

## The Beautiful Baldies

**It was sad to discover that our good friend and colleague Kygstern Manuel was diagnosed with breast cancer in May this year and after having surgery would need chemotherapy.**

One of the side effects, along with many others, is hair loss. This is where one colleague said: if Kygstern was going to lose her hair, she would shave hers off too. This got the ball rolling, with five others offering to both do the same and set up a sponsorship form to raise money for Daffodil Day and our community library.

Support and encouragement for this event were rather humbling, with locals, friends and supporters donating generous amounts.

The big day was upon us - Friday the 31st August 2007. Everyone who so bravely said they would bare their skulls were lined up on stage in the Coastal Taranaki



*Going . . . going . . .*

School hall with shaving combs awaiting next to the three chairs!

With a rather big audience, including all staff, pupils, friends and locals not to mention the Daily News reporters and photographers, we really were on show!

It brought everyone together for this wonderful event and even several children were game enough to lose their locks. Brave wee souls.

With some having number 4 shaves and some number 1's it really was a change in style and also a shock to the skulls – the chill factor is more evident now! The ole knitting needles were put to use with one of the locals knitting beanies for all of the "baldies". These were auctioned off at the event and the money



*Kygstern cutting Milly Carr's hair.*

raised was also put towards Daffodil Day. Those beanies are definitely in good use with our cool mornings of late!

So now the locks are gone, and what a liberating experience it has been. It is a great feeling to be able to gather up money and know that it is going to a good cause.

We are very excited, with total funds raised over \$2700, half of that going to Daffodil Day and half to the school library. What a great effort everybody. Thank you to all who sponsored and supported us. It is greatly appreciated.

*By Milly Carr*



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*. . . Gone!*

## editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

### Welcome to your first edition of TOM in Okato.

This is an exciting step for the TOM and for me personally. I was a founding member of TOM in Oakura with our first edition delivered in October 2000.

Starting a TOM in Okato has been in the back of my mind for a long time and it is pure coincidence that it also shares October as the first month of delivery.

TOM in Okato will have the same flavour as TOM in Oakura in that it will be about locals for locals.

Having attended Okato College for my secondary schooling and with family living in the area I am fully aware of the strength of the community.

We will be in your letterbox each month, except January when we double up with December for a holiday issue. TOM relies on people either submitting stories or contacting one of the team with a lead for a story. Our focus is on telling the good stories and keeping communities informed.

This month you will get an update from some of the clubs and groups in the area, thank you to those people who got their news to us. We also have a story on Des and Nola Corbett in our "I remember when" slot. Here they share their memories with our writer Milly Carr. Also, I learned a lot about the local quilters and craft group, when they shared their story with Milly. Keep it coming, it is truly fantastic.

If you live outside of the distribution area and would like to subscribe to either of these publications contact us at the address below or call 0800 thetom, email [info@thetom.co.nz](mailto:info@thetom.co.nz)

Tracey Lusk

# TOM

TOM-Okato is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from Dover Road to Bayly Road.

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



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## A line or two from the Okato Lions

So far, we have had a very busy year with our main fund raiser taking place last April, which was our annual motor-bike ride through Tataraimaka and Pitone Road farms. There were 300 entries on the day, and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

This event enables us to make donations to many different organizations, eg. Oakura Kindergarten, The Clarry's, school playgrounds, Plunket, families with special needs, etc.

We also sponsor camps for college pupils and several students on varying projects.

Our membership is dropping and we need Manpower! Contact a Lion Member or myself on ph 7524086 if you are interested in helping out in your community.

*Lion Merv Hooker*

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## New to the Community? Do you have young children?

Come and meet some mothers in a relaxed atmosphere. We are very casual and all have children of many different ages.

We work together on behalf of Taranaki Plunket and we are always asking for new ideas and inspirations to keep our young ones safe in the community.

If you have any great ideas or would just like to meet some new people please feel free to come along to our social meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on the 30th October 2007 at The Stony River Hotel in the Private Function area.

