

TOM oakura

FEBRUARY 2011

Swing,
Sing and
Sway for
Santa

see
page 2



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editorial

As always it is hard to get back into work mode after having the summer break and with such fantastic weather who would want to go back to work anyway? I have never felt the sea at Oakura so warm. Maybe it is all that warm water running off Australia! Not that the Aussie floods are anything to joke about — the devastation is unbelievable and on a scale we can't quite comprehend here in Taranaki with our undulating landscape. A creeping wall of water wouldn't get very far around here! The TOM team says goodbye to Rebecca. She is heading over the ditch to pursue her dreams, so all the best Becca and thank you for your many inspiring and captivating stories and images. Perhaps you will send us updates once in a while via your pen or camera. If there is anyone else locally who would like the opportunity to write the odd story or two for the TOM, please feel free to contact me.

Kim



**March issue deadline for copy and ads is
18th February & Delivery 7th March**

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OAKURA

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

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

cover feature

Swinging, singing and swaying for Santa at Mini-Groovers

The 2010 Mini-groovers Christmas party was a busy place as many little people from around the village got together, some dressed as their favourite characters, to sing and dance as they waited eagerly (or not so eagerly for some) for the big man in red to show up.



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Peta Hislop's retirement celebration

Oakura School and community bid a fond farewell to Peta Hislop at the celebration of her retirement on December 10. The newly built Pohutukawa Centre was creatively transformed into a beachside scene with surfboards, sandcastles and ornamental driftwood displays. Something close to Peta's heart. Deirdre Krutz decorated a beautiful cake with an image of Oakura on it, and a slide show played during the celebrations showing images from Peta's career.

Friends, family and colleagues made speeches and told anecdotes expressing their respect and love for Peta. School Principal, Lynne Hepworth, spoke fondly of the many years Peta has been with Oakura School and presented her with a 'This is your Life' style book, a wonderful record for Peta.

Peta has enriched and inspired so many of our children. We all wish her every happiness in the future.

By Rosie Moyes



Lynne Hepworth presents Peta with a 'This is your life' style book at Oakura school.



Linda Whitehead presents a gift on behalf of the Board of Trustees to Peta, with daughter Emma and husband Doug looking on.



A good send off party!



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Kaitake Community Board

My, how quickly things can change weatherwise. Let's hope that we do enjoy a warm and sunny summer season right through until Easter, which is very late this year. In fact, it is the first time since 1943 that ANZAC Day falls during Easter and that's something that won't happen again for another 85 years!

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) awaits with interest the initial feedback from the community recreation survey. All householders within the Oakura Structure Plan boundaries received a maildrop from Visitor Solutions who were engaged by Council to carry out a survey to ascertain the future recreational requirements of the area. There will be further engagement with various groups during this initial step in a forward planning process for our area.

The Community Board is turning its focus to its submission to Council on financial support requirements for the next financial year in the Annual Plan (July 2011–June 2012). We have already identified the need to upgrade the walk and cycleway from the end of the Oakura campground westwards, and more work needs to be done also on the planned community playground development in Okato. While the financial plan is an annual one, we need to consider and identify as many projects as we can that could take place over the next three years so we are seeking feedback from the community on other relevant issues. Please let KCB members know any ideas you have and don't forget individuals or other groups can make their own submissions too.

As with all local body affairs there is a particular process to follow that, to many members of the community, appears particularly long-winded, but those are the rules under which we operate. For example, each Board submission must be approved by the Community Board at a meeting or extraordinary meeting prior to being submitted to Council. Submissions to the Annual Plan open on 31 March and close on 29 April. Hearings and decisions will be in June.

The next Long Term Council Community Plan year (LTCCP) is 2012. The LTCCP is produced every three years while the Annual Plan is produced in years two and three of the cycle. The LTCCP details all of the Council's activities, and how these activities contribute to Community Outcomes. It describes the Council's budget, explaining what the Council plans to spend over the next 10 years, and shows how Council plans to manage its assets over the 10-year period based on each activity's Asset or Activity Management Plan. This allows the Council to take a long-term view of its responsibilities while enabling it to adjust for changing financial factors and keep its budgets up-to-d

Therefore we also need to consult, investigate and identify projects that would be good to get into the plan for the next 10 years. This will not be part of this year's Annual Plan but it can be noted for inclusion in the submission next year. We will be keen to get some of the identified issues from the recreational survey into that LTCCP but there will be others. Please let members know your thoughts sooner rather than later.

Don't forget to check out the KCB's Facebook page so you can keep up with current issues as they unfold. While January figures are not yet in, from 2 December to 31 December 2010 7,423 Facebook aficionados viewed the KCB Facebook Wall. Well, that's it for this issue.

Ka kite ano

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

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Happy New Year!

Our Summer Reading Programme, the Big Bush Read, was a huge hit. Thirty-five children participated. They shared their storytime highlights with us throughout the summer and were rewarded with useful tools for reading in the bush.

Children and caregivers alike enjoyed our Christmas craft holiday programme. The library (and librarians) shimmered for weeks afterwards because of the enthusiastic use of glitter and confetti. The children proudly displayed their 3-D decorated paper Christmas trees.

We look forward to seeing all the school children's smiling faces. Uni students will find *Sam Stern's Student Cookbook*, *Sam Stern's Eat Vegetarian Cookbook*, and *Kai with Soul* invaluable for flatting or self-catering on campus.

The Rosie Black Chronicles (Genesis being the first volume), *Fruitloops and Dipsticks*, *Annexed* and *Mice* are just a few of the new young adult fiction novels garnering rave reviews. We are happy to help you select novels to inspire even the most reluctant teen reader.

The Empress of Ice Cream, *Amandine*, *Conn Iggulden's Conqueror* series will delight fans of historical fiction. *Freeing Grace* and *The Hut Builder*, both written by New Zealand authors, are highly recommended.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Karen and Vincenza

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There is no substitute for hard work and savings

Money — we all need it, especially around this time of the year with Christmas and the holidays taking their toll on our bank balances! Having a sense of security and confidence about the future is mostly about money. We want to see our earning increase. In making ends meet I think people favour increasing income rather than decreasing spending. Over the last decade there has been a huge increase in debt in our country. But there is nothing like paying interest to reduce your spending capacity! The Government has encouraged a turn-around in the economy from borrowing and spending, to saving and investing.

