

TAKE ONE MOMENT

JULY 2011

TOM OKATO

THE MID- WINTER SWIM

Taking the plunge at Leith Road

PHOTO BY RICHARD CARR

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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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*Points of view expressed in
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EDITORIAL

So, we are half-way through the year already!

Today as we write it is the winter solstice but it feels like spring. It appears that the plants and trees feel like it's spring too. There is scarcely any snow on the mountain, the plum trees are flowering and at Kerry's house, the magnolia buds are swelling and the daffodils are up. Meanwhile, tornadoes have been whipping around the countryside causing devastation to properties and people's lives. We live in an uncertain world.

Gypsy Day on 31 May marked the annual changeover for the farming fraternity, so we have recently said goodbye to some familiar faces and welcomed others. We have also farewelled some old village identities, including Des and Nola Corbett and Father Garty, and are looking forward to meeting the new families who have arrived to live in the township. We hope that the new arrivals will enjoy our friendly, diverse community and its varied facilities. We are very fortunate to have an area school in the village along with an assortment of sporting facilities, a range of outdoor recreational opportunities, a great arts and crafts community, and several food outlets catering for all tastes.

If you see us in the cafe or around the village please say hello, and if you have an interesting story to share, we would love to hear it.

Hei kona rā (goodbye for now).

Kerry and Milly

Apologies to Jasmine Stone who was inadvertently named as Georgia Strachan on last months cover.

Kim



COVER STORY

Midwinter Swim

They breed them tough down Leith Road. How tough, I hear you ask? Tough as an elephant's hide in mating season.


Sunday, 19 June saw an intrepid (or is that foolhardy?) group of people don various swimming cossies and fancy dress costumes and plunge into the swimming hole at Brent Davies' property at the end of Leith Road for the annual midwinter swim. With a rather frigid water temperature of 14°, the first plunge elicited a few oaths and squeals (I didn't know that Kane L. sang falsetto). Mind you, I remember the midwinter swim two years ago that took place on a bitter day with a stiff southerly blowing up the kilt, and the water was only 8°. Eat your heart out Bear Grylls! So this time it was almost tropical in comparison, with only a few showers interrupting a relatively balmy sunny day.

Observing safety first, a number of fetching lifeguards in full attire were present, sporting some vintage items (love those caps, Fe and Julie), and were keeping close tabs on a swarthy chap (Al Qaeda operative?), a doctor complete with proctologists gloves (and you think you know someone), and a grim reaper intent on claiming a victim. Other less adventurous souls jumped in for a brief flirt with cardiac arrest before retiring to the warmth of Brent's shed. The slippery slide proved again to be popular, with some individuals creating a mini-tsunami, reminiscent of those witnessed in recent times.

Afterwards, in true coastal fashion, Brent fired up the barbeque to cook the vast array of meat (were we observing World Meat Day?) and empty bellies were satiated. Thank you so much, Brent and Deb, for another memorable day.



By Milly Carr





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Cape Egmont Boat Club Celebrates Fifty Years

Cape Egmont Boat Club celebrated fifty years at its Bayly Road clubrooms on Saturday, 4 June. Following the celebration meal, Commodore Dan Funnell paid tribute to the past and present members who had contributed to the growth and success of the club, which had started out in a tin shed that was originally the Warea School Principal's carshed. Dan also outlined hopes for the club's future development, including a wider, deeper race and a small marina.



Ken and Joyce Donald cut the celebration cake, held by Tom Goodin.

Gordy Wells and Crusty (Chris) Aylward were awarded life memberships. A surprised Gordy said he was blown away. "I just do it for the club, really," he said.

"I didn't join to be a life member," said Crusty, "but to have fun... It's a pretty mad outfit sometimes," he added, launching into a story about when the club's first storey was being added and, already terrified of heights, he fell through the ceiling into a big pile of sandwiches.

After the speeches, Patron Ken Donald and his wife, Joyce, cut the anniversary cake, which had been baked and decorated by George Mason, who represents the local iwi. In a moving speech, George paid tribute to the Barrett, Brophy and Fleming families, which are branches of his wider family that have been associated with the club. George also described the Coast of days gone by, with houses and gardens along the shoreline, Pungarehu School populated by about 200 children and Warea by a further 120 or so.

Bayly Road Boat Club is an active club that has much to be proud of, not least its stunning location. As someone in the audience announced, "We have the best view of Mount Egmont in New Zealand off the coast here."

Story by Kerry Lilley

Photo by Nicci Hooker

What Was I Thinking?

