

This month

A reason to deli in Oakura

Oakura has always been about the beach – surfing, swimming, fishing, lifesaving and sunbathing. Many people have dallied here to do just that. A summer place to enjoy. But over the last year or two, Oakura has been a lifestyle choice for people wanting that unique community, beachy feel. Wellingtonian Louise Richardson shifted to Oakura a couple of years ago to enjoy this. Her confidence in the region has seen her take a big punt on starting up a business in Oakura and kissing good bye to the city life for good.



Stephanie Robins (left) and owner Louise Robins at Olive on 45, the new delicatessen in Oakura

OLIVE ON 45

Olive on 45 is the new delicatessen opened in the village recently and what an exciting experience it is, especially if you're a foodie like me. It wouldn't be hard to fill your basket to overflowing with the entire Kapiti cheese range, the handmade Italian salamis, the parma ham, prosciutto, the fused oils, the Havana coffee, the fresh seafood (salmon, snapper, prawns, mussels), the Asian sauces (for red and green curries), the spices, the stick teas (a new product on the market you have to investigate if you like tea), the organic products, feta, gnocchi, venison, smoked eel, antipastos, Hellish Relish range, roti and naans. The most exciting thing is that the deli will be open 7 days a week till Easter so a daily stock up will be possible.

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Our local beauty

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Hannovarian horses

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Ripped rubber duckie!

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Is it Tama?

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tom

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

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For those who live out of the area but want to enjoy local news, \$15 per year will ensure you get a copy of tom sent to you each month. Previous issues are available on the website www.tompapers.com

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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!

What a great summer we've been having! Despite the occasional bout of rain to keep things green, we've all been having a great time with the high sunshine hours. Isn't the water so much warmer this year!

We're lucky that we live in a district with so many fantastic beaches. My family really enjoy living at Oakura Beach: it's great to bump into so many enthusiastic locals and visitors alike. We really are so fortunate to be enjoying summer in Taradise!

I keep hearing how these visitors are quite simply astounded by the district when they get here. They love the sophistication of the city and the relaxed nature of the nearby towns, and they especially love our fabulous coastline.

I've also heard great comments about how friendly the locals are, so thank you for doing your bit in showcasing our district in the best way possible.

On another matter, we're well into our preparations for the Long-Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP) which is replacing this year's Annual Plan. We've had a lot of input from the public already, and on February 2 we held a public meeting in Oakura to find out what things are particularly important to you.

Thank you to everyone who turned up to have a say. Your comments will help us prepare an LTCCP that clearly reflects what our community wants for the district in the next 10 years.

I hope you've all had a great summer so far. Remember: if you have any ideas that you'd like council support for, give me a call on 759 6060!

Peter Tennent
Mayor

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Continued from front page

Olive on 45 will feature a recipe every week and owner Louise, who is a trained chef previously working in the Wellington café scene, is sure to make these mouth watering. Another feature of the deli will be its loyalty card. Aren't we all sick to death of loyalty cards? This one's different though. Customers with one will get a flat 10% discount on everything. To further emphasize the customer importance, there will be "client nights" where products can be sampled and customers pampered. (Beats a Tupperware evening!!)



Mayor Peter Tennant cutting the ribbon at the opening of Olive on 45

Probably the most significant feature of the Olive on 45 will be personal service. Louise says "I am emphatic about exceeding our clients' expectations. If we don't have what you want, we will try and get it. Freshness and quality are of utmost importance and give people a reason to keep coming back."

The road to opening a deli has been an interesting one for Louise. Dealing with the locals to obtain the right location, gaining support from other businesses in the area, employing trades people and liaising with the council has all been a positive experience. Most of us cringe when the council is mentioned but Louise says "New Plymouth District Council have been great to deal with and in fact are the best government agency I have ever dealt with. Everyone from receptionists on has been a pleasure to deal with." High praise indeed!! Louise was adamant the deli wouldn't open until everything was ready and she resisted the pressure to open before Christmas because the shop wasn't quite ready and all her products hadn't been sourced. "You only get one chance at a first impression" she said. And she wants it to count.

I spoke with Kerry Vosseler from Green Ginger about Olive on 45 and she fully supports the deli. "The more things we can get in Oakura to bring people here the better. We want to make it a destination" says Kerry. As I thought of what else exists in the market, along the same lines, I came up with a blank. Once upon a time there was a Greek deli in New Plymouth run by the Yannits. The supermarkets dabble in deli food but you

OLIVE ON 45



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wonder about freshness and quality. The only other business close to a deli is Fresha and they offer such a diverse range of goods, its more like a top end supermarket.

Olive on 45 has many exciting plans for the next few years so we will all wait with poised palates for this unique Oakura experience.

By Kim Ferens

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28/01/2004



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Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for New Plymouth

Welcome back!

I hope you've all enjoyed a great holiday!

By the time you read this, January will be well and truly over and for most, so will the holiday season! Rather than despair that we will have to wait another 300 or so days until our next decent break, we should be making the most of what summer we have left! Let me share a few of the things I've enjoyed this summer...and things I definitely suggest you go out and try to get rid of that post holiday depression!

Enjoy the region!

Over the past month I have been amazed at the number of fantastic activities going on around the country, particularly in our local region. During the holidays Margaret, the children and I have once again enjoyed the TSB festival of lights at Pukekura Park. The initiative to display our childrens' art work produced at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery as part of the festival was also great.

The Last Samurai

Many New Zealanders will see the screening of the Last Samurai as a huge boost to the image of New Plymouth. Those who live here will know that it will simply show people what we have all known about for years. Our own 'premier' was great and it was wonderful to see the community embracing with pride our contribution to world entertainment. Make sure you see the movie at least twice, once to 'spot the locations' and the second to totally soak up the experience!

Enjoy the water!

It's been hard not to avoid the water with the amount of rain we seem to have had during January. When the sun has appeared we have really enjoyed the great water activities that have been held in the region. The surf championships and the A Class Yachting Championships were especially worth watching.

The year ahead

Parliament will continue to be interesting this year. I will continue to do all I can to live up to my pledge to be the working MP for New Plymouth.

Best wishes to you all

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MP for New Plymouth

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Councillor's Comments

Seasons greetings to you all. This year is election year for Local Body elections, so some interesting things should happen with councillors lobbying for their seats on council. Omata/ Okato/Oakura will be affected by the decision on boundaries when it is made by the Local Govt Commission. I thought I would wait until this decision comes out and then decide whether to stand for council or not. However, it would seem wasteful not to put my name in the hat with everything I have learned and the opportunities I have had in this time.

Congratulations again to Chris Gruys for organising another great New Year Rave for the under 18s, and thanks to the people in the community who helped on the night. This event gets 100% support from the New Plymouth Police. This is a long night for the people involved; I believe Chris got to bed somewhere about 5.00am.

