

A special birthday for a special boy



A child's first birthday is a huge milestone and for many parents it is the point where their child begins walking, talking, sleeping through the night and if you are lucky, toilet trained. For the Florence family of Oakura their son Drew's first birthday was much more than that – it was a celebration of life itself, for their son is a heart baby and so a party was held to celebrate his recovery.

Guests were treated to a bouncy train, bubble machine, chocolate fountain and sausages on the barbeque. Sixty or so friends and family gathered at the Florence home to celebrate Drew's life and to give the family a chance to thank everyone for all their love and support. Drew has had two heart operations over the last year, one at 13 days old and the other at eight weeks.

Luke and Claire wanted to give something back to the Heart Foundation for all their support and decided that rather than give presents they would ask people to make a donation. They raised \$500.00 which was just fantastic!

It was a very emotional day for all says Claire but one that they will never forget and it reassured them about how many special and caring friends they have, and how lucky they are.

editorial FROM THE TOM ZONE

TOM has got a new baby! TOM Fitzroy was welcomed into the TOM family in April much to Kim's and my delight.



Three weeks ago TOM Fitzroy was introduced to the community of Fitzroy and surrounds, and has been well received. It is a clone of its counterparts Oakura and Okato except in volume. Just on 4500 copies have been popped into letterboxes in the area. Yet again another community has an opportunity to Take One Moment and enjoy reading about all the great things that are going on in their area.

Beginning this month we are making copies of Oakura and Okato TOM available on the counter of the Oakura Four Square at a cost of \$2. If you have a letterbox in the distribution area you will still receive your TOM free, however there has been an increasing demand for TOM from outside the area. We spend a lot of time working on our budgets to get the best deal for everyone. Increasing the number of copies printed results in increased costs. So... to keep our costs down and make TOM available to more people we are applying this small fee. We think then everyone will be a winner.

Enjoy your June issue and look out for TOM Fitzroy, available online at www.thetom.co.nz

Tracey

PS For those readers who receive both Oakura and Okato TOM I apologise for the repeat of the editorial. TL

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TOM OAKURA

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

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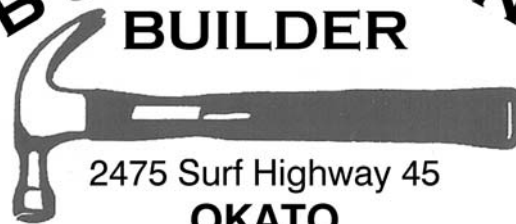
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Hi folks!

The last few weeks have been quite sobering with the events that have happened around the country. News of job losses in a variety of sectors are appearing regularly and communities are coming under strain as the effects of the recession start to bite. The truth is that the recession doesn't look as if it will be as bad as originally thought for New Zealand. That is little comfort, however, to those who are directly affected by pressures on their work situation, their financial repayments and in their private lives.

All of this makes me grateful to live in Taranaki. This region is a very strong community of people who know each other and look out for each other's best interests. We see that clearly in towns such as Oakura, where locals work for the benefit of the wider community and are ready to lend a hand to their neighbours and friends. It's that attitude that will see this region come through the recession in good shape.

To a certain extent Taranaki is insulated from the recession's worst knocks. Overall our local economy is doing better than the national average, and we have strong industries that can carry us through uncertain times. While we are insulated, we are not immune and we need to look out for those who are struggling.

Our young people in particular are feeling considerable pressure, as the local unemployment figures show a growing number of young people out of work and out of training institutions. It's important that we work together to support our young people and anyone else who needs some help and encouragement. We want to improve and grow as a community, and help build a brighter future for the entire district.

During Youth Week at the end of last month, NPDC focused on relationships between young people and the older people in their lives, be they parents, guardians or mentors. A nationwide survey last year of secondary school students revealed that 45 per cent of young people say they don't get enough time with their parents. Whether you are young or older, think about what you are doing to strengthen your relationship with the people in your life.

Meanwhile, don't forget that if you have an idea or a project that you think the Council can help you with, give me a call on 759 6060 and I'll see what we can do!

Peter Tennent, Mayor

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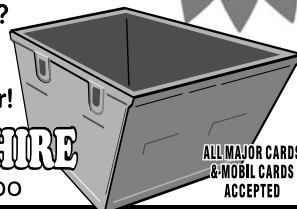
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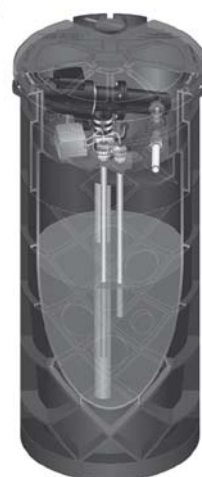
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kaitake community board

By the time you are reading this the hearings on the Long Term Community Plan will have been held, and the deliberations will have started on whether to make any further changes to the Plan before it is signed off and becomes the blueprint for the direction of the community for the next three years. While the plan is a ten-year strategy setting out where the community wants to go, it must be reviewed every three years. The Council's budget relates directly to the Plan.

Meetings and workshops continue unabated. The recent Campground and the Rural Subdivision reviews have taken up a large chunk of time. The submission discussions have been most interesting. There is a strong body of opinion that "one hat does not fit all" when it comes to developing operating rules for the campgrounds. What is very important in one locality may not be viewed as such in another. However one theme running through a large number of submissions is that the community is keen to retain the concept of a Kiwi holiday. The notion that a tent site and basic amenities are the main ingredients for such a holiday should be remembered.

