

Oakura's new Travel Centre

A new business has made its home in the village – "Oakura Travel", your very own travel agency.

Leeana Hughes is the friendly face you will find eagerly awaiting to arrange your travel needs and dreams!

Leeana has worked for two of the country's largest travel companies, Flight Centre and House of Travel, and she was Branch Manager of the latter in Hawera. In October last year the Hawera branch followed in the footsteps of Feilding and Levin, and was closed due to Head Office wanting to concentrate on their larger and more corporate shops.

Knowing that Hawera had such a large and loyal customer base, Leeana convinced her senior consultant, Dianne Tosland, to open an independent agency. As Leeana is also a qualified Property Manager, she took the role up again with Annette Jordan at the Professionals! But she missed the travel business so much that a phone call one night to Dianne (who by now had "Hawera Travel Centre" successfully up and running) is all it took to create "Oakura Travel".

Dianne and Leeana have gone into partnership and as independents belong to the ITN (Independent Travel Network) Group. ITN is the largest independent chain in New Zealand and the group is associated with one of Australia's largest travel companies "Gullivers", which allows Hawera Travel Centre and Oakura Travel to have the best buying power and access to the latest technology. No longer held back by corporate restrictions and selective product, they can offer clients a greater range.



Leeana getting her new Oakura Travel premise up and running for opening day)

Leeana is not only passionate about travel, but also customer service. She will be offering a personal touch by being able to be mobile – if you can't get to her, she will come to you! She is also available for after hours appointments.

You'll find Oakura Travel next door to the pharmacy on the corner of Dixon Street. Surf Highway 45 Real Estate will also still be advertising their properties from one window of the premise.

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contact Leeana by dropping in and seeing her, or phone on 752 1120, or 027 281 1408, or email at leeana@oakuratravel.co.nz

a peek inside

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For most of March our family of five visited France. It was an experience I had waited a long time for, since learning French in the Third and Fourth Form to be exact. I have always enjoyed the language and the culture, so after putting it off for various reasons, we finally made it.

I really loved it and I will write more about our adventures in later issues, but what I wanted to share with you now was how lost I was without the ability to converse on a level deeper than simply asking for café express or croissant amande. There were so many interesting people and so much I wanted to learn about the culture, and for me this is possible only through discussion. So how nice it is to be back, just to get back into the pleasure of discovering what we are all about.

Take One Moment and savour this month's issue.

Tracey

Remember if you want to read about our Okato neighbours, check out the Okato TOM online at www.thetom.co.nz

TOM dates for June
Copy and ads deadline – 23 May
Distribution – 11 June

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Property & Business Deals

7599119

TOM

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

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

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Hi folks!

Well, we finally have had some rain to freshen up the landscape and give our farmers some good news after months of exceptionally dry weather. It's also brought an end to the fire ban, so thank you to everyone for doing your part in helping to keep our homes and natural areas safe during a time when everything was tinder-dry.

While the water restrictions didn't affect Oakura due to the town being supplied from an aquifer, water conservation is a habit that is well worth practicing throughout the year. The less water we use, the less that needs to be treated at the supply plant – which saves money for everyone – and the more that stays in the aquifer for future use.

Meanwhile, the contractors are making great progress on constructing Oakura's reticulated sewerage system. We have four companies working in different areas of the town as they bend their backs to lay the necessary pipes. Such work can create temporary difficulties for residents and visitors, and I appreciate your patience as we continue with this complex but very worthwhile infrastructure project that will bring huge benefits to Oakura.

On another topic, thank you to everyone who has sent in a submission on the draft Budget 08/09. Submissions closed on 2 May and the public hearings will be held in the Council Chamber on 9 and 11 June.

The Council will consider all the submissions on Friday 13 June and make any changes to the draft budget, and then the final version of Budget 08/09 will be adopted on Thursday 26 June.

You are more than welcome to attend any of these meetings and hear the submissions that are made and the debates as they take place, so hopefully I will see you there!

Peter Tennent,

New Plymouth District Mayor

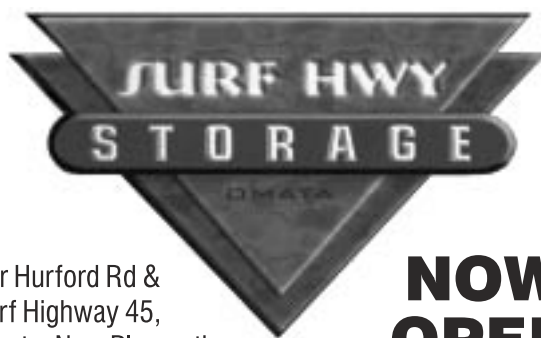


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GARDENING WITH ROSEMARY HERB May Checklist

Vegetables:

- Sow broad beans, peas and onions.
- Plant garlic and shallots. Set garlic cloves 2-3cm apart. Shallots 10cm apart with top half of bulb exposed.
- Rosemary has been fortunate enough to have access to wonderful field mushrooms and hopes everyone else has had the benefit of a great mushroom season.

Flowers:

- Last opportunity to plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Dahlia tubers and gladioli corms should be lifted and stored in a cool dry place.
- Plant polyanthus, primula, nemesia, pansies, violas, stock and calendula for early spring flowering.

Fruit Trees:

- Begin pruning fruit trees once leaves have dropped. Paint pruning wounds with Bacseal Pruning Paint to protect the leaf scar and prevent disease.

Lawns:

- Rake over and re-sow bare or thin areas of lawn with Easy Grass or Mow-it-Less lawn seed.

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LANETTE



HON. **HARRY DUYNHOVEN**
MP for New Plymouth

Motorcycle safety package aims to cut high crash rate

We recently announced measures to reduce the high number of motorcycle casualties on New Zealand roads.

Since 2001, there has been a 28% increase in licensed motorcycles and this figure is expected to grow with predicted rising fuel costs. But, over the same period, there has been a staggering 80% increase in motorcycle casualties.

The package proposes restricting learner and restricted motorcycle licence holders to less powerful motorcycles, changes to the Graduated Driver Licensing System to encourage riders to take up more motorcycle-specific training and the introduction of safer motorcycling practices such as improving the visibility of motorcycle and moped riders to other road users. It also offers further training incentives to novice riders to progress through their licence and puts a cap on the time riders can spend on a learner licence.

