

APRIL 2011

TOM oakura

Kayak Fishing Classic

*Michael Spurdle
shows off his Dad's
very fine kahawai.*

more on page 2

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editorial

Oakura Editorial

This month's TOM comes out to a different world and I ask myself if life will ever be the same following the devastation of Christchurch and Japan. As a child I practised earthquake drills at school but really didn't think there would be one as bad as we have recently witnessed. When my children were babies I was terrified that an earthquake might occur at night and I wouldn't know which kid to grab first. Now two of them live in Wellington and I can't grab either of them!

Something new on our screens has captured my attention — Jeremy. Signing for the deaf had not occurred before the Australian floods and I found it very distracting... but then along came Jeremy (signing for the earthquake) and I found myself watching Jeremy more than Bob or John. I believe he has his own mega-following on Facebook. At least he is good-looking and entertaining, and when I had heard for the millionth time about toilets, I found I could now do the sign for toilet! As an aside, I wonder how all the people without power found out about toilets!

I hope everyone enjoyed WOMAD — the annual pilgrimage for many locals for a weekend of solid entertainment has come and gone and the weather once again co-operated very nicely.

Kim



cover feature Kayak Fishing Classic

The competition was a huge hit with 140 entries, 1.74 tons of fish caught and weighed over two days and \$2000 raised for coastguard.

For the public the highlights were the weigh in; Egmont Seafood's filleting of the fish, and Sushi Ninji.

The biggest snapper was 10.78 kg and the biggest kingfish was 15kg.

Once again the village was pumping with people and this event goes from strength to strength and all it really needs now are some more local businesses to get behind it and make it a market day.

The best performing local was Martin Rook from Okato who claimed second in the snapper class.

For those people out and about over the weekend, the weather didn't play ball at all and lots of competitors got tipped out of their kayaks including Garry Harrison and the rest of his team, but it was fun and all competitors made it back safely with nothing worse than bruised egos.

On Sunday Tran Laurence took Al Rawlinson and me out to take photos of kayak fishing in action but the weather had put most off seemingly (and the fish and crayfish!) It was fun watching a few of the locals who had been fishing a few hundred metres off the shore coming back in through the breakers but as always happens when you have a camera handy – no one fell out!

Congratulations to everyone who helped organise another fine (wet!) local event.

Kim Ferens

TOM dates to remember for May issue
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TOM OAKURA is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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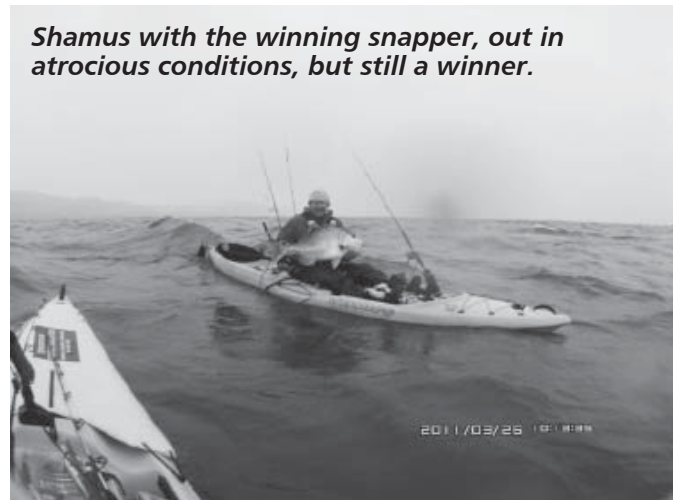
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Points of view expressed in contributed articles are not necessarily the views of TOM

Shamus with the winning snapper, out in atrocious conditions, but still a winner.



Shelly from Tauranga with the best fish caught by a lady and a second prize kingfish.

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Kaitake Community Board

Craig Jones of Visitor Solutions, the company carrying out the review in Oakura to ascertain future recreational needs, reports he was pleased with the ideas put forward by interested residents at the two recent workshops. All the gathered information will be analysed and added to the draft report for Council.

This month the Kaitake Community Board (KCB) will be working on our submission to the Annual Plan, which will identify as many projects as we can that could take place over the next three years in our area. We have already identified a number of issues that need addressing and we are seeking feedback from the community on any relevant issues. Please contact KCB members to let them know your ideas or issues. Submissions to the Annual Plan have opened and will close on 29 April. Hearings and decisions will be in June. Remember that individuals and other groups can make their own submissions to the Annual Plan too.

