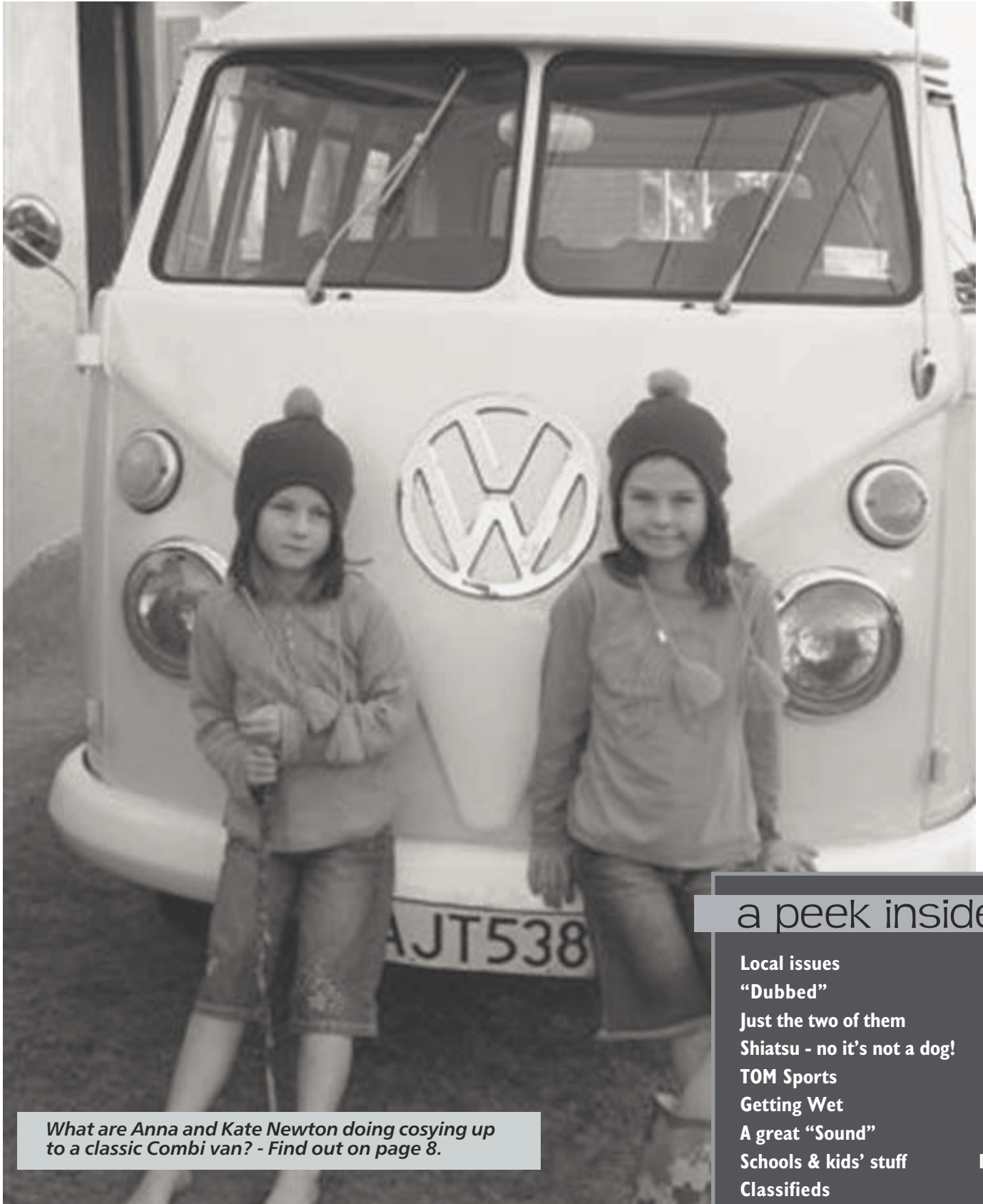


TOM

JUNE 2008

O A K U R A



What are Anna and Kate Newton doing cosying up to a classic Combi van? - Find out on page 8.

a peek inside

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editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

The old proverbial has certainly hit the fan over the sewerage scheme. I am probably a bit slow in grasping the intricacies of the whole thing but I don't know how costs can escalate from \$7 million to \$24 million without someone making a major stuff up. Sure the odd increase in costs – they're built in after all – but this is ridiculous.

On a more positive note I recently did a road trip around the mountain with some friends, dropping into the odd shop or two on the way, and I must say Oakura was so refreshingly vibrant after some of the dreary townships scattered around the mountain. We should be proud of Oakura, at least we look good and there are such good things happening in the village. New businesses starting up monthly, development and growth and happy people – TOM is proud to be part of this.

Kim

TOM dates for July
Copy and ads deadline – 20 June
Distribution – 9 July

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TOM

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

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

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Hi folks!

One of the challenges of living in a district that is surging ahead is dealing with the growth issues that come with that success. Those issues include traffic flows – not only today, but 20 or 40 years into the future – for both the city and the district's towns.

There has been a lot of publicity about the efforts of New Plymouth District Council and Transit New Zealand on this issue, and I heartily thank everyone who sent in their feedback on our Strategic Transport Study! Submissions closed at the end of the first week of June and they're now being compiled into a report that will be sent to the Council for its information.

Ultimately, the final Strategic Transport Study will go to the Regional Land Transport Committee, which is responsible for prioritising capital projects for state highways and local roads throughout the region.

The study has taken several months to develop and we're still a little way away from having it finalised, but the work that has been put into it by interested agencies and residents will bear fruit for our district for many years to come.

Meanwhile, hearings are taking place this week on the public submissions to the draft Budget 08/09 and District Bylaws 2008. This Friday (13 June) the Council will be debating all of those submissions and other matters in the draft budget, and making final changes to the document. Both the hearings and the Council deliberations are open meetings – any member of the public is welcome to pop along for a few minutes or for the entire session to hear what is said around the Council table – so feel free to turn up to the Council Chamber if you wish!

