

tom

the Oakura Messenger

NOVEMBER 2005

Slow food and slow towns – Sounds like Oakura



Could this become this??

As I talk to people in the village, I hear over and over again concern about Oakura being turned into a "Surfers' Paradise". I have wondered what we can do to keep Oakura the special place that it is and I got to thinking about the "Slow Food" and "Slow Town" movements. I did some research into the concepts and feel they could easily be introduced to Oakura and that they might be a way to keep and enhance the unique flavour of our village. Below is a brief outline of these philosophies and I would be interested to know if there are other villagers who feel that slow food and slow town is a positive direction for Oakura.

Slow Food is an international movement formed to counter the degrading and standardising effects of the industrial and fast food culture. It was founded in 1989 in Italy and is active in 45 countries with over 83,000 members. A branch or chapter is called a convivium and acts as the voice of the region. The idea includes maintaining and improving "quality of life", a sense of community and eating fresh food produced in a local radius. The movement promotes the beneficial

effects of the deliberate consumption of nutritious locally grown and indigenous foods. It promotes taste education programmes for adults and children and works towards safeguarding and promoting public awareness of culinary traditions and customs. It supports artisanal food producers who make quality products. It promotes a philosophy of pleasure and encourages tourism that respects and cares for the environment.

To find out more on Slow Food or to join a convivium visit www.slowfood.com

Slow Town or Cittàslow is also an international movement founded on the back of the Slow Food movement. It was founded in 1999 in Italy by the Mayor of a mediaeval hilltop village in Tuscany. Towns across Europe have joined with 70 Italian villages and there is now a worldwide membership of 70,000. The movement provides a set of goals and aspirations for small towns and is a gradual process based on principles that:

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FROM THE TOM ZONE

Editorial

Aren't Oakura and Omata wonderful places to live at this time of year? The maddening crowds haven't invaded yet and you feel like throwing open all the doors and windows and letting the sunshine and sea air in. Speaking of the maddening crowd or holiday makers, hasn't the year flown by? Christmas is nearly here again, so keep an eye out for the Christmas edition of TOM in December.

This month we feature two of Oakura's more visible summer businesses – Wunderbar, with its new deck and summer menu, and Vertigo with its shaggy dogs. Look out for Margaret too, as she launches into property management. I hope you all read the article on Slow Food and Slow Towns, and will form an opinion on whether you think the concept is a goer or not.

Please use our news hotline (phone 751 1519) to let us know about any village news and ensure it gets published. We would also love to hear from clubs, parents, schools or anyone else who know of local results or achievements so we can acknowledge these and record them for history's sake. So if you know of someone or a team who has achieved (not necessarily first place but possibly a personal best), ring and leave a message on the news hotline number.



tom tom

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!

It's great to see the weather warming again and the days getting longer. We're beginning to smell the scent of summer and I'm looking forward to getting out in our district and enjoying our great parks, reserves and beaches during the coming warm months.

As I write this column I am in the United Kingdom helping to encourage skilled workers to emigrate to the New Plymouth district. A lack of skilled workers has been identified as a risk to our regional economy, with businesses finding it difficult to continue their current level of work, let alone fulfil any plans to expand.

The greatest sales points we have are the warm, open and friendly nature of Taranaki people and the lifestyle we can offer in the New Plymouth district – where commuting time is measured in a handful of minutes, rather than hours, and where our magnificent landscape provides many opportunities for leisure and sports activities.

The Council is currently working on a variety of policies and plans that focus on how we manage our urban and rural landscapes. We've received a good number of submissions on the Coastal Reserves Management Plan (there'll be a second round of public consultation on this in April next year, so keep an eye out for that), and the third round of public consultation on the Draft Coastal Strategy will begin in December this year.

Still under way is consultation on the review of the District Tree Policy. We want to clarify how the Council manages trees on Council-owned land, and I'd like to have your input on this – whether it's about trees that grow alongside roads; in parks and reserves such as the Corbett Park Domain, Shearer Reserve, Matekai Park, Oakura Holiday Park and Oakura Keyhole; or as part of urban streetscapes like Oakura's town centre.

With the public's input, the Council can write a policy that is simple to understand, takes into account the wishes of the wider community when it comes to tree management, and clearly articulates those management processes to the public.

Submissions on the District Tree Policy close on Friday 16 December. You can get more information on the policy and the submission process by phoning the Council on 759 6060 or online at www.newplymouthnz.com

If you have any comments to make about how to improve our urban and rural environments, or how to attract skilled workers to the New Plymouth district, or on any other Council-related topic that you have an opinion on, feel free to get in touch with me at the Council!

Peter Tennent



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LANETTE



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

A greeting to all readers of TOM.

Due to the hectic nature of September, I was unable to get an October feature out to everyone – but I’m back on board and ready for action.

Speaking of September, it really was a roller-coaster, but now we have formed a government and once again it is back to work, work, work.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me at the election. I am very pleased with the outstanding support from our community and I will represent our electorate with the same vigour and enthusiasm as I did back in 1993.

I was also pleased with the local Labour Party vote, which was 3% higher than the North Island average (excluding Auckland and Wellington).

October 17th through to the 21st was Kindergarten Week. The most important time of child’s life is pre-school, where the growth and learning is immense. My children attended kindergarten and it helped steer them toward the challenges of school years. I regularly visit kindergartens and schools throughout the electorate and greatly enjoy seeing our youngest citizens taking their first steps in formal education. So in saying that, I want to give an overview of some of Labour’s priorities in early childhood education for the next term in government:

- To work with early childhood providers to encourage them to extend services, by growing their centres.
- To encourage employers (particularly state sector) to establish early childhood education facilities on work sites.
- To extend and promote the highly successful scholarship scheme for early childhood teacher trainees, so there are sufficient quality teachers to staff the additional services.
- To promote the benefits of participating in early childhood education to families with children under three years old.

Best wishes to you all

Harry Duynhoven

Finbarr heads to Japan

New Plymouth District Council recently held a ceremony to award local Omata teenager Finbarr Kerr-Newell honorary ambassador status. Finbarr is off to Japan with two other New Plymouth Boys High School (NPBHS) students, Matthew Hitchins and Michael Earby, to attend World School in Tokyo.



Finbarr Ker-Newell (left, right, centre ??) Matthew Hitchins and Michael Earby receive their honorary ambassadorships.