Thanks to a very generous donation from AWE the Oakura beachfront now has two additional showers for bathers to wash sand and salt off when exiting the beach, as well as a new picnic table and additional seat to the east of the Old Boys Surf Club. On behalf of the community, the Kaitake Community Board has passed on the appreciation of all beach users to AWE for these additional assets on our beachfront.

Don't forget to check out the KCB's Facebook page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold. From 18 February to 12 March the number of times people have viewed a newsfeed story on the KCB page has risen to 10,324 from 8,845 the previous month.

Well, that's it for this issue.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Mayor Harry

In recent weeks we have seen how everything can change in less than a minute. The images and stories coming from Christchurch after the February earthquake were heart-breaking, and now we have seen unbelievable video from Japan where the sea has washed away so many lives.

We obviously cannot stop earthquakes or tsunamis, but we can be prepared for them. Talk with your family about what you will do if a devastating quake hits the district, or even if another tornado comes through Oakura. Confirm with your loved ones how and when you will meet up during and after a disaster, what you will each need to have in your getaway kits and where to keep them, what you need to do for those with a disability or special requirement, and any plans for your pets or livestock.

The website www.getthru.org.nz has excellent checklists to help you plan for any disaster. Please look at these with your family so that you are ready if the worst happens here. As a council, we have business continuity plans in case there is an event that affects our ability to provide services. In particular, we are learning from Christchurch the importance of having back-up systems for key services, such as water supplies.

We have already done a lot of work in this regard, having duplicated some trunk mains and linking supply areas to more than one reservoir, and we will be continuing this programme over the next few years. We also have the aquifer bores in Oakura which not only supply that town's drinking water, but were designed to be a source of uncontaminated emergency water for the district in the event of an eruption or other emergency that affects our rivers and streams.

It is better to have our plans in place and not need them, than to be unprepared. Your family may not need to act on the plans that you make, but if an emergency does occur then you will feel better knowing that your loved ones know what to do.

Mayor Harry Duynhoven

Oakura 4 Square – home of a community defibrillator

If anyone in the community ever needs the services of a defibrillator, one is available to anyone in need seven days a week from the Oakura 4 Square.



Taranaki District Health Board has made the portable, automatic back pack unit available with the hope it may save the life of someone who has life threatening symptoms such as cardiac arrest.

The machine is easy to use with step by step instructions.

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Printers for the TOM Group Publications

Update from the Big Red Truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck,

As I sit here typing I am reflecting on 5 July 2007. It was the day that, at sunset, those of us living in Oakura experienced what it was like to live through a tornado. For some of us, even today, that eerie calm, warm feeling ignites a fear we would rather not experience.

BUT, I now look at the absolute devastation in Christchurch and can only imagine what those living there are going through on a daily basis. And then, the magnitude 9 quake in Sendai, Japan, followed by a 10m tsunami.

I am now seriously working on a rescue/evacuation kit for my family.

How many of us have read posts in the TOM before about having an escape plan, reading the information on the various websites, and done absolutely nothing about it?

Do you have 3 litres of water per family member for 3 days stored away in containers in case a civil emergency arises?

Do you have access to toilet paper, toiletries, dry non-perishable food, blankets or sleeping bags, face and dust masks, important documents? If you do, will they be accessible in an emergency?

I have recently been to the New Plymouth District Council. On their front desk they have packs made up about what to do in an emergency. It certainly makes for interesting reading.

Please take the time to make sure you and family are prepared should an emergency arise.

www.getthru.govt.nz www.trc.govt.nz

All the best and stay safe,

Mel Breeze (Secretary)



Oakura Library

It's New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards time again and the finalists have been announced for 2011. School age children are encouraged to vote for the Children's Choice award. Baa Baa Smart Sheep, Marmaduke Duck and The Moon and Farmer McPhee are proving to be very popular picture books. The Haystack and Hollie Chips are getting a lot of attention from the juniors. Teens are enjoying Guardian of the Dead and Fierce September. For these and all the other finalists come in to Oakura Library.

I was fortunate enough to attend the South Island Children's/Young Adult Librarian's Conference a few weeks ago. It was very poignant to meet Christchurch librarians. I was privileged to hear authors Gavin Bishop, Tania Roxborough, Kate de Goldi and Fifi Colston speak, teach and inspire.

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Anne Harvey and ordered her book Sons to Men: a Mother's Guide for our library. She offers some great advice on raising sons (she is a solo mum with four boys), however I found it useful not just for parenting (I have two teen daughters) but for personal growth.

We will be holding our Easter-themed holiday programme on Wednesday 20 April from 10-11am. Registration essential.

We will be closed Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. We will reopen at 9 am on Tuesday morning.

