

This month

Tapuae Farm Estate

The "Bulls For Hire" billboard on Surf Highway 45's Tapuae Hill will soon be a thing of the past as the development moves into top gear. To even the most unobservant motorist, the activity level on this hilltop is evident. Roding machines, diggers and dozers are all moving into the next exciting phase of development at the Farm Estate. From billboards to schist and cedar, marble and glass, G&Ts and BMWs! Move over Tom and Penelope!

But how do you encapsulate in one short story the essence of Tapuae Farm Estate and John and Mary Washer? It's hard to think of one without the other and whether The Farm Estate has made John and Mary or John and Mary have made the Farm Estate is a moot point, because as you talk with them you realise the passion, verve and enthusiasm is matched only by the "mana" of Tapuae Hill. The site is just so breathtakingly perfect that I can already envisage a small community living there. And I get the feeling that a small community where people care and interact with one another is the vision John and Mary have for Tapuae Farm. The word "destiny" pops up before "vision". John says "We were invited to buy this farm. It didn't make any sense to buy it and initially we lost a lot of money. We sold off 50 acres to the Haywards for their Vineyard and we have had other offers for land parcels as well but they always fell through. *Continued on page 2*

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We felt something drawing us towards this sort of subdivision.” That’s where vision comes in. These two people have such an incredibly clear vision of what would best suit their land. They’re not in it for the money. They see it more as another venture that teaches you some valuable “life lessons”. Lessons about yourself, dealing with difficult situations and people, and respecting the land, respecting its history and integrity.

Both John and Mary speak of the huge learning curve they encountered when they started the subdivision project. Dealing with councils, roading companies, Iwi, landscape architects and many bureaucrats has honed skills learnt in an arena of Fonterra meetings. They are still at great pains to ensure every detail is taken care of and to the very highest standard. Every nail, every rail, every piece of timber or roading is all brand new. It’s not hard to see why you would strive to perfect everything to the nth degree when the views from Tapuae are so stunning. Every one of the 26 sites chosen for development has something unique about it. A framed view of a section of coast; an expanse of sea; a panorama of the mountain; a vista of grapevines; a glimpse of the river mouth; an outlook of lake (named Penelope incidentally) and wildlife. The land offers some of the most desirable real estate ever to come on the market in this area. John feels the development of the Tapuae Farm Estate along with the adjoining vineyard will forever change the Omata/Oakura landscape and so, as its guardian, he feels the responsibility of capturing and maintaining the “spirit” of the land.

As I drive along Surf Highway 45 and ponder what is happening on “them thar hills”, I feel great excitement and anticipation. Who will live there? Where will they come from? What will they build? Mary tells me that the planning stage is almost complete and the farm is moving into the next phase. The bulls will be moved off the property and only quiet female stock will be farmed around the house sites by a professional farmer. The roading is plain to see from Surf Highway 45 and is being carried out to the highest possible standards. If a single-lane road is the minimum requirement, then a two-lane, curbed and channelled, tar-sealed surface is the result. The underground electrical services are awaiting completion. Nine thousand native plants have been planted to return the land to partial bush cover. A shade house has been built and 12,000 more plants have been potted for planting in June and subsequent years. Five local people have undertaken this mammoth task. They include horticulturists Spence Guthrie and Kathleen Brophy. Josh Mead, Ray Shand and Angela Fleming have scampered up and down hills with their plants and spades and John and Mary are absolutely thrilled with their input. All the house sites have been properly engineered to make sure they are suitable for building. Each of the 26 sites is an acre and the land owner has an approximate 4% share in the “common land”. Included

in the “common land” is 2 tennis courts, a 50-person pavilion, kilometres of mown walking tracks through the bush and down to the beach as well as grazing land with cattle. Some sites will have a “ha-ha” or trench that will not impede the views on one side. The unsightly shed that can be spied from the main road by the lake is not John and Mary’s retirement home but the smoko room for the work force! It is not permanent and will be shifted away. The present farm house and farm sheds will also shortly be history.

A special feature of this development that will be of benefit not only to the land owners but also to the general public will be the Tapuae River project. At the moment, access to this picturesque river is not easy but an arrangement has been made with the council to develop a new 2-lane road, a 25-car parking facility and a pohutukawa-lined walkway along the river bank to its mouth. The new road entrance will move further north, with turning bays providing safe access. What a fantastic place to have a picnic!

Not one of the 26 sites has been sold yet but interest has been huge. John and Mary are waiting for the “right time” to market this desirable property and I feel certain they’ll be fussy about who they hand their “babies” over to. If you are waiting to find the most perfect place to spend the rest of your life, then this is it. John told me so!

By Kim Ferens

tom

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

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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!

It's an incredibly busy time of year as we build up to Christmas – at the council we have a lot of issues to work on before we break for the festive season, just as everyone else is working hard before they take time off over December and January.

As I do every year, I'll be taking the family out to Oakura Beach to spend the summer at one of the best beaches in the country. I'm looking forward to coming out here again – we always enjoy relaxing on the beach and catching up with our friends throughout the town. Oakura is a close community all year round, but I think it's especially so during summer! It's a great chance for Oakura residents to catch up with people who spend their summer holidays here, returning again and again as friends and 'seasonal residents' rather than just visitors. I expect it will be another summer in paradise. You just can't beat the atmosphere and the environment of Oakura Beach during the Christmas and New Year season. Meanwhile there is a lot of anticipation as we head towards the first screenings of *The Last Samurai*. The advance buzz from overseas is that the film is top-class, and I fully expect Oakura to receive more attention as the place where Tom Cruise stayed during the filming of his latest blockbuster – and it's attention that Oakura fully deserves.

I think everyone can be proud of the role Oakura played in this film project, and the way that residents went out of their way to make Cruise and the rest of the cast and crew feel at home.

Remember: if you have an idea for a project or you'd just like to have a chat, stop me on the beach this summer or as I'm off for a run with the family. I'd love to hear your ideas and your comments!

I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas.

Regards,

Peter Tennent
Mayor

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Councillor's Comments



By the time this publication is out it will almost be time to get the turkey out of the freezer. I am finding it hard to believe that this year has gone so quickly.

Council work has been steady. There are a few projects that will take place out this way and we have asked the council for an update on the projects such as

Beach front upgrade

Bank beautification on the corner of Donnelly St and the Main Rd

Sewerage (\$50,000 was in this year's annual plan for investigation)

Coastal Community Strategy (\$10,000 was to be accessed from internal budgets)

Oakura river erosion

Completion of the CBD upgrade, and planting.

With regard to the CBD upgrade, it is fairly upsetting to see that the two Blue Rata trees planted outside the hall have disappeared. Initially it looked like one of the trees had been broken off at the top and then next thing they have both gone. These trees are really special. They are hard to propagate in the first place and were especially put aside by the Parks Dept to be planted in Oakura and Okato.

This week the Local Government Commission was in New Plymouth to hold a hearing about the representation review. Seventeen objections were received, mostly from Okato people who do not wish to be linked with Inglewood. Not one was received from Oakura, so we must assume that people from here are happy to be linked with the New Plymouth ward. Results of the hearing will not be out before February, so it is a case of sitting back and waiting. The main topic was the fact that there will be no or very little rural representation around the council table should the Kaitake ward be split off as is proposed. Sue Henchman and myself did our very best to try and save the Kaitake ward. I'm not sure where the rest of the Community Board were at the time for support on this serious issue.

