

JUNE 2011

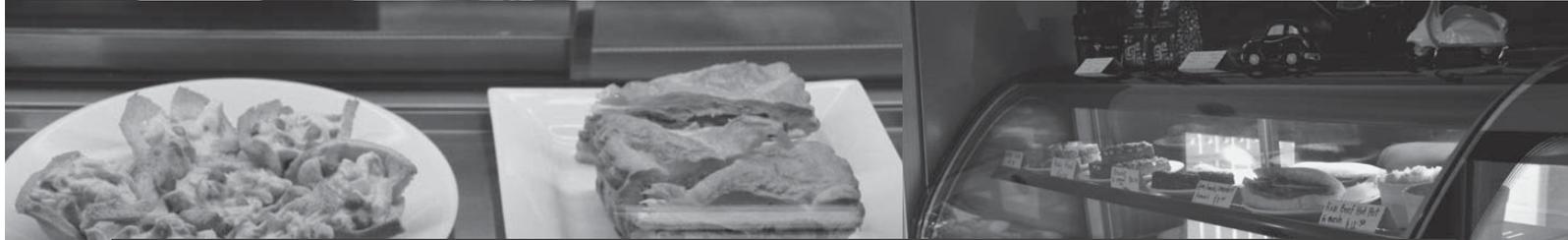
TOM oakura

A foodie's dream come true



Sharlene and Hayley behind the counter of the new Carriage Café.

more on page 2



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New Zealand Post

editorial



Health issues seem to be dominating my musings lately and this month is no exception with the fluoride debate raising its head. What is interesting to me is not so much whether our water supplies should be fluoridated or not, but rather the lack of vigorous debate about whether the general public actually wants a mass inoculation of fluoride or any other substance for that matter. It wasn't so long ago that there was talk of adding folic acid to every loaf of bread for the greater good. Is this the sort of society we want? I guess we do if we choose to not enter into the debate. I think we can be glad that the Council does encourage public feedback and we are given the chance to put forward our viewpoint, but we do have to embrace these opportunities.

Jonathan Young is also talking about water in his column this month so it certainly is a topical issue.

I don't know if you were ready for winter but I am not — this cold wet stuff is so depressing!

The new Carriage Café has got me excited though. Good wholesome food is my idea of heaven on earth and I am awestruck at Sharlene opening a café in what most consider very bleak financial times. So I wish Sharlene and her team all the best. I'm sure her food will sell itself!

Kim

cover feature A foodie's dream come true

Sharlene Walker has realised a dream by opening her own café and selling coffee and food that she is passionate about.

The Carriage Café opened recently in Oakura in The Carriage! Locals and anyone who calls in can expect to be treated to Sharlene's wonderful cooking and her café style menu.

The Carriage itself remains largely unchanged, except for the food counter running down one carriage and the soon-to-be-added decking out the front. Sharlene has chosen a 50's theme to decorate the Carriage — perhaps an era when homebaking and wholesome food was the norm rather than the exception. A jukebox sets the atmosphere, as does the smell of fresh baking wafting out of the kitchen.



Sharlene's Sour Cream Lemon Cake and flat white.

Sharlene says she has had heaps of fun setting up the café and is looking forward to seeing people enjoying her food. Daughter Hayley will also be helping out in the café and, occasionally, Casey (award-winning waitress who trained at Okurukuru and featured in a past TOM) — and probably all the family, Sharlene laughs! Future son-in-law Daniel crafted the food counter and husband Tony has been busy building the deck. Inca Fe coffee will satisfy the caffeine addictions many of us face!

But the food is the star of the day and the menu changes weekly, with a few staples remaining constant. Dishes such as vegetable pie, chicken and vegetable stack, corn fritter stack, creamy mushroom and bacon stack, soup of the day, deep dish pies, wraps, club sandwiches, scones, biscuits, cakes, slices and savouries. These are not just any

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TOM

OAKURA

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

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sandwiches or scones — every single plate of food is prepared on the premises from scratch (no long shelf life, mass-produced fare here), freshly made with the finest ingredients Sharlene can get her hands on.

Sharlene says her love of food and cooking comes from her childhood, where she began cooking at a young age because her parents worked fulltime. And it still never seems like a chore.

Sharlene has many ideas up her sleeve to further her foodie dream but in the meantime pop in and try it for yourself — you won't come away disappointed.

by Kim Ferens



A cabinet full of Sharlene's awesome offerings.

Complementary therapies for kids

Natural Therapy Community Clinic Taranaki (NTCCT) has been developed to provide access to complementary healthcare for all children in the region. The clinic is specifically for babies, children and teenagers up to 18 years of age.

The philosophy behind the Clinic is to offer support to the whole child, which in turn supports the whole family and the wider community. It is a resource to explore for parents and children who are unfamiliar with, and curious about, what complementary therapies are. It is also for those who struggle financially but would like their children to have access to these forms of care.

Asthma, eczema, emotional concerns, digestion/nutrition concerns, sleep issues, fears/phobias, nightmares, anxiety, colds/flu, reflux, earache, bedwetting, insomnia, rashes, and back and neck problems are just some of the health concerns that can be addressed.

The clinic has a well-rounded group of practitioners: Annalisa Johnson — Herbalist; Meegan Care — Counsellor; Kate Evans — Massage Therapist; Liz Jury — Naturopath. NTCCT's group of qualified professional therapists are folk in the community who volunteer their services for a donation clinic on the first Saturday morning of each month.

The clinic dates for the next few months are June 4 and July 2, from 10am–12noon at Village Health, 11 Old South Road, Okato. Bookings are essential and can be made by phone 06-752 4826 or email at healthychildren@village-health.co.nz.

The NTCCT is looking for other volunteer practitioners interested in joining the team. If you are interested please contact them at the contact details above.



From left, Liz Jury, Annalisa Johnson, Meegan Care and Kate Evans.

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Mayor Harry

It's wonderful when a local organisation gets national recognition for doing its job very, very well. So I was very proud to hear the news that the Kaitake Community Board won the Partnership Award at the New Zealand Community Boards Conference Best Practice Awards, for how it

works with partner agencies on Oakura Beach's Blue Flag programme (the Board also got a 'well done' for its consultation work through its Facebook page).

