

# TDM

OAKURA

JUNE 2015

## **VANDALS STRIKE - AGAIN!**

The grass areas of Corbett Park ripped to shreds  
yet again by thoughtless fun seekers.

TAKE ONE MOMENT

# TOM OAKURA

TOM OAKURA is a free monthly publication, delivered at the beginning of each month to all homes from the city limits to Okato.

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

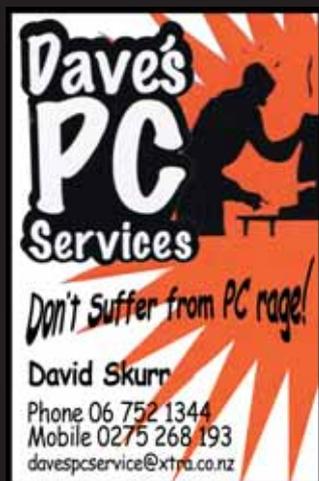
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**Phone 0800 THE TOM or click "contribute" at www.thetom.co.nz**

**TOM dates to remember for July 2015 issue:**

Copy & Ads - 12th June.

Distribution from 1st July.



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## EDITORIAL

Corbett Park!

I know that Kim would have liked to vent her spleen about this in her editorial, but she's happily swanning around in foreign climes right now, so I guess I'll say it for her. (Oh! The power!).



What is it with these fools that destroy public areas for their own selfish gratification? We all like to have fun, particularly at a young age, but this sort of fun is at the expense of other people's enjoyment of a popular local beauty spot.

Perpetrators - you know who you are, and I'm sure you would be extremely upset if someone tap-danced all over your precious vehicle(s), leaving you with numerous dents and scratches to take care of. Please keep your cars on the hard top where they belong, or go and find a friendly landowner where you can spin and skid until your heart's content, without spoiling it for the rest of us.

On a different note, it's sad to see Casey's Cafe in Oakura has closed its doors and we wish Casey all the best. However, watch that space! Exciting things could well be afoot. Rumour also has it that another commercial building in Oakura is being reinvented right now. Something else to keep an eye out for.

Snowboarding has certainly come of age in recent years and Kim's story on page 8 about one of our local snowboarding families shows that no matter what the sport, it still takes hard work and dedication from all concerned to reach the top echelons, especially in an extremely competitive country like the USA. Very inspiring to any would-be international athletes!

Finally, a very big sigh of relief from all those of us who know Oakura man Grant Looker. His amazing recovery from what was regarded as terminal cancer after a series of ground breaking treatments in Australia has given Grant a new lease on life and his treatment is now able to be continued in New Zealand. Awesome, Grant!

'Til next month.

Ron



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# Mayor Andrew Judd

Hi everyone

By the time you read this, we will have finished three days of public hearings on submissions to the draft Long-Term Plan 2015-2025.

I want to give a personal thank-you to everyone who read our consultation document on the LTP, who turned up to a community conversation, and who took the time to send in a submission.

I have a particular thank-you for those submitters who attended one of the hearings to speak to us about their submissions and answer any questions that Councillors had. To turn up to the Civic Centre to talk to the Council

takes time out of your day, and I greatly appreciate your involvement in this process.

I believe that effective local democracy requires the active involvement of local residents. When residents get involved in the decision-making process – especially for significant plans such as the LTP, which determines what the Council will do and how it will pay for it during the coming 10 years – we have a clearer picture of our community’s priorities when we’re drafting and finalising these documents.

If you didn’t watch any of the hearings online (or pop into the Council Chamber to see the hearings live), you can still find out what was discussed by viewing the recordings we have on our website at [newplymouthnz.com](http://newplymouthnz.com)

The next step in the process to get our LTP together is when the Council meets to deliberate on all the submissions and reports, and make we make our final decisions.

This happens at a Council meeting on Tuesday 9 June. Anyone is welcome to come to the Council Chamber to hear the debate, or you can watch it live online through our website.



We will be hosting “e-books for everyone” starting Monday 22nd June from 4pm-6pm. Bring your devices along as our digital librarian will be here to answer your questions. Free to all - no booking.

Crackerjacks pre-school story time will be held here Thursday 18th June 10am-10:30am. We are so fortunate to have Rebecca and Linley sharing their talents with us. If you’d like this programme to continue please show your support and attend!

We are currently preparing a meeting room in the library for small community groups to gather. If you are interested in booking this space please talk to us.

Your favourite authors, Kate Atkinson, Lesley Pearce, David Baldacci, James Patterson, Kristin Hannah, Harlan Coben, Carole Matthews, Jill Mansell, to name a few, have all have released new books for 2015.

I can recommend two thought provoking books regarding global climate change: Naomi Klein’s *This Changes Everything* and Bill McKibben’s *Eaarth* are both very powerful books and I hope provide a much needed wakeup call!

Another must read is *A Bigger Prize* by Margaret Heffernan. A brilliant look at how our fiercely competitive society can hinder rather than help us from achieving our best. She looks at businesses, individuals and organizations around the world who are “finding creative, cooperative ways to work together”.

Our hours are:

Mon, Wed, Fri - 12-6;

Tue, Thur, Sat - 9-1.

