

Call for sightings of endangered southern right whales

From June to August, southern right whales migrate along the New Zealand coastline.

June sightings of whales near Dunedin and Stewart Island signalled the start of this year's whale migration season. As such, it also marks the beginning of the Department of Conservation's southern right whale research programme.

DOC's challenge is to find as many whales as possible to do research to better understand the relationship

between the whales seen around the mainland and those from the New Zealand sub Antarctic region. Whale sightings help us track them down to retrieve tissue samples, photographs and other vital information.

So, what is the purpose of this research? In a nutshell, it's to learn as much about endangered southern right whales as

possible and then take measures to ensure the whales have the right level of protection.

If you do see a southern right whale, please contact the DOC office on (06) 759 0350 during office hours or 0800 DOCHOT (0800 36 24 68) after hours. Alternatively, you can contact Bryan Williams (027 4458 268) or Callum Lilley (027 206 5842) directly.

Photo and story by Callum Lilley



Life's a holiday – when you are miles away from home and the only contact with home is a mobile phone. I make a conscious effort to leave work behind and often a concerted effort to be unavailable, for no other reason than to have a rest. Often life gets so full that it is hard to just stop. In many ways it is forced relaxation and I find it incredibly relaxing. After all isn't that what a holiday is all about? Technology has made it so easy for us to work from anywhere that it could be to our detriment. I enjoy the freedom my editing and publishing work gives me to be able to go away from my office here and there and still complete my tasks, albeit in a different place.



It could appear that my whole life is a holiday with the flexibility I have, and sometimes I can almost convince myself of that, but, the holiday I am talking about is – no jobs staring me in the face, no commitments, no demands. This is possibly more important to people who work from home or take their work home, when the four weeks paid holidays doesn't apply.

On holiday I believe anything is possible and effortless and to that end it is important to have the annual break, especially when you arrive home and the routine starts as though it had never ceased.

Searching for the never ending holiday

Tracey

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TOM
OAKURA

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from mayor **pete**



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Hi folks!

We're well into the second half of the school year and our senior students are starting to enter the crunch time of their high school careers.

Now is the time to begin considering where to next for our students.

These students are the future of our district. It is they who will be leading the way for New Plymouth District's future growth and development, and shaping the community in which later generations will live.

What we want is for them to explore their potential and bring back to Taranaki all the knowledge and experiences they have gained.

New Plymouth District Council is doing its part by offering scholarships every year to students who are undertaking tertiary study in a wide variety of fields that are applicable to local government.

Details of the scholarships we have on offer for the 2010 academic year will be announced later this month at a scholarship and careers evening in the Civic Centre, New Plymouth.

This event is for any student who lives in New Plymouth District and attends Coastal Taranaki School, Inglewood high, Waitara High or New Plymouth boys' or girls' high schools, or Francis Douglas Memorial, Sacred Heart girls' or Spotswood colleges.

We'll provide information on the criteria that students need to meet to be considered for one of the following scholarships:

- Academic and sport.
- Academic and the arts.
- Academic and cultural.
- Academic research, science and technology.
- Academic and the environment.

By offering these scholarships the Council is able to help local students gain their degree, and also retain valuable skills in the district as the scholarship recipients work at NPDC during their university breaks.

So be sure to come along to the Council Chamber at 5.30pm on Thursday 20 August to find out more about how to apply for a scholarship through NPDC.

Also worth remembering is the Taranaki Careers and Training Expo 2009, which will be held in TSB Stadium on 23 and 24 August.

You don't have to be a student to attend this free expo – anyone who is interested in refreshing their career can come along and discuss options with representatives from the major universities and industry training organisations.

The best part of living in New Plymouth District is the passionate, caring and innovative people who live here.

I fully support any initiative – such as NPDC's scholarships and the careers and training expo – that encourages locals to extend themselves and achieve new goals.

If you have any questions about these events or if you think the Council can help you with an idea you have, please give me a call on 759 6060 – I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent, Mayor

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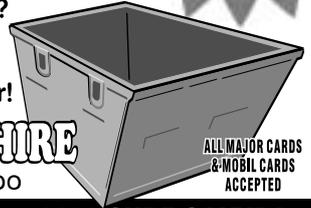
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Library Week 2009 is 10-16 August and the Friday of that week is "Love Your Library Day". Children and teens, check out the website www.libraryweek.org.nz for some awesome competitions.

During the school holidays we hosted a free cartoon drawing workshop. It was well attended (19 children, ages 5-12). Brian Clark taught the children how to draw ever popular Sponge Bob. The session was a hit! As you can see even the youngest was enthralled.

New to our shelves, *The Foggy Foggy Forest* by Nick Sharratt is a beautiful picture book with unique illustrations. Also, more *Perky the Pukeko* stories and Lynley Dodd's *Hairy Maclary, Shoo* are sure to delight.

For you Twilight fans, Stephanie Meyer, Meg Cabot and others have written "paranormal prom stories" in *Prom Nights from Hell*. *Eagle Day*, the latest in the Cherub series, is new to the library.

Of course we have all the latest bestsellers by your favourite authors: *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich, Nora Robert's *Black Hills*, Harlan Coben, John Hart, Wilbur Smith, David Baldacci and others. *Vincenza and Karen*



The cartoon drawing workshop.

