

Hogmanay with the Lilleys

David Lilley's grandmother, Frances Agnes (Lily) Lilley came from Glasgow. It was while she was sailing out to New Zealand that she met Bert Lilley, who was heading for Warea, where he would farm on Ruakere Road, Warea, for many years. For as long as Dave's mum, Kit, can remember, Lily — a colourful character with a strong Scottish accent — would celebrate New Year in the traditional Scottish manner.

I first encountered the celebration at Lily and Bert's flat in New Plymouth, where Dave and I and a few friends would gather after the pub had closed at 10pm, to see the New Year in with 'the oldies'. Lily would have made a haggis in a steamed pudding bowl and, when midnight arrived, she would pipe it in with a tin whistle. After midnight, her 'first foot' — a man with dark hair, if it could be arranged — arrived at the back door. A blond or red-headed man would have been considered bad luck, while a blonde or red-headed woman would have brought disaster. The 'first foot' would bring a box of chocolates in place of the traditional gifts of coal, salt, shortbread, black bun, other sweet treats and, perhaps, whisky, to ensure that the household would be safe and warm and well fed for the year. After his visit, the first foot would be ushered out through the front door, because leaving by the back door would have brought the household bad luck.

It was when Lily went into a retirement home that I suggested making her a haggis, and so the tradition carried over into our generation. I procured that first recipe from an elderly nursing colleague of Scottish descent, Jessie Somerton. On later occasions,

(Continued on page 2)

Raewynne Lawn pipes in the haggis, held by Dave Lilley.

editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

The TOM team wishes everyone in the community a wonderful holiday season and relaxing Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write articles and send in contributions for the TOM. Special thanks to Kerry and Milly who have written the most memorable stories about interesting people and places in the community.

While living in the moment and enjoying what today offers, it is exciting to imagine what fabulous untold stories await us in 2010.

Kim



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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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cover story

Dave combined it with a recipe from Mrs Beeton's Cook Book, experimenting until he got the perfect brew. We farmed goats in those days and Dave used their offal at first, and a goat's abomasum (a ruminant's fourth and final stomach) to stuff it in. In later years, Allan Moorby killed a sheep on request and supplied us with the 'pluck' — the paunch (first and second stomachs), lights (lungs), liver and heart.



Dave helps Anne Kitchin deal to the haggis at feeding time.

Pretty much every year now, Dave gathers the ingredients together, hauls out our biggest pot, fills it with water and ceremoniously lowers the lights into it, draping the windpipe carefully over the edge. He then brings it to a simmer, and volumes of pink bubble and froth spew from the windpipe, along with all the 'toxins'. After a time, the liver and heart are added and, when they are all cooked, the offal is chopped finely and mixed with toasted oatmeal, chopped onion, shredded suet, allspice, nutmeg, salt, cayenne pepper and lots of black pepper.

Meanwhile, the paunch has been washed, shrunk by heating almost to boiling point and soaked in brine until it is needed. Then, the prepared offal is stuffed into the stomach cavity and the whole is boiled for three hours, being pricked regularly during the first hour to let out the gas. "You don't want it to stick to the bottom of the pan," cautions Dave, "as a rupture in the stomach results in offal porridge." And that's it, 'til late in the evening of 31 January, when the haggis is heated in the oven, ready for serving.

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'Many thanks'

Suzanne

By that time, friends and family have gathered at the Lilleys' Okato residence to usher in the New Year. At half past eleven or so, a Scottish-themed supper is served and soon afterwards, the skirling of bagpipes somewhere in the distance announces that the haggis is about to be served. Ross Duncan used to play the pipes for us in the early days, before Hamish Hislop took over. These days, Ross's daughter, Raewynne Lawn, usually does the honours. One year, we had all three pipers, as well as two drummers – Hamish's Mum, Marion, and Treishka Morgan, the wife of Pete, the vet. As the pipes draw closer, Dave takes the warmed and plated haggis, hoists it high and marches behind the piper on a circuit of our guests, wafting the odorous delicacy below willing and unwilling noses. The guests then follow him, or clap his progress and assemble around the supper table, where those who have been selected to recite Robbie (Robert) Burns' famous poem, 'Ode to a Haggis', have gathered. The honour used to fall to Dave's Scottish vet partner, Derek, who would arrive complete with fearsome, antique dagger. As he recited,

