

Dozers and diggers on Oakura Beach *By Jennifer Gros*

We have all seen the Waimoku and Wairau Streams meandering east over the past few months as well as the huge mass of sand building up on Oakura Beach.



The old stream path.

It has been quite an inconvenience to many Oakura residents wanting to walk directly onto the beach, but the kids have loved the meandering streams and the "pool" the Waimoku Stream seemed to make in the sand. It gave them a nice deep place to swim away from the pounding waves and salty water. But the stream seemed to be creeping closer and closer to homes and the Surf Club. Residents along Messenger Terrace have been quite surprised to see the stream practically at their back doors.

I was lucky enough to witness the bulldozer and digger working as they

redirected the streams. There was a great rush of water as the Waimoku Stream broke through the sand barrier. It seemed relieved to have a direct route back out to sea. The bulldozer and digger operators seemed to be having a bit of fun too... it must be every little boy's dream to be on the beach digging in the sand with real machines.

I was curious to know why the Council chose to redirect the streams in this way. Why not let them follow their natural paths? After speaking to Doug Hislop, Chair of the Kaitake Community Board, I have realised that the meandering

streams are not simply following the lowest path. It is part of a much greater phenomenon called "littoral drift", which is the movement of sand by longshore currents parallel to the beach.

Because of littoral drift, Taranaki sand has been found as far north as Ninety Mile Beach. There is a large amount of sand continuously coming down from the west/northwest side of the mountain and out of Stony River. And due to the littoral drift, the sand is slowly shifting northward. The streams, especially during low flow periods, cannot compete with the strength and volume of the sand and choose the easier route parallel to the beach until they finally find an escape path to the sea.

This has become a problem as the Waimoku Stream has eroded under the spinifex that was planted to help stabilise the bank. The Wairau Stream has also eaten away the protective sand barrier so that wave action can get right up to the rock wall in front of the houses east of

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a peek inside

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The beach has had a facelift with the help of diggers to redirect the streams away from the Surf Club and directly out to sea. From memory this happened naturally last year with the help of large quantities of water. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we don't experience that force of nature again this year. Or, dare I say it, the tornadoes.

I was speaking with friends recently and we were reflecting on the tornadoes and how they affected us personally, as we had both been hit. They were much worse off than I was but the emotional effect was the same. Interestingly, we all agreed that people who had no experience of the tornadoes were unable to understand where we were coming from – why every gust of wind set us on edge and why the children couldn't sleep by a window. Logically we could deal with it but psychologically we were wrecks. It was a disaster that had a huge impact on a lot of people and many great things were achieved in the aftermath because of the strength of who we are.

Talking of great people brings me to the work that is done in our community by all those who give up their time to coach sports teams, run playgroups and music sessions, and help fundraise to give our children more opportunities. Often when you speak with these fantastic people they are very humble. Thanks and well done.

Tracey

TOM dates for August
Copy and ads deadline – 25 July
Distribution – 13 August

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Dozers and diggers on Oakura Beach

the Surf Club. It then becomes necessary to channel the streams naturally out to sea. Due to littoral drift, however, the stream mouths will continue to shift every year as the sand shifts in a fluid motion following the longshore currents and winds. Next year we will more than likely see the bulldozers and diggers on our beach once again.

Until then, let us enjoy the streams as they are now, and continue to let our children play in the cold fresh water. And as we watch them swim, we can ponder the meaning of littoral shift and its effect on coastal erosion. We can reflect on the fact that the sand that we are touching will eventually make its way northward to the port, where it will have to be dredged to protect the ships docking there. Who knows where it will travel from there?

All tidied up again . . .



. . . with this beastie!



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

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Hi folks!

We're in the new financial year now and Budget 08/09 has been confirmed by the Council.

Now we begin work in earnest on the Community Plan 2009-2019. This plan is the "Big Daddy" – it's the document that details what we intend to do for the following three years and outlines the next seven years. Whenever we prepare our annual budgets, we are pretty much locked in to what was decided in the previous Community Plan – and for this Community Plan the Council has made it clear that everything we do will be revisited and the numbers crunched very carefully.

Everything the Council will do during the three years from 2009/10 will fall out of this document, which is driven by the broad priorities that the community wants us to focus on.

So it's very important that we get this right.

We have a comprehensive public consultation programme drawn up for the coming months, which includes focus groups, a roadshow, surveys and submissions. All of these will be advertised widely when they are about to begin, so please keep an eye open for more information about how you can be involved!

Meanwhile, if you haven't already done so, please feel free to phone the Council on 759 6060 to find out what the change in your rates will be for 2008/09.

While the Council decided to raise the general rate by 5.95 per cent, the payment for each ratepayer will vary greatly, depending on your property's latest valuation and how that compares with the average increase in that property category. However you can find out what your individual rate will be just by giving the Council a call.

Also, when the rates notice is posted out later this month, included in the envelope will be information on how to apply for a rates rebate. This Government-funded scheme is for people on annual incomes below \$21,180. I am concerned that, based on government estimates, about half of those in New Plymouth District entitled to the rebate in this financial year have not applied for it – so I urge everyone who meets the criteria to send an application in. More information about the rates rebates scheme can be found online at www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf

Don't forget – if you have any questions about Budget 08/09 or if you have some comment you'd like to make now on the Community Plan 2009-2019, feel free to give me a call on 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent,

Mayor

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CLIMATE CHANGE

On 4 and 5 July, it will have been a year since tornadoes roared into Taranaki off the Tasman. For the people whose homes and lives were literally turned upside down it was a nightmare. I hope that they are now on top of the problems they were having with repairs to their homes, with insurance companies and with the many difficult decisions they were forced to make. For some of us, the tornadoes were proof of what many believe lies ahead. For others, they were further evidence of a rapidly changing climate and extreme weather events even if some remain undecided whether the change is man-made or naturally occurring.

In this last year, New Zealand has experienced droughts and floods as well as 14 tornadoes, two severe hailstorms and seven electrical storms, all causing damage. The drought in the North Island sucked around \$700 million out of the economy, and insured losses from wind, frost and flood amounted to another \$100 million, I'm told.

Last year, Helen spoke of her goal of carbon neutrality for New Zealand. This includes generating 90 per cent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2025 and halving our transport emissions by 2040. We're also encouraging climate-friendly behaviour with an Emissions Trading Scheme that covers all sectors and a new energy strategy for households and companies.

There will be big economic benefits for New Zealand if we take the lead on climate change. That's why we announced the \$700 million Fast Forward Fund for research, science and technology. New Zealand can profit by developing sustainable products the rest of the world wants to buy. This also gives us a chance to demonstrate our leadership skills in the area of agricultural emissions.

