

Okato Playcentre



December was an exciting month for us with a Christmas Party and an excursion to Waitara.

We had Cracker Jack the Clown for our Christmas party — his bouncy castle was a big hit. Dads and grandparents were invited for a festive morning tea. Father Christmas also paid a visit with a sack full of goodies for the kids.

Our excursion to Waitara was for a train ride with the Waitara Railway Preservation Society. This was a return trip from Waitara to Lepperton with a picnic lunch at Brixton Station. There are some great train enthusiasts amongst the children and it was the first time on a train for most. The train crew made the trip very authentic with uniforms, ticket collections and loudspeaker announcements. The train had a beautifully restored carriage to sit in, as well as an outdoor wagon from which the kids could look over the edge. Some lucky lads and dads got to sit in the engine room for the return trip.

First day back for Playcentre will be Tuesday, 2 February. We are focusing on Healthy Lifestyles with the kids this term, which will include eating lots of goodies from our vege garden and some fun physical activities at centre.

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

Phone Kerry on 06-752 8095 for more information.

Above, from left: Douglas Jones, Austin Pollard and Thomas Fisher enjoy the train ride.

Above left: from left: Mac Moffitt and Aidan Appert with Crackerjack The Clown at Okato Playcentre Christmas party.

Below: Waitara Railway Preservation Society train at Brixton Station.



editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

Doesn't global warming seem a misnomer? Global warming more like it! In the northern hemisphere they've had the coldest winter in decades, there have been devastating earthquakes in Haiti, the hydro lakes are full to overflowing in the South Island, and in Okato, Oakura and New Plymouth one of the most miserable windy summers in recent history. The togs haven't made it out of the bottom drawer yet and maybe they'll stay there!



Perhaps though, it is good to be playing second fiddle to Mother Nature — unsure of her next move or mood and taking warning about the issues we really can control — preserving our planet and spending the global warming dollars on more worthy causes like poverty, eco-projects and other positive endeavours.

Anyway, I look forward to another TOM year in Okato and hope you all continue the TOM with your wonderful stories and support. I have had some great feedback over the holidays about TOM-Okato and it certainly makes what is effectively a hobby for all of us, so worthwhile. Our stories are reaching into the wider world via the Web with people reaching people and reconnecting — marvellous.

Kim



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THE LOCAL CONNECTION

Pet Essentials — The One-Stop Pet Shop

Going in the door at Pet Essentials gives you the warm fuzzies. People go quite potty in the shop — you know, like when a woman sees a new baby and a shift in personality happens — she coos and talks funny. Well, I see people doing that in Pet Essentials and who can blame them; it's cooeey heaven with cute little puppies, guinea pigs, rabbits and birds, not to mention the fish (bit harder to coo over them, I say) and, of course, the dragon babies.

Is this for real? Dragons? In Pet Essentials? Surely are, there are handfuls of them and they are fascinating. Mum and dad bearded dragons, Bruno and Fidget, look indulgently on as their babies are admired and they look pretty dapper themselves. Dragons are specialised pets that require specialised equipment but really they are easy care and absolutely mesmerising to watch. Old Bruno was grumpy when I took his photo and told me so by changing his tummy colour black like thunder. Fidget is a real supermodel and a Nikon thrust in her face is par for the course! Alison Olsen, owner of Pet Essentials, will happily tell you all the ins and outs of dragon-keeping and the first batch of babies are now for sale, including all the necessary equipment.

Alison and David Olsen have owned Pet Essentials since 1997 when the business began across the car park in the Richmond Centre, where they specialised in meat products and pet accessories. This meat range includes venison, chicken, offal, beef, fish, mutton, bones, brisket, dog rolls (mainly meat, less fillers), diced, minced and performance mixes. In 2007 the business expanded to their present premises and now the shop has a huge range of pets and everything necessary to go with each type of pet, as well as their meat products.

Alison and David have seven staff who work for them, some of whom are students who work in the holidays, and at any one time there are five staff working in the shop.

