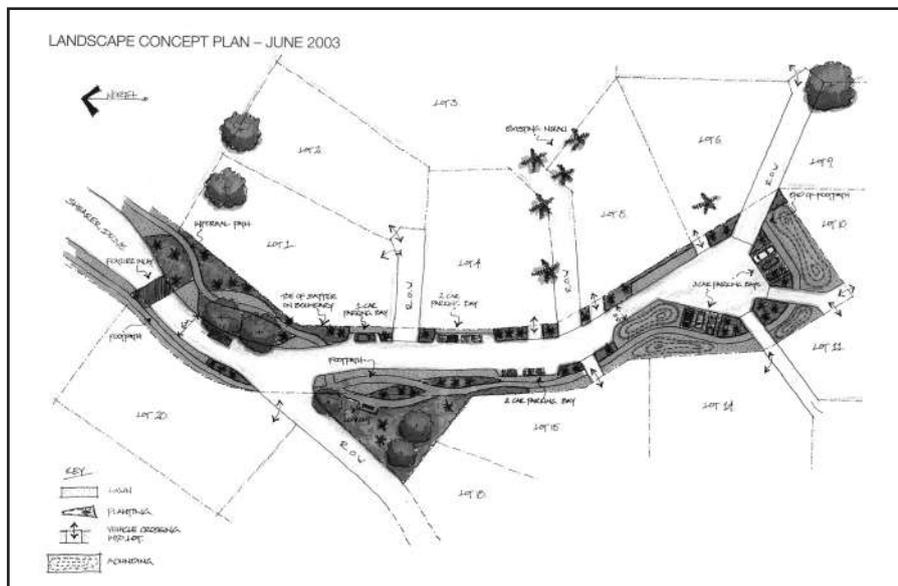


## OAKURA BEACH SECTIONS COME OF AGE

### The history behind the Oakura Beach Sections

If a slice of history is what interests you then the Shearer subdivision is the place to find it. It has always bothered me that none of the history of Oakura is in a book but thankfully people like the Shearer family continue to value and preserve a significant part of the local history. Little Max Shearer, son of Richard Shearer, is the 6th generation to live on the land and those roots go all the way back to the 1860's and the early settlers in the area. Captain Frank Mace, a distinguished war hero of the Taranaki Land Wars, built a grand villa on the site of the present family homestead; tragically it burnt to the ground in the 1920's. Most of the family heirlooms and records were lost. Captain Mace had a large dairy farm stretching from the main road down to the beach front and from the Waimoku River to the Wairau River. The family originally leased out the beach front sections to bach owners and Geoff recalls how 40 years ago there were only a handful of these. The properties are now freehold. Over the years chunks of the land have been sold as Oakura has grown. A significant feature on the Shearer property is a magnificent old rubber tree, planted in the 1860's and now towering over the other established trees. It is reputed to be the largest specimen in the southern hemisphere. Other historical features are the nikau palms, many nearing 100 years of age, and the protected pohutakawa as well as other native trees. Ancient fruit trees face the axe but were once the boundary to a tennis court and an extensive and diverse country garden. Geoff Shearer and his cousin Richard have fond childhood memories of their grandmother Susie Shearer that will never fade. Memories of a grand old lady, memories of the beach and of a wonderful garden to do "boys stuff" in - as Max does today. These memories will remain even when others take over guardianship of the family land.

CONTINUED PAGE 5



### THIS MONTH



PAGE 6  
from mammoth to Oakura,  
Jane Dove talks to Tom



PAGE 13  
look at these letter boxes!



PAGE 21  
Ivor kicks off another race  
walking season

# tom

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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
[newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)



Hi folks!

Submissions have closed on the 2004/2012 draft Community Plan, and we received more than 471 submissions from the public – that's an excellent number!

There have been quite a few submissions from people in the Kaitake ward, and I'd like to thank each and every person who attended our community meetings, and who fed back comments to the council – both formally and informally. It's because of your feedback that we'll be able to shape the Community Plan into a document that reflects the desires of our district.

Involvement from the community can make a real difference in our district – you only need to look at our sister city relationships to see that.

In just this last month two developments have been announced that will bring significant economic and social benefits to New Plymouth District: the Practical Education Institute and WITT have both announced major business initiatives in China. The real success of our sister city links is that they are community-driven. The relationship between our communities was already well established, with numerous contacts between groups in our communities and those in Kunming, China, and Mishima, Japan – and the formalising of those links at a council to council level has created further opportunities.

The relationship between Plymouth, England and New Plymouth is also opening doors. Representatives from the various 'Plymouths' around the world are being invited to come here in March next year, for the first Plymouths of the World convention. If you have a contact at any of the Plymouths around the world, I'd appreciate if you would pass on details to the council so we can ensure they are included in the list of people being invited to attend!

This region is enjoying a level of recognition and appreciation like never before. We're seeing increasingly more people from around the world here in 'Taradise', and it's initiatives like those of WITT and PEI, and the more personal contacts such as student exchanges and club-to-club projects, that are making that difference!

It's because New Plymouth District residents care to get involved in projects larger than themselves – such as the Community Plan, and international relations – that our district has so many opportunities coming its way.

If you or your club has any suggestions about a project involving residents in Mishima, Kunming, one of the Plymouths – or any other ideas about development in New Plymouth District – I'd love to hear from you! Just give me a call on 759 6060 and I'll see what the council can do to help!

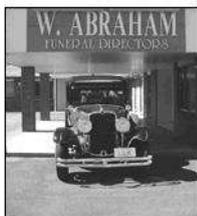
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## COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



It is exciting to see the bridge over the Weld Road river nearing completion. It will be so nice to be able to walk as far as one wants towards Fort St George once the bridge is finished. I remember my first term on Council when Clive Neeson made a presentation to the council, at annual plan time, suggesting it would be a good idea to have this bridge, so people would be able to walk further west. It was pleasing to get the \$40,000 required for this project but it has been a long time coming to fruition, as the council had some negotiating to do with the landowner over the river. In the meantime, funding was given in the next year to get the little bridge over the Whenuariki stream. I remember when that was first completed how thrilled all the coastal users were, so this will be even more exciting.

Landscape works to enhance the beach frontage have begun. Initial work will involve stripping the clay from part of the area and replacing it with top soil. Wooden wheel-stop barriers and bollards to allow traffic control will be installed later. Work is due to be completed on this project before the end of June.

Submission time for the long term community plan is now over. Numbers of submissions are encouragingly high. The council has so far received 297 submissions. Council has set aside time to hear these submissions on the 15, 16, 17th June.

This month I have attended a Community Board meeting, a workshop on the beach reef study, funding sub committee, a Council/Police Forum, an injury prevention symposium and committee meetings for the New Year Rave, Monitoring and the Hall.

It's incredible how fast the Tom deadline comes around. Soon we will be hearing Christmas carols in the supermarket. Let's hope it is not for a while yet.

Until next time,

regards

Pam Street

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**HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN**  
MP for New Plymouth

Winter greetings to all readers of Tom, a publication I enjoy reading as a 'true' community newspaper.