Kiwis paid off about \$5 billion of debt in their homes last year. That's a \$12 billion a year turnaround on the \$7 billion New Zealanders borrowed against their homes at the peak of the housing boom in 2007.

This trend towards saving more builds a strong platform for faster long-term economic growth. Growth matters. It creates jobs. It lifts incomes. It boosts living standards and pays for the world-class health and education services that families need.

I think we're waking up to the realisation that we have to do what we really don't want to do, in order to get what we really want to get. That is, that frugality and tenacity lead to true prosperity.

Recently, Statistics New Zealand released information showing that completing a qualification, particularly at degree level, markedly increases a person's post-study earnings and wage growth. Of students who studied at bachelor level and left study in 2004, those who completed their degree earned an average of 18% more than a person who did not complete their degree.

What does this tell us? Certainly a degree means you have attained a high level of understanding about a subject. But it says more. It shows you've set a goal that has been completed. It shows that you have worked hard at attending lectures, researching and writing assignments, and sitting exams. It shows you've applied the different disciplines necessary to achieve at an advanced level. It shows you've learnt how to learn.

This is a lesson New Zealanders are accepting. High income is based on being skilled, disciplined and hardworking as a person. There is no money-tree to sleep under on a sunny day. To have a high wage society, we need a highly skilled work force — and you don't get there without the disciplines of hard work, both in preparation to enter the workforce and applying yourself once there.

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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We have some interesting statistics in Taranaki around this subject. At 15 years of age and over 30% of people from Taranaki have no formal qualifications, compared to 25% for the rest of the country. The median personal income for New Zealand as a whole is \$24,400, whereas in the New Plymouth District it is \$22,800. So we see the correlation between qualifications and income.

There are two things we need to build our country. Aptitude and attitude — or put in other words, skill and tenacity. Aptitude is your ability; attitude is your willingness to work, to use your ability to the best. Success is more certain when you apply both! All the best for this coming year. May you succeed in all your endeavours as you apply yourself with all diligence.

Jonathan Young MP

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Mayor Harry

What a great summer we're having — stunning weather throughout the district and smiling faces wherever you go. It really makes you appreciate what a special place we live in!

I hope everyone has found time to attend some of the fantastic events we've been privileged to enjoy,

including of course the Oakura Beach Carnival, which drew a fantastic crowd of around 7,000 in perfect weather.

The TSB Bank Festival of Lights has once again been a wonderful experience, drawing thousands of visitors from the local community and elsewhere around New Zealand.

And it's not just the lights and evening concerts, the summer scene daytime events have again proved a real hit with parents and kids. It's a real thrill for the Council to provide this event every summer.

Even without these events the long sunny days have been a joy to behold and it's been great to see so many people outside making the most of the great weather! Let's hope it sticks around for a few more months yet!

Here's to a great 2011.

Harry Duynhoven

Mayor

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Local eXposure: DOC update

For all you keen outdoor enthusiasts and for those of you who are tempted but haven't ventured beneath the slopes, here is an update on our beautiful mountain walking tracks and marine areas.

The tracks in the northern end of the Egmont National Park are in reasonable condition. Visitors to the Park may find storm debris and snow damage in some areas from recent storms. Last season a kilometre of new boardwalk on the Mangorei Track was completed with the assistance of the Tramping and Alpine Club volunteers and WINZ employment programmes. Last week another 950m of boardwalk were flown on to the Mangorei Track so contractors could continue with that upgrade. Contracts are also being prepared to upgrade the bottom section of the Mangorei Track and the rest of the Wilkies Pools Track at Dawson Falls this summer season. All the serviced huts have had wood and coal supplies replenished and ash drums replaced.

Discussions are continuing with an Okato local who has proposed that a Trust maintains the Okato Walkway and that an alternate option be considered in replacement of the swing bridge that was removed from the Kaihihi Stream due to flood damage. The proposal is looking promising.

The Pouakai Circuit is a good quality two-day trip starting at North Egmont, where you return via Holly Hut and the Pouakai Range. Please make sure you are well equipped with water, food, sunblock and warm clothes (even if it is a sunny day the weather can still change fast.) This track provides amazing views and requires a reasonable level of fitness.

Dogs continue to be a problem where owners persist in walking them in the Egmont National Park. Not only do they pose a threat to our ground-dwelling native species like kiwi and blue duck but they can also pose a problem to our ground-nesting birds on the foreshore. So please leave your dog walks for the beach. People caught with dogs in the Egmont National Park will be prosecuted.

Recent storms have made it necessary for ranger staff to venture into the Tapuae Marine Park to relocate boundary marker buoys so that the correct fishing boundaries are still in place. When venturing out in boats always remember to wear lifejackets, check the forecast, and place your cell phone in a sealed bag for an emergency if you don't have radio contact.

Written by Becca Cowley

Information from Dave Rogers, DOC



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Oakura Fire Brigade

In 2010 the Oakura Fire Brigade attended about 50 calls, which seems to be about average for any given year. Numbers of volunteers in the Brigade remain strong, and it will be comforting for you to know that we now have many longstanding volunteers who have accrued many years of experience and training, which enables us to serve our community very effectively.

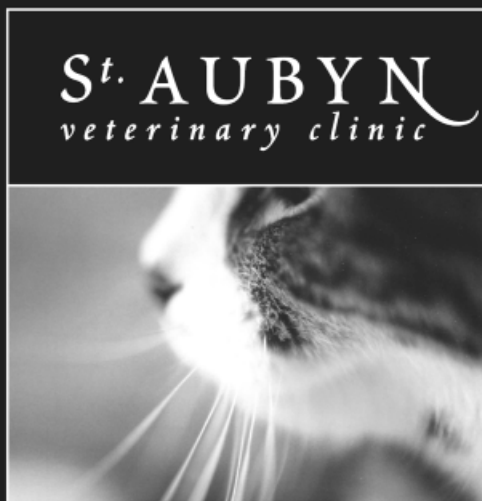
It is encouraging to hear so many youngsters talking knowledgeably about what to do if they discover a fire in their home — how to escape and where to meet. Obviously the efforts put into delivering firewise programmes in our school is working well.

Here are our top safety tips for 2011:

- Check those batteries in the smoke alarms (remember you can't smell when you are asleep).
- Talk to your whanau about what to do if a fire emergency happens (and they do happen).
- Please drive safely, keep to your side of the road, don't assume that it's OK just to pull out onto a road without looking, and pay attention to what is happening around you; good driving is not fast driving!

