

One morning during the Surf Nationals . . .

The National Surf Lifesaving Championships were held at Oakura Beach from Thursday 16 March, with the Masters through to Sunday 19 March. There was good coverage of the event in the newspapers, but the atmosphere of the

perfect conditions for a surf lifesaving competition! At 6.30am people were already arriving and going about their business. As I made my way along the road I was passed by many trailers of surf skis and boats making their way to the

there was no sign of stress. Everybody gave the impression they knew where they were going and what they were

(continued on page 7)

PHOTO -FAY LOONEY



weekend simply can't be conveyed in the dry formal tones of a newspaper.

The weekend prior to the competition saw marquees and tents beginning to be erected along the foreshore and in the circle by the Raw Tasman Café. The digger had been out redirecting the streams and arranging the sand in preparation for the combination of events, competitors and spectators. By Thursday the 16th there was a steady stream of people, cars and trailers laden with boats, surf skis and more tents, which by the end of the day lined the entire foreshore area.

The morning was the most impressive time for me. The weather was warm and the sea was shades of blue and green and as calm as a millpond – perhaps not

south end of the beach, parking or being carried across the road by very fit and keen athletes.

The Raw Tasman was a hive of industry as their kitchen prepared for the busy day ahead. Further down the road the food tent run by NPOB Surf Club was serving breakfast, the first of many meals they would serve up to hungry competitors over the course of the competition. Some people were making their way to the end of Wairau Road, where Rick and Lynette of Snickerdoodles were serving coffee to a steady stream of supporters from the portable coffee caravan they had hired for the weekend.

I was struck by the relaxed and calm atmosphere at the beachfront – with approximately 1000 people in one place

THIS MONTH

Kaitake Community Board	4
A true landscape artist	6
Green dreadlocks	9
The Battle of Waireka	12
No tacky tack here	13
Ninety-nine - not out	16
TOM Sports	18, 19
Getting Wet	20
Schools & kids' stuff	22- 23

FROM THE TOM ZONE

In last month's issue we featured so many avid Oakura sportspeople that I wondered if there could possibly be anymore. Sure enough there are still oodles – Dylan Dunlop-Barrett is one – and I'm certain we don't get to feature half of the talented individuals in Oakura. I had a bit of a chuckle to myself when I read the Mini-Athletics results, particularly the 2-year-old shot-put results – we certainly start our achievers early!

Weren't the surf nationals the most amazing event for Oakura? The whole village was buzzing and the weather really laid it on for the event.

I felt truly humbled to talk with Jim Bentham (99 years old). I can hardly believe that someone who has been around that long can still be as sharp as a tack. His memories are precious.

Tracey and I are very excited at the big developments for *TOM*. As from this month we have formed a company called "The Oakura Messenger Ltd" and have crossed the threshold to being registered for GST. This is a huge step for a little magazine that started as a four-page amateurish local rag. Thank you to all the businesses and locals who support us. We are proud to publish a quality magazine that so many people far and near enjoy reading.

Kim Ferens



tom

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

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

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Civil Litigation

7599119



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

We had a huge turn-out to the open day in Oakura in late February, where the plans for the town's new reticulated sewerage system were discussed. It was great to see so many people showing up to find out first-hand what the new system will mean for them and their properties, and to take the chance to talk about the project with Council staff and contractors.

I think the reticulated sewerage system will be a huge boon to Oakura. Residents can choose whether to connect or not, and having this reticulation will enable the town to expand in an environmentally sound manner (while having those developments directed by the Oakura Structure Plan within the Coastal Strategy). It's all about managing our growth sensibly, while retaining the characteristics we love so much about this coastal community.

I hope that the open day provided you with all of the information you were looking for. If you would like to discuss any of the details further, feel free to ring the Council on 759 6060.

Meanwhile development of a second water bore for Oakura is progressing well, with construction of the bore hole finished in mid-March. Earlier tests confirmed that the bore will be able to match the current demand of 10 to 15 litres per second. Combined with the existing bore, the Upper Wairau Road site is likely to produce about 50 litres per second, or 4,000 cubic metres per day, of good-quality water.

Not only is this good news for Oakura, but for New Plymouth District. If there is ever a major event that pollutes the district's existing above-ground water supplies – such as a volcanic eruption dumping ash into the Waiwhakaiho River and Lake Mangamahoe – the aquifer these bores use will provide the entire district with a secure emergency water supply.

I'm really pleased to see that this aquifer project more than meets the existing demand, and the water source has additional capacity for the summer demand as well as the projected population growth for the area.

Not only do Oakura people live in one of the best places in the district, but it also has a top-quality water supply.

If you have any suggestions for other developments in the town or in the district, or you have an idea for a better way for the Council to deliver an existing service, be sure to give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

Mayor, New Plymouth District



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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

Prior to the General Election, and the Local Body Elections before that, a surprising number of people came to my offices wanting to vote – obviously the differences between “electorate” and “electoral” offices are not always clear.

Recently, three students studying Social Policy at Massey wanted to know how the electorate works, what my priorities are and how did I decide, implement and evaluate them. I thought others might wonder also! The following is an overview of my electorate offices. Every Member of Parliament is different, each works differently and different electorates require different things of their Member and his or her staff. My priorities are those this electorate tells me it wants:

- strong, healthy families, community and economy, and
- excellent infrastructure.

These are so commonplace that some might be cynical, but a cliché is something lots of people say precisely because it means something.

How do I know what the electorate wants? Well, I have to enable people to tell me.

Therefore, I have two electorate offices in obvious, accessible places.

Electorate staff are employed by Parliament and the offices are parliamentary, not party offices, where political party business is not permitted during office hours.

Some MPs work only for those constituents enrolled to vote on their electoral roll.

Some will not work for Maori electorate voters or those from another general electorates, preferring to send them to their own MPs. I usually suggest, as a courtesy, they ask their own MP for assistance, but I’m willing to help if we can.

Some won’t work for those who don’t participate in the democratic process and enrol as the law requires. Most, like me, do the work anyway and try to encourage the person to fill in an enrolment form.

Between 10 and 12 constituents call into our offices daily and we receive about 45 letters, faxes and emails from constituents every day. When there is a contentious Bill before the House, those figures double or more. At least weekly, I’ll have appointments with individual constituents.

Each day my staff read the papers, including editorials and Letters to the Editor. If an issue looks as if it has the potential to grow legs, it might be forwarded to the Minister responsible



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MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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for that portfolio. If it is a local issue, I might contact the people involved to offer information, assistance or advice when appropriate.

Local papers are checked especially for important personal milestones in constituents’ lives. We check, for example, when a Golden Wedding, Diamond Wedding or a 100th birthday is celebrated, that Internal Affairs has also been advised by the family so that congratulatory messages can be sent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Governor-General or the Prime Minister, whoever is appropriate.

Electorate staff advocate for constituents with Government agencies and advise constituents of their rights and responsibilities when dealing with Government departments.

