

The new with the old – Oakura's newest cafe

The Oakura beach shop has opened its doors once again to greet the summer season.



Nikki, Jessy and Johnny – staff (and family!) at the Raw Tasman Café.

However, this year sees many changes for the shop, not the least a change in management. Customers will no longer see the familiar faces of Jan and Al, who have done such a fantastic job of managing both the shop and the Oakura Beach Holiday Park in past years. Instead they will be greeted by the friendly smile of another local, Robynne Wadeson, who is sub-letting the shop. (Jan and Al will continue taking care of the camp – enough on it's own to keep any couple busy!)

Robynne has chosen to enhance the café side of the business so it is now far more café than shop. "Locals have been saying something more was needed for a while, so when I saw the ad in the paper a few weeks ago I just thought it was an awesome opportunity and the location really can't be beat", said Robynne.

She's renamed the café "the Raw Tasman" – "Raw" because those are Robynne's initials and "Tasman" for the sea the café looks out to.

The Raw Tasman opened on the Saturday of Labour Weekend. Robynne and her crew put in many long hours getting the café ready for business in the short weeks between negotiating the lease and opening, and it's looking great. It's a family affair – husband Tony has been assisting with technical matters and heavy lifting,

(continued page 5)

THIS MONTH



PAGE 10

Dave Smithers takes his skills to the bus depot.



PAGE 11

Birthday celebrations for Mini Groovers.



PAGE 17

Summer advice from Plunket

tom

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

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi folks!

Well the local authority elections are over and we have a new team in place at the New Plymouth District Council and the Kaitake Community Board to help drive the continuing development of our district.

I'm really pleased to see that we have 14 people around the council table who are passionate about New Plymouth district and who are determined to see it continue to lead the country as the best place to live, establish a business and visit.

I'm also anticipating great things of the new community board that is in place in the TOM area. Each of the community board members has the best interests of your area at heart and I know that they will represent local residents in a very professional and thorough manner.

I'm working with your community board to increase the opportunities for you to come forward with your ideas. We want more frequent community meetings, where all ideas can be brought forward, and your new community board is rearing to go – they're keen to get all those great ideas happening. Your help in that process will be appreciated.

At the start of this three-year term of the council we have some exciting prospects lined up. While we can't go into detail yet, it's fair to say that our burgeoning economy will continue to develop for many years yet.

The strength of this council and of this district is our residents. Your willingness to get involved in the council's decision-making processes, to think of new opportunities and pursue them, to aim high in matters of business and lifestyle developments, and to celebrate the successes of others in our community all make a huge difference. It's because of your commitment to success and your willingness to "give it a go" that New Plymouth district has a reputation for innovative and successful developments, and for gaining major achievements that are the envy of other areas in New Zealand.

My aim for the next three years is to not sit on our laurels, but to keep the developments coming! So if you have any ideas that you think will benefit the TOM area or the wider district, please give me a call on 759 6060 or talk with your community board so that I can see what the council can do to help you make your idea a reality. Together, we'll keep making it happen!

Peter Tennent

Mayor

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



My last say ...a reflection on the local body elections

Of course, it all means nothing now, but I do have concerns...

Kaitake as we knew it no longer exists except for a boundary on paper that is used to contain a "Community Board". On reflection, the decision made by the New Plymouth District Council to change the boundaries would have to be the worst decision ever made around that table – a decision that was made because the Local Government Commission wanted a review on representation. A decision based on a survey done by an Auckland consultant, who, after all the consulting, came up with an option to link Okato to Inglewood – it really does leave one scratching one's head. It's not only Okato, as people came to find out at voting time, but places that are surely and have forever been Oakura, like Surrey Hill Road, Koru/Plymouth Road and Ahu Ahu Road.

This decision and the election results have left us with no rural representation at the Council table for the Kaitake and Clifton ends of the region. This is devastating!!!! We have been totally disenfranchised. Because of this, many people I know did not vote.

It was very clear in my term on Council that these areas had missed their share of the "one bucket" system over the last few years. With some hard-working community-minded people this was beginning to change, but we are now left to the eyes and minds of 10 Councillors *all* from New Plymouth.

I was extremely disappointed not to retain a seat on Council. I loved the work and put a huge effort into it for the last three years. The result surely was reflected in the circumstances of the boundary changes and the way the paper was set out. I'm also concerned that we have three less woman on the Council. This makes the Boys' Club even bigger!!!

Two of the new councillors who polled very high really didn't say what they were standing for. I have to wonder. Sour grapes, maybe – it's all now purely academic. But you can bet your life they weren't standing for the good of our communities in the rural sector.

I've lived here for 53 years and am not planning to go away. However, I shall leave the community and council work up to our new Community Board. Best wishes and good luck.

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MP for New Plymouth



Hello again to all residents and visitors to Oakura and environs.

Last month I was pleased to be able to announce a review of the Older Driver's Licensing system.

Since the new regulations for drivers' licences were introduced under the National Government in 1999, there has been much controversy around the rules pertaining to "older" drivers. Presently drivers aged 80 and over have only 60 days to renew their licences after their birthday before it expires. Many will welcome the proposed change to allow six months to renew before a licence expires.

It is widely recognised that a driver's licence (and the ability to drive) is important for an elderly person to maintain their independence in the community. There is often no public transport substitute to allow folk to do their shopping, get to the doctor or visit friends and family. The new limited licence proposal will mean that they can elect to have a licence that will allow them to travel anywhere within a 10 km radius of their home, should they not pass the driving test – a test considered too stringent by some. Another feature of the new regime would be not to limit their driving to an automatic vehicle, if that were the vehicle the test was taken in.

Research indicates that 1,635 of the 73,876 drivers who hold licences in Taranaki are aged 80 or over and of course have plenty of driving experience under their belts. Many elderly have driven without incident and make the fair comment that the present rules are harsh and do not recognise a clean driving record that can sometimes span over 60 years.

Of course, a balance must be struck between ensuring road safety and older peoples' desire to retain the ability to drive, even for a shorter distance.

I look forward to a report of the review undertaken by the Ministry of Transport in June next year, and am hopeful that the limited licence option will be in place later in 2005. For more detailed information on the proposals, go to www.transport.govt.nz/current/issues where you'll find full copies of the research papers *Older People and Transport* and *Older Driver Crash Statistics*.

Thank you for taking the time to read this column.

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Oakura's newest café

(continued from page 1)

daughters Jessy and Nikki bring a wealth of café experience to their roles as barristas and the youngest, Johnny, has proved a dab hand in the kitchen. Even the chef, Bryan, is a close family friend.

The cafe is open from 8 am to 8 pm. Brunch is open-ended and takeaways are available from 4.30 pm. But Robynne says "I'm taking a flexible approach to the hours – they may change in the future once I've had the time to gauge demand".

