

## Has the bug got Lisa or has Lisa got the bug!

Lisa Tamati needs no introduction as one of our most high profile local athletes to have competed on the international stage this year. She completed the Death Valley Ultra-marathon in California in July.

To get herself and her team to Death Valley, Lisa put herself in the public eye to help raise funds for the trip and a few weeks ago she featured on Television New

Zealand's 20/20 programme. I had a few questions running (ha!) through my head, having followed Lisa's pre-race build-up and watched the documentary, so I went along to "Black Rock – designer jewellery and art" (which Lisa owns and works at along with her mum, Isobel) to put them to her.

Lisa does have a really bad case of the

"ultra" bug – hardly four weeks after her Death Valley experience she is contemplating her next events (note the plural). She says there is always someone out there telling you about some event or other that you haven't done that sounds exciting. This is just the way the idea of Death Valley was planted in her head a long, long time ago.

For the record, Death Valley is considered the toughest race anywhere in the world. It traverses three mountain ranges and exceeds 55 degrees, the course is 217 kilometres long, climbs from 85 metres below sea level to 253 kilometres above sea level with some uphill stretches 30 kilometres long. Only invitees can participate. Lisa was the first New Zealand woman to enter and complete the course and only two New Zealand men have done it with times of 56 hours. Lisa did it in approximately 38 hours (9 ½ hours below what she had set as her target).

Lisa puts her success down to her team – Andrea Needham, Sandy Barwick, Neil Wagstaff, Chris Cruickshank and Gerhard

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Lisa Tamati in her jewellery and art shop – Black Rock, Liardet Street, with dad, Cyril's art work on the wall behind.*

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I feel like a different person. After 12 years of being a fulltime mum as well as managing various businesses, I am now a part-time mum.

My youngest son started at Omata School a month ago. He is loving it and so am I. When I had my first son I was adamant that he would be my priority – I saw that as my responsibility as a mother and my social obligation. That philosophy followed with the births of the next two sons. It is too early to know if I have done the right thing by society, however, thus far none of them are wanted by the authorities for anything inappropriate!

The past 12 years have been interesting, tiring, stressful, rewarding, etc... Anybody who is a parent will understand what I'm saying. So when people have asked me what I am going to do now that Miles is at school, it hasn't taken too long to reply – heaps! By this I mean that instead of doing just enough of every job to get by, I am now going to finish some of those jobs properly. So far it feels good. And no I wouldn't have had it any other way because I had children so I could be part of their lives and vice versa.

I was fortunate to speak with a lot of women who were out of the workforce proper while they had young children and after 13-15 years, they were back in paid employment and doing very well indeed. The skills you gain from being at home are invaluable. I wonder if society is giving new mothers the wrong message about going out to work and leaving their children for someone else to nurture. There is an enormous amount of discussion out there about women not wanting to lose their place in the workplace and the need for challenges. Well, if you want a rewarding, challenging career, stay at home. It is the hardest job I have ever done. I know now there is a light at the end of the preschool tunnel.

Stay tuned, Tracey

## Has the bug got Lisa or has Lisa got the bug!

(Continued from page 1)

Lusskandl. Andrea pulled it all together with fundraising and sponsorship and provided inspiration to keep on going when the going got tough. "After all, Andrea knows about life being tough," says Lisa.

The other four team members worked together to provide the best training, nutrition, assistance, motivation and support before, during and after the race. Gerhard ran most of the way beside Lisa and Sandy was the best "camp mother", says Lisa. Neil was the team manager and Lisa rates him as the best training buddy, and Chris gave the one-on-one personal training Lisa needed.

Having the right team made the difference according to Lisa – people who gave the right fluids and foods at the right time, and constantly worked in the searing heat to keep Lisa's body temperature as low as possible.

So the 50,000 kilometres of running practice in the last 13 years paid off and Lisa won – that is to say she completed the course in her target time. When I watched the doco' the race looked cruel and demented, and I couldn't help think why would someone want to do such a harsh event? Could they be mad and was Lisa a little mad too?

Lisa says her dad, Cyril, always encouraged the family to participate in sports and to excel in whatever they were doing, so that is what Lisa has been doing for the last 20 years. Not mad at all – just trying to be the best she can be and having fun while she does it. And the talented runner is also a talented goldsmith (trained in Austria) who has found a new passion in cutting and polishing opals. The extremes couldn't be greater – from creative intricate jewels to the striding, gritty athlete.

The last few weeks have been a rollercoaster ride of juggling media engagements, (TV, newspapers, *Woman's Day*, *TOM!*) and Lisa is learning how to deal with these new pressures but has sensibly employed Phil Kingsley-Jones as her new manager. He is steering Lisa into new challenges with public speaking and motivational appearances, all of which Lisa is relishing and dealing with in her indomitable character.

Last but certainly not least is the support and friendship of Lisa's mum and dad, recent residents (for 20 years) of Oakura – Cyril and Isobel. Lisa has been living at home to save money for her trip and Isobel works alongside Lisa in Black Rock, where Cyril's extraordinary paintings hang on the walls. Isobel said it was a horrible experience sending her daughter off to run in the most rugged terrain in the world, but she is so very proud of her achievement.

As we all are.

