

Honours for one in particular

Saturday 3 May marked a milestone for one of the members of our community, local builder and Fire Brigade member, Bruce Barron.

The evening saw a celebration at the Okato Rugby Club to acknowledge the 25 years Bruce has served in the Brigade and with this great commitment and dedication comes the wonderful honour of a Gold Star Medal.

The evening was well attended by many friends, family, past and present members of the Brigade and invited guests from the Western Fire Region. Everyone enjoyed a fun evening which included the formal presentation of certificates and medals to members of the Brigade who have served three years or more in the Fire Service.

Bruce and his wife Raewyn both received gifts from the Brigade and the Western Fire Region Commander Trevor Brown presented Bruce with his Gold Star Medal along with a silver tray which Trevor said acknowledged "the wonderful contribution that partners and family play in supporting our volunteers." He continued, "I am grateful for the contribution that people such as Bruce give to both the Brigade and the community, offering experience and knowledge to the station and supporting the newer members."

Bruce said he's had many experiences in his years in the Brigade and there have been many, many great times but also some very challenging ones too. He thanked his wife, Raewyn, "Without her I wouldn't make it to many of the calls. She has to dig me in the ribs when the siren goes up as I sleep through anything!" Raewyn tells me she gets up to open the automatic door when Bruce drives out – what a lady you've got there, Bruce!

It was the year of 1981 when Bruce joined the Brigade, feeling it was time to

give something back to the community. There was a team of approximately 16 members then and the appliance bay housed an International Fire Engine with an open back cab. "You really had to watch yourself when you went around any corners or your knee caps could get smashed," said Bruce. Nothing like today's appliances!

Over the years Bruce has attended 27 fatalities and it was particularly difficult for him when his cousin was killed in a car crash at Warea. Bruce relates that he copes with these issues by talking, not bottling anything up. Another huge undertaking was Cyclone Bola in 1988. The cyclone blasted its way through Taranaki, hitting Oakura in all its fury. It took many hours and a huge amount of manpower to repair the damage to many buildings and houses in Oakura.

The first day they worked from 7am through the night, until 4-30 the next morning, nailing down iron, securing houses and applying tarpaulins. Bruce remembers the roof of the Oakura Hall lifting, with only a few nails holding it down. "We had guys on the roof nailing as the wind continued to whip through and the guys just kept hammering. It was a huge job, one I won't forget." With Bruce's vast experience, he is always there to help new Brigade



Moe Kelly presenting Gold Star Medal to Bruce Barron.



Trevor Brown (New Zealand Fire Service Regional Commander) and Bruce Barron.

a peek inside

Lions' Den	3
Fair Trading	5
Torpedoed	6
Middle Eastern delight	7
Coastal Taranaki School	8
Playcentre	9
Burning Issues	10
TOM Okato babies	11

(Continued on page 4)

editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE


The TOM team hopes that everyone affected by April's flooding is recovering from any damage suffered. Hopefully Mother Nature is kind to us this winter.

I have been hearing via the grapevine that the Stony has been full to bursting on occasions, the coffee and food at the Waiting Room are fabulous and the cheese from the factory is scrumptious, so it is sounding like all good news for the village – go Okato!

Good luck to all the sports clubs and teams in the area as the winter season winds on – standing on the sidelines at Okato home games is not for the faint hearted! Heads up to all the sensible parents who steered their numerous offspring into inline hockey where the chill factor is a little kinder. We would love to have a regular scoreboard column so send in your results – both the good and the not so good – to kim@thetom.co.nz

Kim

**Deadline for July issue –
Copy and ads 20 June, delivery 9 July.**



ALEX RODGER - REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN ph : (06) 752 4494 or 027 524 4084

TOM

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.

THE TEAM

Co-ordinator	Tracey Lusk	06 752 7875
Co-ordinator	Kim Ferens	06 751 1519
Writer:	Milly Carr	06 752 4425
Writer:	Kerry Lilley	06 752 4350
Graphics:	Ron Stratford	origin@xtra.co.nz

The TOM Group Ltd, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

email kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone 0800 THE TOM

www.thetom.co.nz

Points of view expressed in contributed articles are not necessarily the views of TOM.

SPREADING




Spreadmark certified
Experienced operators
GPS Mapping for proof of placement

ONE CALL ORDERING

FBT 0800 432 866

- 759 2151 New Plymouth - Rod Campbell
- 756 0040 Inglewood
- 752 4124 Okato - Dermott Lane
- 761 7342 Opunake



Creating Beautiful Floors For Over 15 Years

WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED

Fraser Flooring

LET US PREPARE YOUR WOOD & CONCRETE FLOORS

FREE QUOTES

Domestic and Commercial

- Sanding & Polyurethaning Cork, Parquet & Timber Floors.
- Vinyl & Carpet Removal.
- Concret Grinding, Polishing & Floor Levelling.