*His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight
Trenching your gushing entrails bright
Like onie ditch;*

*he would plunge the blade into the paunch with gusto,
and with the words,*

*And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reeking, rich!*

he would twist the dagger about, encouraging the haggis to come spilling out. These days, Derek can't always be with us, so five guests are chosen and each of them theatrically recites a verse, apparently trying to outdo the previous orator. And when they are done, the haggis is cut up and distributed to the guests for tasting. Once upon a time, there were few takers; nowadays, most people give it a try and a few even come back for seconds.

Supper is usually interrupted by the arrival of midnight, when everyone joins hands and sings Auld Lang Syne, which is followed by a flurry of kisses and hugs. Raewynne plays a few more old Scottish favourites and perhaps accompanies a round of Highland dancing by nieces, Sharon and Katrina, and great-nieces, Georgia, Tessa and Sophie, before the general revelry resumes. When our guests finally wend their way home and we crawl into bed, we know that we have successfully drawn a line under the old year and that the new one has been welcomed in a suitably joyous manner. We hope that Lily looks down on us and smiles.

P.S. If you would like a recipe for haggis, contact Dave and Kerry at (06) 752 4350 or e-mail them at lilleyad@actrix.co.nz.

Story and picture by Kerry Lilley



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New rescue boat in the pipeline for Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust

Many 'Coasters' are fond of sea-based pursuits and some go out to work every day off our shores. However, as most of us know, our local sea conditions can be some of the roughest and most unpredictable in New Zealand. The Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust has in the past operated an 8.5m Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB), which was on loan from Coastguard New Zealand, but even negotiating the surf on the way out to sea could sometimes be problematic. Therefore, the Trust deemed the vessel unsuitable for purpose. It is alarming then, to realise that currently there is no proper, locally available sea rescue service.

For 15 months, the Trust had been searching throughout New Zealand for a replacement, fit-for-purpose vessel. Finally, they test drove one off the coast near New Plymouth that had already been tested and proven suitable in west coast conditions. The Lavranos design vessel had superior offshore capabilities; the twin stern drives allowed good boat handling in shallow waters as well as in heavy seas and the diesel stern drives were economical to run. Added to that, it had a higher freeboard and more deck area, which could accommodate more passengers than an RHIB.



Frog Goodin (centre left) accepts the cheque from Andrew Jefferies of OMV NZ Ltd (centre right). Surrounding them are (left to right) Ken Donald, Kathleen Goodin, Jim Van der Poel, Ted Barrett, Phillip Barrett, John Doyle, Ron Thompson, Tom Goodin, John Van der Poel, Danny Lawn, Murray Winks, Chris Mullin, Norm Holland, Brian Gilbert, Kevin Billing and Harry Duynhoven)

As a result, a sister ship is being built in Kumeu at a cost of \$540,000, and it is expected to be delivered late January or early February 2010. When it is launched, it will be the fastest and most powerful Coastguard vessel along the west coast of the North Island. It will be capable of 40 knots (75km/hr) and have a cruising speed of 26 knots (50km/hr), a range of 500 nautical miles at its cruising speed of 26 knots (50km/hr), and it will be able to cruise at sea for up to 20 hours. At 10.5m and with a 3.4m beam, it will be able to carry 20 people and more at a stretch. Not only will this rescue vessel be capable of servicing the west coast all the way from Raglan to Nelson, these features will make it an attractive option should the interisland ferries ever need a hand.