350 native trees planted during working bee

by Jennifer Gros

A small group of six families took turns recently hosting "working bees" at each other's homes in Oakura. This concept was really successful for the families involved! One adult member of each family attended the working bee from 9 to 12 each Sunday for six Sundays. Some of the work that was accomplished included building new pathways, digging new gardens, planting, weeding, pruning, clearing sections, spreading shingle on a driveway, and much more. Belinda and Scott Willis were especially proud of the 350 native trees that the group planted along the stream on their land. The families included the Robertson's, Hood's, Evans', Oldfield's, Bishop's and the Willis'. The hosting family provided morning tea, and there were strict rules about no gossiping, only working. Although, the group found that the women worked far more efficiently while chatting!



Belinda Willis, Scott Willis, Charlie Robertson, Sue Oldfield and Suki Bishop.

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Letter to the Editor

Mayor Pete Responds

The July issue of TOM Oakura included a Letter to the Editor, written in the form of a fairy story - for the avoidance of doubt, that's exactly what it is. The facts are -

1. There has been community pressure over many years to have an effective sewerage scheme in Oakura, to protect the environment for generations to come.
2. The "one bucket policy" of this council, makes a scheme financially feasible for smaller communities like Oakura.
3. The design was contracted to independent engineers.
4. That design was consulted on and substantially modified in response to community concerns - resulting in increased costs.
5. There has been significant inflation since the project was first mooted.
6. If the project was commenced today, it would cost significantly more.
7. All changes to the project and any subsequent increases to budgets have been publicly debated and approved by council.
8. The project is on target to being completed inside current budgets.
9. There was an early proposition that initial connections to the scheme would be averaged (the costs associated with connecting). Very quickly it became obvious that it would not be in the interest of most residents. Indications were that only the expensive properties to connect would join in the first instance (as apportioned costs would be greater than the actual costs for all others) and in their interests to wait the extra month. The subsequent decision to enable each property to bear their own costs (and any savings they could achieve) has resulted in a huge initial uptake (over 80% of all properties).
10. Having said that, if property owners are not happy - they are not compelled to join the scheme or to contribute financially.
11. I have declared an interest, and stood back from debate and voting relative to those few beach front properties who feel they are disadvantaged.
12. I was not involved in the decision to put a pipeline behind the rock wall (funded by the private property owners on Messenger Terrace).
13. I am yet to receive any payment for the easement through our property.
14. No offer was ever made to allow a group to go out and employ consultants with all costs back to rate-payers . . . no input, no guidelines, no quote, no order number . . . it never happened.
15. I have nothing but the highest respect for the management and staff of the council, and the external consultants involved in finding the best solutions for Oakura.
16. I accept the assurance of TOM Oakura that no inference of immoral or illegal activity was ever intended.

I have no intention of entering a debate with the writer of this fairy story through this fantastic publication, but I would hate readers to be kept awake with nightmares as a result of such scurrilous ramblings.

Peter Tennent, Mayor

TOM apologises

TOM apologises to its readers and to any affected council staff (implied) for printing the letter to the editor by Warren Barleyman in the July issue.

Lions

Hello readers

Yes it's that time again to drop a line or two to the TOM. Sorry I missed the last two issues but a long planned holiday to Canada and Alaska took priority. Rae and I thoroughly enjoyed the Coach Tour, Rocky Mountaineer Train (through the Rockies) and cruising through the inside passage to Alaska. Then we spent six days with friends in Nakusp and Kelowna, which is an eight hour car drive inland from Vancouver.

Our winter has been very cold so far. From our living room window I can see cows with calves and Steve and Lisa buzzing around like blue bummed blowflies. So the mad season has started.

On the 1 July the Lions changeover night was held. I was installed as President for the next year and I have a good team of guys to work with. We look forward to an interesting year ahead. Towards the end of my term (May 2010) we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. Our membership is in decline, with only 23 members at present. Over the past few months a few of our members have spent time in hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

At our board meeting we planned for some excellent speakers for the next few months and a community evening with an interesting speaker for later on in the year.

Until next month, take care

Lion Merv Hooker

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A new look at trade training

by Jonathan Young

"Get a hair cut, and get a job" was a phrase coined some years ago when a disapproving older generation believed the youth of the day appeared to have too much free time on their hands and they should be gainfully employed in work. Those making the comments no doubt experienced low or no unemployment, probably leaving school and then entering the workforce almost within the same week. Unfortunately the situation today means that job seekers are not able to gain employment quite as readily, despite making their best efforts to do so.

The National led Government believes everyone is good at something. Take a moment to think back to when you were at school. There were subjects you enjoyed and those you didn't. Maybe you were better at building and creating things than solving a maths problem. This is why we are establishing trades academies across the country, so that high school students interested in becoming a plumber, a hairdresser or working in information technology can get a head start. National intends to set up at least five trades academies during the next three years to ensure more students can find what they're good at and turn their talents into a career.

One of these academies will be at the Southern Cross Campus in South Auckland where the Government intends to put up to \$6 million into helping students combine their trades studies with NCEA. Southern Cross will work closely with tertiary providers and industry training organisations to provide students with specialised trades training in a range of specialities. We hope that by giving young adults more options to study a trade they will be more engaged in learning and want to stay in education longer.

