

TOM *Fitzroy*

SEPTEMBER 2009

Peringa Links Ladies are Number One!

Read their success story on page 3.



Pering Links 18 hole winning golf ladies – Back row, left to right Esmae Rowlands, Jeannette Cowley, Gwen Norris, Margaret Stewart, Jackie Dravitski and Fay Wright. Front row, left to right. Jan Clarke, Maree Munro and Gloria Palmer – absent are Marion Baeyertz and Miriam Koot.



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TOM or T for Take, O for One, M for moment – take one moment in Fitzroy, take one moment in Oakura and take one moment in Okato, are community based magazines bringing local news about local people to local people. The TOM concept has been around for nearly ten years and lots of people have been asking me what TOM stands for so I hope the take one moment explanation sets the record straight. It can mean anything you like but we like the idea that you can sit down and take a moment to read local news.



News these days is certainly a global industry with events and happenings beamed instantaneously world wide and while it is good to keep up with international news, sometimes you need to pull your vision in a bit and get meaning from nearer to hand. We also try to focus on the positive news happening in the community so if you have an interesting story or know of an interesting person then we would love to hear from you – in the meantime take one moment and enjoy this months TOM with features on the age old game of chess, the lovely Peringa Golf Links ladies, and our local school news.

I have to add a note in here too about the birds. Have you noticed how beautiful the birdsong is on a spring morning? I hadn't realised till recently that birds don't sing so much in the winter but now that it is breeding time they are very vocal and it is such a nice way to wake up and greet the spring day.

Kim

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

Sheer luxury comes to Oakura Beach

A new concept in boutique holiday lodges has opened its doors in Oakura and is the epitome of luxury.

Nikki and Scott are new residents in Oakura and have been busy setting up their home as a luxury guest home and specialist gift store. They have devoted their time and energy into creating the finest accommodation they can and the setting just oozes indulgence.



Oakura's Prudence Place Boutique Lodge and gift shop.

The guest wing features two double bedrooms with fine Italian linens from Bianca Lorenne on the beds along with goose down and feather mattress toppers. Slippers and robes are mandatory. There are two bathrooms, an outdoor bath and a spa pool. Each room is stocked with a newly formulated toiletry range from Living Nature in Kerikeri. This is a proudly natural and environmentally friendly product range.

The tranquil setting is resplendent with lush vegetation, picturesque views, sunny deck, swimming pool and outdoor dining area.

The piece de resistance, as if amiable hosts, luxurious butter-soft beds and gourmet breakfasts aren't enough, is the soon to be completed Day Spa. This is located downstairs and for the ultimate in relaxation, a local massage and beauty therapist will soothe away all the worries and cares in the world.

Nikki is proud to be able to offer her guests a totally unique experience like no other in Oakura and she says it is the little details that mean the most to her and she delights in providing them for her visitors.

Next month we will feature the Prudence Place Gift Store but in the meantime if you are wanting to purchase beautiful baby wear then contact Nikki to view her exclusive Nurtured by Nature range, the Babu bed linen range and for beach lovers – kaftans, beach bags and overnight bags by Citta Design. You will not be disappointed by price or quality and what better setting to host your own baby registry.

By Kim Ferens

(See advertisement on page 14 for for more details.)

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Peringa Links Ladies are Number One!

The Peringa Links (Fitzroy Golf Club) are the proud winners of the 2009, nine hole and eighteen hole Taranaki Pennant Golf Competition.

The competition is run over the autumn/winter season from March to August and involves the ladies playing seven rounds of nine or eighteen hole golf. Teams play all around the mountain with team participants from other provincial golf clubs.

The nine hole ladies won their competition on a count back from Westown Golf Club. The seven team members have varying degrees of experience with some of the ladies being stalwarts of golf with 20 years experience while others have only been playing for five years.

They say they play golf for the great company (after all, you are out on the course for an hour or two with your team mates so you have to get on with each other), the exercise – it's a great walk round the course, the delicious club lunches and for the wonderful fresh air. Peringa Links possibly has the best fresh sea air and certainly would have one of the best views in New Zealand.

The 11 ladies who make up the 18 hole team played Opunake in the final held at Stratford on a cold and windy June day. The winner was decided on a play off because the two clubs were tied on points. Number one player Marion Bayertz was in the hot seat to bring home the trophy for the team and fortunately for her, she won the play off on the first hole. The team is reputed to have been less than bashful in their excitement at winning.

Team statistics have individual handicaps ranging from 24 for Gwen Norris, 25 for Esmee Rowlands, 26 for Jackie Dravitski, Marion Baeyertz and Fay Wright, 29 for Maree Munro, 30 for Jeannette Cowley and Miriam Koot, 32 for Gloria Palmer, 33 for Margaret Stewart and 35 for Jan Clarke. A very impressive record indeed.

