



# TOM

OAKURA

DEC 17 / JAN 18

*Megan Stewart and Di Carswell - our local St John paramedics*

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# TOM OAKURA

TOM Oakura is a free monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from New Plymouth city limits to Okato.

Do you have a story of local interest that you'd like to share with the readers of TOM? Phone **0800 THE TOM** or visit **thetom.co.nz**

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

**Dates to remember for February 2018 issue. Copy & Ads - 22nd January. Distribution from 1st February.**

## Oakura Community What's On

**5 Elements Fitness:** 5 Elements Fitness: Bootcamps and Kickboxing fitness classes: Weekdays 5-6 pm, Tataraimaka Hall. For more details contact Barney 027 7527 076, barney@5efitness.com or visit www.5efitness.com

**Fitness Training/Touch:** Thursday nights on back field at Oakura School 5.30 pm to 6.45ish. For all age groups - gold coin donation. Contact Lara Churchill - 0275922320

**Functional Crosstraining by Nakifit:** Saturdays 7.40am. Ph 021 297 5465 or nakifit@gmail.com

**Indoor Bowls:** Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Contact Marvin Clough ph 7527531.

**JKA Karate:** Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm. Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm. Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

**Kaitake Athletics club:** Meets at Corbett park at 5pm on a Tuesday evenings during term time To register - athletics nz website and search for Kaitake. Contact -Tash 0277755440.

**Move It or Lose It - fitness classes:** Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

**Oakura Bowling and Social Club:** Bowling tournaments begin September through to April with both mid-week and weekend games. For information contact Steve Muller on 06 757 4399.

**Oakura Meditation Group:** - Mondays 7.40am 37a Donnelly St, ph 0272037215, email kate@shineyoga.co.nz

**Oakura Playcentre:** 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Kate Garner on 021-254 4769.

**Oakura Pony Club:** Contact Marlies Butland Delfos ph 0274595962.

**Oakura Pool Club:** Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm at Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Sheree 027 3444 723.

**Oakura Yoga:** - Shine Yoga Studio, 37a Donnelly St, www.shineyoga.co.nz for days and times, ph 0272037215.

**Okato and District Historical Society:** Houses a large collection of local family histories and photos in the Okato Community Trust Hall, Cumming Street, Okato. Open to public every Wednesday 10 am to mid day or by appointment. Phone Anne Bolton 7524499 or Meg Cardiff 7524566.

**Omata Playgroup:** Meets every Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

**Omata Yoga:** Wednesday evenings 5.15 - 6.45pm and 6.45 - 8.15pm. Omata Community Hall \$15 per class casual rate, \$80 for 6 class sessions. Contact Annalisa Facer 027 444 8345

**Oakura Tennis Club:** Thursday 9.15-10.15am Cardio Tennis with Blitz Tennis at Linda Street courts, members and non-members welcome. Contact Club Secretary Jackie Mitchell 027 673 2900.

**Probus Club:** Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Mike Vickers ph 7527881 or Gwen Jury ph 7527783.

**St James Church, Oakura:** Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**St John's Church Omata:** Morning worship 10.00am second Sunday of the month.

**Val Deakin Dance School:** Oakura Hall. Beginners' Ballet dance class Mondays 3.30pm- 4.15pm. Also classes for pre-schoolers to adults in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and ballroom (beginners to advanced) at the Dance Centre in New Plymouth with pre school ballet Weds 3pm. Phone 7527743 or email val@valdeakindance.org.nz

**Volkswagen Club:** Join The VW Owners Club for one of their monthly events. Keep up to date on facebook. Club El Presidente: Bryan Goodhue. bryan@climate.nz 027667 1016. Find us on facebook: @TVWOC

## From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has supported the TOM magazine this year, we certainly have seen a fair amount of turmoil, politically and environmentally but thankfully not so much locally.

I've shown a few visitors around our lovely province this year and I am so proud of all the resources we have right at our finger tips - such beauty and diversity in one package. I was in Pukekura Park as the techs were putting up the lights for the summer and marvelled again at how amazing that park is. A quick trip and you are half way up the mountain followed by an equally quick trip to Oakura Beach for a swim - just wow.

Enjoy your summer and everything we have to enjoy right on our doorsteps and most of it is free!

*Kim*

# Coastal girls are givers to St John

Two Omata women, Megan Stewart - St John Ambulance Station Manager and Omata resident for the last 17 years and Di Carswell, St John paramedic and Omata resident for the last 24 years, are on the local St John Area Committee and are passionate about raising funds to support the organisation's community projects.

Megan's association with St John goes back to 1993 when she became the first paid female paramedic in the area. Prior to this Megan was an ED nurse so she has a long association with helping people. Megan has been Station Manager for the last three years and oversees a large team. She also is one of only two trained Hazmat (to fire service standard) paramedics in the area, has been on the Taranaki Land SAR (Search and Rescue) team for 10 years and is a flight medic on the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter, on which she is also a winch medic. For fun Megan participates in ultra marathons! This hobby has seen her travel all over the world and covers running through the four main deserts of the world! For relaxation Megan enjoys the quiet moments on her deck soaking up our great outdoors.

Di has Megan to thank for her involvement in St John. The pair met at Omata School 15 years ago when Di remembered Megan's face from a family emergency involving a St John ambulance call out. Megan saw immediately something in Di that would make her a good ambulance volunteer and as is the story with most things - timing is everything - Di was ready for a new challenge. Di had embraced school life in her usual 110% effort style when her children started school and really got the school fundraising cranking. Di started her St John career with pre hospital emergency care courses, then moved on to the National Certificate in Ambulance Care followed by four years of paramedic training. Di believes that in life you meet five people who change your pathway and for her Megan (Megs) is one of those people. Di lives on a section on the family farm in Omata where she enjoys the rural lifestyle, walking her dogs and her family life.

