

# TOM oakura

NOVEMBER 2010

## Another desert, another local woman conquers it

This month we begin the epic adventure story of a local Omata woman Megan Stewart, whose triumph in the backside of the desert makes a truly inspiring and compelling read. The story starts on page 14 and concludes in next month's issue.



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## from the TOM zone

Well, isn't the cashflow machine in Oakura the busiest place? Cars are nearly queuing down the road and you can have a good old catch up on the gossip as you wait in line. Not bad for a cashless society and when you think about it, we shouldn't even need cash — not with the plastic fantastic ready to be swiped at every opportunity.



Soon we will be doing it at the Strawberry Shack!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Labour weekend break with its fabulous weather. There were certainly a lot of visitors to the region and I am glad we could show off our assets to their true potential. I frequently came across people photographing the mountain. We take it for granted really — that if we don't see it today, we'll see it tomorrow. I have had visitors from other parts of New Zealand who go away from here having not seen the big rock, who are very disappointed so at least we turned it on for the weekend.

Recently I have had many reports of vandalism and theft in and around Oakura village — what is the problem? Reports of gangs of young people roaming around getting into trouble — do these young people need something to do? There is plenty of rubbish to be picked up along the road side!

Kim

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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## Mayor Harry



### Hello everyone

Well, I've had a few weeks to get used to wearing the Mayoral chains, but I'm still coming to grips with this new role!

One thing I am particularly enjoying is getting to meet various people in the community and listening to their ideas and opinions about what they think is important for the next three years in New Plymouth District.

Listening to the community is a very important part of being an elected representative in local government, and I hope you take the opportunities that come up to be involved in formal submission processes. I'd also like you to drop me a line or phone me if you just want to chat about what is happening in your area.

We have a very busy three years ahead of us as we continue the work to make sure that New Plymouth District is an affordable and attractive place to live, work and play. This will require the input of everyone: councillors, community board members, residents, businesses, community groups ... anyone who chooses to call New Plymouth District home, and wants to help keep it a great part of New Zealand!

We all have a part to play in keeping our district moving forward and I hope you're as eager as I am to see what we can achieve. While each electoral term is for three years, the progress we make today will also benefit future generations of residents who will be lucky enough to live in this great district.

So, are you ready to get involved?

Harry Duynhoven, Mayor





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# Putting more money in your pocket

The recent Labour conference was strong on rhetoric but weak on facts concerning the economy. Phil Goff is plainly wrong when he says that New Zealanders are better under Labour. When Labour left office the economy was already in recession with annual inflation at 5.1% with no compensation for anyone — and real after-tax wages were falling. In Labour's nine years in office real after-tax wages (including the effect of inflation) rose only 3%. Under the National led Government annual inflation was just 1.5% in the year to September — the lowest inflation rate in more than six years — and the increase in real after-tax wages (including the effect of inflation) after just two years has been 9%.

Even taking the rise in GST into account, the average family is about \$25 a week better off than they were before 1 October. Someone on the average wage is almost \$15 a week better off. New Zealand Superannuation, Working for Families, and benefit payments increased by 2.02% as at 14 October to compensate for the rise in GST. Now 75% of taxpayers pay only 17.5% income tax.

Across the board tax cuts will encourage people to get more skills and seek better-paying jobs. They will reward effort and help attract and retain skilled people here in New Zealand. Labour on the other hand stands for tax increases, higher debt and looser controls over inflation, which only leaves hard-working Kiwis worse off. Phil Goff talked about lifting tax and bringing in a Capital Gains tax on everything except the family home — that means if you own a farm and sell it, you'll be taxed on the capital gain. Oh yes, Phil Goff says if you ask to sell your farm to an overseas buyer, the default answer is No. I guess that means under Labour, you wouldn't really fully own your farm — we know what that's called!

Back to tax cuts. These are part of National's major reform of the tax system — one part of our plan to build the recovery. We're working to tilt the economy towards productive investment, savings, and exports, and away from consumption, borrowing, and unsustainable government spending.

The Government's financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2010, released in October, show the Crown's finances are broadly in line with forecasts published in the Budget in May. Compared with the previous year, government spending was the same but revenue was down and so debt increased. This reinforces the need for us to stick with our broad-based economic programme to contain debt, keep finance costs down, and return the Government's books to surplus as soon as possible.

Early signs are encouraging. Households are starting to reduce borrowing and inject income into homes and saving. Last year alone that equity injection was worth \$5 billion. This reverses the trend seen between 2003 and 2008 where households were borrowing to boost their disposable income.

This new trend shows that New Zealanders understand the need to rebalance the economy away from debt and spending, and towards savings and investment. While this is challenging for retailers and domestic industries in the short-term, it is better for the economy in the medium- to long-term.

National is firmly focused on lifting New Zealand's long-term economic growth. We are working hard to provide New Zealanders and their families with the financial security, opportunities, and higher incomes they need for a brighter future. The 1 October personal tax cuts are just one step towards that goal.

Jonathan Young, MP

## Jonathan Young



MP for  
New Plymouth



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# Kaitake Community Board

## Greetings

Well the elections have come and gone and your new Kaitake Community Board (KCB) has been sworn in. A warm and sincere welcome to Teresa Goodin who has now joined the team as the 'Okato rep.' Unfortunately someone had to miss out in the election and that someone was Al Rawlinson. I wish to place on record the superb and unstinting job Al did for the community during the past three years. During his tenure we managed to get a range of issues attended to on the beachfront, due in no small way to the role he played in the ongoing conversations, negotiations and decision-making. He made his mark in other areas too. We wish Al and Jan all the best as they work through their new terms of engagement at the Beach Camp. We hope they have a profitable summer season and many more to follow.

As I write this I can categorically state summer has definitely arrived — I just hope that by the time you get to read this it will be well and truly entrenched. While the elections slowed much KCB activity down for a month or two, things are beginning to gain momentum again. Here are some of the recent happenings. The revamp of the Linda Street tennis courts in Oakura is now complete. The surface cracks have been patched and new netting has been put up. We hope that local residents and visitors enjoy many hours playing time over the summer as a result.

The reinstatement of the Keyhole Reserve on Tasman Parade has been completed and provides the Parks team with access to begin replanting of the Waimoku Stream banks when practical. Construction of the replacement lean-to on the beach camp building grounds will be completed shortly.

Council has approved a variation to the lease held by New Plymouth Old Boys Swimming and Surf Club (NPOB) to include the footprint of a proposed new deck, a 1m wide belt around the deck for landscaping, and a grassed area to the south of the proposed deck. The area is immediately adjacent to the east wall of the current building and comprises approximately 84 square metres. It is subject to a number of conditions but will enable the Club to erect a deck for extra Club activities.

Waimoku Stream issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of officialdom and new signage is to be erected shortly. A new recycling station is to be set up in the middle of the beachfront too.

Blue Flag season opening is also nearly upon us. NPOB doesn't start its patrols until later on so swimmers need to be very aware of the sea conditions before entering the water. It was heart warming to read of young Emma Wilson's quick and intelligent

action that helped avert a possible tragedy on the beachfront during Labour Weekend. Very well done indeed, Emma. You are a credit to yourself and your family and an inspiration to everyone here in the village.

