

NUTS ABOUT NUTS

Taranaki is well known as the energy province of New Zealand. Oakura is about to be launched into the limelight with an energy discovery of its own. Anne Stembridge went to investigate.

Oakura orchardists Bill and Christine Charteris are nuts about nuts - that is, macadamia nuts.

This passion has led to the decision to produce them commercially. It has meant spending the last twenty years researching and developing their land, despite setbacks along the way, to reach the stage they are at today.

Nestled under the Kaitaki Ranges on Surrey Hill Road three and a half kilometres from Oakura is their 20 hectare property, consisting of 10 hectares of macadamia orchard set alongside native bush and forestry. Behind this peaceful façade is a hive of activity that puts most of us to shame.

The self-confessed nut enthusiasts are busy harvesting and processing this year's crop of macadamia nuts. Their plantation of about 3,400 trees is starting to bear enough fruit to enable them to become viable. It's been a long hard haul but the Charteris' have the conviction to see their dream come true.

They decided to diversify from dairy farming to horticulture in the 1980s and chose macadamias after noticing native Rewa-rewa trees, which are closely related, growing in abundance on their property. Initial trials with South African varieties confirmed that macadamia trees would grow. At this stage, because the trees set few nuts, they went into kiwifruit production.

Their first export crop was devastated by Cyclone Bola in 1988. "It blew away overnight," remembers Christine, which set them back about four years. The pain of that night still re-



mains but both are philosophical about the event. "At that point we either quit and got out of horticulture or made a commitment to restore the property," says Christine. With help from family and volunteers they set about putting the destruction wreaked by the storm behind them and restored the kiwifruit orchard. Then a slump in the price of kiwifruit was instrumental in the decision to return to their original idea of producing macadamias. It was after the 91-92 season when "the chainsaws came out and we demolished all the kiwifruit orchard," says Bill.

Prior to this they travelled throughout New Zealand and overseas looking for suitable varieties, which they grafted

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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.

THE TEAM

Catherine Jones, ph 06 751 3305

Tracey Lusk, ph 06 752 7875

Belinda Tran-Lawrence, Sub-Editor

Kim Ferens, Features, ph 06 751 1519

Sandra Lewis, Advertising, ph 06 751 0177

25 Jans Terrace, Oakura

oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz

www.tompapers.com

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Hi Folks,

Well we certainly live in exciting times!

So many wonderful things are happening. Projects big and small throughout the District ensure that this place we are all so fortunate to call home continues to get even better. The one common thread that runs through all the projects and initiatives is the local commitment and passion that drives them.

It's probably the main thing that differentiates us from other communities around the world. People are prepared to work together to make a difference.

As Mayor, I've certainly appreciated that input!

I've said many times, that when Rosemary and I sit down with friends over a bottle of wine, or a pot of tea - by the time the wine is finished, or the tea is drunk, we've collectively solved all the problems of the world!

The trick is getting all those ideas from our lounges, so we can work together to make them a reality.

If you have an idea, or a project you think council could help to make happen, or if you think I may be of help, please give me a call (ph. 7596060).

I hope to hear from you soon.

Keep the passion!

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Peter Tennent,
Mayor

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



After spending hours and hours at meetings last month, things have been a little quieter recently, so I have been able to catch up on a lot of things that have been piling up.

The TOUR OF IMPERMANANCE exhibition at Puke Ariki is worth going to have a look at; especially if you are familiar with the coastline north of New Plymouth. It is a display of Pat Greenfield's wonderful photos of the Tongaporutu area.

Planning for this year's New Year Rave is well under way. It will be an alcohol free evening of music for 14-18 year olds, held in Shearer Reserve. This is the third year this event has been on. We are extremely lucky to have secured \$5,000 funding from the NPDC, this funding will be used mainly to cover security and the music. DJ Kerry does a wonderful job with music to suit the age group and some fantastic lighting. All up, by the time he arrives, sets up and leaves he is on the job for 8-10 hours. One of the hardest things about this event is getting some help from one or two parents. Of course, traditionally New Year is a time to celebrate, but if your children are there, you could be too. NZ Police fully support this event, it has helped immensely with the stream of youth who flock to Oakura and have nowhere to go. Statistics of admissions to A&E are nil, as are arrests, since this event has been running. If you would like to help please give Chris Gruys or myself a call. Support your children.

Work has started on the extensions to the cemetery. Some sensor tests were done on an area just to the right of the gate and in this area are four unmarked graves. Identification of these sites will be made and they will be marked as "unknown". Besides the 20 new burial sites, an area has been set aside for cremations. Also, there will be a new entrance way, a seat, rubbish tin and water supply.

Early in August was Conservation Week. The theme was "Bring the Tui to Town" and DOC used Matekai Park as one of their study sights. Results from this study will be used for people to learn which trees are good winter food for Tui.

Meetings I have attended this month are; the opening of the Tour Of Impermanance, brainstorming for the Rave, a policy meeting, submissions on the Brothel Bylaw and a hearing on trees. I will also be helping the Women's Refuge with their Annual Appeal.

Until next month TAKE CARE.

Regards, Pam Street

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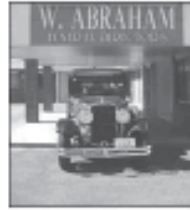
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Omata Residents to be Hooked into City Water Supply

A half-million dollar project to improve the quality of water in Omata will be completed in early August, with the commissioning of the new pipeline.

In January, work began in laying two kilometres of pipeline from Barrett Rd to Omata to supply residents and Omata School with reticulated water.

New Plymouth District Council manager water and wastes, Brent Manning, says the pipeline has been designed to meet an expected increased demand in coming years.

"We expect the number of residents in and around Omata to grow year by year, and this new system has been designed with that in mind.

"Currently the residents use water tanks and the school draws water from a bore. Now they'll have the option of linking to a reticulated water system and receiving a supply that is guaranteed to meet the New Zealand water quality standards.

"In addition, the area will have a supply that can provide adequate fire protection, so the safety of residents has been improved with the commissioning of this pipeline," says Mr Manning.

The project is the result of community consultation and public submissions, as part of the development of the 2003/04 Annual Plan.

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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth



Greetings to all readers of TOM.

Last month I was delighted to be given another responsibility within the Government, that of Minister for Road Safety. As many of you know, this is an area that I am passionate about. While I have long been teased by my colleagues for being a 'petrol head' for my love of classic cars and most things mechanical, I have always had a keen awareness of road safety.

Oakura was sadly the location where one of Taranaki's best loved sons met his untimely demise last month, in utterly atrocious weather, on a piece of highway that many people pass through without incident every day.

