

Oakura Swim School Opening



Nicola Davies and Nicki Procter at the Oakura Swim School on Wairau Road

Swimming lessons will soon be possible in Oakura. Two local women, Nicola Davies and Nicki Procter have been busy getting the structure in place for the new business. As from 7 October, the Oakura Swim School will be offering swimming lessons at the Tompkins' indoor heated salt pool in Wairau Rd. In the past, Pam Street has offered swimming lessons at the same venue and they were extremely popular. There is certainly a gap in the market and, as Nicki said, "If we don't offer lessons, someone else will." Nicola and Nicki are just the right people for the job, too. Both have been employed by the City Council to teach swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre, so they offer plenty of experience. They are passionate about supplying a good quality service and are dedicated to constantly improving their qualifications through study. Both are studying towards a Diploma in Swim Teaching, have a Swimsafe Certificate, regularly attend swimming seminars and belong to The Swimming Coaches and Teachers of New Zealand Association (SCAT).

The Swim School is going to be a wonderful place to go for swimming lessons. A jungle theme is being painted on the walls using bright vibrant colours; friendly jungle animals will oversee the lessons. A special step or ledge has been built to go in one end so littlies can touch the bottom. Nicki and Nicola want to especially thank John Davis for his craftsmanship in building the stainless steel, marine ply and fibreglass step for them. It stretches from one side of the pool to the other. "Everyone has been really supportive and it's been wonderful having so much help," said Nicola. For mums who bring along toddlers, there will be a play pen with toys and a sand pit outside. (By the way, how about a café?!) *(cont on page 3)*

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performance
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tom

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



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From Mayor Pete

I've mentioned a few times in the past about how well New Plymouth District is progressing and how bright our present and our future are.

One of the strengths of this district is how well we all work together. Be it in industry or in the social sector or even between neighbours, our people are always willing to pool their resources and listen and learn from each other.

Another of our strengths is our positivity, and our determination that if something needs doing, then we'll get on and do it ourselves.

This attitude has been confirmed just recently with the city winning the title of 'New Zealand's Most Optimistic Town'!

The reason why we have won this title is because local residents stepped forward and said why they thought New Plymouth District was the most optimistic place in New Zealand, and because of the attitude and the passion of our residents – so every resident can be very proud of this award, because *you* are the reason that the district has won the title.

Well done, everyone!

I don't need to tell Oakura residents about optimism and positivity. This town has had the spotlight of international attention trained onto it by the world's media during the last 12 months, and the image that you've portrayed has been superb.

I see examples of this kind of attitude every day as Mayor of New Plymouth District. I am very proud to be a part of a community that is known for innovation, hard work, and optimism!

And remember: if there's any project that you think I or the council can help you with, I'd love to hear from you! Just give me a call on 759 6060.

Cheers folks,

Peter Tennent
Mayor

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Oakura swim school opening continued from page 1

Both Nicola and Nicki have small children so they know how to cater for those needs.

The Swim School is situated in the most gloriously sunny spot with expansive sea views, not a bad place to while away an hour or two.

Now for the most important part – the swimming lessons. There will be 25-minute lessons for 4 children per class, grouped according to swimming ability. Each lesson will cost \$8.50 for 1 child, \$8.00 for 2 and \$7.50 for 3, to be paid at the beginning of each term. Lessons will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.30pm to 3pm and 3.30pm to 5pm. Water confidence, swimming techniques, special needs, one on one tutoring, adult lessons and anything else people want are on offer if the need is there; Nicki and Nicola keep stressing how important it is to offer whatever the public want.

A special open day is planned for Sunday 5 October (the last Sunday of the school holidays) from 1 to 2 o'clock. Pam Street will be coming along, and the pool will be open for inspection, but unfortunately not for swimming as the two Nickis will be busy providing information to the public - so go along and support this local business.

Bookings for swimming lessons can be made by contacting Nicola Davies or Nicki Procter from the Oakura Swim School on 025 286 2433 but be in early as they already have a huge list of names.

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Councillor's Comment



This has certainly been a month of extremes at the council. The two huge meetings with regard to the Waitara lease land and the representation arrangements had the old brain working at top speed. As for the submission forms received from the public to retain the ward voting system, the Ward councillors tried very hard to keep the ward system in. However, as the current situation was no longer a possibility, the vote went to retain the ward system but to split the Kaitake Ward, putting Oakura in with New Plymouth and leaving Okato to be connected with Inglewood. This meant that the Okato area was the most disenfranchized. As it now stands, the Council is going to have another meeting because of a hiccup over some ticked forms in Waitara, so things may change again. Honestly, who knows what could happen next! Certainly it doesn't make sense to have Okato connected to Inglewood. More on this next month.

Locally, stage one of our CBD upgrade has been almost completed. I think we are all eagerly waiting to see what is going to be planted in the gardens. Some people have rung me or the council about their concerns. Just a reminder: the council has one number for everything 7596060. Remember that when you ring in with your query, it is always logged in to the system.

You will see in this edition that Chris Gruys is holding a meeting for people interested in helping to run another New Years Rave at Shearer Reserve. Last year, this night was extremely successful and has 100% support of the Police. Some hard work was put in last year by a handful of people, so it would be nice to have some extra help. I found the night most enjoyable. The music was good, there were heaps of people about, the atmosphere was great and most of all the young people had a great time. Maybe we will see you at the meeting; otherwise give Chris or myself a call.

Until next month,
Regards,
Pam Street.

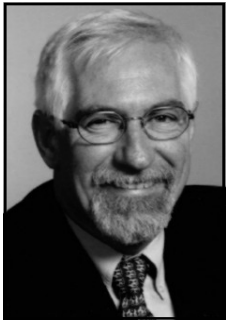


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The Foreshore and Seabed - for all New Zealanders



The government has released its proposal for protecting public access to and customary rights on the foreshore and seabed.

The proposal is about recognising that coastal areas are important to all New Zealanders and everyone must be able to use and enjoy them now and in the future.

The government's approach to this issue is based on solid principles. These principles are:

Access - The foreshore and seabed should be public domain, with open access and use for all New Zealanders.

Regulation - The Crown is responsible for regulating the use of the foreshore and seabed, on behalf of all present and future generations of New Zealanders.

Protection - Processes should exist to enable the customary interests of whanau, hapu and iwi in the foreshore and seabed to be acknowledged, and specific rights to be identified and protected.

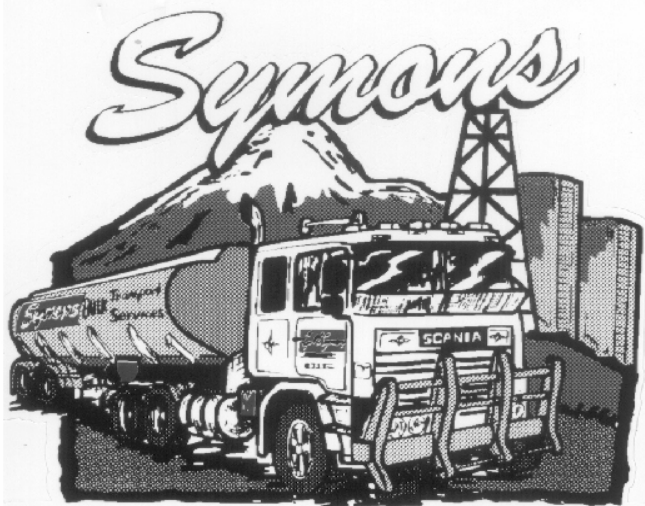
Certainty - There should be certainty for those who use and administer the foreshore and seabed about the range of rights that are relevant to their actions.

