

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OKATO

AUGUST 2011

MEANDERING IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

WITH ANNE AND MO DONALD

Oh no, chain off! But
reinforcements to the rescue.

- more on page 2



TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OKATO

TOM-OKATO is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from Timaru Road to Bayly Road.

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*Points of view expressed in
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the views of TOM*

E D I T O R I A L

Oh yes, we live in an uncertain world. The reality is that we don't know what is around the corner and while we take for granted that our community is safe, it's not necessarily the case.



Recently, our Okato and Opunake coastal communities have been faced with some frightening events. They have made us take stock and ponder how safe our communities actually are, and how widespread the implications are for those who have been directly and indirectly involved. To this end, I (Milly) was impressed by the steps our local school took to keep our children safe during the armed standoff in Okato, which resulted in a school lockdown. It was very well managed, which helped to allay the fears of children, their parents and caregivers alike. I am sure that many other parents and caregivers will join me in acknowledging the professionalism and commitment of our teaching faculty in protecting our children's welfare.

Winter has arrived. The recent horrendous weather has created many problems but at the time of writing this editorial, we have finally had a decent spell of drier weather, for which the farmers and their stock will be thankful. And doesn't Mount Taranaki look glorious with its recent dumping of snow! The hearts of skiers and spectators alike will be gladdened.

Milly and Kerry

COVER STORY

In this episode, Anne describes a two-week holiday in England and France with daughter Jessie and Jessie's flatmate Matt, and subsequent adventures in the southeast of France.

Jessie and Matt arrived two days before THE WEDDING. No time was going to be a good time to view London, so we did a sightseeing bus tour around London — the hop-on, hop-off variety — and got caught up in the atmosphere. We saw the paparazzi outside the Middletons' hotel, Buckingham Palace with all the film crews in their designated spots, Union Jacks lining the streets, bunting and flags galore decorating shops, homes and businesses, people lining the streets and tents (little 'homes') where people slept to keep their viewing spots. We saw all the important landmarks and then cruised up the Thames and enjoyed a lovely meal and a view of Harrods lit up at nighttime. On the night of the wedding, we celebrated with a community dinner at the local hall. A pig on a spit, take a salad or a dessert, and all for a pound!!! A cheap feed, good company and a really pleasant evening.

Next on the agenda was Oxford and the sightseeing bus was a must. We all got a bit of history while viewing the sights from the top deck. Later, we met our English friends at a lovely country pub called The Barley Mow. Mo had been putting his loose change into a cup in the kitchen for months and it was interesting to see how far it went, shouting platters and drinks. Then, it was off to Bath and Stonehenge. Now Matt and Jessie can say they have seen the rocks in the paddock!!! But what an incredible feat all those years ago!

Next stop was Amsterdam, where we stayed for four nights in a cheap hotel. Four of us in one room and three were snorers!! Poor Jessie was not impressed, but the rest of us slept well! The see-through shower just added to the adventure. Must-sees and dos in Amsterdam were the diamond factory, Anne Frank's house, the red light district, the coffee shops, which are not known for their coffee but for something else, the Bols cocktail self-tour, which includes a free cocktail and two shots, the canal cruise, and best of all, the bike tour out into the country! We enjoyed good cheap food, the easy transport system, a relaxed atmosphere and nice people.

Then we headed by train to Paris. Three and a half hours on a quiet, comfortable train... a shame about the broken down airconditioning in our carriage. Paris comes alive at 8 o'clock at night when the restaurants, bars and cafés spill onto the

TOM dates to remember for
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Anne, Jessie and Mo outside Buckingham Palace.

pavements. Our apartment was surrounded by them and we found that the buzz went into the early hours, and then the street cleaners came in! Once again, a hop-on, hop-off bus took us to all the main sights and then we walked up the Champs Elysees past all the designer/exclusive shops. Unfortunately, we timed our visit to the Eiffel Tower wrongly, for it turned out to be a national holiday!!! However, perseverance prevailed and we got right up to the top, where its designer, Gustave Eiffel, had built an apartment. Some room with a view! Jessie has always wanted to go to Disneyland and we spent our third day there, so now she can tick that off her list. Luckily, it was not busy so we were able to do all that we wanted and go on some rides three times!!

We said goodbye to the kids as they flew out of Paris heading for home, while Mo and I headed southeast to Vermenton in Burgundy. We spent a couple of days there with friends in a quaint guesthouse in a little village. We bought fresh produce at the Friday market and some of the locals took an interest in me trying on clothes, giving their impressions in French plus body language!