Ironically, Piripi had made a huge contribution to road safety and our children over the years in his capacity as school road safety officer for the Police and was greatly respected by all he had contact with.

While the investigation into this tragedy is not yet complete, it is a timely reminder that all drivers must adjust their driving when faced with changes in the weather.

Secondary to this, it is becoming apparent that a large number of folk who purchase 4WD vehicles do not take heed of the fact that some extra driving principles come into play when in charge of these vehicles. In the two weeks before I wrote this column, six people have died and eight hospitalized from just three 4WD crashes. It is imperative to realise that how you have driven in all your driving career in a vehicle that is not designed for off road cannot always be applied when driving a 4WD. I personally urge all folk who have purchased a 4WD for their every day use to take a course on how to handle them.

I have recently taken the initiative to write to 4WD clubs nationwide to suggest that they offer such training, perhaps a one day course for new 4WD drivers.

No one wants to be involved in a crash while going about their every day business and it is each driver's personal responsibility to ensure that they drive to the road and weather conditions and obey the road rules, so that we are all safer out there.

Thank you for taking the time to read this column. Enjoy the spring weather!


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NUTS ABOUT NUTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

onto their existing trees with promising results. At this stage, with the help of their four children, Bill and Christine started a nursery to produce rootstock in readiness to plant out. They trialled over 20 different varieties and then settled on five main varieties, particularly suited to the Taranaki weather conditions, that did not need spraying and could be harvested mechanically.



The macadamia orchard was planted, and they have been perfecting the system ever since. "We have been looking to produce optimum fruit that are high in oil and of high quality." Because they have planted varieties that set nuts at different times they are able to spread the harvest over a period of months so they can guarantee fresh product. Although less than a third of the trees are producing in any great quantity the Charteris' have begun processing the nuts in their well equipped and modern processing facility. Bill says it is still a very young orchard but they are at

the point where they can establish the brand and grow the business. As the trees mature and tonnage increases new options will open up. Plans are underway to utilize all parts of the nut, which comprises of three parts.

Presently they produce 100gm packs, three pack gift bags, and macadamia spread. They are part of the upcoming Wedding Fair at Burgess House in August. Local chefs are supplied with sliced, shaved, natural and roasted macadamias. Distinctive Taranaki corporate gift packs and conference gifts are next. They plan to take tours during this year's rhododendron festival and during summer by appointment.

Bill and Christine say the health benefits of macadamias are enormous. Studies have shown that the nut is high in monosaturated fat, can help lower cholesterol, contains antioxidants and, because of their anti-inflammatory qualities, can help arthritis and heart disease.




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PUKEKO Lady

One of man's earliest forms of art evolved as long as 30,000 years ago when some of our Stone Age ancestor's discovered that baking clay will make it into a permanent object. However, it took thousands of years before historians could trace a continuous pottery making tradition.

This is where I would like to introduce you to Joyce Young, a local potter, artist and gardener. Mrs. Young has over forty years of



experience; she has a wealth of information and skills that keep the art of pottery alive in our culture today.

Mrs. Young is often referred to as the "pukeko lady"; this is one of the many local birds she has immortalized in clay. You can see why she has acquired this name when you visit GARDEN SHED POTTERY studio. When you look around the garden and catch a glimpse of her creations, the pukeko sculptures look like the real thing. This is something Mrs. Young is very proud of, "I think that I've really captured the essence of the pukeko", she says, and I happen to agree.

Mrs. Young has an active part in our local art community and was one of the founders of the Oakura art trail (local art studios you can visit).

Joyce has won many awards for her pottery and exhibits all around the country.

You are able to view her work at Bridgeman on Devon (Fitzroy) Gallery, at an exhibition from 9th August until 22nd

Tammy Lewis



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GLOBETROTTING PAIR OFF ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE

It was my absolute pleasure to speak recently with Paul Cunningham and his sister Hayley. These local offspring have a very exciting future planned, and I don't know which one is the most exciting. I will start with Paul. Paul is an 18 year old soccer whiz who I'm sure we will hear more of in the international soccer arena, perhaps playing for the New Zealand All Whites one day soon. Paul has just gone overseas to Morgantown, West Virginia, on a scholarship for four years to the West Virginia University to study business finance and play soccer. This campus is home to over 25,000 students, so life will be a bit different to life in Oakura. Soccer will be a big



part of Paul's day (as it has been since he was tiny) with 2-3 hours practise per day and games every weekend. Thus far, Paul has had an action packed soccer career playing for rep sides in New Zealand and also playing overseas. In 2003, he went to England and played in the youth side for Middlesbrough. This year, Paul has attended Palmerston North Boys High School and has been selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Soccer team. In April, this team travelled to Europe and England and played against the best players from Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and England, as well as Under 19 teams from Belgium, Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The New Zealand team had some very good results, especially the win over the English school boys - 1 nil. This was a historic win, as no other international team had beaten the English on British soil. Soccer talent scouts spotted Paul on this tour and approached him with a scholarship to the American University. New Plymouth District council has made Paul an honorary ambassador of the New Plymouth District. It just goes to show that talent, passion and perseverance pays off.

Hayley and her partner Stuart Bennett have set off for Myanmar on a totally different experience. Both are trained teachers, previously working in Hamilton, and have joined the International School in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. Hayley will be teaching 6 year olds, English, Social Studies, Science and Maths. Stuart will be teaching 8 year olds the same. Hayley was clearly excited about her trip to Myanmar and the fact that she didn't really know what awaited her didn't faze her one bit - the weather, the food, the language, the military rule,

disease and cleanliness, whether they would be able to wander around and explore freely, whether they would be able to teach the mainly indigenous class (85% Myanmar). For someone like Hayley who has backpacked through 35 countries and lived overseas for a couple of years, the adventure and excitement of living in such an exotic place is like a fix. I, personally, had never heard of Myanmar and was intrigued to discover it was once called Burma and is currently touted as the newest Asian holiday destination. It is the only South-east Asian country to have its head in the Himalayas and feet in the tropics. The country is ruled by the military junta. There are more than 2000 temples, (once there were about 32,000), with the main religion being Buddhism. The most notable being the Shwedagon Pagoda, a huge gold leaf spike. The population of Myanmar is 44 million with 135 ethnic groups, all with their own dialect. The largest group is the "Bamar", comprising 69% of the population. The official languages are Myanmar and English. There are three main seasons - the hot season, the rainy season and the cold season. Neighbouring countries are Pakistan, Thailand and China.

The two year trip will be a fascinating and deeply rewarding one, I am sure.

So its farewell and good luck to two of Oakura's high flyers.