TSB Community Trust have allocated \$2,000 towards the New Year Rave to be held at Shearer reserve. Thank you to the Trust from this community and good luck and thanks Chris Gruys for your continued community support ensuring the youth have somewhere to go on New Year's Eve. Don't forget if you can help (even for a short while) please phone Chris or myself. We would love to hear from you.

Well everybody, have a nice Christmas and a well deserved break over the festive season. Take care of yourselves and your families. Merry Christmas to you all.

Pam Street



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Kaitake Community Board



On Thursday 20th November, Councillor Pam Street and myself presented a submission to the Local Government Commission. This was to put our objections regarding the Representation Review. I feel that we received a fair hearing. We will know how fair when the decision is made. I would like to congratulate those in our community who made submissions and those who spoke to the Commission.

CBD Upgrade

Pam and I met with Council Officers to discuss a number of issues.

The sign on the island at Dixon Street corner which is obstructing view will be made smaller and moved to the side.

The car parks on the Four Square shop side of the road from the Dixon Street end to the Church will be marked and painted, making it easier to define each park.

It is intended that the planters will be planted in the near future. I would hope that they will be treated with respect and not vandalised as happened outside the Oakura Hall.

The New Year's Eve Rave

I would like to thank Chris Gruys for organising this event again this year. I know it will be a great evening.

Well another year has gone and it is time to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the summer holidays and safe journeys to those travelling.

See you in 2004

Susan Henschman

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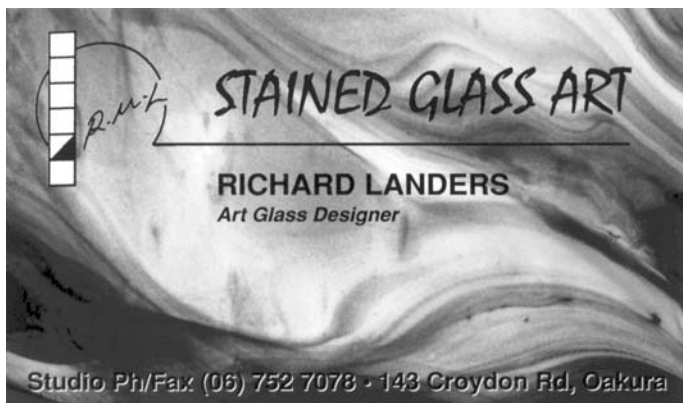
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Hon. Harry Duynhoven MP for New Plymouth

Strengthening Families

Recently, a newspaper headline boldly displayed on a billboard in inner city Wellington caught my eye. The headline read: "Why CYF is failing our children". As I read the billboard I couldn't help thinking that there is something wrong if we believe that the ultimate responsibility for the safety of our children rests solely with a government agency.

Over recent months we have witnessed tragic examples of New Zealand children who have fallen victim to violence within the home. Child Youth and Family has policies and procedures in place to protect children; however, these systems have failed in a few recent high profile cases. Obviously, this is unacceptable, and the department has recognised this. But what is to be done?

CYF recently announced that it intends to strengthen its services by employing additional front line staff, developing a strategy for managing demand, and by ensuring greater support for the regional delivery of services. Social Worker Registration legislation was also passed in April to ensure that Social Workers are registered, competent to practise and accountable for the work they do.

But these solutions are not enough if we are to truly protect our children. As families and as members of the community, we must bear the responsibility of the children in our care.

Community partnerships and initiatives such as "Rise above it" and "Everyday Communities" are just some of the ways we can ensure our kids are safe. Building stronger and safe families with successful parenting is also crucial. The government recognises this, and recently introduced legislation for a new Families Commission to give parents and families an additional advocacy voice and support. The government will ask the Families Commission to take an early interest in the issue of parenting, by examining existing parenting programmes both here and overseas.

We all have a role to play in the support and safety of the children in our community. While Child Youth and Family has a crucial role to play, if a child is failed, the responsibility for that child falls far wider than a government agency. As my colleagues Dover Samuels and John Tamihere recently stated, "as parents of children ourselves, we are doing everything we can from a Government perspective, but if anyone thinks the Government can solve the problem alone, they must be dreaming. Ultimately, the turnaround can only come with the buy-in and contribution of [New Zealand] people."

Harry Duynhoven




Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

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TOM Copper's Column



Well, the year is almost over and Santa is preparing the sleigh for the big trip away.

It is that time of year when the population in Oakura explodes. With more people coming to town there is generally an increase in crime and disorder. So on that note, here are just a few tips on what you can do to keep your street, neighbourhood and town safe.

If you see someone acting suspiciously, whether they be trying car doors or on a property, smashing letterboxes or hiding when cars drive past you can:

1. Write down their description. What they are wearing, how old are they, any tattoos or distinguishing features.
2. Write down the registration and description of the car they are driving.
3. Write down what they are doing, where they are going.
4. Ring the Police and let them know. If you see/catch someone committing an offence then please ring at the time. Don't be afraid to ring. The Police can't help if they don't know what's happening!

Recently people have tried phoning me first when an offence is taking place, which is good. If I am not there, please don't be afraid to ring New Plymouth Police on 759 5050 or dial 0 after the answer phone picks up and you will be put through to New Plymouth. If urgent, phone 111. If you are in doubt about ringing 111 then ring it anyway.

Remember not to leave valuables in cars and to lock them. It is surprising the number of people around Oakura who leave money, laptops and other expensive stuff in vehicles and then don't lock their cars!!

If you are going away over the holidays let your

neighbours know. That way they can keep an eye on the place and if a moving van turns up they can call Police.

If you haven't recorded serial numbers of your televisions, tools, bikes then do it now!! You only have to do it once. It greatly increases the chances of your property being recovered should it get stolen!

Join a neighbourhood support group. It is a good way of getting to know your neighbours. It doesn't take much time or effort to organise or be a part of. There are eight or more active support groups in Oakura to date!

With schools finishing for the year there will be a lot of young people looking for something to do. Please keep an eye on your children and arrange activities for them to do during the day. The last thing we want is for bored children to be caught doing naughty things. Mind you, if they are caught, there will be plenty of rubbish around to be picked up!

The message about wearing bicycle helmets is getting through. It is good to see the adults are starting to set an example for the younger ones. It is funny to watch those without helmets try and hide by ducking down drives etc. It is easy enough to wear one and you don't have to cycle around with the fear of being spotted by me!

There has been an increase in shoplifting in Oakura of late. One lady has been arrested and charged with two shoplifting offences. The local shops will phone Police if children/adults are caught shoplifting.

I have received some good information from a number of people lately about offences that have been committed or suspicious persons. It is all good and has led to a number of people being caught for shoplifting, driving around in stolen cars and thefts. Keep up the good work!

On that note have a happy and safe Christmas, New Year.