We visited a medieval town called Vezelay — a World Heritage Site, which has a Basilica built in the 1100s — ate a four-course meal for 12 Euros (NZ\$22) at a country restaurant, and visited another town with many Tudor-style buildings on the banks of a canal. The canals in France stretch for four to five thousand miles and were historically used for transportation of goods.

Years ago, the government paid barge owners to scrap their barges but they are encouraging them back again now as an environmentally favourable form of transport.

We discovered that life in the villages can be quite restrictive during siesta time. No noisy machinery allowed, shops closed and quietness encouraged. We also noticed that the French people have become more obliging when it comes to helping non-French-speaking foreigners. This may have been influenced by the new Prime Minister, who has introduced compulsory English in schools.

That's all from France. Next, we embark on a nine-night cruise around the Baltic Sea. Yes, I'm finally getting my 50th birthday present!! So tune into our final adventure in a TOM coming soon.

Keeping Fluoride Out of Okato's Water

The first step towards a tribunal on the use of fluoride in New Plymouth District's water supply has begun, with submissions being called from the public from the 1st August. Anyone who wants to speak to the tribunal which will be held on the 29th and 30th September is asked to register with the Council before 31 August. After hearing the presentations and reading the submissions, councillors will adjourn to consider all the information, then reconvene on the 13th October to deliberate and make a decision. The tribunal and the deliberation meeting are open to the public.

In 1992 a poll undertaken in Okato resulted in fluoride not being added to the supplies at that time. The issue was last considered in 2000 when, after a nine hour public tribunal, NPDC decided to retain fluoride in New Plymouth city's water supply. The result of this tribunal could see fluoride added to or removed from all water supply systems in the New Plymouth District.

In March a Council report regarding this tribunal stated "The matter of inconsistency of the application of fluoridation to different NPDC water supplies is equally a matter that should be addressed, notwithstanding historical

decisions leading to differing levels of service between NPDC water supplies. The Council must therefore ask itself if the benefits (in terms of well being) of fluoridation are demonstrable for the New Plymouth supply, then shouldn't the same occur for the Inglewood, Oakura and Okato supplies? (Or vice versa)."

In the report the Council stated that the status quo was not recommended as the issue of different levels of service in the district water supplies would remain. The report indicates that the Council recommends expansion of fluoridation to include Inglewood, Okato and Oakura, which are currently unfluoridated.

Feedback at community meetings and online forums suggests that the majority of the Okato citizens are opposed to fluoride, and if that is the case then the community needs to participate in the tribunal process to ensure that Okato's water supply remains free of fluoride. If you do not want the council to fluoridate the Okato water supply I recommend that you make a submission and/or sign the petition which is available at participating Okato businesses. Anyone who wants to speak to the Council and/or to make a submission can do so through the website at newplymouthnz.com/fluoride, or by phone, fax, email or writing in. The deadline for both submissions and registrations is 5pm on 31 August.

If you would like more information or assistance with making a submission please contact Teresa Goodin (06)7528186 or email: teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

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 and Rachel in the new studio.

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

okato hair salon

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Rachel Kruger & Angela Childs

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Cherie Nagle mashes up a good old fashioned brew...

Tumahu Tea Party

An afternoon tea party was held in the local Tumahu Hall, mid Puniho Road, Okato on Sunday, 12 June.

It was like a step back in time walking into the small country hall, with its constraints and its untouched interior. An assortment of delectable treats set out on tables was soon sampled, along with a variety of teas supped from the finest china.

The tea party theme encouraged an attire of dresses and hats, which most guests made the effort to don. Myself, I was not so daring, or should I say I hadn't had the time to put together an outfit, but this was soon rectified as Su Hammond threw me a skirt and scarf to dress up in. Now I felt the part!

A few locals and a couple of out-of-towners attended the afternoon tea in aid of the Tumahu Hall, fundraising for a new roof and upgrade of the amenities. The hall has been used over the years on many different occasions for a variety of events including birthday parties, workshops and dog training, which have all served to bring the local community together.

The Tumahu Hall committee initiated this fundraising project and with the enthusiasm and energy from locals it will ensure that the historic hall will serve locals well into the future.

by Milly Carr

Photos by Nicci Hooker



... and the ladies settle in for a lively chat with their cup of tea.