PAUL HENRY'S BOOK LAUNCH



Nicci with Paul

Paul Henry describes himself as an orator — a natural born storyteller. This is only one of the descriptions that fit this incredibly charming man. His book, *What Was I Thinking*, enthralled readers with stories that will make you cry laughing, and others that could potentially save your life. His memoirs are interspersed with illustrations from his dear mum, who now lives in a home for the bewildered. Paul's love for her shows through and is another of his traits to be admired.

I was lucky enough to be in the audience of about 200 people at the Devon Hotel and to spend some time with Paul at his book launch, hosted by the magical team at Benny's Books in New Plymouth. Paul was extremely engaging and had every person in the room fascinated as he shared insights into his complex character. His manners were impeccable — he always apologised after swearing. Paul greeted each person eagerly awaiting a signature in his book like they actually mattered to him. That we were the reason he wrote it. So we could understand what makes him tick.

I can't disagree with Mr Henry when he says, "You know, I do believe this is the best book I've ever read. I felt so engaged." You can find it in the Coastal Taranaki School's library. I thoroughly recommend it!

Story and photo by Nicci Hooker

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Christchurch Earthquake 2011

SIX PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE

We have heard sufficient about the Christchurch earthquake now for the details to seem familiar. Many of us feel we have a handle on the horror of it and have given to the cause accordingly. Bear with me, however, while I recap.

On September 04 2010, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit Christchurch, causing significant damage to the city and the central Canterbury region. There were stories of close calls but the quake had happened in the early hours of the morning when most people were still in bed, and incredibly, there were no direct fatalities.

Nearly six months later, on 22 February this year, a 5km deep, magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck near the city. This time, a number of factors conspired to ensure that the city did not get off so lightly. The quake occurred during a weekday lunchtime when the central business district (CBD) was busy. The epicentre was closer to Christchurch and shallower than the September event. Intense peak ground acceleration (PGA) — simultaneous vertical and horizontal ground movement — made it almost impossible for buildings to survive intact, especially when many buildings had been already weakened by the previous quake and its aftershocks. Liquefaction caused significant ground movement, undermining many foundations and destroying infrastructure. Destruction of and damage to the city and its buildings, land, roads, bridges, water and sewerage, power and communications was extensive. At least 181 people died (the causes of four further deaths are at present inconclusive) and 1500–2000 people were injured, 220 of them seriously. A multitude of residents were left homeless or in need of various levels of assistance. Livelihoods were ruined.

This is both the background to and was the reason for our recent visit to the city, to spend time with friends. To a man or woman, their resilience is remarkable and despite a range of very sobering and even gruelling experiences, they are still smiling. However, their conversation revolves around the earthquake and their timelines are defined by “before the quake, at the time of the quake, since the quake.” One friend can describe every fault line, its direction and depth, and has all the major quakes and aftershocks, including dates and magnitudes, catalogued in her mind. Furthermore, she knows which way and in what manner the house will move with each fault line’s adjustment. During the time we were visiting, she found an online picture gallery of earthquake damage in Christchurch’s CBD (see link, below) and would disappear at intervals to view it again and be shocked, or marvel, or question building design and safety standards. People need to talk about what has happened to them. Their lives have been irrevocably changed and they need us to understand.

One friend, in the moments after she was thrown to the ground, watched as the roof of her family’s home of 48 years fell in. Fortunately her husband, who was inside, emerged unscathed. Their house, however, was ruined and their much-loved garden, which bordered the Avon River in the eastern suburb of Bexley, was engulfed in liquefaction.



Jaws open for another demolition.

Helen and Allan have been allowed three short, supervised visits to retrieve some of the things that are important to them. They are not sure if they can live there again. After the quake, they stayed briefly with their daughter’s family, have moved twice since then, and now rent a tiny state house in a suburb on the other side of town, far from friends, neighbours and familiar surroundings. With resigned acceptance but no sign of bitterness they have determined to enjoy the ambience of their new home, and have joyfully discovered a beautiful park nearby and Chinese and Vietnamese restaurants in the local shopping centre. Furthermore, Helen is embracing an opportunity to contribute her mosaic skills to an earthquake memorial. When I asked Helen, a counsellor, how she finds working with others’ reactions to the quake, she said, “It’s a distraction, really! Some people have been re-traumatised and all sorts of old stuff comes to the



Helen and Allan smiling despite their home’s destruction.

surface again, but you can't make the normal pathological; you have to remind yourself that anxiety is normal and get on with it." So sometimes she responds to her clients, "Join the club," and at other times Allan thinks she should apply "Oh poor baby" therapy! Helen and Allan consider themselves lucky! As we leave the battered house they used to call home, Allan finds the stub of a pencil and writes their newest phone number on the backdoor jamb.