As I write this in mid-May we are experiencing wonderful weather, the days are getting rapidly shorter but before we know it we will be heading towards spring and summer again.

The farmers this year have had a bumper season with many experiencing the best year of production. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break before the calving and early mornings begin again.

Recently the mainstream media has been focussing on the implications of the lowered drinking age, and I am particularly concerned at the alarming rate that underage drinkers are killing and injuring themselves on the roads.

I believe that, coupled with the age of legal drinking being lowered (a change in legislation that, after long consideration, I vehemently opposed), the easy access to alcohol for our young folk is to blame for this unnecessary and tragic waste of young lives.

It is alarming to realise that, statistically, 25% of 14-17 year olds drink heavily and regularly. As parents we have many duties in the journey to help our children to a well-rounded adulthood and the sensible use of alcohol and its implications is one of these duties.

"Think before you buy under 18's drink" is a slogan that should be on everyone's mind and those who do supply minors with alcohol should be prepared to take the responsibility for the consequences of supplying young folk with a substance that can cause such irreparable harm.

Everyone should be able to enjoy a drink in safe and controlled situations, and I urge all parents and caregivers and older siblings to consider carefully the future of their young charges, especially if they condone underage drinking.

Thank you for taking the time to read this column.

Best wishes.

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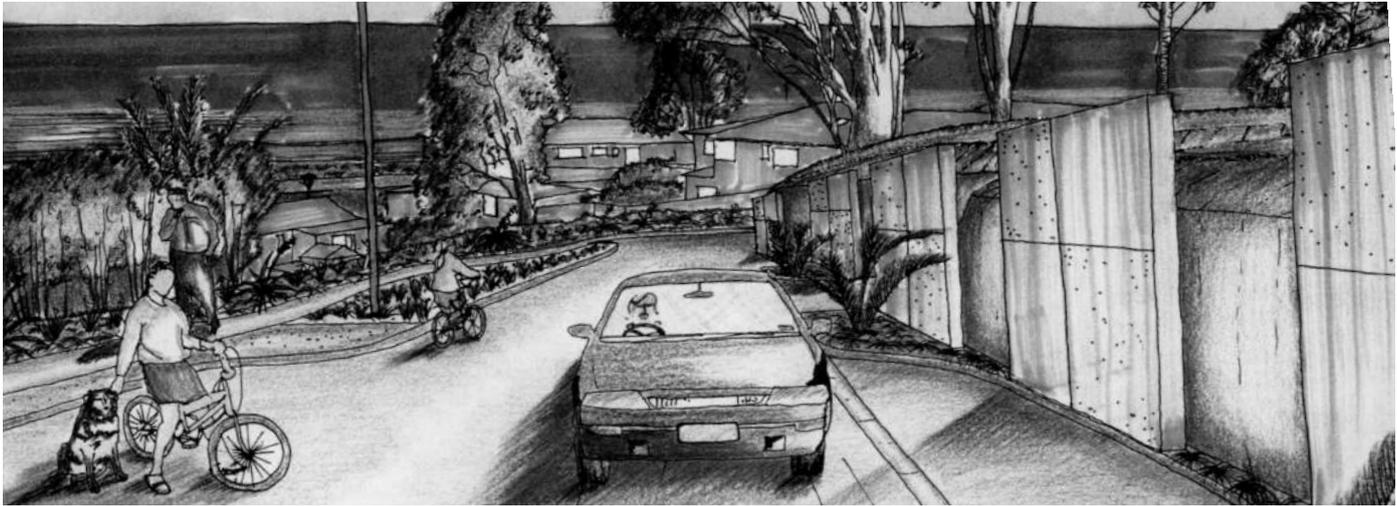
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## OAKURA BEACH SECTIONS COME OF AGE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

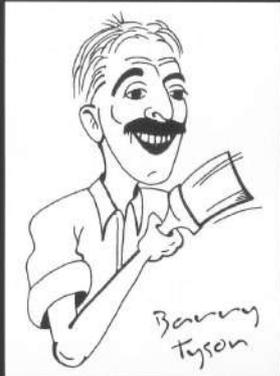
### The subdivision

I have done a few stories on sub divisions now and there's a sort of déjà vu when I turn up and wait to be wowed by what's on offer. And it is wonderful to still be wowed by a piece of dirt! We are extremely lucky in Oakura to be able to buy sections with not just dirt but picture postcard scenery and history as well. We are lucky enough to be able to buy sites with such unique features as plantations of native trees, panoramic views and proximity to the beach front. The vision that the developers have is to retain the individuality of the site and, in fact, to enhance it. This vision means that each of the 20 sections for sale will have a view that can't be built out by neighbours. There will be restrictions on where buildings can be placed within a section, building height restrictions and materials restrictions. A Design Committee will ensure each development is in accordance with the ethos of the whole sub division. The Shearers feel passionate about creating a place where people dwell together in harmony - at ease with each other and the environment. The protected trees and plants will help retain the character of the site. Front fencing will be eliminated and special landscaping will be used to achieve a harmonious environment that is in keeping with the contemporary beach side theme the Shearers envisage for the property. Roading and footpaths are already in place. Servicing has been carried out and an environmental covenant requires an eco-friendly bio treatment sewerage system. Lighting, retaining walls, street furniture and the wetlands development are still in progress. Sections will be sold via the tender process, which opened at the beginning of June and closes in the middle of July. Geoff says interest has been huge and, with such a unique site up for sale, it is easy to see why.

For more information check out the website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.oakurabeachsections.co.nz"](http://www.oakurabeachsections.co.nz) [www.oakurabeachsections.co.nz](http://www.oakurabeachsections.co.nz)

By Kim Ferens

[www.tompapers.com](http://www.tompapers.com)