On another serious note (although more negative), the KCB is receiving complaints from residents about an ongoing problem with motorcycle 'hoons' on the beach. As one resident puts it, "Nothing destroys the implacable tranquillity of our special piece of semi-wilderness quite as quickly as the noisy intrusions of motorbikes. And it is not as if it is a single burst of industrial strength racket. On a calm day, which motorcyclists seem prefer just as much as the rest of us, one can hear their machines continuously from the Ahu Ahu point to Corbett Park. It should also be noted that their presence on the beach alters the behaviour of other beach users. Widely spread casual strollers group together, carers call children to their sides, carefree walkers are obliged to continuously monitor the whereabouts of the machinery, and on some occasions, people simply depart the beach altogether."

Parents seem to think the beach is a nice safe place for their children to ride motorcycles and mini-quads. Other teenagers view riding on the beach as a quick route to their favourite surf break. However, for those who do transgress, it should be emphasised that a Council Bylaw controls beach activity. Bylaws are rules or regulations that are created to control specific activities within New Plymouth District and are there to help ensure that our community is safe, healthy and vibrant.

In this instance the bylaw that applies is: Beach Access — "No person may drive a vehicle on Oakura Beach—including those areas of beach and foreshore located between the Weld Road River mouth to the west and the Tapuae River mouth to the east."

This bylaw doesn't apply to lifesaving vehicles and other services such as ambulance and police and the public is entitled to take a boat down for launching as long as they do not leave their vehicle parked on the beach. And to be honest it has never concerned locals too much when the law has been casually stretched a bit over the years. However it would be a real shame if, due to the actions of an ignorant and selfish few, the rules needed to be tightly adhered to this summer. Enough said on the subject.

Finally the KCB has started a Facebook page so all you FB social networking fiends out there will be able to access the latest and the greatest about the Board and its activities.

Ka kite ano

Doug Hislop (06-752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer, Mike Pillette, Teresa Goodin and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson, who is the Council representative on the KCB.

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# Update from the Big Red Truck

## Spring greetings from all at the Big Red Truck,

Wow, we finally held our annual Toughest Firefighter competition on Saturday, 16 October. It was a great day for the competition with a lot more brigades than normal. The times of the competitors are getting quicker every year. This year, three competitors beat the 2-minute mark. Big thanks to Dave Rielly and his team of helpers for the day. A huge thanks to our sponsors, without whose help the day would not happen.

On a more serious note, a week or so ago our brigade was called out at 2.30am to a beach fire at Oakura River (Corbett Park). It was a pretty big fire and had the potential to be even bigger. There is a lot of dry wood alongside the river at the moment. If you are going to have a bonfire, please always ensure the fire is out before you leave. Use the water from the river to help put out the fire. We were very lucky that on the night concerned there was very little wind.

As the weather warms up be careful with barbeques, vegetation fires, etc. Make sure a hose is handy should you be lighting any fires. Be aware of the smoke and its impact on neighbours should you light a fire for a burn-off. Make sure you are considerate of others at all times.

### Some BBQ Fire Safety tips:

*Check the condition of your gas cylinder and ensure it is within test date (every 10 years).*

*Cleaning, maintenance and regular safety inspections must be part of your summer barbecuing routine.*

*Keep children away from the barbecue.*

*Always have a fire extinguisher, baking soda, and water available to put out a fire.*

*Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting the gas cylinder to the barbecue.*

*Check condition of hoses and 'O'-ring (if applicable). Check for leaks after connection.*

*Light the BBQ as soon as gas is turned on. Never try and light it with the lid down.*

*Ensure valves are fully open or fully closed.*

*Prevent grease from dripping onto the hoses or cylinder. Grease build-up could be a potential fire hazard.*

*Ensure all valves are turned off when barbecue is not in use.*

*All the best and stay safe,*

*Mel Breeze (Sec)*



*Deputy Chief Fire Officer David Rielly getting some help from wannabe Jonathon Whitehead!*



*Mike Dunn sprints with the hose.*

### Toughest fire fighter competition. Photos by Rosie Moyes.



*Greg Newton aims high...*



*... Tran Lawrence gets high.*



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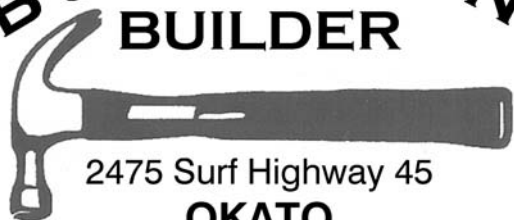


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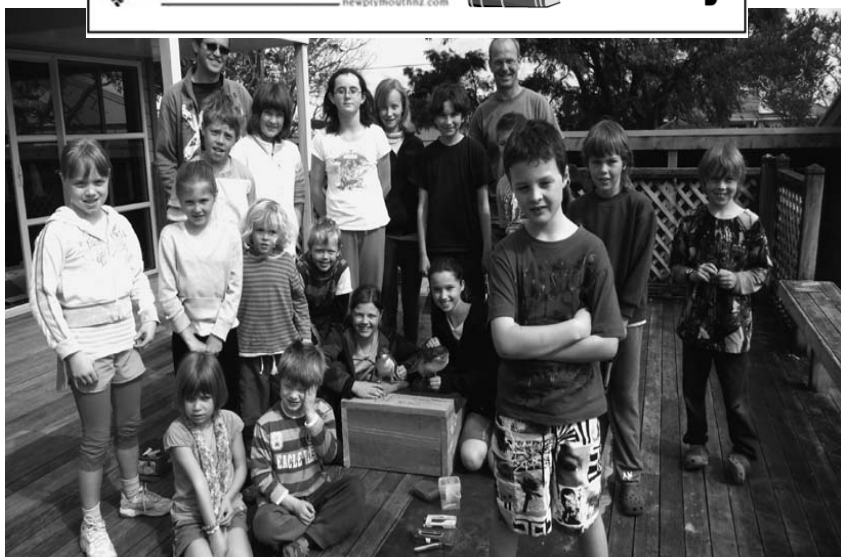
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It is great to have longer evenings and hopefully sunny weather, sun umbrellas and meals outdoors.

We were fortunate to have local Mark Meyburg visit us at the library for a school holiday activity. He is researching the blue penguin and is observing populations on Taranaki beaches. Mark is very interested in sightings in the region, be it penguins or simply their footprints. Visit his website at [www.taranaki-penguins.blogspot.com](http://www.taranaki-penguins.blogspot.com).

Mark has helped with the construction and placement of penguin boxes for nesting purposes at Port Taranaki and Oakura. He told the children that penguins would normally burrow a home, but they are quite happy to move into a readymade home. He shared a lot of information, and camera footage of inside a penguin nesting box. He then helped the children to build boxes that would join others already at Port Taranaki.

