

APRIL 2011

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experience for
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TOM

FITZROY

TOM Fitzroy is a monthly publication delivered free to your letterbox in the Fitzroy, Merrilands, Highlands Park, Strandon and Glen Avon areas.

THE TEAM

Co-ordinator/Features:

Kim Ferens
06 751 1519
kim@thetom.co.nz

Advertising:

Rachel Naus
06 758 1677
Kim Ferens
06 751 1519
kim@thetom.co.nz

Feature writers:

Jackie Tomlinson
06 758 5442
jackie@thetom.co.nz

Sub-editor

Mary Bowers

Graphics:

Ron Stratford
origin@xtra.co.nz

*The TOM Group Ltd,
22 Sutton Rd, RD4,
New Plymouth*

Email:

kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone:

0800 THE TOM
www.thetom.co.nz

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

editorial

I don't know about anyone else but I love this time of year – it is so warm but not roasting, (the wee blip a few days ago doesn't count) it is cool enough to sleep at night, the crickets are chirping their little hearts out, the autumnal fruit is ripe and passionfruit juice drips from my chin, the grapes have been devoured by the birds and the white butterflies have munched the greens! But the feijoas and the beetroot are nearly ready and the firewood is drying nicely in the garage so there is no need to look ahead to winter with dread. The mountain is still nude but the beaches are bustling and thank goodness the fly and mozzie populations are diminishing. For those who love clothes, shoes and handbags – there is a veritable selection to choose from for winter (too bad if you want to go to Fiji for a holiday – there are no togs or shorts) but a winter coat might work! Viva la winter!



This month the TOM features a wide selection of local articles from artists to missionaries to sports people and of course updates from various schools and clubs on the marvellous things going on in these establishments. TOM had an exceptional amount of feedback from the feature article last month on Wayne Paul and his speedway museum – it is people like Wayne whose passion inspires others to pursue their passions too.

Kim

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cover story African missionary experience for Fitzroy local

Fitzroy resident Matthew Hickford recently returned from a month long trip through Africa as part of a missionary group put together by ex local man Carl Butler who is a travelling missionary/evangelist with the 'Fan the Flame Ministry'.

Matthew was recruited into the team of eight which included four Australians, three new Zealanders and a Kenyan because of his 'sound system' expertise. This was put to good use as the group took their 'Healing and Hope Festival' through Kenya, Uganda and southern Sudan. Travelling in a 4x4 and a truck with all their own stage and sound equipment the team would arrive at a local sports field and set up their stage for the event. The festival which included music, preaching and prayer was 'advertised' in a unique way to the locals. Prior to the meetings at each venue a procession of locals riding motor bikes would go through the town announcing the event. Word obviously got out as the numbers attending the meetings were huge with the average being 5,000 but at Yei in Sudan there were between seven and eight thousand people in attendance.

This was Matthew first time in Africa but not his first experience of missionary work as he went to the Solomon Islands six months earlier. The African trip was quite different though as it was very structured and organised. This was a necessity as they travelled through countries that were in the midst of political change and in some cases unrest. Sudan had just become two countries when they visited and elections in Uganda saw peaceful protests taking place however Matthew says he felt quite safe as they travelled through the various countries.

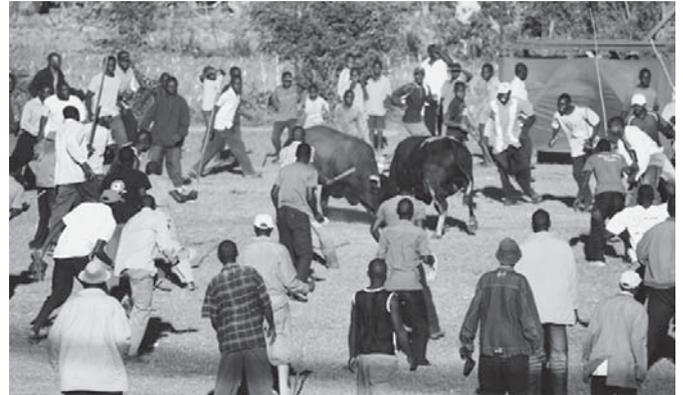
He recounted to me some of the interesting moments on the trip and one being when the group stayed in a hotel called the 'Bullsvie Hotel'. The establishment got its name as it was overlooking a field where local bull fighting took place.

Unlike Spanish bullfighting where the poor bulls are at the mercy of the people, the African version is much less gruesome. It sees bull owners bring their bulls together to fight and then the locals surround them a little like the 'cock fights' in Indonesia. Unlike the bulls in Spain and the roosters in Indonesia though the African bulls are not contained and simply take off when they have had enough. In one case Matthew said a bull was led to the field and took one look at the huge ginger bull that was to be its opposition and bolted before the fight.

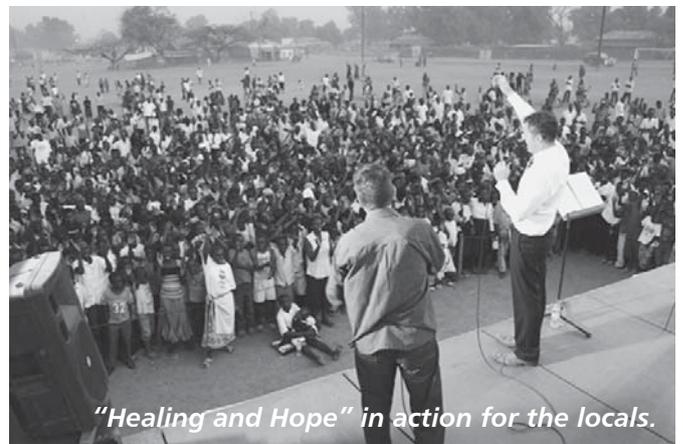
The difference in the cultures they experienced was a highlight of the whole experience for him but as well as this, seeing the transformation in the people as they got to know the mission team was definitely a high point. Matthew says at the beginning the people were quite reserved but by the

end of the festival the locals were very excited and joyful. From the photos that I saw of the trip this was very apparent and I'm sure this won't be the last 'missionary' experience that Matthew takes part in.

By Jackie Tomlinson



The Bullsvie Hotel spectacle.



"Healing and Hope" in action for the locals.



Matthew with locals of a different sort!



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New Plymouth Potters Inc

What to tell you about the Potters Club in March. Most of us are still recovering from Christmas but despite that things are still buzzing at 288 Courtenay St.