It's close proximity to the beach makes the Raw Tasman the perfect place to grab a bite. You can eat your fish and chips watching the sunset over the sea or enjoy an ice cream in the sun. If you're a jogger or you're out for a stroll, their beautiful outdoor area with macrocarpa slab tables under a shady sail provides somewhere to sit and rest tired legs while re-hydrating with a cold drink. It's also just a hop, skip and a jump from the skate park and Shearer Reserve if you need a reward, treat or bribe for the kids (not to mention yourself) after a hard morning or afternoon in the playground.

The counter boasts a mouthwatering selection that could rival any city café and includes hot pies, fritattas, quiche, bagels, doorstep sandwiches and panini, tropical orange slice, and of course the all-essential cakes. I was also delighted to see that vegetarians are well catered for.

The Brunch menu is competitively priced and includes items like the "I've a Conscience" muesli, "Toasted on the Taz" french toast, "Nikki's Big Brekki" and for those in need of revival or just wanting something lighter there's the "Quick Fix" spirulina and banana smoothie. For takeaways there's a choice of burgers, toasties, squid rings or gurnard and wedges, among others.

The café still stocks beach and camping essentials such as milk, bread, the Taranaki Daily News, toilet paper, matches, band aids, insect repellent, suntan lotion and, of course, surf wax.

The Raw Tasman is Robynne's first venture as a café proprietor, but she's learning fast. A woman of many talents, Robynne is a nurse by trade, seamstress second and was until last month the Oakura School secretary. She has lived in Oakura for one



A sign of good things happening down at the beach.



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and a half years, and commuted to her Oakura job from New Plymouth for four years before that.

The poem below was written by one of the students in a visitor's book Robynne was given by the school at her farewell from her job and I think it is an apt description of the Raw Tasman's proprietor...

*A Kiwi-born lass
As nice as can be
Robynne Wadeson, the owner
In her café by the sea.
Her smile is infectious
Her style is hip
She's so down to earth
And one bright chick.
So leave a note,
Statement or phrase
She's certainly the best
So leave your praise.*

So drop by to sample the food and welcoming atmosphere at the Raw Tasman and, as the poem says, leave a note in their visitor's book.

Louise Norton



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As I write this article the sun is trying to break through the clouds – hopefully by the time it goes to print, we will all be enjoying sunny summer weather! What better way to enjoy summer than to indulge in some summer reading.

Oakura Library has something for everyone. Magazines are great for relaxing with and we have titles such as New Zealand Surfing, New Zealand Fishing News, New Zealand Gardener, New Zealand House and Garden, plus many more. We have a range of adult fiction, including titles in large print. There are audio books (books on tape) for both adults and children. Also for the children, the Library has a selection of picture books for littlies and board books for babies.

Perhaps your holidays are going to be a bit more active or creative – the non-fiction collection covers topics ranging from extreme sports to cake decorating and everything in between.

The Library will also have the popular *Summer Reading Programme* for children running again this year. It's a fabulous and fun way to encourage young readers. More information about this great programme will be available at the Library soon.

Happy reading!

Brenda



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Letter to the Editor

BUS SUBSIDY REMOVAL FARCE

In August 2001 the Education Ministry announced it would abolish bus subsidies for Taranaki school children in areas where other fee –paying services were available, from 2002. This was reviewed in November 2001 and delayed with a new subsidy, which is to end from 2005.

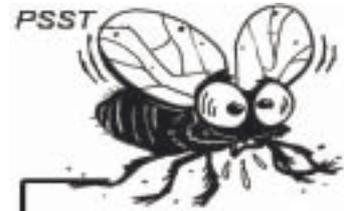
I have lived in Oakura since April 1999 and do not recall seeing any buses from Okato Bus Lines running a public bus service parallel to the subsidized School Buses.

Now we have a Public Bus Service run by Okato Bus Lines that collects and returns students to and from New Plymouth. Despite the signs showing SCHOOL anybody can hop on board, pay the fare and take the trip either to Spotswood College and on to Francis Douglas Memorial College or the trip that takes in Devon Intermediate, Girls High, Boys High and Sacred Heart College. This may exclude school students from boarding but as the Government states, it is the parent's responsibility to get their children to school. This Public bus service, strangely enough, only runs during the Secondary School Terms.

This public bus service probably comes as a great surprise to residents of Omata and Oakura. The fact it does not appear in the Okato Bus Lines Timetable (Monday 20th September), that Puke Ariki Information Centre has no knowledge of this service and that until recently even some of Okato Bus Lines staff appeared unaware of it, no doubt has something to do with it!

School Support Services Ltd, New Plymouth (agents for the Education Ministry) state this is the public bus service that was available at the time the School Buses were running even though there appears to me no proof of this. Surely prior to 2002, to be available would mean a member of the public has to be able to board such a bus. The basis on which the bus subsidies are to be removed is an utter farce!

D Coltman
 18 Prudence Pl, Oakura, 752 7467



Greetings from the guys in the Big Red Truck.

Firefighter Ross Buttmore was the first person on the scene of a two vehicle motor accident on the corner of Surf Highway and Donnelly Street on 13 October. The vehicles were actually motor mowers and just happened to fall off the back of his truck as he was responding to the siren for a genuine fire call.

Witnesses to the accident had various thoughts on the cause but it seems the offenders were on their way to a ROTARY meeting and one of them was CUTTING the corner and CLIPPED the other. Reports have it that they were both PETROL HEADS and were TANKED at the time. Police say they have a HANDLE on things and if they CATCHER the offenders, they will be up before the BENCH and will both receive TWO STROKES each.

This is a true story, I would not lie.

Obviously not a lot of news this time but look out for next month. Stay cool for now.

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Community planting at Matekai Park

During the weekend of 16 October, Matekai Park at Oakura was beautified with a little help from the public. About 250 native and exotic plants were dug-in at the park as part of a three-year programme of work on its landscape and facilities.

Parkscape Manager, Chris Connolly says the plantings consolidated new areas and filled in spaces where previous plants had failed or been removed due to unsuitability to the site. "In 2003 we took away poor-performing plants from the park to allow the strongest specimens to do well and also removed those plants that didn't fit the park's long-term planting theme. That allowed us to prepare the landscape for this fresh development that will strengthen the park's image and long-term tree structure," he says.

"Residents who played a major role in developing the reserve a few years ago continue to be involved in these developments, and it's great to have them coming along to do some hands-on work. It's always a positive sign to see a community wanting to help out with their local park," says Mr Connolly.

The importance of providing a continued source of food for birds is recognised and the majority of the plants that were used were natives such as flax, tree lucerne, mahoe, cabbage tree, puriri, kohe-kohe, kowhai, rata and kahikatea, although some exotic trees – macadamia, pinus pinea and araucaria auracana (monkey puzzle) – were also planted.

