

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OKATO

MARCH 2012

Coastal La Bamba

Andrea gets a taste of Kiwi farm life,
gumboots and all.

- story on pages 2 and 3



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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
contributed articles are not necessarily
the views of TOM*

E D I T O R I A L

So we are back into the new school year and for those of us with school age children comes all the attendant costs that go with it. School fees, camps, uniforms and sporting activities remind us that bringing up children in this day and age can be a costly affair.

We wonder how the bigger families manage.

Initiatives to minimise these costs are shown by many people returning to growing their own fruit and vegetables and talking with many locals confirms this.

Those trying to supplement their income by selling, trading/bartering their produce could be facing uncertainty with the proposed new Food Bill before Parliament, which aims to replace the Food Act 1981. This is a risk based approach for food safety and is meant to provide consumers with greater confidence in food purchases. If this bill is passed into law, how will it affect those of us involved in such activities?

There are many issues associated with this bill that requires further clarification and debate before it is passed into law. Hopefully the days of setting up a quick sausage sizzle or a village food fair are not numbered.

Milly and Kerry



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remember for
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COVER STORY

By Kerry Moffitt - b.k.moffitt@xtra.co.nz

Coastal La Bamba

Andrea Lasa, a 22-year-old from Uruguay, has been working on a dairy farm in Puniho for almost two years. She is one of many Uruguayans dotted around Taranaki working as farm assistants. These young Uruguayans are brought over on one-year working holidays as part of a joint venture with PGG Wrightson in New Zealand and Conaprole, the largest dairy factory in Uruguay. The purpose of the venture is to provide young farmers with insights and experience in New Zealand farming methodologies. Conaprole vets and selects candidates from Uruguay, and PGG Wrightson secures job placements and advocates for them while they are in Taranaki.

Uruguay is a small country, two-thirds the size of New Zealand, situated on the southeastern coast of South America. Its northern neighbour is Brazil, while to the west it borders Argentina. Its 3.5 million population is largely of European descent. Uruguayans are Spanish speaking. Uruguay's economy is dependent upon agriculture. Leading economic sectors include meat processing, agribusiness, wood, wool, leather production and apparel, textiles, and chemicals.

Andrea grew up on her family's dairy farm in Uruguay. Her family milks 100 Friesians through an 8-a-side her-ringbone shed, which takes about one and a half hours per milking. Stock work is done on horseback. Calves are tied up individually and bucket fed their milk. They have 250 hectares and run a few beefies as well, but operate on a one cow per hectare grazing ratio. Andrea says this is a typical medium farm size and a typical farm methodology. Paddock are large, about 10 hectares, and cows often get their water from natural sources around the farm. Due to the very dry climate, cropping is done extensively —Andrea

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says they must have lots of food in store for tough times. Mostly it is silage crops of maize and sorghum, and round hay bales. Farmers tend to have lots of their own cropping equipment, using contractors for just baling and harvesting. Their tractors and gear are fairly small and basic. Andrea says every farmer has their own seed drill as pastures must be resown every two or three years. She says that rye grass won't grow there, but they have lots of clover. Rotary sheds are a rarity in Uruguay. Some farmers have 2-wheeler motorbikes, but these are used for getting around to do jobs, not stock work. No one has quad bikes. Friesian cows are the norm in Uruguay. Andrea says, "Nobody likes Jerseys in Uruguay. I don't like Jerseys either."

In Puniho, Andrea has been milking 280 Jersey cows in a 44-bale rotary shed with automatic cup removers — only one hour to milk all by herself. Due to Okato's favourable climate and soil conditions, Andrea has seen lush green grass all year long with cows feeding at a one cow per acre ratio, and some pastures that have not needed to be resown for over 50 years. She has seen farmers here cultivate hay, maize, grass silage and turnips as supplements to push outputs, not to survive feed shortages. Andrea has become familiar with bought in supplements such as ProLiq, molasses and palm kernel. Large cabbed air-conditioned tractors with large-scale implements are a usual sight around the Coast. Andrea uses a 2-wheeler motorbike every day and uses the quad bike for other jobs. Paddocks are small here with one or two troughs in each, and waterways are fenced and lined with riparian planting. Andrea says that in some ways it is easier here because there is so much machinery, but it is still hard work.