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Okato and Districts Historical Society Needs Locals' Help to Preserve Local History

Okato and Districts Historical Society was formed as an incorporated society in 1994, the brainchild of Nola Corbett, who was keen to record and preserve the history of Okato and its surrounding districts. Since then, a small but dedicated group has gathered historical information and memorabilia, held open days to promote and display their collection, visited historical societies in surrounding areas, lobbied for signage to preserve the memory of the Koru Road Marist Brothers' Monastery, and supported the Cape Egmont Lighthouse Trust's endeavour to display the original light of the Cape Egmont Lighthouse in a replica construction.

Recently, the group hosted a visit by Eltham and Districts Historical Society. After viewing Cape Egmont Lighthouse, the visitors were shown round the replica lighthouse by Cape Egmont Boat Club Life Member, Chris Aylward. The tour included a working demonstration of the original lantern and the displays that tell the original lighthouse's history. Mrs Maureen Drylie, Secretary of the Eltham society, commented that because Cape Egmont Lighthouse is now automated and entry is not allowed, "the decision by the Cape Egmont Lighthouse Trust to build a replica and save the old light has been really worthwhile." After lunch together, both groups moved on to the Community Trust Hall to view the collection of booklets, photos and memorabilia that are permanently displayed there.

Currently, there are only eight active members — all committee members who have held the society together for many years. They are ageing now, and although their interest will continue, they feel that it's time to hand the administrative reins to a younger generation. If you feel you may be able to offer your support or would like to express your interest, please come along to the Annual General Meeting. If you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, a phone call to Iris Putt (06-752 4182) or Nora Fox (06-752 4062) would be appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting of Okato and Districts Historical Society will be held at Okato Community Trust Hall, Cumming Street, Okato on 25 August at 10am.

Story by Kerry Lilley (Picture supplied)

Okato and Eltham and Districts Historical Societies outside Cape Egmont replica lighthouse.



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Todd Energy Donates to TSB Sea Rescue Trust for Coastal Co-operation During Survey

At Cape Egmont Boat Club on Thursday, 21 July, Todd Energy geophysicist Rick Henderson presented a \$5000 cheque to Frog Goodin, Chairman of the Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust, in recognition of coastal co-operation during the recently commissioned seismic survey programme in the coastal Pungarehu area.

Rick acknowledged the importance of the Cape Egmont Boat Club as a meeting point for many of the people in the survey area and said that the recently commissioned TSB Sea Rescue has been a great community project. The donation, he said, was in recognition of the co-operation, support and assistance the local farming and boating communities gave Todd Exploration Ltd throughout both land and sea phases of the survey.

Rick outlined the area surveyed and gave an illustrated explanation of the method Todd Exploration had used. An area of 680 square km, including areas of land and sea, was surveyed. Project wells were drilled up to 4km deep into 40 million year old rock formations to search for compressed natural gas. Rick said that care had been taken to recognise and protect waahi tapu throughout the survey, and shot holes had been placed at safe distances from structures, historical sites and infrastructure in order to mitigate potential for damage from explosive charges. At sea, charged air blasts of graduated strengths were used to frighten fish shoals and larger marine animals from the area, including dolphins and whales, before drilling took place. At one stage, operations were suspended when a Minke whale and her calf came close to the acquisition vessel.

It may be necessary to sink 10 or 20 wells in order to find one that will be commercially viable, and it costs \$20-25 million per bore per working well.

Story by Kerry Lilley

Picture by Anthony Williams



Todd Energy geophysicist, Rick Henderson, presents the \$5000 cheque to Frog Goodin, Chairman of Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust.



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Okato Swimming Club

Better late than never for a 2010/2011 season report for Okato Swimming Club.

Brooke Van ijk joined us this year, to help us with the very successful Learn to Swim classes, along with Julie Neilson and myself. Everyone that was in the Learn to Swim section of the club improved in some way or another, and it was great seeing swimmers giving the races ago, with some children successfully swimming a length. A big thankyou to Brooke Van ijk and Julie Neilson who did an outstanding job.

It was a very successful year for the length swimmers with so many turning up for training and our stroke nights. We pretty much had all lanes full of swimmers most weeks and lots of distance was swum. The club champs showed how many of you improved over the season, and the competition in the age groups was tough. We were lucky to get some great sponsors on board this year and were able to have "Swimmers of the Week" packs, which proved very successful and were much sought after. Thanks to the Okato Four Square for these very special packs put together every week, Okato Vet Clinic, RD 1, Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, McDonalds and The Devon Hotel. Without your support we could not achieve the goals that are set.