Hope to see you soon,

*Charlie and Vincenza*

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# Kaitake Community Board

There are some very important Council processes underway at the moment and I believe it is imperative that all ratepayers and residents keep themselves well informed because outcomes are likely to impact one way or the other everyone's lifestyles.

The first pre-consultation stage of the representation review will have concluded by the time you read this. Council is legally required to carry out this review, which looks at issues such as how councillors are elected, how many there should be and whether they should represent a ward or be elected 'at large' or have a combination of both - as we have under the current system. Council also looks at whether there should be community boards or not. I was at a well-attended Okato meeting on the subject where it was apparent that the community is far from happy with how it is currently represented. I am writing this prior to the Oakura meeting, so it will be interesting what this community has to say.

While The Long-Term Plan 2015-2025 consultation period has closed, submissions are still to be heard and final deliberations made. The LTP is the Council's statement of intent for the next 10 years, signalling the services it intends to provide, its financial strategy and new proposals for the community to consider and give feedback on. Already the draft plan has provided fireworks in the community. For example the proposal for an extra four hours' paid parking in New Plymouth has been given a huge thumbs down by the public in an online forum. It will be interesting therefore to see what councillors will decide, as the plan is expected to bring in an extra \$300,000 revenue annually.

Another important process is the development of the 'Shaping our Future Together' Blueprint. It will be the Council's 30 year 'big picture' plan and the key strategic planning tool that will prioritise how it develops the district's social, economic and environmental future. It's purpose is to identify the future opportunities for New Plymouth District including the townships, rural areas and the city. Public consultation has been concluded and no doubt the final document will be very thought-provoking.

This document will provide the starting point for reviewing Council's District Plan, which is coming up later this year. Council's current plan became operative in August 2005 and it is required to review the provisions in the District Plan no later than 10 years after that date. The District Plan includes objectives, policies and rules that manage the adverse effects of activities on the environment with a focus on land use and subdivision activities. It is a legal document that helps the Council manage the development of the NPDC by regulating the environmental effects created by new buildings and activities. It determines where new residential and employment areas will be and the rules underpinning their development.

Whenever I get into a discussion with local residents about their personal aspirations they invariably tell me they want a relaxed pace of life, a clean, green environment, plenty of opportunities for their children, a friendly neighbourhood, easy access to outdoor and sporting activities, quality education and so on. They also want lower cost home

ownership; less congestion and less commuting time. Council therefore has some interesting challenges. How to 'sell' the excitement, culture and vibrancy we are so lucky to have to attract and keep new residents. How to ensure the civic amenities such as roading, water supply and sewerage disposal can cope. How to offer cultural, creative, heritage, sporting and other recreational pursuits to keep them here and us happy. The walkways, Womad, galleries, libraries, the concerts, triathlons, swimming pools, and parks become an ever-increasing part of the mix, and they all have to be funded.

On the other hand we have councillors who are charged with ensuring the 'books are balanced'. Among other things, councillors are charged with representing the interests of the district (upon election, all members must make a declaration that they will perform their duties faithfully and impartially and according to their best skill and judgement in the best interests of the NPDC), developing and approving all policy - the policies that drive Council, and monitoring the performance of Council against its stated objectives. Therefore there needs to be a unified approach to Council decision making rather than a 'we-win-you-lose' approach, and an understanding and acceptance that no councillor can be the 'fount of all knowledge'.

As we head down the trail of increasing corporatisation of local government, as the tool to do things better for less financial outlay, it is sensible to reflect on the fact that all good ideas don't start in a Council office or around the Council table. Communities want a meaningful say about what goes on in their area so it is very important that Council gets much closer to its communities to ensure the community voice is heard and acted upon. After all its most important role is to deliver a strong local economy and build vibrant communities. So, bearing in mind those important processes underway mentioned above - the heat is on!

Well that's it for this month. The next meeting of the Kaitake Community Board will be at Oakura Hall on Monday July 6 at 4.30pm.

Ka kite ano

*Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Paul Coxhead and Councillor Richard Jordan who is the Council representative on the KCB.*

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# Budget 2015:

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Does paying one third of what you currently pay in ACC levies on your car sound like a good idea to you? The Government thinks so too.

The average ACC motor vehicle levy (including the annual licence levy and petrol levy) is expected to drop to around \$120 from 2016, saving New Zealand families a wad of cash. This is on top of the already confirmed reduction, from around \$330 currently, to \$195 kicking in from 1 July this year.

Since 2012, ACC levy reductions have saved New Zealanders around \$1.5 billion – and we've just announced another \$500 million of indicative reductions as part of the upcoming Budget. That's \$2 billion in total for New Zealand businesses, workers, and motor vehicle owners to keep in their pockets.

On top of the cuts to motor vehicle levies, we are looking at a 20 cent reduction in the average Work Account Levy, and 6 cents in the Earners Account Levy. We are committed to at least half a billion dollars in reductions, but final decisions will be made after public consultation.

These are real savings for New Zealand families. But they are also prudent and balanced measures made possible by ACC's sound financial performance. It's the right time to do this, after we've overseen a dramatic turnaround in ACC's finances.

While ACC is in a good position now, this has not always been the case. Before our reforms which brought about the conditions needed for levy cuts, ACC was in dire straits. The scheme we inherited had a \$4.8 billion shortfall in one year alone.