With regards to the rural subdivision submissions, what I found interesting is that a far different cohort of submitters was making its presence felt. Where once upon a time things rural were very much the domain of farmers and their organisations like Federated Farmers, this time many submissions came from that diverse group loosely termed "lifestylers". The nature of the rural countryside is changing quite dramatically. Terms such as "reverse sensitivity", "rural character", and "landscape values", never mentioned even ten years ago, are very much to the fore. Some of the country roads in our patch have no (or very few) farmers still operating farm units there so what does rural mean in those circumstances? There is increased traffic on rural roads too, with major maintenance issues for council as a result. Lifestylers generally want smaller blocks than they currently have, while farmers, in the main, don't want to see good, productive land cut up further (as long as they can still subdivide theirs!). There will be much more debate and discussion on the rural issue during the rest of this year and beyond. For me, I await with interest what the official definitions of "rural character" and "significant landscape value" turn out to be.

Locally there has been a diverse set of issues to deal with. The sewerage project proceeds unabated, and those joining the scheme need to consider applying for the consent from Council to lay pipes from their boundary to the connection point and get the work underway.

There is growing tension between surfers about the number of vehicles accessing the Kumara Patch down the track at the end of Kaihihi Road and along the beach. There are those that are adamant all vehicle access should be stopped and there are those that are just as adamant that vehicle access should continue. There is a statement elsewhere in this issue from the Department of Conservation on this matter. Do you have an opinion on this?

Oakura School students will soon be involved in a further planting of trees on the Kaitake Ranges and will also help with more foreshore planting of marram grass to help stabilise the dune areas to the west of the campground.

A request has been made to Council to replace the Oakura Hall stage curtains, and we are hopeful we will receive a positive response. The old curtains have been there for the past fifty years or so. The Hall Committee is undertaking the painting of the supper room to complement the new interior repaint of the main hall area. Ash Heydon, of Heydon Priest

Garage, has very generously offered to contribute the paint. The Hall Committee intends to have a painting working bee on Sunday 7 June at 10.30am to get the job done. If you can lend a hand then bring a roller or a good paintbrush and come along.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 16 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.

Update from the Big Red Truck

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

Recently we responded to a motor vehicle accident at the Oakura Bridge. Whilst doing road patrol, the Fire Brigade was warning drivers to take care as the road was slippery with ice. Some people responded that they were okay because they were in a 4WD vehicle. If a 4WD vehicle goes into a slide, it is no easier to control than a 2WD vehicle. Please be cautious no matter what vehicle you are driving. On this particular day fire brigades throughout Taranaki responded to nine different motor vehicle accidents.

The recent tornado in South Taranaki has prompted me to remind you that should we find ourselves in a Civil Defence emergency, the meeting place for Civil Defence is at the Oakura Hall. Please make sure you have an emergency escape plan and that all members of your family are aware of it.

Congratulations to Jonathon Whitehead. He has just completed a seven day course to become a firefighter. Well done Jonathon. All the best and stay safe

Mel Breeze. (Sec)



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Oakura Library

New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards Festival Week was a busy one here at the library. Kyle Mewburn, author of picture book *Duck's Stuck*, spoke to a group of Oakura School students. The eager audience listened intently as Kyle spoke about his school years and how he became an author. He's written several other delightful picture books, *Kiss Kiss Yuck Yuck* and *Ant's Pants* to name a couple.



Kyle Mewburn, author of Duck's Stuck with some of the children from R1-5, Oakura Primary.

Kaitake Kindergarten and Sophia Preschool were treated to an animated storytime and art activity also based around *Duck's Stuck*. There are some amazing little artists to look out for in the future! The weather cooperated somewhat for the children's excursion.

For those of you who voted for the New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards finalists or are simply interested in the results, they will be on display at the library. It's very exciting to see



Sophia Preschool children at Oakura Library during NZ Post week. Left to right, children facing - Miah Rae Gina Fraser Charlotte Marshall Samuel Marshall.

so many quality New Zealand books being published for children.

Just a reminder about some of the other services offered at the library:

Large Print Collection: This collection is for people who enjoy reading but have trouble with small print. We have large print in non-fiction and fiction (e.g. romance, mystery and western genres). We have a completely fresh collection every two months.

Audio Book Collection: These are great to listen to during long car journeys, while doing chores or while in bed. They are free of charge and this collection changes weekly.

Housebound Service: This is a free service available to people who love to read but aren't able to get to the library. A volunteer will select books based on the patron's tastes and deliver them on a fortnightly or monthly basis anywhere in the Oakura area. Our records ensure that the same book is not selected a second time.

Free Internet Access: This service is available to library patrons and non-patrons as well. Broadband, Skype, a range of Microsoft packages and printing are available. We also have a photocopier and fax machine at a minimal charge.

Karen

Oakura Ladies Book Club

By Jennifer Gros

The Oakura Ladies Book Club just recently finished *Love Walked In* by Marisa de los Santos. What a beautiful book! It was certainly different than any of us expected. The love that walked into Cornelia's life was not only a romantic type of love (Carey Grant style) but also the love of a small child. Many forms of love are explored in this book, and it is written in a beautiful, poetic and witty way. Currently the book club is reading *Mr. Pip*, an award-winning novel by New Zealand author Lloyd Jones. Set in the 1990's, the book takes place in Bougainville, an island off of the coast of Papua New Guinea. Told from the perspective of a young girl living there, the book explores what it means to create the life that you want to live. The book parallels the Dickens' classic, *Great Expectations*. In the story Mr Pip is a schoolteacher in Bougainville who begins to read *Great Expectations* to the children during the harsh times of the 1990 blockade. Extra copies are now available at the Oakura Library if you would like to join us in a great read!