Climate change has a particular impact on New Zealand given our geographical location and reliance on primary industry and tourism. We here in Taranaki have only to look back over the year that was to know that. This is too important an issue for the future of our families and all future generations for us to be "fast followers".

Thank you for taking the time to read my column.

Harry Duynhoven

Volunteers wanted for Kaitake planting

Last year a band of keen volunteers from Oakura helped plant tree lucerne on the last grazing lease in the Egmont National Park. Now we are ready to plant the native trees among the lucerne. Can you help?

When? Sunday 3 August, 9 am to midday, followed by a barbecue lunch (courtesy of DOC).

Where? The land backs on to the Thomas property at 51 Kaitake Road.

What to bring? A spade, warm clothes and a drink. It can get cold up there.

Meet by the letterbox at the end of the Thomas's driveway at 9 am. We will drive up the hill to the shed and then there's a bit of a climb to the site.

If you can help or if you need more details, phone Doug Hislop on 752 7324. This will let us know how many volunteers we can expect.

A Kaitake Community Board project in association with the Department of Conservation.

Many thanks

Mike Tapp

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kaitake community board

There is definitely something in the water in the Kaitake Ward. How else can you account for the continuing number of superb sportspeople our community keeps on producing?

Paige Hareb continues to blaze an inaugural trail on the international surfing scene, not just for her but for all kiwi surfers. Hannah Sarten has just returned from China with two World BMX Championship titles – a repeat of her success last year. Heelan Tomkins has just been confirmed as a member of the New Zealand Olympic Equestrian team and hopefully will build on her 7th place finish in Athens. I have absolutely no doubt Mathew Grayling would have been there too if his horse hadn't been injured. Amy Laird has just made the elite women's final at the World Mountain Bike Championships in Italy, finishing the highly technical downhill course in a creditable 16th position. And Daniel Hine came third in the triathlon World Champs in Vancouver.

On the national front, local equestrian folk continue to do exceptionally well and the boardriders and surf club regularly provide winners at regional and national events. The tennis club punched well above its weight in the Taranaki Softe Cup competition, the Kaitake senior rugby team won their grade last year, and a number of locals have competed creditably in the Speights Coast-to-Coast event.

On any given Saturday the local kids from age 5 onwards are out and about with their various sporting activities, participating in soccer, rugby, netball and other sports. There have been numerous representative honours gained by many of these kids in different age grades.

And it's not just a new phenomenon either; there has been an uninterrupted stream of superb athletes such as Pat Ryan and Ton Deken down through the years.

There is little doubt that supportive parents, progressive schools, sensible club structures, and willing volunteer coaches, managers and fundraisers all add to this very successful recipe. It epitomizes what 'community' is all about and something we should all work hard to retain. As we become more popular as a lifestyle proposition and more folk move here we can't allow our values and lifestyle to be diluted or compromised.

The Kaitake Board has been relatively quiet on the political front during the past month. However there are always umpteen issues being addressed behind the scenes. The sewerage project is the 'biggie' with any number of ongoing matters. Personally I must say how impressed I have been with the various contractors, invariably polite and doing their best to be as unobtrusive and tactful as possible in difficult circumstances.

The board has made representations on the Council's strategic transport study, is taking an active interest in the Oakura Community Library, looking into rubbish collection issues west of the Timaru Stream, and monitoring erosion issues on the Oakura beachfront. We participated in a very successful dune planting with Oakura School on a foreshore strip between the campground and AhuAhu Road, and are working with Doc in the replanting project on the Kaitake Ranges.

Perhaps the most important thing we are involved in at the moment is the proposal to place a QE11 Trust open space covenant over the Moller Escarpment Reserve (the escarpment from the end of the campground to AhuAhu Road). The Moller family very generously gifted this cliff face to the council as reserve in 1989. By placing a QE11 covenant over it further protection and enhancement of its natural character with particular regard to the indigenous flora and fauna will be

provided in perpetuity. The escarpment is of historical and cultural significance to Nga Mahanga and Ngati Tairi hapu and provides a wonderful backdrop for that section of our coastal walkway. The covenant will not affect the council's ability to carry out its functions in regards to reserves and open spaces. Norton and Coral Moller have demonstrated tremendous foresight and generosity in gifting this highly significant coastal area and with QE11 support it will remain a valuable community asset for all time.

A local resident has suggested that the Community Board meetings should be held at a later time (currently 4pm on Tuesdays on a 6 weekly cycle). What do you think? Please let a board member know your thoughts.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 29 July at 4pm.

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

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update from the big red truck

"There are two big forces at work, external and internal. We have very little control over external forces such as tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, disasters, illness and pain. What really matters is the internal force. How do I respond to those disasters? Over that I have complete control."
~ Leo F. Buscaglia (1924-1998)

Mid-winter greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

The Brigade has had a few call-outs this past month, but thankfully with no serious harm to people or property.

As the anniversary of the tornadoes of 5 July 2007 passes by, it is perhaps a good time to reflect on their legacy to the Brigade. While the tornadoes were certainly unwelcome, the response of the community in such a time of adversity was tremendous. Although it was said at the time, the rapid and selfless response of many members of the community, with specialist skills or even just willing hands, made a huge difference when it was needed.

In the aftermath of the events, the ongoing support and donations from the community have allowed the Brigade to expand our range of equipment. We now have the capability to power up part of the Fire Station in the event of a power outage in the village. Many thanks again to all for their donations!

A tragically fatal incident recently in Northland brings home the importance of two important issues:

1. Keeping matches and lighters up and out of the reach of young children.
2. Making sure smoke detectors have batteries fitted and have been recently function tested.

While investigating the incident, Police said initial indications showed the fire began in the children's bedroom (3 and 5 years old) and matches were found in the room. None of the four smoke alarms in the house (including one in the children's bedroom) had batteries fitted.

As we pass into mid-winter please take special care when out on the roads, especially in the early mornings when there is an increased possibility of black ice in some places.

Stay warm and safe, FF Breeze.



Did you know Oakura Library has a school holiday programme?

On Thursday 10 July from 10 am to 11 am author Lesley Dowding will read her *Midnight at the Lighthouse* followed by an art activity. For children ages 5-8 years.

On Tuesday 15 July from 10 am to 11 am our own Simon Bishop will inspire 8-12 year olds with story writing activities.

Places are limited on both days so registration is essential.

Lost property: A gold lady's bracelet and family photos left in a book. See Karen or Vincenza at the Library.