The agencies we have the most inquiries about are, in order:

1. Work & Income, especially about “Working for Families” and Special Grants and Benefits.
2. Transport – Bell Block Bypass and drivers’ licensing, especially for the elderly.
3. Hospitals – waiting times for elective surgery and procedures not being done locally.
4. Immigration.
5. IRD – about Child Support and Working for Families
6. Elder issues – rest home issues and the cost of everything.
7. Child, Youth & Family – custody issues.

Information about new policy and changes to policy is obtained for constituents and also how the processes of Government work and what constituents can do to contribute to the debate, how to make submissions to a Select Committee or to petition the House, how to express opinions about a decision by a government agency, what to do about employment and consumer issues.

I try to visit all schools and early childhood education centres in the electorate at least once a year and help to arrange class visits to Parliament. I also try to visit all rest homes at least once a year as well as attend special occasions at them like 100th birthdays. I attend public meetings, AGMs, prize-givings and sports days where humanly possible. I try to attend every event I’m invited to whenever I can get leave from the House and my ministerial duties.


In these ways, I keep myself up to speed with the electorate’s concerns and ensure that constituents can approach me for assistance.

How do I know if I’m on track? Every three years we get a pretty clear steer.

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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

How often do you hear: "We don't know how lucky we are"? As I sat on Oakura Beach the weekend of the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Champs I must have repeated that phrase many times.

Two weeks prior I had been in California at Santa Barbara Beach. Yuk! It was terrible – rocks covered in dust and water that I wouldn't even put my toe in.

The day before I left it rained and 50 tons of litter and rubbish was dragged from just one harbour.

Luck needs a hand though. If we want to ensure that the thousands who enjoyed our beach this summer can continue to for future summers, we have to play our part. Simple things can make such a difference. Rubbish is still a major. I thought of California as I swam in the Oakura River this week and watched several plastic bags blow along the beach.

The Coastal Strategy is a very important factor in our Coast's future – as the process continues, make sure you are a part of it. The new sewerage system is an integral part of this but be sure it doesn't bring with it more in-fill housing and development that destroys our open spaces.

Our CBD upgrade is a little closer. You may have noticed some work starting by the time you read this. At the time of writing it hasn't been signed off but we are confident an agreement with Transit will see a wider footpath on the mountain side & attractive plantings. The sea side change will include parallel parking for the sake of safety. The process is lengthy though, so don't expect quick miracles!

You may have read that our last Community Board meeting was held at Council Chambers. This change does not mean that locals will not be heard. Anyone who wishes to speak with us may do so at any of our meetings, and every second meeting will be held in Oakura as usual. You can always e-mail me at faylooney@xtra.co.nz or call me on 752 7125 with any issues you wish to discuss.

I had a lovely morning out with the Oakura School children at the Oakura Marae recently. The kids were so well behaved and interested in all that was happening. My mind wandered back to my childhood days, weekends often spent with Martha collecting wood from the beach with her big old draft horse and Eo who could tell great stories. It's wonderful that our grandchildren can enjoy this environment too, albeit in a different but still important way.

Loop track closed

It has come to the attention of TOM that the loop track at Lucy's Gully has been closed. DOC has placed a sign at each end stating this. We would welcome feedback from readers and users of this track, as we will be investigating the matter further. Please email, phone the TOM, or text us on 027 636 8060.



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Landscape designer, Sue Pritt



After 20 years working as a physiotherapist, Sue Pritt felt it was time for a new direction. Landscape design seemed an obvious choice to Sue for several reasons – her husband Jeremy has been involved in landscape construction for many years and Sue has always had an ongoing interest in plants and gardening. (Her dad is also cousin to Felix Jury, a very well-known plantsman, so maybe there was something in the blood as well!)

Sue has been studying extramurally through Massey University for four years now and is finding that the demand for landscape designs is building all the time. Sue and Jeremy both admit they were initially a little concerned about whether they could work together. Now they find there are real bonuses in being able to work through the whole project, from the initial contact with the client and creating the plans through to completing construction and planting. Sue brings a more creative side to their projects, while Jeremy provides the more practical know-how due to his experience in working with many different concept and planting plans over the years. They feel this is a nice balance and seems to work really well for them.

Sue is very aware that gardening has changed markedly over the last decade, with houses getting bigger and sections getting smaller. She feels that as most people now want to spend less time in the garden, designers must work extra hard to combine the need of the client with the need to retain the seasonal element that was a feature of most bigger gardens. "It's very important the client should have something new and interesting in the garden to look forward to every season".

As a final note Sue wanted to thank all the local people who have supported her and Jeremy in their business up till now and encourage the local community to continue to support local businesses.

NB: If you are wondering why the name Sue Pritt sounds familiar, it may be because she was one of the founding partners of The Oakura Messenger!

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Surf Nationals

(continued from page 1)

doing! By 7am the sea was absolutely crawling with surf skis and swimmers as competitors paddled and surfed before the 8am start – a fantastic sight.

I spoke to Rick from Snickerdoodles later in the week and he commented on what a fantastic weekend it had been and how great it had been to be involved in a such a community event, part of a good experience that will encourage people to come back to Oakura. Indeed, Geoff Barry mentioned in the *Daily News* on Wednesday that due to the success of the weekend



Surf Lifesaving NZ would be taking a proposal to Taranaki for the 2009 Nationals.

Over the three days, the Snickerdoodles team worked 12-hour shifts from 6am to 6pm, churning through 22 kg of coffee beans. It was heads down all the way and such a buzz to see so many happy people walk away with their coffees.

Jon from Raw Tasman Café was equally awestruck with the atmosphere of the early morning rituals. The Café catered for the 120 marshals involved in the weekend. He said it was a very enjoyable weekend, certainly something they were excited to be involved in, and the trading went well considering a lot of the teams were based in New Plymouth and others had brought their own cooks.

By Tracey Lusk



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the new junior collection much easier to navigate. Special thanks must go to Roxanne, Debbie and Bettina for all their help. It has been a huge job and one that has been long overdue. The benefits will outweigh the chaos over the last month, I am sure.

The new books display is still changing regularly, with at least a dozen new titles on display each week. If you would like to keep up-to-date with the new releases, we have folders displaying photocopies of the covers and information about new teen and adult fiction, and new junior titles. If a book you want is already out it can easily be requested and we will contact you when it is available. This service is most helpful if you are wanting the latest by Diana Gabaldon, Ruth Rendell, or Patricia Cornwell, for example. (Or for the younger readers, the new Jacqueline Wilson, John Marsden or David Hill). Another great way of discovering new authors is to join us at the monthly Oakura Book Group. We meet at 5.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

The New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards are celebrating their 10th birthday this year. The awards celebrate the best of current New Zealand children's literature and recognise the efforts of New Zealand authors. There will be a display, stories and prizes to win, and birthday cake to celebrate! Pick up a flyer with information and details of library events for all the Puke Ariki Libraries or contact the library on 759 6060 for more details about the book awards or the book group.

Happy reading

Brenda Cash

Jones & Sandford

MITRE 10 Gardening

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APRIL CHECKLIST

✦ Vegetables:

Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, spinach, radish, swedes and turnips.