Pet Essentials is the cleanest, freshest and best-stocked pet shop I have visited recently, possibly ever. The glass-fronted puppy, guinea pig and bird cages ensure all odours and mess (I didn't see any messes) is kept away from customers. The animals are cared for diligently with regular pen cleaning and they are all well fed and watered. Once the shop shuts the puppies get to have a run around in the shop and burn off some energy.

The latest addition to the Pet Essentials team is Bella, the Indian Ring-Necked Lorikeet. Bella has a beautiful personality and likes nothing better than sitting on the counter or on a shoulder eyeballing the customers — you just want to hug her but that wouldn't be right!

Pet Essentials offers puppy classes with Kate Hocking over a four-week period for puppies up to 12 weeks old. They happen on a Tuesday evening and cover many aspects of a puppy's life.

Contact Pet Essentials for all, and I mean ALL, your pets' needs and for a fun outing take the kids to see the pets instore — especially the baby dragons!

By Kim Ferens



Above: Bruno and Fidget, and below: the cheeky birds.



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New organic cheese-making plant opens in Okato

The NZ Organic Dairy Farmers Co-operative (Co-op), Organic Dairy, recently completed the commissioning of a fully-automated organic cheese-making plant at Okato in Taranaki. Initially, the plant will be producing large volumes of premium quality organic Cheddar, Gouda, Edam, Colby, Egmont and Havarti cheeses.

With a staff of 30 and an initial capacity of 23 million litres of milk in a season, the plant will produce some 2000 tonnes of cheese. Future projections include the cost of upgrading the factory to 70 million litres.

The Co-op represents one of the largest groups of organic dairy farmers in New Zealand and the Okato cheese plant is an important milestone as it moves to take advantage of the growing worldwide demand for organic food products.

Despite the current global downturn, the demand for organic food and beverages, of which dairy products comprise the second largest category, is continuing to grow at around 15% per annum. In the USA alone, sales of dairy products are rising steadily at over 20% per year, with demand in Europe and Asia also continuing to show significant growth.

Since its formation in 2004 the Co-op's shareholder numbers have grown to over 50, and the milk supplier base has grown to 27 farms supplying 11 million litres of milk, representing almost a third of New Zealand's top quality USDA standard organic milk supply.

In line with its strategic objective to create a new dairy business focused on sustainable organic farming, producing premium organic products from high quality milk for export to growing overseas markets, the Co-op's supplier base is expected to grow substantially over the next five years. This will be from both its own shareholder base and new organic suppliers.

Organic Dairy Limited (Organic Dairy) is the operating company of the NZ Organic Dairy Farmers Co-operative. Its purpose is to create premium quality organic products from the high quality milk produced by the Co-op's farmer shareholders and to market these products within the growing organic food markets around the world.

South Korea, Europe and USA are the key target markets, having been prioritised by ease of access and growth potential. To date the Co-op has developed relationships with a number of agencies to gain access to Asia, USA, Europe and Australia. Using its own suppliers and contract dairy processors, the Co-op has already successfully fulfilled export orders to Australia, Hong Kong and South Korea.

The Boards of the Co-op and Organic Dairy comprise leaders in dairy farming and the banking and legal professions:

Co-op Chairman, Tom Richardson (Whakatane), Malcolm

Campbell (Whakatane), Kevin Barrett (Taranaki), Brian Sloane (Northland), Matt Hanna (Indep – Cambridge) and Geoff Andrews (Indep – Tauranga).

Organic Dairy Chairman is Matt Hanna, with three of the former directors above, and David Wolfenden (Indep – Auckland).

Chief Executive is Patrick Geals who is a former head of Fonterra's Health and Nutrition Division and former Chairman of LactoPharma, a dairy consortium investigating the commercialisation of the bioactive properties in milk. He left Fonterra in 2005 to join the Co-op.

From NZ Organic Dairy Farmers Co-operative



Operations Manager, Jason Tarrant, oversees every aspect of cheese-making from the time the milk arrives to the time cheese is trucked out in 20kg blocks.

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Get on your bike for the community

Pukeiti Gardens are on board the current cycling craze and have opened the property to mountain bikes. This year the garden is part of the New Plymouth District Council's Wild West Bike Fest with their own Community Mountain Bike Challenge on 21 February. Josh Cleaver tells me this is a fun event for bike nutters with the added feelgood factor of raising money for a local charity or community group.