And even though we are still working through the draft budget for the coming financial year, work is well under way on preparing for next year's big planning/budget document, The Community Plan 2009-2019 (also called the Long-Term Council Community Plan or LTCCP). Keep an eye out for publicity on this one, and how you can be involved in planning the priorities for our district over the coming 10 years.

And remember: If there are any other issues in your community that you want to comment on, feel free to give me a call on 06 759 6060. I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

New Plymouth District Mayor

'Desex in the City' is on its way to Taranaki!

North Taranaki SPCA is very excited to herald the arrival of the National SPCA Mobile Desexing Caravan to town. It will be working from our SPCA shelter in New Plymouth in June.

This unit is a fully equipped surgical clinic and is staffed by a Vet and Vet Nurse. The clinic travels the length and breadth of New Zealand and is now in its second year of operation. To date the clinic has desexed over 5000 cats and dogs and for the first time ever SPCAs are starting to see a decline in the number of stray and unwanted animals presented to their shelters.

Last year we had 1611 animals in the North Taranaki Shelter – an increase of over 300 animals on the previous year. After the visit of the caravan we hope to see a decrease in the number of animals needing our care next year.

The service is available to low income earners who have cats and dogs that need to be desexed. The service is FREE. All we ask is for a donation to help cover costs.

If you have a pet which is not spayed or neutered, or have a friend or neighbour who does, let us know – if you are eligible, we can help!

Contact Jackie at the SPCA on 758 2053.

Desexing at its best!





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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN MP for New Plymouth

Budget 2008

The personal tax cuts announced in the Budget will kick in on 1 October. They'll help to relieve the pressure on households at the petrol pumps and supermarkets. They'll benefit all of us, but especially those on lower incomes, families and superannuitants. They won't come at the expense of the public services which we Kiwis value so much – they are fair and they are affordable.

Food and fuel prices are up all over the world and because of the global credit crunch, mortgage rates are rising. These problems are not of New Zealand's making but it is the Government's responsibility to manage the economy through good years and bad.

The tax cuts benefit all taxpayers...

Part-time workers and people on the lowest incomes benefit from the lowering of the bottom tax rate from 15% to 12.5% and from moving the threshold out from \$9500 to \$14000.

Working families also benefit from a boost in Tax Credits.

People on middle and higher incomes benefit from moving the 21% threshold from \$38000 out to \$40000, the 33% threshold from \$60000 out to \$70000 and the top threshold of 39% from over \$60000 to over \$70000.

This and other changes to tax and compliance will also benefit the large number of micro-, small- and medium-sized business owners.

Superannuitants also benefit from the tax cuts – someone living alone gets an extra \$23.84 a fortnight and a couple gets \$45.88.

Throughout the good years, the Government has been retiring debt and putting money aside and is now able to deliver tax relief when it is needed. That is no accident. You will recall the last period when times were bad – the Government of the day cut superannuation, cut public services and had cash registers in the foyers of our public hospitals.

Now, this Government is able to provide tax relief in a planned and prudent programme over the next three years while continuing to invest in better hospitals, modern classrooms, cheaper doctors' visits and scripts, and more doctors, nurses, police officers and teachers.

Now, this Government is managing the hard times while continuing to invest in the future with more funding for innovation, science and research, for public transport and apprenticeships.

This year alone, we're investing in buying back and modernising our rail system, fast broadband (especially for rural and business customers), lifting workers' skills and reducing business taxes.

In a recent *Business Herald*, BERL said, "The Taranaki region is benefiting from a fundamental shift in the global economy. Increased activity, along with a growing middle class, has seen the demand for commodities and energy increase significantly. Taranaki with its agriculture, food processing (meat and dairy) and energy focus is well placed to take advantage of this shift..."

Long may our "black gold" and "white gold" continue to enrich our province and our country. Thank you for taking the time to read my column.

Harry Duynhoven.

Oakura Medical Centre is expanding, with two new doctors and more services



To receive the benefit of lower co-payments and health screening systems, you need to register with the medical centre.

We are accepting new patients now!

Oakura Medical Centre is now a fully accredited practice and a member of Pinnacle PHO. With our new American trained doctors arriving soon, we will be better equipped to serve the expanding community.

In July, we will be welcoming **Dr William Plonk**, with his wife and three children. William has extensive training and experience in Geriatric (the elderly) and Palliative Care. He also holds a Fellowship in this field.

Dr Diane Nowak will be arriving with her husband and two young children, in August '08. With vast experience in women's health issues, Diane also has a special interest in Obstetrics and Child Healthcare.

Dr Richard Wilson is still on his sabbatical in England and will return to the practice sometime in the future.

We also welcome **Paula**, our new receptionist, who will work alongside **Margaret**, and **Estelle** our new practice manager.

In early September we will bid farewell to **Dr Karin Hartmann** and wish her well in her future travels.

Our Practice Nurses, **Colleen** and **Raewyn** offer a huge range of nurse-led health clinics.

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kaitake community board

It's budget time at the New Plymouth District Council and I have been attending a number of related workshops and meetings as Councilors struggle with the habitual problem of balancing the books without adding any burden to the ratepayers.

NPDC is required to follow an array of Local Government Act processes. They are explicit and must be complied with. Council must have a Long Term Community Plan (commonly known as the LTCCP). This is a ten-year strategy setting out where the community wants to go and is arrived at after extensive consultation. The plan must be reviewed every three years. Council is then charged with setting annual budgets to meet the community intentions in the LTCCP. The current budget round is year three of that cycle.

Later this year the community will be comprehensively consulted as part of the three-year review of the 2006 – 2016 LTCCP. This is a fundamental part of the review process that will either add or delete items from the current plan.

No doubt Council will end up the huge wish list of projects and services the community would like to see included. However there are other extremely important issues to take into consideration during the LTCCP review.

The New Plymouth district is growing. There has been economic growth of 36% since 2000, far higher than the New Zealand average, on the back of a 30% growth in the local labour force. True unemployment is the lowest it has been since the '60's. The current position is; there are still plenty of jobs out there with no one to fill them.

