

Americana proves a hit with locals

By Kim Ferens

Two local residents entered their pride and joys into the first ever Americana show held in Taranaki at the end of February.

Ashley Heydon not only entered his 1938 Dodge (pictured at right), but also sponsored Miss Americana – pretty girls being fair incentive for Ash!

Ash's DS Dodge is a magnificent machine and is well known around the village. It turned heads at Americana too as the only Dodge of its era on show. Ash is suitably proud that "The Dodge" held its own in the parade. For Ash Americana was a great show that provided good entertainment value and he had never seen crowds like it at any other event. He'll be entering The Dodge and sponsoring Miss Americana again next year.

The Dodge was bought new from Newton King in 1938 by Ash's grandfather-in-law Mr Bill Honeyfield. Ash bought it in 1953 to use as a family car and it has been in the family ever since. And there will be no future sale! For a 70-year old car it is in very good

nick – just about original condition (I bet a few other 70 year olds wished they looked as good!). The leather is a bit cracked and worn but it just gives the car a special character. It only has 160,000km on the clock so it still has plenty of miles left in it.

Ash has a fondness for American cars of yester year because he says they are well made, robust and they handle well. The Dodge speaks for itself, drawing admiring looks wherever it goes.

Raymond Hill is another passionate petrol head and was cajoled into entering his Ford V8 F150 truck into Americana by John Rae, his insurance agent.

Raymond's Ford F150 (pictured below) is his pride and joy. Ford and Harley

Davidson produced the special F150 model to commemorate 100 years in business in 2003 and it features a commemorative Harley/Ford insignia on the side. It also has some other special features – a super-charged 5.4L petrol engine, 4-gear automatic transmission, 20-inch wheels, up-market stereo system, visor Dictaphone and it does 100km/16L.

But Raymond didn't buy the F150 to be a show pony but to tow his 2-ton race car and trailer and he says it makes an excellent tow vehicle. When the F150 isn't towing the race car, it is the weekend family vehicle. Raymond and Jo's two daughters Bronte and Ava love travelling in the vehicle. Bronte's favourite feature is the DVD jack points in the back seat.

The Hill family enjoyed being part of Americana and think it was great for Taranaki and local businesses. Raymond said it was a good excuse to polish up the truck and show it off. Oh, and what about the word on the street about a nude doll being waved from the back seat during Friday night's parade? Hopefully it was Ava's and not Raymond's!



FROM THE TOM ZONE

Now that the TOM team has returned from frolicking at the beach, the kids are back at school and the husbands have their noses to the grindstone, we're getting busy and focused on life with TOM!

I don't know if you know anyone who has teenagers going off to university at the moment but I do and my thoughts have often been with these mothers (especially), who are watching their offspring spread their wings. How scary it must feel to be letting go of the reigns after years and years of being the one in control. My children start flying the coup next year so I guess I need to get ready for it too. But where did all those years go?

This month we feature the Lamb triplets starting kindy. Can Helen imagine the day she sends those girls off to uni? I suppose she's just enjoying putting her feet up and catching her breath for a moment!

I hope everyone got their WOMAD tickets before they sold out. What a phenomena that has turned into! Graham Donlon steers us through the various artists this month, so you will have a bit of background info before you get to WOMAD.

Kim

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tom

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

With summer finally arriving it has been great getting out and about, and enjoying our great coastal lifestyle. Of course the best of summer arrives once everyone is back at work after the New Year break! But the last few weeks have shown once again that our district is a great place to be for both residents and visitors.

We're well up to speed now for the year ahead – which is a good thing as there are many big projects coming our way!

The Council is in the process of getting information out to the public about Budget 07/08. This is the second year of the Community Plan 2006-2016, detailing what work the Council will do in the coming financial year and how we will pay for it. Obviously there is the opportunity for some minor tweaking, but it will be much less arduous than signing off a full 10-year plan. Meanwhile, progress continues on the project to supply reticulated sewerage to Oakura, with treatment at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On 22 March there will be a hearing on the public submissions received on pipeline route designation and consents. Also, we have advertised the first major tender – for the supply of high-pressure ductile iron pipes intended for the trunk main. Tender documents for the construction contracts are being finalised now.

There has been a lot of work put into this project – from the community, iwi, Transit and the Council – and there is still more work to do, but in the end the environment and lifestyle of Oakura will gain from this major public project.

Speaking of the environment, I hope you were able to get involved in this year's Seaweed! Seaweed's aims are twofold: To remove from the coastline any rubbish, and to highlight how much rubbish ends up in the sea. The week ends on 11 March but its lessons can be carried through the entire year – we need to look after the health of the sea by disposing of our rubbish properly, whether we're on land (from where rubbish can be blown by wind or carried by water to the coastline) or on the sea itself. Just by picking up any rubbish you see on Oakura's coastline, you can benefit the lives of nesting birds as well as the creatures in the sea.

And don't forget, if you have any projects you'd like to get under way and you think the Council might be able to help you, give me a call on 759 6060 – I'd love to hear from you!

Peter Tennent

Mayor



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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

Misinformation creates a storm in a teacup. Last month's newspaper headline "Horses and dogs banned from beaches" resulted in a deluge of calls and complaints to Council and Councillors. Everybody must know by now that the story was sheer sensationalism and had no credibility?

Graham Rook's Pony Club column in the last issue of *TOM*, in which he denigrated those of us who virtually give our time on Council, could have been put to better use congratulating all the Oakura equestrian achievers.

The lesson in this is: ask the people who "were there" if you want the real story – your Community Board is normally represented at all of these meetings and we discuss outcomes at the next Community Board meeting.

Our last meeting was held on a beautiful summer's afternoon with a panoramic view of the beach. We saw four dogs playing with their owners in the river in the ocean and on the sand, and no bureaucrats raced out and banned them.

Blue Flag is a pilot scheme – in other words, it's a test case. According to Councillor George, our beaches are perfect and we cannot improve our environment. Well, excuse me! As I was swimming in the Oakura River today, what floated past me? Could that be soapsuds with brown silt attached? And it's there at the same time each day at about the time cowsheds are washed down. I also saw a used baby napkin lying in the grass and I don't know how many plastic bags dancing up the beach in the breeze. Let's get real – any scheme that takes a look at improving our environment is worth giving a whirl.