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Preparing New Zealand for the road to recovery

Although New Zealand has clearly not escaped the global downturn, fortunately the impact here has been far less severe than we have seen in parts of the United States and Europe due largely to the stability of our banking and financial systems. Since the election it has become clear that the international economic downturn will be deeper and longer than commentators expected.

This Government came into office with a plan to lift New Zealand's economic performance after a decade of under performance and missed opportunities. The deepening global recession has reinforced the need for us to implement that plan with even more urgency and focus.

It goes without saying that the Budget was prepared against a backdrop of global and domestic economic conditions considered unthinkable – even by the most pessimistic forecasters – just one year ago. Just about every unlikely event has occurred and worst case scenario has become a reality as evidenced by the United States decision to subsidise their export dairy products and the EU also returning to export subsidies.

Despite the tide of global and domestic bad news of recent months, the Government remains optimistic about New Zealand's prospects. One of the reasons is the resilience it is seeing from New Zealanders in businesses and talking to ordinary Kiwis across the country.

The Government is not saying that the rest of 2009 and 2010 will be easy. Conditions will remain difficult. But the vast majority of New Zealanders, who have kept their jobs, have actually got a bit more cash in their pockets than they did six months ago.

They've seen the tax cuts introduced by the previous government last October; another round of tax cuts by this Government on April 1; and many people with a mortgage have already benefited from the sharp fall in interest rates triggered by the Reserve Bank's unprecedented monetary policy easing.

This month's Budget has set out the National-led Government's plan for the future of New Zealand's economy and will put in place steps to take the sharp edges off this recession.

We have several goals in our sights:

- 1 We'll get our debt under control and turning down
- 2 We'll help create new jobs to replace those being lost in the current market
- 3 We'll improve New Zealand's international competitiveness
- 4 We'll create an environment where businesses thrive and where people want to live and work
- 5 We'll raise New Zealanders' living standards
- 6 And we'll create a government sector that provides better services and delivers better value for taxpayers.

The Prime Minister has made clear this Government's aspirations for an economy that values enterprise, rewards people for effort and encourages them to get ahead under their own steam.

In the current environment, that will be challenging – there is a huge degree of uncertainty about how long the recession might continue. But we're up for the challenge.

We have a unique opportunity to improve New Zealand's

standard of living and economic performance relative to other countries.

The National-led Government intends to take that opportunity.

The Budget this month will provide the next steps in that plan and set out a credible road to recovery that New Zealand needs and deserves.

Jonathan Young

Jonathan Young



MP for
New Plymouth



National

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12 lamb loin chops
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Sauce

2 onions, chopped fine
1 Tbs rosemary
40g butter
40g plain flour
200ml milk, warmed 200ml vegetable stock
2 Tbs cream
Salt and ground pepper

Place the lamb chops on a shallow roasting tray and surround with the chopped onion. Season and bake on the top shelf of the oven at 180C for 30 minutes.

Begin the sauce. Melt the butter in a saucepan and sweat the onions over low heat for 5 minutes. Add the rosemary and sweat until the onions are soft and have no colour. Stir in the flour with a wooden spoon until smooth. Gradually add the warmed milk and stock, bit-by-bit, stirring vigorously.

Season with salt and pepper and let simmer for 2 minutes while stirring.

Remove from the heat. If desired liquidise to make a smooth sauce or leave and serve chunky.

Serve the lamb chops with the sauce on the side in a jug. Accompanying with minted peas and mashed potatoes makes for a great meal. Enjoy!

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Mt. Taranaki puts on spectacular display

By Jennifer Gros

Once the rain and cloud cover cleared, I think almost everyone in the village were amazed at the amount of snow covering Mt. Taranaki so early in May! What a beautiful sight! The entire village was buzzing, with a few of us dashing out with our cameras to take photos of the spectacular display. Snow had even dusted the tops of the ranges, which I personally did not see at all last year. As of this article, up to 80cm of snow is covering the slopes, and it is great to see so many people from the village enjoying the early snowfall. I have spoken with many who have already been up a few times skiing, snowboarding, sledging, and just plain old frolicking!



Mt. Taranaki from Koru Road.

Local, Sue Oldfield enjoyed going on the mountain with her children early in the season (week of May 20). "The snow was fantastic! It spread down through the fields to Stratford and covered the trees throughout the national park. When we got there it was snowing! The walk around to the ski field was covered in snow, enough to be able to ski or snow board back down to the car park. The children enjoyed making snowballs, as well as eating the snow and icicles on the path. Once on the slopes, we sledged and also skied. The snow was powdery and covered the slopes apart from a few tussocks. Snow boarders were enjoying doing tricks, as it wasn't too busy. The ski lodge is only open to members but there is a warm shelter as well for the public to rest in. The ski lodge has a kiosk for small food items and also sells tickets for the lifts."

Belinda Tran-Lawrence also went up on the same day. "It was pretty cold, but the kids had a lot of fun! It was snowing hard out! That was the best part – getting to experience it really snowing – it was beautiful! The snow was really soft and powdery and the kids would just sink down into it. It was on the road, on the roofs of houses, and in the paddocks in Stratford."

Lift passes for the Manganui ski field range from \$40 for adults and \$25 for under 17-year-olds. You can check out the conditions on the ski field by going to www.skitaranaki.co.nz.

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Greetings, all

With the New season just started as of June 1st all our points accumulated over the last year were tallied up for the 2008/09 season.

