

TOM

OAKURA

MAY 2015

WAR GAME

I wake up to the early sun and the sound of guns, cannons and bombs.

A cloud of smoke lifts into the sky, blocking my chance of a good day and the sunlight.

I rush to my gun, my helmet, where it is, I forget.

I run to the scene, wishing I had just accepted that white feather from her to me.

Anything was better than this.

I remember her blowing me that last kiss and all I did was turn and go.

That was the last time I saw her face.

By Awa Lewis

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE

Awa Lewis at Omata School's special commemoration for ANZAC Day.

More on page 18

TAKE ONE MOMENT

TOM OAKURA

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

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TOM dates to remember for June 2015 issue:

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EDITORIAL

ANZAC celebrations have reached a new level of exposure this year with the 100 year commemorations going on.



Remembering back to when I was a child, I can't recall the fervour shown to ANZAC then as it is now - obviously it is poignant to remember the dead this year. It seems like a whole new generation is finding inspiration in looking into their past and finding heroes on the family tree. This has to be a good thing, I for one enjoy digging around in the family vaults too but I hope we haven't glamourised war, killing and death as something to aspire to. The business of killing and wars is brutal and I wonder why most old soldiers just wanted to forget about the wars they have fought in and get on with living life? Why is it so important now? It is no more glamorous now than it was 100 years ago. I'm glad the sacrifice of many is being remembered and appreciated but the thought that reverberates in my head is that the sacrifices of so many families has not changed the world - wars are still going on, families from New Zealand are still sending their young people off to the killing fields to die so world peace is no nearer today than it was 100 years ago and it all has been over hyped in the media and beyond. I can't even buy groceries without being asked to write a message on a poppy to go on a poster!! Why??

Perhaps I need a holiday! I'm off to Africa and Europe for a few weeks on my OE!

For the June and July issue of TOM, Ron will be in charge. See you in August!

Kim



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Mayor Andrew Judd

Hi everyone

I hope you all got a chance to watch the information forum we held on the Māori electoral ward two weeks ago.

If you missed the live stream on our website, we have a recording available on newplymouthnz.com. It's worth looking at as we heard from a variety of people about the benefits of having guaranteed Maori involvement in the democratic process and what it could mean for our district.

We held this forum to help people make an informed choice in the referendum on whether or not New Plymouth District should establish a Māori electoral ward for the next two election cycles. We were fortunate to have former Race Relations Commissioner Joris De Bres among the speakers, along with Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chairman Doug Leeder (who shared his experiences of the council having three seats for Māori councillors), and Treaty of Waitangi educator and WITT counsellor Margaret Smith.

What they had to say is worth listening to, and I hope you take the time to consider their points.

Regardless of how you intend to vote, please make sure you get your vote back to the Council before the deadline of noon on Friday next week (15 May). If it gets to a few days out from the deadline and you haven't voted yet, please drop your voting papers into the Civic Centre rather than posting it, to make sure your vote gets counted.

The result of this referendum will have a significant influence on the shape of our democratic process for the next six years, so please make sure your voice is heard.

Mayor Andrew Judd

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Author visit: We are hosting Robin Robilliard, author of *Hard Country: A Golden Bay Life* on Thursday evening 14th May at 7pm here at the library. Open to all - no booking necessary.

Book launch: Recently we hosted a book launch for new author, Amelia McLorinan, student at Ōākura School. Her colourful picture book, *The King of the Jungle*, is available for loan. She read her book to a supportive audience of about 60 children and adults and afterwards treated them to delicious homemade cupcakes. Amelia sold several copies of her book that afternoon.



Amelia with her book.

For all other aspiring young writers we have *Juicy Writing-Inspiration and Techniques for Young Writers*.

Just In: Some interesting, humorous books with factual information displayed in a picture book fashion. The titles are: *Rat, Worm, Head Lice, Fly* and *Spider*. Already flying off the shelves!

This month Ōākura Library celebrates its 25th anniversary. We are so fortunate to have a thriving community library. Thank you to all those visionaries who worked hard to make it happen 25 years ago. We continue to work hard to provide a pleasing environment whether it be for quiet reading time, book group meetings, pre-school story time, school holiday programmes, or wi-fi use to name a few. Pop in to see what's in store for the festivities.

Happy reading,

Charlie and Vincenza



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Kaitake Community Board

The Kaitake Community Board made an extensive submission to Council's draft 2015/25 Long Term Plan. KCB certainly supports Council's intentions to make prudent decisions in the process of signing off its ten year plan. We understand the reasons for such an approach and agree that this is a valid course of action to address the efficiency of council delivery of its very comprehensive range of services and activities.

However KCB maintains this intention must be characterised by a circumspect, systematic planned approach because of the need to carry out the difficult task of weighing up different community's needs in the overall scheme. We congratulate council on its extensive consultation processes for determining needs over the next ten year period but emphasise there must be a balance between qualitative and quantitative decision-making. Council's role in making decisions for every community to help create better places to live and work can neither be overly influenced by a numbers game nor by councillor's voting on a particular pre-determined platform.

While there is not enough space in this TOM column to provide a full reproduction of our submission here is a general précis of our submission.

The community requires the Oakura Public Library to be open for more hours and be more flexible with its opening times.