Sixty years ago I rode my pony on the beach with our dog panting behind and it's my hope that in the next 60 years, many more will do the same, some becoming the best in the country. Walking the dog is a given – most are well loved family members and companions – all you have to do is be responsible and it's fair to say most are.

There is no question (and there never has been) that our lifestyle will be impaired, only improved by the Blue Flag Pilot scheme. But everybody can have their say and at the end of the day, a Blue Flag may or may not attach itself to an area of our fabulous beach.

Rubbish. Now there is something to get antsy about. It's everywhere. Many thanks to those responsible people who went out and had a clean up prior to the fabulous Americana parade driving through. It's believed much flying rubbish comes from the rubbish truck so that is now being addressed. If you see it happening still, call me on 752 7125 and leave a message – or even better, take a picture.

I had the pleasure of meeting Fat & Thin production folk recently and movies are on Taranaki's agenda again thanks to the "we can do it" attitude that prevails in this community. Americana has come and gone – what fabulous pieces of art some of those cars were. I overheard an American visitor say, "It's bigger here than Texas" (referring to the number of entries).

Peter Tennant and his Councillors have a lot to be proud of this past weekend and others to come are testament to their hard work and vision. As always, it's the big picture that counts and Taranaki's image internationally is big and bright.

Fay

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Prudent Trust Administration

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"WOW" ... Spectacular/ Contemporary, Oakura

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HON. HARRY DUYNHOVEN
MP for New Plymouth

Globally, deforestation – the felling of forests without replanting – is a major contributor to climate change. In New Zealand, the increase in emissions from deforestation over the next five years is projected to equal the increased emissions from agriculture or transport. So, we need to manage deforestation.

Climate change means we're all going to have to make some hard choices – about the transport we use, our water, heating and electricity usage and the way we manage our land. Some of those changes will be easier than others. There are no silver bullets and doing nothing is not an option.

While New Zealand is already one of the most efficient producers of agricultural products and Taranaki arguably the heart of the dairy industry, as a nation, we face a challenge to curb the emissions from this sector. The bottom line is emissions carry a significant financial and environmental cost. We have to work out how to minimise and apportion that cost.

On the farm, options include managing the use of nitrogen fertilizers and encouraging the use of nitrification inhibitors. Eventually, if a system can be set up for farmers to voluntarily report emissions at farm level, improvements will be able to be measured and rewarded.

Farmers are also being asked to work out the best ways to manage the impact of converting forestry to dairying – growing cows produce more emissions than growing trees – and school boy sniggering about farting just won't cut it any more.

Climate Change Minister David Parker has criticised Kyoto Forestry Association head Roger Dickie for making simplistic and misleading comments about climate change proposals.

Mr Dickie asserts that owners have a right to the carbon sink credits for forests planted after 1990. This is simply not the case. Forest owners have no property right in carbon credits,



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

"The Working MP"

158 Tukapa St., New Plymouth. Ph. 753 3211. Fax 753 2711



just as emitters such as farmers have no current liability for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Forests are "carbon sinks" – while they're growing they absorb and store carbon plus they help protect hill country from erosion and the plains below from floods.

Clearly, we should encourage new plantings. The Government has announced a Permanent Forest Sink Initiative to encourage new plantings on some of our most erosion and flood-prone land, and Farmer and Forester forums and hui are being held around the country. Information for farmers, farm foresters and foresters (including the Government's discussion document) is available at www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange and you can find more general information about wider climate change policies at www.climatechange.govt.nz

Thank you for reading my column.

Harry Duynhoven

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Neighbourhood Support

At midsummer Oakura is a peak attraction, especially for the young, with warm seas and sand, the odd good wave, good food on offer and a cold one at Butlers. There cannot be too many places in Taranaki that offer better in summertime.

It's this great climate that is attracting new interest in the area, which has long been known for retirees and a sedate way of life. New families with younger children bring a fresh outlook, a change of pace and new demands. Not all are comfortable with this situation – established households with a long history in the area and elderly residents are appalled by what they consider an intrusion into their lives by noisy, ill-disciplined teenagers who, they feel, ought to live in another place where they cannot hear them.

Unfortunately it's from this younger element that most of Oakura's present problems derive, with a raft of crime ranging from assault, theft from cars and burglary all featuring from time to time.

The excuses from parents have an all too familiar ring: "He's bored", "He's easily led", "She's never done it before" or the classic, "I do not believe he did it. He is a good boy and would not do it". I think this line was used by Jimmy Cagney's mother in 1910!

Well, the short answer is that they did do it and there is a price to pay. Ultimately the responsibility lies with the parents who have to take a positive position and make the punishment fit the offence. If they fail in this responsibility, both they and the child are in for a long uphill battle as the child's criminal career blossoms the parents' lives plunge into a never-ending spiral of worry and pain.

These folk are our neighbours and we can help. Many of us are skilled listeners or have been there ourselves. Zero involvement helps no one, so be caring, be involved.

The coastal scene sees a change of face – Officer Dean Spicer is on the coast for six months, getting away from his Westown beat for a while. Also likely to be seen in the area is Rural Liaison Officer Jono Erwood, who deals with all matters rural – squeaky gumboots, sore milking nipples and the like.

So look after yourselves out there.

Barrie Carline

Neighbourhood Support Field Officer.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

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Update from the Big Red Truck

"You might be a fire-fighter if your kids are afraid to get into water fights with you." ~Author Unknown

Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck. Thankfully the quiet start to 2007 continues, with few call outs. However the welcome warm summer weather with little rain has meant the fire risk is now high. This has resulted in fire restrictions being introduced in New Plymouth and South Taranaki rural areas from 27th February. What this means is that anyone who wants to light a fire in a rural area must have a fire permit (at no charge) from the NPDC, which means having the proposed fire site inspected. If there is no significant change in conditions by mid-March a total fire ban may have to be imposed.

There are currently no restrictions in urban areas, but people are urged to avoid lighting fires altogether if possible. If it is considered necessary please follow the detailed conditions as laid down in the NPDC leaflet 'Garden and Incinerator fires' or call 759 6060 for clarification.

