

## A Vision for Okato



*The buildings and grounds of Okato Primary School lay derelict and deserted on a busy school day.*

Vision Okato is currently an informal group of pro-active community members who aspire to "community renewal" and "continuing strong networks into the next generation". Its formation is the inspiration of Teresa Goodin and Mel Abbott, who feel passionate about Okato and the lifestyle it offers them and their families. In formulating a deed and a set of rules by which to operate, the group has made significant steps towards becoming an incorporated society, which will enable them to pursue their goals as a legal, charitable entity. To ensure maximum effectiveness, they intend that founding members will encompass all sectors of the community.

Disused schools are dotted all over provincial New Zealand. Their closure at the end of 2004 as the result of a Ministry of Education Development Initiative (EDI), known as the Network Review, has been the last straw for communities already cross at losing post offices, hospitals, and other services. The anger and disappointment continues as growing rural populations confirm that the closures were not just unnecessary, but a huge mistake. You may have seen the Close Up report of 19 October highlighting the demise and disinte-

gration of Okato Primary School, which has been described as "scandalous". The Okato community can't turn back the clock to reclaim our local primary school per se, but Vision Okato is attempting to create a positive outcome nevertheless. Members have drafted a proposal to the Ministry of Education, requesting that the primary school buildings and grounds be exempted from

continued on page2 ➡

It's that time of the year when males from all walks of life sacrifice a smooth face and partners put up with a face that metamorphoses into a stubbly mass. We're talking about Movember, the month that raises awareness and money for male illnesses such as prostate cancer and depression. Not many people go through life never having been affected by these diseases, either directly or indirectly.



The Movember charity is now in its fifth year in New Zealand. Money raised as a result of its campaign is used for education, research and raising awareness. Any initiative that demystifies and raises awareness of issues such as this is invaluable. If it saves just one life, it is worth it.

Milly can attest to how effective this awareness is in saving a life, with a senior family member currently being treated for prostate cancer. The fact that he felt no symptoms prior to the test goes to show how cancer can lurk undetected for so long. Fortunately, with early detection and treatment, his aggressive form of the disease has been arrested.

So, if you have seen a chap with a smidgen of a mo at the beginning of the month, hopefully it is in the process of growing into a fulsome beast. Just remember what the sacrifice is for. It's not so much the mo, it is the man behind the mo.

Information retrieved from <http://nz.movember.com/>

By Kerry and Milly



land banking and that the Government sell them to our community, to be held in perpetuity for its use. Teresa and Mel envisage the school and its grounds as a community centre at the heart of Okato, providing opportunities for the development of local social, cultural, economic and environmental ventures and in doing so, cultivating a cohesive community that is strong, healthy and vibrant.

"An ambitious project?" I suggest.

"Yes," Teresa and Mel agree, "but we can't afford not to (do it)!" They suggest that, in general, we don't fully appreciate the potential value or significance of the property for our collective future. However, if we look forward 10, 20 years and beyond and imagine how it might be without community control over it, they believe we will begin to appreciate that we stand to lose a part of our heritage, and that our community and our children will be the poorer for that.

Bibliography:

[http://muir.massey.ac.nz/bitstream/10179/1568/1/02\\_whole.pdf](http://muir.massey.ac.nz/bitstream/10179/1568/1/02_whole.pdf)

[www.humdinga.net.nz/urbandacay/okatoprimary.html](http://www.humdinga.net.nz/urbandacay/okatoprimary.html)

by Kerry Lilley

### Opunake Butchery Limited

Taking Bookings for Farm Kill Services - Taranaki Wide

WE SLAUGHTER AND PROCESS

- BEEF - PIGS - SHEEP
- Wild Game
- Approved by M.A.F.
- Offal Removal
- No Mileage Fees
- Clean, Efficient, Professional
- Best Sausages on the Coast
- Beef hung at least 7 days
- Old Fashioned Bacon/Hams
- Organic Beef at Regular Price



Now selling **ORGANIC BEEF** at regular Beef Price

WE AIM TO MEAT YOUR NEEDS

Talk to Haines or Nikki  
85 Tasman Street, Opunake



**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/Features: **Kim Ferens** 06 751 1519  
[kim@thetom.co.nz](mailto:kim@thetom.co.nz)

Advertising: **Kim Ferens** 06 751 1519  
[kim@thetom.co.nz](mailto:kim@thetom.co.nz)

Writers: **Milly Carr** 06 752 4425  
**Kerry Lilley** 06 752 4350

Proof Reader: **Maryanne Rossiter Bennett**

Graphics: **Ron Stratford**  
[origin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:origin@xtra.co.nz)

The TOM Group Ltd, 22 Sutton Rd, R D 4, New Plymouth.  
email [kim@thetom.co.nz](mailto:kim@thetom.co.nz)  
Phone 0800 THE TOM  
[www.thetom.co.nz](http://www.thetom.co.nz)

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

### YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICIAN



ALEX RODGER - REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN  
ph : (06) 752 4494 or 027 524 4004

**TOM dates for December issue**  
**Copy and ads deadline –**  
**24 November**  
**Distribution – 8 December**

## Up 'Close and Personal'

Wednesday October 13 saw over 40 community members gather together at the former Okato Primary School site to meet with the Television NZ Close Up team.

