

# TOM oakura

## Oakura Marae Wingspan Festival



*Aunties at Oakura Marae preparing food for the festival.*

What a beautiful scene at Oakura Marae on Saturday, March 27. The Wingspan Festival took place at the mouth of the Oakura River, and I have to admit, I stayed all day. The weather was perfect and the view was spectacular.

The theme for the day was 'Upwards and Onwards with Peace' and the festival was held to benefit the building of a new wharehau at Oakura Marae. You could feel the wairua (spirit) of peace and family throughout the day.

We were even visited by Mayor Peter Tennent and MP Jonathan Young, as well as Bishop Phillip Richardson of Taranaki,

and The Very Reverend Jamie Allen of St. Mary's Cathedral. They were there to launch the most exciting part of the festival, the 'maraemARTket', which will be held at Oakura Marae on the last Saturday of each month, beginning on April 24.

In addition to beautiful Maori art being available for sale, the market will alternate during the winter months with workshops such as raranga (weaving), poetry, flag painting, rock painting, writing, ta moko (facial and body tattooing), and waiata (song) composition.

The Performers for Peace Concert during

the festival was outstanding, with musical greats like Morgana, Painted Black, Simon James, and Bryce Manu performing, as well as many others.

I have to say that my family tried all of the food there, from the Aunties' wonderful homemade scones and cakes, to the chop suey, potato salad, marinated fish, bucking burgers, garlic and wine-cooked mussels, and my personal favourite, the mussel fritters. They were amazing! Carol Tuuta, the organizer of the festival, promises to share the recipe with me so

*(Continued on page 2)*

Didn't life have a laugh at itself recently when it spewed ash into the Northern Hemisphere! We humans think we have the answers to everything and can control everything, like carbon emissions, then good old Mother Nature blows her top in Iceland. Who's going to pay for the carbon credits there, I wonder?



I like it when we are put in our place and made to look insignificant, which we are. This was summed up for me by the car racing fraternity who were worried that the rally wouldn't be able to make it to New Zealand this year because of disrupted travel. In the scheme of things, whether a car rally goes ahead or not is hardly catastrophic — annoying perhaps, financially troubling, but really not that important. It is good to remember that all these little entertaining lifestyles we have created for ourselves can easily be ditched and hey, we won't die because of it. I did feel for the couple who can't get home to New Zealand to get married in time for their planned wedding day, but they are philosophical about it and that is refreshing.

Kim

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

## cover story Wingspan Festival



**Beautiful Maori art for sale at the 'maraemARTket' at Oakura Marae.**

that I can try to make these delicacies at home! I felt very special to be allowed to go into the kitchen to meet all of these incredible women.

The day wasn't over without an amazing hangi, a first for me since being in New Zealand nearly two and a half years. Guided by Mr Robert Mita, Chairman of Oakura Marae, I watched the entire process from the heating of the rocks, which took hours, to the food being lifted from the ground steaming hot! It was a wonderful experience seeing how a hangi is actually done, and an even better experience trying the delicious food! The kumara was my favourite.

I have to say that the best part of the day was truly just sitting on the lawn and listening to the beautiful music while looking around at the mixture of people at the Marae that day. It was so beautiful to see all of the generations of Maori families that were there, several having three and even four generations present. There were "Aunties" and "Cuzzies" everywhere, and the love between them was very evident. I felt very privileged to be there sharing food, family and music with these beautiful families. I was also happy to see so many families from the village of Oakura there supporting our local marae. Everyone that I spoke to really appreciated being able to spend a day at the Marae, and to experience the local Maori culture.

Hopefully there will be many more opportunities for the Oakura community to visit the Marae through the 'maraemARTket'. I am certainly looking forward to taking some classes in weaving, and will be one of the first to purchase a beautiful piece of art for my home. See you there!

*Story and photos by Jennifer Gros*



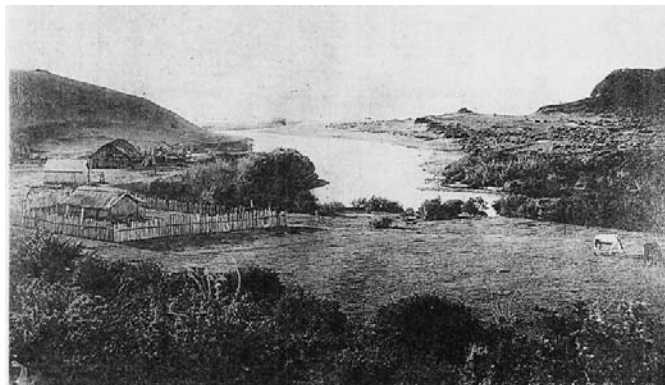
**MP Jonathan Young, Colleen Tuuta, and Mayor Peter Tennent.**

# History Bite

## Pre-European Taranaki

In pre-European Taranaki the coastline areas were heavily populated by Maori.

In the early 10th Century, Nga Mahanga a Tairi arrived in Taranaki and multiplied to become the dominant iwi of those times. Nga Mahanga a Tairi's area increased with time and the Oakura district came under the control of Ngati Tairi.



*Oakura Pa in 1907. (Photo from Taranaki Museum Collection.)*

Of the many papakainga (original home or home base) that have existed over the centuries, Okorotua Marae (Oakura Marae) and Tarawainuku Marae (Puniho Pa) are the two that remain active today. The descendents from these marae make up the Nga Mahanga a Tairi tribe who are the kaitiaki (caretakers or trustees) of this area still.

Through farming practices, much evidence and many artefacts have been unearthed from the area, which the Taranaki Museum cares for and displays.

The photo below shows an example of a pounamu adze that was discovered locally in the early 1970's by the boy in the middle of the photo.

Next month we will look at Ngati Tairi and their role as kaitiaki.



*A pounamu adze found in the Oakura area.*

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### Hi folks

The recent Anzac Day services around the district have been an opportunity for us to recognise the sacrifice of locals during World War I, and in other theatres of war over the decades.

The events of Gallipoli in WWI affected every town and city, and helped shape our perception of ourselves as New Zealanders. Today, while we have our own history of warfare on home soil, we are lucky to live in a country where we resolve differences of politics and religion with words rather than guns.

It is important that each year we reconnect with this heritage of war at home and abroad, recognise the sacrifices of those who went before us, and consider our place in a world where armed conflict is taking place every day.

The more we understand our past, the more successfully we can apply what we have learned so we can shape a strong and positive future for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

### The Battles of Waireka and Katikara

Puke Ariki is offering the chance to find out more about two key battles that took place in the 1860's, to the north and south of modern day Oakura.

*Waireka and Katikara: A New Look at Two Taranaki Battles* is a discussion evening which gives new information about these battles, which occurred on 28 March 1860 at Waireka, Omata and on 4 June 1863 at Katikara River, Tataraimaka. Come along to this event in the Education Room, Puke Ariki North Wing, at 6pm on Wednesday, 19 May to learn more about these events which took place on our doorstep.

