in the district with thousands of visitors from around the world here, seeing for themselves just what a great lifestyle we have.

Whether you're coming along to a game at the stadium, are having rugby-viewing parties in your home, or you pop in to see the fan zone on Puke Ariki Landing, I hope you really get involved in the spirit of the tournament and make it an experience for you and your family to remember.

The eyes of 20 nations will be on us. Let's make Taranaki a venue they remember!

Mayor Harry Duynhoven

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Oakura Library

With the constant barrage of doom and desperation we hear about daily it's refreshing to read about ordinary people making a positive difference. Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change, Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide and Making a World of Difference are a few recommended titles.

Some have written about the healing power of nature, pets and yes, even books. The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating, Reading by Moonlight and Endal are just a few examples.

For your convenience Oakura Library now has EFTPOS. We've reduced the prices of most of our DVDs to \$2.00/week. The current releases are \$5.00/week.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from our free housebound service, even temporarily, feel free to contact us.

We are selling bus tickets for the New Plymouth Rugby World Cup matches departing from Oakura and Okato. Bookings are a must.

Hope to see you soon,

Karen and Vincenza



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Update from the Big Red Truck

GREETINGS FROM ALL AT THE BIG RED TRUCK,

On 20 August we held our annual honours night. Service honours were made to:

Senior Fire Fighter Craig Scott — Long Service Good Conduct 7 year bar and a 2 year silver bar for 21 years' service

Deputy Chief Fire Officer David Rielly — Long Service Good Conduct Medal for 14 years' service

Chief Fire Officer Matt Crabtree — 2 year silver bar for 13 years' service

Qualified Fire Fighter Al Rawlinson — 2 year silver bar for 9 years' service

Secretary Mel Breeze — 3 years' service

Fire Fighter Jonathan Whitehead — 3 years' service.

The Griff Award, donated to the Oakura Brigade by Terry Griffiths on the occasion of his Gold Star, is awarded to the person who shows Dedication to Duty to the Oakura Fire Brigade over the previous year. This is measured in three areas: Service, Attendance and Participation. It is the Brigade's most prestigious award and this year has been awarded to Harrison West.

Thank you to Karen and Murray from Richmond Lodge and to James Watchorn who helped us on the night. Your help was very much appreciated.

On a serious note, this is just a reminder that the Oakura Fire Brigade is here to serve you and your community. If you have a fire, no matter how big or small, please call 111 for the Fire Brigade. We are not concerned if you think you are wasting our time. We would rather be safe than sorry.

Please also remember that it is now illegal to have a burn-off in your back yard. Below is taken from the Taranaki Regional Council's website:

You'll also find the latest information on rubbish fires - unless your section is 5,000 square metres or larger, you can't burn rubbish in your back yard if you live in a Taranaki urban area serviced by weekly rubbish collections.

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze (Sec)



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Saturday 24th September
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Main South Road, Oakura





We need your unwanted stuff!! Anyone can donate garage sale items please drop these into Oakura School, Donnelly Street, Oakura from 19th September during school hours.
Large items can be dropped at the Oakura Hall on Friday 23rd September from 1-4pm.
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Support For Disengaged Young People

It would be wonderful if the Government could be all things to all people – but that is an impossible ask. Just as it is an impossible ask for 16 and 17 year-olds who leave school, don't go into training or further education, to have the skills necessary to navigate their way through life. Never has it been more true that you can't put old heads on young shoulders.

It is heart breaking when a teenager – sometimes accompanied by a parent – comes to my office needing financial assistance when they have exhausted all the assistance that is available from Work and Income. The advances they have already received on their benefit need to be repaid, meaning that their weekly benefit payments have had to be reduced accordingly. The inability to budget or rationalise their spending is more often than not the cause of their financial difficulties.

Teenagers receiving benefits are often left to their own devices without anyone to help them. Over 1600 of the 16 and 17-year-olds on welfare are teen parents, or don't have families who support them. They usually come from disadvantaged backgrounds and receive very little guidance despite their vulnerable circumstances. National will change this. We want to turn around the lives of these disengaged, vulnerable young people and give them a future that doesn't trap them in a cycle of welfare dependency.

The Prime Minister announced recently that National will change the Government's approach to young people who are not in education, training or work. We will make sure schools tell the Government when 16 and 17-year-olds leave education. We will then fund support providers to mentor every one of these young people, arrange further education and training, and give them any other support they need.

Some of these teenagers already receive an adult benefit. We are going to change how we oversee their benefit payments.

For the first time, teenage beneficiaries will receive intensive case management and support. Essential costs like rent and power bills will be paid directly on their behalf, and they will receive payment cards which can be used only for food and groceries – not alcohol or cigarettes. They will also have some spending money to buy other things. Other changes will require all young beneficiaries to be in education, training, or work. They must also attend programmes on life skills such as budgeting or parenting.

To make this possible, we are providing more training places and more support for young people. There will be 7500 places next year for free education under National's Youth Guarantee, and another 4500 places in Trades Academies within two years. We will cover the cost of childcare for teen parents, and provide more residential teen parenting units to give them 24/7 support.

