

BEACH FRONT EROSION MEASURE

Story and photos by Jane Dove Juneau

Oakura's beach front properties are in jeopardy from storm damage and erosion. Local home owners are taking important steps to minimise the risk.

As any beach front property owner around the world knows, the privilege of ownership lies in balance with mother nature. The forces of erosion on the beach front are, to some degree, inescapable. A storm in September last year reminded beach front property owners at Oakura that they are at the mercy of mother nature. Due to wind and wave action, some properties east of the Wairau Stream lost up to 3 metres from the front of their sections.

A group of 21 property owners have decided to take action to try and prevent further erosion on their properties. They have applied for, and been granted, a resource consent to have a formation of boulders built called a "boulder riprap toe". The boulder riprap will join together with several other sections of boulders on the beach front to form protection over the length of the Oakura foreshore from Wairau Stream to Oakura River.

Several years ago beach front property owners Wendy and Paul Askew had tried to interest property owners in a project to protect the front of their sections.

"We had seen how well the boulders had worked in other places, like by the mouth of the Wairau Stream. We wanted to do something similar to protect our properties, but to make it work it needed to be continuous along the beach front."

Wendy surveyed adjacent home owners along the beach front and found eight property owners interested in the idea. They were in the process of applying for resource consent from the Taranaki Regional District Council when a big storm hit the coast in September 2003.

"I got lots of phone calls," Wendy said. "There was a large swell with severely strong westerlies, and people lost metres off the front of their sections. I sat here and watched bits of fence fall into the sea, and steps sailing past. It was really quite amazing. It does make you worry a little bit."

A storm 30 years ago caused similar erosion on the same portion of beach front when the lower sections near the Wairau stream had the sea encroach on to their lawns and some lost a



A combination of high tides, large swells and high winds have caused major erosion in front of some properties at Oakura Beach.

JANE DOVE JUNEAU PHOTO ©

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JANE DOVE JUNEAU PHOTO ©

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Erosion along Oakura Beach and the Coastal Plan



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They say it happens in threes . . .



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Dress-up fun and dancing at Omata School

tom

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



from **MAYOR PETE**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
newplymouthnz.com



Hi Folks,

Yes, it's that time again.

It's time to review the last three years, but more particularly to look forward.

When applying for this job as your Mayor, my message was very simple - "Together let's make it happen!". Now, three years later, it's a case of saying thanks for that support, because, quite simply, "together we are making it happen!". And it's happening like never before - socially and economically, our time has certainly come. I'm keen with your help to build on that momentum!

I made the point in the last issue of TOM that the common thread that runs through all the wonderful things that are happening is the local commitment and passion that drives them. As your Council, we've got behind those projects but it's our collective ideas and aspirations that continue to truly make the difference. I've appreciated the attendance at meetings, the submissions, the calls, and all the suggestions that have come forward - it's made a difference!

I continue to get calls about the celebrities that are being spotted in the TOM circulation area, and this week has been no different. Isn't it great!

Never the less there are still a huge number of unfinished projects. To mention just two;

I'm so proud that this District is the first in New Zealand to totally endorse the goal of the Mayors Taskforce for jobs as a deliverable in our Strategic Plan - that every person in the District under the age of 25 is in employment or training. Yes, there has been a dramatic drop in those registered on Youth Benefits. But we're still not there! Some wonderful initiatives are happening, but we can't relax until the number has dropped to zero!

Similarly, we can all be very proud to have one of the lowest levels of rates in New Zealand, but I am committed to "2020 Vision". Let's be the first District in New Zealand that doesn't charge a general rate!

It's been a real privilege serving as your Mayor for the past three years. I'm keen, with your support, to continue in that role.

What's just as important to me is that you take the time to elect positive visionary people to your Community Board and to your Council.

Together, let's ensure that the best place in the world to live, to work, and to visit, gets even better.

Thanks for all your support!

Peter Tennent, (Mayor)

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



Always with Council there is a great variation of work, but lately it has been exceptionally interesting.

The hot topic, of course, has been the decision to sell the Powerco shares. As Councillors some of us have really taken it in the neck over this issue and, of course, that can be a part of the job; however, I can assure you that we have had the best of information and decisions have been based on that. As with any major decisions the Council has to make we receive the best information to help us through the process of making these decisions. Also, I have had a Police Liaison meeting, New Year Rave meeting, listened to submissions on the Brothel Bylaw and attended the launch of the new book "Connections" at Puke Ariki. There has also been a council meeting about the Urenui/Onearo Domain decision, two or three meetings about the Powerco shares and a delightful evening to present some of the great volunteers in our communities with their Community Service Awards. Fellow Oakurian Joanna Woofindin received one of these awards for her work associated with working with Women and Youth in the Aviation field.

Whitebaiting season is here again. Remember there are rules associated with this recreation, so please respect them. Take home your rubbish, keep your dogs under control and don't forget, if you are not sure of the rules, a pamphlet is available from Department of Conservation.

It is hard to believe three years have gone by and it is Local Body Election time again. I have put my name forward, and would love to do another term on Council. It almost takes three years to learn how the process works, so I would like to have the opportunity to continue the work I have been doing. Our area has benefited greatly in the last three years (see separate page). Anyway, here's hoping.

Sincere condolences to all of Mocky Ryans family. What a great woman Mocky was. She will be missed in this community. Mocky had some great stories to tell about Oakura when she first came here. I was fortunate to be able to listen to some of these stories over the last couple of years. Mocky, along with Iris Brouwers, worked with me and the council to get the Pitcairn Street walkway as it is today.

As always, I enjoy my work as a Councillor and enjoy being a part of this community.

Voting papers will be posted out the week of 17th September. Election day is the 9th October. Cheers for now.

Sincere regards, Pam Street

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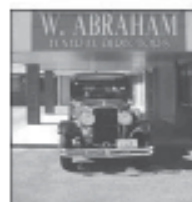
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MP for New Plymouth



Hello to all residents of Oakura and environs and visitors to our lovely region.

The Government is proud to be able to announce that more New Zealanders than at any other time in our history are now in paid work. Since the Labour led Government came into office 211,000 new jobs have been created - equating to 136 more people in work each day. 4% unemployment is officially derived by Statistics New Zealand's Household Labour Force Survey for the June 2004 quarter. We have not seen unemployment this low since 1987.

This is all good for every region and Taranaki now enjoys a better ratio of employed people than ever before.

New Zealand can now boast the second lowest unemployment rate in the OECD, (Korea tops the tree with 3.5%) and our major trading partners have significantly higher rates of unemployment - the United Kingdom 4.7% and the USA 5.6%.

We are not lessening our efforts though; a significant number of New Zealanders still need to be in work and, along with that, there are significant labour shortages emerging in some industries and regions.

The building boom is evident not only in Taranaki but in many areas across the nation. Tradespeople are finding that there is almost too much work to service, a far cry from some 5 or so years ago when the building industry in our region was doing its best to survive.

It is rewarding to be part of a hard working Government that has achieved much that is positive since taking office, and I am proud to be New Plymouth's representative at Central Government level.

Thank you for taking the time to read this column. Best wishes.