Call Geoff Fraser
Ph/Fax 06 758 2732
Mobile 0274 459 621



For all Milk Quality enquiries and Rapid Testing for Inhibitory Substances

027 278 1653

Pathway to quality

Support Okato's Community Trust Committee

Once upon a time, the Masonic Lodge, a community-minded organisation, was a driving force in Okato. However, with the passage of time and the urban drift of Okato's townspeople, it became defunct. In keeping with its philosophy, it gave its hall and the land surrounding it to the Okato community, in trust.

The Okato Community Trust Committee, formed to look after the property, uses it to provide reasonably priced rental housing to locals, usually elderly people. It is now considering expanding its horizons. Hempton Hall needs further repairs and maintenance and, in the absence of an active Hall committee, the Trust feels it may be appropriate for it to take that responsibility. This is subject to negotiation with the District Council.

Previous and existing committee members have done a great job. Tim Wigmore, Rebecca Asquith and Kurt Hikaka have joined the team and add a youthful vibrancy. "However, we are looking for new members, who are proud of their community and want to see it thrive," says Jim Lawn, Okato Community Trust's Chairperson. "Here is an opportunity to make a difference to your community."

The Trust is well established and financially sound. Meetings of an hour or an hour and a half are held only five or six times a year and the time you would need to devote to Trust affairs would be minimal.

The next meeting is on 3 July at 7.30pm at the Community Trust Hall on Cumming Street. If you need further information, call Jim on 752 4138.

By Kerry Lilley

Greetings from the Okato Lions Den

Our visit to the Urenui Club on the first Wednesday in May went well. It was enjoyed by the 15 or so members that attended.

The envy of the Urenui Club is their large membership of 60 or more (one of the reasons being, that it is a club for men and women membership) We enjoyed an excellent meal and fellowship with one or two jokes thrown in also.

This month we will visit the Helicopter Hanger and then on to a meal that is going to be prepared and served by trainee chefs. This will be a members and spouses night.

Our July annual change over night is getting closer. That is when officers for the new year are elected. We usually pick a local venue such as Patuha Lodge or the Okato Tavern etc.

Don't be alarmed if you hear the sound of a whip cracking as it will be President Bernard bringing us Lions back into line now that they are back from their overseas trip.

New members always welcome

Lion

Merv Hooker

OAKURA BEACH HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**HOLIDAY HOMES
B&B's
GUESTHOUSES**

Phone
06 752 7875
email
4tomgirl@xtra.co.nz

The SOUND of MUSIC

19-28 June

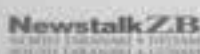
Director: Warren Bates | Musical Director: Shirley Murphy
For more info visit: www.npos.co.nz

The hills are alive!

Taranaki's hills will be alive in June 2008, with New Plymouth Operatic Society in association with Taranaki's Newstalk ZB and Classic Hits 90fm announcing the production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein all-time favourite, *The Sound of Music*. To be staged at the TSB Showplace in June 2008.

Based on the real life story of Maria von Trapp, this musical adaptation of Howard Lindsay's 1949 book by Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II opened on Broadway in 1959. Audiences won't be able to stop themselves from humming along to one of the best-loved, heart warming stories of all time containing the show stopping hits "The Sound of Music", "Edelweiss", "My Favourite Things", "Climb Every Mountain", "Do-Re-Mi".

Thursday	19 June 2008	7.30pm
Friday	20 June 2008	7.30pm
Saturday	21 June 2008	2.00pm 7.30pm
Sunday	22 June 2008	4.00pm
Tuesday	24 June 2008	7.30pm
Wednesday	25 June 2008	7.30pm
Thursday	26 June 2008	7.30pm
Friday	27 June 2008	7.30pm
Saturday	28 June 2008	2.00pm 7.30pm



(Continued from page 1)

Honours for one in particular

members when they come on board. He loves to have a good laugh with everyone and in his years in the Service he has made some great friendships. "The trainings which involved water scraps have been rather memorable. These are lots of fun!" His eyes light up as he speaks.

In 2003 Bruce was made a life member of the Brigade. "I felt very honoured," said Bruce. "The service is an avenue where you can give something back to the community and with my two sons in the Brigade, I hope they will carry on with the same tradition." Perhaps they will become life members like Bruce.

Bruce comments, "Everything is looking good for the Brigade, with lots of young members, it's a strong crew. At the end of the day, no-one is good without a team. You need the rest of the crew behind you. You can be the best leader but it is a team effort, with communication and trust."

Without volunteers of Bruce's calibre the Fire Service would not be what it is today. We at the Fire Brigade and the community as a whole thank you, Bruce, for your dedication and experience, and congratulate you on your achievements.