✦ Flowers:

Continue planting spring bulbs.

Dead-head roses as autumn flowers finish and give existing roses a side dressing of fertiliser.

Lift and divide crowded perennials.

Plant pots with autumn and winter flowering annuals such as pansies, primulas, polyanthus, stock, antirrhinums and bulbs.

To conserve water in the garden:

✦ Water only when the plants start to droop.

Water for optimum benefit a quick, light sprinkling encourages roots to stay near the surface of the soil where they are likely to dry out. It is far better to soak the soil, perhaps a couple of times a week.

Mulch already wet soil to prevent evaporation.

Install an irrigation system with an automatic timer such systems water plants with the minimum of waste.

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The man whose hair hangs to the floor –

Nàndor Tànczos

Last month the Taranaki Environment Centre hosted Green Party MP Nàndor Tànczos at a public meeting in the Oakura Hall. It was the weekend of the Parihaka Peace Festival and it was hoped that people attending the festival would stop by and listen to the talk on "Sustainability by Design". About 30 people attended in all.

Nàndor was late arriving due to mechanical problems with his fossil-fueled vehicle (yes, even Greens have got to use them sometimes!), so Griffin Hope of the Taranaki Environment Centre explained what the Centre is all about and invited those present to introduce themselves. It was clear we had a diverse and interesting group, with representatives from the Waitara LETS (Local Economic Trading or Green Dollars) group, organic retailers, physic mediums, architects, journalists, horticulturists and Green Party supporters. I realised that I am more "green" than I had thought, but comforted myself with the notion that the majority of us are actually "green" at heart and that sustainability would sit well with most of the Oakura community.

Nàndor seemed to think so too by saying that, "Oakura is a good place to discuss green ideas..." And he went on to say that New Zealand ought to be at the leading edge of sustainable eco-living. Sustainability as an issue is not only about living in an environmentally sensible way, but is also about building inclusive communities that support each other, and true communities have people in them who don't like each other but can live side-by-side. Community building is the crux of the matter, with justice and crime being dealt with in a way to bring about rehabilitation and more investment in young people through schools and polytechs. Community members need to work together to become "energy independent".

Nàndor sees the two most important issues facing us as Peak Oil (when oil production has peaked and supply starts to decline) and Climate Change. Peak oil effects are predictable – decreased supply will lead to higher oil prices, which we are already beginning to see and which will increasingly impact on every aspect of our lives, from the most obvious, travel, to food production (fertilisers). Just think how many things you use that are made of petroleum-based materials, like plastic. This will eventually lead to more localisation in contrast to the present push towards globalisation, as air travel and the transportation of goods (importing and exporting) becomes too expensive and unsustainable.

Climate change is not so easily predicted, although many scientists are already pointing to the extreme weather events we are seeing around the globe and even locally (think of the flooding up North at Matata and the prolonged drought in Canterbury) as evidence of climate change, caused predominantly by the consumption/burning of fossil fuels.

Nàndor feels that, of New Zealand's political parties, only the Greens are really addressing these issues and it is essential that New Zealand start to "future proof". He mentioned that Sweden has a plan to be independent of fossil fuels within the next 20 years, what are we in New Zealand doing to ensure our sustainability? If we don't start to act now our economy will suffer greatly. We can't rely on technology to come to the rescue – new technologies will not come on stream fast enough or cheap enough to deal with the effects of climate change, nor will alternative fuels (biofuels) be able to keep pace with the growing demand for fuel. Nàndor's view is that we are using fossil fuels in a very wasteful way and we need to live within the capacity of our land. And this last sums up sustainability in general, I suppose.

I personally found Nàndor intriguing – who can't look at him and just gaze at his hair? His rhetoric is rhythmically soothing and I soon found myself nodding off. Or was that because he lacked a bit of substance?

The Taranaki Environment Centre can be contacted on 756 8229 and watch out for an article on sustainability from Griffin in our next issue.

By Kim Ferens

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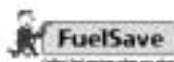
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SLOW FOOD UPDATE

Tomatoes and basil

The New Plymouth Slow Food Convivium met recently to celebrate tomatoes and basil. The occasion involved a lunch held in Omata, with all the participants bringing a culinary contribution.

So imagine a long lunch that moved from Gazpacho (cold tomato soup) to an entrée of the classic Italian salad of tomato and mozzarella slices with basil, to a tuna and tomato quiche or an Italian Caponata, all washed down with a fine selection of wines, and you have some idea of how a Sunday afternoon disappeared painlessly.

To spice up the lunch Mike and Bernie Radich prepared a quiz. The participants now know all they need to about tomatoes and basil (possibly even more than they need to!). For instance, you probably already know that tomatoes are valued for their antioxidant content and the beneficial effect they are reputed to have on heart disease and prostatic cancer. But did you know that they were shunned by the Puritans for their supposedly aphrodisiac power? Cheaper than Viagra and they taste better.

The Convivium will meet again later in the year and some of the possible events are a slow Italian lunch and a macadamia pick.

Anyone interested in the slow food movement, can email Tony Waghorn at twags@xtra.co.nz

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Glamourpuss on the move!

There's some exciting stuff going on at *Glamourpuss* and Janine and Mary would like to share with us what they are up to.

On the 24th March Janine became the new owner, having bought *Glamourpuss* from Helen Wheeler-Shaw, who is now living it up in Texas.

Janine can't wait to put her own unique stamp on the business and says she loves the gorgeous, "girly" gifts that they sell, and the feeling people receive when they enter the shop.

Mary Deakin, still very much part of the team and more than at home amongst the glamorous treasures, is always ready to help customers wanting to buy that something "different" for a special occasion or a special someone in their lives.

Then there is the move! They are on their way down the street to number 9 Devon Street East. It all happens over Easter weekend and *Glamourpuss* will re-open in the new premises on Tuesday 18th April. There will be many, many new and exciting "girly" gifts for all ages and here is a taste of some of the gifts that will be available:

- Baby knitting, made locally - sooo gorgeous.
- Hat boxes of many different shapes and sizes.
- Jewellery with glamour in mind.
- Trinket boxes to impress.

The list goes on . . . the girls can hardly wait to share it all with you.



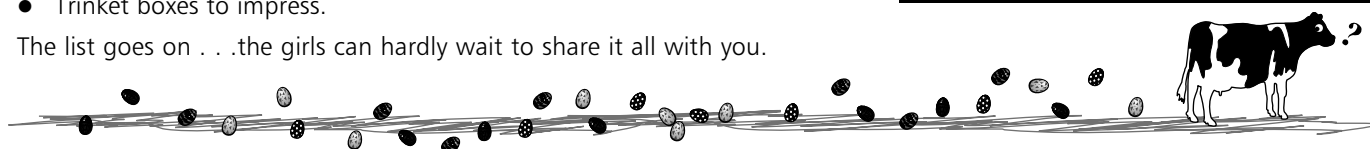
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Part two of "The Legend" of the Battle of Waireka, is part of an ongoing series of Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) funded *'Taranaki Stories'* from Puke Ariki. The aim of these stories is to bring to life the spirits of Taranaki; to provide meaning to street signs, local spots and landmarks, and names from the past. Part three concludes the story next month.