Last month, Close Ups television coverage was relating to school closures and how they have affected communities, how people are dealing with the abandoned buildings and gathering peoples' views on the affects it has had on themselves and the communities.

Following this initial broadcast, the Close Up team have been inundated with feedback from people within the Taranaki region. One email that seemed to 'strike a chord' was from Anne Julian who said that some people here are trying to leave the past behind and create something really positive around the abandoned school property.

After contact with Teresa Goodin and Anne, Close Up wanted to meet with the locals and see what they had to say. People had the opportunity to voice their concerns surrounding the 'homeless' buildings and our Vision Okato representatives were also on board to pass on their valuable insights surrounding their initiatives for the former school.

The Close Up team went onto Warea and Pihama Schools following our visit.

By Milly Carr



The Close Up team interview Atalya Fakavamoeanga, far left Merv Putt and Britney Rameka. Photo by Kerry Lilley.



Exceptional service when you need it most

Phone 759 0912 at anytime

- Member FDANZ gives you added assurance
- Modern chapel with adjacent catering lounge
- Prearranged funeral plans at no charge

**Exceptional service...  
when you need it most**

At Vospers, we show we care by attending to every little detail to make the service everything you'd like it to be. And we don't stop caring when the funeral is over, because at Vospers, nothing is too much trouble.

Vospers funeral directors Bruce Hanrahan (Manager), Kirsty Mehrtens & Andrew King.



257 Devon St East, New Plymouth | [www.vospers.co.nz](http://www.vospers.co.nz)

## Okato Earthworks Ltd

### 20 TONNE DIGGER

available for

Agricultural Earthworks  
and Drainage

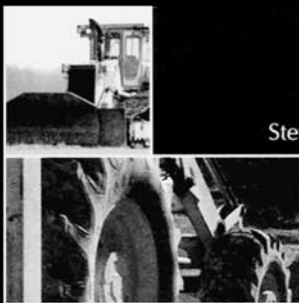
Phone Steve 0274 524 022

A/h 06 752 4284

## SAGE Contracting

Ph/Fax (06) 752 4432

Steve Gibson Mobile 0274 752 006  
Gibbo Mobile 0272 451 052



TRUCKS / BULLDOZERS / DIGGERS AVAILABLE  
GENERAL EARTHMOVING & DRAINAGE



331 St Aubyn Street New Plymouth Ph/Fax 06 759 9957  
Email [harebdeken@clear.net.nz](mailto:harebdeken@clear.net.nz) [www.harebdekenmotors.co.nz](http://www.harebdekenmotors.co.nz)

**Taranaki's  
4 WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE**

A/hours Mike Hareb: 06 752 7697  
Ton Deken: 06 752 7405 John Kurta: 06 758 1872



# Teresa Goodin:

## Your Representative on the Kaitake Community Board

Thirty-two year old mother and artist, Teresa Goodin, is a woman with a mission. She was voted onto the Kaitake Community Board (KCB) at the recent local body elections, polling strongly behind incumbent Chairperson, Doug Hislop. Teresa has been elected to serve the wider Kaitake community, but will be advocating strongly for the Okato district, which has previously been under-represented. That she believes Okato is the place to introduce her two year old son, Seb, to the world and trusts it to bring out the best in him, speaks volumes for her faith in the place as one worth investing in. "I believe Okato is entering an exciting phase in its development and history," she says.

Teresa was born into the district to Tom and Lyn Goodin, who farm at Rahotu. She completed her primary schooling here and attended Sacred Heart College in New Plymouth. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts, with a photography major, from Wanganui Quay School of the Arts, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Art and Design from Auckland University of Technology. For the past 10 years she has made and exhibited mixed media assemblages and collages. Her involvement in the arts has extended to co-ordinating the Wanganui Summer School of the Arts and the Wanganui Festival of Glass, and to holding positions of responsibility on the Wanganui Artists' Guild and the Wanganui Community Arts Centre. She has local government experience too, through her involvement in the economic development arm of the Wanganui District Council, focusing on arts promotion and co-ordination. Currently, she is a trustee of the Okato Community Trust and a volunteer at Seed Coastal Organics.