Novice motorcyclists face the greatest crash risk. They are paying far too high a price – in 2007, motorcyclists and pillion accounted for 10% of all road fatalities.

In keeping with our intention to shift the focus away from fines to increased demerit points for lawbreaking motorists, motorcyclists will run the risk of 25 demerit points for not wearing a helmet.

The emphasis is on ensuring novice motorcyclists are aware of the increased risks they face on the road and that these riders are well equipped for the responsibility of motorcycle ownership.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Please drive and ride carefully!

Harry Duynhoven



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On **ANZAC Day** I participated with other Kaitake Board members in the Okato Service. It was another sobering experience for us. The service, which was set up very well indeed by the 85-years-young Oakura resident of many years, Ivor Ellis, attracted a large crowd of all ages to remember those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for us all.

The Board has been busy on a number of separate issues since last reporting. Many of those are connected to the **sewerage project**. I am absolutely sure many more sewerage issues will surface (no pun intended) before the project is finally commissioned. The project, now costed by Council at \$24 million, is massive. A locally funded project as big as this probably only happens once every 15 or so years anywhere in Taranaki – it's huge and as it isn't on a specific public excluded site as major works tend to be, but is literally under everyone's feet and often on their private property, the daily niggles that need addressing are never ending. Everyone begins to focus far more as the project approaches their boundary and the ramifications of what is being done really hits home.

There have been mistakes – lack of information and robust consultation in the early stages has caused a number of downstream concerns. Also making the change from constructing the drainage work within properties and to averaging the cost of this work across owners who were connecting, thus making all connecting fees equal, to leaving property owners to arrange their own connection work was not handled well. Straight away there were perceived winners and losers within the new scenario. There have been issues with in-ground conditions for the main pump station in Shearer Reserve, meaning it has to be raised up two metres from what was originally intended. This means there will now be fewer gravity fed connections. Two more pump sub-stations are now needed – by the NPOB clubrooms and in the Tasman Parade keyhole reserve. Changes as well have been made to original plans in Hall Terrace due to the aftermath of last year's May flood. All of these and other issues cause angst for individuals and groups within the village.

The Board has also been involved in trying to reach a reasonable solution to provide **public access** between the two walkway bridges over the AhuAhu and Timaru Streams. There have been many twists and turns in this issue over the past few years but we are confident that with some goodwill and common sense (and a little time) an acceptable outcome will eventuate.

Currently we are gearing up for **World Environment Day** on 5 June. World Environment Day is observed annually in more than 100 countries and provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote action on national environment issues.

Sponsored by the Ministry for the Environment, this event provides a catalyst for the community to make a positive contribution to our local environment in some way. Oakura School will be at the forefront of a week of activities this year, and NPDC, TRC, DoC, the Blue Flag organisation and the Foundation for Environmental Education have all offered their support. There will be a series of activities for local folk to get involved with and we certainly hope you do.

Well, that's it for this issue – **the next Kaitake Community Board meeting is on at the NPOB Surf Club on Tuesday 22 June at 4pm.**

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.

Shane Herbert - Lawyer

Civil Litigation

7599119

Original sewerage design retained for Messenger Terrace

Private sewage pumping stations will still be required for many residents on Oakura's Messenger Terrace, following an investigation of alternative sewerage designs by New Plymouth District Council. "In our view the best solution is for these properties to have private sewage pump stations to connect to the new sewerage network."

On 22 April the Kaitake Community Board meeting also heard that the Oakura sewerage project's cost has risen from \$19.1 million to \$24.27m. The increase will be met by raising additional debt.

Mr Manning says there have been a number of factors behind the price rise. A trial dig of the site for the booster pump station on Shearer Reserve had mixed results. In some areas the ground conditions were better than expected; however an aquifer was identified which makes construction of the pump station at the original depth very risky. Also, the general ground conditions made the construction of deep sewers impractical.


"We are now redesigning these areas to meet the demands of the environment," says Mr Manning.

"We are also constructing two additional small pump stations to serve about 18 sections at both The Key and on Messenger Terrace – for 36 properties in total.


"These factors, along with the actual tendered rates of the construction contracts, have led to the increased project cost."

Of the 691 properties able to link to the sewerage system, the owners of 529 properties have opted to connect.

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update from the big red truck

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~ Anne Bradstreet

Hi all from the Big Red Truck.

At months end (April), we have had the first snow-fall of the year on the mountain, and the fire brigade has been nice and quiet. As the snow falls, it can only remind us that summer is over and it is time to get heaters serviced and chimneys cleaned in preparation for the winter.

- 1 Check that any matches or lighters are stored out of sight and above the stretch zone line (an imaginary line around each room which is above the reach of children).
- 2 Move portable heaters away from play areas. Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture.
- 3 Ensure your electric blanket is in safe working order; replace frayed cords and broken plugs. Turn your electric blanket off before you get into bed.

Now that the New Plymouth District fire ban has been lifted, it is a good idea to notify your neighbours if you intend to have a burn off. Please remember to continue apply due diligence and have the hose handy in case of an emergency. The death of Derek Lovell in the fire at Tamahere, Hamilton has been a sombre reminder of what our firemen and firewomen could face in a fire. The Oakura Fire Brigade extend their deepest sympathies to Derek's family and wish a speedy recovery to those injured in the incident. In remembrance of Derek, the Oakura Brigade stood for one minute's silence in full Level 2 uniform.

All the best and stay safe. *FF Breeze.*



Oakura Library News

A big welcome to Oakura's new librarian, Vincenza Clark. Vincenza will be familiar to the school community, and will bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the library. However, you won't see her at the library till the second week in May, as she and her family are in California celebrating her parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary!

Oakura Library has two PCs with free access to broadband internet services, provided as part of the Aotearoa People's Network. The Network operates in public libraries so that New Zealanders can benefit from creating, accessing and experiencing digital content, and is funded by the Community Partnership Fund of the New Zealand Digital Strategy and by other government funding through the National Library of New Zealand.

We have a great selection of new books just arrived, both junior and adult, so keep an eye out for the newest book by your favourite author.