Doug, Mike, Keith and Teresa thoroughly deserve the recognition they've received. Their work with Oakura School, Oakura Boardriders Club, New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Life Saving Club, New Plymouth District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki District Health Board and the Department of Conservation is a great example of how local organisations can work together for the long-term benefit of residents and visitors. Blue Flag isn't just about having a clean beach. It's also about education programmes and beneficial facilities (such as recycling spots during summer), and getting the public involved in looking after its coastal environment over the long term.

So well done to the Kaitake Community Board — and also to their Blue Flag partners. You're doing a great job.

Also, thank you to everyone who took the time to read the Draft Budget 2011/12 and send their comments in to the Council. The public hearings were held on 2 June and the Council debates the issues on 8 June. If you didn't get to the Council Chamber to listen to the hearings or the debate, you can see a video recording of the meetings on www.newplymouthnz.com.

An important part of local democracy is the involvement of residents — whether it's in helping to shape policy or getting hands-on with the local environment. With your input, we can continue to make sure that New Plymouth District is a great place to live, work and visit!

Mayor Harry Duynhoven



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Oakura Library

We were very fortunate to host Taranaki's own acclaimed writer, Janet Hunt, this month. She spoke to Room 8 Oakura School pupils about her books *E3 Call Home*, *A Bird in the Hand*, *From Weta to Kauri*, and *Wetlands of New Zealand*. Her engaging manner and anecdotes were a hit with the class. She is very passionate and knowledgeable about the environment.

The 2010 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards have been announced and they are: (drum roll please) Children's Choice: *Baa Baa Smart Sheep*, *Hollie Chips*, *Smiling Jack* and *Who's Cooking Tonight*.

Margaret Mahy's *The Moon and Farmer McPhee* won Best Picture Book and Book of the Year! *Hollie Chips* also won Best First Book. *Finnigan and the Pirates: A Fine Fandango* won Best Junior Book, Fleur Beale's *Fierce September* won Best Young Adult Fiction, and *Zero Hour: The Anzacs on the Western Front* won Best Junior Non-fiction.

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Karen and Vincenza

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A fresh start for fresh water

Those of us living in a province with such an extensive coastline certainly appreciate the value of the water we are surrounded by for our recreational pursuits. We like to think that living in Taranaki we get the rainfall we need even if at times we wish it would stop raining so that we can go about our daily lives without getting soaked through.

While water is New Zealand's most valuable natural resource, giving us a competitive advantage over other countries in farming and tourism, our water quality is deteriorating in parts of the country and we often face water shortages during summer.

National wants to turn this around. If we improve the way we manage our rivers, lakes and aquifers, water will help us build the stronger economy we are striving for. It also makes sure we continue to enjoy the great Kiwi lifestyle of swimming, boating and fishing, and at the same time make the most of the economic opportunities that water provides while protecting our environment.

The National Government has announced its Fresh Water Package as an initial response to the Land and Water Forum's report on fresh water management. It includes a National Policy Statement on fresh water management, significant investment in irrigation projects, and more money to clean up New Zealand's rivers, lakes and aquifers.

It's important that we put a plan in place so we can achieve effective change. Our National Policy Statement gives clear direction to local councils on fresh water management. It takes effect from July 2011, and sets limits on water quality and how much fresh water can be used.

National knows that increased irrigation will help build a stronger economy and provide more jobs and higher incomes for New Zealanders. Budget 2011 allocated \$35 million over five years to help irrigation projects get underway.

We are also proposing to invest up to \$400 million of equity from 2013/14 in the construction of regional-scale irrigation projects. This shows potential investors that National is serious about accelerating better irrigation systems for New Zealand. These initiatives represent a major step in unlocking water's economic potential. NZ Institute of Economic Research Inc research suggests the fund could support 340,000ha of new irrigation, which could boost exports by \$1.4 billion a year by 2018, rising to \$4 billion a year by 2026.

Our water package also includes a contestable \$15 million Clean-up Fund to help improve the quality of our freshwater. The Clean-up Fund will give better support for existing

river and lake clean-ups, and lifts our total clean-up commitment to \$265 million.

Resolving our fresh water issues will take some time and work, but we are in it for the long haul. This range of initiatives is just the first step in reforms to improve New Zealand's fresh water management. We will continue our work and make further announcements next year.

Jonathan Young MP

<p>Jonathan Young</p> <p>MP for New Plymouth</p>  <p>National</p>	<p>For constituent appointments, please contact my Electorate Office in New Plymouth</p> <p>NEW PLYMOUTH OFFICE Corner Gill & Liardet Sts PHONE: 06 759 1363 FAX: 06 759 1364</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS 9am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday</p> <p>EMAIL jonathan.young@parliament.govt.nz</p> <p>Electorate Agent In New Plymouth Jan Mason jan.mason@parliament.govt.nz</p>
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To fluoridate or not to fluoridate?

Concerned locals want to stop the fluoridation of Oakura and Okato's water supplies — why?

The answer is easy: They don't want a toxic industrial waste added to their drinking water, which has questionable benefits for oral health.

My research has found that fluoridation is seen as the cheapest and easiest way to 'fix' poor oral health (much easier to blanket medicate the whole population than address changing the dietary or oral health habits of a specific ethnic or socio-economic group) when really the causes of poor oral hygiene are much more complex. Purely adding a chemical to the water as a cure does not address poor diet, poor oral health practices or genetic dispositions. There is also the possibility that fluoridation may cause more serious health problems, such as kidney disease.

In 1993 a formal poll was held in Okato and Inglewood and the results meant the Council did not fluoridate these water supplies. Clearly these residents did not want fluoride in their water.

New Plymouth's water supply has been fluoridated since 1970. Fluoridating water supplies was a widespread practice in America in the 1960's and was considered to be the cheapest mechanism to improve oral health in a climate where dental care is expensive. Worldwide, 400 million people drink fluoridated water so does this mean 400 million people have excellent oral health?

Professor Paul Connett, Director of the International Fluoride Action Network and author of *The Case Against Fluoride*, was a recent visitor to New Plymouth to discuss the issue. He claims fluoride has very little benefit to oral health and that a number of studies indicate a decreased IQ and an increase in intellectually disabled people.