It would not be an untruth to say these two and the people who work with them, have changed or lengthened the path of many, through their work as paramedics. They love the challenge and reward of the job, they say they are like Rottweiler's - when they get their teeth into something they don't like letting go and that is why they are on the St John Area Committee as well as being full time employees.

Di and Megan say that volunteers are the lifeblood of St John and without them the organisation would not be able to run. St John is a charity, operating with just under 70% funding from the government which goes towards funding operational costs. The operating shortfall as well as funds to run community programmes, such as those listed below, is made up from revenue from first aid kits and first aid training, medical alarms, income from emergency ambulance part charges as well as fundraising and community donations.

## Help St John in the community

St John is one of those charity organisation's that most of us take for granted. Here are some of the

ways you can help give back to St John:

Ambulance and Events volunteers help St John achieve its mission of improving the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders by providing quality care to patients in their local communities. Volunteers give their time to help both at local pre-planned events and by working on the frontline in an emergency ambulance.

St John Friends of the Emergency Department (FEDs) volunteers provide comfort and support to patients and their families in hospital emergency departments, helping with meals, drinks and paperwork so nurses and other staff can get on with the caring of patients.

St John's free Caring Caller service connects people who need a friend with people who have time to listen and chat. You can either volunteer to be a Caring Caller or you can arrange to have a Caring Caller paired with you. Caring Callers make regular calls and build a friendship, as well as provide reminders that help with everyday life, like remembering to take medication or put the rubbish out.

## Other ways you can get involved with St John:

The St John Youth Programme (ages 6 – 18 years) meets every Wednesday night learning skills for every day life and helping develop young New Zealanders into becoming outstanding citizens.

The St John Op shop is on Devon St East (opposite Guthrie Bowron). All funds raised in this shop go towards this area's expenses. The shop is always looking for extra help, whether it's for picking up and dropping off donated goods (for those strong and able bodied), volunteering in the shop for a few hours a week, or through simply donating your own goods to the shop.

You can also support the shop by doing your Christmas shopping - they have an amazingly clean, bright and interesting array of goods. The easiest way to know what is in the shop is to follow them on Facebook - St John Op Shop New Plymouth or if you're interested in volunteering your time, call Yvonne Wilson on 758 8857.

If you're interested in supporting St John in any of the above ways visit [join.stjohn.org.nz](http://join.stjohn.org.nz).

This Christmas remember St John, remember local and remember you never know when you might need their services.

**Kim Ferens**

*below is Ngaoma who volunteers three days a week and on the right, Miyuki who has only been volunteering for two weeks at the St John Op shop.*



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## Val Deakin Dance School Recital

The Val Deakin Dance School will be having its annual Dance School Recital on Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17. There are performances at 1 pm and 3 pm on the Saturday and 1 pm on the Sunday. The performances feature children aged 4 and up, teens and adults dancing an exciting range of dances of many different genres – ballet, character, national, modern, tap, comedy and ballroom dance. There are dances from the famous classical ballets as well as contemporary pieces choreographed especially by Val Deakin for the dancers involved. Audiences will enjoy the lovely colourful costumes and an enormous range of musical types on offer.

Students performing attend the Val Deakin Dance School in the Oakura, New Plymouth and Hawera Studios. Tickets for the Recital are available by phoning 06 7527743 after 9:30 am. Dance School Recital will be held at the Val Deakin Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth.

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**Christmas**  
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Be safe over the holidays and I look forward to working with you in **2018**

*Best Wishes,* *Anjie*

**027 555 4736**  
[anjie.cook@eieio.co.nz](mailto:anjie.cook@eieio.co.nz)

# Kaitake Community Board

Well, here we are with another year drawing to a close and the festive season just about to kick off. The weather too, has improved from that dreadful winter we experienced. Let's hope it continues and we get in some quality outdoor time over the Christmas and New Year period.

It has been a particularly busy year for the community board. As your elected representatives we get involved in many local community issues that need resolving. Some can be fixed as simply as a phone call or email, but others can follow a more protracted course to reach a resolution. A lot of what we do takes place well under the community radar. That is quite understandable, most folk just go about getting on with their own lives and only contact us when an issue arises, or something upsets them.

The varied nature of the community board's role means we have to be proactive as well, and anticipate council strategies and policies that may have a future impact on our community. Therefore we frequently spend a great deal of time liaising with council officers who are responsible for taking action and reporting back to the decision-makers around the Council table. This isn't high profile work in the public gaze, but nevertheless important stuff that needs to be done in the interests of all the people that live, learn, work, and play here.

Recently, as a first step towards setting up our predator free community project, the KCB became a full member of the Wild for Taranaki, the public face of the Taranaki Biodiversity Charitable Trust. Wild for Taranaki is made up of 44 members. If you are interested you can learn more and access the membership list from its website at:  
<http://www.wildfortaranaki.nz/discover/members/>

The KCB's 30 year plan has strong environmental goals. They include working with landowners, other agencies and iwi to incentivise biodiversity maintenance and enhancement, and to encourage ongoing community stewardship of the local environment and its biodiversity to restore and maintain natural habitats, ecosystems and viable populations of native species. During our extensive public consultation many members of our community told us these were important issues, hence their inclusion in the plan.

It certainly doesn't take too much imagination to realise one of the most prevalent predators in our midst are rats. Urban life certainly suits them and just because you haven't seen a rat doesn't mean they're not there. They're always very near, cautious, watchful, eating, and breeding. Did you know the rat gestation period is approximately 3 weeks. In urban environments where conditions are favourable, rats may reproduce year round and have as many as 5 litters per year with 4 - 8 young per litter.

If food and organic waste are improperly stored or disposed of this constitutes the most significant food source for rats. Interestingly, the presence of domestic animals at a residence may also attract them due to the fact that pet food is often left out for long periods of time and may be easily accessible. Access to water is an important factor too, as rats require fresh water daily for survival.