For Further Details, phone:

Kerryn Moffit (Phone Secretary) (06) 752 8095.

Angela Phillips (President) (06) 752 4451.

## Okato Pony Club

Just south of Oakura is Okato Pony club, on the Upper Kaihihi road. We are a family orientated club and always welcome new members.

I am a member and have been riding at the club for eight years. Most of the emphasis of our club is to have FUN while learning to ride and care for our ponies!

We have a new sand arena and varied cross country jumps. In the summer we have a camp either at Barbara Williams' woolshed or at the pony club grounds.

We have a closed one day event, ribbon day, twilight rallies, Christmas rally and more! Last year we held our first junior Sports day which was an enjoyable event that catered for the younger riders.

Our first rally was on the 22 September.

For more information contact our secretary Carey Brophy at 7524458.

*By Ashley Downes*



*Photo L-R Darelle Martin, Courtenay Fleming, Ashley Downes, Charlotte Grayling, Kim Kalin*



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# burning issues

## Hello everyone from us all at the Fire Brigade

It is a very busy time for us at the moment with a new station getting ready to be built.

We are excited to say that Brian Hill (local builder) won the contract over two other tenders. Congratulations to Brian and fortunately for us he is in the Brigade as Deputy Chief. We are also very lucky to have other locals in on the job, with Mark Fox doing the roofing, Nigel Wood the steel and concrete, Greg Rook on electrical needs and Allen Juffermans the surveyor. What a great way to keep work within the community.

We are going to be out there in the community looking for fundraising. One possibility is approaching farmers regarding donations of cull cows. We are yet to establish this venture, but it is in the pipeline and if anyone is interested in doing this we would be more than happy for you to contact us. Barry Harvey is the Chief and can be contacted on the number below.

With our brigade being a co-response with Kevin (Scruff) Richardson who is the first response for the ambulance, we are looking into getting a defibrillator for the station. This will be of immense benefit for the community in those vital times of need and is going to cost approximately \$3500, so will mean more fundraising efforts.

So, apart from fundraising, we do get together on Monday evenings for practice nights and to brush up on our skills. We are a brigade with 19 members, two of which are women! Five members are just about to head off for their basic skills training.

With daylight saving already started, have you remembered to check your smoke alarms? If you haven't got any in (which I'm sure you all have??!!) you can get them from us at the station or we can come to your house to install them.

Remember to keep safe!

Barry Harvey

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### Learn to Swim Lessons starting soon

**Aquarobics** will be starting on 5 November and will be on every Monday and Wednesday at 6pm-7pm and Fridays 9am-10am.

**Phone 759 6060**

for further details

## rich comments from the okato police

Hello everybody and congratulations to the paper for spreading your wings and delivering to Okato.

For those of you that also get the Coastal paper I am still looking for the stolen, blue, two wheeled, Suzuki 125 taken from an Oxford Road address and the farm gate taken from Dover Road.

For those of you that have phoned and given me some information I thank you very much.

Did you know bats always turn left when exiting a cave, not many people know that.

For those who reside in the Oakura area and to the many visitors I would like to ask you all to have some patience around the road works and abide by the road rules.

I have been spoken to by the workers who inform me that while most people are fine, they have a number of people who refuse to take any notice of the signs and traffic personnel who control the area.

Remember these people are not there to make your day hard, they are there for the safety of all, please respect them and follow their direction.

Well, didn't the Naki boys start well against Wellington, must have been the practise they had next to my office the week building up to that game, a shame they let themselves down in the second half.

As for the All Blacks, they are preparing to take on Scotland as I write this and I predict a big win for the men in Black. (Well done Rich, you predicted right!)

Also preparing for a big game is the New Zealand Cricket team. I wish I was as confident of them having a big win as I am with the All Blacks but I will be watching for sure. What a great game this twenty 20 (or is it 20 twenty?) is. Was never any good at spelling! (Your confidence, or lack of it, was well founded, Rich).