We have once again been pleased to welcome the Govett Brewster artist in residence Francis Upritchard to our club rooms. This time Francis is accompanied by her husband Martino Gamper. Martino is an artist and a furniture designer. We have been very honoured to take advantage of his offers to fix some of our rather battered and second hand furniture at the club. Thank you Martino we do appreciate your skills and enthusiasm. We have also enjoyed the skills of another enthusiast. Cecily Bull's parents are visiting from Perth and her dad has been overhauling our 11 potter's wheels. They are now all purring beautifully and no longer drive us crazy with their thumps, squeaks and rattles. Another big thanks.

We have talked before about the public classes run by the club. These have always been well received. Previously these have been run in conjunction with WITT who handled enrolments and advertising. This year ACE (Adult Community Education) has picked up this role. Unfortunately we did not have enough enrolments to warrant running the first term class. Whether this was because of the change in advertising, (ACE rely mainly on their booklet and the website) or our change of day from Tuesdays to Thursdays or the difficult economic times, we do not know. We would like anyone who is interested in taking classes to contact us with any ideas. We are considering other alternatives to the night class as well for example weekend workshops, day time classes. Please leave a name and contact phone number on the clubs answer phone or ring Jan at 751 3291. Previous participants are also welcome to come along and build on the skills learned at previous classes.

Our advanced classes are continuing to operate on Monday nights. Ring Cecily on 753 4498.

One of our foundation and life members, Bev Rea, was farewellled recently after nearly 40 years of membership. Bev is moving to Auckland to be nearer family. Luckily Bev will be returning from time to time and we will continue to be in touch. We still have her some of her pots to sell at the Vicarage and hope she will soon be set up and producing again. Thank goodness for email as Bev was a font of information



Bev Rae – farewell.



on the more scientific side of glaze making.

Visitors are always welcome at the Te Henui Vicarage either on the weekends from 1.00pm – 4.00pm or on Thursdays when there are always potters working. Ask if you would like to see around the workrooms as well as the Vicarage gallery. We are also willing to open at a time which suits you.

The Real Tart Challenge exhibition 'From the Sea' is now over although I believe some of the entries are still at Real Tart. This exhibition is always fun.

The theme is entirely open

to the artist's interpretation which results in a wide and sometimes surprising variety of pieces. We were a little sad that there were no entries from outside New Plymouth Potters Inc. but the exhibition was very successful despite that. The winner of the people's choice was Bev Rae's 'Listen to the Sea'.

*The People's Choice -
"Listen to the Sea" by
Bev Rae.*

*1st runner up – Jan Pidwell –
"Retired sailor".*



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Arthouse

Along with our usual schedule packed with great Arthouse movies, this month we bring you some special events! Read on for more from the Met Opera Series, National Theatre Live and our new School Holiday Movie Programme (gold coin donation!). Arthouse Cinema and Seasons/Cheapskates are amped to bring you the 2nd Taranaki Surf Film Festival, 22 April–1 May 2011.

The Festival includes all the latest award-winning surf movies:

Mundaka: An exclusive documentary relating the unique story of a 1000 year old Basque fishing village and the changes brought about by the introduction of surfing in the early 1970's.

Fiberglass and Megapixels: Swarms of photographers arrive in Hawaii every winter to focus their cameras on the best surfers in the world as they push the limits of wave riding.

God Went Surfing With the Devil: Charts the difficulties and dangers encountered by surfers in the Gaza region, Israel. Along the way it speaks to Israelis, Arab-Israelis and Palestinians affected by the violence, charting their daily struggle to supersede the conflict through the joys of surfing.

Oceans: Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water. *Oceans* chronicles the mysteries beneath, exploring the harsh reality and amazing creatures within. Shot over four years, it's not a standard nature documentary, it's also part thriller and part meditation on the vanishing wonders of the aquatic world. Visually spectacular yet with a salient eco-message, it will mesmerise and educate in equal measure. *Oceans* is already one of the most successful documentaries of all time.

School Holidays Environmental Movies: Arthouse Cinema is hosting a School Holidays Movie Programme for a gold coin donation only! These special sessions are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am. We want the best of the environmental films we have screened to be available to children, and so we have sourced *Last Paradise*, *The Age of Stupid*, *Nature Propelled*, *Oceans*, and *Queen of the Sun* for you. Each of these films is appropriate for thinking children of all ages, and we encourage you to book with francois@arthousecinema.co.nz or call 06-757 3650 to guarantee your child a seat.

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TOM Garden of the Month

Whilst many gardens at this time of the year seem to be past their best and are showing only a smattering of colours and flowers this month's TOM garden certainly defies that trend. This garden is literally teeming with blooms of every description all vying for space on a pocket sized plot.

Owners Heather and Peter established their garden ten



years ago around their new townhouse. Heather's love of annuals and roses is very evident. She says a few more perennials are creeping in but she does prefer to plant out the garden with different annuals. The roses in the garden include a large number of lush Icebergs as well as some old fashioned varieties. The climbing perfumed rose 'Compassion' has been putting on a wonderful show all season says Heather. Another special rose getting established in



the garden is the rose 'Mum in a million' given to Heather by the family, it has a pink flower which will work well with her plan to give the garden a pink and white colour scheme next year.

The largest part of the garden is at the front of the house with smaller areas on two sides; because space is limited the couple have made clever use of all available space. The variety of flowers on the property is staggering with roses, daisies, petunias, begonias, impatiens, ice plants violas and

gazanias to name a few. There is also a pink camellia and a rhododendron kept clipped to a manageable size. They have even made room for beans, lettuce, strawberries and rhubarb amongst the flowers as well as healthy lemon tree.

The couple share gardening duties with Heather being the main gardener and Peter taking care of the heavier jobs as well as spraying and fertilising. He has his own special recipe for a home made blood and bone fertiliser mixture. In a bucket with water he adds the absorbent mats that are found under the meat on the meat trays from supermarkets as well as the milk residue gained from rinsing out milk bottles. This mixture along with chicken and horse manure helps to keep everything looking healthy and lush and Peter says Heather can get just about anything to grow.

Whilst the garden looks high maintenance Heather says it's not, there's only a small patch of lawn, things are crush planted. The biggest job she says is the deadheading.

