

TAKE ONE MOMENT

NOVEMBER 2011

TOM OKATO

GOLD FOR COASTAL BOYS

Josh Gibson, Cody Luckin and Callum Hurley
of the unbeaten U16 team in the Inline Hockey
National Tournament held in Hamilton

- more on page 2



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TOM OKATO

TOM-OKATO is a free, monthly publication, delivered on the second Wednesday of the month to all homes and post-boxes from Timaru Road to Bayly Road.

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

EDITORIAL

Yee harr!!

The boys in black pulled it off and have brought home The Cup. We are going to sit



on cloud nine for a while and bask in the reflected glory before returning to the mundanity of everyday life.

Everyone got into the spirit of the occasion. While Auckland was the official hosting city for the event, New Plymouth has been recognised by British journalist Stephen Jones as the best host town of the tournament. That was no surprise to us; we know what a friendly area we live in.

We in Okato had our own Fanzone for the final at Cafe Lahar. The party went on into the early hours of the morning. No doubt many others were celebrating in the comfort of their own homes or elsewhere.

We cannot believe that the next issue of the TOM will be the last for the year. Remember that there is no TOM published in January so if you have anything you would like to be included, put pen to paper or contact one of us and we will be happy to help.

*Kerry and
Milly*

COVER STORY

Gold for Coastal Boys

Four local inline hockey players have returned with gold medals from the Inline Hockey National Tournament held in Hamilton.

Kayden Gibson won gold as a goalie in the premier team of the New Plymouth Ravens. The game went into overtime and the Ravens scored a golden goal to clinch the match. It is the first time the Ravens Premiers have won gold at the national tournament. Three players competed and won gold in the U16 grade: Josh Gibson, Cody Luckin and Callum Hurley. The U16 team was unbeaten in the entire tournament.

Other locals competing in the tournament were Rodney Cruden-Powell (goalie for the U14's), Mitchell Hurley (both returned with a silver medal), Liam Gibson (goalie for the U12's), and Hayden Luckin (both returned with a bronze medal).

The New Plymouth Rollersports Club will host the International Inline Hockey World Championships qualifier event in November, and Kayden Gibson has been named in the 19-man Kiwi squad. Teams from South Africa, Chinese Taipei and New Zealand

will compete in a round-robin series to decide the entry to attend the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) hosted Inline Hockey World Championships in Germany in June 2012. Qualifier games are on Friday, November 18 (Chinese Taipei v New Zealand), November 19 (South Africa v Chinese Taipei) and November 20 (NZ v South Africa).

Selections are also being made for Oceania's, the clash between New Zealand and Australia, and feature the best players from around New Zealand in each age group.

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Copy and ads - 25 November

Distribution - 12 December

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French Breakfast for 'Operation Breakfast Child'

The French breakfast held in Okato on the morning of Saturday, 1 October was the place to be. About 60 people dressed up, a number in the French style, and converged on St Luke's Hall to enjoy the ambience of a French café, an authentic French weekend breakfast, and congenial company, whilst supporting Operation Christmas Child's drive to supply shoe-size boxes containing Christmas gifts for needy Fijian children.

As usual, the people of Okato and surrounding communities were incredibly generous. People who weren't even intending to come to breakfast paid for tickets. One couple posted their donation, accompanied by a card and a message. An elderly lady paid for her ticket and then doubled it. One bighearted benefactor stopped me in the street and presented a cheque for \$250. Another couple gave every one of their three children \$25 and took them to town to buy gifts to put in boxes to donate. And then they paid the cost of shipping. Not content with that, they filled four more boxes, donated a dozen and a half eggs for cooking with, and bought tickets for their own breakfasts! Some people brought gifts to the event to add to boxes, some brought boxes filled with gifts, others brought monetary donations.

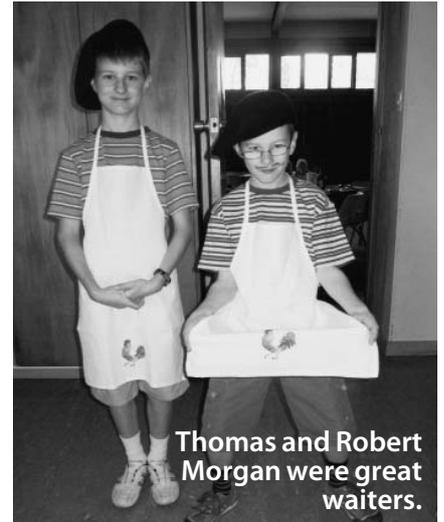
When everybody had gone home laden with food and drink and bonhomie, the gift table was loaded and \$1069.90 profit was counted! But that wasn't the end of it — gifts and donations kept arriving after the event and eventually, 70 boxes were delivered, together with more than \$1200 to pass on to Samaritan's Purse for shipping and other gift-related costs.

It was a fun event for a good cause, for organisers and guests alike. Suzette Tain-gahue, a kitchen helper on the day, summarised that when she commented, "We hope everybody enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them."

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley



Agnes Hardegger and Kit Lilley prepare to enjoy breakfast.



Thomas and Robert Morgan were great waiters.



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Meandering with Anne and Mo

CRUISING IN THE BALTIC SEA WITH ANNE AND MO — THEIR FINAL ADVENTURE, FOR NOW.

We did so much in such a short time on our cruise in the Baltic Sea that already it seems like a blur and a distant memory.