When Andrea arrived in New Zealand, her group was met by PGG Wrightson staff and taken to stay in Forrest House in Inglewood for two weeks. During this time they began the AgITO National Certificate in On Farm Milk Quality (Level 2), which Andrea completed during her first year here. They also received English lessons, did tourist trips, had a motorbike-training course and went on a farm visit. PGG Wrightson assisted the group with issues such as opening bank accounts, translating driver's licences, etc. Uruguayans who were still in Taranaki from previous intakes came along to meet the group and share their experiences of New Zealand life. A big point they shared was to be careful of how they drove in New Zealand as the police often pull you over here. They discussed the food they missed from home and where to shop for certain food items, such as a cultural favourite, Yerba herb tea, which can only be sourced from an international food shop in Hamilton. From Forrest House the group went on to their farm placements as arranged by PGG Wrightson.

Andrea says that they have a great expat social life here on the Coast. She has about 10 Uruguayan friends living nearby. They love to get together every Saturday night for a BBQ or for traditional Uruguayan food such as cannelloni, paella, or other Spanish or Italian-influenced dishes. Beer, whiskey, wine and martinis are the popular drinks of her country, and they love to go out and dance. They find it surprising that our bars and clubs close at 3am, as they typically don't go out until 2am in Uruguay and everything is open until 7am.

Andrea thinks Kiwis like to dress up more, with lots more make-up, even when just shopping at the mall. Although

the Uruguayans have found Kiwis to be friendly and helpful, they also find Kiwis to be quite aloof. She says, "Latinos are more open, warm and friendly. We have much more touching and kissing. We have more fun and movement and music."

Eating and sleeping in New Zealand have also taken some getting used to. In Uruguay they tend to eat meat every meal, and always have a cooked lunch and dinner. They eat lunch at about 3pm and dinner at about 9 or 10pm. "We go to bed late and are all late risers," says Andrea (not the milkers obviously!). And, of course, they enjoy a siesta (nap) from about 1pm to 3pm. Missing her siesta has been quite hard to get used to.

Since 2005, about a dozen Uruguayan workers have entered Taranaki each year. Many of them opt to stay in Taranaki for another year or two, and some are even applying for residency now. It is a relatively easy process for the Uruguayans to obtain further NZ Work Visas, as a lack of young New Zealanders wishing to work on dairy farms has created a shortage of farm staff at trainee level. Therefore, farm assistants are on our Immigration Essential Skills List, meaning that all that is required is proof of a New Zealand job offer and a medical check pass to be successful with a Work Visa application. It is enticing to stay in New Zealand for a bit longer as there is a much higher income here. Andrea says that although most Uruguayans have very comfortable homes and nice lifestyles, they do not have some of the luxuries that we take for granted. Young people do not have their own cars; most people do not have dishwashers or big screen TVs. Andrea said that although the price of these goods is much the same in Uruguay as in New Zealand, the level of income there is so much lower. Before coming to New Zealand Andrea had just graduated from College with a Communications Degree. Following her farming experience here, Andrea has decided to undertake a 4-year Farm Management Degree when she returns to Uruguay next week.

Kerryn Moffitt

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Weight Management Clinic

Sharron Skipper is well known to many as the 'Weight Loss Challenge Lady'. Sharron has hosted this challenge three times in Okato and is currently running it in Opunake. Generally the Community Weight Loss Challenge has 30-40 participants with weekly meetings over 12 weeks. The Challenge has proved so popular and successful that Sharron has decided to open a Weight Management Clinic at her home in Okato. Sharron says, "I think there is a demand for it. I want people to have a place they can come to where there's support and they can meet like-minded people."



Sharron with \$150 scales to give away to a lucky participant.

The Weight Management Clinic will kick-start with an Open Day at 10am on Tuesday, 13 March at 191 Perth Road, Okato. As well as finding out what is offered, it is an opportunity to voice what we'd like to see in the clinic to benefit the community. There will be a healthy lunch provided, and a free prize draw for a \$150 weight management product. Attendees can also get in first to register for a midday Mini Weight Loss Challenge group, which will be capped at 10 people and run in ongoing 12-week blocks. Tuesdays will be the pop-in clinic day. Sharron will give first-time visitors a free Wellness Consultation analysing height, weight, BMI, protein factor range, and resting metabolic rate.

Whether people choose to join the Mini Weight Loss Challenge or prefer to have one to one consultations, they will have a weekly weigh-in, cover topics such as nutrition and exercise, and set individual weight loss (or weight gain) goals with Sharron's assistance. People can also get information about weight management products, or look into becoming a weight loss coach themselves. For more information, phone Sharron on 06-752 4844, or text her on 027-7422282.