Anyway, must go, but one more thing before I do. For those of you that don't know, I was officially appointed the Okato constable a couple of weeks ago. I will be living out here by mid October.

I would like to thank all those that supported me in my application.

Thanks again and don't forget to pop in for a coffee and to say hello when you're driving past.

Take care

Rich



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## Okato Squash News

Okato Squash Club is always open for new members.

It is a great social way to keep fit.

If you are interested in joining or would like to give Squash a try, contact Pete Gibson (men's captain) 7524334 or Katrina Corbett (women's captain) 7524405.

Something new this year. We have combined Business house with a social club night on Friday nights.

The club is open from 6.15pm for juniors and 7.00pm for adults. Just turn up and put your name on the board and we will get you a game.



### Guy Fawkes Night

Friday 2nd November

### Kids Day in the Race

Saturday 10th November

10.00am

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## Okato Tennis Club

A big welcome and thank you to the TOM for giving us this opportunity to keep you all informed of what we are up to.

As some of you will know we have almost secured full funding to upgrade the two top courts at the Club. A special thank you goes to the Okato Lions Club for their generous donation.

If you would like to offer a helping hand with this upgrade or just make a donation, please contact Raewynne Lawn 752-4466 or Maree Moffitt 752-8107.

We had our first Working Bee to complete the retaining wall. Thank you to all who helped over the two days. It looks great. Next Stage is to get the old courts removed and base course metal in, before the hot mix is laid. So keep an eye on our progress.

We are open again for the summer of 2007/2008, specialising Family Memberships for \$10. If you are interesting in joining the Club, please send your \$10 with details of the members of your family to Raewynne Lawn, 130B Mangetete Road, RD 37, Okato.

Please watch this space for details of Business House Nights and Non competition Ladies Morning Tennis that will start once we have the Courts.

We have three Mid-week Ladies teams entered again this year and I trust they will have a successful season.

If you are interested we have Junior's starting in October on Friday after school till 4.15pm. Parent help will be required to help with the supervision of the children.

Contact Angela Phillips 752-4451.

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## TSB Community Trust Supports Local Community



The Okato Community Pool is now heated, thanks to the TSB Community Trust and the New Plymouth District Council.

The TSB Community Trust granted the Okato Swimming Club \$40,000 to purchase and install a heating pump for the Okato Pool.

In addition, the NPDC agreed to fund the additional cost of electricity.

The heat pump was up and running just three weeks before the end of last season, so this summer we will be able to get the full benefit!!

Two years ago the Okato Swimming Club and Pool Committee identified heating as the main obstacle to increased use and enjoyment of the outdoor pool, which is set in idyllic surrounds on the Kaihihi Road, and is part of the Okato Domain.

The Okato pool is a focal point for the community during the summer months providing a valuable pastime for children during the school holidays.

The pool is also used by a growing number of adults who swim Mon-Fri in the mornings from 6-9am. Other pool users include the local school, which now has a roll of 400 and the Okato Swimming Club, which has a growing membership of 80, for Learn to Swim classes throughout the season and for Aquarobics classes.

Prior to the heat pump, pool temperatures ranged from 18 degrees to 29 degrees.

This season the temperature should be around 26 degrees most of the time.

The benefit to the local community will be huge. The Okato pool and swimming club committee anticipates a big increase in children participating in Learn to Swim classes and in adults doing lane-swimming as well as increased use across all sectors of the community. The swimming club is hoping to attract many new members this season.

With the closure of the school pools at Okato, Newall Road and Warea, it is even more important to have a suitable pool with favourable water temperature in our community.

**The Okato Swimming Club** is a thriving club. We are family-oriented and offer children the opportunity to improve their swimming skills in a non-threatening environment. We have a team of experienced coaches and offer coaching for all members. This year the club will be affiliated to NZ Swimming which will enable members to compete at carnivals.

Opening Night/ Registrations and Dedication of the new heat pump installation:

**Thursday Nov 22nd.**

This will be a fun night with plenty of activities for all.

For more information contact Caroline Charteris, 7524452.