The large print books have been changed so there is lots of choice in this popular collection too.

The finalists of the New Zealand Post Book Awards are on display – browse through them at the library and reserve the ones you want to read.

Library hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12pm–6pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9am–1pm

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Oakura Surfcasting and Kayak Fishing Club

Greetings all

Everyone seems to have gone a bit quiet over the last four weeks or so, with quite a drop in the number of fish being weighed in during April. It's a good time to give your gear a bit of an overhaul and do those jobs around the house while the weather is still good.

A few keen ones have still been going out, though with mixed results, some good days and some absolute bombs of days.

The first Club Day in April saw a few good fish being weighed – the best one was caught by Garry Harrison from his kayak, a snapper of 4.6kg. The conditions were quite good to start with on the following Club Day, but then turned horrible and only a few rats were weighed.

The Pick Your Club Day over Anzac Weekend was a bit of a rip off, with really nice conditions both down the coast and up north. But alas we all got beaten, except Dave Hunter who got a good 20 minutes out of an Eagle Ray at Kahui Road.

May is the last month of our season and as of 1 June we all start from 0 points again. Trophies, shields and many other awards are awarded to members at our AGM and prize-giving for their efforts throughout the past year.

The 2007-08 season has been the best year we have ever had, with the quality of fish dramatically improved, especially by those fishing off the rocks and beaches, an influx of kayak fishers and also our hosting the biggest kayak fishing comp' in New Zealand has also lifted the membership. What is also encouraging is that many of the kayak fishers are fishing the rocks and beaches too. Another standout feature this year is that we have been able to get the NZ Angling & Casting Association to recognise kayak fishing within their association and they have now introduced a kayak section alongside the shore and boats and will be including it in national events from 2009.

Keep a look out in the newspaper for our AGM date in June if you're interested in joining. We would really love a few more ladies and junior members, even if you know zip about fishing

Both Grant and I recently attended the NZ Angling & Casting National Fishing Event in Kaitaia – see the story opposite.

Tight lines

Debbie E

*Chris Whittaker
with a 3.38kg
snapper caught
off Tapuae.*



2008 New Zealand Angling & Casting Nationals

Partner, Grant and I, with our son Jacob, journeyed to the 2008 New Zealand Angling & Casting Association (NZACA) Nationals in Kaitaia a few weeks back. It was a long journey to say the least, although we broke the trip in two and stayed the night at Ruakaka, just south of Whangarei. The next day the rain started on the way to Kaitaia and by the time we got there, it was bucketing down. So we forewent the tent for three days, opting instead for a cabin at the Ahipara Motor Camp at the south end of 90 Mile Beach. The locals were saying *it doesn't normally stay around this long*. With extreme cabin fever and water everywhere, we were tossing up whether to come home, but the rain eventually dissipated and we were able to get out and do a bit of exploring and even get a fish in.

At the AGM I was fortunate enough to be voted in as a full executive member of the NZACA.

We celebrated registration with a couple of beers and marked a few potential hot spots of the Far North. It was absolutely p—ing down again. We had changed camps for the night and were not at all happy – our new tent got quite a hammering although it didn't get wet on the inside. We moved back to the Ahipara Camp as soon as it got light on the first day of the fishing, hence we had a late start, but the weather got better and we decided to fish not too far away from the base. A few small Kahawai and Hiwihwiwi made our catch tally for the day and we headed to the weigh-in to sign in at the end of the day. There were literally hundreds of fish, with some big Trev's around the 7kg mark and a few big Snapper around 8kg.

The plan for the next day was inspiring as we were to drive an hour and a half up to Great Exhibition Bay, getting there at about 7-ish. It looked good, but with a big swell we headed to some rocks down a short track. As soon as we got there Grant nailed a 4kg Snapper. Ten minutes later he got another about the same size and by 2.30pm Grant had caught about 15 Snapper and a good Trev'. My count was absolutely 0 and 13 sets of gear had been donated to the Pacific Ocean. I'd had enough and to top this off, when we got back to the car park, I realised I'd left my rod spike down on the rocks so back I went.

Back at the weigh-in there were literally tons of fish being weighed in, most of which went into huge chilly bins that were going to the Marae and local food bank.

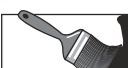
The casting event was held on the Saturday morning in a sodden paddock, but the 60 or so casters didn't seem to mind and all seemed to enjoy the day, especially a northern Wairoa man getting a record cast of a massive 218 metres.

The prize giving and dinner that night were all good, with me getting at least something, coming second in the casting event.

A drive out to the Karikari Peninsula the next day saw Jacob and Grant out-fish me again. After 10 days, 2250 kilometres and no fish for me, home was calling so we ambled back the following day.

Written by Debbie E

 Hareb Deken Motors <small>SWVA LMVD</small>	Taranaki's 4 WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE	



Oakura Pony Club News

On 12 and 13 April a team of six pony club riders representing North Taranaki went to the Timberlands event in Tokoroa. The six riders were from different parts of North Taranaki – Charlotte Grayling on Onetai Vitesse, Kimberley Downes on Windsor Blue and Darelle Martin on Asterix from Okato Pony Club, Hanna Trott on Prince Ransom from Waitara Pony Club and from Oakura Pony Club we had Anna Hinton on Odd Spot and Zoe Laing-Aiken on Yours Truly.

Timberlands is a two-day team competition. On the first morning the whole team of six did their dressage test simultaneously, then in the afternoon they had the show jumping. By the end of the afternoon the North Taranaki team were in third place overall. On the second day the team did the cross country course consisting of 22 jumps that were a metre high (and often just as wide!). Four of the team had clear rounds in the cross country and those four scores helped move the team from third to first place overall! At the conclusion of the event the teams had a mounted parade and prize-giving (see photos). Each winning team member received an engraved silver cup and matching horse covers as well as the large team trophy.

On 15 April two Oakura Pony Club members, Kirstie McLean and Bronte Alder, competed in the Taranaki Secondary Schools Association (TSSA) team's dressage, representing Sacred Heart Girls College. Each team member had to ride two different dressage tests and were placed individually and as a team. The two Sacred Heart teams came 3rd and 5th and overall (placed individually) Kirstie came 2nd in both tests and Bronte came 4th.