Our members had many winners of fine trophies with fine fish which have been caught this last season. Awards

trophies and new Club records will be the order of the day at our AGM and prize-giving.

Clear winners by country miles are in particular top Kayak Fisher Okato man Martin Rook and top Surfcaster Chris Whitaker. Both accumulating big points, and having had bumper seasons, their points reflect the dedication and enjoyment they get out of "a day out on the ocean".

Not many fish have been weighed in in the last month or so but Bruce Howson got a goody last month at Rapanui - off the beach - a bit over 4kg. Yakkers have also bagged a few Tarakihi and Snapper in the last month.

Our AGM is Sunday, 21st June from 2.30pm at Butlers. This is open to anyone interested in learning more about our club.

Tight lines

Debbie E



Bruce Howson had a decent catch at Rapanui.

Kaitake Netball 2009

This season the team is playing out in Inglewood in the Masters Competition. Results hot off the press have seen us win our first game 33-8. Each week Butlers Reef sponsors the "Player of the Day". Kelly McDonald took out the award this week with a great display of shooting accuracy in the circle. We asked her husband Bruce to choose this award, and even though we gave him a hard time about choosing his wife it was well deserved. Next week I will be taking my husband out.....

Anyway to the game, it was a great way to start some new combinations on the court. Only about four of us have played together before so it was great to see the new members ease in and enjoy the competitive brand of netball we like here at Kaitake. It was a game of intercepts and good defensive work all over the court. Our spacing across the midcourt was nice



Kaitake girls in action.

and clear, and all players were committed to chasing and firing the ball through the centre of the court.

Many thanks to Pauline Shannon who umpires for us each week. Pauline always makes the effort to officiate for the Kaitake girls and it is very much appreciated.

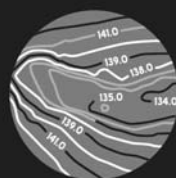
The 2009 team members and their positions are as follows:

Bob Fleming - *President*; Claire Florence - *Secretary*;
Jo Hill - *Treasurer*; Anna Cleland *GS*; Vanessa Danger *WA*;
Kelly Miller *GA*; Jo Hill *GK*; Casey Martin *WA*;
Erin Griffith *GD*; Renee Etherington *GS*;
Sonia Wuest-Harrop *C*; Bernadette Holdom *GK*;
Hayley Bennett *WD*; Sarah Ongley *WA*.

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Oakura Tennis - Soffe Cup Team

The TOM Team do try to get it right, however it is also important we model making mistakes too. Here is the second part of Graeme Mitchell's Soffe Cup round up that we left out last month. To read the first part again go to the website www.thetom.co.nz

The one silver lining of Saturday's match is that Hardie-Boys and Mitchell remain undefeated in doubles. However, cracks in this "dream team" combination are beginning to appear after comments from Hardie-Boys were leaked to the press. "I've carried him (Mitchell) for the whole season" said Hardie-Boys. "He's supposed to be our #1 player, but he keeps losing. He's a has-been with a pot gut and 4 chins" commented Hardie-Boys. "At least I've still got hair" retorted Mitchell.

It would be a sad day for Oakura tennis if this doubles combination was to split up. Mitchell is a former NZ u12 and u14 doubles champion. Likewise, Hardie-Boys won the NZ u14 doubles title as a youngster. Back then (1522) the sport was called Royal Tennis. Hardie-Boys teamed up with Henry VIII to clinch the title (their opponents were executed after they won the first set). Both Hardie-Boys and Mitchell gave up promising tennis careers at an early age to pursue other interests. Hardie-Boys (a qualified doctor) runs his own successful GP business in New Plymouth. Mitchell's tennis dreams were shattered when he was forced to work in a Bell Block factory to fund his wife's surfing lifestyle.

Dissent with the Oakura team management also appears to have surfaced after the loss to Rotokare. "He's never there" griped Hardie-Boys, referring to team manager Kevin Walden. "He hasn't attended a single away game, and he only shows up at home games once the matches are finished and the food is served". Walden later admitted that the only reason Hardie-Boys and Mitchell had been selected for the Oakura team was because of their wives "outstanding baking abilities".

Next year's Oakura lineup is uncertain. Steve Novak, the backbone of the team, is a "given" to start. Likewise the women's lineup is likely to remain unchanged. As for Mitchell, a commitment phobic, he is unable to confirm past the next 36 hour wind and swell forecast. "Unsure" was Hardie-Boys response to whether he would play next year. "But I think I'll give it a nudge . . ."

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Pony Club

A highlight of the Pony Club year is the One Day Event season, which runs from February to April. Five events are held in Taranaki. Following the final event, a team is chosen to represent the Taranaki Area Pony Club at the New Zealand Pony Club Association Horse Trials Team Championships.

The One Day Events are a combination of dressage, cross-country jumping and show jumping all held on the same day. The riders need to be highly organised to be in the right place at the right time with the correct gear, ready to ride each stage. There are different jump heights so that most pony club members compete at the level that suits the horse and rider combination. There are plenty of "thrills and spills" for the observers at these events, as horses are not always predictable.

Many Oakura Pony Club riders competed during the season:

Jordan Giltrap and Bronte Alder at 65 cm,

Lyndall Nokes, Kelsi Bolstad, Nina McLean, Jess Knudsen, Georgia Ferris and Tara Harvey at 80 cm

Andrea Brewster, Lauren Moorby and Anna Hinton at 105 cm.

