

# TOM okato

## Goodin's Garden



Now it has filtered down to the grandchildren who love to be in there with their gardening tools. Just like Grandma huh??

Bearing in mind the south easterly winds they get hammered with at times, they have a friend Graham Smith, now retired from Pukeiti, to help them with shelter around the property. He came up with an idea of planting trees in a v shape. This has worked extremely well as the trees have matured and has been an excellent shelter belt.

This well established garden offers many different aspects. Built on a riverbed,



We have been spoilt for choice this year with another local coastal garden entering into the Rhododendron Festival. The narrow roads wind through the farmland on Mirikau Road, and 1.5 kilometres up I can now see the two storey homestead sitting amongst the established trees and spacious lawns. The house was built with views in mind. The kitchen window looks out to the majestic mountain and the patio area has distant sea views.

Steak tells me, "It took 60 plugs of gelignite to blast through the soil to break up the abundant rocks and boulders, just so we could lay our foundations. The soil is black as black, indicative of volcanic soil". It had to have been a riverbed years ago, with the boulders that are evident around the property. They are absolutely humongous and Christine says it works to her advantage at times as she is always able to find rocks to use for garden edging or as features amongst the foliage.

Chris (aka Shack) and Steak Goodin are

another couple who are new to the Festival and were like Maria Vander-Poel who have had their garden in the local Garden Safari held bi-annually in the Okato district.

Chris can only assume from this that Suzanne Porter and Lisa Haskell, from TAFT (Taranaki Arts Festival Trust) must have submitted her garden for this event.

"When the report came back for the garden, I thought they must have mistaken my garden for someone else's, I didn't really have the conviction that our garden would be up to speed" said Chris. Chris has an absolute passion for gardening, along with many other activities in their busy lives and has been establishing their garden from the time they first built their house 25 years ago. The children were always involved in the gardening and hold special memories of planting and watching them grow.

plants have found homes nestled amongst rocks and boulders, roses and rhododendrons add colour and the spacious gardens are also a great space for entertaining.

Every corner is a reminder of family and friends, as plants have been given as gifts. The largest tree in the garden is an acorn which was given to them from a prominent stud master. These plants will always have special memories connected with them.

Chris is a dress maker so as well as her passion for gardening she also spends many hours on her sewing machine. She has had to step back from this at the

*(Continued on page 2)*

# editorial

FROM THE TOM ZONE

I had lots of great positive feedback from the September issue of TOM. I have always been grateful for the comments as it reinforces that we have been providing the information you like to read about.

This month is the second anniversary of TOM Okato. It has been a fun and interesting two years for me and I especially love seeing the TOMs grow and reflect exactly what the individual communities represent.

Sadly for me, I am laying down my TOM hat with this issue. It is sad because of the enjoyment I have had being part of people's lives through this medium and I will miss that. However as life has a habit of evolving, I find now that as my boys are getting older my spare time is decreasing. I will venture forth with this phase of our lives and see what happens at the next turn.

With my kindest regards,

Tracey



## Quote for the Month

*"If you don't control your greed,  
you can't control your destiny."*

Unknown author



## TOM dates for November

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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*

## cover story

moment and put it aside as a part time job, as the garden jobs that need completing have taken precedence.

"Being in the Festival has given me the motivation to complete those jobs you always put aside, and maybe I can live my dream - as I get a little older I have always wanted to spend more time getting into my garden. It is finally happening" says Chris.

"There is nothing better than hopping on the ride on lawn mower, where you can shut off the rest of the world, no phones, and no interruptions. It is very therapeutic"

Chris tells me that it was the first time in 25 years they have had a tui visit their garden. I was absolutely "busting out of myself". There it was sitting in my cherry blossom outside the kitchen window, singing away to itself. It was one of those moments. I have had kowhais growing but never once had there been a tui".



When you visit this garden you will be welcomed by the smell of home baking, which will be for sale along with the mobile coffee trailer to satisfy those coffee cravings. Umbrellas and tables will be situated about the property for those wishing to take a break.

Their daughter Nicci will be selling Christmas trees and arrangements. Plywood cut outs of Harold the Giraffe from the Life Education Trust, will also be available to purchase.

Chris also hopes to have garden furnishings from The Complete Garden Store in Auckland on show and orders can be placed, for those wishing to buy.

So pencil the festival dates on your calendar and enjoy the gardens which are just on your doorstep.

By Milly Carr

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# Okato Lions Club

## Hello Readers

Yes, it is time again to write a note for TOM. The season is being kind to us farmers with grass growth motoring along nicely. The girls seem quite happy . . .

Lions have a busy programme ahead. We have confirmed our guest speaker for our community dinner that will be held in the New Year. I am sure that those who attend will really enjoy listening to the presentation of this well-known Taranaki sportswoman.