Maree Munro says she enjoys, or rather loves to hate, playing golf because it is one sport she hasn't been able to master. The former Physical Education graduate is clearly frustrated by her seeming ineptitude at dominating ball, club and course but it is what keeps her coming back twice a week to play. It's all in the head she says! That is apart from the fantastic views of the Tasman Sea and the convivial company.



The 9 hole winning ladies left to right Pauline Tonks, Marina Murray, Corinne Crowe, Joan Madgwick, Janet Sullivan – absent Joan Hammond and Joy MacArthur.



Vivienne Reed – new secretary/manager of Fitzroy Golf Club.

Other club news is the recent departure of Barry Seebeck who has been secretary/manager of the Club for the last 10 years. He is reported to be taking time out to play golf and relax. The new Club secretary/manager is Vivienne Reed. Vivienne has taken on the job of looking after the 350 plus member club as a non golfer but I'm sure, once she has mastered her new responsibilities, she will be out on the Links course enjoying the fresh air and frustrations of golf.

Coming up for members in September:

Women's Club Championship – Round 1 Tuesday 29th September

By Kim Ferens

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Pre school for puppies popular at local vet

In recent years around New Zealand there have been many reported events associated with untrained or aggressive dogs. These incidents in some cases could possibly have been avoided with better owner education and dog training. Dog obedience and puppy training are both available in our local area.

For the last 14 years The New Plymouth Vet Group has been running their very popular and successful puppy class. These classes run by our local vets Rob and Dawn Mills are a good first step in learning to manage and enjoy your new family member.

When I spoke with course facilitator and Veterinary nurse Lara Quinn she asked if I'd like to see a quiet class or a more 'lively' class. She went onto explain that at the first hour long session the puppies are usually a little bit reserved and quiet but by their 4th session they are all 'best mates' which translates to moments of chaotic fun!

I chose the latter and met a confident group of gorgeous puppies in all shapes and sizes from the cute little Cavoodle and Schnauzers up to big gorgeous white German shepherd and Malamute pups. First off the puppies are weighed and their owners given feedback about their growth. It feels almost like a Plunket playgroup! Then it's upstairs for the hour long session. Small and large breeds rolled about the floor in happy abandon at play time but were reasonably quick to return to their owner when called, showing off their new found skills of come, sit and stay. Lara had explained to me how vital good socialisation is for puppies and this rough and tumble play is a big part of their learning here at the class.

Subjects covered over the four sessions are de-sexing, fleas, worms, toilet training, by laws, food exercise and dental care. One very important part of the owner education is about a dog's pack mentality. In particular that the dog needs to know their place in the hierarchy within your family 'pack' and that they are at the bottom below ALL family members.

This can be taught specifically in the following areas:

- 1 Feeding, the dog is always fed last.
- 2 Walking, the dog is NOT the pack leader and shouldn't therefore be leading its owner. The dog/puppy needs to learn to heel.
- 3 Meet and Greet. When dog owners come home their pet should be the last to be greeted after other family members, likewise when visitors come to the house the dog/puppy should be ignored until all others have been greeted. This reinforces to the animal they are at the bottom of the 'pack'
- 4 Perceived danger, this relates to how the dog's owner can transfer their fears and anxieties over to their pet. This in turn can make the animal want to take charge and sort out what they perceive as a danger. Put simply, an owner that is calm and relaxed generally has a calm, happy pet.

The classes are very popular with new puppy owners but Lara says that they can be equally useful for people who have owned dogs before but that haven't had a puppy in a while or have taken ownership of a different breed from what they have previously had. She went on to say that if owners are experiencing a problem with their dogs' behavior they need to seek advice sooner rather than later as it's far easier to sort out problems with a younger dog. The owners at the class I attended were unanimous that the class had been valuable and I look forward to seeing some of the 'graduates' out and about on the walkway over the coming months!

By Jackie Tomlinson

Nest issue, dog obedience

Dodge the White German Shepherd practicing his sit and stay skills.



Some serious puppy socialisation in full swing.

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History of North Taranaki Scouting

To commemorate 100 years of scouting memories a group of ex-Scouters have been researching the history of scouting in North Taranaki over the last four and half years.

Scouting New Plymouth and North Taranaki: 100 Years of Scouting Memories has now been published and is available to purchase. The book provides over 300 pages of stories, photographs and memorabilia of scout groups in New Plymouth and North Taranaki.