Currently we are working alongside Wild for Taranaki, Taranaki Mouna - He Kawa Ora Back to Life, and the Taranaki Regional

Council to develop a local plan and a roll-out strategy. We will need to proceed carefully with this project and develop a plan that joins all the stakeholders together. Once we have clarity on all the various roles and responsibilities we will be able to begin to focus our efforts locally. As soon as we are able we will hold a public meeting to start things off.

Some community members recently questioned the need for a digger to carry out stream straightening on Oakura Beach. This fairly regular exercise is due to an erosion issue. You may think that cannot be the case as the beach has more sand than at any time long-term residents can remember, and erosion is usually attributed to the depletion of sand on a beach rather than accumulation. However in this case erosion is caused by too much sand rather than not enough.

Between 1998 and 2007 an estimated 14.3 million cubic metres of terrain collapsed on the mountain, with the Stony River experiencing severe disintegration in its headwaters. Since the initial collapse in 1998, the adjacent coastal shoreline has experienced a continuous influx of dense volcanic sands from the Stony River. The fact is this large amount of sand is transported to the east and north by the energetic wave climate, and continues a relentless trek toward New Plymouth. When a slug of sand reaches a stream mouth, unless there is sufficient water flow, it carries the river or stream mouth eastward, creating a mini Farewell Spit type protrusion and pushes the stream bed adjacent to the land. Streams then begin eating into the foredunes until they begin to undermine and erode the foreshore that offers the only buffer to the land. For example to some houses on Messenger Terrace and the Tasman Parade road reserve.

Stream straightening is likely to continue into the future. As recently as last week another dry erosion slump took place at the headwaters of the Stony River. Stream straightening has been carried out at the mouths of the Katikara, Timaru, AhuAhu, Waimoku and Wairau Streams.

Finally a grizzle and a 'cunning' solution. The traffic count through Oakura is increasing exponentially. We've all seen it grow over the last few years. It never ceases to amaze (and concern) me the number of vehicles that are speeding through the village with no concern whatsoever for pedestrians, turning vehicles or those exiting parking spaces and so on. My solution is to slow down to 40kph whenever I'm driving inside the 50kph zone. That is my personal traffic calming protest towards making the area more village friendly and to slow down those who view the village stretch as just a line that connects their starting and destination points that they are hell bent on reaching as quickly as they can. Perhaps other residents could consider doing the same.

Well, that's it for 2017! The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be at the NPOB surf club on Monday February 5, 2018 at 4.30pm. On behalf of the KCB team I wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and do hope we all have a great summer to enjoy.

Ka kite ano.  
Doug Hislop (7527324)

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# Be Remarkable

Nicki Procter has lived with her family in Oakura for over 20+ years and has loved observing and being a part of the real estate market.

Obtaining her sales certificate in 2003 she has watched many changes over that time. House prices quadrupling, the controversial sewage scheme, a tornado in 2007, she says we are so privileged to live in such a passionate wee village where we feel safe and help our neighbours.

Nicki and her husband Brent have raised 3 girls with the help of play centre, Kaitake Kindy and the school, and can't speak more highly of these amazing facilities Oakura offers and the time and effort they put back into the children and community.

We all have many questions about real estate - is it a good time to sell, what's happening in the market, what's the best way to sell, what does eoi mean... the list goes on. Nicki has a professional answer to all these questions and some knowledgeable and beneficial real estate sales tips as well.

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# Merry Xmas from our MP

The end of the year is fast approaching and as always it's a good chance to reflect on the highs and lows that we have experienced.

For me, I have again enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of representing the people of New Plymouth electorate and being closely involved in a number of positive projects that aim to improve the lives of all locals. The change of government, while personally disappointing, in no way lessens my determination to be a strong voice for you in Parliament. Looking ahead, I will be working hard to advocate for regional development projects including Tapuae Roa: Make Way for Taranaki and making sure that local people are looked after and have the opportunity to shine.

The festive season is always a hectic time and I hope you're able to catch up with family and friends to relax and enjoy some quality downtime. If you're working through, there's no better place in the country to be, and I hope you have a chance to make the most of our local attractions after hours. As always there are plenty of things going on. I'm looking forward to the welcome return of the Oakura Beach New Year's Day Carnival – sure to be a highlight of 2018.

Finally, amidst all the stress and pressure of this time of year, I'd like to remind you that Christmas should not be seen as a time to be 'endured'. It should be a chance to create happy memories with friends and family. I hope that you are able to put your feet up or get out into the sunshine and recharge your batteries for what I'm sure will be a busy 2018.

I'd like to thank Kim for another great year at TOM and wish readers and everyone in New Plymouth electorate all the best for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Jonathan Young**  
MP for New Plymouth

*The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much.*

**Henry David Thoreau**



**JONATHAN YOUNG**  
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

**P:** 06 759 1363  
**A:** Corner Gill & Liardet Streets  
**E:** newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz  
**W:** www.jonathanyoung.co.nz

Jonathan Young Mp  
jonathanyoungmp

Authorised by Jonathan Young MP, Corner of Gill & Liardet St, New Plymouth

# Puke Ariki Oakura Library

Kia ora,  
Big changes at Ōākura Library! If you've been in in the last month or so you will have noticed our new self - check kiosk, our new book shelf for returns and our new help desk. But don't worry as we are still a full service community library and Charlie and I will be here to serve you and answer queries as per normal. Our self - checkout simply offers you another option. We'd love to hear your feedback.

Hey kids, design a bookmark competition is on again this summer. A new category has been added for 13-17yr olds. Applications available at all the libraries. Enter as many times as you'd like. Entries close 5pm 20th January 2018.