In contrast to Allan and Helen's property, the only lasting damage evident at Judi and Steve's house in Sumner is a few pieces of chipped furniture and a hairline tear in a single sheet of wallpaper. But Judi's heart must have torn, even as she was thrown about her IRD office, as she watched the people who occupied the six-storey CTV building opposite her falling in slow motion to the ground, along with the building they occupied. One hundred and sixteen souls died there in those moments, or were trapped until they did. Down on the street, "There was so much dust that the sky went dark and you couldn't see where you were going," Judi said. A middle-aged woman grabbed her and, screaming that her son had just gone into the CTV building, pleaded for her help. (Days later, Judi watched a TV interview featuring the distraught woman and her son, who was alive and well.) But she could only give the woman a hug and carry on in her new, purple slip-on shoes, climbing over rubble and heading along torn-up footpaths towards the family's designated meeting place at Linwood College, 3.3km away. The route had been convoluted by areas of impassable liquefaction and policed detours, and Judi took an hour and a half to get there. But when she arrived, she found her husband, daughter and granddaughter, unscathed and waiting anxiously for her.

Walking around Sumner a day or two later, Steve pointed out the house in which "lovely, elderly friends" had lived before the quake. They had been killed when a building had fallen on the bus in which they were travelling. They are missed. Judi and Steve also drew our attention to a pile of rocks at the base of a hill where, they say, a man is buried still. On the brighter side, Steve has come to enjoy his early morning visits to the pristine portaloo amongst the trees just round the corner from their house and Judi enjoys the convenience of the temporary facilities when she is out on her daily runs. In fact, she declares that she'll miss them when they disappear! Judi and Steve say that the quake experience has taught them much but that the most important lesson of all has been that you can't rely on anyone else to save you; you have to look after yourself. They believe that this is a principle they and many others will apply throughout the rest of their lives.

Our friends, Bill and Helen, live on a lifestyle block in the relatively unaffected area of Prebbleton, to the southwest of the city. Fortunately for them, their house and property were undamaged, except for cracks in the tennis court. The quakes were still terrifying though. They were thrown about like rag dolls, furniture was tipped up, everything was thrown out of their pantry shelves, and crockery and glassware littered the kitchen floor. Helen, unnerved and "stressed to the max" by the continuing aftershocks, needs to escape from the area, for breaks. Bill describes how, during the 5.3 magnitude aftershock that occurred at 5.30 on the morning before our arrival, he flung himself on top of his wife saying, "Hang on, Sweetie," but she wasn't there; she had flown to Melbourne the previous day. "The



Mourning the Dux.

silence of the city' has been growing more intense with each generation, Bill believes, but post-quake people are kinder to each other, more generous of spirit, and they look after each other. "It's like the country has come to the city," says Bill. He and Helen extended to children from their church an open invitation to visit and it was accepted by three little girls, who stayed for a weekend. "It was really hard not to transmit our tension to them," says Bill. But they played lots of games, including Oh Hell! ate well, and enjoyed that other rare commodity in the quake-torn city — untroubled sleeps. "By the time the girls went home, they were acting normally," Bill reports with a smile.

The Cantabrians we met don't seem terrified that another 'big one' might strike at any moment, but they appear watchful, with a heightened awareness of sounds and tremors and a rational preparedness for action. They have emergency supplies at the ready and family plans, revised according to the lessons they have learned. "It was a wake up for people in all parts of the country," Judi suggests. Ultimately, Christchurch's citizens have a vision for their future in a much changed but still beautiful and vibrant, safer city. "I hope something good rises out of it all," says Bill. "This city is our home."

Christchurch RedZone slideshow link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/RossBeckerNZ/2011April27IntoTheChristchurchRedZone#slideshow/5602376597050171794>

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley

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Okato Playcentre

Okato Playcentre have been out and about learning about the community we belong to this term. We have been really well looked after out there too! Our children also got a chance to share a special place they belong to by inviting their dads along for an evening session at Playcentre.