The three boys are language students, with Matthew and Michael studying Japanese and Finbarr studying Latin. They will attend World School for two weeks, staying in a hostel for one week and being billeted with a Japanese family for the other. For Finbarr, who doesn’t know any Japanese, it will be a steep learning curve, but he thinks going to Japan will be the best way to learn the language. The three boys will be accompanied by Mrs French, the NPBHS language teacher.

The presentation was held in the Mayor’s office and the three boys were treated to afternoon tea and presented with a certificate by the Mayor Peter Tennent.

Under the New Plymouth District Council’s Honorary Ambassadorships programme, community boards, clubs and organisations nominate individuals from within the community who would make suitable ambassadors for the region. The recipients are chosen through a recognised national selection process to represent New Zealand at an international gathering where the New Plymouth district may be promoted. The ambassadorships are granted for a specific term or event or maybe granted for life and the recipients are expected to achieve their best, be good ambassadors of the New Plymouth district and be prepared to take opportunities to promote the district in a positive way.

By Kim Ferens





Hon. Harry Duynhoven
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... continued from front page

Slow food and slow towns –

- Encourage diversity not standardisation
- Involve the whole community in a gradual process of improvement
- Support and encourage local culture and traditions
- Work for a more sustainable environment
- Support and encourage local produce and products
- Encourage healthy living, especially through children and young people
- Work with the local community to build these values.

The principles are underpinned by a series of goals under the headings: ENVIRONMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, URBAN FABRIC, LOCAL PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS, HOSPITALITY AND AWARENESS. A town that joins the movement undergoes a self-assessment of its current position and is required to have complied with 30% of the aspirations. Once accepted by the International Committee, it can use the logo on its publicity material and will be noted on the Cittàslow website. The movement aims to embrace modern technology as long as it follows the Cittàslow principles. It helps answer the concerns of many people within small towns who are afraid of development and change, while reducing the likelihood of towns losing their identity and vibrancy.

One New Zealand town that has adopted the philosophy is Matakana in the Rodney district. Dorothy Andersen, one of the promoters of slow food in Matakana, said of their slow food journey, "We wanted to preserve the unique nature of the Matakana area. Developers were moving in and the area looked at risk of losing its village feel. A public meeting was held to gauge the interest in Slow Food and 200 people turned up, all in support. We started with a farmers' market and are now aiming towards becoming a Slow Town. The journey is long but the benefits are already very visible."

Matakana is keen to be the first Slow Town in Australasia and is developing in a fashion to suit its horticultural origins and the flourishing wine industry while retaining its village look and "green belt" country aspect.

South Australia's Alexandrina has also begun the assessment process and the town of Strathalbyn has added an antiques flavour to their plan. It is possible to adopt a Maori flavour.

In my opinion the the Slow Food and Slow Town philosophies could easily be achieved in Oakura and implementing the process could only make Oakura an even better place to live and to visit – a destination, not just a place to pass through. Imagine a regular Saturday morning farmers' market with producers from around the region (not just Oakura but especially Oakura) selling their products (food, art and crafts, wine, etc). "Townies" coming out to buy their supplies at the farmers' market, having lunch, going to the beach, going for walks, fishing, kayaking, tramping, enjoying music, sun and surf.

Think about it. Talk to your neighbours about it. Get some feedback to me at the TOM (see page 2 for contact details) and let's move ahead from here.

By Kim Ferens



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Oakura Neighbourhood Support

Not just another month! It has certainly been a different few weeks since the last edition of *TOM* – Lucy's Gully featured in the most regrettable way possible, changing a whole community way of thinking for a period of time.

The public response and interest was unbelievable – for the Oakura community the shock of a crime of this nature so close to home was difficult to apprehend. The shock wore off and an attitude of "let's get the bastard" took over. The information poured in from Day One, the phones, emails and replies to the website were ongoing day in and day out.

The police responded with unprecedented information going out to the public on TV and newspapers, and nineteen bulletins on the police website. The result looked to be difficult but inevitable, and finally an arrest was made.

Slowly everything is returning to a normal pace and the menu looks familiar: burglaries, car thefts, stolen solar lights, even a chemist robbery – the crimes go on. The victims are seen, the neighbours are advised, but the tension is not the same thankfully.

On the theme of the familiar, the Coast has its regular officer back on the beat – Thomas is again cruising the Coast and Richie is reluctantly giving up his deckchair and returning to the city beat.

The end of this month sees the return of Helen Clark with her new team, including the amazing Winston – the only politician who can lose a seat and find a throne. He is already getting his office ready, with large mirror and even bigger world globe. Whatever your political persuasion, you have to admire that smile – we could be seeing a lot of it in the next few years.

Cheers

Barrie Carline

Neighbourhood Support

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Murder at Lucy's Gully

The search for the killer of a slain German tourist came to an end last month as Oakura residents reeled in the aftermath of the discovery of a body in nearby Lucy's Gully.

On 8 October, more than three weeks after Birgit Bauer's body was found and just days after her funeral in Germany, a suspect was arrested and charged in what has been one of New Zealand's most high profile murder cases. Forty-four year-old Michael Scott Wallace of Levin was apprehended by police in Horowhenua after a high speed chase and he now faces charges of murder, vehicle theft and drunk driving.

The body of backpacker Birgit Bauer was discovered by a jogger on Tuesday 20 September in dense bush just off a walking track in popular Lucy's Gully in the Kaitake Ranges.

Twenty-eight year-old Bauer had been travelling New Zealand for eight months before attempting to hitchhike to Taranaki from Wanganui, where she had been staying with friends. She was last seen getting into a dark coloured four-wheel drive vehicle on State Highway 1 at Waitotara Valley in South Taranaki. Wearing dark coloured jeans and a light green top, she was carrying with her one large backpack and a small daypack that were later discovered on the on the banks of Lake Rotoiti other side of the mountain.

Following a post-mortem examination of the body, it was revealed that Bauer had died from head injuries and a single stab wound to the chest, and that her body dumped in the undergrowth on the same day she was discovered. It appears that the attack was not sexual but more a robbery of her belongings.

Local resident John Sole, whose property borders Lucy's Gully in the Egmont National Park, says it is terrible to think that something of this nature could have happened virtually on his back doorstep.