Whilst the couple obviously derive a lot of pleasure from their beautiful garden its close proximity to the street enables it to be enjoyed by people

walking past too. These passersby include a steady stream of preschoolers that attend the neighbouring kindergarten. Heather told me that she and Peter often hear the children commenting on the flowers in the garden and they get a lot of pleasure from this. Some children have even called out to them when they have been outside in the garden to say "I do love your flowers."

We had just finished talking about the children's response to the garden and I was taking the last few photos of the property when the afternoon session of kindy finished and it was exactly as Heather described with these tiny lovers of nature commenting on the beauty they were walking by.

There's no question, gardens are a wonderful thing for both young and old to enjoy and this local couple's garden is undoubtedly a source of enjoyment for the many people that pass it daily.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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Fitzroy Family Barber Shop – an institution in Fitzroy



The Fitzroy Barber Shop was opened in April 1956 by Don Andrews. The first customer through the door was well known local identity Tom Moorhead. Dignitaries and local identities are still welcome!

Back in the day haircuts were just 2/6 (25 cents) for men and 1/9 (18 cents) for children, with everyone paying the same price on Friday. As was the tradition with most barber shops, a large supply of tobacconist products were available such as tobacco, cigarette papers, filters, cigars, cigarettes, matches, lighters etc.

Don continued to run and work in the Fitzroy Barber Shop for 25 years, and when he sold the business he was missed for his light hearted banter.

Fitzroy Barber Shop changed hands four more time before the current owner Anne Talbot became the fourth lady owner. Each time the business was sold to a person on staff and this shows what a great little business the barber shop is. It also meant that there was little disruption for the clients.

With Anne came the new name Fitzroy Family Barber Ltd. The name reflects what the business is about - the whole family. Fitzroy Family Barber Ltd has a relaxed atmosphere and you can stroll in with no appointment necessary. It is wheelchair friendly and the salon floor is well suited to those with disabilities or in a wheelchair. Free parking is also available.

Another important feature of running a family friendly barber shop is the competitive pricing which includes senior rates and special children's prices.

The business hours also reflect a more family friendly structure with Thursday being a late night and open till 6pm and on Saturday till 12 noon which gives everyone scope to fit a haircut in around their busy lives.

To greet you when you arrive at the Fitzroy Family Barber are owner Anne who has been in the barber shop for 15 years and her staff of qualified hairdressers who have trained as barbers: Raewyn (also been in the barber shop 15 years), Jude and Jan and the very necessary back up/ life saver... Fiona. Have multiple skills in hairdressing and barber work means all the staff are proficient in styling ladies hair as well as men.

One satisfied customer says he keeps going back to Fitzroy Family Barber Shop because he can just walk in off the street when he has a free moment and get his hair cut plus it is cheap! Dave has been going to Fitzroy Family Barber Shop for more than 25 years and is completely satisfied with the service and the staff.

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The recent natural disasters in NZ and overseas have highlighted the need for people to be prepared for an emergency and a lot of people have been putting together emergency survival packs – just in case.

When the Christchurch quake hit in February the Fire Service responded in the central city area where many buildings were collapsed with people trapped and needing help. Multiple rescues were performed in the first few hours by both fire service personnel and civilians and the Fire Service was quickly overwhelmed with calls for assistance and were unable to get to every damaged property immediately. For this reason it is important for people to be prepared in major emergency to be self sufficient for up to three days or until help arrives.

This means having an emergency survival pack that should include such things as:

Drinking water; Canned food; Torch and a radio with spare batteries; Gas cooker or BBQ; Face and dust masks; First Aid kit; Toilet paper, bucket, plastic bags and a spade.

One of the many important messages from Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker in the days following the quake was to check that your neighbours are all all right and help where you can. Tune into local radio stations for civil defence advice, dial 111 in an emergency and avoid unnecessary phone use.

There is more detailed information in the inside back of your telephone book and at www.getthru.govt.nz or for fire safety advice you can call us at the station on 7573860 or check www.fire.org.nz

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TOM Sports



Taranaki Hockey

The Taranaki Under 15s Team has been selected for the 2011 season. The Team is: Isa Butler/Mather, Joshua Andrews, Cory Keith, Mask Silvennoinen, Ben Smith, Kieran Harrison, Orin Burmester, Jono Kuriger, Curtis Boyde, Ben Foskin, Xavier Hey, Quin Sorensen, Jasper Slager, Ross Stembridge, Patrick Hay, Nathan Heine, Zac Haworth, James O'Donovan. Sven Slager, Coach and David Butler, Manager.

Do You Want Coaching From Ben Collier? If so please email admin@taranakihockey.org.nz registering your interest. Ben has committed to coming to Taranaki on the last Sunday of every month for the next six months starting 27th March 2011 to work with our 'rep kids' and coaches of all ages. If you were in a 2010 Representative team and will be making yourself available to play representative hockey in 2011 we want to hear from you. If you are coaching and want some extra help/training or learn we want to hear from you more! There will be four sessions throughout the day times to be confirmed but will look like this - all sessions will be in Stratford:

Session 1 - U18 and U15 boys - two hours - cost \$25.00 per session.

Session 2 - U18 and U15 girls - two hours - cost \$25.00 per session.

Session 3 - Coaches - two hours - \$10.00 per session (subsidised by THF).

Session 4 - Hatch/Collier/Curtis/Rawleigh players - one hour \$12.50 per session.

Places are very limited so you will need to respond quickly. Please reply with your name, date of birth, which team you played for in 2010 and if you can attend all six sessions. You will be contacted in reply to let you know if you have been accepted or not. www.taranakihockey.org.nz.

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The benefits of private health insurance

Today, almost 1.4 million New Zealanders have health insurance. Like any other insurance, it provides peace of mind in times of difficulty.

You cannot tell what health problems may affect you in the future. And you can't foresee how they will impact on your family, your lifestyle or your earning ability.