It was with Seb's birth in 2008 that Teresa returned to her roots. Her grandparents and great-grandparents lived and farmed in the Okato area, her parents and siblings are still here, and here she feels a strong sense of belonging, of history and of continuity. "First and foremost, this is home."

The mountain draws her and she describes the people as genuine, down to earth, positive and friendly. The village suits her too, with its green facilities, such as the organic shop and the natural health clinic, which support her personal ideals, and the great little café. But most of all, "...It's a safe, healthy place to bring up my boy," she asserts, nodding.

Speaking of her role on the Community Board, Teresa points to the introduction of the Local Government Act 2002. Since then, she asserts, central government has demanded more and more self-reliance by local governments to supply their communities' infrastructure and core community needs at costs that local bodies can less and less afford. The answer to this dilemma, she believes, lies in supporting individuals, families and organisations to work together to achieve desired community outcomes through wise use of local human and monetary resources. To do this, we need approachable, positive, can-do people who inspire, motivate and lead our communities into a future that is not only sustainable, but also bright. Armed with passion, enthusiasm, intelligence and

creative thinking, this is where Teresa believes she can make a positive difference.

I asked Teresa what she would like to achieve on the Community Board.

"First of all, I need to get up to speed with what's going on," she says, "to become more aware and accessible so that people

feel comfortable to tell me what they think." Finding the means to achieve regular, two-way communication with all community sectors, including the school, will ensure that informed debate guides the decisions she makes on Okato's behalf. It's a balance between wanting the Council to do more for the community and fostering the community to become more self-reliant, with the Council's support, she says.

If there is any issue you would like to discuss with Teresa, she encourages you to call her or to email. Her contact details are as follows:

Phone: 06-752 8186

E-mail:

teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley



Teresa and Seb.



Juffermans Surveyors Ltd

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

Listen out for  
"Music Without Frontiers"  
on 100.4FM - The Most.  
Sunday mornings  
from 10am

t » 06 759 0904

e » info@juffermans.co.nz

## Be ready to take part in neighbourhood park consultation

Okato residents will this week be asked to take part in consultation on the plans for a possible new neighbourhood park in the town.

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has declared an interest in acquiring part of Okato Primary School, as well as the land occupied by the Okato War Memorial, for a neighbourhood open space.

Senior Recreation Planner Anna Crawford says information displays will go up at Coastal School during the week of 8 November, with information also going online at [newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com).

"We invite everyone to have a look at this information on our preliminary concept plan showing what the neighbourhood open space might look like, then get their comments back to us at the Council," she says.

Comments can be made through the Council's website or sent to the Council on a feedback form available at Coastal School. The consultation will run for four weeks. Mrs Crawford says the final decision on whether or not to acquire the land hasn't been made yet.

"The Ministry of Education is still working through the Maori protection mechanism process and the Council still needs to consider if we want to go ahead with this at all and, if we do, how much land. But we want to make sure that if all the pieces do fall into place and the Council ends up securing some of this land, we have a clear plan for how we develop it into a neighbourhood park — and that's where the consultation with Okato residents comes in."

The NPDC particularly wants to know if the size of the proposed neighbourhood park is about right or should be changed, and whether it should have different facilities from those on the preliminary concept plan.

The results of the consultation will be included in a follow-up report to the Council.

In December 2008 the NPDC ran a district-wide survey on open spaces. The survey results showed that Okato residents were least likely to agree with the statement "the number of parks in my nearest suburb or town is right" (52% agreed). When asked about their development priorities for parks, Okato residents' top three were beach access, playgrounds and walkways.

In 2005 the Ministry of Education (MOE) closed Okato Primary School. The property continues to be owned by the MOE and is managed by Darroch Property Consultants.

## Oakura Library

It is great to have longer evenings and hopefully sunny weather, sun umbrellas and meals outdoors.

We were fortunate to have local Mark Meyburg visit us at the library for a school holiday activity. He is researching the blue penguin and is observing populations on Taranaki beaches. Mark is very interested in sightings in the region, be it penguins or simply their footprints. Visit his website at [www.taranaki.penguins.blogspot.com](http://www.taranaki.penguins.blogspot.com).

Mark has helped with the construction and placement of penguin boxes for nesting purposes at Port Taranaki and Oakura. He told the children that penguins would normally burrow a home, but they are quite happy to move into a readymade home. He shared a lot of information, and camera footage of inside a penguin nesting box. He then helped the children to build boxes that would join others already at Port Taranaki.

Below is a photo of Mark with Rowan Oldfield and some of the children involved in making the boxes. A big thank you to Mark for taking the time to talk to us, we all thoroughly enjoyed it.