## Local Girls Flavour Culinary Fare '07

Okurukuru is still basking in the warmth of winning a fist full of medals and overall Smart/Casual Restaurant of the Year at the Culinary Fare Competitions held last month.

Two local girls and the waiting staff at Okurukuru, Jendi Coxhead, Oakura (17 years) and Ellee Donald (16 years) took an eight medal bag between them.

Ellee who has only been waitressing since January and attends Coastal School as a year 11 student, won two silver medals in wine service and table setting and two bronze medals in café beverages and cocktails.

Both girls credit Caroline Medway-Smith of Hospitality Service Industry training for their success and say she made all the difference with her eye for detail and attention to detail. In fact, the two girls were the only competitors to take along their own iron and ironing board to press their tablecloths on the day. Caroline made them pay particular attention to their personal grooming. Ellee spent hours and hours practising the art of waiting, crumbing down and learning drinks knowledge, so much so she was practically dreaming about it! Ellee wants to do it again next year with an even more polished performance. The team camaraderie was amazing and everyone from Okurukuru supported each other.

Ellee says it was an absolute challenge and quite expensive to enter but the heart pounding experience (thank heavens for the invention of Rescue Remedy!) is something she will remember for ever. Also it will be great to put on the C.V!

And to the grand finale – Simon Houghton and his team of Sonya, Mathias and Christine Bulmer with their prestigious title of 'Restaurant of the Year' – Smart/Casual. This section can only be entered by applying with a written expose on why your restaurant should be in the category. Simon's idea was about promoting Taranaki as a food destination. In the competition the team had to replicate the style of food and service that is on offer at Okurukuru and included an aperitif, a chicken roulade with ricotta cheese, ribbon vegetables, an aubergine cone, porcini risotto and an intense chocolate mousse with rhubarb compote. All produced from a supplied box of ingredients. The waiting staff (Christine) had to serve the dishes impeccably. Simon says the award is an opportunity to put Okurukuru on the map and for the team it is a great experience working along side other chefs from all over New Zealand.

Owner Christine Hayward is absolutely 'delighted' with Okurukuru's success and along with daughter Kate's gold medal winning Sugarloaf Sauvignon Blanc, the name Okurukuru could very well continue to ring out in dulcet tones well into the future.

*By Kim Ferens*



**THE PRESSURE WAS ON . . .  
But the girls came through.**



i remember when ...

## Des and Nola Corbett

It was lovely chatting with Des in his family home (Nola was busy on an outing) and gaining some insight into his life in Okato. He began by saying he has lived on Oxford Road all his life. His parents and grandparents both farmed here and after his schooling days he continued to farm on the family farm during which time he met his wife Nola and together they brought up their seven children! Nola added later it was a busy time, the last born being twins, so she was very busy. The community was always thriving with lots happening - her social calendar would be rather full with dances to attend and with each dance you had to make a new frock!

Des and his elder brother Rex were home schooled by their mother who had been a teacher at the first Montessori School in New Zealand at West End, New Plymouth. When the Pouakai School opened Des and his brother attended this school. They would walk through the paddocks up to Carrington Road to the school in which there were 13 pupils. In 1937 the Okato Primary and Pouakai Schools amalgamated. He attended Boys High School and boarded with an Aunt in New Plymouth for several years. Nola attended Oakura Primary and spent several years at New Plymouth Girls High School.

Des met Nola through a cousin in Okato. Nola was living in Oakura and would come over to visit friends. The couple married in 1950 at St Mary's church, New Plymouth. Des took Nola to the dances which would be held at the Hempton, Tataramaika and Tumahu Halls. These were wonderful occasions for all. With the women dressed immaculately in their frocks and men in suit and tie. There would always be a band with lots of fun to be had and everyone there to have a good time. A local policeman from Rahotu would always be on the door to keep everyone in line, with the odd person sneaking out the door to have a sly drink!

Des recalls that it was a very close knit community and would always have big gatherings to welcome in new families to the area along with farewells when people departed.