Thomas McIntyre
Okato/Oakura Copper
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Firelines

A PROFILE OF OUR LOCAL LADS (AND LADESSES)

I have often wondered what makes a person want to be a fire fighter, so I went along to practise night to see what makes these worthy individuals tick and this is what I found....

Brian Grundy, Fire Chief, has had 29 years' service (23 as Fire Chief), and he is also Showroom Supervisor for Placemakers in New Plymouth. Brian wanted to help his community and learn new skills and enjoys passing these on to others. He has represented the Brigade in France at the World Firefighting Games.

Craig Scott, Deputy Fire Chief, is 36 years old and has had 14 years of service. He's a local lad and is a Research Technician at Dow Agro Sciences Research Farm. He says that an accident outside his gate one day and a work accident awoke a passion in him to help others in situations where they are hurt and to see if he had the bottle to cope with life and death situations – time has proved that he has. Next year he is eligible for a Long Service Good Conduct medal.

Terry Griffiths, who wishes he was 50+ and is actually 60+, has served for 24 years, mostly as a Fire Police Officer. Being a Fire Policeman means Terry has the powers and privileges of an ordinary Police Officer but only in an emergency situation. Terry got into Fire Service through his work with STOS when he had to do compulsory fire training.

Jim Priest, 50 something and 34 years' service (33 as a fire fighter and one as a fire police officer), is one of the foundation firemen. He has seen a few fires in his time and says that the time when his son's house burnt down about 8 years ago was one of the worst for him. He is Storeman Supervisor for Hookers and has enjoyed being part of a community service organisation. Jim has a few stories up his sleeve that would be worth hearing. He enjoys the camaraderie of the service and has represented the Brigade at the World Fire fighting Games in Lawn Bowls, winning a gold medal.

Greg Newton, 36 years old, has had 10 years' service and is a Senior Fire Fighter. Greg's family has a bit of a tradition with the calling, since his father was a fire fighter before him. This fulltime father is usually found behind the wheel of the fire engine. As the driver, his job is to work the pumps and to do the readings on the various pieces of apparatus. He rates the social side of the service highly and enjoys contributing to the community.

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Mark Smith, 40 years old, has 10 years' service behind him. Mark is a builder who likes helping his community in a practical, hands-on way. He loves the adrenalin rush and keeping active. Mark's the quiet one of the pack.

Alan Rawlinson, 39 years old, has done 18 months' service. Alan hales from England and has only been in Oakura 18 months. He holds Betty West responsible for bullying him into the Brigade and he has loved every minute of it. As is common with most of these guys, he loves the adrenalin rush and helping his community. Alan runs the Oakura Beach Shop and says being a volunteer fire fighter has helped him make new friends.

Jay Borrows, 19 years old, 1 year's service, is originally from Inglewood. This adrenalin junkie loves BMXing and works at Laserforce. Apart from putting something back into the community, Jay has enjoyed learning new skills, and using the equipment and says being a volunteer fire fighter has helped him get employment.

Richard Wooffindon, 24 years old, has done 1 year's service. Richard came along to the Fire Brigade's open day and liked what he saw; he wanted to help his community and "do good stuff". He says the socialising is great too. Richard is at Polytechnic doing a Business Management Course and is also a chef.

Ross Buttimore, 51 years old, 6 months' service, is new to the township of Oakura and now lives over the fence from the station. Ross and his wife operate a lawn mowing contracting business and he admits to being an adrenalin junkie with a desire to help his community.

There are other fire fighters as well as these good-looking blokes and I imagine they all have the vital statistics necessary for fire fighters: hooked on adrenalin and community-minded! There is also a volunteer secretary – Jo Scott does several hours a week of administration, which seems to be ever increasing. Other volunteers help out with gardening and maintenance.

Ross Buttimore and Richard Wooffindon:
Practise night involved a simulated fire at the Marae. Alan was Officer in Charge. A pump was set up and water was pumped out of the river, hoses were connected (these are rather feisty when they fill up with water!), the surrounding area was doused, and all the gear was packed up again. Each fire fighter has had the minimum basic training of first aid, fire fighting, using fire breathing apparatus and realistic training. I learnt that each seat in the fire truck is associated with a specific job so you wouldn't want to sit in the wrong one! As mentioned above, the driver (no.3) is charge of the pumps. On the left of the driver is the Officer in Charge. Behind the driver is no.2 who is responsible for finding water (ie pool, river, tank etc) and bringing it to the fire. No.1 is behind the Officer in Charge – he is the "Action

Man" – the first one into a fire.


Other activities the Brigade is involved in are collecting for Plunket and the Food Bank, and attending gala days, local schools and kindergartens.

Jim Priest and Terry Griffiths

The number of fires the Brigade attends has diminished over the years and Terry puts this down to fire awareness and education, and also the installation of smoke alarms.

By Kim Ferens

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I Remember When...

.....BOB DUNLOP

I came across Bob Dunlop in a roundabout way, as is often the case with interesting encounters. Bob has been in the news lately concerning his World War II experiences. His experiences in the Solomon Islands are worthy of record not because Bob thinks they were in any way heroic but because if record isn't made then these veterans can sometimes just slip away forever unnoticed.

The story begins when Anna Cottrell, a freelance journalist and documentary maker, was contracted by a Solomon Island Aid and Development Group to make a video and her visit coincided with some WWII veterans who had returned to the Islands for ANZAC day 1997. An Oral History Project evolved. The Oral History Centre is housed in the Alexander Turnbull Library, the research centre of the National Library of New Zealand, in Wellington. On Armistice Day (11 November) a ceremony was held to hand this Oral History Project over to the Alexander Turnbull Library.

For Bob, of course, the story begins way before this – in 1943. The 23-year-old was in the 36th Battalion and was part of the Third Division of the New Zealand Army that landed on Mono Island in the Solomons. By this stage, Bob had been 2 years in the Pacific. When Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, Bob was packed and ready to go to the Middle East but instead found himself recalled to Trentham and Papakura and then Fiji. The Third Division was formed because the Second Division was already in the Middle East. However, the Third never became a full Division, it had only two Brigades – the 8th and 14th – and three Battalions.

Bob landed on the beach and formed a “perimeter” by digging into the coral. Each soldier had his “foxhole”. A series of “misfortunes” ensued. Unfortunately, the enemy knew where the boundaries of the “perimeter” were and fired on the 8th Brigade. Unfortunately, the soldiers had no anti-aircraft guns and the enemy flew back and forth overhead firing on them. Unfortunately, the soldiers only had an automatic anti-tank gun, which was totally unsuitable for jungle warfare. Unfortunately, they only had WWI bolt action rifles with bayonets in their kit. American troops at this time had automatic rifles. This beach landing was said to be the first landing against enemy fire since Gallipoli. Once ashore, the Kiwis advanced on the Japanese, who withdrew and were finally cornered. In the meantime the 36th Battalion was assigned to garrison duty.....

Bob now lives locally on a dry stock farm following his retirement from retirement. Bob and his wife had earlier retired to Whalers Gate from Inglewood but, after

his wife's death, Bob moved to a 120-acre farm which he runs himself and has lived on for the last three years.



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A Bite of History...