Puke Ariki has done a magnificent job with its Taranaki War exhibition. The information displays are very thought provoking, and the associated programme has a lot of fun and informative events for children and adults. You can find out more about what's happening by going online to [www.pukeariki.com](http://www.pukeariki.com).

And remember, if you have an issue or idea that you'd like to discuss with me, you can call me on 06-759 6100 — I'd love to hear from you!

*Peter Tennent, Mayor*



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## kaitake community board

It's 2010/11 budget consultation time at the New Plymouth District Council and this year the clear signals are that the organisation will be cutting back wherever possible but without compromising levels of service. That sounds a bit like an oxymoron to me — a bit like running in place.

The Kaitake Community Board (KCB) will make submissions on three aspects of the budget. We will make another plea for Council to fund a feasibility study to look at the future urban/hall/community centre needs of the community sooner than proposed in the 2012–2022 Long-term Community Plan.

The KCB contends that the feasibility study should be included in the current budget round. The commissioning of the sewerage scheme is already bringing extra residential growth to the area. Other pressures in the commercial area also are having an impact. For example, there are no public toilets, main street parking has become limited, onsite parking at the hall is deficient and access to the adjacent Oakura Bowling Club, sited on hall land, is unsatisfactory. As well, there are increasing traffic issues on Upper Wairau Road, the Wairau Road–Highway 45 intersection and through the CBD.

Council recognises that it "is unlikely to be able to cater to the perceived needs of Oakura's growing and changing community" but waiting for up to 12 years for a study to work out 'where to from here' is just plain folly.

In a separate but conjoined submission the KCB is requesting Council to forego the erosion study set down for the 2010/11 financial year and use the funding to research and "implement an Urban/Recreational Study to identify what types of demand the community will have for recreational and service provision activities and identify appropriate locations for them." (Oakura Structure Plan ROS3)

This Community Board's contention is that there has been enough data gathered by acknowledged experts regarding the Oakura foreshore over past years through district and regional council processes. A search shows at least 10 studies have been completed. Consequently we believe a further study of beachfront erosion issues will add little or no new knowledge to what is already known.

We believe there is a far more urgent need in the village and surrounding area for an Urban and Recreational Study to identify what types of demand the community will have for recreational and service provision activities and identify appropriate locations for them.

The expert identification of all these growth related matters and the development of a plan for addressing them is critical. These matters and other corresponding issues are clearly set out in the Oakura Structure Plan. The funds already set aside for another erosion study would, in our opinion, be much better targeted towards a review of community amenities.

Our third submission is to do with the planned cuts to security patrols during the summer period. There is an escalating problem with freedom campers in the community. Campers are leaving increasing quantities of litter and, even more disgusting, human faeces at locations along the Taranaki coast. Campers have been caught sneaking into local camping grounds to use showers without having to pay while others disregard limits on the number of nights they can stay at a particular location. In Oakura freedom campers regularly park overnight along the beachfront. Even more brazenly freedom campers park on the foreshore directly outside the beach camp gates.

The Council's rules for freedom to camp do not equate to a freedom to act in a way that is environmentally unsound and detracts from the outdoors enjoyment of Taranaki residents and other tourists. We believe the security patrols of our parks and reserves during the summer period must continue. It is the only tool the Council currently has to manage this growing tide.

Therefore we are asking Council not to remove these patrols as part of its budgetary cost-cutting measures. This would be a retrograde step and allow the issue to escalate even further with no checks and balances whatsoever.

### Other News

Children at the Shearer Reserve playground have new play equipment to enjoy. There are new swing sets as well as new wood chip under-surfacing for safety, and the climbing frame has been repaired. These upgrades are part of Council's general maintenance cycle and as well as giving children something new to play on, the work ensures it meets the code compliance levels for playgrounds.

The recent Okato ANZAC parade and civic service was very well attended. It is the one event that gets everyone in the community out and provides an opportunity for reflection on past times and on those who participated on our behalf.


The Okato cenotaph and adjacent primary school site are currently under scrutiny by the Treaty Settlement's Office to establish if they will be part of any Taranaki iwi settlement. I am sure the memorial will not feature and if the school site is not a valid settlement proposition either, and the Ministry of Education declares the land and buildings redundant, there may be an opportunity to develop a green space reserve in the centre of Okato. Teresa Goodin and Mel Abbott are being proactive in establishing a local group to look into this possibility and the KCB fully supports their endeavours.

The KCB has resolved to make a submission to Council on the property development proposal on Upper Wairau Road by Oakura Farm Park Ltd.


Ka kite ano

*Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (06-752 7050), Mike Pillette (06-752 7059), Al Rawlinson (06-752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (06-756 8080) who is the Council representative on the KCB.*

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Congratulations to Tara (a former Oakura Librarian) and Jared on the birth of Milla Jane Holden born 28 March-8lb 6 oz. Mum, dad and baby are all well.

Well ladies the much anticipated *Committed*, the sequel to *Eat Pray Love*, is now available. I found it funny yet insightful. And of course for all the Lee Child fans *61 Hours* will not disappoint. As he leaves us hanging at the end it's good to know he's promised another Jack Reacher novel this year.

Two new magazines have arrived: *Oh Baby!* and *Good: Sustainable living in NZ*. Current issues may be borrowed for a week.

Our school holiday programme was a hit! The children ages 5-11 created beautiful driftwood/seashell mobiles and were very proud of their designs.

Voting has closed for the New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards and the winners will be announced on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. During festival week we will be hosting Oakura Playcentre and Sophia Preschool for story time and art activity. We will be reading *Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig Goes to dad's Café* and making chef's hats. The preschoolers enjoy these outings.

Happy reading,

Karen and Vincenza

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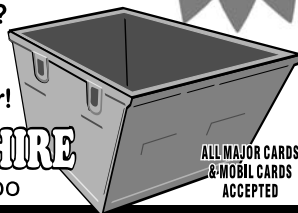
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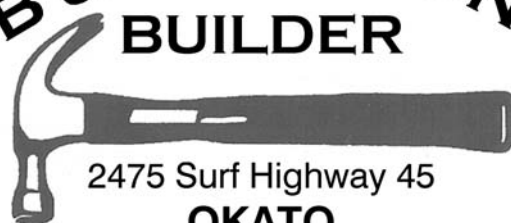
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# Tax Package to Help Families Get Ahead

From time immemorial there have been taxes. Wars have been fought because of them and financed by them. Despite the fact that taxes are unpopular they are necessary in raising the revenue for a country to function. The difficulty is in raising sufficient revenue to cover expenditure and at the same time being fair and equitable.

We face some big challenges. New Zealand spends more than it earns. Over the past five years the economy has become hopelessly lopsided. There has been too much low quality government spending, and too much borrowing to buy investment properties.