In order to establish further trades academies, the Ministry of Education is currently seeking expressions of interest from providers who can identify local skill shortages and show there is strong demand for training. In the Taranaki region these shortages have already been identified in the Taranaki Industry Projections report released in 2008. "Regional employment growth is expected to lead national growth, especially over the 10 years from 2016 to 2026. Moreover, Taranaki regional GDP growth is expected to be significantly higher than national figures, driven by the oil and gas sector as well as growth in other high productivity sectors such as manufacturing".

Across all sectors, the region will require 21,700 additional workers by 2026 to meet the forecast economic growth. It is

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

For constituent appointments, please contact my Electorate Office in New Plymouth

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hoped that Taranaki will have a trade academy established here, as expressions of interest have been forwarded to the Minister of Education. As the local Member of Parliament for New Plymouth I am advocating for its establishment.

As well as establishing the academies, we are working to increase the number of technology and trades teachers in schools, expanding the availability of school-based apprenticeships, and ensuring the school curriculum includes the need for students to make things, build things, and produce things.

National is committed to putting trades back in our schools to give students a head start in those trades that interest them. We want to ensure New Zealand has enough skilled people to help our country grow.



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kaitake community board

It has been quite a busy period for your community board. There have been various meetings, workshops and briefings attended since last reporting but as the saying goes 'life goes on.'

The board recently received the report on the severe weather event of 23 May 2007 that caused the damage to Hall Terrace properties and associated angst to owners. The flood levels significantly exceeded any previously recorded. The report by civil engineers and hydrologists set out the possible causes, remedies and future management options.

There is not space here to provide comprehensive details of the report but my brief summary is: the Oakura River rose (and subsided) rapidly on the day, tide and sea level variations had little influence, the natural right angle of the river bed at the bridge created a choking effect on river flow and created higher water levels adjoining Hall Terrace than further towards the river mouth, flooding may occur again in the future but remedial work would have to be large scale and expensive and this high cost for flood protection works cannot be economically justified. Council has undertaken to upgrade the drainage of the minor tributary at the rear of the properties to reduce the possibility of flooding from this source. Other steps will be taken to help minimise and manage future flooding risks.

On a brighter note the board is investigating with the Taranaki Farmers' Market Trust the possibility to hold a regular monthly market day in Oakura. The Taranaki Farmers Market Trust is a not-for-profit organisation. It has created a platform for local growers and cottage industries to sell their produce and products directly to the local public. Every stallholder has to live locally, produce locally and, wherever possible, use locally produced ingredients in the case of cottage industries. The Farmers Market is all about food; food, plants and associated products. The market is governed by a charter and is a member of the Farmers Market Association of New Zealand. (www.farmersmarket.org.nz)

The board believes a village market in Oakura would be greatly appreciated and well patronised by the local population. We would be interested in hearing your comments and ideas on this. This proposal will be discussed at the next community board meeting.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 11 August at 4pm.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080) who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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Oakura Pony Club

By Diane Alder

Pony Club is currently in its "off-season" this month, so while you might still see a lot of our riders on the beach and riding up and down Wairau Road there is not much in the way of competition going on. This will all change when we have our opening rally around the end of August/early September (date to be advised at time of writing). As the days get longer, and the weather improves the pony club and competition season will get rolling again. While we have no real news as such, I thought this would be an opportune time to do some promoting.

Currently the New Zealand Pony Clubs Association has 16 areas, 83 clubs and 297 branches. Pony Club offers instruction in riding and pony care, and activities that include rallies, treks, and camps. Certificates and competitions are offered in a number of different riding disciplines, for example dressage, games, show-jumping, cross-country jumping, show hunter and horse-mastership. There are national certificates and the opportunity to represent your branch, club, area and/or country at national and international events. Skills learnt in Pony Club can lead to rewarding and exciting careers. National certificates in equine studies have been established in thoroughbred and harness racing, racecourse maintenance, stable practice, breeding, sport horse, farriery and coaching.

If you would like to find out more about Pony Clubs in New Zealand visit the NZPCA website www.nzpca.org. If you would like more information about Oakura Pony Club ring either our club president Paula Harvey on 7535335 or Diane Alder on 7521008.



The Zone Games 2009 "green" team in Hawera with Lauren Moorby on Shem, Nina McLean on Freckles, Georgia Ferris on Charlie and Bronte Alder on Husky.



Lauren Moorby riding Marmite at Zone Games 2008 in Foxton.



Oakura Junior Sports Club Mini-Athletics

By Jo Hill

At the end of the 2008/9 season the current Mini-Athletics committee decided to hand over the running of this great programme to someone who is keen to take it on. It would be fantastic to see this programme continue.

For the past six years Mini-Athletics has been run over summer on Monday nights at Corbett Park. The aim of the programme is to provide fun, variety, enjoyment and involvement for children aged 2-7 years. We grow skill

related fitness by developing co-ordination, balance, power, speed, agility and reaction time. We do this by breaking down skills and ensuring each child is given the opportunity to develop these at their own pace. Parents have been an integral part of the night and with some encouragement have taken groups and participated with their children.