Koru Road - a place from a bygone era

Imagine a time 125 years ago when native bush nudged the sea and settlers saw prospects for carving a living out of a land on which Maori had lived and thrived, and fought and died, for centuries. Information on how well the newcomers integrated with the local community is not readily available, but changes were definitely afoot! Imagine the back breaking work in 1860 of felling, clearing, burning, sowing grass, and fencing, and then hand milking a herd of cows. Imagine the isolation of a little village tucked up under the Kaitake Ranges where neighbours relied heavily on one another for survival. Imagine a time when roads didn't exist and dirt or bullock tracks provided access, a tramline transported timber to the Main Rd and butter was carted out once a week to New Plymouth. Timber mills in the area were operated by Mr G Carlson, Mr S Meredith and the Sash and Door Company of New Plymouth. The Koru Rd School opened in 1880 following a request by Father JBL Roland, a Catholic priest running an orphanage up Koru Rd. The school was 2 ½ miles up the road, and commenced with 14 children.

In the 1890s, a community hall was erected and many card evenings and community functions were subsequently held there. In 1881, the school closed (for unknown reasons) and was reopened in 1882. A teacher's residence was built in 1893, and at this time one school committee administered the three local schools – Koru, Omata and Oakura. In the early 20th century, the Koru Rd school roll hovered around 10-30 pupils. Records can be found of local girl Evelyn Raill winning a scholarship to attend New Plymouth Boys High School. New Plymouth Girls High School hadn't opened yet and it was not usual for girls to go on to secondary education.

The 1930s was a time of great change – electricity and a telephone line came to the area, although the only telephone belonged to the Paynes, who operated the Koru Rd Post Office from their front verandah. Once a day a bicycle trip was made to the Main Rd for mail and papers.

In 1937, a new teachers residence was built but the school only survived until 1939 when it consolidated with Oakura school. Twenty-five pupils enrolled at Oakura and the Koru Rd buildings were dismantled. However, just along the road, another school and village continued – the Kirihaui Rd village.

Today we would be struggling to find any physical evidence of that bustling little timber village up Koru Rd, but the issues of that day still reverberate in the 21st century where instead of consolidation, schools face mergers and communities struggle to maintain their unique identity.

ties.

Gardening *with* Rosemary Herb

November Checklist

Kitchen Garden:

- This is a month of rapid growth. Pay particular attention to watering, weeding, feeding and spraying.
- Feed tomatoes at least once a week with a fast-acting liquid feed such as Phostrogen. Remove laterals on tall tomato varieties as they grow.
- Feed fruit trees for bumper crops later. Water well to prevent fungus diseases. Courgettes and cucumbers can be protected from powdery mildew by spraying with Champion Copper or Fungus Fighter.

Lawns:

Raise the lawn mower up a level for the summer season. If cut too short, lawns will dry out more quickly.

Flower Garden:

- Lift spring flowering bulbs once leaves have died down completely. Store in a cool dry place.
- Mulch garden shrubs with compost to conserve moisture and protect roots from hot sun – especially rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

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Development on Shearer Drive

Having noticed the earthworks at the Shearer property overlooking the campground recently, we asked family spokesperson Richard Shearer about the plans.

Richard says the property has been in the family for five generations and has gradually been subdivided over time as Oakura has grown. This last development covers about 8 acres; 20 sections will be developed, excluding ((can someone check with the author of this – originally it said “including” here, which doesn’t make sense if the last bit about it being retained by the family is correct!)) the existing homestead, bush and gardens of Richard’s grandmother Susie Shearer, which is being retained by the family. The sections range in size from about 750 to 1300 square metres.

It was inevitable that it would be developed, and Richard says that it's great they've been able to do it within the family. They carefully considered the kind of development they wanted, and involved an architect and landscape designer in the concepts even before they approached a surveyor. So they've kind of done it backwards, to ensure they achieve the result they want. The feature of the place is undoubtedly the views from the elevated sites, and the Nikau palms, so that has been the focus. They have only lost one Nikau on the entire property, and that was a result of a collision with a digger.

Each section's views have been carefully considered, and there will be limitations on allowable building areas



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and building heights to ensure that all sections get optimum views of both the sea and the Kaitake ranges. One of the goals of this development is to achieve harmony between neighbouring dwellings and the natural environment.

Almost all the people that have contacted the Shearers about the development are happy with this approach, as the last thing anyone wants is to be built out by a poorly designed and located neighbouring dwelling. The aim is to protect all section owners' investments as far as possible.

The roads are being constructed now, and the aim is to have the development complete in January. There is significant landscaping being done around the roads and paths, the wetland area will be cleaned up and the addition of a boardwalk to make the area more attractive is being considered.

The NPDC has been involved in all aspects of the development from day one, and the TRC has also been involved with the development of the wetland area; Richard says they've both been excellent to deal with.

The Shearers are currently just taking expressions of interest, and they'll contact people when they are closer to putting the properties on the market.

tom t

four seasons

Sally Laing re-emerges in the Oakura art scene

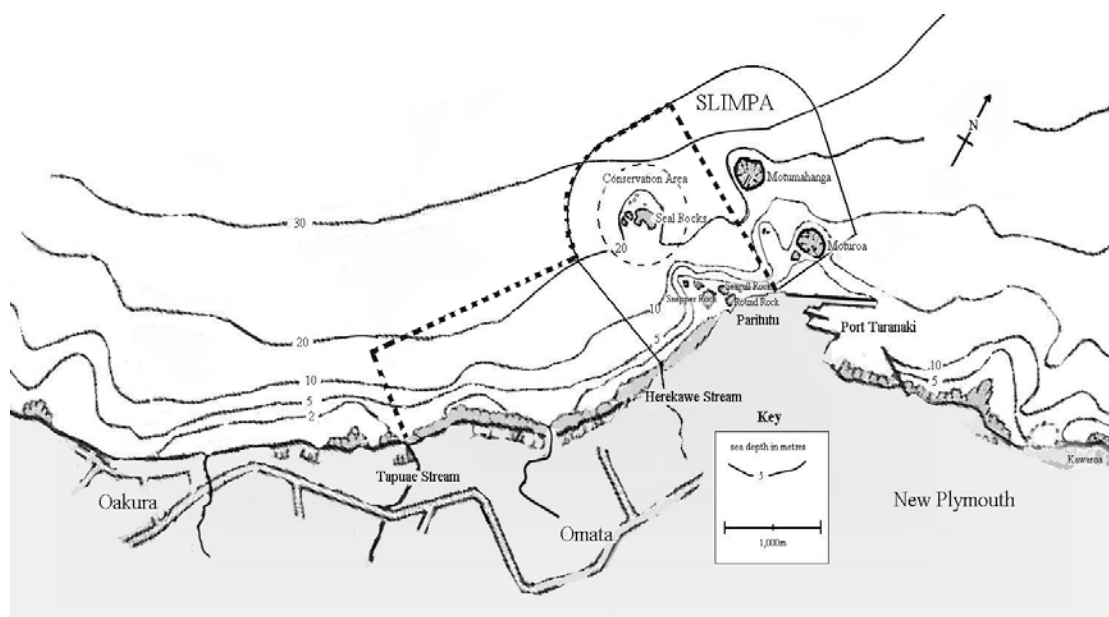
NGA MOTU MARINE RESERVE

The Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society committee is preparing a formal proposal to put to the Minister of Conservation in the New Year. The statutory 2 months submission period is followed by several months of consultation with the local community and stakeholders.