Lions will be helping Clyde Bishop with the vintage machinery day, which is going to be held on 13 and 14 February next year. Clyde needs our support to make this happen. It is going to be held at Tataraimaka (on Clyde's property, corner of Main and Upper Pitone Roads). If you can help out with old machinery and/or labour for set-up, please phone Clyde on 752 4187. More info will be available in later newsletters.

The annual motorbike ride is coming up at Easter, and of course our 40th anniversary on 8 May 2010. The names of previous Lion members for invitation purposes are needed. If anybody can help out with information on previous members, please phone John King, our anniversary committee chairman, on 752 4374.

Take care.

*President Lion Merv Hooker*

## Fire Brigade News

All is pretty quiet on the call-out side of things. That is not a bad thing though!

We had a wander through the new Dairy Factory the other evening. Familiarised ourselves with the buildings, water and power sources. It is all looking good.

Our brigade has an extended member - Junior Harvey. Our Fire Chief Barry and his wife Rochelle have a new son, Sidney John Harvey, born in August. Congratulations guys.

Just a reminder with daylight savings, if you haven't already checked your batteries in your smoke alarms PLEASE remember to do so now! These things do save lives!

*Milly Carr*

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# Garden delight on your doorstep

Established trees and lush spacious lawns are what surrounds the property of Maria and Hugo VanderPoel on 92 Ruakere Road, Warea. After years of enjoying visiting other people's gardens Maria thought it was time she had a turn showing off her love of the garden.

Maria's garden is one of two local gardens entered into the Rhododendron Festival to be held on 30 October through 8 November. Maria was approached by Lisa Haskell, one of the Rhododendron Festival organisers, after the opening of her garden for the Coastal Garden Safari that is held every second year in the Okato vicinity, and was gently persuaded to put her garden forth. With a passion for gardening inherited from her mother and grandmother who always had such lovely gardens, Maria put her green fingers to the test and has been preparing for nearly a year. Wow, that is dedication!

Maria informs me that her garden is still in the developing stage, although there are many mature trees around the property, surrounded by a cottage theme. Boxed hedging, an assortment of wisterias, roses, hostas, hydrangeas and garden statues are just a few of the garden's visual delights.

So, you must have a favourite part of your garden?? "It would have to be the spreading camellia and two oak trees with a lovely wooden seat nestled amongst the bedding of Chatham Island forget-me-nots. "There is a story behind the chair," says Maria. "I always went onto Mum about how nice it was and how it would look so good in my garden. In the end she gave me the thing!" Every corner offers something different. Many hours have been spent on the newest addition to the garden, a secret walkway through the established trees at the rear of the section. As you approach this area, Maria has created an orchard with various fruit trees. The Pukeko ornaments are keeping watch over you from there!

"The opportunity has arisen to complete those garden jobs that you always just seem to put off," says Maria. "And I have also had fun creating new parts to the garden"! You will see these when you visit this lovely garden.

Maria and her friend Sue will have plants for sale, from natives, hydrangeas, canna lilies and even vege plants. A friend's daughter has been busy creating rock door mats and Maria's father Brian has built bird boxes which will also be for sale. These can be purchased for \$15 - \$20.

For those who wish to pack a picnic, you will find plenty of room here to lay down your blankets or sit under the trees and umbrellas that will be dotted about the property. With only a few weeks until the big event, Maria has found she is rather excited about the challenge and also the opportunity to hopefully bring the community together. "I would like to think it will be a good chance for locals to meet other locals," says Maria.

By Milly Carr



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# Pukeiti - more than just gardens

Pukeiti has always played an active and entertaining role during past Rhododendron Festivals and this year is to be no exception. Artist Sue Worthington will be in residence during the festival, along with a display of photography by Pat Greenfield about Tongaporutu.

Each day, through Labour Weekend and the festival, there will be a fabulous display of 120 blooms taken from the garden and twice a day, guided walks through the garden at no extra cost. Not to be missed on Sunday 8th November, one of New Zealand's greatest blues musicians ever, and some of his friends from Wellington, will be creating an unrivalled atmosphere for Pukeiti visitors.

Many more activities are planned for the festival, including Heliview being based out of the gardens on the 6th and 7th November. Check the Pukeiti website for more details, [www.pukeiti.org.nz](http://www.pukeiti.org.nz)



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## Okato Swimming Team

Spring is here and it is now time to get back into swimming mode. We have had a few successful sessions on Friday nights at the Aquatic Centre over the winter months for those keen to keep up their swimming. Each Friday night we dedicated the club night to a specific stroke, with lots of drills and turns.

There were opportunities to practice dive starts and relays for those that competed in the various carnivals during the winter.

We had a good turn out in Stratford and wore our Okato team T-shirts for the first time. It was great to watch our swimmers keep clocking up their Personal Bests (PBs) in the competitive and non competitive sections.