Our competitive swimmers, Jenna Barrett and Brandi Dakin Spershott, are out there competing all over the North Island for our club. Jenna again qualified for the New Zealand Junior Nationals in Wellington, in all backstroke events, was ranked highly throughout NZ, and also cleaned up in her age group in the Taranaki Champs.

Brandi won medals for the first time at the Taranaki Summer Champs and both girls have been to many North Island provinces for their champs with some great results. Well done, girls, you make us all proud. Keep up the great swimming.

We have just competed in our first Carnival for the 2011/2012 season on 19 June at Bell Block, run by the Aquabladz, with nine of our Okato swimmers competing.

CARNIVAL NON-COMPETITIVE RACE RESULTS

Jaxon Madden won 1st in 25 Backstroke, 25 Freestyle, 50 Back and 25 Butterfly, and 2nd in 50 Freestyle.

Sydney Corry won 1st in 25 Breaststroke and 50 Freestyle, 2nd in 25 Backstroke, and 3rd in 25 Freestyle and 50 Backstroke.

Camden Lacey won 2nd in 25 Breaststroke.

Daniel Hooker won 1st in 25 Freestyle and 3rd in 25 Breaststroke.

Alex Hooker won 3rd in 25 Freestyle.

Abbey Parker won 1st in 25 Freestyle, and 2nd in 50 Freestyle and 50 Backstroke.

Renee Parker won 1st in 50 Freestyle and 25 Freestyle, 2nd in 25 Butterfly, and 3rd in 25 Backstroke.

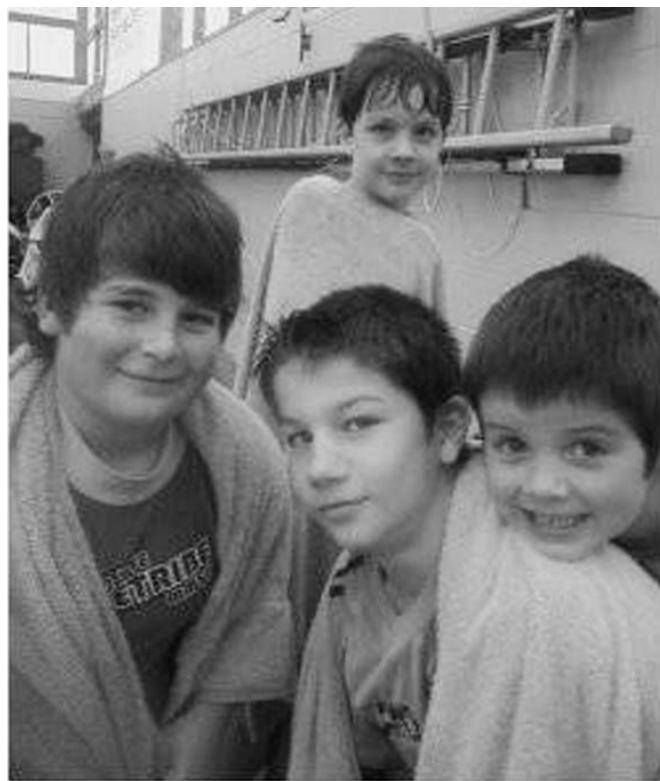
Sam Barbour won 2nd in 25 Freestyle and 3rd in 50 Freestyle.

CARNIVAL COMPETITIVE RACE RESULTS

Brandi Dakin-Spershott won 1st place 9yr in 100 freestyle (a Personal Best Time), and 2nd place 9yr in 100 Medley (a Personal Best Time).

Well done to all of you who swam, there was some fantastic swimming done. Everyone came away with a ribbon or two and it was great fun!

Fiona Lacey



Camden Lacey, Alex Hooker, Daniel Hooker and Josh Corry at Bell Block Pool.

Okato Community Trust:

LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

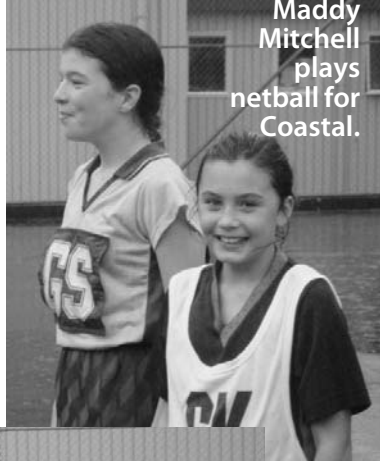
Okato Community Trust was set up in about 1990 to provide reasonably priced rental or self-owned accommodation for elderly or disabled residents, and to provide "in any manner whatsoever" for their social welfare, care and comfort. The original trustees, who were drawn from each of the local churches, the Lions Club and Warea and Tumahu Women's Divisions, purchased suitable properties and the venture grew from there. When Okato Masonic Lodge joined forces with that of Opunake, they gifted their hall and land to the Trust, and a substantial interest-free loan from the TSB enabled the Trust to purchase more property for accommodation. Today, the Trust's assets are worth about \$500,000 and since the debt was cleared in 2009, they have been returning \$20,000 annually. Incumbent Chairperson, Jim Lawn, envisages that this money could be used for subsidised housing as well as other stated purposes of the Trust.