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Vocal-Ease is an approach to the voice, using a variety of techniques to support people who want to discover and develop the full potential of their natural voice. This may involve identifying any beliefs or fears that limit your free vocal expression, such as being told as a child that you could not sing or you that you lack the confidence to speak effectively in public.

Genneth is also an experienced Life Coach and is able to use her skills to facilitate your personal growth and the exploration of your creative potential, supporting the enhancement of your personal vitality, fulfilment and well-being.

Contact Genneth Bromley of Essential Health Therapies, Oakura on 752 1184 for a free half hour introductory consultation or for further information.

By Kim Ferens



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Buses and art collide

On any New Zealand road trip you can expect to see a lot of different things, among them a giant apple, an oversized cow and even a large bottle of fizz. These are all sculptures you'll find lining the New Zealand roadside. Closer to home, nestled in the heart of Oakura on Surf Highway 45 is an oversized surfboard. It's been there for about five years and I think it certainly embodies the lifestyle of Oakura.

The giant surfboard was created by local businessman and surfer, David Smithers. David has been in the business of making surfboards for about thirty years. He runs a shop in Oakura that specialises in making the long board mal.

Recently David has been doing something a little different. He was commissioned to make a large fibreglass sculpture for the new bus shelter in New Plymouth. It took about four weeks to create the hollow cylinder-shaped sculpture, which stands at approximately six metres. The sculpture was designed so that it could be inset into the building, so the building and the art become one (structural art). There are many other creative pieces designed for the new building that revolve around this concept.

The Ariki Street station is positioned behind Puke Ariki's library wing. Construction on the new bus station began in July and at the end of October it's doors opened to receive the public. Although I haven't seen the inside of the bus station yet, I'm sure it's wonderful – I can say that because at least now I won't be waiting for the bus in the rain!

Make sure you check out the artwork and designs next time you're off by bus on a New Zealand road trip.

Tammy Lewis



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Mini Groovers turns five!

Shaking out the sillies and nodding out the naughties with about 200 families caused mayhem at the Oakura Hall in mid-October.

Mini-Groovers celebrated their fifth birthday in grand style, with both the Oakura and New Plymouth groups getting together for a bonanza party. There were Thomas the Tank Engine train rides, a merry-go-round, a tunnel and tent maze, scrumptious sausages, and loads of song and dance led by super-Groover Jody. An enormous chocolate cake was cut in an official ceremony by original Groovers, Liam McBreen and Charlotte Proctor.

The group was set up in October 1999 to introduce music and movement to babies and pre-schoolers in a fun environment – the aim, to stimulate brain development through rhythm and tone.

Mums Linda McBreen, Nicki Proctor and Margaret Crighton were all participating in the *Parents as First Teachers* programme and had learnt how beneficial music could be to babies from their parent educator, Adrienne Wilkins (now of Kaitake Kindergarten). Adrienne introduced them to the idea of setting up a music group.

None of the women had teaching or musical backgrounds and they couldn't sing, but they thought the idea sounded fun so they set about finding sponsors, planning, fundraising and making percussion instruments.

The first session filled the Oakura Hall and it's been popular ever since.

Two other mums, Amanda Brown and Jody LeBas, who came to that first session were roped in as teachers. Jody branched out two years ago to set up Mini Groovers in New Plymouth – a group that is now twice the size of Oakura and growing.

When the families of people involved in the Samurai movie stayed in the village in early 2003, they brought their children along to Mini Groovers and a couple of the mums took the name and idea back to Los Angeles with them. There have also been reports of groups in Perth, Nigeria and Hamilton.

At the five-year party, Nicki, Amanda and Linda were presented gifts and flowers to thank them for their time and contributions as they have decided to pass on the organisation to a new group of mums, ably led by Melissa Waite.

Any families with children under five who want to have great fun making lots of noise are invited to come along to Mini Groovers. Each session is followed by morning tea.

Session times

Oakura Hall, 10 am Tuesdays – Melissa Waite, phone 7527907

Beach Street Hall, 10 am Thursdays – Jody Le Bas, phone 753 2917



Emily & Charlie Waite



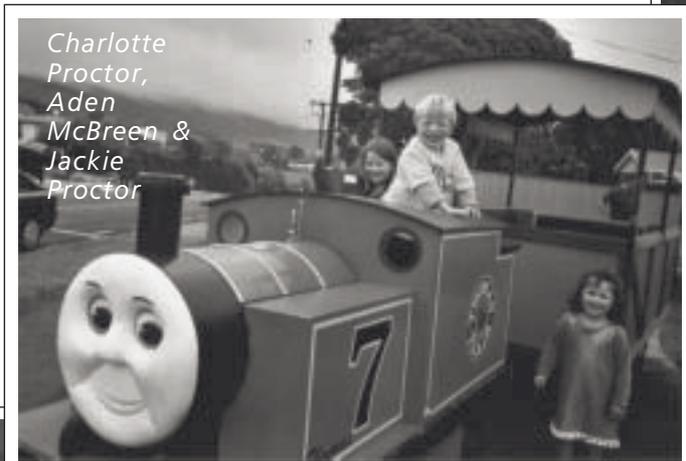
Liam McBreen



Emma Wilson



Jackie & Charlotte Proctor



Charlotte Proctor, Aden McBreen & Jackie Proctor



Oakura – the perfect setting for an award winning designer

Some Oakura residents have even more reason to be proud of their beautiful homes now that the designer of them has won two prestigious national awards.

Taranaki-born designer Graeme Boucher won two of the thirteen ADNZ/Origin 2004 National Design Awards at an awards ceremony held in New Plymouth last month. The awards were presented at Puke Ariki at the culmination of a four-day national ADNZ (Architectural Designers New Zealand Inc.) conference attended by around 150 members and sponsors.

The awards covered different categories of architectural design including commercial, residential, bathroom and kitchen. Graeme won the Residential Alterations and Additions Award for a house design in Raumatī South (on the Kapiti Coast north of Wellington). He also won the coveted Supreme Award for the same design. "I nearly fell off my chair when the award was announced" said Graeme, though in my opinion Graeme was being modest in his surprise as his portfolio of work is impressive.

Graeme had a passion for building even as a child. "When I was ten [years old] I built a three storey hut out of timber from Ivon Watkins Dow. My father worked there and brought a truck-load home to stop me pinching timber from the neighbours".

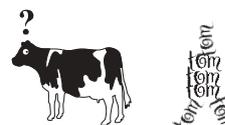
Although he left school at 15 years old and has no formal architectural qualifications, Graeme has moved from strength to strength in his career as a designer. His first job was with the New Plymouth City Council. As an engineering cadet he worked on engineering projects as diverse as roading and drainage to the Kawaroa swimming complex. After five years with the Council he moved on to work with New Plymouth architect Terry Boon where his projects included the Kapuni Gas administration, the St Johns Ambulance building, the New Plymouth Waterworks and Govett Brewster Gallery Stage 1.