By Kim Ferens

Wendy Hill

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OAKURA SURFCASTING CLUB

With the cool mornings and the cool evenings members are a bit reluctant to get out there, we have, unfortunately, been battling the weather over the last couple of weeks with big swells and wind. Therefore, not a great deal of fish have been weighed in, however, it is staying noticeably lighter a bit latter and 1 or 2 are sneaking out after work.

The new committee met several weeks ago and we are keen to action some of the new ideas that have been tossed around. We have reduced the yearly subs from \$50 to \$40, hopefully this will encourage new members and all the family to join up.

As some of you know, our A G M was held in June and we were able to present our annual trophies and 3 or 4 new club records.

The results were as follows;

"A G M & Prize Giving Wrap Up"

Heaviest Snapper	Grant Morgan
Heaviest Trevally	Merv Krutz
Heaviest bag on a Club Day	Wayne Johnston
Heaviest fish for a junior	Nathan Krutz
Heaviest fish for a new member	Bruce Howsen
Three heaviest Snapper	Merv Krutz
Most over all points - men	Merv Krutz
Most overall points - junior	Darryn Spademan
Most overall points - women	Debbie Edgecombe
Heaviest Snapper on a Club Day	Wayne Johnston
Heaviest Snapper, Shark & Trevally ..	Wayne Johnston
First to get the most species	Merv Krutz
Most Club Day points - men	Wayne Johnston
Most Club Day points - junior	Darryn Spadman
Most Club Day points - women	No Winner

Presidents Trophy

(chosen by the president for efforts to the Club):

Debbie Edgecombe

New Records

New Kahawai record	Larry Eaton
New Sting Ray Record	Merv Krutz
New Spotty Shark record - junior ..	Nathan Krutz

President Bruce Madgwick presenting junior member, Nathan Krutz with his new spotty shark record certificate.

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New member, Bruce Howsen being presented with the "heaviest fish for a new member" shield.





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The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

Getting sick in a foreign country can be a harrowing experience. The Korean medical system is a hybrid of both Eastern and Western systems and this can prove quite interesting in regards to cures and beliefs. For example, I often see Korean people walking down the street covered in what look like large love-bites... these are actually formed by the use of a suction machine that is meant to pull a large amount of blood to the skin, hence curing illness and other ailments. Then there is the vast amount of fungi based medicines, deer antler, ginseng and other brews made with various trees, bark and ash.

Then there are the doctors. Without being too harsh, Korean people are the ultimate hypochondriacs. If you cough or have a headache, you are told to instantly go to the doctor. The children at school are constantly on various pills, medicines and antibiotics. As I understand it, this is a serious issue that should be addressed globally. It is

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through this blatant abuse of broad-spectrum antibiotics that antibiotic resistant bacteria are perpetuating and causing serious problems in hospitals throughout the world. I tore the ligaments in my wrist while playing rugby here late last year, went to the hospital and the first thing they did was make me down my trousers and injected my rump with some random drug cocktail. I asked the doctor what it was and got no reply. I have since found out that it was penicillin. Why on earth would you need an antibiotic when you have torn ligaments?

Another issue here is that you are not allowed to question a doctor's authority or ask questions about his/her advice. There are even reported cases of people having cancer and not being told they would die, as this may undermine the doctor's ability to cure them. It is a very frustrating system.

Another crazy belief is "Fan Death". All Koreans believe that if you go to sleep in a small room with an electric fan going and the windows and doors closed, you will die. The reasons are as wide ranged as hypothermia from the cold air (I kid you not), or the fan sucking air out of your lungs and suffocating you (yep, it gets worse). How educated people can believe this is beyond me. If I knew moving air could kill me when I slept, I'd definitely make sure not to fall asleep when there's a breeze blowing through my window! But the belief exists, doctors' report cases in the newspapers, the media reports them on the news. It affects all ages and apparently around 10 people die of this in Korea per year. Unusual that it happens nowhere else in the world, but apparently this is due to a genetic difference in Korean people...yeah, right.

The power of the written word holds true.

Annyonghi Keseyo

Kelly



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MASSAGE IS THE MESSAGE

Hi, I am Kate Evans. I am a Sports and Remedial Massage Therapist. I live in Kaitake place with my husband, Chris, and two small children, Jay and Izzy. I have worked as a Sports Massage Therapist for five years and recently trained as a Reiki teacher.

I was trained at the London School of Sports Massage, one of only two schools in England at that time who were recognised by the British Olympic Association.


I use the latest techniques, combining acu-pressure (or trigger point work), massage, stretches and release techniques. This type of massage is great for muscle damage and tension caused by repetitious movements (sports and occupational), stress, injuries (old and new) and, working alongside the appropriate professionals, to aid rehabilitation and postural change.

Over the years I have proved myself to be particularly good with shoulders and necks, lower backs and legs, and any areas where there are musculature problems.

A recent off shoot to my business is to teach basic massage skills. I am running two weekend workshops. Firstly, Sports Massage for sports people. This is for anyone involved in sport e.g. couples, coaches and trainers. This will be held on 28th/29th August, phone for details.

My second workshop is called Tension Release for Partners. For anyone whose partner has a stiff neck, sore shoulder, tight calf etc. Come and learn basic, safe techniques to help. You never know, if you come together, you could receive a regular massage as well as give one! This will be held on 11th/12th September, again, phone for details.

Lastly, I also now teach Reiki. This beautiful, ancient healing technique will set you off on a new course in your life. Giving you the ability to aid healing in yourself, your family and your friends on many levels. Reiki 1 will be held on 18th/19th September.



Kate Evans
— SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPIST —

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I am planning to start working in town sometime in the next 6-9 months.

Don't put up with pain in your life, a regular (or even irregular) massage is good for you mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Kate Evans 06 752 7251

Recently I was invited to experience first hand the benefits of a massage by local masseuse Kate Evans. After being pampered and all the sore spots loosened up, all I can say is fantastic! I left feeling extremely relaxed and dreamy. Kate took her time and even did a basic personal profile - this is to understand and interpret your personal needs, relating to lifestyle, jobs and sports, generally how you use your body in everyday life.

All in all, a wonderful experience that I would not hesitate to recommend to anyone who needs some t.l.c or has a particular problem that needs addressing. Many thanks to Kate and her profession for making me feel wonderful.

Tammy Lewis

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Life in Oakura looking more attractive by the day

Says Kay Lynskey

I'm a born again convert to the seductive and sensual attraction of our unique Oakura.

In December we purchased a beach front property and in spite of "post Auction remorse", sleepless nights, high blood pressure and general medical symptoms, synonymous with extreme stress, we have fallen in love with this very special piece of Taradise.

