

# Sustainability on the coast

**Sunday 31 August brought an opportunity to “do our bit” for the environment by helping with tree planting along the coastal walkway at the end of Paora Road, Okato.**

This part of the coast has benefited from involvement from local bodies and enthusiasts since 1992, with development of the accessibility and availability of the coastal walkway in addition to riparian planting. Paddy Hickey and other local residents have been the driving force behind this community project,

with a vision of opening it up from the Stony right through to the Lighthouse at Bayly Road, Warea.

Following the unfortunate oil spill along our coastline involving the Australian Worldwide Exploration (AWE) oil company, a submission was made to the Council that resulted in AWE donating

\$15,000 towards planting on this part of the coastline. AWE are very interested in encouraging and maintaining sustainability on the coast and, with our Coastal Taranaki School striving to become an enviroschool, they are happy to assist the school with future ventures. This is exciting.

Thankfully the weather was on our side for the tree planting and the sun shone down on us for the occasion. It was a great morning, with others from the community, including several teachers from the school, helping out with this wonderful project. The conditions for digging were not the best, with rock and kaikuia thick in places, so I was very

grateful to my husband who did the digging while I followed, planting – at least until he broke the spade handle! Coincidentally, it happened just in time for a beautiful lunch provided by Snickerdoodles.

Yum, thanks!

I left that afternoon feeling very satisfied and fulfilled in the knowledge that I have assisted in some small way towards this coastal project.

*By Milly Carr*

*Planting on the coast.*



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# editorial

FROM THE TOM ZONE

## **TOM Okato is one year old!**

I can hardly believe a year has passed and what a year it has been. It would be easy to think not much happens in a small community but when I spread out the last year's worth of TOMs I could clearly see evidence of a very busy and vibrant community. Remember those "beautiful baldies" on the first cover? Remember the musicians, the artists, the cafes and hotels, the gardeners, the Fire Brigade and its diligent volunteers, the children and sportspeople we've featured? What a diverse and interesting bunch.

We at TOM headquarters are excited to keep bringing you these worthy stories in the year ahead and as ever we welcome your feedback and input.

This month we look back ten years to the floods at Tataramaika and marvel again at the force of Mother Nature. Aren't we insignificant?

Kim

**Deadline for November issue –  
Copy and ads 24 October, delivery 12 November**

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would love to keep up with local  
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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.*

### **THE TEAM**

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

## **Fire Brigade news**



September has been a busy month with a number of call outs. We've been getting our new station organised and had an official opening at the end of September.

Just a reminder to all that Daylight Savings is a good time to check and/or change the batteries in your smoke detectors. If you don't have any, please do get some. You can purchase detectors from us at the Fire Station. Come on down on a Monday evening at 7pm or give us a call at the station on 752 4110. We can install them for you if you wish.

Milly Carr



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# Okato Lions

Hello Readers

It's time for the Lions' contribution already – it doesn't seem like four weeks since I sat down and wrote last month's report!

We've had some mild weather since then so our grass has really taken off (silage isn't too far away). We decided to cancel our September tea meeting due to illness and some of us wanting to go to the All Blacks test at Rugby Park.

There has been a change to this month's programme – Ladies' night has been brought forward to the first Wednesday in October and Lion Ron Scott will be talking about his recent motorbike trip through South Africa. The venue is still to be confirmed.

At our last Board meeting (19 September) we were planning next year's horse and bike rides, which will be held on 12 and 13 April 2009 (Easter weekend). We will keep you informed of these events in future newsletters.

New members are welcome for fellowship and great fun. I am sure there are some guys out there who would enjoy being part of our Lions Club!

Please feel free to ring our President John King on 752 4374 or me on 752 4086.

Till next time...

*Lion Merv Hooker*

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## TOM babies

Beccy and Robert Muggeridge's new daughter, Chloe Alison Joy Muggeridge, was born five weeks early, on 28 August, at Taranaki Base Hospital. Her middle names honour her grandmothers, Alison Muggeridge and Joy

Burmeister. Here, she sleeps soundly while her big brother, Timothy, attends Playgroup.



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## 2008 General Election – 8 November

If you haven't enrolled then you better be quick as enrolments close this week on Wednesday the 8th October.