Reminder: daylight saving is coming up on 18th March. This is a good time to replace all the batteries in your smoke detectors and function-test them. Remember, smoke alarms should be fitted in all living spaces, including each bedroom.

It's good to see some new blood coming into the brigade in recent months. A warm welcome to Ross, Tran, Mike, and Simon. However the door is always open, so if interested in joining please come down to the station on a Monday evening between 19:00-20:00 hrs.

What's coming up: The Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade are holding the 4th Annual Taranaki Toughest Fire Fighter Around (the mountain) competition on Sunday 22 April 2007 at Corbett Park, Oakura. Start time is 10:00 am, and it will run throughout the day with prize giving in the rugby club rooms at around 18:00 hrs. Fire service personnel from all brigades in Taranaki are invited to take part, and it has always been a fun and active day. Families and members of the public are invited to come along and support the local crew, amongst whom there is much rivalry. Will Greg claw back those three seconds and vanquish the usurper Mark? Come and see. Many thanks to Plunket who have again agreed to run the sausage sizzle for the day.

Stay safe. FF Breeze.




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Hello from Oakura Library,

We've had a busy summer at Oakura Library. Visitor numbers have been high with people making the most of their summer holidays and borrowing some great summer reads. We had another successful summer reading programme for children called 'Don't Monkey Around – Read!' This is an annual programme aimed to keep Oakura children reading during their summer holidays, with some cool prizes along the way to keep kids motivated!

We need your comments on what hours you would like Oakura Library to be open. As a result of community submissions to the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) in June 2006, we are reviewing the current opening hours, and have set up two new options that provide more weekend and evening hours without increasing the overall hours we are open or the budget we have. This is your opportunity to let us know what hours would best suit you and your family. The review period has been extended and now closes at the end of March, giving you all a chance to respond. So far we've had 46 responses, but we would really appreciate more feedback and want to hear from you! Feedback forms can be picked up at Oakura Library, at www.pukeariki.com or email oakuralibrary@npdc.govt.nz to request a feedback form.

Did you know that library members can now use the internet for free at Oakura Library? Our new Broadband connection means we have a much quicker and user friendly connection, so feel free to make the most of this great service.

Happy reading!

Tara



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OAKURA LIBRARY OPENING HOURS REVIEW

As a result of community submissions to the Long Term Community Plan in June 2006, we are required to review the opening hours at Oakura Library to include more evening and weekend hours, without an increase in the overall budget.

We need your feedback! We've created two different draft options for new opening hours. Which of the following models do you prefer? Do you have any other suggestions for opening options?

We will listen to local comments and reach a decision within a few weeks.

CURRENT OPENING HOURS

I	No weekend hours
I	Early afternoon closure most days
M	10.00 - 12.30, 1.00 - 4.00pm
T	10.00 - 12.30, 1.00 - 4.00pm
W	10.00 - 12.30, 1.00 - 4.00, 5.00 - 7.00pm
T	10.00 - 12.30, 1.00 - 4.00pm
F	10.00 - 12.30, 1.00 - 4.00pm
S	Closed

Total hours: 29.5

O OPTION 1

I	Saturday and Sunday mornings
M	1.00pm - 5.30pm
T	1.00pm - 5.30pm
W	9.00am - 1.00pm
T	1.00pm - 5.30pm
F	1.00pm - 5.30pm
S	9.00am - 1.00pm
S	9.00am - 1.00pm

Total hours: 30

O OPTION 2

I	Saturday morning opening
I	6pm closing on three nights
M	12 noon - 6.00pm
T	9.00am - 1.00pm
W	12 noon - 6.00pm
T	9.00am - 1.00pm
F	12 noon - 6.00pm
S	9.00am - 1.00pm

Total hours: 30

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK

Completed forms can be returned to Oakura Library, or sent to Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth, or email oakuralibrary@npdc.govt.nz with your feedback.

Oakura Pharmacy Survey

As relatively new owners we would appreciate your input to improve the services in our pharmacy.

If you wish to go into the draw to win a **\$50 voucher** to spend in the pharmacy please fill in your details. Drawn on the 30th of March, the winner will be announced in next month's TOM.

Name:

Tel:

Please circle:

Age: 0-15 16-25 26-40

 41-64 65+

Gender: Male Female

1. Do you shop regularly at Oakura Pharmacy?
 Yes No

2. What products do you routinely purchase at a Pharmacy?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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| -Cosmetics/Fragrance | |
| -Women's Toiletries | -Men's Toiletries |
| -General Non Prescription Medicine | |
| - Sports supplements | |

3. What products/brands would you like to see at Oakura Pharmacy?

.....
.....
.....

4. What hours would you like the Pharmacy to be open?

.....

5. How often would you shop on a Saturday morning in the pharmacy?

.....

6. Would you prefer us to be open a late night during the week instead of Saturday morning?

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General Comments:

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Please return by post, email to oakurapharmacy@xtra.co.nz or drop into the box in the pharmacy

Autism -

Idioms and sarcasm are a foreign language

In my last article for 2006 on using "Autism Friendly Language", I mentioned Ellen Notbohm's book - *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew*. This month I'm highlighting more pearls of wisdom from her book . . .

Ellen, a mother of a child with autism, has written her book from her child's perspective. The "fourth thing every child wishes you knew" is that individuals with autism are concrete thinkers - often interpreting language literally. "Hold your horses", "It's a piece of cake", "Let's get this show on the road" and "Hold your tongue" are lost on them. You can just imagine the worry comments like "He's got ants in his pants" or "She's got butterflies in her stomach" can cause!

People with autism or ASD (Autistic spectrum disorder) are often visual thinkers, and they may actually visualise what you are saying. Ellen states that communicating with a child with autism is a lot easier when we pause to consider our words. You wouldn't dream of speaking to your child in a foreign language, but English can seem that way. Yet we speak using idioms and clichés all the time without actually realising we are doing it.

Sarcasm is also tricky as individuals with ASD find reading non-verbal cues, such as tone of voice, difficult.

