

TOM *okato*

JULY 2009

Golf Star Rises at Tumahu



Turn to page 6 and find out why teenage Coastal School student Joseph Doyle is turning heads on the golf course.

editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

Coastal School has hit the nail on the head with its new Sports Academy. I think it is a fantastic idea, so thank you Selwyn Brown for giving it your support.

All too often we like to level the playing field so all kids are equal regardless of talent and this has its merits, but there is something to be said for striving for excellence and making the most of your talents. I wish the Academy and its protégés every success. After all it is sport that is helping to keep our children fit, healthy, busy and drug and alcohol free. A busy kid is a happy kid.

This is all at odds with what Pita Sharples was proposing recently with automatic entry into University for all Maori. How ridiculous! It's like saying everyone should have automatic entry into Coastal School's Sports Academy. Where would the pride be in that: "Oh I got into the Academy because I am Maori, not because I can surf at the top level". Just another step in the dumbing down of our society I suspect. Something earned is something appreciated I think.

Take a look at Joseph Doyle, he has worked very hard at his game of golf and is footing it with adults – what a sense of achievement and it's his by dedication and work not birth right. Good on you!

Kim



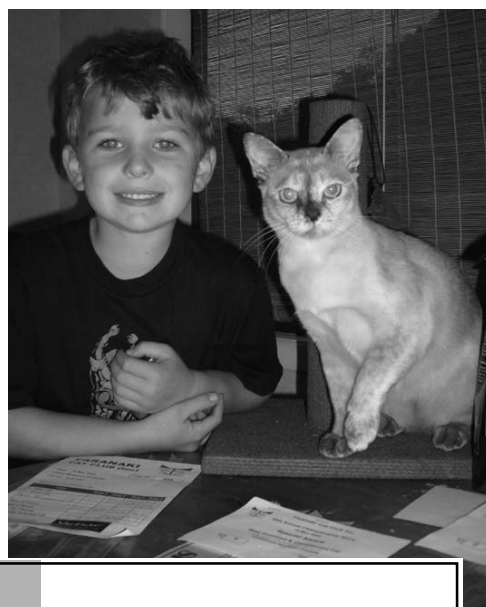
Lotus Blossom, aka Porsche Hall; a Champion Cat

Lotus Blossom, otherwise known as Porsche, is the much loved, chocolate tortoise shell cat of Sue Hall and her son Ryan. Porsche had been ruled out of the pedigree show ring after a bend at the end of her tail was discovered, but recently, Sue decided to enter her in the "Short Haired, Companion Class" at the 30th Annual Taranaki Cat Show.

The show was held at East End Skating Rink in New Plymouth. There were four rings, and four judges who looked at head shape, eye colour, paws, coat texture, grooming and temperament. More than 160 cats were vying for honours and Porsche was entered in all four rings. To Sue and Ryan's delight, she won 13 prizes all up, including several ribbons and, to add the icing to the cake, was judged runner-up to "Best in Show" by every judge.

Her performance earned her her first "Challenge" and she needs seven more to become a Champion. But Sue and Ryan have even higher goals for her. "She's on her way to becoming a Grand Champ," Sue declared.

Story and photo
by Kerry Lilley



Porsche and
Ryan Hall
celebrate
their success.

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Six tunnels car rally: a road tunnels trail in Taranaki

It was Sunday 17th May; and we were looking forward to the Citroen Car Club's "Six Tunnels" rally; the inspiration of local club member, Errol Ward. Errol had grown up in the back-blocks of Northern Taranaki and was keen to show off his patch. The tunnels, which are part of it, continue to hold his fascination.



The gathering at Inglewood Railway Station, ready to rally.

PICTURE BY DAVID COMPTON

We were awoken by lashing rain and thunder claps on that late autumn morning, and Ben and I wondered whether the trip would be going ahead. However, an unanswered phone call to Errol confirmed Ben's feeling that Errol wouldn't let a bit of weather put him off. We packed our bacon and egg pie and our thermos and set off in Ben's 1972 Citroen D.