These changes are part of National's broader programme of welfare reform, and we will announce more welfare policies prior to the election. The bottom line is, the welfare system isn't working as it should. It provides essential support to some, but traps others in a future of limited choices. We will continue to reform welfare so it gives people a hand up, rather than keeping them down with hand-outs.

Authorised by Jonathan Young MP, Cnr Gill & Liardet Sts, New Plymouth.



Jonathan launching the National Party campaign in New Plymouth recently.



Linda Cox, Oakura local and CEO of the YMCA implores the party faithful to donate to the YMCA youth camp initiative.



Jonathan Young

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Drama with Sarah Ashworth

I know I have said it before, but it never ceases to amaze me the talent we have in Oakura. Sarah Ashworth is an actress and drama specialist tutor. A busy mother of three boys, Salvador (7), Gabriel (3) and Miro (just 15 months), Sarah somehow finds time to teach drama classes in Oakura Hall for children aged 10–13 years, on Tuesdays from 3.30 to 4.30pm.

I popped in to chat to Sarah and take some photographs. Sarah explains that activities include confidence, trust and team-building activities. The emphasis is on the children being in a safe, non-judgemental environment where they can experiment, learn and gain confidence. Each week the children perform a short scene to each other. This week's brief was that they could only have three sentences of speech in total, which is not an easy task, but I was amazed at the imagination, humour and confidence of the children.



Scarlett Trotter, Sally Pearl Beckingsale and Annabel Jones do a memory exercise.

Sarah was born and brought up in Taranaki, and after spending time studying in Auckland and working as an actress around New Zealand Sarah has returned to Taranaki. For Sarah, drama and the theatre is obviously in her blood from being taken to the Opera House (now the TSB Showplace) as a baby and sleeping in a bassinet while her mother painted scenery or rehearsed. As a child and teenager Sarah was inspired by Glenys Horsefall, who taught dance and drama to hundreds of primary school children throughout Taranaki, and the late Dorne Arthur whose Friday night drama classes influenced the true theatre spirit in many, and who Sarah feels was responsible for many a teenager following their theatrical calling.

Sarah attended UNITEC's School of Performing and Screen Arts where she studied a diploma course in Acting for Screen and Theatre. After graduating she, along with other graduates, set up a Theatre in Education company performing plays and taking workshops in primary and secondary schools throughout Auckland. Classes included improvisation, Shakespeare, poetry and acting techniques. At the same time Sarah was following her own acting career, including shows with Auckland Theatre Company and Shakespeare Alive touring shows in New Zealand and Singapore.



Top back row: Eva Ann Maree Davies.

Middle row (left to right): Mia West, Scarlett Trotter, Olivia Lister and Sarah Ashworth.

Front Row (left to right): Sally Pearl Beckingsale, Annabel Jones, Taylah McQuaig, Riley Matchett and Nouveau Rogers.

With such a wealth of knowledge and experience Sarah hopes next year to extend her Oakura classes to both younger children aged 6–9 years, and an older age group where she hopes to incorporate Shakespeare to complement their NCEA studies. We are so lucky to have such talent in Oakura.

Sarah is now taking bookings for Term 4 for children aged 10–13 years. If you are interested please email archtrus@ihug.co.nz.

By Rosie Moyes



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Okato Hair Salon Expands

For nearly a year now, Rachel Kruger has been operating her hairdressing business locally, and with her customer base expanding rapidly, Rachel has seen the need to bring in another hair stylist, Angela Childs, to cater for the growing demand.

Previously Rachel owned and operated her own salon in New Plymouth for two years. When her daughter was born, Rachel wanted to be able to spend time with her baby (now a toddler) but also had the desire to continue hairdressing. In owning her own salon she has the flexibility to work the hours that suit her and her family.

Rachel and her family relocated to Okato a year ago, and a sleepout at the rear of their section was transformed into her salon. Rachel and her husband, Marcus, were quick to extend, redecorate and complete the building to the trendy salon it is today.

Rachel is enjoying working alongside Angela who has been working in her salon for several weeks now. "It is great to have the flexibility along with the increased number of appointments it allows for our clients," says Rachel. Angela works Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Saturday bookings are useful for those who work Monday to Friday.

Angela brings to the salon 13 years of hairdressing experience. While working at Misse Hair Boutique in New Plymouth over the past three years, Angela was approached by Rachel who was keen for her to join her here in Okato. Angela was very keen to take up the opportunity. Being a mother herself it brings advantages for her to work flexible hours, work close to her home, and is an opportunity to meet more locals as she and her family have moved back to the village recently. Clients at the salon will welcome Angela's cruisey and relaxed nature, and Angela tells me she is looking forward to working in a more casual environment.

For those who have not been fortunate enough to meet these great hair stylists, they welcome new clients, and you will be pleasantly surprised by the affordable prices they have to offer (see advertisement). I wonder how this can be? Well, Rachel informs me that the advantage of running a business from home is lower overheads, which in turn reduces customer prices. Prices at urban salons are influenced by the amount of rent or lease the building must pay. What more could we ask for? "It even works out cheaper to run your vehicle from New Plymouth," says Rachel.

