

Driftwood huts

The recent big tides have seen our beaches covered in driftwood. Creative local kids have put all the debris to good use and walking from Waiwakaiho to the Fitzroy surf club there seemed to be a hut every couple of hundred metres. Some of which obviously took their creator hours to construct.

Here is a selection of some of the best.

(More on page 2)



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I must say it seems to be happening in Fitzroy, what with surfing and skating. It is wonderful to see international events like the Women's Surfing Tour and the Inline skating Oceanias held in the local arena of Fitzroy. And we have been so lucky lately with New Plymouth being on the world stage so often – Cliff Richards, Meguiar's Car Show through Americarna and WOMAD to name a few.



The Cuisine Artesan Food awards caught my eye the other day. They are awards handed out to hand crafted products and producers for innovation and quality. I couldn't help but marvel again at the energy and enthusiasm some people put into producing top quality goods. Farmers markets epitomise this too but do supermarkets? Gosh no is the first thought. Sherrie from Fresha was enthusing to me about the wonderful flavours and goodness of artesian products and how they love stocking them in their store and this made me again think about supermarket food. Surely it isn't all bad just mass produced but what does this do to the end product? Mr Wattie and Mr Edmond and Mr Cadbury must have all started out as cottage industries – small enterprises producing quality goods that the market really liked and so the production increased and food handling techniques changed with it. Now we are going back and worshipping the humble beginnings for the flavour and goodness that mass production has taken away. Funny thing isn't it – life!

I must say hand cooked, salted, packed chips or crisps as they call them, from Nelson are just the best snack around for me at the moment.

Get out and enjoy yourselves.

Kim

More driftwood huts

(Continued from page 1)



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Annual Schnauzer Picnic enjoys fine weather and growing numbers

Schnauzers and their owners from all over New Plymouth got together for their annual picnic recently at Glen Avon Park on Alberta Road.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon happy chaos reigned as the group of nearly 40 schnauzers enjoyed their 'big day out' while their owners relaxed in the sunshine. This energetic breed is certainly a popular one in New Plymouth and at the picnic there were schnauzers in all the colour variations as well as the different sizes that are bred with the miniatures well outnumbering the larger varieties. Strandon local Vicki Keast who owns 'Riley' a miniature schnauzer said that because schnauzers have hair not fur and that they don't shed makes them a popular choice with people with allergies.

During the course of the afternoon a couple of very informal contests were held. Prizes donated by the local 'Groom Room' were given for things like 'Best Beard' and 'Best at Sitting'.

Merrilands resident Diana Jearum whose dog Billy won the 'best beard' category was at the picnic for the first time having recently emigrated from the UK along with her two standard size schnauzers Billy and Meg. She was enjoying the day and the chance to meet other schnauzer owners.

I spoke with one of the organisers Virginia Mills who was delighted with the numbers at the picnic. "It's getting bigger each year" she said. As well as the good turnout, regular picnic attendees were happy that for once they had struck it lucky with the weather!

By Jackie Tomlinson

Merrilands resident Diana Jearum with Billy who won the prize for the best 'beard' at the picnic.



Locals with their schnauzers, from left: Helen Porter and Ruby, Robyn Strampel with Loui and Kate Strampel with Riley Keast.



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BBQ Safety

Barbecues are a focal point of summer entertaining and a great way for the family to come together at meal times. But it pays to follow a few simple tips.

Check for gas leaks:

Before using the barbeque check that the connection between the gas cylinder and the gas hose is not leaking. Do this by applying soapy water around the connection. If bubbles are formed it means that you have a leak. If you can smell gas, turn off the cylinder valve and get it checked by a professional before using.

Keep looking when you are cooking:

Do not leave a hot BBQ unattended and keep small children safely away from hot surfaces, matches and lighters.

Don't drink and fry:

Wait until you have finished cooking before having a drink.

Do not add flammable liquids to a fire:

The flame can flash back up into the container and explode.

Always use BBQs in a well ventilated area:

Carbon monoxide fumes can kill.

Dispose of hot coals properly:

Douse them with water and ensure the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.

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For more information visit www.fire.org.nz or call the station on 757 3860.

Cheesecake heaven

Zanziba chef Profile – Karen Boyd

One day while in Zanziba I spotted Karen Boyd busy cooking in the kitchen and I got wondering how long Karen had been a chef.