We as local community members need to get involved and have our say.

The Kapiti Marine Reserve has existed for 10 years and there is strong evidence of fish stock regenerating; 70% of blue cod are legal size while outside only 10% are of legal size.

The small conservation area around Seal Rocks, within the Sugar Loaf Island Marine Protected Area (SLIMPA), has seen the return of kelp and several animal species, especially crayfish. The proposal would build on this recovery. Commercial fishing is currently prohibited in the SLIMPA and a natural regrowth of fish species has occurred since the area was declared a protected area in 1986-87. The proposed Marine Reserve includes half of the SLIMPA, so fishing would still be legal in the shelter of Moturoa and Saddleback Islands; marine life from the protected area will spill over to



The Nga Motu Marine Reserve concept is one of maintaining and improving the biodiversity of marine life within the Reserve and providing spill over (of marine life) into other areas. A study in February 2001 by Bruce Hayward of Auckland University showed 172 species of intertidal life in rocky habitats and the Reserve has the richest and most diverse intertidal biota on the Taranaki Coast.

The area affected by the proposed Nga Motu Marine Reserve is indicated on the map.

The Society believe there will be benefits to recreation, tourism, education and marine life and add that the general public will have unrestricted access to the Reserve. The NPDC has proposed a walkway through the Reserve. Fishing and shell fish gathering of any kind would not be permissible. The day to day management of the Reserve would be carried out by DOC.

A Marine Forum was held on 6th November to hear the views of marine ecologist Dr Ken Grange and Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee member Mr Chris Turver.

these and other areas and fishing will improve.

Naturally there is opposition to such a proposal, with recreational fishermen and divers saying it would have a big impact on their activities. Other locals I spoke to feel that the seal population does more damage to fish stocks and a Reserve wouldn't address this but it could be argued that the seal population is stable, limited by safe nursery areas for pups, so improved marine life is unlikely to see the seals increase.

One also wonders how many restrictions, rules and regulations our society needs – the sea is seen as the last big playground for all New Zealanders. But will we be sorry one day in the future (maybe not that far in the future) if we haven't looked after our marine life and it no longer exists?

The Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society seeks community consultation. Contact can be made to be part of this consultation through: *The Secretary, Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society Inc, Post Office, Egmont Village* - please contact them as soon as possible.



Oakura Library *With Tara Ward*

Hello everyone,

Good news – Oakura Library will be open normal hours during the school holidays: 10am-12.30pm and 1pm-4pm Monday-Friday, with late night Wednesday 5-7pm.

Library Hours over the Christmas/New Year period are:

Mon 22 Dec: 10am - 12.30, 1pm - 4pm

Tues 23 Dec: 10am - 12.30, 1pm - 4pm

Wed 24 Dec to Fri 2 Jan – Closed

Mon 5 Jan 10am - 12.30, 1pm - 4pm – normal hours resume.

Our summer holiday reading programme this year is Read on! Read on! is aimed at 5- to 10-year-olds and will help keep kids reading over the summer break. Children, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can register between 8-12 December at Oakura Library. 'Check-ins' can be made at the library from 13 December to 17 January, giving children the chance to talk over the books they've read, show activities and choose new books. Numbers for the programme are limited, so please register early. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

I hope you have a safe and merry Christmas and a great New Year!

Tara Ward

<http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/oakurawestcoast>

Ahu Ahu Rd resident, Mark Sturgess, has launched the website <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/oakurawestcoast> which he designed over recent months. This is a reasonably comprehensive Oakura website with different pages featuring Oakura's businesses, arts, accommodation, eateries and regional events. Some of the businesses and arts have links through to their own websites. There is also a gallery of scenic photos which should help to entice people to our fantastic area.

Check it out!



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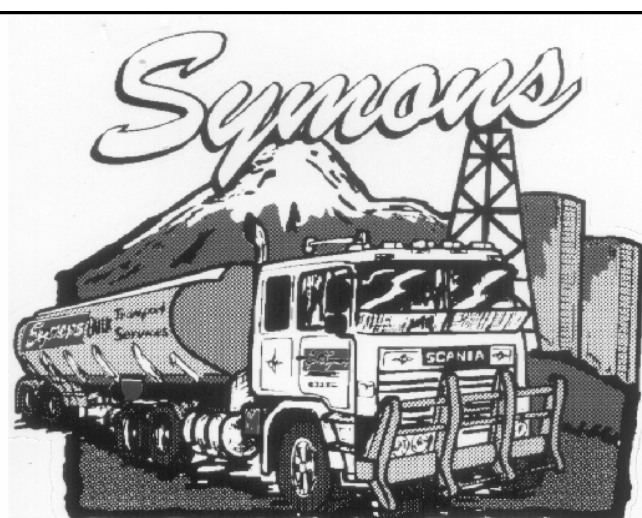
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"Just a few friends, some wine, you know"



Omata's own Val Donald was a runner-up in a Listener competition in November. Entrants had to write in to The Listener with who they would invite to the ultimate dinner party and why they would invite them. First prize was a fully catered dinner party for seven, with their entry being published in The Listener. Here is Val's Ultimate Dinner Party - "Just a few friends, some wine, you know".

Dolly Parton

A true Barbie doll with heart. Life was hard on the farm for Dolly. She survived with her sense of humour still intact. So did I. I would like to tell her that. Also, Dolly wouldn't arrive in the same dress as me, that has to be a plus.

Davy Crockett

Hunter, storyteller, congressman. Think what he could do for NZ and the possum problem. Not headwear, that's old hat. He could teach us all how to skin and eat new age steak. Think about it, more possum, less beef, less flatulence tax. Imagine possum stroganoff or Thai green possum. Or he could bring along his trusty Betsy gun and just blow them all away.

Eva Peron

We only know her by the pen of many authors. She was truly equally loved and hated by the masses. I'd like to form my own opinion of this complex woman. She would come in a mink coat, regardless of weather because that was her style. Hopefully she would leave it behind.

Henry Ford

I would like Henry to know that his Zephyrs are as much loved today as they were when he made them in 1951(perhaps even more so) Their charm and road worthiness have stood the test of time. Henry would be proud. I'd like to shout him dinner.

Germaine Greer

Back in the 70s when, yes, I was there, she told us to burn our bras. She forgot to "look outside the square" or "factor in" that sooner or later what is held inside the bra is no longer going to be pert and sassy but droopy and wilting. What now Germaine? I have lived a life of unrestricted comfort and now find I don't look so cool without the necessary equipment. You failed to mention what happens now, how to deal with this matter. You

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have much to answer for. Answers I am sure you will not be short of but I need them NOW. A conversation between Ms Greer and Ms Parton would be lively if not conFRONTational.

David McPhail or Jon Gadsby (either, or)

Remember their TV shows? Their wit and powers of observation are legendary. I always wanted to see myself through their eyes. Neither would be shy in telling me what my best friends are afraid to say to my face.