I went to the opening of the Last Samurai. This was a wonderful evening; it was great to see so many people out on such a beautiful night. It is worth seeing the movie, just to recognise the scenery of Taranaki.

The Council starts the community meetings for the Long Term Council Community Plan late this month. The Oakura and Okato meetings were on 2nd and 9th February. I hope that some of you saw the advertisements and attended the meetings.

Some activity is happening with some of the council jobs on the list for Kaitake Ward. Sue will highlight these in her article.

A busy next few months is ahead for all of us. Before long it will be time for the Annual Plan round, so let's get thinking about what projects we would like to submit for our ward this time.

Until next month

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Kaitake Community Board

On behalf of the Board I would like to take this belated chance to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I was surprised to read recently of the Public Open Day, on the 22nd January, at the Old Boys Surf Club re the sewage disposal study and New Plymouth District Coastal strategy study. It is a pity we were given no notice of this as we would have been able to let the public know it was on. If you want further information I suggest you contact Tony Wilson on 7596060.

Oakura River Erosion Protection:- Work along the Corbett Park and Marae river bank is due to begin in mid February.

Oakura Beach Front Upgrade:- Planning is almost complete and work is due to commence in the Autumn.

Mace Tce:- Good to see footpath being paved.

Walkway between Outlook and McFarlane Street is being concreted.

Oakura CBD:- It is great to hear the positive comments about the pedestrian threshold outside the 4 Square shop. People are finding it much easier and safer to cross the main road. It is a pity though that there is still a section of society who have little respect for the plantings.

Enjoy the summer and keep smiling.

Susan Henchman
Chairperson

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TOM Copper's Column

The New Year has finally arrived and we are well and truly into it. The kids are back to school and all the holidaymakers have returned to their respective homes.

The crowds of people that attended New Years functions during that week were all well behaved. It made my job and the jobs of the Police that came out from New Plymouth to lend a hand a lot easier. I always dread New Year celebrations because it is easy for things to go either way. This year was very peaceful.

The Teenage Rave at Shearers Reserve on New Years was well run and organised, the Oakura Beach Carnival was top notch and all the people who attended the bands that Butlers put on during the New Year week were more than well behaved.

There is only one incident during that week of note. A lady that had attended "The Blind Spot" concert was indecently assaulted on The Outlook at about 3.00am in the morning. Fortunately her attacker was very drunk and she had a friend with her. The ladies were able to kick him off and chase him away back towards Butlers. Fortunately we have been able to identify the offender, who is an out-of-towner, and it is only a matter of time before he is arrested and charged.

Thanks to all those people who were alert that night and have helped in identifying this man.

Over the school holidays some teenagers have damaged the Tasman Parade Toilets roof. They have been dealt with and will be spending some time giving back to the community. Another two teenagers have been dealt with for setting the Oakura Beach Sign next to the Surf Club on fire and for stealing a letterbox. One of these boys is going to court and the other is being dealt with by the Opunake Youth Aid section. Thank you to those people who whispered in my ear to let me know who these naughty teenagers were.

At about 3.45am on Monday the 19th January someone broke into Vertigo and stole a large quantity of gear. If you were on the main road in Oakura around that time please let me know. The offenders would have used a vehicle to move the stolen property. A pair of stolen jeans was located on the Main road across from Vertigo. Other than that it is business as usual.

With summer well and truly here please remember to keep an eye out for those who want to steal or damage our properties. If you catch someone or see someone committing an offence or acting suspiciously please ring at the time. A lot of people don't bother ringing because they believe the Police are too busy to be concerned about their letterbox or neighbours' house. Ring us and let us tell you if we are too busy or not.

On that note have a great month and look after your neighbour because you never know when you will need them!

Thomas McIntyre
Okato/Oakura Constable
Ph: 7524111



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A day of sun and surf

On Saturday 17 January 2004, the Robert Stone Surf Carnival was held at Oakura beach with members from East End, Fitzroy, NPOB, Opunake and Otaki competing. This is a lead-up to the Taranaki Champs at the end of February and then the National Champs at Christchurch in mid March. Members of the Old Boys club attended from as far away as Mt Maunganui and Australia. The Taranaki Kellogg team members were also using the event as a chance for further practice but didn't always come out on top with stiff competition from other club members.



Coming in

Surf conditions, while moderate for Taranaki, had the ski racers particularly challenged with many having trouble breaking through the waves. I spoke with Guy Honnor, the district development officer from Surf Lifesaving Taranaki and a member of the East End beach club, about how surf lifesaving is getting on this year. Guy's position within Surf Lifesaving Taranaki is changing into a more permanent summer and winter job, in which he will be doing training sessions with lifesavers. These sessions range from first aid, to advanced first aid, skill building, team work etc. Guy has retained his enthusiasm for beach work and was rushing off after competing at Oakura to East End where he was on patrol. Surf lifesaving appeals to him because of the contact with people and his general enjoyment of the outdoors.

I also spoke with David Lean about his ongoing support of the Old Boys Club (as he sits busily polishing the cups and trophies), and he noted that the club these days is seeking sponsorship and supporting members around the globe.



Damaged rubber duckie

The rubber duckie in the photo had a bit of a confrontation with a buoy anchor and came off second best. Just as well they have more than one boat!! The tear was a substantial one that will require more than just a patch.



Anthony Ander and Sarah Billing

Anthony Ander and Sarah Billing are the paid surf lifesaving guards on duty at Oakura beach this summer. These university students work 40+ hours a week patrolling the beach. They report no problems so far in the surf apart from the jellyfish invasion and this hasn't proved much of a problem either. They said the attraction of being a lifeguard was being at the beach. Sarah, who is from the Opunake Surf lifesaving club, says she doesn't have time to enter surf carnivals anymore but Anthony was following the carnival proceedings closely when not watching swimmers. At weekends, volunteer lifesavers patrol the beach.

By Kim Ferens

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End of the day



Te Koru Tipis

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Tipi village set at Inglewood

Te Koru Tipis

was established to allow people to experience the magnificent shelter of the Native American Indians of the Great Plains and to offer an insight into the lifestyle of an indigenous people that survived and flourished for centuries. These tipis (teepees, tepees) are essentially a "living artefact" in the Sioux Indian style incorporating a tri-pole framework supporting 12 other poles and the cover. The cover is a highly weather tolerant and rain resistant 13 Oz duck weave canvas. It has the advantage of breathing in the hotter days and during winter with an additional inner skirt can resist snow and temperatures well below zero and wind speeds of well over 70km/hr. All tipis are sewn by local residents in the Three Sisters Wilderness area of Oregon.