On 19 April the Bolstad Family very kindly hosted the Oakura Pony Club End-of-year Gymkhana. The gymkhana started with flat classes (testing things such as pacing and the manners of the ponies) and was followed by a mixed show jumping, cross country and obstacle course. It was a fabulous day – lots of fun with fantastic Oakura weather – which concluded with prize-giving and a shared lunch.

As I write this, the Pony Club Championships are being held in Nelson. Four riders from Oakura Pony Club are taking part. In the A1 is Caroline Beekman and Sophie Anderson and in

Anna Hinton on Odd Spot jumping the table jump at Timberlands.



North Taranaki winning team: Kim, Charlotte, Darelle, Hannah, Zoe and Anna at the Timberlands prize-giving.

DC, Andrea Brewster with Anna Hinton as reserve. We'll let you know how they got on next month!

On 14 May we will be holding our AGM at the Fire Station rooms in Oakura and this will be followed by our regular meeting. The following Sunday 18 May will be our end-of-year dinner and annual prize-giving at 5pm at Butlers. For tickets or any information regarding this or joining the Club, please contact either Linda Knudsen (Chairperson) on 752 7560 or Diane Alder (Secretary) on 752 1008.

Kaitake Golf

Midweek Ladies' results

Aotearoa Cup

Winner – R Robins (nett 65)
Runner-up – S Burgess (nett 71)

Coronation Medal

Winner – R Robins (nett 65)
Runner-up – M Nielsen (nett 66)

Best Gross

R Robins (gross 75)

Veterans Trophy

Winner – J Horn (nett 68)
Runner-up – V Soffe (nett 70)

27-Hole Nett Silver

Winner – K Cavey (102.5)
Runner-up – J Reid (106.5)

27-Hole Nett Bronze

Winner – S Spinall (107)
Runner-up – J Mattingley (108.5)

Nancy McCormick Foursomes

Winners – R Robins - M Nielsen (nett 152 c/b)
Runners-up – S Burgess - S Aspinall (nett 152)

Nancy McCormick

Winners – R Hawker - P Gray (nett 154 c/b)
Runner-up – K White - J Jupp (nett 154)

National Team Event to be held at Kaitake 7 May

Kaitake team: K Emmerson, T McEldowney, M Barrett & J Ross

Raewyn Hawker

Secretary Manager

Kaitake Golf Club



Kaitake Golf Course is an 18 hole, picturesque course, situated 2kms south of Oakura on Surf Highway 45 and 15min from New Plymouth.

For more information
Phone (06) 752 7665

Oakura's World Champion BMX rider – Hannah Sarten



Hannah with her trophies.

Hannah Sarten has achieved more than the average twelve-year-old girl – she became a world champion at the age of eleven in 2007 and is heading to China in May this year to defend her title.

Hannah has just returned from North Avon in Christchurch where she competed in the New Zealand Nationals, coming home with a new

national title of NZ1 for her age group and a 5th position in the Cruiser Mix. She was also crowned New Zealand BMX Sportswoman of the Year, which is an even bigger achievement as she is the youngest ever to have won this award.

The fabulous signage on Hannahs bike trailer.

Her dad Jon Sarten's race team was also successful, winning the PWC Dalliston Cup.

Among Hannah's greatest achievements is her win in the 11-year-old girls' World Championship in Victoria, Canada last year, an amazing accomplishment for a Year 8 Oakura School student.

We all wish Hannah every success at the World's in China this year and look forward to following her progress.

By Jahla Tran Lawrence and Grace Hoskin

TOM had some other questions for this outstanding young sportsperson . . .

What does it mean to be sportsperson of the year?

It's great. I was up against some pretty good female riders, all older than me, including Sarah Walker, our Olympic representative.

How did you achieve this?

I think the World title went a long way toward it as I'm only the fourth Kiwi ever to win a World title in BMX, but I have been pretty consistent this year and gave the boys a run for their money all year.

What do you have coming up?

I am off to the World's again at the end of May. This year it is in Taiyuan, China, which is about an hour's flight south of Beijing. This year I will race in two bike classes, my 20" in which I won my age group last year and the other is on my new 24" cruiser. Dad went to the track in China about a month ago and said it was not the best place to hold it but we will cope.

What are your current goals?

To do well in both classes in China. Next season I want to race in the super class series again with the boys. I'll be at the older end of that class so should be up in the top five riders. You race for cash in the super class!

New Plymouth to Napier –

Oakura locals do Sea to Sea the hard way!

I don't know who comes up with the craziest ideas on this planet but fitness freaks would have to be up there and Craig "Cookie" Cooke certainly is (well, I wouldn't call him a freak but possibly a nutter!) with his crazy idea to do a trial run for a multi-sport event from New Plymouth to Napier.

The fish and chip guru, a self-confessed junk-food junkie who defies the odds when it comes to keeping fit and healthy, thought it would be a great idea to get a bunch of friends together and create a multi-sport event from one side of the island to the other (a mere 485km). And in true Kiwi style the group of friends – including Craig, Jenny Laird, Brenda Crummey, Al from the garage (seems that is his pseudonym!), Grant "Grunter" Hildred, and John and Alex Wilmshurst – did conquer the cross-Island adventure and as it turned out it was "way better than I thought it was going to be," said Craig.

Day One began at 6.30am on 7 April with a 52km bike ride from the wind wand followed by a 20km run, 20km mountain bike, 36km road bike and a 35km kayak.

Brenda was pacing herself in the mountain bike stage but was struck by the fact that they were indeed heading into the whop whops, perhaps never to return, but Cookie loved the "classic back country" landscape.

Day Two was another 6.30am start with a 43km mountain bike, 22km road bike, 20km run (Chateau to Desert Road), 80km bike ride then beer, roast dinner and sleep.

Day Three started with a 67km mountain bike along the "Gentle Annie Race Course", 5km run, 43km road bike and lastly a 20km kayak down the Ngaruroro River to Clive. It seems the bike ride was a highlight (possibly, they could smell the sea). Brenda enthused, "Jenny and I joined in on the final road bike. It was a great ride with John and Jenny working at the front and a gentle head wind (again!). There's something about pack riding – when it's going off, it's going off! When you hit those downhill runs and everyone has crouched down and spread out like they own the road, giving it heaps with smiles and adrenalin pumping, then pushing into the uphill runs like they don't exist – the wow factor of road biking."