The legend of the Battle of Waireka

PART TWO (By Sorrel Hoskin)

"Rescue"

An expedition was mounted to "rescue" the Omata settlers who had been left behind. It was the first time the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers had been into battle. Not everyone was happy about it, as one mother recalled, "Oh! What were my feelings none can tell when I saw my son prepare to go forth to the battle! I felt that my heart should break should he be killed! No entreaty would stop him as he acted from a sense of duty."

From the settlement that afternoon marched two groups. The first consisted of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers and Militia, under the command of Captain Charles Brown. Their instructions were to march along the beach under the shadow of the cliffs until they reached Waireka. Then, using their knowledge of the local area, they were to slip in behind the Maori position and gather up the stranded settlers, head to the main road and take them back to New Plymouth.

Lt-Colonel Murray and a group of regulars were to set out along the main road to Omata and ferret out any Maori that might be blocking the route, then link up with the volunteers. Murray had strict orders from his commanding officer to have his force back by dark as they were needed to protect the settlement.

Attack

The volunteers made it to the Wairekanui stream unseen. But while advancing inland past Jury's farm they were spotted by Maori on the hill at Kaipopo Pa. The Maori swarmed down on the volunteers, leaving only the elderly in the Pa, who sat outside the palisades and watched the ensuing action.

The volunteers, untested in battle, were outnumbered and beat a hasty retreat through the fern and toi toi clad farmland to Jury's farmhouse. The house was fortified with whatever was at hand – fence posts, railings, firewood, even sheaves of wheat. The "rescuers" had a battle on their hands.

That afternoon the fields and valleys around Waireka echoed to the sound of rifle and musket fire. But soon ammunition was running low on both sides. The tide was coming in and the settlers were trapped.

Captain Brown sent a messenger back to New Plymouth asking for ammunition. One brave settler set out across country with

a cart-load of bullets, but could not reach the Jury's farm. It was later discovered that the ammunition was the wrong type anyway.

Murray abandons the settlers

Meanwhile Murray and his Regulars had advanced at a leisurely pace from New Plymouth along the Main South Road, past the Omata stockade and down what is now Beach Road. They encountered no Maori opposition. The troops halted above the Wairekaiti Stream and sent a barrage of rockets toward the distant Kaipopo Pa.

As Chris Pugsley writes in *Walking the Taranaki War*, "Murray clearly had no thoughts on fighting a major battle at Waireka. He wanted to keep the route open and get back to New Plymouth as quickly as possible." The sounds of rifle fire caused

him to send support to the settlers, but it was late afternoon and he was conscious of the need to be back in New Plymouth before dark. He ordered the recall and the sound of the horn cut across the plains. His troops reluctantly withdrew, leaving the settlers to their fate.



Captain Cracroft

Cracroft to the rescue

Back in New Plymouth Captain Cracroft from the *Niger* received word of the action. With 60 sailors and a volunteer as guide, he set out along the Main South Road, passing Murray's retiring troops on the way, and reached the road leading up to Kaipopo Pa.

It was just on dusk, confused rifle fire was still echoing around the plains as the settlers and Maori shot at each other from under cover. On the skyline flags could be seen flying within the Pa. Cracroft pointed to the material flapping defiantly in the sea breeze and said, "Ten pounds to the man who gets that flag."

... continued next month

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The one-stop Tack Shop

Oakura girls Linda Knudsen and Jules Everest have taken up a fresh challenge with the Shack" in Moturoa. The Tack Shack is in the former premises of Horsecworld but bears no business.

A chance opportunity six weeks ago had Jules ringing Linda to see if she was interested Linda has business experience (we all know her from Butlers) and has been involved with Jules is more familiar with a beauty makeover than a business makeover but thanks to involvement in competing, knows which end of a horse is the business end! So between could fill the niche market of horse gear.

Within 48 hours of first considering buying the business, it was all go. Jules and Linda came up with a new business name, logo and theme for the shop décor. The entire premises were stripped and an army of trades-people descended to do an extreme makeover. The results are stunning. Two weeks after signing on the dotted line, the new business was ready to open. And it opened in style, with local equestrian celebrities Matthew Grayling and Vanessa Way officially cutting the ribbon to open The Tack Shack. About 40 invited guests were treated to the first glimpse of the makeover and everyone has had only positive things to say about it since.

But The Tack Shack is not just a lovely looking shop with some classy looking ladies behind the counter trying to sell expensive gear – it's about service. Jules says they are stocking as big a range of horse gear and feed as they can, but if they don't have what you

want, then they will order it and it will be instore within days (usually 1-2). The Tack Shack stock six brands of tack: Flair, Weather Beeta, Zilco, Mark Todd, Stubben and Dublin. All levels of ability, size of horse and budget are catered for, with tack to suit the young, beginner, middle and experienced horse and rider, from cheap to expensive (ranging from \$30 to \$300). They don't stock saddles but will happily order them in or sell secondhand ones on behalf of.

Presently the Tack Shack is trialling a new feed product – Lucerne blocks, imported from America. The blocks are soaked in water to expand and they work out to be more cost effective and convenient compared with loose Lucerne. It can also be fed to other animals.

The Tack Shack is aiming to be the only place you need to go to for horse gear and is surprisingly the only specialist tack shop in North Taranaki. So if you need bits and bobs for your horse, The Tack Shack is where you should head – parking is good, service is great, advice and smiles are free! Shop hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm. and they'll open Saturday mornings if there's the demand. The Tack Shack will also happily open if someone needs something urgently.


By Kim Ferens




A complete shopfitting makeover and looking great.



Not needing any makeovers, the Tack Shack "grooms", from left, Ingrid Anderson, Linda Knudsen and Jules Everest..





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Fever

This is one of the most common issues we deal with as pharmacists, especially in the winter months. A normal body temperature is about 37 degrees Celsius when taken orally (by mouth). Generally we would say that a person has a fever if the temperature is 37.5 degrees or above when taken in the mouth or ear. Digital or ear thermometers are the best for measuring body temperature.

Fever is a sign that the body is fighting an infection (usually viral). The main reason to treat your child is to make them feel better. When your child is achy or fussy, you may want to give them some medicine.

Paracetamol (such as Panadol, Pamol or Paracare) relieves pain and lowers fever. How much your child may need depends on their weight and age, so please check with Colleen or Catherine if you are unsure of the correct dose for your child. You should not give more than four doses of Paracetamol to your child over a 24-hour period as an overdose can cause liver damage or more serious problems. Space the doses four hours apart.

Ibuprofen (such as Nurofen, Fenpaed or Brufen) can also be given to reduce fever and again, check the dose with a pharmacist. This medication is best given with food and can compliment the use of Paracetamol, especially if the fever is quite high or is not lowering with Paracetamol alone.

Aspirin should NOT be given to children under the age of 12 to treat a fever.