Hon. Harry Duynhoven
MP for NEW PLYMOUTH

"The Working MP"

158 Tukapa St., New Plymouth. Ph. 753 3211. Fax 753 2711

NEW ZEALAND
Labour

BEACH FRONT EROSION MEASURE

Continued from page 1

major part of their sections. At this time some homeowners placed 44 gallon drums in front of their sections in an effort to reclaim their frontages. The drums, and earlier erosion control efforts, were uncovered in the September storm.

Without a resource consent approval from the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and DOC, property owners are powerless to take any protection measures on their properties.

"It's a combination of high tides, large swells and high winds that causes the most damage," Wendy said. "People started calling me and asking about the rock wall. It doesn't stop the waves but slows down their momentum by taking the energy out of the waves. The sea is still going to come over the wall but it offers protection by softening the wave action."

The homeowners hired OCEL Consultants to design and engineer a plan for a seawall to run along the beach front at Oakura. The plan includes the proposed location of the boulder riprap located on the front of the 21 sections along with detail of the rock construction. Large round boulders .6 metres to .75 metres in diameter, piled two high, will form the wall which varies according to the different property frontages. The boulders will sit on a base of gravel and filter cloth to a maximum width of 4.3 metres.

Wendy worked on the resource consent application for New Plymouth District Council and the Regional Council with property owner Murray Holyoake. Mitchell Dyer, Consents Officer for the Regional Council, helped with the resource consent application that was sent to DOC. Grant Everest and Shane Herbert also worked on the project with Wendy and Murray Holyoake.

Now with resource consent granted by DOC, NPDC and the Regional Council the project must be constructed within three months. Each property owner has a consent agreement for the riprap toe and must develop a vegetated sand bank seaward of the structure.

Fleming Contractors of New Plymouth have been hired to build the boulder seawall. They were chosen as they have built similar boulder protection in New Plymouth and Oakura. The project is privately funded by the 21 property owners and will cost between \$6,500 and \$9,500 each. Each property owner is responsible for maintenance of the boulder riprap in front of their section.

Not only will the construction of the boulder riprap offer erosion protection to property frontages, it will also improve the appearance of the beach frontage by covering over old recla-



A resource consent has been granted for property owners to build a boulder riprap to help prevent further erosion such as this, in front of 21 sections on the Oakura Beach front.

JANE DOVE JUNEAU PHOTO ©

mation work, such as the 44 gallon drums, and tidy up the exposed stormwater drains that have been dangling in the breeze, due to the erosion.

The council has decided to lay a sewer pipe inside the boulders in front of seven of the properties. This will be incorporated into the Oakura sewer plan which the council has committed to providing between 2005 and 2007, according to Anthony Wilson, general manager of community assets for the NPDC.



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COASTAL PLAN

Story and photos by Jane Dove Juneau

Erosion along the beach in front of the Oakura Beach Camp is of concern to Oakura residents. High tides and big seas have washed away sand dunes in front of the beach camp and along the foreshore towards the surf club. After storms in September 2003, access steps to the beach were left dangling in mid air. Currently, a section of the road along the camp frontage has slipped away.

"The sand banks are dangerous for kids," Wendy Askew, Oakura resident said.

Another property owner, Don Harvey, called for the construction of a wall. New Plymouth Mayor/Oakura property owner Peter Tennent, suggested the construction of surf reefs which have been successful in Australia to mitigate beach erosion.

"There are a huge number of options," Tennent said. "But I'm not an engineer. We need some form of soft protection. The campground and walkway are really special."

Decisions regarding erosion measures along this section of the beach frontage, which is owned by the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), will not be mitigated until the completion of the Coastal Plan, explained Anthony Wilson, general manager of community assets for the NPDC.

"We may do interim maintenance work along there, but there will be no major construction," Wilson said. "We may push up some sand; this is an option consistent to the region - using a council bulldozer to push some sand from further down the beach up against the sand dunes. This would need to be managed very carefully so the removal of sand doesn't create worse erosion problems. This would be on an as needed basis."

The Coastal Plan is to be completed by June 2006. It will look at long term coastal philosophies and provide a framework for coastal guidelines. The current council policy is not to use hard structures to protect areas that do not have physical council owned assets, such as buildings. The Oakura campground falls under this category.

"We will have some clear answers for the community out of the work on Oakura," Wilson promised. "I'd like to see the outcome before June 2006."

"The million dollar land values and current property market produce different behaviour. The plan will need to decide what intervention the community wants."

The plan will also look at the future of motorcamps along the Taranaki coast. Such questions will be discussed as, whether the campground area be an extended public reserve, and how to manage the pressure of day trippers and campers?

"The community will get an opportunity for input as part of the coastal strategy," Wilson said.

The future of the Oakura Beach Camp and how to best mitigate erosion issues on the foreshore are sure to be the subject of hot debate. Involvement by residents is essential to ensure a satisfactory outcome.



A section of road in the Oakura Beach Camp has subsided and needs attention.

JANE DOVE JUNEAU PHOTO ©

Coastal Areas the Focus of New Strategy

Work has begun in earnest on creating a new strategy which will guide the New Plymouth District Council on future decision-making where it affects the district's coastal areas.

The council is advertising for expert consultants to help the NPDC develop the strategy during the next two years.

Manager corporate policy and planning Rory Palmer says extensive public consultation, as part of the development of the strategy, will be central to the process.

"The Coastal Strategy is one of the most important planning exercises undertaken by this council, particularly given the strategic importance of the coast in the life of this community.

"What we want to do is bring in a guiding vision and strategy for the entire coastline and surrounding areas that reflects the values of local residents and other key groups, so that in 20 years' time we have a coastal environment that still meets the wishes of the public," he says.

The council hopes to have the public consultant in place by early October. Discussions with key groups - including community boards, tangata whenua, the Taranaki Regional Council and DOC - will then begin, followed by wider public consultation early next year.

Mr Palmer says the aim is to have the coastal strategy and its priorities adopted in 2005/06. The council will then develop two structure plans that will map out the future development of specific coastal communities. The first structure plan will be for the Kaitake area, with the second community yet to be determined.

WHERE HAS THREE YEARS GONE

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY I WAS ORGANISING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN,
AND IT IS TIME TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN. THREE YEARS
HAS GONE FAST, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY ENJOYED THIS TIME ON COUNCIL, I HAVE
LEARNT HEAPS, MEET SOME WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND HAD OPPORTUNITIES
I WOULD NEVER OTHER WISE HAD.

THIS CURRENT COUNCIL FACED SOME HUGE ISSUES FRONT ON. THERE WAS NO
PUTTING THINGS IN THE CUPBOARD FOR ANOTHER DAY. IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGE
AND A PRIVILEGE. I HAVE SERVED AS YOUR COUNCILLOR WITH HONESTY AND INTEGRITY.

CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WILL SEE ME STANDING IN THE
CITY WARD THIS TIME. I WOULD JUST LOVE TO GET RE-ELECTED FOR ANOTHER TERM.
HONESTLY IT TAKES ALMOST THREE YEARS TO WORK OUT WHERE EVERYTHING FITS IN.
ANOTHER TERM WOULD GIVE ME TIME TO SEE SOME THINGS THAT I HAVE BEEN APART
OF COMPLETED. I SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTION.