Have a safe 2011.

Oakura Fire Brigade



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The itching dog

Itching dogs are amongst the most common patients seen at the vet clinic. Itching can result in great frustration for dogs, their owners and also the vets! There are a number of causes but one of the most common seen at this clinic is contact allergy.

Dogs with contact allergies react when they come into contact with particular substances. A very common contact allergen is a weed called Wandering Jew, which is common around this district, especially in the Okato Domain. It often grows in damp, shady areas, and has small, flat, smooth, green leaves and small white flowers in spring and summer. The leaves and stems contain a sap that causes the reaction in sensitised animals. Normally this reaction takes 6 – 9 hours to develop. The dog's skin will become itchy and inflamed and will possibly develop raised lumps, especially in areas where there is less hair, for instance in the armpits and on the abdomen.

Sensitive animals are best to avoid contact with Wandering Jew. The clinic has some advice on its removal. If you have eliminated it and still suspect your dog has a contact allergy, veterinary advice should be sought.

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TOM Sports

Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club

The fishing has improved with the weather. Lots of fish have been landed over January, including tuna, and Port Taranaki has provided lots of gurnard and snapper. The large snapper schools are still out around the 50–60 metre mark, which is great for boats, but not so easy for kayaks. By now they should have spawned and be spreading out to beaches and reefs close enough for kayaks and surf-casters to target. Kingfish schools have also been seen and should be out on Oakura reef by now. Surf-casting is improving with snapper coming off most beaches in the north of Taranaki, and some good fish around Opunake.

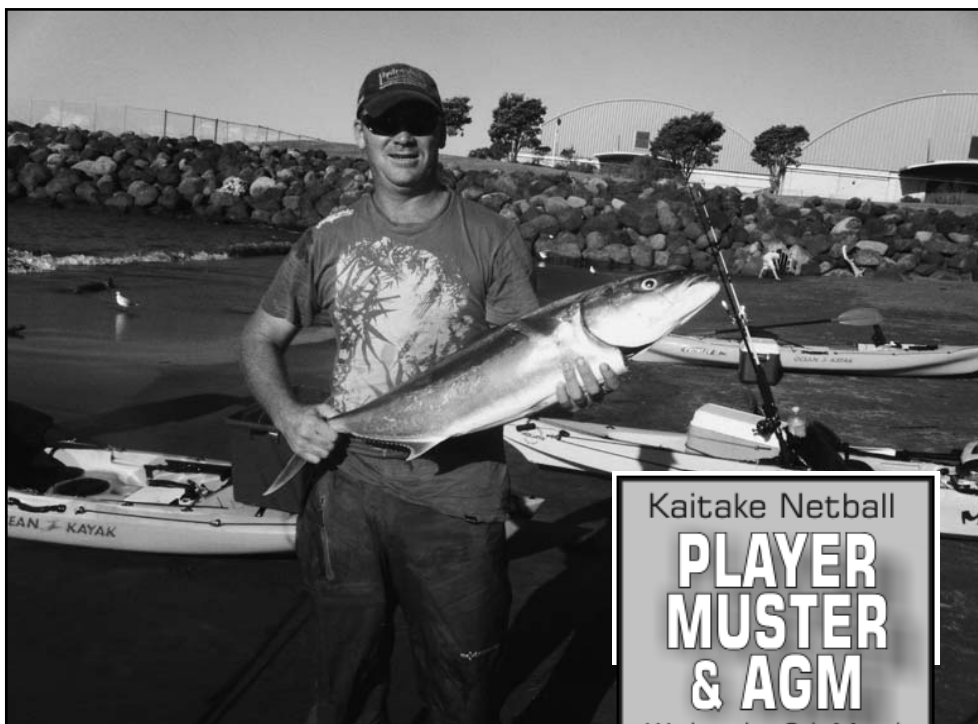
On Saturday, 15 January 19 kayakers competed in the third match fishing mini comp. They caught lots of fish, including kingfish. Anyone keen on fishing next month's mini comp should keep an eye on the Daily News or call into Canoe and Kayak for details.

Don't forget the big one! Early bird entries close 28 February for the Taranaki Kayak Classic — the biggest and richest kayak comp in NZ. Enjoy the summer and have fun out on the water.

Cheers,
Garry Harrison



A recent catch by Garry Harrison and Jim Morwood.



Brian Boyd with kingfish, caught at Ngamotu Beach during a recent match fishing club day.

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Oakura Pony Club News

Well, the Pony Club season is in full swing, and locals may have noticed the Pony Club being used most days for training, and rallies approximately every fortnight. What isn't so noticeable is the number of riders who are currently travelling around the country riding at various events. Oakura Pony Club is unique in that the majority of our riders compete on a regular basis, both as individuals and in teams. And they do extremely well. Hardly surprising when you think that some of New Zealand's best riders actually live in Oakura — what a fantastic example for our young riders!

Our riders get to trial for various teams throughout the season, giving them a chance to represent either the North Taranaki Pony Club Association or the Taranaki Area Pony Club Association. The various disciplines (dressage, show jumping, eventing and games) hold trials throughout the season and riders from our Club consistently win places in these teams. Taranaki Area recently sent a team to the Cambridge Show Jumping Champs and Oakura riders Anna Hinton and Georgia Ferris made it into the team of six. Anna (on Sexy B) got fourth and fifth placings in the Individual Intermediate section, and sixth in the team 'jigsaw', which is where each pair of riders (two senior, two intermediate and two junior) jumps six of 12 jumps in the order they think will be the quickest. Georgia (on My Vagabond) got eighth for the jigsaw, teamed with Phillipa Grayling from Okato Pony Club. Next Georgia Ferris and Molly Lumb head to Taupo to represent Taranaki in the North Island Dressage Champs. More on that event next month!

Dressage Taranaki held their North Island Champs in January and two of our riders also did very well there. Catherine West (on Anarocz) won the Reserve Young Rider Champion, and Jordan Giltrap (on Thunder Mountain Little Ben) won Reserve Pony Champion. This event seemed to be dominated by Oakura riders, with past Oakura Pony Club members Abbie Deken and Vanessa Way winning several classes with several different horses.

Jordan and Catherine also competed at the Central Districts Dressage Champs in Fielding. Jordan came third in the musical freestyle and Catherine won a second in the musical freestyle. Jordan is part of the New Zealand Dressage Mentor Programme.