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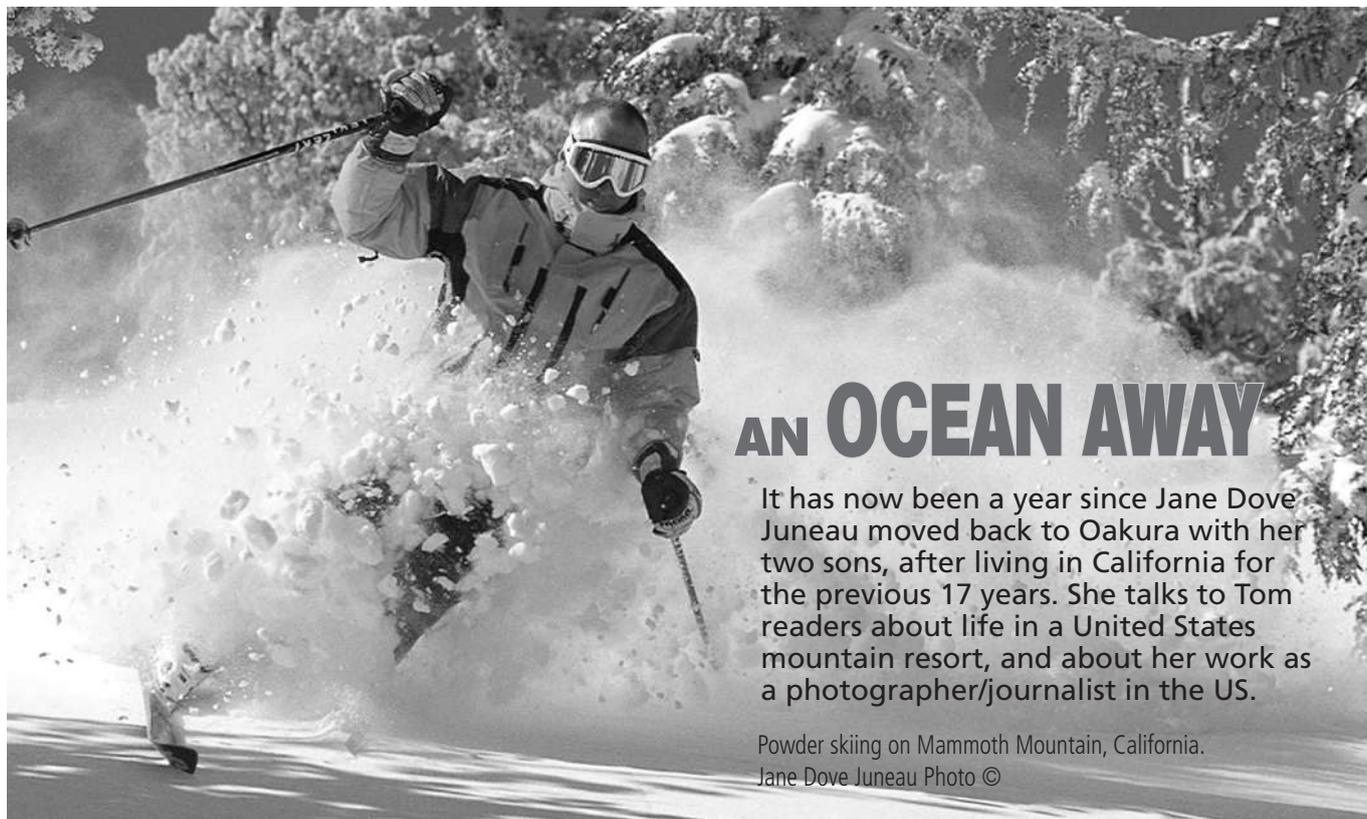
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## AN OCEAN AWAY

It has now been a year since Jane Dove Juneau moved back to Oakura with her two sons, after living in California for the previous 17 years. She talks to Tom readers about life in a United States mountain resort, and about her work as a photographer/journalist in the US.

Powder skiing on Mammoth Mountain, California.  
Jane Dove Juneau Photo ©

### Can you describe Mammoth Lakes, and where it is?

The town of Mammoth Lakes is nestled in the eastside of the Sierra Nevada mountain range near the Nevada border. It is five hours drive north of Los Angeles and three hours south of Lake Tahoe. The town's elevation is 8,000 ft (2,438m) and the top of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is 11,053 ft (3,370m). The town is based around the ski area, although it is a year-round resort with activities like trout fishing, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing and horse pack trips in summer. The jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada open into thousands of acres of National Forest and Wilderness. Mammoth has a resident population of 8,000 but can accommodate up to 40,000 visitors on a holiday weekend. The ski area has 26 chair lifts, and over 20,000 people can ski on the mountain on one day.

Mammoth Lakes is the playground for southern California, with the majority of visitors from the Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego area. It is also marketed in the United Kingdom and Europe, so a percentage of visitors come from these areas too.

### What work did you do in Mammoth?

I worked initially as a photographer for the local weekly newspaper called the Mammoth Times. I later became the editor of the Mammoth Times and the Mammoth Sierra Magazine a quarterly glossy lifestyle publication we started in 2001. I also worked as a freelance photographer for the Los Angeles Times and had photographs published in various other newspapers and magazines such as the Washington Post, Time, Ski, Skiing, and Motorland. My advertising clients included Nike, Patagonia, Power Bar and Fera International skiwear. In summer I photographed weddings, as Mammoth was a popular place for couples to get married.

### How has living in the Eastern Sierra influenced your photography?

I was inspired by meeting/networking with top internationally known photographers in the area like Galen Rowell and Gordon Wiltsie (mountaineers), Moose Peterson (wildlife) and Londie

Padelsky (landscape). Wiltsie and Rowell worked on assignment for National Geographic. With strong competition in the local photographic marketplace it keeps the quality of your work high.

What were your memorable moments in journalism/photography in Mammoth? Moments when you knew you were right in the thick of things, and this moment would never happen again?

When I was eight months pregnant I photographed 8 bodies being pulled out of an ice covered lake after a drowning tragedy. Or Walker, Calif. right after severe flash floods demolished numerous houses in the small town. I walked through people's houses knee deep with mud. Some houses had completely disappeared.

I stalked California Fish and Game officers through the forest as they darted poor Arthur (an injured black bear) with a tranquilizer and whisked him away in a cloud of secrecy to Sacramento. Forest fires were dramatic. I photographed the blazing Birch fire as the back burn sent flames hundreds of feet high into the night sky. US highway 395 was closed, and as I drove up the empty highway, I could feel the intense heat radiating through the open windows of my truck. It was eerie.

### Where are you now in writing and photography?

I am focusing on photography at present, and working to establish a freelance business here. This has given me the opportunity to photograph the subjects that I choose as I build up a library of stock images of Taranaki and New Zealand. I have a great new selection of images which I have enjoyed shooting. I have been exploring the country with new eyes after living in the US for 17 years.

My photography includes magazine assignments, corporate photography, weddings, and lifestyle portraits of families at the location of their choice.

To find out more about Jane's photography visit her website:

[www.janedovejuneau.com](http://www.janedovejuneau.com) or phone 75 27116

# tom

Would like to thank  
**MICHELLE**



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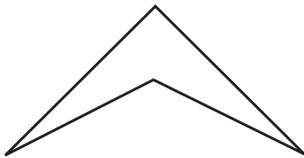
assignment - corporate - weddings - lifestyle portraits

*Jane Dove Juneau*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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## THANKS MICHELLE!

The TOM team would like to thank Michelle Powell for the HUGE contribution she has made to this little paper over the last 18 months. Michelle has had many roles with the paper from story writer and advertising rep, through to layout expert! Michelle's computer expertise lifted TOM from the 'cut and paste' (yes literally - with scissors and glue) style of layout to a much more professional and stylish publication. A look back at our archives shows just how 'raw' we were in our pre-Michelle days. Alas, Michelle's day-job has now engulfed her TOM-time and it is time for her to move on. So, once again Michelle, thanks for your exceptional efforts - and of course we must also thank Mark, Allison, Jack and Grace for their patience!



We also need to welcome Moon Cameron to the TOM team. Moon has taken over the graphic design /layout 'dept' of TOM. Moon a very talented graphic designer and we are excited to have her on board. Thanks Moon.