Other ideas to help lower a fever are:

- Give plenty to drink to prevent dehydration and to help the body cool itself.
- Give plenty of rest, quiet time and cuddles.
- Keep the room temperature at about 21 degrees Celsius (not too hot).
- Dress your child in light cotton clothing so that body heat can escape.
- If your child is chilled, put on an extra covering, but remove it when the chills stop.
- Lukewarm baths can be helpful.

Remember, you know your child best. If you have any concerns, if your child is not improving after a check-up or shows any warning signs such as vomiting or a rash, please see your doctor immediately.

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The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

It has now been three years since I first set foot in the Land of the Morning Calm. It's been a wonderful experience and I have an altogether better impression of the culture and people of this interesting country. At times I kick myself (or try to since I never learnt how) for not donning a uniform and giving taekwondo a go or not having studied more of the language, but all in all I'm absolutely stoked with my time here. So I thought I'd let you know what my highlights were from my three years in Korea.

I guess one of my passions is food. I studied food chemistry at university and seem to possess a cast iron stomach when it comes to eating all things weird and wonderful, so the countries of Asia always seem to live up to my expectations if I'm looking for something a little odd to eat. But it's not the quirky cuisine like silkworm pupa or dog soup that I'll miss, it's Korean food in general. I came over here with New Zealand taste buds... a good roast, a couple of snarlers (especially the ones that used to be made at Rob's Meats, the butchery of Oakura past), some fresh veges from Tom and Mockie's garden on Pitcairn Street, the odd paua from down the coast... they were my foods of choice. Even the mildest hint of spiciness would cause me to turn up my nose.

Oh, how that has changed. The rich, spicy dishes Korean, where red chilli peppers are often used, meant that I had no choice but to evolve my tastes accordingly. I now grin with anticipation at the thought of a mouth-stinging *maeuntang*, literally meaning "spicy soup". I also crave a fiery dish of *aguchim*, chopped up pieces of slimy monkfish amidst a sea of bean sprouts, diced squid and a healthy dose of red pepper paste and sliced up green chillies. I'm almost sweating just thinking about them!

Then, of course, there's the drinking culture over here. I constantly read about how New Zealand has a unique binge drinking culture when it comes to alcohol. I think that this is present in many cultures... they just seem to talk about it a little less than we do. Koreans usually have one purpose in mind when it comes to alcohol. Get drunk and do it quickly. Most of the time they don't muck around and spend a hundred bucks at a bar to do it either. Instead they buy a bottle or three of *soju* to have with their meal and down them with their famous "One shot!" call. This 21% distilled rice/potato spirit has a good kick and the flushed, red faces of the locals sitting around me at a restaurant bear testament to its effectiveness. Considering it's only a couple of dollars a bottle, it's no wonder the plethora of hangover cures available are more expensive... I guess they have to make money somewhere along the line!

With only a month or so to go before I head back to Taradise, it's definitely a time of reflection on my time here. Of course, it's not just the culinary delights that have made my time here great, but I guess you'll just have to wait until next month to find out what else I loved about my time in Korea...

Annyonghi Keseyo

Kelly



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Jim Bentham – Ninety-nine, not out



Jim at age 35.

Jim Bentham, currently of Fitzroy, is 99-years old and recalls how life used to be on Koru Road nearly 100 years ago.

As a young boy he attended Koru Road School, along with his two brothers and two sisters. Mrs Warner, the school teacher, left a lasting impression on the young Jim. She would beat the children on the head so hard it even took the skin off. Mrs Warner would park her gig in the shelter shed and when the school committee man, Mr

Julius Hanson, attempted to pull it out, Mrs Warner would coerce the children to try and hit him on the head with the school bell to prevent him removing the gig.

The best teacher Jim had was Miss Clark from England. Another teacher Miss Cameron was standing by the fire one day when a spark flew into her hair, burning her badly. She was too ill to return to school and the children never saw her again.

Life was tough for Jim and his siblings, who had to run to school to get there on time. In fact they ran everywhere, not like kids today, Jim reckons. The soles of his feet were like rubber back then. Before and after school Jim would run to get the 20 cows in for milking. Finding them was no easy task. The farm was covered in dead tree stumps (burnt to clear the land), ferns and blackberry so you would have to scout around to find the animals. Dinner time was about 8pm after all the chores were done.

The life Jim knew then is one we will never know today – sitting outside on an evening listening to hundreds of kiwis calling to each other in the bush on the Kaitakes. Wekas were also prolific in the area and the school children made a sport of trying to catch the speedy birds. The boys would make the girls crawl into drain pipes to chase them but to no avail, the birds were long gone. The weka was a curious bird and if you left anything shiny lying around, it was likely to be vandalised by a weka. The children often found weka nests with up to 14 eggs in them. The weka would also get in the farm shed, looking for food.

Another memory Jim has is of the aptly nicknamed “Old Cripple”, who went around the district giving music lessons. Jim left school at 13 and went on the farm to work. And work he did, although not for wages, but for his food and bed. His father was a tough man who worked his family hard, who wanted them to make something of themselves and working hard was the way to do it. He bought two more neighbouring farms so Jim set to work clearing the 100-acre farm. By this stage gorse had been introduced to New Zealand as a “lovely hedging plant”, but unfortunately the plant flourished into a weed. There were no pesticides to deal with it so grubbing it out by hand was the only solution. Jim remembers his hands being covered in gorse prickles. Speaking of hands, the hapless Jim lost the top of his right index finger to an axe when he

tripped one day and tried to fling the axe away only to have it come down on his fingers!

When Jim, who never married, was 37 years old, he went to war in Italy for two years. He remembers Italy being very wet and cold and there was not much food for the men. Considering himself a bit of a cook, Jim cobbled together a meal of bully beef

and tomatoes only to have the Germans fire upon them, putting Jim in hospital for a few weeks.

After the war Jim returned to Koru Road, where the farm had been leased to the Payne family for grazing. His car, a Humber was sitting in the shed awaiting his return. Jim scraped off the chicken poop, put in a new battery and away she went. Jim had to refinance the farm through the Public Trust. On the farm was a sawmill in which family



Jim at age 99 and still looking good.

member George Perrett worked. Another Koru Road resident, Mr Maskelyne, who owned 17 acres across the road, employed Jim to harrow his paddocks. Unfortunately for Mr Maskelyne, he got caught up in the harrows.

Time off was precious but it was often spent at dances in the Koru Road Hall. Jim’s flirting tactic was to try and snare a girl by snagging her stockings with his finger stump! He developed an avid interest in golf and played many an interesting game at the Weld Road Golf Course, sometimes with Jack Butler from Butlers Hotel. A story often told to the family is one where a local girl was having a pee behind the bushes on the way home from golf when a rat ran into her knickers!

Jim retired to Fitzroy when he was 65, where he still lives, though now with failing health and the realisation that most of his friends are long gone and the ones who are left are also nearly 100.