If you would like any information about Oakura Pony Club, please ring either Kellie Divane (chairperson) 06-751 3336 or Diane Alder (secretary) on 06-752 1008.

By Diane Alder

Winning Champion Rider, 12 years and under, 2010 Dressage Champs – Jordan Giltrap.



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Kaitake Golf Club



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Paul Cracroft Wilson – World Champion

Paul Cracroft Wilson is Taranaki's very own World Champion, Beach Flags Champion that is! Toughing it out amongst the world's best athletes in Egypt 2010 hasn't happened over night. Paul has set his standards high with many years of determination, achieving great results. He began as a cadet with New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Club in Oakura, and is now with Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club.

He answers my questions below ...

"When I first started I really hated the water. I was never a great swimmer when I came along but I found that I was naturally a good sprinter on the sand so I had found my little niche. A whole heap of friends were involved and that made it fun. I can't imagine there are many other sports/organisations around that have the same social element that surf club provided growing up.

I have been a NZ Surf Team member since 2007, lost it in 2008, no international races in 2009 and then regathered it again in 2010."

Inspiration?

"Since 2004 I have been aiming for the World Title. I went to the World Titles in Italy unranked and with no real expectations of making a final let alone getting a medal. Here I finished second in the Interclub competitions to Simon Harris from Australia. I thought that if I could achieve that result by only doing part-time sprint training mixed in with board and ski training, then if I actually went away and put all my efforts into training seriously then I might one day be crowned World Champion!"

Highs and lows of being a NZ Team member?

"So far most of the experiences have been very positive. Obviously we get to travel to and race in some cool places, such as Australia, Egypt, Germany, and Italy, to name a few of the recent World Championship locations. The most important part is getting to wear the silver fern and knowing that you have been chosen to represent your country. When you win for your country it is just an amazing feeling. Words can't explain how your body is just engulfed in emotion when you are on the dais with the NZ flag and the national anthem begins to play!

There is a fair bit of pressure on our shoulders knowing that if we don't perform to our best then there is a good chance we will be dropped for the next competition. NZ is very strong in beach sprinters and beach flaggers."

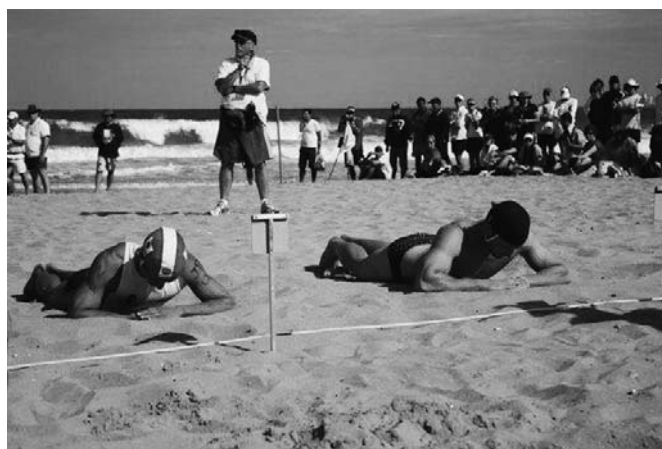
2010 World Titles Experience?

Egypt is a third world country so the conditions we encountered definitely affected everybody's mood. The hygiene was very poor (we had to hand sanitise after touching anything) and the only safe food was food sold through the hotels or the franchise supermarkets. We had to stay away from the food in the markets. Because the food was very different to Western food our bodies reacted differently to it and I know most people had instances of "Egypt belly" as we put it. On our first day of racing I experienced it worst and in the beach flags heats had to shuffle to and from the toilet 6 or 7 times between runs to keep on top of it, not ideal!

Apart from the hygiene and food I thought we had a great



Paul in action (in the black cap).



vibe in the team. Everyone bonded really well and being in an environment where everyone is looking after everyone else makes a huge difference.

Now any surf lifesaver knows how intense the Beach Flags Competition is! I guess you can never be certain in beach flags if you're winning or making the top two or three. There are just too many variables that can affect the outcome. At the Worlds I went into the competition knowing that I had a really great chance because I was posting personal best times on the track weeks before I got to Egypt. However it only takes one missed reaction, one stumble, one dropped or missed flag to miss out on the next round. We went through heats, quarters and semis on the first day and then had to come back the next day for a 16-man final where only one person is eliminated at a time. All in all I probably had close to 30 runs, it only takes one of these runs for you to be eliminated so that's why flags is such an exciting event, everyone has to put in 100% each run to make sure of their progression."

Who is your biggest rival?

"My two biggest rivals at the moment are Ben Mispelhorn from Australia and Morgan Foster from NZ. Morgan has nine NZ Beach Flags titles and has given me the odd dust-up over the odd race each season.

Ben is the new kid on the block. He finished second to me at the World Interclub champs in Egypt and trains with me so we are both pushing each other at every opportunity. "*Is there the chance we'll see you back racing in the surf?*

"I once raced at national level on paddleboards (knee boards) but decided I had to focus on one aspect of surf sports.

I have actually thought about going back to Nationals and racing in a board or ski race, however I have to bring myself back to reality pretty quickly as it's been six years since I trained and raced on these and my body has long been unconditioned to this type of fitness. Realistically it would only be for a laugh or two with my old friends that I used to race with; maybe at next season's Nationals I might make an appearance. South Brighton will be too cold for me this season though."

Are you a future IRB racer?

"I did race IRB's for a season or two. I think I broke a couple of bones and got many many strains and bruises. I'll leave that for the petrol heads."

Inspirational words for future surf athletes

"Just go out there and give it a good crack. Everyone has the ability to go out and become a World Champion, it just requires a lot of dedication, hard work and professionalism in everything you do."

By Rebecca Cowley

Oakura Boardriders Club

Our Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) membership is growing. Many families joined as a result of the surfing lessons we had for children at the beginning and the end of last year. The lessons were extremely popular and, with the help of funding from the Lion Foundation, some of the children were able to receive instruction from Gary Bruckner of Tarawave Surf School. The younger and beginning children have been having lessons with members of our committee. It's been exciting to see how good and how keen these children have become as a result of this teaching.