It is all pretty easy — organise a team of four people with a reasonable level of fitness with mountain bikes; nominate a charity or community group (say a kindergarten, school, sports group, club); get the nominated group's agreement; fill out the application form; submit and have the entry form approved by Pukeiti; decide on how to raise the money i.e. sponsorship per lap or as a team entry; get a donation; turn up at Pukeiti on the day. There is a maximum of 50 teams in the event.

The course is a relay course with a 10km circuit — 6.5km off road and 3.5km sealed. Up to two riders compete at a time and the point is to do as many laps as possible or as many as you want to. It is not a race and Josh is hoping to get some spot prizes, but really the winners on the day are the charities.

After a twisty start on the road, the riders will go on a roller coaster off-road ride through bush and garden track, then through native and rain forest, before a 2km uphill grass climb back up to the road through regenerating native conservation forest. Finally a 2.2km section of roller coaster sealed road takes riders back to the transition point.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to ride in terrain that hasn't been open to the public for mountain biking before and the event course is not available to be ridden on any other occasion. This event gives true meaning to the term 'mountain biking' as it is as close to the Egmont National Park as you can get! Give it a go by contacting Josh Cleaver at Pukeiti on 06-752 4141 or email josh@pukeiti.org.nz. More details can be found at www.pukeiti.org.nz.

By Kim Ferens

words on wheels 2010 AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

New Zealand Book Council author tour featuring Janet Hunt, David Hill, Duncan Sarkies, Briar Grace-Smith and Alison Wong

Gala Opening: 6.00pm Fri 12 February, Puke Ariki Foyer, 1 Ariki St, New Plymouth Cost: Koha

Final Panel Event: 10.00am Thurs 18 February, Upper Cafeteria, WITT, 20 Bell St, New Plymouth Cost: Koha
Bookseller for both events: Benny's Books, New Plymouth



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Words on Wheels in Taranaki

They say words have wings but this month they have wheels and they are wheeling around the mountain, all thanks to the New Zealand Book Council.

Over the holidays I met with Sarah Forster from the New Zealand Book Council to talk about the upcoming *Words on Wheels Around the Mountain* tour. This is a very exciting tour and I know many TOM readers will be keen to be part of it, being avid readers and participants in book clubs and groups. *Words on Wheels* is held each year and the Book Council sends five different writers into a different region of New Zealand on its rural tour. The tour is in Taranaki for the very first time and it will be wonderful to hear and see New Zealand literature on offer.

This year on the bus will be David Hill (Teen Fiction), Duncan Sarkies (Fiction), Briar Grace-Smith (Scriptwriting), Alison Wong (Poetry) and Janet Hunt (Non-fiction). They'll be travelling to New Plymouth, Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, Eltham, Hawera, Waverley and Opunake from 12–17 February, appearing at schools, libraries, and other local venues across the region. New Plymouth Mayor Peter Tennent will welcome the writers to Taranaki at a gala opening event on Friday, 12 February at 6pm at Puke Ariki Museum in the city. Everyone is invited to attend.

Words on Wheels began 18 years ago to enable readers in all corners of the country to enjoy New Zealand's variety of great writers and writing. Book Council Chief Executive Noel Murphy says *Words on Wheels* is a cornerstone project for the council. "For 18 years, the tour has connected authors with their readers all over New Zealand at a grassroots level. This year we are excited to be returning to Taranaki for the first time in more than ten years and bringing a stellar line up of authors to the region."

All I can say is if you have the time and opportunity, get along to one of the venues. You will be captivated, motivated and enthralled, listening to passionate people talking about their life's passion — writing.

I felt privileged to speak briefly with one of these stellar authors, David Hill — perhaps one of the more well known of New Zealand's authors. I am sure he needs no introduction. David hasn't been on a tour for five years but he has been on four tours and is clearly excited about the prospect of entertaining



The five writers: top row Alison Wong, Duncan Sarkies. Bottom row Janet Hunt, David Hill and Briar Grace-Smith.

audiences with his rhetoric; excited too about listening to fellow authors talk about their books and New Zealand literature.