First was a visit to Okato Fire Station. Chief Fireman Barry Harvey met us and gave us a tour of the station. He put his full firefighting uniform on and then amused our group by helping mum Liz Komene to kit up in another uniform, helmet, oxygen tank and all. The highlight of the visit was, of course, having rides in the Big Red Fire Truck with a siren blast at the end. Chief Harvey also spent a few minutes trying to recruit volunteers for the Brigade. Dad Andrew MacLean was kind of keen, and the ride in the Fire Truck with daughter, Tula, seemed to seal the deal for him. Thanks very much Chief Harvey for giving our kids (and Andrew) such a fantastic experience.

Our trip to the Okato Police Station was a bit short-lived. Our excited and noisy bunch arrived to a locked station door. I think Constable Corry might have heard us coming and used an escape hatch out the back! We know Constable Corry is a busy man, but we will try again soon...

Our next outing was just for the 3 and 4 year old Playcentre kids. They were off to visit the new entrant class at Coastal Taranaki School. We arrived at playtime so our kids raced straight onto the playground. After the bell, we coaxed our kids into class and were given a warm welcome by new entrant teacher, Mrs Lawn. First was mat time for a sing-along. Then each Playcentre child was paired up with a new entrant child for a school tour. We were all impressed by the specialised facilities, such as art, music, cooking, and computer rooms. Last stop was the library. The children were greeted by librarian, Mrs Pearce, and had a lovely time reading with their buddies. Then it was back off to class for an activity about what we want to be when we grow up. It appears we will have quite a few firemen and mermaids in the workforce in a few years time! Thank you, Mrs Lawn, for such a great morning. Our kids got a really positive feeling about school and will be looking forward to joining you soon.

DADS' NIGHT

Wednesday, 25 May was Dads' & Kids' Night at Okato Playcentre, with the majority of the Playcentre dads showing up. It was an awesome opportunity for the children to show their dads what they do at Playcentre. Unfortunately, the weather and it being nighttime meant that all activities were to remain inside but it was still a fun night for everyone. The icing on the cake was when the fish'n'chips arrived. Big thanks to Okato Takeaways for supplying the fish'n'chips (and an awesome discount to boot).

I would think that all the mums were grateful for a night free of their lovely children, and some were probably impressed that the dads survived the night and returned home with the



correct kid/s. Overall it was a great night, a great idea, and I bet the next one's being planned right now.

by Jason Komene

You got that right, Jason, we are thinking it should be a weekly event. From what we hear, Mac Moffitt certainly enjoyed helping his father dress up like a fairy princess, and judging by the telltale nappy change the next morning, little cousin Ben Moffitt enjoyed a big helping of blue playdough for pudding. Well done, guys!

Playcentre welcomes new families to join us. Sessions run for 0-6 year olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm, just over the Stony River Bridge. Enquiries to Kerryph. 06-752 8095.

Winners of the May Tupperware Raffle are as follows:

- 1st Nadine White (ticket 220)
- 2nd Amanda Drought (ticket 55)
- 3rd Shelley Hooker (ticket 125)

Thanks to everyone for supporting our fundraising raffle, and thanks also to Jac Fisher, our local Tupperware demonstrator, for assisting us with the great prize packages.

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Okato Community Forum Report

Nine people attended the second Okato Community Forum held on 16 June. The two issues that dominated the discussions were dog control and a proposed subdivision at the end of Gossling Street.

KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD (KCB)

KCB Member, Teresa Goodin, reminded everyone about the Fluoridation Consultation in September. She again encouraged Okato residents to sign up for the New Plymouth District Council's (NPDC) Citizen's Panel, to ensure that Okato aspirations and issues are regularly aired at Council. Those present were given an opportunity to discuss any items on the agenda for the KCB meeting the following week. No issues were raised.

DOG CONTROL

Jim Aitken, NPDC Senior Animal Control Officer attended the meeting to discuss some of the dog issues that had been raised at the previous forum. Recently several residents have expressed concern about dog faeces on the footpaths and wandering dogs in the Okato township. Jim kindly reminded everyone that both are an offence under the Council's Dog Control bylaw, which states that the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place is required to immediately remove the faeces and that dogs should be under control at all times. The penalty for both offences is an instant \$300 fine.

Jim encouraged residents to approach dog owners in the first instance, explaining that many people don't realise that their dogs are causing a mess and subsequently distress in the community. Jim agreed to place a number of signs around the township reminding people about the \$300 fine for failing to remove dog poo. He also encouraged anyone that is concerned about a dog issue to contact Animal Control at the Council on 06-759 6060. All complaints are confidential. Jim and his team are happy to visit dog owners and discuss how they can ensure that their dogs have a positive impact on the community.