Paige is, of course, such a wonderful role model for our young (and not so young) surfers and it's been great having her home this summer to inspire us as well as to spend time in the surf. She presented the trophies to the winners of the Opunake Classic 2011, which was held on January 3. The Men's and Women's Open Finals were won by husband and wife, Batchelor Tipene and Thandi Durham-Tipene. They now reside in Australia but were living in Oakura before the move north. Tyler Anderson was our only club member competing and he reached the semi-finals in the Open.

OBC club members did not compete in the Hyundai National Surfing Championships held in mid-January in Dunedin. However, Airini Mason, who was once a pupil of Oakura School before moving to Gisborne and then Australia with her family, won the Open Women's Final. She last won the event as a 13 year old in 2004. Airini is now studying at Canterbury University. Another ex-local and one-time member of our club, Greg Page, came second in the Over-55 Men's Final. Taranaki surfer, Jarred Hancox, was the winner of the Over-28 Men's Final, and Kelvin and Murray Weir from Opunake were placed second and third respectively in the Kneeboard Final.

Jay Quinn from Gisborne won the Open Men's Final. I quote from surf.co.nz: "Jay Quinn was unstoppable in the final, posting a near-perfect 18.00 point heat score out of a possible 20 points in a dramatic final filled with world class surfing."

I'm writing this article having just returned from a holiday where Keith and I spent some time in Raglan and a beach nearby called Ruapuke. Luckily we were able to enjoy some uncrowded surf at some of the local breaks. This was not the case, however, for some surfers. On one particular ideal-for-beginners' morning we counted 70 people out catching waves at the beach! The surf schools and hire businesses were obviously having a great season!

It's been a while since we have been in Raglan and we were impressed with it. Even though it has grown because of its surf and is a popular place for travellers to visit, it has kept its sense of community and many of the houses have been built nestled amongst established trees. We spent a night at Solscape, an eco camping/youth hostel association site that really embraces a caring for the environment. There is an abundance of delicious eating places at reasonable prices, as well as some exciting shops to spend time in. Of course, because Raglan is not situated on a highway it has been able to create a shopping area that is environmentally and people friendly and not at odds with Transit New Zealand. Nevertheless I feel Oakura village, although situated on Surf Highway 45, can learn from what Raglan has done. We need to make sure our vision for the future is not governed by the acquisition of money but by how we can utilise this precious environment we have to sustain and nurture us. I'm glad we have people like Doug Hislop and the Kaitake Community Board and many members of the OBC who are making sure that this can happen.

Philippa Butt

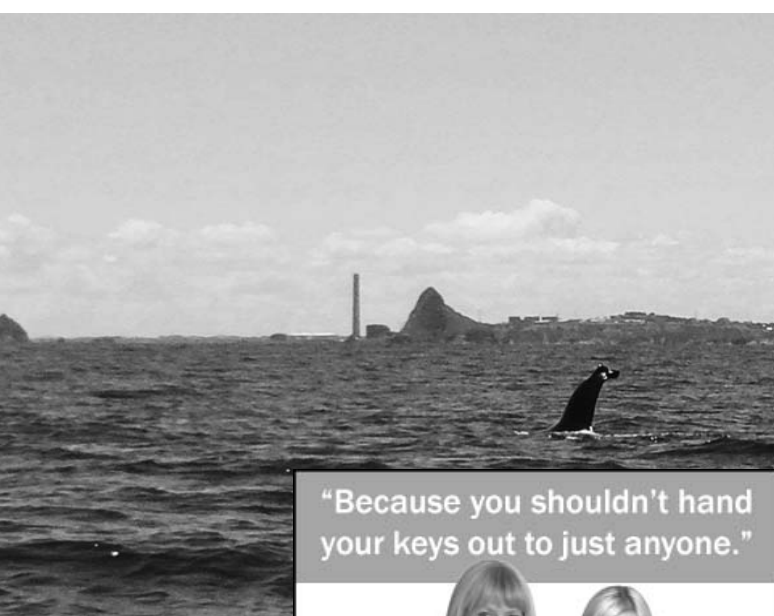
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Summer scene

On January 13 Al Rawlinson and the Tran-Lawrence family were out fishing when a pod of orca whales happened upon their fishing spot. A dash back to shore to pick up Jendi and a camera resulted in the following photos taken *By Jendi and Tran.*



"Because you shouldn't hand your keys out to just anyone."



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"Orcas off the starboard bow!" Guess the fishing wasn't too good after they arrived on the scene!

Arden Place Christmas Party enjoys a cracker evening



Arden Place welcomes Santa.

For the last 10 years Arden Place and Shearer Drive have gathered to have their annual street Christmas Party barbecue. This year it was held on Friday 10th December and as usual we had a reasonable number attend.

Santa and his helper arrived with lollies for the smaller children and the younger ones really enjoyed this. It is always pleasant to catch up with everyone as often this is the only time of the year where we can meet and enjoy a few hours together.

Bernice Duff



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New dance classes in Oakura

A brand new series of fun and exciting dance classes for children are starting at the Oakura Hall this term. The Saturday morning classes will include lessons for pre-schoolers from 9 to 9:30 am and beginning ballet classes for children aged 5 to 9 from 9:30 to 10:15 am. These classes include exercises, basic ballet steps, story dance and improvisation.

Classes give children a chance to develop their creativity and use their imagination, and develop their poise and agility. All classes are taught without the pressure of exams or competitions, but with an awareness of the body to prevent injuries. Children are taught dances and have wonderful opportunities to be in performances.

The highly experienced professional teachers have encouraged many students who have gone on to enjoy professional careers in dance and theatre.

Classes start on Saturday, February 12 and will run parallel with school terms.

For more information or registration call Val Deakin on 7527743 after 9:30 am.

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Saturday mornings
from February 12th

9.00am Preschool dance
9.30am Ballet for children

for information/registration **ph 752 7743** (after 9.30am)

Blue Planet Ocean Party

On March 5 the Taranaki Environment Centre (20 Kauri St, Inglewood) is hosting the Blue Planet Ocean Party to support Sea Shepherd, the current operation against whaling in the southern ocean, and local Taranaki Blue Ocean Care Society.

Support a great cause and have fun! The event will feature family friendly activities including a great line-up of live music, wood fire pizza oven, kids' storyteller and sausage sizzle, as well as fire pits! Planned by concerned people upset at the pillage of the oceans going on unsupervised and unchecked, for only a gold coin donation you can join the festivities.

BLUE OCEAN PARTY PLANET

5pm-midnight!!