After dinner Henry could design a car for me, a car with a customised boot that doesn't leave cans of baked beans rolling around when the supermarket bag splits. David or Jon could tell a joke or three and Davy could spin a yarn. Dolly could help Eva write a new song for revolutionaries and Germaine, dear Germaine, could talk and talk us all into a delightful postdinner slumber.

Steve (Braunias) I have left you off the list. I fear you would arrive with a paper bag on your head and the dog wouldn't let you in the door. Sorry 'bout that. (This guy writes a weirdo type column each week and is always photographed with a bag on his head, so I have no idea



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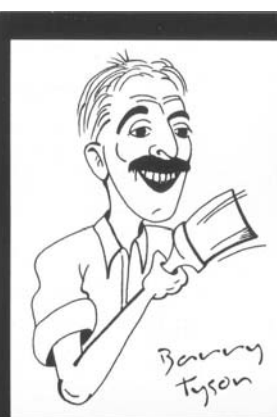
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Weinachten in Germany Christmas in New Zealand



In December 1993 we arrived “down under”, in New Plymouth, two weeks before Christmas. It would be our first Christmas in New Zealand and the first with our two granddaughters.

On the 23rd we got the key for our new homestead in Omata - an empty house with no Christmas decorations. Our furniture was in two containers on a ship somewhere. But our son's young family lived in town and this was where we wanted to be at Christmas.

The Christmas season in Germany starts at the end of November. For the children, we place a Christmas calendar in their room with 24 doors or windows. Every day they can open one window. Behind the window may be a nice picture or a small sweet. The 6th of December is an important day for the children - it is St Nikolaus day. On the evening before, they put a shoe or something similar on the windowsill, and the parents are careful not to close the window overnight, because that is when St Nikolaus will deliver sweets or a toy, as long as the child's behaviour was okay for the last 11 months.

One day before Christmas we set up the tree in the lounge and it is decorated by the parents. From this time, this room is absolutely “tabu” for the children. The presents are put under the tree and until about 4pm on the 24th December it is nearly a normal day. From 4pm all the shops etc are closed, not to open again until the 27th. In Germany we are members of the Lutheran Church; at 5pm on the 24th we would go to the first church service and at midnight we'd go to the second.

In our homeland, St Claus or Father Christmas (“Weihnachtsmann” in German) will visit the family when it is dark. But he does not come through the chimney (it is wintertime and the stove is burning), instead he knocks very noisily at the front door. What will St Claus ask the children? I think it must be the same questions he asks the children in New Zealand. Perhaps the children perform a Christmas poem or song. After St Claus opens his big bag, the children get a little surprise. When St Claus has left the house, the whole family gets their presents.

The way things are organised is different from family to family. In our family we prefer a light meal after the “present battle”. We listen to Christmas songs and sing the old beautiful songs like “Silent Night” (Stille Nacht). The next day is a family day with a great meal at lunchtime and afternoon coffee. On the 26th there are often visits from neighbours and friends.

Is Christmas in Germany hugely different from Christmas in New Zealand? Our first Christmas here on the 24th we were sitting in the garden around the barbeque, in the warmth and sunshine of summertime, wearing shorts and shirts. Yes it is a different Christmas, but when you come to another country you look forward to and enjoy your new life. We enjoy it every day.

We wish you a Good Season. Fröhe Weihnachten.

Ingrid and Kurt

et cetera



Oakura homes feature at local awards for architecture

Three Oakura residences were winners of awards presented for design excellence in the Western region of the New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Local Awards for Architecture, 2003.

NZIA Resene Western Local Awards for Architecture 2003

Jury Comments / Citations (for each Award-winning project)

Levett Residence, Oakura

Grant Boniface Architect Ltd

Category: Residential

The clever use of overall form makes the most of this difficult wedge-shaped site. The interplay of materials and different structural forms help to create a visually interesting building. Well detailed internally, it orientates living areas towards the sun and stunning sea views, making it a delightful retirement home.

Also a recipient of a NZIA Resene Colour Award:

The natural colour of materials help define the external form of the house while, internally, elements of bold colour contrast with an otherwise subtle palette to define spaces and create a relaxing atmosphere.

Photos by Chris Hill

Stephens Residence, Oakura

NZIA Practice: Architects Ian Pritchard

Category: Residential

A new contemporary home with its design origins in the Kiwi seaside bach, this house features two double-storey pavilions linked by the entrance way and generous circulation space. Internally, the house is detailed with a mix of old and new styles with extensive use of jarrah timber to provide a wonderful sense of warmth that complements the light, open spaces.

Barleyman Residence, Oakura

NZIA Practice: Architects Ian Pritchard

Category: Residential

An original seaside bach has been radically transformed into a modern family home. While retaining some of its original character, the house has been opened and significantly extended, capturing the view to the Tasman Sea. Additional space has been gained by going below ground level and following the slope of the site. Key living areas open onto a deck that extends the living spaces and connects them with the beach and dunes beyond.

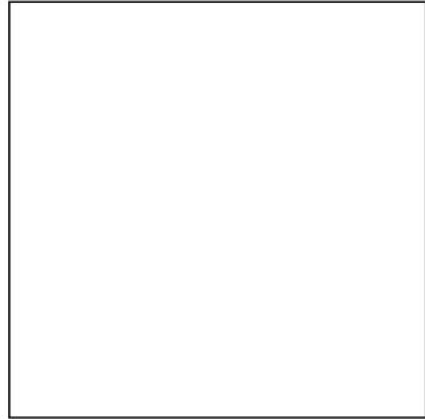
Arborio, New Plymouth

NZIA Practice: Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Team Architecture Ltd

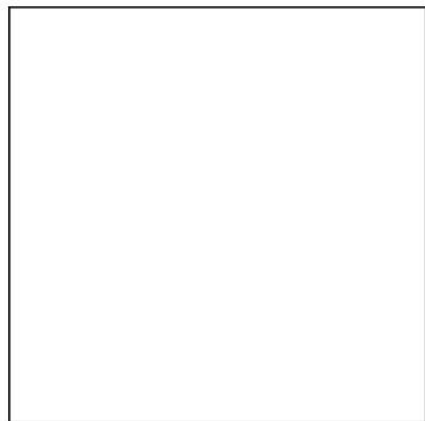
Category: Hospitality

Housed in Puke Ariki, the interior design of this eatery has conquered the complex requirements of local authorities, its museum location and those of a busy catering establishment in stunningly successful style. A cool

and funky atmosphere is created by the use of hi-tech materials and features such as back-lit glass, stainless steel and fibre optic technology to provide a new dining experience in New Plymouth.
Photos by Simon Devitt



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The adventures of Korean Kelly - Part Two

An important aspect of Korea is the food. Like we do, Koreans often socialise by gathering to share food and alcohol. So far, I've discovered you can get drunk on soju (clear liquor distilled from fermented rice, tasting like vodka and 25% alcohol), maekchu (beer), makolli (a thick white fermented rice beverage) or bek se ju (a herbal rice wine). The traditional way to eat Korean cuisine involves sitting on the floor, crossing your legs (wondering why you're not as flexible as you were in Mr Priest's class at school) and eating from a low table. Food is generally cooked at the table on small gas cookers or in the traditional barbecue, where a grill is placed over a pot of hot embers. Most meals are served with banchan, a variety of side-dishes which come free with your meal. These can include crab claws marinated in soy sauce and hot pepper paste, seaweed salad, gimchi dishes, dried squid or freshly chopped (still squirming) live baby octopus tentacles – be careful when you eat them, every year someone chokes from the suckers sticking to their larynx.