GOSSLING STREET SUBDIVISION

Peter Lambert expressed concern on behalf of several residents about a proposed subdivision at the end of Gossling Street. Pat and Lindsay McFetridge recently approached Okato residents who are deemed by the NPDC to be affected parties, to sign forms and plans giving their approval for a proposed subdivision. The developers propose to establish three new sections at the end of Gossling Street, which is stage one of a plan to develop 43 sections in total. Some of the residents have decided not to give their approval, which means that the resource consent will now most likely be notified.

Several concerns were raised about the subdivision, which mostly related to how the proposed three sections would impact the way the remaining land was developed in the future. All of those present at the meeting agreed that this is possibly the most significant development in Okato for the next 100 years, and that the community wants an opportunity to be consulted, and that the subdivision must incorporate best practice in residential development.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Harry Duynhoven gave an excellent overview of current Council projects including the annual plan process, the Waitara sewerage pipeline and the upgrade of the New Plymouth wastewater treatment plant, Council savings through energy efficiencies and purchasing, the award-winning Te Rewarewa Bridge, roading issues, walkways, the Port, the Central City and the Len Lye Centre. A lively and interesting discussion followed where residents raised a number of issues directly with the Mayor including New Plymouth street art and the ongoing issues with drainage outside the Okato Four Square.

WEBSITE

The Okato Community Forum now has a website where residents can find reports from previous meetings and a list of scheduled meeting dates for 2011. Okato residents are encouraged to leave comments and questions on the site: <http://okatocommunityforum.blogspot.com/>

NEXT MEETING

The next Okato Community Forum will be held on Thursday, 28 July at 7pm in the Hempton Hall. The next KCB Meeting will be held in Okato on Monday, 1 August at 7pm at the Hempton Hall. If you would like to receive information about the Community Forums or receive agendas for the KCB meetings please contact Teresa Goodin on 06-752 8186 or 027-4543585 or email teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

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SPORT

Okato Tennis Club

Well, Midweek Ladies finished the season back in April, however, things are still happening over these winter months. Firstly, we have just replaced all the windows in the clubrooms thanks to Southern Trust's grant of \$1,400. We have also received a grant from NZCT of \$4,500 to go towards building a rebound wall, which also includes the money our club raised at the Quiz Night back in March this year. So all going well this will be up and running for Term 4.

We have also received funding from Sports Taranaki for a professional coach. This coaching will be happening in Term 4, starting Monday October 31 for a six-week block. To cover the extra costs there will be a charge of \$35.00 per child from years 3 to 8. This is to progress Children into Competition, which is held on Friday nights. Look for the next issue of TOM for more details. A notice will also be sent home through CTS soon. Phone Noeline 06-752 8200 or Maree 06-752 8107 with expressions of interest. Note: Numbers are limited and parent help most welcome.

Lastly, any ladies out there keen to make up a team of five to play Midweek Ladies Competition on a Monday during Term 4 and 1, contact Noeline on 06-752 8200 or Raewynne on 06-752 4466. Teams need to register by mid-August.

Thanks,

Noeline van der Poel



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The At-Home Book Launch

How better to launch a book called VIRTUAL TART @ HOME than by doing it all at home?

Dale Copeland has put together this book about 53 Taranaki artists whose work is shown on the Virtual Tart website at www.virtual.tart.co.nz (you can see details and some images of the book from a link on its front page).

The book launch will be at Puniho Art Press, a.k.a. the house of Dale Copeland and Paul Hutchinson, at 7266 Surf Highway on Saturday 30 July from 2pm till 6pm (this is the closest to an Open Studio that these two reclusive artists have ever managed). Bubbles and tarts in the jungle!

Dale Copeland

Own site: www.dalecopeland.co.nz

Virtual TART: www.virtual.tart.co.nz

Collage sites: www.outofsight.co.nz

Farewell to Father Garty

Father Garty has been the local Catholic priest in the village for the past nine years and now, into his 91st year, found it was time to move from his home on Cumming Street, Okato. He now resides at the Mission Rest Home in New Plymouth where he is delivering daily services for the residents there, which he thoroughly enjoys.

In his nine years in Okato Father Garty diligently took daily morning services and a Saturday evening mass for the local parishioners, which were well attended.



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PHOTO BY KERRY LILLEY

St Patricks Catholic Church is fortunate to have a priest from New Plymouth who now provides the evening mass each Saturday. The locals that attended the daily morning mass are missing the service provided by Father Garty as well as the social interaction it provided for them.

The village is a little emptier without the sight of Father Garty walking along the side of the road and we cannot forget the familiar little red car creeping up the road.