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At the beginning of 2004 my youngest daughter, Bronte, decided to learn to sail. She picked it up quickly. Hardly surprising as it's not much different to her usual passion in Oakura - horse riding. I mean; instead of stables there are boat houses. Instead of saddle racks there are boat racks. Instead of a tack room - a sail room.

Of course you don't saddle up a boat - but you do rig it up. Then you lead it down to the water. Once on the water it's a matter of pulling ropes etc to make the boat go where you want it to go. Competitions with sailing are similar to horse riding too - sail around marker A then B, back through C etc... And then of course it's hose down and put everything away.

But the greatest part about sailing here is the venue. With horses there are the inevitable sandflies (especially in Taranaki!). Dust in Summer. Mud in Winter. It's hot, smelly, dirty. But sailing on the other hand, in Rarotonga is based at the picturesque Muri Lagoon. Home to the posh Pacific Resort. And best of all the Rarotonga Sailing Club, which not only houses dozens of boats for beginner to senior sailors but also co-exists in a building with the Sails Restaurant. So, as little miss 10-year-old sails around the lagoon, mummy can sit on the beach with a latte - or if the weather is too hot or windy - inside the gorgeous Sails Restaurant (on the "reserved for sailing club members side" of course). No dust or mud - just crystalline white sand. And the smells? Yummy!

Bronte's wondering if she can name her optimist "Honey-Bun", I guess it's not quite as cute, or huggable as a pony, but while we're in Rarotonga it's a good substitute.

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# The Adventures OF **KOREAN KELLY**

It is true that children are the same throughout the world. I arrive at school in the morning to teach kindergarten classes and am greeted by a chorus of "Dong-go, Bun-goo", loosely translated to pooh and fart in English. Bodily functions are as amusing here as they are to any 4-year-old child anywhere. Another favourite of the children is an odd, if not shocking, tactic, known as the "Dong-shim". This involves the prodding of either index fingers or various objects (ranging from pens or pencils to sticks) into one's posterior. By posterior I actually mean right slap bang in the centre of one's posterior. So vigilance around the classroom and hallway is ever important.

The schooling system here is quite different from New Zealand. It's no 9am till 3pm primary/intermediate/high school, like the luxury that Kiwi kids have. From 3 to 6 years old the children go to kindergarten from 9am until 2pm every day. When they are finished they then head off to various hag-wons (private teaching academies) to learn subjects ranging from art, music, dance and singing to English, Chinese, Taekwondo, Hapkido or even magic (some parents want their child to be the next David Copperfield). This continues until 5 or 6pm at which time they go home. As primary (elementary), intermediate (middle school) and high school progress, so does the amount of time spent studying. My 14 year old students wake up at 7am, start school at 8.30am, and get home around 9pm every night. Once high school begins, they will be finishing around 11pm, studying until 1am, and then waking at 6am every morning. The children also have the joy of going to school on Saturday.

Corporal punishment is common in schools. If you get a question wrong, you get hit on the hand with a stick. If you don't do your homework, you may also be hit or made to kneel on the hard floor with your hands raised above your head. It sounds harsh, especially to the ever politically-correct New Zealander, but it actually works. They have little or no problem with truancy, drugs or alcohol amongst children, they have over 95% literacy levels and the children register above average regarding their IQ levels.

But then again, it's nowhere near as much fun as living in a beautiful, clean, green country, being able to swim in the rivers and ocean and walk around in bare feet. To walk into a mountain and not be surrounded by a thousand other people. To play rugby in wet grass on a Saturday morning. Always consider the trade-offs.

So next time your children complain about homework or school, tell them you'll send them to Korea.

Annyonghi keseyo

Kelly



Kelly Ryan with one of his students

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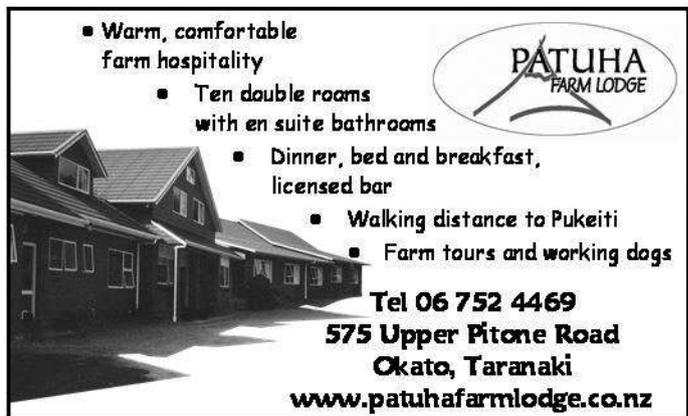
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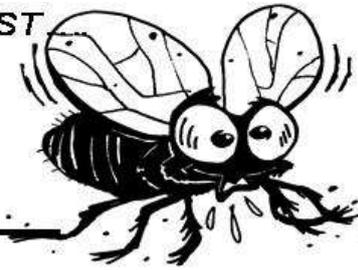


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# OAKURA playcentre

We've been having a busy timelately here at Oakura Playcentre. As the children enjoyed our visit to Stoney Oaks so much, we decided to have a trip to Brooklands Zoo. We were fortunate enough to pick a morning that was on one of the fabulous autumn days we've had this season, and the children had lots of fun looking at all of the animals and playing on the wonderful playground there. It was a very pleasant, relaxing morning and was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and adults.

To celebrate Book Week, the children went next door to the library where Tara, the librarian, was kind enough to read them some stories. They then chose some books to take home. We also had a dress up day where the kids came as their favourite character from a book, and we encouraged our members to donate a book to enhance our existing collection.

We were all thrilled to learn that one of our grant applications to purchase some safety mats for physical play had been successful, and we're eagerly looking forward to their arrival.

We're hoping our submission for large outside play equipment will also be granted.

We have lots of families on our rolls, but will continue to wel-



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Playcentre is open to all children aged 0-6 years, and we're open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9.00am-11.30am. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term - no matter how many sessions you come to - and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292 or Sharon Steen on 752 7376.

Otherwise, please feel free to come and join us - we're a friendly, fun place and warmly welcome all new families.

**Trish Whitney**

# OMATA school



## The New Plymouth Airport

On Wednesday the twelfth of May, Omata School went to the airport. We went because we are studying flight.

The first place I went to on our airport visit was the terminal. I saw lots of planes, work people and even a lady charged with murder.

At the control tower we had to ask to come in by talking through a security phone. To get to the top of the control tower we had to climb lots of stairs. I saw lots of phones, computers and controls. The controller has to communicate with the pilots.

The third place I went to was the Aero Club. There were lots of small planes. We had a look inside one of the small planes. After looking inside the plane we went to the shed

and saw a micro-light.

Finally to end our visit my group went to the helicopter hanger. Before we saw the helicopter we had to watch a safety DVD that everyone who is going to the oil rig must watch. Next we had a look through the helicopter and saw lots of different controls. Like in a plane, a helicopter has a pilot and a co-pilot in case there is an emergency.