Six countries including Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands have discontinued use of fluoride in water supplies.

My personal experience of fluoride is minimal. I grew up on a farm and my mother gave us fluoride tablets when we were kids. I now use rainwater. About 15 years ago the dental nurse at Spotswood Primary said I should be addressing the fluoride issue with my children so I used to make up water bottles with fluoride tablets dissolved in them. The thinking then was that chewing tablets wouldn't coat the teeth. I haven't continued this practice because I am basically lazy and I couldn't see any quantifiable difference from using fluoride or not using fluoride.

The crux of the debate for me is the lack of solid evidence. In my mother's and my grandmother's day everyone trusted what the health professional told them and, even if they didn't, they didn't have access to information like we do today. This ease of access to information puts a very clear onus on health professionals to supply undisputable evidence to support their justifications for doing something like adding fluoride to the water supply. This shouldn't be hard to do, should it? If it is in the greater good to add fluoride then provide the evidence for this and then people can make informed choices.

You can have your say through the Council via a tribunal process that is open to the public, and to primary groups (a group of academic or scientific individuals — one for and one against) sometime from August.

by Kim Ferens

Environmental efforts recognised

Taranaki environmental champions ranging from primary school pupils to a large corporate were honoured at an awards ceremony in Stratford in May.

Farmers, businesses and a district council also feature among winners of this year's Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards.

"It's great to be able to highlight some of the good environmental work going on in the community," says the Council Chairman, David MacLeod. "The fact that Taranaki enjoys a generally excellent environment is not an accident — it is the result of hard work in the community. The awards are an opportunity for us to express our appreciation and support."

The Council has made nine awards for 2011, with five presented at this ceremony. Awards to three schools and a farming couple will be presented later in the year. This year's awards bring the total to 177 since they were inaugurated in 1993.

The Council's annual awards recognise Taranaki projects or activities that contribute to or raise awareness of sustainable resource management, that are economically viable, and that are current or nearing completion.

Business/Local Authority

Oakura Primary School — for environmental education and action

Oakura Primary School's environmental activities include: An Oakura Beach clean-up, held annually since 1972 and involving the whole school.

Growing native plants for planting within the school and reserve areas in the Oakura area. The school also assists New Plymouth District Council and Trees for Survival in coastal and reserve plantings several times a year.

Involving senior students in making penguin boxes for the little blue penguins that live along the local beach.

Running a well-established and sustainable waste minimisation programme.

Using local natural resources — rock pools and the river — in regular study cycles.

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kaitake community board

Kaitake Community Board

Our column this time deals with a couple of lifestyle issues confronting our community.

The first was the Kaitake Community Board (KCB) submission to Council on the Rural Review — Stage 3: District Plan Change 27. Our submission, impeccably prepared by Keith Plummer, noted that the KCB recognises (and has long argued for) the need to more closely manage the process and implementation relating to rural lifestyle blocks and subdivision in sensitive rural and coastal environments, through reference to structure plans and other mechanisms (such as the coastal strategy) that define community values on these issues. However, we also need to acknowledge that rural living has brought back vibrancy and services to areas that were (25 years ago) deeply concerned about dairy factory closures, the loss of doctors, schools, vets, etc. as well as rural depopulation and reduced employment opportunities.

Therefore the Board argues that the proposed plan change (changing the current 4ha rural subdivision allotment size to 20ha) is a negative response. To use this as a tool to manage the impact on the rural landscape, when there are already 1600 4ha approved lots under the old rule that can still be subdivided, is akin to closing the proverbial stable door after the horse has bolted.

The KCB submission was well received, and frequently mentioned by other submitters during the hearing to help reinforce the points they were making. The KCB acknowledges that Council has a complex set of issues to work through to arrive at a decision that best benefits the community and we wish them well in their deliberations.

The second lifestyle subject is about freedom camping. Discovering our magnificent outdoors is something many of us view as an absolute right of being a New Zealander. That same fascination to explore and discover our wonderful environment attracts many international visitors to travel here.

Many have a propensity to free-wheel and travel by their own design, from the very wealthy who discreetly stay at our most luxurious lodges to those who choose to economise by freedom camping. But a quickly growing percentage of this latter group has caused outrage and condemnation from host communities up and down the country because of the undesirable impacts of their waste and disrespect. To that end I was personally pleased to see legislation passed giving local councils more clout to deal with these disrespectful idiots whose crassness is spoiling it for everyone.

However, the freedom camping challenge isn't just a simple visitor issue. In my view those who promote and provide travellers with vehicles and equipment that doesn't measure up are also a major element in the abuse of freedom camping. This must be addressed by rental vehicle operators, local

government, tourism organisations and central government sooner rather than later.

Up until now many communities have become frustrated with the various interpretations and regulations that have applied throughout the country, largely through bylaws of nearly 80 different district and regional councils. Therefore the Government's decision to pass legislation allowing councils to issue instant fines against those camping irresponsibly is timely, particularly ahead of the Rugby World Cup, which could see a possible army of freedom campers arriving in the country for the September and October event.

For us the main culprits are embedded within the surfing fraternity. As surfing has become more mainstream and continues to grow exponentially, our coastline is taking a hammering from many international and regional travellers. They arrive as the surf picks up and stay put, often at a surf spot at the end of a country road. When conditions deteriorate and another part of New Zealand's coastline beckons they depart, often leaving their rubbish and human waste behind. They are truly a free-wheeling lot and while many within this visiting group are responsible and environmentally aware there are just as many who are not, and these are the ones the legislation is aimed at.

For these new legislative powers to be effective, however, they must be complemented by a strong communication strategy that educates visitors about the services available and the expectations we have as hosts. While local councils have a role to play in that regard, it isn't just about protecting the rights of local communities to decide where they do or don't want freedom camping. It is about every one of us communicating a consistent message about community expectations whenever we spot an indiscretion, including warnings that unacceptable activity will not be tolerated.

'Not in my backyard' was a catch cry of the '80's. It was mainly about property development changing the face of communities. NIMBY (as it is known) is no longer considered an appropriate defence in that regard but I believe it is an entirely appropriate response when dealing with any unacceptable freedom camping issues.