The original and subsequent committees have done a sterling job but current members are themselves getting older and are looking for younger people to take over the commitment of administering the properties (including the hall, which is partly leased by Okato and Districts Historical Society), applying for an annual TSB grant of \$500, and determining the appropriate use of available funds. Currently, meetings are held quarterly. If the Trust is not administered in the future, the assets will be sold and the proceeds may well be lost to our community.

The Okato Community Trust AGM will be held at the Okato Community Trust Hall, Cumming Street, Okato on Tuesday, 1 September. If you are unable to attend but think you may be able to help, please phone Yvonne Marsh (Secretary) on 06-752 4099 or Jim Lawn (Chairperson) on 06-752 138.

by Kerry Lilley

Coastal and Vogeltown Sports Exchange



Maddy Mitchell plays netball for Coastal.



Rugby action.



Jordan Grylls, right, on the netball court.



Okato Veterinary Clinic 752 4335

Arthritis in Cats and Dogs

It is time to start thinking about the impact the colder weather may be having on the joints of your elderly cats and dogs. Arthritis or degenerative joint disease is common in both species and is often aggravated by cold weather, just as it is in people. It is caused by loss and decreased production of joint cartilage, resulting in irreversible changes and pain.

Signs of arthritis vary amongst animals. The most common are:

- thickening and swelling of joints
- abnormal joint movement
- stiffness and slowness to get up after resting
- lameness, often with loss of muscle mass
- lethargy and unwillingness to participate in normal activity
- reluctance to go up or down stairs
- reluctance to jump into or out of cars.

The diagnosis may need to be confirmed by x-ray.

Fortunately, there are a number of products available to help alleviate the discomfort of arthritic joints, including anti-inflammatory painkillers and medications that promote production of joint fluid and regeneration of cartilage. If you think your pet may have arthritis, contact Okato Veterinary Clinic for further advice.



Rugby sports exchange (left to right): Jacob Whittle, Liam Gibson, Aidyn Davis, Cam Lacey, Uriah Terry, Mason Jones, Lenny Binsbergen.



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Winter Health

With the increase of colds, coughs and flu at this time of the year it's a good idea to boost our immune systems with some good, old-fashioned natural herbal remedies.

In-store at Seed we have the Kiwiherb range of high potency herbal products. The range is made up of totally unique and innovative formulations, including products suitable for winter ailments and a number of formulae based on New Zealand native plants.

Products include Echinacea, which is made up of the classic immune herb echinacea and active manuka honey, excellent for immune support. Kiwiherb Herbal Chest Syrup is soothing to the respiratory tract, is sweetened with manuka honey and is suitable for all ages. Herbal Throat Formula and Herbal Throat Spray are extremely soothing for sore throats and De-Stuff Formula promotes clear airways and healthy mucous membranes of the nasal passages and sinus. We also have Kiwiherb Children's Echinacea. All Kiwiherb products are formulated by experienced medical herbalists and pharmacists drawing on extensive clinical experience. Keep snug everyone,

Jacqui



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TOM Baby of the Month

We welcomed Eloise Grace Moorby into the world on 14 October 2010 weighing 8lb 7oz. We named her Eloise after a friend of mine, a beautiful woman with a beautiful soul. Our second child, Eloise is a little sister for Lucinda who is now 28 months. Lucinda and Eloise absolutely adore each other, although there are a few tears from Eloise as her big sister tries to drag her up the hall to play in the bedroom!

Both Eloise and Lucinda enjoy going to Playcentre on a Tuesday and Thursday. Eloise loves the interaction with the other children and parents while Lucinda creates many wonderful pieces of art. Eloise is crawling around the floor and making mischief everywhere she goes, keeping us on our toes at all times! Now we know why parents say, "Oh no, you want them to sit still for as long as possible." Except she was on the move before she could sit!!