So remember, the next time you want to "Throw the baby out with the bathwater", or "Toast the bride and groom", does everyone know what you are talking about or will some people be visualising things you don't want them to?

Next month I'll write about "Please be patient with my limited vocabulary."

Always remember, "Autism is a different way of thinking".

Karen



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What a lot of rubbish!

On Friday the 23rd February Mike Ure spent three hours picking up rubbish on Surf Highway 45 between Weld Rd and Kaitake Golf Course. He filled three rubbish bags and was appalled at how shabby the rubbish made our district look especially considering Americana was rolling through town that morning. It was noticed that the rubbish was worse on the left hand side of the road as you travel into Oakura. It was also noted that a lot of the rubbish was plastic and again rubbish has been observed blowing out of the recycling truck. The council suggests you ring 759 6060 and explain that there is rubbish on the highway and they will then send out a contractor to pick it up. BUT please be a bit responsible yourself and keep your own rubbish in your own car to put in your own rubbish bin. If public rubbish bins are full then take your rubbish home, don't leave it beside full rubbish bins. So thank you Mike for taking the time to pick up the rubbish and bring attention to an escalating problem.

By Kim Ferens



Mike Ure displays his collection of rubbish - Good on yer Mike.



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Taryn Lobb – profile of an artist

By Anne Stembridge

Taranaki's beauty and happy childhood memories provide inspiration for talented landscape artist Taryn Lobb.

The 27-year old says spending countless days at the beach as a child with her keen surfer father Paul, beach-loving mother Kathy, two sisters and brother has had a huge influence on her artwork.

"I think my art and interests come from a childhood of roaming the beaches and countryside. I remember many happy times chasing the surf around New Zealand and the world, always staying as close to the water as we could."

Although art has always been a big part of Taryn's life, she decided to do a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood rather than a fine arts degree after leaving Spotswood College.


"I didn't do an art degree because I wanted to portray the beauty I see – not someone else's perspective. I wanted to grow my own style."

On finishing three years study in Wellington, a desire to escape city-life and "the call of the mountains" saw Taryn spend a year in Canada snow-boarding.

After experiencing the cold snow of Whistler Mountain, she headed south in search of surf and sun, and spent a summer touring the coastlines of California, Mexico, Costa Rica and Fiji. Then it was off to Australia's Gold Coast for a further 12 months.



Taryn displays one of her different, but beautiful paintings.



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It was between these holidays in 2002 and 2003 that she pursued her love of art and because people started buying her work, spent nine months painting fulltime.

Her passion for surfing and snow boarding are reflected in her bright and bold acrylic landscapes, which frequently feature the mountain and sea.

"Even after my travels, it is Taranaki's landscape that inspires me with its beautiful light and energy."

Taryn says her art is more detailed now because through experience, she tends to see more.


"I often use multiple images to really capture the essence of a place."

Her work, including cards and prints, is exhibited at New Plymouth's Jane's Gallery and the Crafty Fox in Oakura.

Because being an artist can be a solitary existence and Taryn wants life balance, she is working towards her teaching registration and currently works part-time at the Sophia Pre-school in Oakura.


"The mixture of the two professions is great. I feel lucky to be able to share in the delight of learning and discovery with this amazing age group."

When not working, Taryn paints at home but eventually wants to have her own gallery. In the mean time there is a lot more travelling to do . . .



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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

WOMAD 2007 – Heaven on Earth

I may be just a tad biased here, but WOMAD is the closest thing I can imagine to Heaven on Earth! Just think about it... people of all ages, many with vastly different cultures, beliefs and values, all co-existing in perfect harmony, with the whole thing set in idyllic surroundings and a visual and musical cornucopia on offer. Does life really get any better than this?

This will be the fifth consecutive WOMAD festival I've attended and I have to say that this is the best line-up of artists to date. There is music to suit every palate, ranging from gentle acoustic artists through to full-blown dance acts. If the artist on one stage is not to your taste, simply move on to another, catch up with friends, have a walk in the park or check out the food stalls or the global market.

Most of us, though, are there for the music, and what a feast there is this year! Each WOMAD festival has its obvious stars, but sometimes it is the lesser-known acts that take your breath away and deliver a genuine musical epiphany. The potential "surprise" acts at WOMAD 2007 include the "desert blues" band **Etran Finatawa** (from Niger), Indian santoor (hammered dulcimer) masters **Shivkumar** and **Rahul Sharma**, Chinese bamboo flute virtuoso **Guo Yue** and the massive **SambaSunda** with its unique blend of gamelan and jaipong with sounds from outside the Indonesian archipelago. Another artist that may surprise many is the Israeli diva **Yasmin Levy**, whose Ladino (pre-flamenco Spanish) music and yearning voice will break many hearts.

So, who are the "must see" artists? This is, of course, a matter of taste, but nobody should miss the great African singer **Salif Keita** (Mali) whose soaring, sometimes penetrating voice could stop a stampede of wild animals at a hundred paces. Salif is widely regarded as Africa's greatest vocalist! Nigerian star **Femi Kuti** and his band will move the head, the heart and the feet with their storming Afrobeat (a mixture of funk and pan-African styles) protest music. **Gotan Project** has dragged the tango sound of Argentina into the twenty-first century by mixing traditional elements with contemporary beats, but be warned, like Femi Kuti, this collective only appears on the Friday night. WOMAD 2007 also features two genuine world music divas in charismatic Mexican-American vocalist **Lila Downs** and contemporary fado queen **Mariza** (Portugal). The latter has an imposing presence and is the only fado singer that Portuguese people would ever mention in the same breath as the peerless Amalia Rodrigues (who is to fado what Louis Armstrong is to jazz)!

As to the other acts, the spiritual overtone singing of The **Gyuto Monks** (Tibet) may be an acquired taste for many, but will entrance others. As befits a bicultural society, sophisticated Maori vocalist **Whirimako Black** will deliver a tasty set of jazz standards in both Te Reo and English, Tuvan throat singers **Huun Huur Tu** will fascinate and delight and English DJ **Mr. Scruff** will lay down an intriguing mix of soul, funk, pop and world sounds. Also watch out for the all-star gala session led by jazz-fusion drum master **Billy Cobham**. As I recommended earlier, circulate and check it all out. After all, the riches of the world have come to you!