By Kim Ferens



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

### THE TEAM

Co-ordinator: **Tracey Lusk** 06 752 7875

Co-ordinator/Features: **Kim Ferens** 06 751 1519

Advertising: **Jackie Tomlinson** 06 758 5442  
jackie@thetom.co.nz

Feature writer: **Jennifer Gros**  
jennifer@thetom.co.nz

Music reviews: **Graham Donlon** 06 752 4425

Proof reading: **Louise Norton** 06 752 4350

Graphics: **Ron Stratford** origin@xtra.co.nz

The TOM Group Ltd, 25 Jans Terrace, Oakura.

email kim@thetom.co.nz

Phone 0800 THE TOM

www.thetom.co.nz

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**TOM dates for October**

**Copy and ads deadline – 19 September**

**Distribution – 8 October**



#### FROM THE BAKERY

Garlic bread

Pesto and cheese bread

Bread platter

#### STARTERS

**Duck spring rolls**, served with a orange and chilli-infused dipping sauce.

**Ham hock terrine**, stuffed with poached leek, served with beetroot jelly, crustinni, apple chutney.

**Char-grilled asparagus spears**, topped with watercress, oven roasted nuts in olive oil.

**Poached duck egg**, drizzled with garlic aioli.

**Soup of the day**, served with carriage homemade speciality breads.

**Tempura king prawns**, served upon a chilled Asian vegetable and egg noodle salad, with sweet red pepper relish.

**The carriage antipasto**, selection of fine meats, king prawns, mussels, variety of fresh breads, sauces, and Italian complements.

#### MAINS

**Venison shank**, wild venison with bubble and squeak, oven roasted tomato, caramelised red onion jus.

**Herb crusted organic lamb rump**, with potato dauphinoise, fine beans, red wine, rosemary, lamb rump and garlic jus.

**Chicken**, free range chicken meat tossed together with shallots and button mushrooms, coq au vin, white wine chicken gravy, served with potato mash and vegetables.

**Pork belly**, organic pork with sweet potato and Maestro blue vein gratinate, apple chutney, carriage crackling, roasting jus.

**Chicken breast**, free range chicken wrapped in organic sticky bacon, set upon honey roasted vegetables, drizzled with chilli jam, finished off with a wedge of Kapiti brie cheese.

**Fish of the day**, changes daily, ask your service person for details.

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## Hi folks!

First of all, I have a big "thank you" to say to everyone who took part in our public survey for the Community Plan 2009-2019.

On 25 August a number of our staff arrived in Oakura to talk directly with members of the public about what is important to you and what you want for New Plymouth District during the next 10 years. We've also received a lot of feedback through the survey we posted online, and now we're collating all of the information that has been given to us.

The public response to our community roadshow has been heartening. It's fantastic to see residents so keen to talk about what their priorities are for our district – and all of this feedback will help us write a draft Community Plan 2009-2019 that reflects what our community wants.

In October we'll release to the public all of the information we have received during this series of 12 community roadshows throughout the district, plus the hui we have held with young people, the elderly, tangata whenua, Maori provider organisations, strategic partners and stakeholders, and members of the four community boards.

A draft Community Plan 2009-2019 will be released for formal submission in April next year, so keep an eye out for publicity about this!

Meanwhile, the contractors working on the sewerage scheme are making excellent progress with the installation of pipes and work has begun on constructing the sewerage pump in Shearer Reserve.

It's also been good to see that the sealing of some roads has been managed during the (unfortunately rare) fine spells of weather – we just need a few more dry days to enable more sealing to take place!

As the lateral pipes to property boundaries are progressively completed, letters are sent to residents whose properties are able to connect. It's a good idea to consider connecting to your lateral sooner rather than later to avoid being caught up in a glut of work just before the scheme is commissioned in August next year. But if you do connect early, remember that the connection can't be made live before the commissioning! If you need any advice about this, give the Council a call on 759 6060.

And if you want to talk about anything at all or if you have an idea for a project that you think the Council can help you with, give me a call and I'll see what we can do!

*Peter Tennent*

Mayor

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

**To each according to need...**

You know, I believe almost everyone who stands for Parliament does so to make the country they love a better place. What constitutes "a better place" is a matter of belief and opinion – that's why we join political parties with principles that most closely fit our own.

To my mind, one mark of our great democracy is that each and (almost) every Kiwi is free to try to make a difference. It is not and never should be the prerogative of the rich or the famous as it is in many other countries.

Another mark is how it supports those in need. Kiwis have always been proud of our egalitarian history. We believe in treating people fairly and supporting those who need help. We believe vulnerable people should be helped to re-connect with the community and to work towards making a better future for themselves. We may not have the time, skills or money to give that assistance ourselves so we expect governments to do that for us.

Some facts:

- 1 Since 1999, New Zealand's population has risen by 440,000.
- 2 In 1999, there were 160,000 people on the Unemployment Benefit.
- 3 In 2008, there are 17,000 on the Unemployment Benefit.
- 4 Since introducing WFF in 2004, 13,000 fewer people are receiving the DPB.
- 5 In December 1999, there were 1,834 people on the DPB in Taranaki.
- 6 In 2008, this has fallen to 1,325.
- 7 Nearly 10,000 New Plymouth families are getting WFF.
- 8 Around 18,000 New Plymouth children are benefiting.
- 9 Since 1999, 14,300 new jobs have been created in Taranaki.

Finally, there are people who, a few years ago, would have been institutionalised. They require and deserve our support, for what is the alternative? Bringing back institutions? Hundreds of sick, homeless people sleeping rough under our town bridges and in our office doorways? That may be the norm for other countries, but it must not be for New Zealand.

Kiwis believe in fairness and equality, in supporting our most vulnerable – the children, the sick and the old who need help. What we're doing now is working. Why change? To what? Carrots have always worked better than sticks, even on donkeys.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column.

*Harry Duynhoven*



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The succession of storms coupled with high tides and northerly swell directions has caused a fair bit of erosion along the village foreshore. Kaitake Board members met for an on-site meeting with Council officers to discuss ways to mitigate further erosion and take some remedial action as soon as possible. The Surf Club is a stakeholder in this process and is involved in the ongoing liaison as well.