Over the years we have purchased equipment of a high standard. The money for this has come from the season fee of \$10 per child or \$15 per family, a New Zealand Community Trust Grant and a sausage sizzle held each week. If you have been part of this programme then you know how great it has been to get 80 plus children together each week along with their parents, grandparents and older siblings.

We would love to see it start again for 2009/10. Melissa and I will of course be around to assist and help those who wish to give it a go. If you are interested or would like to know more phone either Melissa on 7527907 or Jo on 7527899.



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Inline hockey goalie Eve Coltman remembers the day she received the phone call that realised her dream to represent New Zealand Junior Women in her chosen sport. "It was the best day of my life," says 15 year old Eve.

Eve was first invited to play at age seven "because I had a pair of inline blades". While attending Oakura primary school Eve was spotted by David Carrington, the New Plymouth 1st Ravens coach, and was asked to play for New Plymouth.

She began playing in a girls' team. However they were entered in the under 14's boys' division "so we didn't win that many games, but it was fun".

Following further one on one training and coaching from senior club and national members, Eve tried out for her first Regional trial at age 12 and was selected.

From there the team went on to score Gold in each season. "Last year we fully dominated and cleaned up, coming out unbeaten and with a shut out (no goals scored against us)", says a thrilled Eve.

Before finally being chosen for the team from the NZ trials, Eve endured one non-selection



Eve in goal at the Secondary School Champs.

and two selections for reserve. Following the non selection for reserve "I was disappointed and a bit upset." Then Eve got the good advice not to worry about what everyone else in the game is doing. "You're a goalie, so go out there and be one." "So that's what I did, I got focused and it all paid off."

Also selected was Abigail Bridgeman of Okato. Making the NZ team to represent under 16's in December saw the beginning of "extreme training" up to 80 minutes daily, hockey or cardio.

In April this year 160 players (from junior to Veteran teams) and 100 supporters (including Eve's parents, Tom and Debbie) travelled to Perth. Eve, who had never before left New Zealand, found it a wonderful experience. There wasn't electricity at the venue so a couple of Kiwi sparkies offered their skills. Tom began an impromptu rendition of the New Zealand National Anthem (both versions), much to the delight of a proud Eve.

The first three games were lost (twice in over time) and the other two were won, leading to a respectable silver for the team. As a "rookie" Eve experienced special treatment, including being required to prepare breakfast for a veteran. "But I didn't have to do anything awful like some of the guys."

Currently Eve is helping coach junior players and plays for the Senior Women's Ravens team. In July she participated in junior secondary school tournaments and will work towards the National trials again in September.

By Sharon van Dijk

Eve with her NZ Shirt.



Medals for inline hockey

Two students from Omata School participated in the 5th Ravens Inline Hockey Junior tournament over the holidays. Quinn Steen received a gold medal in the U10 grade and Phoebe Livingston received a silver medal playing in the Junior Women grade.

Clubs participated from as far away as Nelson and Waihi.

Four different age groups from U10, U12, U14 and Junior Women compete for the coveted gold medal and this year the local club – The Ravens won gold in U10, U12 and U14.

The U12/1 team with their gold medals and Quinn Steen on far left.



Phoebe Livingston, on the right, playing for the Junior Women Ravens team against Waihi.



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GETTING WET!



Although I'm sure that Mohammad has had plenty of opportunities this winter to journey to the mountain it was a very special night when the mountain came to Mohammad for the Vertigo Volcom Rail Jam on Friday 3 July. Truckloads of ice, courtesy of Egmont Seafoods, produced the perfect medium for snowboarders and skiers to entertain the 200 odd spectators as they showed the skills and daring

needed to take a drop, ride over a rail slide and up a quarter pipe.

This was the second time this annual event has taken place outside Vertigo and what a great one it was too! A real festive and Mardi Gras atmosphere was created and it was an ideal occasion for locals, both young and old, to get together and celebrate the spirit of winter. Loads of thanks go to Cole Baker from Vertigo for being the inspiration behind the idea (as well as being the perfect MC), and bringing on board so many generous local sponsors and volunteers. Special thanks also go to Bruce the Builder for building the rail slide, BP AI for his welding expertise and Butlers for hosting the prize giving and supporting the event.

There were about 30 competitors this year. Many of them were from Oakura with three or four of them getting through to the finals. The event was won by a young up and comer from New Plymouth who impressed us all with a tribute to the late Michael Jackson by doing a one footed moon walk slide across the rail. There were loud cries of exclamation when skier Thornton Davies did a back flip off the quarter pipe that was leaning against a van, breaking its window with his head. There were also loud cries when a larger competitor flew over the van at full speed and landed on the asphalt below!

Due to a lack of decent surf riding the snow seems to be taking precedent over riding the waves at the time of writing this article. Hopefully by the time you are reading this you're able to do both.

The Anderson males and their friends decided to leave the snow behind for the recent school holidays and chase the surf in Indonesia. Brent writes

"It was Indonesia time again with a lot of Oakura surfers being sighted in and around Bali: Brett Hollis, Chinnai, John and Nick Thomas, Nat Day and parents, Cole Baker from Vertigo and Michael Harrison, to name a few. The Anderson crew also had a Bali interlude and then went on to Sumbawa and Lakey Peak for some great waves and weather. Although Tyler damaged his knee and Kaye McKee got sunstroke and came in close contact with the reef, the quality of the surf and our memories will ensure the annual pilgrimage will continue. "That's not hard considering the grey wet and bleak weather Taranaki has been experiencing."