The sound financial performance we are currently seeing means ACC is now essentially fully funded. There is enough money invested to meet the future costs of all current claims. ACC is important to New Zealand and we are committed to ensuring it is sustainable into the future.

People want levy cuts but they also need stability. The Government recognises this and is introducing a new levy-setting framework for 2016/17 which will bring about greater transparency about the levy-setting process, and more stable levies going forward.

The Government is committed to setting ACC levies in a way that is fair to both levy payers and claimants and maintains ACC's ability to meet the needs of New Zealanders in the future.

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# SPORTS



## Kaitake Golf Club News

The ever popular annual Taranaki Golf Zone Two Ball Best Ball competition this year attracted 36 pairs. Winners of the gross competition were Warren Powell (Fitzroy) and Damien Powell (New Plymouth) Warren and Damien won this last year too. Well done guys.

Nett winners, after a play-off against Jono Heath and Geoff Andrews were Devin Lewis (Tumahu) and Ryan Murray (Tumahu).

One of our members Craig Farrant managed to get 3 two's (4th, 7th & 9th). Impressive!

### CLUB RESULTS

#### *Women's National Competitions*

Nancy McCormack was won by Lois Agnew and Sheryl Richardson with Sally Kwon and Mary Barrett runners up.

#### *Mid Week 18 Hole Women*

The Women's club competition has been interrupted by the weather over the past few weeks hence no final results are available this month.

The 2015 Taranaki Midweek Women's pennants has finished with Kaitake finishing 4th equal.

#### *Weekend Women*

36 hole stroke play.

Silver gross and nett Sheryl Richardson.

Bronze nett Raewyn Hawker.

Bronze nett Diane Jones.

#### *Mid week 9 Hole News*

Even though the numbers are beginning to thin out now that the weather is taking hold, competition in the first section is still fierce.

The first round of the Super 9 Series was played at the end of April with Pat Wilcox winning on a countback and Claire Chamberlain taking home the monthly spoon. Thursday winners include Jo West, Thelma White, Jenny Clarke, Angela Hitchman and Claire Chamberlain. Well done to all players. Also well done to our two new girls Lorraine and Susan who have made it into the golfing handicap system.

Top Dog is currently in progress - through to the next round are Angela Hitchman & Jenny Clarke playing Jean Keegan & Susan Cottam, Christine Alexander & Annette Cattle play Coraleen Le Breton & Pat Wood.

Pennants Update. With Kaitake White hosting the fourth round and with a home advantage, picked up maximum points to put them in outright second place with 5 points, 1 behind Te Ngutu who have 6. The Blue team who are on 4 points will have their chance of the home game in June whilst White have a Bye. Round 5 to be played at Te Ngutu will be an interesting one where both the Kaitake Teams will play each other. No doubt careful selection will be a priority.

### MEN'S

Presidents Trophy was won by Frank Regan with Dan Keegan runner-up.

Coming up is the Men's Top Dog to be played over the next few weeks.

The good run Kaitake 1 Men's Pennant team had come to an end when they lost in the semi finals.

### JUNIOR GOLF

Good news. Taranaki Golf was successful with their Kiwisport application for funding from Taranaki Sport. For our club this means Taranaki Golf has purchased 4 sets of clubs - 2 sets for 5-7 year olds and 2 sets for 8-10 year olds, plus cones, hula hoops and chain for coaching purposes. This package also includes 2 x 3 hours coaching clinics with Patrick Moore. The Kiwisport grant allows Taranaki Golf to go into schools in the area to hold Kiwigolf and SNAG Golf Clinics free of charge and hopefully get kids to come to the coaching and/or join regular groups such as ours. With these extra resources Kaitake Golf Club can easy cater for children who do not have clubs but would like to try playing golf.

The Chipper programme with Elliott Gunn (Junior Convenor) is held every alternate Sunday. For more information contact the office.

### COMING UP

Wednesday 25th June Kaitake Monthly Open.

Give Golf a Go (green box like last issue please).

Sunday 21 June 11am otherwise same details as last time.

*Andrea Jarrold, President*

## Go Ivor!

One of the day's highlights of the Taranaki Race Walking Club's efforts in Trentham on Sunday 17 May, was from Ivor Ellis - Oakura local and still walking a 2.5k leg at 91 years young, with his team achieving 1st place in the B division.

Four teams from the Club raced in the Annual Ekiden walking relays in surprisingly good conditions. An Ekiden relay is raced over a marathon distance (42.2k) with five or six competitors doing distances of 5 to 10k each.

In the A division TRWC achieved 2nd place in a time of 4h4m51s (this team consisted of T. Burrell, R. Gilberd, P. Fox, H. Terwiel and E. Kemsley). TRWC also had two other teams in this division, finishing in 4th and 5th places.

In the B division, TRWC's team of "Ivor's Welsh Wizards" achieved first place in a time of 4h39m30s.

The Welsh Wizards other members were M. Lane, J. Wells, L. Eldershaw, D. Wackrow and M. Nield.



**Ivor Ellis (91 years young, who walked a 2.5k leg) receiving the Wellington Scottish relay trophy on behalf of his team from David Lonsdale.**



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## SPORTS



### KAYAK FISHING CLUB

When the weather lets us get out, the fishing is awesome and when it's too rough for the kayak, surfcasting is the way to go.