Speed humps are being installed on the road into Corbett Park. This is an attempt to slow both inward bound and outward bound traffic to improve safety for the park and river users. There have been a number of concerns expressed about the safety of young children in the vicinity of moving vehicles and we are hopeful the installations will alleviate the problem.

The next Kaitake Community Board meeting will be held at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 20 June at 4.30pm.

Ka kite ano

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



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Oakura Pony Club News

Last month as TOM went to print I added the breaking news that Taranaki Area Pony Club won Champs, for the second year running. I didn't have details then, but I do now.

Champs, or more correctly, the New Zealand Pony Club Horse Trials Teams Championship was held in Taupo this year. The team was made up of six riders who had trialled for a place on the team during the North Taranaki One Day Event (ODE) in March. Oakura Pony Club usually wins at least one place on the team; last year Lauren Moorby competed and Taranaki won, and this year Anna Hinton made the team.

The team set off in convoy with riders from Okato, Oakura, Opunake, Waitara and Inglewood during that bitter storm we had at the end of April. With strong winds and trees falling between here and Taupo it was a long trip. After more than ten hours on the road the team arrived exhausted, and found that the Taupo Equestrian Centre and accommodation were without power, so no hot showers or even a nice cuppa tea! Dinner for 25 people (riders, reserves and parents) ended up being fried eggs on bread cooked on a small camping gas stove, with a few candles for light!

The team arrived with two days to prepare involving riding lessons, learning the dressage tests, getting used to the grounds, show jumping course and cross-country course. This year Susan Grayling and Barbara Kalin went along as team managers, and Julia Bolton and Matthew Grayling as coaches.

The competition starts with dressage, and after all six rode their test Taranaki sat in second place behind Franklin/Thames Valley. Scores were very close with Taranaki on 223.95 followed by Bay of Plenty, and Canterbury on third equal with 225.

The following day was the cross-country. All the Taranaki riders rode the course clear, although one had a time fault and another took a five- point penalty.

The final stage was the show jumping, and at this point Taranaki was coming third, behind Franklin/ Thames Valley and Auckland in first and second.

"It was nail biting stuff," Barbara Harvey tells me. The Taranaki DC riders jumped first, two went clear, keeping Taranaki in third position. The Taranaki A1 riders went next going clear, holding our position. Then Franklin's rider dropped two rails moving Taranaki up to second place. Then the first Auckland rider incurred faults, and their second took two rails. Taranaki knew they were really close, but they weren't immediately sure if they had won. They had to wait for the final scores.

It wasn't long before all was revealed — the Taranaki team had won Champs! Not only did Oakura's Anna Hinton help bring home the trophy for Taranaki, but she also came second overall in the DC section (16 years and under), and teammate Hannah Trott (on Waka Ahu) came second overall in the A1 section (17 years and under 21 years). The rest of the team were Charlotte Grayling (on NRM Ru Star) and Kim Kalin (on Fhyne Thyme) both from Okato, Caitlyn



Anna Hinton on Sexy B.

Horton (on Star Appeal) and Ashlee Butler (on Kitford Taj-giel) from Waitara.

Taranaki also sent a team for the Training Championships (riders 16 years and under, riding 95cm). They were Jacqui Tulloch (on Cosmic Zipper), Tracey Bolton (on Silver Dundee) and Phillipa Grayling (on Tuis Keepsake). The 95cm team came fourth overall, and won a prize for the top three scores with C certificate.

by Diane Alder



Fishing Report

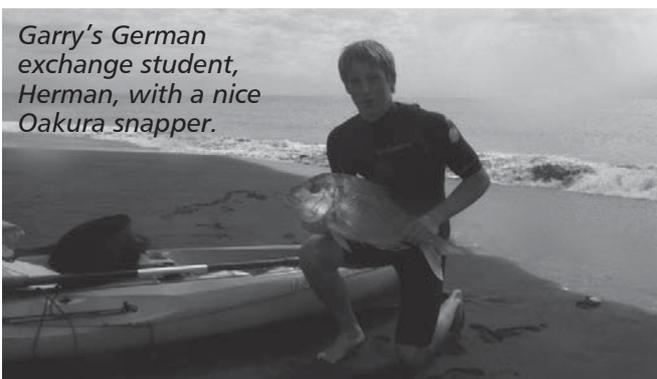
Usually the weather in April/ May lets us have lots of good weekends for fishing, but this year every weekend was wet and windy so fishing has been a non-event.

The highlight of the month was a trip to the NZ Angling and Casting Association (NZACA) Nationals in Auckland at the end of April. Over the 2 days of fishing we caught over 100 snapper. The majority had to go back as they were undersized. We had a great time but it made us appreciate the great fishing we have in Taranaki.

The Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club has a few events coming up. If anyone is thinking about getting into kayaking, the Club has kayak rollover practice in the pool at the Aquatic Centre. This is a great fun event and non-members are welcome. Contact me on 06-752 7055 or email me on harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz.

Cheers

Garry



Garry's German exchange student, Herman, with a nice Oakura snapper.

Ben Fitzgibbon TENNIS CHAMP

Omata has a budding tennis star in the making - Ben Fitzgibbon. Ben recently won the under 12 year boys tennis championship at Rotokare Tennis Club.



Ten year old Ben has only been playing tennis at Rotokare for two terms but has really enjoyed learning to play tennis. Club coaches Maureen Whiting, Robyn Masters and Wes Elder have given the group of youngsters coaching lessons every week over the summer culminating in the club championships.

Ben has played as the second ranked player in his inter-club team, playing other clubs around New Plymouth. He is keen to get back into tennis again in the summer. In the meantime Ben is busy playing rugby for the Tukapa Club.

Ben's mum Kim says his tennis training has improved his overall fitness making him a fitter faster winger this season in rugby.

Luckily for Ben he lives opposite the Omata School tennis courts and he spends hours out practicing and even drags dad Gary out for extra practice.

By Kim Ferens



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Kaitake Golf Club News

A hole-in-one is the ultimate for any golfer, young or old. Lately two Kaitake golfers have achieved this honour. Sally Kwon (pictured) from the Kaitake Midweek Women's division achieved this on the 16th hole and Arthur Baker on the 4th hole. Congratulations to you both.