The Government's proposal deliberately ensures that no single group owns the foreshore and seabed. The only reason anyone would want to "own" an area in the legal sense is to be able to exclude people or to be able to sell it. Ensuring that the foreshore and seabed remains in public domain guarantees that no one can sell pieces off in the future.

The government is currently seeking comments on this issue, and asks for submissions by Friday 3 October 2003. People will be able to contribute their views by:

- Making a written submission to Foreshore and Seabed Submission, PO Box 55, Wellington.
- Making an on-line submission at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/foreshore/feedback.aspx>
- Sending a fax to (04) 473-2508.
- Attending a hui or a sector group meeting.

You can also obtain further material by telephoning: 0508 Foreshore or 0508 367 374.



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Kaitake Community Board



The board held its meeting on Tuesday 19 August. Two of the items on the agenda were:-

MATEKAI PARK BRIDAL PATH

The board decided not to proceed with the development of a bridal path at this time but a development option will be considered at the next review of the Oakura Reserves Management Plan.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank those in the community who expressed their shock at the news that Community Boards will be disbanded at the next election and that the Kaitake ward will be split, with Omata and Oakura joining with New Plymouth and Okato joining with Inglewood. As a board we are extremely concerned. We have decided to hold a special community board meeting at 9am on Tuesday 16 September to finalise a formal objection to the review. However, since that decision was made, circumstances have arisen which have resulted in an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 September. We will wait for the outcome of that meeting to see if we will still need to lodge an objection.

Be happy and keep smiling.

Susan Henschman
Chairperson

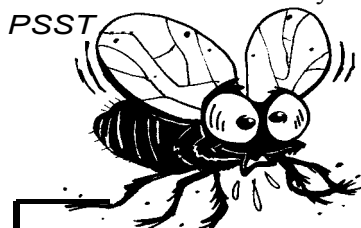
See baby Miles
in full colour on the
TOM website
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I want my ~~mum~~ TOM!

Baby Mile Wagstaff, the newest member of the Tom team was very distressed to hear of the disastrous worm attack to the TOM computer. Readers will be pleased to know that our newest issue is now happily snuggled up with the latest issue of TOM!



Baby Miles Bede Wagstaff born on 13th August at 9.55 am. Miles weighed 7lb 10½oz and was 53cm long! Tracey said "He sleeps like a baby and eats like a horse!"



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A Bite of History...

Robbing at Omata Tollgate

In the 1890s, there was a tollgate at the entrance to New Plymouth on the Main South Road and Barrett Road junction. Fees were taken for the upkeep of roads. On 2 July 1892, the keeper of the Omata tollgate was robbed by a gun-toting masked man known as 'The Highwayman'.



The Highwayman Robert Wallath

On duty at the tollgate that day was one William Knight Collins, reportedly "an elderly man and a cripple". When The Highwayman asked Mr Collins to hand over all the money he had, Mr Collins gave him more than five pounds in silver.

After getting the money, The Highwayman walked backwards towards the door and, on reaching it, took

the key out of the lock saying he intended to lock Mr Collins in so that he could not follow him. The gatekeeper replied that he was a cripple and couldn't follow him anyway, and with that the highwayman threw the key on the table and left.

Over fifteen months, The Highwayman completed a number of successful burglaries. However, his luck came to an end on 20 July 1893. After a failed robbery attempt at the Criterion Hotel, he was pounced on as he turned to leave the hotel. When this mysterious figure was unmasked at the hotel, all were surprised to see before them one well-liked young carpenter from New Plymouth called Robert Wallath. Needless to say he was charged with felonious intent and of malice aforethought to kill and murder.

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tom's Copper's Column

This month has been good as far as crime goes for our area. There have been no burglaries that I am aware of and no thefts from vehicles!

A computer that was stolen from a burglary in Oakura in April has turned up in Patea. It was able to be identified because the serial number was recorded by the owner and passed onto the police at the time of the burglary.

On that note, preventing crime is better than being a victim of crime. Burglars are lazy individuals who feel they have a right to your hard-earned property. In today's world, many thieves are addicted to drugs and commit crime to support their habit/addiction. You can help make them go somewhere else by giving them the impression that if they try to break into your place they are going to get caught or they have to work at it. Locking your house up properly when you go out and having deadlocks and window locks in the appropriate places all helps. If you can't afford a burglar alarm or don't want one, then why not acquire some burglar alarm stickers and place them on the front windows or on your front door?

It also pays to go around your house and write down the serial numbers of all your appliances and power tools. Most things these days have a serial number that is unique to the item. Most of the stolen property recovered by the police is able to be returned because a serial number has been provided. If your property is pinched and the police have the serial number, we can enter the details on the "Big Flash Harry Computer". Should that number be queried anywhere in New Zealand, it will provide details of the property, the day it was stolen and the owner.

I am pretty sure the Insurance Companies wouldn't mind holding a list of your property and serial numbers on file. That way should you ever need them, the work is already done. A suggested way of doing it is as follows:

Item	Serial number	Description	Value
Panasonic TV	AL24645343	20 inch, black with scratch on top in left corner	\$400
Ryobi electric drill	T6767658	Green power drill, model abc, white paint on cord	\$200

I have written a couple of speeding tickets this month for cars going too fast along Wairau Road. I know it is easy to go a bit too fast along there, as it is a nice straight piece of road. Please don't. If a child, dog, cat or ball run out in front of you and you're going faster than 50km/h, you won't be able to stop no matter how good a driver you are. It takes between 1.5 and 2 seconds for the average person to react. At 50 km/h you are travelling at 14 meters a second. You will travel 28 meters before you hit the brakes and you will travel another 15 meters before you come to a complete stop. That is a total of 43 meters. Almost half a rugby field. At 70 km/h it will take you about 69 meters to stop.

The above equations are all basic maths. I haven't made the figures up. On that note, have a great month as we head into spring, summer and the New Year. Drive safely and look out for each other.

Thomas McIntyre
Okato/Oakura

Stop Press! Sometime around Friday the 22nd August 2003, the house at 27 Messenger Tce, Oakura, was burgled. Entertainment equipment such as a 29 inch TV was taken. If you saw anyone suspicious or have an idea of who may have done it please let me know. A vehicle would have been involved, because of the amount of property stolen.

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Celebrating 25 years

On October 12 1978, 25 years ago, St James church in Oakura, St Pauls Anglican church in Okato, St Lukes Methodist church in Okato, St Marks Anglican church in Warea and the Pungarehu Methodist church together became a cooperating parish.