By Milly Carr

**JSL**
Juffermans Surveyors Ltd

- » Site Surveys
- » Subdivisions
- » Resource Consents
- » Boundary Locations

t » 06 759 0904
e » info@juffermans.co.nz

© J. A. JUFFERMANS LTD

Letter to the Editor

Kia Ora in Okato!

Just received our second issue of *TOM* via snail mail from Des and Nola Corbett, and wanted to say thanks for the wonderful two-part story on friend Dale Copeland. As "summer residents" of New Plymouth/Taranaki since 1991, we like to call it "home" and have so many good memories of our every 2-3 year visits there for extended periods.

It all began with an invitation from Mayor David Lean, who we met in Plymouth, England in 1988 (20 years this July) with the contingent of 25 or so Plymothians from New Zealand. This resulted in an invitation to come to New Plymouth in March of 1991 for the 150th celebrations. Five of us from Maine accepted that invitation and thus our love began with this area of Taranaki and we have been coming back as often as possible to reunite with our "families" there. Des and Nola offered their home on Oxford Road to the five visiting Plymothians from Maine in 1991, and have been doing so every time since. We dearly love our "Mayor of Okato", as we like to call him, and keep in touch with them. They got to visit us for some return hospitality on an extensive tour they took in the US.

Have looked at Trevor Read's photos in the *TDN*, which is read online almost every day here. Know just where his studio is, and know Peter and Rene too. Our work was also featured on the *TART* site a few years ago, and we are in constant touch with Dale in the "centre of the wired world" she lives in. Super, great!

So we have many fond memories of our times there and have left some marks of our gratitude for the wonderful Kiwi hospitality, such as a memorial stone for Terry O'Sullivan, a slate stone tablet given to the District Council in 1991 which should still be at the offices on Liardet Street, a tuatara given to Rangimarie that, at last report, is still "hiding" in the greenery at the Centennial Drive building... and many other personal stone "koha" bowls around the area. We are hoping to return later in this year and would like to write a journal of our "adventures" in Taradise some day.

So thanks again for keeping the news of the area in print for reading by your northern New England friends sitting in the cold and snow at the moment, dreaming of sharing some of the heat you have experienced this summer! I have also bookmarked your website to visit when we need to update what is going on there.

Many thanks again... and good luck!

Jane and David Holmes, Plymouth, Maine

DON'T PUT UP WITH POOR TV RECEPTION



- Free Signal Test & Quote
- Free to Air Satellite Installations
- TV, Video DVD and Stereo Setup & Tuning
- VHF / UHF Aerials Installations
- Additional Phone or Data Cabling
- Home Theatre Wiring Installations
- Caravan & FM Aerials

We service all of the Taranaki region

AERIAL MASTER
SPECIALISING IN TELEVISION RECEPTION

**Ph: 06 759 0245 or
0800 88 2374 and**

see...the difference

ziji 
DAY SPA

Your escape from the everyday

Facials, massage, manicures, pedicures,
eyelash/brow shape and tint,
feminine focus - waxing, sun FX spray tan, gift vouchers,
shiatsu and qigong healing.

1136 South Rd, Oakura

Contact Forest, ph 7521374 email info@zijidayspa.co.nz

Hayley
Burwell of
Nana's
Pantry. (PHOTO
BY KERRY LILLEY)



Fair Trade – a fair deal for Third World producers

The main focus of Fair Trade Fortnight this year (3-18 May) was to promote the concept of "environmental justice". While we in the Western world are hotly debating the effects climate change will have on our lifestyles, those who leave the lightest environmental footprint – the world's poor – stand to suffer its effects the most.

Poor communities throughout the world use low-tech production methods, sustainable and renewable natural resources and recycled materials. It follows that their products are a wise choice for consumers wishing to reduce their own impact on the environment. Yet the middle-men flourish while the producers reap meager rewards. All aspects of their lives suffer.

Fair trade is a concept that offers them a way out of this poverty trap. It is a model of international trade that guarantees fair payment to growers of produce and makers of goods. This means they can maintain better lifestyles, their children can attend schools, they can have better health care and money is available to be invested in their communities.

Some of our local business people actively support the fair trade system.

Owner of "Nana's Pantry", Hayley Burwell, is a passionate advocate. She sells a range of products and uses ingredients

sourced from the Fair Trade warehouse in Christchurch. "I can't, in good conscience, do anything else," she says. Lindsey Ellison of "Seed" says they sell some "Fair Trade" products too, providing they have organic certification. (While all Fair Trade products are organic, certification is costly and not always a viable option for Third World producers.) Lindsey's philosophy is that "No man is an island... there are consequences of everything you do, including everything you buy." And if you buy a coffee from The Waiting Room, you can be sure that the farmers who produced the beans will be getting a fair price. Owner and barista Laurent Manderson has recently changed to Fair Trade coffee and guarantees we'll not be disappointed with the flavour of the new brew. "It's not as



"Man Alone", Dale Copeland's Junk to Green Funk assemblage.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF DALE COPELAND)

robust but it's more complex... more scallop than lemon fish," he says.