We flew direct from London to Copenhagen, where we were greeted by an impeccably dressed driver who drove us direct to the Norwegian Sun in a late model Mercedes. We felt very posh! On board, we discovered everything imaginable for luxury holidaying — a beauty/spa, fitness centre, two pools, four hot tubs (spas), eleven restaurants, a theatre, a night club, a casino, six bars, an internet café, and shops. The cruise was full, with approximately 2000 guests and 1000 staff. We counted 30 staff in attendance in one restaurant alone. They were professional, polite, friendly and from all around the world, but mainly from the Philippines, Romania and Russia. The “free styling” cruise meant you didn’t have to dress up for evening meals. This suited Mo... he didn’t get out of his jandals!

Our cabin was an inside one — the cheapest — but perfectly adequate, with a good shower and serviced twice a day! Our towels were folded to look like elephants, snakes, mice, turtles and swans. Every night we were issued with the next day’s schedule. During the days, we could attend seminars (art, fitness, weight, acupuncture, skin), solve mysteries or puzzles, meet the staff, or go to yoga or Pilates, and in the evenings there was something for everyone — musicals, an illusionist, singers, a pianist, a jazz band, a play anything band, dance lessons, a couples game show, a talent show, and more. My only regret was that while I went on day excursions, I couldn’t enjoy what was on offer on the ship.

We arrived in Germany on the second day and made our way to Berlin, where we saw the remains of the Berlin Wall, the East Side Gallery, Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial and the city gates, which have a huge monument on top of a carriage and horses — which Napoleon once stole and took back to France!!! It was recovered and put back in place 200 odd years later. The East side still looks grey and depressing but the creation of parks and tree plantings are environmentally pleasing. That night, uh-oh... I was hit with a nasty bug... No, not Mo with his cast iron gut!!! So next day I was confined to barracks. Just as well it was a sea day and I didn’t miss out on any excursions.



Berlin Wall’s “East Side Gallery” depicts people flooding to the West.

After that, we visited the old city of Tallinn in Estonia within its 4m thick, fortified walls. We got a glimpse of medieval days, learned some history, walked the streets and enjoyed lunch in the town square in the sun whilst soaking up the atmosphere.

During our first day in St Petersburg, we visited the supermarket, food halls and markets, and the Metro, which had to be built below the swamps. The escalator down took six or seven minutes and then, wow! Stalin had built “people’s palaces” with chandeliers, bronze and brass light fixtures and marble and granite floors and walls. No graffiti but the trains were old, noisy and very basic! We drove past the Hermitage, the Winter Palace, stunning monuments and churches and even the original Singer sewing machine factory! You will all remember the Ladas from days gone by? Well, new models are being made, but they’re still cheap and they still break down. Not even the Russians want to buy them! Apart from palaces and the homes of the wealthy, construction is drab and all renovations have to have originally styled facades. However, parks are being developed and trees planted, which is making the sterile apartment blocks nicer places in which to live. Some extended families are still living communally in one apartment, with one kitchen and one bathroom for as many as three generations, and they cannot afford to break free of this style of living. The people are glum... no smiles here!!! We passed many old ladies and young men trying to sell things — mainly bunches of flowers or bundles of beans, mint or parsley, while inside the shopping malls was all glitz and glamour. This is a country of extremes, I think.

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Authorised by Andrew Little,
77 Powderham St, New Plymouth

On our second day in St Petersburg, we went to see Peterhof Palace and gardens. Wow!! Google it! The wealth, the elaborate gold Baroque-style rooms were completely over the top, but such workmanship! Thank goodness they had the foresight to hide the Royal family's paintings, dinner sets, ornaments, furniture — all so ornate, luxurious and in original style — when the Germans took over the palace as their headquarters during the war. Other belongings were confiscated and never seen again, and the palace was trashed. The Russian government has since restored it and even the painted wooden carvings have been re-coated in gold plate. Outside, garden ornaments and statues are brass and highlighted with real gold, and the fountains are gravity fed and magnificent.

Our first wet day was spent in Helsinki, in Finland. There are 315 islands surrounding the capital, which has five months' snow and four months' frozen sea each year! The highlight for us was an open-air museum, which had been set up on one of the islands by the government. Eighty-nine original buildings were used to make a traditional, 1800's-style farm and buildings, including a church, bell tower and hall.

Next stop was Stockholm in Sweden. Stockholm is made up of 30,000 islands! This was the home of Stig Larsen, the author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Our highlight there was seeing a ship called the *Vasa*, built in the 1600's by the king. It had to be the best in the water and was ornate and beautiful, with red and yellow carvings. Planned originally with one level of cannons, the king ordered a second level halfway through construction. Twenty minutes into its maiden sailing, with dignitaries on board, it sank to the bottom of the harbour!! It was rediscovered during the 60's and lifted up out of the silt for restoration, which took another 15 years!

By 9.00 on the morning of the ninth day, we had left the ship and were transferred by Mercedes to Copenhagen, where we spent the night. A lovely birthday lunch for me at an outside café on one of the canals was followed by a bus tour and canal tour of the city. Yes, I have got the photo of the Little Mermaid and we saw the house that Hans Christian Andersen lived in for most of his writing years.

We are so glad we took the opportunity to do the trip. It was a great experience!

Anne and Mo Donald



Anne and Mo and The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen.