I'm sure Paige will also have many memories of Indonesian surf, although her itinerary over the next few months doesn't include a visit there. As this goes to press Paige has just got through her first heat in the US Open. After that she is back in Aotearoa until late September and then off to Sydney for another WCT competition.

Crimpoline suits and shirts, tight synthetic patterned dresses, mini skirts, long hair, beads, head bands and hairspray were very much in fashion at the Oakura Boardriders Midwinter Dinner which was held in late June. It lived up to all

The Vertigo Volcom Rail Jam.



Kaye McKee making the most of the Indonesian surf.

expectations with its 60s and 70s theme. The Ahu Ahu Beach Villas was the perfect setting for a night of dancing, frivolity and fun! There was indeed a warm ambience in the dining area which extended to the fire outside in the courtyard. David and Nuala and their family were the most gracious hosts and served a delicious gourmet hangi. Our beloved president Paul followed his welcoming speech with a fine display of the muscular and somewhat hairy chest that lay underneath his shirt. However what was more impressive was that he had designed and made the crimp line shirt he happily discarded and it was excellently tailored! In a previous life in the 70s Paul studied design at the Wellington Polytechnic, now known as Massey, Wellington.

Philippa Butt



Murray, Mike, Bob and Willy looking fairly scary at the midwinter dinner.

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Ice, anarchy and the pursuit of madness!

For too long the Deep South has laid claim to rock, ice and snow. NO Longer! The knee-chafing, eye-watering, edge-of-the-seat adrenalin, synonymous with the Wanaka Mountain Film Festival, is here. Prizewinning movies handpicked from this renowned event pack Arthouse Cinema's New Zealand Mountain Film Festival this August.

Screening concurrently at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and Oakura Hall and showcasing 13 films in total, three shorts and three main films will raise your blood pressure at each venue on each night. In addition, the NZ Grand Winner, *Lost Tower* will screen after 10pm. Set in Patagonia, Argentina, this film also won the People's Choice award and follows two Kiwi adventurers starving and struggling as they bite off more than they can chew, portaging kayaks over a glacier in the teeth of severe weather to climb a remote rock tower. *Acopan Tepui*, Festival Grand Prize Winner and Best Film on Climbing, takes you on a seemingly impossible ascent in Venezuelan rainforest of a remote and vertical sharks tooth by determined Germans. Best Adventure Film, *No Need for Parking*, is a South African film featuring extreme climbers avoiding the local transport nightmare and flying to three of South Africa's wildest and most remote rock walls via microlite plane. Because nerve wracking adventures are never enough, the rest of the festival has waist-deep powder, warm Queenstown rock, nasty French alpine ice, Japanese powder, and the cold, fast water of the Nevis.

Tension-filled, beautiful and inspirational.

The first film rolls each night at 7.30pm with the retro themed treats Arthouse Cinema goers have become accustomed to – drop dead gorgeous wines from Mike Radich, invigorating Wildcat Coffee, mountainous ice creams and a good old sausage sizzle for those who got out the door before dinner. Ticket proceeds from the NZ Mountain Festival will go to our three local mountain clubs - Taranaki Alpine Club, Stratford Mountain Club and the Taranaki Branch of New Zealand Alpine Club. So come along and support them, and get inspired to launch the kids off the couch.

Tickets for the NZ Mountain Festival are \$15 for one night or \$25 for both nights (at the same venue), and are available from the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery for New Plymouth screenings, or Butlers Reef Bar for Oakura screenings.

Arthouse Cinema's NZ Mountain Festival is proudly sponsored by Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architecture, Cause and Effect Graphic Design, TSH Audio and Video, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, and The Most 100.4FM.

Arthouse enthusiasts please note, you can still indulge in classic Arthouse at Waiau Estate at 7.30pm on Friday nights over the winter months. Head out for a pre-movie meal and enjoy a film from their great August line up:

- 14 August The Grocer's Son**
- 21 August The Motorcycle Diaries**
- 28 August The Topp Twins**

For further information, trailers and details of upcoming movies see our website: www.arthousecinema.co.nz

Ruru visit

Robbie Penwarden reported a Morepork visit to his garden not long after TOM was in letterboxes last month. It landed on his birdhouse at dusk and tried to get at something in the starling box though Robbie is unsure what, as there are no starlings nesting in the box at the moment. It then flew off. Robbie says he hadn't seen one before nor heard them very often.

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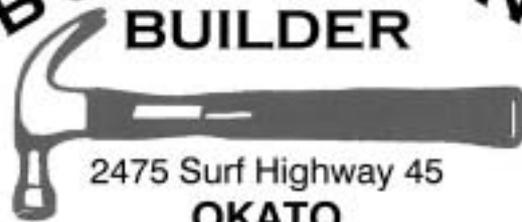
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Lawns'N'More –

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It has been nearly a year since Grant and Chrissy Hignett purchased a lawn mowing round from Bernie and Amanda Smith and started Lawns'N'More. Bernie says he is delighted that Grant and Chrissy have been so successful with the business and it is wonderful that they have had such a positive impact on the village.