Above is a photo of Mark with Rowan Oldfield and some of the children involved in making the boxes. A big thank you to Mark for taking the time to talk to us, we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

At Oakura Library we have a wide range of new books for children on sea

mammals and wildlife, including *I am a Penguin*, *I am a Seal*, and *I am a Dolphin*. Also new to the library is *Bindi's Wildlife Adventure* series (daughter of the late Steve Irwin).

For those looking for recipes for easy summer meals or just something different, the library has many different books including *Sizzle: sensational barbecue food* by Julie Biuso, and *Bake, Cook and Slow* by Allyson Gofton.

New deckchair reading includes the new James Patterson book *Don't Blink, Worth Dying For* (Lee Child), *The Killing Place* (Tess Gerritsen), and *Minding Frankie* (Maeve Binchy).

Happy reading,

Karen and Vincenza

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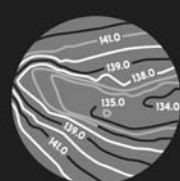
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**Lawns:**  
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## Kaitake Golf Club

### Greetings

The days are getting longer, the weather is improving, the temperatures are climbing and the golf courses are getting busier. Yes, it's that time of year when the more casual golfers among us decide to spend a little more time on the course. And why wouldn't you? For a lot of people the commitment of a full playing sub is too much and the option of paying green fees each time you play is more suitable. Kaitake Golf Club welcomes green fee players. For those players who don't play a lot or even those who haven't played before, the course offers easy walking, less daunting conditions than other golf courses, and on summer weekends there are often high numbers out enjoying the walk and the challenge. So those of you who haven't yet graced Kaitake's fairways, come along and join the growing numbers who do. Who knows, you might get the bug!

### Coaching

If you would like a little coaching before you decide to play, then come along to our Give Golf A Go Day on Sunday, 28 November at 9.30am. Taranaki Golf Association's teaching professional, John Garner, is visiting us again to give some tips to those people getting started in the game or those who have never tried before and would like to know a bit about it. We have held a couple of these days before; they have been well patronised and all who attended enjoyed their time. This day is open to all beginners and novices, and we would like to focus more on the adults this time around as we have other coaching days set aside for the kids. That said, if the kids really want to be there then by all means bring them along.

### Kids/Junior Coaching

We had our first coaching session for under-16 year olds recently. There were 22 enthusiastic kids and juniors there, all listening attentively to what coach Dominic Barson had to tell them. Dominic is an excellent teaching pro and is very good with the kids. As 22 is a large group to teach at once, Dominic is going to split them into age groups next month so all the kids will get more one-on-one time. Our next coaching session for the youngsters will be Sunday, 5 December at 9.30am so if your kids missed out on the session,

then bring them along to the next one. All kids under 16 years old are welcome. Look out for the flyer in your letter box or the school and OJSC newsletters.

### Recent Results

Both the Midweek Ladies and Weekend Ladies have now completed their club championships. For the Midweek Ladies the silver division was won by Faye Rowe, with Robyn Robbins the runner-up. Margeret Muir took out the Bronze 1 division by accounting for Jacky



*Junior coaching session with Dominic Barson.*

Prater in the final, and Helen White reigned supreme in the Bronze 2 division over Marie Benton.

For the Weekend Ladies June Neale is the 2010 Silver Champion, with Jan Davies runner-up. Lois Agnew won a hard fought battle over Janice Farrant in the Bronze 1 division.

A special mention must go to Jo West, our 9 Hole Ladies Champion, who went on to win the Taranaki Champion of Champions for 9 holers. Well done Jo, a top effort. It is always pleasing to see our players excelling in the wider field.

Well folks, that's all for now so until next month, Happy Golfing.  
*Ross Benton*



## Seafood Festival coming to Oakura

Fishing is starting to pick up in between weather fronts, with Peter Florence landing a 25lb snapper recently. Lots of gurnard and snapper have been caught from the port area of New Plymouth.

Mid October was the annual Ali Krutze Trophy competition between Oakura and New Plymouth Surfcasting Clubs. For the sixth year Oakura held on to the trophy — although no fish were caught in the terrible weather, as the title holders we retain the trophy.

The Kayak Classic and Oakura Seafood Festival takes place on 26 and 27 March for the fifth year at Butlers Reef. Note the new addition of "Seafood Festival" — an exciting new facet that will help entertain locals, participants and visitors alike. This will include the fish auction to raise funds for Coastguard Taranaki, sushi-making demos, cooking demos and filleting demos, and all fish purchased can be filleted professionally by Egmont Seafoods. The prize pool has increased again and the major draw prize will be for the average weight snapper.

Any local suppliers and producers that would like to be involved should contact Garry at [harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz) or Tania at Butlers Reef.

A new prize for the next year is a three day fishing trip from Coromandel to Great Barrier, and once again Oakura Travel is putting up a major travel prize.

Next month Club Day competitions start, with gold coin entry and prizes for kayaks and surfcasting. Phone Garry on 06-752 7055 for more info or email [harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:harri1fam@vodafone.co.nz).

*Garry Harrison*

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# Oakura Pony Club News

Oakura Pony Club held its annual fundraiser, Jumping Day, at the Waitara Pony Club grounds on Sunday, 24 October (Labour Weekend). We had originally scheduled the event for 25 September but the grounds were too wet to hold it at that time. Labour Weekend Sunday, however, was an exceptionally beautiful sunny day with no wind, so we were very fortunate to have a huge turnout, with well over 100 horses competing in the hacks, ponies, introductory, and handy hunter rings.

The day requires a lot of effort from Oakura Pony Club riders and their parents, from the taking of entries, to loading and unloading jumps from Oakura to Waitara, setting them up in the four rings, feeding the judges, making sure people are parked in the right place and jumping in the right rings, giving out prizes, picking up poles, picking up riders that fall off their ponies, and cooking sausages for the sausage sizzle. Then, of course, we have to take all the jumps down again, put some away and cart some back to Oakura! It's a full weekend, and we are so thankful to all our parents and even some past members (thanks Claire, Kelsey and Zoe!) who gave so much time to help out. We all had so much fun.

Many of our Oakura riders were successful on the day, of note were Anna Hinton who came first in the Hacks 1.10m and fifth in the 1.15m; Bronte Alder who came sixth in the Hacks 1.0m and 1.10m; Jordan Giltrap who came first in the Ponies 60cm, second in the 70cm, fifth in the 1.0m and fourth in the 1.05m; Paige Mackay who came fourth in the Ponies 60cm and third in the Handy Hunter; Georgia Ferris who came fifth in the Ponies 90cm and first in the Handy Hunter.

Of course, organising an event of this size also requires money to set up, for ribbons, prize money, hiring the grounds and food. This year we were very fortunate to have sponsorship in both money and prizes, which we were able to put into a raffle on the day. Some of these sponsors have been sponsoring Oakura Pony Club for a number of years, and we are just so blown-away by their willingness to keep helping us. It is this money that enables us to maintain our arena, shed and grounds, and to keep adding to our jumps and other equipment. Thank you so much to Hareb Deken Motors Ltd, Symond Transport Ltd, Oakura Beach Holiday Park, The Oakura Village Café, The Oakura Magazine (TOM), Oakura Pharmacy, The Tack Shack, Fibre Fresh, New Plymouth Vet Group, La Nuova Drycleaners, Jock Good the Friendly Farrier, and Snickerdoodle Bake Shop.