Graham Donlon hosts "Music Without Frontiers" every Sunday on 92.3 'The MOST,' a weekly radio show that specialises in jazz, blues and a wide variety of world music. He has also written music reviews over thirty years for Hot Licks, Ragtime, The Midweek and TOM. He has no formal connection to the WOMAD organisation, but he does get to announce the odd act at this premier musical festival.



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The Vinaigrettes

The Babich Collection

Now that you have all got a handle on how to hold your wine glass and how cold to chill your wine too, I thought it would be timely to educate you on some of the less well known wines varieties like the Gewurtraminer or as us in the know call it gar-verts. More properly ge-vurts-tra-meen-er! Gewurts in German means spicy which gives you a bit of a hint as to what the wine might be like. Now if a gewurts was a woman she'd be a real enigma – a sexy exotic one minute then a shy sensitive sort the next and definitely not one you'd forget in a hurry.

The Babich Gewurts is just like that. Memorable. It has delicate aromas of oranges and spices then you get an exotic palate rush when you taste it. It is quite a dry gewurts but very drinkable. Babich Winemakers have been producing wines for over 90 years and producing gewurts for 30 years so they know their business and have established a fine tradition of quality winemaking. The Babich Gewurts comes from the Gimblett Gravel vineyard in the Hawkes Bay, a region producing some of the countries top wines.

The Babich Gewurts is a perfect partner for spicy foods like a



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mild fish curry, Thai food, sushi, roast pork or hot ham and is fabulous with hot sauces like wasabi or horseradish. It also carries its own with cinnamon desserts like apple crumble.

Some of the Babich range is on special for the month. The Gewurts is a must buy at \$13.99 (down from \$19.60). Get into drinking it straight away and don't cellar it.

The Sav Blanc is \$14.99 (down from \$19.60) and the Reserve Merlot is \$15.99 (down from \$27).

So if you haven't tried a gewurts before, cook up a fish curry, buy the Babich and sup slowly, letting the complex flavours work their magic on your palate.

Bottles tops and wine corks

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New Releases this month in Oakura Four Square

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Borat



Kazak TV journalist Borat travels over to America to learn about the country's culture. His unique view on life however generates a mixed reaction from his hosts. Painfully hilarious this film resulted in the police being called 91 times and 4 lawsuits.



Maria Full of Grace



This highly acclaimed film follows the story of Maria, a Colombian teenager who becomes drawn into the drugs, as she takes an unpredictable odyssey from Colombia to New York, weaving a gripping tale of risk, determination and survival.



The Departed

Martin Scorsese marks a triumphant return to his trademark style with this violent, hard hitting and blood gangster drama.

To take on the mafia the police send in one of their own in this excellent crime thriller.



Jackass: Number Two

In a genre all of its own, this second Jackass stunt movie brings a new set of stunts to the big screen.

Bringing their own unique sense of humour and lust for pain together, this film will not disappoint fans of the Jackass team.



Business spotlight on Anne Wilson

By Kim Ferens

It is truly amazing what Anne Wilson has achieved in her three years in real estate. Anne's success isn't a matter of luck but of good old fashioned hard work. "My dedication gets results," says Anne. So why does she work so hard at selling houses? What motivates her? And who is Anne Wilson anyway? I went to find out...

Anne is a local Oakura resident, formerly of New Plymouth. She left school to become a nurse and had 22 years experience in the field before joining Harvey's real estate. She is married to Cameron, a builder for 12 years. They have four children – Emma (13 years), Abby (11 years), Nicholas (8 years) and Ben (4 years). Everyone in the family is involved in helping Anne with her career. The children take messages and deliver flyers around the neighbourhood, while Cameron is the technical expert when it comes to gnarly building questions from clients.

Anne and Cameron bought their first house when they were 17 years old, which shows how much they love property and houses. They are presently building their dream home in Shearer Drive.

Life is about balance to Anne. Her first priority is taking care of her kids and husband, and she works her hours around their needs. If it's a good day for the beach, Anne handles her appointments then heads off to join the family (cell phone at the ready). Anne takes the children to minigroovers – a children's dance group, tennis, soccer and netball. On good days they head to the beach, and in fact the sea is nearly as good as an office with business sometimes being conducted in the surf! Family holidays are a priority, whether camping or overseas trips.

To add to the balance is sport. Anne has played competitive squash and tennis and achieved good results over the years. Now Anne plays midweek interclub.

Anne is distinctive around town in her Harvey's silver VW. She has two support staff working for her in the town office – Liz Geraghty is a full-time PA and Marieka works part time creating flyers, managing the website and drafting contracts. Chrissie backs her up helping out buyers and providing and ensuring top customer service. Having support staff means Anne can concentrate on looking after her clients. And this what Anne works hard at. Regular reports are given to each vendor on where their property is sitting in the market and she gives regular feedback on what prospective buyers are saying. There are weekly open homes and marketing to keep properties active. Anne frequently works 14-hour days, but this is just par for the course for someone who loves seeing happy vendors and happy purchasers. Anne gets a kick out of matching a house with a purchaser and in fact that's how she got into real estate in the first place – a friend wanted to buy a house and Anne knew just the one, even though she wasn't a real estate agent. She still remembers the buzz of that first transaction.

Now Anne can feel proud of her achievements in real estate – rookie of the year in her first year; 2nd top salesperson in her second year; top salesperson in her 3rd year; top ten finish in national auction listings; \$2 Million Club member; \$5 Million



Anne with her back-up team, from the left: Marieka, Chrissie, Anne, Inset Liz.

Club member. So if you want results, you want an agent like an Anne who will get them for you.

One thing is lacking though and that is a housekeeper! The household chores are usually taken care of by her housekeeper/cleaner however she is unable to continue so these have taken a back seat meantime so it's time to get some order in the house, so if you are a caring person who would relish the challenge of looking after the busy Wilson family give Anne a ring on 752 7775.