Wallace was remanded into custody and is due to appear in court on 24 November 2005.

Fiona Washer

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Who, might you ask, is Margaret Crichton?

Firstly, I am the wife of James and the mother of Julia (six) and Max (four). A lot of people will be familiar with my name through the Kaitake Kindergarten fundraisers.

James and I have been living in Oakura for the past 10 years after returning from five years of travelling. We instantly fell in love with what Taranaki offered – the sea, the mountain, the people and of course, the lifestyle. What more could a person want? Driving home from work everyday is like going on holiday!

Having children naturally led to becoming more involved in the community and wanting to continue that involvement. I have been lucky enough to spend the last six years at home with my children and getting a real feel for Oakura.

On another front I have enjoyed participating in half marathons and completed my first triathlon in February. This has been one of my biggest challenges because I had to learn to swim again!

My most recent venture is Property Management. To become a Rental/Holiday Property Manager, I've had to study to complete my Real Estate papers. Although this role now requires qualifications, the position is not new to me as I had experience in Property Management prior to travelling.

I feel there is a gap in the market to provide a more personal approach with pro-active reporting to landlords of long-term rentals and specialisation in developing the availability of holiday homes in and around Oakura. With today's busy lifestyles, rental owners don't always have the time or wish to be involved in tenancy issues. This includes screening new tenants and organising maintenance. My database contains all my clients' preferred tradesmen and, on the approval of the client, I will get any problem solved.

I am based at McDonald Real Estate's Oakura office and am passionate about helping and providing excellent service to both prospective tenants and landlords. If you are thinking of renting out a property, whether it is short or long term, and would like it managed professionally, then give me a call on one of the following numbers:

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Mini Groovers:

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

St John's Omata:

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

St James Church Oakura:

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

Kung Fu:

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

Kick Boxing & Self Defence:

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

JKA Karate

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

Oakura Art Group

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

Senior Citizens:

Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 752 7864 for enquiries.

Twilight Bowls:

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Oakura Art Group



The Oakura Art Group was first established over 20 years ago and it still includes two of the original members, who now live in New Plymouth. They, along with seven other artists, travel out to Oakura from New Plymouth on Tuesday mornings to enjoy working out here and being part of the Art Group.

Some people start their membership with very little art experience, but go on to feel that they have accomplished much through their effort and the help they have received from within the group.

This year we have been fortunate in having an accomplished artist to tutor us and we have benefited greatly from her assistance. Sharing our own basic interest has been our main objective – appreciating each person's individual efforts and enjoying our work and one another's company.

We are currently planning our Christmas luncheon. We close for the year in late November and get together again in early February.

If you would like to try your hand at painting or drawing or whatever, you're welcome to come along – we meet at the St James Church Hall on Tuesdays from 9.45am to 12 noon. Phone Pat for more information 752 7515.

TOM TIDBIT

Weet-bix Kiwi Kids Tryathlon

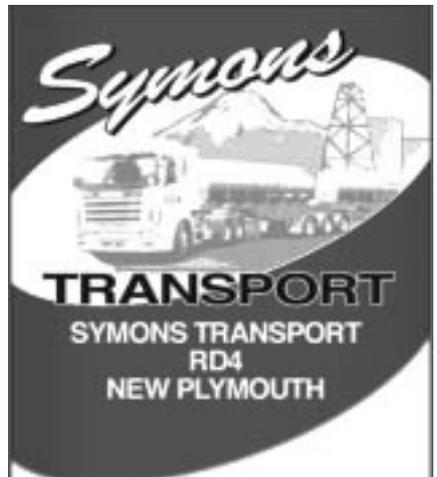
This is to be held on *Friday, 11th November*, with a number of local children competing individually and as teams.

Triathlon NZ Age Group 'Selection Race'

in association with ITU, *Saturday, 12th November*. This race starts from Ngamotu beach at 12 noon for men, 12.15 for women and 12.30 for teams. The course is a 1500m swim, 40km bike ride and 10km run.

The cycle course passes through Oakura and the riders will turn around just south of Weld Road before returning to NP. The cyclists will pass through Oakura village any time from 12.45pm.

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Tickets include a descriptive brochure on the 10 properties and the decorators & designers who are involved. Chocolates, Christmas cakes and other goodies are for sale; with product sampling & raffles. An awesome weekend out!

Tickets may be purchased from: TWR Community Office (769 5553), Meyer & Prichard, Briar Rose Flower Gallery, Soul Interiors, Jasmine Florist, La Fragrance Floriste, Mezzanine, Flowers &, Nicci Goodin Designer Florist, Mad Margaret's Florist, Sentiments Florist & Arborio.

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CALLING ALL TEENAGE DRIVERS!

Yes, that's right: teenage drivers. The Library needs you. We have some great events coming up at the Library. Following on from the great Space holiday programme that was so well supported, we will launch into "Speed" this summer. As part of the programme there will be a range of activities for all ages.

Friday 20 January at 10.30am – Elle Bray from AA Driver Education will be joining us to talk to teenagers about defensive driving and will hold a question and answer session about learning to drive. It would be great for teens who are looking at learning to drive as well as those that have completed the process to come along and share experiences or ask questions.

Wednesday 22 February at 5.30pm – Elle will be back for a session for parents and caregivers with teens who are learning to drive (teens are welcome too). Elle will cover what to teach, what to avoid and when to have lessons, and will answer any questions you may have.

I will have more information on our Summer Reading programme in next month's *TOM*.

The Wednesday night book group for adults was started in recent months. We would love more people to come along and share a little about what they are reading and discuss favourite book titles and authors. The sessions are friendly, fun and informal, so please join us on the first Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (except January when the Library will be closed for a summer break). At some sessions there will be guest speakers to talk about their current and recommended reads.

Oakura Heritage Society – is there or has there ever been such a group? I have been asked to explore the possibility of setting one up at the Oakura Library and Kim Ferens from the *TOM* is keen to support such a group. I am very keen to hear from locals that have any information or may be interested in assisting to form a group. I can be contacted at the Library on 759 6060 or email cashb@npdc.govt.nz

Happy reading

Brenda

CLASSIFIEDS

LOST

2yr old Sebastien has lost his beloved hand-knitted monkey, "Cuddles".