Labour has become increasingly globalised and transient. Taranaki employers are competing worldwide for skilled labour against employers from other countries doing exactly the same. Look at the current exodus to Australia. Last year advertised vacancies in Taranaki grew by 12.8% compared with fall of 6.4% at the national level.

It has been established that the Taranaki region will require 16,500 more workers over the next 20 years or, when taking into account partners and children, a population increase of nearly 50,000. That's a big increase but according to the census the Taranaki population increased by only 844 during the past 5 years!

So Council needs to wrestle with how to help attract the necessary population to enable the local economy to continue to prosper and grow. The elementary task has now changed from people chasing jobs to jobs chasing people. The key industries of oil and gas, agriculture sectors, and associated secondary industries will continue to require a large proportion of these workers but downstream from this are the service industries such as health, education and food and household goods suppliers. They will also require an expanded labour force to meet increasing demand.

You may wonder what this has to do with the LTCCP review. Well all the international research shows that the best way to attract new citizens is through lifestyle. Climate is part of that, just look at Queensland. But besides climate and stable employment, more and more people want a relaxed pace of life, a clean, green environment, plenty of opportunities for their children, a friendly neighbourhood, easy access to outdoor and sporting activities, quality education and so on. They also want lower cost home ownership; less congestion and less commuting time and they are prepared to shift around the country, or the world, to get them.

Council therefore has some interesting challenges. How to

'sell' the excitement, culture and vibrancy we are so lucky to have to attract the required labour force. How to ensure the civic amenities such as roading, water supply and, dare I say, sewerage disposal can cope. How to offer cultural, creative, heritage, sporting and other recreational pursuits to keep them here and us happy. The walkways, Womads, galleries, libraries, Elton Johns, triathlons, swimming pools, and parks become an ever-increasing part of the mix, and they all have to be funded.

This is why the strategy set out in the LTCCP will be so important. The strategy will set the process of matching Council's future activities to the environment in which it operates and to the resources (mainly rates) it has at its disposal. The current budget round is important but nowhere near as important as the upcoming consultation on the LTCCP. That's where the strategy will spring from. Do you have an opinion? You should have, and Council should hear it!

Well that's it for this issue – and not a word on the sewerage project!

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 10 June 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

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority" ~ E. B. White (1899-1985)

Hi all from the Big Red Truck


Once again, we have had another quiet month with not too many call outs.

Following on from last month, we had a great turnout at the ANZAC parade in Okato. Many members of the Oakura Fire Brigade turned out in full uniform in remembrance of those who served their country in past conflicts.

We are now nearing the one year anniversary of the tornadoes of 5 July 2007. Although we as a community have moved forward from the devastation, we can feel real empathy for those affected by such natural disasters overseas, like the recent earthquake in China and the cyclone in Myanmar.

It is timely to remind you to make sure you are prepared for a natural disaster. Here is a link to a good website at www.getthru.govt.nz which provides you with the resources to make your planning easier. Take some time also to look through the sections at www.eq-iq.org.nz/kitsandplans/survivalkit.aspx for details of:

1. Your Emergency Survival Kit – what will you need to hand as soon as the power goes out? Where is it?
2. Your Emergency Plan – where in your home is your bolt-hole that will give maximum protection?
3. Your First Aid Kit.
4. Your Getaway Kit – what essentials may you need if you have to evacuate? Are they safe and handy?



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2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the 111 service in New Zealand

Before 111, when people wanted to report a fire, for example, they would either have to know the number for the local fire station (if they had a phone) or activate a fire alarm call box on a lamp post. It was in 1937 that Britain introduced the World's first emergency phone number to contact Fire, Police and Ambulance.

Remember, should you ever need to make a 111 call, stay as calm as you can, provide the best information you can and follow the instructions the call taker gives you. You will be asked the following questions:

Where is the emergency? It is important that you provide clear and precise details of where the emergency is to ensure that emergency resources are dispatched to the correct location. Be specific about the street number and street name, suburb and town or city. If possible, provide the closest cross street or side streets. If you are in the country, tell us the name of the rural area, the road you are closest to, your RAPID rural number and any landmarks. Use formal place names. If you are on the move, give street, road or bridge names or other geographical features as reference points. The Communications Centres have extensive electronic mapping systems to help pinpoint your location but we need your assistance – we need you to be our eyes and ears at the scene until we get there.

What is your phone number? This gives us a way to ring you back later for more information or to give advice if required. If you are phoning from a landline, the address and phone number of the location you are calling from automatically display on our computer screen, but we still need to confirm that the address you are phoning from is the address of the emergency. We are working with cellular phone companies to achieve this for cell phones as soon as possible.

What is happening? You will be asked a series of questions about what is happening or has happened. This is important to determine the type, level and speed of emergency response required, and to give instructions while emergency services are on the way.

All the best and stay safe.

FF Breeze



Puke Ariki
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Oakura Library

Wow – halfway through the year already!

It's also Puke Ariki's 5th birthday this month. Join us at Puke Ariki for a celebration on Saturday 14 June from 12pm-4pm. It will be a family-oriented community event with dancing and music.


Also don't forget to grab a good read for those cold winter nights by the fire. Just in, the latest by your favorite authors: John Grisham, Steven King, Jodi Picoult, Robert Ludlum, James Patterson, Josephine Cox and many more. Also for the juniors: Geronimo Stilton, H.I. Larry, Anthony Horowitz and Des Hunt.

Plus we have some gorgeous cookbooks to tempt your palate and the gardener in the family might enjoy *Hot Plants for Cool Climates*.

Stay warm!

Karen and Vincenza





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June Checklist

Flower garden:


- Cut back, lift and divide perennials such as asters, achilleas, dahlias and phlox. Still time to plant lilies.
- Plant new roses.
- Rose pruning can start late this month.
- Prune deciduous trees in dry weather.
- Mulch all plants with compost.

Kitchen garden:

- Plant strawberry plants.
- Plant new trees: citrus, apples, pears, plums, peaches and nectarines.
- Spray deciduous fruit trees with Champion Copper and Conqueror Oil to protect from pests and diseases.
- Plant asparagus crowns into well drained soil.
- Plant seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, winter lettuce, spinach and silverbeet.
- Plant garlic and shallots.