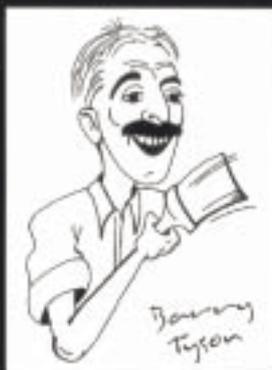
He later left New Plymouth to pursue further career opportunities in Wellington with Ian Athfield, who had already gained a national reputation for innovative buildings. Among the numerous projects Graeme had responsibility for were the NZ Film Archive, university campus buildings in Wellington and Christchurch, an upgrade of the inter-island ferries, cable car stations, office tower buildings, wineries, hotels, schools and housing throughout New Zealand. The office won numerous national architectural awards and international awards for housing projects in the Philippines and Fiji.

In 2001 Graeme and his partner Bernadette established a Wellington-based practice, Coast Edge Architectural, and have so far completed commissions in Oakura, Napier, the Kapiti Coast and Wellington in their semi-retirement.

Graeme describes his architectural style as "contemporary, using standard well-detailed components". He favours materials that provide minimum maintenance requirements, such as corrugated aluminium, glass, blocks and chunky timber, and that are appropriate for the harsh conditions found in the coastal sea spray zones of New Zealand. Oakura is typical of such environments and it provides a perfect setting for Graeme's talents.

Louise Norton





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Cadets – Leaders of the future

September *TOM* featured an article about Joanna Wooffindin and her recent Citizen's Award. I caught up with Joanna again to ask her more about her involvement with the New Zealand Cadet Forces.

Joanna grew up in Oakura and learnt to fly at the New Plymouth Aero Club. Flying was something her father had always wanted to do and so when he decided to take lessons, 16-year-old Joanna went along too. She got her pilot's licence at nineteen and has flown ever since.

These days her interest in aviation has metamorphosed into her role as Squadron Leader for the New Plymouth Branch of the Cadet Forces, Air Training Corps. Although she and the other officers are volunteers, they are all highly trained and vetted by the Defence Force. Joanna is the Unit Commander, and every Wednesday evening during the school term she can be found at the Branch Headquarters on Upper Carrington Street, leading young people in activities designed to enhance self-esteem and teach them to take responsibility for themselves and others. The Branch has a catchment area from Inglewood down to Okato, and they are currently recruiting for this term, so if anyone has a 13–18 year old interested and keen to meet others from around Taranaki, give Joanna a call (see below).

The Cadet Forces is a disciplined, uniformed organisation aimed at the personal development of young people through adventure and teamwork, helping them to develop the qualities essential for good citizens and leaders. Cadets learn about bushcraft, weapons safety and military life in general, attend basic aviation lectures about navigation and aeroplanes, and also offer community service through taking part in ANZAC parades and helping out at community events. Weekend bushcraft camps and access to courses run by the Defense Force are also available.

Anyone interested in finding out more can give Joanna a call on 753 6702 on Wednesday nights between 7 pm and 9.15 pm.

Blyss Wagstaff



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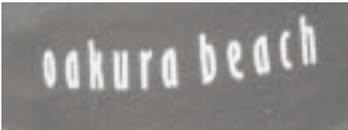
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KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

Oakura Beach Out in Front

Kaitake Kindergarten has come up with an innovative idea to raise funds and promote Oakura. While it's true to say that printed t-shirts are not innovative, using them to fundraise instead of cake stalls is!

The concept is the brainchild of Margaret Crighton and Rose Parker, two hard-working mums from Kaitake Kindergarten. Other Kindy mums have helped, especially Rebecca Scott, who provided the artwork featured on the t-shirts. Some of the Kindy kids have also been involved in the design process with their artwork featuring on the labels. Maree of Madgewick Graphics has been exceptional with her help in the printing process and Moon Cameron has assisted with the layout of the artwork.



The t-shirts were launched at an auction fundraiser at the Kindy and have proved extremely popular, with the first batch being totally sold out. Initially Rose and Margaret thought the T-shirt would appeal to tourists and visitors but locals have also been impressed with the t-shirts. Rose and Margaret have gone to great lengths to ensure the t-shirts are of the best quality possible for the price and they have plans for the t-shirt artwork to change and maybe to add a child's size to the range. Special packaging is also planned for Christmas.

With all the funds going towards the Kindy, this fundraiser is benefiting Oakura's little people and also lifting the profile of the area, so look out for the striking red, black and chocolate t-shirts waltzing around the streets!

The Oakura Beach t-shirts are available in two styles – a woman's fitted "Hanes" t-shirt in black and red (sizes small to XL)

and a semi-fitted man's style "Hanes" t-shirt in chocolate and black (sizes medium to XXL). Both are priced at \$55.

The awesome Oakura Beach t-shirts are available from John and Tony at The Crafty Fox, South Road, Oakura.

Other Kindy news from Robyn

Term four at Kaitake Kindergarten started with Celebration Week – we welcomed visitors to see what happens at this special place for 3–5 year olds. We held a luncheon for children and parents to attend on Tuesday. An open morning on Wednesday was an opportunity for family, friends and neighbours to visit and see what happens at kindergarten. Thursday was grandparents and special friend's day – we had visitors from all over the North Island. Thanks to all those that came along to help us celebrate how kindergarten is for the children and their families.



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OMATA school news

New staff to join Omata in 2005.

Thanks to our growing roll we have been able to secure a new teaching position for next year to teach in the new intermediate class.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Pat Murphy to the position of teacher in the year 7-8 class and as our DP. Pat comes with a wealth of talents and experience at intermediates and primaries. He lives in New Plymouth and teaches at Merrilands. Pat has recently completed 7 years at Rawhitiroa School and previous to that experience at Stratford Primary as head of their senior syndicate (years 7-8). Pat's particular strengths are in Information Communications Technology, Science, English, Natural History and Outdoor Education where many professionals see Pat as a leader and model for others. He also has a reputation for engaging children in exciting learning tasks and being well liked and respected by students, staff and parents. A keen photographer and tramp, We are sure Pat is going to be an asset to our school and will give our new intermediate area a great start.



The new teacher to Omata School in Room 1 with our year 5/6 class starting next year is Tracey King from Whangarei. Tracey is an experienced teacher who comes to us highly recommended as a dynamic, talented professional who promotes excellence and maintains a great rapport with her students. Her strengths are in the areas of Thinking Skills, Sport English, Mathematics, Technology and Science.

Playground

Construction is underway of a new, and eagerly awaited, adventure playground. The playground will feature flying foxes, a climbing wall and a commando net. The project has been made possible with the support of a grant from the TSB Community Trust.