Arriving in Inglewood half an hour early, we decided on coffee at McFarlanes. There, we found Errol and his wife, Carol, who were enjoying their cup of coffee in the company of Ray and Helen Rook, whom they had invited for the ride. Ray, a semi-retired mechanic as well as a car enthusiast, suggested that Ben might require a ride home. Ben retorted that it was just as well Ray, with his mechanical skills, was coming along.

Fourteen cars started the journey from the Inglewood Railway Station. Nine of them were Citroens of various models and vintages. There was also a Triumph, a VW, a Nissan and two Toyotas. As the rain started again, the convoy headed up Tarata Road, to explore some of the remotest and most beautiful back

Otaraoa Road glowed with autumn colours.

PICTURE BY KERRY LILLEY



Ray Rook strolls towards Ben Lilley's 1972 Citroen above Uruti Valley.

PICTURE BY KERRY LILLEY

country roads either Ben or I have ever experienced, and to discover the tunnels. All but one of them had been built by hand in an effort to improve access to remote valleys, before tunnel-boring machines had been invented, and each one has its own, unique style.

Firstly, we encountered Tarata Tunnel, on Otaraoa Road north of Waitara. It had been built to replace the road traversing the unstable hill above it. Then, we travelled along Inland North Road, turned northwards onto SH3 shortly before Urenui and drove on, through Mt Messenger Tunnel, which is on a tight, right-hand bend on the northern side, near the summit. Its elegantly shaped, sharp arch was likened to Gothic architecture and much admired when it was opened in 1916. Negotiating Mount Messenger in those days was a mission and the tunnel was no less unnerving. Over the years, however, improvements to the road were made and in 1990, the tunnel was widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic and raised in height to allow oversize trucks safe passage. The mechanical, tunnel-boring machines that were used to expand it produced a round profile, unlike the vault shapes of the hand dug tunnels.

Soon after coming off Mount Messenger, we turned inland again onto Okau Rd. As we wound our way skywards, the clouds gathered around us, the hills receded in layers, the rain descended and the pristine, native bush glistened. Okau Tunnel, which is unusual because it abuts directly onto the bridge, came next, followed by the first Kiwi Road tunnel. Not long after that, we came to a place overlooking the Okoki Valley where the village scenes in "The Last Samurai" were filmed. Our arrival coincided with a pause in the rain but there was enough low-hanging cloud to suggest that the moody, layered scenery hadn't been entirely computer generated. As we drove off again, the gathered clouds released another downpour. The penultimate tunnel, the second Kiwi Road tunnel, was actually on Moki Road and then, on Uruti Road, we encountered our 6th and final tunnel, which links the Uruti Valley with SH3 to New Plymouth and Auckland. It was excavated entirely by pick, shovel and explosives and is the longest and least stable of all the Taranaki road tunnels. Stopping in it is prohibited.

Soon afterwards, we turned onto Kaka Rd and before long, we arrived at Okoki School which has served as Okoki Domain since its closure. As we all slowed to a halt, a local woman taking her dogs for a walk, commented, "You don't see many traffic jams in Okoki." It was 3.30pm and the rain stopped again, allowing us to enjoy lunch together before we headed home. And for the record, we made it with no help from Ray. For more information about Taranaki's road tunnels, read Rhonda Bartle's "Transport – Road Tunnels of Taranaki" on Puke Ariki's website.

Story by Kerry Lilley

Discovering the Art of Cheese Making

This month I caught up with Su Hammond, mother, farmer, and enthusiast of cheese making.

Su has lived in Okato for 20 years and while hosting a WWOOFER from Germany, Robert Stumpf, Su discovered the art and passion of cheese making.

Robert had spent three seasons in the Swiss Alps learning how to make cheese and after talking with him about his experience, Su decided she would set up her own "cheesery". Robert was the perfect person for the job, and was able to make all the necessary equipment, from resources sourced right in their back yard! Great living on a farm huh?

An old copper was used and a 44 gallon drum was altered, making a water bath for the copper to sit in. A plastic bucket was transformed to make a mould. Also a wooden paddle was made - to me it looked like an over sized cricket bat. "This is used as the stirrer or paddle" said Su. I love the kiwi ingenuity!