Personally I think we were very lucky – the damage could have been much worse. The amount of volcanic sediment pouring down the Stony River and coming northwards meant there was a far larger sand accretion buffer than has been the case for many years. Hopefully this large pulse will quickly replenish the sand on the beach before summer. It is important that folk keep off the steep sand banks until access ways are re-established. While it might be fun to climb and slide down these banks it only aggravates the erosion problem, putting the land above at further risk.



*Mace Terrace's hole in the ground.*

The sewerage project continues as quickly as the weather allows. With any major project the engineers and contractors encounter problems along the way that have to be resolved. No doubt this will continue until the system is finally commissioned.

Contractors are just starting construction of the sewage transfer pump station in Shearer Reserve. I attended the recent site induction meeting to be briefed on the process. One thing became abundantly clear – this is a very complex construction area with multiple hazards (including very deep excavations that may have water in the bottom). It is fenced securely and well sign-posted. In spite of that, three village children were found playing on the site recently. It would be advisable for parents to explain clearly to their children why this is a “no go” area.

Dormer Construction has started installing sewer mains at the beach camp-ground and Whitaker Civil Engineering successfully installed the pipe from Mace Terrace to Messenger Terrace by under-boring, despite bending two drilling rods in the process (after hitting something hard!). This work outside our place has provided a lot of interested viewing and comment during the last few weeks.

I have discussed with the directional drilling contractors the possibility of them using their equipment to under-bore from the Council provided laterals to inside residential boundary connections. They can do this and are happy to provide a service. This could well be a cheaper option with the least amount of reinstatement work needed. If anyone wants to learn more, please contact Ed Murray, Manager of Coro Dingo Ltd

on 0275 234 646 or [admin@corodingo.co.nz](mailto:admin@corodingo.co.nz). Ed tells me that if there is enough interest he will hold an information-sharing workshop in the village.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.

## Tranzit Increases Bus Fares

Since Tranzit has taken over the coastal bus runs there has been a very substantial increase in the fares being charged to parents of those children who travel out of zone for their schooling. The Community Board has been supporting local parents in their quest to get something constructive done. Louise Stevens from AhuAhu Road is leading the campaign and has met with Tranzit and the Taranaki Regional Council to air concerns, not only about the fare increase but a list of other ongoing bus route issues also. Louise has presented an intelligent and well-researched case that Tranzit and the Regional Council have listened to. They have agreed to address the concerns where possible. This is work in progress for those involved and hopefully changes will be made and a full report available in the next issue of *TOM*.

Doug Hislop (752 7324) on behalf of Keith Plummer (752 7050), Mike Pillette (752 7059), Al Rawlinson (752 7178) and Deputy Mayor Alex Matheson (756 8080), who is the Council representative on the KCB.



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## update from the big red truck

### Greetings from all at the Big Red Truck

Do you look outside on a gorgeous day, stare at the mountain and think, "What an awesome sight"? Just a quick glance at our mountain tells us that it is truly winter.

Thankfully for the Brigade, it has remained a quiet winter thus far.

On 6 September we held our annual honours night. This is the night that we celebrate the commitment to the Brigade by each member and their family.

The "Griff" award, donated to the Brigade by Terry Griffiths in honour of his Gold Star, is awarded to the person who showed the greatest "Dedication to Duty" to the Oakura Fire Brigade over the previous year. This is measured in three areas – service, attendance and participation. It is the Brigade's most prestigious award and this year it was awarded to Station Officer Greg Newton.

Three years ago, three lovely mugs were splashed across the pages of the *TOM* as the newest recruits of the Brigade. At this year's honours night, Mark Braddock, Seamus Breeze and Rowan Oldfield received their first official recognition of service to the Brigade with the presentation of their Three Year Service Certificates.

Ross Buttimore received his Five Year Service Medal.

Well done, boys – we are proud of you and thank you for your service to the Oakura Brigade and to the community.

On 27 September we will once again be holding the Toughest Fire Fighter (around the Mountain) competition. This year it will be held in Butlers Lane, behind the pub. We are trying to make the course more like the Combat Challenge, which is competed for at a regional and national level.

Who will be Oakura's Toughest Fire Fighter? Will Mark Braddock retain the title or will Greg Newton snatch it back?

Please come and support the Oakura Brigade. It is a physically challenging albeit short course. Come and see what the Fire Fighters will put themselves through for a bit of team morale!

Stay warm and safe

Mel Breeze (Sec)

## Toughest Firefighter Competition

Saturday 27 September

10.00am

(Sunday 28/9/08 if wet)

It will be held on the road at the back of Butlers this year so more people can come and watch. We already have more entrants than previously and a crew are even coming through from Otaki. It will be great entertainment for the public who will see a variety of different fire fighting activities from climbing a tall tower to dragging a 90kg manikin and heaps more. Both men and women will be taking part.



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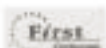


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**Puke Ariki**  
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Oakura Library**

Hi all

There are a few events happening this month at Oakura Library. It's Conservation Week starting Saturday 6 September and we will have a display featuring the brand new Tapuae Marine Reserve.

Also, we will have a dinosaur-themed holiday programme. The dates and times are: Monday 29 September, 1.30-2.30 pm Thursday 2 October, 10am-11am.

It's free but registration is essential. Please sign-up at Oakura Library. Start collecting recyclable materials for the crafts activity, such as gift-wrap paper, biscuit containers, popsicle sticks, even driftwood.

Adeline Yen Mah, author of *Chinese Cinderella*, has also written *China Land of Dragons and Emperors*. It's a lovely book that introduces children to the mysterious land we call China. The littlies will enjoy *Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig*, a fun read-aloud picture book. For grown-ups, we have Cecelia Ahern, Jeffrey Archer and many more new bestsellers. The teens will be keen to pick-up the latest in the *Cherub* Series or the *Artemis Fowl* novels.