Enjoy your Easter Holidays,

Karen and Vincenza

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Picking Up the Pieces

It is hard to pick up a newspaper or watch television lately and not be dismayed and saddened at the death and destruction that we have witnessed. We've seen the Pike River Mine disaster, flooding in Australia, the earthquakes in Christchurch and now the quake-tsunami disaster in Japan.

The immediacy of television gives us front row seats of disasters, hurricanes, cyclones, unseasonal cold temperatures and storms, searing heat and earthquakes.

But what of the aftermath — do we ever get to see the recovery and restoration that has been carried out in order to allow people to get on with their lives? Unless the media or an individual journalist re-focuses on a disaster, the plight of those who have lived through the destruction disappears from view. Something or someone in the media takes our attention and we move on to the next story. However, New Zealand being a smaller nation, many of us have family or friends close to some of these horrific events. This keeps us connected to their plight. Personally I had two brothers and an uncle who were all only metres from destruction when the February quake struck Christchurch. I am very thankful their lives were spared and it makes me think even more about those people who lost their lives.

In the matter of Christchurch and its devastation, the rest of the country cannot let it recede from view. The work to be done is too overwhelming to be left to the Canterbury region, which is why it was designated as a national emergency.

We recently moved from rescue to recovery and soon the focus will be on rebuilding. However, for those who have suffered loss of family or friends, or home, or employment, moving forward will be a slow process as they bear the grief of those losses. This is where being a New Zealander needs to count. In times of tragedy we all help carry the load in whatever way we can. For many, it will mean making a financial donation.

On Friday, 18 March we held a national memorial service at Christchurch to remember those lost in the earthquake and to support those who remain. The National-led Government is working hard so that support is making a real difference for people in Christchurch. Financial assistance in the form of Civil Defence payments and the Earthquake Support package remain available to anyone in need. The Government's assistance package for employers and

Jonathan Young

MP for New Plymouth




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workers has paid out \$38million to 5,000 employers to cover 26,300 staff. A further 5,200 sole traders have taken it up and 2,700 individual employees have taken up Job Loss Cover.

Legislation passed after the first earthquake in September 2010 made it easier to get schools up and running with an Order in Council allowing fast action and more flexibility around school hours. A further eight Orders in Council under the same legislation made changes to the Resource Management Act to streamline the resource consent process for land remediation works, cutting the red tape to enable homes to be rebuilt more quickly so families can get on with their lives. This is only a start. The Government is committed to rebuilding Christchurch. It is going to be a long and complex task and, with the efforts of all New Zealanders, we will get there.

It is at times such as this that we must acknowledge the amazing fundraising efforts of so many individuals and organisations both here and overseas who continue to come up with innovative ways of raising money for the Christchurch appeal. Cantabrian employees, businesses, students and homeowners will appreciate your continued support.

Jonathan Young, MP



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Govett Quilliam

My name is Margaret Joyce and I am a local dairy farmer on Hurford Road, New Plymouth. I am married with five children. I also work as a registered legal executive/rural consultant for Govett Quilliam, New Plymouth and specialise in rural matters affecting farmers. You can contact us on 0508-RURAL LAW (0508-787-255) or e-mail me at Margaret.Joyce@gqlaw.co.nz.



Govett Quilliam has a strong rural team which specialises in all aspects of rural property work including, but not limited to, family trusts, subdivision, farm succession, farm employment and wills.

One of the most popular topics for farmers today is health and safety. Most farmers these days employ staff and it is important to know your obligations under the Health and Safety Act. I cannot begin to cover all aspects of health and safety in this article and I would encourage those of you who do have queries to contact us at Govett Quilliam. There are some Government websites that can give you further information: www.workinfo.govt.nz and www.osh.dol.govt.nz.

The main principles of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 impose duties on a wide range of working relationships in nearly all places of work. The Act applies to:

- employers, i.e. farm owners
- persons who control places of work
- persons who sell or supply plant for use in places of work
- self-employed people
- principals to contracts
- employees
- volunteers
- people receiving on-the-job training or gaining work experience.

Who is Responsible for Health and Safety?

The primary duty is on the person in control of a place of work including:

- the farm owner
- managers
- contractors
- sub-contractors.

There is a general duty to take all practical steps to ensure the safety of employees while at work.

What is the Meaning of all Practical Steps?

All practical steps is a key concept in the Act and describes the standards a person must meet when carrying out duties under the Act. A step is practicable if it is reasonably capable of being done. Reasonably means that you do not have to do everything humanly possible, you only have to do what a reasonable person would do in this situation.