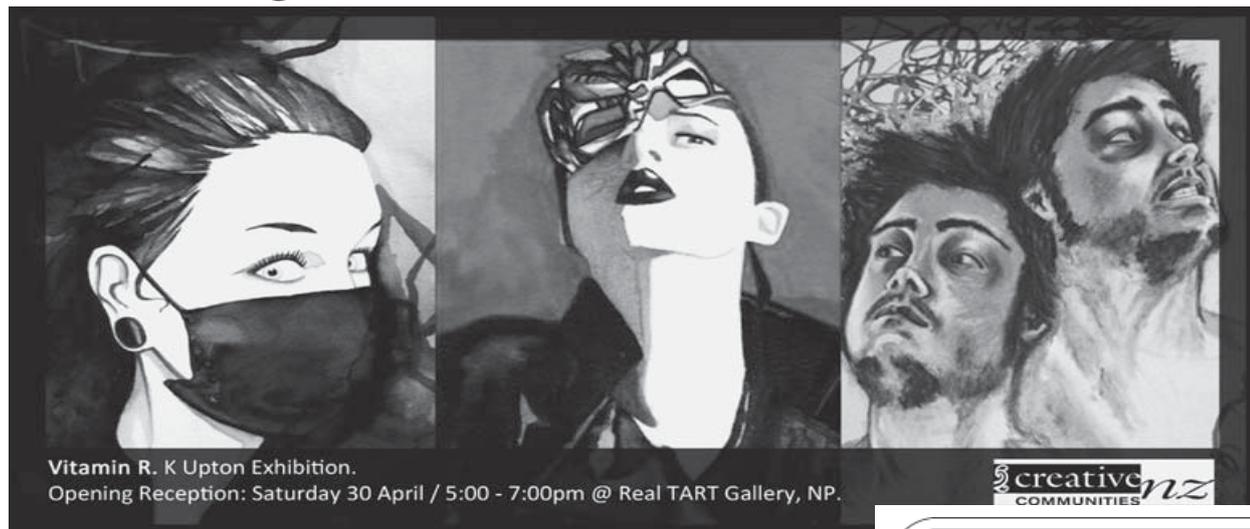
Not all treatments or costs are covered by the public health system, and you often have no control over the timing or quality of care you receive.

Having health insurance means that you can choose your doctor or specialist, and you can choose when and where you are treated. All with the assurance that you can recover all or most of the costs.

The Health Funds Association of New Zealand tell us that health insurance claims paid in the December 2010 quarter totalled \$208 million, taking claims paid in the 12 months to December 2010 to \$825 million.

This is an increase of \$60 million on the previous twelve months and this growth in claims costs has been running at a high level over recent years due to increased demand, expansion of services funded by health insurance, and medical inflation. Cost-shifting from the public sector has also contributed. The average annualised growth in claims costs over the last five years has been 8.7%. This shows the importance of having cover as health insurance takes away the uncertainty of your future health care. If you don't qualify for publicly funded surgery, then you'll need to consider paying for surgery in a private hospital, which can be costly.

Showcasing Local Talent



A sample of Kayla's stunning artwork.

Kayla Upton was often misunderstood growing up and at 17 was diagnosed with ADHD.

Kayla tells how medication often changes her art style explaining that when she is medicated her work is tidy and structured, but she prefers the more unmedicated messy look she describes as mental layering.

For Kayla the Vitamin R exhibition reflects her inability to maintain concentration on any particular area or task and the influence of distractions. Understandably Vitamin R, the title of her first exhibition is a reference to Ritalin prescribed to many ADHD sufferers.

ADHD sufferers are usually highly intelligent and creative. Girls are least likely to have hyperactivity often thought of when referring to ADHD but more likely to have a "hypo-focus" form making it difficult, if not impossible to focus and sustain attention on activities that don't interest them. Conversely if they are very interested in something, they have difficulty shifting attention away from this, often losing track of all other responsibilities. The talented young artist Kayla Upton shows us what this was like from the inside. Kayla is currently studying a degree in Creative Technologies at The Western Institute of Technology Taranaki.

Follow Kayla's progress on:

www.kuptonart.co.cc or [facebook.com/kaylaupontart](https://www.facebook.com/kaylaupontart)



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Top Print – from Concept to Creation



TOM readers may or may not be familiar with Top Print – printers of the TOM magazine among many other publications. This month we take a tour of the factory floor at our TOM printer.

Top Print is owned and operated by Dwayne and Natalie Avery. They are

extraordinarily proud of the fact that they work in and own the business. As Natalie puts it – “customers deal directly with the people who own the business so we therefore have a vested interest in making sure every job that goes out the door is of a high standard. Our customers become friends she goes on to say, and that is how we like it.”

Ink is in the blood it seems. Dwayne is the fifth generation involved in the printing trade. The printing history goes way back to great, great, great grand dad Thomas of Thomas Avery & Sons Printing business and also Avery's

Bookshop in New Plymouth 130 years ago. As a teenager Dwayne often ‘wagged’ school to work in the printing factory with his Dad. His school attendance was so

Ink is in the blood

bad one teacher remarked that “you will get nowhere in life Mr Avery!” Now Dwayne has proved him wrong by owning and running his own business – no easy feat in this economic environment.

Natalie is a much newer convert to printing, having previously worked in animal welfare as an SPCA inspector. A career move to the printing industry proved invaluable and soon romance blossomed between the budding print machinist and the administration manager - the rest as they say is history.

In 2007 Dwayne and Natalie brought Top Print from Perry Squire. Top Print began business in 1996 as a mainly offset printing business and Dwayne and Natalie have grown and expanded the range of services and options available to their customers since taking over.

Top Print can be summarised in three words: design, print and bind.

Natalie takes care of the design or concept phase of the process. Artwork and graphics can be vague ideas which



Natalie in control of the digital production.



Dwayne operating one of his beloved Heidelbergs (“a real printing machine”). This is where TOM’s black and white pages get printed.

Natalie will formulate for her clients into whatever their needs are, for example business cards, brochures, magazines or flyers. Natalie has the expertise in operating the update software to take a mere idea or concept through to completion. Once the design stage is completed Dwayne and Natalie will work out the best print option for the job.

Offset printing is Dwayne’s domain and he is a master operator of his various (eight to be precise) German printing machines. Dwayne admits his machines are ugly and noisy but they are reliable and they do produce consistently high quality prints endlessly. Offset printing was developed in the 1870’s and is a process of transferring an ‘inked’ image from a template to the print material (paper). This template can be used many times making offset printing a very reliable and cost effective printing method most ideally suited to larger print runs.