The committee's research shows that there were 36 scout groups active in North Taranaki between 1908 and the present day. Each scout group has a chapter devoted to its history. Well known scouters such as Major Sandford, Major General Lockhart, Fred (Baloo) and Alice (Darzee) Coleman have their own chapters. Events and places of interest such as Avery Reserve, Gang Shows, Camp Outs and Jamborees are also covered.

This book is well worth a read and brings back lots of memories of people and places over the years.



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Work starts on-site for coastal walkway bridge

Construction of the Coastal Walkway's shared pedestrian/cycle bridge moves into the public eye with work having started on-site at the Waiwhakaiho River.

There was a blessing of the site on the city side of the river on Tuesday morning, 1st September then earthworks began as part of construction of the bridge abutment.

"Work has been underway for many months on constructing the bridge itself, but this is the first element of the project that the public can see taking shape," says Manager Projects Team Jeff Bondy.

The bridge is a key part of the extension of the Coastal Walkway northward to Bell Block. When completed, the extension will give cyclists and walkers an off-road link between Bell Block and the central city through to the port.

The route of the pathway north has almost been finalised. Mr Bondy says the pathway is scheduled for completion in late summer, with the Waiwhakaiho River bridge in place by March next year.

Newton King

Little readily accessible material has been written about the legendary Newton King who was a pioneer businessman well known in Taranaki.

He was an entrepreneur who established the first stock and station agency in New Zealand and helped many farmers make a success of their business. Newton was a very busy person who was not afraid of taking risks.

He led an enterprising life achieving much with his boundless energy and enthusiasm but always devoting time to his family, his garden and his racehorses. I have put together his life story in the book "Footprints of a King."

He owned a large sheep and cattle station called Nukuhakare situated north of Awakino. I have written the history of this farm in the second book which covers the century when the King family owned this land. This period saw many changes in the way farms were developed. With different managers and the rise and fall of farming fortunes, came various methods of dealing with the farming operation. In some of the more descriptive chapters developments such as the invention of the aerial top-dressing industry are shown.

The experience of living there has captured the hearts of many people, it is an unforgettable experience, and Nukuhakare's story is written in the book, "Farming for a King."

By Adrienne Tatham



Newton King.

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TOM garden of the month

At the moment around our region there are many people busy preparing their gardens for the biggest event on the Taranaki gardening calendar.

Fitzroy gardener Denise Wood is one of those preparing her tiny patch 'Paradiso' for the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival.

Denise's garden features in the vegetable garden section of the festival but this little garden is so much more than vegetables. 'Paradiso' is indeed a small piece of paradise.

Included as a festival garden for the first time in 2008, Denise is a fairly recent convert to growing her own produce. About two years ago the garden was predominantly flowers and shrubs until Denise decided she would try and grow her own vegetables due to tougher economic times. There's still plenty of plants that are there simply for their beauty but amongst them you will find cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, celery, broad beans, peas, runner beans and silver beet to name a few. Amongst the fruit on offer there are cape gooseberries, raspberries, feijoa, lemons, mandarins, green and red grapes and passionfruit. What makes this garden so extraordinary is such a huge variety of produce is grown in so small an area.

Every available space is used in a productive way and it's all put together very creatively. This creativity has seen Denise's garden receive recognition before. In 2004 the New Plymouth District Council gave her the award for 'The Best Pocket Home Garden'

It was a few years prior to this Denise remarked jokingly to her mother "One day I'll have people coming in buses to visit my garden, Mum." Unfortunately Denise's mother passed away in 2002 and didn't see this fulfilled but this was indeed what happened last year at the garden festival. The first weekend 'Paradiso' was open 400 people visited and over 1000 more came over the duration of the festival. This was an exhausting but hugely satisfying experience according to Denise who is a self confessed people person. She says she loves the meeting and greeting of all the garden visitors and chatting about her garden to them.



Vegetables and flowers vie for space in Denise's lovely garden.

Before the festival there is a huge amount of work to be done. Denise has drawn up plans of how she wants things to look and will be busy implementing them over the next few weeks. Among the plans is creating a beautiful space from which Margaret McConachie will be playing her Cello. This special performance will happen over the weekends of the festival from 11.00 am until 1.00 pm. As well as doing all the usual garden preparation like weeding and planting there's also the preparation and freezing of dinners as by the end of a long festival day it's definitely feet up and relaxation time!

I asked Denise what she does to keep her garden looking so healthy. She said "I use blood and bone, Watkins 'Bounty' which is a seaweed fertiliser, and sheep pellets." She then went on to say, "I don't use spray on anything except the roses."

The flowers she has growing certainly complement the edible plants that are in the garden. It has a cottage feel with a welcoming entrance gate surrounded by daisies. I asked Denise what her favourite flower was and she said it had to be the Iris of which she has a good sized patch. Denise planted these for her mother who before she passed away asked her to plant some irises so that when they bloomed each year it would remind Denise of her.