By Kerry Moffitt

Weight Management Clinic Opening Day

Tuesday 13th March 2012

*191 Perth Road,
Okato, R.D. 4, New Plymouth*

10am onwards

Come along and be a part of our Grand Opening in a friendly environment where we are dedicated to helping you with your weight management goals. Introduction and explanation of the Weight Management Clinic. Also an opportunity to voice your say on what you would like to see in a weight management clinic to benefit the community.

Registrations for Daytime weight loss challenge. Limited to a maximum of ten people. A chance to be a part of a supportive group while you are losing weight!

Draw for a free weight loss programme valued at \$150.00.

Lunch / mingle – A chance to socialise while you enjoy our nutritious shakes. (Shake/Protein Bar/Thermo Tea combo).

For more information phone

Sharron 06 752 4844

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Farewell Margaret

The ever-changing face of Okato is apparent with new faces and the loss of local identities. New people come to the district and the older generation relocate. Margaret Goodwin and her late husband, Arthur, are a case in point.



Margaret was brought up in Inglewood and has lived in Okato for the past 54 years. Margaret and Arthur lived in New Plymouth for the first few years of their married life and relocated to Okato as Arthur was born here and wanted to return to his hometown.

Here they rented a house while Arthur and Barry Rook built their family home at 22 Gossling Street, Okato. This is the home where Margaret resides today. They brought up their seven children here. Unfortunately Arthur passed away six years ago. Margaret says they had a wonderful life here and that it was a great place to bring up their children. "It is good to see new young people coming to the district."

Margaret had a very busy and full life bringing up the children along with working part-time for local catering business, Nielsen's Catering (since closed). Margaret also cleaned for a few years at the local area school, then known as Okato College.

The decision to relocate has been on Margaret's mind for a few years now as the section and house are getting too big to manage on her own. Margaret is now in the process of packing up in preparation for her move to Fitzroy. She says she is looking forward to using the readily accessible Foreshore Walkway.

Good luck with the relocation, Margaret, many of us will miss your familiar face during your many walks around the village. We wish you a happy future in Fitzroy.

Story and photo by Milly Carr

No More Stony

As of 1st April, the Stony River Hotel, run by Katie and Peter Simmonds will be closing its doors. Katie and Peter would like to thank the faithful regulars who have supported the hotel strongly during the years they have managed it. Drinking cultures have changed markedly over the years and many people are now choosing to drink at home or elsewhere resulting in fewer patrons at the hotel. Along with the cost of alcohol and other fixed costs is the raft of restrictions and laws that have combined to make the feasibility of running the hotel profitable, marginal at best, particularly in a rural area.

"As owners of the hotel, we need to run a business that is viable and which helps maintain this old building, a district landmark," says Katie. "As the lifestyles and needs of the community change, so too does a business needs as it changes its direction to meet these needs."

The newer part of the building is going to be altered to cater for an Early Childhood Education Centre. The accommodation area will remain open but the restaurant, kitchen and bars will be closing. The existing garden area will be extended and fully fenced creating a larger outside play area for the children. A new car park will be created for the centre with the entrance off Kaihihi Road. The centre will have three qualified full time staff and one part time staff member, which will enable them to accommodate up to 30 children. A projected opening date for the new centre is early May.

All the best with your new venture.

By Milly Carr



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TOM Sports

Okato Swimming Club

Well, it has been a busy season so far and we're only half-way through!! To date we have 104 members — an increase of 26 members!

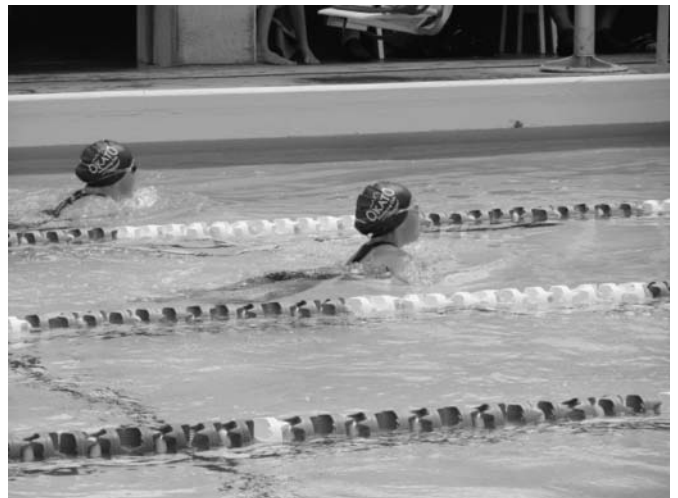
In the off-season we received funding to put our new coaches through both ASTA and a first aid course, which has been a huge assistance when dealing with the huge numbers of Learn To Swim members. We now have six coaches in the water with reduced group sizes, which has



Rebekah Gibson giving instructions on correct breathing technique.