Digital printing has only been around since the early 1990’s but has really revolutionised the printing industry. Digital printing is the process of reproducing an image or text onto a surface (paper or card) but without the ink being absorbed into the surface like offset printing, rather forming a layer on the surface. The finished product is of high quality, is fast to produce and these days, very cost effective. Digital Print is mainly suited to small to medium sized print runs or if a client requires fast turnaround. Taking pride of place in the Top Print factory is the newly installed Fuji Xerox 700 digital press and this is Natalie’s domain. An oversized photocopier is what Dwayne likes to call it (once an offset printer, always an offset printer) though he is the first to admit the quality that comes off the machine is second to none. Natalie believes “he’s just upset because I’ve now taken over half his factory with my digital equipment” she

Quality is second to none



The Fuji Xerox 700. This is the “oversized photocopier” that takes care of TOM’s colour pages and Directory.



Gloria at the collating machine . . .

laughs as she says she often catches Dwayne 'checking out' what's coming off the digital machine and is usually told in no uncertain terms to stop being nosy and get back to his side of the building and concentrate on his own work!!

These two processes, design and print would be nothing without expertise finishing and this is where the 'bind' comes in. Gloria (aka Dwayne's Mum) is the head of the bindery department. Gloria started 'helping out' on the odd occasion becoming such a regular she was soon employed on a part time basis, which has been a great help allowing Natalie time to concentrate on moving forward with the design & digital print process. Under Gloria's watchful eye the printed work gets sliced, diced and put together to form the

Dicing, slicing and putting it all together

finished product. There's a large programmable guillotine (for chopping things up) and folding machine – capable of folding up to 18000 sheets per hour, collators, booklet makers, stitchers, staplers, a commercial laminator (the comparison to a pouch laminator is worlds apart) wire binding and cloth taping machines. Heading back into Dwaynes domain are letterpress machines capable of die cutting shapes out of the printed material such as presentation folders or business cards with perfectly rounded corners.

Top Print has the capability to print any job big or small from personalised invoice books with logos and special requirements, letterheads, business cards, newsletters, booklets, promotional material, calendars etc.

Dwayne and Natalie are loyal Taranaki supporters who keep their entire work load local unlike some businesses



A wide range of quality products produced by the team at Top Print.



. . . and again at the folder (multi-tasking?).

who farm out jobs to other areas so when you support Top Print you are supporting a local business that cares about the local environment.

When you visit Top Print at the end of the quiet cul de sac of Saltash St you will also encounter another of the Avery's passions – animals (hardly surprising since Natalie was once a SPCA inspector). You will be greeted at the door by a little scamp called Scruff, a Bishon x Shitzu who will

Then there's the menagerie!

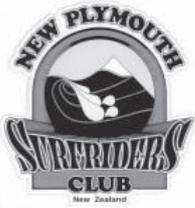
lick you to death. Next you will be distracted by Grumble the gorgeous Alexandrian parrot and possibly even a menagerie of baby or teenage birds in various stages of their development. Dwayne and Natalie definitely believe in 'bring a pet to work day' – every day. Natalie says they have 30 'odd' birds at home, we're the Avery's Avairies, then there's the dog, a rabbit, a guinea pig, two cats and some fish – "I love me birds!" Dwayne says and they love them. Son Caleb rates up there too, he is starting school shortly so won't be helping out in the factory as often. It is wonderful that Natalie and Dwayne bring their passion to work and their work is their passion so it truly does feel like you are one of their friends when you pop in and from my personal experience I have never found that any job is ever a bother or too big or too small or I am too cheeky – they just get cheeky back!

By Kim Ferens



After all the hard work, happy TOM editor, Kim Ferens piles the TOMs into her car to take to the distributors.





New Plymouth Surf Riders' Club

March has been a very good month for surfing with two epic days of overhead surf coupled with firm offshore winds bringing out the surfers to make most spots fairly crowded. But the more astute locals always know where there is good uncrowded surf and enjoy it with mates. The large surf has even bought some breaks into prominence and those surfers who dare to step outside of the mainstream have found some rarely surfed delights. I can't give away secrets but I photographed one spot that I hadn't seen breaking for nearly 40 years being enjoyed by six surfers. Seek and ye shall find.

During March the club hosted the New Zealand Fire Service Surfing Champs, which although many of the entrants could not attend due to USAR duties in Christchurch and Japan still managed to provide three good days of skilled competitions at Back Beach, Fitzroy and a secret spot south of Opunake.

We also hosted TAFT and their welcoming barbeque for the WOMAD performers and were again blessed with a warm fine night and a great sunset –despite Metservice forecasting rain and wind. Taranaki always seems to turn it on for this event which the performers really appreciate. Although our annual cricket match with the Oakura



6 year old Finlay Montgomery in the Grom event.

Boardriders was rained off we did manage to cohost with our coastal friends a Groms surfing day for the really tiny groms – aged from six years up. It is an absolute joy to see such youngsters taking on the difficult task of learning to surf and doing so well. This event will continue until the water gets too cold.

On the National scene three of our members continue to do well with Jarred Hancox and Keone Campbell ranked 8th and 9th respectively while junior Sam Bound is ranked 5th in the Junior Longboard series.

With Easter fast approaching entries are coming in for the 19th Fisher and Paykel Easter Masters. Open to males aged 35 plus and women 30 plus we already have entries in the Surf God division for men aged 70 plus and the Surf Queens for women aged 60 plus; and all divisions in between. Entry forms are available on our web site www.npsurf.co.nz from the Club, Beach Street Surf, or by contacting the secretary on mail@npsurf.co.nz.

Finally eight of our members have departed for a two week surfari by boat in the Mentawais (Indonesia), comprising surfers who are all aged in their 50's the main instruction to their tour guide and captain is "No surf over four feet high"! Arriving back just before the Easter Masters, Bubbles, Howie, Doc, Charlie, Bruce, Mike, Crawf and Brent have already sent in their entries for the event figuring that by then they well be super fit and surfing at their peak. Mind you the change back from 28 degree water to 18 degrees may have a sobering effect.

Allen Pidwell



Sam Bound, ranked 5th in NZ, competing at Sandy Bay.



Dave Tomlinson and Allen Pidwell – finalists in the 50-59 year old NZ Fire Service surfing competition.

'Roy Boys' bring home gold from Surf Life Saving Nationals

Recently four members of the Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club came home from the NZSLS Nationals as gold medallists and NZ champions in the Under 19 four man long course canoe event. 'Roy Boys' as the team is known is comprised of Jordan McCormack, Reuben O'Neill, Nick Crawford and Sangster Vercoe. The young men all aged 16 punched well above their weight to take out first place honours in this fiercely contested event where most of the other teams crews were comprised of competitors in their last year in that age grade. I asked the boys how hard the competition was and they all agreed it was really tough. They explained that twenty four teams started out contesting



The Roy Boys, from left, Reuben O'Neill, Jordan McCormack, Nick Crawford Sangster Vercoe.