Happy reading

Karen and Vincenza

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**September Checklist**

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- Sow lettuce, radishes, carrots, beetroots, silverbeet and peas.
- Plant out cabbage and cauliflower seedlings.
- Prepare to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, peppers and sweetcorn next month.
- Plant main crop potatoes.

*Rosemary has a nice crop of beautiful garlic growing at the rate of knots at the moment and has planted asparagus for the first time so it will be interesting to see what develops in that patch!*

**Flowers**

- Topdress spring flowering bulbs with bulb food.
- Sow seeds of most hardy annuals.

*Don't the magnolias look beautiful?*

**Fruit trees**

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WAYNE JURY  
LYN JURY

## Ross Brown Tournament report

For any primary school boy growing up in Taranaki, one of the highlights of his rugby career will be to say he competed in the Ross Brown Tournament.

Named after one of the all time greats of Taranaki rugby, the Ross Brown Tournament is limited to primary-school-aged kids who are 60kg or under. If you're really lucky you may get to play as a Year 7 and 8, but for most, Year 8 is when you get to tread in the footsteps of provincial legends like Kieran Crowley, Dave Loveridge and Graeme Mourie.

Despite most kids belonging to clubs when it comes to Saturday play, this tournament is a primary school tournament and kids are selected for one of four regions, depending on what school they go to. For three Oakura Primary School senior pupils – Mason Farrant, Thomas McDougall and Finn Robertson – that meant selection for the West region.

After a tough trial process and then four weeks of hard training, the boys donned the blue shirts of the Wests and headed to New Plymouth for three days of uncompromising, competitive rugby played on the hallowed turf at Yarrows. Most of us old rugby players never got the chance to run out on any ground of note. These boys got to change in the dressing rooms under the stand and run out onto the main ground for three days in a row and on the first day they played as curtain-raisers to the Taranaki v North Harbour game.



*Tom, Mason and Finn before the opening match.*

As it turned out, Wests were a pretty good team this year and with all three Oakura boys in the forward pack (Tom and Finn as locks and Mason as loose forward), the team was ensured plenty of quality ball for the backs to play with. Good wins against the Norths on the first day and Central on the second day (when Mason in particular had a blinder) meant that when they ran out again on Sunday against the other unbeaten team, the Souths, it was winner takes all. With some of their Coastal team mates in the opposition plus their regular coach Alan Crowley taking the Souths, it was always going to be a hard task and so it proved. In a willing game, the Wests competed well in the forwards, where Tom and Finn made sure of lineout possession while Mason constantly harassed the inside backs from Number 6 (and nearly scored a great try after yet another charge down) and at half-time it was all square at 10 a-piece.

Unfortunately in the second half, constant pressure from the Souths with the wind behind them and a superior set of backs eventually took its toll and the Wests succumbed 25-10 to concede victory and the Ross Brown Shield to a well-coached Souths outfit.

Our boys can take great pride in their efforts throughout the tournament and that effort was duly rewarded for Tom and Mason, who were named in the Ross Brown Tournament team at prize-giving afterwards, read out by Genesis Taranaki captain, Tony Penn.

After another gruelling trial two weeks later, both boys won selection to the full Taranaki Under-13 Under-60kg representative team, which now goes off to play against other teams from the Hurricanes region.

It's been a good year for Tom and Mason (both boys also represent Taranaki Cricket Under-14s) as they also scooped the major awards at the Coastal Rugby Club end-of-season prize-giving. Mason won Most Valuable Player while Tom won the Coastal Rugby Junior Player of the Year Trophy.

Congratulations to all three boys for their efforts on the rugby field this season.

*By Al McDougall*



*Tom competing at lineout time while Finn and Mason wait in support.*

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### Greetings all

She's still pretty bad out there, although a few kayakers got out a few weeks back. Peter Florence got a good number of gurnard and a few of the others caught enough for a feed. This welcome opportunity was a sigh of relief as most of our members have been suffering

from cabin fever, cooped up inside on the weekends. Luckily the whitebaiting season has arrived, otherwise some may have gone mad!

We have recently confirmed that the Taranaki Kayak Fishing Classic will be held on 4-5 April 2009.

More news this month is that our Club has recently entered into a Monthly Surfcasting Competition with the NP Surfcasting Club and the NP Club Fishing Section. There are monthly prizes for snapper and trevally, and also a drawn prize if you weigh any eligible fish on the day. The contest runs for 10 months and there are major prizes for the heaviest snapper, trevally and kahawai of the whole contest. With a prize pool of approx \$2,500, the contest runs on designated Saturday through to the Sundays, with afternoon weigh-ins at Hunting & Fishing.

Entrants must be a financial members of one of the clubs above so it is well worth joining the Oakura Surfcasting & Kayak Fishing Club – joining the family will only cost you \$40. If you are interested, get in touch with one of us:

Debbie – 752 7425

Garry Harrison – 752 7255

Tony Hurring (President) – 751 3552

Tight lines

Debbie E

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## Coastal Karate at the National Champs

The week of 13-16 August saw the JKANZ Karate National Championships held in Wanganui.

The first three days was training under the tuition of 8th Dan Takahashi Shihan of Japan and 6th Dan Sensei Willis of JKANZ. Sensei Jim Hoskin (2nd Dan) and Connor Anderson from the local Oakura Dojo attended this training with Sensei Dominic Cooksley-Gruys (2nd Dan) arriving for the next day's competition. Competitors from all over New Zealand and a few from Australia and Singapore were also in attendance.

Our locals, Dominic and Connor, ended with some good results. Dominic won a silver medal in the Senior Men's Black Belt Kumite (fighting) and Connor won a silver medal in the Kumite and a bronze in the Kata (form) in the Junior Black Belt division. Connor was also awarded the overall championship "Spirit" trophy.