After much discussion, an agreement to form a cooperating parish had been signed by the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in 1976. However, St James Oakura was built prior to this; the foundation stone was laid on 23 November 1955 by Anglican Archdeacon GH Gavin and Reverend ET Olds, Chairman of the Methodist District. The church was built on Methodist property and was used by both Methodists and Anglicans, who built and paid for it together. It was dedicated free of debt on Sunday 25 March 1956 by the Rev MA McDowell, President of the Methodist Conference. A Mrs Sampson had donated the land in memory of her father, sufficient for the church, hall and parsonage, in about 1940. The organ was donated by Mrs AJ Fox, and her granddaughter the late Nona Heydon became the regular organist for the Anglican services. A stained glass window in the church is a memorial to Nona.

Initially there were alternate Anglican and Methodist services held in St James church. These were combined after the formation of the cooperating parish, and continue still. The inaugural service of dedication of the cooperating parish was held on Monday 9 October 1978. The presiding minister was Rev L Bycroft, chairman of the Taranaki Joint Regional Committee.

It was decided to use St Pauls church for combined worship services in Okato, and the final service in St Lukes Methodist church was held on Sunday 28 July 1985. Almost three years later on 6 March 1988, the final service was conducted in the Pungarehu Methodist church, and the congregation now worships at St Pauls.

Today, we are still a happy, dedicated group, worshipping alternately at St James Oakura on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and at St Pauls Okato on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. We enjoy the fellowship of each community and extend a warm welcome to everyone who wishes to join us. We celebrate our silver jubilee on Sunday 12 October at 10am at St James Oakura. For further information, please contact Rev David King, phone 753 4093, or Rex Brogden, phone 752 1088.

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PHARMACY

A Bouquet: TOM deadline or Messenger Madness Week as I call it came with a very unwelcome visit from a worm that totally disabled my poor computer (and me). So this month's issue is dedicated to my favourite technical bod, Dave Skurr of Dave's PC Services. Thanks Dave, your exceptional help saved me from any PC rage and made this issue possible. **Michelle Powell**

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Kidding Around in Omata

By Kim Ferens

Gavin and Debbi Taylor of South Rd, Omata, under the banner of "Omata Boer Stud", have just about finished "kidding" for 2003.



One of the Taylor's Omata Boer does with her kid

It's hard to know who's kidding whom when Debbi tells me Gavin is building a foot spa for the goats. Nonetheless, this goat business is very serious. The delightful looking animals you see on the hills as you drive out of New Plymouth fill part of a niche market. Most of the weaned kids which meet the breed standard are exported to China for the stud market. One known Chinese buyer has an order for 5000 embryos. Last year's export prices were around \$800-\$1000 each for does and \$600 for bucks. Certainly a market to be taken seriously, with plenty of potential for expansion, considering the stagnant beef market.

The Taylors are now the only stud Boer breeders in Taranaki. Gavin has always had an interest in goats; as a child he had them as pets, and also hunted and bred them. The Boer is a South African goat with the outstanding characteristics of being the best meat goat with the highest fertility rate: triplets and twins are more common than single births. Boer goats were first released in New Zealand in 1993 as the result of an embryo programme started in 1987. Gavin and Debbi started their own goat business in 1995. On their 25 acres they have 30 breeding Boer does, 2 stud bucks, 8 replacement does, 10 Nubian milkers, 10 yearling bucks and 47 Boer kids, with about 10 animals still to kid. They have had up to 200 goats at one time but with both Gavin and Debbi working at other jobs, they found that many too hard to manage.

As we strolled around the flock watching the kids cavorting in the sun, and bottle feeding the orphans, it was hard not to be enchanted by them. Not really much different from a school playground at lunchtime! Debbi, Gavin and their three boys, Benjamin, Callum and Lleyton, have a clear attachment to these little fellows. They

have been taken often to school and kindy for visits, much to everyone's delight. Debbi says, "They're a naturally quiet breed, which makes them very easy to work with and, while we don't make pets of them, it is easy to get attached to them. When a goat dies the boys get very upset."

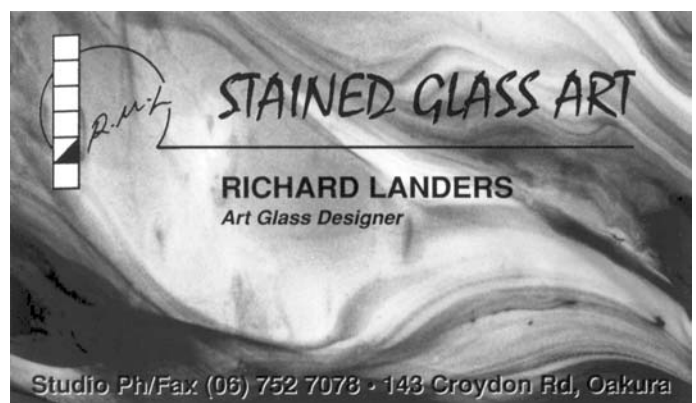
The Omata Boer Stud is certainly unique to Omata, but just up the road are more paddocks full of goats. However, they are completely different, and that's another story...



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September Checklist

Vegetables:

Sow lettuce, radish, carrots, beetroot, silverbeet and peas

Plant out cabbage and cauliflower seedlings.

Prepare to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, peppers and sweetcorn next month.

Plant main crop potatoes.

Flowers:

Topdress spring flowering bulbs with Bulb Food

Sow seed of most hardy annuals.

Fruit Trees:

Plant passionfruit vines in a sheltered site

Apply an all purpose fertiliser like Thrive to strawberry plants.

Lawns:

Sow new lawns.

Re-sow thin or bare patches.

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Genesis Energy Taranaki Rhododendron Festival

Well the Genesis Energy Taranaki Rhododendron Festival has gotten off to a great start. With Bellamy here for the launch and loads of interesting night-time events happening, it's promising to be a crowd pleaser.

Peta Mathias brings exoticism, food and travel to our midst with her tales of a sojourn through Vietnam. She'll be at Puke Ariki on Saturday 25 October 6.30pm. Book at Ticketec (service fee applies) \$35.00.

Bugman Ruud is speaking to local school children during the day and will then go on to the Govett Brewster in the afternoon on Tuesday 28 October 2.00pm. Book at Ticketec (service fee applies) \$15.00.

Baumhaus are a team of visionary floral stylists who have recently opened a boutique in Auckland and have had their designs grace the rooms of our dear Tom Cruise as well as Sting, Elle McPherson and many others. Come to Puke Ariki on Wednesday 29 October 7.30pm for a look-see. Door sales \$10.00.

Take a journey with Dick Endt, the pioneer of tropical gardening in NZ, as he talks about his experiences and exotic paradise at Landsend. He'll be at the Govett Brewster Art Gallery on Friday 31 October 8.00pm. Door sales \$10.00.