If you've passed the Trade Aid outlet in New Plymouth recently, you may have spotted Dale Copeland's contribution to Fair Trade Fortnight. Her "junk to green funk" sculpture, *Man Alone*, has been auctioned in Wellington on World Environment Day (5 June) with half of the proceeds going into a fund to be used for environmental education.

You can do your part too. When buying food items, look for the Fair Trade logo. For items such as jewellery, ornaments and handicrafts, look for evidence that it has been imported by a Fair Trade organisation. Choose to buy Fair Trade and guarantee a better deal for Third World Producers.

By Kerry Lilley



Dental House

Introducing Faye McDonald.

With 37 years of dental therapy experience, Faye has joined our practice to provide care for everyone from year 9 to 18 years of age.

- * Gentle, caring staff, new patients welcome
- * Laughing gas and intravenous sedation
- * Cosmetic dentistry and implant dentistry
- * Alternatives to amalgam
- * All gum problems
- * Prompt emergency service, ACC approved
- * Dental Hygienist

270 Carrington Street New Plymouth Ph 06 753 6298

Talk To Tasman Toyota Today



NEW VEHICLES
SIGNATURE CLASS
LATE MODEL NZ NEW
FULL SERVICE FACILITIES
PARTS AND ACCESSORIES
WOF's
WARRANTY SALES



585-595 Devon St East, New Plymouth
Ph: (06) 769 9933 Fax: (06) 757 9329
www.tasman.toyota.co.nz

Cnr Tukapa St and Sanders Ave, Westown
Ph: (06) 753 2397



Mobile EFTPOS now available

Wayne Jury

APPLIANCE REPAIRS

FISHER & PAYKEL SPECIALISTS FOR . . .

- Dishwashers • Fridges • Laundry
- Cook tops • Ovens • Waste Disposals

Phone: 753 5365

Mobile: 0274 889 366

Email: wayne.jury@xtra.co.nz



WAYNE JURY



LYN JURY

A day at the beach

For many people a trip to the beach can mean travelling up to half an hour or more, but for us "Okato-ites" it's simply a couple of minutes down the road or a half-hour walk to many of the wonderful, rugged West Coast beaches practically on our doorstep.

With the weather so inclement of late, a walk outside may not naturally occur to you as a pleasant way to fill your spare time. But a walk along the rough sandy shore and even across the ever-so-cold Stony River can really invigorate a mind and body sluggish from the winter weather. You really know you are living when your feet are immersed in those icy waters and you no longer have any sensation in your extremities!

The family and I enjoyed a quiet stroll along the Komene Road beach recently. What I love about the place is the solitude and its wind-swept, wild, West Coast attitude.

There appear to have been significant changes to the river mouth since the floods in late April, with large amounts of sand and debris deposited in the area.

As we headed back along the beach I could see several chairs parked up next to a quad bike, all occupied with keen fishermen and women. On approaching the group, it became evident that it was the same people we had bumped into when we first headed off on our venture. They were local farmers and their friends who told us they visit the spot whenever the weather is on their side.

So what was the quad bike for? On closer examination I spotted a winch mounted to the front of the bike with what they call a "torpedo" long line many miles out to sea. It had been set for nearly 45-50 minutes and we were just in time to put hands to work and assist with "pulling in" the line, although it was actually battery operated, which I found rather fascinating.

It didn't seem to take long and before we knew it (and with the kids help) the first lot of hooks appeared from the water. Anticipation built – how many fish would there be? It was a small catch but one not to be sniffed at. There were several small spotty sharks and three or four kahawai wriggling on their traces as the kids leapt about with excitement.

What a great invention the fishing industry has produced – maybe the days of seeing the fishing rods fringed along the beaches is coming to an end? I don't think that will ever happen!

We parted the company with the fishers and left feeling content with our day on the beach, enjoying the simple pleasures in life. One doesn't ask for much.

By Milly Carr



All hands required!



Wendy Clement and Richard Carr.



Blake Carr with long line torpedo.



The long line hooks the people!

MIRIMI MASSAGE THERAPY

RAEWYN ROBINSON
Massage Therapist

SPIRITUAL CLAIRVOYANT
AND
SOUL JOURNEY FACILITATOR

14a Carthew Street, Okato

Phone: (06) 752 4144

Mobile: 027 616 1305

A Brighter Future

When you start with
Kip McGrath Education Centres.