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Canteen Support

Canteen was well supported by the children and teachers with over \$200 being raised for the cause and a very colourful array of bandannas.

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OAKURA school news



Adam Landers, the flying kiwi on the Flying Kiwi.



Georgia Kettlewell braves the waterslide

On camp

In October, teachers Peta Day and Phili Butt took their Year 5 and 6 pupils to Vertical Horizon Christian Camp on Everett Road in Inglewood for a two-night, three-day camp. Aided by many keen parents, the children had a wonderful time, returning to school very tired after enjoying the many outdoor activities. Here are two stories written by Room 7 children, describing

Freezing slide of doom by Zachary Power

I watched the first to drop down. I stared at the excited boy, feeling all proud because he was the first to ride the waterslide. That vanished when the water hit him. He was like a worm on a hook, wriggling around in the lake until he very quickly got out. When he did, everyone gave him a brilliant round of applause.

I was only a couple of people away. The excitement was building. My turn. I felt the cold water spraying my face as I slid down the twenty metre plastic sheet. It felt like there were hundreds of people staring down at me from the amount of yelling and screaming I could hear. I hit the water with a dive gone wrong. It hurt. The water felt warmish until my head popped up through the surface. At that moment it was as if there were thousands of needles piercing my brain!!

Riding the zip line by Emma Glucina

"10, 9, 8, 7..." shouts my team, The Dream Team Jelly Beans, as I'm about to leap off a platform, harnessed to a flying fox, to go zooming down a wired line at a very fast speed.

"6, 5, 4, 3..." I look down. It makes me want to stop now. The height of it is remarkable. I start to shake, shiver and wonder what would happen if it broke. But it can't. I am tightly strapped to a harness. Or could it?

"2, 1, 0... Jump!" I decide to stop thinking and take a crazy leap into the air and ride on. As I leap, my hair blows wildly everywhere. I scream so loud that I get a sore throat. I look down below. My legs start to wobble like jelly. I'm almost at the end where the tyres are. Bump! I crash right into them, just barely missing hitting my head. Then I'm forced back the other way. I move slowly down until I come to a sudden stop.

That was one fast ride!

Wild Hair Day

As a way of raising money for the "Save the Children Fund", all pupils were invited to come to school wearing their hair as wild as possible and to make a donation to go to this worthy cause. It was wonderful to see the teachers joining in too. There were certainly some very colourful and creative styles, with \$260.20 being raised.

Backcombed and curled are: back - Zoe Laing; front - Erin Kelly, Bailey Bruckner and Adara Segedin.



Wild hair and wicked: Jordan Wearne, Georgie Wood, Miaana Walden and Abigail Bridgeman.

Punk with attitude, Jarred Niwa.



A good, bad hair day for: Hannah Ross, Jessica Knudson and Olivia Chitty.



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OAKURA PLUNKET

Plunket coffee mornings will be running on Friday mornings from 9 am to 10.30 am for the rest of this term. These are held at the St James Church Hall and all parents and caregivers of young children are welcome to attend. There are lots of toys for the children to play with and it is a great way to meet people with similar aged children while enjoying a hot cuppa and great discussion.

There is a relieving Plunket Nurse at the Oakura Clinic at the moment – we welcome Sharon Van Dijk who is taking on this role while Carol is doing some work with New Plymouth clinics. If you need to make an appointment to see Sharon, please phone the New Plymouth Clinic on 758 3229 and leave a message so that Sharon can get back to you with a time that suits.

Plunket would like to remind you to be SUN SMART as the days get sunnier and hotter. SLIP, SLOP, SLAP is a great way to remember to always have a hat on children outside, use an appropriate sunscreen and cover up the sensitive skin of young ones. Also offer extra fluids during hot days as it is very easy for children to become dehydrated.

Catherine Keenan
Oakura Plunket Committee



Robbie White is all smiles at a Plunket coffee morning.



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Oakura Playcentre

Anna and Kiara are enjoying learning through play at Oakura Playcentre. Who knows, Anna may be a future entrepreneur negotiating on the phone, Kiara might market a new range of products. In a happy and constructive play environment, children learn about themselves and their world. Parents and caregivers are nearby to help extend play with equipment, discussion and role play.



Anna and Kiara playing shop.

Playcentre offers an extensive range of courses to further equip parents and caregivers with an understanding of child development. We learn ways to educate children using "planning and evaluation" techniques and resource ideas that enhance the carefully researched areas of play that we offer in each session. Playcentre operates as a happy team of adults and children – parents and caregivers are the best educators for their children.

Playcentre is open to all children from birth to six years and we have sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9 am to 12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term, no matter how many sessions you attend – and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292 or Sharon Steen on 752 7376. Otherwise, please feel free to come and join us – we're a friendly, fun place and warmly welcome all new families.

Mandy Robinson
 Oakura Playcentre President

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History Bite . . .



The history preceding the McAlpine Bros Sawmill that began operation on Surrey Hill Road in the 1940s is fascinating and begins well before we were all born. It starts as early as the 14th century.

Oakura's tribal forebears arrived at Oakura in the Kurahaupo canoe sometime in the 14th century to find the area already occupied by earlier Polynesian migrants. These migrants lived in a large complex on the upper Oakura River called "Pirongia". The Kurahaupo migrants brought kumara, yams, taro and hue. Indigenous forest was cleared to grow these crops. Many, many Pa sites were built (on most prominent ridges) and the land between each Pa site was cleared. Karakas were planted along stream beds.

In 1863 a proclamation by Sir George Grey was made confiscating land from any tribes that rebelled against the Crown and in 1865 this was invoked against tribes in the Oakura area. The confiscated land was used for colonisation by English immigrants.

In 1875 the Taranaki Provincial Government declared an Egmont Forest Reserve on all land in a six mile radius of the summit of Mt Taranaki and this was confirmed by the central Government in 1881. In 1883 a Maori Reserve was created on the Kaitake Range. This reserve was held in the name of various members of the Taranaki tribe. Sixteen years later the Taranaki Scenery Preservation Society suggested the Reserve be bought for a Crown Reserve so the tribe was given other land in exchange. It wasn't until the turn of the century that the Egmont National Park Act was passed and this park included the 7,500 acres of the Kaitake Range.

At the first meeting of the Park Board in 1901, the problem of what to do with the Patuha Open Lands area (the land inside the northern and western sections of the range cleared by Maori) was raised. It was decided to give a minimum 12-month lease to neighbouring farmers in exchange for the clearing of gorse and fencing. A twenty-one year lease was granted to a Mr Sefton (possibly for the lower part of the ridge known as Sefton Ridge or Ahu Ahu Ridge).