The Roy Boys in action.

the race, reducing to twelve teams in the semi finals and six in the final. This is an event that requires good upper body strength and keeping in mind that a lot of their opposition were several years older its no surprise that an important part of their training was gym work which Nick, Reuben and Jordan who all attend NPBHS did in their school gym. The boys said the coaching and guidance they got from senior members of the Fitzroy club was invaluable and they are very grateful to Mark 'Woody' Woodward, Kent Fraser, Todd Velvin, Russel Philp, Ron Cole and Emma Crofskey. The seniors all of whom are gold medallists helped with training, management and could tell the boys how to prepare for the race. They also helped with the huge job of transporting the team and equipment to various events including Nationals. Three weeks before they won gold 'Roy Boys' came second in the long course event at the North Island Championship so they knew they were on the right track but still needed to improve. The team also competed in the canoe short course event at nationals and they placed fourth. Although they were disappointed with fourth they knew they were doing OK on the water and it was the sprint part of the short course event that had been their weak spot Reuben explained that none of the team is sprinters and even though this was a bit of a confidence knock, they had to recover from it before the long course which is their specialist event.

The canoe that they compete in the long course race in is a catamaran and they all have specific positions on the boat. Reuben and Sangster are in the two front positions

while Nick and Jordan are at the back and in charge of steering. The race itself starts and finishes in the water and the finish which is videoed was so tight between the Roy Boys, Midway, and South Brighton teams that the boys didn't know they had won until it was announced a few minutes later.

The 2010 NZSLS Nationals had been scheduled to be at Christchurch this year but because of the February earthquake SLSNZ moved the event to Mount Maunganui. Because the change of venue came quite late the boys had already run a really successful fund raising campaign with the more expensive trip in mind.

As well as gaining sponsorship from ANZCO and McCurdy Engineering the boys also did labouring on Reuben's family lifestyle block as well as for G.J Gardner homes to raise funds. Thanks to hard work and family support the team are now well on the way to cover the expenses involved with competing next season.

It was obvious that although this is their first year that the Roy Boys have competed together that the four of them are a tight unit and are looking forward to successfully defending the title next year and remaining the Under 19 NZ Canoe Long Course champions.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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Fundraiser for Christchurch has unique local flavour

The weeks following the devastating earthquake in Christchurch have galvanised many locals into finding ways to raise funds for the people of Canterbury that have lost so much.

Local resident David Herbert and friend Michael Dromgool, whose wife Nicola is originally from Christchurch, decided to organise a unique surfing event at local surf break Waiwakaiho to help raise funds.

On a very chilly Sunday night in March a night time flood lit expression session was held at Waiwakaiho. It was a chance says David for the surfing community to give to Christchurch and for many surfers to experience surfing at night. It wasn't a contest just a chance to have fun in the water.

During the afternoon huge floodlights donated by Hirequip Waiwakaiho were erected on the



beach and rock wall. Once dark these made an impressive sight as they lit up the surf which as fortune would have it was really good that night. The chilly temperatures didn't put anyone off and many took the opportunity to experience night surfing. It was a great atmosphere down at the beach with music playing and surfers racing to get their wetsuits on and get into the surf. Collectors with buckets wandered through the crowd and David said \$900 was raised on the night. A BBQ was put on for the participants and Tegel supplied all the meat for that, David said they would really like to thank everyone that helped make the event happen particularly Hirequip and Tegel as well as all the helpers on the day and all the people that came along to surf or just watch. As a spectator it was an awesome night and one that showcased everything that's so great about living in our local area.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Fitzroy School

A busy term for the Fitzroy School



The picnic in February was a time to welcome new families to Fitzroy School and to meet up with old friends.



Flop! Superman fell out of the sky, right into the middle of our swimming sports! We all thought he looked very familiar. Mr Mansfield, is that you?

Go speed racer! Tania Batt, storyteller and cyclist, biked from Waiheke Island to our school then on to Wellington. She came to encourage us to keep fit by biking and to save the planet's fuel supplies. Tania Batt made the kids laugh their heads off, with her story telling voices. Kids could then make their own AMAZING bike creations.



Our school raised money for the Canterbury earthquake by having a Canterbury fundraiser. We raised \$1107.50!!! WOW! We all dressed in red and black, and sold sausages, cakes, scones, fudge, biscuits and cupcakes.



The Senior School is taking part in the NZ Cyclist Skills Training programme where everyone has the opportunity to become a confident and capable cyclist. We will be learning how to check that our bikes are safe for the road, practice signalling and manoeuvring and be able to deal with road traffic environments. We think that our parents probably won't be able to afford the high petrol prices to drive us to school soon, so we will be confident and skilled to ride instead.

Reporters: Wil, Brooke and Courtney.



New Plymouth Boys' High School

We are delighted with the growth of the Concert and Jazz Bands in the school and the musical tradition carries on with the National Championships in New Plymouth later this year. Of special delight is the number of boys participating in the Choir and the high standard that is being achieved. Drama (including Theatre Sports) and Public Speaking/Debating have also begun recently. Academically the school is going very well and we are pleased with the attitude and aptitude of our Year 9 boys.....the feeder schools have done a great job and sent us a very talented group of 285 boys. Top results were recently gained by Year 10 boys Tom Spencer and Teague Harvey in Latin.

This is also the time in the school for summer sport, although we have already begun to have practices for winter sports. The school is very proud of the following pupils: Rowing is back in the school with an eight and coxless four. Our thanks to the Clifton Rowing Club for all their support, and well done to the team finishing 6th in the Maadi Cup: Logan Toa, Dion Petersen, Toby Hoeta, Jackson Vischer, Corey Murray, Jack Greenslade, Lauchlan Rouse, Shannon Awhitu and Blake Wilson.

Our Tennis Champions are Corey Sutherland (Junior) and Callum Old (Senior). The school team are the Taranaki Champions and came 4th in a recent Super 8 tournament. Callum has a big future in the sport.