So much so that is with extreme reluctance and "thousands of excuses" we pack up and come back into town.

Most of you in this community have travelled extensively and go to exotic locations but come home and if home is Oakura, one look at that ocean and dramatic coastline with all it's synergy and energy, the justification for living here is obvious.

Life in the village is looking more attractive by the day. Mayor Pete with his team have the foresight to recognise the potential to ensure each of us has a unique property.

It may sound ambiguous but I believe if you want to upgrade, downgrade, generally relocate or for any reasons, contact me first.

I will help you in a professional manner but also an emotive manner which is ultimately not a bad thing.

Historically, many potential clients will argue that winter isn't a good time to sell. I beg to differ, because often there is a huge influx of properties coming on to the market in summer, therefore there is more competition.

However, it is always a personal decision and professional guidance is paramount.

Meanwhile, I will leave you with this quote:

"Worry is like a Rocking Chair... it gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere"

Until next time, Kay.

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PEOPLE and PROPERTY



KAY LYNKEY

After hours : 758 5779
Mobile : 021 758 577
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PEOPLE and PROPERTY

WIND GENERATION POWERS UP THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A new structure graces the local landscape and it has risen out of the decades old dream and passion of an innovative local man - a wind generator. The timing couldn't be more apt with power generation being the hot potato issue of the day. Everywhere you look these days, turbines are dotting the landscape. Power price wars continue, power cuts loom, power companies continue to squabble, and fossil fuels are disappearing. 'Renewable' and 'environmentally friendly' are the catch cries. The desire to be self sufficient and "in control" of ones basic needs makes alternative forms of power generation more appealing.

But why wind power and does it make sense for the average home owner?

Obviously we live in a relatively windy place and its not likely supply will ever be a problem but, surprisingly, since the wind



generator was installed in June, the number of windless days has amazed the family (who wish to remain anonymous). Despite this there is still plenty of wind so the why is easy to answer - unlimited free wind. But does it make sense? Not so easy to answer.

Specifics of the system are: A Bergey Turbine on a 13 metre rigid steel tower. The turbine has a peak output of 1.6kw. The rotor turns at 490 rpm with a maximum wind speed of 194kms/hr. It has an auto

furl feature that turns the power head sideways out of the wind and a slow mode which reduces the turbine to 130 rpm - a very necessary feature when the wind exceeds 47 kms/hr, and there are often gusts exceeding this. The resonance from this furling is similar to a helicopter taking off - an interesting sound for those trying to sleep, and for the neighbours!! There are two 90 watt solar panels for those windless days. The DC (or direct current) power from both the solar panels and turbine are converted to AC (alternating current - what households run on) by an inverter. A battery bank of four 6 volt batteries stores the power and when these are fully charged the dump load feature diverts all excess power. A "Mate" controller automatically switches the system to mains AC if batteries are below 24 volt for 1 hour and back to batteries once the batteries are back to 26 volt for 1 hour. Oakura man Vaughan Garrett, an electrician, was responsible for commissioning the set up and the family are really happy with his expertise. There was a lot of "nutting out" as the installation progressed. The tower was built in Bell Block out of oilfield pipe and the turbine and solar panels came from the States. The output of this system presently powers half the house and a modest saving is evident on the latest power bill. High usage power appliances can only be used one at a time (i.e. you can't just plug the clothes dryer in for 1½ hours and walk away). The excess power can be diverted through the dump load feature to heat water heaters but isn't presently hooked up.

The initial cost of the system is quite high and on the face of it doesn't seem viable for the average homeowner but the family all feel there are other benefits such as control over power supply. (Guess who will be watching TV and boiling the jug during the next power cut?) The educational aspects for the children and instilling and developing a healthier attitude towards power consumption are also of benefit as well

as environmental impact and self sufficiency issues. In some overseas countries, governments subsidize wind power projects for the individual so maybe, one day, we too may see that here and the landscape will echo to the whoosh of turbine blades.

Some facts about wind farms in England interested me. Wind farms are being built all over England and, in April of this year, 1043 turbines on 84 wind farms existed with nearly 1000 more turbines planned. These types of farms are not without controversy with much opposition being expressed about them. Wind farms are considered the cheapest form of "green" power production and are given incentives by government. However, there are those who feel they have negative aspects such as; they are a blight on the landscape, will do potential damage to real estate prices and tourism, will possibly adversely affect health through the ultrasound hum they make, and enormous energy is needed to set them up. The towers, each, are in excess of 300 feet tall. They also only operate part time due to lack of wind or too much wind. Opposition has been expressed here in Wellington to proposed wind farms in the greater Wellington region too, with much the same reasons given for objecting. So I can see the wind debate generating a storm in the near future but, in the mean time, small units like this local one will barely ruffle feathers!

By Kim Ferens



Local electrician, Vaughan Garrett working his magic on the system.

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OAKURA school news

SUCCESSES:

METHANEX MATHS SPECTACULAR 2004.

The Maths Spectacular is an annual event open to all Taranaki Year 7 to 10 pupils. The competition displays the best entries from each school and, after judging, each category has 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Merit places awarded.

Oakura School's Year 7 and 8 pupils spent many hours on their entries resulting in some fantastic results:

Year 7 2D Artwork: 3rd Melissa Muggeridge; Merits to Harrison West, Jake Andrews and Sophie Arden.

Year 8 Mathematical Investigations: 1st Stacey Fletcher & Kate Thomson, 2nd Thais Farrant & Jordan Wearne, 3rd Georgie Woods & Sasha Barleyman. Merit to Miaana Walden & Melissa Harvey.

Year 8 Statistical Investigations: 1st Bethany Lowe & Brooke Kuklinski.

We are proud of all the children who entered these competitions and extend our congratulations to those who achieved placings.

DEBATING.

This year's Year 7 debating team members are Emma Wilson, Hineana Todd and Toni-Ann Plazier-Rielly. The team

had its first debate against Puketapu, speaking for the moot: "Sport is too competitive", and were judged the winners. Well done girls and we wish you well for your future debates.

INDOOR BOWLS

Many Year 8 pupils have been going to indoor bowls lessons with members of the Oakura Indoor Bowling Club. The

children have been very enthusiastic about learning this new game, which has impressed their tutors.

On July 1st, two teams represented Oakura School at the Taranaki Primary Schools Indoor Bowls Competition, held at Oaonui. There were 24 teams competing, with one of our teams, made up of Bethany Lowe, Ben Riley, Malcolm Honeyfield and Kate Thomson, being the overall winners! The team was presented with The Ashley Trophy for Junior School Bowls. We would like to extend a big thank you to those members of the Oakura Indoor Bowls Club who have given their time to teach and encourage these pupils.