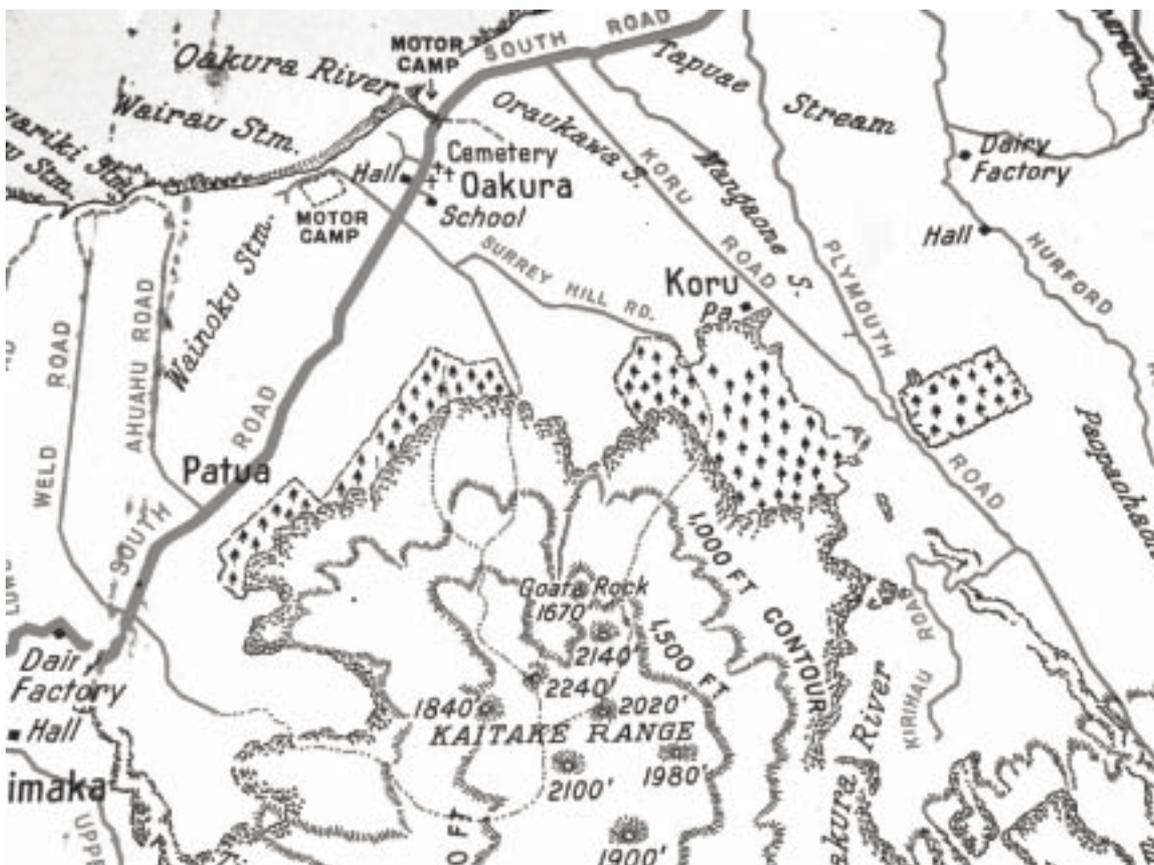
In 1926 a government grant was sought and local body contributions made to reforest the Patuha Open Lands area. Duncan and Davies were contracted to plant 50 acres of Pinus Insignis and some eucalypts in sheltered places. With the Depression and unemployment in the area, arrangements were made with the Labour Department to use labourers to work on the forestation project. The Government would pay for transport, tools and materials used. The newly appointed Honorary Ranger, Mr Victor Davies, agreed to supervise the project free of charge. The Pinus Insignis and eucalypt seedlings were obtained from mostly local nurseries.

Part of the Patuha Open Lands area was excluded from this project and leased to Taranaki Perpetual (Permanent) Forests (TPF) Ltd – a public company. TPF Ltd was considered the pioneer company of soft woods forestry in Taranaki and had shareholders comprising (as far as the author could confirm) of Jones and Sandford and Lewis Stephenson. Other possible shareholders included Sir Victor Davies and the Boon Bros.

Why all the interest in pine trees? According to newspaper reports of the time, there was going to be a "world famine of softwoods" so suitable sites were sought to plant pine trees on. The Oakura site was considered most affable, with free draining soil and a micro climate.

The thirty year lease for the plantation was transferred from TPF Ltd to the McAlpine Bros in 1941 and in the same decade, a sawmill bearing the McAlpine Bros name began operation on Surrey Hill Road.

(Sourced from Puke Ariki archives)



This circa 1930s road map shows areas of forestation that are likely to have been milled by McAlpine Bros Sawmill.

The Adventures of
KOREAN KELLY



Chuseok is the Korean equivalent of Thanksgiving. It generally amounts to 20 million or so Koreans driving to the homes of their families, having a meal and making an offering to their ancestors. It also results in the roads being ridiculously congested - it took one of my students 4 hours to travel 100 kilometers. Catherine and I took this opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of Seoul and headed to even smoggier pastures, in the form of Beijing, China.

We took a 5-day tour option, definitely the best way to go about seeing the sights that surrounded this city and we were not disappointed. Our tour began with a Chinese acrobat show, in which young performers bedazzled us with their manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination and sickening limb flexibility. The next days encompassed Tiananmen Square, a giant picture of Chairman Mao thoughtfully looked over us as we made our way to the Forbidden City (from the movie The Last Emperor). This place was massive, having 9999 rooms in which the Emperor and his cohorts once lived. The Summer Palace, where the Emperor relaxed in the warmer months, was equally impressive. The outstanding feature was a man-made lake that took a mere 14 years to build with the help of manual labour and quite a few buckets of soil. More importantly, we climbed the Great Wall of China. It was great.

What trip to a foreign land would be complete without sampling some of the more exotic delicacies. The first night we munched away on Peking Duck, literally a bit of duck, some sauce, vegetables and a small flour wrap. This wasn't enough for me, so we managed to find an infamous little place called "Snack Street". The smell of this place was particularly odd and as we ventured into the unknown we discovered why. Lining the streets were multitudes of bamboo skewers, upon which were impaled a number of interesting beasts. There were giant cicadas, moth pupae, seahorses, large starfish, skinned snakes, grasshoppers - it was an animal lovers Hell. I decided upon a rather delectable looking assortment of deep-fried scorpion.

Freshly skewered, their beady little eyes met mine, their small pincers snapped and their poisonous tails were ready to pump me full of some nasty poison. Well, that soon ended as they made their way into the frying vat.

After that, I plucked up the courage and popped the first one into my mouth. It was delicious, similar in flavour to the small crunchy over-fried chips that are always at the bottom of your Friday night fish and chips. We moved down the street, keen to try some delicious wonton-style soup. It looked great, but upon biting into the dumpling, the flavour of offal, particularly lung, liver and intestines, made the scorpions taste like heaven. Who would have thought - never judge a food by the number of legs it has.