Sally Kwon who had a hole-in-one.

The seasons are changing along with

the conditions for golfers. The high winds over the past few weeks have played havoc, bringing down trees or parts of them. Thank you to the green staff and members who took their rakes out and cleaned the course ready for the final of the Taranaki Men's Pennants and Round 6 of the Taranaki Weekend Women's Pennants. The transformation was most appreciated.

Kaitake Gold Club welcomed Ian Buttimore to his role as Secretary-Manager and look forward to working with him to continue the success of the Club.

Men's Results

The Tasman Toyota 2 Ball Best Ball on Sunday, 8 May attracted 39 teams. W. Powell and D. Powell were the Gross winners, and B. Lewer and F. Regan won the Nett.

The President's Trophy winner was Simon Spurdle with Brett Lovegrove runner-up.

Weekday Women

The Women's Weekday Pennants team they currently placed second equal. With a bye in the next round they watch anxiously for the results of the other leading teams to determine if there will be a play-off.

Winners of the Buttons are L. Regan and N. Green, with J. Ross and F. Newton runners-up.

Weekend Women

Some of the weekend competitions have been affected by the weather but we had a fine day for the 36-hole Stroke-play. Jan Davies won the Silver division while Lois Agnew won the Bronze.

Congratulations to all the recent competition winners and runners-up.

Coming Events

Kaitake Mixed Canadian Foursomes will be held on Sunday, 5 June. Starter sheets at the office.

You can find more information on Kaitake Golf Club on our website www.kaitakegolf.co.nz.

Until next month, good golfing everyone.

Andrea Jarrold

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

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Seeds

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Men sing in harmony at New Plymouth Club

Male singers aged between thirteen and eighty plus years were in fine voice at the New Plymouth Club on Saturday May 21st.

The Taranaki Male Choir and Western Peak Harmony a Barbershop style singing group and 'New Boys' a male voice ensemble from New Plymouth Boys High sang to a large, appreciative audience.

All three groups are under the musical directorship of Krissy Jackson and the programme showcased all the groups' talents as well as Ms Jackson's expertise when they came together for the 'Voice Mail' concert.

The Taranaki Male Choir was formed in July 2002. It was the eleventh to be formed in New Zealand and the members are from all parts of Taranaki and eight of their members are also in the National Male Choir. Western Peak Harmony was formed about four years ago whilst 'New Boys' came together this year. The students are a mix of ages and range from Year 9 through to Year 13 students. For most in the group it is their first experience with this type of singing although many are musicians in various school bands. The performance at the New Plymouth Club was the 'New Boys' first public performance and good practise as they prepare for the NZCF Big Sing competition in June. Krissy Jackson has experienced success at this event before when she led the Sacred Heart Girls College Tenors in 2009, so the New Boys are in good hands as they enter the world of competitive singing.

All three groups performed a selection of songs as individual groups but came together for the night's finale Pokarekare Ana; it was a great night's entertainment and a wonderful opportunity to hear male voices of all ages singing in harmony.

By Jackie Tomlinson



NPBHS singing group New Boys, including Omata School ex pupils William Livingston (front row, 2nd right), Ben Mitchell (3rd right) and Jacob Tomlinson (back row, far right).

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Oakura Boardriders

Well, what a rude awakening having to return to work overseas again after the 'Old Boys' Mentawai Surf Trip'. I am not looking forward to a return to the cold with all that snow on the mountain, although it appears there has been some pristine Taranaki Surf to be had in the last few weeks. Talking to another local who is working in the Middle East, he says he has been running in the desert every night in preparation for some snow and surf when he gets home. Just shows the 'Naki is never far from our thoughts when we are away.

As everyone will be aware, the TSB Bank Women's Surf Festival ran the week after Easter. The contest was once again a great success and thanks need to be expressed to all those locals who make this event happen. There was atrocious weather at the start of the event for the NZ Women's Open, which was once again dominated by ex-Oakura locals, Sarah and Arini Mason. Sarah, by taking out the NZ Women's Open, got a wild card entry into the main event 'The Subaru Pro' where she was eliminated in the second round. A great effort all the same up against the world's best.

Another honorable mention goes to Casey Stevens from Oakura Boardriders Club, who also competed in the NZ Women's Open along with other Taranaki competitors. It's a great chance to test yourself against the best on your home turf.

Paige Hareb made it through to the quarter finals and was just unlucky with the surf disappearing in her heat, forcing a restart after 10 minutes when neither competitor had caught a wave. Paige has since gone on to a ninth place in Sydney and a recent ninth again in Brazil. She is holding down twelfth place on the world title ratings and, with only two events remaining of the world tour at this stage, she will be hoping for a couple of good results to climb the ratings by year's end.

The Women's World Tour has become a two-woman race with Carissa Moore and Sally Fitzgibbons having won all the events this year between them. Carissa is slightly in front having three events to Sally's two; with two events to go it will be an interesting finish.

Staying with Paige, she has been chosen to head up the NZ team to the ISA World Surfing Games in Panama. She came second when she competed in them last year so will be hoping for a better finish this time. She heads up a very inexperienced team this time around, the NZ team came seventh last year so will be looking to do better this time. Good luck.

The Taranaki Interclub Champs ran on the weekend of 21 May. What started out as a bit of fun between clubs has turned out to be quite a serious affair with some serious 'ring ins' appearing in certain club teams to try and bolster results. We won't mention any names but, being extremely ethical at Oakura, we play it straight.

The Oakura team consisted of Glen Johns, Brian Clark, Jackie Mitchell, Toby Brankin, Simon Deken, Richard Kurta, Wade Lobb and Hamish Christophers. Club Champ Tyler Anderson was not available although was disappointed not to be able to get there.

The surf was far from pristine. Results were: Christians Surfers 1st, NPSRC 2nd, Waitara Boardriders 3rd, Oakura Boardriders 4th, and Opunake Boardriders 5th. Some good surfing in their heats by Glen Johns, Brian Clark, Simon Deken and Jackie Mitchell was not enough to get us a better result. The whole contest is strongly contested but no division more so than the U16 division, by all accounts Toby Brankin had his work cut out for him here. There is some promising talent emerging in Taranaki in this division. Well, that's it for another month. Remember Gary Bruckner is running kids' surfing/lessons on Sundays at 10am. Contact Gary on 06-752 7474 directly or via a committee member.