Robert showed Su how to make Swiss Alp cheese which is an aged cheese - best left to mature for at least three months, more if possible. Living on an Organic Dairy farm enables Su to access fresh milk straight from the shed.

She points out that cheese making is a very slow process. Using quality milk and having excellent hygiene throughout can determine how good the end product is. I imagine one would need a lot of patience too. What I will explain here is a shortened outline of the Swiss Alp cheese making process.

Su firstly gathers 55 litres of milk from the shed. This is unpasteurised but some of her cheeses are pasteurised. The next morning five litres of cream is skimmed from the top. With this cream, Su can make sour cream, butter, mascarpone or even cream cheese. Yum!!

The milk, along with cultures, is gradually heated for three hours in the copper, which sits over a gas burner; the temperature needing to rise to 32 degrees Celsius.

Regular stirring is required at this point and once the temperature has reached 32 degrees, Su adds the rennet and leaves it to set for approximately one hour.

For this next step, Su uses her own unique tool: an old hacksaw blade with removed teeth to cut through the "clabbered" milk. Or as we would call it "set" milk.

Gradual stirring, "this is a really fascinating part", says Su, happens over 1½ - 2 hours, releasing the whey as the curd shrinks until it is ready for pressing. It is tested by placing the curd in your hands and applying gentle pressure to see if it holds together.

Then a muslin is used to scoop the curd out of the vat and into the cheese mould (a bucket with holes drilled in it), has a weight applied to it and left overnight.

Su shows me her innovative tools used during this step and I have to chuckle, as does she. The press is no fancy machine. It is made from a length of 3 x 2 with a bag of stones hanging from the end acting as a weight to press the cheese. I am fascinated by it all. She also points out to me that the stones have to be added carefully, so it all comes down to skill and having a good eye. Wow, it really is tricky.

In the morning the cheese is placed into an exceptionally salty brine bath where it remains for 24 hours. Then it is transferred to the special cheese fridge, and maintained at a temperature of 10 - 16 degrees Celsius. This determines the maturation of the cheese, and the youngest that Su will open a cheese is at three months. Everyone has their own tastes and ideals. Robert likes his cheese at six months maturation.

Su has made different cheeses: feta, farmer's cheese, camembert and Swiss Alp. The latter being the most popular. She sources the rennet and cultures from 'Curds and Whey', a company in Auckland, and sources information from a cheese school, 'Over the Moon' in Putaruru (Waikato).

To make different cheeses comes down to differing cultures, temperatures and the amount of time whilst cooking the curd, also different storage temperatures can determine the end product or type.

With trials over the years it is also evident that too much whey can lead to what they call "cheese blowing" or a bad taste. Su says she did have one failure which put her off for a few months, but as I witnessed, she is not put off now as I look into her cheese fridge and see several large cheeses maturing.

The passion grows as Su has initiated a Taranaki Cheese makers 'get together' which she hosts at her home. The next one will be on 25 July 2009.

Her goal is to do a Cheese masters course over the next few years. Wow!!

By Milly Carr



Rich Pickings

Hello all.

Well on the crime front not a lot to mention since the bikes were stolen in Okato and then recovered things have slowed down which I am not complaining about.

One thing that I and other locals are concerned about is the amount of tagging in the village, particularly I noticed some idiots have been drawing on the back of the hall by the fire station, stop it now.

Another thing I want to complain about is the ease at which I and other Police are able to get speed and other tickets out here. I think it is getting worse and it is not always the youth that are at fault, in fact they are probably the minority in this instance. Slow down you don't get to where you want to go any faster.

I make no apologies if it is you I have to write a ticket out to, I have said it before and I will say it again I don't get paid enough to pick you up of the road.

I still have a set of oars which I had handed in some time ago, however I have managed to locate the owner of the horse covers that were found.

Enough about crime the All Blacks went some way to redeeming themselves in the second test against France, and while they haven't played the Italians as I write this I am certain they will give them a lesson, well I hope they will.