Annyonghi keseyo,

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Beryl Samson

I remember when . . .



Beryl Samson, who turned eighty this year, comes from a family with a solid history in Oakura. Beryl's grandparents, John and Clara West, settled in Oakura after disembarking from the "Strathnaver" in 1874. This hard-working couple owned the General Store and lived in a cottage beside the hotel. Running the General Store also meant having stables with at least four and possibly six horses.

As a young girl, Beryl's mother Doris had the job of riding out on horseback to local homesteads in the Koru and Kirihaui Road area to get the customers' orders. These would then be packed up and delivered by wagon. It was a very muddy job. Deliveries went as far as Okato. The Wests' deliveries worked in conjunction with the deliveries of the Roebucks of Okato. Doris would take the four horses and wagon to the Tapuae hill and help tow the delivery wagon from New Plymouth up the big hill. It was great place for information gathering and sharing. News from town would be passed on to Doris, who would give the gossip of the coast to the delivery person. The town stories would then circulate around the coast. Who needs the internet!!

The cottage the West family lived in was built before the Land Wars (and before the Wests arrived). Beryl recalls that it boasted a baker's oven, a huge contraption that was used during the war years to bake bread for the soldiers. The cottage was built very sturdily with "hew bank" nails. These were especially strong square nails that made dismantling the cottage very difficult. Beryl remembers her grandfather John as a "very big man". He sustained a back injury that prevented him from working and got around with the aid of two sticks.

Doris West married Jock Samson in 1923 when she was thirty-three years old. Jock was a difficult Scotsman who had a passion for mining but had to make do with farming. Beryl was born in 1924, followed later by sister Mavis.

The West farm was an itty bitsy farm with land on the four corners of Wairau Road and the Main Road and started at the hall. The thirty-nine cows were milked, originally by hand then by an electric milking machine. The cows supported all eight persons in the family.

Beryl remembers getting electricity put on. First it was just the light in the dining room and kitchen – a single light that was raised and lowered on a cord – then they got a refrigerator. It was very exciting. Cars were also terrifying and exciting things, especially when you went to town and there were lots of them. Beryl can recall going to town in a "curtain car" (no solid top or sides) and being terrified going past Windy Point (at Blagdon) where it was indeed very windy! A neighbouring farmer, Mr Jacob Smith, who was also a clever blacksmith, made a special pedal car for his son Robin who was crippled. It was the envy of all the local kids.

Beryl started school at Oakura Primary School and re-

calls the experience as a scary one. All the juniors sat around a large table. As a new child started school, the oldest at the table moved onto a desk. There were only two classrooms. One teacher Beryl can remember is Mr Buchanan, who Beryl feels was ahead of his time. He taught the children all sort of things, one being how to graft fruit trees and Beryl wonders if those trees still exist, with possibly two or three different varieties on one tree.

Beryl's family moved away to the North to live but returned to Oakura when Beryl was nine and a half and her Aunty died. The family helped with the responsibility of her Aunt's three children.

Beryl left Oakura School to go to New Plymouth Girls High, which had a roll of nearly 500. The coast girls were known as the "bus girls" and weren't popular because they got out of all sorts of things because they had to go on the bus. Following two and a half years at high school Beryl left and began work on the home farm as a "land girl". The country was at war. Beryl loved the farm work and was a feisty individual (still is, I'd say – staff at the Mission Rest Home where Beryl lives now affectionately call her Miss Marple!). During a storm the radio cable blew loose so Beryl scrambled up on the roof to fix it. Unfortunately she fell off and landed on her back in the garden – not a bruise or anything sore!!

What Beryl did hate was the beach. The only time she went to the beach was to collect firewood.

When Beryl turned twenty one, she was given a book from the little Oakura Library – then situated beside the hall and the Smarts' house. It was a book on Shakespeare and not particularly one of her favourites. The library was a place that Beryl went to frequently, as did everyone then. She doesn't remember the books being changed like they are today but supposes that they must have been. In her spare time, Beryl would bike into New Plymouth to go to the pictures. In 1953 Beryl began work in New Plymouth as a sewer for "Babytown". Her boss was Flossie Thomas, another local lass from Oakura whose parents lived in the cottage on the now Bull Shop site. Beryl's sister Mavis gained local notoriety in the newspaper when she broke her arm and then managed to sit her school examinations.

Eighty-year-old Beryl still drives and is as sharp as a pin, spending her days looking after her good friend Flossie (who is over 90), doing the gardens at the Mission Rest Home, spinning, knitting and visiting other old friends.

By Kim Ferens

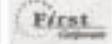
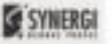
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Kaitake Netball

Hi All

It was February when we started getting organised for this season and when we finally finished at the end of August we were ready for a break. I'm sure when February 2005 comes around it will seem like we never stopped!

What a great year we had – we moved up a grade from third to second and we led the grade for several weeks before we slipped to hover around third or fourth place for the remainder of the season. So we are happy with our fifth place overall and it also gives us something to improve on next year.

Our prizegiving night was combined with the rugby team and we had a great night at the club with "The Bald Eagles" playing – thanks Suttie, we really enjoyed it!

Our netball trophy winners were:

Player of the Year – *Sarah Crampton*

Most Improved Player – *Jenna Thomas*

Most Dedicated Member – *Tanya Farrant*

Big thanks go to:

Anna Cleland – for staying with us and coaching us through the season.

Bob Fleming – for all your efforts in organising the team.

Kelly Miller – for your leadership and commitment.

Bev Elice – for helping us out and cutting your nails for us!

Brenda Crummey – thanks for being on standby.

A big thanks to our sponsors for 2004:

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Here's to another year, girls – a good effort and thanks to you all for sticking together and making this year a memorable one.

We really want to see you all back again next year.

Tanya Farrant & Bob Fleming

Oakura Pony Club

The 2004–2005 season is now well under way. The club recently held its opening rally at the Pony Club grounds with a very good turnout. Club membership remains at a good level this year, with several enthusiastic new members and their ponies joining the ranks. It is also great to see our intermediate and senior riders returning to the arena. Many of these members have upgraded from ponies to horses or have invested in performance models to compete at higher levels of competition. From the action observed at an early competition the future for club members and their mounts this season looks promising.

The Club held its annual show-jumping day at the Waitara Pony Club grounds last week – postponed to a gloriously sunny Sunday after a rain drenched and sodden Saturday dampened the enthusiasm. This event is one of the first competitive Pony Club show-jumping events for the season in the Taranaki region. Entries numbered well over 100 horses and ponies with four show-jumping arenas at full speed most of the day. This day is a popular event on the Taranaki equestrian calendar and is the main fundraiser for the Club. We sincerely thank the sponsors and others that contributed to the day's success.