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Rich pickings

Hello everyone

Breaking news...

Builders, electricians and plumbers beware – you are being targeted by thieves, even more so if you are building in a rural area.

I have had a number of reported burglaries of rural building sites. The property stolen to date includes various carpentry tools, two full buckets of concrete block sealer and, wait for it, nine aluminium windows – yes, that's right nine windows. They were even tacked in place.

So my advice to you trades-people is take all your tools home with you at night if you can. What cannot be removed needs to be very well engraved – make these markings as visible as possible. Ensure they are locked away in a shed and if possible place the shed somewhere visible from the road so that if someone is in there during the night, there is a chance they will be spotted. Place a locked secure gate at the entrance to the site.

However, the best form of security is going to see the neighbours, if there are any. Let them know who you are and give them contact numbers for both you and the client for whom you are working. Get your client to go and visit them also.

I have also had a number of locals worried about activity taking place during the night at Corbett Park. These concerned people have found drug utensils there on a number of occasions. If you are aware of this or have some concerns of your own, please contact me at the Okato Police Station on 752 4111.

I guess by the time you read this the Hurricanes will have been crowned Super 14 champs, so well done guys.

Take care out there.

Rich



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Volkswagons Swarm at Oakura

The Taranaki VW Club recently held their annual meeting at the Oakura Boardriders Club. Many of the members are Oakura residents, and the assembly of combi vans, trucks and bugs was quite a sight to see.



The VDubbers outside the Boardriders.

The annual meeting began at Ngamotu Beach with a mystery tour treasure hunt which brought the members through New Plymouth and back to Oakura. It was a family event, with many children playing at the nearby skatepark while the parents organised a sausage sizzle upstairs at the Boardriders.

A few of the highlights were a 1960 black VW single cab owned by Paul and Vanessa Vivian and a beautiful blue and white 1967 VW combi van owned by locals Melissa and Greg Newton. Greg was recently awarded the True Spirit of VW Award at the VW Nationals this Easter in Cambridge.

Other highlights of the event were a 1968 red VW bug with a charming wooden roof rack owned by Oakura residents Bryan and Raechel Goodhue, as well as Simon and

Suki Bishop's 1973 VW combi van. Jonathan Whitehead also brought his wife Linda's light blue 2003 VW Cabriolet, showing that the Club is open to new VWs as well as vintage.

Bryan Goodhue was elected as the President of the Club during the annual meeting.

For more information on the Taranaki VW Club, phone Richard Old on 751 1391.

Jennifer Gros



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Okurukuru welcomes Bryce Wastney and Lauren Thomson



Lauren and Bryce - Just the Two of Us

On a Friday evening not so long ago Okurukuru played host to a concert by Taranaki musician Bryce Wastney and Auckland's Lauren Thomson called *Just the Two of Us*. I went along for an evening of entertainment.

The evening coincided with Mother's Day and Lauren sang and played acoustic guitar to a very moving song she had composed about her mother. Lauren sings like an angel with a voice that reminds me of K.D. Lang. You could listen to Lauren all night, but then there is Bryce.

Bryce does sing but angel isn't how you would describe him – in fact I can't pigeon-hole him at all. Bryce says his inspiration comes from Neil Finn, Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, Ben Harper and Paul Ubana Jones, to name a few. His style is all his own and his guitar playing is prestigious. I don't mean to review his latest album but the more I listen to it the more I like it.

Bryce brought a wonderfully interactive and entertaining style to the evening that drew the audience in with delightful anecdotes and insights into his music. Bryce composes all his own music and lyrics as does Lauren and they were often moving and inspiring. I have a huge amount of respect for these two musicians who are working so hard to make a ripple in the big music pond.

Just the Two of Us offered more than unique Kiwi music, it also offered a unique and riveting picture show of Taranaki's landscape on a big screen. The footage was shot from Precision Helicopter's chopper, piloted by Matt Newton, and used a revolutionary camera system to eliminate the shakes.

Okurukuru was a great venue for the concert with the staff doing a marvellous job of providing drinks, food and the setting for a memorable evening.

Bryce plays next at the Brook Ale House with another Kiwi talent, Anna Coddington, on 27 June from 9pm.

By Kim Ferens

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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Proactive wellness in Oakura

In our modern society, the factors affecting our health are often misunderstood. There can be more focus on symptoms than true causes.

As people become more aware of being accountable for their own wellness, there is a growing interest in many of the Eastern healing modalities and other natural therapies.

Dating back over 7000 years, Eastern medicine encompasses aspects such as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), acupuncture, Qigong, Shiatsu, Ayurveda and many other forms.

TCM is based on Five Element and Yin/Yang theory to give a complete picture of our bodies, minds and the world around us. This understanding allows for causes of illness or discomfort to be recognised and addressed. The focus is often about helping the patient to achieve a calm and relaxed state in their lives, to be at "ease". The opposite of ease is "disease".

Through Qigong, the Chinese discovered that our bodies have an orderly network of energy pathways called "meridians", through which flows Qi (life-force). Each organ in the body has its own meridian channels to help regulate that organ through yin/yang balance. Acupuncturists place needles into specific points on a meridian to cause changes in the associated organ.

The Japanese developed their own style of healing known as Shiatsu (finger-pressure). Shiatsu is a powerful safe and effective natural therapy, supporting the patient's innate powers of recuperation. Firm yet non-invasive pressure is applied, using palms, thumbs, fingers, elbows, knees and feet. Stretches are also applied. The patient remains fully clothed throughout the treatment. The practitioner can perform a range of observations, using facial characteristics, voice tones, colour, posture and simple touch to diagnose health problems and imbalances in the patient.

Physical symptoms are often a reflection of a tight meridian trying to balance its corresponding organ. Conditions such as headaches, tight neck, shoulders, arms, sore backs, sciatica, sore knees and legs are often alleviated while actually treating the real cause and helping the related organ. A good example is tennis elbow. This often relates to the large-intestine meridian in the arm. Rather than a cortisone injection, a Shiatsu practitioner may diagnose the root cause and alleviate the elbow problem while also getting the bowel working properly.