At Oakura Library we have a wide range of new books for children on sea mammals and wildlife, including *I am a Penguin*, *I am a Seal*, and *I am a Dolphin*. Also new to the library is *Bindi's Wildlife Adventure* series (daughter of the late Steve Irwin).

For those looking for recipes for easy summer meals or just something different, the library has many different books including *Sizzle: sensational barbecue food* by Julie Biuso, and *Bake, Cook and Slow* by Allyson Gofton.

New deckchair reading includes the new James Patterson book *Don't Blink*, *Worth Dying For* (Lee Child), *The Killing Place* (Tess Gerritsen), and *Minding Frankie* (Maeve Binchy).

Happy reading,  
Karen and  
Vincenza

PET essentials

### For pets and all your petcare needs

- BIRDS • FISH • PUPPIES • KITTENS, etc
- FRESH MEATS • PET ROLLS
- BIRD SEEDS • PREMIUM FOODS
- ALL ACCESSORIES

The Richmond Centre,  
Egmont St New Plymouth  
**Ph 06-7590190**

**OPEN 7 DAYS - FREE PARKING**

'Its Where Your Pets Would Shop'

"Because you shouldn't hand your keys out to just anyone."

Jane Martin & Lauren Andreoli

B 06 759 5196 • [jane.martin@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jane.martin@bayleys.co.nz)

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson (REAA 2008)

Success Realty Limited - t/a Bayleys Taranaki MREINZ  
Licensed under REA Act 2008 Cnr Robe & Powderham St





## Okato Swimming Club

### 2010/2011 Season

#### Dates

The Swimming Club will hold a registration night/fun night on 16 November.

This will be followed by Learn To Swim and fitness/squad/race nights held at the Okato Pool on Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

The Club will break over the holidays, with the last session on Tuesday 21 December, beginning again on Tuesday 11 January. The season will continue until approximately the beginning of March (depending on the weather) running through until club champs, which will be held in March (date to be confirmed).

This year squad training will be available for swimmers on a Saturday morning. This is only for members and will run for approximately one hour. If you are interested in attending please, let Fiona know.

#### Club Nights

Children will be graded on the first night and put into a suitable group.

Children in the Learn To Swim classes will need to be at the pool by 5.20pm, ready to start at 5.30pm. If a Learn To Swim child shows great improvement during the season, their coach will move them up, where they will continue to receive technique coaching and develop their fitness.

Technique/fitness/squad sessions will run from 6-7pm.

Every second Thursday will be a race night. This will include 25m, 50m, 100m and 200m races. All Learn To Swim members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the 25m swim on race night. It is OK if the swimmer needs to make stops during the race.

This year we will have a Swimmer of the Week Award. We are hoping to have ribbons, and a small prize pack available for swimmers who train hard and show improvement.

If you would like a pair of club togs, please contact Milly Carr to place your order (06-752 4425).

#### Subs

Subs for the 2010/2011 season will be \$60 for all swimming members, and this will include a swimming cap.

All members of the Okato Swimming Club will be encouraged to wear a cap; this will be provided with their membership once full payment for the season has been received.

#### Competition

During the season there will be numerous opportunities for children to attend Swimming Meets around the province. You can enter competitive or non-competitive races, so there is an event for all children who wish to have a go!! You will receive this information from Fiona through text as it comes to hand, or you can contact the Carnival Co-ordinator Robyn Barrett for more information (06-763 8310).

#### Committee/Helpers

We are always looking for new people with ideas to join our committee, or if you would like a small job while you are at the pool we would really appreciate your help. Contact either Julie or Fiona if you would like to help out! If you wish to add your name to the BBQ roster please contact Treishka Morgan on 06-752 7455.

#### Contacts

President	John Pullar	06-757 3413
Secretary/Treasurer	Julie Neilson	06-752 4462
Director of Coaching	Fiona Lacey	06-752 4535

## Okato Pony Club

Two Okato Pony Club riders, Anna Lacey and Phillipa Grayling, rode to victory in the Taranaki Hunterways Team in the North Island Show Hunter Pony Club Championships in Foxton recently, and their team won the Team Challenge Trophy!

Show Hunter is similar to showjumping but more disciplined. There is no time cycle and its all about certain amount of strides between jumps, style and pace.

The event comprised 21 teams and 42 riders in each category and these riders were representing their clubs from as far away as Whangarei and Wellington. Anna Lacey rode in Category A which caters for the smaller ponies, and received a sixth place rosette in that category and Phillipa rode in Category B.

All points from all riders contributed to their teams trophy win.

Both girls trialled in September to qualify for this team and their dedication and hard training has certainly paid off.