Sport Taranaki-sponsored bathing caps.



Rachel and Lisa Appert fighting it out.



Left to right, back row: Brandi Dakin-Spershott, Zoe Honeyfield, Cory Neilson, Sarsha Dakin-Spershott.

Left to right, front row: Ben Kemsley, Myah Kemsley, Tessa Honeyfield.

Brandi with her gold medal from the Taranaki Champs.





Louise Bain developing confidence in the water.

created even more learning opportunities for our younger members. We would like to thank SPARC for their funding — it is amazing to have the opportunity to increase the skill level of our coaches!! A big thank you to Richard Carr, Sarah MacGregor, Louise Bain, Loren Greensill and Rebekah Gibson for all your efforts and commitment over the season — you have all been fantastic!

We have seen an increase in our older members being interested in times and this appears to be transferring across to numbers competing at local carnivals. Okato has attended Opunake and Stratford Meets, and Jenna Barrett and Brandi Dakin-Spershott competed in Taranaki Championships and qualified for national events. Awesome effort, girls!! At the Taranaki Championships Brandi won gold in her age group in 200m Breaststroke and Bronze in 50m Freestyle. Jenna qualified for National Age Group Championships in 100m Freestyle, which is a massive achievement. We also have an additional three or four swimmers who are considering the pros and cons of becoming competitive swimmers, which will be fantastic for the club!!

We are continuing with our Swimmer of the Week trophies, which we manage through local sponsorship. These awards encourage those who are dedicated and putting in the work each week, and give that little bit more incentive!! Thank to our sponsors. Well done to Mason Jones, Chase Yates, Brandi Dakin-Spershott, Rachel Appert, Myah Kemsley, Ella Barrett and Sarsha Dakin-Spershott for their commitment and dedication during training sessions!

We have only managed three race nights so far but with very pleasing results. Many swimmers are improving their times each week and achieving personal best times. Chase Yates has broken the 25m Freestyle record twice and Jenna Barrett has broken the 25m Backstroke and the 50m Freestyle records for her age group.

TSB Community Trust recently funded new fins, stop-watches and tracksuits for the club, which is an awesome boost to the club — especially with the growing numbers each season. A huge thank you to all our sponsors that help drive the running of the club; we couldn't do it without you.

We would all like to thank Peter and Katherine Davies, who come along every Tuesday night and help to cook the sausages for those of us who haven't organised tea!! All the parent help this year has been fantastic and it is people like the Davies who really make life easy! Thanks to all the BBQ helpers.

Okato Junior Rugby

Rippa Rugby! The game for all primary school kids! Rippa is a very safe, non-contact, easy-to-play game for boys and girls alike. Best of all it's fun and exciting for all involved. The rules are simple and the game is easy to learn. Rippa Rugby promotes excellent ball handling and running skills, and gives all kids a chance to participate in our national game.

Rippa Rugby is for all children from 4/5 years to 7/8 years. After that the children start into tackle rugby and this goes from 8-year-olds through to the higher grades.

Okato Junior Rugby Club is holding its registration night on Friday, 16 March at the Okato Rugby Clubrooms at the Domain from 7pm. Come along for a chat, fill in registration forms, and have the opportunity to purchase some of our old jerseys that the kids used to wear, as we have finally upgraded all our shirts thanks to the TRFU Community Rugby Trust.

We also have the opportunity for the Ranfurly Shield to make a guest appearance from 7–8pm so if you are interested in having a photo with the Shield bring your camera!!



Hamish Connor, Douglas Jones, Cory Neilson, Thomas Fisher, Carl Neilson, Cinnamon Danger and Georgia Jones enjoying the new Waikato Milking Posts!!



Okato Junior Rugby kids practising with the new posts!