South Taranaki is the place for surfcasting at the moment. Jim Morwood managed to catch a nice snapper off the beach at Fort St George.

The kayak fishing has been great, we had a good day at the White Cliffs a couple of weeks ago.

The kayak fishing club has its AGM and prize giving coming up on the 25th June, all new, potential, and current members are invited to attend.

For more info check out the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Club website.

Garry



**New club member Nik Edge (also our friendly local courier driver) with a great catch.**

# The Slopes Beckon Talented Siblings from Oakura

Oakura teenagers Georgia and Felix Ferris are taking their snowboarding passion to dizzying heights with single figure national rankings and experience at the most prestigious snowboarding Mecca - Breckenridge, Colorado.

The dream began four years ago with the duo's first attempts, then two years ago they began competing.

Georgia 18, and Felix 14, spent the 2013 winter in Whistler honing their skills, gaining experience and racking up the miles on the slopes before returning

for the New Zealand winter. In 2014 the family headed to Breckenridge, Colorado to attend a snowboard academy and compete in the Rocky Mountain Competition Series in two disciplines - the half pipe and slope style. This series gains points which go towards a National ranking. Georgia finished in the top 30 and was the series winner for slope style and Felix finished in the top 70, placing 3rd in the series slope style and 4th in the half pipe. At the US Nationals Georgia finished 5th in slope style, 11th in the half pipe and 5th in rail jam. Felix unfortunately took a fall at the Nationals so did not finish. Georgia finished the US season ranked 6th nationally out of approximately 70 competitors and Felix finished 22nd out of 260 for his overall US national ranking. USASA invite the top 30 women and the top 70 boys to attend Nationals each year. Some of the points received get carried forward to the following year and this helps with a world ranking, gaining recognition in the sport and being noticed by Snow Sport New Zealand to gain a place in the New Zealand squad.

Last year Georgia won the North Island Secondary School Snowboard Championship at Turoa for her correspondence school, Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.

The very limited season in New Zealand means the family have to travel to the USA to gain the necessary skills and experience. This is especially true of living in the North Island, but Georgia says the experience gained on the tough and rugged Mt Ruapehu slopes has put them in good stead when competing with others. The duo are heading to Wanaka shortly to begin their 2015 build up with a high performance coach in preparation for the New Zealand Nationals.

"Revolution Tours" are stepping stones from grassroots to elite snowboarding which also gather points towards Nationals. Both Felix and Georgia are applying for selection on the Revolution Tour through Snow Sport NZ and have goals to get to the Junior World Championship in Norway in 2016.



**Georgia and Felix weighed down with their many medals and cups.**



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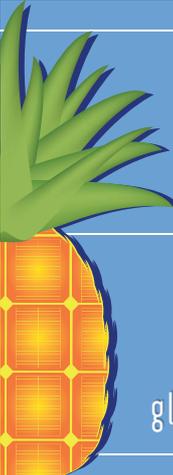
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Felix is currently in year 10 at NPBHS but will be returning to correspondence studies when the family heads to Wanaka for the winter. Following this the family will be heading to USA for five months for the American winter season to catch up to northern hemisphere standards and assimilate back into the intense competitive environment.

Both Georgia and Felix love the thrill of nailing a new trick and practising it over and over until it's perfect. They say the scariest discipline is slope style, which is down a course containing a variety of obstacles including rails, jumps and other terrain park features.

It goes without saying that the commitment, determination, raw talent, financial means, parental support and sacrifice is immense and as I talked with these two extraordinary siblings, I couldn't help but wonder which ingredient was the most important. I've watched their videos and the talent is evident, the parental support from mum Emmalie and dad Pierre is unquestioning and selfless and the sacrifices made are humbling. Most of all, the sheer joy Georgia and Felix and their parents get out of snowboarding is inspiring - they are all self confessed adrenaline junkies, though Emmalie says she is the 'fair weather' snowboarder of the family, but they have always tried to give their children new and exciting adventures. Remaining philosophical about reaching the pinnacle of the snowboarding world - all it takes is one bad fall and a bad break to a major body part and your career is over - they are meanwhile giving it everything!

I for one will be excited to watch them progress to the top and should they not make it then I'll know they gave it a damn good try!

By Kim Ferens

## Taranaki Land Girls

Over the past two years Taranaki Land Girls have hosted a series of enjoyable and well attended learning events covering a wide range of topics relevant to women living on the land. Key elements of these sessions are the opportunity to socialise and share experiences with others. So our June event is dedicated to just that - mixing, mingling and getting to know more about each other!

Join us for drinks and nibbles on Thursday June 11, from 6.30 pm, at 39 Doone Street, New Plymouth. \$5pp door charge, everybody welcome. To find out more and/or register your interest please contact Shonagh Hopkirk on 06 752 0889 or [shopkirk@gmail.com](mailto:shopkirk@gmail.com)

We run events every 6-8 weeks, alternating mid-week evening meetings with a weekend day event, providing a mix of guest speakers and practical sessions. No annual membership fee, we just charge a small entry fee (\$5). Some are interested in learning about different aspects of managing a lifestyle block, others in learning more about a particular topic. Most want to meet others with similar interests and experience new activities.