New Zealand's over-investment in property is not healthy for our economy. It pushes up house prices, which push up our debt to the rest of the world. It also makes it harder for young families to buy homes.

The National-led Government is focused on tilting the playing field towards productive investment, which will lead to exports and new jobs. We've set out a balanced programme to achieve this — including options to reform the tax system in the upcoming Budget.

Tax is a powerful lever to boost economic performance. Our starting point is that lower personal taxes across the board will give families more choice and help them get ahead, as well as helping the economy grow by encouraging saving and productive investment.

The right mix of taxes will help our export and import-competing sectors — the parts of our economy that earn New Zealand's income from the rest of the world and create sustainable jobs.

Some of the options being considered for the Budget include personal tax cuts across the board, changes to the taxation of investment property, and a possible rise in GST.

National agrees with the Tax Working Group that there is a gap in the taxation of property investments where income is being earned but in total no tax is being paid. Estimates suggest that in 2008 the value of rental property was more than the value of the entire sharemarket. However, this large asset base generated tax revenue losses for the Government of \$150 million. Most taxpayers would view that as unfair.

We believe property investors play an important role in the economy. But we don't want people investing in property for tax reasons, and we want property investment taxed on the same basis as other activities.

No final decisions on tax changes have been taken. But the Prime Minister has ruled out a comprehensive capital gains tax, a land tax, and a risk-free rate of return method. He has also said that if GST rises, there will be immediate compensation for beneficiaries, Superannuitants, and Working for Families recipients. An increase in payments to beneficiaries, students and Superannuitants has already been announced.

The Government's tax package will be focused on lifting New Zealand's economic performance, being fair to taxpayers, and helping Kiwi families to get ahead.

Jonathan Young MP

**Jonathan Young**



MP for  
New Plymouth



**National**

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# The Gros Family Take Flight

TOM writer Jennifer Gros and her family – husband Scott, children Hannah (10yrs), Patrick (8yrs) and Parker (3yrs) are about to leave village life for the oilfields of Texas. We can't claim them as our own because they really are from Louisiana, but it does feel like they are ours. Actually, they have only been in Oakura for just over two years, but with Jennifer helping fill the TOM with her wonderful images and local interest stories I think you'd all agree – they feel like family and we will miss them.

Jennifer says she has really enjoyed writing for the TOM and would like to pursue a writing/publishing career back in the States if possible. Having left the States with Café owner and PR work on her CV, writing and photography just felt 'right' here in Oakura.

The family head out of NZ on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to summer in Burleson, Ft. Worth/Dallas which is where Scott takes up a position with Halliburton in their training facility. It will be a change of position for Scott who has been the Repair and Maintenance Manager for Halliburton here in Bell Block. The children will get to enjoy two and a half months of summer holidays in Burleson before school resumes. Everyone is excited about the prospects that the States offer – Texas has a population of 24 million and Dallas is the size of Auckland so they won't be lonely! Then there is the food; Cajun food and Mexican food to name but a few.

But Oakura is the idyllic lifestyle they'll always crave. Jennifer says the beach and the mountain are wonderful but really it's about the people. "We've made so many, many special friends



*Jennifer and Scott with children, from left, Hannah, Patrick and Parker.*

who live here from many different parts of the world – through Playcentre, school, at the beach, at the café's, we'll miss them all." Hey at least there is Facebook! Jennifer is the Facebook queen and has dragged me along too on her fibre optic cable of social networking so now I'll be able to chat like we're just down the road.

The next few weeks will be busy tying up all the loose ends for the whole family, saying good byes, savouring those last mouthfuls of feijoas and tamarillos; hanging the washing out for the last time; letting the kids run down the street to the beach.

Goodbye and do come back soon – the TOM pen will be waiting!

*By Kim Ferens*

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# Skincare Taranaki has come to town!

Skincare Taranaki has been an established appearance medicine and beauty therapy business in Oakura since 1998. The Oakura team has developed an extensive range of treatments and procedures and kept up with the development and progress of advanced skincare techniques, both in New Zealand and internationally. With the introduction of new, advanced and affordable treatments, came new clients and now Skincare Taranaki has grown out of its Oakura premises. Time to make a move! Within a few weeks of making that decision they have found a new city location - 56 Currie St, New Plymouth.

Skincare Taranaki brings to town a clinic that provides Taranaki people with the services to address all their skincare needs under one roof. Having invested the last two years into researching a product line that actually works, they now offer a medical grade product range called 'Glymed'. Glymed treats aging skin, acne, pigmentation, rosacea, open pores, and many other troublesome skin conditions.

"Every client has the opportunity to have a skin scan consultation, where your concerns will be discussed with a professional aesthetician. You will then be advised upon the most appropriate skincare products and treatments best suited to your skin and desired expectations." says Dr Brent Anderson, and adds, "We want to stop people wasting money on products that are expensive and don't work and consider Glymed products more as an *investment* for their skin."

Skincare Taranaki also brings to town 'Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy' (UGS) - an advanced, no down-time varicose and spider vein treatment.

Skincare Taranaki has recently become a Southern Cross affiliated provider for the treatment of varicose veins.

A member of the Australasian College of Phlebology (veins), Dr Anderson has taken a special interest in appearance medicine over the past ten years, specialising in Botox, dermal fillers, dermoscopy, surgitron and surgical lesion excisions, along with other appearance procedures. He is also currently completing his Fellowship in Appearance Medicine.

Tania, Rose and Brent extend thanks their loyal and existing clients who have supported them over the past few years in the Oakura clinic and invite them to continue their treatments at the new premises in New Plymouth. New clients are also warmly welcomed to the clinic and encouraged to experience what real Skincare is all about!

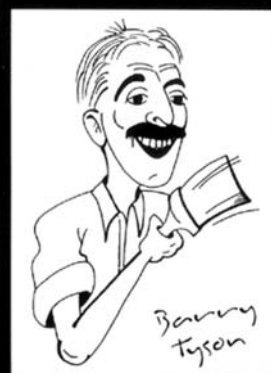
Rose, Brent and Tania.



## SKINCARE TARANAKI

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# Protecting the heritage of Oakura Beach

It has been brought to my attention once again that beach access is causing a few headaches for various people in the community. The issue isn't with people using the beach but more with using it inappropriately. We have to remind ourselves that the laws and regulations are in place so the maximum number of users can access the beach safely and that the laws are not there to hinder anyone enjoying themselves.

So to the issue of vehicle use on the beach — I asked Doug Hislop of the Kaitake Community Board to comment:

"Over the years folk have turned a blind eye to vehicles on the beach — it hasn't been a big thing except for the odd young hoon on a motorbike. It is a people problem and as the population increases we are finding more and more (problems) with vehicles on the beach. They are fast becoming a continuing and increasing issue. It's all about ease of access, laziness, or not enough daylight after work or selfishness!"

Here are the council bylaws that apply to Oakura.

No person may drive a vehicle on the following beach: Oakura Beach — including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Road River mouth to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east.