Waikato Milking and Transpacific have kindly sponsored some junior rugby posts for our Rippa Rugby players. This is a huge boost to the club and we are looking forward to being able to use these during the upcoming season.

If you are interested or wish to know more please contact Barry Harvey on 06-752 4568 or Julie Neilson on 06-752 4462.

Coastal Taranaki School

The bell rings and I head for the door. Hat in hand, I am met by three Year 10 boys. "How's ya day going, Miss?"

"Good thanks." Smiles all around, they head for the field to play cricket, joined by a group of Year 6 boys. The junior students are swinging on the bars and playing tag. I spot Malika's grandad. He grins and says hi. We discuss how lovely it is to have her at school.

"She loves it, makes friends easily and it hasn't taken her long to settle in." Malika and her buddy merrily skip on down the hill giggling and holding hands.

I wander back through the corridor and bump into Jess. She's only just returned to Coastal Taranaki School (CTS) after spending some time at another local secondary school. "Great to see you back, Jess." Her girlfriends agree. The beaming smile across her face says it all.

Outside in the courtyard a group of students are clearing out the herb garden alongside Karla and Mrs Hickey. Karla calls out, "We've got our afterschool art murals ready to be put up around the school. There will be an opening this term."

The Year 12 Performing Arts students gallop towards me eager to know if their application to be volunteers for WOMAD has been successful. As part of the school's ongoing commitment to sustainability they have applied to work as part of the Zero Waste Team during the festival.

Wandering down past the library, Delwyn is chatting away to students about the up and coming Star Wars Day. There will be dress-ups and light sabres galore. Mr Hislop has set up four new community computers. They sit quietly in the corner ready for the onslaught of eager learners ready to surf the Net.

Matua, our chief barista, is sitting sipping a long black surrounded by the Surf Academy boys, watching The Pipeline Masters. "Professional Development," he chuckles. The Junior Surf Academy is due to start in the next few weeks. Other students lie in beanbags gossiping, as teenagers do.

I pop my head into the Year 13 class and we chat about the idea of returning the ball to the coast. What a great opportunity to encourage our community to join those graduating and celebrating their successes. "I'll get onto this idea straight away," informs Jared.

A five-year-old has fallen over and the noise draws me back outside. As I make my way to her I am intercepted by Riley, who volunteers to help out. "She can come and play with me."

Outside sitting in the shade Emma waves to me. Others around her climb trees and jump from rock to rock. A group of junior girls skip on past, singing away to themselves. Kade yells out, "How ya going Mr Luke, kapahaka this year?" Kgystern calmly corrects him. "Remember it's Mrs Luke."

"Oh, OK."

I hear the cobwebs have been blown off the old Pungarehu uniforms thanks to Mrs Madden.

The children in the sandpit are eagerly digging for treasure in a bid to find real gold. They are brought back to reality

by the shrill of the bell. Conscientious, they spring to their feet and speed towards their classrooms.

Perception is one thing, reality is something else. Have you ever stepped back and imagined school through the eyes of your child? Often we bring our ready-made experiences to school life when in actual fact today's reality is a very different place from the classrooms we may have sat in. CTS is a pretty interesting place to be part of. There are lots of challenging and exciting opportunities for all — enjoying the experiences along the way and having a positive attitude make the journey all the more satisfying. Coastal Taranaki School is indeed a happening place. Welcome back to all our students, parents and whanau to Term 1 2012. We look forward to seeing you around the school this year.

Brigitte Luke

CAPE EGMONT BOAT CLUB

Kids in Race Day - 25th March.

10am - 12noon, followed by a prize giving and sausage sizzle.

Kids in Boats Day - 14th April, if wet 15th April.

9am - 2pm at weigh station, followed by lunch and prize giving.

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'Tis the Season to Get Married

KATE LILLEY AND CHRIS RENDALL

Kate is the daughter of Dave and Kerry Lilley. Chris Rendall's family hails from Wellington. Kate and Chris met while in Dunedin, where they were each doing a Bachelor of Science. Chris went on to do his Masters in Planning and moved to Taranaki at the beginning of 2011 to take up a planning position with the Department of Conservation. Kate, who has been in Dunedin for nine years on and off, completed a Bachelor of Arts (with honours) and remained in Dunedin to work on her Masters thesis in Archaeology (which is not yet quite complete). Kate and Chris married at The Bungalow on 28 January 2012. Shared special interests include a love of the outdoors and nature, concern for their environment, and food! They both love coastal Taranaki and are looking forward to the relative warmth of the north, and making their home in Oakura.