MANY THINGS WERE ACHIEVED FOR THE DISTRICT AND IN PARTICULAR THE KAITAKE WARD.
SOME OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE;

A Bridge over Whenuariki Stream



Pitcairn St Walkway



A Bridge
over Timaru
River



Erosion and
Steps Corbett
Park

CBD Upgrade



Beach Front Upgrade
and Carpark

Omata
Water
Supply



- Sewerage for Oakura
- Coastal Management Strategy
- Lifeguard Pool Safety at Okato
- Okato Main Street Upgrade
- Pitcairn St Footpath

- Friends of Matekai Park
- Cemetery Extensions
- Domain Upgrade Okato
- Mace Tce Footpath

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STREET FOR CITY WARD.

FAY LOONEY BAFFLED BY BUREAUCRACY

2004 sees me living in the Inglewood Ward (despite the fact I haven't moved from the Koru Rd. family farm for 45 years.)

I am eligible to stand for the Kaitake Community Board and for the New Plymouth City - what does that tell you about bureaucracy??

Wouldn't one ward for all be more economical and less confusing?

My roots are deep in the Kaitake /Okato/ New Plymouth land; my footsteps can be found right along the coast and around the rural area. I used to ride my horse from NP to Newall Rd as a kid, around Carrington Rd and back through Okato with a rest in our paddock on Mace terrace, where Mum & Dad had an acre of land. Now there are 4 houses on it and loads of children, including our grandchildren much of the time.

My swimming pool is the Oakura River; the best treatment for arthritis I can find, from October to May some years. I have a vested interest in keeping it clean, along with all the waterways on this fabulous coast.

Do I care about the future? Very much - let's plan together for the next 50 years to keep the coast pristine and sensibly developed.

I want to be involved in the future and age gives you a licence, I believe, built on experience.

It's time to give to give something back, so a vote for Fay Looney will ensure there is a rural/coastal voice on Council.

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TOM tid bit:

Four nominations were received for the positions on the Kaitake Community Board, therefore there will not be an election. The new Kaitake Community Board to take effect in late October is: Doug Hislop, Barney Proctor, Keith Plummer and Fay Looney.

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KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD *Report from Sue Henschman*

This is my last report as chair of the Kaitake Community Board. I am not seeking re-election. Over the last nine years the Board has achieved a lot. Perhaps the most memorable thing in my term was as recently as last year. With the Local Government changes came the change of boundaries. This meant the Kaitake Ward would be split between New Plymouth and Inglewood. Councillor Pam Street and I did our homework and presented ourselves, maps and photos to the Commission. Alas, to no avail, but we did manage to retain a Community Board. I would like to wish the incoming Community Board all the best.

On behalf of the Kaitake Community Board I would like to extend our sympathy to the Hunt family on the passing of Phillip. Phil was a current and valued member of the Kaitake Community Board.

The Adventures of KOREAN KELLY

I thought I'd try something a little different for this month's report. At present, I'm sitting at home in Oakura enjoying the cool winter temperature, whereas I should be sweating like hell in a Korean classroom with 20 sparkling (and interest-feigning) eyes looking up at me as I launch into my latest 'house funk' rendition of The Alphabet Song. The reason I'm here, instead of there, is due to the passing of my wonderful Nana Mocky (Monica) Ryan.

I know you've read about Nana in a previous article of TOM, many of you know her, so I want to take the chance to say how much my Nana loved Oakura and emphasise how instrumental she was in the development of this community we know and love today. Living in Korea, existing as a number and a face as the city whizzes by at an alarming pace, has humbled me in many ways. It has made me appreciate the importance of a small community and all the things I have taken for granted. There's no waving out in the street or stopping in the Four Square for a chat like we can. In fact, due to the population density in Korea, it is common practice to make

no eye contact with the people around you. It definitely took me a long time to get used to being barged and shoved as I make my way into a subway carriage - I would forever be saying "Meeanhamnida" (sorry) or "Shillayhamnida" (excuse me) and getting no response. But imagine if everyone apologised when you were bumped or pushed. With so many people around you, the whole day would be spent excusing one another to people you'll never see again.

The flipside of this is that families in Korea are very close. The custom is for the parents to live with their firstborn child, and family, as they age and finish their working careers. Korean's usually get married between 27 and 30 years of age, with the man's parents buying the newlyweds a house/apartment and the woman's parents furnishing the abode. So, generally, the children work to support parents and family and, in turn, the parents look after the house and help to rear their grandchildren. Which brings me to my point. Us Oakura Ryans were very lucky to have Nana and Grandpa living next door on Pitcairn Street, minding us after school, plying our hungry tummies with homemade shortbread, pickled onions, guava jelly, fresh garden vegetables and being a big presence in our lives that we never took for granted. We were so lucky to have also had the kindest, most loving Nana in the world - one that we could see everyday and be thankful for.

So my message for all you readers is to embrace this amazing community that you live in, get to know your neighbours, say hello to everyone and most of all, enjoy the company of your families, even if you're not as lucky as I was and have them living on your doorstep. That's how Oakura began. Chongmal Saranghamnida Nana Mocky.

Kelly Ryan



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Jim Sutherland

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KAITAKE KINDERGARTEN

Previously we have used our monthly column to focus on some specific ways that children's learning occurs here at Kindergarten. We have covered language development and mathematics, this month its how Kindergarten teaches writing skills.

Children develop fine motor skills (control of their hand and finger movements) as they learn to use their writing implements. It takes a lot of practice, plenty of paint, paper and pens for children to develop their skills. Most of all, they need praise and encouragement, even if sometimes we cannot see what they have created! Children need to develop their curiosity, use their imagination and learn to concentrate. We especially need to make it fun for them.

Some of the writing skills that children will learn at Kindergarten are:

How to hold a pencil and draw circles, shapes, lines and letters.

Recognise and write their own name.

Copy letters and words.

That words are written from left to right.

Words are formed by letters.

All around the Kindergarten there are opportunities for the children to have fun learning to write. From learning the routine of selecting their magnetic name off the board in the foyer to "sign in" for the session, to the easels with paints and brushes to express their art each session (and write their name on the art), even "proper" pencils and paper for the older children to practice writing their name as they get closer to school age and more interested in forming letters and words.

Our Kindergarten has two sessions a day, four days a week and a longer session on Wednesday morning for the four to five year olds. We take enrolments from two years of age, as there is a waiting list to get started at Kindergarten. Please come and see for yourself how your local Kindergarten operates.