No person may park any vehicle on any part of the above mentioned beach unless that person:

- a) is permitted to do so by an authorised officer; or
- b) is parking in a designated parking area; or
- c) is on a road (excluding the foreshore).

No person may drive a vehicle:

- a) on any part of the foreshore being used for bathing or playing of sports or games or any event; unless permitted by an authorised officer; or
- b) on sand dunes, on a beach above the mean high water springs (approximately the high tide mark); unless in an area set aside for parking vehicles; or
- c) on a beach in a manner which, in the opinion of an authorised officer, is reckless or dangerous.

Nothing in the above clauses applies in the following circumstances:

- a) use of rescue vehicles, police vehicles, or motor vehicles under the direct control of any Surf Life Saving Club operative in or on these beaches; or
- b) use of vehicles to carry out approved maintenance works on the beach; or
- c) use of a vehicle for the launching and landing of recreational and fishing boats, provided that the vehicle leaves the beach immediately upon launch or landing of the boat.



*Examples of illegal beach activity.*



The last sentence is open to interpretation and I know for myself from using the beach in the summer, vehicles are parked on the beach following launching of boats, and quad bikes and motorbikes constantly use the beach as a road to and from fishing spots or for riding pleasure. All clearly in breach of council bylaws. For those using recreational vehicles illegally I would like to also point out that many sectors of the community are keen supporters of the blue penguin population who nest along the foreshore and the use of vehicles cannot be conducive to happy penguin life.

Please take note of the above bylaws, learn them by heart and use common sense when accessing the beach.

*Kim Ferens*

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## Oakura Pony Club News

In April the New Zealand Pony Club Horse Trials Championships were held in Hawera, and the team from Taranaki won. One of the team was Oakura Pony Club (OPC) rider, Lauren Moorby (LM), who we interviewed after the weekend.

OPC: Lauren, you've just come back from Champs with a flash new cover for your horse, a lovely big sash, a striking rosette, and an enormously impressive trophy, can you tell me what they were for?

LM: Taranaki won the team event and each of us was presented with a cover, the winning sash and as well as that, our team holds the NZPCA Perpetual Trophy for a year. The rosette was for our DC team as we were the best overall in our section.

OPC: Tell us what Champs are all about.

LM: Champs were at Hawera this year. There are 16 provinces which each take turns hosting. It's a bit like the Olympics of eventing at pony club level. It starts with a dressage test on day one, then a cross-country with a maximum of 28 jumps, followed by a show jumping course of up to 12 jumps on day two. For DC and A1 riders the height of the jumps is 1.05m.

OPC: How did the team go at Champs?

LM: The DC team went great, two of us jumped double clear while one had one stop. Overall, Charlotte Grayling finished fourth while I was seventh, and although Hannah Trott had a stop, we still won the best DC team. Our A1 riders went well too; Courtney Newton was fifth after dressage, and moved up to win the A1 Challenge Cup. Caro Beekman finished ninth overall while Darelle Martin had faults. Taranaki was only half a point off winning the Dressage Cup. The team had six members, but only the best four scores are counted, and we won!

OPC: Where are Champs next year and will you be trying to go again?

LM: Next year is in Taupo, and for all us DC's, as we turn 17 we will have to ride in the A1 section. I think we'll all be trying to get in the team again as it was so much fun, but it all hinges on how you go on the day. For me, I have to improve my dressage to get better marks, so time will tell. But I really hope so!

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Above, Lauren Moorby and Endless Spirit clear the picturesque Timberco bunny hop.

## Inline Oceania Champs — A Gold-winning Experience for Eve

In April this year local teenager, Eve Coltman, competed in the Inline Oceania Championships held at East End Rink.

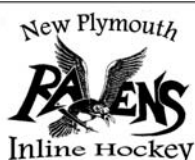
Eve played as a goalie in the Junior Women's New Zealand team, and as a team they won all five of their games against the Australian Junior Women's team.

New Zealand won back the Tasman Trophy from Australia by winning the most games in the most age group rankings.



Eve, next in line to receive her medal.

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## 2010 Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic

The fourth instalment of the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic took place in Oakura on April 10 and 11. Butlers Reef was again a hive of activity as a record number of anglers from all over New Zealand descended on it, all with the intention of doing battle with the Taranaki fish. Paradise again turned on some spectacular weather, with the sun shining and flat sea proving perfect conditions for fishing. It was these conditions that lead to a record number of fish being brought to the scales, including Kingfish for the first time in the competition's history.

There were 1.1 tonnes of fish weighed over the two days of fishing, from a number of different species including Tuna, Gurnard, Kahawai, and a whopping 11.8kg Snapper. It was this amount of fish that again made the fish auction popular with keen locals bidding to get a bargain bag of fresh fish. From

the auction \$2400 was raised for the Taranaki Coastguard. Special thanks must go to Peter McDonald, our auctioneer, and Anne Wilson, Angela Harrison and Christine Morwood for ensuring the smooth running of the auction.

The prizegiving on Sunday evening drew another large crowd with people spilling outside waiting to hear if they were winners. With Classic Hits' Barney as MC, a large number of prizes, including three kayaks, were given away to lucky fishers hailing from Wainuiomata, New Plymouth and Oakura. Other spot prizes awarded included a travel voucher from Oakura Travel, and two nights' accommodation at The Bungalow, as well as thousands of dollars worth of prizes for those lucky enough to land the biggest fish of each species. This event proved once again to be a big success and it was great to see the village buzzing with all the activity and local businesses reaping the benefits of the influx of people.

Garry Harrison



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## Oakura Tennis Club

We haven't done many newsletters, but communication is always a good thing, so here goes.....! Another successful tennis season has come to an end. We did have our end of season wind-up and drinks at Butlers, but many weren't able to attend. This is a brief summary of the Tennis Club's season, and then some news about developments at the Club.

Club Champs were won by Graeme Mitchell (Men) and Sue Oldfield (Women). Teihorangi Walden won the Men's Plate and Jackie Keenan won the Women's Plate. The winners were presented with trophies and the Club Champs' names will appear on the boards on the wall in due course. These were the first Club Championships to be played for many years. Next year we will endeavour to play Junior Club Championships as well, and perhaps doubles too.

Teams (sorry if I have missed any names)

*Soffe (A1)* — made the semifinals this year, and lost to Huatoki. Manaia won the finals. We missed Josh and Miaana Walden in our last couple of games, both travelling down to uni in Dunedin. The other *Soffe* players were: Graeme Mitchell, John Hardie Boys, Aaron Hine, Len Adamson, Teihorangi Walden, Sue Oldfield, Becky Bruckner, Louise Brankin, Shae Martin and Chris Davies. Special appearance by Craig Waite for one game. Apparently he couldn't walk for a week afterwards!