For Cookie the experience was well worth the effort. While he is not interested in organising a multi-sport event as a regular event, doing such a course has shown him that the camaraderie of a team sport is the real icing on the cake and that as a novice to multi-sport, he can do it! His first multi-sport event was only last year with the Rotorangi Gutbuster. I'd say he's hooked!

By Kim Ferens



Cookie beginning the run across from Ruapehu to the Desert Rd with Brenda in hot pursuit,



Brenda Crummey crossing a swing bridge on the Moki track.



Oakura Boardriders update

Of course the biggest news of the month was the outstanding success of Paige Hareb, who has jumped to third on the World Qualifying Series (WQS) ratings after creating history as the first New Zealand female surfer to win an ASP WQS event.

Paige took out the Drug Aware Pro held at Margaret River, Western Australia. Along the way Paige defeated top WCT surfers Rosanne Hodge (ZAF) in the final, Rebecca Woods (AUS) in the semifinals, Jessi Miley Dyer (AUS) in the quarters and Anee Donohoe (AUS) in the round of 12. Airini Mason also had a great result at the event, placing fifth.

Paige has just headed back across to the Gold Coast for a Pro Junior event before coming back home. She'll head to West Australia for another event then onto France for the Junior World Champs, so she has a busy few months coming up. Great to see all the local support following her heats online and the messages sent. I know she appreciates it all. The other big event for the Club was the Club Champs, held over the weekend of 5-6 April. There was a good turnout, with the Open Division requiring 5 heats, some new members joining and some old faces back in the mix again.

Firstly we'd like to thank our sponsors who help make this a memorial annual event – Vertigo Surf Shop, Snickerdoodles, RTL (Roofing Taranaki Ltd), Caci Clinic, The Oakura Doctors and The Oakura Pharmacy, and Mike Christiansen for the donation of a few copies of his book *Jack*. The prizes that are all drawn out of a hat at the prize-giving are a highlight and well received. Please show your support for our sponsors.

Saturday dawned with all the junior divisions on standby. Due to other sporting commitments and a very high tide we decided to postpone until mid-afternoon when we ran these divisions in what turned out to be quite challenging conditions for the younger crew. We had the Under-12 Girls lead the way with a good showing by Eva Reid and Meyer Neeson. New club member Ben Silk did well in his first ever contest in the Under-10 Boys. Other strong performances by Toby Brankin in the Under-12 Boys and Seth Marshall in the Under-14 Boys rounded out a day enjoyed by all. On Sunday the call was made for Graveyards and with the tent set up and intermittent drizzle, we got underway in good contestable 4-6ft conditions.

Highlights of the day were: Biscuit not firing a shot in his new Legends division but making up for it in the Grandmasters; John Neeson was back and showed good form in all his divisions and wanting more; the Under-16 Boys and Under-18 Boys were all very competitive. Taranaki is the land of the Left-hander but the Open Women wanted to surf as Right-handers so paddled out to the boat ramp – come on girls, no excuses next year! The Legends showed age was no barrier and there was some talk of adding another division for over-55s – “The Icons”? There was some stiff competition in the Open, with Hamish Christophers hungry for the title again along with Wade Lobb, another past title-holder. Good surfing was also seen from Regan Brien, Snuffy, Glen Johns, Paul Glucina, Kaye McKee, Brian Clark and Richard Kurta, all making the semi-finals. All were keen to get their hands on the cup, showing the Boardriders holds a strong place in hearts of local surfers. Ben Plummer-Butt surfed really well to make it into the final then snapped his Epoxy board following an over-the-falls on a big wave (oops, sorry Biggie).

As you can see from the photos we surfed right to the low tide and quite a few competitors came out the loser against the dreaded Kina. The results are all listed below with congratulations to Tyler Anderson, who is once again our Open Champ as well as the Under-18 title-holder. He has set a precedent as he won the with the Open and Under-16 titles last year – it will be a hard one to beat in the years to come.

Thanks to all those who made the effort and helped out over the weekend. Hopefully it was enjoyed by all. Let's remember the kids are where the future is, so encourage them to get out and have a go.

Oakura Boardriders Club Champs results 2008

Under-12 Girls	Under-10 Boys	Open Mens
1st Meyer Neeson	1st Jack Davies	1st Tyler Anderson
2nd Eva Reid	2nd Issac Hardie-Boys	2nd Hamish Christophers
	3rd Ben Silk	3rd Richard Kurta
		4th Ben Plummer-Butt

Under-16 Girls	Under-12 Boys
1st Casey Stevens	1st Toby Brankin
2nd Eloise Stevens	2nd Ben King
	3rd Alex King
	4th Lachlan Stevens

Open Womens
1st Casey Stevens
2nd Eloise Stevens

Under-14 Boys	Grand Masters (45+)
1st Seth Marshall	1st Chris Davies
2nd Jackson Braddock-Pajo	2nd Brett Hollis
3rd Toby Brankin	3rd Grant Stewart
4th Felix Page	4th Brent Anderson

Under-16 Boys	Legends (50+)
1st Connor Anderson	2nd Chris Davies
2nd Seth Marshall	3rd John Neeson
3rd Jackson Braddock-Pajo	4th Mike Christiansen
4th Thornton Davies	

Under-18 Boys
1st Tyler Anderson
2nd Thornton Davies
3rd Kaye McKee
4th Oliver Brankin



Under 12 girls.

Under 10 boys.



Under 12 boys.

In early April the grand finals of the Volcom VQS series were held at Raglan, with local boys Tyler and Connor Anderson along with Michael Mallalieu, Mark Parthemore, Tom Smith, Chad Jones, Jarrod Hancox, Conan James, Jeremy Grainger and Jessie Lewis among the Taranaki contingent to qualify to compete in the various divisions in sometimes challenging conditions. Jarrod Hancox coming 3rd = in his division, Tyler Anderson 4th = in his were among the better results at the end of the day.