Eco-friendly tip: Have your Library notices sent to you online instead of through the post. Contact us at the Library and we will change it on your records for you. It's that simple!

Happy reading!



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- Lift and divide dahlias, cannas and phlox.
- Prune roses. Spray with Champion Copper for control of fungus diseases and Conqueror Oil for control of scale insects and mites.

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Rich pickings

Hello everyone Sorry I missed the last article – I can't remember why, although I know I wasn't fishing.

What a lot of work is going on in the Oakura area. I bet many people will be pleased to see the back of all that machinery. It is this machinery and vehicles in general that are the focus of this month's column.

Overnight on 19 June, a number of vehicles in the village were tampered with and some damage was done to the large machinery on Wairau Road. A fuel tank was also towed away from this location. The tank was later found hidden in some bushes down Lower Ahu Ahu Road.

On the same night a building site was entered and a garden hose taken. Part of this hose was then used in an attempt to siphon fuel from a neighbour's vehicle.

This brings me to my next point. With the "criminal" way the price of petrol is rising and no real sign of it slowing down, it is becoming the hot commodity and as such is much sought after.

It was with a great deal of pleasure that I met with a group of residents from the Surrey Hill Road area recently. These residents have had enough of the idiots who use this road as a race track, and they believe that is only a matter of time before some gets seriously hurt.

Some really positive things came out of the meeting and I believe that with the strategies that have been put in place, we should see a reduction in this type of activity. So to those of you who use this stretch of road as a race track, be aware that it is going to cost you.

More crime... Your local golf club has been the target of unwanted attention recently. First there was some intentional damage to a number of greens. Whoever did this is nothing better than an animal. The latest was a number of windows being smashed during the night of 2 June.

The last thing we want is a great club like this being left with no choice but to close down. I am not saying this is likely to happen, but like most clubs, their money tree is not endless and when they have to spend money on things like replacing windows or repairing greens, it is an expense that is not budgeted for.

Now I can't be everywhere and I need your assistance to apprehend these idiots. You are my eyes and ears. If you have some information about any of these mindless crimes, contact me. All information will be kept confidential.

On a farming note, I am finally getting some eggs from my chooks. It's a very long story, but believe it or not the eggs I have got came from a rooster. If you don't believe me, ask Barney.

Take care everyone and be safe. Remember, the best security you have is the community you live in – be proud of it and don't let others ruin it.

Rich

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Honesty delivers at The Carriage

I have dined at The Carriage on two occasions now and enjoyed both experiences. I went along for opening night and was treated to an absolutely delicious dining experience. Confit duck spring rolls with a heavenly orange and chilli dipping sauce followed by the yummiest salmon, goats cheese and organic bacon main. Usually by this stage of the meal I skip dessert, finding most places do not make their own or they are just not inspiring. But I knew Shaun makes all his own desserts so I valiantly ordered the sticky toffee pudding and a month later I can still remember it – isn't that marvellous? Memorable food!

More recently I popped into the Carriage for lunch and while this menu isn't extensive, it has all the basics. At our table we ordered a vegetarian burger, a kiwi burger, a steak sandwich, and toasty sandwiches for the toddlers. No one, including the kids, was disappointed.

Shaun bakes his own buns and bread for the burgers and sandwiches and the result makes lunch just that little bit more special. The homemade crispy chips are also divine. There is no cabinet food here – Shaun bakes it all to order and is happy to do individual requests. I like that level of service. Again, if you have space left after your burger, sandwich, breakfast or BLT then you won't be sorry if you order a cake, which change daily – real cakes like your Mother used to make.

Hayley tells me bookings have been steady for evening dining and feedback has been very positive so if you are planning a night of special à la carte dining, I recommend you book early.

By Kim Ferens



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Wildcat Roastery wins more awards

Wildcat Roastery has won another award at the New Zealand Coffee Festival – 2008/2009 Decaf: Silver. This award sits alongside the 2007/2008 NZ's Best Espresso: Gold

Wildcat are not sitting on their coffee beans. They have new blends for customers to try – *Flashpoint* is an enhanced version of the award winning Wildcat Blend with improved body, preserving the delicate flavours that subtly cover the palate with a nice strong character. It is an excellent espresso basis for any milky combination.

Plunger fans should try our new *Blowout Blend*, and for those who prefer a smokey depth to their coffee, try *Roughneck*.

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Daniel Hine – a triathlon marvel

Sixteen-year-old Daniel Hine has stunned himself and his family by coming third in the Under-19 World Triathlon championships in Vancouver, Canada recently.



Daniel off for a night training ride.

Daniel had been hoping for a top-20 finish, but his third placing far exceeded his expectations. It is all the more outstanding considering he doesn't even remember the finish! He was simply too hypothermic at the time. Dad Stuart says Daniel spent about 1½ hours in the medical tent with the medical team trying to raise his core temperature. Not surprising since the water temperature of the swim leg was about 10 degrees and the air temperature only 8 degrees.

Weather aside, the triathlon was a life changing experience. For one thing, Daniel had never been on an aeroplane before, and he rated the 15-hour plane trip as "bad". I take that to mean being cooped up for so long wasn't to his taste. Also on the flight were about 120 other triathletes and their supporters – it hardly bears thinking about so many active beings confined for so long. Daniel's mum Shona also found waving off her eldest offspring a profound experience. Would he do his washing? Would he keep himself safe without her vigilance? And of course he did! Unbeknown to Daniel, his dad Stuart flew into Vancouver to watch the race. Daniel laughs about walking past him and not even seeing him.

There were 45 competitors in his age group and the New Zealanders did really well with 2nd, 3rd and 5th placings. Daniel thinks the weather played a big part in how well they did – after all, we are used to such temperatures here, while the Brazilians and others struggled in the cold.

Daniel's outstanding performance was not dependent on the weather and the training pre-race was phenomenal, especially considering he is only 16 years old. For three months prior to

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the event Daniel put in 25-30 hours of training per week: a 1½ hour swim before going to New Plymouth Boys High School, then from 5 pm he would head out till dark for a cycle session or run – every day. Shona says she is proud of his self-motivation and discipline and she'd thought he was extremely fit when he boarded the plane.

Daniel had help to stay motivated and those who helped include his coach Graham Parks. Daniel's success is most definitely due to Graham who not only is a world class coach but also a friend and mentor. Other influences are duathlete Jonathon Nightingale and Olympian Shane Reed and Clarke Ellis. Daniel regularly trained with these top athletes and he says they are like a big family to him.

I asked Daniel how he came to be in the team.