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SPORT

Okato Rugby Club

Some of you may not be aware that the Okato Rugby clubrooms are available for hire for any type of function from a large-scale event, such as 21st parties, birthdays, reunions or weddings, to more intimate events, such as meetings or workshops. To support our community we try to keep our hireage fees to a minimum. Facilities available at the clubrooms are: large chiller; large bar area; plenty of floor space; bar leaners and stools; small round tables and chairs; kitchen with two ovens, fridge and pie warmer; inside-outside flow.

For more information or bookings please contact Matt Moorby on 06-752 4928.

SUBMISSION MADE TO THE NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE DRAFT SPORTS PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Many thanks to all of the people who signed and supported our submission to the New Plymouth District Council for the Draft Sports Parks Management Plan. The next step will be sending a representative to speak about the submission on behalf of the Okato Rugby Club in late 2011 or early 2012.

We will keep you updated.

Matt Moorby
Secretary, Okato Rugby Club

Coast Xtreme Marching Under-16s

Coast Xtreme Marching Under-16s would like to thank their supporters for buying their raffles. As a result their first competition results are:

Coastal Xtreme Under-16 Team 1st Technical team and 1st Display team on Saturday 15th. On Sunday 16th 1st Technical team.

Well done for their first march as a new team.



Left to right: Aimee Marriner (Chaperone), Dahria Jury, Tyra-Lee Tui, Megan Bramley, Samantha Reid, Caysia Harris, Cecilia Rickit, Janine Tui, Daytona Jury (Coach.)



Jess Gibson and Phillipa Grayling

Okato Pony Club

On 14-16 October four Okato Pony Club riders, Phillipa Grayling, Jessica Gibson, Anna Lacey and Julia Brophy, competed at the Manawatu Pony Club Showhunter Championships, which were held at the Foxton Racecourse. Phillipa and Jessica rode for the North Taranaki Chasers, Anna for the North Taranaki Hunterways and Julia for Opunake Combined. There were 20 teams representing clubs from all over the North Island.

These championships are a team event consisting of eight riders per team, two of each in four different categories: CAT A, CAT B, CAT C and Hacks. There is also individual scoring in each category.

Phillipa came home with a placing of third in equitation, fourth in individual placings, and the team placing of fifth with Jessica. She was also placed seventh in individual placings. Anna was placed 22nd and Julia 17th.

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Okato Pool Opening

Okato Pool staff have been busy getting the pool up and running for its opening on 5 November. Caroline Charteris and the other lifeguards are looking forward to another busy season to match the success of the last one. The 2010/2011 summer showed an increased usage of 40% over the previous season.

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) made some improvements to the ladies' changing rooms over the



Okato pool – the village oasis.

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newplymouthnz.com

winter, and there is a new inflatable toy that will be very popular with the children and some adults too this year!

Okato Pool is used by Coastal Taranaki School and Okato Swimming Club. In addition, pool staff run Learn to Swim and Aquarobics programmes throughout the summer season. The pool is also available for birthday parties during public times and for private hire outside normal opening hours. Our local community is fortunate to have such a great facility.

The staff are happy to accommodate your needs if they can, so give them a call during opening hours. Call NPDC on 06-759 6060 and ask for the Okato Pool.

Caroline Charteris

New Boat Race Opens

On Sunday, 16 October the Cape Egmont Boat Club had the official opening of their new boat race. David MacLeod from the Taranaki Regional Council cut the ribbon, declaring the Race open. The ceremony was witnessed by Tom Goodin (President of the Race Committee), sponsors and boat club members. George Mason from Parihaka blessed the race the morning before the opening. The new Sea Rescue Vessel was launched, making it the first vessel to be launched off the new race.

Tom Goodin delivered a speech thanking the sponsors, the contractors and the numerous volunteers who helped make this project happen. Some of the volunteers went to great lengths, including turning up at 3am to take advantage of a significantly low tide at one of the stages of the project! There were many team players who helped make this project happen, including the contractors who worked at subsidised rates and, in some cases, nil labour rates.

A Race Committee consisting of 16 people was formed about two years ago to oversee this project. The process consisted of gaining the necessary

Resource Consents and securing funding. The physical building of the race took 11 days with the total cost being \$62,000. The majority was raised through grants and some through donations. Some fundraising still needs to be done for maintenance of the race.

The new race means that boaties no longer have to use the boat club's tractors, which are in need of maintenance. This will save the club money.

The ceremony concluded with a lunch and rides on the new rescue vessel. It was a great day and a deserved celebration for all those involved in making this project a reality.

Joanne Doyle, Secretary, Race Committee



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The Good Old Days

WOW! Coastal Taranaki School is indeed a happening place! Okato came to life at the end of last term with three sell-out shows and an abundance of colour. The school was filled with whanau and love as the show-stopping scenes ran their play, even a guest appearance from the Principal Allan Miles made sure the show was an inclusive and exciting event.

Our Year 5–8 Literacy Group took on the challenge of writing a school production. The production told the story of seven entertaining characters living at Coastal Retirement Village and their desire to relive 'The Good Old Days'.

The school's values of Cooperation, Openness, Aroha, Sustainability, Tolerance, Accountability and Leading our Learning were intertwined within each scene, with key characters discussing values close to their hearts. This dialogue was cleverly supported by dancing scenes from all Year 0–6 students. The Year 11 Performing Arts students choreographed each of the dances. Some of the playlists included Michael Jackson and Black Eyed Peas.