Anzac Day saw the running of the Blacksand Gromsearch for local surfers under 16. Run by the Waitara Bar Boardriders at Waitara, there was a great turnout of local kids and competitors from all around Taranaki, and by the looks on the kids' faces, all had a great time. Congratulations to Jason Mathews, Chip Andrews, Wayne Arthur, Steve Sate and the WBBRC members for a great event – the kids are the future. Local boy Connor Anderson won the Under-16 Boys division.

The following two days saw the running of the local leg of the Rip Curl Gromsearch at Back Beach. Great waves were on offer for the Groms, meaning a full two days of surfing for the competitors, who were from all over New Zealand. A few of the local Groms tried their luck and Mark Parthemore came 2nd in the prestigious Under-16 Boys division. A lot of the other local competitors who have been a force in the division over the years are now older and have moved on so it is open to a new crew to have their chance to shine.

NPOB's acknowledge their helpers and athletes

The saying goes "that behind every great man stands a great woman".....let's think about that in terms of our club – the brilliant New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Lifesaving Club – and let's even revise the old adage to say - ".....that behind every awesome NPOB competitor stands an outstanding and tireless worker...."

At NPOB we have a reputation for success. Whether that be on the beach or in the water (with or without a medal to show for it) or whether it be for effort and attitude (with honour, heart and true sportsmanship) – the executive of NPOB are incredibly proud to be a part of that reputation and we know and appreciate just how hard all our competitors (from nippers through to senior level) work and train to succeed and give their best.

At NPOB we have an outstanding group of athletes – and medal or no medal – the Executive is proud of each and every one of them. But it must also be said that we are equally proud, overwhelmed and incredibly grateful to those of our club who stand behind those athletes...who give an enormous amount of their own time, without thought of return – so that athletes of all ages at NPOB have every opportunity available to them.

It is therefore a great honour to acknowledge the following people for their unselfish dedication to our Club.....

Tasman Toyota – a huge thanks to our sponsor for their awesome donation of a van to drive our athletes to and from training and away events. This service has been invaluable to us.

Coach Blair Dunn – Blair has given his "all" to our athletes and they have reaped the benefits and will continue to do so right throughout their sports career.

Jared Coster – the IRB's are a force to be reckoned with – both competing and on patrol. It is a huge and incredibly important area to oversee and manage and Jared does it brilliantly.

Ang and Gary Harrison, Jimmy Moorwood and Rex Cowley – our expert Barbeque team. These people and their team work tirelessly and under pressure and New Years Day would not be the same without their fantastic hard work.

Antony and Anna North, Greg Page and Matt Crabtree arrive every Sunday morning to face 40 under 14 year olds and give them an action packed, fun filled 2 hours of junior surf – and they do it with 110% effort and enthusiasm. They are responsible for the future of our club and we are very fortunate to have such dedicated people on our team.

Vaughan Garret – our resident Jack of all Trades. Vaughan always manages to know where everything is. His wealth of knowledge is endless and he always has an answer or a solution at hand. Vaughan donates huge hours to our club and we will always be grateful to him for this.

Peter Bryan, John Hurley, Keith Monk and Jeff McCullough – our amazing Working Party – always there setting up carnivals, packing up, putting away, maintaining and improving. Our club could not run as smoothly without the efforts of these men and we are extremely appreciative of the time and commitment they give.

There is no glory without effort.....no pain – no gain....no successful athlete without a supporter behind them.....no NPOB without our volunteers – the unsung heroes of our club. Sadly a fact of human nature can be that we often take for granted the very people who most deserve our gratitude – so as we reflect on the unsung heroes of our club – we take this moment to pass on our most grateful thanks to the many wonderful people who are the heart of our club. We are proud and humbled to be in the presence of such hard working, dedicated, unselfish and unrelenting individuals – we know that as busy people – you may not always have the time to spare – that fact that you always find it is a direct line to the success – the livelihood and very essence of NPOB.

There is an old Malayan proverb which says that "....one can pay back the loan of gold – but one dies forever in the debt of those who serve...."

Suffice to say – to those mentioned above and to all the families who give of their time our club – we are forever in your debt.

The Executive Committee

New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Lifesaving Club

TSB Community Trust Fund has benefits for locals

The TSB Community Trust has allocated funds to many local community groups and individuals. One of the major recipients is the annual Literacy Programme that is run in local schools. Below is a list of recipients and the individuals listed are all outstanding sportspeople who have been featured in the *TOM*:

Okato Pony Club	\$400	Okato Historical Society	\$350
Tumahu Golf Club	\$2000	Okato Fire Brigade	\$6000
<i>Literacy Programme</i>		Okato Community Trust	\$500
1 Oakura School	\$10480	Finlay Neeson	\$500
2 Omata School	\$5880	Mathew Dickey	\$500
3 Coastal School	\$8000	Jessie Mugeridge	\$500
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Still On Top – The Greatest Hits

Van Morrison
(Exile/Universal)

A glorious recording career spanning over forty years and dozens of albums (several of which are genuine classics) leaves the novice buyer the near-impossible task in settling on a Van Morrison "starter pack". Few artists have built up a more impressive body of work than the artist often referred to as "Van The Man", but having split his output across several companies, his previous label-specific collections have been somewhat restricted in range.

As the first compilation to cherry-pick highlights across five decades, Still On Top has effectively taken the anxiety out of buying Van Morrison. This non-chronological, two-disc set includes Van's first R & B infused recordings with Them ("Gloria", "Here Comes The Night"), his ever-popular 'one-off' hit for Bang Records "Brown Eyed Girl", tracks from his Warner Bros masterpieces ("Moondance", "Tupelo Honey", "Into The Mystic", "Saint Dominic's Preview") and his later gems ("In The Garden", "Tore Down A La Rimbaud", "Irish Heartbeat" and "Celtic New Year"), to name but a few.

Hardcore Morrison fans will quibble about a personal favourite or two that has been overlooked for this selection. For example, I would have had to find room for "Cyprus Avenue" or "A Sense of Wonder", but then what would be left out? Striking a deft balance between the hits and the mystical Celtic soul that entrances all true Morrison followers, this represents great value for money and will get rid of that record token that has been stuck in your wallet since Christmas!

Still On Top is a superb introduction to the work of Van Morrison, but also be aware that all serious music fans must one day scale the mountain that is Astral Weeks, the 1968 album that fuses poetry, folk and jazz in equal measures and is one of the enduring masterpieces of modern music.