In Athletics our star runner Matt Baxter continues to shine. In the recent National Athletics Championships he ran 3km in 8.30.6. For a school boy to break 9 minutes it is considered outstanding. Matt has a good chance of representing New Zealand in the World Championships. Rhys Bishop ran the 800m in the Nationals and came 6th. He has a lot of potential. In the School Athletics Day the highlight was a closely contested Senior 100m which Isaac Robinson won. In Beach Volleyball the school excelled in the Taranaki Champs with special mention of the Junior Pair of Sean Hone and Adam Stuart.

In the National Surf Lifesaving Championships three of our boys won the National title in rowing the canoe for 800 metres in the surf. Congratulations to Jordan McCormack, Nick Crawford and Reuben O'Neill.

Adventure Racing is very popular with the boys and our Senior Team of Josh Girvan, Charles Barnes, Darren



Corey Sutherland and Callum Old, tennis champions.

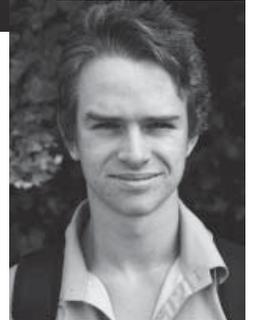


Tom Spencer and Teague Harvey, top scholars in year 10 Latin.

Alexander Edward Lawley (fastest time 28km in one day) excelled. Exciting times lie ahead in the Hillary Challenge.

In Cricket we have a large number of boys participating and the standard is very high. The school 1stXI beat Francis Douglas with James McDougall getting 102 runs. He was on 81 with two overs to go and blasted his way to a century. The team has two more games to qualify for the Gillette Cup.

Touch is a very popular sport and our boys did well in a recent lower North Island Tournament. Our star is Lewis Ormond.



Matt Baxter, ran 3kms in 8 minutes and 30 seconds.



James MacDougall, 102 runs in cricket against arch rival Frances Douglas.



Isaac Robinson, 100 metre champ.



Lewis Ormond, touch rugby star.



Sean Hone and Adam Stuart, beach volleyball experts.

Mangorei School

The Christchurch Earthquake

Sucked in, chewed up and spat out
The disaster beyond a disaster
The tragedy beyond a tragedy
A test for all of New Zealand
Lives were shattered
And the disaster stretches on
Buildings lie in ruins with the people
The air is filled with loss
Of Christchurch's darkest day

Bodies are found under piles of rubble
There are no words to describe the loss
No loss is filled, the wait kills
Death and destruction are on the highest scale
People are already rebuilding their lives
Christchurch will rise again

Your humanity is more powerful than any act of nature
The agony of waiting for loved ones
Panic breeds panic and wounded spirits
But hope still lingers
Christchurch will rebuild itself
Christchurch will rise again

By Callum Milner, Year 7, Mangorei School

Six Point Three

One second standing and another second not
Christchurch was shaking, the lot
People devastated, on the ground
Buildings falling, crushing was the sound
The people of Christchurch were thinking
Wondering why me
This violent earthquake was
A massive six point three

Loved ones missing and gone
Hopefully now the earthquake is done
The rescuers are in
Once, a standing building
Now horrifying lumps of concrete and tin
People are stuck
And on the streets of Christchurch
A shocking lot of muck

Don't worry it's not a you, it's an us
This shocking event was a fuss
We are there for you
And other countries too
So come people come
The people of New Zealand, we are one

Tylo Murphy, Year 8, Mangorei School

Our Darkest Day

The sorrow we feel for the people of Christchurch
Burns through our hearts
As the tears rush down our faces
The heroes among us
Fight for their survival
Climb up the rubble to see the aftermath
Of destruction and chaos
There is light at the end of the tunnel
We will rise up from the destruction
Once more
We will fight back
Christchurch will live again
So we will stop the trauma
Reunite families
Rebuild lives
We will stop at no end to make Christchurch a
Thriving
Beautiful
Safe city
Again
We feel your pain
We feel your hurt
So we will have Christchurch stand tall and proud
Once more

*By
Christopher
Headey,
Year 7,
Mangorei
School*



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St John Bosco's Drumming Workshop with Fraser

We all sat down and had absolutely no idea what was awaiting us. Or what looked like a boring man was an amazing drummer man! Even now as I am writing this I hear the outstanding BOOM, BOOM BOOM of Fraser (that's his name) on his bongo drums. Fraser started off looking confused trying out new instruments and then amazingly he turned one simple beat into a rhythm of different sounds and tempo's. Djembes were what we played on. Fraser had different shapes and sizes all called Djembes. He instructed us to go and get ourselves a Djembe and lay it down in front of our seats. He played a rhythm and told us to repeat what he played. After a few catchy beats we were allowed to have a free play and think of or make up our own rhythm. Next we had a choice of sharing ours with the class. Fraser liked Teegan's beat and we turned it into something bigger that involved more instruments. It sounded bigger, louder and better! Just before interval we were allowed to explore the place and different instruments. It was fun, cool and a total blast!

By Rebecca Wells



Bang, Bang, Bang! The noise of the drums. Today we went to a drum workshop and it was fun. We got to play on drums called Djembes and then he (Fraser) asked us to do other drums and instruments. We made a new tune and all thanks to Teegan! Fraser is a talented man. When we first got there and settled down he did a great introduction and played the harp (which is my favourite). He was so good at playing the drums. At the end he said we could play any instruments. I did the fluffy drum and a bell. I had a great time!

By Kate Conley

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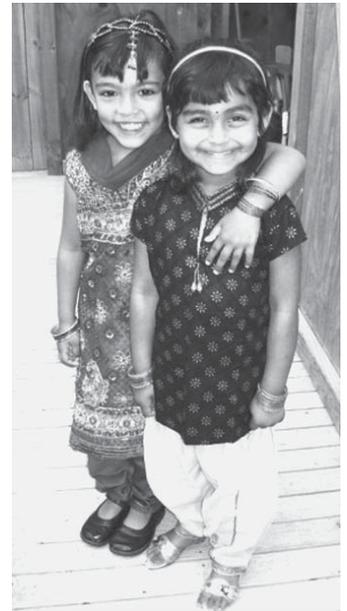
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Merrilands Kindergarten

Hello from our kindergarten! We have had a strong interest in pirates again with hats, swords, and telescopes being made. Many pirates wore scarves on their heads and around their waists as a means of holding their swords. Creativity was witnessed with earrings being made out of paper and beads and being taped onto ears. Many "Arrgh"s have been heard as tamariki get into the full experience of being a pirate, me hearties!