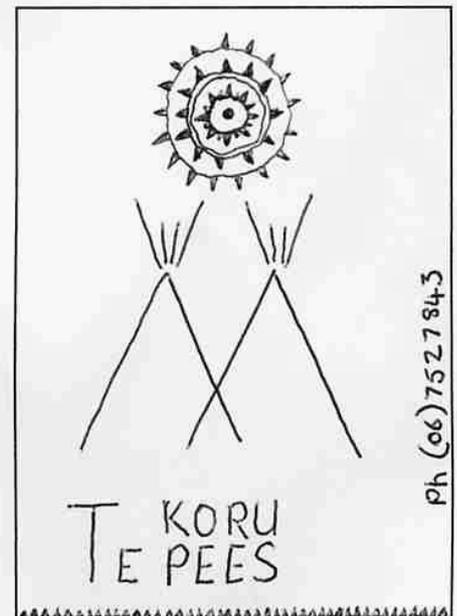
All our tipis feature in **The Last Samurai** and were part of a 24 tipi Indian village set created on the outskirts of Inglewood where filming took place. As soon as I saw them I realized how ideal they looked in the New Zealand landscape and how suitable they would be for our outdoors lifestyle here in Taranaki.

The tipis or lodges as the Indians called them are a pleasure to sleep in with room for up to 8 children or 6 adults per tipi comfortably. The simplicity of their construction and their aesthetic eye-catching symmetry make them a unique experience for all to enjoy. The area required to set one tipi is 5m * 5m so any front or back yard is ample room. We setup and dismantle the tipis for you and can provide raincaps and door covers where necessary.

Tipi camp at Te Koru Pa, Oakura



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Neighbourhood support

Lots of campers, jellyfish, a little rain, some sun and plenty of people trying to enjoy it.

Sounds almost idyllic, and for the most part it is: the residents of Oakura watch visitors enjoy the area they are justifiably proud of.

However, like many other situations, nothing is perfect. At this time of the year, the sun brings out what has been described by some as 'sewer dwellers', a particular breed of person that enjoys stealing from anything or anyone. Summer brings opportunities galore to these people: unlocked doors on cars and houses, windows wide open, purses and wallets left under blankets on beaches, and cars locked with the keys left on top of the tyres. These and many others are golden chances for easy money for these people.

Can it be stopped? Realistically the answer must be no, but a lot more can be done to both deter and report incidents that are seen. We can stop creating the opportunities for theft and we can overcome our reluctance to get involved. Noting unusual incidents and, in the case of vehicles, taking the registration plate numbers is of great value to the police. If you see anything suspicious happening, ring 111. Or remember your local community police officer - ring Thomas on 752 4111, he will be glad to help.

Neighbourhood Support (NS) have enjoyed a great response - in the last 6 months, coverage is now 60% from 10% previously. The small amount of crime that has occurred in Oakura has been outside NS areas. Coincidence? I don't think so, but I could be slightly biased...

New to NS is E-Watch, a residential e-mail network linking NS groups with a network for sharing information. If you are interested in joining this network please email me on the email address below.

Barrie Carline Field Officer

Neighbourhood Support

Cnr Eliot and Courtenay sts. New Plymouth

PO Box 344

Phone 7579543 fax 7598851 email tns@xtra.co.nz

Gardening with Rosemary Herb

February Checklist

Vegetables:

- ◆ Continue planting lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnip and leeks.
- ◆ Spray at first sign of caterpillars or whitefly with 'Target' a general garden insecticide or 'Nature's Way Insect Spray' for organic gardeners.

Flowers:

- ◆ To ensure maximum growth and flowering, dead-head to extend flowering, water regularly and feed with Thrive Soluble Fertiliser or Lush Liquid Fertiliser.
- ◆ Water regularly to keep plants growing. Mulching will help conserve water.

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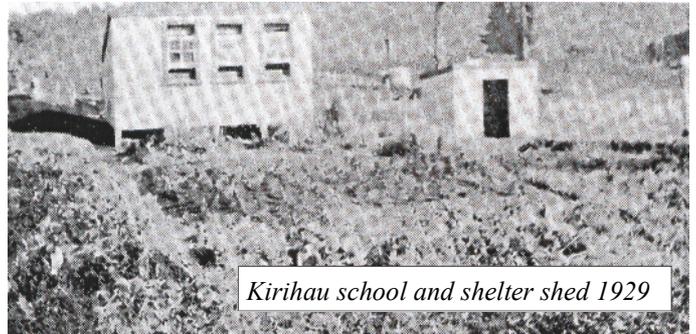
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A Bite of History...

Kirihau school

The Kirihau and Koru Road areas were populated in the late 1800s and early 1900s mainly by timber mill families. There were at least 3 mills working – one operated by Mr S Meredith, one by Mr G Carlson and one by the Sash and Door Company of New Plymouth. In 1923, Mr G F Shaw applied for a school to be opened on Kirihau Rd and in 1924 a £21 grant was made to remove the old Patua Rd School on Upper Carrington Rd and locate it at Kirihau. The school opened with 6 pupils and Miss M Kurth as teacher. Mr Charlie Drader became the sole charge teacher in 1930. He had the following to say of the school: “I had to drive in low gear for the remaining six miles (from Koru Rd School) up the steep gradient to Kirihau. And there she was. Boy! Solomon in all his glory etc. A sixteen-foot



Kirihau school and shelter shed 1929

square solid building – corrugated iron roof and sides alike, and I felt sure no rain would get in or heat out. Inside I was agreeably surprised, for it was fully lined and had all the essential facilities for teaching – as required in those days. The playground afforded plenty of opportunity for hide and seek amongst the bracken and blackberries.” The mill provided a two-roomed bach for the teacher beside the school, seemingly as comfortable as the school.

The school closed in 1934 with 7 pupils when the mills closed, but not before tragedy struck. The Secretary of the Committee, Mr Payne, spilled petrol on himself and it ignited when he lit a cigarette. When the school closed, some of the pupils redistributed to Koru Rd School and some continued their education via correspondence.



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Jaia Tipi

The teepee (or tipi) at Omata has often caught my eye as I drive into New Plymouth. It comes and goes and I wondered why, so I asked Mike Gargan, the owner, about it.

It is a traditional style *Jaia Tipi* from Takaka, Golden Bay, crafted in the Native American tribal way but without the buffalo hide. It is made from high quality waterproof canvas which will last about 10 years. The poles Mike has used are radiata pine (there are 14 of them), chosen rather than Douglas Fir as favoured in traditional tipis and handcrafted by him. It takes about 4



hours and 3 people to put the tipi up. Three poles form the main structural supports and the canvas is raised on this. In the centre is a brazier and smoke goes out through a smoke flap in the top that can be moved according to the direction of the wind. The tipi has a lovely smell about it that manmade fibre tents don't have and the light casts a golden hue inside. The day I visited was the coldest, windiest day in January and the tipi was taking a real hammering. In fact when I drove past 20 minutes later it was in the process of being taken down.