Oakura is the only urban area in the NPDC without a public toilet. In fact we understand it is the only urban area on a highway in Taranaki without a public toilet. Therefore we requested (yet again) that funding is provided in the LTP for the construction of a public toilet in the Oakura CBD.

There has been a number of residential constructions on the eastern side of upper Wairau Road during the past ten years, all which have attracted a council development contribution but there is no footpath. There are many children in upper Wairau Road who travel daily to school and due to the dangerous nature of the Wairau Road intersection many parents choose to take them there by vehicle. If the footpath was extended along in front of the ten new houses on the eastern side of the road with a curb extension included at a safe position south of the intersection children would be able to walk and cycle safely to school.

In response to a submission the KCB made during the 2010/11 Budget process, council allocated funds for the development of a Recreation and Community Facility Study for Oakura. The Oakura Structure Plan in 2006 and the Community Halls Review in 2009 identified the inadequacy of recreational facilities in Oakura as an issue and committed in the action plan to undertake a recreational study. The study was to identify community demand for recreation activities, and appropriate locations for them. Consequently the study made a number of recommendations to council in May 2011. While some of those recommendations have been progressed, many have not and the KCB submits that these be included and prioritised in the Long Term Plan.

On the Council's own proposals it sought feedback and the KCB supported:

No reduction in water reticulation maintenance budget. We believe this is a shortsighted and artificial attempt to try and achieve a lower rates increase.

A 50% remission in sports club pan tax payments but we believe there should be an allowance made to all community groups (e.g. schools) and suggested if the remission is only for sports organisations it is undemocratic.

Regarding the introduction of evening parking fees in New Plymouth we viewed this as a 50/50 dilemma. There are points both for and against the proposal that the KCB couldn't resolve as our understanding in this city CBD area of interest is inadequate. Therefore we made no recommendation on this issue.

We did not support a reduction in the community development budget as we believe it is a core council service, and strengthening and connecting local communities is being proposed as key council direction for the next thirty years. However the processes the council uses to currently address community development requires a strategic overhaul.

In regards to other community funding we supported the reduction of funding of \$100,000 in the first two years and by \$400,000 in the third year. Once again the KCB believes far more effort should be carried out on reviewing current processes on who can access funding, to establish what organisations view the funding as an annual stipend rather than a specific grant to get them 'up and running', and to establish who is receiving funding when their ongoing costs are really the responsibility of other regional or national organisations.

In regards housing for the elderly (council owned flats) we supported an increase in rents as the best option as we understand this enables council to pick up the government funding grant and is supported by a large majority of the tenants.

We reiterated our support for other items in the plan that relate to Kaitake Ward issues. These are the continuation of the duplicate Oakura water main and Tasman Parade upgrade to ensure potable water supply and enough water pressure for fire fighting requirements, the Okato water supply project to help ensure a continuous, adequate and reliable water service with minimal interruptions, and maintaining levels of service on the district's roading network.

It is very pleasing to see that work has finally started on demolishing a substantial section of the closed Okato Primary School. This has been a very long drawn out saga that was quite unnecessary in our view.

Warner Construction have been awarded the gabion basket contract in Shearer reserve. The baskets are to combat the erosion along the side of the Wairau Stream. They took possession of site on 21 April 2015 for up to three weeks and the skate park will not be available during the that time. Hopefully the work will be finished by the time you read this but be aware it may not be so kids keep clear.

During May there will be two meetings (Okato and Oakura) held by council to seek community views on council representation. Currently elected membership consists of:

New Plymouth - 10 councillors.

Inglewood - 2 councillors and a community board (4 members).

Waitara - 2 councillors and a community board (4 members).

Clifton - a community board (4 members).

Kaitake - a community board (4 members).

The mayor is elected 'at large' (all eligible people across the district get to vote).

We believe it is extremely important for the views of those living in the Kaitake Ward to be heard on this issue.

Well that's it for this month. The next board meeting is on Monday 25 May in the Supper Room of the Oakura Hall. All meetings are open to the public so come along if you wish. And don't forget to regularly check the KCB Face Book page for more current information.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Paul Coxhead, and

Richard Jordan who is the council representative on the KCB.



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Remembering our ANZACS

I recently came across this incredible poem by M. Kemal Atatürk in 1934 as a Tribute to the ANZACS.

THE ANZAC MEMORIAL

Those heroes that shed their blood And lost their lives...
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.
Therefore, rest in peace. There is no difference between
the Johnnies And the Mehmets to us where they lie
side by side, Here in this country of ours. You, the
mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries...
Wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our
bosom And are in peace. After having lost their lives on
this land, they have Become our sons as well.

This time of reflection for our ANZACS is incredibly moving. The freedom and liberties they all fought for are to be honoured. We stand as the Nation we are today because of their bravery and fortitude and for this we will be eternally grateful.

The world is such a vastly different place from 100 years ago, and it continues to change at a rapid pace. It was only yesterday upon reading an article that a drone was used to herd sheep that you are reminded change and progression is constant, but it is how we adapt and approach change that is important. As a Government we face change on a multitude of fronts, and how we communicate and engage with the public is vital. The Government recently established the Rules Reduction Taskforce which will be going to all electorates in New Zealand to get feedback on loopy property rules and red tape. This will be a chance to hear frustrations and ideas for solutions around property rules. I will be hosting a Rules Reduction public meeting on the 8th May 10.30am at the Quality Plymouth Hotel. In Taranaki property development continues to grow, and with the strong DIY nature of Kiwis, this will be a great

opportunity to discuss issues and ideas that will be taken back to Government for consideration.