A few of our popular topics include: "Have A Go & Get To Know", a practical workshop looking at basic skills such as fence repair, sheep handling, etc. There are also sessions on calf-rearing; pasture management; animal health/stock management; water - legal issues, riparian planting, water tanks, septic systems; gardening - seed-saving and composting; soap-making; poultry; bees; Zoonotics, (diseases we can pick up from animals); as well as guided tours of Tupare and Hollard Gardens.



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# GETTING WET



## Oakura Boardriders

Well what a month weather wise and not the best for surf that's for sure but some members did manage some South Taranaki gems I hear! Winter is not far around the corner and eyes are starting to look at the mountains with hope of a good winter on the slopes - fingers crossed.

I am sure we are all following Ricardo Christie's progress on the WSL World Tour and his latest results show what can be done by a NZ Surfer. He has had some good results as he builds his experience and confidence against the world's best. I certainly hope he can cement a position and do the country proud, and as Paige has shown before, it can be done by surfers from a small country with limited support. Just imagine what could be achieved with the resources the major nations pour into their athletes! On this note the NZ Stand-up Paddle surfing team just finished 4th in their world championships; NZ is up there with the best as Daniel Kereopa showed winning the Ultimate Waterman contest earlier in the year. You can watch the documentary teaser here <http://www.redbull.com/nz/en/surfing/stories/1331723789504/the-ultimate-waterman-documentary> with the full show coming soon.

The Taranaki Surfing Champs were held on May 17th with Oakura's Ariana Shewry placing 2nd in the Women's event, great result for Ariana at such a young age, big future ahead! Full results below.

WOMEN'S: 1 Zhana Hutchieson, 2 Ariana Shewry, 3 Georgia Kennings, 4 Tui Wright. MEN'S: 1 Jayson Zimmerman, 2 Riccardo Lucibella, 3 Jordan Barnes, 4 Conan James.



James Conan at the Taranaki champs.



Taranaki champs women winners, Zhana 1st, Ariana 2nd and Georgia 3rd.

Below is a letter from our President which is particularly apt with all that has been happening over the summer. Aside from this a special thanks must go to John Shewry our president. First and foremost I need to say thank you to you all for such a great summer. Our club has been absolutely hectic in every way with loads of new membership, activities, parties and heaps of surfing happening. I think in the back of my mind I wasn't going to send out this mail in the hope summer just kept rolling on.

We are looking forward now to our winter season so please keep in touch and watch out for information via emails and Facebook.

### “ CLUB RENOVATIONS

At present the (very cool) new kitchen is being installed and should be completed over the next few days. We will look to have another working bee in the next couple of weeks to remove and re install new windows in the old kitchen area. We will also demolish the old kitchen and have the floors prepped for new carpet (if anyone has any interest in the old kitchen please shout out). If you feel you can help please send us an email or turn up on the day once we set a date as there is always something for someone to do.

### SKATE PARK

Finally we have the green flag on the new Skate Park position and with unprecedented support the community has spoken. The park is currently under design and funding is now being looked at, we hope to see a start date very soon and expect to see some actual works toward the end of winter. We have a great team working on this with local business and people putting up their hands in support. Thank you to Doug Hislop and his team at the Kaitake Community Board for such great support and work on our community's behalf. Thank you also to Mary Bishop and Ariana Shewry for the great presentations they made on our behalf to council and the community boards. I will of course keep everyone up to date when information is available.

### COACHING

Our winter coaching application is about to be put forward (a little later than normal). Once we know where we are at funding-wise, we will create a time table around as many of the winter sports as we can. This year the club has spent a considerable sum on the summer lessons so we can see our numbers have gone ballistic. Fortunately we had some funding, 30% of these costs being covered by NZCT. Hopefully we can access a little more to run us through the rest of the year. We will look to run wet and dry land training over different days; we would really like to highlight water safety/surf etiquette skills, so we will perhaps do these lessons on Friday nights, once a month or every 6 weeks or so. Surf lessons will probably be on Sundays. Now is the time to put your name forward if you haven't already for lessons, wet or dry.

### FOOD NIGHTS AND PARTIES

Of course one of our favourite reasons to meet is to eat and drink, we will run potluck dinners with a few drinks over winter, please keep an eye out for these dates. We will need to christen the new kitchen and fridges of course so we will book a band for that night (if you have a suggestion please let us know). There has been a load of support for Fridays over summer which has been awesome! New ideas, new

faces always make it more interesting so if you have an idea for a night over winter (which you'd like to run) just email it through and we can help organize and make it happen.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SURFING

We are now closed for the summer season as such, however we do have a great new sound system and smart TV, so if you want to get a group together and watch the surfing/sports or whatever, organize the time and event and let us know, we will make keys available.

#### SWAP NIGHT

We hope to run a gear sale and swap night toward the end of winter, and are thinking fairly broadly, i.e. pretty much anything you'd like to sell or swap, with a donation to the club for entry. If we get an overwhelming number of you hoping to run this sooner, we can look at it for ski gear/wetsuits etc. Just let us know.

#### SURF COMPS

A massive congratulations to all of our kids that competed this year, you've all shown such great commitment, learning and progression. Parents have done the same, adding great support to the mix too. The micrograms were by far and away dominated by our club with Primary, Secondary School and National Competition's being taken out by many of our OBC kids. There is no question we are building one of the best clubs in the country, so let's keep it cranking.