The boys, with the help of Molly Martin from the Opunake Dojo, entered the teams Kata contest. This was a big ask of Molly, who only being a yellow belt really, stepped up, and the team put up a good showing.

Molly won two bronze medals for her Kata and Kumite in the 10th-7th Kyu, over-150cm division.



*Connor Anderson receiving Spirit award from Takahashi Shihan(Japan)*



*Dominic Cooksley-Gruys fights Noriaki Nakazawa(Pakuranga) in the mens final.*



## Beijing Olympics – a test for Heelan Tompkins

TOM caught up with Heelan Tompkins, following her Olympic experience in Hong Kong where her team came fifth, to see what it was like to represent New Zealand in the Olympics.

### What was involved in the build up to Beijing Olympics and who helped?

I went to England in April to a base with friends who were also hoping to make various Olympic teams. The American and Irish teams both based and trained with me in the buildup, so it was a very busy yard. Usually it takes 3 months of slowly building up a horse's fitness to reach their peak. I didn't do many competitions, but did have a lot of training there, which was very interesting. It took a while for my horse Sugoi to settle in to a new routine of being stabled, but once he did he was very happy. I had three friends come and help me in England and Hong Kong - Vanessa Way (from Oakura also) came over to help with my dressage and Kim Zander and Sugoi's old owner Amanda Brown, travelled over also. So it was a fun bunch to go away with.

### What did you think of the course and arena at the Hong Kong venue?

The venue in Hong Kong was amazing. The stables were air conditioned and there were many training areas, both indoor and out, to warm up in which was great. As the weather was so hot we rode twice - once early in the morning and once late at night. There were vet facilities and amazing cool-down bays for the horses.

### Can you help us understand what it is like to participate in such a huge international event like the Olympics?

Well, you prepare for 4 years and are very nervous about doing the right preparation in order to be selected. Then you get selected and are happy for ten minutes, then nervous again that nothing goes wrong before you fly out. Then you fly out and are relieved that you're finally on your way. You land in Hong Kong and become nervous that nothing goes wrong in the heat and that your feed is ok and your horse's fitness is up to speed. Then you compete and it is very intense as you do your best, but tend to be upset when little things don't go to plan. You have to try and make yourself enjoy it, as so much goes into actually getting there. And then it's all over!! It is really a massive roller coaster and some parts are amazing and some upsetting. As the horses are ridden away from the main venue of China, the event is not dissimilar to other big internationals, like Badminton or Kentucky. After the

competition finished I went over to China and enjoyed being part of the NZ team. While preparing and competing you are so focused on what you are doing, that you don't really get a chance to take a breath and relax.

### What was the highlight for you? Or highlights?

I enjoyed having Mark Todd in the team and being able to compete with him was amazing. Watching from the front row when Nick Willis came third in the 1500m was just out of this world, his medal was such an achievement. That was easily my favourite medal win to watch.

### Did you go to the closing ceremony? If so what was it like?

The closing ceremony is so much fun, we all just get together and have loads of fun, it's a big night



Heelan on Sugoi in the dressage event at Beijing.

### Tell us about your horse.

He is very big and strong compared to other horses I have had. He lacks experience but is very talented, I think he will get much better with more competitions

### Tell us about your team.

The team members were all individually strong, these team events at this level need all members to go their best in order to post a great team score. I missed having Mathew Grayling in the team, we have similar training styles at home and Matt is always good slipping in a joke or two to take the edge off situations.

### What are you up to post Olympics?

I am in Hong Kong and Australia with my horse Sugoi until mid September then I hope to be home. My season competitions in NZ start at the beginning of October.

### Do you want to go to the London Olympics?

London will be an amazing Olympics, but I'll get home before I make any plans for that one.

## Oakura boys take out skiing

Oakura boys cleaned up at the secondary schools junior skiing event, held on the Manganui ski field on Mt Taranaki recently: Thornton Davies – 1st, Tai Juneau – 2nd, Henry Saleman – 3rd. Other Oakura-ites also performed well, with Lucy Brankin coming second in the junior girls skiing and Tyler Anderson coming second in the senior snowboarding.

A great effort by local skiers and boarders.

Chris Davies

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# GETTING WET!



## NPOB Surf Club

As reported in the last issue of *TOM*, three members of our NPOB Surf Club – Ayla Dunlop-Barrett, Ben Willis and NZ Team Captain Glenn Anderson – were part of the twelve-strong New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Team that recently competed against the world's best lifeguards in Germany.

Teams from 38 countries contested an array of events that simulated rescue scenarios in both a swimming pool and beach environment, and individuals pitted their surf sports skills against world-class athletes for the right to be called a World Champion.

The pool events were held over three days in an underground Olympic-class swimming pool in Berlin, before moving to the Baltic Sea resort town of Warnemunde for the beach events. On any given summer weekend, there may be between 250,000 and 280,000 people crammed onto the beaches around Warnemunde!

At the conclusion of the pool events, New Zealand were second, 1 point behind Italy and 56 points ahead of the crack Australian team (stacked full with professionals!).

Several highlights in the pool included Glenn being part of the men's 200 metre obstacle relay that won gold in a world record time, his silver in the 200 metre super lifesaver, a bronze in the 100 metre rescue medley and silvers in the 4x50 metre medley relay and 4x25 metre manikin carry relay.

Ayla was also outstanding in the pool events, winning bronze in the women's 200 metre obstacle race and being part of the relay team that won silver in the 4x25 metre manikin relay and bronze in the 4x50 metre obstacles relay.

To the beach and the expected fightback from the Aussies...



*Ayla Dunlop Barratt in Germany.*

In some of the closest and most exciting racing seen for many years, New Zealand and Australia dominated the rest of the world in the beach events and pushed each other to the limit of endurance and skill. Unfortunately for us, the Aussies displayed their all-round class and the obvious benefits of regular hard racing to edge slightly ahead and overtake New Zealand to win yet another world title. However, they had to attain the highest points scored in World Champs history to beat the Kiwis.