## Holiday programmes:

Christmas story and craft session Friday 22nd December 2017 10:00am-11:00am. Suitable for ages 5-10 yrs old. Spaces are limited so please book ahead.

Christmas crackerjacks: join us for Xmas themed pre-school story time, song and craft on Thursday 21st December at 10am-10.30am. No booking necessary.

In the New Year we will have children's entertainer, Zappo the Magician, on Wednesday 17th January, 9.30am-10.30 am. Suitable for under 12yrs. Children please bring an adult.

All these programmes and more are listed on our website  
www.pukeariki.com and in the What's On brochures.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who have helped us throughout the year. We really appreciate your smile, your dedication and your invaluable help.

Check out our inexpensive withdrawn books. Ideal to take on holiday without the worry of overdue fines, or loss or damage to library books. A great variety for the entire family.

## Holiday schedule:

Ōākura Library will be closed Christmas Eve through to 2nd January 2018. We will re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 12.00pm. You may use our afterhours book drop throughout holiday closure.

*Nga mibi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou,  
Greetings for Christmas and the New Year,*

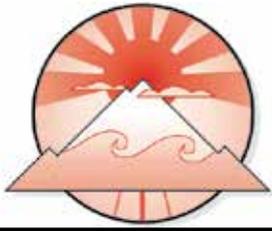


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# Oakura School Leavers

As the year 8 Oakura School students head off to high school, TOM asked them three questions:

1. What secondary school are you going to?
2. What has been the highlight at Oakura School?
3. What do you want to do when you leave school?



**Aaron Huitema**  
Spotswood College  
I have really enjoyed building a Minecraft World of Taranaki and its landmarks.  
I want to be a civil engineer in the future.



**Adam Kodeda**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
The highlight for me was learning a new language and outdoor education at TOPEC.  
I hope to be a professional rugby player.



**Amelia McLorinan**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be a veterinarian in the future.  
One of my favourite times being at Oakura School was the Market Day we had this year for our 'Build A Business' inquiry.



**Amy Parr**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be some kind of performer when I am older.  
I have really enjoyed the school productions.



**Bastian Rung-Hansen**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
Camp Wellington was great.  
I want to be a professional skier.



**Brodie Ferguson**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
The highlight for me was writing and performing speeches and participating in speech competitions.  
I want to be a sports coach in the future.



**Caeley Hattle**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to have a job working with animals.  
The highlight for me at Oakura School was moving to and being a Year 7 & 8.



**Camilla Wynter**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be an author.  
I have really enjoyed getting to know people and hanging out with new friends.



**Charlie Bridges**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I am undecided about my future career options.  
Camp Wellington was amazing.



**Chloe Goodkind**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I really enjoyed going to camp at Vertical Horizons.  
I am unsure what I want my future career to be.



**Connor Clough**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I hope to be an entrepreneur.  
I liked the Aims Games in Tauranga because I got to spend time with friends and play basketball.



**Connor Meyburg**  
Spotswood College  
I have really enjoyed being an enviro leader and learning so much about how to take care of our environment.  
I hope to have a career in the hospitality industry.



**Dylan Wright**  
Spotswood College  
I am undecided about my future career but hopefully it is something to do with IT.  
I have always enjoyed the social times and playing with my friends.



**Ed Shearer**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I want to be a pilot.  
The highlight for me has been Camp Wellington.



**Ella Coates**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be an actress.  
I have always loved all of our swimming sports days.



**Hinei Schafer**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
We have always had great sports opportunities which I have loved.  
I hope to be a professional sports player in the future.



**Ella Treacy-Wolnik**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
The best time for me at Oakura School was the cross country.  
I hope to be an actress.



**Holly Stoddart**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be an ophthalmologist.  
I have always enjoyed the school work and learning.



**Ellie Dinnison**  
Sacred Heart College  
I really enjoyed Camp Wellington.  
I hope to be a physiotherapist.



**Isaac Barbour**  
Francis Douglas Memorial College  
I'm not sure what I'd like to be when I grow up.  
I loved Camp Wellington last year.



**Elliot Hudson**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
Camp Wellington was great.  
I want to be a photographer.



**Jago Robertson**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I want to play basketball professionally.  
The highlight for my time at Oakura School was Camp Wellington.



**Fenton MacArthur**  
Francis Douglas Memorial College  
I have always enjoyed the sports opportunities, especially the interschool sports tournaments.  
In the future I would like to be a sportsman.



**Journey Tutaki**  
Spotswood College  
I loved Camp Wellington last year.  
I want to have a career in IT.



**Finn Kennedy**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I hope to be a pilot or an aeronautical engineer.  
I loved Camp Wellington.



**Juraj Krajci**  
Spotswood College  
I loved all of the maths I have learnt.  
I want to have a career in economics.



**Harry Looney**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
The best time for me at Oakura School was when I was in Mrs Hislop's class.  
I want to be a professional football player or football coach.



**Koah Shewry**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I really enjoyed Camp Wellington.  
I want to be a mountain biker.



**Hayley Meyburg**  
New Plymouth Girls' High School  
I want to be an author.  
The highlight of my time at Oakura School was all of the various productions.



**Lewis Thompson**  
New Plymouth Boys' High School  
I loved being in Mrs Hislop's class.  
I want to be an engineer.



**Lily Stoddart**  
 New Plymouth Girls' High School  
 I really enjoyed the camp at Vertical Horizons.  
 I want to have a career in IT, I'd especially like to be a software engineer.



**Rian Wilson**  
 New Plymouth Girls' High School  
 I would like to be a hairdresser.  
 I really loved Camp Wellington.



**Nicholas Gallianos**  
 Spotswood College  
 My favourite time at Oakura School was Camp Wellington.  
 I want to be an actor in the future.