Excellent results have been found in some diabetic patients, with improved circulation, lowered blood sugars and improved kidney function.

The practitioner is able to advise on dietary, consciousness and lifestyle changes to assist the patient to become more responsible for their total wellness.

Through a better understanding of their past and present, a patient may actually realise, for example, why they like sweet food, smoke cigarettes, have recurring aches and pains, etc.

Shiatsu can also help hasten recovery from sports injuries.

People of all ages can benefit from Shiatsu, including pregnant women with morning sickness. It also helps the baby.

My oldest patient is 90 years old, and has been having regular treatments for four years. He says that Shiatsu keeps him active and well.

For further information, contact Ross Henry (Diploma of Shiatsu and Qigong Master/teacher) at Ziji Day Spa in Oakura. Phone 752 1374 or 027 278 4553.



Ross doing a Shiatsu session.

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Oakura Pony Club News

On 14 May we held our AGM. Linda Knudsen (Chairperson), Libby Hinton (Treasurer) and Diane Alder (Secretary) are staying on for another year. Special thanks to Christine McLean, who has been Coordinator for the past few years – she has stood down and Claire Brignall has taken on the role.

On 18 May we had our end-of-season celebratory dinner and prize-giving. Turn-out Cups were awarded to Eva Reid (Junior), Jordan Giltrap (Intermediate) and Catherine West (Senior). The Attendance Ribbon was awarded to Georgia Ferris. The Cooks Cup went to Jess Knudsen for special achievements outside of Taranaki Pony Club. She was reserve preliminary pony champ at Tielcey Park, won preliminary champion at the Dressage Taranaki winter series, was 1st in freestyle dressage at the Taupo Dressage Championships, and was selected for the North Taranaki team in the Show Hunter Champs in Fielding and came 3rd in the Teams Training in Masterton.

The Wickham Challenge Cup, awarded for improved horsemanship and achievement, was won by Jordan Giltrap, who won every one-day event (ODE) in the 10-and-under division in her first eventing season. She also represented North Taranaki in the North Island Show Hunter Champs in Fielding and represented Oakura in the Zone Games in Foxton. The Kaitake Challenge Cup for overall excellence in horsemanship was awarded to Anna Hinton, who won the 13-and-under ODE series. Anna also qualified as reserve for the NZ Champs team in Nelson and the North Island Showjumping Champs in Cambridge, where she picked up the most stylish junior rider award. Anna was also a member of the North Taranaki winning team at Timberlands and captain of the Oakura team at the Zone Games in Foxton.

The Quinns Cup for dedication to a goal was awarded to Andrea Brewster, who started the season on her first hack with the goal of getting to the NZ Pony Club Champs, which she did through determination and hard work. She also went to the North Island Showjumping Champs in Cambridge.

The Ward Trophy for general helpfulness and best Pony Club attitude was awarded to Kevin Bolstad, a parent who has helped Oakura Pony Club in many ways this year. The Dickey Cup for excellence in pony showjumping goes again to the outstanding Matthew Dickey, who has continued to excel all season, including winning the Pony of the Year and Show Hunter Pony of the Year competitions.



Bronte, Jess, Georgia and Hayley bedecked with ribbons at the Oakura Pony Club gymkhana at Bolstads Farm. PHOTO BY DIANE ALDER

The NP Vets Trophy for most enthusiastic rider was awarded to Georgia Ferris, who showed outstanding enthusiasm to her riding and competition and who has steadily improved all season. Only 11 years old, Georgia was selected for the junior team for the Showjumping Champs in Cambridge and competed at Teams Training in Masterton. The NP Vets Trophy for most improved junior rider goes to Paige Mackay, who started the season on a

lead rein but is now riding independently. The NP Vets Trophy for most improved intermediate rider goes to both Nina McLean and Lyndall Nokes, who are both riding more confidently and who both attended the Zone Games in Foxton. The Tack Shack's Trophy for most improved senior rider was awarded to Kelsi Bolstad, who started the season on her first hack and has made great progress.

The Oakura Challenge Rosebowl was awarded to Zoe Laing, who had placings in showjumping and working hunter at Horse of the Year in

Hastings, finished the current eventing season with no cross-country faults and was a member of the winning team at Timberlands. She was also voted most stylish intermediate rider at the Cambridge Showjumping Champs and has just passed C+ certificate to a high standard. The Taranaki Safety Award for helpfulness was awarded to Caro Beekman, who has provided much help to the Club this season.

Finally, the Horse's Backside Trophy was awarded to our Club President, Linda Knudsen, who, dressed only in shorts and jandals with no helmet, jumped an entire course on Freddy (Anna Hinton's pony) at the Pony Club – not a great role model, but well worth the laugh!

Oakura Tennis Club

Congratulations to the Oakura Tennis Club! The Kay-Jay Shield is currently hanging proudly inside the Club after being presented to the Midweek Ladies Section One team. This is the first time in the competition's 31 years that the Club has won this award. The team consists of Sue Oldfield, Louise Brankin, Deryn Northcott, Leah Fletcher and Becky Bruckner.

Many thanks to the following ladies who filled in throughout the season and helped attain this award: Karen Stevens, Fiona Turner, Jill Barron, Shae Martin and Vincenza Clarke.

Well done ladies, see you on court.

TOM Tidbit

Congratulations to Hannah Sarten on retaining her world BMX title in China at the end of May.

GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

If you weren't at the Club for the party night with the band The Slacks, apparently you missed a good night. I wasn't so...

This last month saw the Taranaki Ripcurl Gromsearch for under-16 surfers, with a few local Taranaki surfers competing. Mark Parthemore came 2nd in the Under-16s and Connor Anderson made the quarter finals. The event was held at Back Beach with good small surf for the event.

The Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Team competed at the NZ Scholastics surfing contest over the second week of the school holidays in the Opunake area. The event was hosted by the Opunake Boardriders and run by Surfing NZ. A big thanks to "Taranaki Hardcore" and "Screen Art" who sponsored the team.