Both stylists are available for appointments. Texting works well for booking appointments although you can still ring and they will endeavour to answer your call. If this fails please try phoning again later, as they could be busy with a client at that time (see advertisement for hours and prices).

By Milly Carr



Angela and Rachel in the new studio.

okato hair salon

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Thursday 9.30am - 7.00pm

Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

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Snow, snow and more snow

- 15 AUGUST - THROUGH THE LENSES OF OUR TOM READERS



Fletcher and Brodie Ferguson jumping on the trampoline in the snow. The Fergusons live on Wairau Rd and this was taken on the Monday morning that it snowed before school.



Ella Pearce. Surrey Hill Road.



Loretta Rogers at Lucy's Gully.



Carrington Rd, Pukeiti by Dave Marshall.



The McDonalds, Ardern Pl.



Pukeiti morning shot by Dave Marshall.



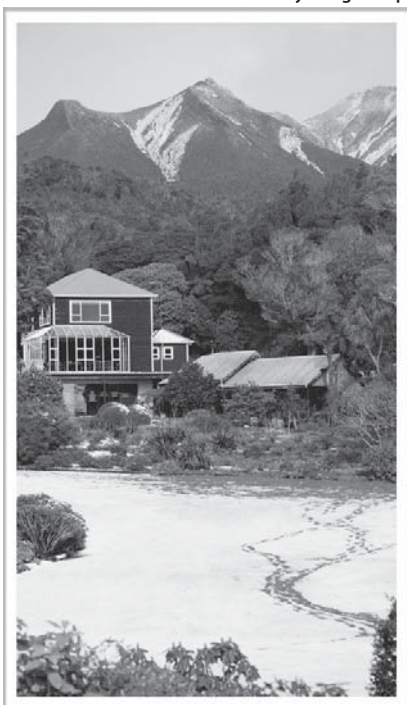
Pukeiti afternoon shot by Doug Hislop.



The Wickham's, Plymouth Rd.



Maddie is unimpressed with the cold, Surrey Hill by Holli Marshall.



The Watson's, Hurford Rd - alpacas in style!



Pat Coxhead at Lucy's Gully.





Sutton Rd, Omata and the biggest recorded snowman in the region! By Kim Ferens.



Seth Marshall in 4 inches of powder snow on farmland up Pitone Rd.



Snow on Ahu Ahu Beach, by Dave Marshall.



The Coxhead's, Messenger Tce.



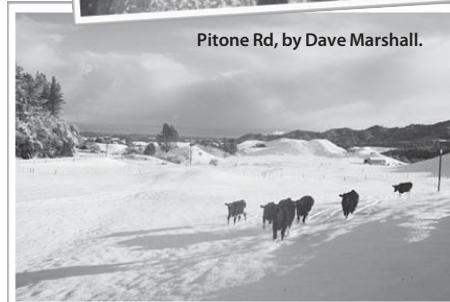
Pitone Rd, by Dave Marshall.



Lydia Quay's riding school on Carrington Road - looking out toward Oakura beach.



Snow covered tree up Pitone Rd, by Dave Marshall.



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TOM Sports



Kayak Fishing & Surfcasting

The weather stopped play most weekends in August, but on the odd day that was fishable, the main catch was red cod, sharks, and every other undesirable fish you can think of. I did hear of a big snapper caught from Fort St George in a kayak, but little else of note.

Surfcasting has been average with some small snapper and gurnard caught at Mokau, but in general it's very quiet.

Next year's Kayak Classic is set for Taranaki Anniversary weekend, and Matt Watson and the ITM Fishing Show are coming to Oakura to film the event. Details are on the website www.kayakfishingclassic.co.nz.

Good luck whitebaiting everyone.

Cheers,

Garry Harrison

Oakura Pony Club News

With the days getting longer and the weather getting warmer, horses and ponies around Oakura are getting new shoes and being brought back into work for the upcoming season.

Oakura Pony Club will be holding their opening rally for the season on Saturday, 1 October at 10.30am. Current members are asked to arrive early with their completed registration forms. New members or people interested in looking into pony club are welcome to come along, with or without their horse/pony, take a look around, meet other members and their families, and join in the rally.

There are many great reasons to join pony club. Pony club encourages and coaches its members on horse care, helps them gain and improve their riding skills, have fun and make new friends with similar interests. All pony club members have a chance to compete in teams in mounted games, dressage, show jumping and eventing, and we also foster individual competition. All pony club members are encouraged to sit certificates at various levels in theory and practical horsemanship.

Like all kids' sports there is a considerable time commitment for parents involved. Young riders need supervision, and if they start competing there is the inevitable transporting and helping out at competitions. But watching your child ride and look after their pony is very satisfying, especially as they develop new skills and confidence. It's a healthy outdoor activity for both riders and parents,

good friends are made and there's a lot of fun to be had. All parents are encouraged to attend the monthly pony club meetings and become actively involved in the running of their club, and like all clubs there are fundraising events at which parents are required to help.

If you would like any information about Oakura Pony Club, please ring either Kellie Divane (President) on 06-7513 336 or Diane Alder (Secretary) on 06-7521 008, or visit the New Zealand Pony Club website for more information (www.nzpca.org.nz).