The food is based on rice (bap) dishes, various soups, and barbecued meat, which is wrapped in fresh lettuce leaves with fermented soy bean paste, gimchi and raw garlic. I've encountered a few interesting things on the barbecue. There's geumjango, which is small lamprey or freshwater eel chopped into pieces and marinated in red pepper paste. It has a slightly salty flavour with a hint of seafood... just like the small eels we used to catch under the Oakura bridge. Then there's mukchang, which is pig intestine/stomach. Interesting to look at and tastes just like pork chops. It is eaten with salt, pepper and sesame oil. Then there's barbecued chicken feet, the bones are removed first and you find yourself chewing on bland chicken skin. Not too much of an epicurean delight.

Bondaeggi is my favourite. This is a half pupated silk-worm caterpillar sold by most street vendors – a brown “toenail sized” crunchy larva. They have a very earthy, fungal taste and a dry sawdust-like texture. Their crisp leathery-but-forgiving shell provides an interesting barrier, as do the tiny strands of silk that are sometimes emanating from the creatures' posteriors. Next time I'm home, I'll bring a can for anyone interested.

On that note, I'll leave you all to a wonderful Christmas and New Year; have an Export for me! Annyonghi keseyo.

Here we are once again with the excitement and rush of the festive season.

At Unichem Lander and Black this year we have an extensive range with unusual gifts from our Australian catalogue (catalogue in store) We are the only stockists of this range in New Plymouth.

We also have Elizabeth Arden cosmetics and perfumes this year and are at present fitting out a brand new Elizabeth Arden counter.

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NUTCRACKER SUITE

As a magical pre-Christmas treat, the Val Deakin Dance Theatre Trust will be presenting The Nutcracker Suite (Act II of the Nutcracker ballet) at the Dance Centre in St Aubyn Street on

Friday, December 12 at 11 am
Saturday, December 13 at 11 am and 2 pm
Sunday, December 14 at 11 am and 2 pm
Monday, December 15 at 6 pm
Tuesday, December 16 at 6 pm.

The dance centre will be transformed into a magical and intimate theatre presenting a wonderful live dance experience. The story shows Clara's journey to the Land of the Sweets where she is entertained by various drinks and sweets including the exotic Arabian (coffee) and the comic Chinese (tea) dancers. The ballet encompasses robust Russian dances, the bouncing clowns dance and beautiful ballet sequences including the swirling Waltz of the Flowers - all danced to the wonderful music of Tchaikowsky. The cast of 46 will be led by ballerina Jane Roseman taking the part of the Sugarplum Fairy, partnered by Peter Rothwell as the Nutcracker Prince.

Tickets will be family priced to allow families to enjoy this wonderful holiday treat. Adults tickets are \$8 and children only \$5. Tickets can be obtained from the Dance Centre or by phoning 752 7743 after 9:30 am.

Past productions of this work have proved extremely popular and early booking is recommended to ensure getting seats.

tom t



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Okato College "Carpe Diem" *Seize the day*



Okato College News

Junior exams are finished and marked and both students and teachers can breathe a sigh of relief. This (nearly) heralds the end of our academic year. Next week, year 7-10 students take part in Activity Week. The Intermediate Department received a phone call from one of the NZ Warriors (known to a member of the staff) to say that we would be welcome to watch them train at Erickson Stadium, have a look at their training facilities and get some autographs signed. But that is not the only exciting thing that we have scheduled in Auckland. Apart from the usual venues of Sky City, Kelly Tarltons and the Zoo, we have also planned a visit to Sonshine Ranch, a Harbour cruise, and visits to an ice skating rink and Victoria market for shopping. While we are doing this, Year 9 will be at TOPEC and Year 10 will be experiencing a range of activities between Opunake, Parihaka and New Plymouth.

Last Wednesday, year 6 students from New Plymouth and Coastal schools were invited to attend a typical day at College. They experienced time in each Department. During the day, the students received Mana Awards for exhibiting the sort of behaviour that we foster at Okato College. At the end of the day we had a big draw and prizes were given out.

Seniors are now preparing for their Graduation Dinner and Dance on November 28, and the Prize Giving ceremony is on December 5. We are completing our school year with a healthy growing roll and an exciting future ahead of us.



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Oakura School
Cross Country



Oakura Plunket sub-branch



Our safety theme this month is

water safety

**Be wise, supervise.
Keep your eyes on
the under fives!**

Be sure to wear a hat and put one on all the children –
and have plenty of good sunscreen available.

Remember to belt everyone into a restraint when in any
vehicle.

Thank you for all your support during 2003 and we look
forward to 2004 with our new committee.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Noeline Vickers
President

Oakura School environmental studies



On Monday the 17th November the Mayor, Mr Peter Tennant, officially opened the Oakura School Plant Growing Unit.

Earlier this year New Plymouth West Rotary Club very generously offered to install at the school a self-watering plant propagation unit which is valued at \$5,000. Many of the Rotary members also took part in thirteen working bees during the year to install the unit and pave the nursery area.


At the same time as the school needed to source paving stones for the nursery area, Shell Todd Oil Services (STOS) rang the school to say they had pavers from their site in town and asked if the school would like them. Perfect timing! NP West Rotary again helped the school out by uplifting the pavers, delivering and laying them. STOS has also continued to support the unit with donations of seedlings and a wealth of knowledge about the plants our pupils are growing.

All of our pupils will have the opportunity to work in the plant growing unit to learn how to propagate and care for plants. The plants grown by our pupils will eventually be planted in local areas. The benefits for the pupils of Oakura School and our community will continue into the future. The school really appreciates New Plymouth West Rotary Club's generosity, community spirit and commitment to this very worthwhile project.

Sam Woods, one of the Head Pupils, spoke at the opening and summed it up by saying: "Most of the children here have been through this fantastic plant growing unit and I am sure that we will all learn a lot and enjoy the time we spend in it."


Lynne Hepworth
Principal



If members of the Oakura Community are interested in joining New Plymouth West Rotary Club they meet Tuesdays, 5:30pm at the West End Bowling Club on Cutfield Road.



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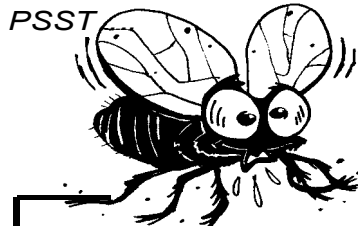
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Wednesday 31 December 2003
NEW YEARS EVE – Shearer Reserve (beside Skate Park)

10pm - 1am Oakura Beach 10pm - 1am

Featuring New Plymouth Audio Hire:

DJ/ Sound System/Awesome Lighting Effects!