Following the final trial at Hawera, Anna Hinton, riding Sexy B, was picked to be part of the six-member team to represent Taranaki. The Horse Trials Team Championships were held at Puhinui Reserve near Auckland Airport. The Taranaki team competed well in dressage on the first day of competition, and the combined score from the six riders gave the team first place for the dressage trophy. On the second day a variety of faults in jumping meant the team did not feature in the final overall placings.

The 2010 NZPCA Horse Trials will be held at Hawera next year. This is a great event for horse-loving spectators to have an opportunity to see the best young eventing riders from all over New Zealand compete at one venue.

By Libby Hinton



Jess Knudson on Run the Risk.



Anna Hinton on Sexy.

GETTING WET!



A bit of a quiet month for surfing in Taranaki with the early onset of winter and all the early snow and stormy weather. The Stratford mountain club has been enjoying some good early snow being the first field in NZ open with some good days already. I ventured up and battled the weekend crowds, had a few good runs with a strong SE making it a bit unpleasant but worth the effort, long may it continue. Taranaki must have some of the most cost effective skiing and boarding in NZ on its day.

Paige had her last contest a WQS in Portugal finishing with a quarter final finish and a bad case of the flu followed by a quick trip to Tahiti for a photo shoot but is back home for a short break, the next women's world tour comp is still unconfirmed in Brazil other wise the "Beachley Classic" in October in Sydney is the next on the agenda. Paige will be keeping her options open with qualifying series contests in between she is sitting 3rd in the world and 6th in the WQS so well placed at this time of year.

Locally the Anderson brothers had a good showing in the last Port Taranaki Winter series standings with Tyler taking first in the open and U18 divisions and Connor in 2nd in the U16 division, Sean Kettle in 1st and another local Seth Marshall 2nd in the U14's if my memory is correct. The Summer series is just completed but no overall results announced as yet.

The Boardriders Longboard comp was held late April with Brian Clarke once again taking honours, 2nd Chris Davies, 3rd Paul Lobb.

The Taranaki Surf and Snow contest run by the boardriders and Vertigo is scheduled for August so keep an eye out for dates advertised around the Village.

A reminder also the boardriders mid winter dinner will be held mid June at AhuAhu Villas. Please see a committee member for details. Paul Christophers, Paul Lobb, Mike Christiansen, Brent Anderson, Brian Clarke, Gary Bruckner, Chris Davies, Philli Butt, Mike Hareb, John Glucina or Bryan Goodhue.



Winter Series winner Tyler Anderson with runner-up Conan James.



Longboard Champ Brian Clarke receives his prize from Fiona Turner.



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Local Oakura craftsman plumber and drain layer, Tony Walker is the plumbing manager for Static and has been a plumber in the industry for a quite a few years. This means Tony has the qualifications and experience to sign off permits which are required for the sewer drainage work currently happening in Oakura.

Static's plumbing side of the business has been set up by Tony in the last six months and employs four plumbers. Tony is keen for these plumbers to become craftsman plumbers too and is committed to up-skilling his team.

Static's electrical side of the business is run by Brent Clement and has been running for four years and employs 12 registered electricians.

Static Electrical and Plumbing is owned by Tony and Jenny Watt and is based on the outskirts of Awanui Cemetery. They specialise in domestic and industrial electrical and plumbing services and are currently specialising in sewerage systems. The company boasts a very distinctive fleet of sign-written vans with their bolt of lightning. It is company policy that this fleet is kept clean and tidy along with all tools and personnel – there is no place for complacency with Static!

Tony Walker says Static prides themselves on service and as much as they are able they will deliver what and when they say. When they give a quote it is binding unlike an estimate – they will honour their word. Another point of difference he says is the whole company's communication skills. Each and every tradesman is required to relate well to customers and they get good feedback about this.

Another area Static is specialising in at the moment is specifically the Oakura sewerage project. Static will meet and discuss at any time, with property owners who require quotes and information on sewer connections. Tony has developed a step by step plan that will help ease each particular property and its needs through the process. You can contact Tony at home if you prefer, phone 7527702 or mobile 0275550473 or at Static on 7584143.

By Kim Ferens



Dean the plumber making the most of a cold winter's day to do inside jobs!

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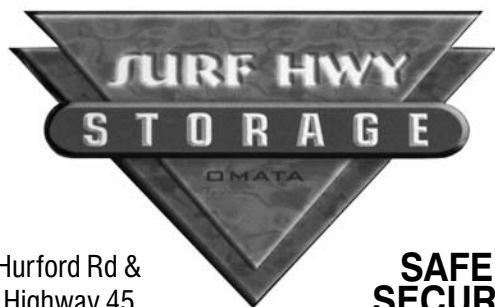
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In the village a year – Oakura Travel

Can you imagine Oakura without its own travel centre? I can't and it is wonderful having Leeana Hughes' smiley face around the village. Many businesses have come and gone in Oakura, but after one year it seems the travel centre is here for the duration.



Leeana in her new premises.

The big question is how do travel centres compete with the internet? Oakura Travel does so easily says Leeana, because it is about service, back-up and value for money. If you book your travel arrangements with someone like Leeana, she can add the "flavour" to your holiday that you won't get by trawling the internet. If something goes wrong you also have Leeana to fall back on, and she says she is contactable 24/7. In fact one of her clients rang from Singapore in need of help. By all means use the internet to do research says Leeana. It certainly can help you sort out what you might like or not like. It takes a huge amount of work to get your itinerary together on your own and if you take into account how much time this takes, you'll probably wish that someone else could do it for you. Therefore, booking through an agent like Leeana has many benefits, not least of which is cost, peace of mind and a hassle free holiday.