By Diane Alder

Kaitake Golf Club News

Hopefully we have seen the last of the polar blasts for a while as spring approaches. After playing golf in Auckland in June and July, it was a pleasure to come back to Kaitake and relatively dry fairways. The course is in good condition considering the harsh weather we have experienced.

Once again the annual Butcher's Tournament attracted a good field of golfers and non-golfers. This is always a lot of fun and one of those competitions not to be missed. Earlier in the day a number of people came to a 'Give Golf a Go' event. This is a good opportunity to see what golf is like.

The Board welcomes Jacqui Prater to the position of Secretary/Manager and looks forward to working with her in the future.

WEEKDAY WOMEN RESULTS

Top Dog winners: Margie Muir and Faye Newton;

Runners-up: Kath Vernon and Jenny Ross.

WEEKEND WOMEN RESULTS

Winner of the Ladies Trophy: Jan Davies.

MEN'S RESULTS

Men's Strokeplay winners: Senior — G. Farrant; Intermediate — G. Hildred; Junior — R. Jonas; Limit — R. Spence.

Foreman Trophy winners: Senior — J. Heath; Intermediate — G. Hooper; Junior — C. Saxton; Limit — R. Spence.

Matchplay for the Men's Trophy is underway.

Congratulations to all the recent competition winners and runners-up.

COMING EVENTS

The Club Championships are underway for all sections over the coming weeks.

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

Until next month, good golfing everyone.

Andrea Jarrold

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

7599119

Getting Fit Now Easy for Coastal Women

If you want to get fit or lose weight you may be interested to hear about Katrin and her “mobile gym”. Katrin is a Personal Trainer and Nutrition Consultant and came up with her idea to offer Personal Training in your own home last year. It’s been going very well so far.

“People really appreciate me coming to their homes, especially mums who just don’t have the time to make the drive to the gym. A lot of people don’t like the gym atmosphere either and would much rather train at home or outdoors. I am also renting a studio in Okato for small groups or clients that don’t want to train at home.

The training I do is mainly targeting weight loss, toning, and building a good level of fitness. Depending on the client I usually start with building up their core strength to make the faster, more powerful exercises safe. I don’t use any machines apart from cardio machines. There is so much you can do just with your own bodyweight. I work with Medicine Balls, Swiss Balls, a few hand weights, skipping ropes, and people love a bit of cardio boxing too. It is really great to see how fast people progress and how fast their bodies are changing. Not to forget all the health benefits — also for the mind!

I do give diet advice as well and it would be great if it was as easy to make people stick to a good diet as it is to push them through an hour of exercise. Unfortunately after I’m gone I can’t control what they eat, I wish I could! Most people find it easier to adjust to exercise than to change their eating habits. Exercise is a great way to keep the energy output larger than the energy input, which is the only way to lose weight!”

Katrin is a great sports enthusiast herself. She came to Taranaki about six years ago mainly to go wavesailing, a sport that is rather rare to see in New Zealand. “Because there are so few people here sharing my sport I really had to learn to push and motivate myself. Fitness is very important for this sport as the demand on your body is very high. It’s like a full-on cardio workout combined with heavy resistance training. So yes, health and keeping fit for windsurfing are my main reasons to exercise. It’s important that you find a goal for yourself, it makes it easier to stick to an exercise regime.”

Katrin is trying to make it as affordable as possible for people.



Katrin, on the left in action with a client.

She says a great way of training with her is to do about two One-on-One sessions a week for about two months and then join her Outdoor Group training sessions, which are similar to bootcamps, but she doesn’t like calling them that because it scares a lot of people off. “I love running the Outdoor Group training sessions. It’s fun because we are all like-minded people and really push each other. If you go hard I reckon you can burn about 800 calories in one session, which is a lot. There are nine calories in a gram of fat.”

She also very much welcomes friends or families to train together. “I do not charge any extra money for an extra person, it’s not much more work for me, so I don’t see why I should. My hourly rate is \$25-\$35 so they just have to share that amount.”

The group training is usually on a Saturday morning, changing locations but at the moment at the beach in Oakura. Everyone is welcome!

Katrin’s prices are as follows:

Personal Training \$25-35 for one or two people per hour

Fitness Training (group) \$10 per session or \$80 for 10 sessions.

Getting fit for summer made easy!

Get Personal Training in your own home, outdoors or in our Okato studio location and get the body, health and fitness you want!

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Oakura Boardriders Club

I am teaching five year olds at present and what an exciting morning we had on that magical Monday in August! We tried to write stories about this historical event but it was talking about and reliving the experience that the children needed. I certainly felt like a five year old again as I danced around my garden at 7.30am enchanted by the falling flakes. There's gentility about snow falling and no matter how many times you experience it, it is a wondrous sight.

Hopefully our mountain still has a thick white cover and the ski field is still giving pleasure to Taranaki skiers and snowboarders alike.

I also hope that you have received your invitation to the Oakura Boardriders Club 20th Anniversary Celebration to be held over Labour Weekend. We are planning a great weekend of reminiscing, surfing, partying and watching those last two very-important-to-the-nation rugby games!