There is also a stellar panel lined up with Mark Dury - local world-reknowned propagator, Dick Endt - celebrated grower of subtropicals, Melita Koulmandas of Baumhaus fame, and chair Alan Jellyman of Pukeiti. Together they will discuss what's in, what's out and what's coming NEXT in the gardening world.

The additional guided walks with an environmental twist are well worth doing; all details can be found in the programme or by following "The Gardeners Diary" in The Daily News leading up to the Festival. Keep an eye on TOM of course, and I will keep you posted.

Add to these menu items the beauty of our fabulous gardens, both public and private. Without such a great gardening fraternity, the Festival wouldn't be - so come and have a look this year and see what you think! Programmes are available from the Green Ginger Cafe, Butlers Reef, Oakura 4 Square, and The Crafty Fox as well as Centre City and other local outlets. Check out the website www.rhod.co.nz and happy gardening.

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I Remember When... With Mockie Ryan

....Life on a farm in Omata that was covered in gorse....dances at the local hall....ploughing the land....holidaying in Oakura....lupins, paddocks and cows....building roads....and catching fish. Mockie Ryan recalls the good life in Omata and Oakura. The good life it may have been but they were certainly hard times. Hard physical labour was necessary to graft a living off the land. Chou moellier was harvested twice a day for the cows. Gorse stands of 6 feet or more had to be cleared and the housekeeping done. Mockie and her husband Tom took on the challenge of Town Supply or winter milking and that meant running two herds of cows. This involved some pressure as a certain quota had to be met or penalties were incurred. The pressure took its toll on Mockie and a holiday was recommended. Tom knew Maurie Morris had rented a bach in Oakura so he inquired if they could also rent it. Mr Walker owned the bach and Mr Bert Salter owned the land. In fact he owned 14 acres around the Pitcairn St area for which he was purported to have paid £15 for the lot. The family really took to the Oakura lifestyle and purchased the bach and ½ acre for £900 in 1950. The bach was only about 7 years old then and the original 4 rooms are still largely unchanged today though with a few add ons. Mockie has been in Pitcairn St ever since.

Mockie recalls the Pitcairn St and its inhabitants with some fondness. Although Pitcairn St was officially named it didn't exist and it wasn't until Tom and neighbours Mr Eric Cleland, Mr Charlie Ryan (no relation) and Len Ryan (Charlie's brother) put in £50 each to bulldoze the large sand hill off to one side and make access easier. In the 1960's the County Chairman Mr Laurie Hickford put some metal down to stop the cars getting stuck. Mockie says they were the only permanent residents there at one stage with most people just using baches for holidays. Mr Salter had 4 baches that were used as a camp kitchen and accommodation and were rented out. Tom must have been bored one day so he and friend Norm Wells went around Oakura and counted the houses and baches. There were only about 50 of them. Most of the land around Pitcairn St not owned by Mr Salter was farmed by a Mr Smith and all sorts of devastation occurred in Mockie's grand veggie garden when the cows got out.

The fishing used to be good in Oakura. You could surf cast off the beach and Tom did so with mice and sparrows as bait and came home every time with 5 pound snappers. Mussels and pauas were very plentiful. Mockie hated the black rubbery paua and didn't really

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Thank you to Puke Ariki archives for this photo



Oakura Beach in the 1950s

know how to cook it properly. Family folklore has Tom catching 32 cups of whitebait in one day then catching 25lb the next day. The catch was distributed at the pub in typical largesse by Tom for a few beers. Fridges and freezers weren't common then. A good friend Mr David White – a local Maori man was also a great fisherman and owned a 12 foot dinghy in which many a fishing trip was made. David worked at the Moturoa Oilfield but dropped dead of a heart attack at 50.

In 1952 the first Town Board was formed with some of the men represented synonymous with Oakura today - Messers R Jamieson, E Cleland, J Jans, G Atkinson, C West, J Taylor and Tom Ryan. They were responsible for forming the Fire Brigade among other things.

Today Oakura means many different things to Mockie family over the fence....a walk to the 4 square....speaking at local functions.....the bowling club....and cherishing the memories of nearly 60 years at the beach with loved ones.

This month TOM interviewed Mockie Ryan for the "I remember when..." column. If you know of anyone who lives, or used to live, in the area and may have an "I remember when..." story to tell, we would love to hear from you. Give us a call on 7513305 or email us at oakuramessenger@xtra.co.nz.

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Learning the Lingo

Something I didn't realise before coming to Rarotonga was that it is a bi-lingual country. And English is definitely the second-language – much to the disappointment of my English-teaching husband. Teaching the complexities of Shakespeare and poetry to kids who struggle with basic grammar can be challenging.

Of course, I have my own challenges with language and nursing.

The solution is, of course, to learn some Cook Island Maori or "Rarotongan". Easier said than done. A quick ring around and scan of the newspapers revealed that the only night class (of any type) available is that through the Alliance Francaise – where you can learn French. There are no classes for English speakers wanting to learn Rarotongan.

No problem. There's always the library right? Wrong. After spending \$10 to join the National Library, I found a book entitled "Cook Island Maori Lessons for Missionaries". But alas, because the book was rare, it was unavailable for borrowing.

So, plan C: ask my colleagues at work to teach me. This seemed like a good idea at first. They would teach me a useful phrase, then I'd repeat it as often as I could..... only to promptly forget it by the end of my shift! And of course there's the disturbing factor with Rarotongan that, if you pronounce a word slightly incorrectly, the meaning changes. For example, if I asked someone if their wound was dry – the word for dry is maro (marO). But if I say maro (mArO) the meaning changes to "long", or worse maro (no emphasis on either vowel) the meaning changes to "loin cloth". So often my attempts are met with giggles and then everyone around me speaks in English.

Well - perhaps my problem is solved after all?

Diane Alder

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Wanted: Glimpses of fish film star

The huge, silent star of the hit New Zealand film *Whale Rider* - the Southern Right Whale - could soon be making its own special guest appearance along the Wanganui and Taranaki coastline.

The Department of Conservation is asking locals to keep their eyes peeled for sightings of the threatened whales, which could soon be making their way up the west coast of the North Island.

"Large populations of the whales normally travel down the east coast of New Zealand to the sub-Antarctic islands, but sightings of smaller pods of whales along the west coast have prompted speculation that there is a second population unique to New Zealand.

However, to prove it, the department needs to collect more DNA samples and photographs of the whales, which can be identified by the unique pattern of callosities (white barnacle-like growths) on their heads - similar to a human fingerprint.

New Plymouth DOC marine expert Bryan Williams said it was a priority for the department to find out more about the whales, because if there was a second population, they were extremely rare and needed maximum protection.

The whales are easily identifiable by their predominately black colouring and the white splotches formed by the callosities. Other features include paddle-like flippers, lack of a dorsal fin and a V-shaped blowhole spray.

Any sightings should be reported to Mr Williams on 0274 452 268, or Mr Campbell on (06) 345 2402.

The department is also asking beach-users in both regions to be wary of seals "hauling out", or coming on to the shore in the coming months to moult and rest after long periods at sea. People are asked not to approach the seals, which can become aggressive and also carry diseases harmful to people and pets.