Des organized the Centennial back in 1965 in which the community put together a parade of floats and drove through the main street for all to enjoy. Afterwards everyone devoured a culinary delight of hangi food. A huge event for the community and a busy time for the Corbett's also as Nola had just given birth to twin daughters.

School was strong and led with good headmasters and staff alike. There would be play readings held in the school library for the children. They also started up a drama group for the adults to attend in the evenings. That was fun.

The community had a multitude of shops with several bakers, dairy, four square, butcher, garage, two blacksmiths, doctor's surgery, veterinarian and the local hotel and even a picture theatre! Movies were screened every Tuesday evening.

Rugby was very strong within the community with Des playing in many teams and being on several committees becoming chairman of the Taranaki Appointment Board.

There was even a nine hole golf course on Hempton Road before the Tumahu Golf course came along. There were plenty of things to do in such a small community of maybe 250-300 people.

So life for the Corbett's has seen many changes such as the closure of several dairy factories, businesses and more recently the Okato Primary School. But life continues and they are enjoying their life in the village. We are lucky to have such wonderful people in our community.

By Milly Carr

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## School Gala Day

Wow! What a day we had at the school Gala Day which was held on Saturday 15 September with fine weather! Yippee (oh, there were a few light showers with cakes being whisked under cover!)

The school was bustling with children, adults and lots and lots of stalls.

The committee and teachers put together a fantastic array of games, stalls, auctions, raffles and much much more. A big thank you to Susan Grayling and Mary Miles who were the main force behind getting this gala up and running and showing us their exceptional organisational skills!

The highlight of the day for a lot of people (mainly students) was the "Dunk the Clown" stand. Mr Allan Miles (school principal) was brave enough to sit above the water tank while students threw balls at the device which would inevitably dunk him into the rather cold water—several times too I must add. That is where a wet suit would have been rather handy Mr Miles!

Many other children have also commented on the fun they had doing a horizontal bungy in which they would need enough strength to pull the bungy to reach the chocolate bar (which child wouldn't want to win that prize??) Paintball was also a popular stand. Lots of cleaning up was needed after this one.

A silent auction was also running over the period of the day with lots of great prizes such as a Harley Davidson ride around the mountain, artwork donated by local artist Che Rogers, accommodation at Richmond Lodge - the list goes on.

The atmosphere was one of a small community with great pride in its efforts and much enthusiasm for the day. Everyone had a wonderful time buying goods with children digging deep into their parent's pockets for 'more money please!!'

It was an event that catered to everyone's wants and needs. Thanks to all the businesses, organizations and people who donated and sponsored this wonderful day. Without such great support we maybe wouldn't have had such a successful result with a total of more than \$7000.00 being raised.

I think we can also say that everyone should be very proud of themselves for both in getting classes organized with their activities, and providing the necessary items for this to go ahead. Well done parents, grandparents, friends and willing helpers.

We hope we can look forward to more gala days in the years to come.

By Milly Carr

## Upcoming Events:

16th Oct  
CTS Open Day

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## Coastal Taranaki meets Taranaki Rugby Squad

On Monday 17th September Coastal Taranaki School had the privilege of hosting the Taranaki Rugby Team who practiced on our grounds! This was a huge draw card for our students who watched some of their sporting heroes being put through their paces. After a long training session, our local sportsmen were more than happy to sign autographs for long lines of eager students.

It was lovely to see our young people enjoying the chance to interact with our rugby team, who were patient, gracious and fantastic ambassadors for their sport!



Jason Eaton signing signatures.



Mitchell, Ryan, Kameron, Ashley, Reece, Bryce and River with Scotty Ireland.



**“pull up a chair . . . and let's talk”**

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## Surf Highway 45 Crafters And Quilters

I had a lovely evening the other night meeting the women in this group who had gathered at a restaurant in town to discuss the exciting upcoming event of the Christmas House which they organise and run every year.

One of the members owns the house in Oakura which becomes the Christmas house. A lot of time and effort is put into getting the house looking beautiful so all can come along and enjoy the crafts, souvenirs and Christmas spirit which this house has to offer.