Stress and Fatigue

What is stress? OSH defines stress as the result of the interaction between a person and their working environment. It is the awareness of not being able to cope with the demands of work, with an associated negative emotional stress.

An employer is required to take all practical steps to identify and manage work-related stress. Stress can be caused, for example, by unrealistic deadlines, long work hours, onerous work conditions or poor interpersonal relationships at the place of work.

Employers and farm owners can only combat stress if the employer is reasonably aware of it. Employees need to have the opportunity to report stresses, and an employer should respond if they find that an employee is suffering from stress. There is a wide range of steps that can be taken by an employer in this instance.

Employee's Responsibility

Employees can expect their employer to provide a healthy and safe work place but they also have to play a part in making sure they stay healthy and safe. Employees have a duty:

- not to endanger themselves or others
- not to interfere with an accident scene
- to comply with notices
- to report stress.

Enforcement Against You

The enforcement of the Act is usually by OSH. Generally speaking, OSH will not prosecute unless an injury or damage has resulted from a breach of the Act, or if you have ignored warnings and/or notices issued by OSH. It has recently become possible for a person to privately prosecute for a breach of the Act. It is expected claims by employees may rise under this heading, where there is a breakdown in the employment relationship.

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact our rural team.

Visit the rural page on our website at www.thelawyers.co.nz, answer 10 quick questions in our rural survey and be in to win a \$100 restaurant voucher. A new winner is drawn every two months.



To discuss any rural issues you may have call our Rural Team free on



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Kaitake Golf Club News

The 2011 golfing season is well underway and the competitions are heating up. We have been fortunate with the long fine summer days and good course conditions allowing many to get out on the fairways.

The Interclub Pennant competition for all sections has started with varying success. The Beachcombers Tournament in January was once again a huge success with over 100 participants. This has become a regular event, looked forward to by club members and visitors to Oakura.

Another feature of summer golf has been the regular twilight competition on a Tuesday evening, teeing off from 3–6pm. This is a good opportunity for regular golfers to snatch an extra 9 holes after work, or for those non-golfers to try out the game of golf. Thank you to Marie Benton and Mike Jans for volunteering their time to make this event such a success.

Kaitake Weekend Women

Kaitake Weekend Women would like to acknowledge Vivian Pharmacy for their generous sponsorship towards their pennant shirts. Already we have received very complimentary remarks from other golfers and they are proving to be cool to wear in this hot sun.

The first round of the Weekend Women's pennants was held at the Westown Golf Club. While the Kaitake women looked very smart in their new shirts, Manukorihi proved to be the better team on the day. The inclement weather forced the second round to be postponed and the next game will be against Patea at Patea.

We have welcomed new players to both the midweek and weekend sections this year but we would like to see more. If you are interested in joining or would like to have a game to view the course, feel free to call Raewyn Hawker on 06-752 7665 during office hours, Andrea Jarrold on 06-751 4234 or 027-358 7001, or Maureen Neilson on 06-757 8770.

Men's Division

The men are well into their competitions for the season and already winners are emerging.

Congratulations go to Arthur Baker, who won the 2011 Summer Cup. Scott Neale won the Consolation Plate after playing down the nineteenth. Johnny Simpson won the Keenan Dick Trophy. Well done, guys.

President's Cup qualifying is coming up with four rounds to be completed in April. The Kaitake Men's Pennant teams have played three of their matches. Kaitake 1 managed one win and two losses while Kaitake 2 has had two wins and one loss.

As you can see, golf at Kaitake is going well and I look forward to bringing you more news next month.

Andrea Jarrold



The Weekend Women's Pennants in their new shirts.

Front row left to right - Janice farrant, Kris White, Mary Pettigrew, Pauline Gray. Back row left to right - Andrea Jarrold, June Neale, Sheryl Richardson.

Kaitake Golf Club



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Oakura Boardriders Club

Some very good decisions were made over Taranaki Anniversary Weekend when our club championships were held. The surf on Friday, 12 March was more of a ripple than a wave and the forecast for swell wasn't in our favour. However the call was made on Saturday morning to run the junior events at Oakura Beach, beginning at lunchtime. It proved to be a wise decision as the surf improved and was ideal for our young competitors.

There was a great turnout of keen bodyboarders and surfers, especially with our Under-10 year old boy competitors. The lessons these children have been taking and the many hours some of them spend in the water certainly paid off as they showed us their surfing skills. While bodyboarding, they were told to perform for the judges with a variety of manoeuvres. The one that seemed to get the big points was standing up on the board with a big grin on your face!