The main aim of the production was for students to work together as one. Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts students created all the props while Year 7 and 8 finalised Marketing and Ticket Sales as well as providing gorgeous voices to the soundtracks. Year 11 to 13 students happily took on the make-up and costume duties. This whole school approach allowed all students to play an active role in the production. We also included a kapahaka performance and a group of musical senior students sang and played the piano.

Working together as one helped students realise that with the support of one another we can create amazing things and achieve success. The students should be incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment they have put into this.

Huge thanks and praise must be gifted to Brigitte Luke, Head of the Arts Faculty for all the energy, creativity and passion she bestowed upon the students and show. She coordinated this production from its genesis with ease and artistic flair while working with and including the whole school and community.

*Ma te whanau, te tamaiti e puawai
By the whole community, the child will blossom*



The Retirement Village Tea Club - Matt Hooker, Jaxon Madden, Sydney Correy, Isabel Henderson, Jessica Waiariki, Saturn Murray, Tiana Jorgensen, Ann Marie Harris and Ellie Castle.



Year 0-2 girls, ready to sing the rain away and brighten up any garden.



Year 3 students ready to hop on their Harleys and rock and roll...



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Okato Playcentre

It's always hard to farewell a Playcentre family. When the youngest child of a family starts school we say goodbye to the whole family. Often the family has been involved with Playcentre for several years as each of their children moves through. As sad as it is to say goodbye, we do like to make a party of it! This term we have given the Komene family a big send-off as their son, Logan, has just started school.

Liz, Jason and Logan joined Playcentre two years ago when they arrived from Christchurch (Jason is an Okato College old boy). Liz got stuck into Playcentre life and has often commented she would have dragged Jason straight back to Christchurch if it hadn't been for the quickly made friendships through Playcentre.

To celebrate the Komene's graduation to Coastal Taranaki School (CTS), we decided to have a hangi. This was also a chance to have a big gathering to welcome our new families on board and the hangi was a fantastic culmination of our food theme for the term. Our chief organisers for the hangi were Brigitte and Chris Luke, who have recently joined Playcentre. They had the know-how and the equipment and stepped us beautifully through the Maori protocol of the occasion — thanks guys! The children enjoyed helping with the vege preparation and using their spades to cover the pit. All of the families returned in the early evening to share the feast. Jason Komene was even overheard to say it was the best tasting hangi he had ever had.

Although we sadly waved off one Playcentre family, we are happy to welcome in several new families this term. One new family is Mark and Samantha Goodin with daughters Emma and Rebecca. Sam shares her experience of joining Okato Playcentre below.

"After moving to the area back in 2009, I finally piled my two preschoolers in the car and went to Playcentre. Being a Playcentre child myself, I had a touch of insight over what to expect from a play point of view. But as an adult I know too well the feeling of challenge that comes when you enter a new circle, especially when you're not a 'local'. When I walked in on my first visit you can imagine my relief as I quickly realised what an inviting, accepting bunch of fantastic parents come together at Playcentre. When it comes to being parents raising our children, what more can we ask for than a supportive group environment to relax and support their learning hands-on. This is even more valuable when we live rurally, as when your closest neighbours live further than a stone's throw and other preschoolers'



The children help to line the hangi baskets.

mums seem even further, it can be an overwhelming time. But down at Playcentre you soon realise you're not alone, even when the holidays seem like a lifetime until everyone catches up again.

As Playcentre parents we choose the direction we head and help make the choices for our tamariki. Yes, this in turn requires involvement in the Playcentre life — but it is this involvement that creates the sense of belonging. Last term, my first term at Playcentre, started with a planning meeting, which I was invited to and participated in. We chose Kai as a focus topic, created activities based on our children, then talked with excitement about what an experience it would be to complete this with a hangi. Now looking back, I see it as a credit to what can be achieved with parents' active involvement. The basket was lined by tamariki with cabbage leaves from the vegetable garden that they grew. Parents/friends all came together creating such an event many of us were asked if we were selling tickets. It was an amazing start to Playcentre for our family. Now what I hear each morning is 'Mum can we go to Playcentre today?' ... with excitement ... 'I love Playcentre' ... as I smile and say 'Sure, let's go!'" (Samantha Goodin)

If you would like to visit with your preschoolers, pop in any Tuesday or Thursday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We are just over the Stony River Bridge. Phone Kerry 06-752 8095 with enquiries.



Families enjoy the hangi feast.



Watch out CTS, it's the return of the Komenes!

Okato Plunket

We had our AGM in October and have had some changes in positions. Jac Fisher (President), Michelle Sole (Secretary) and Beccy Muggeridge (Vice President) have stepped down from their positions. They will continue to remain with Plunket but are focussing on other areas within their lives. Thankyou ladies for your time and hard work whilst you were in your positions. Filling their shoes will be: President — Leisja Richardson, Vice President — Tania Wells and Secretary — Jemma Moorby.