In August we had two swimmers, Jenna Barrett and Brandi Dakin-Spershott, qualify and compete in the Taranaki Winter Swimming Champs in Stratford. Brandi got her first real taste of competitive swimming, and Jenna, who is an old hand now at competitive swimming because of all the comps around the North Island recently, came home with loads of gold medals. Big congrats to both swimmers.

Rebecca Gibson, one of our club members who is in the Coastal Taranaki School Sports Academy with her chosen sport as swimming, was also extremely dedicated over the winter. Unfortunately she missed out in qualifying for Taranaki Champs by 10ths of a second, but she continues to do Personal Best times repeatedly each time she competes. Great stuff, Rebecca.

All three swimmers are travelling to Rotorua on Labour Weekend to compete in the Central North Island Champs, so good luck to you all.

Now to Season 2009/10. We hope to get under way on Tuesday 10 November at 5pm. There will be a slight change this year. We will be limiting the Learn to Swim groups so on opening night it will be first in first served.

## Okato Tennis Club

Summer is fast approaching and our courts are now up and ready for the coming season. Two summers ago we replaced the top courts and this winter we have finished replacing all the fencing around the courts and don't they look good. A big thank you to all the members that have helped make this happen, it has been a huge job that we all undertook. But what we have achieved is a credit to you all and Okato now has another sporting facility that it can be proud of.

Are you interested in playing tennis? We will again this summer be having Wednesday morning tennis from 10am onwards starting after the school holidays for anyone interested in a non competitive environment to play in. We will have three Midweek ladies team playing on Monday's. And once the weather warms up we will start up Twilight Tennis again watch this space for details. Contacts Raewynne 752-4466 or Maree 752-8107.

We would like to again thank all the community for the encouragement and support offered during the massive project of doing two new courts and the fencing. A big thank you to the following New Zealand Community Trust, TSB Community Trust, Trusts Charitable, The Southern Trust, Okato Lions Club, New Plymouth District Council, and Resene for discounted Paint and community donations.



*Brandi Dakin-Spershott and Rebecca Gibson with their medals from the Bell Block Carnival.*

Learn to swim will be on Tuesday and Thursday nights 5.15 – 6pm.

Swimming Training will be 6 till 7 – 7.30 on Tuesdays

Every second Thursday from 6pm will be stroke correction (only for swimmers who are not in the Learn to Swim programme)

Every other Thursday is our own traditional race night.

This year I think we really need to emphasise correct stroke techniques for each stroke, and get more of you competing outside the club, whether it is competitively or in the non competitive section. Either way its loads of fun, swim for your PBs, meet other swimmers from around our province and maybe win a ribbon here or there.

Don't forget the camp we are planning on 5 and 6 December 2009.

I look forward to a spectacular 2009/10 season, so see you all at the pool soon.

*Fiona Lacey*

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## Coastal Karate

Osse to the citizens and community of Okato. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve and Michelle Adlam, Merv and Rae Hooker for their generous donation towards training equipment for the Okato Coastal Karate Group and also to the Okato Lions Club for their donation. Being able to have training pads and focus mitts enables the students to express their full abilities in power and focus. The pads never complain when they get hit. The input from the community and businesses is certainly appreciated by all involved. It is an attribute to see this community getting behind their local children and supporting them. Believe me, there are champions amongst these students. Once again thank you so much Steve and Michelle from Okato Earth Works, Merv and Rae Hooker from Okato Lions Group and all parents who support Coastal Karate. A little support helps many.

*Jim, Sensei, Coastal Karate*




## Finnley and Lenny

Finnley and Lenny Binsbergen represented Coastal Taranaki School at the North Island primary and intermediate school ski champs at Whakapapa from 31 August to 4 September. This is one of the biggest school events in the North Island with about 450 kids competing in an individual giant slalom race and a dual slalom race. Finnley came 23rd in the giant slalom out of 140 intermediate boys. He was also the fastest Taranaki skier! Lenny crashed in the junior giant slalom race on an icy section of the course but continued on and finished his race.

Well done to both of them!



*Lenny, awesomely hot on skis.*




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# Okato Plunket

What better way to get to know the local families and mothers in the community than by going along to a Plunket get-together? A group of local ladies meet bi-monthly in Jaclyn Fisher's house in Okato to promote Plunket in the area, support each other as parents and assist new mums entering into their phase of life as a mother.

As with many other groups or organisations, fundraising occurs occasionally. Many of you are familiar with the Annual Plunket Appeal which is their biggest earner. The funds go towards keeping the wonderful Plunket nurse Carol visiting new mums in the area. Without this support new mums would have to travel into New Plymouth.