This lovely wee garden will I'm sure be enjoyed by all those that visit it during the Rhododendron and Garden festival. It will also likely inspire many to see what they could do with their own garden, to make their own 'small piece of paradise'.

By Jackie Tomlinson

The gardens featured in the Fitzroy TOM receive a \$10 garden voucher kindly donated by our local garden centre FAIRFIELDS.

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- 1 prepare and practice an escape plan for your home - there should be two ways out of every room
- 2 get down, get low, get out - smoke is poisonous: get underneath it by crawling along the floor to an exit
- 2 shut the doors behind you - to stop the spread of fire
- 3 Shout FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! to warn others
- 4 get out and stay out - never go back inside
- 5 gather at your safe meeting place such as your letterbox
- 6 Phone 111 from a safe place - tell the operator your house number, street, nearest intersection, suburb and city and a rural ID number if you have one
- 7 wait for the fire service to arrive and tell them where the fire is and if anyone is still inside
- 8 If your house is down a long drive consider having someone out on the street to direct the fire appliance

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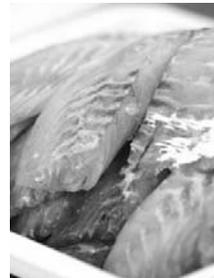


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**Ravens
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Inline Hockey National Championships come to town

During the first week of the school holidays in September (September 26th to October 4th) the New Plymouth Rollersports Club will provide the venue for the New Zealand Inline Hockey National Championships. The club is pleased to have it's international venue used once again by the New Zealand Inline Hockey Association who will host this event in New Plymouth after a two year break. The national event is in its 13th year and is will provide competition for 55 teams from around New Zealand all vying for National Honours in the grades competed.

The New Plymouth Raven's teams have completed their regional league competition and have qualified to enter a team in each grade contested. Grades cover all age groups from Under 10 through to Senior Men and Senior Women, a total of eight age divisions. The success of the Ravens teams is the culmination of a huge amount of work put into developing local players' skills and game strategy assisted by the experience of local volunteer club coaches. The players train weekly throughout the season and play in the central region from May through August competing against teams from Hamilton, Waihi, Tauranga and Morrinsville. Ravens club parents will provide the ground support crew to ensure the national event is successful for all participants.

For the first time, the event this year will see an international team from Brazil provide an invitational exhibition series of games against the top "premier" senior men's teams (including Ravens Premier Men) in the country, starting Wednesday Sept 30. Brazil will play two games each day with the final game on Saturday night against a NZ Tournament Select team to finish off the 8-game series. The arena is open to all spectators throughout the national championships with free entry being offered to all. A full schedule will be available on the Notice Board at the arena shortly.

There are 17 games being played each day of the 9-day event, commencing at 8am and finishing around 11pm. Exciting action filled games between the top teams in the country promises to provide an exciting spectacle over the holiday break.

This end of the season is a busy time for our players, with regional selections completed recently for representative teams for NZ Inter-Regionals being held in Auckland over Labour Weekend.

In addition, New Zealand Coaching appointments have been announced for 2010 teams with four New Plymouth based coaches being appointed to coach New Zealand teams next year. They are; Sam Beardman (NZ 18 & Under), Willy Harvey (NZ Senior Women), Zach Beardman (NZ 16 & Under) and Anna Carrington (NZ Junior Women). New Zealand will host the international Oceania Asia & Pacific Championships utilising the New Plymouth Rollersports Arena in April 2010. New



Sam Beardman playing at the 2008 Nationals.

Zealand team trials will take place early in December with training camps being held in February and March prior to playing in April.