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Wards and Community Boards Remain for New Plymouth District

The New Plymouth District Council has decided to stick with a wards system for electing councillors - but it will also keep community boards.

The council met tonight to reconsider its system of representation. It has decided to confirm its decision to reduce the number of wards from five to three; however, it will not now bring in community consultative committees - instead, there will be three community boards to represent communities of interest outside the city.

Mayor Peter Tennant says the benefits of this system are that it guarantees seats around the council table for rural councillors and also provides elected representation at the grass-roots level.

"A lot of submissions to the council favoured keeping some kind of ward system, and also retaining community boards.

"I think this direction from the public was at the forefront of councillors' minds when they voted on the issue tonight," says the Mayor.

In summary:

The new electoral system for New Plymouth District reduces the number of councillors from 16 to 14, plus the Mayor.

The new system retains wards, but reduces them from five to three - New Plymouth City (including Oakura), New Plymouth South-West (comprising the rest of Kaitake ward and Inglewood ward), and New Plymouth North (comprising the existing Clifton and Waitara wards).

New Plymouth City will have 10 councillors, New Plymouth South-West two councillors, and New Plymouth North two councillors.

The Waitara Community Board and Clifton Community Board will remain.

The Inglewood and Kaitake community boards will be abolished. In their place will be a single Inglewood-Okato Community Board.

Each community board will comprise four elected members.

The Waitara and Clifton community boards will each have one appointed councillor on those boards.

The Inglewood-Okato Community Board will have two appointed councillors on that board.

more...

The council called tonight's meeting to reconsider its previous decision to go with a ward system of representation, following legal advice.

Mayor Pete says while it was unfortunate that the council had to meet again to reconsider the issue, it was unavoidable.

"At the end of the day we had to be sure that we made the best possible decision for the benefit of our community, in a manner that was both transparent and robust. We couldn't risk it that our original decision was made on the basis of possibly dubious public feedback.

"I'm confident that this council has made a decision that will stand this district in good stead over coming years, and that this system will bring the greatest benefits to our community," said the Mayor.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

Question

Do you have a plan in place if the situation was to arise where you lacked the capacity to manage your important affairs?

By way of introduction, the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988 was designed to provide for the protection of personal and property rights of persons who are not fully able to manage their affairs.

What is an Enduring Power of Attorney

An Enduring Power of Attorney gives someone the right to act on your behalf. There are two types of Enduring Power of Attorney:

An Enduring Power of Attorney in respect of property.

This gives someone the power to act on your behalf with respect to any property you own. This type of Enduring Power of Attorney can be expressed to take effect if you become mentally incapable, or it can be expressed to have immediate effect, and continue to operate if you become mentally incapable. This type of Enduring Power of Attorney can be a general authority to act on your behalf or limited to specific circumstances.

An Enduring Power of Attorney in relation to Personal Care and Welfare.

This gives your attorney the power to act on your behalf to make decisions regarding your personal care, in event of illness, age or mental incapacity. This appointment commences upon mental incapacity or when you do not have the ability to understand the nature of decisions regarding your personal care and welfare. This Enduring Power of Attorney can be either general or specific as well.

Who Should I Appoint

It is crucial that you trust the person you appoint and are confident that he or she will act in your best interests.

Popular appointments include your spouse, one or more of your children, or another family member. There are certain restrictions, however. By law your attorney must be 20 years of age or over, and not bankrupt or suffering from any mental incapacity. There are also certain precautions that can be taken when choosing a property and personal care and welfare attorney to afford extra protection and reduce the risk of abuse of trust.

Why Should I sign an Enduring Power of Attorney

Both types of Enduring Power of Attorney give you piece of mind and confidence that you and your assets will be taken care of in the event of you becoming unable to make decisions for yourself. If you do not have an Enduring Power of Attorney, or alternatively, if you become mentally incapable and have not made an Enduring Power of Attorney, then your family or friends would have to apply to the Family Court before they were able to manage your affairs. This is not only a very costly process but can also be very time consuming.

We recommend that all our clients appoint someone to be their Attorney in either a restricted or unrestricted form.

These appointments not only ensure you and your assets will be looked after but can also save lots of family problems and expense.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information or to discuss ways in which we could tailor an Enduring Power of Attorney to suit your needs.

Kate Gordon

27 August 2003

This article discusses its topic in general terms only and should not be treated or relied upon as specific legal advice.

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Puke Ariki



Parihaka – the struggle for peace is the name of a brand new exhibition opening in New Plymouth next month. It opens in Puke Ariki's temporary exhibitions gallery on 13 September and runs until January 2004.

This is a fresh take on this powerful story of non-violence. The unique display documents the story of Parihaka through the use of objects, photographs, artworks, waiata (songs), video and oral recordings. This intrinsic mix of media, fused with a strong personal accounts, means the full story will unfold here in Taranaki – where it all began.

The Parihaka exhibition is a narrative about one kainga's (village's) struggle for peace in Taranaki, a place all too familiar with war. Puke Ariki's aim is to put the Parihaka story of the 1881 invasion into context. Here, the taonga of Parihaka has a voice. This exhibition will integrate accounts with artefacts to chronicle the social history of Parihaka – the story, the place, the people.

Puke Ariki's account of Parihaka starts with the history of the tangata whenua and the beginning of the kainga, and the impact of European culture and technology upon Māori society – both positive and negative. The journey leads to the passive resistance movement that was born out of the land confiscations and the invasion of Aotearoa by European settlers and British troops.

As a combined museum, library and visitor information centre, Puke Ariki enables this exhibition to extend into other areas of the facility by providing reference links to further resources.

Puke Ariki, in partnership with the Parihaka Pā Trustees, believes this exhibition is highly significant for the people of Taranaki and New Zealand. The development of the Parihaka Events Programme reflects this, with nationally and internationally recognised artists, poets, lecturers, historians, writers and entertainers taking part. They are expressing their response to this sensitive and challenging story, while also celebrating the struggle for peace and the future aspirations of Parihaka and its place in the world.

The structure of this exhibition will be based around:


- 7 waiata

- More than 100 objects
- About 160 images/photos
- 12 paintings
- Close to 11 hours of video
- About 5 hours of oral history
- 3 audio-visual accounts

The Lane Gallery in the South Wing of Puke Ariki is also displaying artworks in conjunction with the *Parihaka – struggle for peace* exhibition.

Vivid, the retail space in Puke Ariki, has developed a range of items featuring objects, works and traditions linked to the Parihaka exhibition. Puke Ariki has a collection of blue glass bowls from Parihaka, which are being used to develop a range of similar merchandise, with the blessing of the kainga's trustees. These blue glass products include plates plus wine and drinking glasses. Vivid will also be selling a selection of T-shirts, mugs, postcards, stickers, books and journals related to the *Parihaka – struggle for peace* exhibition.

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Puke Ariki



Oakura Library **With Tara Ward**

Hello from Oakura Library!