He says he has only been doing triathlons for three years, but graduating from his first \$150 bike to high performance gear really motivated him and it is great having flash gear! Last year Daniel qualified at the National Championships in Kinloch. He says biking is his favourite discipline and at the Worlds he was in first place off the bike, having been eighth out of water. The team spirit and support from other competitors and spectators was an eye-opener He had many offers for his team jacket bearing the silver fern – everyone loves a Kiwi, he says.

The highlight was undoubtedly a bronze medal but there were also lots of other memorable moments like going into the mountains and seeing bears and wolves, and shopping in the biggest mall Daniel had ever seen.

Back home Daniel relaxes by going surfing and shooting with friends on the farm. His plans for the future include going to the World Champs next year in the Gold Coast, maybe getting to the Olympic Games some day, and when he leaves school, doing something creative. Daniel passed NCEA Level One with an Excellence in art.

There are many other people in addition to those already mentioned who helped Daniel reach the World Champs, not least being his parents, but also his grandmother, friends, family, coaches and sponsors, and he says a huge thank you to every one of them and in particular Ace Engineering, Weldwell NZ, New Zealand Couriers, Electech Electrical, New Plymouth Boys' High School and Vince & Kathy Moores.

By Kim Ferens

Oakura Pony Club News

In late April the New Zealand Pony Club Horse Trials Team Championships (known as "Champs") was held at Punawai Farm in Nelson. This is a national event held over two days. Day One is dressage and Day Two is cross country and show jumping.

Oakura Pony Club riders were well represented in the Taranaki Team of six riders. The team was Sophie Anderson (riding Clifton Polarize), Caroline Beekman (riding Eager to Ride), Andrea Brewster (riding Beyoncé), all from Oakura, along with Chrissy Adlam (riding Talk about Tom), Courtney Newton (Arabian Nightlife) and McKenzie Bellringer (Truly Charmed). Reserve members were Anna Hinton, also from Oakura, and Renee Butler.

As you can imagine it was a huge effort to transport and manage six horses and eight riders all the way to Nelson. Our thanks go to Brod Wrathall, team manager and Julia Boulton, team coach and of course to the riders' families, who made the total travelling to Nelson twenty. Special thanks also to Rob Wright of Ringcraft Jewellers (Oakura) for his generous donation of jewellery for our fundraising raffle.

At the end of Day One Taranaki was in sixth place in the dressage, but in the end was unplaced in the overall competition. Andrea Brewster was the best placed of the Oakura riders, with an overall placing of 22nd.

Catherine West has recently been awarded three national awards for dressage. She came first in Taranaki and second in the Level 1 and 2 Horse for the Fibre-Fresh Feeds Young Rider

National Performance Award. She was also fifth in the Level 2.6 National Challenge, and fifth in the Level 2 Zilco Musical Award.

During our "off-season" many of our members are studying for and completing Pony Club certificate exams. The certificates involve demonstrating proficiency in horse riding, horse mastership and theoretical knowledge. The higher certificates (C+ and above) can be used to gain employment in the equine industry and are internationally recognised.

The new season begins in September. If anyone is interested in joining the Oakura Pony Club, we will advertise our opening rally here in TOM. But in the meantime, feel free to contact either Linda Knudsen (Chairperson) on 752 7560 or Diane Alder (Secretary) on 752 1008.

By Diane Alder

Pony Club Horse trials at Nelson.



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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders update

The first of the NPSRC Westgate Winter Series contests kicked off on the weekend of 8 June. Oakura surfers got a run of second places – Tyler Anderson in the Under-18s, Connor Anderson in the Under-16s and Seth Marshall in the Under-14s – so it was a good start in great surf, but with sometimes challenging conditions for the younger ones. A reminder to all those with aspirations to make the Taranaki Scholastics Surf Team in the future, this series along with the associated Summer Series and your NZ Surfing Rating are all part of the selection criteria. The NPSRC series caters for all age groups so ask a Boardriders Club member for info or they can put you onto someone who can help.

The World Junior Championships in France were held in late May with Oakura local Paige Hareb in the New Zealand team. Unfortunately the team had only moderate success. The best result in the girls' division was Airini Mason in fourth and in the boys' division Paco Divers of Northland finished sixth. The NZ team did go on to win the Tag Team event for the second year running – a good result to finish the week with.

Staying with Paige... She is sitting in third in the World Qualifying Series, which is a great position for mid-way through the year. She has just been in Brazil for a 5-Star event, where



Paige carving up Padang.

her boards got waylaid in transit and she had to borrow some to compete. She still managed another strong showing though, getting through to the final eight and finishing with fifth equal. The event ended with three Brazilians and Paige's rival, Sally Fitzgibbons, in the semi-finals, with Sally going on to finish second. Paige will be criss-crossing the globe in the next month or so competing in South Africa, Australia, the USA and Brazil again, so it's a busy time coming up for her. Enjoy your winter and let's hope for some snow in the next few weeks to kick off the season!

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Club

These athletes from NPOB Surf Club were recognised at our annual Club Awards night in April for their outstanding efforts and results over this past season.

- MOST IMPROVED IRB OPERATOR - Daniel Charteris
- MOST OUTSTANDING IRB PERFORMANCE - Drew Whitehead, Daniel Charteris
- MOST OUTSTANDING PATIENT - Myken Hurley
- BALE OUT TROPHY - Daniel Charteris, Drew Whitehead, Sarah Mischefski
- MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR MALE - B J Monk
- MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR FEMALE - Casey Stevens
- UNDER 16 COMPETITOR IN ALL EVENTS - David Bryan
- MOST IMPROVED SENIOR SPRINTER - Dani O'Connor
- BEST ALL ROUND FEMALE COMPETITOR - Ayla Dunlop-Barrett
- MOST OUTSTANDING SENIOR COMPETITOR - Ben Willis
- OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE - Ayla Dunlop-Barrett
- FASTEST WOMAN 100M SWIM - Ayla Dunlop-Barrett
- JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - David Bryan
- ALL ROUND JUNIOR - David Bryan
- CHAMPION OF CHAMPION - Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, Ben Willis
- SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR - Shaun Zieltjes
- OUTSTANDING NOVICE PATROL MEMBER - David Bryan
- VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Greg Page

MOST PATROL HOURS

Hours	Name
45	Sean Zieltjes
49	Taryn Page
52	Michelle Cowley
55	Lisa Zieltjes
57	Tania Andrews
61	David Bryan

NPOB's athletes with their trophies.



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Tom Smithers

– a maverick among men

We profile local businessman Tom Smithers and his surfing and surfboard manufacturing history.