The Trust has already secured over half of the final cost of the

vessel. It has received a donation from AWE NZ Pty Ltd, operator of the offshore Tui oilfield and, on Friday, 20 November, a cheque for \$80,000 + GST was handed over to Trust Chairman, Frog (Frank) Goodin, by Operations and Engineering Manager of OMV New Zealand Limited, Andrew Jefferies, on behalf of the joint venture owners of the Maari offshore oilfield. The partners include the field operator OMV New Zealand, Todd Energy, Horizon Oil International and Cue Taranaki Pty. At the presentation ceremony held at Cape Egmont Boat Club, Mr Jefferies said he was impressed with the work that had been achieved by a volunteer workforce, and he pledged, on behalf of his company, to supply ongoing support for operating and maintenance costs by way of annual donations. The balance of over \$70,000 has been raised in debentures from the local community. "We'd like to thank the debenture holders for digging deep in tough times to keep us afloat," said Frog. "We've also had 22 letters of support from community support groups throughout the region," he added, "and we'd like to thank them for their time and support too."

We wish Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust every success in their venture to provide a local, efficient, effective sea rescue service and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the users of the seas off our coast.

Story by Kerry Lilley

Picture by Shirley Goodin

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Okato Lions Club

Christmas greetings to you all.

The weather has been colder over the last few weeks, which has affected our grass growth, but with warm rain of late the green feed seems to be keeping ahead of the girls.

Recently we have held two ladies' nights — one on 28 October at the New Plymouth Club with Neil Barnes as our guest speaker. He spoke on his work in Africa helping those in need, visiting prisons and schools. He takes his own money over directly so that he is sure the funds are going where they are most needed. Then on 3 November we went to the RSA for a meal and enjoyed a fun night with other Lions and Lionesses.

Ten or so of us acted as marshals in this area for the Round The Mountain Relay, which was held on 13 and 14 November. Lions will also take part as marshals for the Round The Mountain Cycle Race, which will be held in January.

Our New Year's barbeque will be held at our place on Leith Road on 27 January. The Okato Lions' community dinner is also well underway for the New Year.


On 13 and 14 February our Vintage Machinery Day will be held at Clyde Bishop's property on Upper Pitone Road. This is going to be a great day out for young and old, with a steamroller, thresher harvester (operating), Ferris wheel, bouncy castle and food stalls (including hot scones cooked in an old coal-range). Our convenor, Clyde Bishop, is looking for machinery and items from the old farming era. We are bringing in a team of Clydesdale horses from east of Stratford. If you can assist in any way towards this great event, Clyde's telephone number is 752 4187.

On anniversary weekend, our annual bike ride will take place — more information to follow later and, of course, not forgetting our 40th anniversary on 8 May next year.

On behalf of the Okato Lions, I would like to wish readers a very happy Christmas and a joyful 2010.

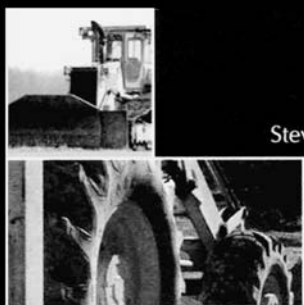
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Go the Girls!!!!

Our local girl, Kendra Cocksedge has just returned from a trip to England with the New Zealand Black Ferns. England invited them over as this would be an opportunity to prepare for the World Cup next year in August.

The team has spent the past three weeks in Twickenham, England. They did extremely well to win their first test and again won against the England A's, considering the cold and wet weather conditions they were up against.

Kendra loved the experience, especially singing the National Anthem. This was very moving, says Kendra's mother as this has been a dream for many years. Another highlight was mixing with the All Blacks. They were there to watch the Ferns play and they were very supportive, says Kendra's mum.

Our talented rugby player, showed her true Kiwi style by scoring a try but also unfortunately for her she was yellow carded in the same game for supposedly "stomping". Her mum relays that she was pretty gutted as she was trying to release from a foot hold.