Well done girls!



*Right: Anna with the team cup and below: Phillipa Grayling and Anna Lacey.*



# Seed Organics

## Fairtrade

What is fair trade? Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing worlds. Fairtrade is an alternative model of international trade, which aims to share the benefits of trade more equitably between consumers, producers and the environment. Fairtrade guarantees a better deal for producers in the developing world through fair and stable prices for their products, investment in local community development, support in gaining knowledge and skills needed to operate in the global economy, and environmentally sustainable farming methods.

## Fairtrade Products

Seed Coastal Organics stocks a wide range of quality Fairtrade products such as coffees, teas, spices, nuts, sugar, dried fruits, olive oil, gifts, delicious chocolates and more. Each these products has the Fairtrade label, which ensures it has met the standards of international Fairtrade. When you choose to buy Fairtrade you guarantee a better deal for disadvantaged producers.

# OKATO POOL

**HOLIDAY HOURS FROM 20th DEC**

Open weekends, public and school holidays, 12.30pm - 7.00pm Lane swimming from 6.00am - 9.00am	Admission Charges
	Adults \$2.50
	Children \$1.50
	Spectators \$1.00
	Adult with child under 8 yrs \$1.50

**"Learn to swim lessons"**

13 - 17 Dec: five lessons and more lessons in Jan. Registrations essential.  
**"Aquaerobics"** starts 8 Nov, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5.00pm - 6.00pm.  
**For 'What's on' and other information, please call 759 6060 for further details**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
[newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)



## What We Do At Herbfarm

Take pride in creating products that are made, not only in New Zealand, but on-site at the herb farm.

- Use 100% natural ingredients.
- Use a natural preservative system based on essential oils and plant extracts.
- Use natural colours made from nature.



**theherbfarm**  
 natural • effective • trusted  
 available at



**Oakura Pharmacy**  
 Your coastal community pharmacy

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



**Would you like delicious, fresh, organic veges delivered to your door?**

*We offer a weekly vege box delivery service to Coastal Areas and NP.*

Call us, come in store for details, or check out our website.



**Seed** coastal organics

67 Carthew St, Okato, Taranaki  
 ph 752 4888 or 027 602 7700  
[seedorganics.co.nz](http://seedorganics.co.nz)

## Other News

Seed Coastal Organics is now for sale. After three wonderful years, Jacqui, Lindsey and Mel have decided to let someone else take over the reins of this growing business in the Okato community. Could this be you? The business is listed on Trademe for further information. We'll keep everyone informed of any developments, and of course it's business as usual with all the same quality products and services.

Seed Coastal Organics, 67 Carthew Street, Okato  
 06-752 4888, 027-6027700, [seedcoastal@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:seedcoastal@yahoo.co.nz)  
 Open 7 days 10am-4pm

## YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION

Learn the secrets and initiations of the Masters: **Journey** through guided meditations to the

### 7 Sacred Flame Temples

**Experience INITIATIONS**  
 Of Ascension, Purification, Immortality,  
 Cosmic Love, Illumination, Surrender,  
 Divine Power and Will.  
 Healing and Manifestation.

**Invoke** ancient tools to help clear all unwanted energy for self, family and environments.

*This introductory evening to the Sacred Flames promises to be an informative and thought provoking gathering . . .*

**Friday 19th November, 6.30-9.30pm**  
**44a Carthew Street, OKATO**  
**Investment \$30.00**

*Supper and fresh hot Chai provided*

To Register phone Lisa Lister  
**751 2687 / 027 563 2828**  
 Email [lisa.naturally@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lisa.naturally@xtra.co.nz)

# Jodie Donald's Spirit of Adventure

Earlier this year, Jodie Donald was one of Spotswood College's students who went on a trip of a lifetime. On a journey of self-discovery and learning, she spent 10 days helping sail the three-mast barquentine, *Spirit of New Zealand*, around the islands in the Hauraki Gulf.



*Spirit of New Zealand* has taken the place of the well-known topsail schooner, *Spirit of Adventure*, which sailed the coast between 1973 and 1997 before being sold for tourism work in Fiji. She was commissioned in 1986 and is run by the Spirit of Adventure Trust, whose aim is to provide New Zealand youth with a programme of character development through learning to sail a tall ship.

Jodie had spotted an advertisement in the school notices. "It was a great opportunity," she says, "and you should take opportunities if you can." So, only half hoping she might be one of the chosen, she put her name forward and much to her surprise she, together with all the other students who had sought berths, gained them, on different trips. "You can't know anyone else because it defeats the purpose of going out of your comfort zone, and socialising with new people," Jodie reflects.