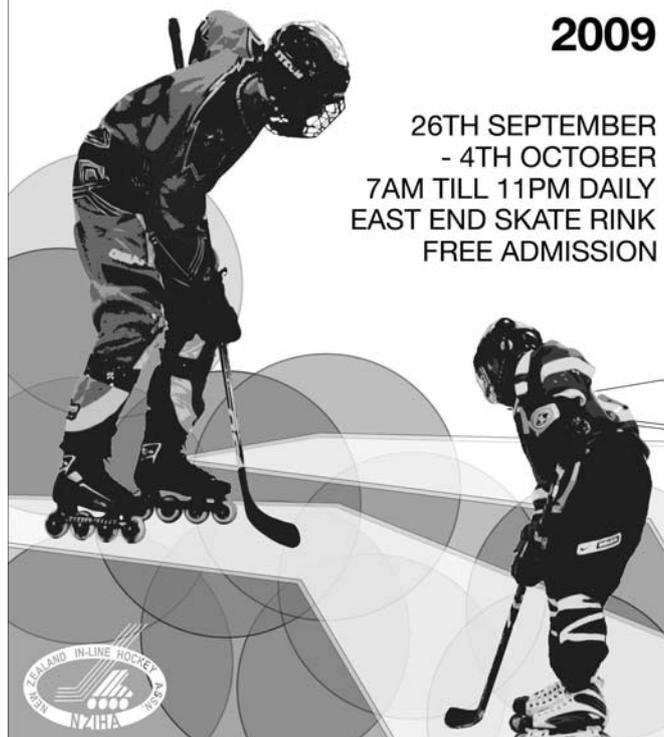
The Ravens will host their very successful school league competition commencing early in term 4. Schools are encouraged to enter teams into this "beginner" league providing a team sport, fun and skills development for all skating enthusiasts. This league specifically caters to all levels of skill and all ages divided into primary, intermediate and high school. If you are interested in joining a team let the club know soon. You can contact by email skatesportstaranaki@gmail.com to find out more.

Mark your calendars and come and visit us at the East End Skating arena during the school holidays and show your support to the local Ravens teams. The following week of the school holidays, the club will host public sessions on Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm – 4pm. You are all welcome.

NEW ZEALAND INLINE HOCKEY NATIONALS

2009

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Croquet: 'come and try' day

Taranaki Croquet Association are holding their 'Come and try day' on Sunday 20th September from 10am-3pm at the New Plymouth croquet lawns. Everybody is welcome and mallets and gear is all supplied.

Contact your local club for more details:

West End golf croquet Dene Lines ph 7591423, association croquet Margaret Muir ph 7539377

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Inglewood golf croquet Audrey Leach ph 7566493

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GETTING WET!



Ocean and Earth Teenage Rampage Junior Surfing Series kicks off!

Saturday 8th August saw the start of the Ocean and Earth Teenage Rampage junior surfing series. The series is being run over three events, and has attracted competitors from all over NZ.

The first event took place down the coast at Graveyards, and competitors were greeted with challenging 2 – 3 metre waves.

The division winners were:

Under 16 Girls

- 1st Alexis Poulter (Raglan)
- 2nd Eloise Stevens (Taranaki)
- 3rd Casey Stevens (Taranaki)
- 4th Lydia Walsh (Taranaki)

Under 14 Boys

- 1st Peri Matenga (Mount)
- 2nd Sean Kettle (Taranaki)
- 3rd Paul Moretti (Northland)
- 4th Waretine Wano (Piha)

Under 16 Boys

- 1st Tyler Lawson (Hawkes bay)
- 2nd Todd Doyle (Mount)
- 3rd Nat Hughes (Raglan)
- 4th Hemi Porter (Taranaki)

Under 18 Girls

- 1st Alexis Poulter (Raglan)
- 2nd Nicola Colson-Koster (Raglan)
- 3rd India Wray-Murane (Raglan)
- 4th Kendra Hartley (Taranaki)

Under 18 Boys

- 1st Sean Parker (Taranaki)
- 2nd Christo Gilbert (Hawkes Bay)
- 3rd Michael Mallalieu (Taranaki)
- 4th Tyler Anderson (Taranaki)

The 2nd event, held on 5 September, again attracted competitors from all over New Zealand with former and current scholastic champions present. A pristine day saw Mount Taranaki in clear view to remind competitors why the water is so cold!!

The event was held in clean 3-4 foot waves at Punihos. Quality eats from the Waitara board riders BBQ, good sounds, CSA surfboard up for grabs, heaps of Ocean and Earth giveaways, and the promise of holding the event in the best waves possible in Taranaki on the day seems to be a winning formula pulling back competitors to Taranaki every month.

The two standouts of the competition were Rosa Thompson and Tyler Lawson. Both of these competitors surfed powerfully and critically during their seven heats to take out both the under 16 and 18 divisions.

The winners of the divisions were

Under 16 Girls

- 1st Rosa Thompson (Auckland)
- 2nd Eloise Stevens (Taranaki)
- 3rd Lydia Walsh (Taranaki)
- 4th Casey Stevens (Taranaki)

Under 14 Boys

- 1st Sean Kettle (Taranaki)
- 2nd Waretine Wano (Piha)
- 3rd Paul Moretti (Northland)
- 4th Mahorahora McLeod (Taranaki)

Under 16 Boys

- 1st Tyler Lawson (Hawkes Bay)
- 2nd Joe Moretti (Northland)
- 3rd Nat Hughes (Raglan)
- 4th Toby Watt (Taranaki)

Under 18 Girls

- 1st Rosa Thompson (Auckland)
- 2nd Nicola Colson Koster (Raglan)
- 3rd Kendra Hartley (Taranaki)
- 4th Casey Stevens (Taranaki)

Under 18 Boys

- 1st Tyler Lawson (Hawkes Bay)
- 2nd Michael Mallalieu (Taranaki)
- 3rd Christo Gilbert (Hawkes Bay)
- 4th Tom Smith (Taranaki)

To check the current ratings go to:
www.oceaneearth.com.au or
www.csasurfboards.co.nz

The third competition date is the 17 October, registration again on Friday 16 at the New Plymouth Board Riders from 5pm onwards.