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Arthouse Cinema

Arthouse Cinema rips into the New Year after a stunner of a one-year-old birthday. Bumper audiences are turning out for *Last Paradise*, which continues to screen every week at 5.30pm on Mondays throughout summer. New daytime sessions for Mums and Bubs are 10am Tuesday and Thursday. Although the films will be rated M, please choose carefully what you would like your bub to see. All under-fives admitted free.

We've something to suit everyone's tastes this month.

Hungry for a little mind food? Try the Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architecture EcoDesign Film Fest (24 Feb–1 March), featuring:

Last Call for Planet Earth — There is only one possible escape from the danger the planet is in. The energetic mastery of sustainable development, and its application to architecture and town planning concerns us all. Solar energy, renewables, changes in city design, passive houses and bioclimatic architecture are some of the possible answers considered here.

Building the Gherkin — The controversial 40-story steel and glass tower is nicknamed the Erotic Gherkin and is a radical size and shape. Will Norman Foster, one of Britain's most visionary architects, achieve the intended "radial landmark – socially, technically, architecturally and spatially"?

The Rem Koolhaas: A Kind of Architect — An engaging portrait of a visionary man, which takes us to the heart of his ideas including the Guggenheim in Las Vegas, the Dutch Embassy in Berlin, Casa da Musica in Porto, and the Seattle Library. His 1978 "Delirious New York" is seen as a seminal text on modern society. His activities are intended to provoke and excite.

The Museum on the Mountain: I.M. Pei's Miho Museum — The mind and artistic philosophy of one of the greatest living legends in architecture, I.M. Pei. Pei's childhood, education and experiences reveal a life dedicated to the mystery and poetry of structural geometry.

For the Taranaki Wild West Bike Fest, bike to the Cinema and enjoy *Life Cycles*, screening on 4 March at 8.20pm. It tells the spectacular story of the bike, from its creation to its eventual demise. A visually stunning journey, documenting the many stories surrounding the mountain bike and its culture. Ride along with breathtaking natural settings, fix a bike, see trails created and destroyed.

Force of Nature celebrates the life, work and legacy of David Suzuki, internationally renowned, award-winning scientist, broadcaster and environmentalist. Now 75 years old, David Suzuki delivers a 'last lecture', which he describes as "a distillation of my life and thoughts, my legacy, what I want to say before I die". His incredible life's work is a biography of ideas that reaches across the major social, scientific, cultural and political events of the last 70 years and delivers a life-changing message.



The cosy and sumptuous interior of the Art House Cinema.



Last Paradise Lights Up the World and Arthouse

Last Paradise has been up in lights in North America's most prestigious cinemas upon invitation by university professors who see the story of Kiwi ingenuity and adventure as a way of inspiring on issues of sustainability.

It was the most popular film of the five-month touring NZ Film Festival. It is very unusual for a Taranaki film to even get into the Film Festival, let alone take out the top award. *Last Paradise* has also just been selected as Best Of Banff in the prestigious Banff Film Festival, which Clive attended in December in Canada. This means the film will tour the world through 30 countries. That is a huge result for a NZ film, and also a first.

Last Paradise screens at Arthouse Cinema every Monday at 5.30pm and is still attracting good crowds. It's a unique opportunity to experience the hardcore adventure on our mountain and coast from a global perspective, which few here have ever seen in our own back yard. And of course to see how it all began.

Both *Last Paradise* and Arthouse Cinema are Oakura creations and they have been combined as one of the 'Things to Experience' when visiting the Taranaki region.



Last Paradise showing at Arlington Theatre in the USA)

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Gardening

TOM Garden of the Month – a natural symphony

Jan and Doug Aiello and their three children have lived in their home on Hurford Road for almost 20 years. When I arrange my visit Jan says, “To find us look out for the key-board on the mailbox as you drive up the hill.” That’s because Jan and Doug are lucky enough to have two passions in their lives: gardening and music.

When I arrive Doug is busy in the workshop surrounded by pianos at various stages of restoration, a labour of love and true talent. Jan is busy in the garden. She teaches music in five different schools across Taranaki, that’s almost a thousand pupils she says. Her garden is her sanctuary — a place where she can escape for quiet moments of contemplation in harmony with nature. Jan loves to breathe in fresh air, and take time to view the beautiful sea and mountain scenery.

The garden, a third of an acre in area, is set out in secluded sections each edged by a variety of natives, such as cabbage trees, flax and toetoe. On my visit the garden is a symphony of colour from the white blooms of the buddleia cascading like a waterfall, to the electric blue hydrangea. Even the foliage of ornamental grasses and the maple with its elegant red leaves add notes of colour to the green canvas. As I turn each corner a new secret garden opens up, areas with benches and chairs for entertaining and enjoying the tranquillity of the garden; the air full of perfume from the roses and lavender. As I look deeper into the foliage ornamental features appear; the china kingfisher on the ponga stump looking out over the birdbath and the mosaic tiles hidden amongst hostas.

I ask Jan what she is working on at the moment. “Mulching,” she says, “lots of it”. Her aim is to cut back the weeds and keep in the moisture for the plants. “And of course there’s always the veggie garden to tackle,” she says. She takes me to an area partitioned by magnificent wrought iron gates and explains that she has let it go a little this year but is keen to attack it again; it’s amazing how quickly the weeds can take over!

Thank you, Jan, for your time and allowing me into your sanctuary.

Jan and Doug’s passion for music and gardening run hand in hand; a garden being a never-ending composition.

Thanks to **Fairfields Garden Centre**, Jan and Doug are the recipients of a \$12 gardening voucher.

By Rosie Moyes



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Chop chop for the Dragon

Late last year I visited the garden of Willy and Adrie Klever in Hussey Street to see a jaw-dropping and nose-pinching flower bloom. Willy thought the flower might be a specimen of the Giant Titan Arum but this is an exceedingly rare and difficult plant to grow and I had my doubts.

I have discovered it is a *Dracunculus vulgaris* or Stink Lily. Willy had several flowering in her garden and the plants have taken six years to bloom, with the first flowering in 2009. Willy had acquired the plant from a friend, Pat Holmes. The flowers are jaw-dropping and nose-pinching because of the size and colour of the spathe and the spadix within the flower, and also the foul smell coming from the



Willy with her stinking great lily!

flower. The spathe is a deep purple/maroon/black colour not commonly seen in the garden. The spadix is the butt of many a joke in the Klever household with Willy likening it to a certain appendage belonging to her dear Adrie and she wickedly chuckles about Adrie getting the "chop chop!"