The team are now back in New Zealand and are pleased to return to some warmer weather. Kendra is back in Christchurch but will return to Okato in a few weeks for her holidays from University.

Well done Kendra and the rest of the team. To see the women's team finally gaining recognition is indeed gratifying.

By Milly Carr




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While, as a Club, we are very happy for the Okato community to use our courts, it is with disappointment that we find ourselves being rubbish collectors and hearing reports of youths mistreating our facilities.

The land that the courts are on is owned by the Okato Tennis Club, not the Council, and therefore it's the responsibility of the Okato community to look after the facilities to ensure that they are there for future generations.

Over the last couple of years a lot of work has gone into upgrading the courts and we would like to continue to improve them, but we need them to be looked after by everyone in the community. It would be a real shame if a few irresponsible people were the reason we lost this facility for good.

On a brighter note, our mid-week ladies' teams continue to enjoy more successes. Our Coastal 45 team is also having good results. On Wednesday nights Twilight Tennis has started and the reports are of very competitive tennis being played. Casual Wednesday morning tennis is well underway with all abilities catered for. If you are interested in joining please feel free to come along and join in. Contact either Raewynne Lawn on 752 4466 or Maree Moffitt on 752 8107. Social Membership subs are \$40 for adults and \$20 for juniors.

By the time you read this we will have had our Quiz night and Open Day. Thank you to all who came along, we trust you all enjoyed yourselves.

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Artistic Flair At Coastal Taranaki School

Any of you who have driven past or head to the junior side of the school will have seen the fantastic wall of art outside the Oxford Road entrance.

This amazing piece of art has been initiated by local artist and Arts Co-ordinator at school, Karla Jorgensen.

Whilst looking on the website for funding opportunities, Karla came across the Artists in Schools Programme, funded by the Ministry of Education. "This was the perfect opportunity to see art displayed around the school and brighten up the area," says Karla.

Karla, along with another local artist, Ché Rogers, and art teacher, Sandi Hickey, all had to apply in writing for the application to be valid. "I was over the moon when we were notified that the full \$10,500 had been granted. Ché and I were very excited to work with the students on such an amazing project," says Karla.

The Ministry of Education advisor, Jan Bolwell from Massey, was assigned to the project and was there throughout the process to explain or answer any queries that Karla or Ché had. "Jan was very supportive," says Karla.

Karla and Ché discussed their ideas for the mural with the art teachers and classroom teachers. Teachers then chose two students from each class in Years 4–9 to be involved in this exciting project. The fortunate participants were predominantly chosen for their creative flair, ability to work well, and responsibility within a group.

One of our local Okato home school students was also asked to participate.

"The aim of this project, besides adding colour to the school, was to teach the students the processes involved in creating a mural and how to apply art on such a large scale. The kids really enjoyed the experience and were very committed," says Karla.

"I thought it was really cool to be able to paint something on the wall, and in the future, if I have children they will be able to see what we painted," says Brittaney Carr, one of the students involved in the project.

Term Two involved Karla and Ché working with students to understand the processes. Students then designed their own patterns for the mural. Patterns were to complement an overall composition based on our environment, culture, the lines and angles within the school, and colour scheme. Ché used ideas from the group, based on these themes, to create the overall layout of the design and rainbow colour sequence.


Term Three was the fun part where the students put their designs and patterns on the wall. Karla relates that the weather was not always on their side, resulting in a delay in the timeframe, and they were granted an extension. Karla also explains that many students worked on the mural outside of school hours and this showed their passion and dedication towards the project. You guys were fantastic.

There are many images relating to Taranaki portrayed in the mural: the lahars, Taranaki surf, black sand and stones, the windwand, an aerial view of the mountain, our coastal

students, and more. The patterns designed by the students enhance these overall images representing their own personal views. Students covered such issues as: our responsibility to the environment and the human effect on it, represented by fish and trees and plants; jandals and the star people relate to the human aspects within our community; the gumboots represent the farming aspect; art within our community and the surf were also portrayed as well as other aspects of our scenery. You must take a look to see the true scale of involvement and thought that went into the mural.