By Diane Alder



Anna Hinton riding Sexy B at the Oakura Pony Club Jumping Day.



Bronte Alder riding Abby Caddaby at the Oakura Pony Club Jumping Day.

## Gold for Quinn

Omata School student Quinn Steen (10 years) is the proud recipient of an inline hockey gold medal he won at the National Inline Hockey Championships in Wanganui in the last school holidays for the local Ravens club.

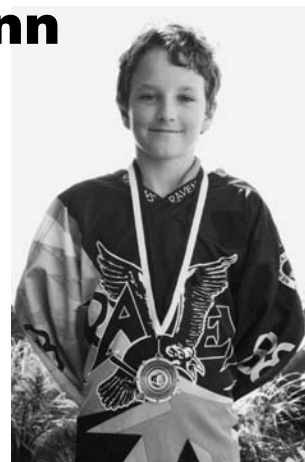
The top teams from each region compete against each other in each age group to ascertain the top three teams in the country. Quinn competed in the under 12 division and played against the Wellington Penguins, the Hamilton Devils, the Levin Jackals, the Northland Stingrays and the Auckland Panthers. Quinn's team lost one game, tied one game and won the rest. The New Plymouth Ravens faced the Auckland Panthers in the final and Quinn says they 'thrashed' them 10 to 3.

The under 12 team is coached by teenager Rachael Neville-Lamb who was also competing herself at the National competition in the senior women team. The under 12 victory was her first gold medal as a coach.

Quinn says he really enjoyed Nationals and he got lots of game time and especially in the final. It was all very tense though, until the final whistle went when the whole team yahooped and celebrated with a victory lap. He plays in defence and says his skill is his fast skating and keeping the puck away from the goal. Quinn has played inline hockey since he was seven years old for Omata School and got interested in the sport through his big brother Auron who used to play school league for Spotswood College. Last year Quinn joined the Ravens and was a member of the under 12's second team for the season competing in the central region league. Following a retriál, Quinn got selected to play in the under 12's top team and made it to his first National competition.

Well done Quinn.

By Kim Ferens



Quinn Steen proudly wearing his gold medal.



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## GETTING WET!



### NPOB's is where the fun starts!

The surf lifesaving season is winding up again. New Plymouth Old Boys Surf Club held its Open Day on 7 November. If you couldn't attend the Open Day, no sweat, turn up on Sundays from 10am, come see Anthony North and join in. Junior surf age groups include under-7 year old Nip Nips, 7-9 year old Nippers, 10-11 year old Rookies, and 12-13 year old Cadets.

We have a wide range of activities, rain or shine. Parents, be assured that your child will be getting a variety of surf safety tips to keep them and their friends safe this summer while enjoying physical activity. No matter their age, your child's involvement is really important as they learn about the beach as a playground, while learning essential skills and safety.

Our junior surf involves beach sprints/relays, beach flags, wading run/swim/run, and body surfing. We encourage swimming with buddies and looking out for one another in all these activities (this is one of our beach education rules). Reaching Rookies and Cadets, they work on better knowledge of the surf, use paddle boards, and surf activities including surf swims are introduced (with experienced lifeguards watching in support as they swim by).

Hey kids! If you're really keen there are opportunities to race each other with four local carnivals during the summer! Meeting with children your own age from different clubs around the region, you also have the option of travelling over to the East Coast to Mount Manganui for Ocean Athletes every year for the Rookies and Cadets.

All these activities have the potential for children to become role models for their community and reach their goal to become a lifeguard (if they wish). They can compete for our Club, which has a strong history of NZ team members, representatives and great family support.

Last year the Junior Surf Awards were established, which are for all age groups, except Nip Nips. These awards are age orientated and the older the child, the more challenging the awards. They include theory and practical components, and help with surf sense and surf confidence, as well as lifeguarding skills.

Parents and family are more than welcome to get involved in any way, from helping with the sausage sizzle, to helping the coach, giving technical advice, encouraging the kids to compete, or getting involved. This could be anything from standing in the water and letting them run around you, to getting in running/swimming or board riding with the kids.

Bursting with energy or new to the water with no experience, your children and many parents will learn something new that you can keep with you for your future beach-going experience here in Oakura or travelling overseas.

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### Oakura Boardriders

I heard on the radio the other day that we are a nation that always talks about the weather. Of course this revelation is not new and for many surfing, windsurfing, skiing, snowboarding and fishing households in Oakura, what's happening and what is about to happen with the weather, dominates daily life! So discussions about the weather over this Labour Weekend saw us reminiscing about Labour Weekends of the distant past where the sun always shone and cold, southerly winds were only experienced where they should belong, in the winter months!

Thankfully the weather not only put smiles on our faces but it also enabled us to enjoy all those wonderful assets that the Taranaki environment provides us with. On Saturday, the three male members of my family, along with friends from the Stratford Mountain Club, climbed to the summit of our mountain then skied and snowboarded down in soft, forgiving snow under a clear, blue sky. There were also some great waves to be had, especially on the Sunday, and from my kitchen window overlooking Weld Road, I counted 11 paddle surfers enjoying the glassy conditions in the early evening.

Labour Weekend is a perfect weekend for holding surfing competitions and in the province there was the Del Festival of Longboarding, the Opunake Kneeboarding Surfing Classic and the Taranaki Wave Sailing Classic.

Brian Clark, a member of our committee, competed in the Longboarding Festival and he told me that with the sun and the 2-3 foot waves at Fitzroy Beach it was ideal for surfing. The comp, which is in its third year, is hosted by the New Plymouth Surfriders Club and is a celebration of the traditional style of longboard surfing. There were about 35 males and one female from all over New Zealand taking part. Brian, who usually wins the over-50 division, had to settle for third place this year. He says that he went into the final very tired because that was the third event he had surfed in a row! Prior to the final of the over-50's, he just missed out on a place in the finals of the Open division. What a fantastic representative of our club Brian is!



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*The 2010 Scholastic team which finished a creditable second place.*

Unfortunately to date I haven't been able to catch up with the kneeboarding in Opunake but I'm sure there's been coverage in the local papers. After all the wind that was blowing leading up to the long weekend it was disappointing for the windsurfers that they only got about half a day to show their wave sailing skills before the wind dropped!

Further north up the coast the Auahi Kore Aotearoa Maori Titles was taking place in Raglan. There was a real battle for the open title between two Ngati Toa competitors, Tim O'Connor and Leon Santorik. Tim managed to just take the crown in clean 1m waves, under a blazing sun at Manu Bay, watched by a crowd of spectators that filled the natural amphitheatre. Jessica Santorik, also of Ngati Toa, won the Open Women's event.