Tom, or Harold as he was born, is somewhat of a legend in surfing circles. He was even once known to a few as “The Old Classic”. And today at 50+ he still can occasionally be found out at his favourite surf spot – Stent Road – when the mood takes him. Objects are classed as antique at 50 years or older and Tom has been surfing since he was 12 years of age, so along with the “The Old Classic” title maybe “antique” might soon apply. But as some of us know, you are only as good or as old as you feel! Tom and Suzanne’s children Crystal, Amber and Byron are recreational surfies too.

How did Tom get into surfing? The sport has steered the direction of his life for many a year but has not consumed him, Tom is quick to point out. It was an answer that didn’t roll off the tongue and in fact you need to understand the times and the circumstances to be able to figure it out.

Tom by his own admission is not and never has been your typical surfer, at 100kg or so and six foot plus, a size he has been since his early teens. You need good surf to be able to surf at that size, he says. While he was a big lad, he was extremely fit and would bike or bus to the surf at Sumner Beach in Christchurch as often as he was able.

Tom was born in Christchurch, one of five children. His mother died suddenly when Tom was six years old, leaving his father, a builder, to cope as best he could – no easy task with no government hand-outs. The family did become a test case for the Norman Kirk Government’s widower pension scheme. Tom describes his father through the eyes of others as probably one of the original hippies or “greenie”. Dad John was into planting native trees when everyone else was planting exotics. The growing family lived meagrely off the land from what John grew in the garden and the orchard. Tom remembers that not long after his mother’s death the neighbour’s children would bring his lunch to school for him – one of them is now local doctor Brent Anderson.

Tom’s childhood was not a boring one by all accounts. The Smithers were as poor as church mice because John could not work as he had to care for his family. They lived in the then affluent suburb of Mt Pleasant but there was no Rolls Royce for them! It is from one of the local “rich kids” that Tom got the surfing bug. Alan Beattie got a surfboard! What kid wouldn’t want one? Tom’s sister’s boyfriend had one too. It was a broken 9’6” board with a 15” fin and was made from foam. Most surfers of the time were on long boards and there was Tom out on his broken 6’6” board. When he was 14 years old he won the South Island Championships on the now popular short board – all thanks to his practice on his broken board.

Having been asked to leave Linwood High School for beating up the bullies, Tom found himself at Cashmere High. In the Fifth Form he played for the Canterbury Boys School First XV rugby team but got kicked out of that too for blowing a gaming because the surf was pumping! On Sundays he played rugby league until it was found out by the rugby fraternity and he was again shown the door.

Ever the entrepreneur, Tom had a thriving black market business going on at school where he sold various items he had mis-appropriated from unsuspecting shopkeepers! Then there was the booty just waiting to be pocketed from the glass milk bottles lying innocently at everyone’s doorstep.

Tom left his crowded childhood home at age fifteen and recalls his father seeing him off at the door saying, “Look after yourself and how are you off for money?” He offered the princely sum of \$10 but Tom was flush, after all, he had his black market earnings burning a hole in his pocket!

By Kim Ferens



Ton Deken and Tom at Oakura.



Tom at Stent.

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TOM

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Tornado update

Where were you one year ago during the Oakura tornadoes?

Katherine Deeley, Jans Terrace

I was living on Jans Terrace at the time, overlooking the beach. It was around 5 pm and I was feeding the children. We had windows all across the front of the house, with a 180-degree view of the sea. It was raining really hard and it got dark all of a sudden. The power went off and the rain was horizontal.

I was looking at something through the window and saw a tornado touch down in the sea. It was coming straight for our house and then seemed to split in two. I grabbed both children and ran to the centre of the house. I just knew that all of the glass was going to blow. I shoved the kids under a desk and listened as first one went past and then the other. The wind was really frightening. It sounded as if both tornadoes hit either side of our house.

The garden furniture was whisked away as if they had been made of paper. I was amazed that the windows didn't shatter. We didn't have power for two days, but were able to heat and cook with our wood burning stove. There was not much damage, thankfully, and everyone was okay.



Katherine Deeley.

Mereana Hooker, Highway 45

It was around five in the evening and I was driving home to Opunake. There were trees all over the roads. Trees and debris were falling in front of my car and I had to swerve to miss them. The Rahotu Bridge was closed and it took over three hours to get to Opunake.



Mereana Hooker.

Sarah Churchill, Wairau Road



Sarah Churchill.

The only thing that I believe saved our house was our solid plaster wall. We live right across from the Kindergarten. My work car was picked up and thrown into the road; every panel on the car had damage. The garage door looked like it had been hit by machine guns, it was completely dented from debris. The wooden gate had shards of glass stuck into the wood. The neighbour's trampoline had been wrapped around the tree like a piece of paper.

Lee Newton, Russell Drive

I was getting dinner ready and saw the weather picking up. I will never forget the noise. I saw the tornado and metal spinning around. It was absolutely massive. I soon realised that the spinning metal was my neighbours' roof that had been torn off.

The kids held their ears for almost an hour after the tornado had passed. They were really scared. It was dark,



Lee Newton.

so we didn't know the intensity until the next morning. When you walked outside, it was like a bomb had gone off. We didn't have power for two or three days. We are still finding bits of debris in the garden, and the kids continue to be quite scared of wind and sirens.

Jo Scott, Wairau Road

Before the tornadoes hit, I was running along McFarlane Street and Messenger Terrace. I had just dropped off a friend's dog when I saw the tornadoes, so I ran home to Wairau Road. While I was on the phone with the Fire Department, I saw what I would describe as 'big grey wind' blow the trees horizontal.



Jo Scott.

I was called to assist at the Fire Station. I helped the Chief, co-ordinating ground crews and taking calls as they came in. All the damage was recorded. It was the Oakura Fire Brigade Chief, Craig Scott, the New Plymouth Fire Chief, Pit Fittell, and me.

Kaitake Kindergarten

Today, you would never know by looking at the Kaitake Kindergarten on McKeller Street that it was hit by a massive tornado only one year ago. Obviously angels were watching over the Kindergarten, as the destruction occurred in the evening during a term break. Thankfully, no one was there.

The community really pulled together and the Kaitake Kindergarten was back up and running in only 14 weeks. "What was good is that the Kindy was fully insured. But it was the community support and fundraising that really worked to make it a better kindergarten," says Robyn Lander, Head Teacher.

Because of this additional support, they were able to make some major changes such as adding a new covered entranceway and double doors. All the grounds were also redone, including new gardens, lawn, sand and bark, due to broken glass that had flown everywhere. Inside the Kindergarten the ceilings and walls had to be replaced, as well as the carpet and soft furnishings. In the toilet and locker area, the roof had to be replaced.