Hers was the first journey and it was leaving in only 19 days. That left no time for fundraising the \$1800 it would cost, but she bit that bullet. And so a wintery May day saw her farewelling her parents at Auckland's Princes Wharf and sailing off into the wild, grey yonder. Most of her fellow trainees were head students or leaders in various areas and Jodie soon realised that, at 15 and in Year 11, she was one of the youngest. "I wanted to go home," she remembers. "Who would pay two grand to be on a boat with 40 total strangers?" she and another trainee wondered later. Jodie kept a diary of her voyage. First up was a tour of the ship and a safety briefing, and then — shock, horror — phones, iPods,

books and anything else that might distract from the task at hand were confiscated. Everyone was issued with 'yellows' — canary-coloured, heavy PVC wet weather gear whose pockets were especially "interesting", containing an assortment of unsavoury articles and substances, including used tissues and vomit! Then, to assess their reactions to heights, they were harnessed up and set the task of climbing to untie the sails.

The trainees were split into four teams, or watches. The watches

would rotate around stations — Foremast, Midship, Main and Mizzen — and with each station came a set of responsibilities. For instance, the Mizzen watch had to prepare food, set up for meals, serve them and clean up afterwards. Midship was on Night Watch. Night Watch involved checking the anchor and noting drift and water depth, monitoring the *Spirit's* proximity to other boats and watching for signalling lights, and observing sea and weather conditions.

At last, after a day of orientation in the basics of sailing, it was time to climb into the canvas strip bunks, which were hung in banks of three, one above the other. Jodie was allocated a middle berth, which meant scarcely any headroom. As it turned out, the top berth was unoccupied, so she scored more room than most. However, she could not avoid the infamous, obligatory swim the next morning and every morning after that!

On the second day they sailed to Kawau Island. It was their first time in open sea, and pretty much all of the trainees were seasick, except Jodie and one other. If you thought you were going to be sick, you had to put on a special lifejacket and hook yourself to the boat so you couldn't fall overboard.

The fourth day saw them sailing to Great Barrier Island. It was really rough and they were in the open sea for five hours, at the front of the boat, terrified and holding on tight as they reared up over huge waves. Later, there was the weird sensation of being on land for the first time in four days. They tramped near steep drop-offs and through streams on their way to the remnants of a





*Jodie sets up her berth for the trip.*

kauri dam, had lunch and then tramped back again, enjoying the spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf.

The weather was great for sailing on day six and groups ventured out in mini, rightable sailing boats, made especially for *Spirit of Adventure*. Then they climbed to the top of the ship's mast, 36m above deck level. "It was really scary", Jodie says. "You had to do the whole harness clip on, clip off routine. Luckily it was perfect weather and there wasn't a ripple on the sea."

The evening saw them back on Great Barrier, at Smokehouse Bay. "We had rowed from the boat and we lit a bonfire, had a barbecue and roasted marshmallows. There was a bath there, and a Tarzan rope. We filled the bath with hot water and put our feet in. We saw the sunset and the boat looked really cool and we hung out together and bonded."

During the day-long trip back to Kawau Island on day seven, the trainees were challenged to maintain at least a metre's distance from each other and be silent for an hour and a half. Having had a pre-dawn shift, Jodie slept in her bunk. "No drama!" she grins. On day eight, everyone wrote letters to themselves, outlining the ways in which they'd changed during the trip. The letters would be sent to them six weeks later. Jodie reckons that one major change was that everybody had come out of their shells and had no airs and graces any more.

Day nine was Trainee Day, when the 14-strong, professional crew stepped back, leaving the trainees to sail the ship back to Auckland. All positions, from Captain to Cook, were subject to nominations and a vote. Jodie won the position of Ropes Technician. "It was a tough job but hey, someone had to do it," she grins, philosophically. That day, they spent time thinking about their peers and writing 'warm fuzzies' for them. "By the end of it, each person had a couple of pages of cool stuff about themselves."

Anchored just out of Auckland, they all did the yard swing, which is a highlight of every *Spirit* trip. Taking hold of a Tarzan rope, they swung out as far from the ship as they could before dropping into the sea. After dinner they received certificates, acknowledged the good things that the trip had brought, socialised and sang. "One guy who had a guitar had made up a song for the crew. They had never had anything like that happen before and the Captain looked like he was going to cry. It was pretty intense and really sad," Jodie tells me.

On the tenth and final day of the voyage, everyone was up by 5am to pack. "It was raining and so we warmed up inside. Then we sailed to the disembarkation point at the Viaduct basin. Everyone was crying and singing and taking photos and crying some more. We didn't want to go home."