The most important thing I learnt would be that you have to concentrate all the time to work at an airport.

by **Kyron Stewart**

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# OAKURA school news

## ABOVE LEFT:

Adara Segedin, Bailey Hales and Paloma Aston

## ABOVE:

Georgia Crabtree and Charlotte Procter

## LEFT:

Letterboxes made by Jack Davies, Toni Marshall and Erin Kelly

## In the Classrooms:

Term Two's Technology Challenge for our three junior classes was for each child to design, construct and decorate a functional letterbox. There needed to be a place for letters and the newspaper to be put and somewhere for these to be retrieved. Some children even created a special place just for birthday invitations to be delivered! All of the children put a lot of effort into this project, with some wonderful results. A few of the wonderful designs are pictured here.

To continue their study on mail, the three classes also visited the New Zealand Post Mail Centre where each child posted a letter that they had addressed to themselves. They were able to see their letters going through the process of being franked before they continued on their journey to letterboxes in Oakura.

## Award:

Oakura School has been selected to receive a "Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Award - for increasing environmental awareness and understanding through environmental education". This award was given in recognition of the Oakura School's specialized horticultural area, which was refurbished by New Plymouth West Rotary Club last year. This fenced and paved area has a Propagation Unit where the children learn about potting up seedlings and cuttings, which are then watered by the irrigation system. This programme helps the children to develop understanding, skills and attitudes that will shape their behaviour towards the environment in the future.

Cathy Ardern.



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Robyn with "Gemma the puppet" talking with (L-R) William Pritt, Matthew Worrall, Thomas Skurr and Liam Scott.

# OAKURA KINDY

**For the next few months I'm going to focus on some specific ways that children's learning occurs at kindergarten and show you some examples in action here at Kaitake Kindergarten.**

This month I'll cover early language development.



We use play to teach children many educational skills. In play it is safe to try new things, and, through practice, develop skills and confidence. Play supports children to develop concentration and perseverance – we focus best at tasks we enjoy and are interested in.

**We develop children's spoken language skills at Kindergarten by:**

- being read to
- being listened to
- learning to listen
- learning new words
- hearing the rhythm of language in songs, poems, action rhymes and stories
- an introduction to Te Reo
- using language for different purposes such as expressing feelings, explaining and questioning
- how to talk in groups

In each play situation our trained kindergarten teachers strike up conversations with the participants in the group, encouraging them to vocalise their thoughts on what could happen next, or why something is happening like it is. In this way children develop their vocabulary, learn to listen to others point of view and learn to participate co-operatively. At the end of every session we have "circle time", where a variety of specific language activities occur e.g. reading a "big" book together, singing, playing listening games, finger-plays and puppets.

In the photo above, learning language is demonstrated by interacting and talking to Robyn's puppet.

**Susan Henderson.  
Committee.**



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Members on a successful club day

The Oakura Surf Casting Club has just begun its 4th season; their year runs from June 1st to May 31st. The Club was established in 2002 by a group of local fisho's who were, at the time, catching good amounts of fish. A meeting was held, and quite a lot of interest was generated within the local community - local fisho's and whoever else was keen were able to fish for points. Our sharp logo was designed by Bruce Madgwick, who has been the president for 3 years. The object of the Club is to get points - all fish that you catch, any time, any where, within the Club boundaries you can get points for. For example, snapper have basic points of 35 and 7 increments points per/500g.

Oakura Surf Casting Club is fully affiliated to the NZ Angling & Casting Association. NZACA hold National Fishing and Casting Champs each year - this includes surfcasting, a boat section and also a casting competition that measures accuracy and distance. Only members of the NZACA compete and they also recognise member's fish for NZ records.

The club have tried to keep their subs down to attract members and are always keen on new people joining. Club days are held about two or three times a month with Fish Together Days & Fish Anywhere Days - points are collated in to a section of club day points and there are also Day prizes for Junior and Seniors. Trips away are generally supported well and are a lot of fun; we have been on Club trips to Kawhia, Coromandel, Tongaporutu and also two trips to Whakatane.



Doc Brown with a goodie

A 'Fish of the Month' Competition is run also. At the end of the year all the points are collated and there are 16 smart trophies to be won by members at the AGM and prize giving.

OSC is currently involved with two other clubs - a \$100 Sutherland's Sports voucher is up for grabs each month. The heaviest snapper of the year winner receives a \$400 rod, built by local veteran Leon Jury.

The club is always keen on getting more people on board, as they say 10% of the people catch 90% of the fish, you could be that 10%. We are keen on taking you to the 'not so common spots' and teaching you about baits, casting techniques and general fishing tips.

The first Fish Together Day of the new season is on June 20th - meeting at Corbett Park at 9am. Anyone is more than welcome to come and check us out.

Oakura Surfcasting Club AGM and Prize giving is on June 23rd at Butlers starting at 7pm.

**Contacts are:**

- Bruce Madgwick a/h 752 7712 or Bus 757 5365
- Debbie Edgecombe 752 7425 anytime
- Dave Politakis a/h 758 8528 or Bus 06 764 7808



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Ton Deken: 06 752 7405 John Kurta: 06 758 1872



# FIRE LINES

Greetings from the boys in the BIG RED TRUCK. Sorry we have been a little remiss over the last couple of months but we have had computer problems.

No real excuse but it's the best we can do.

Not many calls to speak of only 6 for the year so far with the most significant being the MVC (motor vehicle crash) on the main road just before Koru Rd.

The time of day was most unfortunate with a few traffic hold ups along with a bit of bad press. To Mr Clark's credit he has since rang the brigade and apologised for his letter to the editor. We know there were hold ups because we had three fire fighters getting itchy feet as they, too, were held up and not knowing what was going on.

On the lighter side, the Oakura Brigade hosted the first ever Taranaki "Toughest Fire Fighter Around" (the mountain) at Corbett Park on the 9th of May.

I am delighted to say that it went off exceedingly well with 100% turn out from our local Brigade, either competing or assisting. Well done team.

The brigade also extends its gratitude to the local businesses for their assistance with prizes and/or food. A case of the community helping us to help the community.

That's about it for now so until next time remember-- STAY COOL literally

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# OAKURA LIBRARY

with Tara Ward

## Puke Ariki

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Hello from Oakura Library,

New books to Oakura Library this month include Mansfield by C.K. Stead; Salem Falls by popular fiction author Jodi Picoult; Spreading Their Wings, a history of New Zealand Women's Auxiliary Air Force in wartime; Off the Front Foot by mountaineer Mark Inglis; Woman 2 Woman, a collection of antidotes from New Zealand women sharing their experiences of career and business; rugby referee Paddy O'Brien's autobiography Whistle While You Work; Noodle Pillows: a Journey through Vietnamese food and culture by Peta Mathias; and The Anzac Experience by Christopher Pugsley, which examines New Zealand, Australia and the Empire during the First World War.

Did you know you can use the Puke Ariki library catalogue from home? The catalogue is accessible through the Puke Ariki webpage [www.pukeariki.com](http://www.pukeariki.com) "www.pukeariki.com". You can search the catalogue for titles and subjects, request and renew items, as well as check what items are checked out on your library card.

Oakura Library is open Monday to Friday 10-12.30 and 1-4pm. We also have a late night on Wednesdays from 5pm-7pm, which is proving to be a popular time for families to come in and use the library together.