Although the surf hardly looked contestable again on Sunday morning for the senior divisions, the call was made for the back of Stent. This was thanks to Paul Lobb scouting the coast in the early hours of the morning. So another excellent decision was made and although all the competitors would have liked bigger surf it was good enough. Unfortunately I was unable to be there as I had to keep close to the phone and Internet as Keith and I waited for news of our son's departure from Japan. I was told, however, that all went well, although there were fewer competitors than in previous years. It was exciting for young Olivia Holt who participated in her first surf contest down the coast. A first time also for Nicola Davies, who kept Jackie Keenan company in the Open Women's contest. Jackie went on to make club history by winning the male-dominated Masters event, and once again Tyler Anderson was the winner of the Open Men's final.

The prizegiving was, as every year, very well attended and is a real celebration of all that is good about our club. We had a wonderful variety and abundance of prizes and it is fitting that I acknowledge these very generous sponsors: John and Karen Lovell of O&E, Pam and Gavin Clegg of Cleggs, Marlies and Steve Butland of Oakura Four Square, Vertigo, Tom Brankin, Oakura Beach Camp, BC Surf Shack, Richard Landers Leadlight, Hareb Deken Motors, Oakura Medical Centre/Skin Care, Ziji Day Spa, The Crafty Fox, Oakura Pharmacy, Ben Plummer of GPS Solutions, Butlers Bottle Shop, Oakura Golf Club and Paul Lobb.

Philippa Butt




Tyler Anderson, winner of the Men's Open.

Tom Butland, U10 champion.



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Top Print – from Concept to Creation



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

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

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

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

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

Ink is in the blood

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

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

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

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

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



Natalie in control of the digital production.



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

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

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

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

Quality is second to none



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



Gloria at the collating machine . . .

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

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

Dicing, slicing and putting it all together

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

Then there's the menagerie!

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

By Kim Ferens



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



Gardening

TOM Garden of the Month — Veggies Galore

You don't need a large area of land to enjoy gardening, or to keep yourself (and others!) supplied with wholesome organic veggies. Jan and Al Rawlinson have recently moved from their home on Wairau Road to live above the offices at the Oakura Beach Holiday Park. It's an easy journey to work, they joke.

The offices have a small garden at the back and it's here that Jan has worked her magic. Al says it's all been Jan's hard work. In July last year the Council set to work retaining the Waimoku Stream and constructing the new shed at the back of the offices. Jan was then able to get stuck in! With 14 cubic metres of soil and eucalyptus retaining timbers the veggie plot began to evolve. A good veggie mix soil, sheep manure and the odd bit of blood and bone and the beds were ready to be planted up.

I cannot believe the variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs displayed. Jan has grown asparagus (from seed) which are driving high — so many have taken that Jan says she will have to thin them out in a few weeks and cover them with pea straw for the winter. There's Italian black kale, corn, broad beans, fennel, aubergines, butternut squashes, courgettes, capsicums, potatoes, Japanese turnips and even elephant garlic, to name just a few! "It's an amazing little sun trap and the plants just love it," says Jan.

Jan doesn't spray for aphids, trying to keep it as organic as possible. I am amazed that they all grow so well close to the sea. The only thing that has really suffered, Jan explains, are the tomatoes and cucumbers — although as I look around there is an abundance of tomatoes on every plant!

So that's the vegetables, but then I see there are pots of

raspberry plants, citrus trees (limes and lemons) and herbs (a bay tree, basil, rosemary, mint, sage and thyme). Jan loves to have fresh produce to hand and has even had a go at making her own cheese, something she would like to try again soon.

It's not just vegetables and fruit that Jan has a passion for, she loves smelly white flowers! Brugmansia, brunfelsia and stephanotis floribunda, which she first saw in the hot house in Kew Gardens, London. Here, of course, the climate is so different she is able to grow them outside in her garden.

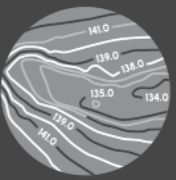
As we talk, behind me there is a big cardboard box. "That's my greenhouse," Jan explains, with a big smile on her face! She can't wait to get stuck in..!

Thanks, Jan and Al and Cleo (their "miniature" Great Dane, says Jan), for a lovely morning and thanks for the seeds. I will let you know how I get on!

Thanks to Fairfield Garden Centre Jan is the recipient of a \$12 gardening voucher.

By Rosie Moyes





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Fleas

This year is an especially bad year for fleas, resulting in almost daily discussions with clients, often concerned that the flea control products they are using are not working. This is extremely unlikely if you are using proven products such as Frontline or Advocate.