*A2* — finished middle of the table. The team was often a bit disrupted by players being pulled up to play in the *Soffe* team when needed. This is the way we have to play our teams now, by ladder order, so special thanks to those players who shuttled up or down depending on availability. John Hinton, Kevin Walden, Jamie Simpson, Brady Simpson, Chris Davies, Tessa McDougall, Jackie Keenan, Jo Cuttance, Rebecca Scott.

*B Grade* — a young team, did very well and came second overall: Brady Simpson, Isaac Hardie Boys, Molly Oldfield, Lucy Kettlewell, Abby Wilson. Special appearance by Rowan Oldfield for one game.

Junior A and B teams — we started off with one junior team



*Tei Walden, Men's Plate Winner.*

and ended up with two! It's great to see these junior players coming through. Both teams played well and had some close games: Bailey Bruckner, Amy Benton, Poppy Mitchell, Madeleine Hardie Boys, Kelsey Husband, Hayden Benton, Hannah Gros, Kima Costelloe, Sophie Willis.

*Midweek Ladies* — Chris Davies, Liz Ritchie, Tess McDougall, Shae Martin, Louise Brankin, Yvonne Chamberlain, Diane Honeyfield, Trudy McDowd, Sherry Dombroski, Sandra Price and Vincenza Clark all participated in the *Midweek Ladies* competitions, in two teams, and both teams finished well. (Graeme Mitchell is talking about starting *Midweek Men* next year!)

*Coaching* — was a success. Juniors received coaching from Wes Elder on Wednesday afternoons (available for private coaching as well if requested). We definitely want to keep up junior coaching within the Club next season. A Community Coaching course is planned in New Plymouth for early next season for parents who want to help coach juniors but don't know what to teach them. Keep an eye out for this in spring.

### Future Plans

The asphalt courts are to be converted to AstroTurf. This should happen quite soon! We've raised funds through Lion Foundation, NZ Community Trust, Perry Foundation and Four Winds Foundation. These courts are used by the Tennis Club on a shared arrangement with the school, and will also be used by the school for netball and PE (as they are now). We plan to have a keypad entry system to the courts, and mobile tennis nets that can be pushed aside by the school for PE. We must remember that the courts are the school's property, and they let us use them after hours for tennis. We need to remember to keep communication with the school going so the school is aware of the Tennis Club's activities, for instance, when *Midweek Ladies* and interclub tennis starts.

Next season we would like to see a more active social tennis scene, perhaps a Club Night once a week, with a Junior Club Night prior to the Senior one? We may look at the possibility of a Social Membership fee as well. We will keep you informed of this early next season.

Thanks to all the Committee — Becky Bruckner (Treasurer), Shae Martin (Secretary), Sue Oldfield (Junior Convenor), Dave Marshall, Tessa McDougall, Chris Davies and Kevin Walden — for their work over the season. Please make Becky's job easier next season by paying your subs without her having to chase you up!!

See you next season!!

*John Hardie Boys (President)*

*John Hardie Boys  
(President),  
Maddie Hardie  
Boys*





*Jackie Keenan, Women's Plate Winner.*



*Susan Oldfield, Women's Club Champion.*



*Graeme Mitchell, Men's Club Champion.*

## Mountain to Surf

Let the pictures tell the story of the jubilant locals after completing the Bayleys Mountain to Surf Marathon

*Comments from Bob Fleming & Carol Dawkins:*

Well, WE DID IT!! We certainly weren't the fastest or the prettiest but we finished and we weren't last. Personally, I felt pretty good the whole time, which is probably a reflection of taking everyone's advice to the extreme and not "going out too fast", and sticking to my own pace. My teammate, Carol, ran really well despite finding the heat pretty tough going. I achieved my goal to finish in one piece and not on a stretcher and won a mountainbike spot prize to boot!! As I told the others when they looked on enviously — and laughing — as I left the stadium with an over-sized men's bike, "I deserve this, I was on my feet a helluvalot longer than you lot!!"



*David Rielly looking strong.*



*Carol Dawkins and Bob Fleming.*



*Melissa Newton and Karen Lehrke.*



*Claire Florence and Fe Brown.*



*Rachel Henderson and Claire Florence.*



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# GETTING WET!



## Oakura Boardriders Club

### Teenagers Rule the Surfing World

Teenagers seem to have been ruling the surfing world here in Taranaki over the last month. As you are no doubt aware, Sarah Mason, born here but now residing in Australia, celebrated her fifteenth birthday by winning the New Zealand Women's Open thus gaining an entry into the Dream Tour Competition where she reached the quarter finals! She did this by not only knocking out our Paige but also the world champ, Stephanie Gilmore. Her successes didn't stop there as after her birthday win in the NZ Women's Open she took line honours in the Australasian Pro Junior Competition. I'm not sure where that now places her in this ongoing competition but it must be in the top three. At the time the competition was held Sarah's older sister, Airini (who is just no longer a teenager), was in first place.

The other teenager who we Taranakians have come to love and admire, especially members of the Waitara Bar Boardriders Club, is 17-year-old Carissa Moore from Hawaii who, in almost flawless fashion, won the third ASP Dream Tour title.

The third teenager we are also very proud of is local surfer, Tyler Anderson. Tyler came home from Auckland University for the weekend of our Senior Club Championship and won the prestigious Men's Open. Unfortunately Tyler had to head back to Auckland before receiving the coveted winning cup at the prizegiving but younger brother, Connor, did the honours in perfect style. He even gave a speech! The final held at Oakura Beach was in small, but contestable waves and Tyler certainly demonstrated that youth is a state our bodies long to hold onto as he outmanoeuvred his other finalists.

An early start in the morning was needed for our club champs because low tide was at midday. Unfortunately we were not early enough as conditions were barely contestable for the last event of the day, which was the final of the Over-50 Legends division. For the four finalists the teenage years no doubt remind them of how tough they were with their stockings used for leg ropes (if you were lucky enough to have those), t-shirts for wet suits and boards made out of planks of wood!

The two weekends of competition had a great family feel about them and were a lot of fun for competitors and spectators alike, despite the inconsistent surf. This was also true of the prizegiving, from which I received a great deal of positive feedback, especially from our many new members (see photos and results below.)

I was lucky enough to get to know many of the young women on the Dream Tour as I worked as a volunteer in the kitchen at the Fitzroy venue. They were all extremely approachable, friendly and appreciative and were obviously enjoying their time in Taranaki. Sally Fitzgibbons was one of the many favourites of the kitchen staff because at the end of each day she always took the time to say thank you to us all. Indeed after her second placing in the event she presented us with the driftwood and flax bouquet she was given at the prizegiving. It now adorns our clubrooms along with an Oakura Boardriders Club (OBC) t-shirt with all 17 signatures on it.

As I write this article, the women are competing in the Commonwealth Bank Beachley Classic in Sydney. It is their

fourth event of the tour and Paige got through comfortably to the third round, scoring a wave of 9.00 out of a possible 10.00 in doing so. We will continue to watch her progress with real interest and pride, as we have over the last few years. However now that we have been introduced to her fellow competitors that interest will be heightened.