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MUSIC REVIEW by DON JUAN

Thelonious Monk Quartet with John Coltrane – At Carnegie Hall

(Blue Note/EMI)

After more than four months honing their skills at the Five Spot Café, this legendary version of the Thelonious Monk Quartet was captured for posterity on November 29, 1957 at Carnegie Hall as part of an all-star bill put together to raise money for a New York community centre (Also on stage that night were Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie & His Orchestra, Ray Charles, Chet Baker with Zoot Sims Quartet and Sonny Rollins. Whew!).

Given the stature of this group, it seems amazing that the tapes from this prestigious gig went missing, largely forgotten, for almost fifty years. Before the release of "At Carnegie Hall," the only available recordings by this quartet were three studio tracks and an extremely poor quality 'live' recording. Small wonder, then, that these rediscovered tapes have been acclaimed as a musical equivalent to the finding of the 'Dead Sea Scrolls.' Comprised of two separate sets, both finishing with "Epistrophy," "At Carnegie Hall" captures saxophonist John Coltrane on the very cusp of greatness, exploring the works of that supreme architect of modern jazz, piano minimalist Thelonious Sphere Monk. Capably supported throughout by bassist Ahmed Abdul-Malik and drummer Shadow Wilson, Monk and his pupil Trane are clearly communicating at an exalted level. A duet on "Monk's Mood" allows the two soloists to get the feel of the 'room' before the entry of the rhythm section on "Evidence." The quartet then savour such Monk classics as "Crepuscule With Nellie," "Nutty," "Epistrophy," "Bye-Ya" and "Blue Monk." The standard "Sweet And Lovely" is the only piece here not

written by Monk and even that has a strongly monastic feel. There is no 'weakest link' here, although the elegaic "Crepuscule With Nellie" is, for me, the outstanding track; a piece that reflected Monk's sadness on learning that his wife was seriously ill in hospital.

This quartet folded when Coltrane rejoined Miles Davis (before going on to take the jazz world by storm), while the chronically underrated Monk eventually received the acclaim he was due, even making the cover of Time magazine in the early sixties! Viewed retrospectively, the Thelonious Monk Quartet with John Coltrane can be seen as a fulcrum point in the history of modern jazz.

Kenny Barron Trio – Live At Bradley's II

(Verve/Universal)

Recorded in 1996, but only released recently, the Kenny Barron Trio's "Live At Bradley's II" strongly reflects the enduring influence of Monk, with two of the five lengthy pieces ("Shuffle Boil," "Well You Needn't") being penned by Thelonious and "The Only One" being an adaptation of the great jazz composer's "Hackensack." Subtitled "The Perfect Set," this album chronicles the work of a perfectly poised piano trio. Pianist Kenny Barron may be the name upfront, but bassist Ray Drummond and former Monk drummer Ben Riley are totally 'in tune' with their leader. After a brief introduction, a stunning fifteen-minute plus reading of the jazz classic "You Don't Know What Love Is" demonstrates their near-telepathic communication and the set is rounded out by a lovely bossa nova called "Twilight Song." In the work of the Kenny Barron Trio and so, so many other artists, Monk lives on!

Jones & Sandford

MITRE 10 Gardening

Gardening with Rosemary Herb

NOVEMBER CHECKLIST

Fruit and vegetables

- ✘ Continue sowing beans, lettuce, cucumber, courgette, melons, radish, silverbeet, sweetcorn and tomatoes.
- ✘ For continuous harvesting of vegetables, sow at three weekly intervals.
- ✘ Feed all citrus trees with Butler's Citrus Fertiliser.

Rosemary has been harvesting her new potatoes. Isn't it lovely rummaging around in the warm soil for the waxy tubers, then cooking them with lashings of butter?

Flowers

- ✘ Mulch around flower beds to conserve moisture in the soil.
- ✘ Sow seeds of summer flowers: cosmos, marigolds, petunias, portulacas, verbenas and zinnias.
- ✘ Plant new roses using plenty of compost. Water all roses at least once a week. Rosemary's roses have aphids, so do check for the little beasties and spray regularly.

Lawns

- ✘ Apply Butler's Lawn Fertiliser when rain is due or water it in.
- ✘ Spray with Turfix for broad-leaf weeds and Prickle Weedkiller to control Onehunga weed and stop summer prickles.

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The Adventures of **KOREAN KELLY**

As I travel the streets of Seoul, whether it is on foot, on the subway or on my bike, I'm constantly aware of the people around me. I walk around them if they block my path and I am careful not to prod them with my elbows when I'm standing patiently on the train. It's pretty natural for Westerners to automatically engage our bubble of personal space and stick to it. This, however, is not apparent among Korean people and it never ceases to amaze me.

My teaching academy is about a 15 minute bike-ride from home. Every day as I bike to work I am shocked by apparent blindness or lack of awareness that Korean people have of their surroundings. I have to admit that my cycling skills have improved due to the constant dodging and weaving around people as they walk vacantly in the middle of the footpath or ride their own bikes while chatting away on their hyper-advanced, satellite TV-receiving cell-phones. It is almost as if other people do not exist for them. When you walk down the street, you are constantly bumped and people stray across your path – if you were uneducated in the ways of Korea, you might almost feel as if everyone has some type of personal vendetta against you!

But there is supposedly a reason for this. The Korean culture is steeped in Confucianism, which follows the 2500 year old teachings of *K'ung-fu-tzu* (Confucius), the famous Chinese philosopher. Confucius created a set of rules for most social and ethical situations, stipulating such things as family hierarchy (where the man rules the roost), the relationship between people, how to eat your meals correctly, how society should be a ruler-subject arrangement and how individualism is not acceptable. This explains how Koreans think. The reason they bump into you or ignore you is due to a massive cultural difference that has been really hard for an Oakura lad like myself to get my head around. Because you are not part of their family or one of their friends, you don't really exist to them.

This is why in the Korean business world the giving and accepting of business cards is an important process – it instantly clarifies who is the more superior in a relationship. This then affects the way you speak, who pays for meals and even whether or not the superior person will be open to any of your suggestions.

But with the new generation of Koreans, change is approaching. More women are leaving their lives of housekeeping, raising a family and other such Confucian ideals to focus on studies, gain employment and to see the world. Young people are beginning to have less respect for their superiors, much to the disgust of the older generation, who worry that the Western ways have encroached on their idealistic society. Then again, of the 58 major countries, Korea ranks 54th in terms of empowerment of women. Let's hope that things begin to change...