David will entertain his audiences with readings from his previous books and he sees it as a great opportunity to bring his characters to life. He tells me these characters and even the scenes are very carefully planned out before writing begins but never work out that way as the plot develops.

Writing is a habitual activity for David and this has made him a prolific author with 28 books and plays to his credit, as well as reviews and newspaper articles. Inspiration comes from the everyday activities that make up the rich tapestry of life and while David says he doesn't have the frenzied imagination of some writers, it is a busy one! One such captivatingly frenzied imagination belongs to Duncan Sarkies, who is on the tour, and David is anticipating many happy moments listening to Duncan's readings. So get along to one of the events below and enjoy!

Kim Ferenis

TOM is delighted to have two copies of David's teenage novel "Fire On High" to give away. Send in your name and contact details to info@thetom.co.nz or phone 0800thetom to enter, along with the answer to this question - How many books has David Hill written?

WoW 2010 Itinerary:

Friday 12 February

10.30am (free public event)

Waitara Library Meeting Room, Queen St, Waitara

Bookings: Waitara Library, (06) 759 6060

2.00pm (school event)

Spotswood College, South Road, New Plymouth

6.00pm (public gala opening)

Gala opening for the *Words on Wheels* visit, presided over by Mayor Peter Tennent

Puke Ariki Museum Foyer, 1 Ariki St, New Plymouth

Bookings: www.bookcouncil.org.nz, Puke Ariki Library

Saturday 13 February

11.00am (free public event)

Inglewood Library Meeting Room, 46 Rata St, Inglewood

Bookings: Inglewood Library, (06) 759 6060

7.00pm (free public event)

Stratford Library, Prospero Place, Stratford

Bookings: Stratford Library, (06) 765 5403

Sunday 14 February

7.00pm (public event, fundraising for Hospice Taranaki)

Hawera Library Plus, 46 High Street, Hawera

Cost: \$5 per person, Bookings: www.bookcouncil.org.nz or Hawera Library Plus, 0800 111 323

Monday 15 February

8.30am (school event)

Speed Date An Author event

Hawera Community Centre, Hawera

Information: [Speed Date an Author page](http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz) School registration: education@bookcouncil.org.nz

5.30pm (public event, fundraising for Waverley Playcentre)

Waverley Library Plus, 58 Weraroa Road, Waverley

Cost: \$5 per person, Bookings: www.bookcouncil.org.nz, or Waverley Library Plus, 0800 111 323

Tuesday 16 February

5.30pm (public event fundraising for the Eltham Village Gallery)

The Eltham Village Gallery, 166 High St, Eltham

Cost: \$5 per person, Bookings: Eltham Village Gallery 10am–3pm

Wednesday 17 February

10.00am (school event)

Opunake High School, Tasman St, Opunake

5.30pm (public event, fundraising for Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade)

Bookings: www.bookcouncil.org.nz or Headlands

Roy Donald's Hudson Hornet has its sting back

I've heard that Roy Donald has just had a classic car restored and have gone visiting in order to talk to him about it. He's recently completed a new shed to house it in too, and of necessity, he's made it a bit longer and a bit wider than your normal double garage. Roy activates the roller door, which rises to reveal his everyday car, a modern, silver Hyundai, dwarfed by the shape of another vehicle swathed in a pale blue cover. Roy draws the fabric back to reveal a 1951–1952 Hudson Hornet 4-door sedan. It gleams blackly at us. Roy climbs aboard, the vehicle thrums throatily into life and Roy backs it out of the shed so that I can properly admire its long, sleek lines, its shining chrome trims and its smart, white wall tyres. I also admire the commodious interior, the strikingly masculine dash and the original upholstery in shades of duck-egg blue. "It's a nice wedding car, isn't it?" asks Roy, rhetorically. Of course it is — it's gorgeous!