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- ✂ It's bulb time already! Plant daffodils, tulips, ranunculas, anemones, grape hyacinths, irises, freesias, crocuses, etc.
- ✂ Cut back, lift and divide perennials.
- ✂ Feed and dead-head all roses.
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Richmond Farm Lodge – a rural oasis

By Kim Ferens



Surf Highway 45 has a new accommodation experience on offer for tourists and locals alike. Richmond Farm Lodge has recently opened for business in Omata as a deluxe rural bed and breakfast.

Operated by Coaster Karen Prendville, Richmond Farm Lodge offers a unique opportunity to stay in the countryside but be close to the city, shops, cafés and art galleries as well as have the chance to get up close and personal with Karen's pet animals—Kunekune pigs Mr Magoo and Zephyr. The farm stay is smack bang in the middle of a fully functioning dairy farm so the bigger bovines are not very far away either.

You'd never guess that the Richmond Farm Lodge accommodation was an old farmhouse—you'd think you were in a brand new abode. After extensive renovation, the only give-away is the exposed and polished original floorboards. The accommodation has been designed specifically with a bed and breakfast in mind. It has three separate lockable bedrooms with en suites, a large lounge and dining area and three different deck areas. Karen has decorated the house in natural colours and made a feature of her beloved American solid wood furniture. But the most outstanding feature is its stunning views. Each bedroom has unimpeded views of Mt Taranaki and the ranges while the dining room has both sea and mountain views. The kitchen, lounge and decks have sweeping views over the farm to the Taranaki coast.

Karen is new to the hospitality industry but she is not new to looking after people. Karen is a registered nurse currently

Karen Prendville and views of and from the new Richmond Farm Lodge.



working in ICU at Base Hospital. Prior to buying her Omata property Karen worked in California for 10 years as a nurse and Richmond Farm Lodge is named after the city of Richmond where she lived.

Karen is still finding her feet with her farm stay but she has many exciting ideas. Presently she is developing a website with the help of Oakura resident Andrea Leadbetter from TGM. Karen is delighted with progress on the website so far. There are also plans to offer package activities to tourists involving local businesses and Karen is keen to work with any local business that will enhance the stay of her guests. As yet the gardens and paddocks are undeveloped but Karen envisages an edible garden with herbs and fruit trees.

Richmond Farm Lodge would be an ideal weekend retreat for locals who want a change of scenery and would particularly suit an overflow of visitors or for those visitors that like privacy.

For Karen, developing her farm stay is about letting other people enjoy what she enjoys on a daily basis. I will certainly be recommending Richmond Farm Lodge to anyone who wants local accommodation.



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Kayak Fishing Classic comes to Taranaki

By Kim Ferens

Oakura is to be the proud host of the Taranaki Kayak-Fishing Classic from 21–22 April, organised by the Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club.

The Club was formed roughly six years ago by a small group who gave surfcasting a go and decided the sport was THE way to fish. About a year ago they incorporated a kayak section into the Club, apparently the first of its kind in New Zealand. With the velocity at which the sport is growing and clubs popping up around the North Island, ideas were being thrown around about an event where kayak fishermen could get together to exchange ideas and stories. Continuing as forerunners in the sport, the Oakura Club formed a sub-committee to make the possibility of a national kayak-fishing competition into a reality. The competition is the first the Club has run and it is hoped it will become an annual event.

The Classic is a wonderful opportunity to get out on the water, catch some fish and bag a spot prize at the same time. The top prize (a fully rigged marauder kayak from Cobra Kayaks) and the early bird prize (for those who register before 1 April) will be drawn as spot prizes, so everyone who has entered the competition and is present at the draw is in with a chance.

Other prizes go to the heaviest and second heaviest of seven species – King Fish, Snapper, John Dory, Trevally, Red Gurnard, Blue Cod and Kahawai. Taranaki has a rugged coastline with some exciting fishing and diving, and most species able to be caught if targeted.

There are many kayak launching spots in Taranaki that enable fishing in most weather. However, if the inevitable happens and Mother Nature doesn't play nice, all prizes will be drawn.

As this is the first competition, it is hard to estimate the level of interest. The Club are hoping to attract around a hundred entries, but if there are more, the venue (Butlers Reef) and the systems are in place to cope.

The kayak competition is limited to human-powered kayaks and only rods or hand-lines can be used with two hooks per rod. The contest boundaries are from the southern bank of the Awakino River in the North and the northern bank of the Tangahoe River in the South. The offshore limit is 5km from the nearest land.

Butlers Hotel is one of the contest sponsors and registration and briefing will be happening there at 8pm on Friday 20 April.

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Letter to Editor

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past customers for their patronage in our cafe/takeaways, located on the beach front, over the last two years. We hope you enjoyed the service, variation and quality of food that we presented to you and we have certainly appreciated the relationships that we have formed with so many of the local people. Oakura is such a great place to live, with great people. Perhaps now we will have more time so we can get involved in those community activities and functions that we've been missing.

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GETTING WET!



Oakura Boardriders Update

Great to see summer finally arrived and there have been some waves around.

February has been a busy month for the surfers, with contests every weekend for those into the competitive scene. Unfortunately the surf has been horrendously small for most of the contests.

First up the Whangamata Pro saw waves of under a metre for the duration and half a metre or less at certain tides. Simon Deken just missed the quarter finals in the open, Tyler Anderson made the quarter finals Under-18s and New Plymouth's Jarrod Hancox made the semi-finals in the open – all made something out of nothing. Newly crowned national champ Daniel Kareopa won the contest.

The Mount Maunganui Billabong Grom followed Whangamata. The waves on the first day for the Under-14s and younger were once again atrocious with 0.5 metres at best and no Taranaki entrants progressed to the finals. The following day saw a nice rise to glassy 1-metre waves in the morning and the Under-16s made their entry with Tyler Anderson making a charge to the semi-finals before the wind came onshore at 30 knots and the kite surfers took over the beach, leaving the climax to be held in yet again barely contestable conditions.

The next weekend it was up to Mount Maunganui for the Mount Pro and nice conditions of 1 metre. The turn out was down a bit, with school having started, but those that went had good waves by all accounts. New Plymouth's Keone Campbell took the Under-18s and Simon Deken made the open quarter finals.