The artists and their work - from left to right: Karla Jorgensen, Ariarna Hickey, Elyza Burwell-Hikaka, Ruby Luke-Hurley, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Kelly-Anne Doyle, Brittaney Carr, Phillippa Grayling, Clare Henderson, Thomas Morgan, Tiana Jorgensen, Lily-May Baker, Xoki Perkins, Ché Rogers.



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View of the new mural from the road.

The two faces you can see on the mural are Thomas Morgan and Ruby Luke-Hurley, representing the students within the school.

Within the mural area, Friends of Coastal Taranaki School (FOCTS) have also funded a new bench that was designed and built by local builder, Paddy Hickey. Along with aesthetically enhancing this area of the school, it has created a nicer area for the students, one that is more user friendly.

A plaque will be placed beside the mural stating that it was unveiled by Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand on 29 November 2009, along with the artists' and students' names.

Karla and Ché would like to thank and congratulate all of the following students for their wonderful work towards this project: Lily-May Baker, Xoki Perkins, Tiana Jorgensen, Thomas Morgan, Brittaney Carr, Ruby Luke-Hurley, Kelly-Anne Doyle, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Phillippa Grayling, Clare Henderson, Ariarna Hickey, Jasmin Warren, Elyza Burwell-Hikaka.

A big thanks to Resene for their very generous discount of 50% off all paint. Karla and Ché are very grateful to the company for their support.

Karla and Ché would also like to thank Allan Miles, the Principal, for allowing this project to take place at Coastal Taranaki School, and for his support. They would also like to thank all the staff for their co-operation and support.

By Milly Carr

Speech Competition

It was week six of Term Three and the intermediate speech finalists were biting their nails. The speech competition was about to begin. Before this date Mr Hislop's and Miss Burrows' classes had been hard at work putting their finishing touches on their speeches. One week into Term Three and the students were planning, writing and some were even publishing onto cards.

Both classes had a competition to decide who would go through to the finals, win the intermediate speech cup and have the rare opportunity to go to Toastmasters, and this lucky person was Clare Henderson. She braved the panel of scary judges that included Mr Hislop, Mr Naughton and Miss Burrows, fought the other contestants and came out as the intermediate speech winner!

At the start of Term Four Clare was off to Toastmasters. She was a nervous wreck. Just recently I interviewed Clare asking all about the once-in-a-lifetime experience. I questioned . . .

What was the whole experience at Toastmasters like for you?

Really nerve-racking and different, but everyone there made me feel at home.

Your first impressions of winning the speech competition, what were they?

Wow!!!!!!

Did you think that you had a chance of winning the school speech contest?

No, not a hope.

Where did you come at Toastmasters?

I don't know, but I do know that I was up against some very high competition!

Ella Beaumont, Year 8 reporter

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Okato Playcentre

Question: How do you get kids to eat vegetables?

Answer: Help them grow their own!

Playcentre children are getting right into gardening at the moment. With a little help from the mums and dads, the kids have got a lot going on:

Vege Garden: After great success last summer with corn, we decided to expand the vege garden planting to include peas, lettuces, carrots, cherry tomatoes and radishes so that we can have some nice home-grown produce for morning teas at Playcentre. We are growing the corn & peas from seed to transplant into our vege garden at Playcentre. These are growing really well out on our deck, which is just like a glasshouse. The cherry tomatoes have taken off too, and we hope to have some ready before end of term. We have also planted giant pumpkins and berries, but they won't take off till next year. Composted lawn clippings were used which were full of worms — some kids loved hunting for them!



Mathias Ntuli planting seeds.

Mini Garden Bucket: The kids have painted and decorated some buckets ready to turn into mini vege gardens. Lettuces and herbs are being grown from seeds (these are slowly sprouting and beginning to grow) to plant into the buckets, which the kids can take home at the end of term as a Christmas gift.