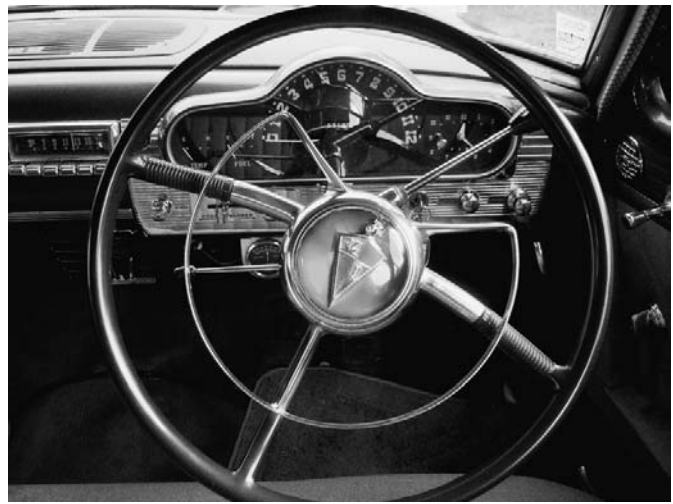


Roy Donald shows off his immaculate Hudson Hornet.

The Hudson Hornet is one of the most memorable cars produced in the post-war years and one of the industry's all-time greats. The first generation of its type was produced by the Hudson Motor Car Company of Detroit, Michigan, between 1951 and 1954. It featured a 'step-down' design, which merged body and frame into a single structure and recessed the floor pan between the frame rails; you literally 'stepped down' into a Hornet. This created a much sleeker look and a lower centre of gravity than other vehicles of its time, which improved safety, enhanced handling and gave the passengers an exceptionally comfortable ride. These qualities earned it an image that, for many, eclipsed other luxury cars such as the Cadillac.

Hornets were powered by Hudson's high compression, straight-six 'H-145' engine — the largest (displacement) 6-cylinder engine in the world at the time. This being so, it was little less than amazing that, from the early days of production through to 1954, they became renowned for being virtually unbeatable on the stock car circuit. Indeed, they continued to compete with some success even after the step-down line came to an end.

Roy Donald has owned his Hudson Hornet for 42 years now and his father, Les, owned it for 13 years before that. Les bought it new and imported it from Canada. New cars were difficult to come by after the war, and one had to remain in Canada for two years before shipping a vehicle out to New Zealand. Fortunately, Les knew a Kiwi chap who was living there, driving trucks across the country. It is said that, having purchased the Hornet, he drove it the breadth of Canada on snow tyres, which were changed at the port from which it was shipped. In 1966, Les decided it was too big for him and, without warning, traded it in. After a month



They don't make them like this these days!

or so, Roy found himself thinking that he would quite like it. He contacted Roy Burkitt, from whom he had bought numerous tractors and other agricultural machinery over the years, and asked whether it was still on the rank. He was happily surprised when Roy confirmed that it was still there and offered to sell it back to him for the price at which he had traded it. "Dad was walking out to get the mail when I drove home and he asked what on earth I wanted it for. I replied that it was a hell of a lot better than the one I had and that anyway, it only had 39,000 miles on the clock!"

Roy's driven all over the country in it since, often dragging a float with a couple of horses behind it. He's transported wedding parties too — 19 of them, for all of the family, as well as for some of his neighbours. Roy's late wife, Lilah, used to drive it too. The car will fit four in the front and four in the back quite comfortably and Lilah used to take the entire Warea Women's Institute to meetings in Inglewood. "She wasn't very big," Roy grins, "and had to sit on a cushion."

Now the limousine has been restored to its former glory by Nigel Fraser of Opunake's Classic Autos. Nigel stripped the exterior right back to steel, removed the rust and repainted it the original black. It took 15 months and was finally completed in January last year. Roy's been driving automatic cars for a very long time and it took a while to get used to a manual again. To add to the confusion, the gear shift is not only on the right, but it's a column change attached to the steering wheel. "I had to really watch what I was doing for a while," he says.

All the same, when the New Zealand Hudson Essex Terraplane Club celebrated the centenary of the founding of the Hudson Motor Car Company recently, Roy and his friend, Dawn, ventured all the way to Cambridge to join the celebrations. There Roy met a man, now in his 50's, who had taken a photo of a very similar car he had taken a fancy to at Auckland Zoo when he was about 16. He had the photo in his pocket and yes, it had Roy's number plate on it! The biggest buzz for Roy, though, was that his Hudson Hornet was awarded top honours out of 98 cars. His prize was a bottle of Hudson 2008 Mokopuna Martinborough Sauvignon Blanc from Peter and Jude Hudson's Dry River Flats vineyard, which had won silver in the Air New Zealand Wine Awards. "Everyone wants to drink it," says Roy, "but I'm not opening it." However, he will order a case to share.