I see Coastal are continuing their winning way and are well ahead at the top of the table, I hope the exclusion of a number of players to the Taranaki team does not affect them to much.

Did you know that rattlesnakes do not always rattle before they strike?

I have to clarify something. I mentioned in another paper that I had just finished building a one room bungalow and was looking for some tenants. The tenants I am looking for are four legged, but thanks to you all who applied.

Anyway must go.

Take care

Rich

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COVER STORY

Golf Star Rises at Tumahu

Consistently carding below par, day in day out, and sporting a handicap of four, it was hardly a surprise when 16 year old Coastal School student Joseph Doyle recently won the Senior Men's Stroke Play Championship at Tumahu Golf Course with two rounds of 71. Joseph is the youngest player to have entered and won the Stroke Play Championship at the course.

I went along to Tumahu Golf Course on a gloriously sunny Sunday afternoon to see the young champ in action. The temperature may have been 11 degrees and the wind chill 5 degrees but the action was sizzling. Joseph carved up his group and finished the day second overall with a 66 score card – 4 under. The nearest in his group was brother Daniel and Marshall Wells on 95. The oldies in the group, Peter Smythe carded 106 and Murray Crombie 103.

They breed them tough out here. Joseph was playing in his board shorts because they're comfortable!

Murray says Joseph has real talent and has good 'levers' which I think means he uses his body dynamically to increase the club head speed and thus attain a better shot. Joseph is also a left hander which gives him a slight advantage at the Tumahu course says Bruce Sim, as all the fences are on the right.

Golf is a sport that Joseph is passionate about. He loves being outside playing golf and never tires of it. Every evening after school you will find Joseph on the school grounds practising for an hour or more, weather permitting. He plays regularly too with at least three or four games a week. Does he get bored? Never! Joseph says both his grandmothers – Dawn Walsh and the late Mary Doyle, were members of the Tumahu Club and both very keen golf players. He never got to meet Grandma Doyle but he shares both his grandmothers' passion in the sport. His Grandma Walsh got him into golf when he was about five years old to keep him busy and he has loved it ever since. Grandma Walsh lives in Westport these days and every January, Joseph goes down to stay and play golf. He has blitzed them down there too by meeting the course record at the Westport Golf Course. He also won the Westcoast Lefthanders Tournament held in Greymouth last January.

Joseph has scored a hole-in-one on the 4th hole at Kaitake Golf Club so no course looks off limits to this rising star. He gets to play golf as part of Coastal Schools new Sports Academy and is looking forward to the next few weeks when there are numerous tournaments to play in.

Tumahu Golf Club is amazing, tucked up there at the top of Puniho Rd, seemingly right on the mountainside (feels like it too!), with stunning views and a well tended undulating course. Sheep graze under the pelting of golf balls (yes, I saw sheep in the firing line when I was there!) and are tended by Murray Crombie. Bruce tells me the Club has been around for nearly 60 years and boasts about 90 members. It has a wonderful atmosphere where the adults nurture the young people in the district by taking them out to play regularly and giving them space in the clubhouse. Joanne, Joseph's mum



Joseph driving off from the 16th hole.

(Cover picture - Joseph putting on the 17th hole with majestic Mt Taranaki in the background.)

says if it wasn't for the likes of Bruce and Glen Kennedy coaching and mentoring her son he wouldn't be such a good player. Young and old and those in the middle all seem to get along in harmony. Rex Bridgeman is the volunteer green-keeper with 30 years experience and keeps the putting greens looking superb. Club tradition is strong with Joseph the third generation to play at the course.

Joseph is keen to make a career out of his golf if possible but is also realistic enough to know that he may need another option so he is looking at the Air force as career option two when he leaves school at the end of next year. Bruce says the difference between someone who makes it to the top and those just below isn't much these days but it is extremely difficult to make it to that level. I heard the word luck a few times that day, mainly by the unlucky ones who say the way the ball falls is often down to luck but then how lucky can you be!

All I say is good 'luck' Joseph, I hope your dreams, and hard work, determination, perseverance and drive take you where you want to go in the future.