We offer professional tutoring programs for pre-school through to high school students. We help build the foundations for academic success.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spelling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maths |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comprehension | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior Maths |



Call today for a free assessment on
0800 888 674 or visit www.kipmcgrath.com

Leigh Gatward-Cook - from ballet to belly dancing

There may be a link between belly dancing and reproduction but it has nothing to do with seduction. Rather, the circular movements employed may originally have been a means of preparing women's muscles for labour. The dance form is more properly known as "Oriental Dancing" or "Middle Eastern Dancing" and is a folk dance performed by nearly everyone in every home in the Middle East, for fun and to celebrate joyful occasions.

We have an advocate, teacher and performer of this fascinating dance form in our midst. Her name is Leigh Gatward-Cook. Her dance name is Shazadi. She was born in the Hawkesbury River District beneath the Blue Mountains, inland from Sydney and grew up there on a small, lifestyle block, bordering the Australian bush. An out-doorsy, athletic child, she loved to ride her horse. She also liked to dance and was "hugely into sports", including basketball, netball and speed skating. "But gymnastics was my life", she says, "and that's where my flexibility comes from." For ten years, she lived and worked in the heart of Sydney, in the beauty industry and the band scene. After that, she travelled to Boston for some "OE" and eventually settled in Auckland. For the next ten years, Leigh worked in film and television, casting models and actors for some of the top advertising agencies there. In 1999, encouraged by a friend who was a successful oriental dancer, she went to learn Middle Eastern Dance from a "really great dance teacher". She was hooked! While she found it quite technical, she also discovered a deep connection between the music and the dance. "It's a dance from the heart," she says. Leigh learned as much as she could, then went to her teacher's teacher – a Maori woman who had been one of the best dancers in London back in the Eighties. From her she learned the finer points of her craft and matured as a dancer.

She also met her "dance twin," Kimberly Alford, with whom she performed at many big events over the next six years. In the evenings, about five times a week, Leigh danced professionally in restaurants. Sometimes she danced at three different venues on one night. Added to that were performances for parties, conferences, ethnic festivals and corporate events.

In 2003 she won a contract to dance in India for three months and performed in five-star hotels there. "We were treated like stars," Leigh enthuses. "Belly dancers over there are highly regarded and all the hotels want one." She describes her amazement at seeing her photograph emblazoned on advertising billboards and being absolutely fascinated by the traffic. "There were so many close calls – we came so close to killing people!" she tells me, obviously still alarmed.

Leigh's husband, Bruce, was working for Destination Taranaki, promoting the province, and this required him to spend time in Taranaki every few months. He was an enthusiastic surfer, had made quite a few friends and was keen to move here. Leigh, however, was reluctant to leave the dance scene behind. Then it dawned on her that not only could she explore somewhere different and meet new people, but "I could bring my love – my



Leigh, aka "Shazadi" - what else can you say?

passion – [here] and create a little community of dancers." Leigh and Bruce made the move nearly four years ago and now, in addition to working fulltime as a plant propagation supervisor, Leigh runs her New Plymouth-based Cairo Rose Middle Eastern Dance School, teaches dance and performs both locally and for national events.

Leigh and Bruce are enjoying living up Dover Road. "I love the quaintness of Okato. I love having no neighbours, I love waking to the birds and I love coming home," says Leigh, "but it did take a while to adjust." She missed the dance scene. "I went from full-on, going hard to... nothing! And there were no Turkish restaurants to dine and dance at." On the other hand, Leigh acknowledges, "Part of me is a real country girl." She's not entirely starved of Turkish cuisine, either, for she loves to cook, when she gets the chance. And the drive to work is a pleasure compared to the hour's travel

each way in the hurley-burley of Auckland's traffic.

If you're tempted to take up the dance, contact Leigh. It's fun, good exercise and promotes flexibility and stamina. It's a dance, Leigh will reassure you, for all shapes and sizes. It's a dance of the people, for the people. And the music is great.

Cairo Rose Middle Eastern Dance School

(06) 752 4949 Mobile: (027) 659 1529

Email: leighgatward-cook@xtra.co.nz

Story by Kerry Lilley

**Stony River Hotel,
Okato**

LIVE BAND

Sat. 14th of June

music from

IRE EXIT

Reggae & Dub

Courtesy
Van Running
06 752 4253

SMORGASBORD

THURSDAYS

in the Restaurant

**Hareb Deken
Motors**

**Taranaki's
4 WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE**

331 St Aubyn Street New Plymouth Ph/Fax 06 758 9957
Email harebdeken@clear.net.nz www.harebdekenmotors.co.nz

A/Hours Mike Hareb: 06 752 7897
Ton Deker: 06 752 7405 John Kurta: 06 758 1872



coastal taranaki school news

This term all students are busy preparing themselves for our school cross country. Students in the Intermediate Department are being encouraged to train at home and at school and are graphing their progress.