# OAKURA NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT NEWS

Not too busy crime wise. The district had a couple of burglaries over the last few weeks, a mixed bag of weather and that seems to be it. We are continuing with our 'Lock or Lose' campaign. You will see notices going up in public car parks and campsites advising you to lock your cars.

While this campaign seems to have had some results in reducing the actual numbers, unlocked cars still feature in 50% of all thefts from cars.

Bikes are also regular contributors to the stolen property statistics. In an effort to reduce these numbers, four bike shops are going to offer discounts on bike locks, this will be done through a coupon system in major schools in May. So if your school is suffering this bike theft problem give me a ring on 753 2495 and I will contact the school so they may participate.

For the local residents the 'Xmas Rave' for youngsters is under consideration again. I had some very strong opinions offered straight after the event so let me know if you wish to make any representations.

The use of 111. There is some reluctance especially by the elderly to ring this number. Please do not hesitate if you are in any danger or if there is criminal activity. Ring 111 straight away; obtain whatever details that can be observed in safety.

If there are any issues or concerns that are troubling your neighbourhood give me a ring, we may be able to help or point you in the direction of those who can.

### Neighbourhood Support has moved to:

Westtown Police Station.

Telephone 753 2495,

email: [ntns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ntns@xtra.co.nz).

This was due to renovations at Eliot St.

Thanks for your emails and support

Barrie Carline



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# KAITAKE netball

Hi All

Our season is going according to plan (I'm sure we have one). Having moved up a grade this year we certainly expected things to be a little tougher for us, however, the move up has indicated we were ready for a new level and we've really stepped up to the mark.

Our 3rd game of grading was against Sacred Heart Senior B. It was a wet, rainy day and we won that game 34 – 17.

The following week we played another old rival from 2003, NPGHS Int A1, and although they had lost a lot of their senior players this year, their replacements were certainly not to be taken lightly and this game was a very speedy one at that!

NPGHS were too swift for the ole Kaitake girls and we lost 31- 19.

It was then the last game of grading on 15 May and we were up against old rivals Tukapa. This much awaited game for us, lived up to it's expectation and we came away with a draw 15 – 15, indicative of how hard this game was for both teams. Both teams agreed it was an excellent game to play and a relief that one team wasn't 1 goal ahead of the other. We both deserved the win.

At the time of writing we had won 3 games, lost 1 and drew 1.

So it's now onto competition and if you have the urge to come down to Waiwhakaihō and support us, here is our draw:

Sat 5 June vs. Inglewood HS Blue	@11.05, court 1
Sat 12 June vs. NPGHS Snr A2	@11.05, court 2
Sat 19 June vs. Woodleigh	@ 11.05am, court 1
Sat 26 June vs. Ruakura	@ 12.45am, court 1
Sat 3 July vs. DK Flooring	@ 11.05 am, court 1

**Tanya Farrant**

**Secretary/Player**

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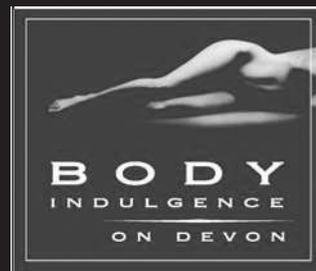
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This offer has been so popular, it has now been extended until the end of June!

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## OAKURA BEACH LANDSCAPE IS UNDERWAY



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### COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS 2004/05

Applications are now invited for the New Plymouth District Council's Community Funding Partnerships' programme, for all contributions the council makes for services delivered or projects undertaken by community agencies.

The programme is not the same as the Social Service Grants Scheme, Creative Arts New Zealand Scheme and projects qualifying under these schemes will not qualify under the Community Funding Partnerships scheme.

An information and application form outlining the basis on which the programme operates and how to apply for funding is available from the council's customer support centres in New Plymouth, Inglewood and Waitara. Further information or enquiries about the scheme should be directed to the council on 06 759 6060.

The closing date for applications is **Friday, July 30, 2004**

"New Plymouth - Judged New Zealand's  
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The latest stage in the redevelopment of the frontage to Oakura Beach is underway.

In May, work began on upgrading the surface of the grassed area between the road and the beach, and bringing in more coastal plants for beautification.

Manager of parks and recreation assets, Kelvin Shooter, says this work is part of the development plan that was worked on in conjunction with the Kaitake Community Board.

"One of the problems we have at Oakura Beach is the poor quality of soil and grass in the frontage area, where cars park on the grass. For a long time it's been a bit of a mess, difficult to maintain and pretty unsuitable for walking and picnicking. In the section from the Surf Club to Shearer Reserve, we'll be stripping the clay off, replacing it with topsoil and re-grassing the area. We'll also be bringing in wheel-stop barriers and bollards so that cars on the entire grassed area between the Surf Club and camping ground can be controlled to maintain the grass in good condition. Areas for parking will be rotated along the frontage according to demand and the condition of the grass - that should prevent further damage to the soil, and make it a better area for picnics and for walking," he says.

About 18 months ago the council created a new sealed carpark off Shearer Reserve, opposite the grass frontage, which has 18 parking spaces. The carpark was installed prior to the repair work starting on the grass frontage so as to cater for demand and provide all-weather parking with views of the sea.

The entire project separates vehicles from other activities in the beach front, thereby improving passive recreational activities, and beautifies one of the most popular beaches in the district, says Mr Shooter.

The development is due to be completed in mid-June.

## GARDENING IN JUNE

### Flower Garden:

- Cut back, lift and divide perennials such as asters, achilleas, dahlias and phlox. Still time to plant lillies.
- Plant new roses • Prune deciduous trees in dry weather

### Kitchen garden:

- Plant strawberry plants • Plant new fruit trees.
- Plant garlic and shallots • Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, winter lettuce, spinach and silverbeet.

tom

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# TOM TIDBITS

- Local woman Lyndie Foster Page last month received her masters degree in dental surgery. Lyndie graduated in public health with distinction.
- On May 9th Taranaki Race Walking began its season in Oakura. Walkers choose between 5 and 10km distances.

The course in Oakura is the block with a dog leg around McFarlane St which makes it a 2.5km circuit. Local resident, Ivor Ellis, is one of the clubs oldest members. (The photo shows Ivor crossing the finishing line). TOM plans to catch up with Ivor soon for an 'I remember when' story.



## A BIT OF HISTORY

Memories of the Hurford Rd Hall

The Hurford Rd. Hall was built in the early 1930s with voluntary labour. Farmers donated bobby calves to purchase materials. In the early years, water was heated over a huge open fire. There were annual working bees to cut the wood supply and to raise funds for general maintenance. The hall was clad in heavy gauge iron and this proved to be a long lasting material.

Every newcomer to the district was welcomed and the leavers fare welled with a rollicking old time dance. Card evenings and afternoons were also held there regularly. In the early days, residents walked across the paddocks carrying lantern lights and most functions were fully attended.