And then, there were all the parents on the wharf, waving and smiling, and Anne and Mo were amongst them, waiting for Jodie. It was good to be home after all, but the trip, her new friends and the lessons she learned will never be forgotten.

*Story by Kerry Lilley*

*Pictures supplied by Jodie Donald*

## Art House

Arthouse brings you the first Environmental Film Festival on 20–27 Nov 2010.

Presented by the Taranaki Sustainable Living Fair, the opening night on 20 November will be a fundraiser for Sea Shepherd. We will give our ticket clip to Sea Shepherd directly from our double screening of *Pirate for the Sea* and *Sharkwater*! Look for an exciting line-up of environmental films including *Age of Stupid* and *End of the Line*. Scientists are telling governments now that we are on the verge of the biggest mass extinction since the dinosaurs — bring your children to these films.

Arthouse Cinema is now nice and cool; the heat pumps fundraised for are a reality thanks to Cowley's, and the insulation thanks to Placemakers. We thank Friends of Arthouse and sponsors too for helping us achieve this over one cold winter.

Check out all our movies and screening times online at [www.arthousecinema.co.nz](http://www.arthousecinema.co.nz). Gift vouchers of \$30 and \$60 are also available online and at the Cinema – great Christmas gifts!



### *Pirate for the Sea*

Hero to conservationists and villain to hunters, marine environmentalist Paul Watson commits himself 100% to his cause. In this stirring profile, we explore Watson's beliefs, blunders and triumphs. Though Watson helped to found Greenpeace Canada, the organisation asked him to leave due to his extremist tendencies, so he started the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. He travels from Norway to Costa Rica, standing trial, doing time, and costing various nations millions of dollars by breaking up drift-netting, illegal poaching, and shark-finning operations (the latter campaign features in *Sharkwater*).

Actor, activist, and board member, Martin Sheen, praises him as truth speaking to power, while Greenpeace co-founder, Patrick Moore, dubs him the self-styled Rambo of the environmental movement. The media prefers pirate, a term Watson doesn't dispute, even flying a Jolly Roger-style flag from his ship, but matters turn more serious when he goes after Canadian seal hunters and Japanese whalers. Say what you will about the man, this makes a convincing case that the world's endangered oceans are better off for the dedicated and controversial efforts of this latter day pirate.

*USA 2008. 102mins. Action/adventure/documentary/political.*

# arthouse | cinema

proudly supported by  
BOON GOLDSMITH BHASKAR BRENNER

team architects

## Make yourself at home!

73A Devon Street West - New Plymouth - 06 757 3850  
[www.arthousecinema.co.nz](http://www.arthousecinema.co.nz)

# Devonshire Delight

Having heard about the Devonshire Tea for Charity from Milly, I thought an afternoon cuppa at Saint Lukes Hall would be worth checking out. So with family friend John, his two young daughters, and my two children we set out after an intense game of lawn cricket, primed to sample the hospitality and treats on offer.



the cost of shipping has been fully covered. What's more, that apple box is still overflowing with gifts to kick off next year's Christmas shoebox appeal.

So thank you everyone who helped in any way to make this year's appeal such a success. In the words of our new Okato blessing (coined by Treishka), "May your apple box always be full".

A frivolous suggestion for a Parisian breakfast next year seems to have taken flight. Passez les croissants.

À bientôt,  
Kerry Lilley

*Milly and Cynthia demonstrate the ultimate in tea drinking manners. Picture by Kerry Lilley.*

We were somewhat blown away when we walked in and saw the beautifully laid out tables full of delicious cakes, scones and slices. The children thought all their Christmases had come at once. Catherine and Treishka were the most gracious hosts, who welcomed us and made sure we were well looked after. The children (helped in no small part by John and I) made good inroads into demolishing the lovely food and enjoyed the whole experience immensely.

What was really interesting was the talk and pictures presented by Chris and Errol giving the background of the Samaritans Purse organisation and how the Christmas Shoebox operation is implemented throughout New Zealand. This is not just a flash in the pan venture, but is a well organised and established charity that delivers items that we ourselves may think of as somewhat small and inconsequential. But to the disadvantaged children of all ages in our Pacific neighbourhood, the delivery of a shoebox full of gifts for Christmas could be the most wonderful thing they can imagine.

What a wonderful and worthwhile cause, which doesn't break the bank and is a chance to give to our less affluent neighbours. It is so easy for us to turn a blind eye to poverty, and this is a simple and effective way to give to those children who usually don't have the chance to experience the wonder and joy of receiving gifts at Christmas. I, for one, will be filling another shoebox or two next year and look forward to seeing what Treishka has got in store for next year. From Richard and kids, thank you very much for an enjoyable afternoon.