Students from Years 1 to 8 are studying "Sustainability" and are learning how to look after their environment. They will have the opportunity to work with Mark Bellringer to make digital films around this theme.

Senior students are being offered Spanish and Japanese lessons taught by Emily Davidson and Miyuki Shinada. They are really enjoying the chance to learn something new.

Also this term we are busy working on Science Fair projects so students from Year 7 are experimenting and creating their own scientific hypotheses to test and present.


Our school is looking wonderful this term. Junior classes are bright, beautiful and bursting with children's work and Graham Dudley has the school grounds looking fantastic. There's a lot happening here – feel free to come along and have a look.

Rubbish Audit *By Zjahmyn Baker and Jasmin Warren, Year 8 student reporters*

This term the Coastal Taranaki School junior and intermediate classes are studying "Sustainability". On 21 May, the students did a rubbish audit, looking at one day's rubbish in Coastal Taranaki School. They separated the rubbish into the following piles - Plastics; Paper; Food scraps; Waste; Other.

The weights of our rubbish piles were - Plastics, 14.4 kg; Paper, 14.2 kg; Foodscraps, 13.7 kg.

The Rubbish Audit was a huge success, with the students realising the rubbish they make. This will be followed up by a study on how we can reduce the rubbish we generate.



SAG Contracting
Ph/Fax (06) 752 4432
Steve Gibson Mobile 0274 752 006
Gibbo Mobile 0272 451 052

**TRUCKS / BULLDOZERS / DIGGERS AVAILABLE
GENERAL EARTHMOVING & DRAINAGE**

Cross country training is coming up and students are training hard, so good luck to everyone and have fun!

Winter sports are going well, with the teams having lots of fun.

The TSSSA Duathlon was a huge success, with Marcus Warren and William Lower winning in the boys' team event, and Kenny Carr and Codie Tahere-Tahau doing extremely well in the individual race.

The senior students enjoyed their sports seminar with Corey Hutchings and Nathan Fare. They learnt a lot about them and their achievements.

James Graham from Taranaki Soccer took an awesome clinic, which was enjoyed by a large number of our soccer players. We hope they learnt enough to win their next game.

Jodie Hikuroa has worked with our Netball teams to give them some skills to improve their game.

By Zjahmyn Baker and Jasmin Warren, Year 8 student reporters

Coastal School Student Khord Kopu off to Slovakia

Congratulations to Steve Gatenby Ticket No: 0081 who won the "Great Eight Cleaning Raffle."

Thank you to all those who supported Khord Kopu with his fundraising event (raised \$900) which is going towards his New Zealand Inline Hockey trip to Slovakia later this month. We wish Khord all the best.



NOW OPEN

**SURF HWY
STORAGE**

Cnr Hurford Rd &
Surf Highway 45,
Omata, New Plymouth


**0800HWYSTORE
Ph/Fax 06 751 5193**

surfhwystorage@xtra.co.nz

**Don't suffer
from PC rage!**
Call

**Dave's
PC
Services**

David Skurr
752 1344
Mobile 0275 268 193
davespcservices@xtra.co.nz



NAEVUS
SKIN CANCER SCREENING

**ARE YOU SURE THAT MOLE IS OK?
DETECT MELANOMA EARLY**

Ph 06 7539 505. Email naevus@carefirst.co.nz
website www.naevus.co.nz

What has been happening at Okato Playcentre?

We spent term one buried deeply in a theme of growth and development. We watched our monarch caterpillars eat so much they ran out of food, hang and make themselves chrysalis', and finally hatch out into butterflies. We grew a tomato plant, and measured it as it climbed up to the roof of the deck, and then along a bit. It even grew flowers and a few tomatoes! In term two, we also had a visit from a Plunket Nurse, who weighed and measured us all, so we could talk about how we grow too!


This term we continued the growing theme, along with a look at our community and vehicles, which our little learners found very interesting. We've been and visited the police station and the Coastal Taranaki School Library, and we're hoping to get a chance to see the fire station too (plus a few sirens and flashing lights for good measure). Bruce Moffitt came to visit us on his tractor, so the kids could all have a look and a climb before we fed him up on morning tea.

We were lucky enough to receive a grant from the Lions towards our computer and digital camera. Thanks heaps for your contribution; it is great to be taking so many photos of the kids as they do all their exploring and learning. The kids are really enjoying being able to see themselves as we go too.

As always, new families are welcome. We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm. Stop by or give us a call, we'd love to see you.


Ben & Sarsha being pushed around by Austin & Dougie.