The Hurford Rd branch of W.D.F.F, which started in 1934, used the hall for its various activities - thus providing more social life for the district. Babies were pushed in prams over the rough metal roads rather than miss a meeting. Later they went into recess, until the closing of the Omata hall in 1956 when the two branches amalgamated and became Hurford Omata branch.

The hall was well used until Cyclone Bola moved it off its

piles in 1988.

The site of the Hurford Rd Hall is approximately 2.7km up Hurford Rd on the right.

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## DUNCAN KITCHEN

# I REMEMBER WHEN

**20 year old Duncan left the shores of Northern Scotland for Oakura in 1937 and he has been there ever since.**

You stay where your job is the straight forward answer for living 67 years in one place. Duncan came to Oakura to a job on Guy Bell's Pinewoods Jersey Stud. He arrived in Auckland and caught a train to Marton then onto New Plymouth. It was the only available transport to New Plymouth. A 48 hour journey then that we can do in 45 minutes today. The Oakura of the late 1930's and 40's that Duncan remembers was a hotel, a store, a hall, mostly farm land, (there were three farms he remembers and cows grazed happily amongst the lupins - where houses stand today), a few sea side baches and a three classroom school. He remembers the approach to Oakura from New Plymouth being modified in about 1938. A bad accident where a motorbike rider and pillion passenger where badly injured on a nasty bend by the bridge resulted in a cutting being bulldozed through (as it is today), eliminating two bad bends in the road that originally went behind McGrath's farm. It was the first time Duncan had seen a bulldozer working. The road was also lowered in front of the hall. The hall kept growing like topsy. As the community grew, the hall grew to accommodate their needs. Badminton was started and Duncan being a keen sportsman played. He remembers Doris Sanson lived in a house where the present bottle store is and Reg Chapman had the store in the present chemist shop location. Jim Priest started the garage and the Post Office moved there from the store. It was a very active Post Office, moving onto the corner of Dixon St then onto the Medical Centre location.

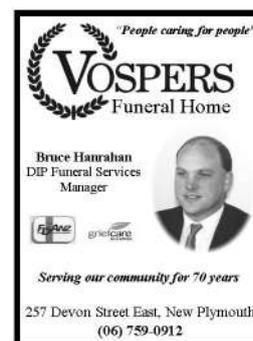
Five years after coming to Oakura, Duncan married Mr Bell's daughter, Nora. They owned a farm that is now the Kaitake Golf Club. On the 111 acres they had 90 Jersey cows. Cream went to the Omata Dairy Company in the early days and during the war the cream went to the Patua factory for cheese. Their three daughters participated in the school's calf days and very successfully too. Oakura School was then classed as a country school. Winners at the calf day then went on to the coastal competition at Okato then those winners went onto participate at the New Plymouth A&P Grounds. These were before my time but Duncan said they were situated out at Waiwakiho, just passed the Harvey Norman store. The girls had two or three winners.

The girls loved horses and competed in eventing. Duncan got to see all sorts of places by being involved. This carried on with the grandchildren too. Two of the Kitchen daughters live locally and one lives in Havelock North. Duncan speaks of the community as being "a lively one" and he joined in enthusiastically. Stints on the school committee and hall committee (20 years is a bit more than a stint!), playing tennis, badminton, supporting the Kaitake Rugby

Club. A favourite was the Easter 7 a side tournament where teams came from as far as Wellington to participate. Duncan remembers when the Surrey Hill Rd area was covered in gorse and very few head of cattle could be carried on the land. He remembers the burn off to get rid of the gorse too. It got out of control and the fire brigade had to be called from New Plymouth as the Oakura one didn't yet exist. Snow Drake nearly got his house burnt down. Something else you don't see today was the cattle droving. Trucks didn't exist!! Stock passed through Oakura every second Tuesday on their way to the Waiwakiho Saleyards then on to the Waitara Freezing Works. Flocks of sheep (maybe 300 or 400) went through on their way to the Moturoa saleyards before going to the Patea Freezing Works. Duncan remembers Roebuck's being the first trucking business on the coast.

Eventually Duncan and Nora sold their farm to the Golf Club. The Golf club had been at Weld Rd and then Berridge's farm at the Tapuae's (now Washers) so it was time to put down some roots. The family were all keen golfers except Duncan and Duncan ponders on the popularity of golf with so many golf courses in Taranaki. Duncan and Nora retired to Pitcairn St and they continued their active life with Duncan doing fencing contract work, playing indoor and outdoor bowls and growing a tremendous vegetable and flower garden. Nora died 20 years ago but her roses still grace the garden. Family continue to reap the benefits from Duncan's gardening prowess with great crops of vegetables all year round. Duncan wonders if progress in Oakura might mean he loses his magnificent sea views. The sewerage scheme will signal the end of quarter acre sections and the introduction of high rises.

**By Kim Ferens**



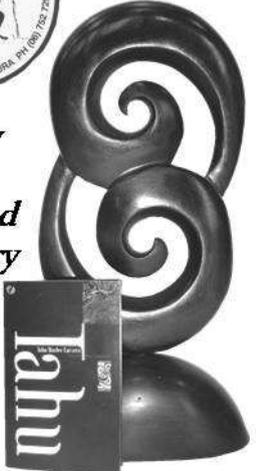
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# DEVELOPMENT IN OAKURA

Proposed New Plymouth District Plan



## What's the District Plan?

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires all districts in New Zealand to have a District Plan. The Proposed New Plymouth District Plan (District Plan) provides the framework for promoting sustainable management under the RMA at local level. The District Plan is in three volumes and consists of objectives, policies, rules, and planning maps, which set out the activities permitted in the New Plymouth District. It also determines where resource consents and subdivision consents are required, and under which conditions these can be approved.

## How was the District Plan formulated?

Meetings were held all over the district to identify the things that were important to people. This information together with input from planners, other specialists and focus groups was collated and a plan was developed. In November 1998 this proposed plan was made available to the public for comment by way of the submission process. Many submissions and appeals were received, which identified parts of the plan that people agreed and disagreed with. There are still a few outstanding appeals that the council is working through – once these are resolved the plan will become operative, but until then the plan is called the Proposed New Plymouth District Plan.

## What if I want to exceed the standards permitted in the District Plan?

Resource consents are permission from the council to do something exceeding the permitted standards of the plan. As the RMA and the District Plan are "effects based" documents, successful resource consent applications are approved because the effects of the proposal are appropriately managed. Applicants need to convince the council that the effects of the proposed activity are no more than minor, and any adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

## The rules in the District Plan are intended to make your neighbourhood a healthy and nice place to live in!

Whilst small-scale businesses may contribute to the character of a residential area, businesses that create adverse effects such as higher than normal noise levels and other nuisances may not be automatically permitted. In determining whether an activity is appropriate within a particular area, the council considers things like building bulk and location, signs, traffic generation and parking, noise, landscaping, outdoor storage, sale of liquor, light/glare, and earthworks. This does not mean you cannot operate a business from home – it just means you have to manage the effects of your business so that you comply with the standards.

## Can the District Plan be changed?

Yes. If significant changes take place and a need is identi-

fied there is the ability for the council to update the plan. This is referred to as a variation or a plan change. A public submission process is required so any proposed changes will be advertised in the public notices section of The Daily News, affected people will be notified, and the public can have their say by making submissions.