To understand apparent breakdowns in flea control it is important to understand the flea lifecycle — a topic too complex to cover fully in this short space but some points to note are:

- The adult fleas you see on your cats and dogs are only 5% of the flea population — the rest are in the environment waiting for the host to pass by.
- ALL cats and dogs on your property need to be treated ALL YEAR ROUND to help prevent environmental build-ups.
- When pets go out of your house it is possible for them to pick up fleas in the environment — if a suitable flea product has been used these fleas will die after being on the pet for a short time and any eggs laid by these fleas will not be able to hatch.

If you have been using a product for flea control and are having issues with fleas on your pet, feel free to come and talk to one of the staff members at Okato Veterinary Clinic.

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Gardening with Rosemary Herb April Checklist

Vegetables

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

Enjoy the rich supply from the garden this season.

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.

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Oakura School's 2011 Head Pupils



On Wednesday, 2 March Angus White, Liam McBreen, Grace Powell and Charlotte Procter were announced as the head pupils of Oakura School for 2011. In this role they will represent our school and become role models for students of all ages. Fourteen students applied for this position by performing a speech and filling in an application form. Although only four students prevailed, the judging was extremely hard as each applicant was equally fit for the job.

Head Pupils' Views

Liam McBreen: "I think it's a good way to give back to the school, learn life skills and show my responsibility. I am looking forward to leading this school and hope I will inspire younger students to never give up and always do their best."

Angus White: "I'm very happy that I got assigned the leadership role of head pupil, as I think it will be a great opportunity to give back to the school and learn new skills. I look forward to the challenges and experiences that come with this role."

Charlotte Procter: "I am very happy at getting the role of head pupil and am ready to take on the responsibilities and challenges awaiting me. I'm looking forward to the leadership roles that I will have this year."

Grace Powell: "I am both surprised and grateful for being privileged with this role. I can't wait to give back to the school for the seven years of caring it's given me and can't wait to run school assemblies, events and represent our school." She says applying was hard but she's glad she did it.

Later in the year the head pupils and applicants will be attending a Young Leaders Conference, and the head pupils will also be going to Palmerston North later on in the year. These students are already leading our assemblies and planning many great events for the upcoming year.

We all feel lucky to have leaders that will do us proud in embracing the motto "Oakura School, learning to think, learning to care."

George Tvrdeich (12 years) and Paige Burrows (12 years)

Oakura School Activity Week - Paritutu Traverse

On 28 February 2011, Room 11 set out to Paritutu Rock. Everyone put on their harnesses and tramped down the muddy track ready to begin. Then camouflaged in the rocks we spotted a seal, its coat shining in the sun. We carefully walked past not wanting to disturb it.

We jumped and leaped over gaps while the sea tried to grab our feet. We finally got to the part where we had to put clips onto the red rope circling Paritutu. People slowly edged across the rock ledge while others nervously waited for their go. The sea pushed and pulled, it was crashing below us. Everyone was finally across. Knowing now that this was a lot harder than it looked, everyone had a drink and prepared for more hard work.

Coming to the end we all gathered around and drank what was left of our water supply. By the time we finished there was a red rope spread across the gap between our rock and the one opposite us. Horror struck when we realised that we would be zip lining across this. We clambered across to the other side. A couple of the daredevils cautiously stepped forward to go across the zip line. After everyone had gone across, we made our way back to the carpark, eager for some lunch.

Activity Week was a great opportunity to push our limits and I can't wait for another week like that one.

Lhasa Cook (11 years)

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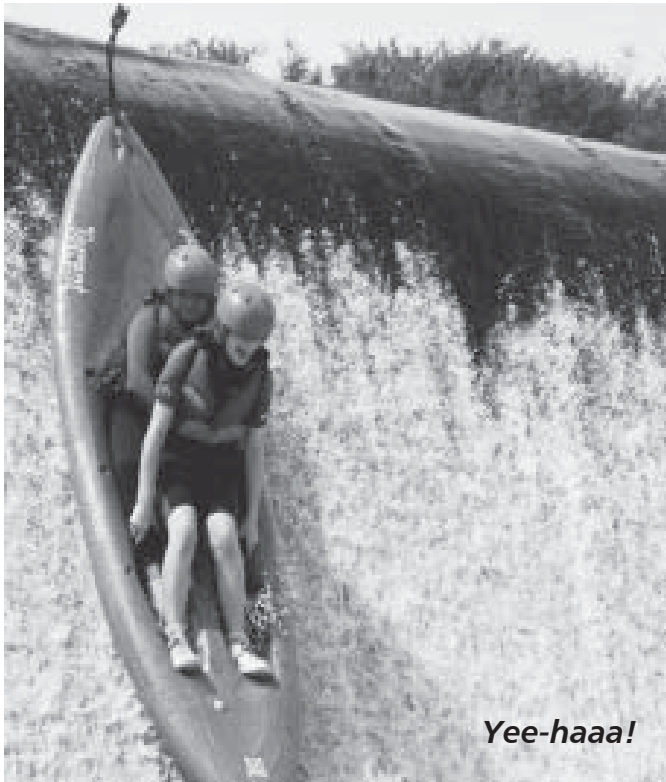
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Dam dropping