### Overall points

1st – Australia – 889

2nd – New Zealand – 832

3rd – Italy – 526

Our NPOB athletes were outstanding at the beach events!

Here are the highlights...

### Ben Willis:

- 1 Double gold medalist and DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION in the Beach Sprint and Beach Flags events.

### Ayla Dunlop-Barrett:

- 2 3rd and bronze medal in the Individual Women's Surf Race
- 3 Teams events
  - silver in the Women's Board Rescue
  - silver in the Women's Tube Rescue
  - silver in the Women's Taplin Relay
  - silver in the Women's Beach Running Relay.

### Glenn Anderson:

- 1 3rd and bronze medal in the incredibly tough Ironman Race
- 2 Teams events
  - bronze in the Men's Taplin Relay
  - bronze in the Men's Tube Rescue.

We are very proud of the wonderful achievements of these talented athletes and we look forward to having them home this summer, patrolling our beach and passing on their surf sports knowledge to our young and aspiring world champions.

*Nicky Bryan*

Administrator

NPOB Surfclub

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What a month weather-wise. There's been very little surf, although Oakura beach saved us with a great little lefthand bank in the middle of the beach keeping locals entertained, although conditions were very cold at times.

The second of the NPSRC Westgate Winter Series contests was held in early August when conditions finally allowed. A clean sunny day at Fitzroy ensured some good surfing and a good turn out of competitors. The prize giving for the summer series was also held after the contest, with Oakura Boardriders members Tyler and Connor Anderson and Eloise Stevens all featuring in the finals.

As we go to press the New Zealand Secondary Schools Champs are about to be held at Raglan. The NPBHS team dominated this competition last year, with Tyler Anderson and Michael Mallalieu winning divisions and the team taking the trophy home. This was a huge achievement and one they are keen to repeat. We'll have news on that in the next issue on TOM.

Paige Hareb is back home for a break in her schedule and has been enjoying some snow before heading back on the road. She's hoping for a couple of good results to help her qualify for the World Tour. We wish her good luck and she has a lot of interested supporters watching her progress – it would be a great achievement not only for Paige but also New Zealand and Oakura surfing.

Keeping with the snow theme, Vertigo held a Jib Jam night, bringing in some snow and props in the car park. It was a great initiative by Jono and Cole – an enjoyable night for everyone and a little something different for the village.

The Surfers Ball is to be held on 18 October at the PIHMS facility in Bell Block with Cornerstone Roots playing. The Club is looking at running a bus from the clubrooms. Tickets will be available soon so if you're interested, contact a committee member. Get in early as ticket numbers are limited.

Also anyone interested in a DVD of the Club Champs and also some footage of the Vertigo Jib Jam night can contact Club President Paul Christophers on 0274 065 654.



Summer Series Open Finalists.



Tyler Anderson at the Vertigo Jib Jam evening.

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# Flexible Electrical – bending over backwards to help

When Alex decided it was time to start up his own electrical business, he knew that flexibility was going to be one of the keys to his new venture. Fortunately, being a long-time yoga practitioner and teacher, flexibility comes easier for him than for most!

Alex lives with his partner Aileen and daughter Ranui just on the outskirts of Oakura.

Aileen has been working part-time and helping as a relief teacher at the Sophia Preschool and takes two-year-old Ranui along to work with her. It's been a pretty good arrangement for all concerned.

With Aileen also being a yoga practitioner, flexibility runs in the family. Even little Ranui gets in on the act, dragging a mat out when Dad is practicing and tying herself in knots.

Alex has been living in the Oakura district for about four years, working with local New Plymouth companies, Fitzroy Yachts and New Plymouth Electrical. His electrical experience is broad and varied, from setting up integrated touch-screen monitoring systems on super-yachts to installing fluorescent lights in cowsheds. He enjoyed his time working for both, but has decided it's time to go out on his own and concentrate on his local community.

"I'm definitely happier outside than getting claustrophobic from being cooped up inside a factory all day. None of those jobs are as glamorous as they seem. I like to be out meeting people," he says.

Working from home means he is able to keep his overheads down and his prices realistic, but he carries a wide range of stock with him, so he is able to deal with most eventualities on the spot.

Teaching yoga from the centre of New Plymouth down to Opunake, he is able to combine his teaching and electrical work. This way the customers don't incur the hefty fuel charges that have become a feature when tradesman travel out from New Plymouth to the surrounding districts.

Alex says he and his family have integrated into the local community well, becoming good friends with the neighbours,

with a bit of reciprocal back-scratching going on. He admits he's had a couple of late work nights, one in particular after a certain tornado created a bit of havoc in the district.

The main of Alex's work so far has been re-wiring some of the old original weatherboard homes and baches in the region.

"People don't like the idea of that old brittle wire that's been sitting in steel conduit for years. I've seen a few scorch marks on ceilings and it makes me shudder. Also, having the meter reader come into the home, as is still the case for some, is a

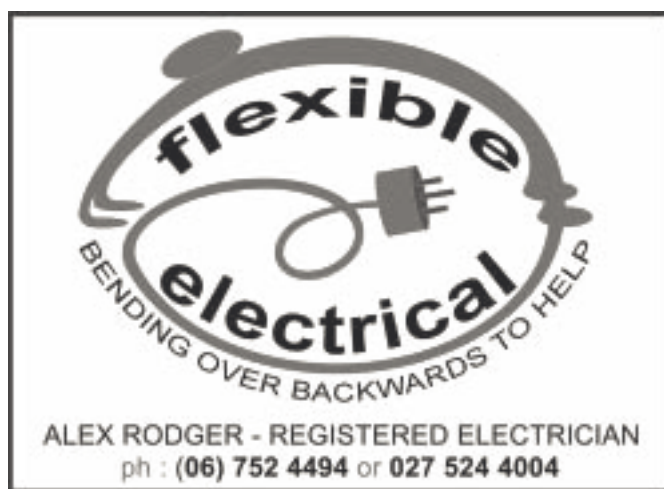
bit un-nerving for people. What I've been able to do is split the old fuse box and meters into two, putting the meter box outside, but leaving the switchboards inside for easy access."