For our Community Christmas Party this year, we are working with Okato Playcentre and the Okato Playgroup. Together we will bring you a fun-filled two hours of face painting, bouncy castle, toys, and the jolly man himself, Santa! Santa will be arriving in style to give out iceblocks and lollies for the kids around 1pm. So bring along your preschoolers with a picnic, a rug and some sunshade and have some fun. Join us at St Luke's Hall, Carthew Street on Friday, 2 December between 11.30am and 1.30pm. Sunblock will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Over the holiday period we often have guests from out of town. If you find you are in need of an extra car seat or portacot you can hire these through us at Okato Plunket. We also have a breast pump for hire. If you have any queries about hireage or the Christmas Party, or would like to be involved with Plunket, please contact Leisja on 06-752 4194.

Jemma Moorby

TOM Baby: **GEORGE BROMELL**

George Edward Bromell, son of Katrina and Chris, arrived into this world on 6 December 2010 at Taranaki Base Hospital as an elective Caesarean section, which mum Katrina says was great. He was a healthy weight of 8lb 7oz. George has an older sister Isabella, three years of age, who adores her baby brother.



George and big sister, Isabella.

At two weeks of age George was diagnosed with urinary reflux and unfortunately spent Christmas in Ward 2 for a week. At five months George underwent exploratory surgery in Starship Hospital and he has not looked back. He will eventually grow out of this health issue as he begins to walk, where gravity will aid in his recovery.

George is a very cruisey baby and this has not changed since birth, says Katrina. In the short time I spend with George and his family, I can tell that George is a very happy, contented child, full of charm and beautiful smiles. His smile is freely given away especially when they are out and I witnessed this smile while visiting.

George's vocabulary is starting to expand with "Mum" finally being on the list along with "Dad" and "bub bub". George is very happy to sit and play with his toys on the floor for hours, maybe this is why he doesn't have the desire to start crawling or want to move very far yet. Rattles and a handmade monster toy are his favourite toys at present. His exersaucer and Jolly Jumper get used very frequently and Katrina laughs saying that his exersaucer is used so much that he even tries to run in it, where, at times it has collapsed on him. "I suppose that is what happens when it has been pre-loved by several other babies," says Katrina.

Katrina has been on maternity leave and returned to work just recently at PriceWaterhouseCooper as a Chartered Accountant. Her husband, Chris, works for Bay of Plenty Energy (Todd Energy) as a Generation Co-ordinator.

By Milly Carr

PHOTO BY MILLY CARR

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Polly's Hut

The much awaited new little corner store has opened its' doors on the 31st October and is called a catchy 'Polly's Hut short for Pollyanna.

Many of the long standing members in the community will remember this building as the original White Rose Dairy. As a little girl and attending the primary school Sandy remembers vividly the many times she snuck in to buy her little bag of lollies and how she developed a great love for the building. The new premises has been a work in progress for the past 19 months as Sandy and Noel Gillie brought the building as an empty unit with no real fixed idea on what they would do with it, but pondered on the idea of creating a space where people could bring their crafts, where husbands could sit and have a cuppa while their partners browse.

The name 'Polly's Hut' originates from a beautiful mannequin who has lived with Sandy and Noel for the past seven years and has become part of the family and hence has now become the namesake for the shop. Polly will invite you into the hut as she stands beautifully manicured, keeping an eye on the rustic kettle which sits next to her on the old fat belly stove. ("Polly put the kettle on").

This eclectic little 'hut' oozes warmth and vibrancy. The gorgeous bright coloured net curtains and shelves drip with beautiful wares, sourced throughout New Zealand and some from overseas including jewellery from Kenya, clothing and shoes from the United States and handbags from India. The most loved items says Sandy are her knitted clowns and dolls. These items are knitted by Glenda originally from Westport and now living in Aussie. "It takes Glenda months to knit these colourful dolls due to her arthritic fingers but she loves it and wishes to continue". The outdoor area is the perfect setting for those wanting to lounge, with comfortable sofas, table and chairs dotted about the newly built deck situated on the sheltered North West side of the building.

Most of you may have seen the old telephone booth situated near the back fence & the meter machines erected in the back garden. For those with younger children, their needs are catered for with a sunshade and toys to keep them amused while you sample the wares on offer.

Noel and Sandy hope to open once or twice a month during the summer months giving people the opportunity to join in an acoustic guitar evening which will be held on a small stage at the rear of the building adjacent to the back deck. Noel says "It's a lovely place to come and relax and just enjoy the environment".

Noel and Sandy are appreciative of those who waited patiently for this project to evolve. They have enjoyed creating Polly's Hut and look forward to seeing you there.

By Milly Carr



Polly stands ready to welcome customers into her eclectic little hut.

POLLY'S HUT

- A variety of **Colourful Gifts** to choose from for Christmas.

- **Devonshire Scones** with delicious locally made *blueberry* or *mixed berry jam* topped with *whipped cream* - baked daily.
- The **K BEACH CAKE** made with *apples walnuts & raisins*, dusted with *icing* & served with *whipped cream* (named after Komene beach).
- **Gluten Free Muffins** baked in their own little corner of the kitchen to keep *truly gluten free*.

And many thanks to our local organic shop '**SEED**' situated right next door to us, for donating Polly's Hut with a range of herbal teas:

- **Lemon Verbena** (grown in Okato) ● **Rosehip Tea** (rich in vitamin C)
- **Red Bush Tea** ● **Peppermint Tea**
- **Licorice root Tea**



All served with a slice of *lemon* & or *honey* if requested

Other herbal teas include:

- **Lemon Citrus** (*lemon peel & sunflower*)
- **Grans Garden** (with *elderberry, blackberry, strawberry, raspberry & blackcurrant*)
- **Sweet Sunday** (with *currants, rhubarb, strawberry, peach & rose petals*)
- **Rooibus Cream Caramel** (Red bush tea with *vanilla* flavours & *caramel drops*)
- **Earl Grey Special** (with *citrus pieces, lemongrass, cornflowers & jasmine flowers*)



All served with a slice of *lemon* & or *honey* if requested.