Lawns'N'More is a lawn mowing business that is busy around the village doing more than just mowing lawns, they specialise in garden and property maintenance (clean gutters, repairs roofs, water blasting etc) firewood, tree pruning and removal, and housekeeping. In fact they'll give anything a go!

Grant and Chrissy love living and working in the village where their customers become friends. They pride themselves on their client relationships and they like nothing better than having happy clients. And it's not hard says Grant, you just listen to what your customer wants and you do a good job.

Grant and Chrissy have a farming background, coming from the Stratford area. They have been married 27 years and have two children and one grand child plus a beautiful poodle called Posh and a moggy called Ambrose. In more recent times Grant has worked in sales at Coronation Machinery. It was through this association with selling Walker mowers that Grant got into a lawn mowing business. Grant is passionate about the quality cut his Walker mower will give a lawn. These mowers aren't mowers you jump on and master, they take expertise to manage properly and Grant knows them inside and out.

Recently Grant and Chrissy ran the school disco and they said they got enormous enjoyment out of watching the kids having fun. The children enjoyed it so much they sent Grant and Chrissy letters telling them so. Grant and Chrissy did this for free as a gesture to the children of the community. Providing music for functions is one of Grant's hobbies and you may even find him and Chrissy up at Butlers running Karaoke nights. Give him a ring and talk to him about your next family function or fundraiser.

Talk to Lawns'N'More about your property maintenance before the spring rush starts and I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

By Kim Ferens



Grant and Chrissy ready for action.

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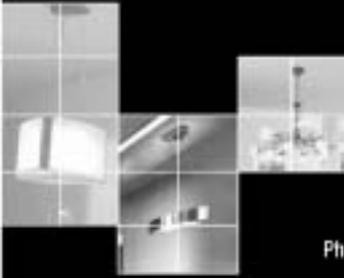


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Ball Skills

On Tuesday 30 August Omata and Oakura Schools years 3 and 4 came together to participate in a ball skills afternoon run by Mr. Bennett from Icon Sports. Oakura School year 8 sports leaders and some of the head pupils took part in the games. There was a selection of games ranging from easy to difficult: unstable trolleys, a ball firer, an obstacle course, bowling, a tennis relay, cricket activities, mini putt, soccer goals, trampoline throwing and last, but not least, rugby ball passes.

Farrell Robertson, one of the head pupils, said "The ball skills afternoon was a great way for the years 3 and 4 to show and learn some ball skills and a great opportunity for us [head pupils and sports leaders] to take on leadership."

The students were divided into teams of 11 and taken around each activity with their team's leader. It started at 1 pm and ended at 2:30. After it had finished all the pupils involved had biscuits and a drink before the Omata School children left. It was a great way for the children of Omata and Oakura to socialise and they learnt some impressive ball skills at the same time.

By Jamie Scott



Bowls Tournament

Twenty four Oakura School students travelled to Hempton Hall for the annual bowls tournament on 2 July. There were five schools in all that attended the tournament, St Josephs Opunake, Omata, Coastal, Rahotu and Oakura. Typically when you play bowls you play one game of fours, one game of doubles and one game of singles. Overall your team of four will play seven games. Oakura sent five teams to compete.

After the games were completed all but one of the mats were put away. The organisers then put a \$10 note at the end of the mat and one person from each team had a chance to try and get a bowl onto the \$10 note! In the end no one actually got a bowl right on top of the money, but a player from Coastal almost got theirs on the note, and they were awarded the money to share within their group.

This event happens every year and each year more and more students are introduced to this sport which they may not have tried before. For some it even becomes a passion.

I'd like to say thanks to all the organisers of this competition on behalf of Oakura School, and I'm sure next year will be just as great as this one!

By Isla Dunn

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Buddy Toy Day

On Tuesday 30 June Oakura School years 7 and 8 met with rooms 1, 2 and 6 (years 1, 2 and 4) for a toy-exchanging day with their reading buddies.

Oakura School has a buddy system which operates throughout the school. At the beginning of the school year a classroom of older pupils is paired with a classroom of younger ones, and from there the two groups of children are buddied. Every Tuesday the senior pupils of the school (year 5 to year 8) visit the younger students of the school (year 1 to year 4) to listen to and assist them with their reading. The older children are taught how to work with younger students to help them learn to read. The younger buddies improve their reading skills and also get to know the older children in the school.

Last term the whole school took part in a Toy Technology Unit which taught how to design and make toys. This ended with everyone making a very special toy for their buddy. Everyone worked amazingly hard to make these toys. There were teddy bears, dolls, ponies, butterflies, kites and even dollhouses! The junior students made Jack-in-the-Boxes and very cute sock puppets. Everyone was delighted with their toys. Year 1 pupil Mia Hales exclaimed after being presented with her pink horse, "This is a really cool horse because it is pink and has spots!" The junior students couldn't wait to get home to play with their toys that day!

By Amy Barron



Toys for the young buddies.

Oakura School Disco

On the 1 July Oakura School students celebrated the end of term two with a school disco and fundraiser. The disco was held at the Oakura Hall with years 1-3 partying hard at the junior disco from 6.00 to 7.00 and years 5 - 8 raising the roof at their disco from 7.15 to 8.30. Year 4 got to choose if they wanted to attend the junior or senior disco.