Statistics New Zealand has collated the following data as at 30th June:

In the New Plymouth electorate (also the Maori Te Tai Hauauru electorate) which southern boundary is the Stony River, Okato there are 53,125 eligible people enrolled to vote and the biggest age group by far is the 60+ group. Only 10% of 18-24 year olds have enrolled.

In the Whanganui electorate (also the Maori Te Tai Hauauru electorate) which is south of the Stony River there are 30,906 eligible people enrolled to vote and again the largest group is the 60+ and only 10% of 18-24 year olds are enrolled.

92 % of the entire eligible voters in New Zealand are enrolled.

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## Harry Duynhoven and the Labour Party

On 8 November you'll be asked to make two choices: one for the person you want to represent you and New Plymouth in Parliament, and one for the party you want to run the country.

I was born in New Plymouth and have lived here all my life. I am a husband and a father, I have been a tradesman and a teacher, and I bring a practical approach to the role of New Plymouth's Member of Parliament. I can work with people and I'm experienced in our district and I'm experienced with our issues.

New Plymouth is a confident, exciting and optimistic city; we can all take pride in the way we work together to get things done.

That confidence just wouldn't be there under a National government.

Last time National was in power you had to line up at the cash register as you left the hospital, unemployment was huge, and roading was a mess.

I'm proud to be part of a government that has delivered cheaper doctors visits and prescription fees and the biggest public hospital building programme in New Zealand's history.

Labour has also delivered record low unemployment, and it has invested in roading projects right around the country so that the people of New Zealand, and New Plymouth, can get moving again, safely.

New Plymouth and New Zealand are headed in the right direction. Don't risk it: Vote Harry and vote Labour.

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## **Okato Playcentre**

There are dinosaurs everywhere you look at Playcentre at the moment. Two weeks ago, we uncovered a whole herd of prehistoric creatures in our sandpit. Since then, we have been to see T-Rex Sue at Puke Ariki and had a great time finding fossils. This week it's been dino-painting and puzzling, and a bit of fossil-making – a theme that looks set to take us all the way to the end of the term!



*Sean and Riley hard at play.*

Now that spring has arrived we are enjoying the chance to get outdoors and breathe a bit of fresh air. We've weeded the strawberry patch to find a few really healthy plants hiding there, waiting for the opportunity to provide us with homegrown morning tea. We just need to get them flowering and protect them from the birds. The children have the pots all ready to plant peas and other veggie treats before the holidays – who knows... we might have something to harvest before Christmas.

A call to the community – we have noticed our dolls' clothes are looking a bit sparse. If anyone has a great supply they no longer need, or fancies the idea of doing a bit of sewing, we'd love your help. Our dolls are all 35-40cm. We have a few littlies in the 18-month to 2-year-old age range who are showing quite an interest in them at the moment, so it would be lovely to have a bit more variety to dress their "babies" in.

Now that calving is over and the weather is clearing up, we still have a few vacancies at the painting easels, so come down and visit. We'd love to see more of our community enjoying Playcentre with us.

*Rachel Douglas, phone 752 4463.*

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## Griffin scores a place in representative soccer team *By Kerry Lilley*

When thirteen-year-old Griffin Benton-Lynne was five years old, he had a friend called Samuel Newman who played soccer. Griffin, thinking the game looked like fun, begged his parents, Greg and Dianne, to be allowed to play too. They didn't take too much convincing and he's played ever since.

For the past two years, he's held the position of Centre Back for FC Western's 15th Grade team, which won this year's 1st Division Championship. Last year, Griffin played so well that his coach, Paul Newman (Sam's Dad), nominated him for the 12th Grade rep trials. He made that team and this year he's been chosen for the Taranaki Under-13 team.

Matches to prepare for the Lower North Island Under-13 Championship (which will take place in Petone, Wellington on 18 September to 1 October) have included games in Auckland, Wanganui and Palmerston North. The team has acquitted itself well and hopes for an even better result than last year's fourth placing out of ten teams in the Under-12 Lower North Island Championship.

Griffin's other passions are riding his BMX and playing the drums. He is also very proud to be a published author, having been involved in writing and publishing Coastal Taranaki School's Extension Project, *Shades of Green*.

We wish Griffin and his team success.



*Griffin contemplates his upcoming soccer tournament.*

## Local skaters giving it their all

Nine of our locals made it through to the National Inline Hockey Championships, which were played in Mount Maunganui in early October.