From Polly's catering team:

Terese - (*The Boss & The Baker*).

Richie - (*The ??? . . . we don't know yet - he asked grandma ever so nicely for a job*).

Sandy - (*I promise to try & make a good Latte - I have almost got the hang of boiling the milk*).

Noel - (*Just can't get Noel behind that counter - begs if he can be the lawn mower & wants out on a south easterly*).

Last of all DO try our **ROCKY POINT ICE CHOCOLATE** served on the rocks, topped with *whipped cream* & a *dash of mint* to flavour.

Hope to see you at Polly's - Bye for now.

Sir Paul Reeves, Vicar of St Paul's, Okato

In a statement made following Sir Paul Reeves' death on August 14, his family acknowledged, "the immense grief and loss felt by Maori, the church and the wider community." His loss is felt particularly keenly in Taranaki, for he belonged to the Puketapu hapu of Te Atiawa. But he also has connections to the Okato community, who remember fondly and with pride his two years here as Vicar of St Paul's Anglican Church.

Paul was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church in 1958 and after a brief curacy in Tokoroa, went to England to further his studies. In 1960, he was made a priest and served two more curacies in England before returning to New Zealand. During a memorial service held at St Paul's, Okato on 21 August, lay preacher Lezley Dowding recalled listening to the rich voice of the young Paul Reeves when he was a deacon at St Mary's in Lewisham, South East England in 1963–1964 and she was a choirgirl there. "Sir Paul was a man of the people, for the people," she said. "A man who mixed with royalty and the common man and treated them equally; a humble man who had no airs and graces."



A young Paul Reeves, Vicar of St Paul's, rides the church's float in Okato's centennial parade, 1965.

It was on Paul's return to New Zealand in 1964 that he was appointed Vicar of St Paul's Parish in Okato. Merv Putt, who was one of his parishioners at that time said, "As a vicar, he had qualities that would take him to higher levels than our parish and we knew he wouldn't stay for long." And so it was. Paul's tenure as vicar of St Paul's, Okato ended in 1966.

By 1971 Paul was Bishop of Waiapu, became Bishop of Auckland in 1979, and Archbishop and Primate of New Zealand (1980–1985). He then became New Zealand's 15th Governor General (1985–1990), the first of Maori descent. Merv had long since recognised Paul's inter-racial connectedness, which, as Merv puts it, "positioned him in a special place of understanding and acceptance," so it was no surprise that iwi leaders welcomed the appointment as a significant step towards the spirit of co-operation described in the Treaty of Waitangi. In 2007, Paul was admitted to the Order of New Zealand, the country's highest honour.

But for all his elevated positions and full life, Sir Paul never forgot Okato and visited on several occasions after his tenure as vicar here. He was guest preacher when St Paul's celebrated 75 years of service in February 1972 and led the service at St Paul's during Okato's 125 celebrations in 1998. Then, in October 2008 when Sir Paul's daughter was making a documentary of his life, Sir Paul, with the film crew, visited his old church again. Afterwards, Iris and Merv Putt joined Des and Nola Corbett and the film crew for a cuppa and a chat at the Corbett's house. Watching the documentary some time later, Merv and Iris were surprised to see their names, and those of Des and Nola Corbett, roll across the screen.

Much has been said of Sir Paul, but the people who knew him and his family during their time in Okato would like to also acknowledge his wife, Beverley. According to Iris and Merv, she was a gentle woman who, as a "typical vicar's wife", worked in the background as homemaker and her husband's quietly loyal supporter. Paul also leaves behind three daughters, Sarah, Bridget and June, and six grandchildren.

Kerry Lilley

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An End to Water Fluoridation

It has been a few months since I have written an article for the TOM. I have been preoccupied with the New Plymouth District Council's Fluoridation Tribunal and working with Fluoride Free Taranaki and Fluoride Action Network (NZ) campaigning for the end of water fluoridation in our district.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into raising public awareness about fluoride and preparing written and oral submissions for the tribunal. Everyone's hard work paid off on 13 October when the Council voted unanimously to remove fluoride from all of the New Plymouth District's water supply. The decision came after a two-day tribunal-style hearing on 29 and 30 September, when Councillors considered 417 written submissions and heard from 45 submitters.

Since the New Plymouth District Council held the last tribunal in 2000, there have been several significant developments that have made action to end water fluoridation urgent.

When Ruapehu District Council recently stopped fluoridating Taumarunui's water supply it released a statement that included the five major factors in the final decision, the most salient reason being that "it cannot be guaranteed that fluoridation is 100% safe for 100% of the population 100% of the time." Which is a message that fluoride experts and toxicologists have been repeating for years — there is no margin of safety for fluoride, particularly for at-risk groups and the most vulnerable in our community.

I congratulate the New Plymouth District Council for ceasing water fluoridation. I believe that as the science continues to develop around this issue their decision will only be validated in the years to come. We may even wish that the decision to end fluoridation were made 10 years earlier.