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Kelly Ryan

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Oakura Plunket celebrates 30 years

Plunket is proud to celebrate its 30th anniversary in the Oakura district this year. Upon sifting through stacks of old paperwork and meeting minutes, it was confirmed that it has in fact been more than three decades since the Oakura branch of Plunket was formed.

The inaugural meeting was held in the Oakura Co-operating Parish Church on 23 July 1975 and was chaired by Mrs C. Withers. More than 15 people were present. Local woman, Sue Henchman remembers only too well the basic resources available to Plunket all those years ago, when mothers would meet with the district nurses at the church and babies were weighed on the kitchen bench. "Oh, it was funny. But we had a great time and were really appreciative of the facilities available to us in those days," says Sue. She also recalls the local Lions Club donating a simple cupboard for Plunket use in the back room of the church. The Lions were (and still are) instrumental in assisting with Plunket's activities and they helped raise the money to buy the first baby weighing scales for the Oakura branch in 1975 at a cost of \$400. With a meagre \$24 in the local branch's kitty at the time, the Oakura Plunket also raised funds through raffles, cake stalls and "bring and buy", which was popular at its monthly meetings and mothers' coffee mornings held on the last Tuesday of every month.

Plunket has come a long way since the 1970s. Nowadays Plunket offers a range of services, including education and health advice in addition to the primary services that focus on child care. For further information on Plunket, please contact local President Claire White, 752 7229, or the Secretary Linda Barbour 752 1176.

Fiona Washer

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Summer on the deck with "Danger"

Summer is a time to get down and get dangerous on the deck with Danger of Wunderbar. The deck has been extended and it looks wicked! It has come as the result of a lot of hard work by Danger, the owner and head chef (well, the only chef). This man is totally passionate and fired up about Oakura, Wunderbar and food. He adores cooking and is proud of being Wunderbar's only chef.

On any day or night the freshest and most tender of foods will be prepared and cooked by Danger himself and he feels this is his point of difference. He buys in specially sourced ingredients (such as stress-free venison and free range corn-fed chicken) and prepares and cooks them to his exacting standards, ensuring a consistency that other establishments may lack. Danger says, "Nothing is hard work if you love what you are doing and I love my work. Not many people can say that."

Did you know Wunderbar has been open for three years? "The community has been very supportive, so thank you for that support," say Danger.

Recognition is flowing Wunderbar's way, with awards from the Beef and Lamb Board and the Lace Fine Wine Merchants listing Wunderbar in their New Zealand Wine List of the Year



Awards 2005 as having a "recommended" wine list – one of the top 80 in New Zealand and the only restaurant listed from Taranaki. The wine list is certainly distinctive, with eight pages of wines to choose from, most of them from New Zealand's top cellars. Danger is especially keen on the five Spanish wines on offer and they come with his personal recommendation.

The new summer menu is out and features delicious sounding dishes all lovingly made from scratch – home-made breads, salmon, beef, venison, lamb, chicken, fish and shellfish and pork as well as vegetarian.

Be sure to book a table in the near future and enjoy everything that Wunderbar offers, whether it's a coffee and muffin on the deck or a fine wine with lunch or dinner.

By Kim Ferens



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OAKURA school news

Juniors' fancy dress

Mid-September saw the children from the four junior classrooms in the Oakura Hall, dressed up in some wonderful costumes, dancing folk dances and taking part in the grand parade. There had been a lot of practice in preparation for the event, and this was evident in the very good dancing. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces and so many supportive parents and grandparents there to watch.

Wacky Hair Day

To raise money for the Save the Children appeal, a "Wacky Hair Day" was organised by the class councillors. On the day both pupils and teachers came to school with very interesting, creative and colourful hairstyles. Each class voted for the best boy's and girl's hair "style" in their room and two overall winners were chosen from the 20 finalists, who paraded on the catwalk in front of the whole school. Each pupil was asked to give a gold coin donation and we raised \$300 for Save the Children.

A day that the pupils will certainly remember!

A date to note in your diary

Annual Fun Run or Walk – Oakura School is holding this event again, so mark 26 February 2006 in your diary is now. We'll have more details in the next issue of *TOM*.



"Wacky Hair Day? No! We always wear our hair like this!"



WHAT A DO!

"Wacky Hair Day" overall winners, Louise Stevens and Mitchell Walker

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KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten is well into the term now and lots more time is being spent outdoors as the weather settles. Outdoor play is such an essential part of every young child's day. During play a child learns about the world and makes sense of their life. By being active outside they can run, jump and climb as well as play cooperatively together, developing friendships, problem solving and so forth.

Outdoors their strength and coordination is improved on swings, play gyms, balancing beams and moon-hoppers. They can think and learn about the outdoors as they play here at Kindergarten. We have a well-developed plant and vegetable garden and Ruby the rabbit engages with the children (on her terms!). Their hand, eye and foot coordination gets lots of practice moving between the different levels of the play area. They can even get fit!

Butterflies, Kate Logan and friends balance on the beam.



Reef Raumati catches the ball back off the new rebounder.

Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) has developed the Active Movement initiative, which promotes quality movement experiences and physical activities for under-fives. Sport Taranaki's Active Movement Coordinator, Sarah Mori, facilitates and delivers parent, teacher and educator workshops and movement sessions around Taranaki. Resources available to support the initiative include the Active Movement Introduction booklet and a set of 14 activity guides. These guides are available to view at the Kindergarten.

Sue Henderson
Kaitake Kindergarten Committee

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OMATA school news

On Tuesday 25 October four students from Omata School travelled with Mr Pat Murphy to Riverlands in Eltham to receive on the school's behalf, the major school prize of \$2500 in the Riverlands Ltd Annual Bobby Calf Promotion. The prize was presented by Mr Hector Pastrana of Mexico, who is one of Riverlands' largest purchasers of product for the Mexican market.



Left to right: Ben Taylor, Alisha Harrop, Mr Hector Pastrana, Jamie Barrett, Mr Craig Elphick (Marketing Manager Mexico Crown Marketing Ltd), Candyce Shotter

Mr Pastrana also presented each student with a tee shirt from Mexico. Alisha Harrop was so chuffed she showed it around the playground at lunch time and is going to give her prize to her dad. Our pupils joined students from Auroa School and prize winners from the farming community (farming prizes included a Kawasaki 4-wheel motorbike and shopping sprees in Sydney). The presentation was held on the steps of the Riverlands office in the presence of Riverlands management and stock buying staff. The presentation was followed by morning tea and the Omata School students were very impressed with the catering.