Matt is a Year 2 teacher at St Josephs in Opunake. The girls love going to visit Dad at work and seeing all the kids. And pulling all the classroom resources out and making



a giant-sized mess! I (Jemma) was a teacher at Coastal Taranaki School but am now enjoying being a stay-at-home mum, watching my children grow into beautiful little beings. Having two little ones is certainly keeping us busy but thankfully we have the girls' grandparents, Elizebeth and Allan Moorby, up the road to give us some downtime.

Jemma and Matt Moorby

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Playcentre: Can We Keep It Local?

At Playcentre we are about to start a major renovation project, revamping our bathroom, kitchen, office and entranceway. To get the job completed, we are going to need to ask for support in the coming months from our community — it will be funded partly by money we have saved, partly by grant applications, and partly by fundraising we will need to do.

We will keep our community updated as to where things are at to make sure everyone who wants to can make a difference to our fabulous community asset. We are at the design stage at the moment. We have 'back of the envelope' plans that have been discussed as a centre, and now we are looking to engage a designer to help turn our dreams into workable plans.

It's going to take a number of trades to get this job completed, and we'd like to set a challenge to keep it local — let's try to make sure the work goes back to the community we live in, and who support us. Forming partnerships with preferred suppliers will help us streamline the processes involved, including applying for grants. We know that there are plenty of tradespeople locally who could help us, so please make contact if you have skills that could help us, and you'd like to be involved.

Winter has truly set in now. If your littlies are sick of being stuck indoors, bring them along to Playcentre for some action! No appointment is necessary; visitors are always welcome to come along to Playcentre sessions. The first three sessions are free which gives you a chance to see what it is all about. Playcentre offers quality early childhood education, with an emphasis on learning through play. Sessions are for 0 - 6 year olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, just over the Stony River bridge.

Rachel Douglas



Total concentration from Ben Moffitt as he saws.



Hey, that's not right!



Toby Hooker grins as he spins his clay.

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Care and Craft

Get together Thursday fortnight at St Luke's lounge. 10.30am - 2.30pm. Contact Thea Fisher 752 4290.

Coastal Garden Circle

Meet every third Monday of the month. Contact Rae Hooker 752 4086.

Highway 45 Craft

Meet weekly on Monday mornings 10am - 12noon at members' houses. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

Historical Society

Meets quarterly in the Community Trust Hall. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

JKA Karate, Okato

Monday and Wednesday 6pm - 7.30pm in Coastal Taranaki School Gymnasium. Contact Nicci 752 4529 or 027 259 6223.

Kaitake Community Board

Teresa Goodin, ph 7528186 or teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

New Plymouth Toastmasters Club

Speechcraft Course. Commencing Thursday 15 September, 5.30pm at the Cricket Pallion, 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.

New Zeal Church

Service 10.30am, Sundays at St Luke's Hall. Contact Angela and Kevin McFetridge 752 4993.

Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards. President Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509, Contact women's section Lauren Bright ph 752 4874.

Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

Meet bi-monthly, first Wednesday of the month in St Luke's lounge, 1pm. Lorraine Whittle 752 4359. Harvey 752 4568.

Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm. Contact Barry.

Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

Playcentre

Main Road, Okato (over the Stony Bridge). Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30 - 12.30pm. Contact Rachel 752 4463.

Playgroup

St Lukes Hall, Main Road, Okato. Wednesday morning 10am-12 noon. Contact Danelle 752 4916 or Angie 752 4445.

Plunket

Meetings held every second Thursday of the month. Jaclyn 752 4872.

Pony Club

Contact Carey Brophy, 752 4458.

Probus

Meet every third Friday at the Oakura Golf Club. Contact Margaret Hodges 752 1371.

Squash Club

Ladder league Monday nights 7am start. Ph Chez 752 4097 for more details.

St Patrick's Church, Okato

Daily mass 8.30am. Saturday evening mass 7pm.

Inquiries to Steak Goodin 752 8160 or Nora Fox 752 4062.

St Paul's Church

10am services. Congregate first and third Sunday of the month. Contact Jan Putt 752 4188.

St Peter's Guild

Meet 4th Friday of each month. Angela Montgomery 752 7738.

Tennis Club

Contact Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466.

Tumahu Golf Club

Roly Harvey 752 4314. Sunday: Mens golf day, Tuesday: womens golf day. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month: mixed golf.

Tumahu Rural Women

Meet every second Wednesday of the month, 1pm at alternate members' houses. Contact Joyce Downes 753 4122.

Warea Tennis Club

Contact Jan Brophy 06 763 8666.

Please contact Milly 752 4425 for any additional listings or amendments.

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