Taranaki Surf Champs is up soon so please watch for the dates. There will be a couple of winter comps run by NP Boardriders and we are still hoping to run our adults' division Club Champs when we see the perfect wave and weather window.

Weather wasn't kind to us for our Junior division's and with so many kids to run through, we need as much time as the weather will allow. We will now look to run these divisions toward the end of the year.

#### THANK YOU.

Thank you to all of you, I know I harp on about the great support etc, but it is truly an achievement we have all taken part in so we must acknowledge each other and look at what we've built and the success we've made to date.

See you all down at the club very soon

*John Shewry, OBC President*

On a final note, The Kaitake Community Board is very involved with ongoing discussions and negotiations re the Coastal Walkway. They have asked for community involvement, so please take an interest as this impacts all of us. We can see the huge difference it has made to New Plymouth and it has a huge impact on our use and enjoyment of the coast. I realise not everyone is in agreement with the opening up of the coast but good vigorous discussion is healthy and democratic. I remember a similar meeting re sewage disposal in Oakura soon after I moved to here many years ago; it ended up staying with the status quo. In hindsight many may have a different view on the outcome of that meeting now! Change is inevitable, it is better to be involved with its shaping, than not be involved and complaining later.

*Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders Club*

*John Shewry, President 027 252 9190*

*Paul Lobb Secretary, 752 7556*

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# New Plymouth Boys' High School

I would like to introduce myself to you, as the new Headmaster of New Plymouth Boys' High School. The responsibility of providing the very best education (of both curriculum and values) to enable every boy to reach their potential is something I am privileged and passionate about. As an Old Boy and former teacher of NPBHS, being Headmaster provides me the opportunity to contribute back to the school and community, that has been so instrumental in my life.



Paul Veric.

Taranaki is like no other, and it is the place we have chosen as a family to raise our two young boys, because of the fantastic environment and opportunities this region has to offer. We have been very fortunate to live in Oakura recently and have enjoyed the friendship and community spirit.

I have spent the last few weeks sharing my vision with our stakeholders and it is appropriate I do the same with you. A vision is really important, as it is what we collectively aspire to, and what we test everything we do against. An attainable, but very challenging goal.

In my words, our vision is in three simple words 'be the example'.

Be the example as a school, be the example as a student, be the example as a parent and as a staff member. Setting the standard is not about the headmaster ensuring it happens, it's about every person associated with the school asking themselves every day am I being the example? As a student am I being the example with regard to uniform, behaviour, concentration, treating others with respect and application in class, as a staff member am I being the example with regard to professionalism, preparation, innovation, enthusiasm to name a few? Being the example is not looking to others to say what are you doing about lifting our standards? It's firstly being the example yourself. We are of course accountable to each other to be the example. I believe 'be the example' is simple and clear and applicable to everything we do.

At my first school assembly I challenged the boys and staff to ask themselves this question. What would happen if everyone did what they did? If everyone in the school followed their lead their actions. It can be easy to say it doesn't matter what they do because they are only one of many who might not meet the standard. But it does. They all count. They are all important.

We will always have work to do in striving to be the example but that focus on continual improvement is essential to being the best we can be. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mr Michael McMenamain for the key role he has played in leading NPBHS during his tenure as Headmaster. I know he cared deeply for the school and he will be missed. It is with pleasure that I also announce the latest recipients

of our Tiger Jacket. It is pleasing to note the broad cross-section of sport and cultural pursuits amongst the list of recipients.



**Back row:** Sam Tullett (Music), James Murphy (Music), Noah Jones (Volleyball), Adam Stuart (Music), Sean Hone (Beach Volleyball).

**Middle row:** Kaylum Boshier (Cricket), Nick Kjestrap (Volleyball and Athletics), Cam Blencowe (Volleyball), Suhayl Tiatia (Volleyball), Justin Bishop (Athletics).

**Front row:** Angus White (Athletics), Daniel Lundt (Golf), Ben Foulkes (Football), Ajeet Rai (Tennis), Jake Farnsworth (Volleyball), Callum Sutherland (Tennis).

I look forward to the years ahead as Headmaster and welcome contact from the community anytime.

*Paul Veri, Headmaster*

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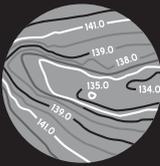


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# Spotswood College

Twenty-first century education requires us all to see the role of schools differently. With an aging population and the looming skill shortage in Taranaki, schools need to work collaboratively to meet the needs of all young people. Schools and their collective communities must understand that our children are first and foremost our community children – our greatest resource!

The Minister of Education is clearly signalling the need for collaboration between schools. She sees collaboration as a key strategy for our country meeting the goal of five out of five students achieving.

Principals are developing this vision and are moving their thinking from the competitive model (winner and loser schools) to a model of collaboration that is formalised to achieve specific targets. Collaboration is a level of working together which is beyond simple co-operation. It is an economic and social imperative that we maximise our skills and resources to ensure the success of all students.

Current examples of collaboration within our schools include:-

**Taranaki Futures** – Taranaki Secondary Schools have been working together with employers and local tertiary providers to set a vision and to put in place strategies to assist young people to successfully transition from school to work. Part of our thinking is based upon the fact that 70% of students across the country leave school and go into employment or trades-based training. Perhaps for too long our focus has been upon preparing the 30% of students who leave school to go to University. Schools have pooled resources to assist Taranaki Futures to employ a teacher to co-ordinate this crucial work.