Thank you to all the farming community who supported Omata School in this fundraiser. The funds will be spent on ICT resources.

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Oakura PLAYCENTRE

One of the nice things about Playcentre is the family aspect. Parents help with the general running of the centre as well as leading play in the 16 different areas. There is also a wide variation in children's ages and so they learn cooperation and leadership skills as well as how to help each other in play. The photos illustrate this well.

This month we will be holding educational meetings at the Playcentre that will focus on how to teach and play with our children more effectively [when?]. By the time this edition of *TOM* has gone to print in the beginning of November, we will also have held our AGM.

We are still doing a lot of food preparation and cooking with the children, which has been led by the children's eagerness. They are also very keen on outdoor play, especially climbing and swinging. These two very different activities complement each other well, as we need to focus more on healthy eating and exercise to help combat the rise in obesity and diabetes in New Zealand's young people.



Oakura Playcentre on Donelly Street is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm. The first three sessions are free. The focus is on parent-lead education and the Playcentre is run as a cooperative, so help is needed in the general running of the centre, as well as with the education of the children. Phone Melissa on 752 1056 for further information.

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Dion gets a birthday present from Oakura Four Square



It might have been the Oakura Four Square's birthday, but the best present went to Dion Watty, pictured here receiving Aus \$1000 spending money from store owners, Jackie and Jimmy Lim.

Run in July, the Four Square's Birthday Celebration Prize Draw also saw Dion take away airfares and accommodation for two people for 7 nights in Surfers Paradise. Of course, we don't envy him one bit!

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Health Issues

from Oakura Pharmacy

Fungal infections

"If you are unsure about that red spot on your skin or the itchiness between your toes, come in and see us," says Colleen from the Oakura Pharmacy. "It may well be a common fungal infection – something that we all can get from time to time, but that is easily treated."

Fungal skin infections occur mainly in moist areas like in skin-folds around the groin, in the vagina and between the toes. One of the easiest ways to prevent such infections is by keeping your skin dry and free from a build-up of sweat or moisture. Fungal infections on the skin may initially look red and eczema-like, but can be distinguished by their scaly appearance and borders around the patches. The patches may spread at the borders and be clear in the middle. Around the feet, and in between the toes, the infection can be either white or red and scaly. These infections tend to be itchy and uncomfortable, especially if hot.

Some people may pick up fungi from their pets, causing ringworm. Others may develop fungal infections after taking a course of antibiotics, or if their immune systems are not working properly and they cannot "fight" a fungal infection.

Such infections can be treated with specific anti-fungal preparations available from Oakura Pharmacy. They come in different forms – creams, body washes, powders and liquids – to suit the area needing treatment. These preparations normally need to be used for two weeks to clear the infection and for a further one to two weeks after that to prevent a return.

"We can assess most problems that may be due to a fungal infection. If there are no complicating problems with your health or with other medicines you may be taking, we can provide you with a safe and effective treatment without a visit to the doctor," says Catherine from the pharmacy.

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A shaggy dog story



LEFT, Phoebe shyly poses with Ralph on the grass beside the surf shop, and below, Ralph picks up a skateboarding technique or two.



The size of a small horse and twice as furry as a grizzly bear, Phoebe the Newfoundland has graced the steps of Vertigo Surf Shop in Oakura and Wavehaven Backpackers for a good few years. But now there's some competition for step space from another "Newfy", named Ralph.

Jonno from Vertigo felt the urge to get another dog and thought that a puppy might spark some extra life into 9½ year old Phoebe's lazy existence. So enter Ralph, who at four months is already larger and cuddlier than most full-grown dogs and is a big hit with Vertigo and Alleycat customers, and, of course, with the local children.

A bit perturbed at first, Phoebe has now warmed to Ralph, but you can still detect the odd roll of the eyes when Ralph is feeling like some fun.

In the not too distant future when Ralph is as monstrous (if not more so) than Phoebe, Jonno is probably going to have sell a whole lot more goods to keep the giant pair in food. It's not hard to imagine them eating their way through the equivalent of a couple of beef herds per year, and rumour has it that Phoebe's been looking up the whereabouts of The Bull Shop on the map – watch out Washers.

Rombo

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Oakura Pony Club

The new season is well and truly under way. Several of the Taranaki area pony clubs have held their opening club competitions. Oakura Pony Club (OPC) had its first full muster of the season in late September with a good turnout. The first rally involved a get together after the winter off-season and was a great opportunity to meet new members and new ponies, and to sort out the summer activities ahead. Our early season membership stands at about 45 riding members, which makes us the largest club in the province.

OPC held its annual show jumping event on Sunday 16 October at the Waitara Pony Club grounds and we were blessed with a bright sunny day. This is a very popular event on the Taranaki Pony Club calendar and this year attracted over 100 entries from across the province. Its popularity is driven by a number of factors – good organisation, support from a great team of parents, riders, judges and many others who assist in the setting up and running of the event, and of course the attraction of great prizes for the various classes or competitions run throughout the day. OPC receives a great deal of support and sponsorship from our local business community and individuals for this event and we sincerely thank you for this. You can be assured your business/name gets a good airing during class result announcements and on event entry forms.

The event itself is a great day. We have four arenas in operation

– a horse ring, a pony ring, a training ring for both horse and pony classes, and a show hunter (a style event) ring for horse and pony classes, the latter organised and run by our Club life member and show hunter authority, Maureen Looney. Maureen is one of very few show hunter judges in the province so we consider ourselves very fortunate to have her expertise for this event. There is never a lack of excitement in the arenas, especially as the rails are lifted, the jump-off rounds begin and riders endeavour to keep their jump rails intact and produce the winning time around the course, all the while remembering the correct sequence of jumps. The slightest error can make or break a round.

Although the event is pony club driven, there is usually also a number of adult riders. Their presence adds a little extra fizz to the day and often provides that little extra competition for our younger riders to step up to. One such adult rider is Mathew Grayling who also has a young riding family. Mathew's presence in the ring always attracts interest from the sidelines as our senior riders endeavour to topple the champion. And sometimes they do, often to good natured banter and fanfare from the ropes. But not this year – our senior rider in the ring with Mathew, Lauren Rook, pressed him all the way with only split second separation in the final placings. Perhaps next time.