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Brent Anderson



Glen Johns.

Jackie Keenan.



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Gardening

TOM Garden of the Month

Well, our gardens have certainly taken a battering last month with the high winds that swept Oakura and a lot of the North Island. Many of us have spent time clearing leaves, tree branches and the odd china plant pot that has unfortunately toppled over. I have even heard tales of flying trampolines in what was certainly one of the strongest and longest storms I have encountered.

Davina Johnston was in the UK with her sons, Jerry (nearly 10), and Adam (8), when the storm hit, but husband Graeme was at home and managed to batten down the hatches and take precautions by dismantling the trampoline. Fortunately their garden remained unscathed, with just the usual storm debris to be cleared up. The long front flowerbed bordering the roadside of their home in Tui Grove forms a striking entrance to their home. Davina has worked hard to create a balance of colour and symmetry with shrubs and natives. She loves the range of greens and variegated foliage, autumnal reds and copper tones, and has introduced striking splashes of colour with day lilies (hemerocallis) in yellow, peach (Lauren Leah) and red (Scarlet Orbit) tones. The five white magnolias create height and balance and that's all before I have entered their garden!

Davina admits to loving her garden but not wanting it to rule her life! They value family time and like being out having adventures kayaking, skiing and tramping, so she's working hard to create a low maintenance, easy care, semi-native garden.

Whilst planting out she considers the colour and texture combinations. She feels colour is important and has highlights of flowering marigolds, violas and purple-headed poppies contrasting with their Otago Schist stone chimneystack. The garden has established cabbage trees,

lancewoods and cherry trees, although they are still waiting for a good cherry crop!

Last year Davina tackled a large veggie garden growing broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, silverbeet, spring onions and tomatoes. She says the only plants that were "a bit of a disaster" were the beans and peas! Davina says that it was hard work to maintain it and that next year they hope to build small raised veggie boxes, which she hopes will be easier to maintain. She is currently replanting the bed with low maintenance natives and covering the soil with wood chippings to keep moisture in and weeds out!

Davina and Graeme's garden has a really lovely feel about it. Architectural, low maintenance, neat, tidy family garden — one to relax in, play cricket with the boys, have BBQs in, and enjoy as a family. Thank you, Davina, for your time and thank you to Fairfield Garden Centre for the voucher, which Davina is looking forward to spending.

by Rosie Moyes



Davina in her garden.

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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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Work-a-thon for Christchurch

Over the school holidays Oakura School's Year 7 and 8 students were asked to work to help raise money for Christchurch. They spent some time during the holidays doing jobs for family and friends, which ranged from washing cars to a bake sale held outside the Four Square. This fundraiser was very successful, raising over \$437.40.

Miles Dunn, Liam McBreen, Paige Burrows and Charlotte Procter (Room 11) organised this event for Christchurch. This event was the least we felt we could do considering the amount of pain our friends and family have been through in relation to the quake. This was a great effort by the Year 7 and 8's of Oakura School and we are very happy with our achievement. All proceeds from this event will be sent to Christchurch and hopefully bring hope and relief to many of those who need it.

Thank you to those people in our community who supported us in this fundraiser.

by Paige Burrows (aged 12)



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Brenda Ballinger Memorial Run 2011

On Saturday, 14 May our middle school and intermediate school runners competed at St Josephs School, New Plymouth in the Brenda Ballinger Memorial Run. All the schools from around the region put forward their runners who wished to compete in the races.

The first race was middle school in which we had numerous children competing in Oakura School colours. Unfortunately, no Oakura runners were placed. The results were: first place Monte Burmester, second place James Tairawhiti and third place Sasha Reid. Mangorei School took home the middle school trophy, which they won convincingly.

Next was the men's race, in which no students took part. After that was the intermediate race. Oakura sported six runners including Angus White, George Tvrdeich, Josh van Bergen, Nick Wilson, Lhasa Cook and Liam McBreen. First to cross the line was Angus White followed by George Tvrdeich with Thomas Morgan pulling out a third. With runners from Oakura coming first and second we received the trophy.

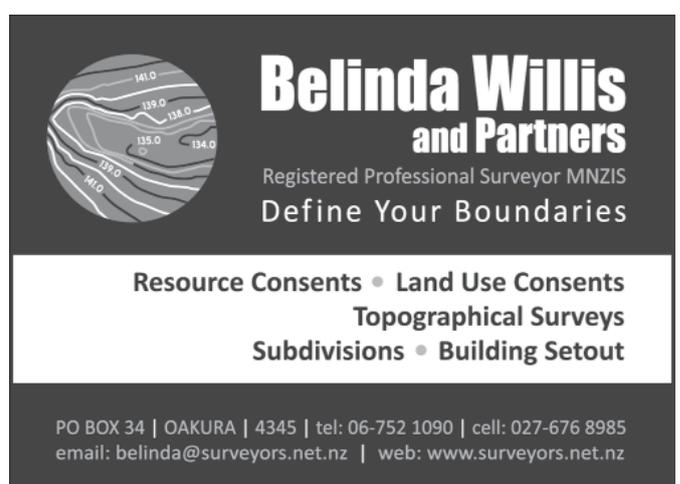


Brenda Ballinger team: Nick Wilson, George Tvrdeich, Angus White, Liam McBreen, Josh van Bergen, Lhasa Cook.

The last race of the day was the women's race. This was the biggest event of the day because Brenda Ballinger was a keen runner who sadly lost her battle with cancer. This event was set up to remember her.