Mike, who is a chef at Okurukuru Vineyard, doesn't sleep in the tipi but uses it for extra accommodation or parties (a party of 25 recently). He became interested in tipis through his travels to America and from working in a North Carolina Resort. Tipis have become a more common sight in Taranaki of late, with dozens made for the Last Samurai movie and subsequently bought by locals, some of whom are hiring them out. The hide tipi made for Tom Cruise by an American company for supposedly \$14000 and sold to Mikes Mild Ales, Urenui, is now a tourist attraction.

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Oakura Library *With Tara Ward*

New books at Oakura Library this month include *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, James Patterson's new novel *The Big Bad Wolf*, Ian Pryor's biography on Peter Jackson, *Peter Jackson: From Prince of Splatter to Lord of the Rings*, and *John Britten* by Tim Hanna. For kids, we have the two new *Captain Underpants* books, more gorgeous *Clarice Bean* books by Lauren Child, and the first book of popular teen author John Marsden's new series, *While I Live*. There's something for everyone!

Our summer reading programme Read On! was held during December and January; it aims to keep children between 5-10 years old reading during the summer holidays. The programme at Oakura Library was very successful and we had some really enthusiastic children 'checking in' at the library to chat about the reading they'd been doing.

Oakura Library Hours are 10am-12:30pm, 1pm-4pm Monday-Friday. Remember, we also have a late night on Wednesdays from 5pm-7pm.

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New premises for Berridge's Petfood

David and Michelle Berridge have relocated their pet food business to 67 Hurford Rd. They still produce the same high quality dog and cat meat, but in new premises. The move has made it easier for them to manage their business and it's right on their own door step. There's no doubt that the Berridges are passionate about their pet food. They speak with pride about the 10-year-old business and the fact that it is the only one of its kind in Taranaki, that they make a high quality pet food product possibly unparalleled in the market, and that they have done the courses and complied with every legal requirement and managed to make a living out of their business at the same time. The product is minced up pure beef sourced from unwanted stock from around Taranaki. And not any kind of stock either. The animal has to be generally fit and healthy (injured but not sick) and drug free and humanely killed (David is licensed to do this). David has cut a swathe through much red tape to be a competent and MAF-licensed pet food producer. Most other pet food products are not "pure" and are often sourced from overseas. Michelle says "If dogs and especially working dogs are fed good clean healthy food then not only will they be happier and more vital, but the vet bills will be reduced too."

The business came about 10 years ago when they started making pet food for their own animals. Now they supply various catteries and doggeries and the feedback they get is that after such a visit the family pooch won't eat anything else. Many discerning locals also queue up to buy Berridge Pet Food.

Berridge Pet Food can be bought in \$10 bags comprising six 750g blocks already frozen. Dog bones are available in 5 kilogram bags for \$5.

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David Berridge can be contacted on ph 7512779, 67 Hurford Rd, Omata.

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In the wind

In the wind: you may have noticed it while passing through Oakura. It's the new sculpture right outside the Crafty Fox, created by local Taranaki artist Mr Kelly O'Donnell.



In the wind was created in 1997. It is constructed from stainless steel and stands approx 1.5 meters tall. O'Donnell says it represents a figure standing on a cliff top looking at the ocean with the wind in its hair. It's something the artist says just came to him, something he saw in his head and he just had to make.

Kelly O'Donnell

Originally created in Taranaki, the sculpture has traveled to various locations around New Zealand. It was hired to appear in an overseas advertising campaign for the European car manufacturer Volvo, which was filmed in Auckland. It has also been to Christchurch where it appeared in an art competition, then to Wellington where it was exhibited outside an accounting firm. While in Wellington, the sculpture was affectionately renamed Umaga. People associated the long wavy strands at the top of the sculpture with the rugby player Tama Umaga's hair. However artist O'Donnell says his inspiration comes from his surroundings, Taranaki's beautiful bush and vivid coastline.

While O'Donnell has no formal art training, he relies on his extensive engineering background to create his sculptures. He works only in stainless steel, a technically difficult material to use. About seven years ago O'Donnell started making pieces at his residence, just for fun. A couple of years later, a friend suggested he should try to promote his work. Following his friend's advice, he has now completed several commissions.

O'Donnell's art has taken various directions. For example a stainless steel handrail shaped in the form of cabbage trees now adorns a local Oakura residence.

Continued on next page



In the wind outside The Crafty Fox in Oakura

O'Donnell is available for commissions and he enjoys working with his clients, creating individual pieces. You can contact him by phone [06] 7521154.

If you have not seen IN THE WIND yet, take a look next time you are in Oakura.

By Tamara Lewis



More of Kelly's work features on this Oakura home



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Soundz-Like It New Year's Eve Beach Rave

The second successful beach rave was held in Shearers Reserve on New Year's Eve. Kerry Houghton from New Plymouth Audiohire provided the lighting and stage along with the musical equipment. DJs Katie & |Mini-me belted out the soundz to an estimated crowd of over 1500 teenagers & young people.

The weather was perfect to see the New Year in, everyone in Shearers Reserve danced hard out and had a great time. The shuttle buses to and from NP proved popular, and security was on hand to contain both the crowd and the booze!

Soundz-Like It would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved including Hookers (stage), NP Audiohire, Oakura Boardriders, NPOB Surf Club, Vaughan Garrett (electrics), NPDC (web site, promotion & support) & Parkscape (Shearers Reserve), Okato Buslines, Oakura Beachfront Bed & Breakfast, 98.8 ZM, Tom Smithers (H.T. transport), St Johns Ambulance, Kiwi Crusaders Inc., North Taranaki Midweeker (advertising), The Daily News, Michelle Powell (graphics), T.O.M., Te Taura Tangata, Margaret Koopu & team (refreshments), Sarah & Tui (refreshments), Oakura Beach Camp & Shop, The Devon Hotel, Ash Heydon-Heydon Priest hooker bin, the police, and Fletcher Challenge Aquatic Centre (R.T.s). Thanks to all those involved, and especially the surrounding residents for your tolerance. By all accounts the rave has a positive effect on the gathering crowd. A special thank you to Councillor Pam Street. Thanks also to NPDC Youth Council & TSB Community Trust for making it all possible by funding the event.

Roll on 2005!

Chris Gruys Event Organiser



Oakura's own Miss Taranaki Sophie Stephens

Twenty-year-old Sophie Stephens surpassed her own expectations when she won the Miss Taranaki contest at Oakura Beach on New Years Day. Her sponsors and previous employer The Body Indulgence Shop felt they wanted to promote themselves through such an event and sponsoring Sophie certainly has paid dividends for them. For Sophie, entering the contest was about ... "Trying something different that was outside my comfort zone. I wanted more confidence speaking in front of people so I thought this would be something to boost my confidence. And it has. I like giving things a go, too." It would seem a crash course in confidence boosting is ahead if the next step is the Miss New Zealand contest!