**Ryan Waite**  
 Francis Douglas Memorial College  
 The highlight for my time at Oakura School was organising the Oakura's Got Talent competition.  
 I want to have a career in the environment that has something to do with nature.



**Nicole Whittaker**  
 New Plymouth Girls' High School  
 We have had a lot of amazing opportunities to try new things at Oakura School.  
 I would like to be a medical laboratory technician.



**Stuart Holdcroft**  
 Francis Douglas Memorial College  
 I want to be a professional rugby player.  
 Camp Wellington was a highlight for me.



**Oliver Day**  
 New Plymouth Boys' High School.  
 I hope to be a professional rugby player.  
 My highlight of my time at Oakura School was Camp Wellington.



**Omi Viner**  
 Spotswood College  
 I have loved making lots of friends at Oakura School and hanging out with them.  
 I hope to be an actor in the future.



**Oscar Anderson**  
 New Plymouth Boys' High School  
 I hope to be a pilot in the future.  
 My favourite time at school was Camp Wellington because we did heaps of cool new things.



**Reuben Kiss**  
 Francis Douglas Memorial College  
 I want to be a diver in the Navy.  
 The highlight for me was Camp Wellington last year.



**Rhiarn Roper**  
 New Plymouth Girls' High School  
 I want to be a veterinarian.  
 The highlight of my time at Oakura School was Camp Wellington.



Wishing you all a

*Happy Christmas!*

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*(from left to right)*

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John McDonald - Systems Manager	06 757 3083
Tracy Malone - PA to Rachel Hooper	06 752 1340
Robyn McDonald - Rental Manager	06 752 1359
Daniel McDonald - General Manager	06 757 3083
Scharleen Kettle - Reception	06 752 1340
Rachel Hooper - Sales Consultant	027 235 5284
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# Get on the bus to the Festival of Lights!

## New Zealand's Leading Light Festival

The TSB Festival of Lights is back again for another fantastic season! The lights will be on in Pukekura Park every night between 16 December 2017 and 5 February 2018.

The beautiful lighting displays will transform the world-famous park into a magical, illuminated night-time wonderland. The TSB Tunnel of Light is back by popular demand along with new and exciting features.

Fantastic live acts will light up the stage as part of the festival's On-Stage programme, bringing a diverse range of international, national and local artists to New Plymouth.

Fun-filled Summer Scene events and activities will be a great day out for children and families. Think big dig, scavenger hunt, music and dance workshops and a day at the zoo!

A Summer Seniors programme has also been introduced to the festival this season with events catering for the over 60 community. Head along to Pilates, Zumba, ukulele and marimba workshops or spend the day listening to classic tunes from the Devon Hotel Brass Band.

Visit [festivaloflights.nz](http://festivaloflights.nz) or the TSB Festival of Lights Facebook page for all festival and programme info.

The TSB Community Trust kindly supports free buses to and from the festival, departing from Opunake, stopping in Oakura and Okato, each Saturday on 6, 13 and 20 January 2018.

The buses coincide with performances from award-winning indie/folk artist Mel Parsons, Auckland based DJ Latinaotea, New Plymouth's first silent disco and The East Pointers – just to name a few!

Pack a picnic, jump on the bus, enjoy a fun road trip, and experience some quality entertainment. Registrations are essential - visit [tranzittours.co.nz/events](http://tranzittours.co.nz/events) or phone 06 757 5783.



**TSB Festival of Lights**  
Sponsored by the NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Free regional buses!**

**Thanks to the TSB Community Trust, there are free buses to and from the TSB Festival of Lights on Saturday 6, Saturday 13 and Saturday 20 January. Departing from Opunake, Okato and Oakura.**

**To book your seat register online at [www.tranzittours.co.nz/events](http://www.tranzittours.co.nz/events) or call 06) 757 5783. Bookings close one day prior to the event.**

16 December 2017 – 5 February 2018

## December

13 Cyber Safety Y5-8  
Cyber Safety  
parent evening session  
(details pending)  
15 Reports Issued  
18 Big Day Out  
20 Prize Giving  
10:45am  
21 School finishes 12pm

## January

31 Office open for enrolments and stationery 8am-12pm

## February

1 Office open for enrolments and stationery 8am-12pm  
2 Term 1 begins for students



## BoT Update

With Mr Murphy leaving us at the end of the year the Board and the Appointments Committee have employed Mr Sean Kelly to join the senior syndicate. With an array of strong candidates we were pleased when Sean accepted the offer to join the Omata family and are very much looking forward to him joining us next year.

I congratulate the Hall Committee on successfully getting funding from TSB Community Trust for the kitchen upgrade. This will be a great asset to the whole community, not to mention the benefits to the school when running events, school lunches and the like. Well done.

At the last Board meeting we had presentations from both Jemma Glasgow and Bridgit Barleyman. Jemma talked about the maths curriculum and the link between physical movement and learning. The impact of understanding this link and our ability to incorporate this into our programme can be huge. The success of the ALiM project was also discussed, especially around the shared knowledge between staff, where learning for one or two, becomes knowledge for all.

Bridgit holds the SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) role here at Omata. Bridgit gave a detailed report on the specialist support staff that come into our school to support students. Highlighted was the impact these people make but also again the skills acquired by the staff who work alongside students with learning differences. Continuously it has been a disappointment that the level of support from the Ministry of Education in this area is very limited.

*Board of Trustees Chairman*

*Hamish Logan*



# Omata School Leavers

As the year 8 Omata School students head off to high school, TOM asked them three questions:

1. What Secondary school are you going to?
2. What has been the highlight at Omata School?
3. What do you want to do when you leave school?



## Lochi Smith

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlight has been the wide range of activities we do at Omata School.  
I want to be a builder or architect.



## Breana-Ann Kaponga

I am going to Spotswood College.  
I have only been at Omata for two terms and my highlights have been making new friends, and doing fun things like sport.  
I want to go to university and do art.