The festival of women's surfing has demonstrated just how good female surfing is at present. It has been a real inspiration to those of us of the fairer persuasion who enjoy the sport and may also inspire many others to take up the challenge!

*Philippa Butt*

### OBC Senior Club Championship Results

#### Men's Open

- 1 Tyler Anderson
- 2 Mike Thompson
- 3 Wade Lobb
- 4 Neal Pullen

#### Women's Open

- 1 Lucy Brankin
- 2 Casey Stevens
- 3 Eloise Stevens

#### U18

- 1 Connor Anderson
- 2 Dan Graham
- 3 Mitch Walker
- 4 Max Lumb

#### U16

- 1 Seth Marshall
- 2 Toby Brankin

#### Masters (>35)

- 1 Mike Thompson
- 2 Neal Pullen

#### Grandmasters (>45)

- 1 Gary Bruckner
- 2 Brett Hollis
- 3 Chris Davies
- 4 Alan Crawford

#### Legends (>50)

- 1 Brett Hollis
- 2 Brian Clark
- 3 Chris Davies
- 4 Stu McKinnon



*Chris Davies grandmasters and legends finalist.*



*Legends champ – Brett Hollis.*



*U10 Boys Bodyboarding finalists - Nick, Hamish, Reef and the winner Tom Butland.*



# Surf Lifesaving is a Tradition in the Morwood Family

Local Oakura family, the Morwoods, have a fine family tradition of surf lifesaving that spans three generations.

Jim Morwood Senior was a life member of East End Surf Lifesaving Club until he passed away in 2002. Middle-aged Jim is well known around Oakura and NPOB's Surf Lifesaving Club as the Mr Fixit of everything and the man who knows everything there is to know about surf lifesaving (oh, and fishing, oh, and building, oh, and swimming). Young James is fast gaining a reputation as a champion IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat) competitor. Then there is Emma, young James' sister, who is the long-suffering patient who gets pulled in and out of the surf as the IRB crew race for the finish line. Plus she is married to Andy Cronin who is the driver of the IRB and young James' teammate. Best not forget Kirsty either. She is young James' girlfriend and competes in the tube event. Then there is young Matt who has vehemently refused to do surf lifesaving until recently when he decided for himself that he would sit his bronze medal test. Probably most important of all is Christine, the most supportive mother any young competitors could want.

James tells me Christine and Jim always watch him and Emma compete and Jim will usually be the first person James sees as he comes out of the surf. It is a proud dad there to congratulate him and to pass on a bit of helpful advice about what to do better next time. James does laugh though and says he took Jim out recently in the IRB as the crew but Jim didn't know where to sit, what to hang on to and was constantly telling James to slow down — it must be a different perspective onboard than on the beach I am thinking! Seriously though, James has enormous respect for what his parents have done for him and his siblings — what with Jim coaching the junior surf lifesavers and fixing any broken paddleboards, and the expertise in all matters concerning swimming and lifesaving.

This year James again won the premier IRB event at the IRB Nationals with Andy, and the pair will be working hard in the future to keep the title. They have also won the 90 Mile Beach IRB event and the Taranaki championships.

Emma says her mum and dad get nervous before she and James race. "I think they get more nervous than we do. Mum often gets so nervous she can't watch. They have always been really supportive of us and it was great to have been able to share the win with them at Nationals. We were always at the beach when we were younger, Dad taught all of us to swim at an early age and it was only natural that we followed his footsteps. It certainly helped having supportive parents involved in surf lifesaving."

This same support extends to other members of the family too, she goes on to say, with Nana (Moira Morwood, senior Jim's late wife) calling herself a surf widow as Jim spent hours at the beach each day. This has rubbed off on the family with Jim, James and Emma living at the beach in summer. "Nana was always very supportive and would want to know how we did in competitions; unfortunately senior Jim was too unwell to come to the beach and watch us compete but would always want to know how we went."

James has just finished his fitter/welder apprenticeship at Fitzroy Engineering, Emma and Kirsty are teachers, Matt is still at high school, Andy is Club Development Officer for Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Jim works at the Aquatic Centre as a lifeguard and Christine works at Wells Electrical.

By Kim Ferens

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# Arthouse Cinema Film Reviews

## BOY

Boy believes his long-absent dad, Alamein Senior (played by writer-director Taika Waititi), is a V8-driving, deep sea diving, war hero, champion fighter, master carver, relative of Michael Jackson, brilliant rugby player and the first Maori samurai. Obvious to us in 1984, in idyllic Waihou Bay on the East Coast, is that his dad is a dope-smoking dropkick with a penchant for petty theft and self-delusion that has kept him locked up for most of the decade. With his dad now home, Boy and his little brother, Rocky, are confronted with the reality dad versus the fantasy in their minds.

Ecstatic audiences have been impressed with the scene stealing Waititi. James Rolleston as Boy is described in the Dominion Post as "flat out brilliant". This tragi-comedy, which draws heavily on the writer's own past, has had 4 and 5 star reviews throughout New Zealand. Moving, heartbreaking, and fall-down funny.

Starring James Rolleston, Te Aho Eketone-Whitu, Taika Waititi.

*Drama, Comedy | 1hr 28mins | Rated (M) | Contains drug use and offensive language | Origin: New Zealand.*

[www.boythemovie.co.nz](http://www.boythemovie.co.nz)

Rating: 5/5

Verdict: Funny, heartbreaking, wonderful.

Waititi (below) expands on themes from *Two Cars One Night*.

## The Secret In Their Eyes (El Secreto de Sus Ojos)

*The Secret in Their Eyes* is Argentina's greatest box-office hit in the past 35 years. The intense movie, which manages to combine crime, drama, romance, thriller and mystery, won the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards on March 7, 2010. It also won the award for best Hispanic-American Film of the Year from the Spanish Film Academy.

Benjamin is retired from the criminal court and is obsessed with solving the tragic case of a beautiful young woman; a mother raped and murdered 20 years prior. With his drunk-to-unconscious friend, Sandoval (played by a popular Argentinean comedian), and his unrequited love Irene, a court official, they stumble after the clues to the real murderer. Violence, hate, revenge and death meet official corruption. Will justice be served?

[www.sonyclassics.com/thesecretintheireyes](http://www.sonyclassics.com/thesecretintheireyes)

*2hrs | Rated R | Rape scene, violent images, some graphic nudity and language | Origin: Argentina.*

Back by popular demand, Arthouse Cinema also has further screenings of: **The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo** ([www.thegirltrilogy.com](http://www.thegirltrilogy.com))

And on Queen's Birthday Weekend, Taranaki Surf Film Festival crowd favourites — **Sea of Darkness**, **Manos' Rough Cuts** and **Bustin' Down The Door!** Last chance, don't miss out, we can't do this again! Tickets out soon.