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Oops!

Last months issue incorrectly stated the NPDC as the office to contact regarding the Argentine ant. Residents should in fact contact the **Taranaki Regional Council**

For more information on the Argentine ant see www.trc.govt.nz.

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Okurukuru vines yield up their crop

On 21 April a stunningly beautiful morning greeted the Okurukuru "family" as they prepared to harvest the 2008 crop of pinotage grapes that hugged the hillsides of the Okurukuru Winery. I went along to photograph the momentous occasion and I couldn't help but wonder if the glorious morning would be able to be tasted on the palette at a later date – I hope so! But it wasn't all plain sailing, as in the week prior to picking the weather took a very wet turn for the worse, which could have been disastrous for the crop. Fortunately the damage was minimal.

The Okurukuru "family" swelled by the minute as more and more Hayward family members, friends and employees turned up to help harvest the grapes, and soon everyone was in the swing of it and gossiping gaily among the vines (I must say I had to block my ears!). There were no less than three people celebrating birthdays, several hangovers and all the tips any equine enthusiast could possibly want.

But the grapes! The compact bunches of deep purple globes had to be carefully scrutinised for selection or rejection once the vines had been released from the safety of their bird nets. When the barrels were filled and the vines devoid of fruit, the grapes were off on their journey to Marlborough by refrigerated truck. The harvest was expected to reach the winery and begin the process of becoming wine the following Tuesday.

By Kim Ferens

Adam Proffit, a little early with his glass of Sugarloaf Rose.



Kahsmim Groenendijk engrossed in grape selection.

The vineyards.



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TOM Plunket babies

Sienna Rose Watson – born 11 July 2007, daughter of Karl and Julianne Watson.



Sienna says hello.

Belly dancing Rosalina has fitness on her mind

Rosalina is new to Oakura and is keen to set up a belly dancing group in the village.

Rosalina has a background in dance such as traditional Oriental, hip hop, funk and modern belly dancing. She taught belly dance for fitness while working with the Pyramid Dancers in Singapore.

The benefits of belly dancing as a fitness tool is that it is a complete workout that exercises and tones the lower and upper body, develops good coordination, helps build strong bones, inspires self-expression, enhances vitality, beauty and balance and most of all is fun.

If you would like to give belly dancing a go, contact Rosalina on 027 739 1380 or email rosalina@asianfoodnetwork.net

Fantails find their way indoors

Last month a local lady rang me to say she had been busy trying to shoo a persistent fantail out of her house. She would shut it out one window and it would come in another so it really wanted to be inside she thought. Not such an interesting event surely, but the funny thing was that very same day two other people told me of fantails coming inside that week and then it also happened at my house. Why now at this time of year, I wondered? I contacted the Ornithological Society to see if they could shed any light on the matter and on the status of fantail numbers, and this is what Paul Scofield, curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Canterbury Museum, told me.

You may be aware that a fantail in the house is a portent of bad luck in the Māori world. It is indeed an interesting observation that fantails enter houses more in autumn. There is little doubt that insect numbers do decline in the autumn and this may be partially responsible but also remember that the recently fledged chicks have just become independent and they are probably less timid than their world-weary parents.

How can TOM readers tell the difference? Fledglings can be recognised by their scruffy unkempt appearance, brownish not yellow chest and by the presence of a line of small beige or light orange dots on the outer wing, in contrast with the smaller white dots of the adult.

The recently completed *Atlas of the Bird Distribution in New Zealand - 1999-2004*, published by the Ornithological Society of NZ, suggests that fantail distribution (especially in the South Island) may have increased not declined. The truth is that fantails are not well adapted to the cool New Zealand winters and during especially cold winters (like the last couple) populations may become locally extinct. It takes a few warm winters for populations to build up again. Why is this if the fantail is native, you may ask? Well, we now believe that fantails have not been in New Zealand for very long. Fossil evidence suggests that they, like pukeko and harrier, are in fact recent immigrants (in the last 1000 years or so) to New Zealand from Australia.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who notices whether the fantails coming inside are indeed fledglings or perhaps have a theory of their own. Email me at kim@thetom.co.nz

By Kim Ferens

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Call in and talk to Colleen or Sarah for friendly and helpful advice

On Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April, 12 senior Oakura School students had the wonderful opportunity of a two-day workshop with tutors from the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to learn to make a short movie.

As soon as tutors Elizabeth, Tessa and James walked in, the atmosphere changed and everyone was straight into it! Elizabeth put on *Wallace and Grommet* so we could watch a scene and all the shots needed to make it look realistic. We had to clap each time we thought the shot had changed. This proved to be more difficult than it sounds, as everyone was clapping at different times. Next, we were given a sheet with all the different shots and angles on it. After that, we were put into groups of three to play around with the shot distances on the camera. Once we had learnt how to do all the shots without zoom we were sent back inside to make a proper short movie. Each person had a turn being cameraman, actor and director. This was extremely fun, with everyone contributing to the storyline, making the movie very humorous!

After people turning into pumpkins and others stealing fire hoses, we got onto our real movie, which we had to make a storyboard for using every different shot that we had learned. This was also quite hard, trying to cut down on the common shots and replace them with the not-so-common, while keeping track of our short time limit. Our stories were set around a Western showdown, but we were told to choose any ending we liked, as outrageous as we could imagine, which of course everyone was excellent at!

This is the first time that Oakura School students have had the chance to create a movie with such experienced people and it will certainly boost our confidence in movie making in the future. We would like to thank our part-time teacher Mrs Hanline and the team from Auckland University of Technology for giving us this fantastic opportunity.

By JG Coughtrey, Max Hardie Boys and Abby Wilson

Clelands Construction Ltd – one of the old kids on the building block

Innovation, collaboration, quality and responsibility have been guiding principles of the Clelands Construction Limited culture for nearly a century. Times and people have changed, but these values remain as relevant as ever, whether building a large and complex commercial building or a small house alteration. We at Clelands care about every job, big or small. Of course we are proud of what we have built, but of much more importance is the professional way in which we have delivered so much of Taranaki's built environment over the last 93 years.