Next month Finance Minister Bill English will deliver the National-led Government's seventh Budget. Our strong, growing economy, backed by the Government's clear economic plan, is translating into real benefits for New Zealand households and businesses.

We have one of the fastest-growing economies in the developed world. It's supporting more jobs – 80,000 new jobs in the past year. Inflation and interest rates are low. Wages, on average, are increasing faster than the cost of living. More Kiwis are voting with their feet and either staying home or coming home to take up opportunities for their families.

But there is much more to be done – a couple of good years are not enough to change our long-term well-being. We'll need many more years where we grow faster than other developed countries so we can continue lifting incomes and creating more jobs.

Thanks to the hard work of New Zealanders up and down the country, we're in a strong position to build a brighter future. Providing we stick to our clear plan, we can deliver the opportunities and security New Zealanders and their families deserve.

Jonathan Young

JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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SPORTS



KAYAK FISHING CLUB

Taranaki Kayak Classic 2015

This year's Kayak Classic was once again a huge success despite the nasty weather front that decided to arrive just in time for the event.

Due to the bad weather the organisers decided to cancel the fish auction and hold the Sunday weigh in at midday. This allowed entrants to fish Saturday and early Sunday morning before the worst of the weather arrived.

Despite the weather some amazing fish were caught by the approximately 200 entrants.

The biggest snapper was over 13kg - the biggest in the history of the classic and along with some good kingfish, tuna, John Dory, etc. made for an exciting weigh on both days.

RESULTS

Top team, the Gurnard Hunters,

Average weight snapper and average kahawai, Paul Rountree, and Kyle Motram.

Trevally, 1st Andrew Martin, 2nd Tony Hurring, 3rd Grant Worthington.

John Dory, 1st, Bam Blaike , 2nd Shamus, 3rd, Angela West.

Blue Cod, 1st, Mathew Smith, 2nd Dave Leatherby, 3rd Jonno Robinson.

Kingfish, 1st Kerry Flowers, 2nd Kevin Pilcher.

Tuna, 1st Paul Rountree, 2nd, Brad Harris, 3rd Andrew Fletcher.

Kahawai, 1st, Regan Phipps, 2nd Mark Miles, 3rd Peter Michaels.

Gurnard 1st Steve Zimmerman, 2nd Gordon McBride, 3rd Stu Bennett.

Snapper, 1st Peter Stevens, 13.44 kg, 2nd Lyndon Cox , 3rd Nik Pyselman.

Juniors 1st Blane McCook, 2nd Kaya Parker.

The Grand Slam went to Peter Stevens with five species, which means that next year the cash prize jackpots to \$3000.00.

The organisers thank all our loyal sponsors for the support and we are looking forward to next year's event, with hopefully sunshine and flat seas.

Garry



SHOWING THEM OFF.





Kaitake Golf Club News

Saturday 28th March was a day to celebrate 80 years of golf for the Kaitake Golf Club. 180 members and ex-members joined together to renew friendships and reminisce over times gone by. It was a full day with a game of 9 hole Ambrose or for those choosing not to play, a drive around the course in a golf cart. Everyone enjoyed a festive lunch before settling down to hear Bert Seamark relating many stories on the history of Kaitake and the transition from Weld Road in 1935 to Tapuae and finally to the present site. Ken Durrant, President of Taranaki Golf, congratulated the club on reaching this significant milestone. The cake was cut by Mike Jans (Patron), Marie Benton and Jessie Seamark.

Thanks to the splendid organisation by the Organising Committee and all the helpers on the day, this was a great day enjoyed by everyone.

CLUB RESULTS

Womens National Competitions

Two National competitions were played. The club winners were

Coronation Medal: Sheryl Richardson

Aotearoa Cup : Lynn Regan.

Well done everyone.

WEEKEND WOMEN

Our summer competitions have been completed and the winners were:

Summer Cup : Mary Pettigrew

Summer Eclectic : Janice Farrant

MID WEEK 9 HOLE NEWS

The month of March is one that players have to commit to a few more games than usual to compete in the Josie Malcolm Canadian Foursomes and The Cooper Challenge. The Foursomes connect both divisions together bringing a good competition over the two days play. Winners this year were Jo West and Ngaire Grundy.

The Cooper Challenge is a tough one playing matchplay and with plenty of strokes often being given - the final this year was a close one between Jo West and Pat Wilcox with West picking up the trophy on the 8th with one hole to go.

Thursday Par Winners - Margaret Briscoe and Chrissy Warden. Easter Stableford Egg Winners - Raewyn Bishop, Annette Cattle, Yvonne Coxhead, Heather O'Sullivan, Chrissy Warden and Con Robertshawe.

MID WEEK 18 HOLE WOMEN

Silver Division 36 hole Strokeplay winners - J.Ross, runner up N.Mancer.