Kate and Chris cut the cake.



A magical day in Tataraimaka for Stephen and Jane.

STEPHEN DOBSON AND JANE BOWDEN

Stephen Dobson and Jane Bowden were married at Tataraimaka on 21 January 2012.

Tokatumoana Walden opened the ceremony in Te Reo Maori. Celebrant Adrienne O'Sullivan conducted a personalised ceremony outside the hall with family and friends, during which Taranaki the mountain made himself visible.

Their combined local communities, and family and friends from further afield, congregated at Tataraimaka and worked to help create a magical day. Newtown Rocksteady, 10-piece Wellington band, ensured the hall saw a lively party.

Stephen, originally from New Plymouth, and Jane, from Okato, both returned to Taranaki from different cities and met while working at the Regional Council in Stratford. They currently live in Wellington and return home regularly.

If you would like to share your wedding story and photos, please contact Kerryn on 06-752 8095.

By Kerryn Moffitt

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Okato Playcentre

Nau mai, haere mai

Hello and welcome back to all of our Playcentre families! The year of Playcentre mayhem has begun. Already we have enjoyed an exclusive date at Okato Pool and a fun beach day. Interested in attending? Please do, your first three visits are free and there is a minimal term fee. Playcentre is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.30am–12.30pm, for all children aged 0–6. Come along to find out more. Or, if you are still a bit shy, please join us for a coffee on Playcentre at Lahar Café on Thursday, 8 March, 10am–12pm. Yes, our shout for coffees! Your children are especially welcome, as we will have some of the Playcentre equipment on hand, and some fun freebies also. Our friendly team will be able to answer any questions and give you more information. We look forward to meeting you and your gorgeous kids.

Emily Davidson, President of Okato Playcentre



Amy and Declan check out the new vege garden.



Louis discovers his inner artist in the paint area.




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TOM Babies of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS AUNTY REBECCA, IT'S A GIRL x 3!

Many thanks to Rebecca Ripia for introducing us to her three new nieces — our TOM babies this month.

KOURTNEY OLIVE MULLAN decided to do things a little differently when entering this world, thinking Hurford Road corner on 6 December 2011 at 4am was a good option. It was pouring with rain, very cold, and her dad, Gareth, was driving as fast as he could to the conditions but it just wasn't meant to be. Fortunately Jan Gargan, the midwife, only lived a short drive from Hurford Road and hadn't left for the hospital yet. Jan was a tad surprised to find mother, Jess, and baby in the back of the car!!! Kourtney was born a healthy 7lb 9oz and is doing very well. "Everyone says it's easier second time round and they are right," says Jess. "She has fitted perfectly into the family. She sleeps and eats, gets the odd poke and prod from her brother Coby (2½) and doesn't seem fazed." Currently Jess is taking a break from the farm life in Rahotu, but says she will be back helping husband Gareth before too long with the kids in tow.

Puniho Engineering Ltd welcomes its newest member of the floor sweeper team, **LILY PAIGE WILLIAMS**. Born 3/1/2012 at the Elizabeth R Maternity Unit in Stratford weighing 7lb 11oz. First born for Daniel Williams and Liana Gifkins. Settling in at home now beginning their new adventure. Grandparents Anthony and Kerstin Williams (Okato) and Grant and Carolyn Gifkins (Auroa) are all very proud.



Proud brother, Coby gets to grips with his new sister, Kourtney.



Lily finds time to pose for the camera.



Introducing **KAIA RUBY WIREPA** born on 5 November 2011 just in time for Guy Fawkes night. Although she missed all the excitement, she no doubt heard it!!!!!! Kaia is the daughter of Nicci Phillips and Hayden Wirepa, sister to big brother Deakin and first granddaughter to Ewai and the late Robbie Phillips. Nicci is enjoying being a stay-at-home mum while Hayden works on a local land rig in Stratford and is home regularly to be with his young family.

By Kerry Moffitt

Kaia supported (just) by her big brother, Deakin.

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.

GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term, 4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on 06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

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 (027) 454 3585 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.

Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

Okato Squash Club

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm. Everyone welcome. Phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

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.

Plunket

Meetings held every second Thursday of the month. Jaclyn 752 4872.

Pony Club

Contact Michelle Beekman on 7527056.

Probus

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

St Patrick's Church, Okato

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.

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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.