Karen tells me she has been a long time in hospitality, in fact 15 years as well as a stint in private company catering. At Zanziba Karen is responsible for cooking the a la carte menu's and if she has time, will often help out with the cabinet food.

Inspiration for cooking comes from a love of food and Karen enjoys eating a range of ethnic foods such as Moroccan, Indian, French Italian and Thai – mmm.

One chef who provides inspiration is Rick Stein and a whole swag of cook books. Karen says she has a huge amount of cook books and would look at a cook book or cooking magazine most nights. "I have piles all over the place!"

One ingredient not to be done without is good old fashioned butter. If Karen was dining out she would choose something off the menu that she wouldn't make herself and it would have to be something that jumps off the menu – exciting descriptions matched with tasty food, maybe a Thai pork belly.

What keeps Karen in the kitchen is being able to try out new ideas on people and seeing how they liked it – keep it up I say!

So when Karen isn't in the kitchen you will find her hanging out with friends who also love great food, wine and dinner parties. That is when she isn't at concerts, festivals or shows.

I don't how I discovered old fashioned cheesecakes but I am glad I did and Zanziba serve up the best one I have ever tasted. For those who haven't tried an old fashioned cheesecake, they are a cup cake lined with pastry with a dollop of raspberry jam on the bottom, topped with butter cake mixture and a twist of pastry. Dallas is the Zanziba chef who bakes these delights and the other cabinet food.

By Kim Ferens



Karen looking cool and calm during the lunch time madness at Zanziba

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60 Springs

On a warm summer evening in February a group of young people were seen down at the East End reserve being put through their paces to use creative and critical thinking to problem solve various team challenges. The group was invited there as part of the launch for '60 Springs' an exciting new educational initiative run by Puke Ariki and funded by Shell Exploration NZ Ltd and the Taranaki Regional Council. 60 Springs can be described as providing opportunities that inspire young people to develop innovative solutions towards a sustainable Taranaki.



The East End 60 Springs event under way.

The themes of the programme are sustainability, education and creativity. The region wide programme is named after the natural springs found in Pukekura Park but is not restricted to the park and is available to school students from Year 7 through to Year 13. Participating students are encouraged to think creatively about issues that challenge and are problematic for the region's natural environment, society and economy.

If you would like to find out more about this new initiative please contact Nathan Hills or Amanda Hewlett at Puke Ariki Education on 759-6710 or look at www.60springs.co.nz

By Jackie Tomlinson

TOM Pet of the Month

Name: Blaze

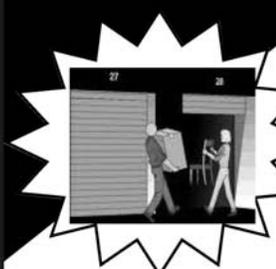
Age: Four years

Breed: 3/4 Thoroughbred and 1/4 Arab

Personality: This month's TOM pet is a friendly and cheeky horse and only gets bossy when she gets new grass because she wants it all to herself! Blaze loves jumping, swimming and going out on hacks, she's a real sweetheart according to her owner Briar aged 13. When she's not busy with Briar, Blaze likes to roll around and sleep in the paddock she shares with Shylo who is 22.



Blaze and Briar.



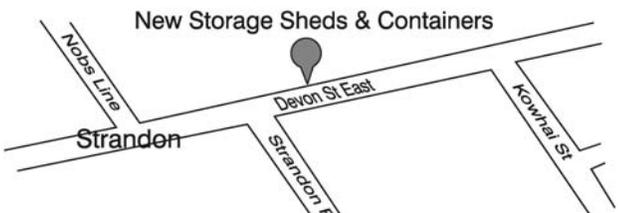
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Waiwakakaio 'Wave' bridge in place

There was a buzz of excitement in mid February down at Waiwakakaio as New Plymouth residents came down to view the new 'wave' bridge being put in its place at the river.

It's an impressive sight and visible as soon as you come into the Lake Rotomanu entrance. A steady stream of onlookers in cars and on foot arrived to take a closer look at the structure. From the river mouth it looks huge and is quite imposing on the landscape but the view from the side with its wave breaking design is really effective.

I spoke with a few of the people that had come for a look and asked them what they thought of the bridge.

Bryan and Daphne Raymond from Spotswood really liked the bridge and said "the design was pleasing and easy on the eye."

David Loveridge from Bell Block had mixed opinions. He had been coming to the river since 1960 and he said the bridge being there is visually going to take some getting used to. He went on to say that when approached from the Bell Block end though, it was a stunning sight with Mount Taranaki at the end of the curve.