By Kim Ferens



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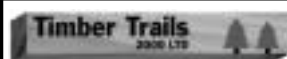
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Mini-Athletics

The season for mini-athletics has now finished. We tried a competition evening for the first time this year. The children competed in their age groups in the events of throwing and running. Each child was encouraged to have a go and enjoy the spirit of the competition.

On our last night we presented each child with a participation certificate. Children who got first, second or third were given a gold, silver or bronze sticker with their event on their certificate.

Results

Shotput

2 Year Girls: 1st — Emily Breeze, 2nd — Taylor Mitchell. 2 Year Boys: 1st — Lucas Packheiser-Hall, 2nd — Jack Husband, 3rd — Theo Keenan. 3 Year Girls: 1st — Paige MacKay, 2nd — Anna Oldfield, 3rd — Anna Newton. 3 Year Boys: 1st — Charlie Waite, 2nd — Jack Mitchell, 3rd — Fletcher Ferguson. 4 Year Girls: 1st — Portia Roper, 2nd — Rebecca Barron, 3rd — Brianna Breeze. 4 Year Boys: 1st — Tom Parker, 2nd — Jens Packheiser-Hall, 3rd — Aden McBreen. 5 Year Girls: 1st — Poppy Mitchell & Emily Waite, 2nd — Sian Fenwick. 5 Year Boys: 1st — Jakob Roper, 2nd — Hayden Benton. 6 Year Girls: 1st — Madeline Parker, 2nd — Evangeline Lindsay, 3rd — Kelsey Husband. 6 Year Boys: 1st — Thomas Skurr, 2nd — Daniel Barron, 3rd — Liam McBreen. 7 Year Girls: 1st — Mia West. 7 Year Boys: 1st — Devon Lewis, 2nd — Jack Davies. 8 Year Girls: 1st — Molly Cattell, 2nd — Amy Benton, 3rd — Amy Barron

Running

2 Year Girls: 1st — Emily Breeze, 2nd — Taylor Mitchell, 3rd — Rosie Bolger. 2 Year Boys: 1st — Theo Keenan, 2nd — Jack Cleland, 3rd — Lucas Packheiser-Hall. 3 Year Girls: 1st — Paige MacKay, 2nd — Anna Oldfield, 3rd — Anna Newton. 3 Year Boys: 1st — Charlie Waite, 2nd — Fletcher Ferguson, 3rd — Jack Mitchell. 3 Year Girls: 1st — Paige MacKay, 2nd — Anna Oldfield, 3rd — Anna Newton. 4 Year Boys: 1st — Tom Parker, 2nd — Kael Neumann, 3rd — Jens Packheiser-Hall. 5 Year Girls: 1st — Sian Fenwick, 2nd — Eva Davies, 3rd — Macy Cattell. 5 Year Boys: 1st — Jakob Roper, 2nd — Hayden Benton. 6 Year Girls: 1st — Madeline Parker, 2nd — Kelsey Husband, 3rd — Evangeline Lindsay. 6 Year Boys: 1st — Daniel Barron, 2nd — Liam McBreen, 3rd — Thomas Skurr. 7 Year Girls: 1st — Mia West. 7 Year Boys: 1st — Jack Davies, 2nd — Devon Lewis. 8 Year Girls: 1st — Amy Benton, 2nd — Amy Barron, 3rd — Molly Cattell

Kaitake Netball 2006

Attention all ladies who wish to play a social game of netball each week. We are trying to get together a team of people who would like to play for social and/or fitness reasons.

We are thinking of playing on Thursday nights at the netball courts at Corbett Park. Depending on numbers, we will either try to field two teams and play against each other, or organise games against New Plymouth sides.

If you are interested in having a game, please call us for more information.

Tanya Farrant, ph 752 1301, Jo Hill, ph 752 7899

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OAKURA SURFCASTING & KAYAK FISHING CLUB

Greetings fellow fishos

We've had a huge number of fish weighed in over the last six weeks. Mid-March saw Jason Bond weigh in a excellent 10.425 kg snapper caught from his kayak. Word got around fast and about 20 members turned up at the weigh in to have a look for themselves. At the March Club Day, kayaker Tony Hurring got a goody of about 4.1 kg, surfcaster Shane Dunlop caught one of 3.2 kg and Terry Parker managed a 1.7 kg snapper as well. In all there were about 50 fish weighed in on the day.

Earlier in the year it had been really slow and the surfcasters seemed to be dragging the chain a bit. However, over the last few weeks things have really picked up for surfcasters and the kayakers seem to be getting their share of good sized fish as well. Peter Florence caught a great snapper from his kayak just locally in 4-metres of water in February. The kayak section of the Club has rocketed up our membership, with a lot of the newer people also keen on surfcasting as well.

Although our Club was the first in New Zealand to recognise kayak fishing as a club sport, a few others have cottoned on since and have jumped on the bandwagon.

February results

75 fish were weighed in during the month.

Surfcasters: 9 snapper, 3 kahawai, 2 eagle rays, 1 spotty shark, 1 gurnard, 1 banded wrase.

Kayakers: 36 snapper, 1 gurnard, 2 blue cod, 17 kahawai, 1 trevally

Fish of the Month: surfcasters — Shane Dunlop, 1.4 kg snapper; kayakers — Peter Florence, 6.4 kg snapper.

Upcoming events

We are having a couple of Club days over the Easter period and all are welcome. We'll be meeting at Corbett Park on Saturday 15 April at 9am. Grab your kayak or surfcaster and come down for a look, we may go to somewhere you haven't been before.

Tight lines, Debbie E

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Funakoshi Gichin Cup 10th World Karate-Do Championships

Two local JKA Coastal Karate members will be representing New Zealand at the Japan Karate Association (JKA) World Championships. Oakura residents Connor Anderson (Brown Belt) and Sempai Dominic C-Gruys (Black Belt) were selected by Takahashi Shihan (7th Dan, Japan) at the National Seminar and Championships held in Turangi in March. Connor and Dom will be training with the rest of the New Zealand Team in various regions around New Zealand in preparation for the World Cup in Sydney, which will host competitors from 116 countries.

Sensei Jim Hoskin (2nd Dan, Oakura) is the local JKA Coastal Karate instructor for Connor and Dom, and he has been preparing the pair for the demands of this traditional martial art. They train four times a week, twice in Opunake and twice in Oakura.

New members are always welcome. Phone 06 752 7337 (see our ad or "What's On" in TOM).



Left to right: Sensei Jim Hoskin (2nd Dan), Connor Anderson, Takahashi Shihan (7th Dan, Japan), Scott Neale & Dom C-Gruys (1st Dan) at the completion of the JKANZ Tournament held in Turangi on March 12th, 2006. Absent: Ben Boardman.