The theme this year was *Colour My World*, the opposite of last year which was *Black and White*. Everyone was very enthusiastic in their support of the theme and there were some weird and wonderful costumes on the night.

We would like to give a big thank you to Grant and Chrissy who came along voluntarily to DJ for both discos. Also a thank you to Lisa Robertson and her helpers who organised the decorations, to FOOS (Friends of Oakura School) and to *Lawns'N'More* who supported the event.

By Anna Costello



Playcentre farm visit

by Jennifer Gros

Playcentre had a wonderful time at Megan & Grant Holmes' farm in July! Little Rose and Denim also played hosts as all of the children took a tour. The weather was perfect! The kids got to see Grant milk a cow by hand, and a few children were able to try the warm milk. After that, the children and their mums and dads headed over to the cow sheds to see the baby calves. Many were only days old, and were so sweet, letting the kids pet them and chase them around the shed. Everyone loved seeing the calves drinking milk from the calf feeder. The fun really began when everyone loaded on the hay filled trailer and sang "Old McDonald Had a Farm" while being pulled behind the tractor! The ride was lots of fun, and ended with a visit to the paddock to see two new baby calves who had just been born. Lunch was under the trees at a giant picnic table, while the kids enjoyed Rose and Denim's super cool tree house and trampoline. Thank you Holmes family for such a great day!



Megan Holmes with their newest calf.



Children having lunch at the farm.



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Sally Laing with students from Oakura School

Over the school holidays, local jeweler Sally Laing hosted several workshops for children at her studio on Wairau Road in Oakura. Classes included teaching the children enamelling and some metal work. The students learned to nurture their skills and individual designs to create an original piece of wearable art.



Sally with her holiday students.



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Beautiful food and delicious art come together

To benefit Kaitake Kindergarten

By Jennifer Gros

It was such a wonderful night of beautiful food and delicious art . . . or was it delicious food and beautiful art? I think I had it right the first time, because I couldn't believe how beautiful the food was being set in front of me, nor could I stop wanting to devour the fantastic art on auction! "A Tasty Evening" held at Okurukuru to benefit the local Kaitake Kindergarten in late June was truly TASTY indeed.

Top chefs were featured from around the New Plymouth area, as were first class local artists. The venue was perfect, with everyone seated for a sit down dinner, while the chefs prepared each course in front of the group. The chefs' handiwork was projected onto a screen so that everyone could see the food prepared step by step. Each attendee was given the recipe to follow along, and was served the course as the chef was finished.

The chefs included Soehnke Danger of The Garlic Press, Simon Houghton of Okurukuru Winery, Mark Watkins of Nice Hotel, and Troy Waters of Okurukuru Winery. Recipes included: Marinated Salmon with Potato Rosti as an entrée, Handmade Stuffed Tortellini with Chicken as a starter, Angus Beef Fillet as the main course, and a Dark Chocolate Marquis for dessert. Guests also enjoyed a choice of Okurukuru Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, or Sauvignon Blanc.

The food was beautifully balanced with auctions throughout the night of wonderful artwork donated to raise funds for a new all weather outdoor sandpit cover for the kindergarten. The artists who participated included: Wendy Neighbours, Sue Cooke, Barbara Clegg, Peter Lambert and Michael Smither. Thank you to these artists for their donations.

Big art inspires little artists

by Kris Roper

One special piece of art was very interesting to the children at Kaitake Kindergarten. As it hung on the wall for a few weeks before the big night, the children were inspired to copy the colourful swimming fish onto a giant piece of cardboard. On a beautiful winters day, a small group of girls gathered to join in the drawing and painting activity. The cardboard was cut into a circle, the shape of the plate on which the fish figures lay on.

As the children studied the painting, a fish was drawn with the help of Sammi and Kris. A sea snake was added, even though there was none in the original painting. As the children progressed in drawing their own fish, they were made aware of the lines and colours in the painting. As they looked closer, large eyes were added to the fish and stripes appeared. Sammi drew a star for Ruby Kennedy who coloured it pink. Charlotte started to draw a fish too, and slowly began to add brighter colours. Rhiarn sought out help from Mum with the shapes on her fish, and the girls discussed whether to use felt pens or coloured pencils. Hazel soon joined in, showing her artistic skills and adding more stripes.

In the mean time, the "boys" Thomas, David and Lewis who were nearby making a wooden barbecue with the blocks,



Simon Houghton of Okurukuru whipping up a culinary treat.

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decided that the remaining cardboard would be good for making barbecue lids! Or, even better, for running and sliding on!

The artwork was very popular with the children and the Kaitake Kindergarten and the committee would like to thank everyone who in any way helped to make the evening an enjoyable night and a great success.

Special thanks to the following sponsors who enabled the evening to be such a success: Okurukuru Winery, TSH Audio and Video, TGM Design, Inner Beauty, Koru Lodge, Mosaic Builders, Espresso Garden Café, Lander & Black Unichem Pharmacy and QP Sport Limited. Bon appetit!

Kaitake Kindergarten children get into creating their very own 'big fish' artworks.