The anniversary celebration begins on Friday evening with a chance to catch up with old and new friends, and



The clubhouse when we first started.

a gourmet barbecue at the clubrooms. On Saturday we'll be down the coast watching our past Open Men's winners and one or two wild card winners competing for the 20th Anniversary trophy. There will also be time for family ball games and hopefully we'll get everyone in the water surfing a wave together.

Saturday evening is party night with the band 3rd Avenue playing your favourite tunes, generously sponsored by Murray Winks of Tasman Oil Tools. We are having a Tropical Island theme and want all partygoers to come dressed accordingly. Kerry Vosseler from Chaos, who catered our

10th Anniversary dinner, is very keen to create a delicious supper to add to the ambience.

Sunday, unless the surf is pumping, is for sleeping in and relaxation. The clubrooms will be open at 6pm, and for those who wish to stay on for the final rugby game pizza and a beer are on the menu!



1999/2000 board stack and everyone ready in their wetsuits ready to try and beat the 'most persons surfing' on one wave.

Paul Lobb is putting together all our newsletters over the last 20 years into booklet form, and Doug Hislop is creating a Powerpoint presentation, which will be shown on Saturday night. Of course there will be, to honour this auspicious occasion, t-shirts and dress shirts available to buy.

Hopefully Paige will be home for the celebrations. She has her last two Qualifying Series (QS) contests in September, held in Spain and then the Azores Islands. In this QS contest Paige is in fifth place and Sarah Mason, formerly of Oakura, is in tenth position. Paige finished twelfth for 2011 in the Dream Tour competition. Another former Oakura resident and past Oakura Boardriders Club committee member, Ian Corrigan, is in the New Zealand Surfing Masters team that is off to El Salvador to compete in the ISA World Masters. Ian has been living in Costa Rica for a number of years. He is obviously enjoying that warm water!

We look forward to your company in October so please don't forget to get your RSVP's in to me as soon as you are able!

Enjoy the spring,

Philippa Butt



The early days when we had Santa at the clubhouse after the Christmas parade - old Evan from pub as Santa.



Okato & Districts Young Farmers

— GROWING OUR GENERATION

Mission: Young, motivated, like-minded people coming together to socialise, network and support the community. Connecting town and country to gain practical and personal skills bettering our businesses and ourselves.

Okato & District Young Farmers is a brand new club, formed only last month with over 20 members already!!!

The purpose of this group in our community is two-fold. Firstly, we provide a social environment where young people can meet and make friends, swap ideas and just hang out. Secondly, we provide an environment where people can learn different skills. These are skills such as those used in practical farming like fencing, milking and so on, but also public speaking, meeting procedures and organisational skills. In other words we are also a personal development organisation.

We welcome any young people with an interest in meeting new people and learning new skills, and we would like to emphasise you do not have to be a farmer to join!

Meetings are held once a month, and are advertised around the local community.

If you have any queries, feel free to contact Laura Richardson on 027-464 2657 or Alexandra Lawn on 027-665 9280.

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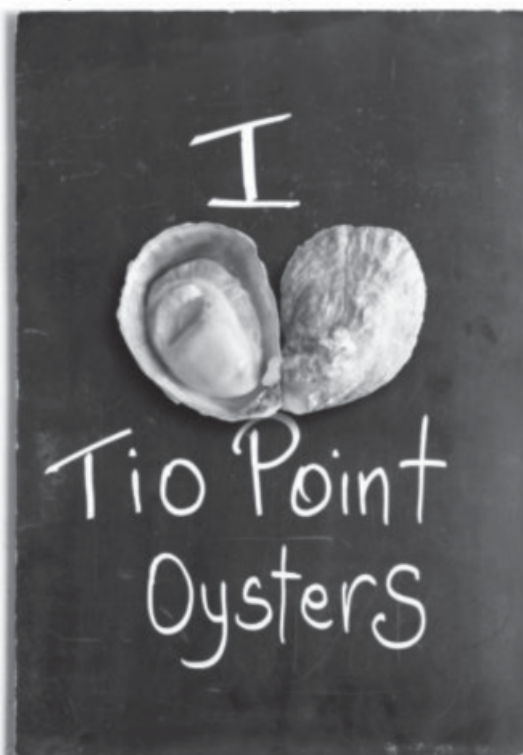
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TOM Garden of the Month:

KATE AND MARTIN'S GARDEN — STARTING THEM YOUNG

Kate and Martin Garner have lived in their home on Plymouth Road for almost two years. Shortly after moving in James was born, and with almost three acres of land Kate and Martin hope to educate James to understand and appreciate where food originates.

"The space is great for James to run around in, play football, climb or make camps with friends as he gets older," says Kate, "but we also wanted to have the space to rear sheep and calves so that James learns that his food doesn't just come from a supermarket." This is something that they feel very privileged to be able to do.

The garden is full of mature trees, mandarins, feijoas and grapefruit. James loves to pick and eat the mandarins.

James is now 15 months old and is a great age to start planting food in a veggie garden. Kate admits that it is only this year they have tackled a veggie area, planting strawberries, lettuces, broccoli and cauliflower. Food that James likes and will enjoy eating. Strawberries are one of his favourites and he will be able to pick and eat them straight from the plant as they grow. Kate has covered the strawberries with pea straw to protect them from the harsh frosts and even snow we've had this year. James really enjoyed helping.