Tracey from Fitzroy "Absolutely loved it!" and she was really looking forward to being able to access Bell Block this way on her pushbike.

This newest development on our coastal walkway is certainly a talking point and is generating huge interest. Whether you love how it looks or not it's going to be another link in the walkway which is definitely a firm favorite with most locals.

By Jackie Tomlinson



Installation of the 'Wave' bridge.



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Good Friday 2 April

Kora recently played at the Big Day Out in Auckland and are now looking forward to finally playing at Butlers Reef!

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17 local inline hockey players selected for New Zealand teams



Ben Bailey.



Tim Craig.



Jason McMahon.



Ash Goodwin.

From April 10-14 the Oceania Asia Pacific Championship will be contested at the New Plymouth Skating Arena at East End. The New Plymouth Ravens Inline Hockey club has 17 players across all age grades selected to play in New Zealand teams as well as two senior players selected as reserves. Four members of the club have also been selected as New Zealand coaches. Currently all the players are training during the week as well as taking part in New Zealand team training camps in the build up to the Oceania Championship where New Zealand will be hoping to win back the Tasman Trophy from Australia who won it at Perth in 2009.

The Ravens players selected for New Zealand teams are: Ben Bailey, Julian Beardman, Zach Beardman, Sam Beardman, Abby Bridgeman, Anna Carrington, David Carrington, Eve Coltman, Kayden Gibson, Andrew Isbister, Robert Isbister, Greg Lockhart, Jason McMahon, Rachel Neville-Lamb, Daniel Reason, Rebecca Smith and Amy Sulzberger.

The two reserve players are Gary Toa and Ash Goodwin

Ravens players selected as New Zealand Coaches are:

Anna Carrington NZ Junior Women Coach,

Zach Beardman NZ under 16's Coach

Sam Beardman NZ under 18's Coach

Willy Harvey NZ Senior Women Coach

Amongst the Ravens players selected for NZ teams there are five players who will be representing their country for the first time in Inline Hockey.

They are:

Rachel Neville-Lamb, Age 16

Rachel has been playing Inline Hockey for six years and is a student at New Plymouth Girls High School.

Jason McMahon, Age 16

Jason has been playing Inline Hockey for eight years and is a student at New Plymouth Boys High School

Ben Bailey, Age 15

Ben has been playing Inline Hockey for four years and is home schooled.

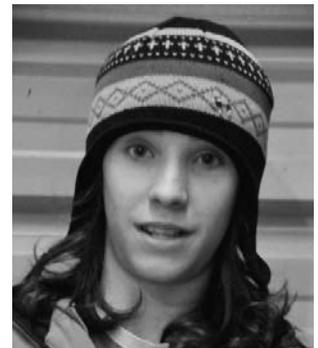
Tim Craig, Age 14

Tim has been playing Inline Hockey for 10 years and is a student at New Plymouth Boys High School.

Andrew Isbister, Age 13

Andrew has played Inline hockey for five years and is home schooled.

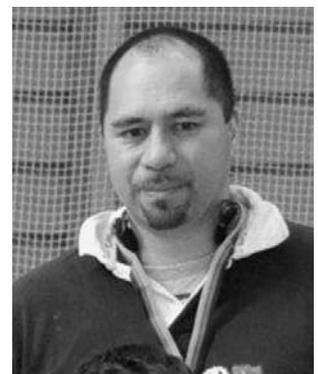
For reserve players Gary Toa and Ash Goodwin this is also the first time they have gained selection for New Zealand.



Andy Isbister.



Rachel Neville-Lamb.



Gary Toa

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premieres

It's not every year that Taranaki sees such awesome women's surfing as the Women's Pro Tour will bring to Fitzroy. So, we figured Surf Film Festivals are de rigueur in Hawaii, San Diego, Bali and even Yallingup, why not the 'Naki?

Arthouse Cinema, in conjunction with Seasons Cheapskates, announces 20 surf films at the refurbished Mayfair! That's a week of brand new surf flicks never before screened or even sold in NZ.

There will be four pumping films screened every day at the Mayfair during the surf film festival, April 10-16, 2010. There are five women's surf movies that feature really good stories of real women surfing. We have the New Zealand premiere of *Sea of Darkness*, the tale of the original surfers discovering the Mentawis, Sumatra, and G-land, and how it all turned quickly to custard once they turned to drug smuggling to fund their Lost Boy lifestyles. We feature several art-surf films made by surfers specifically to promote the beauty of the ocean, the grace of surfing, and the preservation of the earth (*The Thread, The Present*).