Although getting himself into roof-spaces is not something he relishes, Alex is built for the job and his "racing snake" build helps in this department.

"It was the same working on the boats – I used to 'yoga' myself into all kinds of tight spots down in the bilges. Harry Houdini springs to mind a lot. He was a yoga master, that's how he was able to stay in those airtight boxes for extended lengths of time with hardly any oxygen. He could slow his heart rate until he was at the point where he was just doing enough to keep himself alive. We learn all that in my yoga classes... but without the boxes!" he laughs.



*Alex hard at work.*



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## Oakura Year 6 netball

Wow! What an achievement. Remaining unbeaten all season, the Oakura Year 6 netball team have just recently won the final of the interschool competition, winning the Maree Leach Trophy.

The champion team won their victory on Thursday the 21st over Norfolk School with the result of 24-11. The court was well balanced, with great work from the whole team (including Corey who showed great support while watching from the side lines with her leg in plaster).



*The champion netball team.*

It's the third time Oakura has won the competition, and the second year in a row. The team of ten girls – Paloma Aston, Eva Reid, Meyer Neeson, Corey Vickers, Libby Cocker, Elizabeth Antunovich, Molly Cattell, Lily Palmer, Amy Benton and Rose Lovett-Tuhua – have put in a tremendous effort all season and are really pleased with their fantastic outcome.

The girls would like to thank their amazing coach, Janis Neeson, for all her hard work and encouragement throughout the season. Helen, Debbie and Trish were also a great help to the team, along with the outstanding support of Oakura School.

But just because the season is over, doesn't mean netball has left the minds of these young players – I mean, there's still next year to come!

*By Amy Benton – Oakura School Journalist*



*William Pitt crossing the line in the cross country.*

## Math Spectacular Quiz

On Friday 15 August a Year 7 team and a Year 8 team from Oakura School went to Pukekura Raceway to compete in the Methanex Math Spectacular Quiz.

The Year 7 team competed from 7 pm-7.30 pm and the Year 8 team from 8 pm-8.30 pm.

The questions were mainly brain teaser, problem solving questions, with a bit of multiplication, addition and division thrown in there as well. The first place prize was a silver trophy and \$25 for each member of the team. Both of our teams missed out on the cash, with the Year 7 team finishing eighth and the Year 8 team sixth. Both teams gave it their all, which, as sometimes is the case, was just not quite enough on the day.

*JG Coughtrey – Oakura School Journalist*



*The Maths Spectacular team: Jack Powell, William Conquest, Kyle Cox and Isla Dunn.*

## Annual Cross Country

On 20 August nearly all of Oakura School's senior students, from Rooms 5 to 10, participated in our annual school cross country event.

Many stunned the spectators with their speed and agility, fighting for first place. It was a 1.5 km run for the younger ones and around a 2 km run for the seniors. This year's course was adapted so that spectators could view most of the race. We had a lot of effort and commitment from all pupils. Congratulations to all who participated and well done to all who came first...

8-year-old girls – Danielle Hood

8-year-old boys – Jack Aim

9-year-old girls – Danni Fletcher

9-year-old boys – Daniel Barron

10-year-old girls – Libby Antunovic

10-year-old boys – Nick Wilson

11-year-old girls – Ellie Tvrdich

11-year-old boys – Farris Petty

12-year-old girls – Natalie Plonk

12-year-old boys – JG Coughtrey

13-year-old girls – Jahla Tran-Lawrence

13-year-old boys – Sean Kelly

*By Gracie Hoskin and Jessica Clark – Oakura School Journalists*

## Taranaki Ski Champs

On Wednesday 20 August young ski racers from all over Taranaki flocked to the Maunganui ski field to show their skills and experience in ski racing.

Among them were the Oakura representatives, who had all been skiing for a few years. The team consisted of myself, Truman Edwards, Meyer Neeson, Saxon Mackinnon, Isaac Hardie Boys, Angus White, Gabriel Laing-Aiken, Miriam Stewart, Noah Edwards and Kieran Cullen.

The course was set up on the far left of the lift, and was very icy and hard packed, which is perfect for racing. The weather was sunny but very windy and the Stratford Mountain Club lodge was available for the racers use, providing good shelter, warmth and water.

The racing was split into four divisions – primary boys, primary girls, intermediate boys and intermediate girls. Oakura did very well, coming away with a third (Isaac Hardie Boys) and two firsts (myself and Meyer Neeson)!

The competition was also being used as trials for the North Island Champs.

This event was made much easier by all the parents that helped out, some of who were up there until six at night! It was a great day and will hopefully be able to run next year.

*Max Hardie Boys – Oakura School Journalist*

**Shane Herbert - Lawyer**

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Waste Management's popular blue wheelie bins are being joined by a blue option for businesses. The new blue front loaders are available for commercial use and are already proving a hit!

Words Jolene Stockman

All Taranaki people have access to recycling facilities - kerbside collection is available free through the council but if you want commercial recycling options, or the convenience of a blue bin, Waste Management can help.

Blue bins provide mixed or co-mingled recycling, meaning all your recycling (glass / plastic / cardboard / aluminium) goes in the same bin.

Businesses can utilise a range of options, including flexibility in collection, numbers and types of bin, and recycling with the new range of blue front loaders (that can be used for all recyclables except glass or cans).