VOTE

Theresa Wilcox

☒ **for council**

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THREE BEAUTIFUL BABIES ARE A BUNDLE OF JOY

I recently visited the Lamb family of Oakura and found happy mayhem. Life in the Lamb family is mayhem because Helen gave birth to naturally conceived identical triplets 9 months ago. The triplets are three beautiful girls called Charlotte, Alyssa and Casey and after a rocky start these little bundles of joy are thriving. They were born on 27 November at 30 weeks gestation because Casey had stopped growing, weighing in at Alyssa 2 lb 11oz, Charlotte 2 lb13oz and Casey 1 lb13oz. Charlotte had lung and feeding problems then had to have surgery for a ruptured bowel. Recently the girls have also had a two night stay in Ward 2 for various health problems and to give the worn out parents a break. Now the 9 month olds are teething and that means more chaos for everyone. A typical night might be bed at 11pm for mum, first wake up call 1.20am, second wake up call (mum still awake) 2.10am, third wake up call (mum just gone to sleep) 3.40am. All babies and toddler son up at 6.20am for the day. Phew!! All the girls have a morning sleep but not much in the afternoon. Jayden the three year old has a big afternoon sleep. Daily chores include the 1 ½ hours of feeding solids to the girls, changing the 25- 30 nappies a day, the numerous loads of washing, folding and ironing, the bottle feeds, the bottle cleaning and sterilizing, preparing meals, burping, bathing, entertaining, pacifying and cuddling. Phew!! Imagine the baby paraphernalia associated with three babies. There are three high chairs, cots, buggies, bottles, dummies, bouncers, car seats, blankets and cuddlies etc etc. The Lamb household resembles a well stocked baby shop!

In all this mayhem, Helen has found the strength to cope through the wonderful help that the Oakura community has offered. Helen was at a loss to express how grateful she was, saying she would be in the "looney bin" without it. "People have been amazing. ...Doing my housework, taking care of the babies while I take Jayden out, baking, gifts and help. I especially want to thank Pam and John Denney for lending us a house while our house has been renovated and for all the other things they have helped out with." said Helen.

Life wouldn't be the same without the nannies either. Cathryn has been coming in each morning and Leanne has been coming in the afternoons and Leanne, the owner and manager of Porse Childcare has come in on Sundays free of charge. Cathryn has now left. "A big thank you to Cathryn for her help" says Helen. Leanne is now full time and is enjoying the challenge of working in a family with three babies and a toddler. Helen's mum has made a big sacrifice to help the family. She sold the family photography business of 103 years, based in Eltham, to move to New Plymouth to be a support. Joyce was also helping out the day I visited. Everyone had had a busy day with an excursion to see the renovations and visit old neighbours. It takes all morning to prepare for a stroll down the street. Jayden sleeps the afternoon away but the girls only cat nap. The Lambs hope to be in their extended home within the next month. Life wouldn't be the same without the sweet natured Jayden either. This big brother is "so good with the girls. He entertains them when they are grumpy and gives them 'laughers' as he calls it to cheer them up" says Helen. "Jayden is the most cuddly and affectionate child and we try not to let the babies take the limelight all the time. All three



Alyssa, Casey and Charlotte on Helen's knee.

babies haven't been to the supermarket yet but I take one with Jayden and let him help with the groceries." In fact going out is a bit of an issue as the whole family can't fit in one car. Three baby seats in the back, one booster seat, three buggies and at least two adults would hardly fit in a people mover for that matter. Helen and Scott got their first night out recently when they went to the movies by themselves. Cathryn bought the tickets, Leanne babysat, Pam helped out and Jayden stayed at his Aunties. A well deserved night out I should think.

The Lambs are looking for helpers to come in and do some chores and look after the babies each day. If there are any people who have no commitments, possibly someone retired, for an hour or two a day and would be able to help out, Helen would be most grateful. It would be the difference between a "hell" day and a "coping" day. Helen is also after a Phoenix American sized wooden cot to match her other two, if anyone has one for sale contact Helen.

I am sure life will always be a happy mayhem for the Lamb's but at least it will be a 'novel happy mayhem'.

By Kim Ferens



Big brother Jayden worn out from looking after his three sisters.

THE BULL SHOP

A new retail shopping centre has come to Oakura in the form of a purpose built stock retail outlet. John and Mary Washer have recently purchased land at Koru Road from David and Sue Henschman and they feel it is such a perfect spot for retailing their cattle - in particular bulls. They see it as an extension to the Tapuae Estate where it soon won't be appropriate to keep bulls.



The first truck load of bulls arrive at the "Bull Shop"

The 100 acre "Bull Shop" land has an interesting history, with two Pa sites in the location - one being Pahitere and the other Wahawakioire. The original 140 year old cottage still stands, but has been altered and adapted over the years. Mary has a painter redoing the cottage in heritage colours and Dion Bishell, the "Bull Shop" manager, and his family will move in shortly. TOM will revisit the cottage when it is restored and tell its 140 year old tales in another issue.

To date, work carried out on the property involves pulling out some of the existing box thorn hedging, refencing with deer fencing that, according to John, ".....will guarantee nothing escapes on to the road, to the best of my ability...", building the "Te Pari" cattle yards, building the sale shed with grand stand seating for 130 clients, planting new hedges and doing up the cottage.

The purpose of the "Bull Shop" is to sell Washer bulls weaned at Rahotu and raised in Te Kuiti and the site provides the best shop window any retailer could possibly want; on a main road with thousands of vehicles driving by everyday - a high proportion of them being farmers. Bulls will not be raised on the property but will be trucked in at night time and held for the sales. The farm will basically be a big holding pen, where the merchandise (bulls) will be highly visible to potential customers. Previously, the bull sales were held at Rahotu but had become hard to manage at that location. Main road farming has its hazards though, and John and Mary have gone to great pains to ensure that the fencing and double latching gates will prevent any bull from escaping. John says the Main Road is a much more dangerous place today than it was even ten years ago, and the motorist on the road now is more ignorant of stock behaviour and what to do if a bull should wander onto the Main Road. John feels he has a social responsibility to people using the area, to keep them safe and to keep his bulls as secure as possible. The deer fencing provides that security, is aesthetically pleasing to look through and through and is not much dearer than post and batten fencing. Truckies will find the selling complex user friendly with purpose built yards, turning facilities, parking and the option of not moving bulls on the day of sale. John thinks this is the first purpose built facility like it in the country, as most stock is sold at public sale yards and the stock has to be transported out straight away.

The first "Bull Shop" sale is scheduled for September 30. This will be a unique shopping experience for locals but only those with cows will probably be interested in attending.

John and Mary have a message for white baiters or others using the Tapuae Stream area - "Shut any gates you open. Stock on the Main Rd is life threatening to motorists especially those travelling at high speeds."

By Kim Ferens

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OAKURA school news

SUCCESSES:

FONTERRA TARANAKI SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2004.

This fair is an annual event open to all Taranaki Year 7 to 13 pupils. The competition displays the best entries from each school and, after judging, each category has 1st, 2nd and Merit places awarded.

Oakura School's Year 7 and some Year 8 pupils spent many hours on their Scientific Investigations entries, resulting in some fantastic display boards.

Three pupils were successful in achieving Merit Awards:

Ann-Marie Dehar & Sophie Ardern for "Natural Paints and Dyes" and Johnny Wadeson for his entry called "Flashin' Fashion" in the Technology Development section.

We are proud of all children who enter these competitions and extend our congratulations to those who achieved placings.



Johnny Wadeson with "Flashin Fashion", Anne-Marie Dehar and Sophie Ardern with "Natural Dyes and Paints".

ART ACHIEVEMENT.