**Omata/Devon/Spotswood College** – Our three schools are currently working on a literacy project where teachers are investigating how writing skills develop and are taught from Year 6 through to Year 13. Primary teachers will gain an understanding of what is required at NCEA Level and Secondary teachers will see what has been taught and how, before students arrive at the College. This project will work towards developing a more seamless approach to learning and teaching across the sectors.

**Orchestra Day** – On Friday May 8th our Music Teacher, Mr Greenfield, organised the Taranaki Schools Orchestra Day at our School. The event involving almost all Taranaki Secondary Schools was a huge success. Students come together to form an orchestra of about 80 students. Arriving at 8.30am, the students put together a programme that they play to parents and primary school students at the end of the day. It was great to have Omata School in the audience.

As we work together we will identify many opportunities to collaboratively improve outcomes for our Taranaki children.

## SCHOOL NEWS:

**School Ball** – We had a fabulous School Ball on Saturday May 2nd. The Student Ball Committee transformed the Plymouth Hotel into a venue that looked like something out of Hollywood. Students were difficult to recognise in their ball gowns and tuxedos. The dinner was delicious and all in all it was a most civilised, positive and mature formal occasion.

**Abbie Christodoulou** – We really enjoyed Abbie and her Mae Valley partner Hannah performing at our recent Senior Assembly and talking to us about their X Factor experience. We have known over the past 5 years that Abbie was destined to be a star!

**ANZAC Services** – I was extremely proud of the way in which our students honoured and commemorated 100 years since Gallipoli. Special thanks to parents, present and past students who contributed to our ANZAC Services and who marched with us on the morning of 25 April.



The school ball.



ANZAC.

## COMING EVENTS:

### GALA GALA GALA!

On Sunday the 14th of June we are holding our Annual Winter Gala. Funds this year are going toward the purchase of an electronic noticeboard at the front of our school as well as rewards for our E TŪ Programme. Come along and enjoy the fun.

2016. Planning is well underway for next year. As you are beginning to make your decisions about Secondary Schooling for next year please do not hesitate to come in and find out about our school – we are very happy to meet individually with students and parents. Our Open Evening will be held in the School Hall at 7.00pm on August 5th.

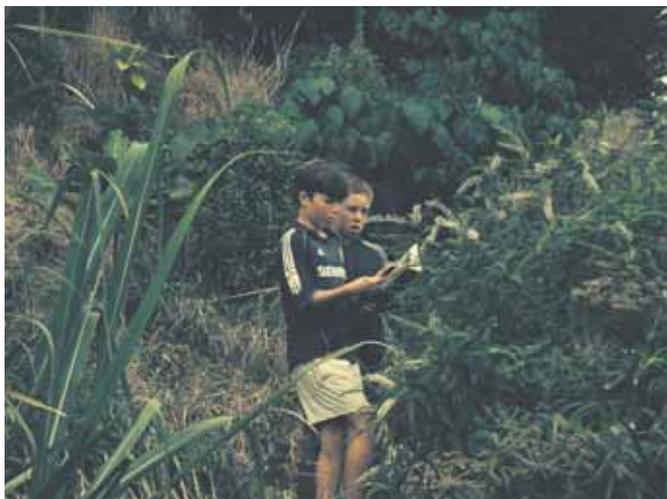
If at any time you have any queries regarding our school please contact me 7512 416 – extension 709 or email at [admin@spotswoodcollege.school.nz](mailto:admin@spotswoodcollege.school.nz)

*Mark Bowden, Principal*

## SCIENCE EXPERT DAY

Monday (4th May) we had Science Expert Day. Parents volunteered to come and educate us about the many interests of science. The list of parents included: Karl Browne, who taught us about fossils and valuable minerals, Lara Coxhead, who introduced the many wonders of botany, Ms Hanline, who welcomed us into the fascinating knowledge of the human eye and finally George Poole, who showed us the eccentric test tubes of science. Katy Sheffield also taught junior students about the human body. Students in Year 5 and 6 learnt about the evils of sugar in soft drinks with Jackie Keenan. Many thanks to all those parents that gave us their time and knowledge.

So, on the day I decided to learn about fossils and minerals with Karl. Karl owned an astonishing amount of fossils and 'jewels to human eye' (minerals). Karl showed us



**Budding botanists, Michael and Oliver.**

some interesting videos on YouTube about the journeys geologists take to unusual and odd places to find the scarce fossils of the dinosaur age. He also set up a microscope in the computer room. He put a variety of different minerals under the microscope so we were able to notice the difference between crystals.

The time flew and already it was morning tea time. Unfortunately, during second period we had to go back to normal schoolwork and wait until after lunch! Finally after a few hundred mind-boggling math sums it was time for botany with Lara. We met up in the P.C. (Pohutukawa Centre) and soon after wandered into the bushy forest by the swimming pool. Lara handed out some plant books and sent us on a hunt to find and identify the plants in the forest using a classification chart. I discovered heaps of interesting facts and was able to identify a variety of plants and trees after the lesson. With time to spare, Lara treated us to an energetic game of 'Rush'.

I ended the day on a good note and had heaps of fun.