By Kim Ferens

Coastal Okato Junior Rugby

Welcome, to all new families in the district. If there are any junior rugby players looking for a team, please give me a call as we have still got four weeks of rugby left, including a tournament for all grades on the 1st August

All the best for the players that will be trialing for the Ross Brown Team and the Taranaki rep teams.

Hope everyone is enjoying their rugby season so far, it is so good to see so many new faces at our club. If there is anyone interested in taking on the junior rugby convenors job, or helping out, please see me. It is the most rewarding job you could do, seeing so many kids enjoying their rugby.

We will be having a prizegiving at the end of the season, so all club cup winners could you return these asap. Big 'thank you' to **Okato Four Square** for 'player of day' packs. The kids really love these.

Cheers

Tom Brophy 752 4150



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"Live your dreams," Selwyn Brown advised students at Coastal Taranaki School. For the new Sports Academy students the opportunity to pursue their dreams has become a reality. A generous donation from Selwyn has helped to make this possible.

Thirteen students from Coastal Taranaki School have been selected to join a sporting Academy providing professional coaching, mentoring and in depth physical education. Surfing, dancing, swimming and golf are just some of the disciplines, training, has been offered in. Students who have the potential to compete at a national level had to submit a CV and undergo interviews to have a chance to fulfil their goals.

Karla Ralph (Head of the Physical Education faculty), Chris Luke and Ray Hayward have worked together to enable the students to strive for excellence in their chosen sports.

Selwyn Brown and his wife Gail are the founders of the Taranaki Kids Sports Trust which has operated for five years providing children in our region the chance to realise their sporting dreams. The trust has been funded by their "Events Taranaki" business. The Browns felt the sports Academy was a good fit with their Charitable Trust and were delighted to be able to support the Sports academy in its start up phase.

The assembly was held to acknowledge the generous donation from the charitable trust and present Academy students with their badges. Students will be encouraged to mentor peers and shared goals with their school. Their aspirations to strive for excellence and become the best they can be was inspiring, a positive beginning to a new phase in sports education at Coastal Taranaki School.



Academy students Joseph Doyle, Joe Brophy, Jordan Hart, Seth Hickey, Chase Yates, Meisha Davies, Jade Stone, Jordan Linn, Brook Gray, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Jamie Linn, Aydan Brown, Rebecca Gibson.



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Okato Playcentre

Wow, time flies when you're having fun!!

It's been all go at Okato Playcentre. We've had a lot of new families join our centre which certainly makes for "all the more the merrier".

This term, we've brought our sandpit (on a somewhat smaller scale) onto our deck to cater for our sandpit addicts on those cold wet days. We've had tractors and diggers galore and sand everywhere!

There's been a huge amount of imaginary play with our dress ups and face paints, so we've had tigers, bears, butterflies, fairies and princesses floating around the centre.

The children have enjoyed making their own biscuits, cooking them and eating them . . . they did a great job at decorating them with lollies!!

We've had plenty of use out of our clay wheel this term, with some very creative masterpieces emerging.

We'd like to welcome any new families that have moved into the district, feel free to pop in for a coffee and check us out.

For further information please call Rachel Douglas on 7524463.

By Marlene Goodreds

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An Upholstery Business in Okato: Errol Ward Introduces Corrugated Classics

Errol Ward was born on Pitone Road, where his dad was working for Dick Warner. He lived his first 2½ years there; then his dad bought one of Dick's farms at Urenui, where Errol grew up.

He did an apprenticeship as a saddler and upholsterer with Cook and Lister from 1959 to 1963 and continued working there until December, 1968, when he was knocked off his motorbike. His leg was nearly torn off and his recovery required a long hospital stay. While he was there, his doctors learned of his saddlery skills and suggested he apply for a vacancy in the Orthotics Department at Taranaki Base Hospital. He won the position and worked there for 23 years. At first, Errol made back braces and limbs. Later, he moved into the practical side of occupational therapy, making and repairing wheelchairs. Finally, he altered cheaper, imported wheelchairs to fit the needs of their users.