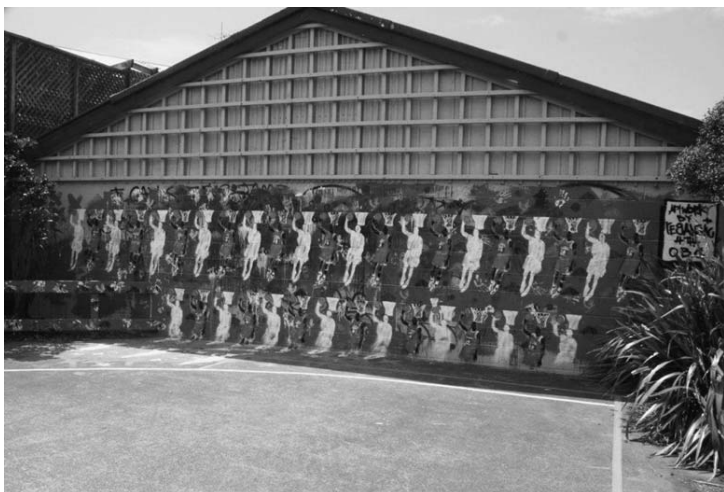
The Taranaki Secondary Schools Scholastics team competed in the annual competition held in Gisborne over the October school holidays. All the surfers performed exceptionally well, coming a very close second out of 11 teams. Two surfers won their divisions: Waitara surfer, Te Rapai Barbarich-Love, won the under-14 division, while New Plymouth surfer, Sean Kettle, won the under-16 division. Sisters Casey and Eloise Stevens, members of our Club, were on the team and certainly did us proud. Brian Kettle, the team manager said, "We will be back next year with the title in the bag."

Hopefully when that happens next year, we of the OBC will be the proud owners of our clubrooms. Negotiations have begun and the New Plymouth District Council is considering us purchasing the whole building, including the changing rooms. We have our new committee member, lawyer Adam Thame, on the case!

Don't forget the clubrooms are open on Friday nights for a drink, barbecue, music and if people are keen, a half-court basketball match. And with Christmas approaching there's still a selection of T-shirts available for sale at the clubrooms. They make ideal presents!

Continue to enjoy the weather!

*Philippa Butt*



*Some of the new artwork at the Boardriders' clubrooms.*

## Paige runner up at World Surfing Games

Paige Hareb has placed runner up at the Billabong ISA World Surfing Games helping the Quiksilver New Zealand Surfing Team to place seventh overall at the event staged at Punta Hermosa, Peru.

The result is the best ever achieved by a New Zealand female surfer at the event and equals that of Lynden Kennings (WGM) in the Longboard Division in 1994.

Paige surfed once on day eight of the event to progress through to the grand final where she faced eventual winner Chelsea Hedges (AUS), Sofia Mulanovich (PER) and Pauline Ado (FRA) in the 25-minute-final.

Paige started with waves of 4.5 and then 5.33 (out of a possible 10) before stamping her authority on the final and moving into the lead with a brilliant 7.83 point ride.

Her best ride of the final included three big seamless forehand turns and the lead was hers with twelve minutes remaining. From this point on the final was a tense wait for waves and missed opportunities. Local surfer and crowd favourite Sofia Mulanovich was one of those who failed to use her knowledge of the break and find the best waves of the final.

Paige held strong trying to improve her lowest scoring ride of 5.33 but came up short with a 5.20 in the latter stages of the final. Meanwhile Hedges fell on one wave and got caught behind another to remain in second place hunting out a 5.17 point ride for gold.

Five minutes remaining and Paige was still in first. The pressure was building but she held strong out the back of the break and on the inside of Hedges meaning the next best wave would be hers.

With two minutes remaining, Hedges needed a 4.17 for the win. A set of good waves rolled down the point. Paige took the first wave and surfed it for a score of 6.77 points - improving her lead and making Hedges require a 5.6 for the lead. However, Hedges was on the very next wave weaving her way to the beach with a series of big turns for an 8.0 point ride, dashing Paige's golden aspirations.

*By Ben Kennings*



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## cover story Conquering the desert



Megan Stewart was back in New Zealand less than a week when I caught up with her at her home in Omata. She had just returned from the Sahara Desert, where she ran an endurance race of 250km in just 63 hours. An astonishing feat in anyone's terms but even more so when she tells me that, although she had done some 100km walks and hard tramps, she didn't begin running until the start of 2009.

It was last year when Megan was chief pacer, paramedic and crew boss for Lisa Tamati's Death Valley run that the thought came to her that she would possibly like to try something similar. The seed was sown, so on her return to NZ she set about training to see if she was up to the challenge of competing in a desert race. Megan goes on to explain, "I researched the Racing the Planet website at every opportunity to see if I could do it and once I realised I could, I knew I had to do it. I wouldn't say it was a 'calling' but I knew that if I was going to do something like this I had to do it now or I may never."

Once the decision was made, and with the support of her family, Megan's training schedule stepped up. This is a race that requires

specific training like gym work while carrying a heavy pack, beach running and sand dune running, as well as sauna training to prepare for the extreme temperatures competitors encounter in the desert. As well as physical preparation, the list of mandatory equipment is comprehensive and the gear needs to be top quality, light, well tested and user friendly. Competitors carry all their own food, water and other equipment and everything is checked by race organisers before they race. They are required to have 2000 calories of food per day and if they can't prove that they have that amount they aren't allowed to race. Megan's pack when racing weighed 11.5kg with her water allowances. It's an expensive sport, with entry fees alone being US\$3000, but part of this entry fee goes towards Operation Smile, a charity that helps under privileged children with issues such as cleft palate, which without Operation Smile funding would remain untreated. The competitors also have to fundraise for an organisation that they nominate.

The fact that the race was doing good for others was definitely a draw card for Megan who says, "I liked that it wasn't all about me." Megan's nominated organisation was Taranaki Search and Rescue, and although she didn't have a lot of time to fundraise she did successfully raise awareness about the fantastic job that Search and Rescue does, such as the man hours put in. In 2009/10 there were 1086 hours devoted to search operation and a huge total of 2427 man hours overall for that period.

With physical and practical preparations completed, Megan left for Cairo a week before the race to complete a Sinai Desert Adventure Tour. This was an intrepid journey in every sense of the word and would, she says "take me out of my comfort zone and prepare me mentally for the race."

With just an Egyptian guide and a Bedouin driver (the son of a sheik with the largest Bedouin tribe), the trio explored parts of the Sinai that Megan says other travellers would just never see. It wasn't all smooth sailing, however, and as they travelled closer to the Iraqi border the frequent security checkpoints became more intense and intimidating. It seemed a European woman travelling alone with



the guide and driver raised many suspicions that she was either a hostage or someone who was going to cause some sort of unrest. To that end they would be ordered out of the jeep, passports taken and guns trained at their heads. She goes on to say, "There were many times I was literally pinching myself and thinking am I really going through this?" Interestingly, though, she says she never really felt unsafe at any time during the Sinai adventure. There were many high points, like seeing 13th Dynasty hieroglyphics on rock walls and going to sleep under the desert stars on their first night. The



children they met were also fantastic and although they had nothing in terms of possessions were, "Just so happy," says Megan.