Oakura Travel recently moved locations to a lighter brighter and bigger building. It is now located right in the heart of Oakura, opposite Butlers. Leeana is enjoying the new premises and says there is more foot traffic than down on the corner. People are always popping their heads in to say hello, which she loves.

Leeana has worked in the travel industry for five years. She enjoys it and can't think of anything else she would rather be doing. Good organisational skills are what it takes, she says. Having a business based in the town you live in (Leeana has lived in the village for ten years) means you also have a nice lifestyle. You don't have to travel far to work and you get to know the locals. Also you can put a "back in 20 minutes" sign on the door and pop over the road to have lunch. Having worked here a year Leeana says she is surprised how busy the village is. There are always people about and things happening.

One final question for Leeana is why would I book my holiday at Oakura Travel? "I put time into my clients and listen to what their needs are, and I try and give them something in their holiday they may not even have thought of themselves. It is the personal touch that has people rebooking," says Leeana. "I will work after hours to suit my clients and I will provide the total package."

What more could you want, I say.

By Kim Ferens

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Year 7 and 8 students from rooms 10 and 11 had a fun-packed outdoor activity week in early May. The week was organised by Tran Lawrence's Taranaki Outdoor Adventures and involved all the intermediate students at Oakura School.



Canyoning

One of the activities was Fossil Creek Canyoning.

As part of the canyoning we did an abseil over a 20-metre waterfall. Some of the pupils were a bit worried or nervous at the start, but in the end everyone managed to take that final step backwards over the edge. After the waterfall we swam through some spine-chilling creeks and deep river pools. The only sounds we heard were from the birds, the river and chattering teeth!



Milly Gooch on her way down the waterfall during Fossil Creek Canyoning.

It was a most amazing experience doing this activity and we wish we could do it all over again. Thanks to the teachers that organised this awesome, fun week for us, and to Tran from Taranaki Outdoor Adventures who guided us through the activities.

By Jamie Scott.

Paritutu traverse

Another of the events was the Paritutu traverse. Climbing around Paritutu rock was a new experience for most students. Year 7 student Molly Cattell, described it as, "Very thrilling, but not for one afraid of heights!"

It took about half a day to climb around Paritutu, with many exciting, frightening and challenging stages. To begin with, we had to pull ourselves awkwardly up and over a rocky ledge. This really tested those of us who are afraid of heights. We slowly wound our way around the base of Paritutu, clambering over the rocky faces. A part of the climb everyone enjoyed was when Tran attached a rope across a cave filled with water, and we all swung across it like a zip line. We finished the traverse almost back where we had started.

We all found this a very challenging and exciting adventure, something that none of us had done before. Thank you very much to all the parents, teachers and the Taranaki Outdoor Adventures team for such a great week.

By Amy Barron

Dam dropping

Twenty-four Oakura year 7 and 8 students travelled to a dam just out of Normanby as part of our activity week. This day's activity was dam dropping. Only two students had ever done dam dropping before and all the others were very nervous. Taranaki Outdoor Adventures (TOA) spent weeks planning these events with the aid of teachers Jo Todd and Sandy Taylor.

When we arrived at the dam we were greeted with piles of wetsuits, lifejackets and helmets. Ten minutes later we were all decked out and tracking down the short path to the dam. After Tran from TOA threw us into the water we all began the fun part - going down the dam in kayaks and boogie-boards! Jessica Clark stunned us all with her daredevil stunts. Not many can dive off a dam backwards!

Overall most people really enjoyed the day and I'm sure that the majority of students are hoping they will get another chance to do it all again.

By Isla Dunn.



Amy Benton and Anna Costelloe kayaking down the dam.



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Mud run

Oakura School year 7 and 8 students went to the Meeting of the Waters for their Activity Week mud run. They were about to experience the very muddiest time of their lives. Some pupils were extremely excited while others were a little hesitant about getting muddy.



We started walking through the bush and then came to a knee-high river. Tran from Taranaki Outdoor Adventures taught us how to cross a river safely with a group. Shortly after that we came to a mud hole. We got down on our hands and knees and crawled under nikau palms, netting and a broken fence before we came to a massive mud pool. There we had a lot of fun throwing mud and leaves carelessly at students and teachers. Then carefully we walked across a bank to a huge mudslide and slid down at amazing speed. We came to a stop at a freezing cold river that we swam across to get back to the track. We desperately wanted to get back to our bus and return to school for hot Milo and a movie.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the mud run and are grateful to the teachers who organised such an amazing week for us.

By Anna Costelloe and Molly Oldfield.

Author's workshop

In May the Oakura School media team had the privilege of going to Puke Ariki for an author's workshop. Author Michelle Kelly was there to talk about her first published book *Payback*.

Michelle Kelly was born in Invercargill. When she was five years old she knew that she wanted to write fiction. She now lives in Auckland and focuses on writing for children. Michelle says that the best part about writing books is being able to make stuff up and not get in trouble for it! She also loves meeting her fans.

Some down points in writing are that you get lonely and broke! It took her three months to write *Payback*, four years to rewrite it and two years to publish it. Michelle's advice about writing is never to give up even if you are rejected often.

We really enjoyed meeting with her and if we follow her advice, one day one of us might publish our first novels too.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Property & Business Deals

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Year 5 and 6 interschool

On 21 May 2009 Oakura School year 5 and 6 students hosted their first interschool sporting event for the season, against St. John Bosco School, New Plymouth. The sports included netball, soccer and rugby.