Special thanks to Ocean & Earth and CSA Surfboards as the major sponsors of the event.

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New Plymouth Boys' High School

New Plymouth Boys' High School is very proud of Mitchell Baker who is the new National Secondary Schools Go-Kart champion.

Mitchell took out the senior Yamaha Lights title with a dominating driving performance in wet and tricky conditions. He won three straight races of the five held, to take the title from the defending champion. New Plymouth Boys' High School was also represented by three other drivers at this meeting:

Ben Thorn, Aaron deRidder and Ryan Still. Mitchell has gone recently to a Tony Kart chassis and he has had another dominating win in Wellington. He has been kart racing for about nine years and is quick to acknowledge the support of his parents and another local sport talent in Marc Williams. The next major meeting on the racing calendar for Mitch is the North Island Champs being held in Palmerston North over Labour weekend. Mitch will be defending his title in Nelson at next year's event.

By Mr McMenamain Headmaster



Mitch Baker.

Fitzroy Kindergarten

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- 1 At Kindergarten Milla knows where everything is and she chooses lots of different places to play.
- 2 She often loves to dress up and then it's a matter of deciding will she go shopping , to the café or maybe it's a day for a wedding.
- 3 Milla writes lists, invitations to friends to invite them to the ever frequent parties, letters and if she is working in the office she writes down appointments.
- 4 Milla is confident when she writes. She often helps others and she is happy to share her fabulous ideas.
- 5 Teachers never say "IT'S TIME TO PRACTISE WRITING NOW"
- 6 Our children are writing all day.
- 7 They are self motivated to pick up a pen and write with a purpose in mind.
- 8 If dressed as a police officer children have even been known to write out tickets for teachers, children and parents.
- 9 Milla you are so good at writing because you practice it almost every day.

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Teachers Karen Leonard and Sue Smith



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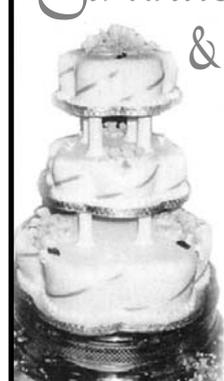
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The 'Royal Game' is still riding a wave of popularity

It may be known as the 'Royal Game' but when I asked a group of boys from Merrilands Primary School why they liked playing chess so much their answers were identical even though I put the question to them separately. "Because it's a battle game" was the emphatic response.

On the day I visited, the Merrilands School Chess team was outside in the sun using their giant outdoor chess set. The 'battle game' was in full swing while I chatted to Principal Graham Wilson about his thoughts on chess and its place in schools. He strongly believes in the benefits of chess for children's learning, and went on to say, "Chess challenges thinking and problem solving. It also teaches patience and concentration." Interestingly Graham mentioned that chess attracts the interest of boys far more than girls and while it has positive benefits for compliant achieving students it was also a powerful tool to engage challenging children in a positive way.

Worldwide research shows overwhelming evidence about the educational benefits of chess playing and many countries integrate it into their curriculum for this reason. Research shows:

- 1 Playing Chess can strengthen a child's memory [Artise]
- 2 Chess participation enhanced reading performance [Margulies 1991]
- 3 Learning Chess strengthened both numerical and verbal aptitudes [Frank 1974]
- 4 Chess "nourishes latent learning abilities and reinforces skills in logical and abstract thinking, impulse control, endurance and determination" [Van Zyl 1991]

Interestingly when I spoke with the some of the Merrilands Chess team they were aware that when they played chess they were exercising their brains as well as playing a battle game. Joshua Gulliver aged 10 said, "I like it because it's a battle game and it works your brain" and Devyn Chapman-Stone aged 9 said, "I like it because it's a thinking game."

I asked the tournament organiser John Ansell if the event is becoming more popular. He said, "Interest in the Primary Interschool event has been slowly growing over the four years it has been running. Last year we introduced the Intermediate event for the first time, which doubled the numbers of teams participating overall."