Once our District Plan's status changes from 'proposed' to 'operative', anyone can request a plan change. In these cases the costs are borne by the applicant. This can be a costly and lengthy process. However, owners could consider it a viable option in some situations. For example, if your property is zoned rural, but is on the urban fringe, you could apply for a rezoning from rural to residential - so that you can create more allotments of a smaller size. However, any change in the plan needs to be weighed up against the objectives of the plan, so the plan change process involves rigorous assessment and community input.

## Could Oakura become the next Mt Maunganui under the existing District Plan?

There are some significant issues limiting development in Oakura. These include the disposal of waste and the nature of Oakura's natural environment.

## On-site treatment of sewage effluent versus council's sewer

As council's reticulation does not currently extend to Oakura, provision must be made for on-site treatment of sewage effluent. This is part of the reason why urban Oakura is predominantly zoned "Residential C" and the minimum allotment size is recommended at 700m<sup>2</sup> (compared with 300-450 m<sup>2</sup> in New Plymouth). Furthermore, buildings are permitted to cover a maximum of 35% of the property, and 35% of the front yard, and owners wishing to develop more of their site need to apply for a resource consent. The history of Oakura has seen the development of a 'village atmosphere' that the Residential C zone recognises.

If council's sewer service extends to Oakura, rezoning through a plan change could result in smaller allotments therefore allowing denser development in the future. The council would consider the effects of dense development alongside the special character and amenity of Oakura and would consult on any proposed changes through the submission process.

## Oakura skyline

The building height restrictions and protected urban viewshfts in the District Plan also seek to ensure the character of Oakura is maintained. In Oakura, the permitted maximum height is 9 metres – a resource consent is needed to go higher. The criteria used to decide whether to approve or decline such an application includes the adverse effects on the character and visual amenity of the surrounding area,

the privacy of adjoining sites, the natural character of the coastal environment and intrusion into urban viewshafts. It's all about the effects.

#### What about my view?

The council only protects views from public places through the provision for urban viewshafts. The District Plan does not protect views from private properties. When considering the purchase of a property which has a view, you should consider the developments that could take place on the land under the view and the trees in that area that could grow to obstruct the view in the future. The height of trees is not controlled by the council.

#### Coastal Hazard / Policy Area

Many Oakura properties lie within the Coastal Hazard Area or Coastal Policy Area, as indicated on the District Plan maps. The Coastal Hazard Area is land particularly susceptible to erosion, sea level rise and other coastal hazards within the next 100 years. The Coastal Policy Area is land where activities are controlled so that the natural character of the coastal environment is preserved.

Many people wish to build as close to the beach as possible. The rules restrict activities that interfere with the dune system – erecting structures and conducting earthworks are not permitted if they adversely affect the dunes. These rules protect your property - dunes provide your property with an important natural defence from both erosion and flooding.

If your property adjoins the coast and you're thinking of developing the site, first determine where the dunes are – come into the council and obtain a print-out of the aerial photograph showing the dune layer. A study was recently conducted and we now have accurate maps showing the extent of the dunes.

#### Should I talk to the Taranaki Regional Council or the New Plymouth District Council on coastal issues?

The regional council and district council work together on coastal issues, in different roles. Depending on your proposed activity, you may need to talk to officers from both councils. The regional council is responsible for the land below mean high water springs, and under the RMA they administer coastal, water and discharge permits. The district council's RMA obligations include administering land use consents (developments such as the erection of buildings, hard protection works and earthworks) and consents for the subdivision of land above mean high water springs.

**Rachelle McBeth**  
Education Officer  
Regulatory Services

# Harcourts

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**RHYMES**

There's a peanut sitting on the railway track,  
 His heart is all a-flutter  
 The train comes roaring round the bend -  
 Toot! Toot! - peanut butter.

Little Miss Muffett  
 Sat on a tuffet  
 Eating her Irish stew.  
 Along came a spider  
 And sat down beside her,  
 So Miss Muffett ate him too.

Coastlines are always changing shape. Every time a new wave rolls in and drops back again, every six hours as the tide rises and falls, and even over longer periods, coastlines are reshaped by the continuous assault of the waves. Coastlines change more rapidly than any other type of landscape and, of all the agents that wear away the land, the sea is the most powerful of all

**FACT BOX**

**JOKES**

- What's a frog's favourite sweet?  
Lollihops.
- What do you call a man that loves fishing?  
Rod.

**POEM**

I'm just pretending  
 by Peggy Dunstan  
 Stars are made of lemonade  
 The moon is made of honey  
 but no one's ever tasted them  
 which seems a little funny.  
 Except  
 that they are far away,  
 so very, very high  
 and no one's made a ladder yet  
 that reaches to the sky



**TOM KID PROFILE**

OAKURA SCHOOL PUPIL  
 PROFILE

NAME: Jonti Hine

AGE: 6

SCHOOL: Oakura School

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

FOOD: Fish and chips.

ACTIVITY: Playing soccer with my friends.

GAME/SPORT: Rugby.

MOVIE: Terminator 1, 2 & 3.

BEST FRIENDS: Jack Davies, Lachlan Stevens, Caleb Davis, Truman Edwards, Isaac Hardie Boys & Noah Chitty.

WHEN I GROW UP I AM GOING TO..... be a professional moto-cross rider.

*Jane Dove Juneau*  
P H O T O G R A P H Y





# Anne Wilson

on leave

Diane Buick 753 9680 or 021 753 9680



**Diane Buick**

## Properties Urgently Wanted

BUYER A

10-15 acres urgently required by cash buyer, with or without house, within 40 minutes drive of New Plymouth

BUYER C

A family from South Taranaki are looking for a home in the Oakura area up to \$250,000.

BUYER B

Okato or surrounding rural area: My buyers would love: a private, quiet, sunny home that would suit large furniture. Trees garden and mountain view would be a bonus

BUYER D

Buyers from Auckland searching for a low maintenance home anywhere in Oakura area. Cast Buyers up to \$300,00

**\* I have a long list of buyers looking for 3 bedroom houses in New Plymouth and Okato and Omata areas in the \$130,000 to \$170,000 bracket. Existing tenants for some would be appropriate**

## Properties For Sale



### 18A KARAMEA ST, WHALERS GATE

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**Mike Gordon** 752 4591 or 021 145 2508

## Inside the Jargon / Taranaki Median Dwelling Prices March 2005

	HOW MANY SOLD	THE MEDIAN SELL	PRICE MEDIAN DAYS TO SELL
Taranaki	43 dwellings sold	\$104,000	42
Waitara	18 dwellings sold	\$115,000	51
New Plymouth City	143 dwellings sold	\$185,000	21
Bell Block	16 dwellings sold	\$ 173,000	13
Stratford	37 dwellings sold	\$ 87,000	40
Hawera	46 dwellings sold	\$117,500	40

## Thought for the month

### Ask for Appreciation

Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father. "Lets play darts. I'll throw and you say 'Wonderful'"

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