Sophie can't speak highly enough of her sponsors – The Body Indulgence Shop - who supplied her make-up (the Wendy Hill range) and her Bio Sculpture Nails. Nail biting is a bit of a habit for Sophie, so beautiful sculptured nails for the competition were a real treat. The Body Indulgence Shop is willing to sponsor Sophie at the Miss New Zealand contest later in the year, so here's hoping Taranaki's good fortunes will continue on the national stage.

So, who exactly is Sophie Stephens? Originally from New Plymouth, Sophie's parents moved out to Oakura about 6 months ago to enjoy the beach. Sophie is currently studying at Canterbury University and is in her 3rd year of a Law and Arts degree. She enjoys the challenge of studying and living in Christchurch but will study a little less this year to fit in her commitments to being Miss Taranaki and entering the Miss New Zealand contest. Her boyfriend is also studying at Canterbury University. Interests outside of tertiary education include socialising with her friends, swimming, the beach and reading. There are no long term plans for the future yet.

What does the Miss Taranaki contest involve? There were various functions to attend, including a cocktail party and interview where the contestants are scrutinized, afternoon tea at the New Plymouth races and the New Years day event. The girls had to answer a personal question off the cuff. After the initial surprise of winning and enduring a long day in the public eye, Sophie has had interviews with local radio stations and Taranaki TV and had a photo shoot with the event organiser, Lois Finderup. Sophie seems unfazed by being thrust into the limelight and representing the province and we hope she enjoys the experience and continues to have fun.

By Kim Ferens



Sophie Stephens, Miss Taranaki

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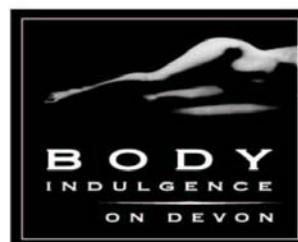
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Wingspan Festival



Kia orana from
The Alders

In February last year, Oakura Marae took centre stage for the first ever Wingspan Festival. “The festival is a chance for our community to unite and celebrate anything and everything worth celebrating” says creator Ms Colleen Tuuta.

Organised by a group of committed volunteers, the success of last years festival along with the positive feedback from the community has motivated the group to stage a second Wingspan Festival on Saturday 21st of February.

Last year about 1,000 people attended the festival and were entertained by a wide range of bands, craft stalls, artists, food stalls, healers and a children’s talent show. The same is planned for this month’s festival.

The festival is also a fund raiser for Oakura Marae, who are organising the dinnertime hangi. Also, all commercial stalls will give a percentage of the day’s intake back to the Marae. “The festival is about sharing, and this is one way we can share with the Oakura community, we hope to see everyone there.”

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder. Well, I was always fond of New Zealand, but I’ve got to admit it, being away for a year has certainly given me a different perspective. It’s made me realise just how fortunate I was to be born in such an amazing country.

Not that I’ve gone off Rarotonga. Not at all. How could anyone go off the beauty of soft, white sandy beaches, teal coloured lagoons, warm weather all year round, palm trees, frangipani..... But it is, well, small. At only 33km circumference, after a year we all seemed to get “island fever”. I normally hate driving long distances. But for some reason, I just felt like getting in a car and driving all day. Which I could do here, I suppose. I could drive around the island ten times.

Or, we could have a holiday in New Zealand. What a great idea.

In January we had two blissful weeks in godzone. We drove and drove, finally settling for a week in sunny Oakura. We had a great place to stay (thanks for going on holiday Mr and Mrs Loft!), awesome weather (cold at night! yah!), and got to catch up with lots of wonderful friends. We shopped until our eftpos card went into convulsions, and realised something new. New Zealand is the most amazing holiday destination. It’s really quite incredible. It has so much to offer, and it’s all relatively compact. There are so many different types of scenery - from the white sandy beaches of the north, to the barrenness of the Desert Road, to the fertile soils and rugged coastline of Taranaki. All of which can be seen in one day’s drive.

So, in a way, it wasn’t the absence which made our heart grow fonder of New Zealand. It was the return. Fortunately it worked the other way too. Two weeks away from Rarotonga, and we all really enjoyed returning here. It didn’t feel as weird as we’d expected, it just felt like coming home. But then, it helps knowing that in less than twelve months we’ll be back in our beloved New Zealand.

Diane Alder



Wingspan Festival 2004

~ a celebration of life ~

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Oakura Marae
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entertainers, artists,
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The adventures of Korean Kelly - Part Three

Annyong haseyo.

The weather in Korea can be classified as extreme. Summer (yoreum) sees temperatures in the thirties and humidity so high that I put on my inflatable water-wings for the walk to school. Most Korean people are smart and have air-conditioned homes. Alas, the accommodation our school provides for us is one of the few that do not have this luxury. It gets hot. There are mosquitoes. They are silent and fast and indulge in as many blood cells as they can suck through my skin as I try to sleep.

Spring and autumn are relatively mild, though in spring there is an unusual atmospheric phenomenon known as Yellow Dust. Now Seoul is polluted at the best of times, some days visibility is as low as 1 km. But the yellow dust sees this decrease to maybe 500 metres, and brings with it various allergies, irritated eyes and other cheerful ailments. The dust is fine particulate sand blown from the desert plains of Siberia and China. It is so fine, it gets everywhere - some days everything is covered with a bright yellow powder.

And then there's winter. "Winter here is colder than winter in Manitoba", one of my Canadian friends in my rugby team informs me. "There's this wind that blows in from Siberia that brings it down to minus 20 degrees." It definitely gets chilly in winter, but there's nothing like tucking into a slimy monkfish, baby octopus and crab leg soup (haemultang) with serious doses of chilli paste. Speaking of soup, summer is poch'intang season, a veritable delicacy here in Korea. Dog lovers, don't read on! Dog meat is eaten in Korea mainly by men as a supposed 'bedroom stamina booster'. A dog known as the Jindo or Dong-Gae is farmed specifically for this purpose. It is very expensive, so is eaten only on special occasions. It is usually steamed with green onions and eaten as a soup. The meat is very stringy and has an unusual odour, though it can pass off in flavour as beef or dark wild pork. The skin is very similar to pork skin, except that when you eat it, you know it's from a dog! It's an interesting culinary experience and not really something to get too excited about. So next time you're worried about the 'mystery meat' in the stir fried takeaways from down the road, you can rest assured that it's probably not dog - maybe it's just cat or rat!

Annyonghi keseyo.

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Oakura Playcentre

There has been lots of work going on here over the holidays. We've had P.D. workers in for two days, getting the grounds and buildings all spruced up, in addition to also doing some painting inside to make the place even more bright and welcoming. We'd like to thank Steve Thomas, Bruce Kapper and Dulux for their generous help with the paint for this. We've also had families coming in to do routine cleaning jobs as well as a working bee day.