*Michael Gibbon (Age 12)*

## WINTER INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

The year 5 and 6's had their very first interschool fixture against Spotswood School on Friday the 8th May. There were two netball games, a soccer game and a rugby game. All teams played very well by playing fairly and competitively.



**Test tube scientists.**

The A netball team won their game by 17 to 6, and the B netball team lost 3 to 8. The rugby team won their game 39 - 26, and the soccer team won by 15 - 0.

Students from Oakura commented that the Spotswood teams were competitive and skilful. The rugby team thought that it was one of the hardest games they had ever played.

All players are looking forward to the rest of the fixtures this term.

*Chloe Walshaw (Age 12)*

# omata school news

## COMING EVENTS

### June

- 16 Y8 Young Leaders' Conference, Palmerston North.
- 17 Y5/6 Sports exchange, 1pm at Merrilands.
- 22-26 Pet Week.
- 23 Y6 Gymnastics at Okato.

### July

- 2 Y7/8 Indoor Bowls tournament at Opunake.
  - 3 Music Assembly 9am.
- Term 2 ends.

**Term 3 begins Monday 20 July.**

## SPORTS

We are very grateful to the parent volunteers who put their names forward to coach and manage our sports teams over winter. We really appreciate the time and effort that goes in to supporting students to play sport. 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, having a shared responsibility for the game and the outcome helps students develop many capabilities. Participating and contributing, relating to others, managing themselves and thinking are all enhanced through the students' involvement. Being responsible for turning up to practices and games and being a team player is helping students develop positive attitudes and values which they will carry with them into their adult lives.





**Year 5/6 Rugby vs Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai Rangiatea.**  
 From Left Carl Neilson, Aidan Dalgleish, Jack Feaver, William Perrett, Oliver Roberts and Asher Williams.

Parents have a great opportunity through sport to model their values to their children. Don't miss this chance to show respect, integrity, and perseverance when next your child's team takes to the field or the court. Celebrate and strive for the wins and take the losses. Respecting the umpires, referees and coaches even when you may not agree with their decisions.

Learning about winning and losing is a natural part of childhood experiences and through the primary years children also learn about the meaning of 'cheating' and 'fairness'.

If you play plenty of games with young children where they have experiences of winning and losing (like snakes and ladders), it is good practice for when they play other games where they may not win as often. Think about how your actions and what you say affect your child. The way you cope with losing yourself, and by what you say after wins and losses will influence your child's response.

So well done parents, keep encouraging and supporting your children with their sports, enjoy the day and help them improve their skills for next time and well done coaches for ensuring many children get the opportunity to participate in sports.

YQuiz Night, Friday 19 June 7pm-9pm Omata School and Community Hall. Tickets \$15 per person available from Omata School office. Enter a team of 4-6 people or join a team on the night. Cash bar. Supper provided. Fabulous fun.

*Karen Brisco, Principal*

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## OAKURA COMMUNITY - WHAT'S ON

PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING

**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.** Music and movement for preschoolers! Tuesdays 10am during school terms, now at St James' Hall (opp. Oakura Hall). Gold coin donation. Contact Maryanne on 06-2811197.

**Move It or Lose It - fitness classes.** Oakura Hall, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.30am, Contact Gloria 752 7442.

**Oakura Playcentre.** 14 Donnelly St, Oakura. Sessions run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon during school terms. Visitors welcome. Ph Maryanne on 06-2811197.

**Oakura Pony Club.** Contact Robin King ph 751 0300.

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

**Okato Squash.** Club nights on Mondays from 7pm, everyone welcome, phone Darryl Gibson, Ph 06 752 4804.

**Omata Playgroup.** Meets every Thursday, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. Ring 751 2308 for next session date. All parents and pre-schoolers welcome.

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm - Ladies Midweek Competition.  
Tuesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching.  
Wednesday 3pm-5pm - Junior Coaching / Hot Shots Tennis.  
6pm-7.30pm - Ladies practice night.  
Thursday 5.30pm-7.30pm - A Grade players practice.  
Friday 4pm-8pm - Junior Interclub competition.  
Saturday 9am-4pm - Sofe Cup and A grade Competition.  
Contact Club Secretary, Jackie Mitchell on 06 752 7013.

**Probus Club.** Meets once month at Kaitake Golf Club rooms on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am - 11.30am. Contact Barry Goble 752 7254, or Betty West 752 7816.

**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.

**Val Deakin Dance School.** Oakura Hall. Saturday mornings. Pre-school dance classes 9:30 - 10 am. Beginners' Ballet dance class 10.00 - 10:45 am. Contact Val on 752 7743.

Also classes for pre-schoolers to adults in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and ballroom (beginners to advanced) at the Dance Centre in New Plymouth.

**Vigor Fitness.** Tuesday and Thursdays 10am - Outdoor Pure Grit Training. Phone Aneka Carlson 021 404 642.

**Volkswagen Club.** Regular events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall, camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times and knowledge. Contact President: [kirk@taranakivw.co.nz](mailto:kirk@taranakivw.co.nz) and Secretary: [bryan@taranakivw.co.nz](mailto:bryan@taranakivw.co.nz)

**Yoga Classes.** Oakura Church Hall, Wed at 9.15am, Fri at 6am (fully booked!), Fri at 9.15am. Everyone welcome. Contact Kate Evans 027 203 7215.

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