So, a successful day was had by all. Many thanks to our sponsors, helpers on the day and the organising committee.

G Rook

Results of the Oakura Pony Club Show Jumping

Class 1: Open Horse 100cm – L Moseling, K Barclay, T Gordon, A Sayers

Class 2: Open Horse 105cm: 1st M Grayling, 2nd L Rook, 3rd D Drylie, 4th J Watson

Class 3: Open Horse 110/115cm – 1st M Grayling, 2nd L Rook, 3rd L Quay, 4th J Watson

Class 4: Top Score Horse 100 to 115cm – 1st D Drylie, 2nd R King, 3rd L Rook

Class 5: Open Pony 90cm (Double Clear) – J Aitken (Vanilla), J Aitken (Passendale Poppy), D Wearne, K Allen, T Myers, K Myers, A Brewster

Class 6: Open Pony 100cm – 1st S Holdom, 2nd K Myers, 3rd S Seaver, 4th K Seaver

Class 7: Open Pony 110cm – 1st C Myers, 2nd I Cook and K Mander, C Newton, K Myers

Class 8: Open Pony Top Score – C Myers (Donny) 2nd C Myers (Miss Coruba) 3rd K Myers, 4th C Newton

Class 9: Training Pony 60cm (Double clear) – A Butler, K Mander, A Hinton, L Aitken, L Rook, A Butler, J Knudsen, S Butler, L Mooby, K McLean, K Bolstad, L Williams, K Espin

Class 10: Training Pony 80cm – 1st A Schumacher, 2nd K Mander, 3rd L Aitken, 4th D Martin

Class 11: Training Horse 80cm (Double clear) – H Kerr-Newell, K Crofskey, L Sommers, R King, R Hazzard, V Nagle, J Barnes, J Muggeridge, C Gordon, N Putt, S MacDonald, K Povey, L Howe, K Klemra, K White

Class 12: Training Horse 100cm – 1st J Muggeridge, 2nd N Putt, 3rd S MacDonald, 4th J Barnes

Class 17: Show Hunter Horses – 1st L Quinn, 2nd R Butler, 3rd J Watson, 4th J Muggeridge

Class 18: Show Hunter Rider Under 21 – 1st J Muggeridge, 2nd L Howe, 3rd R Butler, 4th H Kerr-Newell

Class 19: Show Hunter Rider 21 & Over – 1st L Quinn, 2nd V Nagle, 3rd L Sommers, 4th K Jones

Class 20: Show Hunter Ponies (Up to 1375) – 1st A Hinton, 2nd L Williams, 3rd K Espin, 4th J Giltrap

Class 21: Show Hunter Over 1375-1475 – 1st H Trott, 2nd S Everest, 3rd K Mander, 4th A Schumacher

Class 22: Pony Rider Over Jumps – 1st S Everest, 2nd A Hinton, 3rd Z Laing-Aiken, 4th K Bolstad

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Hi Fellow Fishos

I trust you are all getting teed up for the coming warmer weather, dusting off your gear and oiling up your reels. If you're not, then you might just lose out as there are a lot of fish around at the moment.

You may notice that the Oakura Surfcasting Club has changed its name with the addition of "Kayak Fishing". We officially changed it a few weeks ago at a Special AGM, as kayak fishing seems to be growing in popularity and it was thought this might draw in a few more members. The Kayak section of the Club will operate under the same rules and procedures as the surfcasters, but weighable fish per day will be limited.



We recently held a kayak safety course in conjunction with Canoe & Kayak. Those who attended thought it was excellent and there will be another one in the new year, thanks to Canoe & Kayak.

As for the fish being weighed in, there are a lot of kahawai at the moment, especially around Okato and Rahotu areas. Grab your spinners, family and gear and get down to Komene Road – this is a really easy spot to fish and there is sand so it is "kid friendly".

The October Tri Comp held on 16 October saw about 30 fish weighed, most of them snapper (the biggest was 1.6 kg). A really nice trev' was also caught, weighing in at 1.8kg, and a spotty shark won the day's prize, weighing 4.3 kg.

There are a busy few months ahead for our Club as we are off to Tongaporutu for the weekend on 17 November, and will have held the Ali Krutz Memorial Trophy between New Plymouth Surfcasting Club and Oakura Surfcasting Club on Labour weekend. The results will be published in the December issue of *TOM*. We are also having a few "Twilight Fish Togethers". If you are keen to come on one of our Club days, phone one of the contacts below to find out more – we welcome all (women and kids don't be shy!).

Tight lines

Debbie E

Club happenings

November

- 10 November – Twilight Fish Together, Kaihihi Road at 5.30pm (meet there)
- 13 November – Fish Together, meet at Corbett Park at 12 noon
- 18 November – Club trip to Tongaporutu (travelling there on Friday the 17th)

December

- 10 December – Club Christmas function at Corbett Park
- 18 December – Tri Comp, weigh in at 5pm at New Plymouth Club car park, Liardet Street, New Plymouth

Contacts: Gary Harrison 752-7055, Bruce Madgwick 752-7712, Debbie Edgecombe 752-7425, Bruce Howson 758-8528, Merv & Glenda Krutz 06-763-8869, David Politakis 758-8528.

Howzat! Oakura Cricket Club

Since 1971 Oakura has fielded a cricket side, and even two at one stage, in the North Taranaki Cricket Competition. Omata also fielded a side in the heydays (or with farmers in the Club perhaps that should be "haydays") but that Club has long since folded.

Oakura too has had times when we've struggled to field a full eleven players. We are a fourth grade side (fairly social) and have a good core of players, but we often need an extra body or two on a Saturday afternoon. We practice on Wednesdays at 6pm-ish at Corbett Park and anybody, young or old, is welcome to join us for a hit around.

I'm the token old fella in the team but I do hold the bowling cup and I will be there to defend it.

Please feel free to phone the Club Captain, Greg Shearer, on 752 7591 or myself, Les Nairn (better known as Whiskey), on 752 7132.

COME ON GET YOUR ARM OVER OR YOUR BAT IN FRONT OF THE BALL AND PLAY FOR OAKURA!