We've got a new sunshade to keep our kids out of the sun and lots of new musical instruments, in addition to new shelving and storage units to get us more organised.



Jacob Morgan having fun painting outside at Playcentre."

We currently have about 17 families - 22 children - on our rolls and will warmly welcome more. Playcentre is open to all children age 0-6 years, and we're open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9.00am-11.30am. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term - no matter how many sessions you come to - and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292 or Sharon Steen on 752 7376. Otherwise, please feel welcome to come and join us - we're a friendly, fun place and the kids just LOVE it.

Trish Whitney, Playcentre Treasurer

TOMkid PROFILE
Cameron Meads

Name: Cameron Meads
Age: 8 yrs
School: Oakura Primary



favourites

Food: Homemade Pizza
Game: Cricket
Toy/ Activity: Playing Music (Drums)
Best Video/Movie: Spy Kids 3D Game Over
When I grow up I want to be a: Professional Cricketer



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School review

The Minister of Education, Trevor Mallard, announced the preliminary results of the Coastal School Review on Friday. The Omata and Oakura Primary Schools are to remain as stand-alone options. This was the preferred option for both school Boards of Trustees. The communities have one month to consult on the preliminary announcement and report back to the Ministry. While this is a preliminary announcement with the final report due in April, I am extremely confident that the final report will be very similar.

It is extremely pleasing to see that the process of consultation does work. Common sense has prevailed in the end. I'm sure the Omata decision was largely due to the tremendous involvement of all the people who helped to prove to the Ministry that the school was worth keeping and provide the reasons why. Throughout the process, all property funds were frozen, and projects like the planned play ground extension will now be able to proceed. The number of submissions put forward was very encouraging to see and at long last we at Omata Primary School can simply get on with running OUR SCHOOL.

Nick Barrett
Omata BOT Chairperson



Oakura School News

Term 1 began on January 27th and it was wonderful to see the children's cheerful faces again. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new pupils and their families and hope they enjoy getting to know their new school.

Term dates for 2004 are as follows:

Term 1: January 27 to April 8
Term 2: April 26 to July 2
Term 3: July 19 to September 17
Term 4: October 4 to December 15

The Friends of Oakura School Committee is again organising the annual "**Oakura Fun Run or Walk**", to be held on **Sunday February 22nd at 4pm**. There are two courses - a 4km or a 9km - both starting outside the NPOB Surf Club rooms in Oakura.

This is a wonderful family day out with the main spot prize being a \$1200 travel voucher. There will also be over 100 other great spot prizes, so mark the date in your diary now! Watch for entry forms out soon. All proceeds from this event will go towards purchasing educational equipment for the children of Oakura School.

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Omata School News

Staff changes

Our Room 2 teacher, Lucie Sargent gained a new and exciting job in the holidays and will now join "Harold" as a teacher in one of the Life Education trucks that provides positive Health Education for children all over Taranaki. We wish her all the best in her new position and thank her for her commitment to Omata over the three years she has been with us, particularly with the sports organisation – we will miss our aerobics at assembly!!

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to Omata School for 2004. Vicky Aylward will be taking over Lucie's year 4 and 5 class. Vicky finished her teaching training in 2002 and is pleased to gain her first full time appointment at Omata. Vicky is also an enrolled nurse and also a trained E.S.O.L. (English as a second language) teacher.

Also joining us this year is Marcel Spencer who will be teaching part time in the senior Year 5-6 class. Marcel has a background in white-water rafting as a guide and has done extensive travel overseas.

School organisation

Omata has started the year with 107 pupils, which compares with a roll of 89 at this time last year. We have managed to keep our class sizes quite small at this stage, although with the new entrants that we have arriving, we are expecting to have to increase these later in the year. Our furniture is in for a bit of an upgrade



Marcel Spencer and Vicky Aylward

this year. Most classes have now got new chairs so we have quite a few old school chairs for sale. If anyone would like to purchase these from the school please pop in and we would be happy for them to find good homes. There will also be some new desks arriving later this term so be in quick if you would like some of the old ones.

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Oakura's Hannoverian horses

The Karaka Hill Horses site started with a love for horses and a dream to breed and raise a foal. Sally Conquest and John Magrath started with a bare 5 acres of land, covered in scrub and gorse. Weeks and years of hard work transformed the place into a dream lifestyle section, complete with home, stables, post and rail fences and horses grazing just outside the window.



Local residents

A mixture of horses, including a Clydesdale, a station-bred horse and a donkey, were the first to join Karaka Hill. Sally's passion for dressage and a determination to have a good dressage horse started the quest to produce a sports horse and that attracted them to warmbloods. Sally has moved to the UK to further her veterinarian career.

A first foal – Sebastian was raised and shown with pride at shows by John then broken in and ridden by Sally. Karaka Hill, with the neighbouring beach, farmlands and all weather arena, proved to be the ideal place for raising young warmblood horses.

With the purchase of Annabold, a Witzbold Hannoverian mare, John's goal moved firmly to breeding Hannoverian horses. Annabold, in foal to an Australian Hannoverian called Winterkoenig, produced Waitangi Wind – the apple of John's eye. Annabold has been the most influential horse of Karaka Hill – all of

Annabold's progeny have proved special and successful.

An opportunity arose to become shareholders in the Hannoverian stallion Anamour. With KH mares, Anamour has produced some stunning and successful horses, including KH Arvan and KH Anastasia.

Another successful offspring was KH Troubador, owned by Jill Tompkins, who is making his mark in the dressage world. He was medium dressage champion at the NZ Dressage National Championship Show, and KH Arvan owned by Vanessa Way took the Novice Championship.

The latest Annabold foal, KH Anastasia, is now owned by Kylie Sole, an up and coming young dressage rider.

Karaka Hill continues to produce special horses – often sought after. Waitangi Wind has competed internationally and she successfully competed as an advanced three day eventer and now is safely in the broodmare paddock producing the next generation of Karaka Hill horses.



Waitangi Wind at a three day event CCI***

The future looks bright for John now that he is retiring from panel beating – his job has been taken over by Jarred. This will give John more time to tend the horses.

Properties to buy for the smart investor!



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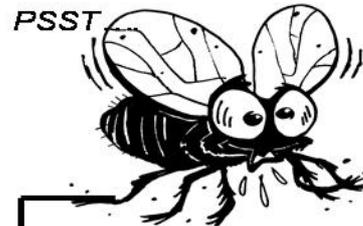
18 The Outlook - Section 788m²

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New initiative to save giant carnivorous land snails



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

A new initiative aimed at rebuilding key populations of New Zealand's rare giant flesh-eating land snails has been launched by Conservation Minister Chris Carter.