Several senior students submitted artwork to "Learning Media" recently, to be considered for publication in the "Journal of Young People's Writing, 2004". Two of these entries were successful. Georgia Wood and Bethany Lowe both earned themselves \$50 and \$50 for Oakura School. Well done girls. We look forward to seeing your artwork published!

RECYCLING:

Two of Oakura School's Junior classes have recently studied the concept of recycling rubbish and unwanted items. An interview with Molly and Jeni-Lee from Room 2 lead me to believe that the children are now much more aware of what to do with their rubbish and why it is important to think about recycling and the environment.

The girls told me that we can put cans, bottles and paper out at the gate for the rubbish man to collect and put our apple cores and other food scraps into the compost bin. They also learnt that clothes that we don't want anymore can go into used clothing bins.

The children in Room 2 made a very colourful collage man, using chippie bags and other paper rubbish. He was aptly named "Greedy" The Rubbish Man by Jeni-Lee.

Something else the children learnt, was that they can now pass on what they know to adults who don't recycle and hopefully encourage them to make a change for the better.


Well done children.

Cathy Ardern.



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52 GOVER STREET • NEW PLYMOUTH

Hello from Oakura Library,

New fiction novels this month include: *Secret Smile*, a recommended thriller by Nicci French; *The Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell, a novel similar to the popular *Da Vinci Code*; *Elegance* by Kathleen Tessaro; and the acclaimed *How to Paint Your Wife* by New Zealand author Lloyd Jones. New non-fiction titles include *How Not to be a Perfect Mother* - a humorous take on raising 0-3 year olds by novelist Libby Purves; *Portraits*, a collection of photos of notable New Zealanders by Listener photographer Jane Ussher; and for the stressed out amongst us: *Meditation - Exercise and Inspirations for Well-being*.

August 9-15 was International Library Week. Oakura Library held daily events to celebrate Library Week, including a Bed-time Story reading session during our Wednesday late night session. Gorgeous pyjama fashions were on show as several locals came along to listen to some great stories on a cold winter's night. Other events included sessions on using the library catalogue and how to choose a good book.

This will be my last column for 'Tom', as I leave Oakura Library for a stint of overseas travel in September. I'd like to say thank you to all the library customers for making me feel so welcome in Oakura - I have enjoyed every minute of my time here and will take many special memories with me.

Happy reading!

Tara Ward



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History Bite . . .

ANTONIO RODRIQUEZ de SARDINHA



The Man from Madeira

Antonio Rodriquez isn't a very common name, and not one you would readily associate with the settling of the district, but Antonio certainly has made a worthy contribution to our history. It all began in 1852 in Madeira, Portugal, with a connection with the Mace family when the 20 year old Antonio boarded the ship St Michael; bound for New Zealand to be a servant.

Antonio joined the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers under the command of Captain Stapp at the Omata Stockade and during the Taranaki Land Wars had the reputation of being "a horseman of note". He also received the distinguished New Zealand Cross in 1877, for his effort in rescuing wounded soldiers under heavy fire at the Kaitake and Poutoko Redoubts. Frank Mace also received the New Zealand Cross at the same ceremony.

Following the wars in the 1860's, Antonio took over the licence of the Taranaki Hotel in New Plymouth. In 1865 he was reportedly attacked and "garrotted" by three men in a side street, possibly for money. This attack could have encouraged Antonio back to Omata where, in 1867, he became the Innkeeper at the Omata Inn. Not one to sit around, Antonio took to gold prospecting in the Kaitakes but it would seem this was unsuccessful. He died in 1905, aged 73, leaving no family. The government erected a headstone at the Omata (Waireka) cemetery in honour of this heroic man with the reputation of being "honourable and faithful".

By Kim Ferens

Rarotonga Rambles

"Emails"

Since moving from Oakura to Rarotonga, over a year ago, we have kept in contact with friends and family via email. For those first six months, when we were all feeling desperately home sick, our computer was like a life-line. After dinner we would all fight to be first on the computer.

We were warned before arriving that computer equipment doesn't wear well on the island. Electricity here is diesel-generated and there are often spikes and drops that cause electronic equipment to fail. Add to that the high humidity for much of the year and you'll understand why computer technicians are rich in Rarotonga. We thought we'd solved the problem by buying a UPS (uninterrupted power supply), but only four months into our time here our monitor started failing. Fortunately, we were still able to use it for emails, but no colours meant no internet, pictures or cd-roms. So, when my husband returned to NZ briefly for a few days last year he picked up a new one. Unfortunately, the airline smashed that one (possibly due to the amount of "fragile, handle with care" stickers plastered on the box?).

In January, when we holidayed in NZ, we got hold of another 2nd-hand computer. Unfortunately, this one had a similar demise to the first. And now, with only 5 months left here, I have finally given up. I've packed away the two machines (actually - I've shoved them into the spare room), and we are now using internet cafes.

Problem is, here in Raro, they are so precious about their machines they don't actually sell coffee.... in fact no drinks or food allowed around machines at any of the places we've tried! It's not exactly the same as being at home and writing in comfort and leisure. But then we're not quite as home-sick these days, so we don't need to email quite so often.

All the same, if anyone would like to email us please do so on:

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OAKURA PLAYCENTRE

Another busy month has flown by for us at Playcentre.

We've had an outing to the TSB Showplace to see a wonderful show, called "Songs of the Sea", performed by the Capital E National Theatre for Children. Having seen the great show they did last year, most of our families were very keen to see this years offering, which was truly excellent and very much enjoyed by all.

Our new outdoor play equipment has finally arrived; our children are having lots of fun using it and the lovely bright colours are very attractive.

We'd hoped to take a trip up the mountain to play in the snow, but, unfortunately, the weather was not good and we've had to postpone this.

A working bee, and utilising PD workers, again means our Playcentre continues to offer a bright, clean, tidy and well resourced place to bring our kids, have fun and make a mess! Why not come and join us? You'd be very welcome.

Playcentre is open to all children aged 0-6 years, and we're open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time from 9.00am-12 noon. Our fees are a very reasonable \$15 per child or \$20 per family per term - no matter how many sessions you come to - and the first three visits are free for new families wanting to see how we operate.

RESOURCES - if anyone has some "junk" that they think our children could enjoy doing things with, please call ei-



"Hayden and Quinn enjoy petting some guinea pigs at Playcentre"

ther of the numbers below, eg. large cardboard boxes, plastic pipes, wood off cuts, collage materials etc. Anything considered. An old kitchen bench would also be much appreciated.

If you want any more information or have any questions, please call Mandy Robinson on 752 1292 or Sharon Steen on 752 7376.

Otherwise, please feel free to come and join us - we're a friendly, fun place and warmly welcome all new families.

Trish Whitney

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Hours: Thursday 4 - 7pm, Friday 2 - 6pm, Saturday 5-6 hours daily, Sunday 5-6 hrs daily. Every 5th weekend off. See Donna for more details.

TOM tid bit:

Congratulations to Kerry Vossler and the team at green ginger cafe for being the Taranaki winner of the 2004 Huhtamaki Best Cafe awards.