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London Transport Taranaki Ltd launch "The Big Red Bus"



In recent weeks you may have noticed a big red double-decker bus doing the rounds in New Plymouth and Oakura. It is the newest tourist attraction and charter bus to hit the region and it is thanks to Joe and Jane Goodin.

The 1948 Leyland Titan London bus is one of only 12 left in the world and is the only one of its kind in New Zealand. She serviced the streets of London until 1968 and was then stored until 1993, when she arrived in Wanaka before taking a detour to Ohaupo. Joe and Jane lovingly decked out the interior with the help of "Corrugated Classics" Upholstery of Okato. She boasts all of the original London fittings right down to the authentic 1960s posters and 1940s brass fire extinguisher.

The bus has been blessed by Albie Martin, a local Maori priest, and has been named "Te Ata Rangi or "The Regal Princess". Big Red holds 48 passengers and can be hired by the hour, half day or full day; for weddings, school trips, wine tours and Christmas functions or as a mobile office. There are tables on board with wine glass and bottle holders but Joe is quite clear about her not being a pub crawl bus.

To launch this unique roadster the Goodins invited various tour operators, business people and media aboard for a mystery trip. Hosting the outing was TOM's very own Fiona Washer,



Beautifully decked out inside (or should it be double-decked out), the old Leyland has been given a new lease on life.



"Sorry!, No shampoo till your ticket's been clipped." Conductor Tim and hostess Fiona Washer offer the sort of welcome not often seen "on the buses". Perhaps they should try this in Auckland - it may change the general perception of public transport and solve their congestion woes.

who entertained the guests with a running commentary on local attractions around the tourist mecca of Oakura. It would be fair to say that Big Red attracted universal stares of amazement where ever she went!

It is an extremely pleasant and unique mode of transport that I hope is very successful in New Plymouth. Joe is passionate about the bus and says he loves driving her because she has lots of buttons and levers!

Call or fax Joe or Jane Goodin on 06 753 8102 or 027 688 5372 for more details.

By Kim Ferens

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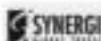
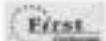


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Oakura Tennis Club



Hussey Street courts.

Before there ever was a tennis club in Oakura, locals played tennis on the single tennis court on Jans Terrace. The court was eventually bulldozed to make room for more campsites and two replacement courts were built on the Linda Street site.

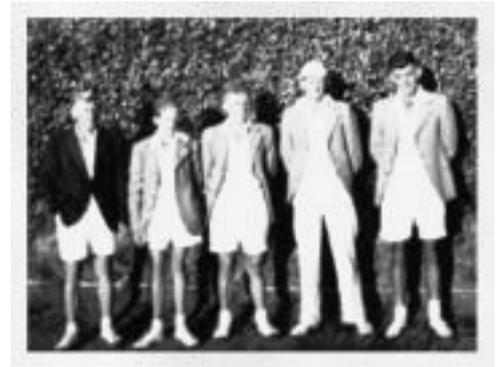
The Oakura Tennis Club began in August 1933 with two courts laid down on an old redoubt in Hussey Street. A temporary pavilion was erected on land near the school. When the land was sold, the Club went into recession and the funds were put into trust.

Records show the Tennis Club in action again in 1956 using the Linda Street courts. The Tennis Club leased and operated these from the Council. By 1985 the Club had outgrown these two courts. A clubhouse was needed and there was not enough room at the Linda Street site. \$80,000 was available from the trust fund and in a joint effort between the New Plymouth District Council, the Ministry of Education, TSB Community Trust, the Oakura Tennis Club and the Development Levy Fund, agreement was reached giving the Club the funds and a 25-year renewable lease to occupy the school grounds. Under the agreement the Club had to redevelop and extend the existing school field. Four courts were built: two hard courts that are available for school use and two Astroturf courts for Club use.

In 1993 a 75-square metre clubroom was built by Taranaki Polytechnic students and moved onto the site. At this time 30 families belonged to the Club, with a total of 100 members. Over the years the membership has surged and waned with about 20 families in the 1950s, 30 families in the 1960s and in the 1970s membership dropped off. Subscriptions cost \$1 per member.



Bill Grey and Doug Harvey.



Rod Smith, Monty Shearer, Mike Jans, Doug Harvey, Bill Grey.

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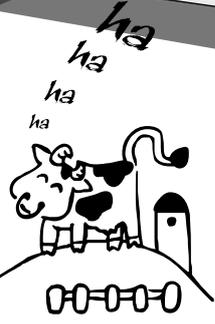
Name: Amy Benton
Age: 8
School: Oakura School, Year 3
Teacher: Mr Laird
My favourite things
Food: Burritos, pancakes, pikelets, scones
Activity: Tenpin bowling, hanging out at the aquatic centre, dancing
Game/sport: Soccer
Movie: Scooby Doo
Book: The Saddle Club's Hobbyhorse
Best friends: Olivia Thame, Molly, Lucy, Aleesha, Meyer, Corey, Bailey
 When I grow up I'm going to be... A dancing teacher

A fully grown Blue Whale can weigh as much as 30 elephants and be as long as three Okato buses

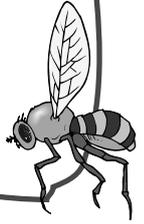
What do you get if you cross an owl with a skunk?
 A bird that stinks, but doesn't give a hoot!

What happens if you go under a cow?
 You get a "pat" on the head.

FROM MONTY ANDERSON



Little Jack Horner,
 Stood in the corner,
 Wearing a dunce's cap.
 'Cos after eating his pie
 He felt droopy of eye,
 So in class he took a wee nap.



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14 French Street, New Plymouth

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15A Leatham Ave, Merrilands - 3 bedroom, 2 lounges affordable for great location.

Oakura - Too new to photograph. Modern near new 3 bedroom home. Fabulous unobstructed views of the sea and mountain, great bush views.

Oakura - Too new to photograph 5 Bedroom, 2 living areas +, 2 bathrooms, private and sheltered. 270m² floor area plus 100m² approx of decks. Views.

3 Whakawhiti St, NP - First home buyers/Investors 3 bdrm sunny home, polished floors, private sheltered section. offers over \$225,000

Oakura Sections - Preliminary Notice of Tender, mostly flat with views of sea and Kaitakes.

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