Hands on experience... what better way is there to learn? Kate works for Porse and she hopes that it is something that other children will be able to join in and benefit from. Thank you James, Kate and Martin for showing me around your lovely garden. What a fantastic way for James to learn. Thanks to Fairfield Garden Centre Kate and Martin will receive a garden voucher.

By Rosie Moyes



... and in his spare time, James loves a bit of gardening.



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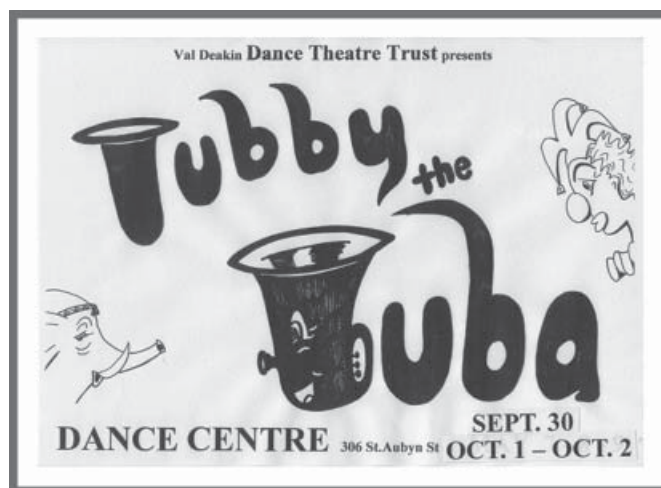
Tubby the Tuba

The Val Deakin Dance Theatre will be presenting Tubby the Tuba at the Dance Centre (306 St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth) on Friday September 30, Saturday October 1, and Sunday October 2.

The humorous story of a tuba that wants to play a tune and join the circus is told in dance, mime, music and narration. The cast, ranging in age from 7 to adults, enjoys bringing to life the many characters — horses, elephants, musicians, singing frogs, tightrope walkers, acrobats and clowns.

The intimate setting of the Dance Centre allows audiences of all ages to get a close-up look at the emotions and movements of the performers. Tubby the Tuba is similar to the Dance Theatre's well-received production of Peter and the Wolf with its family appeal and easily understood, colourful and comic storyline.

Bookings can be made by phoning 06-752 7743 (after 9.30am). There are special family, group and school bookings available.



Oakura Girl Guide Unit Celebrates First Birthday

The Pippins, Brownies and leaders at the Oakura Unit enjoyed festive activities and a huge Trefoil-shaped cake at the unit's first birthday party.

We've had a great year with camps, senior citizen visits, ANZAC service attendance, trips to the hospital, zoos, Bowlarama and observatory, supporting the Girl Guiding's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, two pool parties and lots of other activities and games. Many of the girls have grown in confidence, and it's lovely to see so many making new friends and learning valuable life skills.



The Trefoil cake.

Later this year we are looking forward to camps at the Girl Guiding-owned Ivy Cottage, and a camp for all the region's Brownies at TOPEC.



We would like to thank Wendy Marshall for her help and advice over the past year and Kelly Green for making the wooden resource box for our new Brownie Six.

Transfield Worley has made another generous donation allowing us to buy modern trestle tables, which will be used at weekly meetings and camps. Thank you!

If you would like to help at our meetings or have a skill to show off, we'd love to hear from you!

Catherine (Brownie Leader) and Robin (Pippin Leader)
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The Gecko Room

On Wednesday, 10 August Oakura School's new Gecko Room was opened. The next day five children started in The Gecko Room with Mrs Soulsby as their teacher.

Inside the Gecko Room there are two classrooms divided by a concertina wall, which can easily be moved to join the classes together.



The Gecko room.

These classrooms were funded by the Ministry of Education to cater for Oakura's growing roll. The classrooms are an ideal area to learn in, as the rooms are specially designed for junior children.

All of Oakura's new junior entrants for 2011 will start their first year at the school in the Gecko Room, taught by Mrs Soulsby and Mrs Cooper. The school expects that by the end of the term the current class of five will become a class of 15 children.

The Gecko Room was named after the gold-striped geckos that live nearby in Matekai Park. These creatures are busy, chattering little creatures, which reflect the enthusiasm of our young new entrant students.

by Melissa Marriott (aged 12)

Try After Try

Try!! Friday, 5 August was a night to remember when Oakura School competed at the annual Rippa Rugby tournament at Yarrows Stadium.

Oakura School pupils Nick Wilson, Charlotte Procter, Meg Parsons, Oliver Williamson, Kelsey Husband, Devan and Niall Leggett, Gian Squatriti, Leo Scouller, Liam McBreen and Atalya Fakavamoeanga competed in the tournament. They won all of their games including the semi-finals. This led to them securing a spot in the finals on the main field while the Taranaki and Tasman teams warmed up.

The Manukorihi team won the final by only three points and it was an outstanding performance from both Oakura and Manukorihi teams.