Splash! "W-wow that is c-cold!" We were by a small river just past Normanby, on the first of March 2011. I had only just jumped in the water and already felt like a block of ice. I started my slow doggie paddle over to the other side. On the way there I risked a quick glance down the 9m slide and started to have second thoughts.

When it was my turn I thought the kayak was safest. So there I was at the top of the slide looking down at the soft, churning water below with frightened eyes. All of a sudden the instructor threw me off and sent me skimming down, it felt like my stomach was in my chest. Wind rushed past my face and the smell of cow poo became very apparent. I hit the bottom and twisted my body as the kayak escaped from under my legs. I was dumped in the water once more but I came up with a huge grin on my face. After a lot of struggling, slipping and heaving of a heavy kayak (that seemed like lead), being plunged into ice cold water and finally conquering the sheer steep cliff, I was bouncing to go again.

The next time I was on a kayak with another friend, I felt as calm as a cucumber and this time looked at the water as if it was smooth welcoming hands urging me to come



Yee-haaa!

down a second time. My friend and I raced down and collided with the water with a great big slap, which quickly embraced us in a raw and frosty cold hug. We hurriedly scrambled over to the rocky bank and lugged and hauled up for another time.

After getting more and more impatient and cold, I finally got a turn on a boogie board. Adrenaline pumped through my body and cold breaths rattled my lungs. The instructor forced me up to the edge of the dam and I looked around. I felt like I could rule everything; the fresh green paddocks, the quiet road and the stretching river. But I didn't get long to feel like an emperor, because I was whooshing down like a comet. I skidded onto the water, floated over to the side and bounded up the muddy steps. I didn't bother to wait in a line and the instructor sent me down without any fuss again. I swiftly found myself down at the bottom once more.

I continued like this until it was time to go. We pushed all of the kayaks and boards back into the water, swam them over to a different grassy bank and lugged them up again to finally finish our day. My body was shivering and my bones were frozen solid. My legs were blue and my toes were cramped. I felt battered and beaten. I LOVED IT!!!

Josh Van Bergen (12 years)

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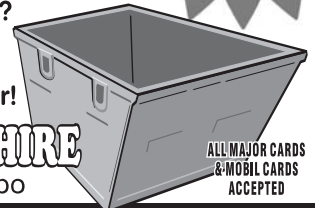
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omata school news

Coming Events

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| <i>April</i> | 14 | Playgroup 9–11 am. |
| | 15 | Term ends. |
| <i>May</i> | 2 | Term 3 begins. |
| | 3–9 | Life Education Truck. |
| | 4 | Year 1 and 2 Ball Skills at Oakura. |
| | 11 | Year 2 and 3 Ball Skills at Oakura. |
| | 12 | Rotary Reading begins. |
| | | Playgroup 9–11 am. |

Nga Manu

The first rich topic for the year is about our birdlife, particularly that inhabiting our native bush and local area. The study will range across ornithology including species, anatomy, behaviour, habitat and classification, depending on the age and interests of the students. We are so fortunate that the school has retained the native bush area and that our predecessors recognised the importance of preserving this for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Assemblies

Friday assemblies, which are organised and presented by our Year 7 and 8 students, are the window to our school for many parents and a celebration of learning for the students and teachers. If you want to get a glimpse of the type of learning that is happening and the progress of students as they move through the school, then come along sometime. It is always a surprise and delight to listen as the rostered two classes share something from their classroom, whether it be writing, maths, art, science, PE, etc.

Certificates are presented to students from those classes for great learning and the teachers explain exactly what the child has been doing to deserve acknowledgement. Sports awards are a highlight when Stuart announces the players of the day and we celebrate achievements made by our students in the areas of arts, culture and sport.

Our school assemblies happen every Friday at 9am and go for about 30–40 minutes.

Regards

Karen Brisco



Viv Norris gives out welcome certificates to their newest students.