GARDENING IN SEPTEMBER

Flowers:
*Top dress spring flowering bulbs with Bulb Food.
Sow seeds for most hardy annuals.*

Vegetables:
*Prepare to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, peppers and sweetcorn next month.
Plant main crop of potatoes.
Plant out cabbage and cauliflower seedlings.
Sow lettuce, radish, carrots, beetroot, silverbeet and peas.*

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OMATA school news

An Interview with Black Sox

On Tuesday, three year 6 boys from Omata School, along with 75 others, went to interview Bevan Martin at Puke Ariki. He is a member of the NZ Black Sox Softball team. Bevan told us about why we need to go hard at school and with what you wish to achieve in sport. He taught us valuable lessons about school and how to make your dreams your goals, and your goals come true. Bevan's family is very talented in all sports, like his Uncle Tom who won a gold medal for rowing. His father, Paul, represented Taranaki in three sports, rugby, golf and cricket. Paul was the first Maori to play 100 representative games of rugby for Taranaki. His cousin Jarred is the captain of the 2004 gold medalist Black Sox team.

We thought he must have had a tough life because he did not read a book from cover to cover until he was 30 years old. He has really improved his reading now, so he encouraged us all not to give up in school work and to KEEP READING! It was a very encouraging speech which left us with courage for life.

By Nick Arnold, Jamie Hareb and Aden Lowe

The World of Maths

The 'World of Maths' show visited us on the 18th and all classes got to have time doing whole lot of wonderful maths activities. They really brought maths alive for the students and was a great follow-up to Maths Week. It was so much fun the adults got in and had a go too.

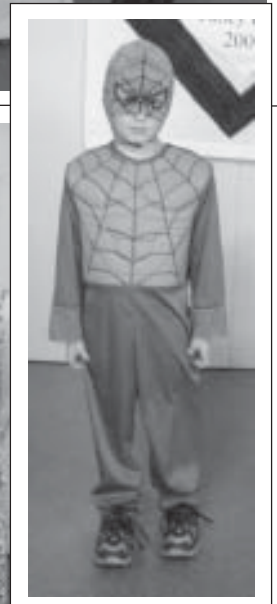
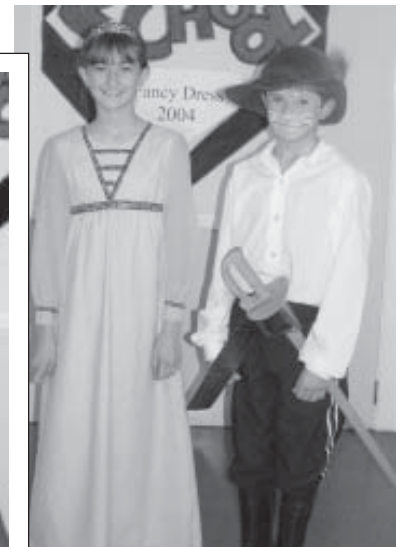


Brittanny McLean enjoys the World of Maths visit.



Fancy Dress

The annual fancy dress was held this month and was a great success. Each class performed a folk dance and this was enjoyed by all.



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What's happening at Okurukuru Vineyard this month?

The vines are now dormant for winter and we're busy pruning and cutting back for the next growing season. After February's devastating wind storms, the vines are slowly recovering but many were so badly wind burnt that they need to be cut right back to about 1 foot high. These will shoot away again this summer and fully recover, they've been set back a year or two - but all is not lost.

Shortly we'll start to put up some temporary wind breaks to reduce the damaging effects of the wind. When the vines are well established on the wires, these wind breaks will be removed (1-2 years most likely!).

After the great success of the more sheltered Plymouth Road 'home block', we're looking into developing another site this coming season which will be well sheltered and more suited to grape growing than the coastal block.

We're also re-planting some of the original vines that haven't performed so well, with two clones of Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris that we've found to grow well in the difficult coastal conditions.

Look out for the first buds to shoot - we expect it in late September or early October!

Earthworks have now been started for the construction of four double villas, which are being built for self-contained accommodation.

The Okurukuru Vineyard team



HAPPY HOUR
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5.30pm - 6.30pm

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THE OLYMPICS - LIVE FROM ATHENS



Jordi Wickham grew up in Oakura and was in Athens watching the 2004 Olympic Games. She took some time out from the excitement to answer some of TOM's questions.

Q: What's it like in Athens?

A: Athens is absolutely going off at the moment, it's a real party atmosphere. Even the volunteers appear to be having a good time. It's an amazing feeling to be around people from all over the world, and everyone is so patriotic and proud of their country.

Q: Have you been to an Olympic Games before?

A: Yes, this is my second Olympics; I went to the Sydney 2000 games too. I think this is more exciting as the Olympics have come home, and the Greeks have made such an effort to make sure everything goes to plan.

Q: How did you travel to Athens?

A: I spent a few months travelling here, driving across Europe, then by ferry to Greece from Italy.

Q: Which events have you seen so far?

A: So far I've been to beach volleyball, basketball and show-jumping (3 day event). I can't really say that one event has been better than another, as they are all the best athletes in the world for their respective sports. But it is awesome watching Kiwis compete, it's so exciting, we get really nervous.

Q: Is it difficult to get tickets for events, do you need to buy them very far in advance?

A: Unfortunately ticket sales seem pretty low, a lot of the stadiums aren't even half full. So for most events you can pick up tickets at the venues, some for as little as 10 Euros (approximately NZ\$20). Semis and finals cost more of course, and I'm sure will be harder to buy.

Q: It looks very hot over there, is the heat bearable?

A: It is *hot* over here, it must be a real strain on the athletes. Most days the temperature is in the mid 30s; the beach volleyball had 47 degrees on court. Luckily Heineken is one of the main sponsors, we use it for medicinal purposes so as not to overheat.

Q: Are there a lot of security measures around the city?

A: There are a lot of security people around the city, very few carry guns though. There is also a huge amount of volunteers. I haven't felt unsafe at all.

Q: What is coverage of the Games like on local TV?

A: Out of the 20-30 channels I've found on TV, about 6 of those seem to be covering the Olympics, and only 1 is in English. So we don't get to see much of the NZ team. There is a place set up called NZ House, in the lobby of a hotel, where we can go and catch up with the progress of the team and hang out with other Kiwis, and watch the Games on a big screen.

Q: Would you recommend watching the Games live to everyone?

A: Definitely. Although you get to see a lot more on TV, nothing compares with the atmosphere of actually being there; it's amazing, and so much fun. Start planning for Beijing now!



CLUBS AND GROUPS CALENDER

Omata Playgroup:

- 9-11am Omata School Hall, 16th Sept, 7th Oct.
Phone Stephanie Niederberger 751-2722

JKA Karate:

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

Indoor Bowls:

- Mondays at 7.30pm at Oakura Hall.
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St James Church, Oakura:

- Morning worship 10 am, 12th Sept, 26th Sept, 10th Oct.

St John's, Omata:

- Morning worship 10 am, 12th Sept, 26th Sept, 10th Oct.

Senior Citizens:

- Meet tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls.

All welcome - Phone 752 7864 for enquiries

Plunket coffee mornings:

- Friday mornings 9.00 - 10.00am at St James Church hall.