Dracunculus vulgaris belongs to the Araceae family and is related to the well-known Arum. *Dracunculus vulgaris* is often called Dragon Arum, Voodoo Lily, Dragonwort, or Stink Lily. In Greece it is called Drakondia and the species originates from the island of Crete. Like all Araceae, it prefers fertile moist soil. The foliage is very attractive and distinctive and the stalks (actually pseudostems) have as few as 2–4 large leaves on the top. The plant is a rather robust, solitary (seldom clump-forming) herb, sometimes up to 2m high. The pseudostems are 0.5m to more than 1.5m long, pale to light-grey-green with numerous jagged dark purple to almost black markings, stout and capable of supporting an inflorescence or flower stem of over 1m in length without the need for additional support. But the beauty of the foliage barely hints at what is to come: as the inflorescence unfolds, it reveals a long, black appendage from the centre, known as the spadix, which can reach a total length of 135cm enveloped by a large very deep purple-black bract (the spathe), which can reach a total length of 125cm. What looks like one flower is in reality an inflorescence of a spadix, bearing numerous flowers. In most plants the inflorescence is not longer than 40 or 50cm — still impressive enough!

The actual flowers, both male and female, are hidden deep inside the spathe, which features a bulbous chamber. The striking beauty of this plant can be a little shocking: like many Araceae the mature inflorescence spreads a nasty odour. The nasty smell of rotting meat is designed to attract flies for pollination. Fortunately the smell usually lasts for only one day.

By Kim Ferens



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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, obviously watering our drought consumed gardens isn't a problem so don't worry about the watering!! Feed with Thrive soluble Fertiliser or Lush Liquid Fertiliser. Water regularly to keep plants growing. Mulching will help conserve water.

Fruit Trees:

Summer pruning of stone fruit trees following harvesting of crops reduces the risk of silver leaf disease later in the season.

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Coming Events

February

8 Information Evening and BBQ 5:30-7:30pm
 10 Beach Education Oakura Rooms 1,4 and 5
 11 Beach Education Oakura Rooms 2,3 and 6
 17 Playgroup 9-11am Omata Hall
 25 Year 4-8 Camp Out
 26 Year 4-8 Activity Day

March

1 Year 7-8 Swimming Display
 2 Year 1-6 Swimming Displays
 3 Playgroup 9-11am Omata Hall

2010 Presentations

Congratulations to the winners of the year 8 cups:
 Community Cup for Arts and Culture - Jade Megaw
 Home and School Cup for Sporting Excellence - Hamish Dunn
 Staff Cup for Responsibility - Hamish Dunn
 Principal's Cup for Leadership - Olivia Holt
 Board of Trustees Cup for Academic Excellence - Phoebe Livingston
 We wish all our 2010 school leavers all the very best for their futures

2011

Congratulations to our 2011 Lead Ambassadors:
 Zac McLeod, Michael Anderson, Evie Lindsay and Charlotte Jones

We welcome everyone back to school for another great year. It is wonderful to have some great summer weather and to have our pool in action for the start of the term. It is tremendous to see families have enjoyed meeting at the pool and swimming over the holidays. Please note that if you have purchased a pool key, on school days the pool is available after 4:30pm for community use.

This year students will be involved in our Beach Education programme on the 10th and 11th of February. Thank you to the Oakura Beach Surf Life Saving personnel for running these worthwhile days for us every second year. Children need to learn these valuable beach safety skills, which along with our daily school swimming programme, ensures they get every chance to become water confident and safety aware.

Panto Pandemonium

The costumes were stunning, the three performances were sold out and the show was amazing from start to finish. The cast was the whole school from five to 13 years old and they had great fun portraying the story and getting into character. Whether mouse or giant, they brought energy and humour to the parts. Audience participation helped the goodies overthrow the baddies and all is now well in Pantoland.

Huge thanks to all the classroom teachers, director Jan Aiello, choreographer Raeleen Luckin, and everyone who helped get this production on stage.

Regards

Karen Brisco



Erin Barrett and Kaya Faloon-Goldby – very happy clowns,



Rebekah Smith as the Good Fairy and her gorgeous group of little fairies,



Witch Jade Megaw, Alisha Harrop as Grotty and Jacinta Harrop as Spotty,



Five of the nine dwarfs – Oliver Scott, Annabel Jones, Rhianon Moon, Nicholas Holt and Leo Lister all in the Pandemonium production at Omata School.

Pippins and Brownies prepare for camp

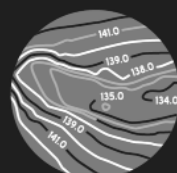
We ended the term on a high with a trip to Pouakai Zoo, where we learnt about the animals and were able to feed and feel some of them too.

The Pippins and Brownies then excitedly prepared for their end of term camp evening. Since most of the girls haven't been to a Girl Guide camp, we wanted some practice before the two-day District Camp in February. Huge thanks to Daisy Reid who kindly let us take over her section for the event. We were blessed with a beautiful day! We erected a catering tent, the girls played some games, and then the Brownies made the Oakura unit's flag while the Pippins had fun decorating a Christmas tree.

Before tea, we had to wash our hands in bowls with soap strung in some tights! The girls practised lining up with their plates to be served their food and drinks. Several girls came up to me afterwards asking where to put their plates and I explained they had to clean them in the wash and rinse bowls. The frozen looks of disbelief were priceless!

We went on to build a fire (thank you to the Green family for organising this) and enjoyed making smores to go with our Milo. Although it wasn't dark, we sang some campfire songs with gusto and the Brownies acted out their skits.

We have a busy and exciting Term 1 planned with water as the theme — its source and its uses. In association with Water Safety New Zealand, Girl Guiding has provided a swimming passport for each girl. Stickers will plot their progress as they work through nine stages to build confidence and water safety awareness. We're looking forward to more challenges and fun!

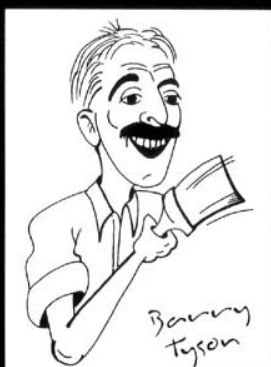


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playcentre

Playcentre

At first it was hard to tell who was more excited about our recent visit from the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Playcentre children or their parents!