Our congratulations go to Jessica Gibson, Hayden Luckin, Rodney Cruden-Powell (goalie), Mitchell Hurley (all under-10 players), Cody Luckin (under-12s), Josh Gibson (under-14s), Kayden Gibson, Abby Bridgeman, (both under-16s) and Nick Henderson (under-18s). All players are members of the New Plymouth Ravens Club and are very dedicated to their sport.

Throughout the season, players are observed for potential representation in the National Team and if they meet the requirements, they will be selected. Once a team has been chosen, they are challenged with practices twice a week in New Plymouth at the Nobs Line Skate Rink. These sessions include fitness and skills training over a period of 1½ hours.

The players are given a fitness regime to follow at home and a healthy diet is encouraged. They are also encouraged to practice their puck handling skills.

So who gets chosen for the Nationals?

It is the two best teams in each age grade from each region. New Plymouth is classified as the Central Region, along with Hamilton, Waihi, Tauranga and Whakatane. These are the regions within which the hockey games are played. Therefore this sport involves quite a bit of travel.

Nick, Josh, Abby and Kayden all trialled in Tauranga for the Central Region team in August and were selected to play in their respective age grades. This means more travelling, this time to Wanganui in late October for the Interregional Championships. These teams are formed from the Upper and Central Regions as well as the South Island.

In addition to their two training sessions per week in New Plymouth, they also attend interregional practices that were held in both Hamilton and New Plymouth, and which provided

the only opportunities for the full teams to get together before the games.

As this goes to print, the players will be giving it their all, aiming to bring home the gold for their club. We wish all the players the best of luck with their games and good luck for the future of Inline Hockey and what it may bring.

*By Milly Carr*

## Okato Tennis Club

By the time this goes to print the painting of the clubhouse should be well underway. We would like to thank the Lions Club for their donation, which has made this possible and also to Resene, who have kindly given us a generous discount on the paint.

Wednesday morning tennis has started and we are getting a good turn out, especially now that we are starting to have some sunny days. If you are interested in coming along, please feel free to join in – this is an informal and casual morning of tennis and all abilities are catered for. Note the new starting time of 10am from 15 October onwards.

Junior *Learn to Play* and *Little More Advanced* sessions are starting at the Club again during the school terms from 3pm to 4.15pm on Fridays, beginning 17 October. Angela Phillips has kindly agreed to run this again this year, but would appreciate if parents could help her out occasionally. For further details, contact Angela on 752 4451 or see you there.

We have set our Club subs this year at \$20 for adults and \$10 for school-aged children for social non-affiliated members. Subscriptions can be forwarded to our Treasurer Raewynne Lawn, Mangetete Road, RD 37, Okato or given to any of the Committee Members.

And finally, what you have all been waiting for, Twilight Tennis is starting up on 15 October from 6pm onwards. Bring your racket and join in. After a few weeks a round robin competition will start up, once you all have your eye in. Bring along the family and neighbours, and enjoy.



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*The VanderPoels new cowshed.*

the last four, he has owned his own business. And when you consider that Steve and his serviceman, Andy, are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there is a lot of time to accrue the much needed experience and expertise.

Dairy & Water Specialists are also the people to call for Oakura residents considering putting in sewerage pumps/grinders. Steve has put together some package deals for customers that include high quality Mono or Onga pumps. The package also uses local contractors, Digaway and Coastal Electrical, to do the excavation and electrical work. So in effect, you can ring Dairy & Water Specialists with your section size and system requirements and they will take care of the work for you. With of course the 24 hour backup service.

I was interested to find out what else Dairy & Water Specialists had to offer our TOM readers because its not every day I find myself in a shop with gadgets and gizmos like Steve has on show plus the necessary product knowledge to go with them.

For people on lifestyle blocks there are water pump sales and repairs, water tank cleaning, water filters, UV systems, water tanks, water quality advice, septic pumps and chambers, and swimming and spa pool pump sales and repairs.

For farmers Dairy & Water Specialists are installers of Waikato Milking Systems, effluent systems, irrigation systems, farm water systems and filtration systems. Basically your one-stop farm system shop.

Give Steve and Angela and their team, Sue Hartigan (office manager), Andy Lane (serviceman), a call to discuss your sewerage options, farm system options or lifestyle block requirements.