A big congratulations to all of the runners who competed in the events. We hope to see them all later in the cross-country season.

by George Tvrdeich (aged 12)



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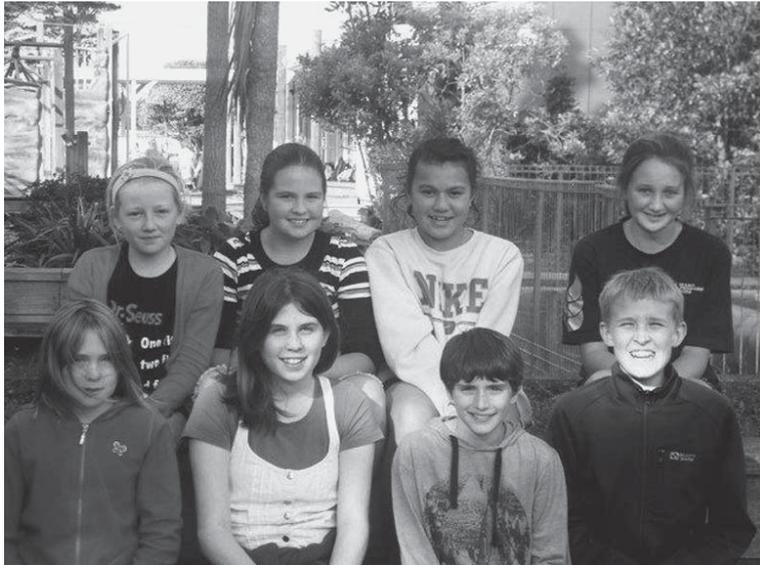
Literacy Quiz

On Friday, 15 April two Oakura teams took part in the Literacy Quiz. They were pitted against 16 teams from other schools in Taranaki. The first team was Georgia Crabtree, Kelsey Husband, Isabel Goodhue and Atalya Fakavamoeanga. The second team was Angus White, George Tvrdeich, Danielle Hood and Melissa Marriott, who came fifth by three and a half points. The quiz master (Wayne Mills) set some hard and varying categories for the teams, including: Prisons, flowers and gems.

Well done to Devon Intermediate School who won and are going down to Wellington for the next round.

Even with no victories the teams came back with big smiles and another great memory.

Melissa Marriott (aged 12)



The Literacy Quiz team:

(Back row) Isabelle Goodhue, Georgia Crabtree, Atalya Fakavamoeanga, Kelsey Husband.

(Front row) Danielle Hood, Melissa Marriott, George Tvrdeich, Angus White.

Bake sale

On Friday, 13 May Melissa Marriott and Ashley Parker held a bake sale to help raise money for poverty stricken East Timor.

These two girls and their families spent lots of time baking, icing and decorating slices, muffins, cookies and cakes. They also went around baking stores to ask if they would like to sponsor them. Snickerdoodles donated \$50.00 and Target Bakehouse and Bakers Dozen donated cakes.

On Friday morning the girls and their families lugged precious goods out of their cars and into our school gallery where the bake sale was to be held. At lunchtime, helped by friends and families, they started the sale selling everything but 10 items. This was a great achievement and they raised the great amount of \$385.00.

by Georgia Crabtree (aged 12)

Interschool Sports: Oakura vs Vogeltown

On Friday, 13 May Oakura School had its first Year 5 and 6 interschool sports event for 2011, against Vogeltown School. The weather forecast for Friday was torrential rain for almost every part of Taranaki, and it certainly looked like there wouldn't be much chance of the event being held. But, as luck had it, the sun finally showed up at around lunchtime and produced a lovely afternoon for all those students playing.

Oakura dominated the netball with both teams having resounding successes. The scores were 34-6 and 19-3 to Oakura.

The Oakura soccer team also had their first victory of the season with an outstanding 2-0 win.

Things didn't go so well for the rugby team, however, which lost by seven tries to two. Even though they were outplayed on the day they acquitted themselves very well, with both Felix Ferris and Jay Evans scoring tries.

Congratulations to every student who participated and good luck for the next event, to be held here at Oakura against Central School.

by Angus White (aged 12)

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Weka Report

The Weka is a bird that is endemic to New Zealand. In my report I will tell you about the Weka's habitat, diet, size and weight, breeding and range.

Weka are found in the North and South Islands of New Zealand. In the North Island they are found in Poverty Bay and in the South Island they are found in Nelson, Northern Marlborough, Fiordland and West Otago. They are also found on the Chatham Islands and Stewart Island.

Weka like to hang around native forest and scrub, farmland, some urban areas, sand dunes and rocky shores.

An average Weka can grow up to 54cm long. An adult male would usually weigh about 1kg and an adult female would weigh about 700g.

Weka like to feast on a variety of vegetables, small birds, mammals, earthworms, beetles, wetas, ants, grubs, slugs, snails, insects, eggs, slaters, frogs, spiders, rats, mice, berries, leaves, grass and seeds.

Weka start their breeding in September and usually finish in April the next year. They lay three to six eggs each breeding season. The eggs are creamy white or pinkish brown with brown and purple blotches.

by Annabel Jones (aged 10)



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Coming Events

June

- 11 Saturday Book Sale 9am–12pm, Hall.
- 14 Choir performing at 'Kids for Kids' concert, TSB Showplace.
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Ball Skills at Oakura.
- 23 Playgroup 9–11am.
- 28 Year 6 Gymnastics at CTS, Okato.

July

- 8 Playgroup 9–11am.
- 15 Music Assembly 9am.
Omata Cafe 9.45am.
All Welcome.
Term 2 ends

Term 3 begins Monday, 1 August.

Omata golf-sized umbrellas available for \$20. Great for Saturday sports watching.

Sports

Involvement in sports teams has grown over the last few years to the point where we have over 80% of students in teams throughout the year. At present 90 students play football, 18 basketball and 8 netball. In summer we have children playing cricket and touch rugby.

I believe this participation impacts positively on the students and families. As well as being exercise for the body, it is great for social and mental development. Learning to be part of a team, learning about rules and to have a shared responsibility for the game and the outcome, helps students develop many capabilities that are required for living. So get out there and keep supporting your children with their sports, enjoy the day, and help them improve their skills for next time.