Teresa Goodin

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teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

<http://teresagoodin.blogspot.com/>

Creativity In Our Community

Two Okato locals, Jenny Pullar and Lee Fleming, entered into the Taranaki Daily News Fashion Art Awards, part of the Wearable Arts held on Saturday, 15 October.

This is the first time either woman has entered the competition, Jenny saying it was one of her ambitions and has been on her 'to do list', whereas Lee was inspired by her daughter entering the competition in previous years.

Jenny and Lee entered their handmade garments into the Open Adult Section — Off the Wall. Jenny worked for several months on her garment 'Walking on a Winter Wonderland', which was made from interfacing, paper, foam sheets and decorated with beads. The garment consisted of a skirt and top, hat and a handbag. Each piece of paper was individually hand-cut into many snowflake shapes. Jenny enjoyed the show and the variety it brought. It took a lot of hard work to complete her garment and she confesses she was relieved once it was finished. Her daughter, Carys, modelled her outfit on the night.

Lee's garment was called 'Let's Paint the Town Purple' and was made from approximately 1200 balloons. "I wanted to produce a garment that was affordable and balloons were a cheap option. From here my design developed." The bodice was made entirely of balloons glued together and the skirt was made from a netting type of fabric with balloons threaded through the holes. Lee's masterpiece involved many hours of work and creativity over 4–6 weeks, which paid off in the end as Lee's garment placed Highly Commended in her section.

By Milly Carr



Above: Jenny's garment 'Walking on a Winter Wonderland, and left: Lee's garment 'Let's Paint the Town Purple'.

The End of an Era:

RAY AND HELEN ROOK CLOSE COASTAL MOTORS' DOORS

It was truly the end of an era when one of Okato's longest surviving businesses, Coastal Motors, closed its doors for the last time.

The garage/workshop was built on Carthew Street in 1937 by Mr and Mrs Andy Humphrey for Charlie Maxwell, who had previously repaired and serviced vehicles from his garage at home on Oxford Road. It was built on the understanding that their grandson, Dick, would be taught the trade. The business became known as "C.W. Maxwell — Garage".

Ray Rook arrived straight out of school in 1939 as a 15 year old apprentice mechanic. Charlie was a hard taskmaster who expected perfection, which probably did Ray no harm and, in due course, he completed a City and Guilds Mechanical Engineering qualification. Staff numbers at Charlie's garage dropped dramatically during the Second World War (1939–45) when many people went overseas to support the war effort and those at home worked on their own cars. For quite a while following the war, new cars in New Zealand were non-existent. But as soldiers returned from overseas and new cars started arriving in the country again, dramatic and positive changes to the industry began to occur.

In 1946, Ray became an employee of two new bosses when Charlie's business was bought by Doug Lamb and Red Maloney, who was formerly Okato's Postmaster. Doug and Red adopted the moniker "Coastal Motors" for their new enterprise. In 1948, Ray set up in opposition at the far end of Carthew Street and two years later, in 1950, he bought Doug Lamb's share of Coastal Motors. By this time, he was more than qualified for the motor trade industry, having earned a Motor Inc. Mechanical Engineers' A-grade Mechanic's qualification and various other certifications in the mechanical field. By 1954, he had also earned a degree and Membership of the Institute of the New Zealand Motor Industry Incorporated. In those days, every farmer owned a 2 or 3-ton truck that needed to be kept mobile every daylight hour for on-farm chores and for carting milk to the dairy factories. The local carriers, Roebucks, which provided an essential service, needed to be kept up and running too. So, soon after they had joined forces, Ray and Red leased Len Putt's workshop on Carthew Street and opened a "night workshop," which became known as Maloney and Rook. It was run by two or three staff members who, under Max Rook, started work at about 5pm each evening and worked throughout the night. The night workshop closed in 1957 when Len Putt's lease expired and tankers came into vogue. Then, all the machinery was moved down to what had been Claude Dixon's garage, opposite the Okato Hotel. Neil Rook and Bruce Richards ran that, and Ray sold it to them some years later.

In 1956, Ray bought out Red to become the proud, sole owner of Coastal Motors. His engine servicing and repair business thrived

and he did everything from providing basic services to fixing farm machinery, re-building cars and motors, panel beating, and upholstery for vehicle interiors. And as the business grew, so did the facilities. Ray extended the office, rehashed the workshop, shifted the machinery shop, provided an area for vehicle painting, and built a large storage room.

At that time, Ray owned Coastal Motors as well as "Dixons" and the "panel shop" opposite Coastal Motors. He also had an interest in the Warea Garage, which was owned by his brother-in-law, Dave Reader, and Dave's wife, Mary. These satellite shops fed their machinery work into the "machine shop" at Coastal Motors. At the height of the motor industry business 22 people, including office staff, were employed at Coastal Motors, Dixons, Warea Garage and in a few home workshops as well. All of these, and the General Store, were supplied petrol by different companies and all required separate services for pump filling and maintenance.



Helen and Ray in their Coastal Motors workshop.

It was a red-letter day when, in 1972, Helen Burkitt became Ray's secretary — and pump operator, and Woman Friday — "The Bossman" Ray grins. It marked not only the beginning of a working relationship that would span 40 years, but also the beginning of a personal relationship that would lead to marriage in 1987.