It is evident that this is a very special place for children and that it is well supported by parents and the community. The Kaitake Kindergarten has fully recovered from last year's tragedy, thanks to all who helped rebuild it structurally, financially and emotionally. It can continue in its mission to be a fun place "where children grow in learning".

By Jennifer Gros

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70 Years of Marriage - No mean feat



Sam and Tess cut the anniversary cake.

On Sunday 15 June Sam and Tess Dobbin, as they are fondly known, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Five years ago TOM documented their 65th anniversary and since then little has changed. They still live in the Oakura home they moved to 35 years ago, prepare all their meals and still enjoy watching rugby, golf and tennis, albeit on a new wide screen TV they treated themselves to as an anniversary present.

Their most treasured times are those spent with family and friends, who are often popping in and out. As Tess is a keen cards player a game or two is often played with shouts from defeated opponents, as it takes a lot for her to be beaten. In the past Sam and Tess would be part of family overseas trips, so now with travel no longer an option they keep in text contact when their children are away. Tess says that this is almost as good as being there.

Sam has always been the quiet one of the two, however that didn't keep him away from the action and he reflects on his farming, fishing and whitebaiting days as being highlights. They have both spent a lot of time at the beach, gathering mussel and paua, putting a longline out for a fish haul and camping at Weld Road with other family members as an annual event.

Today life is somewhat slower and Tess is sad that she cannot get involved in things the same way she used to. She was the coordinator of the preparations for the anniversary celebration. Tess arranged for their five daughters and one daughter-in-law to prepare a delicious hot roast meal which was the same meal as their wedding breakfast. Their two sons and five son-in-laws had the task of helping set up for the feast held at their home. Sam's sister Anne Davis and Tess's cousins were also there to share the day. This was followed by an open home and extended invitation to the 29 grandchildren, 68 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. To be there was like going back in time, lots of laughter and lots of people all having a good time. This has been the essence of this couples life.

The recognition from the Queen, Prime Minister Helen Clark, the governor general, the minister of Internal Affairs, and Harry Duynhoven who paid a visit earlier in the week armed with flowers and good wishes from himself and wife Margaret was certainly deserved

Ask Sam and Tess how they feel about this achievement and their response is indicative of who they are "it's no big deal, it is who we are"

I know this much about them because I am one of their 29 grandchildren

Tracey Lusk



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Four Square's gourmet-to-go deli foods

Food lovers and adventurous cooks, have you seen the new deli and specialty food ranges on sale at the Four Square?

Oakura Four Square has a dedicated store space for the new deli foods right beside the wine and beer.

This month the Four Square has specials on selected lines so it is worth a visit to check them out.

For Mexican food lovers there is the Tio Pablo range of authentic Mexican products, including fresh and frozen corn tortillas, dried corn husks, corn tortilla mixes, seasonings and (my favourite) chocolate azteca – a spicy hot chocolate drink (you'll never drink another chocolate drink again once you've tried this!).

To complement this there is the Rio Dolores – "Great taste of the Americas" – range of salsas, verdes and chipotles (reduced from \$5.95 to \$4.50).

For discerning cooks there is the organic range of dry goods – rice, flour, pasta and other grains.

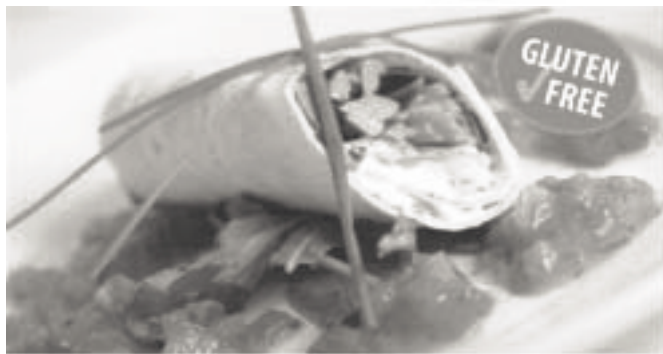
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By Kim Ferens



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Boo!

Was (Not Was)
(Rykodisc/Elite)

"Woodwork squeaks and out come the freaks!" It's been 18 years between the fourth and fifth Was (Not Was) albums, but anybody who enjoyed such outré classics as "Wheel Me Out", "Walk the Dinosaur" and "I Blew Up The United States" will delight in the recently released *Boo!*

Although slightly darker than its four predecessors, *Boo!* recaptures the quirky charm of peak Was (Not Was), with the mutant funk, bizarre lyrics, strong musicianship and soulful vocals all present! The old crew is here, with the non-brothers David Was (Weiss) and Don Was (Fagenson), soul masters Sweet Pea Atkinson, Sir Harry Bowens and Donald Ray Mitchell, and core players David McMurray (sax), Randy Jacobs (guitar) and keyboarders Jamie Muhoberac and Luis Resto all returning to the fold. The guest musicians are top drawer and include Booker T. Jones, Wayne Kramer, Marcus Miller and James Gadson, with Kris Kristofferson narrating the closing "Green Pills in the Dresser". Despite the fine singers and vocalists involved, *Boo!* is still very much the freakish child of songwriters Don Was (bass, keyboards, percussion, programming and vocals) and David Was (flute, harmonica, keyboards and vocals).

The best tracks include the funky "Semi-Interesting Week" and "Mr. Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" (the latter co-written with Bob Dylan) and the surprisingly tender "From the Head to the Heart." However, the absolute standout track is "It's a Miracle", with its soulful vocals and loopy lyrics, a track which encapsulates the strange genius of this band.

Pinetop Perkins and Friends (Telarc/Elite)

And what friends! B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Jimmie Vaughan and Eric Sardinas all guest, but the real attraction is the playing and relaxed vocals of the 95-year old, Belzoni, Mississippi-born piano master, Pinetop Perkins. Delivering an assured set of blues standards, this veteran of Robert Nighthawk, Sonny Boy Williamson, Earl Hooker and Muddy Waters bands still has an awful lot to offer musically!

music review

by Don Juan

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Hosanna

A new Christian fellowship has commenced at the Oakura Public Hall and everyone is welcome. This fellowship will be family focused and as it grows will seek to have programmes suitable for all age groups.

Worship will be contemporary and preaching will be biblically focused. The desire is to have a gathering that is alive, relevant and meaningful, without the extremes.

This new Christian fellowship is called 'HOSANNA' Oakura Christian Fellowship. We meet in the Oakura Public Hall every Sunday at 10.30 am.