August was a busy time for chess. First pool games were held for Primary and Intermediate teams. Merrilands School placed first in their pool games with Mangorei following in 2nd place. Regional finals on the 28th August decided who would represent our region at the National Event. The Primary event was won by Toko School, with Mangorei in 2nd place Hawera 3rd and Merrilands 6th. Patea school once again won the Intermediate section.

The Taranaki Secondary Schools Chess Tournament was also in August. The host school was 2008 winners New Plymouth Boys' High School.

When I spoke with teacher Mary Porteous in July she told me thirty or so boys chose chess as a Utility Period option this year at Boys High. From the 30 boys two teams of four were chosen to represent the school. At the tournament Boys' High were dominant with their A team taking 1st place and Boys' High B taking 2nd place securing themselves a spot at the 2009 National Championship event.

Of some help this year was a new member to their A team, Year Nine student Alan Ansell. Alan is aged 12 and is ranked Number One for his age in NZ based on NZ Chess Federation ratings and



*The Merrilands School Chess Team L-R
Josh Toa, Caleb Humphreys, Tyler Shepherd, Devyn
Chapman-Stone, Joshua Gulliver, Travis Clarkson, Blair
Richards*



*NPBHS students L-R
Jong Woo Shin and
Jacob Tomlinson.*



*NPBHS students L-R Alex
Harfield and Jesse Watt
playing grading games.*

Number 79 in the world for his age, based on World Chess Federation ratings.

I asked Alan and some of his fellow team mates why they like to play chess. Alan's answer was that he "enjoys the mental challenge." Jacob Tomlinson aged 15 said, "I like that every time you play it's different, so the challenge is different each time." Jesse Watt also aged 15 added, "I like that there are so many strategies and moves you can do in a game."

Finally, I asked local resident John Ansell, organiser of the Taranaki Primary/Intermediate Interschool Chess Tournament what makes him such a strong advocate regarding young people playing chess. He answered, "The rules for Chess are quite easy to teach and understand, but the game has, practically, almost infinite depth. So it offers a mental challenge for players at all levels, given suitable opposition. Add to that the fairly limited resources required to play and I think it's an ideal game when mental challenge is wanted. I sense that there is too little mental challenge in today's school environment for some children and chess can supply this while the players have fun at the same time. I think the competitive element, possibly also somewhat constrained in schools today, is healthy provided there is respect shown to and by all players. Finally I think chess somewhat levels the "physical playing field" (which to me includes sex, socio-economic status, etc as well as size differences) between children – all you bring to the board is what you've got in your head."

With so much long term overseas research extolling the benefits of chess for young people it's great to see that the Primary and Secondary schools in our local area are supporting and encouraging their students to play and compete at chess and as recent tournament results show they are doing extremely well.

By Jackie Tomlinson

Mangorei School fluffy fur ball of terror

"It's 9 'o clock at Mangorei School and I walk into the classroom. I sit myself down on the couch and listen to the students around me. They sit and chat amongst themselves, occasionally reaching out a hand to pat me or scratch me under the chin. Then I walk out to begin my day as Mangorei's favourite student. My name is Gypsy, and I am a cat, but I wasn't always a student and mascot of Mangorei School..."

"My story began fourteen years ago. I was wandering the streets, like cats do, and begging for food. I'm very good at that. I lived at Tupare Gardens, and I had kind owners who looked after me very well. One day, I ventured into a very strange place. There were a lot of buildings that looked the same, and a BIG patch of grass. But, strangest of all, it was occupied by dozens and dozens of children! I was very scared at first, but after a few pats and a lot of attention, I loved it. I wanted to explore this new place some more. That night as I went to sleep I was plagued with thoughts about my new hangout. There were noisy bells that rang during the day, but after some of them, children came out with food and gave me lots of cuddles. It really was a lovely place! I kept going back, day after day. One day, the nice man who lived in the office came and gave me some food. It was delicious! That's when I decided to adopt Mangorei School..."

"Hush now, Gypsy, I'll tell it from here.

Part Persian, part who knows what, this cat has *attitude*. Fluffy, matted, and purring, she can be found sleeping on stray maths books - much to the annoyance of the teachers and the delight of the students - or wandering the school like she owns the place! She is best mates with Mr Hodge, the caretaker, and has gained a reputation as the cuddly welcomer to new students. While she thinks she can rule the world and sleep any where at any time, life hasn't always been so relaxing. Sure, maybe for her, but not for the humans who love and adore her!"

Fourteen years ago, this little prowler turned up at school fully grown and cheeky as ever. With her tail in the air she hung around, so Mr Greer, the school principal, asked around. Everyone waited for an ad to turn up in the Daily News to claim this new addition to the school family. Still worried she had a family hunting for her, Mr Greer ran an ad in the paper. Soon, the dreaded call came . . .