Regards

Karen Brisco





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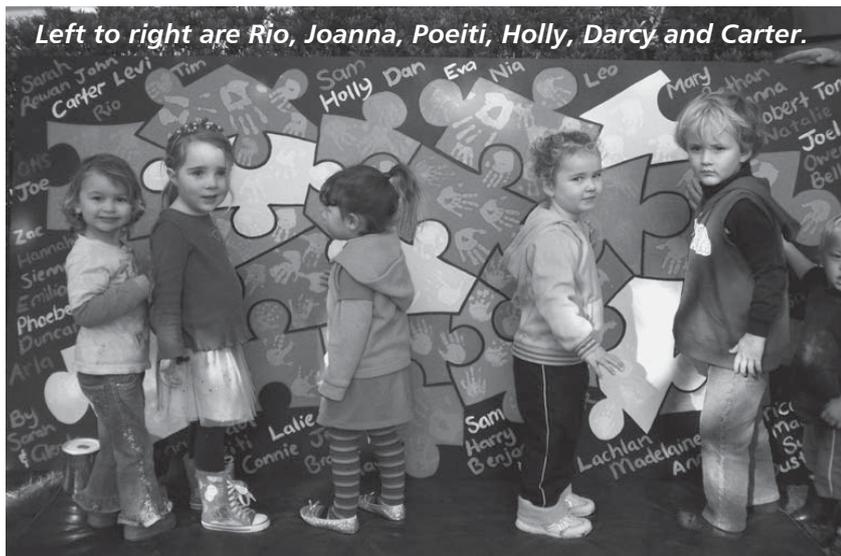
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Plenty of Playcentre painting

You might have noticed that the fence next to Oakura Library on Donnelly Street is looking a bit bare these days, and maybe wondered what happens behind the wooden panels...

Well, behind the white fence on Donnelly Street is Oakura Playcentre! We are a parent-run Early Childhood Education Centre for children from birth to school age. We follow the Te Whaariki curriculum (as do the Kindergarten and Sophia Preschool), with the difference being that at Playcentre the parents are the teachers, and get stuck in to all the activities with their children! Last term, we chose a theme of 'Belonging' from Te Whaariki, and did lots of activities with our Playcentre Family and the wider community. As part of this theme, we obtained a grant from New Plymouth District Council to update our murals, and have been working with Oakura School to produce some new panels for our front fence.

If you liked the old fence, don't worry — we are keeping the previous panels and putting them up on the inside, as it's important to us to maintain the history of our Playcentre and its links to Oakura School!



Left to right are Rio, Joanna, Poeti, Holly, Darcy and Carter.

We are incredibly lucky to have a number of talented parents at Playcentre, not least local artist, Glenda Lucinsky. She has designed some BEAUTIFUL murals, and painted them with our Playcentre children over the past term. So here's a photo of some of our artists with one of the panels, and you can look forward to seeing some beautiful new artwork going up on the Playcentre fence in June!

If you would like to find out more about Playcentre, contact Bridget Harrison on 06-752 7223 or come along to one of our sessions! We run on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 9am to 12pm and are always ready to welcome new families to our Playcentre!

Bridget

TOM Baby Cute Chloe

Congratulations to Jacqui and Matt Herrett on the birth of Chloe Diana, born on 18 December 2010. Photographed here at five months old, Chloe gives her mum a gorgeous grin. She is a real cutie.

By Rosie Moyes



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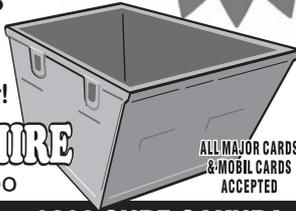
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Breeding your dog

Clients often ask whether or not they should breed from their female dog. This is a serious decision, which involves a lot of consideration. Why do you want to breed? Breeding just for fun or as an experience for the kids are not good reasons and if you are doing it to make money you should certainly reconsider.

Is your dog healthy enough to be a parent? Deciding this may involve a basic health assessment and additional screening tests, such as hip scoring to eliminate the presence of congenital hip problems in large breeds. Is her temperament suitable?

Time and space are other factors. Having a litter of puppies is a time-consuming process, which starts with finding a suitable mate and ends with re-homing the puppies. Your dog will require a suitable area to have her puppies in and will need a good space to use as they grow. Puppies grow quickly and by the time they are eight weeks old are likely to have outgrown a small area in the garage.

It is critical to provide puppies with early socialisation. They need to be exposed to everyone they will meet in the human world during their first few weeks to ensure they grow into confident, sociable dogs.

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The MOOV head lice range of products is the result of many years of Australian research and is a natural head lice product which is clinically proven to be effective against head lice when used as instructed. The MOOV sensitive product range is specifically designed for sensitive scalps. The gentle formulation kills head lice by suffocation. It is preservative free, pesticide free and fast and easy to use.



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both products.

Promotion ends 30th June

How to Choose



The MOOV head lice solution, combing conditioner and foaming gel are made from a naturally powerful and unique blend of essential oils and do not contain synthetic insecticides. The essential oils provide a naturally pleasant fragrance, making the process a lot easier for everyone involved!

The MOOV head lice defence spray is applied as a leave in conditioner and is sprayed onto children's hair daily for defence against head lice. It provides a 90 percent defence against head lice over an eight hour period.

TOM CLASSIFIEDS

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OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

Country and Western Club

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

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.

Ring Mike Vickers 752 7881.

JKA Karate

Tuesdays at Oakura Hall 5.30-6.30pm.

Thursdays at Oakura Hall 6.00-7.00pm.

Contact Jim Hoskin 752 7337.

Mini Groovers

Tuesday mornings 10.00am, Oakura Hall.

Gold coin donation.

Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over winter. Phone Chip 027 621 4999 or 752 1004.

Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm

Tuesday 5.30-7pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday 5.30-7.30pm

Friday 9am-12noon

Friday 4.30-6pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 3-5pm

Ladies' Midweek competition
Club night.

Juniors' private coaching.

A-grade players' practice.

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

Junior competition.

Soffe Cup and A grade comp.

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

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

Okato Squash Club

Ladder league Monday nights 7am start ph Chez 752 4097 for more details.

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, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.

Visitors welcome by appointment. Ph Bridget on 06-752 7223.

Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 9.15am) 027 829 147

147 **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** 021 118 840

at where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

Senior Citizens

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

St James Church, Oakura

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

St John's, Omata

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

Volkswagen Club

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

Yoga

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

Ph 0800 THE TOM for changes to your listing