Oakura Cricket Club 2005/6 season

Well who would have guessed it, fresh on the heels of our successful local rugby boys comes yet another bunch of champions. The Oakura Cricket team won a close battle with our coastal cousins Okato on the hallowed ground of Pukekura Park for the fourth grade title. This was on Taranaki anniversary day, in front of a small but very vocal crowd of evenly apportioned supporters. After some tidy bowling from Shane Thornhill 3 - 21, Ricky Temata 3 - 26 and Craig Scott 2 - 31 we were set 182 to win. Opening the batting with Stuart Tinson, 32 runs, my only contribution was to get Glen Johns, 62 runs, to the crease as soon as possible, at the start of the 2nd over (yes I got a golden duck). These boys set us a reasonable platform but it was always going to be tight as the overs remaining began to run out. As with the semi-final it was nail-biting stuff down to the last over and down to the last 3 batsman. Requiring 13 runs off 7 balls, it was young Lauchie McLean to the crease, facing a hat trick ball from one of Okatos best bowlers Craig Moffit. In true "Whiskey style" (that's me - no respect) that ball was despatched to the boundary for 4 runs giving us a sniff of victory. Batting with Ricky Temata the lads put on another 6 runs off the bowling of Chris McEldowney. Then finally with 2 balls remaining and 3 runs required, Lauchie again sent the ball heading towards the boundary, but this one was going to pull up short. Normally batsmen are able to complete 2 runs in this event but not our lads they ran 3, securing victory and silencing what had become a very boisterous and confident Okato crowd.

Once again it was a difficult season for the local side sometimes struggling for numbers and only just hanging in the top 4. There was no way anybody other than my over confident self who gave us any chance of making the playoffs,

let alone taking out the championship. So I salute and thank very much the guys who helped us out over the season from the young teenagers, who will no doubt go onto bigger things, to the geriatric mob who should but can't retire. So into the closet for the off season goes the cricket gear and out comes the rugby gear and once the plastercast is off, look out! (I fractured a bone in my hand in the final, attempting what I, and apparently I alone, considered a very difficult catch. It wasn't the break that hurt so much, but the laughter that ensued).

Honours in the batting department this season go to Stuart Tinson with 480 runs and in the bowling department, Shane Thornhill with 18 wickets. Close behind, captain Greg Shearer and Chris Barron with 17 apiece (I did vow to defend my bowling cup and started well with a 5 wicket bag but lacked my usual consistency . . . I will be back!) Once again congratulations Oakura Cricket you've done our village proud.

Les (Whiskey) Nairn. Club Captain.

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GETTING WET!



Dylan the Water Dynamo

The National Surf Championships at Oakura recently highlighted the talents of yet another up and coming teenager Dylan Dunlop-Barrett. The 15 year old Francis Douglas student won a gold medal in the under 16 Surf Race and was placed 4th in the Under 19 Run Swim Run and 4th in the Under 19 Surf Team Race individually. Along with Greg Taylor they were 5th in the Tube Rescue. It was a tremendous effort for the 15 year old competing in his first surf lifesaving nationals. Big sister Ayla had an impressive medal cache as well. Last month Dylan competed in the National Age Group Swimming Championships in Wellington where he also received a gold medal in the 1500 metres freestyle race for 14 year old boys and a further 2nd placing in the 400 metres Individual Medley for 14 year old boys.

All this success for the youngster has come at huge personal commitment, hard work and perseverance. Training is a staggering eight sessions per week, 48 weeks of the year for

between 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours. That is five sessions beginning with a wake up call at 5am! Dylan says he likes to train and loves to compete and Dad Noot says in the four weeks Dylan has off the whole family nearly go 'stir crazy' and eventually Dylan has to go out for a run to burn off energy! Dylan enjoys the squad at Bell Blocks Aquabladz whom he trains with and they are all great mates though in the water they are all trying to beat each other. Sue Southgate is his coach and was Ayla's coach too. He also enjoys going to different places to compete



Dylan's hobby-collecting medals!

and is at the Youth and Open Swimming Championships in Christchurch in April. At these championships team selections are made for New Zealand teams so they are very important though Dylan's goal is a realistic one of just achieving personal bests or better and do good swim times. He will be competing in the 1500 metre and 400 metre Freestyle races. Four other swimmers are attending from Taranaki. Unsurprisingly Dylan doesn't have much spare time for many other activities or sports but manages to fit in a bit of music with the piano. Dad Noot is justifiably proud of his 'swimmy' family and just enjoys watching Dylan perform so well through his own motivation and skill plus it is a great way to spend time with your kids. Ayla is now at University in Auckland where she is doing a science degree and swimming at the Millenium Centre under the tutelage of the prestigious Jan Cameron. You can only be in Jan's squad if you are invited and the commitment to training is huge – 30 hours per week!

So it would be a more than reasonable guess that we will be hearing and seeing a lot more of the Dunlop-Barretts in the next few years and you can be sure every medal won will be because much hard work and dedication has gone before the win.

By Kim Ferens

News from the lifeguards

The lifeguards have hung up their tubes and put the flags away for the last time this summer. It always amazes me how fast the summer season goes by. Our busy calendar of events is almost over – the Club has only the National IRB Championships in early April to attend, then it's a well earned rest for the Club's competitors.

The Club would like to pay a huge thanks to all our supporters, sponsors and interested parties over the season. The local community support has been fantastic and has helped make the summer such a success for the Club. The big events the Club hosted this season were well supported by the community, especially the New Zealand Championships – what a superb weekend Oakura turned on for that.

Again NPOB Surf Club has national champions. Not surprisingly, our national rep Ayla Dunlop-Barrett dominated the women's swimming arena, but it was her younger (but bigger) brother Dylan who gave some really outstanding performances. Dylan won gold in the men's under-16 surf race and his ability ensured a place in the open men's taplyn relay, where he swam against and outperformed his more experienced competitors. The three magic days of the Nationals turned Oakura Beach into a cauldron of high level competition. The big bosses of New Zealand Surf Lifesaving were so impressed with Oakura that they have offered us National hosting rights again in 2009.

It's a great relief to report that the frontline patrolling lifeguards had a reasonably uneventful summer. Due to a high standard of proactive lifeguarding coupled with sensible beach goers, very few actual rescues were carried out.

Enjoy the winter and we'll see you again on the beach next summer.

Bruce MacDonald
Club Captain

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Oakura Plunket

The local Oakura Plunket Committee organises the regular coffee mornings on Fridays at the St James Church Hall on the main road in Oakura. These start at 9am and go until about 10.30am, with lots of toys for the children and a cuppa, cake and a chat for the parents. On fine days the children have really enjoyed the fully fenced outdoor play area with the slide, "ride-in" car and lots of ball play.

We all know that some of the best parenting ideas are exchanged between parents at coffee groups, playgroups and informal gatherings and that is why we enjoy bringing parents together on Fridays to share their parenting anecdotes and tips.

Next term we will also be having some speakers along to the group, including Sarah Mori from Sport Taranaki to discuss the Active Movement Program for under-5s – keep an eye on the Oakura Village notice boards for details.

For further information contact me on 752 7034.

Until next time

Catherine Keenan

Oakura Plunket Committee

Sue Henchman: Recognised for 25 years of service to Oakura Plunket.

At a committee meeting for the Oakura Branch of the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society held on 28th of March, Sue Henchman was presented with her Silver Medal Award for recognition of over 25 years of service to the Oakura Plunket branch.