A big contingent of local Oakura surfers were in the team with some gaining good experience in this arena, which featured teams from all over New Zealand. The following is a comment from the Surfing NZ Blog:

"The Opunake Boardriders, the team and local kaumatua put on a great powhiri at Opunake High School. All the teams were decked out in their team uniforms and it was great to see so many surf companies get behind the future of New Zealand surfing. The famous Coach McKeen was present as the Taranaki Scholastic Sports rep talking up the chances of the Taras team. We will have to see how his pre event pep talk

goes or if he should stick to the b-ball courts. Either way it was great to see notable sports people present."

The Dump was the venue and there was some good surf at the start of the event, with local standouts in the opening rounds – Tyler Anderson and Mike Mallalieu in the Under-18s, Mark Parthemore and Connor Anderson in the Under-16s, and Lucy Brankin in the Under-18s, to name a few.

Unfortunately the weather and the surf deteriorated late in the week and a reluctance to change the venue saw the event completed in marginal conditions. Tyler, Mike and Mark all came up short in the semi-finals of their divisions. Lucy Brankin went on to come 4th in the Under-18s, which is a great achievement seeing as it is a few divisions above where she needed to be surfing. New Plymouth's Sean Parker also ended with a great result, coming in 3rd in the Under-18s. The team finished the event in 6th place, with Waikato taking top honours.

Paige Hareb is off again after just completing a Pro Junior at Trigg Beach in Perth where she made the quarter finals. As we go to press she has just headed for France as part of the NZ Junior team to compete at the Junior World Championships – we'll have news from this event in the next issue.

The Taranaki Surfers Ball will be held on 18 October at the Westend Bowling Club at 7pm. Cornerstone Roots are playing and it should be a great evening – tickets will be available soon.



The Taranaki Secondary School team.

New Plymouth Old Boys

The days may be getting shorter and the waters definitely colder, but it hasn't stopped New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Lifesaving Club. Winter training has started and you will find our athletes brave and hardy as they challenge the cold, throw themselves into training and get a head start on the summer and the start of the surf lifesaving season. Fortunately we are a keen bunch and of course it helps to be just a little bit crazy.

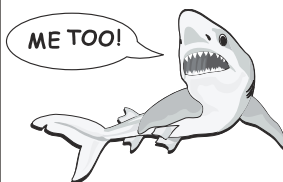
But crazy or not – dedication and commitment along with sheer determination have a way of paying dividends and we are extremely proud of the efforts and accomplishments of all our athletes. We are thrilled to advise that two of our Cub members, Ayla Dunlop Barrett and Ben Willis, have been selected for the New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Team to compete in the World Champs in Germany this year and the Captain of that team is in fact our very own new NPOB Coach – Glenn Anderson. Congratulations also to Kane Radford who has been selected for the NZ Under-18 Swim Team and is off to the World Youth Champs. She has also been selected along with Dylan Dunlop Barrett for the NZ Open Swim Team to compete in the Oceania Championship in Christchurch next month. Dylan is also in the NZ Under-17 Trans-Tasman Swim Team to compete in three tests against Australia in July. These athletes have worked incredibly hard to get this far and we wish them all the very best – they represent our Club and though they will be competing away from home our support goes with them.

Meanwhile back here in Oakura the work continues and our first priority will always be the safety of people on the beach. It's a long beach to patrol and a serious task – nothing could be more important than making sure that while enjoying the sun, sand and sea, you are safe. With our friends across the road at the Boardriders Club, we will continue to do this – but we would always welcome your involvement and assistance.

If you would like to join our team as a Support Person to the duty Patrol, we would love to talk to you. Full training would be provided and though essential work, the rewards are awesome and we guarantee loads of fun – spending time in the sun, enjoying the company of your team and keeping beach goes safe – could there be a better way to spend the summer? Send us an email (npobsurfclub@xtra.co.nz) if you are interested – Oakura Beach is an absolutely beautiful one and it belongs to us all.

Nicky Bryan

On behalf of the NPOB Executive



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The Carriage promises honest dining

New owners of the revamped Carriage Restaurant, Chef Shaun Tarr and partner and Front-of-House Hayley Thorpe, have given *TOM* readers an assurance that they will provide fine dining of a consistently high standard and reasonable prices (starters from \$8, mains from \$18) every night of the week.

Shaun sets his standards high and is cooking all the meals himself with top quality produce, some local, some organic, but all definitely fresh. In the next issue *TOM*, we'll review his a la carte evening menu so look out for what we think of Shaun's carpaccio of beef and pork belly or some other hand-crafted dinner item. In the meantime, pop in and see for yourself the shiny new interior and have coffee or lunch.

By Kim Ferens



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Chris Evans loves windsurfing! That's what brought him here all the way from the UK. Sadly, he doesn't get to do too much windsurfing since his wife Kate had a third child (Jay, Izzy and Sunny), but no regrets, honest! What he does get to do a lot of is good quality building work. He is an excellent builder with a fantastic "can do" attitude. You will find him very approachable and easy to deal with. He does an excellent job and won't muck you around, which is another reason why he isn't out there on his windsurfer. Chris can do any type of building work, from minor alterations through to new houses, and anything and everything in between. Call Chris on 027 462 8660 or 752 7251 to discuss any building projects.

Someone who has firsthand experience of Chris's workmanship is *TOM* editor Kim Ferens. Kim had the inspired idea of putting in a new kitchen (no more babies for her, she says adamantly!) so with no prior knowledge of his quality or expertise (he advertises in *TOM* so he has to be good, right?), she called on Chris. A bit of a gamble really, considering that she didn't even obtain a quote from Chris for the work to be carried out first! "His Indoors" was a bit worried about that, but gut instinct proved right and Chris did a superb job and even came in pretty much on the loose guesstimate. Nothing was too much trouble and now he is off doing jobs for Kim's friends. That surely says more than a thousand words of rhetoric could ever!



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Butlers Reef Wine Club

Tanya Farrant has come up with a new idea for locals to get together and enjoy good quality wines.