On Friday 25 March, we had our Multicultural Day. It was scheduled to coincide with the Multi-Ethnic Extravaganza held in New Plymouth on 26 March. Children and families, including extended families, were invited to dress in a costume of any culture and to bring a dish to share at lunchtime. The costumes were varied and creative with some wearing beautifully handmade items and others wearing gorgeous apparel from the actual country it represented. There was definitely a diverse range of cultures displayed. We had oodles of delicious dishes to taste and they were all scrumptious. Funny how no matter what's offered, children still go for the popcorn first! It was a lovely day of uniting and enjoying each other and the differences that make us each unique and special. A big thank you to all involved. A funny point of the food was when children eagerly spied a dish of "chocolate" that was actually thinly sliced pieces of dried beef called "biltong" from South Africa. They couldn't get it in their mouths fast enough until their taste buds registered that it wasn't a decadent drop of sweetness. The looks on their faces were priceless. Biltong, if you've ever tasted it, is actually quite tasty, but perhaps a shock to the system when expecting a sugar rush. Hope everyone gets what they're expecting. . . or better!

Libby, Brenda, Yvonne, Denise and Fortunate



Multicultural Day.



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pets of the month

TOM Pets of the

Names: Cutie, Sparks and Frosty
Breed: Cutie is a rabbit and Sparks and Frosty are 'pedigree' guinea pigs
Ages: Cutie is two years old while Sparks and Frosty are just babies still aged four months.
Personalities: Sisters Loren and Imogen are the proud owners of this month's adorable TOM pets.



'Cutie' belongs to Loren (above left) who says her multi coloured rabbit is a rascal who loves to get a daily run out on the lawn. Cutie has been known to do flips with excitement when given the freedom of the backyard!
 Imogen's two cute guinea pigs have very different personalities with the caramel coloured Sparks being a shy boy. Frosty on the other hand is adventurous and likes to explore his world outside of the cage. Still young and playful the boys will sometimes play chase and run in figure of eights around their feeding bowls.

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FITZROY CLUBS & GROUPS

East End Indoor Bowling Club meets in the Community Hall Sackville St Fitzroy at 7.30 pm every Monday evening. New members are very welcome. Please phone Betty Death 757 9968.

Fitzroy Outdoor Bowling Club. Season now open and new members welcome – both men and women. Join our friendly members who play on two greens with an upmarket clubroom and fine facilities. Contact President Neville Goldsworthy 758 8846 or Secretary Sherylle Watkins 755 0125.

Fitzroy Scout Group. For boys and girls from age 6. Cubs meet on Mondays 6.00 – 7.30pm and Keas meet on Tuesdays from 5pm-6.15pm at The Scout Den, Clemow Road, Fitzroy (near Lake Rotomanu). Visit us to see what we do. The first term/part term is free! For further details if your child is under 10 years: ph Cory 06 759 9312 / 027 291 7334 or 10 years + Craig 06 755 2013. fitzroyscoutgroup@xtra.co.nz

Fitzroy Men's Probus Club meets in the Beach Street Hall, Fitzroy, at 10am on the second Tuesday of every month (except January). New members welcome. Please phone Ian Raine 06 757 5825.

Freemasons Worldwide are ordinary men in the community, 21 years and over, of all religions and backgrounds, who share a concern for human values, moral standards, and the rights of individuals. Meeting monthly in Fitzroy. Phone Roger Marshall, 06 7591755.

Mahjong. There will be Mahjong starting at the Beach Street Hall, lounge room, on Sat 12th March, 1pm-4pm then every Saturday. Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy Mahjong, cup of tea and biscuits. There will be a small prize for hand of the day, \$3.00 each. For details phone 758 1957 or 757 5913.

New Plymouth Chess Club. Every Tuesday 7.30 pm. Clubrooms: 11 Gilbert St (next to Model Trains). For further information contact Errol Tuffrey 758 2626.

New Plymouth Croquet Club
 Winter months at New Plymouth Croquet Club Rooms, East End Reserve:
 Cards & Rummy Kub every Friday afternoon starting April 2nd, 1pm - 4pm, \$3;
 Mah Jongg every Saturday afternoon starting May 7th, 1pm - 4pm, \$3;
 Winter Croquet will start on Wednesday 1st June, new members welcome, \$3 session. Please ring Barbara 758 2710 for more detail.

New Plymouth Pakeke Lions meet on the last Monday of the month at the Fitzroy Golf Club, 11.30am. Contact President David May 758 4427.

New Plymouth Swords Club - Fencing. At New Plymouth Boys' High Old Gymnasium, off Hobson St. Every Monday night of school term. Juniors 6-7pm. Seniors 7-9pm. For more info contact: John Calcott, Ph 753 9186, jcalcott@paradise.net.nz

Rotary meets every Wednesday night at 5.15pm at the Beach Street Hall. Enquiries to the Secretary, Ross Smith, phone 758 4194. Email: rossandanne@slingshot.co.nz

Santa Rosa Country Music Club meets every Friday night at the Fitzroy Hall, Sackville Street Fitzroy, at 7.30pm till 10.30pm. Information regarding club please ph 021 265 9230 or email lancasters@xtra.co.nz. Entry \$3 non-members, \$2 members. Supper provided.

Taranaki Model Powerboat Club holds a Club Day on the 1st Sunday of every month (weather permitting) at Lake Cowley, just before the Go cart track in Waitara. Contact John Nicholls on 769 9166 or 021 299 4168.

Taranaki Radio Control Car Club. Off-road racing: Club's dirt track by Lake Rotomanu, 2nd Sunday of every month. Contact Greg Mawson, ph 753 7471. On-road racing: contact Selwyn Duthie, ph 06 765 8108. Indoor racing: contact Tracy van Beers, ph 751 1093.

Tasman Club situated at 35 Octavius Place, New Plymouth. Tasman Clubrooms are available for hire. Further information phone 758 5186 clubrooms.

TSB NP Contract Bridge Club plays Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs at 7.20pm and Friday afternoons from 12.45pm at 70 Hobson St. Ph the President 758 8985 or the Secretary 759 0258.

U3A New Plymouth. Monthly meetings are held at the Trinity Church Hall, 8 Henui Street, Fitzroy at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month (except January). Contact the Secretary, 752 3801, for more details - never too old to learn.

Victoria League Bridge Club. Very social bridge, every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm. Phone 757 5913 for more details.

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