It was with much pride and admiration that the President of the local branch, Claire White, presented Sue with her award. "Sue is such a wonderful lady, who has been a dedicated volunteer and she is very passionate about the cause of Plunket and what it represents", said Claire.

Sue has volunteered significant amounts of her personal time (and expense) to attend meetings and training, both locally and at a National level. Sue is currently a NZ Councillor for the Taranaki/Wanganui area of Plunket and has held this position since 2003. Previous to that she has held almost every position on the local Oakura Branch, as well as being Secretary, Vice-President and President of the New Plymouth Branch during the 1980's. Her wealth of knowledge and experience has been, and continues to be invaluable to all members of the Oakura committee both past and present.

When asked how she got involved in the Plunket cause, Sue said she had been asked to help out at a cake stall in the late 70's and it just continued from there. Sue lives locally with her husband Dave and has two children Brendon and Tracy.

Claire White summed up the local committees thoughts on Sue by saying "Sue is a real asset to this committee and our community and we are privileged to have her".



News from Kaitake Kindergarten

We welcome our new teacher, Eleanor Rumball. Eleanor is a local person with many years experience in Early Childhood, holding a Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood and a Bachelor of Education.

Since the Kindergarten opened, we have provided pre-school education for 730 children. Kindergarten offers children a safe place to play, grow and develop the skills needed to be independent learners. All areas of our Kindergarten have been carefully planned, with the children's learning and safety of paramount importance. The children learn important skills for life as they socialise and establish relationships with other children. Opportunities are provided for playing and learning together in large groups, small groups and as individuals. Through these interactions with others, the children learn to take turns, be cooperative, and respect and care for others.

The light and airy building is instantly welcoming for both children and parents.

We've been to Oakura School recently to take the children starting school soon for a visit and we have one planned for Coastal Taranaki School at the end of the term.

When our Kindergarten was opened in 1993, we had minimal equipment. Now after 12 years of operation, we have the best of equipment for the children to enjoy and require more storage space and work space for the committee. Therefore we are planning an additional room to accommodate this need.

If you would like to visit us, please feel free to pop in anytime with your toddlers and see what exciting learning opportunities there are here. If you'd like to discuss anything, Robyn Lander (Head Teacher) is pleased to answer your questions on 752 7016.

Oakura Playcentre

The children of Oakura Playcentre recently enjoyed a trip to a farm to see the animals.

Playcentre mother and Koru Vet, Petra Packheiser, kindly allowed a visit to her Koru Road property, where the children were delighted to be led around on the back of a gentle Icelandic horse named Sunna. The children were also able to interact with other horses, including two foals, and see a goat, sheep, cats, guinea pigs and goldfish.

Back at Playcentre, the children have followed up the visit at the farm by talking about animals and making a poster of their favourite animals by cutting pictures out of magazines.

The Oakura Playcentre in Donnelly Street is open Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon. New families are always welcome and the first three sessions are free. If you are interested in joining us at the Playcentre, feel welcome to just turn up to a session or for more information, phone Jamie Silk on 752 1000.



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OAKURA School news

Fun Run/Walk

Sunday 26 February saw yet another very successful annual Fun Run/Walk. The event was organised the Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) committee under the guidance of Linda McBreen. Linda put in a huge amount of time—I don't know where she gets her energy from! Well done Linda and FOOS members.

The day turned out fine and 482 people participated in the Fun Run (43% of Oakura School children entered). Over \$2,000 was raised this year. Thank you to all who donated prizes for this event. The major prize, a travel voucher of \$1,200, was won by Felicity Weston.

Room 8 won the class competition for the most entries in the Fun Run. Their prize was a very special lunchtime treat of pizza and chips, with chocolate muffins for dessert. The most exciting thing about the lunch was the theme – Harry Potter/Hogwarts style. The gallery was transformed into the Great Hall, again organised by Linda McBreen (amazing lady). The whole atmosphere was great – just like you were in the movie. I even became quite emotional about it all and the kids had a fabulous time. Well done again, Linda and helpers!



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Govett-Brewster April school holiday programme 2006

Phone 759 6060 to book. If you need to cancel a booking, phone the Gallery ASAP.

Parents please arrange lunchtime (12.30 – 1.30pm) supervision for 11am – 3pm sessions.

Sensory box

Tuesday 18 April, 10am – 12 noon or 1pm – 3pm

Age: 6 - 8 years - Cost: \$5

Create a sculpture designed to be smelt, touched, heard and seen.

Screen with a view

Wednesday 19 April, 11am – 3pm

Age: 7 - 10 years - Cost: \$5

Construct a screen then decorate with symbols that tell of a journey to another world.

Kit set shelter

Thursday 20 April, 11am – 3pm

Age: 9 - 13 years - Cost: \$5

Design and build a shelter big enough to hide in then add camouflage to match the imaginary world that it inhabits.

Want to discover art during school term?

Join the Govett-Brewster's Young Visionaries art club for children on Sundays. Call 759 6060 for details.

CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

Plunket coffee Mornings:

Friday mornings 9.00 - 10.30am at St James Church hall.

Mini Groovers:

Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall.
Gold coin donation.

St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over.
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over.
454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 7-8.30pm.
Thursdays at Oakura Hall 7.30-9pm.
Contact Sarsha 027 635 9494

Oakura Art Group

Tuesdays 9.45am to 12 noon, February to late November
St James Church Hall.
Contact Pat Smith on 752 7515.

Senior Citizens:

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

Thursdays 5pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club.
All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm
Next one - 21st April
Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street
Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.

*"Turn the telly on Tiddles," said Dad to the cat.
"Mee? How?" asked Tiddles.*



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3 Rahui View, Oakura

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Atkinson Rd section

1 flat acre with mountain views, privacy and only minutes from town. Plans for a 4 bedroom + study contemporary home available.



130 Wairau Rd, Oakura

Brand new, quality built, 4 bedroom home, ensuite, large living areas, sunny and sheltered deck options. Rural and sea views.



34A Old South Rd, Okato

2 acre section, wide range native fruit trees, mature bush, native birds. Central to Okato's facilities. Studio/workshop overlooking Kaihihi Stream. Proposed subdivision plan available for 4 sections.



118A Wairau Rd, Oakura

4 bdrm + ensuite, low maintenance brick home on private 2,200m² section.

17 Kinross Drive, NP

Large 4 bedroom + study home, 3 bathrooms, 2 living areas, private back yard.

204 Surrey Hill Rd, Oakura

Near New, 5 bdms + study on 6010m² of land. Call Anne for pricing.

48 Karina Rd

Character bungalow on popular Karina. Tucked away with lovely potager gdns. Cedar clad home with 3 bdms, lge sunny deck and dbl gge. Close to Mangorei School.

Properties Sold by Anne

251 Tukapa and 219 Tukapa - both on the same day!
8A Arden Place, Oakura - Sold at Auction.

Thought for the Month

"If you set about doing something, put your heart into it and enjoy it. That way, regardless of the outcome, it will be a positive experience."

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