Nett Winner - S.Burgess, runner up J.Koch

Bronze I Division winner - J.Gerrard, runner up K.Brown

Nett Winner - S.Kwon.

Bronze 2 Division Gross winner - M.Barrett, runner up M.Scott.

Ladies National team to represent Kaitake - D.Johnson, S.Kwon, M.Nielsen, and J.Greenlees. This is to be played in Opunake April the 22nd.

MENS

The Kaitake 1 Pennant team played Waverley at Stratford and won, to qualify them for the semi-finals.

JUNIOR GOLF

The two day school holiday programme for the juniors was reduced to one due to the rain during the first week. However several took advantage of coaching and fun with Dominic Barsons the second week.

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

COMING UP

The Taranaki Golf Zone 2 Ball Best Ball tournament is planned for Sunday 10th May. This is a popular tournament so make sure of your tee time by phoning the office on 752 7665.

Andrea Jarrold, President

GIVE GOLF A GO.

Anyone interested in golf is invited to come and play a few holes with us on Sunday 17th May at 1.00pm. Please contact Pauline Gray 753 4450 or Jacqui in the Office on 752 7665.

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Kaitake Golf Club 80th Celebrations

It's fair to say that not everyone is in great shape at 80, many are of course but not many look as lush as Kaitake Golf Club did on it's 80th birthday! I went along to the celebrations and enjoyed catching up with many of the old stalwarts. Many are still playing 18 holes of golf in their 80's, many more are playing a regular round of 9 holes in their 80's. It's a tribute to golf that it is a sport that can be played at any age.

Albian Reid took me out for a spin round the course in a golf cart, a fun way to give everyone some cheek. Ten teams of six players were out playing a round of 9 hole Ambrose golf. The weather wasn't really playing ball with damp conditions underfoot and rain threatening but everyone was in good spirits and some great golf swings, drives and putts evident.

Back in the club house many had gathered to catch up with friends and share memories. Fred McGregor, 87 years told me he had been involved with golf since he was 15 years but was no longer able for a game. His playing days spanned nearly 40 years, but back when he was 15 his friend Doug lived on the farm where the Weld Rd golf course was first established. Fred went on to be a farmer on Kirihau Rd where his descendants have farmed for nearly 100 years. Fred and his wife Hazel have been married 65 years and have six children. Fred's golfing claim to fame is four holes in one, all at Kaitake Golf Course - two being on the number nine hole.



**Veteran golfer,
Fred McGregor.**

Various floral displays were scattered around the club house and these had been arranged by Maree Benton who has also had a long association with the club - 47 years but like most enthusiastic volunteers, wanted to downplay her contributions. Many of the golfing ladies were involved in providing the catering services, many others helping out elsewhere on the day - these are the backbone of any successful club.

As each team of golfers finished their round of Ambrose they headed indoors to join the growing swell of fellow golfing enthusiasts.

Along for the festivities were the two local Kitchen sisters, Ann (Kitchen) and Maureen (Looney). Ann and Maureen and their other sister grew up on the site of Kaitake Golf Club. Their father Duncan arrived in Oakura from Scotland in 1937 and married local girl Nora Bell. The 111



Reluctant hero, Marie Benton, right.



Ann Kitchen and Maureen Looney.

acre farm milked 90 Jersey cows and Duncan and Nora took over from her family. The family built a new house beside what is now the golf course but the sisters remember it more as a working farm where they spent many happy hours. The farm was sold to the golf club in the 1960's.

I'm not a golfer but it was plain to see the camaraderie that golf fosters in people - between generations, abilities, ages and sexes - maybe its the perseverance and persistence needed to better your game; maybe its the length of time spent together on a game of golf; maybe its just the simple sense of belonging but whatever it is, it keeps young and old returning. Let's hope future generations continue to enjoy the game of golf as much as the present generations do.

by Kim Ferens



Mrs Barrett teeing off beautifully.



Causing a bit of mayhem around the course, Albian Reid in the golf cart.



Portia Roper with a chance to sink one.



Elaine Bishop's putt looks good.



Someone has to monitor the clubhouse, Norton and Coral Moller with Bill Marshall seem happy to do it.



Three more of our fabulous volunteers on the day.

G.S. Lindsay
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GETTING WET



Oakura Boardriders

Another month slips past and with it some very average weather and surf. The biggest news in the last month has been the Taranaki Surf festival. There were some bright spots in amongst it all with the surf going from one extreme to another. Unfortunately Oakura's Paige Hareb was a victim of this with a great heat win in good surf late one evening then falling victim to atrocious surf the next morning when conditions had changed completely.

One highlight of the festival for Oakura Boardriders was Tom Butland winning the U12 boys Gromsearch and Ariana Shewry winning the U12 girls Gromsearch. These two continue to perform strongly and have a great future if they continue on their current path.

The Pro Junior event showcased some of the worlds rising talent with some impressive surfing from the Aussies and a couple of Tahitians. It was well worth watching with these guys making average surf look exciting. Piha's Elliot Parata-Reid was the top placing Kiwi making the quarterfinals. He is contesting the Pro Junior Circuit full time now and hoping his future lies in surfing. It's a tough road but he has shown he can compete with the best and get results.