"Hello? We think the stray you found might be my cat."

Gypsy lived a few metres down the road at Tupare Gardens! She belonged to the caretaker, who had been looking for her. Although when he saw how much she was loved and adored at Mangorei School, he said Mr Greer should keep her.

"And so, New Zealand's most mischievous cat came to live at Mangorei School.



Gypsy the school cat.



Now, over to you, Gypsy."

"Oh yes. I was very naughty, making havoc wherever I went! Do you remember the time I ate the canary in the office? No one knows how I opened the cage, and I'm not going to tell them! Every day for the next fourteen years I got fed by the students before school, and then I started my daily schedule. At 9:00, I would wander the school for a bit. At 10:00, I would flop into a classroom for a pat and a scratch. Then I would curl up and sleep for a bit, and at 12:30, I went out to play with the students having their lunch. I always got a tidbit or two for *my* lunch. Yum! Unfortunately as old age has set in, my sight has become slightly impaired, but it's all right. I know my way around Mangorei like the back of my paw.

I love Mangorei School and all the students who inhabit it, and they love me too! I will live at Mangorei forever, even after I am gone, and in the hearts of the everyone I meet.

By Victoria and Gabrielle

Yr 8 Students of Mangorei School

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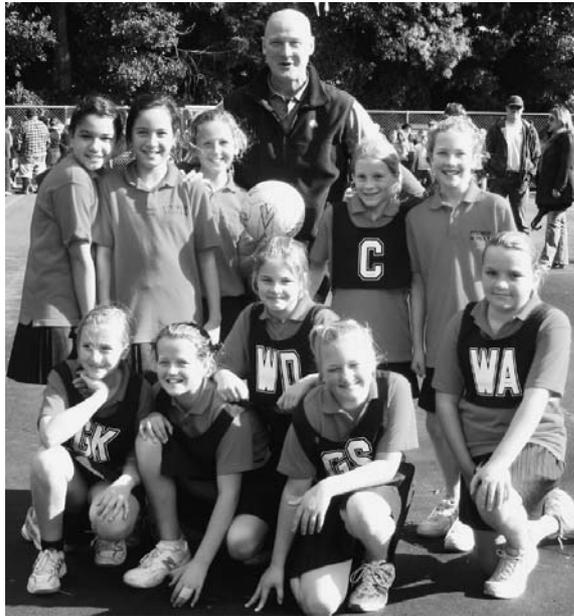
At Fitzroy School two of our Vision and Values statements are:

"To celebrate the success of ourselves and others."

"To have a positive understanding of who we are and where we belong – and how we can contribute locally, nationally and globally."

This year we again participated in the World Vision 40hr Famine. Fitzroy School raised \$2777.60 for the 'Raise the Stakes' campaign. This was achieved through the wonderful efforts of the children who took part in the Famine, and Fitzroy School was awarded the World Vision Gold Award for our efforts. Only two schools in Taranaki achieved this award – the other was a secondary school. We are always delighted to see the support our school community receives and the enthusiasm of the children to become global citizens. Congratulations and thank you.

Congratulations to our wonderful Diamonds Netball team for winning the 2009 Inter-school Netball finals played at Devon Intermediate recently. The final was played against Puketapu School and was an action packed and exciting game with our girls winning 24-13. This team has played superbly this year remaining undefeated for the season!



The Fitzroy Diamonds netball team with coach Paul O'Keefe.

Fitzroy School also organised and hosted the 'Rippa Rugby' Tournament involving 350 children from primary schools throughout New Plymouth, held at Sanders Park on 25th August. Teams competed in a round robin tournament and then played through quarter-finals, semi-finals and then a final playoff. Despite the damp weather all the schools involved had an enjoyable day of sport. The Fitzroy Choppas took out the tournament title, bringing home the Rippa Rugby trophy for winning Division 1. Congratulations!

Cross Country training throughout August culminated in our whole school Cross Country event which took place on the Richmond Street Reserve on Friday 28th August. Congratulations to winners:

5yrs boys: Ben Adlam

6yrs boys: Lachlan Healy

7yrs boys: Logan Warner

8yrs boys: Cameron Shotter

9yrs boys: Michael Loft

10yrs boys: Jamee Fox

11yrs boys: Max Anderson

5yrs girls: Maisie Dixon

6yrs girls: Saffire Moore

7yrs girls: Ruby Thomas

8yrs girls: Leila Fitzwilliams

9yrs girls: McKenzie Wilson-Hann

10yrs girls: Hazel Schofer

11yrs girls: Keely O'Keefe



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New Plymouth Chess Club

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Rotary

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