There has never been such a feast of surf films in New Zealand and we are stoked to include *No More Heroes*, an unreleased skate film from Super 8 footage of the skating craze as it swept New Zealand. Grommits are not forgotten, with the inclusion of Billabong's *Still Filthy*, and the more contentious elements in modern surfing are dealt with in the documentaries *Bra Boys, Bustin' Down The Door*, and the Kelly Slater/Andy Irons

face-off, *Fly in the Champagne*. Northshore Hawaii features in *The Arena*, or just pure stoke with no agro in *Finding Aloha*. The first woman to surf Mavericks is interviewed in *One Winter Story — 1999*. We meet the *Hana Surf Girls*, a film so new it premiered only this February and the disc is still being pressed by the makers.

We're also showing *Lost Prophets, Chasing Dora, Shaped...* make your own Alia surfboard; watch Rob Machado get lost in Indo for six months in his film, which took several awards at the *X-Dance Action Sports Film Festival* only this February. And that's not all. Short films and promos have been thrown in by the good Californians who want us to have our own annual surf festival. Thanks, Yanks! We will tuck these in around the movies for you to enjoy.

All in all a really stoked, amping and briny surf film festival. Where do you get a programme? Available soon online at www.arthousecinema.co.nz or from a surf shop near you. All tickets are for sale from March 25 at the Mayfair (73A Devon St West, above the Matinee) or from our sponsors, Seasons Cheapskates (on the corner of Leach and Gover Streets, New Plymouth). Adult tickets \$15, and thanks to sponsorship by Seasons, we are able to discount tickets for children under 12 to \$7.50.

The Mayfair has 1915 leather seats from the old opera house, beanbags and a retro intermission with ice creams and jaffas. Come and feast on the waves during the school holidays!

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GETTING WET!

Paige Hareb and surfing

As this month's TOM arrives in your letterbox it will only be a matter of weeks before Taranaki hosts the first World Championship Surfing event ever held in New Zealand.

As part of the Inaugural TSB Women's Surf Festival our local beach, Fitzroy will be the base for a range of events over the seven days of the festival.

The NZ Women's Open and the ASP Australasian Girls Pro Junior for under 21 year olds will precede the NZ leg of the ASP Women's World 'Dream Tour.' This event features the World's Top 17 women surfers and amongst them is Oakura local Paige Hareb.

The TOM caught up with Paige late in February while she was overseas and put some questions to her about her life in 'surfing's fast lane' and how she was feeling about having a dream tour event held back here at home.

TOM: So what have you been up to lately surfing wise?

Paige: I finally got to spend all of January at home! Just hanging out with friends and family and surfing. No competitions so it was good to have a break at home.

TOM: With the Taranaki Women's Surf Festival only a few weeks away is it exciting to have the opportunity to surf a major event on your home turf?

Paige: Yeah it's really exciting, it's going to be the first world championship event men's or women's in NZ so I'm super proud to have it where I have grown up and surfed all my life.

TOM: What do you see New Plymouth/Taranaki offering that will be different from other comp venues?

Paige: We have a lot of breaks and different types of waves, but in general I think all the girls will like the landscape and location, it's pretty unique compared to anywhere else we go in the world just 'cause it's NZ.

TOM: Who do you see as your strongest competition at the Taranaki surf festival events?

Paige: Of course the current world champ Steph Gilmore and former world champs Sofia Mulanovich and Chelsea Hedges as well as Coco Ho and Sally Fitzgibbons and rookie Carissa Moore ha ha too many, they all rip!

TOM: Who do you see as the new 'rising star' or someone to watch on the current NZ Women's/Girl's circuit?

Paige: Grace Spiers and the Sansom twins.

TOM: Where do you see women's surfing heading in the future?

Paige: Just bigger and better. More radical!!

TOM: What's your favourite Taranaki break?

Paige: Rocky Point and Stent Road.

TOM: Do you think surfing has changed and in particular has surfing changed in Taranaki?

Paige: Yes it's got more progressive with turns and airs etc. Everywhere you go people are always getting better including Taranaki.

TOM: How do you cope with being world famous?