The motor industry changed dramatically in the mid-70's, due to two phenomena. Firstly, the amalgamation of dairy companies took many people, and more importantly the trucks, out of the community. Secondly, Japanese cars started arriving in the country, bringing with them a dramatic change to the industry's structure. Ray says that the latter was the biggest influence on the industry during his tenure. "Everyone could afford a new vehicle, you see," explains Helen, "and they needed less work done on them."

"So older vehicles were turned into scrap metal; we turned into a throwaway world," laments Ray. The Okato motor trade industry had reached its zenith and it started to decline.

In 2003, the petrol pumps at Coastal Motors were due for renewal. But the potential return on investment for new ones didn't stack up and Fonterra, which had expanded massively by now, could arrange with the fuel companies to fill on-farm tanks at much lower prices. The removal of the pumps brought Ray, then 80, the opportunity to wind back the hours he spent servicing vehicles and to pursue his growing interest in rebuilding vintage and classic cars. "They provided a bit of a challenge," he says. But as time went on, he did less and less of anything until he was taking more time off than he was working.

And so it was, when Brian Sinclair of Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Ltd and his land agent virtually walked in off the street with an offer to buy the premises, Ray sold up and he and Helen finally retired. When the premises changed hands on 29 July 2011, Ray had worked in the motor industry for 72 years and was 87 years old.

Story and pictures by Kerry Lilley

Seeds

Are you planning ahead for those Christmas goodies? Seed is offering an exciting mix of nuts, dried fruit and chocolate. Ideal for camping or Christmas nibbles. Seed is also taking orders for a fabulous gluten free Christmas nut loaf that the family will devour! We will be sending a sample of this delicious loaf via our vege boxes. They will be ready Christmas week. We also have new Christmas gift ideas in store for all ages.

Need plants for the garden? No need to go into town, come and see us! We have a beautiful range of certified organic garden seedlings from Oakdale organics. Their plants are grown in their natural season, from organic or untreated heritage seeds in organic media. Oakdales test their seedlings constantly to assess their growth in various conditions. Their goal is to offer the healthiest seedlings to the home gardener. Plants grown organically have higher vitamin, mineral and nutrient levels and taste better. Remember granny's old plum or apple tree? We have a full range of vege seedlings and if there's something you want specifically just ask and if possible we can order it in. So come and stock up on these vibrant plants and taste the difference this summer.

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KS kristy strachan
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Care and Craft

Get together Thursday fortnight at St Luke's lounge.
10.30am - 2.30pm. Contact Thea Fisher 752 4290.

Coastal Garden Circle

Meet every third Monday of the month. Contact Rae Hooker
752 4086.

GymSports Oakura

Gymnastics for youngsters from 5 to 9 years old at Oakura
Hall every Wednesday afternoon during the school term,
4-5pm. For further information phone NP GymSports on
06-758 8277 or 027-341 4200.

Highway 45 Craft

Meet weekly on Monday mornings 10am - 12noon at
members' houses. Contact Iris Putt 752 4182.

Historical Society

Meets quarterly in the Community Trust Hall. Contact Iris
Putt 752 4182.

JKA Karate, Okato

Monday and Wednesday 6pm - 7.30pm in Coastal Taranaki
School Gymnasium. Contact Nicci 752 4529 or 027 259
6223.

Kaitake Community Board

Teresa Goodin (027) 454 3585 or teresagoodin@xtra.co.nz

New Zeal Church

Service 10.30am, Sundays at St Luke's Hall. Contact Angela
and Kevin McFetridge 752 4993.

Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards. President
Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509,
Contact women's section Laureen Bright ph 752 4874.

Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

Meet bi-monthly, first Wednesday of the month in St Luke's
lounge, 1pm. Lorraine Whittle 752 4359. Harvey 752 4568.

Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm. Contact Barry.

Okato Lions

Contact Merv Hooker, ph 752 4086.

Okato Squash Club

Club nights on Mondays from 7pm. Everyone welcome.
Phone Cheryl 06-752 4097.

Playcentre

Main Road, Okato (over the Stony Bridge). Tuesday and
Thursday, 9.30 - 12.30pm. Contact Rachel 752 4463.

Playgroup

St Lukes Hall, Main Road, Okato. Wednesday morning
10am-12 noon. Contact Danelle 752 4916 or Angie 752
4445.

Plunket

Meetings held every second Thursday of the month.
Jaclyn 752 4872.

Pony Club

Contact Michelle Beekman on 7527056.

Probus

Meet every third Friday at the Oakura Golf Club. Contact
Margaret Hodges 752 1371.

St Patrick's Church, Okato

Daily mass 8.30am. Saturday evening mass 7pm.
Inquiries to Steak Goodin 752 8160 or Nora Fox 752 4062.

St Paul's Church

10am services. Congregate first and third Sunday of the
month. Contact Jan Putt 752 4188.

St Peter's Guild

Meet 4th Friday of each month. Angela Montgomery 752
7738.

Tennis Club

Contact Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466.

Tumahu Golf Club

Roly Harvey 752 4314. Sunday: Mens golf day, Tuesday:
womens golf day. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month: mixed
golf.

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Tumahu Rural Women

Meet every second Wednesday of the month, 1pm at alternate
members' houses. Contact Joyce Downes 753 4122.

Warea Tennis Club

Contact Jan Brophy 06 763 8666.

Please contact Milly 752 4425 for any additional listings or amendments.