*By Kim Ferens*

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## Shake, Ripple and Roll

School production, Term 4, Week 4 – be there!

Coastal Taranaki is holding a school production called *Shake, Ripple and Roll*.

Lead rolls were given to Jasmin Warren, Ariarna Hickey, Ruby Luke-Hurley, Clare Henderson (all as waitresses), Victoria Grayling as Deanna, Christie Thomas and Kate Appert as Deanna's Girls, Mitchell Hurley as Chuck, Bennett De Beer as Joey Nobody, Bradley Smyth as Max the Chauffeur, Jade Stone as Mr Cohen and Jonathan Adams as Dirk Manley.

They have been practising a lot lately and are getting into the swing of performing on stage.

Jan Aiello and Raelene Luckin are doing a great job directing the play and helping with the dancing and singing.

All the Year 1 to 8 classes are doing performances with one of the lead performers.

We hope the play will be a great success!

Come along – it should be lots of fun.

*Victoria Grayling, Year 8*

## Recycled arts

To mark the end of our sustainability unit, Margaret Normanton organised a recycled art fashion parade. Students from Years 0 to 8 made a variety of creative costumes using materials found at home.

Classes of excited students lined up to parade their outfits to an audience of students, staff and parents. The standard was high, showing how creative you can be with what we would usually throw away.



*Recycled art.*

## Ross Brown Rugby

Three boys from Coastal Taranaki School made it to the South Taranaki Ross Brown Rugby team.

The tournament went for three days, and each day they played a different team. Logan Crowley, Alex Kalin and Daniel Downes found their games challenging and competitive.

They went through unbeaten to win the final at Yarrow Stadium by a convincing margin.

*Ross Brown Rugby boys.*



## Coastal Cross Country Champs at Omata School

*Corey Hodge.*



*Finnley Binsbergen.*

*Logan Crowle.*



*River Stone.*

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## Shades of Green

*Shades of Green* is the title of a book written by some students at Coastal Taranaki School as part of their extension project.

*Shades of Green* discusses how to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, with information about how to reduce your carbon footprint, how to manage waste, and more.

Described as "a compelling and informative guide to how human activity is changing the Earth, and how you can change your lifestyle to reduce your own impact upon the environment", it will become a valuable resource and will let you decide to what extent you want to green your own life.

*Shades of Green* is available from the Coastal Taranaki School office, from [www.publishme.co.nz](http://www.publishme.co.nz), and from select bookshops.

By Kimberley Downes



## Buddy Reading with Year 2

Our Intermediate class, Room 3, has been doing buddy reading with Mrs Leathley's Year 2 class. We go every Friday morning to read them a picture book and they read us one from their book box. They enjoy us reading to them and playing reading with us.

We see the same buddies every week and it's really cute when they read us stories.

Shearyn Adlam, Year 7 reporter.

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# Ten years on...

Saturday 10 October 1998 will live long in the memories of the locals of the Tataraimaka district and the people along the coast, particularly for the Scown family, who live opposite the Tataraimaka Dairy Factory on the banks of the Timaru River and whose property bore the brunt of the road washout that day.



*The washout on the Main Road.*

I spent an evening interviewing Ngaire and her son Graeme Scown. As I sit in their lounge, both Ngaire and Graeme are able to be relaxed about the memorable event ten years past and Graeme asks, "What would you like to know?"

Where do you start on such a huge catastrophe? Graeme recalls the road flooding many times before, but this occasion was worse due to a combination of the culvert being blocked and torrential rain on the Friday. The diary of Mr Des Scown (now deceased) shows that there was 340mm of rain over a period of 18 hours on Friday 9 October.

As a result a lake had formed upstream from the culvert and the water was flowing across the road and into a creek running through the Scowns' property.

Contractors had been called out days before to assess the problem and machinery sourced to fix it, but the work had not yet begun as the water had backed up too much. A watch was being kept on the water levels overnight and during the day.

As Graeme lived just down the road he continued to keep an eye on things as well. When a young mum and her baby approached the scene in a mini, he stopped them from venturing any further as it was too dangerous.

Neil Jans (then the local cop) made an executive decision to close the road. The seal was lifting and beginning to buckle, and the water running across the road was now half a metre deep.

Ngaire says, "I saw all this water coming down over the drive and into our section, wondering where on earth it was all coming from."