St. John Bosco won the netball 21-3, the soccer drew four all and the rugby result was 64-35 to St. John Bosco. Unfortunately the netball was not an official game as St John Bosco was unable to field a full year 6 team so they played against the Oakura year 5 team instead.

Oakura School provided afternoon tea at the end of all the games. We would like to congratulate all the students who took part, as they were great team players and everyone played diligently. All the participants really enjoyed the game and gained valuable experience for the future.

By Anna Costelloe and Amy Barron.



The interschool netball game.

Deputy Head Girls at Sacred Heart

Deputy Head Girls at Sacred Heart Girls College New Plymouth this year are Georgie Wood, ex Oakura School pupil and Claire Richardson, ex Coastal Taranaki School. Next year Georgie hopes to study Podiatry at the Auckland University of Technology, and Claire is thinking of studying Medical Radiation.

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Oakura Playcentre

By Jennifer Gros

It has really gotten colder this month, and preschoolers are starting to get a bit bored of being indoors. Why not bring them to Playcentre? Come in out of the rain, and have a cup of warm tea with other mums who understand the winter blues! The Oakura Playcentre has an enclosed deck area where the children can jump on bouncy mats and play in tunnels without having to be outside in the rain and cold. Everyone is welcome, and there are lots of newborns as well as children up to age 5.

Playcentre has many different centres of learning including music, reading, nature, baking, play dough, collage, puzzles, blocks and so much more! On a nice day, the outside area is wonderful with its swings, a sandpit, and lots of climbing blocks and slides. The first three visits are free, and then each term is only \$15. Casual visits are \$5.

Playcentre is in need of a two or three-seat sofa in good condition for the reading area. A donation would be greatly appreciated. Please call Jo Syme on 0274333078 for more information.



Allie enjoying dressing up in a bear costume.

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Arthouse Cinema volunteers - a "Thank you!"



The Oakura Arthouse Cinema held a wonderful "Thank You" get together at Butler's Reef for their Summer and Fall season volunteers.

Pictured are: Anne Wilson, Jane Cullen, Rose Stoddart, Claire White, Maryanne and Ross Bennett, Jennifer Gros, and Kate Evans. Not pictured: Suki Bishop, Sue and Rowan Oldfield.

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Mini Groovers

If you are a parent of a pre-schooler, why not come and join our weekly Tuesday morning session of music and movement in the Oakura Hall?

Mini Groovers is run by a group of mums who aim to introduce children to music, rhythm and movement in a casual and fun environment. The songs and accompanying actions help children develop their whole brain and body. By singing and dancing the children are developing co-ordination, balance, spatial perception, language, memory, listening skills and self-confidence.

It's also a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents over a cuppa at the end of the session. Your child is never too young to start their appreciation of music. We have lots of babies who enjoy the sessions.

Sessions are held in the supper room of the Oakura Hall on Tuesdays at 10am. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

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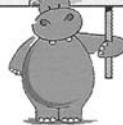


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Coming Events

June

- 13 Family portraits being taken in the hall. Please book at the office for an appointment time with the photographer. *Note: this is a Saturday.*
- 15 Year 8 students at Young Leaders' Conference in Palmerston North
- 16 Hadlow School Choir from Masterton to perform 9:15. All are welcome.
Parent scrapbooking evening in staff room 7pm.
- 19 Assembly, environmental award presentation.
- 23 Year 6 gymnastics at CTS
BoT meeting 7pm
- 26 Winter Wonderland Art Exhibition 9am-12 in the hall. All are welcome.

July

- 3 Term 2 ends.
- 20 Term 3 begins.



Joe
Wagstaff's
art from
Room 1.

Below - Tegan
Wilkinson's art
from Room 2.



Artwork from
Room 4.

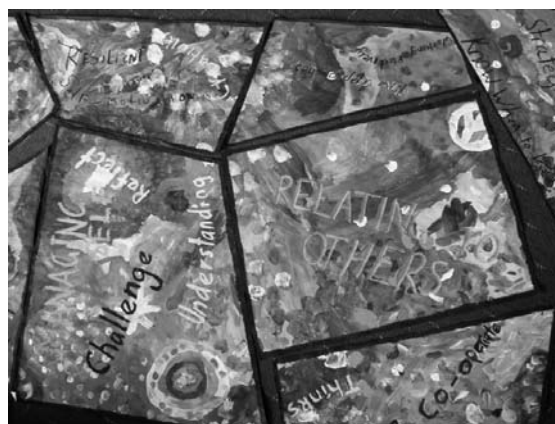


What is art?

This rich topic is proving to be very engaging, provoking considerable response and debate. Thank you so much to artists Caz Novak, Margaret Scott, Jayeta Valentine and Catherine Sinclair for providing inspiration, skills, knowledge and understanding. Students are producing brilliant artwork and there is much creative thinking happening throughout the school.

Alongside our classroom studies, Mark Bellringer from "Digital Stories" comes in to run sessions with a digital photography focus. We have students learning such topics as what makes a good photo, uploading and photo-editing and adjusting, selecting printing and preparing photos for exhibition.

Everyone is invited to our Winter Wonderland Art Exhibition which opens on 26 June. You will see our contemporary art installations created in our studio groups, our photographs which are part of a competition and our classroom displays. Please come along between 9am and 12. Morning tea will be provided at 10:30am.



Artwork
from
Room 6.

Thanks!