Myself and Lewis Grindlay, with our wives, will lead this fellowship and the leadership team will grow as the fellowship grows.

Lewis and Doreen have been trained in Church planting and been involved in the Bay of Islands helping new fellowships get established.

Bernie is the Pastor. He was ordained to pastoral ministry in 1977, spending 20 years in ministry in Australia, Papua New Guinea and here in New Zealand. Bernie's wife Amanda, who has had her own family therapy and counselling service with a focus on children and who is presently a social worker, will run a Kids' Club for 5- to 12-year olds (11 am - 12 noon). Youth events are in the pipeline. A Home Fellowship has commenced and other focus groups will start as the need arises.

By *Bernie Smith*



Bernie & Amanda

LOST:

one precious wedding band

Has anyone found a wide, gold wedding band studded with small diamonds?

Kate Lewis wore such a band throughout her forty-six years of marriage to Les and when she died in October last year, Les put it on his little finger and kept it there. It was a little loose and every now and then, he would feel for it, just to check.

One day early this year, soon after he'd attended a funeral and the gathering that followed at Oakura Hall, it wasn't there. The only other place that it may have fallen off, Les thinks, is Corbett Park, where he watched a cricket practice the day or two before or after that.

If anyone has found Kate's ring, Les would be delighted to have it back. His phone number is 752 7342, or contact his daughter, Katrina, on 758 5370.



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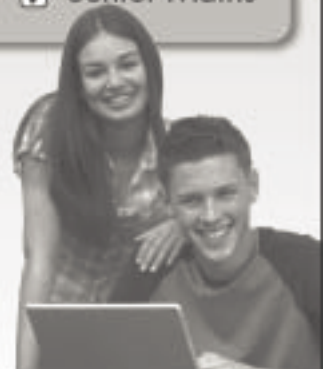
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BP Technology Challenge

On Thursday 5 June at the TSB Stadium, the BP Technology Challenge took place.

The event involved intermediate schools from all over New Plymouth. Every school entered two teams and each team had five people. All the students lined the stadium seating, while the event manager, Chris Pollard, explained the day.



The BP Technology Challenge.

The groups had been working on their projects for a few weeks beforehand. These involved a small car that was fitted with a carbon dioxide cylinder, and a box of ginger beer. The students had to design, sculpt and paint their cars, plus design labels and containers for their ginger beer. This wasn't the main part of the challenge though. Each group was assigned a square to work in and was set a series of challenges to complete. The first challenge of the day was to build a wheelbarrow that could carry a 5 kg block of metal for two metres. There was also a question that the groups had to answer. Oakura's Year 8 team's tyre came off but the Year 7s' wheelbarrow gained maximum points.

The second challenge was to build a giant poppy out of newspaper! The Year 8s' poppy was 1.1 metres and the Year 7s' was 0.4 metres.

During lunchtime, all the cars lined up for a colossal race, in which the Year 8s' car made it to the second round but the Year 7s' didn't.

The day was a great success, thanks to the technology teachers at Devon Intermediate, and although they did not place in the top three, everyone had a great time.

Max Hardie Boys – Oakura School Journalist

J-Rock

It was Tuesday 27 May 2008 and all the Year 7 and 8 students of Oakura School were crowded into the Alexander Room of the TSB Showplace. We were buzzing with adrenaline and excitement, ready to strut our stuff on the stage. We were about to perform J-Rock, along with Tawhiti, West End and Norfolk primary schools.



The debate.

To start the day, we all went into the auditorium to listen to the Stage Manager, "Big J", talk to us about the safety regulations, competitions and finally about the evening show featuring J-Rock and the Stage Challenge. Next, each of the schools had a chance to have one more rehearsal on the stage before the big night. After that we headed to the well known Wind Wand for a bite to eat, stretch our legs and to psyche ourselves up for the upcoming performance.

Finally the big time came, with us first on stage. We were in the wings and roaring to go. The music started blaring and we strutted on stage, Sally (Jahla Tran-Lawrence) and Jack (Keegan Bruckner) were quickly followed onto the stage by a bunch of road workers to build the road that we drove on, Old People to teach us patience, Cats and Possums to teach us that obstacles are not so hard to overcome and finally The Bikies, who taught us to take risks and fully enjoy life. In the end, we all came back on to join in the finale before hitting the final pose.

We all loved every second of the performance but it was over all too quickly. Running off stage we swiftly raced back to our dressing room, all talking about the show.

Those whose parents weren't watching piled into cars for home and bed. Those who stayed went downstairs to the Theatre Royal to watch the rest of the show on a big screen. We all thought the night had ended far too quickly, but all loved every second of it. Special thanks to Raeleen (our choreographer), Mrs Taylor, Mr Dillon and all the parents who made our wonderful day possible.

Jahla Tran-Lawrence – Oakura School Journalist

Year 7 debate

On 19 June the Year 7 debate took place in the Oakura School Gallery. The debate moot was that "School uniforms should be banned". Bell Block Primary, the negative team, arrived at about 10.30 am, ready to start debating.

The Oakura and Bell Block school students both put on great performances in a very professional debate. It was a great battle of rebuttals and evidence, each trying to outdo the opposition. Meika Watson-Burrows, in the position of first speaker, had a great start as she introduced the Oakura team and the moot of this debate. Second speaker Anna Costelloe had some great information to back up her points, then Jamie Scott spoke with some very creative language and great facts as third speaker.

Oakura School ended up going for gold, winning the debate with 139/200 points to Bell Block's 113/200 points.

The Year 8 debate is next with their moot – "Travel provides the best education". We wish them the best of luck with their competition.

Grace Hoskin, Jahla Tran-Lawrence and Jessica Clark – Oakura School Journalists



J Rock.

A rectangular advertisement for a swim school. At the top, it says "Swim For Life" with a logo of a swimmer. Below that, the text "LEARN TO SWIM" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, it says "FOR FUN, SAFETY, WATER AWARENESS AND PLAYING THE SWIM SCHOOL WAY... GO TO THE PROFESSIONALS". The name "SWIM SCHOOL" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below that, there is a logo for "THE BATHING COMPANY" featuring a sun and a swimmer. To the right of the logo, it says "Call Marion Vermeulen 06 758 0212" and "e: maswimco@xtra.co.nz". At the bottom right, it says "14 Puni Street, Fitzroy NEW PLYMOUTH".

kaitake kindergarten

We have begun our journey towards a more environmentally friendly Kindergarten. On Environmental Day we dug over our compost, to the delight of the children, who had fun digging up the big worms. We will be using it to plant bulbs in pots and the rest will be used around the gardens. We are currently working on some recycling ideas that will involve the whole community.