Sunflowers: After last year's success with sunflowers being as tall as the building, we are giving these another go, even using seeds that we saved from last year's flowers.

The children really love getting involved with the planting and watering, and get quite excited about seeing the growth. The whole process leads into lots of interesting discussion on size, colour, smell, texture and opportunities to count, measure and, of course, taste!

All welcome, for 0–6 years. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am–12.30pm.

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James Lawn Named Massey University's Agriculture Student of the Year

James is congratulated by Massey University's College of Sciences Pro-Vice Chancellor, Robert Anderson.



James Lawn was named Massey University's 2009 Agriculture Student of the Year at an annual, end-of-year dinner in Palmerston North, which celebrates student achievement and recognises potential leaders in the agricultural arena. What is more remarkable is that the celebration is a tradition for final (third) year students and that James has only just completed his second year of study. He has headed off to Gore at the time of writing, to spend the summer gaining practical experience on a sheep and cropping farm as part of his course requirements, so I talked to his parents, Raewynne and Bernie, instead.

Farming is in James's blood. His grandparents on both sides of the family were farmers, and he grew up on Raewynne and Bernie's farm on Mangatete Road. Like it or not, when staff were having time off, James and his siblings were expected to lend a hand with both morning and night milkings. Actually, James relished his involvement in this and other farming activities, and so it was no surprise to Raewynne and Bernie when James decided to enter the agriculture arena. He is completing an applied science degree, doing a double major in agriculture, and rural valuation and management.

In their written nomination statement, his fellow students cited him as being passionate about the agriculture industry, and someone who has made opportunities to learn as much as he can. James believes farmers need to be skilled in many areas and need a good understanding of money markets, overseas meat and dairy sales, and stock health, as well as all the practical skills required for everyday farming. "He is certain to be one of the big names in agriculture in the future and Massey will be proud to claim him as one of its students," his colleagues added.

"Perhaps he has achieved so well because he's doing something he enjoys," Bernie commented.

James enjoys university life outside the academic arena too. He has played an active part in campus life and has earned a reputation as a kind, thoughtful student, along with his friends' respect. He has been a key player in getting the ailing Young Farmers' Club up and running, has helped fellow students with assignments and first year students to adjust to life in the halls of residence and, on top of all that, has found time to play and support social rugby.

All going well, James will finish his degree next year. After that, he will do some post-graduate study or get a job in the dairy industry. He would like to start out sharemilking, but one day, he hopes to own his own farm.

James sees a bright future for the agricultural industry. We see a bright future for him too.

Story by Kerry Lilley

Picture supplied by Raewynne and Bernie Lawn

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OKATO CLUBS & GROUPS

Playcentre

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

Playgroup

St Luke's Hall, Main Road Okato. Wednesday morning, 10am - 12 noon. Contact Vanessa 752 4431 or Danelle 752 4916.

Plunket

Meet bi-monthly at Jaclyn Fisher's home. Contact Jaclyn 752 4872.

Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm. Contact Barry Harvey 752 4568.

Historical Society

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

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.

New Zeal Church

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

Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

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

Care and Craft

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

Highway 45 Craft

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

Tumahu Rural Women

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

JKA Karate, Okato

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

Squash Club

Monday evening club night. Contact Steve Kelly 027 2333 229

Tennis Club

Contact Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466

Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards
President Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509, Convenor Cheryl Neilson 752 4218

Okato Pool

Learn to Swim - Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5.15 - 6pm.

Swim Club: Swimming Training - 6 till 7 - 7.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more inquiries contact Fiona Lacey 752 4535.

St Peter's Guild

Meet fourth Friday of each month. Contact Angela Montgomery 752 7738.

Probus

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

Coastal Garden Circle

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

Pony Club

Contact Carey Brophy, 752 4458.

Apologies for any clubs or groups that have been missed out. Please contact Milly 752 4425 for any additional listings or amendments.