For further movies screening now, all screening times, trailers and a complete schedule go to Arthouse Cinema's website [www.arthousecinema.co.nz](http://www.arthousecinema.co.nz).

A scene from the brilliant film, **BOY**.



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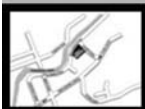
Last opportunity to plant spring flowering bulbs. Dahlia tubers and gladioli corms should be lifted and stored in a cool dry place. Plant polyanthus, primula, nemesia, pansies, violas, stock and calendula for early spring flowering.

### Fruit Trees:

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

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# Fabulous Food is Not a Pipe Dream

Fresha Food Store and Café has become a well and truly integrated shopping experience for many shoppers these days. Why? Because you can always guarantee that you will buy the freshest and highest quality ingredients for your kitchen. I know this from first-hand shopping experience — when I want to get fresh fish that doesn't pong out the kitchen, I get it from Fresha; when I am having a dinner party I know Fresha will have the gourmet products I want to use; when I want a special treat I will buy Proper Chips, Piako Yoghurt, sauces or seafood.

Sherrie tells me the meat counter is one of her favourite places, with its export quality Angus F1 grade beef that is fully traceable. The cuts are presented in vac-packs to enable long refrigerated shelf life. This means that you do not need to freeze down your meat to retain freshness. Vac-packing is the modern way of handling meat. The meat continues to age within the vac-pack ensuring tenderness and flavour. You are able to view the entire product through the vac-pack — no nasty surprises hidden on a tray.

Fresha's meat is cut and packed for its end use, ensuring quality and freshness. They range traditional cuts as well as Premium Wagyu F1 Striploins, Premium Wagyu F1 Standing Rib Roasts, Angus F1 Whole Rumps, Angus F1 Scotch Fillets and more.

The lamb originates from Hawkes Bay and brings back memories of the way lamb used to taste — succulent, tender and juicy. You can have confidence in the product when you cook it. It is also presented in vac-packs, such as Easy Carve Legs, Butterflied Lamb, Loin Fillets, Lamb Rumps, Loin Chops and more. Fully traceable, export quality and competitively priced.

Fresha stocks a range of fully traceable organic meats in store. They also offer custom organic meat orders. Order on a Monday and collect on the following Thursday. Presented in vac-packs with a refrigerated shelf life of up to 35 days. Meat available includes Beef, Lamb and Venison.

Fresha's range of poultry includes organic chicken, free range corn fed chicken, free range turkey, free range duck and free range poussin. They have standard chicken cuts available as well as marinated portions, kebabs and value added products.

Then there is the pork! New Zealand Pork! Free Range! Succulent and delicious. You will most often find Stephen at the fish counter whether it is filleting fresh fish or playing with his paddle crabs! In New Plymouth, when people think fresh fish, they think Fresha. The backbone of Fresha's business is the supply of the freshest and best fish available in New Zealand. Their roadside blackboards change daily to show their fish and seafood deliveries. They endeavour to source the bulk of their fish locally and fillet onsite for maximum freshness.

"We are also able to bring to New Plymouth fish and seafood from some of the world's most pristine waters," says Stephen.

Depending on the catch (and the weather!) you can find Gurnard, Tarakihi, Snapper, Blue Cod, Turbot, Flounder, Monkfish, Kingfish, Ling, Hoki, Blue Nose, Hapuka, Orange Roughy, New Zealand King Salmon and more. Fresha's fresh seafood selection includes Bluff Oysters, Mokau Whitebait, Golden Bay Paddle Crabs, Clevedon Oysters and New Zealand Scallops, as well as a selection of frozen seafood.

One thing I was keen to know was whether the produce on sale in the Fresha Store was the same produce being used in the café and Sherrie exclaims in horror that I would even think it might not be. "But, of course! That's why the café food tastes so good!"

Fresha is much, much more but I have run out of space so duck in and check it out for yourself — all I can say is I was in a similar store in Auckland and it wasn't anywhere near as good.

By Kim Ferens



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## Linda St Tennis Courts Update

Tracey Lusk recently sent in a submission to the Council, to be included in the Annual Plan, to retain the Linda St tennis courts as tennis courts.

The Linda St tennis courts issue has fallen below the radar in recent months because a clear path forward was not found. But, as with anything worth fighting for, the fight must go on and Tracey is proactive in trying to establish a clear plan so the area can be retained as tennis courts. Tracey says the Council have been looking at turning the Linda St tennis courts into a different type of recreational space, i.e. a grassed area.

Tracey and other interested locals would like the Council to indicate how much money is in the budget for this area and to then put that towards upgrading the existing netting and surfaces. Clearly, what the Council will budget for upgrading the court surface and the netting will not cover the entire project, and Tracey is hoping the balance of the funds can be obtained via a community group, and community fundraising and assistance. Another option could be for the Council to lease the courts to the group, which may make funding and maintenance more attainable. The community and population of Oakura are growing. The community is physically active and the option of another tennis court would be an asset to the residents. The location of the courts is in such an area that it would not be conducive to a park or similar area, which could attract the wrong sort of behaviour—something that the community would not want, nor the negative implications that could arise.

If you support the initiative to retain Linda St tennis courts as tennis courts then contact Tracey for more details. Ph 7527875 [robertw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robertw@xtra.co.nz).

### Linda St Fact List

The Linda St tennis courts:

- are also known as Linda St Reserve;
- were declared a public reserve under the Reserves and Domains Act 1953;
- were part of the Corbett Park Domain;
- have always been used as tennis courts;
- were run by the Oakura Tennis Club for club and public use until 1992.

A 1990 study brought about the relocation of the club to Oakura School where the Council contributed \$100,000 to developing new courts completed in 2005 and considered more suitable for a tennis club.

- The Linda St tennis courts' land was purchased by the Crown in 1958 for recreational purposes.
- The present condition of the courts is appalling, dangerous and an eyesore.

Mark Bruhn informed me that: "the Council's original decision to decommission the Linda Street Courts by December 2007 has been extended until 30 June 2010 at the request of the residents who feel they can raise the funds necessary to restore the courts".

So let's hope the Council and the community can all work together to achieve a result suitable for every age group in the community and beyond.

By Kim Ferens

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## Camp Wellington



*Paige, Nick, Amy, Georgia and Finn at the Albatross Fountain in Wellington.*

On Monday 22nd until Friday 26th March last term, the Year 7 and 8's of Oakura School went on a camping trip to Silverstream Retreat, Lower Hutt, Wellington. We did many fantastic activities, and kept a diary of them by writing an entry every night on what we did that day. Below is an entry for Tuesday, 23 March explaining Capital E, the Sound House and the H2O Water Park.