The idea first came about four years ago and was a way in which the group could share with everyone what they do and create. It would add some flavour to the community and raise money for a worthy cause, the House for Karen. It also gave you a chance to express joy and Christmas spirit, especially for the children. The house is decorated with handmade craft wear, Christmas decorations, lights and much much more. The Santa's Choice shop has been very obliging with the store lending the house decorations and sponsoring this wonderful event. The house is situated at number 5 Kaitake Place, Oakura up from the beachfront café. Raffles will be running with the chance to win a lovely bright fun quilt or delicious Christmas cake.

This is a busy time organising the Christmas house and I found out that these ladies gather once a week at one another's houses to have a coffee/drink and chat and to work on their crafts. These include patchwork, quilting, sewing, and knitting. For some women it is an outlet, a place to meet new people who share the same interests, have fun and even a support group in times of need. They have had trips overseas to Sydney and Melbourne and also trips to the Martinborough Fair, Wearable Arts and so on. Sounds very good to me!

There are two groups. Some gather on a Monday in the morning, for others who may be working or for whom evenings suit better, they get together also on a Wednesday evening. In total there are approximately 43 members. Some of which were the "originals" who first formed the group about 16 years ago. Hey it must be pretty good if it's still going eh??

All women are happy to meet any new members who may like to join them on a Monday morning or Wednesday evening and they can contact: Joy Burmeister on 06 7528027

They all look forward to seeing you at the Christmas house which is open on the 26 October through to 4 November. Open 9am-9.30pm

There is a gold coin donation in which the proceeds go their chosen charity. Come along to see the wonders of this house with a little bit of magic in every corner.

By Milly Carr



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## clubs & groups calendar

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ps: we will be starting night tennis soon.

**To list your club activity here - Phone 0800 THE TOM**



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Home baked Garlic Bread	\$5.00
Chicken Curry w Rice	\$11.50
Pizza	\$11.50
Ham, Pineapple, Cheese	
Spinach, Mushroom, Feta, Cheese	
Chicken, Mushroom, Bacon, Cheese	
Chicken, Cranberry, Cheese	\$11.50
Spaghetti	
Spinach, Mushroom, Garlic, Parmesan	
Olives, Cherry Tomatoes, Caper, Feta, Parmesan	
Chicken, Mushroom, Bacon, Parmesan, Cream Sauce	
Garlic Prawn, Parmesan, Tomatoes	
Bolognese	\$12.50
Arborio Risotto	
Spinach, Mushroom, Garlic, Parmesan	
Olives, Cherry Tomatoes, Caper, Feta, Parmesan	
Chicken, Mushroom, Bacon, Parmesan, Cream Sauce	
Garlic Prawn, Parmesan, Tomatoes	

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## I've Finally Finished !!

### A BIG "THANKYOU" to you all

To all my family, friends and clients for the support and understanding over the past 2 years as I have studied for, and passed, my Real Estate National Certificate. And now at last, after 23 papers and 2 exams, I now have my Real Estate Diploma, which also gives me my Licensee Status.

You were all so understanding as this older student got to the stage where she nearly gave up. Working to sell properties while studying was a great challenge, but now I only have to list and sell !!!!

It's great to have the dining room clear of books and papers, and the office all clear of Open Polytechnic books, but one thing I did learn was how to search and research on GOOGLE. I can even show the kids and grandkids a few tips.

However, there is proof that we grandmas can do anything we want to do, if we put our minds to it. It may take longer to do those assessment papers and it may take longer to type on the computer, but when you've finished . . . the excitement is still there. Just like it was before, many years ago when I was a young nurse waiting for the postman to come with the Final Results -"PASSED" and the jump for joy is still the same.

Max, Cullen and Keeley would all say "Nana are you still doing your homework???" And out would come their papers and pencils, but I did have to do some explaining after one of them helped me and drew beautiful circles all over my very important assessment. Fortunately, the Assessor was very understanding!!!!

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