Cathy Arden.



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tom Thanks

We hope you are enjoying reading your stapled copies of TOM. Last month we 'automated' our collating process - which also enables us to staple the pages together. So, prior to this, how did we get you your TOM in your letterbox with the pages collated in the correct order?? It was all thanks to a terrific trio of Sarah-Jane Ferens, Bradie Neiderberger and Alex Barrett. Each month they would gather together the weekend before TOM was to be delivered and collate!! Thanks girls for all your hard work over the previous I don't know how many issues of TOM, and enjoy your collating retirement !

STRATFORD MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Manganui Ski Lodge was officially opened on Saturday 26 June 2004. Bob Stokes performed the ribbon cutting ceremony that concluded the official part of the opening. It was a truly momentous occasion, with a large number of dignitaries, invited guests and members in attendance. The welcome, TSB and TET plaque acceptances were performed by club president Keith Plummer. Brian Jeffares (Mayor of Stratford and representative of the Stratford District Council and the TET), Jenny Blyde from the TSB Community Trust and Rex Hendry from DOC all got up and spoke on behalf of their organisations. David Walters from the SDC and Berta Anderson from the Stratford Mountain House were also in attendance. Alan Beck entertained the crowd with a yarn, at the expense of Bruce 'The Builder' Neale. The club also benefited from Beck Helicopters too, with a \$10,000 cheque, that was payable only if the builders sang a song to the crowd. This was duly done, so Alan presented the club with the cheque. Light refreshments were served afterwards in the lodge. The celebrations went well into the early hours of the morning, with a full house of members staying up on the mountain. Ironically, newly appointed Lodge Convenor Ben Plummer-Butt had to camp out in the lounge for the night.



The newly completed Manganui Ski Lodge on Mt Taranaki.

Puke Ariki
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouth.govt.nz
Oakura Library With Tara Ward

Hello from Oakura Library,

We have a real mix of new books in the library this month. There should be something for everyone! New fiction novels include: *Set this house in order*, by Matt Ruff; *Half a Life* by award-winning novelist V.S. Naipaul, Nicci Gerrard's latest read *Things we knew were true*, and *Property*, written by Valerie Martin and winner of the Orange Prize 2003. New non-fiction titles include a revised edition of *Financial Secrets: The New Zealand guide to everyday finances* by Martin Hawes; Ben Kozel's popular tale *Three Men in a Raft: An improbable journey down the Amazon*; *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*, and *1001 All Time Best Selling Home Plans*.

The recent school holidays saw several eager Oakura children come along to our holiday programme session. The theme of the session was 'constructing toys', coinciding with the Techno Toys exhibition currently showing at Puke Ariki. The children made some simple toys of their own, such as 'flying helicopters' and 'twirling blimps'. With Taranaki turning on a typical gorgeous winter's day, the kids had a lot of fun making the toys outside on the deck area.

Library Week will be held during August. Keep an eye out for library events at Oakura Library, as well as events planned at Puke Ariki and other district libraries.

Oakura Library hours are Monday to Friday, 10am-12.30pm and 1-4pm, with a late night on Wednesday 5-7pm.

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KAIPOPO PA - Waireka Hill

History Bite....

Kaipopo Pa is one of New Zealand's and Taranaki's most significant battle sites and not for a particularly auspicious battle either but for the fact that the first Victoria Cross was won there during the Battle of Waireka of 1860.

Kaipopo Pa is located on Waireka Rd (just north of Sutton Rd), on a rise on the seaward side of the road. In the 1860's the main road ran from Waireka Rd East through to Waireka Rd West, and Hurford Rd extended to Waireka Rd West. No visible sign of the Pa is left today but in March 1860 Ngati Ruanui of South Taranaki and Te Atiawa from North Taranaki began constructing Kaipopo because of the unrest over land ownership in the Waitara area. British troops had opened fire on a Pa called Kohia and Martial Law had been declared in February of the same year. Stockades were built at Bell Block and Omata and, understandably, the Maori people were growing extremely nervous. Kaipopo Pa was built in the form of a high fence made out of fencing posts, rails, parts of looted buildings, wire, flax and many other materials that were scrounged from surrounding properties. Many settlers in the Omata area had moved into New Plymouth with their families, for safety reasons, and had left their properties largely unattended. I can't imagine the Pa was a very attractive looking construction but it was built over a couple of days by supposedly 70 Maoris - so the Maoris must have been accomplished builders. Kaipopo wasn't an entrenched Pa but had rifle pits on the northern slope facing the Omata Stockade and these are still visible. More fighting was done from these than the Pa.

Following the death of three local farmers, tomahawked to death on the roadside, Maoris in the Pa performed a haka on the hillside facing the Omata Stockade; it had been openly stated by the inhabitants of the Pa that they were going to attack New Plymouth. General unrest and hysteria seemed prevalent. Colonel Gold sent out an expedition to Omata on March 28 to bring in any remaining settlers with express orders not to engage in any conflict with the Maoris but, of course, the Battle of Waireka ensued.

According to Mr Wellington Carrington, who was based at Tapuae and married to a Maori lady, nearly 500 Maori passed his gate on their way to Kaipopo. Many would have come from Ratapihipihi. Other reports had the numbers of Maori in the area at about 300. It was known, however, that the Maori had not engaged in fighting for 20 years,



William Odgers storming Kaipopo Pa, illustrated by Harry Payne, courtesy of Pukeariki Resource Room).

so weren't particularly ferocious. But, as we know, a battle of sorts broke out around the Jury farmhouse and Waireka hill area although the battle has the acclaim of having no clear winner. Captain Cracroft and a party from HMS Niger had stormed the Pa at sunset with the intention of lowering the Maori flag. This flag had a bleeding heart in the top corner and had been proudly flown by the Maori on their way to Kaipopo. Capt. Cracroft offered £10 to the person who captured it and William Odgers did so with very little opposition. Reports suggested there were only a couple of elderly Maori men within, who were completely unarmed. Odgers received the Victoria Cross for his efforts. Mr George Taylor (Hori Teira), in a Daily News article in 1910, says that a second Pa was built by the Maori with the intention of taking the Omata Stockade but that the Maoris weren't strong enough to do so. Eventually a Redoubt was built on the Pa site. So a very small patch of dirt has a very colourful past.