Paige: Ha ha I don't know about world famous! I just be myself, do my thing and have fun, just be a normal teenager and not think about Paige Hareb the surfer. I'm just little Paige from Oakura. Nothing special!

TOM: You're seen as an ambassador for women's surfing so what does that involve?

Paige: As above, I just do my own thing but try to be a good role model for my fans.

TOM: What are your personal goals and aspirations for the future?

Paige: Finish in the Top 5 and have fun!

There's no doubt that this exciting surfing event is going to be huge for our area. As much as Paige is looking forward to having the chance to compete in a big event at home, local supporters will be relishing the chance to cheer her on and see her compete against the world's other top women's surfers at our local beaches.

By Jackie Tomlinson

The board skills of Paige Hareb.

Taranaki Intermediate Schools Surfing Competition

Forty young entrants from Opunake to Waitara competed in the second Taranaki Intermediate Schools Surfing Competition held at Fitzroy Beach in challenging sizeable 2 metre conditions.

Boys final; I Kettle (Devon) 1, E Tate (Bell Block) 2, J. Hine (Oakura) 3, T Betteridge (Highlands) 4.

Girls final; N Anderson (Opunake) 1, L Moorehouse (Devon) 2. *Expression Session;* S. Beavis.

Mass rescue by Fitzroy lifeguards

On Sunday 28th February when NZ was experiencing various degrees of impact from a tsunami Surf Life Savers on duty at Fitzroy Beach had a busy afternoon. Surf conditions in the flagged area rapidly changed and became very dangerous and a large group of people got swept out to sea resulting in a rescue effort by the lifeguards.

Speaking with Club Captain Emma Crowskey who says the combination of an extremely low tide, strong undertow and a strong rip just to the right of the flagged area created a situation that saw 10 people get into difficulty.

At first three people got swept out to the back of the surf. When one man raised his arm for help lifeguard Daniel Lampe aged 15 swam out to assist. Off duty senior lifeguard Steve Harris also helped with these people.

Very soon more people were in trouble so senior lifeguard Adam Fraser and Jordan Lampe quickly launched the IRB rescuing several groups of people and bringing them back to the beach.

While the rescues were taking place in the water, lifeguards Evie Trolove manned the tower while Jessica Lampe and Marissa Clough moved the flags and directed the 80 or so swimmers into safer water. The 10 people rescued were aged between six and 50 years old.

The whole situation developed extremely quickly but the quick thinking and actions of the Fitzroy team saw all those involved safely back to shore.

Emma went on to say that of the lifeguards involved only two were over twenty years of age and the crew has now been nominated for February NZ Rescue of the Month.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Fitzroy Surf Club

What's been happening down at The Surf Club ...

Power Co Waitangi Day Beach Carnival

Fitzroy Surf Club would like to thank all the Fitzroy businesses for their support of the club's major fundraising event for the year. The weather came to the party and a fantastic day was had at Fitzroy Beach with over 1000 people recorded on the beach at one stage! Thanks to all the sponsors as without you the event wouldn't have been such a success.

Ocean Athletes Surf Carnival

The U14 Ocean Athletes Event was held at Mt Manganui beach on the 25th to the 28th of March 2010. Around 800 Junior Surf athletes from all over New Zealand were competing at the event which promotes involvement for all U14 year olds wanting to give it a go! The Fitzroy Surf Club Ocean Athletes team returned home jubilant after a great 3 day's worth of racing as well as a real life evacuation experience!

In all Fitzroy had 12 athletes who made finals with the Beach Relay team of Scott Murfitt, Amelia Riddick, Maija McSweeney-Novak and James Toss taking out second place for a well deserved silver medal. Amelia also made the final of the U13 women's flags event placing 6th overall.

Other finalists included the U12 Men's board relay team (Thomas Cole, Max VanDijk, William Luff) who placed 6th in the final, with the U14 Women's board relay team (Rebecca Cole, Jerusa Lambert-Fahy) gaining a creditable 8th and the U14 Men's board relay team (Dirk VanDijk, Mikey Watts, Mitchell O'Neil) 12th.

Max Van Dijk had a great weekend placing 6th overall in the U12 Men's Run-Swim-Run event and then teaming up with Thomas Cole in the tube rescue final to gain an 8th placing.

Rebecca Cole and Jerusa Lambert-Fahy teamed up and surprised many, including themselves, by making the U14 women's tube rescue final, placing 8th

Most of the finals were scheduled for the Sunday where six Fitzroy finalists were keen to stamp their mark on the Ocean Athletes stage. Unfortunately the Tsunami threat closed the beach for the whole day, cancelling the event just as the Fitzroy athletes were gearing up for outstanding performances.