The initiative seeks to co-ordinate ground-breaking efforts to preserve a full range of Powelliphanta snails - the same family that Taranaki's own unique species Powelliphanta "Egmont" belongs to.

"Powelliphanta are not like ordinary garden snails," Mr Carter said. "These meat-eating giants are fascinating and beautiful with striking delicately-patterned shells in shades of red, brown, yellow and black. They are sumo wrestlers of the snail world growing up to 90mm across - the size of a man's fist. A great many New Zealanders have never seen a Powelliphanta and don't even know they live in our nation's forests."

Powelliphanta can live up to 20 years - in snail terms an incredibly long life span - are among the biggest in the world. Although generally slow moving, they can move quickly enough to pounce on their prey, which they slurp up like spaghetti.

There are currently 21 Powelliphanta species and 51 sub species that are known of, 40 of which are ranked as being of national conservation concern.

Powelliphanta "Egmont" is among the 21 main species, and is found only in Egmont National Park. Described as "an impressively large snail" with a maximum diameter of around 70mm and a height of about 30mm, it has a gold coloured shell with narrow purple-brown lines spiralling around the circumference.

DOC Wanganui threatened species expert Dr Nic Peet said it was difficult to get an idea of Powelliphanta numbers, as they were extremely long-lived and like many other native species, were particularly susceptible to introduced predators such as stoats, possums, rats and pigs.

However, a recent massive stoat trapping operation launched on Mt Taranaki and aimed at primarily at protecting blue duck (whio) and kiwi should also help boost snail numbers on the mountain, he said.

"Powelliphanta are the culmination of at least 80 million years of evolution. They are a significant part of our heritage in the same way that kiwi and kakapo are. To enable these snails to recover, predator numbers in key areas need to be reduced to very low numbers in the immediate future," Mr Carter said.

Relay for life

On the 13th March the Relay For Life takes place at Yarrow Stadium. This is the inaugural Relay for Life for Taranaki and is run by the Cancer Society. It involves a team of walkers/runners walking or running around the athletic track. The aim is for each team to compete and raise money over 24 hours. Each team member pays to compete and then raises funds on or before the event. Live local entertainment will be provided to keep the momentum up! Each team should be about 10-15 people.

The opening ceremony will celebrate those who have survived cancer, with a lap of honour to celebrate the determination and courage of those living with cancer. At dusk a special Memorial Candle Light Service will be held where the whole track is lit with candles to honour those who survived and then lost the battle to cancer.

Local Omata resident, Di Carswell, who in the last 6 months has lost a mother, father-in-law and sister-in-law, is most passionate about the cause. Her family are entering a team and she urges anyone who wants to enter a team to do so soon. If you can't enter a team then sponsoring someone else or buying a candle for the

dusk ceremony would be a worthwhile effort. 90% of funds raised in Taranaki, stay in Taranaki so the benefit is to the local community.

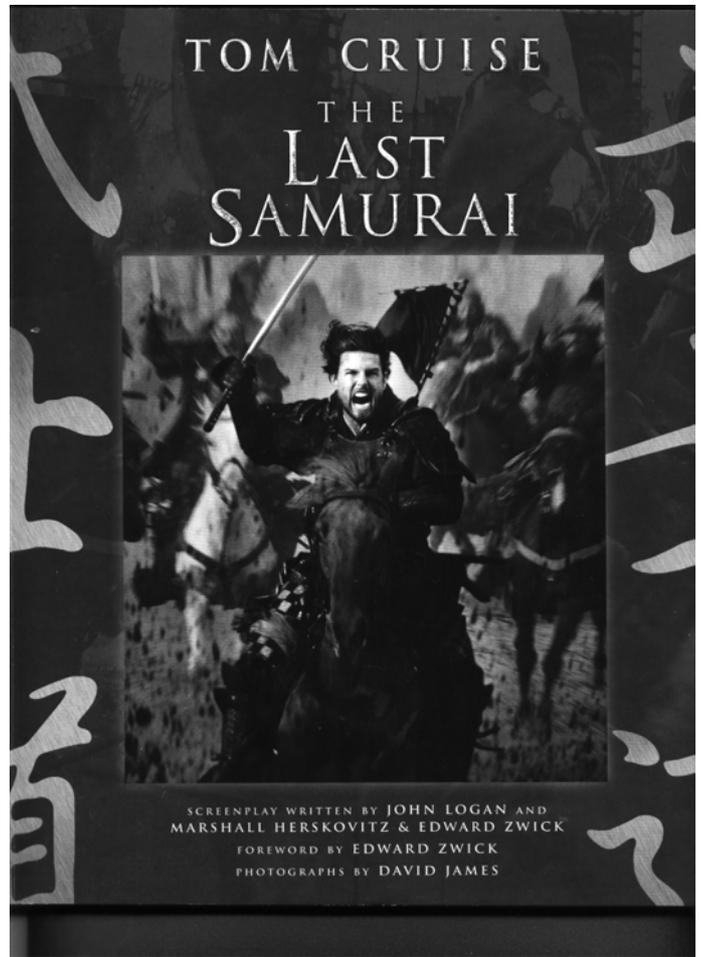
Contact Taranaki Cancer Society Inc on 7585644 or Beau on 0274995293 for more information.

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Tom Cruise - The Last Samurai A book review

The hype of last summer remains, it would seem, this summer, thanks to the recent release of the Last Samurai movie and the book. I love good books and I categorise this one as a good book. The photography throughout the book is first class and, for us locals, it's great scrutinising each picture to see where the filming took place. I recognised trees from the neighbourhood that had been felled and relocated to Uruti. It was fun knowing of cherry blossom made out of paper and tied onto trees, knowing builders who had constructed film sets, and recognising movie stars, now dressed up in their costumes, who had been met or seen in cafes.

But not only is this book exciting because our local landmarks (the author says that the "perfect site in the Taranaki region in the north" was found, and that "a place on a high plateau that looked like it could be on a mountainside.... looked like the kind of terrain where samurai warriors would live..."), our livestock and our people are in it, but also because it contains some really interesting information on ancient Japan and Japanese culture. "A defeated samurai would preserve his dignity by disembowelling himself with his own sword rather than be taken captive after losing a battle." There are also insights into the movie stars themselves, why they were selected for the movie and their individual input, as well as sections on directors, producers, designers, set making, training the horses and transcripts of dialogue between characters. For example: Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe) "You do not have to die here." A long beat. Algren (Tom Cruise) "I should have died so many times before." Katsumoto "Now you live again."



For \$39.95 from local booksellers. I recommend The Last Samurai as a good coffee table read. Our children will be able to say in years to come "I was there...".

By Kim Ferens

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readers remarks

Mesdames

The commentary below does not reflect the views of TOM, its advertisers or any specific Alliance Party supporter, should such an animal still exist.