Mini Groovers:

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

JOANNA WOOFFINDIN RECEIVES CITIZENS AWARD



Last month, Oakura woman Joanna Wooffindin was the recipient of a New Plymouth District Council Citizens Award for services to the community. These awards are given to people who have made a significant contribution to the well-being of the New Plymouth District and its citizens over a significant period of time, through exceptional actions.

Receiving the award came as a complete surprise to Joanna, as it was organised through the nominations of friends and colleagues without her

knowledge. In fact, it was such a surprise that she was actually in the USA at the time of presentation, visiting her daughter and first grandchild. So, son Richard attended the ceremony at the Council Chambers and accepted the award on her behalf with a few words of thanks.

Joanna's award focuses on her contribution to the youth of the community through her role as a leader within the New Zealand Cadet Forces. Her long-term passion for aviation (she became a pilot in 1967) led her to join the Air Training Corps section of the NZCF in 1993, and she has worked her way up the ranks since then. As a Cadet Officer, Joanna's role encompasses that of mentor, role model, disciplinarian and friend to the 13-18 year olds in her squadron, and the nomination letters recommending her for the award all praise the respect and results she obtains from these young people, as they are instructed in aspects of Air Force life and take an active part in community celebrations and parades.

It's not just her cadets that have benefited from Joanna's organisational and leadership skill. She has also staffed over thirty Cadets and Officers courses around the country, and served as a member of various community committees, including that of the New Zealand Association of Women in Aviation and the New Plymouth Aero Club. She was also a long-term participant in the Taranaki Civil Defence organisation.

All of this contribution is completely voluntary, involving huge amounts of Joanna's own time, resources and often finances, fitted in around her own business and family commitments. The pay-off for Joanna is the large number of fantastic people she has met, and seeing the young people she has fostered grow into strong members of the community themselves.

Space in this publication doesn't do justice to the long list of her achievements; however I'm pleased to report that they are still being recognised. As of last week Joanna has been promoted to Squadron Leader, the highest rank in the Cadet Forces. Congratulations, Joanna, and thank you for all the time and effort you have given our community.

By Blyss Wagstaff

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S'NOW PROBLEM FOR TALENTED YOUNG LOCALS



Local children featured strongly in the Taranaki Primary School Skiing and Snowboarding Championships held on Friday 20 August.

The results were:

Skiing,

Jnr Girls,

L. Brankin (Oakura) 1,
J. Hadlow (Central) 2,
M. Neeson (Oakura) 3;

Int Girls,

A. Simkin (Devon) 1,
R. Pearce (Okato) 2
A. Brewster (Devon) 3;

Jnr Boys,

J. Braddock-Pajo (Oakura) 1,
T. Juneau (Oakura) 2,
Scott Busing (Woodleigh) 3;

Int Boys,

F. Neeson (Francis Douglas), 1 =,
T. Davies (Francis Douglas) 1 =,
H. Saleman (Oakura) 2,
O. Brankin (Oakura) 3.

Snowboarding,

Jnr Boys,

H. Johnson (Welbourne) 1,
T. Eaton (West End) 2,
C Anderson (Oakura) 3;

Int Girls,

A. Dehar 1;

Int Boys,

S. Momich 1,
O. Brankin (Oakura) 2,
H. Saleman (Oakura) 3.



Connor Anderson shows his snowboarding style . . .



Phili. Butt presenting the certificates at the prizegiving



. . . and so does Anne-Marie Dehar





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A New Sporting Champion for Oakura.

The Japanese Karate Association of New Zealand (JKANZ) National Championships were held in Turangi in August, 2004.

Dominic C-Gruys (Oakura) is the new JKANZ Men's Kumite (fighting) Champion for 2004. Dom started his karate training with Sensei Lutie Van den Berg, who now resides in Australia and coaches the Australian National team.

Dom, a Black Belt, currently attends Spotswood College and aspires to continue his karate expertise under the watchful guidance of Shihan Takahashi 7th Dan (Japan), Sensei Willis 5th Dan (Turangi) and local instructor Sensei Jim Hoskin.

Traditional JKA Coastal Karate classes currently run in Oakura and Opunake, training information is in the "What's On" section of the TOM or by phoning Sensei Jim on 06 7527337.



Dominic C-Gruys (Oakura), 2nd from left, receives his trophy from the President of JKANZ, Hon. Mark Burton, Minister of Defence, at a ceremony held in Turangi in August.

OAKURA PONY CLUB

A Province of Champions.

Hoist the pennants. Our coastal equestrian team have done it again. The Olympics are well under way and the Kiwi Equestrian Team has taken centre stage at the Three Day Event in Athens. The Taranaki riders in the team - Heelan Tompkins of Oakura and former Oakura Pony Club member and Mathew Grayling of Okato and the Okato Pony Club - both excelled in all disciplines; the dressage arena, cross country and the showjumping arena and were the mainstay of the Kiwi team. Their efforts saw the NZ team placed 5th overall, a fantastic effort, especially against the very experienced American and European teams. The television commentators also gave the province and the village some airtime. Heelan's and Mathew's efforts come hot on the heels of the National Pony Club Eventing Championships held recently in Cromwell, where the Taranaki team excelled in winning the teams dressage, as well as the National Championship trophy, and were also runner up in the Horse Management award. Four out of the six team members of the Taranaki team hail from Oakura and are Oakura Pony Club members.

On their return from Athens, Heelan and Mathew will be guest speakers at an informal evening/dinner to be hosted by Taranaki Pony Clubs at Stratford, recalling their Olympic experience. This is a fundraising evening to help defray the expenses of stabling etc... en route to Athens. If anyone wishes to know more about the evening, which I am sure will be most entertaining, they should contact Graham Rook 7527454 or Robyn Harvey 7527479.

Graham Rook

Lions Clubs Raise \$5000 for Heelan and Matthew

Oakura and Okato Lions club members jointly raised at least \$5000 for our local Olympic Equestrian horse riding competitors Heelan Tompkins and Matthew Grayling.

Each group held their own mock race meeting as a fun way to raise funds for the pair. The race was similar to a board game; the competitors rolled a dice and their horse was moved along the corresponding spaces. The counters were replaced with children riding hobby horses. People bet on horses and, if their horse won, the winner received a prize that had been donated by sponsors.

The Lions were very grateful for the generosity of the sponsors and would like to use this column to personally thank them for their overwhelming support. The sponsors were Butlers, Heydon Priest, Cunningham Construction, Hareb Deken Motors, Oakura Four Square, Washers and Greaves Electrical. Also, many of the local businesses donated goods for raffles which were for punters whose horses did not win.

Peter McDonald, from McDonalds Real Estate, not only did a fine job of being the auctioneer for the evening but his business also sponsored \$500 to both evenings. Fantastically, the winner of the race that received this amount instantly donated the money back to the fundraising pool!

The Oakura Four Square not only sponsored a horse race they also donated goods for three gift baskets to raffle and gave chocolate bars for the horse riders.