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We have a number of new titles for children and teenagers. New titles include *Peter Carey's My Life as a Fake*, *Creative Dough Craft*, *A Gardener's Directory of Orchids*, and *the Complete Book of Home Baking*.

There's something there to keep everyone in the family occupied!

Our opening hours are:

Mon – Fri 10am-12.30pm; 1-4 pm

Wednesday late night 5-7pm

We are located at 16 Donnelly Street, next to Oakura School (phone 759 6060).

Hope to see you soon!

Tara Ward

tom at Puke Ariki

Should you wish **tom** is now available to read at the "The Daily News Café" in Puke Ariki.



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DANCE RAVE

New Years Eve 2003
Outdoor Rave

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Oakura Beach

A public meeting will be held sometime in September. This meeting will be to gauge support for another New Years Eve DJ and dance at Shearer Reserve, Oakura Beach, 2003.

Meeting to be held on Monday 15th September at Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade rooms, Dixon Street, Oakura 7pm-8pm Call Chris on 7527529

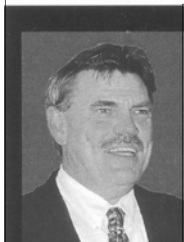
If you are interested in helping to kick start another enormously successful New Years Dance for the teenagers of the District then **we need your input!**

So... are you a community-minded local who can help?

- ♦ Do you have one or more hours on New Years Eve to help with security and crowd control. Most help required 11pm-12:30am but ANY help accepted!
- ♦ Do you have teenagers?
- ♦ We need sponsorship/advertising/local business/local persons willing to offer cash donations to assist costs (non-profit community project).
- ♦ Do you like the idea of you making a few \$\$\$ by selling cans of coke or V (subject to Beach Camp Store approval)?
- ♦ Are you a person with bundles of energy and a bucketful of enthusiasm and a couple of good ideas?

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Kiwi Boat Dream Becomes a Reality

By Kim Ferens

Local identity Graham Symons has recently finished building his boat "Samurai". It seems to be iconic for many a Kiwi bloke to build their own backyard boat and Graham is no exception. "Samurai" has been 13 years in the making and was first started in Rahotu. The ply, cedar and fibreglass structure has been a labour of love and thanks to Tom Cruise and The Last Samurai movie (hence the name), is now complete.



Graham Symons boat "Samurai"

Graham found himself with more spare time than usual over the past summer, with Tom and his family enjoying the Symons' other recreational assets, so he got busy. No end of stir was created when Graham launched his boat at his Surrey Hill Rd property. Hard to imagine? Well in true Graham style, he got in his digger, dug a huge hole, lined it and filled it with water then launched the boat. The motors ran perfectly, the refrigerators worked and the water line was marked for the paint to be applied. Unsurprisingly, the boat floated and looked magnificent. Many a drink was drunk and tall story told, well before the boat had even left dry land.

For those who know the back end of a boat from the front, leeward from starboard, and an anchor from a mast, this little dingy has two 370hp Cummins motors, is 45 foot long, weighs 14½ ton, has satellite navigation, sleeps 10 with 2 ensuite, is fitted out in teak and stainless steel, has a part-time French crewman and has every bit of fishing paraphernalia necessary to catch the big one.

Graham and his family intend to use the boat for a wide variety of water-associated pleasures – from big game fishing to travelling and entertaining. The TOM team are looking forward to a trip offshore on the "Samurai".....



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Dr Fanie Schoeman
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Of course, any time you wish to see a particular doctor, you can make an appointment.

We also have other clinics where you can be seen for specific problems:

The Skin Cancer Centre- run by Dr Geoff Tvrdeich, who has undergone further training in skin cancer surgery.

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The Health and Weight Management Clinic – this is a programme designed to help people to achieve sustainable weight loss; it promotes lifestyle as well as dietary measures. There is weekly nurse follow-up as well as walking groups, lectures and on-going support.

Nurse Clinics – for a variety of chronic medical conditions including diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

Advance Radiology – a private X-ray unit on-site, where you can have an X-ray without having to book an appointment.

Pharmacy@CAREfirst – we have an on-site pharmacy which is open for the same hours as our Walk-in Clinic – from 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 1pm Saturdays. So you can always get your script filled after you have seen the doctor.

We aim to provide the best service available to our patients, along with the flexibility and convenience we all need with our busy lifestyles. Our walk-in clinic in particular is ideal for Oa-kura people, after-hours or when their own doctor is not available.



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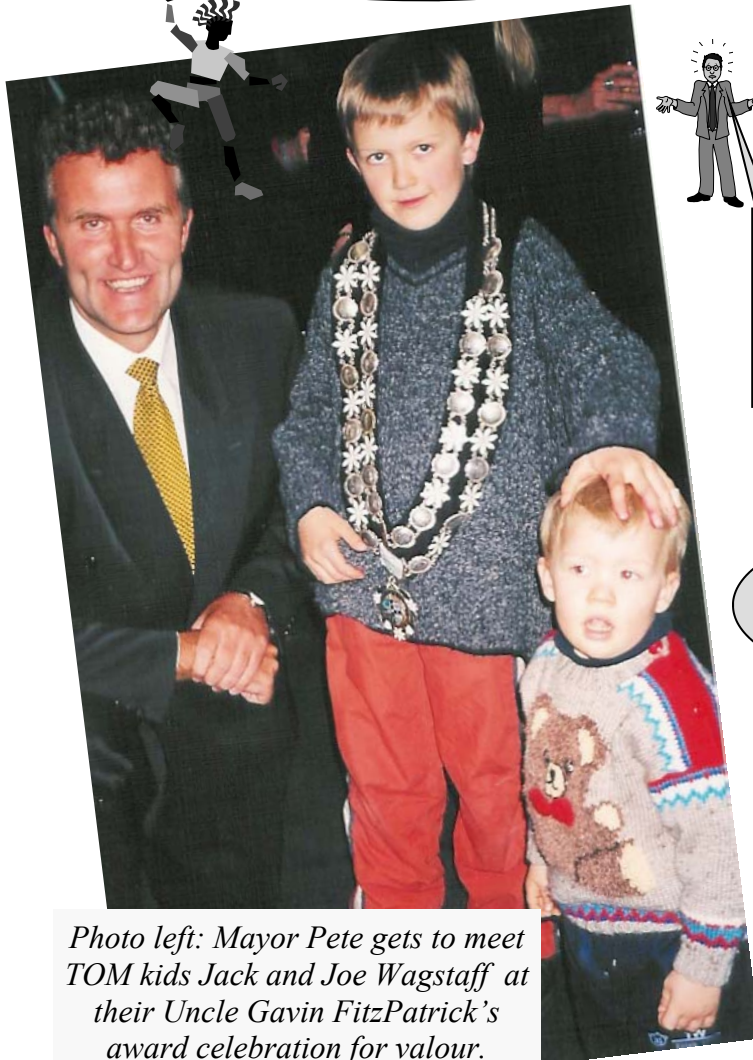


Photo left: Mayor Pete gets to meet
TOM kids Jack and Joe Wagstaff at
their Uncle Gavin FitzPatrick's
award celebration for valour.