Every Tuesday from 6.30pm Butlers Reef Wine Club members can gather and enjoy the Butlers Reef feature wine of the month at a discounted price, nibbles prepared by Head Chef Jamie and a Wine Club special evening meal main to match the wine.

The Butlers Reef Wine Club offers a loyalty card with monthly prizes along with the discounted feature wine. House wines and the Wine Club special main are also at discounted rates.

Tanya says the idea of the Club is to get locals, and in particular the ladies in the village, together to enjoy the benefits of socialising while sampling some good quality wines that they may not have tried before.

Contact Butlers Reef for more details.




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NP Operatic Society musical “The Sound of Music” Cast Profile



Omata School student, 10-year-old Skye Kirkwood-Cameron along with other local children Bennett DeBeer and Anneke Brouwers are some of the talent on show in the upcoming musical *The Sound of Music* put on by The Operatic Society.

TOM profiles Skye for our readers ...

What part are you playing and singing in *The Sound of Music*?

Marta.

Why did you want to be in *The Sound of Music*?

Because I do lots of music with my singing teacher, Harry Brown, and I like the music and songs to *The Sound of Music*. I nearly missed out on being in the show because I was too short but then I got a recall so I was very happy.

What do you enjoy about the show?

I enjoy being with the other kids and having fun together. We do lots of singing and I wear lots of different costumes.

How difficult is it?

We have to do about four practises a week but I am really looking forward to the show.



19-28 June

Director: Warren Bates | Musical Director: Shirley Murphy
For more info visit: www.npos.co.nz

The hills are alive!

Taranaki's hills will be alive in June 2008, with New Plymouth Operatic Society in association with Taranaki's Newstalk ZB and Classic Hits 90fm announcing the production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein all-time favourite, *The Sound of Music*. To be staged at the TSB Showplace in June 2008.

Based on the real life story of Maria von Trapp, this musical adaptation of Howard Lindsay's 1949 book by Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II opened on Broadway in 1959. Audiences won't be able to stop themselves from humming along to one of the best-loved, heart warming stories of all time containing the show stopping hits "The Sound of Music", "Edelweiss", "My Favourite Things", "Climb Every Mountain", "Do-Re-Mi".

Thursday	19 June 2008	7.30pm
Friday	20 June 2008	7.30pm
Saturday	21 June 2008	2.00pm 7.30pm
Sunday	22 June 2008	4.00pm
Tuesday	24 June 2008	7.30pm
Wednesday	25 June 2008	7.30pm
Thursday	26 June 2008	7.30pm
Friday	27 June 2008	7.30pm
Saturday	28 June 2008	2.00pm 7.30pm









eXtraOrdinary rendition

Rupa & The April Fishes
(Cumbancha/Elite)

music review

by Don Juan

Melding so many disparate styles sounds more like a recipe for disaster than for success, but Dr Rupa Marya and her San Francisco-based band have managed to pull off this astonishing feat with considerable aplomb. Within this album, I hear hints of French chanson, acoustic jazz, Balkan gypsy music, flamenco, mariachi, tango and many other World music flavours, but most importantly, there is a whole lot of Rupa & The April Fishes in here.

Despite the awkward title and the potential hotchpotch of styles, Rupa & The April Fishes' debut recording is a surprisingly coherent album. With Rupa upfront, playing guitar and glockenspiel and singing charmingly in French, Spanish, English, Romani and Hindi, The April Fishes swim around her, stirring subtle acoustic currents. Ed Baskerville (cello), Marcus Cohen (trumpet), Adrian Jost on two accordion variants (bayan and bandoneon), Eric Perney on upright bass and drummer Aaron Kierbel are The April Fishes – a fine, tasteful and colourful band, who collectively arrange Rupa's songs. Global fusion music rarely sounds this poised and so utterly free from self-indulgent waffling. From tipsy sea shanties through to queasy ditties that Kurt Weill would have loved, *eXtraOrdinary rendition* is a beguiling mixture. Heck, even the cover art is nothing less than charming!

While there may be more exciting albums than *eXtraOrdinary rendition* released this year, not many of them will be more compelling. However, unless something truly wonderful occurs, Rupa & The April Fishes are highly unlikely to become superstars, but their album is one to savour. Remember the name.

Review by Graham Donlon

(As well as writing music reviews for TOM, Graham also broadcasts on *The Most*, which can now be heard on www.mostfm.com or on 107.6 FM. His show, "Music Without Frontiers" can be heard every Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm and features the best jazz, blues and World music new releases plus a wide range of historical gems and curios/oddities.)

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Long before Dorothy dropped in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One, born with emerald-green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. How these two unlikely friends end up as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch makes for the most spellbinding new musical in years.

WICKED, the untold story of the Witches of Oz, features music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz ('Godspell', 'Pippin', Academy Award® winner for 'Poohstoes' and 'The Prince of Egypt') and book by Winnie Holzman ('My So Called Life', 'Once and Again' and 'Thirty something'), and is based on the best selling novel by Gregory Maguire. With musical staging by Tony Award® winner Wayne Cilento (Alca 'The Who's Tommy', 'How to Succeed...'), WICKED is directed by 2003 and 2004 Tony Award® winner Joe Mantello ('Assassins', 'Take Me Out', 'Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune').

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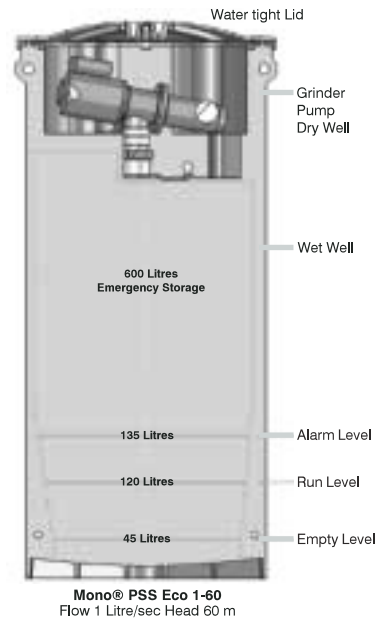
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oakura school news

On 15 May students from Oakura School (Years 1 to 3) visited the Govett Brewster Art Gallery. They viewed Bill Culbert's exhibition entitled *Groundworks*, which explored the manipulation of light and shadows, both natural and electrical in form.