## Connor Martin

I am going to NPBHS.  
My highlights have been how everyone is nice to each other and you feel like part of a community, and good teachers.  
I want to be a police officer.



## Reef Pratt

I am going to NPBHS.  
My highlight has been my friends and the other students at Omata School.  
I want to be either an electrician or basketball player.



## Joshua Borostyan

I am going to FDMC.  
My highlight has been lots of outdoor activities and sport.  
I want to do something with horses.



## Koby Reeve

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlight has been learning new things at Omata School.  
I want to go to university and do something with art.



## Deyontae Colvin

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlight was the Wellington camp where we explored different places.  
I want to do something in art.



## Eden Hill

I am going to NPGHS.  
My highlight has been the camps - Auckland, Wellington and Vertical Horizons.  
I want to be a lawyer or actor.



## Jason Hart

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlights have been going to Vertical Horizons and hanging out with my friends.  
I want to do a trade.



## Aidan Dagleish

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlights have been meeting new people and the teachers.  
I want to do something in art or sport.



## Annie Jones

I am going to Spotswood College.  
My highlight was the Wellington camp - everything was fun.  
I may become a teacher.



**Greetings to our Coastal, Oakura and Omata Communities.**

**Term 1 dates and holidays 2018**

**January**

29 Office open

**February**

5 - Years 9 and 13 start school

6 - Waitangi Day - no school

7 - Years 11 and 12 start school

8 - All years start school

**Term 1**

5 February - Friday 13 April - 90 half days - (10 weeks)

6 February Waitangi Day

12 March Anniversary Day

30 March Good Friday

2 April Easter Monday

3 April Easter Tuesday

25 April ANZAC Day - (falls in term vacation)

People often think that schools wind-down at this time of year but in actual fact the opposite is true. Examinations, reports, departmental reviews of the 2017 academic year, staffing, planning and timetabling for 2018, the list goes on. However the various prizegivings are a highlight for us all during Term 4. The culmination of the senior prizegiving is the announcement of Prefects for 2018 and the awarding of the Dux Cup and Proxime Accessit Cup for 2017.



*Hikaru Han, Proxime Accessit Cup 2017; Rhett McAlpine, Dux Cup 2017, A L McPhail Dux Medal and Scholarship and Argyle Schoolwear Scholarship Prize.*

**Hikaru Han**

Next year I am hoping to get a scholarship to go to the United States to play volleyball and also study towards a degree. I will also be training to try and make the Youth Olympic or World Championships team for beach volleyball.

Hikaru is the daughter of Saori and Wilson Han and has been at Spotswood College since 2015.

**Rhett McAlpine**

In 2018, Rhett intends to have a break from study, by having a gap year where he hopes to gain employment in the financial sector, such as in a bank or an accounting firm. He intends to return to further study, however, where he would like to pursue a course in accounting and finance through correspondence.

Rhett is the son of Lisa and Grant McAlpine, and has been at Spotswood College since 2013.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement through 2017. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season.

**Prefects 2018**

**Head girl Adelaide Campbell and Head boy Lachie Barrett**



**Deputy Head girl Tanwen Edwards and Deputy Head boy Jaxon Maddox**



**Prefects Katie Pullen, Laura Smith and Maisie Jones below**



**Tayla Tawhiti-Cooper, Siteri Naumotu and Tanesha Bower**





**Ben Willis, Ben Oaten and Georgia Strachan and below Centarui Thompson**



**Nga Mibi Maioha Mark Bowden**  
*Principal*

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**Club Championships**

The two finalists have been decided in the Triples Championship with an Adam Collins skipped team of Andy Shearer and Roy Phillips to face off against the trio of Bruce Jackson, Kevin Fleming and Syd Sharpe. Good bowling to both teams in the final.

The highly coveted Fours Championship is also well under way with three teams making post-sectional play. The Club Pairs Championship will also start in December with the winning duo to be decided by the end of January.

**Interclub Tournaments**

The midweek tournaments are in full swing with the Oakura Bowling Club currently holding first place in the Gilmour Cup and running midfield in the Avery competition. Congratulations go to Brian Wickham and Roy Phillips (team selectors) for their great work and also to all players of both the mid-week competitions that compete so well each week. Keep up the great work.

A great start to the Saturday Division 2 Pennants completion has the Oakura Orcas placed 1st after four rounds. With 38 points from a possible 40, the Orcas are well placed to win promotion to the highly competitive Division 1 competition.

Oakura will contest the Division 2 TSB Reality interclub competition which started late November. Well done to Tony McAlevey, Jim Priest, Adam Collins, Bob Anderson, Bruce Jackson, Wayne Robinson and Allan Bridgeman who have been selected to represent the club.

**Club News**

The Oakura Bowls and Social Club is opening up the gates and inviting you a very social and neighbourly time to their "Have A Go" day on Sunday 10th December from 1.30pm to 5pm. The club is situated behind the Oakura Community Hall on South Road Oakura. All equipment will be provided, attire is casual, so all you need is to turn up on the day with some flat shoes, jandals or joggers and a desire and willing to "Have A Go!"

Entrance is \$5 for adults and no charge for children under 16. A free sausage sizzle will be provided from 3pm and the bar will be open all afternoon to purchase your favourite refreshments.

**The Underarm Bowler**

## OKATO POOL NOW OPEN

<b>Open weekends, public and school holidays, 12.30pm - 6.00pm</b> Lane swimming, Mon-Fri from 6.00am - 9.00am	<b>Admission Charges</b> Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.00 Spectators \$1.00 Adult with child under 8 yrs \$2.00
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*For 'What's on' and other information, please call 759 6060 for further details*

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
newplymouthnz.com



This segment is dedicated in part to none other than Paige Hareb. We are very proud that one of our club members has re-qualified for the surfing World Championship Tour. Paige fought with grit, determination, passion and skill to get back to where she belongs. Go Paige! We as a Boardriders Club and community look forward supporting you in 2018 and beyond!!!