We had a visit from Mica the Clown recently, which as usual was very exciting for the children. They interacted with him in his show and his dog, Mischief, was a real hit. They stayed for a little while after the show and the children got to talk and play with them.

The interest in the car racing track that has been built has been huge. The children have some good ideas and we are now building a tunnel to race the cars down. This is an ongoing and developing interest.

Here's hoping everyone has a good, relaxing break over the school holidays.

Kris



The children enjoying the show.



Mica the Clown.

Wunderbar no more

With the pulling down of the iconic Wunderbar Café sign, a new era in dining is being signalled in the village.

As any savvy person who has dined at Wunderbar over the last few months will know, things haven't been quite as they should, but we won't dwell on that. Big changes are afoot.



Brian Green and Ian Scott taking down the Wunderbar sign

Ian Scott, project manager and land/building owner of the café and Four Square, in conjunction with the new lessee, is throwing his heart and soul into the refurbishment. He is adamant that the new café (the new name is still under wraps) will be a place he, his wife Margaret and the rest of Oakura will be extremely proud of.

Refurbishments are well under way and the new café is expected to open near the end of July. The refurbishments include the roof being extended out over the current deck, enclosing the area and making it part of the indoors. Stacker doors will open up right around the outside, bringing the outdoors in. A new lower deck area is planned at the front of the café. The interior will feature polished, recycled rimu and a natural timber T&G ceiling. New furniture will also update the look.

Chef Julian Leahy has been joined by Andy Ashby from Wellington. A new menu has been created with generous portion sizes and an improved wine selection. Ian tells me Andy has a penchant for desserts, much to Ian's delight.

While it's being refurbished, the café will still open daily till late. And come opening night, Oakura's newest café is set to woo all its old patrons (and many new) back in the door.

By Kim Ferens

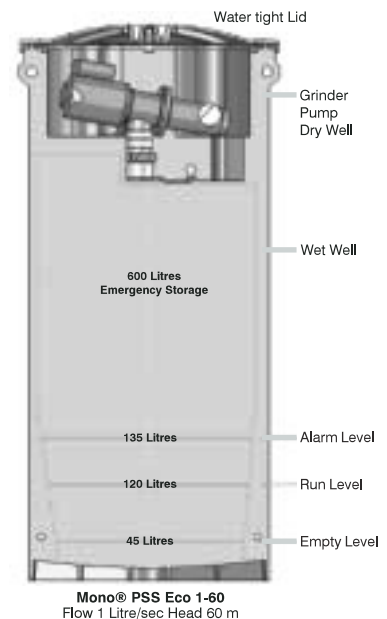
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What's on

July

- 21 Term 3 begins
- 21-25 Life Education Truck

August

- 1 Trivia night (fundraiser for Year 5/6 camp)
- 8 Parent morning tea – 10 am at Okurukuru
- 21 Olympic Day run
- 22 Teacher-only day

Marae visit

On 6 June the whole school visited the Oakura Marae to have an action filled day of culture and learning. After the Powhiri we broke into our "family groups" for workshops that included:

- Poi** Learning the history of the poi and the art of hand movements and their importance in traditional Maori song and dance.
- Haka** Feeling and understanding the power of Haka.
- Tititoria** Learning the movements of tititoria (stick games) and how they are used in Maori song and dance.
- Mau Rakau** Learning the art of weaponry – use, actions and their meanings.

Lunch was a traditional hangi, cooked to perfection by Dave and Spence. Then we completed our workshops and headed home. Thank you to Dave Hare and his team of skilled educators who led the workshops and to the Oakura Marae for welcoming us and allowing us to use your wonderful new facilities. We look forward to returning.

Regards

Karen



Dave Hare greeting Michael Anderson with a hongi



Annabel Jones enjoys her hangi.



Omata School's Wendy Sander leads the school with a song at Oakura Marae.



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CJ Homes Update

Further to last month's article about Chris Evans and CJ HOMES, we are pleased to announce that CJ Homes has just been accepted by the Certified Builders Association. Becoming a member of the association is an endorsement of our business trade skills, ethics and integrity. Certified Builders is the only association that requires all members to be trade qualified. With the backing of CBA all new houses built by Chris will have a 10 year guarantee (subject to application). All alterations and renovations will be covered by contracts and insurance. For all your building requirements call Chris Evans 027 462 8660 or 752 7251



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Oakura Playcentre

At Playcentre what does winter mean? For me it means I need to bring more changes of warm clothes for the kids and to make sure there is plenty of cheese for scone making! Did you know that our children have an opportunity to bake at every session? I look forward to Mack making a warm, freshly baked cheese and apricot scone for our morning tea!

We've had some lovely sunny days and we have been making the most of it at Playcentre. We've been having plenty of water play – with hoses in the sand pit, making potions with sand, water, gloop, etc. Many different learning opportunities can be had around a few mixing bowls and spoons – pouring, mixing, measuring, coordination, naming colours, making secondary colours, relationship building and sharing. It seems to be true that kids don't feel the cold! I set up some water play one day thinking that they would play for a short while and then I would clean it up. The play continued for the whole three hours!



Water play at playcentre.

For all those digger and truck fans that just can't get enough of them, we were lucky enough to have a digger working right outside our gate one session. Standing on the hill made the perfect viewing platform to watch the digger load the dump truck. Mack proudly paraded his photo we took with the digger. Little boys' heaven!

I would like to say a big thank-you to our Playcentre families. We have had many new families join in the last year or so and their enthusiasm and commitment to the centre has been fantastic. The strength of any cooperative lies with the members and with me being an "oldie on her last legs", it is great to see the emergent leadership within the group.

Playcentre is a great way to make friendships and learn about children. We are open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm. If you have any queries, phone Melissa 752 1056.

We'll have the flour and cheese ready. Sound inviting? Come along!

By Melissa

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clubs & groups calendar

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Farmers Market Taranaki

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Plunket Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am) in the Oakura Board-riders Club.

Mini Groovers:

Tuesday mornings 10.00am at Oakura Hall. Gold coin donation.

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street Monday and Wednesday, 9.00am to noon.

Omata Playgroup:

Every 2nd Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and preschoolers welcome.

St John's Omata:

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

St James Church Oakura:

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

Kung Fu:

Monday & Thursdays 6.00-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

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

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

Country and Western Club

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

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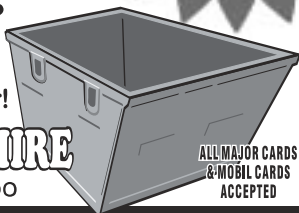
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