The students were able to create their own pieces of art while learning about light and shadows.



Oakura School students
at the Govett Brewster
Art Gallery.



Interschool Sports

The Year 5 and 6 classes had their first interschool sports against Moturoa School combined with Te Kura School. We had one netball team, one soccer team and one rugby team play.

We won the netball and the score was 45-4. The soccer score was 6-0 to Oakura and the rugby score was 79-0 to Te Kura/Moturoa. It was a tough battle for all the teams.

Our upcoming games are against Omata on 17 June. Then on the 25th we play Marfell at Oakura, and finally we play Coastal on 1 July. Hopefully we will have a few teams in some finals and lots of supporters to come and cheer for us on the side lines. See you there.

By Eva and Paloma

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kaitake kindergarten

This term we are focusing on our recycling practices and we have started by some exploration of the worms from our wormery. Over the term we will be implementing other recycling strategies to encourage the children's awareness and their understanding of the need to recycle. With the children and any interested parents, we endeavour to have an environmentally friendly Kindergarten.

There has been an emerging interest among the Alpiners Group – the children were inspired to make rockets from some tubes that were donated. We had some very interesting rocket-making days and the rockets are now hung on the Kindergarten wall.

A small group of Beachies have been building race-tracks with the blocks, creating jumps and exciting corners to race their cars on. By putting paint on a large sheet of cardboard and building cardboard humps they were able to race the cars through the paint to make a race track. This encouraged them to be creative and have fun with different art media. This play has been enhanced with the new cars and trucks that have been purchased by the Kindy. We were lucky to have a visit from local Taranaki Car Club members Brent Landers and Kris White, who showed the children what racing was all about, including safety flags, racing suits, helmets, the roll cage in the car and different types of tyres. The children enjoyed the opportunity to sit in a Targa Rally car.

Look out for future Scott Dixons and NASA astronauts!



Jack Husband in the drivers seat.



Brent Landers racing car.



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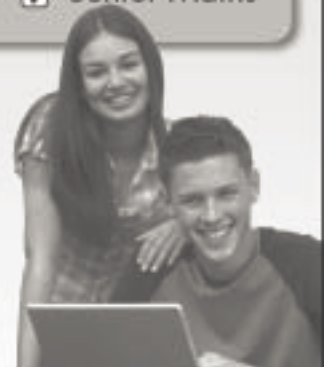
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What's on:

June

24th Year 6 gymnastics at Coastal Taranaki School

27th Open morning: "Going Bush"

July

1st Parent interviews

4th Music Assembly (all welcome!)
Term 2 ends at 3pm

Going Bush

While our "Going Bush" rich topic is drawing to a close, we will still be going bush occasionally to monitor our efforts to sustain and improve our native bush area at school. We are fortunate to have a brilliant outdoor classroom space and walkway through our bush and these really have been well utilised these last few weeks. Students have noticed the effect of the drought, pests and people. They have recognised the need to preserve and enhance this area for future generations to enjoy.

It has been wonderful to hear stories from past pupils who now have their own children attending the school. How, during their time at Omata, they helped plant special trees and develop the grounds and bush. The children have really been able to put into perspective how what they are able to do today will impact on the future. This all goes towards developing an

understanding of sustainability and builds an awareness of the need to conserve these wonderful areas.

This piece of writing is by **Lachie Barrett (age 7)**, explaining how to make a sustainable ponga retaining wall:

"First locate the spot on the map. Then position the pongas in the ground. After that get the leaf litter off the track and put it inside the ponga wall. When you've done that, dig a big hole in the soil and plant the seedlings correctly. Then water them carefully. Keep checking to see if the seedlings are healthy."

Regards

Karen



Joe Waghstaff down the bush.



The bush classroom.



Kate Logan and Maisie Jones.



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Pukeiti Gardens

Pukeiti Gardens is a wonderful destination for Oakura and Okato residents who want a nice outing for the day. Even with cooler weather approaching, the gardens are very beautiful and have new varieties of plants blooming every day. Lunch at the Gatehouse Café is also lovely this time of year, with a beautiful winter menu that includes a delicious pumpkin soup. The Café overlooks the gardens and the menu includes morning and afternoon teas and light lunches.

The 360 hectare gardens are located between Mount Egmont and our scenic west coast, just a short drive from Oakura or Okato. The walks are quite easy and mostly grassed. You can, however, veer off the main track for a slightly more difficult walk to see the over-800-year-old rata tree. It is well worth the time.

Pukeiti is also beginning an Explorer programme in June for school children who are eligible to join free of charge. They will enjoy free entry to Pukeiti Gardens as well as a number of activities, while learning to be active and learn about the environment.

With new Chief Executive Josh Cleaver at the helm, Pukeiti is planning to host more musical events and guest speakers on the site. June and July boast a calendar of events such as musical guests Pink Champagne and a performance by Dean Haitani. Guest speakers will include the Hon Steve Maharey, MP for Palmerston North and former Cabinet Minister; as well as Bette Flagler, freelance writer. All events will have a free bus provided by Tranzit Coachlines. Tickets can be purchased from Pukeiti or Musicworks.

Pukeiti is open every day of the year except Christmas Day, and is a popular destination for tourists, visitors and locals, with free admittance for school children. Adult admission is only \$12. For more information on Pukeiti Gardens, visit pukeiti.org.nz

Jennifer Gros

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clubs & groups calendar

Hurford- Omata- Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00 p.m. New members welcome. Contact Una Shotter, phone 751 0971.

Farmers Market Taranaki

Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am - noon. Currie St, New Plymouth.

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. Next meeting 10 April, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. 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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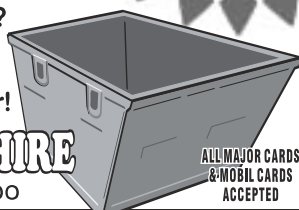
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