Symons
TRANSPORT
SYMONS TRANSPORT
RD4
NEW PLYMOUTH

**Diggers and
Dump Trucks**



**For all your
earthmoving
requirements**

MOB: 0274 952 892
OFFICE: (06) 752 7270
FAX: (06) 752 7027
EMAIL: symons.transport@xtra.co.nz

Cain Longstaff at the Police station



LOCAL SEWER PUMPS

**DAIRY & WATER
SPECIALISTS**

Ph 06 757 5064

479 Devon Street East, Strandon, New Plymouth
www.dairyandwater.co.nz

- Water pump sales & repairs
- Milking machines sales & service
- Water tanks & installation
- Septic pumps and chambers
- Water tank cleaning
- Water filters & UV
- Installation of farm water & effluent systems
- Chain trencher available
- Swimming pools & spa

ONGA WAIKATO

**Come and see us at our
new premises at
83 Breakwater Road,
New Plymouth**

Glen Valley Joinery



Call Rob Barlow

Ph 751 4631

**for all your
wooden joinery needs**

After Hours Ph 752 7313



**Chicken and chips
Toasted sandwiches
Burgers, Fish and chips**

Open Sun - Wed 5.00 - 8pm
Thurs - Sat 5.00 - 8.30pm
Closed Monday

SURF HIGHWAY 45, OKATO VILLAGE

Ph 752 4180

burning issues

What a busy few weeks we have had!

As you probably all know, we are now in the new station which became operational at the end of May. It was all hands on deck for moving all our things across to the new site and what a great building we now have.

Ray Rook (past Chief of the Brigade) and Barry Harvey (the present Chief) drove the appliance into the new appliance bay and it marks a very important time in the history of Okato and its Fire Station. More will be revealed about this occasion in the next issue.

It was a terrible time for many with the damaging floods at the end of April. We attended an early morning call out to one property and it really puts you in a vulnerable position when "Mother Nature" has all the power. Luckily the rain did stop while we were there and the water levels subsided quite significantly, resulting in a better outcome in what could have been potentially life threatening.

Hope you have all checked your smoke alarms and replaced those batteries, and don't forget to get your electric blankets checked.

Take care on the roads in the changeable weather conditions. Be safe.

Milly Carr

**TOP
PRINT**
TARANAKI OFFSET PRINTERS

18 Seabash Street
 PO Box 5034
 New Plymouth
 Phone (06) 753 3497
 Fax (06) 753 3497
 topprintnp@xtra.co.nz

Dwayne & Natalie Avery
Proprietors

Proud to be the printers of
The Oakura TOM & The Okato TOM

Fast quality service
 from a friendly, family owned
 business

Top Quality Print Solutions

OKATO QUARRY

Commercial & Domestic Suppliers of:

• ROADING AGGREGATES	• CONCRETE AGGREGATES
• DRAINAGE AGGREGATES	• WASHED SAND
• BUILDERS' MIX	• BOULDERS

Ph 0800 484 748

Saunders Road, Okato

Fulton Hogan

Petrol prices killing the family budget?

Don't drive to town, shop locally!

Visit your coastal community pharmacy with advice when you need it.

- Great prices,
- Great selection of products,
- 2 cosmetic ranges,
- Huge range of vitamins, minerals and nutritional

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT WE WILL GET IT FOR YOU - THE SAME DAY

Become a member of the Sportfirst Club - free to join. Gifts galore for all ages -

- Fragrances
- Skincare
- Haircare
- Baby accessories.

Become a member of our vitamin club - free to join. Large range of nutritional sports products.

OAKURA PHARMACY

Surf Highway 45, Oakura. Ph (06) 752 7557

Call in and talk to Colleen or Sarah for friendly and helpful advice

Serving your
COMMUNITY

Vospers funeral director Andrae Peipi plays the drums in the 5th Wellington, West Coast, Taranaki Regiment Pipe Band in his spare time and performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2004.

Andrae and his colleagues at Vospers have many years of experience between them in arranging funerals, attending skillfully to every detail and providing a caring service for friends and family.

Phone (06) 759 0912

A member of the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand Inc.

VOSPERS
 Funeral Home

griefcare

Vospers Funeral Home
 257 Devon Street East
 New Plymouth

Part of YOUR community since 1933

TOM Babies

Meet **Nova Olea Jorgensen**, who was born at Taranaki Base Hospital on 25 October 2007. She is pictured here with her Mum, Sonja, a ceramics artist who was born in Dunedin but grew up in England, Canada and the United States. Her Dad, Brett Willis, lives in Warea and works on a land rig in Taupo.

Zoe Grace Fairweather was born at Waikato Hospital on 27 November 2006. She is pictured with her parents, Leigh and Jeff, and the family's (not very co-operative) dog, Lila. Jeff, a builder of Canadian origin, was attracted to Taranaki for the surfing opportunities. Leigh has family roots in this area and has a background in stock broking, otherwise known as "wealth management".