After the Sinai adventure it was back to Sharm el Sheikh, a tourist resort on the Sinai Peninsula. Around this town it wasn't safe to walk alone and more than once Megan had to seek refuge in a hotel reception to get rid of people following her. Whilst staying here Megan realised she hadn't really prepared for the security aspect of travelling on her own here, and although the experience helped prepare her mentally, she was glad to collect Lisa Tamati from the airport and head to the race headquarters in Cairo.

Here they met the other 157 competitors from 35 different nations around the world. The Sahara race is a Racing the Planet endurance event and is one of four in the Desert Series that includes The Atacama Crossing, The Gobi March, The Last Desert Antarctica, and the Sahara.

By Jackie Tomlinson

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# Gardening

## TOM Garden of the Month

I would like to say thank you to Gill and Ian Gibbon for a lovely Sunday morning spent strolling around their garden and drinking coffee. Gill, Ian and Michael with Tess and Alfie, the two black labradors, moved here from Fife, Scotland four years ago.

"We were so lucky," Gill says, "we have just maintained the garden and adjusted it to our family needs." The garden is a mass of colour from rhododendrons and azaleas to the amazing foliage of Japanese floating cloud maple with its powder pink leaves. Gill considers colour while planting, using complementary colours or opposites and reflecting this in hanging baskets or foliage. She accredits a lot of her creative inspiration to her father who taught her that from every window you should focus on a beautiful plant or colour. Gill and Ian like to maintain the natural feel of the garden, letting nature take its course, and use companion planting to attract wildlife or deter unwanted guests for the variety of fruiting trees such as grapefruit, tamarillos and feijoas. Gill and Ian maintain a chemical-free policy.

One of the things they love about the garden is the variety of native trees, which includes kowhai, puriri, native beech and even one of the oldest species of tree in the world, a ginkgo tree. They explain that an arborist has taken out some lower level branches from the puriri trees to raise the leaf level, leaving the canopy the same. This has allowed a lot more light to ground level and they have been able to underplant with shade resistant plants such as hostas. The puriri trees attract the birds: tuis, bellbirds and kereru. Some even get 'high' on the berries, Gill laughs, "It's so funny to watch!"

What next? Well, they plan to tackle a new organic veggie garden with plenty of room for composting, and an area for chickens.

Whilst writing this I do not feel I am able to describe the gardens' remarkable colours and textures adequately. It is an amazing haven of natural beauty, and one that Gill and Ian work in harmony with nature to maintain.

Thanks to Fairfield Garden Centre Gill and Ian are recipients of a \$10 gardening token.

By Rosie Moyes



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## Arthouse News

### Ticket Take Goes to Protecting the Sea!

Arthouse brings you the first Environmental Film Festival on 20–27 Nov 2010.

Presented by the Taranaki Sustainable Living Fair, the opening night on 20 November will be a fundraiser for Sea Shepherd. We will give our ticket clip to Sea Shepherd directly from our double screening of *Pirate for the Sea* and *Sharkwater*! Look for an exciting line-up of environmental films including *Age of Stupid* and *End of the Line*. Scientists are telling governments now that we are on the verge of the biggest mass extinction since the dinosaurs — bring your children to these films.

Also watch for the re-release of *Young @ Heart*, as these Seattle oldies who belt out punk and new wave 80's anthems tour NZ soon. *Last Paradise* is at Arthouse all summer!

Arthouse Cinema is now nice and cool; the heat pumps fundraised for are a reality thanks to Cowley's, and the insulation thanks to Placemakers. We thank Friends of Arthouse and sponsors too for helping us achieve this over one cold winter. Check out all our movies and screening times online at [www.arthousecinema.co.nz](http://www.arthousecinema.co.nz). Gift vouchers of \$30 and \$60 are also available online and at the Cinema — great Christmas gifts!



*Sharkwater.*

For filmmaker Rob Stewart, exploring sharks began as an underwater adventure. What it turned into was a beautiful and dangerous life journey into the balance of life on earth.

Driven by passion stemming from a lifelong fascination with sharks, Stewart debunks historical stereotypes and media depictions of sharks as bloodthirsty, man-eating monsters and reveals the reality of sharks as pillars in the evolution of the seas.

Filmed in visually stunning, high definition video, *Sharkwater* takes you into the most shark-rich waters of the world, exposing the exploitation and corruption surrounding the world's shark populations in the marine reserves of the Cocos Islands, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

In an effort to protect sharks, Stewart teams up with renegade conservationist Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Their unbelievable adventure together starts with a battle between the Sea Shepherd and shark poachers in Guatemala, resulting in pirate boat ramming, gunboat chases, mafia espionage, corrupt court systems and attempted murder charges, forcing them to flee for their lives.

Through it all, Stewart discovers these magnificent creatures have gone from predator to prey, and how despite surviving the earth's history of mass extinctions, they could easily be wiped out within a few years due to human greed. Stewart's remarkable journey of courage and determination changes from a mission to save the world's sharks, into a fight for his life, and that of humankind. Canada 2006. 89mins. Documentary.

## **Girls' Golf Day**

On Wednesday, 20 October a team of four female students from Oakura School participated in a Girls' Golf Day at Inglewood Golf Club. The day was about introducing girls to the game of golf, and what an introduction it was!

The Oakura team consisted of Amy Benton (Year 8), Bailey Bruckner (Year 6), Kelsey Husband (Year 7) and Molly Cattell (Year 8). Since the day was all about trying golf and just having fun with the game, most of the girls were very inexperienced or had never played golf at all! This was the case for Kelsey and Molly, although they did extremely well at the event. Amy and Bailey had some experience, so the team wasn't completely novice!



The theme for the day was pink, so having every team dressed up added an extra bit of fun to the event.

The set up for the event was that Years 5 to 8 played nine shortened holes and Years 9 to 13 played nine normal length holes. Each team numbered their members one to four as the games would be played in rotation style, e.g. number 1 would tee off, number 2 would play the next shot, and so on.

After two hours, the team had completed the holes and were seated in the clubhouse eagerly awaiting prizegiving (in which our team won spot prizes!).

Overall it was a very enjoyable day for all, and the team would like to thank Gary Bruckner for transporting and supervising them on the day.

*Amy Benton (13 years)*

## **The Great Oakura School Commonwealth Games**

On 19 October, Oakura School held an athletics day (run by Kelly Sports) based on the Commonwealth Games.

The senior school was divided into 16 teams, each representing a country of the Commonwealth. There were two teams representing each country. The countries used were Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, England, South Africa, Kenya and Samoa.

The games included obstacle courses, relays, Rippa rugby, Frisbee tennis, tug-of-war, and small ball skills. Earlier that day the junior school had their Commonwealth Games as well.

Each team got points for winning, and in the end third place went to South Africa 1, second was India 2 and first was Australia 1. There was also a prize for the overall winning country, which was judged by adding the points of both teams from each country together. The winner was the country with the highest combined points. Once again, first place went to ... Australia!