By Kim Ferens

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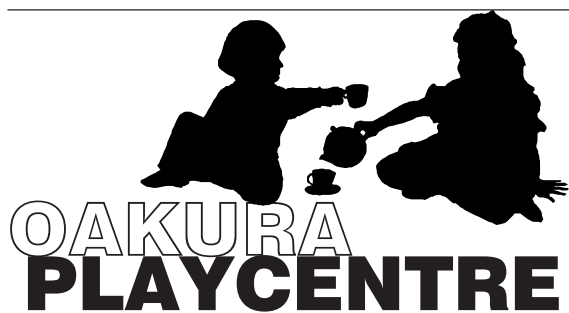
Congratulations to the two Oakura girls who made it through to the New Zealand secondary schools cross country championships, again.

Both Grace Power (left, 2 fingers) and Lauren Howe (right) were a part of the eleven girl running squad from New Plymouth Girls' High School, to represent their school in the cross country championships that was held in Dunedin on 19-June 2004.

The girls were a part of the team that came in fourth place in the under 15's.

A fun weekend was had by all in Dunedin, after many months of fundraising.

Once again, congratulations Lauren and Grace.



As usual, life at Playcentre has been very busy, with our children having lots of fun while being in a stimulating, educational environment.

We've been successful in a couple of grant applications, so by the time this article is published we should have some great new outdoor play equipment. We'd especially like to thank Hookers for their assistance with transport for this.

We'd also like to thank the New Plymouth District Council for their grant under the Creative Communities Scheme, which is allowing us to work in conjunction with Oakura School to produce a mural for our street frontage. This



project is just getting underway, but it will provide an exciting opportunity for the school pupils to create and display a piece of artwork, and we're all eagerly awaiting the results.

Plans for extensively renovating the current building are well underway, which will be wonderful and will provide us with a much more modern building and bathroom facilities, with future improvements in our kitchen, office and clean-up areas also planned.

Lots of regular attendance this year has resulted in an increase in our current funding, which is great news, and we're looking forward to getting more new resources.

So it's all happening at Playcentre - come join us!

RESOURCES - if anyone has some "junk" that they think our children could enjoy doing things with, please call either of the numbers below, eg. large cardboard boxes, plastic pipes, wood offcuts, collage materials etc. Anything considered. *An old kitchen bench would also be much appreciated.*

Playcentre is open to all children aged 0-6 years, and we're open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9.00am-12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term - no matter how many sessions you come to - and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292 or Sharon Steen on 752 7376.

Otherwise, please feel free to come and join us - we're a friendly, fun place and warmly welcome all new families.

Trish Whitney




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Hi from the guys in the big red truck

Well what a funny old time since our last contribution, after complaining that we have had only 7 call outs for the year we then get 3 calls on 3 consecutive days and another call 6 days later. All were relatively minor, but remember; even a major fire was a minor fire once. But then it all turned to custard at 0745 hours on the morning of 15th July, Thursday when the village woke to news of a horrific accident on the bridge.

The team responded in "631" and private cars and on seeing the Police car knew it had to be one of eight officers - most of whom we know in one-way or another. Senior Constable Phil Wipitene was a well liked and respected Highway Patrol Officer and to meet his maker in such a manner is, to say the least, most regrettable. The local Brigade was represented at the funeral by DCFO Craig Scott and FP Terry Griffiths

Members of the brigade have been told on more than one occasion that, living in a small village like Oakura, it is inevitable that at some time when you respond to an incident somebody you know or love will be involved. Be ready for this occasion.

I feel the biggest thing to come out of this accident can be said in one word. **Vulnerability.** We, as citizens, got a short sharp lesson of how dependent we are on that bridge, and how vulnerable we are if by an act of god or any other misadventure the bridge becomes uncrossable. We, as local fire fighters, knew the alternative routes and promptly sent people up Pitone Rd to Carrington Rd, only to discover that neither of these roads can take two lanes of traffic, with a truck leaving the road and three other accidents occurring as a result of the detour.

I am sorry, I should not blame the roads, I should blame the "Highway Motorists" who must adapt to driving on narrow roads, using one lane bridges and being aware of the oncoming motorists who are as equally unfamiliar with the conditions as you are

However, the other alternative is still available, the Opunake/ Eltham Rd (not too appealing, you think).

In closing, the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade fully supports the suggestion of Mr Peter Bevins; that changes need to be made to the location of speed restriction signs at the entrance to the village, not only the bridge end but also the Wairau Rd end.

Our suggestions when entering Oakura would be:

North end 70 KPH outside Soles property, 50 KPH at Victoria Rd; South end 70 KPH at Pinewoods 50 KPH 200meters south of Wairau Rd;

The reverse would apply when leaving town.

STAY SAFE and I hope I don't run into you sometime.

Literally. BRT



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OMATA school news

Wednesday 21st July was the release day for 33 orange helium balloons at Omata School. This was the last activity for our Flight topic, 'Up, Up and Away' from last term but the weather last month did not behave.

Attached to each balloon is a message saying where the balloon is from and how to contact us. We are hoping to track where some of the balloons end up and how long they take to land.

So if you see an orange speck on the ground, please investigate further as it may be an Omata balloon and the children will get a real kick out of knowing that someone has found one.

Maths Week is coming up this month so here's a challenge question for you to try . . .

A frog is at the bottom of a 30-metre well. Each hour it climbs three metres and then slips back two metres. How many hours does it take for the frog to reach the top of the well?



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Oakura Plunket



The coffee mornings are on again for Term 3, every Friday starting 23rd July. These are held at the St James Church Hall, on the corner of Surf Highway and Donnelly Street, in Oakura from 9am until 10.30am. It is a chance for Mums and Dads to meet with other parents and for their children to have a great play with all of the toys and puzzles. There are refreshments provided for everyone (usually some home baking if the committee is organised) and lots of friendly chit chat and sharing of ideas. It has been great to see the regular support we are getting for this FREE morning.