Scott Murfitt was looking dangerous throughout the heats and semi finals of the U14 men's beach sprint as was Amelia Riddick in the U13 women's division.

Rebecca Cole had qualified for the diamond race, board race and surf race finals and would have given a podium finish a good nudge in her board race, as would have her team mates Mitchell O'Neil and Mikey Watts, who won the U13 men's board race last year and had also qualified for the U14 men's diamond race final this year.

Max VanDijk was hoping to add to his finals placings in the U12 Men's Surf Race along with Thomas Cole who had a fantastic swim to make the final.

Jerusa Lambert-Fahy rounded out Fitzroy's finalists by qualifying for the U14 women's surf race final. She was extremely disappointed her event couldn't be run as she had trained very hard all season for this particular race.

However the excitement of being whisked away from the Tsunami threat to the safety of Rotorua was compensation for most, and the Fitzroy Team commends the event organising staff for being so proactive with their safety management of the athletes.

Now the club is focussing on the Senior Surf Lifesaving Nationals at Ohope beach – and hope that no Tsunamis interrupt the action!

Junior Surf Sundays

Sunday sessions are still on all the way through to the end of March from 10am -12pm at Fitzroy Beach. All enquiries please contact Emma Crofskey – 021314400.



Ocean athletes, Scott Murfitt, Maija McSweeney-Novak, Amelia Riddick and James Toss (Silver medal winning team).



New Plymouth Surf Rider's Club

The Club hosted two exciting and fun events in February after having to postpone our Club championships earlier because of lack of surf.

On Friday 19th February we again hosted the Taranaki Intermediate Schools Surfing Championships which was attended by teams from Highland, Devon, St Josephs (Waitara), Francis Douglas, Manukoriki (Waitara), Oakura, Bell Block primary, and Opunake; with 37 students competing.

This is a long day for this age-group and having to cope with a sizeable two-metre swell proved daunting to many who are new to this competition. It was also an exciting time for the teachers and many parents who assisted and cheered on their children.

Boys final; I. Kettle (Devon) 1, E. Tate (Bell Block) 2, J. Hine (Oakura) 3, T. Betteridge (Highlands) 4.

Girl's final; N. Anderson (Opunake) 1, L. Moorehouse (Devon) 2.

All those who did not progress from the first round went into a 20 minute "Expression Session" where the judges agree on who is surfing the best, and the winner was: S. Beavis (Highlands).

On an unofficial count back the school placings were: Highlands by one point from Bell Block, with Devon and Opunake tied for third.

Taking advantage of the fine weather a solid 1.5 metre swell and an incoming tide on Friday 16th February the Club held its first ever 70's SINGLE FIN RETRO COMPETITION. To qualify each surfer had to ride a board constructed in the 1970's but with only a single fin as against the twin-fin concept that was revolutionising the world of surfing at the time.

The event was a forty minute "expression-session" and with more surfers than available boards, teams had to swap half way through. Judges were Arch Arthur and Allen (Pid) Pidwell. While some competitors struggled to adapt to the looseness of this style of board, Jamie Andrews totally outclassed the opposition, not only with his surfing but also his Jimmie Hendrix style wig. When it was dislodged during an epic tube ride, "Chippie" completed the manoeuvre and calmly replaced the wig before shredding the rest of the wave. So good was his riding, in the spirit of the competition, the judges awarded him a total of 23 out of 20 points. An appreciative crowd enjoyed the event and the barbeque and refreshments that followed. So successful was this new club activity it is sure to become an annual event.

1: Jamie Andrews; 2 Matt King; 3= David Farr and Brian Clarke.

Surfers with their 70s Single Fins.



Championship winner, Issac Kettle



Issac Hardie-Boys & Connor McLay.



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Mowers make the man (any man!) happy

It's a happy day for me (not when I have to mow the lawns though), when I go into a local business and the team are professional and passionate about what they do. This was the case recently when I went into Campbell Mowers in Beach St. We are not talking machinery supermarkets here, we are talking about a small business that prides itself on knowledge, quality, customer care and old fashioned service.