*Tuesday, 23 March*

Dear Diary,

Movie Making at Capital E was awesome; I played Danielle Carter, sister of Daniel Carter. I was interviewed by Devin Lewis for *OAKURA BREAKFAST LIVE* and I think I sounded really terrible! I enjoyed being in the wardrobe team with Dione because we got to choose what people wore. I thought Ruth was really funny, she was doing the weather and she had to point to all these different towns and she kept pointing to the wrong ones. When we had made our awesome/terrible movie we went to the Sound House in Capital E. I enjoyed putting all the different beats together. My partner was Ruth Boardman and our music was really embarrassing, I mean *really* embarrassing! We put this terrible lady singing on it. After we had an awesome, *awesome* day at Capital E we all piled on the bus and we drove for what seemed like hours, but was only 25 minutes, and ended up at the H2O Water Park. I climbed up the stairs with Georgia and Kelsey and we all went zooming down the Hydro Slides as fast as we could. I felt so lazy floating around the lazy river. It was truly the best day ever.

So as you can see camp was wonderful, with the amazing race, concert and fantastic activities!

*Meg Parsons, 11 years old*

## Oakura Swimmers Successful at Bell Block

On Monday 29 March, the Oakura School Year 6, 7 and 8 swimming team competed in the inter-school swimming championships at the Bell Block swimming pool.

The team consisted of Bailey Bruckner, Sam Raumat, Kelsey Husband, Meg Parsons, Ruth Boardman, Angus White, George Tvrdeich, Daniel Barron, Molly Cattell, Anaka Kahu and Amy Benton. There were five other schools participating at the event.

It was a very successful day overall for the Oakura team; almost everyone won at least one ribbon and the relay team (Bailey, Meg, Amy, Angus, George and Daniel) came second in the mixed relay — missing out on first by just a couple of milliseconds!

The day was a fantastic experience for everyone who went, and the team was extremely proud of its success.

*Amy Benton, 12 years old*

## A Special Visit from Hikaru

Last term Oakura School hosted Hikaru Kawamura, a student teacher from Japan. Hikaru came from a large city about two hours from Tokyo where she is training to become an English teacher at Nihon University. This is a four-year course and Hikaru is half way through her training. She won a scholarship to enable her to make this trip.

Hikaru came to New Zealand to help improve her English and stayed for eight weeks with Mrs Judy Zieltjes and her family. During her stay Hikaru worked across the school teaching us all a bit about the Japanese language and culture. We were taught how to say some Japanese words and also how to count from one to 10. We were also taught how to make paper cranes and flowers along with many other examples of origami. Hikaru gave up her lunch hours to give extra tuition to those who wanted to improve their origami skills.



*Japanese student teacher, Hikaru Kawamura.*

We really enjoyed Hikaru's teaching and her company. She made our unit on Japan come alive for us and gave us a taste of what Japanese life is like. We would like to thank Mrs. Zieltjes for taking care of Hikaru and for making her time in New Zealand such a great experience.

*Amy Benton, 12 years old*

**KORU VET**

**I am back and my practise will be open from the  
3rd May, 2010.**

*Looking forward to see you all again!*

**PH/FAX: 752 7789**

## Omata School

### Upcoming Events

#### May

- 12 Art Gallery visits R5 and R1
- 13 Ball Skills Years 3 and 4 at Oakura  
Playgroup 9–11am
- 17 Young Leaders' Conference in Rotorua
- 19 Art Gallery visit R6
- 27 Playgroup 9–11am

#### June

- 7 Queen's Birthday holiday
- 9 Board of Trustees meeting
- 18 Music Assembly 9am, all welcome  
Omata Cafe 9.45am



*Joshua 9yrs–  
self portrait.*



*Noah 9yrs, 2mths–  
self portrait.*

We have been continuing our rich topic 'Growing Together' this term and classes have capitalised on the interest generated from the planning for the Pumpkin Harvest Festival. Children were given giant pumpkin seedlings to grow at the end of last year and we have been investigating creating our own school gardens. There is high interest from the children in having their own edible garden and orchard at school and parents have been keen to share their gardens and skills. The Board of Trustees is looking forward to seeing the designs and hearing the ideas of our students, which they hope will become a reality this year.

Coming up sometime this term we will be visiting the Oakura Marae and putting down a hangi. Date yet to be finalised but this is always a popular event on our calendar.

Note: Correct pronunciation of Omata is "Or-mar-tar" and it would be great to hear locals using this, as we have all now got used to hearing Oakura pronounced well!

This term we welcome the volunteers who are coming every Thursday morning as part of the Rotary Reading Assistance Programme. Thank you to Roger Jones and Liz Shaw for co-ordinating this excellent support for our readers, and all the willing volunteers. We hope that you enjoy your time at Omata as much as the children enjoy your visits.



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## Oakura Plunket News

Firstly, a huge thank you to the Oakura community who gave so generously to the recent National Plunket Appeal. We raised approximately \$1200, which is awesome!! The Plunket Committee has agreed to use some of these funds to make up gift packs for local Plunket newborns and their mums. Also a big thanks to members of the Oakura Fire Brigade who helped collect, your numbers far outweighed our Plunket Super Heroes on the night and we are truly grateful for your help. We trust the sausage rolls, bridge pies, feijoa loaf and other such bloke food (feijoa loaf??) provided at your recent meeting showed our appreciation!!??

Plunket Coffee Mornings are still proving popular and we continue to host them at attendees' homes. A weekly text is sent out advising regular attendees where the group is being hosted, and this seems to work well. See the back page of TOM for details. Thanks to the local Boardriders and Tennis Clubs for allowing us to use your facilities in the past.

We have some toys for hire!! Both a ride-along car and (plastic) slide set are available at the cheap price of \$5 per month. Contact Fe Brown 027-228 9113 if interested.

Finally, we are always looking for new Committee Members. If you are interested or need help with any Plunket related matters, please feel free to contact any of us:

Fe Brown (President) 027-228 9113, Kylie Braddock (Secretary) 06-752 7985, Rebecca Lindsay (Treasurer) 027-303 5020, Bob Fleming 027-668 6804, Claire White 06-752 7229, Sue Henchman 06-752 7815, Vicky Jury 027-215 2465.



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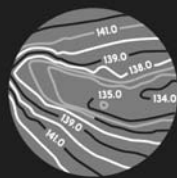
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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Bellydance

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

### Country and Western Club

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

### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

### Indoor Bowls

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

### JKA Karate

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

### Mini Groovers

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

### Oakura Pool Club

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

### Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

### Omata Playgroup

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

### Playcentre

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

### Plunket Coffee Mornings

Held at attendees homes Wednesday 9.15am to 11.00am  
(please arrive before 10am). Contact Tahnee Corr 027 829  
1476, Fe Brown 027 228 9113 or Tessa Rodden 021 118 8406,  
to find out where and/or to be added to the weekly notification list.

### Senior Citizens

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

### St James Church, Oakura

Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the  
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### St John's, Omata

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

### Tai Chi

Evening classes starting 1st week Feb, Thurs 6.30pm, St  
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Contact Brian Goodhue,  
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### Yoga

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

*For changes or new listngs phone 0800 THE TOM*

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