Next up was the Whangamata Billabong Grom, held in once again barely contestable or some would say not contestable conditions. A big crew of Taranaki kids went up in the New Plymouth Surfriders sponsored mini-van. The van was a great idea, although commiserations to the volunteers who have to supervise the crew (my turn next!). Out of all the kids only Michael Mallelieu made the semis of the Under-16s, with Tom Smith and Tyler Anderson making the quarter finals of the Under-16s. All were beaten by the conditions in the end.

While all this has been going on there has been a group of New Zealand juniors competing on the Australian Pro Junior Circuit with Oakura's Paige Hareb putting in good showings with two quarter final finishes in Phillip Island and Coffs Harbour and a semi-final finish on the Sunshine Coast. This is a great effort in her first year. As with a "low seeding" she had to start from the early rounds where the higher seeds don't come in until sometimes round 3 or 4.

Ex-local girl Arini Mason who Paige beat in a couple of the contests came back to win the Coffs Harbour contest, so the Kiwis are making their mark in the girls' division. The boys are finding the going a lot tougher – Richardo Christie did the best with a fifth place at Coffs Harbour, while the rest struggled to get through a couple of rounds.

The Taranaki Scholastics Surfing Competition was held at Oakura Beach on 20 February with a lot of Oakura surfers competing in and dominating their age groups. Anita Crawford took the Under-18 girls and Connor Anderson took the Under-

14 boys. Once again small surf made for difficult conditions but it was still a good day at the beach and there was some good inter-school competition. See the results below (those in bold from Oakura).

BOYS U14

C Anderson – NPBHS

T Bishop

S Marshall – FDMC

T Davies – FDMC

BOYS U16

M Mallelieu – NPBHS

T Smith – NPBHS

T Anderson – NPBHS

BOYS U18

M Smith – NPBHS

M Van Lierde – NPBHS

T Haskell – NPBHS

U16 BB

M Smith – NPBHS

C Tatham – OP

S Reeves – OP

U 18 BB

I Duffy – HW

S Bennett – NPBHS

D. Lee – NPBHS

GIRLS U16

E Fleming – NPGHS

C Davis – OP

C Stevens – SHGC

GIRLS U18

A. Crawford – NPGHS

C Davies – OP

L Haskell – Waitara

KNEEBOARD OPEN

M Parthemore – NPBHS

T Smith – NPBHS

D Lee – NPBHS

GIRLS KNEEBOARD

A. Crawford – NPGHS

J Cooksley – OP

C Stevens – SHGC

LEADING BOYS SCHOOLS

NPBHS

FDMC

Opunake

LEADING GIRLS SCHOOLS

NPGHS

Opunake HS

Waitara HS

Paige Hareb at the Roxy Pro Juniors.



Taranaki Scholastics competitors, Seth Marshall and Connor Anderson.

Coming up . . .

- Piha Billabong Grom – March 17 and 18,
- Billabong Pro Teen at Raglan – 29 March to 1 April.

The NPSR Winter Series will be run over winter and there has been some discussion of holding one leg at Oakura and one at Opunake. Whether this goes ahead or not, it's still a good series for those surfers who are keen to compete and the support is always welcome.

Hope you all enjoyed your summer.

OMATA school news

Warm weather has meant that our pool has been in daily use and we had a good lead up to our surf life saving day and school swimming displays. We would like to thank the Life Guards at Oakura for making our day at the beach fun and educational for both children and parents! You may have noticed driving past that our pool has had a fresh coat of paint this season. With the new stainless steel rails as well, it is looking like a new pool. Omata community members and school families are able to purchase a key to use the pool out of school hours and they have certainly got their monies worth this year.

Our development focus this year revolves around the improvement of our students' information skills. We have embarked upon a programme of increasing student access to



information via books and the internet and we will be refining our practice and investigating the best ways of delivering programmes to ensure students are skilled users of information. This is a joint project with Oakura and Coastal Taranaki Schools. We look forward to working together to share our knowledge and coming up with a model that best suits our school. These days with such easy access to vast amounts of information via the internet, it is very important that our students are able to critically judge information and be skilled at selecting information and assessing its reliability.

Our current building project also includes a networking structure throughout the school which will enable us to deliver safe broadband access to all classrooms via Telecom's Schoolzone. This will also streamline our management of student data. Speaking of the building project you might be able to see the beginnings of our new administration area at the front of the school. We have made sure that our additions to the front are in keeping with the historical look of the buildings and included in the façade is a bell porch which will house the Jubilee Bell.

Karen Brisco



It's all fun at Omata School's surf life saving day.



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Look out for . . .

27th and 28th March -

Parent Interviews,
School closes at 2pm

March/April -

Art Gallery visits by all
classes

6th- 22nd April -

School Holidays



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Details for the TOM Directory

Anyone wishing to list their business in the TOM Directory for 2007, or change their existing listing, please send details to kim@thetom.co.nz by the end of March



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Oakura Plunket



Coffee mornings – no longer

Plunket coffee mornings have been running "on and off" over the last fifteen years and at their height have attracted a large crowd of parents and young children. They have been the meeting places of many first time mums and dads and friendships have developed that continue on through the years as the children grow.

Over the last two years the coffee mornings have been run at the St James Church hall on a Friday morning during term time and the Oakura Plunket Committee were organising these for the local parents to attend. However, due to a drop off in numbers the committee have decided to stop the coffee mornings and refocus on parent education evenings run once a month.

The committee realises that it is important for parents to build up a network of friends and support in the local community and would like to be able to offer a meeting place for this to occur. Monthly education evenings will be run locally with a guest speaker and an opportunity for parents to meet over a cuppa and cake. More information will be available in the next TOM.

If you would like to comment on the demise of the coffee mornings or give feedback on the role of Oakura Plunket in the community then please give one of the committee members a call.

Oakura Plunket Committee

At our AGM, which was held on the 27th of February, it has become obvious that we will need to call on the local Oakura people to boost up the numbers on our committee. We have a dedicated core team of parents who are committed to seeing Plunket have a profile in Oakura, and are keen to hear from anyone interested in being on the committee. We only meet about 6 times a year and have lots of laughs and fun along the way. Please contact one of the members below if you are interested in knowing any more. Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 3rd of April at 72 Messenger Terrace, Oakura. @ 7.30pm.