Time, along with miles on the clock, is ticking by for both Roy and his car. Roy is nearly 85 and his car has clocked up 209,000 miles. But the Hornet is part of the family now and, in Roy's words, "It'll last another generation."

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_Hornet

<http://auto.howstullworks.com/1951-1953-hudson-hornet.htm>

Celebrating Christmas with the community

It's hard to believe that Christmas 2009 has come and gone already, but come and gone it has. For many of us, the Christmas season means holidays and Santa parades, fun and fellowship with friends and family, festive food and, of course, presents! But while the Christian community shares these traditions, celebrating the birth of the Christ child and sharing the Christmas nativity story is the real reason for the season. This was why Treishka Morgan, members of Okato's New Zeal Church, and children from the church and the community took time out in December to prepare and present a nativity play. The event took place in St Lukes' Hall.

Treishka produced and directed the play, which included an enthusiastic cast, convincingly dressed in a variety of recycled materials, including candlewick from old bedspreads. Andrew Moffitt as Joseph, his wife Kathryn as Mary, and their baby son, Ben (Jesus), made an authentic family group. Gavin Shaw was well cast as the innkeeper, while sheep handler, Peter Morgan, appeared uncharacteristically shy on the night. Not so Peter's charges, Button and Carter, whose bleating and lack of bowel control added authenticity to the evening. Cathryn Buttimore narrated the play ably and with enthusiasm and Ruth Shaw, Clare Simpson, Teena Bennett and Kevin McFetridge supported the story with Christmas carols.

After the performance, members of the audience were given the opportunity to add a name or a prayer to the Tree of Remembrance. Supper and a time of fellowship followed.

Thank you, Treishka and team, and special thanks to all the children who participated, for a happy, celebratory community occasion.

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley

*The cast, from left: Peter Morgan, Cory Neilson, Carl Neilson, Robert Morgan, Nicola Simpson, Thomas Morgan, Emily Moffitt, and Katie Adlam (on stage), Shaun Moffitt, Daniel Hooker, Cara Moffitt, Jackie Adlam, Alex Moffitt.
Absent: Cathryn Buttimore, Gavin Shaw, Andrew Moffitt, Kathryn Moffitt and Ben Moffitt.*



Cory Neilson (pictured) took turns with brother Carl to lead Carter.

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Coastal Garden and Art Safari

Another year has passed and this year the Coastal Garden and Art Safari celebrates its 10th Anniversary. The dedicated members of this group have reluctantly decided to give up the reins of this event next year and will go into recess for a couple of years unless there is someone who wishes to continue with this fantastic local event.

With the weather now more settled and February upon us, you may like to gather your friends together and make a weekend of visiting your local gardens and creative art works. As the advertisement details, the gardens and art works will be open from Okato through to Manaia, and our local Historical Society Community Trust Hall on Cumming Street, Okato will also be open over this weekend.

Tickets can be purchased from many retail outlets.

New Plymouth:	The Girlz Garden Centre
Oakura:	The Crafty Fox
Okato:	Okato Four Square
Rahotu:	Vercoe's Store
Opunake:	Library, Four Square 45
Manaia:	Manaia Four Square
Kaponga:	Kaponga Dairy (46 Victoria Street)
Hawera:	Woodsy's Garden Centre (129 Fairfield Rd)

Tickets are very affordable at only \$5.00 per ticket for both Saturday and Sunday and proceeds go to A House for Karen.

For further information please contact:

R Ratahi	06-761 8809
A Walker	06-274 8720
M Goodwin	06-752 4320

by Milly Carr

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10th Anniversary COASTAL GARDEN & ART SAFARI

OKATO to MANAIA, 13th, 14th February 2010

30 Gardens and/or Art & Crafts on display

Entry times 9am, 5.30pm

\$5.00 per ticket for weekend

Contact Rose Ratahi. Ph 06 761 8809

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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 Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

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.

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