Speaking of the community the skate park is progressing well and we expect to see the build start in February. To date this has been an arduous process but once it is completed all of this will be forgotten and the Oakura skate park and surrounds will be an amazing place for the community to come and have fun.

On a competition front we were challenged by Fitzroy Boardriders to a golf competition. We are now proud to say that we took this out despite the dismal weather conditions. In December we look to defend the interclub surfing title and defeat four other local clubs. These types of competitive events promote



good, friendly and competitive rivalry within the local clubs. The opportunity to compete between local surfing clubs is unique to Taranaki as there is nowhere in New Zealand that has five surfing clubs that exist within a 90km stretch of coastline.

Oakura Boardriders Club is now open every Friday night. We are taking advantage of the amazing weather that is gracing us so come on down and enjoy! Everyone is more than welcome. Membership enquires need to be made through Anne Bridges. For all members we have started our community surf nights. These nights are for every club member surfer young/old competent or not. We will have coaches and parent help on the beach for those needing advice. Please note this is not a substitute for surf lessons. Vertigo will run the "learn to surf days" separate to the club and please contact them directly for enquires. We will be running summer camp style lessons for kids during the holidays. The camps will be over a weekend with guest coaching and in different locations depending on surf conditions. If you have questions about anything to do with the club please see below contacts

Luke Florence. President. Any questions. 0274930819  
 John Shewry. Skatepark & fundraising. 0272529190  
 Colin Webber. Bookings. webzy70@yahoo.com  
 Anne Bridges. Membership. 0272431766. anne.bridges@xtra.co.nz

*Eli Smith. OBC*

*Photo left of Paige Hareb doing a back hand snap, photo courtesy of Surfing NZ*

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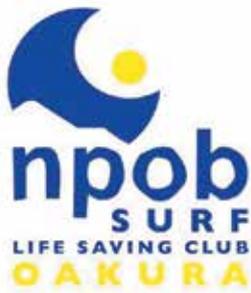
**Summer Holiday Classes**  
 From 8th January to 2nd February

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 6am to 7am and 9am to 10am  
 All classes are general level Hatha yoga classes with a focus on alignment. No equipment needed. Classes cost \$14.  
 Shine Yoga Studio is a small private studio with spaces for only 9 mats, therefore bookings are essential.  
 Please text or call the number below.

**New Years Day Yoga on the Beach**  
 1st January 7.30am  
 Oakura Beach at the bottom of Wairau Road

Start your year off the way you mean to go on with a beautiful yoga class on the beach. This class is a charity event with donations going to a charity yet to be decided. Please vote for your favourite charity on the Shine Yoga Studio Facebook page.  
 No wet weather venue so please check the Facebook page for cancellation notifications by 6.30am on New Years' Day

ShineYoga.co.nz | 37a Donnelly St | Oakura  
 027 203 7215



What a great start we are having to our summer.

Thanks to all our members who are giving up their time over the weekends to patrol the beach. Please help them by staying safe, making good decisions and swimming between the flags.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive funding from Grassroots Trust for a Rescue Vehicle. We will keep the tractor but as it is not known for its reliability it will be fantastic to have the rescue vehicle. Keep a look out on the beach, it shouldn't be too far away.

Sunday morning junior surf is now in full swing. It's great to see so many youngsters on the beach learning and having fun. If you are interested in joining, call down to the club Sunday mornings, 10am.

Our senior and ocean groups are training hard. It's always an impressive sight on the beach watching fit, healthy, happy kids. Mid December our senior group is heading over to the Coromandel to compete in the Whangamata Classic and the gruelling Mt Monster event.

**Fitness Expo Fundraiser**

To showcase some of the local talent in personal training, we are planning to have a Fitness Expo on the weekend of the 10th February. We plan to run a number of classes ranging from cardio workouts to yoga and pilates. All money raised through ticket sales will be donated to support surf club members to attend Oceans 2018 (NZ Surf Life Saving Championship). Please keep an eye on our webpage ([www.npobsurfclub.co.nz](http://www.npobsurfclub.co.nz)) and Facebook page for further details. This is a great opportunity to try something new or kickstart a new fitness regime. Swim safe and enjoy the sun.



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**Kaitake Xmas Open Hamper Results:**

**Mens Senior Division:**

1st	Gross	Damien Powell
1st	Nett	Bernie Keegan
1st	Stableford	Geoff Farrant
2nd	Stableford	Kurt Hikaka
3rd	Stableford	Nick Northam
4th	Stableford	Chris Ferguson

**Intermediate:**

1st	Gross	Daniel Joubert
1st	Nett	Lee Hughes
1st	Stableford	Chris Sole
2nd	Stableford	Roger Cloke
3rd	Stableford	Peter Christensen
4th	Stableford	Aaron Judson

**Junior:**

1st	Gross	Cam Murray
1st	Nett	Johann Tschurtschenthaler
1st	Stableford	Gary Crawford
2nd	Stableford	Dan Campbell
3rd	Stableford	David 'Jock' Colson
4th	Stableford	John Faulkner

**Limit:**

1st	Gross	Merv Edgecombe
1st	Nett	Arthur Baker
1st	Stableford	Kevin Breedveld
2nd	Stableford	Jermaine Martin
3rd	Stableford	Peter Hickey
4th	Stableford	Ryan McSweeney

**Ladies:**

1st	Gross	Tracey Telfer
1st	Nett	Andrea Jarrold
1st	Stableford	Lorraine Julian
2nd	Stableford	Trisha Crawford
3rd	Stableford	Janice Farrant
4th	Stableford	Helen Beaurepair