Thanks to Jo Todd and Peter McBreen who gave up their own Friday night to come and support our Oakura Rippa Rugby team.

by Atalya Fakavamoeanga (aged 12 years)

BP Technology Challenge

Thursday, 25 August five Year 7 students (Thomas, Isabel, Sam, Kima, Sophie) and five Year 8 students (Paige, Kelsey, Megan, Liam, Finn) from Oakura School competed in the BP Technology Challenge.

Before the actual day we had to create a bach by the sea with as many features as possible. We had three weeks to complete this given task. After long hard afternoons both teams were finally finished. When we got to the TSB Stadium both teams set up their bach and portfolio.

After all the other schools had arrived we started our challenges. The first one we had to do was to make a ramp and let a ball go down it to land on a target. We were not allowed to touch it after it was put on the ramp.

Next we had a quiz and more challenges. After lunch we had a challenge to make an outfit for a boy and a girl air guitarist. Liam and Paige were ours; they were very creative models. Our final challenge was one we had to practice: a pie package. Unfortunately on the day it did not work.

One of the main prizes was for the bach, and it was very close, with one point between the teams. The judge was a well-known local architect. The winner was Oakura School 1 (Year 8 team) and second was Oakura School 2 (Year 7 team).

So overall it was a great day. I would like to thank Linda McBreen and Miss Todd for all the help they gave us and the materials they provided.

by Megan Vickers (aged 12, Year 8 team)



The winning BP Technology challenge team:
Year 7 students - Thomas, Isabel, Sam, Kima and Sophie.
Year 8 students - Paige, Kelsey, Megan, Liam, and Finn.

Oakura School Cookbook

Over the last month or two Oakura School students and Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) have been working together to create the Pohutukawa Kitchen Cookbook. We have had help from all ages of students and adults.

The food in this cookbook is inspired by the mountain and sea. So there will be lots of different recipes. I would like to say thankyou to all the people that helped bring in recipes and photos that add that special Oakura School touch.

by Megan Vickers (aged 12)

Leach Trophy Win

On Thursday, 12 August our Year 5 and 6 Oakura netballers set off to play Waitara East at Devon Intermediate School for their interschool netball finals. The team fought hard and came out with a great result, beating Puketapu 17-10. These girls played exceptionally well the whole tournament and in the end, through all of their great efforts, walked away with the Leach Trophy.



Winners of the Leach Trophy.

Back row (left to right): Kimberley Lewis, Kara Wellaway, Sophie Crabtree, Emily Husband, Poppy Mitchell.

Front row (left to right): Emily Waite, Rhegan Hudson, Jackie Procter.

Overall the girls had a great season. Big thanks to Melissa Waite and Jackie Keenan for being amazing coaches for the girls, and to Shelly Husband, who refereed several of the games. And the biggest congratulations go to the nine girls who played amazingly.

by Georgia Crabtree (aged 12)

Elements Bring Home the Trophy

On Monday, 15 August the Oakura Elements played their biggest basketball game of the season. They had already won most of their games and had made it through to the finals at the TSB Stadium against the Fitzroy Hotshots.

The game was very close and exciting. Right throughout the game both the Elements and the Hotshots were neck to neck, both scoring numerous points. It was right down to the wire, but in the last few moments of the game the Elements scored a winning point, ending the match at 25-24 to Oakura.

After shaking hands with the opposition and each being awarded a trophy, the team went to Butlers Reef to celebrate their victory. The whole team performed exceedingly well and truly deserved their win. Congratulations, Elements, for being the winners of the New Plymouth Junior Basketball League.

by George T (aged 12)

Walking with Dinosaurs

Three Oakura School students Sophie Butters, Cory Butters (both 7 years) and Joseph Frampton/McGee (7 1/2 years) bring a whole new meaning to enthusiasm and creativity. They, along with their mums, Kim and Valerie, have created the most amazing dinosaurs. These are not pint-sized dinosaurs but nigh on 2m dinosaurs with great attention to detail.

Sophie made a Pterodactyl, Joseph made an Allosaurus and Cory made a Brachiosaurus.

When asked why they made the dinosaurs, the children said that the school would like to see something from the past because they were studying things from the past, and dinosaurs are from the past! They also all went to the recent Walking with Dinosaurs show in Auckland and were captivated by the spectacle.



Joseph, Sophie and Cory with their awesome dinosaurs.

On the drive home the mums were discussing how cool it would be to build a dinosaur and that is exactly what they did. Ten metres of chicken wire later, newspaper, glue, modelling clay, paint, nails, fur, old McDonald's toys, paper towels, foam rubber and lots of energy went into the construction. Valerie estimates it probably took about 20-30 hours of work each over six weeks to make the dinosaurs, and with no prior experience in papier-mache, it was a serious commitment. Valerie is hoping to find a good home for them eventually.

Cory says he likes his dinosaur's tail as it has got rocks in it. Joseph likes his dinosaur's head because it has a good shape for a dinosaur, and Sophie likes the teeth on her Pterodactyl because they are nails!

Well done on an amazing effort!

By Kim Ferens

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Who'll Get It?