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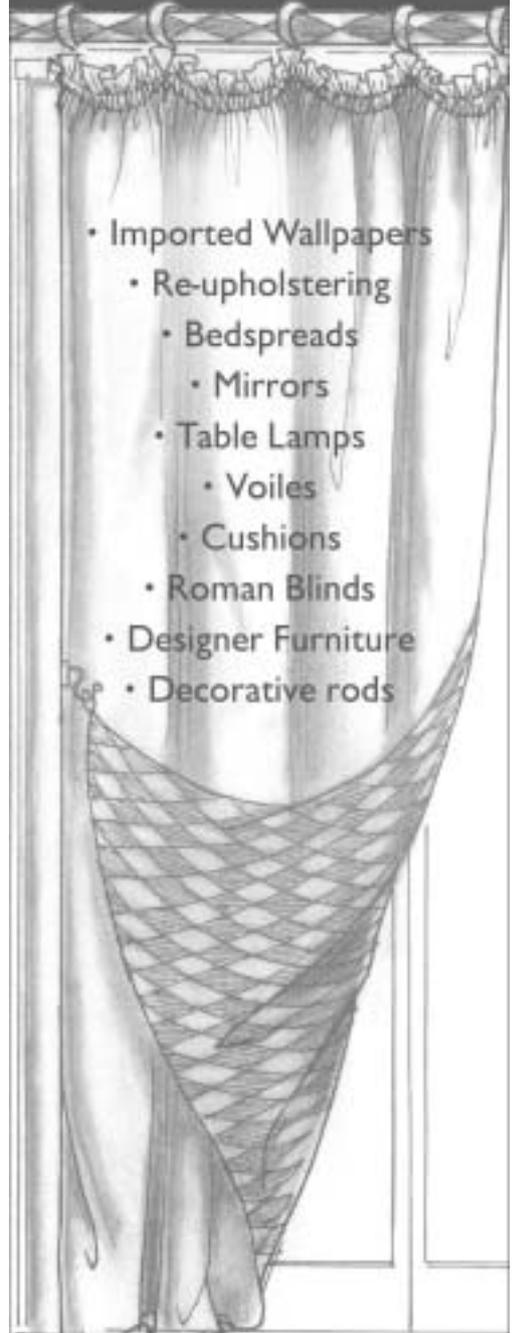
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August

- 21 Teacher Only Day
- 28 Omata Cross Country 1pm
- 31 Year 7 and 8 Inter-school Cross Country at Omata

September

- 3 Years 4-6 Coastal Schools Cross Country at Omata
- 23 Taranaki Cross Country at Hawera
- 25 Omata Idol 9am in hall
Cafe Omata 10am in hall



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Part of the powerful learning journey we take together is building solid relationships between parents, children and teachers, with everyone playing a role and everyone understanding where we are at and where to next. While we know our students need to develop strong number and communication skills, both verbal and written, they also need to be adaptable, responsible and have the desire and skills to continue to learn. In 2022 our five year olds will leave secondary school. We hope that we will have made a difference to the quality of their lives. We need to grow "good people" who will connect with, and are actively involved in, shaping positive futures for themselves and others — people who will be prepared to take responsibility and look at the world with wonder.

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Karen Brisco, Principal

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Your August Checklist

Flower Garden:

Plant new season's roses in rich well drained soil, with plenty of compost. Complete rose pruning in time for spring growth. Plant new perennials. Lift and divide clumps of existing perennials. Plant trees and shrubs now to maximise spring growth.

Lawns:

Evenly apply lawn fertiliser to stimulate new growth. Moss can be a problem in poorly drained or shady areas of lawn. Rake the area thoroughly and apply a solution of Sulphate of Iron (10g per square metre) to kill moss.

Kitchen Garden:

Prepare the garden for spring planting. Add generous amounts of compost. Now is the time to add lime if necessary. Plant new citrus and deciduous fruit trees. Prune passionfruit vines and feijoas to encourage new growth and fruiting.



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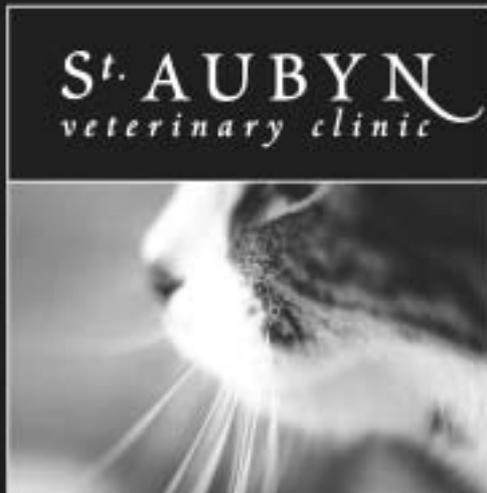


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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

Every Thursday at Oakura Boardriders Club. 7.15 to 8.30pm.
Contact Rosalina at 027 739 1380.

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 Art Group

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over
winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

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 and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before
10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes
- please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752
1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

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.

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley
752 1016 for details.

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 El Presidente 752 1290,
email podsnaill@xnet.co.nz

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-
9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-
10.30am. Beginners
welcome. Phone Sarsha 752
7977.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM
with any changes to your
listing.

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