It was great to see everyone dressed up in the colours of their teams and really getting into the event. It was a great day for all who were involved, and we would like to thank Kelly Sports for organising and running the event



*Jack Powell, Maddie Bourke and Nick Wilson in their countries' colours for the Commonwealth Games.*

## **Letter to the Editor**

I was not the only proud grandparent (and parent) to be thoroughly delighted with Oakura School's latest production, True Colours. I believe the three nights were totally booked out and no-one was disappointed. So, congratulations to Raeleen, Pete and Ray for their amazing vision and theatrical brilliance. It's amazing how they choreograph 300 plus children onto a small stage so they all get an equal chance to perform. Congratulations to all the children who put so much enthusiasm, energy and excitement into their performance. Thanks to all who helped put it all together. A wonderful night out for us all.

Thanks and kind regards,

*Sheila Connell*

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# Market Day

Oakura School held its second Market Day on Friday, 25 October from 5.00 to 7.30pm. This year it was spread across Oakura Hall and St James Church. In the supper room in the hall was the café, where people could come and get something to eat and drink while having a break from walking around. Next to the café were a chocolate tombola and a bottle tombola, where you paid \$2 or \$3 and picked a number out of a bucket, and hoped you got what you wanted. In the bottle tombola, there were a few bottles of wine so some parents were satisfied!

In the main room there were numerous stalls like baking, flower pots, plants, and a bits-and-bobs stall. Along one wall were clothes laid out to view and there was a big stall in the middle with all manner of clothes, toys, books and videos. There were also raffles running all the time.

Across at the church was a bouncy castle for young children and face painting for all ages outside. Inside there was a fruit kebab stall, and a sweet stall next to it with heaps of variety and goodies. Taking up the second half of the room was a popular game where you had to bowl a ball onto a 5, 10 or 20 dollar note.

All in all it was a very successful day, raising over \$6,000 for the school! Thank you to everyone who supported the event and especially to the hard working FOOS team who organised it all.

*Molly Cattell (13 years)*

Thanks to the generosity of the community the Friends of Oakura School (FOOS) are well on the way to meeting targets for ongoing projects. On behalf of FOOS, secretary Gill Gibbon would like to thank all those who supported and sponsored the event.

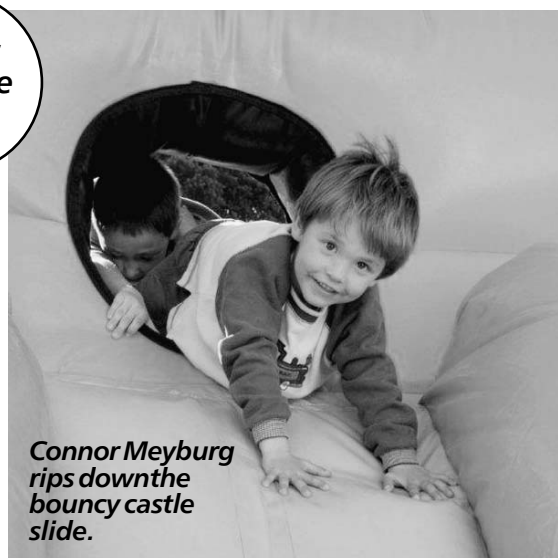
**Photos  
by Rosie  
Moyes**



*Liam McQuaig enjoys his purchase.*



*Ellie Whitehead and Hamish Goodhue search for a bargain.*



*Connor Meyburg  
rips down the  
bouncy castle  
slide.*

*Anna-Lisa Johnson transforms  
Paige Mackay into a rabbit.*



*Eleni Pickering Gibbs, Leo Scouller, Hayden Benton,  
Tasmin Van Bergan, green fingers.*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**  
**Property & Business Deals**  
**7599119**

## Coming Events

### November

22–26 Pet Week

26 Library books due back

30 Parent Help Thank You morning tea

### December

2 Playgroup Christmas Party

7 Production 1.30pm

8 Production 6.30pm

9 Production 6.30pm

10 Reports issued

14 Big Day Out

16 Year 8 Prizegiving Assembly 11.30am

Term finishes 12.30pm

## Marimba Festival

Congratulations to the fourteen year 7 and 8 students who went to Auckland last weekend to perform as part of the Marimba Festival. We all had a wonderful experience and the children represented the school extremely well. Thanks to Jan Aiello, our music teacher, and the parents who helped on the trip. We headed off from school on Friday morning up to Auckland and stayed on the North Shore at a holiday park. It was great to be able to get the Marimbas out for practices on the lawn and we did have time to relax at the Waiwera hot pools on Saturday. The festival was held at Baradene College in a fantastic auditorium with many other schools mostly from Auckland. We played a solo piece as well as combined with everyone for the other compositions. Jan and I are keen to have this as a bi annual event for the Marimba Group so watch out for them busking to raise money for the next trip in 2012.

### Marimba Group:

Evie Lindsay, Jacinta Harrop, Jade Megaw, Hannah McKenzie, Alisha Harrop, Jasmine Donald, Manu Akioka, Hamish Dunn, Mathew Scott, Bo Marsh, Tenesee Murfitt, Olivia Lister, Olivia Holt and Phoebe Livingston

Karen Brisco

"Because you shouldn't hand your keys out to just anyone."



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Jan Aiello rehearsing the action percussion sequence with her group.



## Young Achievers announced for 2010

The achievements of dozens of extraordinary young people have been recognised at an awards ceremony.

The Young Achievers Awards 2010 selects winners and commendations in 10 categories, plus the Mayor's Choice Awards, in fields as diverse as the arts, eco-friendly work, sports, youth development and employee/trainee of the year.

Mayor Harry Duynhoven says the Young Achievers Awards is a great opportunity to formally recognise the talents, efforts and dedication of those aged between 12 and 25 in New Plymouth District.

"We have a lot to be proud of in our young people," says Mayor Duynhoven. "The recipients of these awards are just an indication of the breadth and depth of talent and positive effort that exists in our district's young residents.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Youth Subcommittee, which has excelled itself by organising these awards for another year."

Local winners of the Young Achievers Awards 2010 are:

*Youth Development Award:*

### **Winner Vance Hoskin (Oakura)**

Vance has a natural ability to lead and encourage others, in particular other children and young people. He is a recent graduate of the Conservation Corps YMCA programme, which is designed to help guide youth toward a career path. His tutor commended Vance for his leadership qualities and proactive attitude. He is passionate about physical activity and achieves in any area he applies himself to. He is a sponsored skateboarder and was nominated as Player of the Year for his football team. His reputation and outgoing manner recently resulted in him being asked to be the 'youth face' for the Taranaki-wide anti-violence campaign 'It's NOT OK'. Vance was selected because of his reputation and ability to connect with the youth community. He is considered a great ambassador for youth development by the Taranaki Safe Families Trust and the 25 organisations the Trust represents.

*Highly Commended Female Sport Achievement:*

### **Casey Stevens (Oakura)**

Casey has shown huge commitment to her chosen discipline of Surf Lifesaving, not only through competition but also through her service to the community in life guarding and swimming instruction. She has represented her club at a regional, national and international level and she looks set to be placed upon the world stage of this discipline. Casey is a role model to many in the youth community and has an absolute focus on health and well-being. Some of her other sports achievements include being a member of the 2009 New Zealand Knee Boarding team, first in the NZ Surf League 2010 Beach Flags, and representing Taranaki in cross-country, road relays, round-the-lakes relays, the Taranaki relay team 2010, indoor netball, soccer, surfing, basketball and rowing.