The final competition was the Easter Masters. We had a few competitors entered with only Chris Davies coming 2nd in the Icons division unfortunately letting John Gisby from Gisborne win his millionth title (lost count how many he has won!). The masters enjoyed some good surf at Puniho Rd the first day, Arawhata Rd the 2nd and then the finals at Fitzroy in good conditions. The two oldest competitors are into their 70's now and loving every minute of it - an inspiration to us all.

Unfortunately the Oakura Boardrider's champs have still not been held due to poor conditions and when we have had the chance to run them,

then there has been something on the busy surfing calendar. We hope to run these as soon as possible so stay tuned for results and all the action.

Local happenings have the club room still under renovations with the membership still swelling and lots of kids and newcomers to Oakura. Social Fridays are the highlight of some peoples week so come along and unwind after your week at work. The upgrade to the skate park is still a happening thing while the consultation process seems to take forever, lets hope we can have it sorted for next summer.

Pilates runs Mondays and Tuesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm any queries contact Gemma on 027 923 4416 or gemmatana@hotmail.com

Brent Anderson, Oakura Boardriders.

President: John Shewry, 027 252 9190.

Secretary: Paul Lobb 06 752 7556.

Gary Bruckner, Surf Coaching, 021 119 6218.



Mike Hareb, above and Alan Crawford, below show they still have it.



Tom Butland cracks the top spot on the podium for his win in the U12 Gromsearch event.



Allen Pidwell and Adrian Pickering obviously think they still have it, too.

NPOB Junior Surf

We have sadly come to the end of another very enjoyable and successful season for NPOB Junior Surf. We were lucky to have an amazing summer as far as the weather was concerned, which contributed to great attendance and enthusiasm from all our budding surf lifesavers.

This season was action packed with members participating and competing in carnivals throughout Taranaki, a brilliant Surf camp over the summer holidays, the start of a development group for our younger competitors, Oceans (at Mt Maunganui) and our inaugural club champs.

Oceans 15 was again held at Mt Maunganui and NPOB sent a team of 15 to compete, with several athletes and parents attending for the first time. This group was managed by Dean Spicer.

The athletes were Jack and Casey Feaver, Claudia and Yannika Harrop, Poppy, Jack and Taylor Mitchell, Sam Dingle, Olly Spicer, Jackson Corlett, Yvette Elbers, Jordan Grylls, Edward Poole, Jack Cleland and Jacob Whittle.

Oceans is often affected by large swells but the weather was the calmest that manager Dean can recall. There was far less swell than normal which evened up the competition. Oceans proved, once again, to be extremely competitive and all of our athletes gave 110% in everything they did. Some athletes achieved more than expected by believing in themselves and completing some events that they would not normally have done or attempted.

At the end of the four days of competition every athlete from NPOB had either made a semi-final or final.

Athletes to make finals were:

Jordan Grylls (u13 female) – *Sprint*

Jackson Corlett (u11 male) – *Sprint*

Jacob Whittle (u12 male) – *Board Relay* (Olly & Jack C)

Jack Cleland (u12 male) – *Board Relay* (Jacob & Olly), *Tube Rescue* (Olly), *Run Swim Run*

Olly Spicer (u12 male) – *Board Relay* (Jack C & Jacob), *Tube Rescue* (Jack C), *Diamond, Surf, Run Swim Run*

Sam Dingle (u13 Male) – *Run Swim Run, Surf, Diamond, Board.*

Although we did not bring home any medals this year, everyone can hold their heads high and look forward to doing more training and improving on this year's results.



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Thanks to all the parents who assisted throughout the year. Both the kids and parents owe a big thanks to Mitch who did a great job taking all the Oceans group for their intensive and enjoyable training. A big thanks also to Mark Dingle who organised the Xmas training camp.

Oceans 16 is again been held at Mt Maunganui and runs from Thursday 3rd March to Sunday 6th March 2016 so put it in the diary and get some leave from work, parents.

The season was capped off this year with our prize giving. We had great attendance at this event and it was a perfect opportunity to thank all the volunteers, parents and children that are helping grow our surf club.

AWARDS FOR THE 2014/2015 SEASON

Coaches' awards for regular attendance and great attitude –

Nip Nip: **Myah Stolte & Sam Knapton.**

Nippers: **Cullann Read & Austin Clarke.**

Rookies/Cadets: **Aitana Dingle & Jackson Corlett.**

Competitor of the Year for attitude, attendance and results –

Nip Nips: Competitor of the year: **Ethan Peacock.**

Runners up: **Darcy O'Sullivan, Will Robinson, Caryss Read.**

Nippers: Competitor of the year: **Hunter Robinson.**

Runners up: **Fenton MacArthur, Maggie Robinson, Jack Campbell.**

Rookies: Competitor of the year: **Olly Spicer.**

Runners up: **Jack Cleland, Jack Feaver.**

Cadets: Competitor of the year: **Sam Dingle**

Runner up: **Jordan Grylls.**

Overall club member of the year for Points, Oceans performance, attitude:

Olly Spicer.

Most Promising club member:

Hunter Robinson.



Worthy prize winners.

The 2015/2016 season will come quickly and we will no doubt start our planning soon. A couple of exciting things to look forward to next season will be our newly renovated club rooms for all clubbies to enjoy and our first ever Central Region Junior Surf competition, run by Surf Lifesaving NZ. This will incorporate Hawkes Bay and Wellington regions alongside Taranaki. Plenty to train for over the winter – so stay fit, enjoy the winter sports and keep up the swimming!!