*Story by Richard Carr*

## Stop press!

Three hundred dollars was gifted at the Devonshire Tea event and donations of gift items filled an apple box to overflowing. The following Monday evening a few women, together with

Thomas Morgan, divvied up the contents and packed them all into gift boxes. One would assume that the apple box was thus emptied. Not so, for along came Milly with a rubbish sack full of new, soft toys that had been given to her that day AND a \$50 donation to boot!

Twenty-six boxes stuffed full of Christmas surprises are now on their way to children in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, and



*Thomas Morgan shows off the filled Christmas boxes.*



## STRAWBERRIES SELLING NOW!

Sweet juicy strawberries available from:

"The Strawberry Shack"  
The BullShop  
16 Koru Road  
Oakura

Sales from 2:30 – 6pm daily, unless sold out prior

Best strawberries in town, cash only please.  
For more info visit: [www.passionberry.co.nz](http://www.passionberry.co.nz)

# Christmas Is Coming

New Zeal is looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat ..."

After the raucous fun we had with our nativity play last year, we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas again with the community of Okato. So watch this space. Who knows what might be dreamed up, or who will share the limelight? But there will definitely be lots of local flavour down at St Lukes Hall.

*From the Christmas team at New Zeal Church.*

## Bryan McNeil Painting & Decorating

QUALIFIED TRADESMAN  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
PAINTING/PAPERHANGING  
ATTENTION TO DETAIL  
30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

*Want a Quality Finish?*

Call now on

**027 465 8631**

**Focus on Preparation  
for the Unique Finishing Touch  
USING NZ MADE PRODUCTS**

## TOM CLASSIFIEDS

### HOLISTIC COUNSELLING & THERAPY

GENERAL life issues, including anxiety, depression, emotional issues, illness. Safe, confidential, effective. Meegan Care Dip. Psychosynthesis Counselling. Further information contact Meegan, [info@meegancare.co.nz](mailto:info@meegancare.co.nz), phone 752 4826, [www.meegancare.co.nz](http://www.meegancare.co.nz)

**Please support our  
advertisers -  
They make TOM  
happen!**

Don't suffer  
from PC rage!

Call

**Dave's  
PC  
Services**

David Skurr

**752 1344**

**Mobile 0275 268 193**

[davespcservices@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davespcservices@xtra.co.nz)

*Symons*



**TRANSPORT**

**SYMONS TRANSPORT  
RD4  
NEW PLYMOUTH**

## GROUNDWATER

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

Call:

**KARL BROWNE**

**06 752 1099**

[www.geosearch.co.nz](http://www.geosearch.co.nz)

**027 2424 333**

 **Coast ELECTRICAL**

Mobile: 027 27 27 017

**Glen McDonald**

REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN

## Diggers and Dump Trucks



**For all your  
earthmoving  
requirements**

MOB: 0274 952 892

OFFICE: (06) 751 9221

FAX: (06) 751 9225

EMAIL: [symons.transport@xtra.co.nz](mailto:symons.transport@xtra.co.nz)

## Oakura, Okato and Omata Property Specialist



**Nicki Procter**

M: 027 276 2613

a/h: 752 7960

bus: 759 8084

e: [nicki.p@remax.net.nz](mailto:nicki.p@remax.net.nz)

**RE/MAX**

Team Realty GVM Ltd  
Licensed Real Estate Agent (REAA 2008)  
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



# TOM

Supporting  
our  
community  
spirit



**TOP  
PRINT**

18 Saltash Street | PO Box 5034 | New Plymouth 4343  
P. (06) 753 3497 | F. (06) 753 3497  
E. sales@nakiprint.co.nz

DESIGN | PRINT | BIND

*& Design*

**Shop with us - it pays!**

HANDY FOR COASTAL SHOPPERS

*Check out our Huge Range of  
Quality Flower and Vege Plants  
Now in Store*




**Ph 758 8831**

**Rental Vehicles**

**Mini buses**

**Charter buses**

**Cars**

**Vans**

**Tour buses**

**Pickering Motors**  
**0800 22 1120**  
11 Tennyson St, Opunake

## OKATO CLUBS & GROUPS

### **Bellydance Group Okato- St Lukes Church Hall**

Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm. Contact Rosalina 06 759 1739.

### **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 Laureen 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 Luke's Hall, Main Road Okato. Wednesday morning, 10am - 12 noon. Contact Julie Moore 752 4277 or Danelle 752 4916.

### **Plunket**

Meet bi-monthly at Jaclyn Fisher's home. 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**

Monday evening club night. Contact Steve Kelly 027 2333 229.

### **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.

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

**If you have a story of local  
interest that you'd like to  
share  
Ph 0800 THE TOM**