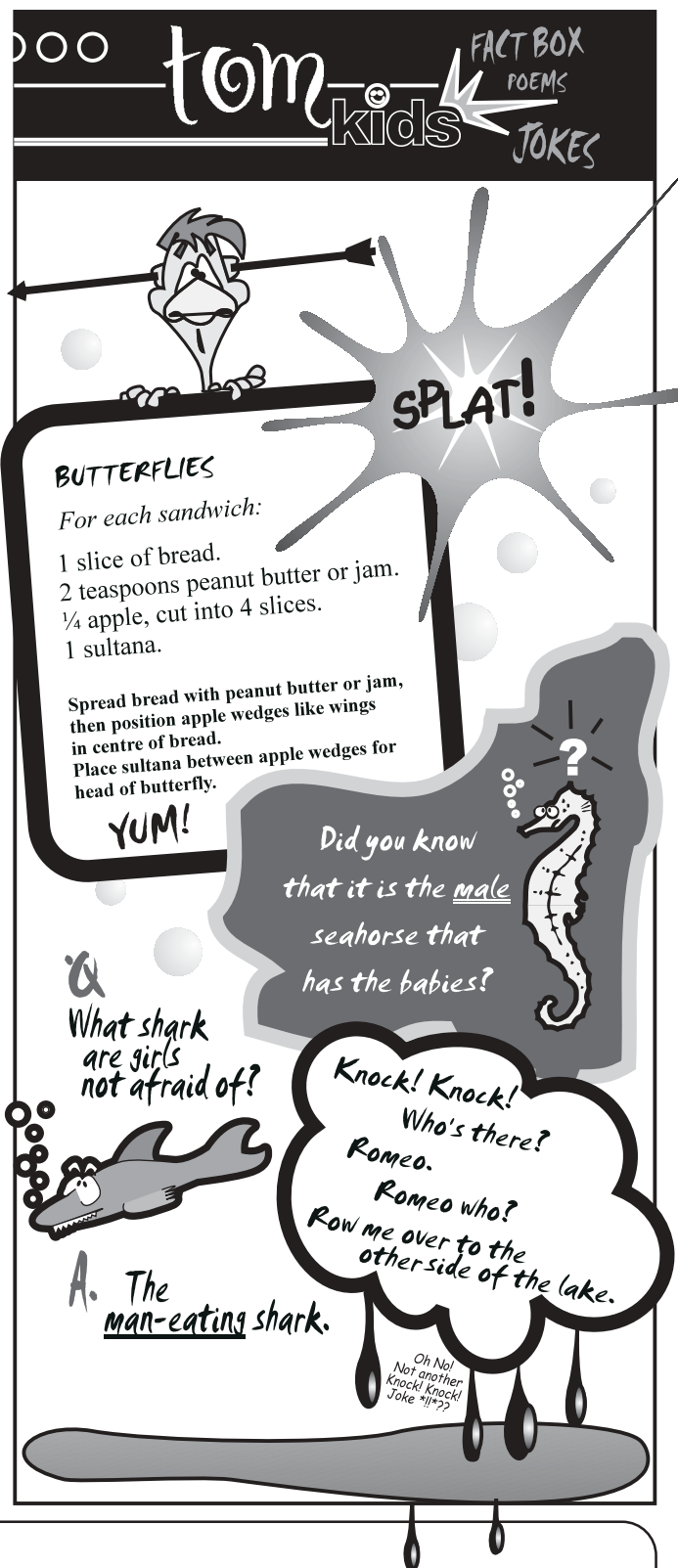
Following on from our Car Seat Check and ACC Fall Prevention talk last term, we will be having a speaker on CPR within the next few weeks. Watch the Community Notice Boards or TOM for more details.

The winter safety message from Plunket is making sure everyone in the home is FIRE WISE. Use those fireguards to keep children safe, check your smoke alarms regularly and always keep matches and lighters out of children's reach (teach them to take them to an adult straight away if they do find them).

If you have any questions on topics in this article or if you are interested in finding out more about your local Plunket committee then call:

Leanne Ferguson 7527278 or Catherine Keenan 7527034

See you on Friday Mornings . . .



Oakura Neighbourhood Support

It's mid-winter, and apart from all the colds around and the mixed weather everyone seems happy. Maybe it's the All Blacks, Black Caps and Silver Ferns all winning that's giving everyone a golden glow.

On the social scene in recent times there have been meetings with various groups who have similar interests to ours. The most recent was with Federated Farmers, who have given their support for Rural Watch. Neighbourhood Support is offering to set this up in the same manner as E-Watch, which links up the urban people and groups through the internet. If anyone is interested in joining either group please email me at ntns@xtra.co.nz <<mailto:ntns@xtra.co.nz>> .

On a different front it was noticed that there has been cause for concern over house fires; as on recent visits to homes it appears there are still a lot without fire protection, having neither smoke alarms nor extinguishers. In consultation with the New Plymouth Fire Service we are able to offer a 15% discount from three leading suppliers for these products. The discount coupons and literature are available from the office at Westown Police Station.

Crime wise the area is not receiving any great attention - may it stay that way for some time. For those who have not taken the opportunity to get new bike locks there are some discount leaflets left at the office. The neighbourhood support office is at Westown Police station in Tukapa Street, please call in.

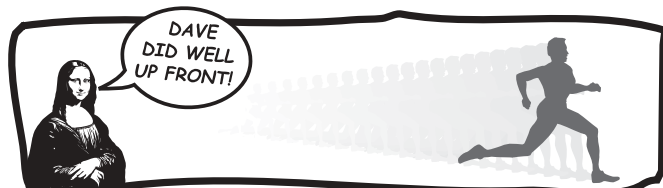
KAITAKE Rugby

Kaitake lost 24-5 in the Taranaki Senior Reserve Amber Club Rugby Final at Yarrow Stadium on Saturday 24 July. It was however a valiant effort by the boys to have made and play in the final. Kaitake last featured in a final in 1989 when they took out the Senior Thirds Title at home in 1989.

The game played on number three attracted a bigger crowd than the development game did on number one. This was a result of the large keen supporter base that Kaitake has attracted over the the years.

The game was played in windy conditions that made goal kicking difficult by both sides. Tukapa scored two early tries where the second one was an intercept pass when their player virtually ran the length of the field to score. Down 12-0 early in the second half, Kaitake took its opportunities and applied pressure for a period to score a try by half-back Michael Taunoa. This brought the differential to within a converted try. The tide seemed to turn for a short period when Kaitake contested very well up front, but in the end were beaten four tries to one by a more experienced Tukapa side.

The game attracted national publicity after the Taranaki Rugby Union and the Yarrow Stadium Trust banned Tukapa prop Dave Wilson from appearing in the final because he streaked naked across the field during the Taranaki-Auckland National Provincial Championship match last year.



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KAITAKE NETBALL

The netball season is so long these days (20 weeks + pre-season training) that it's a real effort to keep everyone committed for the whole season. It's getting to that time of year where players start falling off the pace a bit, and we've noticed that other teams in our grade are feeling the same pressure. Luckily for us we have a great bunch of girls who are still keen to finish off this season as successfully as possible. Keep it up girls.

We have gone from being 1st on the table, slowly slipping down to 5th place - now we are creeping back up and currently sit in 3rd place again. It's a cunning plan of ours to stay a little off the pace, and then move in for the win later . . . (I guess that's the plan).