Nova Robinson – Junior Surf Coordinator

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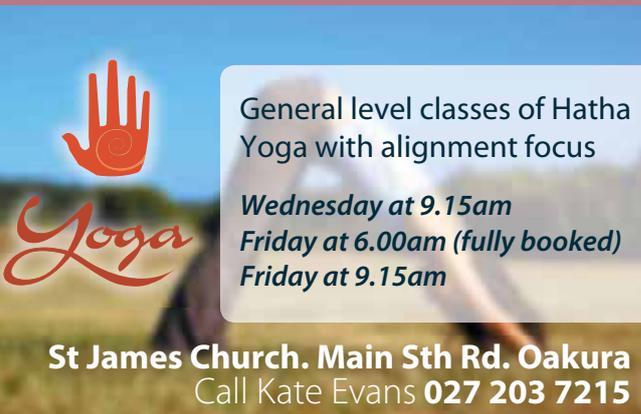
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Volunteers Needed for Alzheimers Taranaki

Alzheimers Taranaki is gearing itself up to meet the growing needs of people affected by dementia in Taranaki by providing ongoing support and services. We have a well-established team of Field Workers who offer home visits, support groups and informative talks in the community. We also have staff to manage our day programmes. They, along with their loyal and hardworking volunteers, bring years of experience and knowledge to our organisation and their dedication and enthusiasm never wanes. They give their best for the benefit of those our organisation serves. That is anyone affected by dementia: be it a person with dementia, their carers, whanau, friends, neighbours – it's impossible to determine how many people are affected by dementia but it's clear that it's an increasing number.

Dementia has many causes, the most common being Alzheimers Disease, and it can affect people in different ways. Not only by memory loss but sometimes the development of behaviours that are challenging, such as failure to recognise everyday objects, trouble with planning or making decisions, the loss of social grace (they may become bad mannered or bad tempered), repetitiveness, disorientation and becoming unable to complete simple tasks. And it's not a normal part of aging, although the incidence does increase with age. Early onset dementia can affect people as young as 40 as illustrated in the recent movie Still Alice starring Julianne Moore.

It goes without saying that someone with dementia needs a lot of care and this can be very demanding on immediate family members. This is where our Tuesday/Friday Club in New Plymouth comes into play, providing a place for someone with dementia to spend the day with friends, in a safe and supportive environment, while their carer gets some much needed respite, to recharge their batteries and relax – or simply to catch up on chores.

If you would like to become a volunteer at the club we would love to hear from you. You would be invited to come to the club so that you could get a better idea of what is involved and we could talk about how often you wanted to help out – weekly, fortnightly, or to be 'on call' when needed. Training and support is provided.

We are also looking for new volunteers to help out with fundraising or awareness events, or to

Ladies!

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be on our board which meets monthly to provide direction and support to the organisation. If you could spare a few hours per month, your help would be most appreciated. Get in touch with Ana Parkes, Manager, on 06 769 6916 or alzheimers.taranaki@xtra.co.nz

If you have any concerns about a possible developing dementia, go and talk to your GP about it or contact Alzheimers Taranaki. The sooner dementia is diagnosed, or ruled out (and sometimes symptoms can be caused by some other health issue), the sooner appropriate support can be put in place and plans made for future care.



Would you like to volunteer for Alzheimers Taranaki Inc?

Working either with people with dementia at our club in New Plymouth or joining the Board to support the organisation in it's varied endeavours?

Read the article at left, or contact Alzheimers Taranaki 0800 004 001 or email alzheimers.taranaki@xtra.co.nz

Embracing Life in Oakura - New 4 Square owners

New owners of Oakura 4 Square, John and Rachel Roberts are finding their feet in the Oakura environment. In the two months since they took over from Mark and Geoff they have come to grips with a new operating system, new staff and new customers. Fortunately they are not new to small supermarket operations, having spent 11 years at the Kaikoura 4 Square. The move to Oakura is especially important for the family who have two sons aged 8 years and 10 years who attend Omata School, play rugby for Kaitake Rugby Club and have been busy making new friends. John and Rachel and boys moved to Oakura to their lifestyle block on Plymouth Rd a year ago and had been taking some time out to build a home and find a suitable business. Rachel laughs about her time spent living in a shed while the house was being built - no more port-a-loos for her thank you!

The couple have their roots in Taranaki with both growing up in Stratford on dairy farms. Rachel's parents moved to New Plymouth where they ran the Good Vibration store in Centre City and for those of us old enough to remember CD's, Rachel's face might be familiar. They had a stint overseas travelling before coming back to New Zealand to start their journey into business ownership. A five year plan to stay at the Kaikoura 4 Square

ended up being 11 years but it certainly has been a good grounding for Oakura.

The demographic of Kaikoura is different to Oakura with a wide rural community and a tourist driven business environment. The nearest major town or city to Kaikoura is Blenheim 1½ hours away, whereas in Oakura the clientele is more local with the surge of holiday makers in the summer and people visiting from New Plymouth on outings.