**Ladies 9 Hole Roundup**

At last we can celebrate the 9 hole champs results. 1st Section had feisty competition all the way through the rounds and eventually Margaret Mills and Jo Wilson-West faced each other in the final with Margaret managing to equalize a 2 hole down situation and take Jo back to the first where the game was won. Margaret then went on to the Taranaki Champion of Champions to claim the ultimate victory. But not only that she managed 2nd place in the Open which was run concurrently, won a raffle and drew a ball for two's. Phew that's a lot. Meanwhile the 2nd Section had a few first time entries coupled with the experienced. In the end it was Sandra Wilkes taking the victory over veteran Shirley Aspinall who has enjoyed plenty of action out at Kaitake in the past. There is no champion of champion for the 2nd Division at this stage. Shootout players left teeing off on the 9th were Jean Keegan and Margaret Mills with Jean repeating the final bow from 2014. Can't win them all Margaret! Thursday haggles winners - Nett Jo W-West and Jenny Clarke,

Closest to Pin Jean Keegan and Kay Stachurski, and Play it Again happy golfers were Pat Wilcox and Jenny Clarke with nets of 27 and 28 respectively.

Well done to all players this year battling to fight the weather conditions and various adversities especially those with injuries and ailments. We have a great core group of players who manage to get out and support the group/ club and make sure they enjoy their weekly rounds. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Kaitake Golf Club Chippers Annual Report:**

The Chippers group have flourished this year under the guidance of Domenico Squatriti, with the support of parents who accompany the players. They have benefited by having extra coaching from Dominic Barson. Dominic has been contracted to provide 10 X two hour sessions by grants Taranaki Golf Assoc obtained for this purpose.

Kaitake have 20 paid up members and must be one of the larger groups in Taranaki. It has been exciting to see the improvement of the kid's golf skills week by week and the thrill they get from playing well. Once a member, Chippers are registered with NZ Golf and are able to work towards getting a handicap on the shortened 9 hole course. Already D'Angelo has his and others won't be far away. Taranaki Golf organise age group competitions during the school holidays and once again D'Angelo has done well at these. Hopefully next year more will feel confident in attending these.

It is good to see girls join our group and we must nurture them for the future of Women's golf.

The Player of the Day trophy is popular and is presented to the player showing signs of brilliance on the course. The highlight will be playing for the Mattingley Trophy and Junior Chippers Cup at the end of the year

Finally thanks must go to Domenico for his time dedicated to Chippers golf. The kids have flourished under his leadership and the coaching he provides. He brings fun into the game.

**Summer Membership – Come And Give It A Go!**

1st November 2017 – 28th February 2018

We are offering a special Summer Membership of \$200 for this period. Summer will soon be upon us and we are running our summer membership again so take the opportunity and join Kaitake Golf Club. Should you want to become a full time member, \$100 will be deducted from 2018 membership.

Phone the office for more information on all categories of membership or contact the Club Captains

Follow us on Facebook for more information or phone Denise in the office, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Call Denise in office 7525667 for more information. Bring on Summer.

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## Oakura Tennis Club

The tennis season is well underway, a big thanks to all those who give up their Saturdays to play for us, hit some balls and meet some new

people. All three of our A grade teams had a win on Saturday 18th November, yahoo.

The Soffe Cup competition has had four games out of the seven completed for the first round, so far we are top of the ladder with 59 points with Pukekura our closest rival on 43 points. We are not getting too excited as we are yet to play Pukekura and we also have a bye coming up. The team is looking strong this season especially with the return of Paula Evans (nee Ferguson) and Miaana Walden. The team also welcomes Sammy Lewis one of the youngest players this season in this competition.

Our A2 Wilson Trophy team is sitting 5th out of eight teams and is doing well with a predominantly young team of 13-16year olds with a few experienced players and parents, plus anyone else we can convince to play completing the team! They beat Huatoki 10-6 and have had some close tie break games that hopefully start going our way.

The A3 Sumpter Trophy Team has some of our juniors who have graduated from Friday night tennis to Saturday with a few experienced players making up the numbers. They had a good win at the weekend beating Huatoki 12-4 and are currently 5th out of six teams. With three Oakura teams in the A grade competition courts are at a premium on Saturdays with often two teams playing at home. The Linda Street courts help take the pressure off the school courts and we are lucky to have the use of two private courts with Norton and Coral Moller's and Charlie and Tash Lewis's – both also a lot more sheltered so a lot nicer with the breezy weather we have been having! Junior numbers have hit a new record of 83 signed up this season for coaching. Hopefully this flows into Friday night competition for some as we only have three teams on Friday night which is down on the five or six teams we have had in recent years. Milou Barrett is running a fun social night for juniors on a Tuesday straight after school. Coach Matt is running some Wednesday morning coaching sessions if any adults want some top tips, as well as the popular cardio tennis on Thursdays at 9.15am.

Congratulations to Daniel and Sammy Lewis who both qualified for the Central Primary and Intermediate School Tennis finals.

Sammy came 5th and Daniel qualified for the North Island Primary and Intermediate School Tennis Finals in Hamilton and placed 4th in Under Year 6 category. Awesome results. On the 3rd of December there is a fun tennis tournament in South Taranaki for those interested in a day out around the coast. Once a month there is also a Hot Shot Tournament for those new to tennis.

Add some tennis balls to the Xmas stocking and mums and dads might like to visit Mike Roberts at Naki Racquets for a Xmas racquet for themselves.

It's all action on the courts and we can start having a dip in the ocean to cool off with this great summer weather! Sorry farmers but us beachgoers are hoping for a hot one this season to make up for last year, so enjoy some court action and plenty of beach time over the holiday break. See you on court and at the beach. Jackie Keenan Secretary 0276732900



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