At about 3.50pm Graeme and several others were watching the fluctuating water levels and having a quiet beer in the storeroom at the back of the house, when they saw the unbelievable sight of the trees "peeling back" and heard what Graeme says sounded like "many motorbikes passing by" as the water forced its way down the creek and through their property.

Water smashed its way downstream, scouring out the bank, destroying their beautiful section and gardens, and leaving the house perched precariously on the edge.

"We couldn't get out of the room quick enough and the door would not close as there was something jammed in it."

The torrent continued for about four or five minutes, with logs and foliage flowing past. "As I looked out the window I saw my

van scrambling through the water," says Graeme. The water gushed up to a metre high at the door and the front lounge and storeroom were flooded.

The Scowns were evacuated and stayed at the Stony Hotel for 10 days. "Everything was completely wrecked, with nothing left," says Ngaire. She and Des would leave the hotel at 7am each morning to return to the disaster zone and start the clean up. Ngaire says she had to wash their clothes in a bucket over at the Dairy Factory as there was nowhere else to do it.

It was a hive of industry during the road restoration. Trucks worked 24 hours a day for approximately 10 days carting rocks, sand and fill to reinstate the road. It was re-opened on 19 October.

It made for an exciting time for the children living further up the road, who had to detour through the bush and farmland and over the bridge at the Scowns' house to catch the school bus.

Once services were restored, the Scowns returned to their home and the massive clean up it required.

"My Dad became quite the tour guide – we had so many tourists



*Mr Scown behind his property at Tataraimaka.*

arriving on our doorstep that it got to the stage where we had to turn them away," says Graeme.

The Fire Brigade was quick to lend a hand by hosing the silt and rubble out of the house. They took all the furniture to the Dairy Factory across the road, where it was stored.

Dehumidifiers were brought into the house by the Insurance Company to aid in the removal of moisture.

Sharrocks Contractors helped tremendously with cleaning up around the section, removing massive amounts of rocks and rubble. Graeme said it took 35 truckloads to remove the tremendous amount of rubble and they ended up with about two years' worth of firewood.

Clelands repaired the building, putting in new walls and replacing water damaged areas. Transit supplied the trees, plants and landscapers. A lot of people in the community chipped in to help and also provided baking and other food.

"It took approximately 18 months before the property started looking normal again," says Graeme. "It really interrupted our lives," adds Ngaire.

Despite all the hard work, the reconstruction of the section is ongoing and it will never be the same again. The creek bank has been retained with gabion baskets, although it took many attempts to get this right, and the levels are a lot higher. "Once we would have had very little water in our creek but today and even in the summer months, the volume is greater than it ever was. It's no longer a 'jump' across the creek," says Graeme.

I ask Ngaire and Graeme how they feel when we get huge

downpours, whether they are frightened it will happen again. "No, we don't worry about the rain, we've been through it now and the house survived. What could be worse?" Graeme answers. Ngaire says, "We just carry on with our lives, accept what happened and look forward to the next ten years."

What a wonderful attitude to have. I think time is a great healer, allowing us to look at things differently.

As a result of this disaster, all culvert crossings throughout Taranaki have been identified with a blue marker peg to ensure they are regularly maintained. Let's hope this will eliminate or minimise such events in the future.

Ngaire and Graeme would like to give special thanks to all those who helped, especially the Sharrocks, the Okato Fire Brigade and the local community.

By Milly Carr



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# OKATO POOL

**OPENS LABOUR WEEKEND**

## Opening Hours

### MONDAY - FRIDAY

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|---------------|------------------|
| Lane Swimming | 6.00am - 9.00am  |
| Schools       | 10.00am - Midday |
| Public        | Midday - 1.00pm  |
| Schools       | 1.00pm - 3.00pm  |
| Public        | 3.15pm - 7.00pm  |

### Weekends, Public and School Holidays

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| Public | 12.30pm - 7.00pm |
|--------|------------------|

## Admission Charges

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Adults                             | \$2.30 |
| Children                           | \$1.30 |
| Spectator                          | \$1.00 |
| Adult with child under eight years | \$1.30 |

### CONCESSION CARDS

|          |     |         |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Children | x11 | \$12.00 |
| Adults   | x11 | \$22.00 |

### SEASON TICKETS

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Adults   | \$100.00 |
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