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Arthouse Cinema

Along with our usual schedule packed with great Arthouse movies, this month we bring you some special events! Read on for more from the Met Opera Series, National Theatre Live and our new School Holiday Movie Programme (gold coin donation!).

Arthouse Cinema and Seasons/Cheapskates are amped to bring you the 2nd Taranaki Surf Film Festival, 22 April–1 May 2011. The Festival includes all the latest award-winning surf movies:

The Westsiders

Follow the rise and fall of The Westsiders surf tribe through the eyes of three best friends from the original 'Surf City': Santa Cruz, California. They live through shattered homes, drug addiction, other psychological issues and hard-core localism to achieve their dream of becoming professional surfers before the age of 24.

Stoked and Broke

Making their own boards, bamboo rickshaws, solar cookers and hobo stoves, surfers Ryan Burch and Cyrus Sutton set off on a 30 mile, eight day walk through San Diego, CA. But what begins as a guide to taking a minimalist surfing journey quickly becomes an examination of freedom vs alienation.

School Holidays Environmental Movies

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

Another Scheduled Highlight - Queen of the Sun

Documentary exploring the current global honeybee crisis. Bees are disappearing en masse with no clear single explanation. Since 2006 commercial beekeepers have been reporting losses of an average of 30% of their colonies (and up to 90%). Scientists call this Colony Collapse Disorder. Told through the stories and opinions of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers from around the world, the film investigates the history of beekeeping, how our historic relationship with bees has been lost and the dire implications of the crisis.

Other movies: *Certified Copy*, *Desert Flower*, *Gainsbourg*, *In a Better World*, *Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, *Fair Game*, *Get Low*, *Blue Valentine*, *Wagner and Me*.

Please visit www.arthousecinema.co.nz for our full programme and movie trailers, or pick up a schedule from the Cinema or your favourite café!



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TOM Baby

Wil Isaac McQuaig

Welcome to Wil Isaac McQuaig born 28 January 2011. Wil has two big sisters, Taylah (aged 10) and Kate (aged 5), and a big brother Liam (aged 3). Wil is pictured here fast asleep



— it's obviously very tiring work being a little brother! Congratulations to Mel and Rod, what a lovely family you have.

By Rosie Moyes

TOM baby

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Seed Organics: Legumes/Pulses

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Some people have difficulty digesting legumes. We can improve digestibility by soaking in water for 12 hours or overnight, in 4 parts water to 1 part legume, as a general rule before cooking. Adding a small amount of vinegar during the last half hour can prevent problems with gas. Cook legumes with fennel and cumin and add salt, miso or tamari near the end of cooking. Adzuki beans, lentils, mung beans and peas digest most easily.

Seed Organics has a range of legumes and pulses and a fantastic wholefoods handbook for sale packed full of recipe ideas and the health benefits of the humble bean and other wholefoods. Only \$10.



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GENERAL life issues, including anxiety, depression, emotional issues, illness. Safe, confidential, effective. Meegan Care Dip. Psychosynthesis Counselling. Further information contact Meegan, info@meegancare.co.nz Phone 752 4826, www.meegancare.co.nz

LOST

BLUE diving Fin – (brand Blue Cressy) at Tapuae on 17 March. Contact Simon 021 061 1554 if you can help.

NUMEROLOGY READINGS

PLUS bush flower essences. Consultations provided for the young and the old. Aileen 06-752 4494 or 027 524 4007.

classifieds

OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8.00pm. Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd. Ph 752 7816.

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

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

Mini Groovers

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Ph Chip, 027 6214999 or 752 1004.

Oakura Tennis Club

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday 9am-2pm | Ladies' Midweek competition |
| Tuesday 5.30-7pm | Club night. |
| Wednesday 3-6pm | Juniors' private coaching. |
| Thursday 5.30-7.30pm | A-grade players' practice. |
| Friday 9am-12noon | Social Women's Tennis (members/non-members). |
| Friday 4.30-6pm | Junior competition. |
| Saturday 10am-4pm | Soffe Cup and A grade comp. |
| Sunday 3-5pm | Club day (adults and children welcome for a hit). |

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon. Visitors welcome by appointment. Ring Bridget on 06-752 7223

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes. 11.00am (please bring a coffee). Contact 027 829 147 or 027 226 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406, to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

Senior Citizens

Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome. Phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St John's, Omata

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact Brian Goodhue, the EI Presidente 752 1290, email podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

No classes on Saturday and Keith Plummer is taking Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9pm (same time). At Oakura Hall, beginners are welcome. Ph 752 7050.

Ph 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing



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BUSES DEPART
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