If you're keen on supporting us sometime here is the draw for the rest of our season:

Sat 14 Aug Kaitake vs Woodleigh @ 11.05 on court 1

Sat 21 Aug Kaitake vs Ruakura@ 11.05 on court 1

Sat 28 Aug Kaitake vs DK Flooring @ 11.05 on court 1

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Tanya Farrant - Secretary/Player

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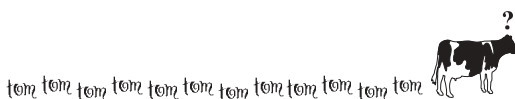


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Whale Writer

Whale season in the Cook Islands is between July and October. The first sighting, usually early in July, is eagerly anticipated by locals and visitors alike. The magnificently huge animals, and their babies, are breath-taking to watch - especially because they cruise past only metres away from the shore, where the reef drops off to 1,000 metres.

The island hosts a resident marine biologist, Nan Hauser, who runs the Whale Research Station, where she is based year round. Parked outside this great little educational centre, during whale season, is a blackboard which heralds the daily sightings.

Last year my husband Malcolm took a few friends from Oakura snorkelling on the sea side of the reef. My 10-year-old Bronte and I stayed on the beach and watched in awe as first Nan Hauser's boat went past then a mother humpback whale and her baby cruised by - only metres from the divers. Several people gathered on the reef to watch the show as the whales dipped and dived past. As the whales disappeared into the sunset the people on the reef dispersed and Malcolm and friends scrambled back over the reef into the lagoon, and swam back to shore. We were really excited because the visitors had brought an underwater camera, and we envisioned fantastic under-water shots of the whales.

"Did you get some good shots?" we asked, as they emerged from the water.

"Yeah, cool," they replied.

"And of the baby too?"

"The baby what?"

"WHALE of course!"

"What whale?" they replied.

It seems they were all so fascinated by the tropical fish swimming around the coral reef that they didn't even turn around to look in the direction of the sea!

Talk about the fish that got away!

Diane Alder

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Phone Stephanie Niederberger 751-2722

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

Indoor Bowls:

- Mondays at 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
Phone Rex Ward for info

St James Church, Oakura:

- Morning worship 10.00am, 22nd August, 12th Sept.

St John's, Omata:

- Morning worship 10.00am, 22nd August, 12th Sept.

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MAISIE DUKE

I Remember When . . .

There are some special people you come across in life and, for me, Maisie Duke is one of them. At 85, and struggling with a hip replacement, Maisie still has a verve for life that I would like to have at even 65. Maisie is one of Omata's grand old ladies, having lived in the area all her life and, in fact, her roots can be traced back to the "William Hyde" in 1852, when her grandfather - William Berridge - arrived from England and settled in the Omata district.

William is of note for fighting for the Militia in the Battle of Waireka. Maisie's mother and father - Alice and Norman - farmed on Hurford Rd (where Berridge's still live today) and they also owned the land on which the Tapuae Golf Course was built. Maisie went to Omata School by milk cart, when her father took the milk to the Royal Oak Dairy Factory, or else she walked. Following this, Maisie went to NPGHS for a year but had to leave to work on the farm, as the men had gone off to war. Maisie remembers the early mornings - getting up with her sisters at 5am to milk the 100 cows. During the war, the milk went to the Patua Dairy Factory for cheese and Mr George Duke senior carried it on his cart. Haymaking was a bit different then, with all the neighbours helping and Maisie's job was to lead the horse that lifted the hay onto the stack. The first telephone was memorable. Ten homes on Hurford Rd had a "party line" - each with their special ring - and it wasn't uncommon for people to listen in on conversations that they shouldn't have. Waiting to use the phone was a nuisance too. As girls, the sisters push-biked into town to the pictures (possibly the Mayfair on Devon St West), every Saturday night. Another highlight of the social week was the dance and card evenings in the Hurford Rd hall held every second Thursday night. Most of the district would turn up, maybe 100 people. The men would go early and play "Bob-a-Corner", a friendly gambling game, then the women and children would come and dance and play cards. Pots of tea were made over the open fire. How times have changed! Maisie was part of the Hurford Rd basketball (netball) team and can remember playing on the school paddock but only after having moved the cows off the court and then removed the cow pats!! They played many town teams; mainly the catholic school teams and had a few wins along the way. The team fizzled out during the war because of petrol shortages. In 1940 Maisie got her drivers licence and recalls there was hardly any other cars on the road when she took her test. There were no theory exams, like today, and the licence cost five shillings. Maisie is still driving today, albeit slowly.

In 1941 Maisie married George Duke junior and they lived in his family home where four generations of Dukes have lived. The house was built in 1910 and is still in good condition, though a bit draughty and needs a lot of looking after. After marrying, Maisie worked in the family business - Geo. Duke Ltd, a cartage and school bus company. George went off to the war in the Pacific but was "man powered" home. There was a shortage of men to do essential work, so they were bought home and George worked at the Omata Dairy Factory before driving for his father. George and Maisie have three



children - Shirley, Phillip and Murray. George died in 1965. The district has changed immensely over the years and while facilities have disappeared and people have moved away from the area, they are now realising what a great place this district is and are moving back in their droves.

Today Maisie lives with her son Murray on Hurford Rd and is never lonely but instead has kept lively with her ballroom dancing, bowls and gardening, though recent health problems have put a stop to these, but not for much longer, she declares!!

By Kim Ferens



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GAMES, GIANTS, GEOMETRY & GIZMOS

No need for children to get bored on winter weekends as they can escape to Techno Toys at Puke Ariki and discover a veritable Alice in Wonderland world awaiting them. Stand at the command post and fly by remote control a metre long helium filled blimp into the gantry, fire an air cannon and witness the power of air propulsion. For smaller people there are giant dice and chess to wrestle with, funny mirrors and strangely weighted blocks to puzzle over and try to build into a stable structure. Try the Pedal Go! Cars and race your friends to the finish line.

Techno Toys combines fun and activity with a strong educational emphasis on science, technology and mathematics. "This is a perfect exhibition for kids up till age eleven, although I suspect there will be a fair few larger and older looking eleven year olds operating some of the exhibits," says Kelvin Day, Acting Puke Ariki Manager.

Techno Toys was created by Excite of Waikato Museum and has been designed to encourage exploration of basic concepts in science and technology. "Having fun while you learn is the best way for a human being to gain the greatest level of retention and Techno Toys is an ideal opportunity to do this," says Mr Day.

"I'm looking forward to having a go with the robotic arms but unfortunately I'm too tall to line up on the race track for the pedal-go car," he says. Techno Toys opened in July and will close on October 3.



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