Edible Hedgehogs

You will need:

One orange and toothpicks

A selection of pineapple, grapes, cheese cubes

Cut the orange in half and place flat side down on a plate. Skewer pieces of pineapple, cheese or grapes on to the toothpicks and decorate the half orange with them until it resembles a hedgehog!

Did you know?

Insects can't fly properly when they're cold. First, they have to sit in the sun to warm up.

Caterpillars eat until they have increased their weight 1,000 times. If a 6 pound human baby ate at the same rate for two weeks, it would weigh 8 tons!

Monarch butterflies have incredible endurance – they have even been known to fly across entire oceans without resting !

A cockroach can live longer than a week without its head !

The Australian funnel-web spider's fangs are so strong they can pierce bone and its bite can kill a human.

Kip McGrath
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School News

Reading Assistance Gets a Hand at Oakura School

By Kim Ferens

A local branch of the volunteer group PROBUS (a senior citizen, professional and business association) are involved in a wonderful reading programme at Oakura School. The Fitzroy Rotary Club began a similar programme last year in six schools from the Bell Block and Fitzroy area and have 70 volunteers and 150 children involved. The nuts and bolts of the programme involve the older person spending 1 hour a week on a Tuesday or Thursday from 9.30-10.30 am at Oakura School, in the library, staffroom or classroom, with individual children, for 20 minute sessions. The child reads from books brought along in his or her book box. It might be a high interest journal, a novel or any text of interest.

Michelle Beekman is the Reading Recovery teacher, and it is her job to co-ordinate the programme within the school. "All the kiddies are so enthusiastic, and you see them running to their sessions. It teaches them confidence, time management, responsibility and initiative. This programme is not just for children with reading difficulties but also for those who need reading mileage and one-on-one help with an adult, and especially an older person. It's empowering having a mix of generations working together within a school. It reflects who we are as a community. There's great strength in that."

For the 30 children involved, if their enthusiasm is anything to go by, the programme is a great hit. During my visit, I witnessed children totally focussed on their reading and interacting with their adult (a camera wielding reporter didn't deter them). Voices of children ebbing and flowing with expression, faces lit up in delight at seeing their mentors - what a truly inspirational way for children to learn and develop.



Pam Denny and Luke Sanderson age 6

As for the 12 volunteers:

Mrs Pam Denney of PROBUS says "It feels wonderful

to be putting something back into the community and being involved in the school. For the children, it is often the only contact they have with older people. We get such a lot out of it as well. The children tell us all about their pets and their projects. They often come to



Norm Raill and Taelor Palmer age 7

us shy and lacking in confidence and we can help them."

Mr Norm Raill says "I love the contact with children and being involved in the school. It is such a positive programme. My grandchildren live overseas so I miss the interaction with them. These kids are so enthusiastic."

The other volunteers, Glennis Bridgeman, Val Bridgeman, Iris Brouwers, John Denney, Madeline Potter, Mari Prescott, Marion Prestney, Jocelyn Draper, Fred Umlauf, Creliervier and Kathy Appert, echo these thoughts.

Lyn Hepworth, Principal of Oakura School, is also delighted with the programme. "The Pro Reading programme is a great success. Our pupils have the opportunity to practise their reading, discuss books and relate to an older member of our community. We are very fortunate to have our local PROBUS members volunteer their time to support our school."

This programme is only in its second term, still an infant itself, but I can see it developing into a full grown "must have" for every school.

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NEWS

Rugby success

The Omata rugby Interschool under 45 kg team won division D in match play this year for the first time anyone can remember. They went on to play Okato Primary School who had won division C. The match was

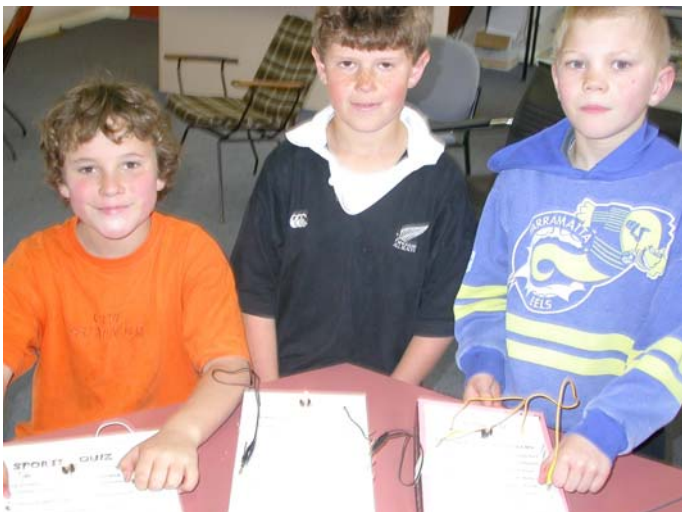


Jordy Haggart in action in rugby final

played at Yarrows Stadium on Wednesday 20 August. At stake was the Dave Hannah Cup and unfortunately for Omata, Okato took out the game. All the boys played a superb game and the enthusiastic support from fellow pupils, teachers and parents contributed to a memorable occasion. An aftermath function was held in the Legends Lounge where everyone received a participation prize and afternoon tea.

Children's Work

Jamie Hareb, Tyler Marriner and Josh Kenny have been working on an electricity project. They have learnt how a current travels in a circuit and they have constructed a quiz each, using a shoe box lid, alligator clips, bulbs, batteries, split pins and wires. When the correct answer is found for a question the light bulb glows.



Josh Kenny, Jamie Hareb and Tyler Marriner

*Photo below:
Jarrod Stolte and
Brittney McEldowney*

Breakfast for 108!

On Friday 22 August the whole school participated in a special breakfast.

Each class made a different breakfast such as porridge, waffles,



smoothies and muesli.

It was an opportunity to sample different types of breakfast and encourage children to eat a healthy breakfast.

Choir

The School Choir travelled to Hurdon Kindergarten on Thursday 21 August and gave a truly sensational performance to the kindy kids. Jan Aiello has done a wonderful job with her group of 5 years to 10 year olds. They entertained the preschoolers with a repertoire of songs including "Sausages and Custard". It was an interactive sessions with parachute songs and pieces on the marimba. What a first class performance.

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School Holiday Programme for Primary Students

Acrylic Painting

23rd or 24th September, \$20.00 All materials supplied

Painting on canvas

2nd October

\$35.00 All materials supplied

9:30 to 12:00 noon

Adult 6-week block courses start

7th and 8th October

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings

10am to 12 noon \$120

Enrolments essential



see a Wellington stage group called Capital E in a show called Seasons. We followed up the theme of their show by making paper mache sun puppets & creating stories to act out with the puppets. The value of these trips is that they teach the children life skills such as being in public, going on the bus, going to a show etc.

What is on the horizon for us?