Claire White 752 7229, Catherine Keenan 752 7034

Mel Breeze 752 1111, Shelly Husband 752 7939.

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The Lamb triplets start kindy

If you thought it was a mission getting your pre-schooler ready for kindy, spare a thought for the mother of Oakura's three-year-old triplets.

When it comes to getting Alyssa, Casey and Charlotte Lamb ready for their sessions at Kaitake Kindergarten, mum Helen wouldn't be without their nanny, Leanne Blank.

"Leanne is indispensable. We wouldn't know what we would do without her!" says Helen.

Teacher Eleanor Rumbal concedes that telling the girls apart was a problem initially but it is no longer an issue as their mother has great systems in place to help. The close-knit trio have their own distinct personalities. Casey is the leader, Charlotte's in charge of discipline and Alyssa will always find time for a cuddle.

Big brother Jayden (5) thinks the world of his sisters even though it means sharing his toys!



Charlotte, Leanne (nanny), Alyssa, Helen (mum), Jayden (big brother) and Casey check out the water play at Kaitake Kindergarten.

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OAKURA School news

Oakura School has had a busy start to the school year with many building projects now underway. The administration area is being refurbished and the ex-dental clinic building is being turned into another workspace for pupils and teachers. Our junior school area is also having a few changes with new fences, handrails and steps being installed in the playground area.

Watch this space for the finished products!

Swimming is well underway for Term One. Our pupils are enjoying warmer water temperatures this year following the installation of solar heating and the purchase of a new pool cover by the Friends of Oakura School Committee (FOOS).

Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) AGM

This is on Wednesday 21 March at 7.30pm in the school staffroom. We are keen to welcome new members to our FOOS committee meetings. People who are interested in joining can call the school on 752 7719 or come along to the AGM.

Lynne Hepworth



Cooling off or warming up?
New solar heating for the pool.

Teachers are being totally spoiled by a new admin block.



Upgrades to the junior playground area.

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OAKURA area. Friday/Saturday and school holidays. Ages 2-12 yrs. Ph 752 7699.

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CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

Mini Groovers:

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

St John's Omata:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St James Church Oakura:

Morning worship 10am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Kung Fu:

Thursdays 6-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

Mondays 6-7.30pm, for 12 yrs and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

Tove Jensen-Munroe. Ph 752 1350, or email tovisma@mac.com for weekly morning class schedules & bookings.

Oakura Meditation Group

Zen Bhuddist based - all welcome. Ph Tove Jensen-Monroe 752 1350. Email tovisma@mac.com for details. Monthly, evenings.

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Twilight Bowls:

Fridays 6.00pm at the Oakura Bowling and Social Club. All Welcome.

Indoor Bowls:

Mondays 7.30pm at Oakura Hall. Rex Ward 752 7849.

Country and Western Club

Every 1st and 3rd Friday from 8pm. Contact Betty West, 89 Wairau Rd, Ph 752 7816

Playcentre

Playcentre, Donnelly Street. Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.



Do you have a story of local interest? Send it in to us.
We pay \$25 for published stories.
SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTACT DETAILS



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130 Wairau Rd, Oakura **SOLD**

Near new 4 bedroom home. Offers over \$615,000.

31 McFarlane Street, Oakura

Brick on popular McFarlane Street. Low maintenance 3 bedroom home with great private back section perfect for children to play in or for an artistic gardener. Close to beach, river, shops and school. Offers over \$450,000.



44 McFarlane St, Oakura

House on popular McFarlane St, half-acre subdividable section. Fabulous flat section with house positioned to leave as is and subdivide off the back and build dream home - sea and mountain views obtainable from the 1st storey.



Tenders close on Wednesday 28 March at 4pm (unless sold prior).

Tui Grove, Oakura

New 4 bedrooms, 2 lounges. Construction well underway.

12 Govett Ave, NP

Unique architectural 'Tree House'. Large entertaining area, 3 bdrms, 2+ bthrms, study, pool and s/c flat, all set amongst mature trees. AUCTION. Date to be advised.

13a Turehu Street, NP

Immaculate, spacious Merrilands townhouse. 2 Bedrooms and study, facing north with private garden. Internal access to garage and lovely, high beamed ceilings greet you when you walk in, ready to live in this lovely setting. Offers over \$380,000.

33 Old South Road

Okato by the Kaihihi Stream. Sunny private, low maintenance 2 XL and 1 single bedroom home with generous living areas, 2 bathrooms and XL double garage. Offers over \$275,000.

3 Butlers Lane, Oakura

OAKURA Hideaway in the Village. Large, spacious warm home overlooking farmland right in the heart of Oakura village. Tranquil 1700m² section with established garden. Offers over \$699,000.

1349 South Road, Oakura

Large home on lifestyle block. 2½ acres of lifestyle living with expansive sea views, opposite the golf course. Very tidy, 4 plus bedrooms low maintenance home and a huge 3-bay implement shed.

70A McFarlane St, Oakura

Beach bach/First home, immaculate, low maintenance, trendy.

213 St Aubyn St, NP

Low maintenance home in CBD. Immaculate 3 bdrm + study, home with polished rimu floors, close to walkway, cafes & Puke Ariki. Offers over \$320,000.

122A Clawton St, Westown

Immaculate and spacious townhouse. Private low maintenance, 3 bedroom townhouse on back section. Flat walk to shops, schools. Offers over \$380,000.

69 Fulford St, NP

Character Central City Home. 2 bedroom house and bedsit.

48b Nevada Drive, NP

Large spacious 3 bdrm + study Lockwood. Large living areas and self contained studio. Fabulous section with lake, on 11000m². Lifestyle within the city. \$695,000.

Sections For Sale

19 Pitcairn St, Oakura

Flat building site on Pitcairn Street. Potential for great sea views from first floor when you build your dream home on this flat rear section. Offers over \$380,000. Tui Grove, Oakura

Lot 12, Tui Grove, Oakura

Flat section, 985m². Offers over \$199,000.

Tui Grove, Oakura

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