Non-stop Rave 10pm-1am

Including Midnight Countdown into 2004

Gold coin donation/no alcohol/Security

Hot food & drinks for sale - **bring your \$\$\$**

Buses running from **NP to Oakura**

7.30pm from seaward side of Centre City (just down from Pak'N'Save car entrance) and

return **Oakura to NP** to seaward side Centre City

from 12.30 am-2am departing

from bottom Wairau Road, Oakura Beach.

*\$7return/\$5 one way-

pay as you board - bring your \$\$\$

Mini-countdown for families & children 8-9pm

No younger children after 9.30pm please

Listen to 98.8 ZM for more information

Support from and thanks to:

Te Taura Tangata

Okato Bus Lines

Oakura Community Board

Oakura Boardriders

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Sacred Heart

At the time of going to print, Sacred Heart College had not had its prizegiving. However the following Omata/Oakura students will be receiving awards at the ceremony:

Year 8 Aliesha Thomson-Baker

Year 9 Sammy Gibson

Year 10 Becky Benton, Cleo Wood.

Year 11 Vicki Bryant, Tanya Dickey, Bridget Tyson.

Year 12 Gemma Payne

Year 13 Gina Bryant

Spotswood College prize list

Prefects for 2004

Euan Ritchie and Holly Snowden

Prize winners 2003

First in Class

Year 11 Hanen Pillette Physical Education

Year 12 Holly Snowden Graphics
Design Art

Year 12 Albie Vosseler Physics
Miranda Lobb Art History
Art-painting

Deputy Head Girl

Jesamine Dunlop-Barrett

Deputy Head Boy

Jess Evans

Proxime Accessit (runner up to the Dux)

Albie Vosseler



Francis Douglas Memorial College Senior Prizegiving 2003

Oakura residents currently attending Francis Douglas Memorial College who received an award at the annual senior prize giving were :

Year 11 Awards :

Patrick Coltman – Attainment in Accounting,
Diligence in English & Science

Morgan Davies – Diligence in Mathematics & Graphics

Jared Drummond – Diligence in Science & Accounting

Campbell Fleming – Diligence in Science

Nathan Zieltjes – Diligence in English

Year 12 Awards : Joseph Davis – Diligence in Biology

Scott Mathys – Attainment in Engineering

Year 13 Awards :

Daniel Bolstad – Senior Cup for Physical Education
Studies

Kevin Brophy Trophy for Excellence in Sport
Vertical Form Award

Richard Buttimore – Vertical Form Award

Ryan Fleming - Attainment in Geography,
Most Valuable Player 1st XI Cricket
Vertical Form Award

Leon Power Diligence in Chemistry
Vertical Form Award

Sean Zieltjes Attainment in Geography
The Quintas Challenge Cup for Senior
Swimming Champion

TOM titbits



- **Dave Marshall** (of the Ahu Ahu Villas) has the leading role in "Jesus Christ Superstar" to be performed at the bowl of Brooklands on Waitangi day (February 6th 2004). The event is a fundraiser for the new hospice.
- Did you see the feature on Oakura (written by travel writer Karen Goa who visits here regularly) in the summer issue of **New Zealand On Holiday**? Check out page 70.
- Congratulations to **Tess Novak** for being selected to be a book reviewer for the teen magazine "Cream".
- More congratulations to **Sandra Lewis** whose wearableart entry in Auckland's "Trash to Fashion" competition was runner-up in the "Diva" section.
- You read about **Bill Donald** and his zephyrs in the August issue of TOM, but did you see the 3-page spread on him and his motors in the October issue of NZ Classic Cars?

If you know of any 'titbits' that should be shared with the community please email them to oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz or phone 752 7875.

Letter to the editor



Dear Sir / Madam


Okurukuru Stream (original name)
Okurukuru Vineyards (taken from the stream)

Okurukuru Stream is boarded by two pa sites. Omuna Pa is on the right side of the stream. Haurangi Pa is on the left side of the stream.

Okurukuru Stream and Pa sites were a fighting place during the Taranaki wars and known to be a weary place, and a tapu area.

Regards

Miss Margaret HautorokawawiKomoKomo Sullivan

The team at TOM would like to wish all our readers a wonderful festive season. We've  had a great year and do appreciate all your feedback and support. Keep the ideas and stories coming in 2004!

Just as we wish you happy holidays, we too are taking a break. Your next issue of TOM (the February issue) will be in your letter-box on Wednesday February 11th 2004.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!

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Fi's Fit Farm off to a pumping success



As I sweat it out at Fi's Fit Farm (yes, I couldn't resist the urge to throw myself into some punishment!), I feel glad that Fiona was willing to put everything on the line and start up this cottage business. And what a success it has been! Fiona had clients already lined up before the Fit Farm story hit the TOM headlines but, since publication in October, people have streamed through the doors (and left dripping, I might add!).

It's not hard to pinpoint one particular thing that makes this gym so special and that is Fiona herself. If she can't get you to pump more weights than you have ever before or run further or faster, crunched and curled, stretched and squeezed, then nobody can. And laugh! (That certainly uses a few muscles!) But all laughs aside, Fiona is very professional and dedicated to improving her clients' well being. One regular I know of was literally dragged along kicking and screaming for the good of her health and in just 3 weeks has had a remarkable improvement in her blood pressure, while another has lost 4 kilos and friends and family have made comments about how fit she looks ("What's the secret?"). Many of the locals bike to the gym and just love having such a facility in their neighbourhood. For me, I leave feeling amped and wishing I had more time for more sessions.

Fi says that the imagined process of setting up a business and watching it slowly grow has proved not to be the case. The gym has skyrocketed to success and it has all happened faster than expected. If it weren't for the support of her family, and especially her husband, it wouldn't have worked so well. The challenge of setting up her own business has been exhilarating and exhausting but seeing clients enjoying themselves and developing self confidence along with positive feedback has made it all worthwhile. Fiona thinks her clients enjoy the non-crowded and private setting and feel quite at home asking for help from her. Well done Fiona!! Gift vouchers are available and will make a great Christmas gift!

By Kim Ferens



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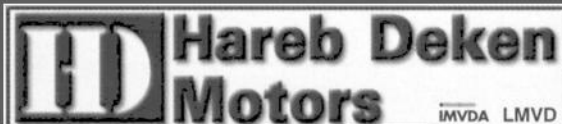
Oakura School Chess Club

This year a chess club, led by parent Richard Jennings, was begun at Oakura School. A group of children joined the club in April and have attended each week after school until the end of the season in October. Initially, the emphasis was on teaching basic skills but later the teaching gave way to more matchplay. All the children now know how to *fianchetto* their bishops and capture pawns *en passant*.

A highlight of the season was the chess afternoon hosted by Welbourn School where there were both traditional and lightning matches. It was a sporting afternoon and, yes, Oakura won the match. A competitive club championship was also held; this was very close right up to the end of the season: John Hinton and Henry Saleman finally emerged as runner-up and winner respectively. At the end of the season, eight children passed level one New Zealand Chess Federation tests and received badges and certificates for their efforts.

As organiser I found it very rewarding teaching the children and enjoyed seeing their progress over the year. Thanks to FOOS for buying the chess sets, and the school and parents who have supported the club.

Richard Jennings



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