The TOM Team would like to thank Mr Murphy, the fundraising parent group and the students of Room 6 for their outstanding job delivering TOM Fitzroy to the community of Fitzroy and surrounds. They took on the task despite some of them going out in the worst weather of the season to deliver just over 4500 copies of TOM. This was the first issue of TOM in the area and we are grateful for the efficient job they did.

Tracey and Kim

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TOM Babies

Arla Rose Bennett

Arla was born 13/11/08. Her mum and dad are Stuart and Hayley. Arla's birth weight was 6lb11oz. She is a delightful, smiley baby who is bringing her parents much joy.



Livy Evangeline Churchill

Sarah and Shaun Churchill are proud to introduce their new daughter, Livy Evangeline Churchill, born the 20th of April, weighing 7lb 13oz. She is little sister to Harry (3). They are loving their little girl, but admit that a bit more sleep would be nice!



Kaia Rebecca Lawson

A very special welcome to Kaia Rebecca Lawson, beautiful new daughter of Lynette and Ron Lawson. Bailey (3 1/2) is very excited about being a big sister. She loves holding Kaia and can't stop looking at her! Born on 17 May, Kaia weighed 7lbs 4oz.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Oakura Plunket

We would like to say a big thank you and farewell to Claire White who has been the local President for the previous 5 years. What an amazing and outstanding achievement. It is thanks to people like Claire that Plunket is so successful in our small community. Claire will continue to play a roll in Plunket by remaining on the committee.

We have also received with reluctance resignations from Bob Fleming as Treasurer and Linda Barbour as Secretary. Thank you ladies for your wonderful efforts and are pleased you too are staying with us on the committee.

Our new Oakura Plunket President is Feona Brown, Kylie Braddock has taken on the secretaries role and Kiely Williams as Treasurer. Thank you to you all.

Introducing Feona Brown:

I have lived in Oakura for the last 16 years and have 2 children, Jordan 7 and Tay 3. I have been involved with Plunket for nearly 3 years. I have a wealth of local involvement and community spirit, which I would like to promote with Plunket. I was involved in Mini Groovers for 3 years, Playcentre also for 3 years and both children have or are now attending Kaitake Kindergarten and Tay has been going to Sophia Preschool since the age of 2. My children are both Plunket babies and have found Plunket to be an incredible support group.

In Oakura we have developed a Plunket Coffee Group for our local and new mums to get together and have a chat. We do this on Wednesday mornings from 9.15 – 11.00am. During the winter it has been decided collectively to alternate our meetings with coffee group mums at their homes. This makes for a less formal and cosier atmosphere. Once every two months we organise a speaker to come and talk with us regarding a topic we have chosen. Last month we had Lisa who is a Nutritionist in Okato (recently moved here from Muriwai), talk to us regarding Understanding Food Labels and E #'s. Further topics suggested have been; toilet training, bed wetting, dry nights and days, sleep patterns and sleeping routines and introducing solids. We are co-coordinating with our local Plunket Nurse, Carol and the New Plymouth Branch for support with speakers.

There are many new mums in Oakura I have seen around that may or may not have heard of our Coffee Group meetings. Please feel free to contact me on 752 1223, or Bob Fleming 752 7048. This group is also about sharing our feelings and thoughts about being parents and how we can cope with the hardest yet most rewarding job in the world.

Christmas, with it only being 7 months away, Plunket has organized a committee to discuss a Christmas celebration in the village. Our first meeting is to be held on 9th June 2009. Watch this space!!!

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TOM CLASSIFIEDS

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ASSISTANT wanted at Coastal Taranaki School. 10 hours per week, Mon - Fri. Enquiries to Jacky, ph 752 4022.

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TAROT - For accurate readings and consultations please phone Lisa Lister on 067512687 or 0275632828.

BUSINESS

OPPORTUNITY
A therapy room at Ziji Day Spa has become available. Suitable for health and or beauty practitioners. Phone Forest 752 1374.

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FOR ADVERTISING

IN TOM - Contact Cyril Henderson, 753 6885, or email cyril@thetom.co.nz

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GARDENING WITH ROSEMARY HERB

Your June Checklist

Flower garden:

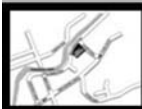
Cut back, lift and divide perennials such as asters, achilleas, dahlias and phlox. There's still time to plant lilies.
Plant new roses. Rose pruning can start late this month.
Prune deciduous trees in dry weather.
Mulch all plants with compost.

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.

Fruit Trees:

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.



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MID WINTER CHRISTMAS DINNER Friday 19th June

*Chase away those Winter Blues.
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❖ 6.30pm ❖

Mix & Mingle with a complimentary glass of
mulled wine, bread & dips

❖ 7.00pm ❖

Smorgasbord - Soup - Main Course -
Dessert

❖ All for \$35 ❖

LIMITED NUMBERS, THEREFORE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Oakura Village Café and Restaurant

Phone/Fax: 06 7527 303

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Bellydance

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

Country and Western Club

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

Farmers Market Taranaki

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members
welcome. Contact Una Shotter 751 0971.

Indoor Bowls

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

JKA Karate

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

Mini Groovers

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

Oakura Art Group

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

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over
winter. Ph Stu 752 7407.

Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night begins 16 March.

Omata Playgroup

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

Playcentre

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

Plunket Coffee mornings

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before
10.00am). During the winter months, held at attendees homes
- please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett, 752
1132, or Claire Florence, 752 7889 to find out where.

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Tai Chi ACC Classes

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley
752 1016 for details.

Volkswagen Club

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

Yoga

Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am.
Beginners welcome. Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

Please phone 0800 THE TOM with any changes to your listing.