The equestrian lifestyle of many village residents and the surrounding community very much contributes to the well-being of the club and nature of the village – a point well recognised by the New Plymouth District Council and the new Kaitake Community Board. The Club will soon be discussing several upgrading proposals regarding the Club grounds with the Council and Community Board, and hopes to have plans in place in the near future. Proposals include ground re-leveling and drainage over the old tip site and general landscape work around the car park and ground perimeter.

Graham Rook



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Local golf club hosts national competition

A first for the Kaitake Golf Club will take place on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November. A New Zealand-wide Masters competition will be played between teams of four women from 14 provinces. All golfers will be on single figure handicaps and the best three of four scores from each province count on the day. There will be four rounds of golf played – one on Friday morning, two on Saturday and one on Sunday morning.

The Club has had to find hostesses for each team plus 224 caddies, spotters and many other helpers in order to run a successful tournament. At the last meeting of the tournament committee things were falling into place and they have had a lot of help from other Taranaki clubs.

The golf course will be in first class order even though the spring has not been the easiest for the greenkeeping staff. The Kaitake course is known for being a picturesque pleasant walk with plenty of bird life including pigeons, doves, fantails, bell birds, pukekos, parakeets and kingfishers.

The Club has over 400 members but is always pleased to welcome new members. If you are interested, please call in and see the Secretary/Manager, Bill MacArthur, or talk to any of our members for further information.

You're welcome to come and watch the Master golfers in action on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November – admission is free.

Kaitake Golf Club member represents Taranaki

Local Kaitake Golf Club member, Robyn Robins, will be representing the Taranaki Province in the New Zealand Women's Golf Masters competition to be hosted by Kaitake this month. With a handicap of 6.9, Robyn occupies the No.3 position in the four-woman Taranaki team.

Robyn has played golf for the last eighteen years or so. In discussing how important golf is to her, Robyn said, "I'd say it's No.1 in my life, after my husband and my family". Fortunately her husband also plays golf, so he can participate in and understand her passion for the sport.

While Robyn lives in Opunake and is a member of the Opunake Golf Club, she has also belonged to the Kaitake Golf Club for the last three years. This is because the Opunake course is a "sheep" or country course, whereas Kaitake is mown. It's important for someone who takes golf as seriously as Robyn to maintain her competitive skills on a mown course. "Kaitake Golf Course is right up there with the other courses I've played on around New Zealand, and the Greenkeeper and his staff have done a brilliant job of preparing the course for the competition".

Admission to watch the competition is free if anyone would like to support Robyn and the rest of the Taranaki Team on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November.

When asked about the hopes of the team Robyn replied, "It's the strongest team I've seen in the four years I've played in the Masters and as we're playing on our home course, we have every show of finishing in the top four".

Louise Norton

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Taranaki Junior Chess Tournament at Oakura Hall



Interest in junior chess was strengthened by the Taranaki Junior Chess tournament held in Oakura Hall on Sunday 17th October. The organisers were delighted with the response, with 51 children taking part. Participants ranged from 6 to 13 years of age and were from 11 different primary and intermediate schools in the region.

The tournament consisted of six rounds and it was not until the final round that a clear winner emerged, Liam Poppelwell of Francis Douglas with a perfect score of six points. Four children tied for second place with five points each, including Henry Saleman of Oakura and 7-year-old Alan Ansell of Kaimiro School. Oakura School, the home team, was well represented with 10 players, but the school prize was won by a very strong Francis Douglas team.

The children played to a very high standard and entertained the spectating parents and organisers with some very exciting games. Oakura Hall is an ideal venue and it is hoped to repeat this event in 2005.

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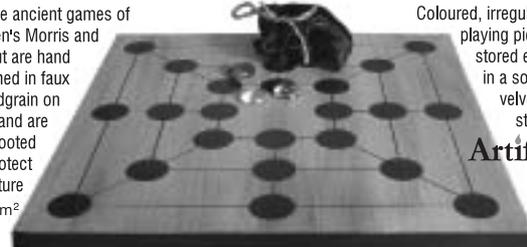
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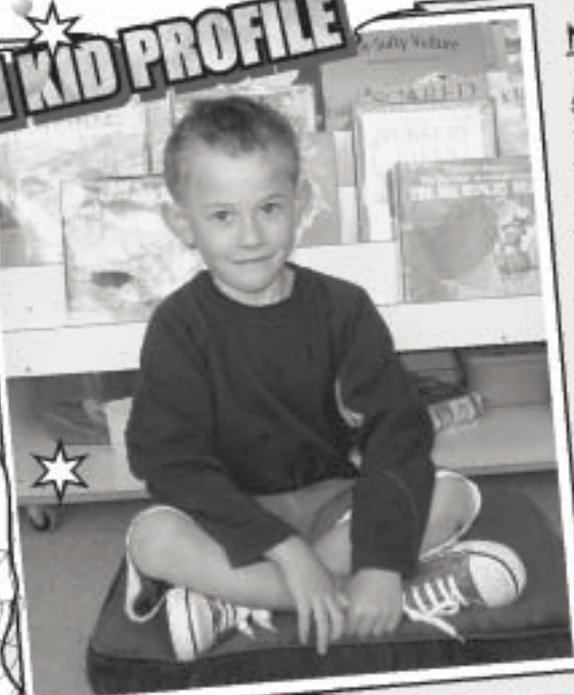
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TOM KID PROFILE



NAME: Joshua Walkerdine

AGE: 6

SCHOOL: Oakura School, **YEAR:** 1

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ACTIVITY: Playing on the computer

GAME/SPORT: Rugby

MOVIE: Scooby Doo 2

BEST FRIEND: Jack Davies

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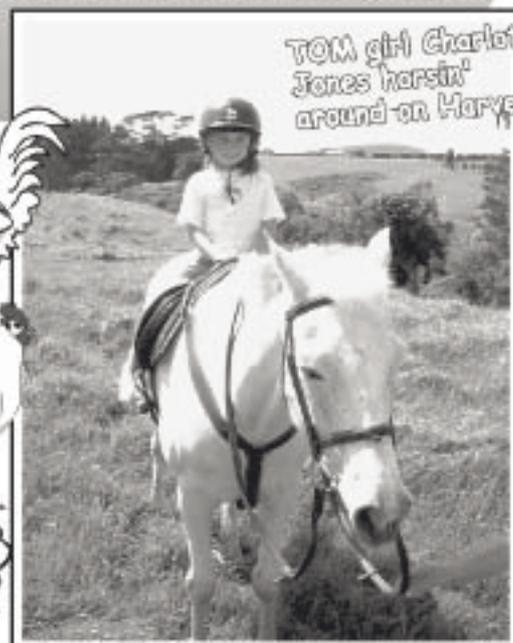
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Thought for the Month

"It is a sorry day for those who cannot see any opportunities where they are but think they can do better somewhere else" - Og Mandino