BBQ'd, beveraged and beached out, I reluctantly concede that normal service is about to resume. The rose-coloured tinge through which I've viewed and then recounted holiday happenings fades as a sudden climatic reversal brings me indoors as if to confirm that the holiday break is now confined to recent history.

Confronted by wide screen tabloid news and peak hour "Public Service" broadcasts designed to shock and make even the innocent confess, the stealth campaign to soften us up for the next legislative personal infringement in the name of Political Correctness rolls on relentlessly. Crime, road carnage, death by misadventure (often sheer stupidity) compete with "recovered memory" and general "victim" stories for what now passes as in-depth news, while unreality, celebrity cooking, DIY renovations through to real estate fill the other viewing hours. If this dumbing down was confined to the screen I would willingly pay the price. Unfortunately it seems symptomatic of the mediocrity that is permeating society's institutions. Take the education system for example, where "everyone gets a prize" and team sports end in a draw. This "John Boy Walton" doctrine has now reached its logical conclusion. No one fails! Recently we hear that schools are encouraged not to record failures, or in PC speak "non achievement results". What ultimate fall do we set our children up for when we buy into this rubbish?

In the rare areas of our society where revisionist ideology does not yet have a stranglehold, you may still

slip a failure through. But never fear, the victim culture and its burgeoning grievance industry will pick up your cause (you might make the Holmes Show). Too many soft boundaries, "Nana State" knows best. Fat tax, smack tax, fart tax and probably smart tax.

Politicians and their "Yes Minister" bureaucrats are still kicking the sand out from between their toes but fear not, they will soon be back "on message" attempting to cement our dependence on them. Quasi government organisations will once again extend their self-defined un-mandates with religious vigour. OSH Nazis will move to make handrails on horses mandatory while, not to be outdone, the LTSA will push for licence endorsements for ride-on mowers and roll cages for mobility scooters. Increasing numbers of economic refugees will cleanse themselves via the mile high flush, before embracing the Koru club of cultural nirvana in New Zealand's passive welfare system. Another half-dozen full and final treaty settlement casino chips will be cashed in. Urban inland Maori having lost out on the seashore seesaw for sure will claim full traditional rites, ownership and control of stratocumulus clouds, throwing wintertime domestic air travel into chaos.

Maybe farfetched two Labour terms ago, I'd rate them an even chance in the Year of the Monkey.

Until the Revolution.....

Gong Xi Fa Cai

*From the pen of Dioxin Dan 11
(Name and address supplied)*

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District

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANTS SCHEME

Applications for financial assistance under the Creative Communities Scheme are now invited for round one 2004 to 2005.

All projects eligible for funding must be arts and cultural projects that:

- increase participation in the arts at a local level
- increase the range and diversity of arts available to the communities
- enhance and strengthen the local arts sector
- take place within the district and/or produce benefits that are largely experienced within the district
- benefit the local community
- not have started before an application is assessed and not have been funded by Creative New Zealand or the North Taranaki Community Arts Council for the same project.

Funding will be available as grants or guarantees against loss.

Application forms, including information sheets, are available from the Council's Customer Support Centres at New Plymouth, Inglewood, Waitara, and the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Enquiries in respect of the Scheme should be directed to the New Plymouth District Council on telephone 759 6060 or email enquiries@npdc.govt.nz. Copies of the forms are available by email.

The closing date for applications for this round is Friday, 26 March 2004.

Rodger Kerr-Newell, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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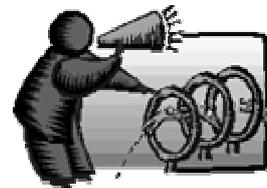
Kaitake Netball

Interested in playing or coaching netball this year?

**Kaitake Netball AGM & Registrations
Sunday 22 February 2004 at 10.30am**

Kaitake Netball Court
Corbett Park
Oakura

All interested please attend or contact:
Tanya Farrant 7521301 or
Helen Fleming 7527048



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Anne is an integral part of our team at Harveys Park City Realty Ltd. She is known as a dynamic, dedicated, conscientious person to all who know her. She likes to have a positive impact on people's lives. Anne is an excellent communicator and a strong team player. While Anne might be new to the sales team she is definitely not a newcomer to real estate. Anne has followed the market closely for the past 12 years and personally has had a number of real estate transactions she has dealt with.

If you would like assistance to sell your home, Anne will handle it effectively and professionally.

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**Properties Wanted
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3-4 bedroom house, up to \$300,000 cash. Less if it needs work done on it. Mountain views are more important than sea views, but not essential.

2-3 bedroom, seaviews. Beach side of main road, up to \$350,000

Bach/house, any condition, all right if it is run down, needs to be within 300m of beach with view. Will consider anything. Cash buyer from out of town.

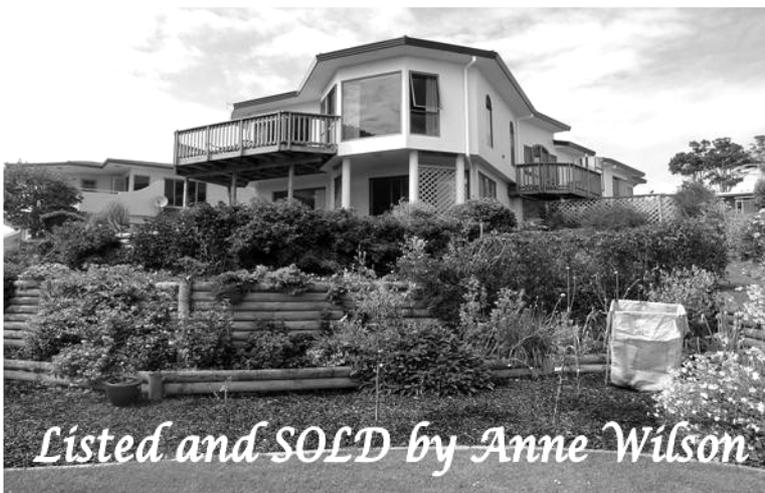
Typical beach bach type home with 400m of beach. Cash buyers ex New Plymouth. Will pay up to \$500,000.

New Plymouth

5 buyers wanting 3 bedroom homes, existing tenants for some would be ideal. Most New Plymouth areas considered.

PLEASE phone me if you have any queries about any of the above properties or for any real estate help in any way. I would love to hear from you. If you know of ANYONE who might be wanting to sell their home, please get them to call me.

THE MARKET IS HOT! GET IN NOW!



Listed and SOLD by Anne Wilson

Thought for the Month

IMAGINE that you are 80 years old, think about any regrets you may have, then do them now! I'll leave you with that until next month. For any Real Estate needs, queries, or just a chat - call me anytime - I'd love to hear from you. Until next month, take care, be happy and make every day a GREAT day.