Father would love a visit at the rest home from those who wish to see him.


By Milly Carr

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Term 2 at Coastal Taranaki School

Our rainy terms haven't slowed us down! The junior school has been visiting the bush along the Stony River and the local beach as a part of their Bush to Beach unit. They have been working with Mike Tapp from the Department of Conservation to learn about their environment.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students have been working hard to complete Science Fair projects. These will be on display in the school hall from July 4. The winning projects will be sent in to represent us at the Taranaki Science Fair next term.

Year 7 and 8 classes have been enjoying Japanese lessons and will work with our two Japanese students in Term 3. They are also looking forward to interschool sports exchanges, which start for them in Term 3; the Year 5 and 6 games are already underway. Thank you to those who have lent their support as coaches, transport providers and on the sideline. Year 9 and 10 students are working towards a trip to Rarotonga and have established businesses to raise funds for their trip.

Auditions will be held at the end of Term 2 for our school production "Remember When..." Mrs Luke and her gifted and talented extension programme students have created the whole production. This production will be held in Term 3 and our students are already anticipating a fantastic show.

Sharleen Valentine

Coastal Cares For Christchurch

Sydney Corry and Emma Gibson fundraised through a raffle for Shirley Intermediate School in Christchurch. They raised \$445.00. They got all of the non-perishable gifts from people at Coastal Taranaki School and shops around the village.

They "Skyped" the school. They have about 300 students and 60 who are out of Christchurch because of the earthquake. They are all Year 7 and 8 multi-cultural students.

Shirley Intermediate is going to have a fun day with a sausage sizzle, music and games. They are going to buy a stereo with the money they have been given.

When the earthquake hit liquefaction was all over their school. They all went on the back field. A student went and told one of the teachers that he could see bubbles coming out of the ground then they had to move to the front field and the same thing happened. After that they ended up on the netball courts so they made their way to higher ground. One kid said all he could hear was crying and screaming.

Sydney and Emma sold 89 tickets at the cost of \$5.00 each. They were up against Francis Douglas Memorial Collage who donated \$10,000. They donated it to the same school.

The person who won the raffle was Tareka Elaska. He is from Christchurch. Tareka came here to get away from the earthquakes.

Sydney Corry and Emma Gibson would like to thank everyone who has helped Christchurch and donated goods, thanks!

by Jessica Gibson and Lisa Appert



Emma Gibson (left) and Sydney Corry with the Shirley Intermediate teddies the students from the school sent.

Kids For Kids Concert

Coastal Taranaki School Year 5 and 6 students practised lots of singing as they entered the Kids For Kids concert. Miss Nichola Hunt coached the choir and put them through their paces. They rehearsed for 12 weeks, twice a week, and they learnt 18 songs. Each school got to enter two soloists to audition for a solo singing part in the concert. Coastal entered Gemma Milham and Jaxon Madden. We asked some people what they thought about the concert.

Corbyn Sole: "It was exciting, we got to sing lots of songs."

Jaxon Madden: "Being a soloist was the best part; also getting to sing with Suzanne Prentice."

Blake Carr: "Singing with lots of kids."

Gemma Milham: "Getting to meet Suzanne and singing in front of an audience for my first time."

Geogia Strachen: "That Suzanne came to sing with us." Geogia's favourite song was the rock'n'roll medley.

by Lisa Appert and Izzy Henderson

Jaxon Madden, second right, preparing for solo song.



CTS Kapa Haka

On Saturday the 11th Coastal Taranaki School and Opunake joined together to make the team 'Ko te Taihauauru', which means West Coast Schools. We interviewed some of the students that took part in the Taranaki regional competition. We asked Chris Luke (their mentor) the following question: "Where did you get placed in the competition?"

To which he answered: "As well as we did, we didn't get placed. For most of them it was their first time ever performing."

We also asked: "What was your highlight of the day?"

"To see all of the students buzzing, so hyper, it was really amazing! The best thing was they all had smiles on their faces, which meant to me that they were champions, they had a good time and did the best they could!"

When we asked the students if they could make anything better or change anything they all answered with: "I wouldn't change anything it was perfect!" Or, "I would try even harder."

Kia kaha, we are proud to have you represent our school!

Jessica Waiariki and Ella Aylward (Year 8 reporters)



Juanita Vete.



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OKATO CLUBS & GROUPS

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 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. You can still email the Playgroup on okatoplaygroup@hotmail.com

Plunket

Meet bi-monthly at St Paul's Church Hall. 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.