Justin Weedon, the owner of Campbell Mowers for the last eight months, is proud of his line up of lawn mowers and lawn care products, for sale brand new or second hand. He sells brands of lawn mowers that have proven themselves to Justin through reliability, dependability and quality. For instance the Victa brand is what Justin and his right hand man John would call 'one of the best'. It is made in Australia and boasts a large cutting circle of 19 inches, has ball bearing wheels (versus cheap brands made in China with plastic wheels), has parts readily available and can be easily serviced. Justin sleeps easy at night knowing he has sold a good quality machine, fully set up, and ready to go with back up service available. It is certainly nice to know as a consumer that there are passionate people in the community who care about what they are selling and have the knowledge of products, parts and servicing to back up any sales pitch.



John and Justin show off their selection of mowers at Campbell Mowers.

So let's get it straight, Justin and John are not sales people to quote their own words. They class themselves as mechanics and as such, between them both, have a combined mechanical expertise of more than 55 years. Justin has been 'into' small mechanics since he left school more than 20 years ago. He began his training at polytechnic and worked at various different mower and mechanical businesses around the area and beyond, gaining further experience. He also has a keen interest in motorbikes. John is an ex-RAF mechanic with 35 years experience tinkering with motors and has worked at Campbell Mowers for many years.

But to give them both their dues, they know what they are talking about and if you want to buy a lawn mower or any lawn care products or have a lawn mower that needs some tender loving care, then these guys are experts. They know lawn mowers inside out and back to front. Campbell Mowers will also sharpen your tools – chainsaws, loppers, secateurs etc. They do wheel grinding on Reel mowers plus service and sell these. All machines of any brand and age are given a warranty and new machines get an additional free service. Customer parking is located at the back of the premises for ease of unloading and loading machinery. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 7.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm.

Did you know Campbell Mowers used to be in what is now Sporty's Bar and Cafe?

By Kim Ferens

Merrilands Kindergarten

There is a lot happening at Merrilands kindergarten at the moment. We had a wheelathon on Sunday 21st of February. The weather was great and most of our children and their parents attended. There were lots of activities and lots of spot prizes. Everyone had fun.

At the kindergarten the children are interested in cricket, building ramps for cars, races and also interested in caterpillars and butterflies. On the cricket front we tried to get hold of Ross Taylor but he and his team mates are currently busy on the cricket circuit. The children have instead decided to invite the Boys High school cricket team to come and play with them. While other children are busy with cricket others are into construction of ramps and garages for cars using a variety of resources like cardboard, blocks and planks of wood. The children have concluded through experimentation that the higher the ramp angle, the faster the cars will go.

Racing cars on ramps has extended to an interest in running races. The teachers are now considering organising an Olympic type event where children and their parents take part. The children are practising hard.

Coming up: the morning children are visiting the airport to see helicopters. One of our parents is a helicopter pilot. It's going to be an exciting day as the children get to know more about helicopters.

We are taking enrolments now so come and pay us a visit and be part of this exciting environment.



Above: a creative ramp and right: enjoying cricket (watch out Black Caps).



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TOM Garden of the Month

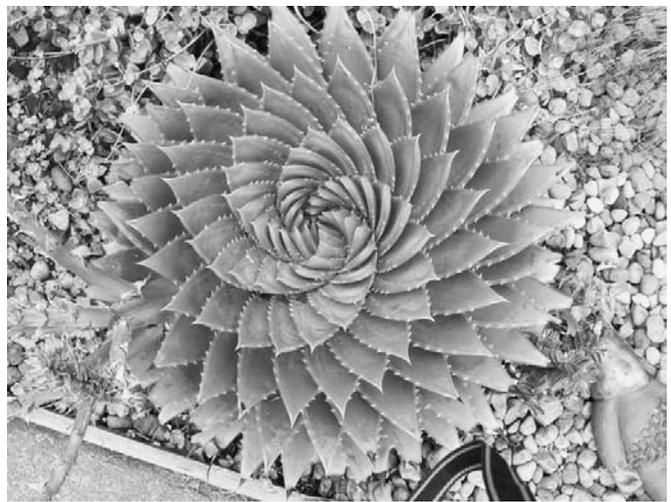
The TOM feature garden this month was spotted by the TOM's editor Kim as she drove past. Its Mexican theme complete with cactus and Mexicans intrigued her so I went to have a closer look at what this local had created in his front garden.

When I spoke with Dave the owner of the property we had just had a long dry spell and this would have suited the plants in his front garden perfectly.