Errol felt it was time for a change. He had been restoring his own cars and motorbikes since 1974, when he had worked on his Citroen ID19. His latest acquisition, a Citroen DS21 Pallas, acquired in 2005, is Carol's fault, Errol reckons. This classic car had been sitting on Omata Road for quite a while and every time Errol drove past it, his head would swivel and he would announce to Carol that it was still there. Carol bought it as a surprise gift for his 60th birthday; she reckoned it was only because she didn't want him driving off the road. Four years later, he's still restoring it.

Various friends had been suggesting he should "do" their cars too, and, encouraged by Carol, Errol challenged them to put their money where their mouths were. Some of them complied, so he left the hospital in 2005 to realise his dream. He was living on Barrett Road on the outskirts of New Plymouth at the time, and began looking for an old dairy factory to use as a workshop. Then, he remembered Putt and Roebuck's abandoned garage in Okato and Carol encouraged him to drive out to take a look. They discovered that it was sporting a "For Sale" sign, and that there were five sections and the shed. It seemed perfect! The shed was going to be knocked down the following Saturday if it hadn't sold, so Errol and Carol had to make a quick decision. They decided to take the bull by the horns! They moved to Okato in 2006 and set up "Corrugated Classics."

Errol's first job was Joe (Turk) and Jane Goodin's double decker London bus. He stationed a number of people on ladders around the shed and, with about an inch to spare, he drove bus through the front door. It squeaked in with about an inch to spare, and

Errol was in business! At the start, he had only six months' work ahead of him but, thanks to word of mouth, the business flourished, and it continues to grow. Errol refurbishes vehicle interiors and convertible hoods, as well as doing domestic upholstery. "The tops are actually more involved than car interiors," he says. "They've got to be perfectly tensioned when they're up; I've got a 2002 Morgan Ero 8 1970 coming from Auckland. Nobody else wants to touch it!" If you have any upholstery needs, for your car or your home, you can contact Errol or Carol by phone on 752 4429 or you can email them at cbew@xnet.co.nz

And how do Errol and Carol find living in Okato? "We love it here," Errol enthuses. "We wouldn't go back to town."

Story and picture by Kerry Lilley



Errol at work, sewing piping.



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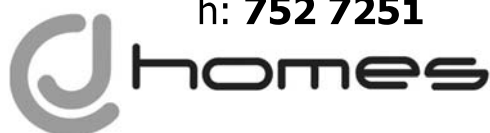
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TOM Baby

Meet our new addition to the community Lucinda Rose Moorby, born at Taranaki Base Hospital on 1st March 2009, weighing 8lb1oz.

Lucinda is the first born for Jemma and Matt Moorby who live in the village.

Jemma is another mother in the community who is on maternity leave from her job as a New Entrant teacher at Coastal Taranaki School and her husband Matt is also a teacher at St Josephs in Opunake teaching years 2 and 3.

During Jemma's pregnancy Lucinda was actually going to be called Poppy but was changed to Lucinda as Jemma's mother is called Poppy-Ma by the grandkids so it would have been a little confusing.

Jemma had a friend Lucinda and both she and Matt liked the name.

Jemma and Matt are lucky to have Matt's parents just up the road, along with Jemma's Dad, giving Lucinda lots of "grand parent time". Jemma's mum is not so close, living in Houston, Texas, but spoils her grand daughter with lots of shopping like Baby Gap clothing.

Lucinda loves blowing bubbles and her new jolly jumper.

Jemma intends on joining up with a mother baby group in the future but at the moment is still establishing the new routine of motherhood. "It really is very different being at home all day and I do miss the adult contact I had whilst teaching" said Jemma.

By Milly Carr



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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders Club. 7.15 to 8.30pm.
 Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380.

Country and Western Club

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

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.

Oakura Art Group

Tuesdays 9.45am to 12 noon, February to late November at St
 James Church Hall.
 Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over
 winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

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 and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before
 10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes
 - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752
 1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

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.

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley
 752 1016 for details.

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 podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-
 9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-
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