We employ our own qualified, experienced tradesmen and the company is structured into commercial and industrial construction; and residential building, service, jobbing and joinery teams. The team working on your project will be expert at that type of building.

During last year's devastating floods and tornadoes in Oakura, Clelands mobilised immediately to assist many affected property owners and repaired the damage.

Company Directors Martin Stephens, Alistair Doré and Peter Cottam are passionate about the building construction business and the company commonly known as just "Clelands". Martin is also passionate about the coastal village of Oakura where he lives: "It's a very special place which deserves to be protected and enhanced."

Take a trip around the village with him and he will point out many special homes built by Clelands. Currently there are three homes underway and at various stages of progress. There are also four homes down the coast currently under construction.

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kaitake kindergarten

On Wednesday 16 April, our Wednesday group of four year olds travelled by bus to the TSB Showplace in New Plymouth to see the *Kiwi Moon* show. In preparation for this the children made a large paper maché Kiwi. The children have really enjoyed seeing the Kiwi develop and now often revisit the Kiwi where it is sitting in the block corner and have a chat to him and tell their friends about him.

Drama has been a focus in the Beachies group. We have been acting out *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *The Three Bears*. Due to the enthusiasm and interest this generated among the children, we was decided that we would have a "Three Bears Breakfast" at kindergarten on Wednesday.

Drama is an important part of the curriculum as it develops children's spatial awareness and develops their literacy skills in their enactment of the story. It takes a lot of practice and confidence to stand up in front of your friends and put on a show.

Here's hoping everyone has had a great school holiday break and had fun with their families.

Kris

TOM Tidbit

Jenna Green – local teenager – features in a new book about tornadoes by Waikato author Sharon Holt. As we all know, Jenna was caught in the path of last year's tornado. Her story will appear in an educational reader released in October by Australian publisher Cengage Learning.



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What's on

May

- 15 Year 3 & 4 ball skills at Oakura
- 20 Home and School meeting at 7pm

June

- 5 Year 5 & 6 interschool sports exchange vs Marfell
- 6 Marae visit

Young Leaders

On 15 April some of our Year 8 students attended the Young Leaders' Conference at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington. These are some of the messages they came away with...

Rob Harley – TV documentary maker

Rob Harley talked to us about people who were disabled. He said to us, "People are life's greatest teachers" and "Turn scars into stars." He also talked to us about people who had done great things. Glen Cunningham burnt both his legs and one doctor said he might not walk again. But then he set a world record for running a mile.

Judge AJ Becroft – Principal Youth Court judge

He gave us five pointers:

1. You must be trusted with small things, before you can be trusted with the big things.
2. Choose good friends.
3. Have the courage to say NO when you need to.
4. Nothing beats team work and the power of a team.
5. Live by a value system you believe in.

He also told us the qualities we need to be leaders: honesty, kindness, compassion, respect, obedience, responsibility, duty and consideration for others.

Mark Inglis – Rescue mountaineer

"Life is about advantage not disadvantage."

We think that means look at the bright side, even if you've lost both of your legs.

Mark Inglis is an incredible person who made it to the summit of Everest with metal legs. Mark Inglis was mentally and physically fit.

Melissa Moon – Sportswoman

Throughout life we are given opportunities so we should take them while we can. We all have a talent so let your talent grow. Visualise and tell yourself you can do it.

Travelling around the world has made Melissa aware of a lot of different cultures, and she thinks that we need to be proud to be Kiwi.

Nathan Fa'avae – Adventure racer

"All that we are is a result of what we have thought."

"I wanted to be a famous sports person and I kept visualising myself as a famous sports star and that is what I became. If you let your dreams be known, the universe will help you get it."

We all enjoyed the conference and thought that it was very inspiring and the trip down to Wellington was great too.

Comments by Laura, Caddison, Louis, Regan, Candyce, Bodean, Travis, William and Jack



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Playcentre Open to all!

To celebrate Playcentre Awareness Week, Oakura Playcentre is holding an Open Day on Wednesday 21st May, 10am to 12pm. We'd like to extend an invitation to all members of the community who have children between the ages of 0-6 years to come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat to find out more about this great organisation and all that it has to offer you and your families.

Some of the great things Playcentre have to offer:

- 1 Wonderful facilities and resources that support and encourage your child in creative play
- 2 An environment that builds relationships for both parents and children
- 2 Opportunities for children to build relationships with a wide range of others - both adults and children of varying ages
- 3 Development of friendships within the Oakura Community
- 4 Parent Education and Development
- 5 A chance to have uninterrupted play and interaction with your child
- 6 A lot of fun and many new experiences!
- 7 Playcentre is for children aged from birth to 6 years.

Oakura Playcentre is open during the school term on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm. Visitors are always welcome to come along and find out more. We are located on Donnelly Street, Oakura (behind the colourful fence, next to the library). Should you have any questions regarding the Open Day please do not hesitate to contact Lara Barton on 752 7749.

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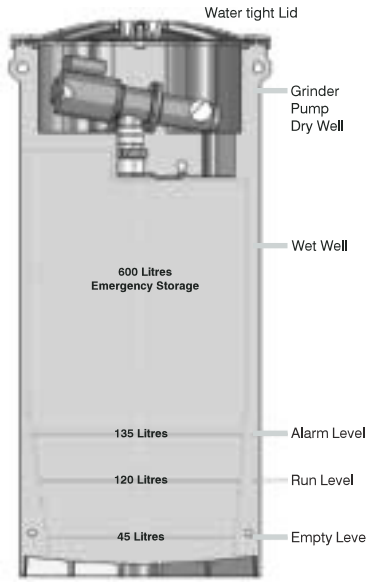
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clubs & groups calendar

Hurford- Omata- Oakura Rural Women

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

Farmers Market Taranaki

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

Plunket Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am) in the Oakura Board-riders Club.

Mini Groovers:

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

Playcentre

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

Omata Playgroup:

Every 2nd Thursday. Next meeting 10 April, 9.00am at the Omata Community Hall. All parents and preschoolers welcome.

St John's Omata:

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

St James Church Oakura:

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

Kung Fu:

Monday & Thursdays 6.00-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

JKA Karate

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

Yoga:

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

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

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

Indoor Bowls:

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

Country and Western Club

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

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