John and Rachel say they are enjoying settling into Oakura and their business, they enjoy working together with their complementary skills and they look forward to all the opportunities our community can offer them and their children.

Welcome John and Rachel.

by Kim Ferens



Rachel and John.

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Spotswood College

As busy as the end of the term was it was wonderful to have completed such positive learning focussed conversations between students, their families and their teachers through both the Individual Development Plan Meetings and the Subject Teacher Report Evening.

Tracking individual student achievement and setting next step learning tasks as well as long term goal setting gives direction, purpose and meaning to students for their learning.

As a learning community Spotswood College teachers are also learning.

Teachers are undergoing Professional Learning and Development (PLD) this year to take the idea of co-constructing learning into the classroom. When students and teachers work together with an interactive approach to learning and a shared vision of best fit learning outcomes, then students will be fully engaged in their learning and achieve to their full potential. Our thanks to Mr Knapton and his team of teachers who are facilitating this important work. The BOT have approved two Staff Only Days to assist with this important work, these days have been planned for Monday 4th May and Monday 15th June.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS DAY

On Thursday 19 March 46 students from the Special Education Department attended the Special Olympics Athletics day at the TET stadium in Inglewood. Spotswood College was one of seven secondary schools from Taranaki taking part in this event. All students participated in a variety of track and field events and we had three teams entered in the 4x100 metre relay. All teams performed well with Spotswood 1 being the overall winners.

The most popular event was the softball throw which was won by Jake Courtneil with a throw of 42.16 metres. The 100 metre sprint was strongly contested with Ben Oaten winning in a time of 12.74 seconds. This was an extremely good time which outclassed the rest of the field. Ben left the event early as he had also qualified for the 200m finals back at Spotswood College Athletic finals. Three other students also returned to school and with Ben participated in the Hapu relays.



Special Olympics long jump.



Track event, Special Olympics style.

All students did their best and had a fantastic time. The students were a credit to Spotswood College demonstrating all our E TU values. The Next Special Olympics Event is Basketball in Term Two which is held at the TSB stadium.

MOLLY LUMB - NZ DRESSAGE YOUNG RIDER OF THE YEAR

I started riding at the age of six at the local riding school - Clearwater Riding School with instructors Lydia Quay and Jill Tompkins. For five years I rode ponies and made lots of new friends. At the age of 11 I got my first pony G.S. Axaarshia (4yr old Arab mare). I competed her in Pony Club events such as jumping days, ribbon day and local dressage days up to level two. I then moved on to The Zeus (owned by the West family) and competed up to level three dressage and I placed 4th overall at the NZPCA Dressage Championships. During this time I was being coached by Denise Patterson. After The Zeus we bought Ferro (6 yr old ClydieX) who I trained and competed on up to level three. While riding Ferro I had my first lesson with Vanessa Way and never looked back.

Vanessa Way, my coach of one year at this point allowed me to hack her top horse KH Arvan out during the week and learn a few movements on him with Abbie Deken while Vanessa was over in England training and competing. Just a few days after Vanessa got home from England she offered me the ride on Arvan and to compete him at level five for the 2014/15 season. This soon moved to level six/seven and CDI-Y young riders because Vanessa felt I needed to step up. At the time I had my own 6 year old Clyde X Ferro, that I trained and competed on and as soon as I was offered the ride on Arvan we decided to sell Ferro. We decided to just focus on one horse because of all my school work - having to complete NCEA level 1 and 2 in 2014 and 2015. In October 2014 my dad Stephen Lumb broke the news to me that we had just bought Arvan from Vanessa Way and Brooke Hughes with a condition that he stays on the property. This was perfect as I only live 500m down the road! I didn't believe Dad at first but as soon as he said he was 'serious' I broke down into tears and couldn't get a word out - it was a dream come true.

There were good and bad parts to each and every test during Horse of the Year 2015. I was especially pleased with my CDI-Y individual test where Arvan and I scored 68%! In my CDI-Y teams test and musical freestyle I made some rookie rider mistakes but Arvan tried his heart out for me as always. After winning all three tests I was over the moon. Being announced NZ Dressage Young Rider of the Year



Photo: www.takethemoment.co.nz

NZ Dressage Young Rider of the Year, Molly Lumb.

was also another dream come true. Doing a lap of honour to “We Are The Champions” with big sashes and HOY 2015 rug felt unreal.

by Molly Lumb

FAREWELL FROM FINN-MARIE UHLENBRUCH

At the end of Term I Finn-Marie Uhlenbruch left her host family (Rowan and Susan Oldfield) and our school to return home to Bochum (Germany). During her 9 months at Spotswood College and living in Oakura Finn became part of our community and made many friends – here is a letter of farewell from her.

Dear Spotswood College

I can't believe that I'm leaving this amazing place so soon. I honestly fell in love with New Zealand and I'm going to come back after I finish school. I've had an awesome time here and I've made heaps of friends. Spotswood College will always remain in my heart and it is a great school. Everyone is so nice to you and the atmosphere in the classrooms is fantastic. A special thanks to all my teachers who have done a very good job – you have taught me so much and I had so much fun. Every single morning I woke up looking forward to go!! Now I will write about two amazing people who made the whole thing possible . . . Mrs Holland and Mrs Janet. I can't put into words how thankful I am for all your work. You took care of me when I got lost and you encouraged and supported me in everything that I tried to do. Don't change a thing about the school and I hope you will all make the most of your lives. I will keep in touch with you.