Craft Fair - 30 November. Planning is underway for this year's Fair. It looks like it will be as big and bright as last year, and demand for stalls is high. We are accepting donations of good glossy magazines to sell at the Fair. This is a very popular stand so if you would like to donate to us any unwanted magazines, please drop them off anytime from now on at the Kindergarten during weekdays 9am - 3pm.

Cook Book - we have put together a collection of favourite fruit and vegetable recipes that our parents have used to get their children eating fruit and vegetables happily. We are about to get it printed, and we will have copies for sale at the Craft Fair.

Coming up soon:

In October, Kaitake Kindergarten will have been operating for 10 years, so watch this column for details of our way of commemorating and celebrating 10 years in the Oakura community.

Susan Henderson

Chairman -

Kaitake Kindergarten Committee.

Oakura Playcentre

Did you know that there is a local place where you can take your pre-schoolers three times a week, where they can make loads of mess and have loads of fun, all for only \$15 per term?

What have we been up to? In August, the 4-year-old group embarked on a bus trip to the TSB showplace to

Well, there is and it's the Oakura Playcentre. Playcentre is a national organisation which runs as a co-operative on a local level. Playcentre has mixed age sessions for kids aged 0-6 years and has 16 areas of play including painting, playdough, carpentry, sandpit, water, collage, music, clay, fingerpaint, puzzles, books, and family play. Caregivers stay and help run the session; thus, Playcentre has high adult/child ratios, and everyone joins in with setting up and cleaning up. Playcentre believes in child-initiated play and is committed to parent education and biculturalism. If you're interested in working with children, training through Playcentre is a valuable option.

Playcentre's a really friendly place and the kids love it. We have lots of families on our rolls but are always ready to welcome more, so if you're interested please come along to one of our sessions. Your first three visits are free, then it's \$15 per term for one child or \$20 for two.

Session times are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00-11.30am.

Playcentre is at Donnelly Street, Oakura (next to Oakura School). For more information please ring either Sharon Steen on 752 7376 or Mandy Robinson on 752 1292.

Oh what a Jam!!

Oakura Primary School Rooms 9 & 10 camp fundraiser
Friday 29th August at Butlers Bar & Cafe.

A huge thank you to all the people who supported the Casual Jam Session. The audience was fantastic and really got into the mood of the evening. It was great to see the Garden Marquee rocking with singing and dancing.

The musos put on a brilliant show. Let's face it, it's a huge thing to put yourself on centre stage, so well done, we appreciate your time, effort and the generous use of your equipment, a huge thank you to you all: as our musical linch-pin, Steve Muggeridge, said "It all unfolds on the night".

The local and imported talent was amazing.

Thanks to Butlers for the venue. Ray and Dee were overwhelmed by the support of the local community and the success of the evening. It was a night to remember!

Ps. Our bouncer Pete Shannon is the best in the business!

Glenys Farrant & Robynne Wadeson

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We have been unable to get permission, from all participants, to publish the photographs of the Oakura School fundraising jam session and apologise for any inconvenience. If you would like to see the pictures please contact Pat Coxhead on (06) 7527559.

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Kaitake Netball

Well, as mentioned in the August article, the grades have now been broken down into the top 5 and bottom 5. It is pleasing to report that both Kaitake teams made it into the top 5 and, of course, the first game up was to play each other!

As always when we play each other, it was a very physical game and both teams gave it their all. At the half time break, **Blue** was leading 14-6 because of their great defence and hard work on the attacking end. It was only a matter of continuing the hard work and effort until the end to secure the win. **Black**, as always, put up a fight and didn't give up until the fulltime whistle. Thank goodness we had assertive umpires to guide us through that game!

With a good win under their belts, **Kaitake Blue** secured a good goal percentage to put them on top of the ladder ahead of Girls High, who have been so dominant in our grade. Dominant, as in they haven't lost a game this season! However, teams will carry their points over from the first round and that will mean Girls High will have a convincing lead on the table.

The second game in the top five was a bye for **Kaitake Blue**, and **Kaitake Black** played against Nag n Noggin. It was a convincing win to Nag n Noggin and that changed the ladder to put Nag n Noggin into 3rd place behind Kaitake Blue and Kaitake Black into 4th place ahead of Sacred Heart 11A.

The third game in the top five saw **Kaitake Blue** up against Nag n Noggin and hoping to come out with a win to secure second place. It wasn't the best of days to play netball as the wind was blowing about 40 knots! Not to mention causing carnage around Taranaki! But Kaitake managed to get their goals in and come away with a 22-16 victory. **Kaitake Black** defaulted against Sacred Heart 11A.

The next 2 rounds see **Kaitake Blue** playing Sacred Heart and NPGHS A1. **Kaitake Black** plays NPGHS A1 and the last game of the round is their bye.

At the time of writing, **Kaitake Blue** look to have secured their spot in second place on the table, with no chance of catching NPGHS A1, who haven't lost a game all season. And **Kaitake Black** has one game left and is currently in 5th position.

After nearly 20 weeks of netball, the season is finally drawing to a close. I'll post the results of the last 2 games in the October issue of TOM. In the meantime, you are welcome to come down and support us at our last games.

Tanya Farrant

Blue Team: Bob Fleming, Vanessa Danger, Tanya Farrant, Kelly Miller, Claire Dobbin, Catherine Spindler, Catherine Ongley, Melissa Fleming, Karen Lovell, Janet Farr, Vicki Eaton, Jo Hill and coach Anna Cleland. Umpire: Pauline Shannon.

Black Team: Nicole Mancer, Tracy Day, Ann Te Ruki, Christine Berridge, Glenda Hooper, Karen Cooper, Snoz and Amy Elliot.

Charlotte Curd was placed 3rd in the Taranaki Intermediate Ski Champs last month.



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The Oakura Surfcasting Club is well on its way into the new season. We have had about 12 or so fish weighed in in the last couple of months and we are looking forward to the months ahead as the snapper are expected to come in a bit closer in October.

Our club has joined the N P Surfcasting Club and the Fishing Section of the N P Club and is now involved with a Monthly Tri Series in which Sutherland Sports are putting up a \$100.00 voucher each month with the chance to win a custom built rod in August next year for the heaviest snapper on the designated fish days to a value of \$400.00. To be eligible for this, you must be a financial member of one of the 3 clubs. Rules for the competition can be obtained from Debbie Edgecombe - Oakura Surfcasting Club 7527425, Kevin Saunders - N P Surfcasting Club 7580300 or Allan Dodd - N P Club Fishing Section 7583787 - or you can check out the big board in Sutherlands. Wayne Johnston from O S C won the first event, which was held on 17th October.

If you ever wanted to know how far you can cast, we are having a casting practice day at Corbett Park on Sunday September 9th starting at 9.30 am - all welcome, bring your gear.

Tight lines

Road Runner

The Egmont Athletics Club hosted the Taranaki Road Champs in Oakura on Saturday 23rd August (the day of the big 'blow'). The wind did not deter local runners Grace Power and Lyn MacKay, who both gained placings in their age groups. Grace was placed 2nd in the under-15 girls' 4km event while Lyn won her 5km event.

JIM SUTHERLAND
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