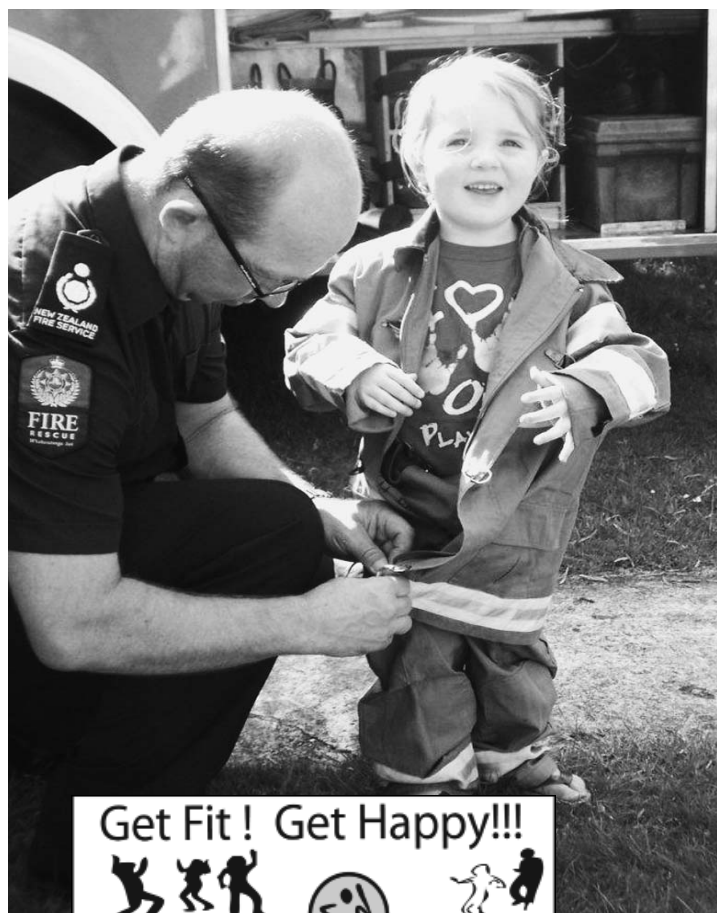
One keen mum was quick to try on a firefighter's uniform, although she claimed it was to lead the way for the kids. It worked, as before long the children were putting up their hands to try on the suits, clamber up into the truck and even have a go at squirting the heavy fire hose.

All the fun was complemented by the important fire safety messages of dialling 111 in the event of a fire, and the vital need to install smoke alarms at home. Fire drills are a regular part of the health and safety programme at Playcentre so it's easy to build on the visit with more learning opportunities for our safety-conscious group of children.

The Fire Brigade visit is always popular, so thanks to David and Jonathan from the Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade for once again visiting us at Playcentre.



**Oakura Volunteer Fire
Brigade visits Playcentre.**



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Dance Highway 45

Dance Highway 45 students have done it again, entertaining us with their energy and skill in *A Tribute to Michael Jackson*. The students, aged between 5 and 18, danced to songs such as *Thriller* and *Billy Jean* displaying great skill and love for dancing.

Thank you to Raeleen Luckin and her team for sharing their amazing skills and inspiring the children. I know the students will be looking forward to the new term.

By Rosie Moyes



Conner Meyburg and Carline Dashorst waving their flags.



Emma Dashorst, front with Saffron Saleman back.



Dance Highway 45 students turn it on - Michael Jackson style.

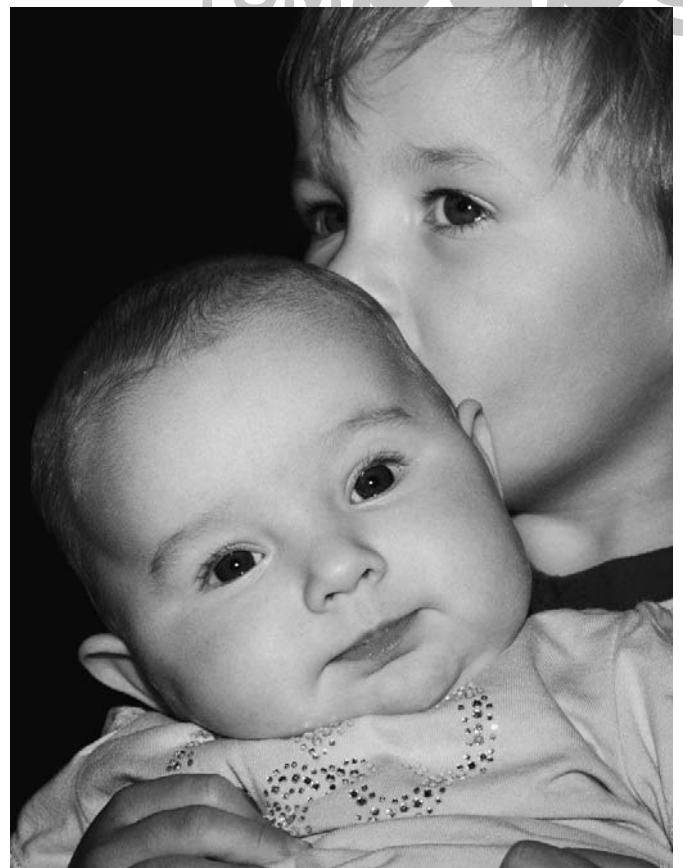


Tom Baby

A big kiss for little Larissa. Three-year-old Aiden Bevan Hocking gives his little sister, Larissa, a loving kiss.

Larissa Jeanne was born on 17 August 2010, and Aiden had his third birthday on 26 November. Kate and Bevan are the proud parents of the delightful duo.

By Rosie Moyes



TOM CLASSIFIEDS

BUDGIE FOUND

MALE bird on Koru Rd. Ph 027 482 823 if he is yours.

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

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

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

Oakura Pool Club

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

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Ladies' Midweek competition

Club night.

Juniors' private coaching.

A-grade players' practice.

Social Women's Tennis (members/non-members).

Junior competition.

Soffe Cup and A grade comp.

Club day (adults and children welcome for a hit).

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

Omata Playgroup

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall.

Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donelly Street.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ring Jo on 752 7144.

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10am). Contact Tahnee Corr 027 829 1476, Fe Brown 027 228 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406, to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Volkswagen Club

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

Yoga

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

Ph 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing



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