Kate Evans
— SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPIST —

**Nagging aches and Pains?
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OOPS!
We got Kate Evans' phone no. a wee bit wrong last month. Naughty TOM.
Sorry Kate. Got it right this time, though -
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Omata Playgroup

Omata playgroup continues to offer exciting activities for pre-schoolers everysecond Thursday during term time. The playgroup is run by Omata School's teacher aide Stephanie Niederberger and she keeps the little ones busy with a huge range of activities, from visits by baby goats through to icing biscuits! The Omata School and Community Hall provides a great venue, particularly on the wet winter days we have had, as there is plenty of room for the children to use up some energy!

Come along and enjoy the fun - all are welcome and the dates for the next month are:

Thursday September 16th

Thursday October 7th

All sessions run from 9-11am with morning tea provided.

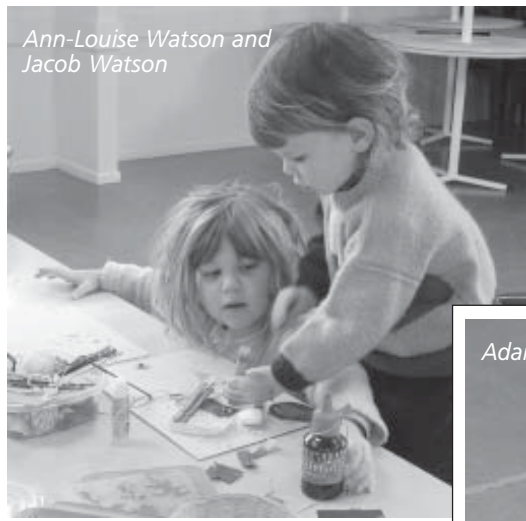


Playdough fun at Playgroup

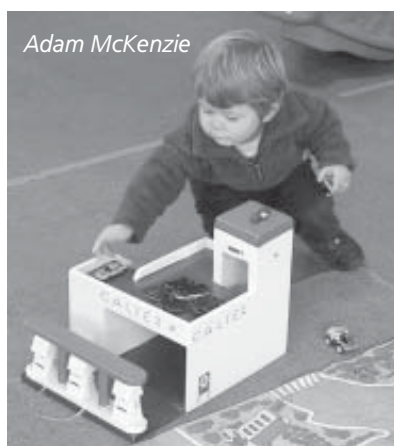


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CREATIVE CONCRETE



Local artist Terry Bailey may have been born in America but he has the kiwi can do attitude. After life took an unexpected turn, that left Terry out of action and stuck at home, a new beginning had to emerge. When visiting Auckland, Terry saw some garden pots that caught his eye, thinking - 'I could do that' - he went home and made some himself.

Four and a half years later, making garden art is now a full time career. Terry works from his home in Omata creating his pots and garden boxes. He works primarily in concrete, using casts to produce his garden art, sometimes adding oxides to the concrete mix, which creates beautiful earthy tones. Each piece is unique; Terry has a diverse style that ranges from the weird to the wonderful. Terry exhibits and sells his creations at craft shows throughout the country. You can check out his work locally at THE GIRLZ {formerly Peak Plants} or contact Terry Bailey directly on [06] 7513918. Also, if you're interested, ask Terry about the art festival coming up at Omata School. They are looking for local talent that would like to be involved.

Tammy Lewis



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Oakura Library and Discover It at Puke Ariki -

Holiday programme available. Phone
either on 759 6060 for details.

Puke Ariki -

Techno Toys exhibition still on. A
great place to spend an hour or two.



two in the
back and
one in the
glove box!



NAME: Phoebe Stewart ★

AGE: 12

SCHOOL: Oakura School - YEAR: 8

MY FAVOURITE THINGS:

FOOD: Pizza

ACTIVITY: Shopping

GAME/SPORT: Netball

MOVIE: Honey

BEST FRIENDS: Miaana Walden,
Jordan Wearne, Brooke Kuklinski,
Melissa Harvey, Georgie Woods,
Thais Farrant, Sasha Barleyman,
Kate Thomson, Stacey Fletcher.

WHEN I GROW UP I AM GOING TO
BE an interior designer or
fashion photographer. ★

Q. How do you know five
elephants are in the bank?

A. The red mini is parked outside.

A Poem by Alan Bagnall

I stumped off, angrily,
Far away from
My stupid family.

I think I even quite enjoyed
Kicking cow pats,
I was so annoyed.

By the open sea I sat for hours.
Then wandering around,
I picked wild flowers-

A big bright bunch,
Carried home,
In time for lunch.



KERERU AND TUI STUDY IN TARANAKI

Kereru (New Zealand woodpigeon) and tui are two readily recognisable native birds that are relatively widespread in Taranaki, and can be seen in gardens, parks, planted road verges and stream-sides, and native bush. They provide an important means of pollinating plants and seed dispersal. Besides inhabiting the patches of native bush scattered through Taranaki, the birds seek out many introduced food plants in the wider landscape, especially in winter and spring, such as the leaves, flower buds and flowers of tree lucerne, and buds and new leaves of willows by kereru, and the nectar of camellias, rhododendrons, Taiwan cherry, banksias and gums by tui.

DOC researchers are undertaking a study of some radio-tagged and colour-tagged kereru and tui to determine their movements, food preferences, when and where they nest, and how successful they are at rearing their young. Taranaki was selected as one of the study sites, (along with Southland), for this project because it still has reasonable numbers of both species present in urban and rural habitats.

Kereru Flybys

DOC researchers are now attempting to catch several kereru in and around New Plymouth to radio-tag them, including a few in Oakura. All birds caught will also be fitted with small coloured leg flags. Each bird has its own individual leg flag combination - no two birds share the same livery. Hopefully, by regularly locating each tagged bird, we will find out whether they stay in Oakura and nearby farmland throughout the year, or whether they move up into the Kaitakes and about Mt Taranaki to nest.

Tui With Bangles

So far four tui have been radio-tagged in the region, including three in Oakura. As well as the radio-tag, the tui have two leg bands, one colour on one leg and a metal (grey) numbered band on the other. In future, some birds will have two or three colour bands, as well as the metal band, so that they can be individually identified. If these bejewelled critters are seen then it would be great if their colour-band combination



details were recorded. We have put together a data sheet to simplify the recording of observations. If observers would like one of these sheets then please let the DOC team know. Even if you can't determine the combination, we are interested to learn where colour-banded tui are seen.

Even though it is only a few days since the tui were radio-tagged in Oakura, they have already provided us with some interesting information. The two birds that were caught in Matekai Park were found a couple of days later about 3.5 kilometres away in the native forest of the Kaitake Range. Several Oakura people have told us of seeing tui flying between the two areas, so probably this finding is nothing new. Hopefully, we will find out whether individuals make the trip to the park on a daily basis at this time of year, and if or when they remain in the native forest.

As well as reports of tagged or banded kereru and tui, we are keen to hear of any kereru and tui nests found in Oakura and the surrounding farmland and plantations. Both species are occasionally found nesting in urban and rural areas, not just native forest. We are keen to follow the fate of such nests; they may be more successful than those in native forests where possums, rats and stoats frequently occur.

Kereru and tui researchers: Kirsty Moran and Nik Joice at the Department of Conservation, P.O.Box 462, New Plymouth. Phone: 06 7580433. Email: klmoran@doc.govt.nz <<mailto:lmoran@doc.govt.nz>> or njoyce@doc.govt.nz

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