Penny and Jason Cullen were convinced they were going to have a boy when they arrived at Taranaki Base Hospital on 28 March 2008. When they left with **Grace Olive**, they had to admit they had been wrong. Penny and Jason met in the Pacific in 2002, while crewing on a ninety-five foot sloop. They arrived in Okato later that year and married here in 2004. Penny is from Australia, Jason from Auckland, and when I asked, "Why Okato?" Jason quickly replied, "The dirt! And also the wind, the waves and the mountain."

Born at Taranaki Base Hospital on 10 April 2008, **Sophie Karen Joy King** was only six days old when I met her. At that point she didn't even have a name! Sophie is the daughter of Danelle and Leighton and adored little sister of three-year-old Matthew. Danelle and Leighton are both of local farming stock. Leighton's parents, Sue and Colin Harrison, own a sheep and dairy unit on Kahui Road, while Leighton's parents, John and Michelle, own the dairy farm on Albion Road where Danelle and Leighton share-milk.

Rosalind Mitchell, daughter of Rose and Alan, grew up in the township of Okato. Paul McFetridge grew up not far away on his parents' (Pat and Lyndsay) farm. They married and are now proud parents to **Baylin Lyndsay Alan**, born on 25 August 2007 (pictured) and two-year-old **Skylar May** (who was far too busy playing to pose for a photo).

Right, from top: Nova and Sonja; Leigh and Jeff with Zoe and Lila the dog; Sophie King.

Baylin McFetridge with his mum Rosalind.

Renny and Jason with daughter Grace Cullen.



TOM CLASSIFIEDS

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

OPUNAKE – Smart, self-contained 2-bdrm apartment style. All bed linen and towels supplied. Close to the village and the world famous Opunake Beach. For reservations or further details, contact Lynne on 06 761 8449 or 021 230 5399.

QUALIFIED BUILDER

ALL jobs considered. Free quotes. Phone 752 4079 or 027 577 0686.

HORSE COVER REPAIRS

SYNTHETIC or canvas. New covers available by request. Phone Leigh on 752 4079.

FOR SALE

PINECONES \$5 per sack. Firewood pine/mac \$45 cubic metre. Ph 7524567 or 7527470.

WORK WANTED

DIGGER work . Ph 7524567 or 7527470.

BUILDER

CHRIS EVANS - Qualified builder. Additions, alterations & new building work. Call for a free quote - ph 7527251 or 0274628660.

BUILDER

KEVIN PILCHER Phone 752 7345 or 027 571 1890 for more information.

Classified ads \$10 Ph 0800 THETOM



Mobile: 027 27 27 017

Glen McDonald

REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN

Oakura Medical Centre is expanding, with two new doctors and more services



To receive the benefit of lower co-payments and health screening systems, you need to register with the medical centre.

We are accepting new patients now!

Oakura Medical Centre is now a fully accredited practice and a member of Pinnacle PHO. With our new American trained doctors arriving soon, we will be better equipped to serve the expanding community.

In July, we will be welcoming **Dr William Plonk**, with his wife and three children. William has extensive training and experience in Geriatric (the elderly) and Palliative Care. He also holds a Fellowship in this field.

Dr Diane Nowak will be arriving with her husband and two young children, in August '08. With vast experience in women's health issues, Diane also has a special interest in Obstetrics and Child Healthcare.

Dr Richard Wilson is still on his sabbatical in England and will return to the practice sometime in the future.

We also welcome **Paula**, our new receptionist, who will work alongside **Margaret**, and **Estelle** our new practice manager.

In early September we will bid farewell to **Dr Karin Hartmann** and wish her well in her future travels.

Our Practice Nurses, **Colleen** and **Raewyn** offer a huge range of nurse-led health clinics.

We have a wide, unique range of specialised medical services performed by **Dr Brent Anderson**, including Laser Treatments, Sclerotherapy for veins, and Surgitron Excision of benign moles and skin tags.

We are also embarking on new health initiatives aimed at preventing disease, with a range of health risk assessments. Our dedicated team care about our community and invite you to join us and see for yourself.

Oakura Medical Centre, Surf Highway, Oakura
Phone (06) 752 7199

GROUNDWATER

Looking for
groundwater?
Avoid costly mistakes.
Get the right advice
before you drill.

Call:
KARL BROWNE
www.geosearch.co.nz
027 2424 333

www.pggwre.co.nz

PGG Wrightson

Experience and Enthusiasm Creates Success

Thinking of selling your farm?
If YES then you need the local McFETRIDGE TEAM



We have the Local KNOWLEDGE
We have the Farming EXPERIENCE
If its RESULTS you are after
then give us a call

PAT McFETRIDGE
MOBILE: 027 273 3940
A/HRS: 06 752 4219

KEVIN McFETRIDGE
MOBILE: 027 242 7725
A/HRS: 06 752 4993

PGG WRIGHTSON LIMITED MREINZ

NP OFFICE PH: (06) 7597400