The plants were chosen and put in by a friend who is a landscape gardener and he has chosen well. Dave is a self confessed non gardener so this mix of low maintenance, hardy plants is perfect for him. He has still managed to stamp his personality on the garden though with his pieces of garden art and statues. These all work together to create a fun quirky little mix.

Among the plants are yuccas, cacti, succulents and aloe. Covering the ground around the plants are river stones.

Sitting above the cactus on the wall of the house is a terracotta sun and beside it are two Mexican statuettes. One Mexican is sitting snoozing and the other is standing. On closer inspection his large sombrero is actually a bird bath! This was made for Dave by local man John Bublitz after he'd seen a similar one elsewhere and thought it would go well beside his cactus.



Gardens featured in the Fitzroy TOM receive a \$10 garden voucher kindly donated by Fairfield's Garden Centre.

Whilst the garden is easy care as far as maintenance is concerned there are a few drawbacks with some of the plants. Extra care is needed when weeding with some of the spiky variety of aloe and succulents and even a light brush against the cactus in bare skin means spending lots of time removing fine hair like needles.

Whilst Dave is quick to admit he is not a gardener and it's fair to say the plants pretty much look after themselves other than a little weeding, this 'little piece of Mexico' obviously gives plenty of enjoyment to it's owner which definitely makes it a success in gardening terms.

By Jackie Tomlinson



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New Plymouth Boys' High School

New Plymouth Boy's High School is very proud of a Year 13 student, Tim Phillips. Tim has been five years at the school and is a boarder. Tim is very interested in occupations near the ocean. In May 2009, he applied for training in the Coastguard and recently became qualified. He has been issued with a pager, so that if a tragedy is happening in the ocean and he is paged, Tim must leave his books and his classroom and rush to the Coastguard HQ. Recently through the school, Tim had an opportunity to go on "The Spirit of Adventure" – a tall sailing ship based in Auckland which teaches nautical skills. Of his own volition, Tim has been back twice as a crew member. He hopes to get a cadetship with the "Spirit of Adventure" and become a trainee, gaining marine qualifications. We are proud of Tim Phillips because this young man is a "go-getter" and follows his passions. As Tim says, "It is a highly enjoyable experience and I like the adventure." We are impressed with the growth in Tim's skills and wish him well.



Michael McMenamini
Headmaster NPBHS

*Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence:
Talent will not - nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent
Genius will not - the world is full of educated derelicts
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.*
(Calvin Coolidge)

Fitzroy Kindergarten

Fun in the tropical rain

All we needed today was heat, rain and a huge sense of fun. Togs were helpful too.

It was the hottest day ever. Then the skies opened and it rained and rained.

Nathan and Taiki were the first with the great idea. They put on their rash shirts and togs and ran out in the rain.

The rain pooled in puddles on the sun shades and poured down like a shower.

Mati really got into the fun of things and bravely took a shower, and a drink then ran out to play with his friends. Soon everyone else followed and they laughed, kicked balls around, delighted in the warm rain.

The friends showed a great sense of fun. Laughter resounded as the rain kept pouring.

Teachers Karen and Sue



Youth music, art and dance showcased at STAND UP day at East End Reserve



The Stand Up festival Tauranga band 'Kiss Goodbye' playing to a small but enthusiastic audience.

Te Aroha Noa Taranaki Trust held their annual 'Stand Up' youth festival day at the East End reserve on February the 13th. The event all manned by volunteers was a success in spite of the weather being overcast and at times showery. I spoke with one of the organisers, Verena Isbister. She said people just worked around the weather and when it did rain they went into the skating arena and checked out the art display on the smaller rink or watched the New Zealand Inline hockey players who were having their training camp on the big rink.

She went on to say the event is held to encourage youth to use their talents in areas such as music, dance and art and it gives them a chance to showcase these talents.

It looked as if plenty of locals were down over the course of the day enjoying the food and music.

By Jackie Tomlinson



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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

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Enquiries to the Secretary, Ross Smith, phone 758 4194. Email, rossandanne@slingshot.co.nz

Santa Rosa Country Music Club

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Summer Mah-jong

At the New Plymouth Croquet Club will be played 2 Sundays per month, 1pm— 4pm, commencing 22nd November & 11th & 20th December.

Watch this space for monthly dates. Any queries to Val at 758 1957.

Taranaki Model Powerboat Club

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Off-road racing, Club's dirt track by Lake Rotomanu, 2nd Sunday of every month. Contact Greg Mawson, ph 753 7471.

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