Cardboard-only bins are available, or if you have the space, Waste Management also offers a loose cardboard collection.

With more individuals and businesses looking to go green, and the *Waste Minimisation Bill* imminent, now's the time to take advantage of Waste Management's recycling options.

To discuss your waste management solution, call Shane Robbertsen 757 8381.

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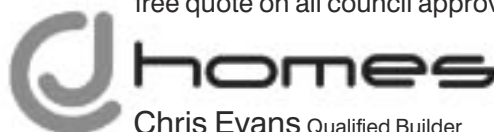
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## What's happening at Omata School

September

9th Keep NZ Beautiful Day  
Rubbish clean-up  
Tennis coaching for all classes

11th Exercise books home

17/18th Year 5 and 6 at Vertical  
Horizon Camp

22nd Education Review Office at Omata

24th Choir at Music Festival at TSB Stadium

26th Term 3 ends

October

13th Term 4 begins



Andrew and Bayly battle it out in the years 7 & 8 chess tournament.



Sami Glenny looks cute at the school disco.



Olivia Lister is the prettiest little witch in the west.

## Chess Tournament

Omata School hosted the recent primary school chess tournament for year 5-8s with participants from Westown School, Moturoa School, St Josephs, Waitara and Francis Douglas. The year 5 & 6 team progressed through to the semi finals and the year 7 & 8 team was knocked out of the competition. All the children enjoyed the challenge and the opportunity to represent their school. The year 5 & 6 team came fourth out of eight teams in the finals at Oakura Hall. Jackie Tomlinson did a wonderful job of coaching the teams and setting up the venue at Omata School.

## The School disco

By Adam, Beren, Kiara, Max, McKenzie and Jade – Years 1 and 2

Did you know that penguins go to discos? We were surprised to see a dancing penguin at our Omata School disco. It was Ms Brisco in disguise. Some other people were in disguise too. We saw a vampire, a unicorn, a pirate, a character from Star Wars, a bride and Snow White. All of them were dancing to the beat under the lights of the disco ball. It was great fun.

## New goal posts

We finally have a soccer field for our 11th and 13th grade teams to play on. We purchased combination soccer/rugby goals with monies gratefully received from the Pelorus Trust. A huge thanks to Hazel and Shorty Clarke for hours spent erecting the goals and marking the field in the mud, rain, hail and all-round hideous conditions. A sterling effort!

Regards

Karen



All the action at the disco.



Shorty and Hazel installing our new goal posts.



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## kaitake kindergarten

The children have been very busy with their sewing curriculum this term. They started with making spiders, which look really effective hanging from the rafters of the ceiling among a fabric that resembles cobwebs. The scarecrow project is well underway. These are being made with the help of parents, as it is a very labour-intensive project and the children need extra support to sew around their scarecrows and also to put facial features on and stuff them. A record of their scarecrow-making is being kept for the children's portfolios. The girls in particular love the idea of sewing and the boys are starting to get more involved as they see the scarecrows completed. It is great to see the children's faces as they show off their masterpieces.

Each scarecrow is being given its own personality. Lila Davies and her Mum Mel have given her scarecrow a bikini top and a pink tutu. Alyssa Lamb has been busy drawing and cutting hearts for the front of her creation and Charlotte Lamb has beautiful butterflies on hers. Cullen Luckin is so into his scarecrow-making he is onto his second one. As Cullen puts it, "I took the boy one home and he is gunna be outside and the girl one is going inside to get tea." Long noses and patches are added along with different hair designs – wool, string, old scarves and sacking. Finally a stick is added and it is great to see the children running around showing their creations off.

Carpentry has become a focus, with some very interesting wooden items being made. We have a new carpentry storage cabinet set on wheels. This is proving to be very successful in keeping our carpentry tools and resources neat and looking inviting to use. Once again parents are encouraged to help in this area. Our new lovebirds have been named – Twitter and Squeak. They have new toys and a nesting box in their cage, so watch this space for the pitter-patter of tiny feet!

As the weeks of Term 3 fly by, we find the usual winter illnesses hanging around – coughs, colds and high temperatures – so please keep your children at home if they are not feeling well.

Kris Roper



Sol O'Sullivan cuts out his pattern.

### Oakura Plunket Needs You . . .



To keep your Plunket local, we need your local support.

If you can spare an hour or two every couple of months and would like to help keep Plunket in Oakura, please contact:

Claire White, President 7527-229,  
Kylie Braddock, Secretary 7527-985, or  
Bob Fleming, Treasurer 7527-048



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Lewis Thompson with his "scary" creation.



The finished products doing their work in the garden.

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**Farmers Market Taranaki**  
Food - locally grown and made. Every Sunday, 9.00am noon, Currie St, New Plymouth.

**Plunket Coffee Mornings**  
Wednesday, 9.15am to 11.00am (please arrive before 10.00am). During the winter months held at Attendees Homes - please contact Bob Fleming 752 7048 or Fe Burkett 752 1132 or Claire Florance 752 7689 to find out where.

**Mini Groovers**  
Tuesday mornings 10.00am Oakura Hall.  
Gold coin donation.

**Playcentre**  
Playcentre, Donnelly Street  
Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to noon.

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

**St John's Omata**  
Morning worship 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**St James Church Oakura**  
Morning worship 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**Kung Fu**  
Monday & Thursdays 6.00-7.30pm for 12 years and over. 454 Plymouth Rd, phone Joanna Smith-Holley 752 1016.

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

**Yoga**  
Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.00pm, Sat mornings 9.00-10.30am. Beginners welcome.  
Phone Sarsha 752 7977.

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

**Senior Citizens**  
Meet Tuesdays in St James Church lounge for cards and bowls. All welcome, phone 753 5705 for enquiries.

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

**Country and Western Club**  
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