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COMING EVENTS

September

- 12 Minstrel Show 9.30am
- 15 Playgroup 9–11am
- 21 Taranaki Cross-country in Hawera
- 22 Golf Clinic for all classes
- 28 School photos
- 29 Playgroup 9–11am
- 30 Music Assembly

October

- 3 'Pressing the Right Buttons' Seminar
Allison Mooney in Omata Hall 1.30–2.30pm
\$20pp all welcome
Tickets available from Omata and Oakura School offices
- 4 Tennis Clinic for all classes
- 7 Jump Rope Display 9am
End of Term 3

Term 4 begins Tuesday, 25 October.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

There is a great deal of controversy over the introduction of the National Standard into Years 1–8. While at times the argument gets political, our children's education is too important to be clouded or distracted by the winds of politics. Our Board, our teachers and I believe it is really important to know where our children are at with their learning and for this reason we have, for a long time, been using well developed methods for assessing them. We use this information to develop our teaching strategies, assisting us to improve student achievement and we also share this information with our parents and children.

The most important people here are our children and we have a huge responsibility to ensure they leave our school with the competencies they need for their futures. We set high standards for ourselves and our students and we welcome the idea of a set of well designed 'nationally' accepted measures as another useful tool.

The problem with rushing through the creation of these National Standards is that there has not been time to sort out the glitches, the things that really don't add up to secure, accurate data, and that they are not developed enough to be helpful in guiding our students to be the best they can be.

I feel very positive about having a set of National Standards and look forward to the day when the issues have been ironed out and we can confidently use them. Until then we are trialling the use of National Standards, but we will continue using and relying more confidently on the array of nationally normed tests available to us.

Regards

Karen Brisco



Ben Andrews is concentrating and problem solving to make a bird feeder during our Nga Manu topic.



Well done to the two chess teams.



HRV — Proud Sponsors of Taranaki Junior Rugby

Following Taranaki's historic win over Southland in August, Omata School was fortunate to have a visit from a small group of Taranaki rugby players with the Ranfurly Shield. All the talk around the traps was whether the 'Naki boys could hold onto the Shield in the one remaining game of the season against the Hawkes Bay Magpies. And, of course, we now know they can and they did.

Their visit coincided with a planned rugby promotion event by the good people of HRV at Omata School. HRV had their tent up and a barbeque busy turning out sausages. They also handed out hats, balls and drink bottles to the children of Omata School. Jason Perrett of HRV explained that they sponsor all Taranaki Junior Coaches — approximately 200 "good buggers". Their sponsorship covers both club and school coaches and thousands of kids benefit from this support. This commitment also extended to hosting the coaches at one of the Tenderlink Taranaki home games. This year it was the Auckland game.



Jason Perrett, far right, and the Tenderlink Taranaki team visit Omata School to the delight of the gathered students and parents.



Meeting the team members in the HRV tent.



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TOM baby

TOM BABY OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the Martin family, Jaynie and Rod, 4 ½ year old Eva and Henry, who is 2 years old. Thomas was born on 26 April 2011 and is photographed here relaxing with his big brother and sister — so cute!

By Rosie Moyes



Henry, Thomas and Eva.

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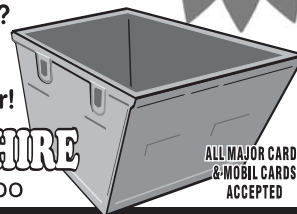
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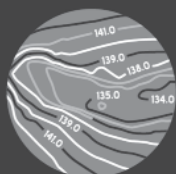
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11 Devon Street West, New Plymouth

Ph: 06 757 9795 Fax: 06 758 5202

E: maree.schumacher@starstvl.co.nz

After hours: Brent or Maree Schumacher 06 751 9266 Cell 021 478 277

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MITRE 10 MEGA GARDENING

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Gardening with Rosemary Herb *September Checklist*

Vegetables

Sow lettuces, radishes, carrots, beetroot, silverbeet and peas.
Plant out cabbage and cauliflower seedlings.
Prepare to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, peppers and sweetcorn next month.
Plant main crop potatoes.

Flowers

Topdress spring flowering bulbs with bulb food.
Sow seeds of most hardy annuals.

Fruit

Plant passionfruit vines in a sheltered site.
Apply an all-purpose fertiliser like Thrive to strawberry plants.

Lawns

Sow new lawns. Re-sow thin or bare patches.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Monday—Friday 7.00am—6.00pm
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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Active Birth Taranaki

Interested in parenting, pregnancy, or birth? Active Birth Taranaki invites you to national conference Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Parents to be held at Okurukuru on 28-30 October. Visit www.todayschoices.org for details or to register, or call Maryanne on 06-824 8160 if you'd like to be involved.

Country and Western Club

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

GymSports Oakura

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.
Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

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

New Plymouth Toastmasters Club

Speechcraft Course. Commencing Thursday 15 September, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallivon, Pukekura Park. All welcome. For more information please ph Margaret 027 232 1899, Anne 758 6287 or Shirley 752 3698.
Building Confidence, Speaking Skills and Self Esteem.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Always open to new players.
Contact John Hardie Boys 06-752 7592.

Okato Squash

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

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

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 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 Brian Goodhue, the El Presidente 752 1290, email podsnail@xnet.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.



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Holli Marshall
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