*Highly Commended Female Sport Achievement:*

### **Nicole Sarten (Oakura)**

Nicole has been BMX racing for four years. In 2009 she competed in her first ever BMX World Champs in Australia where she made the final on her cruiser bike and finished an impressive sixth. She dedicated one full year for intensive training, consisting of two hours a day for six days a week to help improve her performance, and in July 2010 she travelled to South Africa for the BMX World Championships. She competed in the 17+ women's category on her 20" bike and came fourth, she then competed on her cruiser bike and won gold. Nicole is currently the world champion for her age group in this category.

## TOM Welcome and Baby

Welcome to the Coomey family who have recently moved into their newly built home in Oakura: Kylie, Daniel and the gorgeous baby, Rory. Rory Henk Coomey was born on 11 February 2010.



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*This introductory evening to the Sacred Flames promises to be an informative and thought provoking gathering . . .*

**Friday 19th November, 6.30-9.30pm**  
**44a Carthew Street, OKATO**  
**Investment \$30.00**

*Supper and fresh hot Chai provided*

To Register phone Lisa Lister  
**751 2687 / 027 563 2828**  
 Email [lisa.naturally@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lisa.naturally@xtra.co.nz)

# Oakura Plunket

Plunket and Plunket Coffee Group have been quite busy in the last few months with lots of new families, mums and dads in the village and surrounding areas.

To welcome our new families, Oakura Plunket committee members have come up with a brilliant idea to put together an information pack about our community. This will assist families by informing them where everything is and also what is available. Our colourful bag includes; Menu's from The Oakura Village & Café and Butlers Reef Hotel; business cards from MacDonald Real Estate; Oakura Pharmacy (along with some free goodies); Oakura Travel; and Beachcomber Hair Design; The Crafty Fox have included a 2011 calendar; Art by the Sea Studio have enclosed a brochure; a map of Oakura (including Oakura Beach Holiday Park) with corresponding businesses; the 2010 TOM Phone Directory and a free pass to Arthouse Cinemas Mums and Bubs sessions. Oakura Plunket have included free plunket key rings, stickers and tattoos, information pamphlets on Practical Tips For Giving Medicine To Kids, Kids and Car Seat Safety, Tips on Stress and other S.K.I.P. (Strategies with Kids/Information for Parents) brochures. Thank you to all the business mentioned for your support. Should you like to be involved in our Oakura Plunket Pack, please feel free to contact Fe Brown 752 7377, Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Claire White 752 7229.

Welcome to some of our new mums with their babies and their new plunket packs: Tahnee and Hamish, Kylie and Rory, Kate and James

Our coffee group is still being well attended. On average we would have five parents enjoying each other's company, with a chance also to get out of the house with children. During the warmer months we are planning on taking our group down to the park. This will be exciting for our little ones who can explore the outdoors with their friends. We had Paddy "Our Naked Chef" making delicious pizza and coffee for us all one morning. What a treat that was, cheers Paddy. Matt Crabtree, our local Fire Chief and Safety Officer will be coming to talk to us and Kristy Faloon our Plunket nurse is also getting involved. Coffee Group is held every Wednesday morning at alternative parent's houses from 9.15am – 11.00am. Do you have something interesting to share with our coffee group? Are you a Policeman, Nurse, Teacher or whatever and you would like to talk to us we would love to hear from you or if you would like more information on our Coffee Group please contact; Fe Brown 752 7377 / 027 228 9113, Tahnee Corr 06 751 3334 / 027 829 1476 or Tessa Rodden 06 753 8564 / 027 442 5546.

Our new Plunket Nurse, Kristy Faloon, will be available for appointments at our clinic located next door to the library at Oakura School, every second Wednesday from 12 -4pm. Should you need to contact Kristy please call 06 769 5453 or 021 190 0806. Please show her support and keep our babies up to date with a regular plunket checks.



*Some of our new mums with their babies and their new plunket packs: Tahnee and Hamish, Kylie and Rory, Kate and James.*

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*Paddy our 'Naked Chef' preparing us a delicious morning tea.*



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[info@meegancare.co.nz](mailto:info@meegancare.co.nz), phone 752 4826, [www.meegancare.co.nz](http://www.meegancare.co.nz)

### **RENTAL PROPERTY WANTED**

OAKURA rental property for family 3-4 bedrooms. Required on the 1st Dec. Ph Anne 021 450 770.

### **WANTED**

ORANGE Magellan hand held GPS and an electric chainsaw sharpener – taken from Hussey St on the 8th August. Please return or contact the TOM 751 1519 if you can help with the recovery of these items.

Party yourself into Shape!



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**DISCO Night: 8.15pm (1hr)**

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HOLIDAY HOURS FROM 20th DEC

**Open weekends,  
public and  
school holidays,  
12.30pm - 7.00pm**  
Lane swimming  
from 6.00am - 9.00am

### Admission Charges

Adults	\$2.50
Children	\$1.50
Spectators	\$1.00
Adult with child under 8 yrs	\$1.50

### "Learn to swim lessons"

13 - 17 Dec: five lessons and more lessons in Jan. Registrations essential.  
"Aquarobics" starts 8 Nov, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5.00pm - 6.00pm.

**For 'What's on' and other information, please  
call 759 6060 for further details**



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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Bellydance

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

### Country and Western Club

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

### Hurford - Omata - Oakura Rural Women

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

### Indoor Bowls

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

### JKA Karate

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

### Mini Groovers

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

### Oakura Pool Club

Meets every Wednesday evening 7pm @ Butlers Reef over  
winter. Ph Chip, 027 6214999 or 752 1004.

### Oakura Tennis Club

Monday 9am-2pm  
Tuesday 5.30-7pm  
Wednesday 3-6pm  
Thursday 5.30-7.30pm  
Friday 9am-12noon

Ladies' Midweek competition  
Club night.  
Juniors' private coaching.  
A-grade players' practice.  
Social Women's Tennis  
(members/non-members).  
Junior competition.  
Soffe Cup and A grade comp.  
Club day (adults and children  
welcome for a hit).

Friday 4.30-6pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Sunday 3-5pm

Contact John Hardie Boys ph. 06 752 7592.

### Okato Squash Club

Monday Club Night.

### Omata Playgroup

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

### Playcentre

Playcentre, Donelly Street.  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon.  
Visitors welcome by appointment. Ring Jo on 752 7144.

### Plunket Coffee Mornings

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

### Senior Citizens

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

### St James Church, Oakura

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

### St John's, Omata

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

### Tai Chi

St James Church, Weds 10.30am. Ph Joanna Smith Holley  
752 1016 for details.

### Volkswagen Club

Events range from car rallies, the YMCA climbing wall,  
camping, BBQ get togethers and sharing good family times  
and knowledge.

Contact Brian Goodhue,  
the El Presidente 752 1290, email [podsnail@xnet.co.nz](mailto:podsnail@xnet.co.nz)

### Yoga

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