Finn

Mark Bowden, Principal

Okato Playgroup

Starting from term 2, 2015 we will be open every Wednesday, so come on over and join the fun!

Come join us at
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Catch us on Facebook – Okato Playgroup
 or call/text 027 514 5555 for more information.



Finn-Marie with Jannaha Henry



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oakura school news

YEAR 7 & 8 CAMP

On the 30th and 31st of March our year 7 & 8 students had an overnight stay at TOPEC. They participated in a range of challenging and fun outdoor adventure activities.



2015 MARAE VISIT

On the 19th of March our Year 7 & 8 students stayed overnight at the Oakura Marae. The next day they welcomed the rest of the school onto the Marae for a day of learning, participation and wonderful kai.



COMING EVENTS

May

- 13 Year 1/2 Movement Madness with Oakura @ Omata.
- 14 Year 3/4 Movement Madness with Oakura @ Omata.
- 25-27 Book Fair in the library.
- 28 Y5/6 Sports Exchange v St Pius @ Omata.
- 29 The 'O' Factor talent quest 9am.

June

- 1 Queen's Birthday holiday.
- 16 Y8 to Young Leaders' Conference, Palmerston North.



CONSTRUCTION

Currently we have Southcoast Construction on site carrying out some work to the main block. This block, which you see as you drive passed the school, was originally built in the 1920's and over the years has had various additions and modifications. Over the course of four months our builders will be replacing weatherboarding, doing some roofing, painting and repair work, along with adding on to the other end of the block. This new space will replace the old cloak bay and add a learning area to the back of the classrooms. For the last few years we have been stretched for spaces for groups of students to use. Often we have groups in the staffroom or library which has not been ideal. When this space is finished, students will have a flexible, multi purpose area to use. The whole of the block will get an overdue new coat of paint so look out for our new colour scheme in the weeks ahead.

REMEMBRANCE

Leading up to this year's Anzac Centenary, students have been learning about the significance of ANZAC; the history and the impact on New Zealanders. Students have been sharing some of their family stories and putting some context behind why we have this special day as a holiday and a time to remember. We held an ANZAC Service at school on the Friday before ANZAC Day itself. Many parents, grandparents and community members came along on a gloriously sunny afternoon to join in with the students in their remembrance ceremony. Special thanks to the NZ Defence force and the New Plymouth Brass Band for supporting this very special commemoration.

Pat Murphy read out Awa Lewis's poem, *War Game*, which is reproduced on TOM's front cover.

Karen Brisco, Principal



Omata School's ANZAC commemorations.



IN THE TRENCHES

Shells of life and death
waiting
crying
Is this it?
Dead bodies lingered in the cold, dark air
I miss my family
My eyes are gouging as the general approaches
Fear and anger fill my veins
I thought it was a big adventure
but it was my worst nightmare
The whistle blew
The general screamed "Alright chaps, over the top."
It was the moment of truth
Blood
Bones
Smile
My best friends, gone
Into the abyss

by Alexander Roberts

WISHES GRANTED by TSB Community Trust

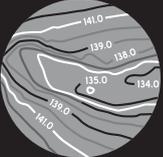
Oakura Playcentre has received a generous \$12,500 grant from the TSB Community Trust for improvements.

The Centre is in the process of planning significant upgrades including major developments to the indoor and outdoor play areas, improved storage facilities for play equipment and resources, as well as offering Playcentre block courses recognised by NZQA that will up-skill it's volunteer parents. All of these proposed changes will ensure that the Centre is continuing to offer the highest level of early childhood education.

The Playcentre whānau is very grateful to be supported by the TSB Community Trust. The funding will address three areas of the Strategic Annual Plan, ensuring that the Centre will continue to provide a safe and inspiring learning space for it's tamariki.

Founded in the mid 1950's, Oakura Playcentre has deep roots in the Oakura community. It has offered the space and resources for families to be the first and foremost educators of their children, which is a unique early childhood educational model in this day and age. All of the proposed changes will significantly benefit the 28 families currently attending Playcentre as well as all of the families that will join in the future.

The Oakura Playcentre whānau looks forward to the upgrades and welcomes any new families in the community to come along a be a part of the exciting changes made possible by the generous support of the TSB Community Trust!



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OAKURA COMMUNITY - WHAT'S ON

PHONE 0800 THE TOM FOR ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO YOUR LISTING

Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women. Meet 2nd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Jean Kurth 751 2274.

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

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

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

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

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

Oakura Pony Club. Contact Robin King ph 751 0300.

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

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

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

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

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

St James Church, Oakura. Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

St John's, Omata. Morning worship 10.00am, 2nd Sunday of the month.

Val Deakin Dance School. Pre-school dance classes are from 9:30 to 10 am and the Beginners' Ballet dance class from 10 am to 10:45 am.

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

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

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

T O M C L A S S I F I E D S

TARANAKI VW OWNERS CLUB

(OPEN to all VW owners or interested parties . . . Very social and such fun). Our AGM is on 24th May 3.30pm @ the Oakura Boardriders Club Rooms. Any queries phone Big B on 06 7521290.

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