The funds also help to maintain the car seat rental scheme. Car seats are available to hire from the New Plymouth branch and anyone in the Okato district will receive a discount on hireage. At present the Okato Plunket group has a sterilised breast pump, a high chair and a port-a-cot available to hire. If you are interested or know of anyone requiring any of these items, you can contact Jaclyn on the phone number below.

This month, as a thank you to the Okato community for their excellent support, the Okato Plunket has organised a subsidised family photo day to be held at the St Luke's Hall, Okato. This is an excellent opportunity for Christmas gifts and updating those family photos. It's also another great way of supporting your local Plunket. Bring along your cut-out coupon below and they look forward to seeing you on the day. Remember to book in early as bookings are limited.

Plunket members look forward to meeting new members, as they are open to new ideas on how they can best support and assist our under fives in the community. Current members are Jaclyn Fisher (President, 752 4872), Michelle Sole (Secretary), Danelle King (Treasurer), Becky Muggeridge, Rebecca Williams, Angela Phillips, Amanda Putt, Kerstin Williams (Camp Mother)

By Milly Carr

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## Rachel Marston has designs on women's fashion

Twenty-three year old Rachel Marston, daughter of Jackie and Kevin Honeyfield, is in her final year of a three year course at WITT, from which she will graduate with a Diploma in Fashion. I talked to her recently about her work and her aspirations.

Rachel has always been interested in fashion and took the subject by correspondence at school, so pursuing the course was a natural progression towards a career in fashion design. Her polytech programme covers everything from designing to sewing techniques, computer skills to business skills. It prepares students to design and make day wear, evening wear and performance wear, which includes wet weather gear.

As part of her professional practice this year, Rachel was required to develop a design concept that expressed and publicised an issue and helped, in some way, to resolve it. Her work and that of her classmates was then showcased in an exhibition called Realpolitik. Rachel, an environmentalist, has long been frustrated by having to accept plastic bags for her groceries and although recyclable bags are available in most supermarkets these days, "they're really unattractive," she grimaces. So, she set about providing fashion-conscious shoppers with a range of environmentally sound alternatives. Her specifications were simple: "My bags had to be made from recycled fabrics, be functional and look good".

A company called Morris and Co, who used to supply fabrics for the furnishing trade, was closing down and gave WITT all of its old fabrics, including sample books. "I was lucky to get my hands on them – all that vintage stuff is coming back," said Rachel, who used them to create her retro-styled bags. But recycling didn't stop there. All of the buckles, buttons, zips and other add-ons were from op shops and even the thread had been left-over from other projects. "I didn't buy anything new," Rachel told me, proudly. Her finished bags, which took two or three hours each to create, are beautifully crafted and no two are alike. Her favourite, which she had wanted to keep, was quickly snaffled up, along with several others. She's not too worried though - there are plenty more designs where those came from.

During the next semester, she was asked to design a collection for a favourite designer's range. The collection had to be themed and it had to flow. To illustrate this, she produced a computer-generated "story board" and a sketch book to support it. Rachel's favourite designer is Cybele, whose high fashion designs are "very feminine, with amazing prints and fabrics." Her ranges reflect Rachel's love of "casual clothes, but feminine, with a bit of frill." Rachel also tried her hand at collections for Deborah Sweeny (a lot more day wear – loose fitting and casual) and Juliette Hogan (relaxed yet sweet, and feminine high fashion garments). Her final challenge, for a Farmers' range, saw her designing a collection for Rage Semme, who creates clothes for mature women. That was perhaps the biggest challenge of all.



will be advantageous. It will allow her to start out small, perhaps by launching a range of "after five" dresses, and to raise her profile within a smaller community at first. We wish her every success!

If you want to own a fabulous Rachel Marston shopping bag, contact her on 027 3872 209 or e-mail her at Rachel.honeyfield@gmail.com

Story and picture by Kerry Lilley

*Rachel displays her shopping bags.*

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# playcentre

## Okato Playcentre

What do our kids really love about Playcentre? Let's find out . . .

### Austin Pollard, age 3

*I like making waterfalls and the tractors in the sandpit.*

### Riley Pollard, age 2

*The biscuits.*

### Callum Moffitt, recently age 4

*I like to play with some little 3 year olds and some nice 4 year olds. I like to play outside on the playground.*

### Oliver Kemsley, age 3

*I like the sharks.*

### Timothy Mugeridge, age 2

*I like making rivers in the sandpit and playing with the toys.*

### Aidan Appert, age 3

*I like playing outside with the tractors in the sandpit.*

### Zack Stockman-Fowler, age 2

*I like the train track and digging.*

No surprises there, apart from the sharks! There are usually a few tigers, dinosaurs and other wild animals dashing about, thanks to the dress-up box. The sandpit is the hot favourite for most kids at the moment, followed closely by morning tea. The kids have had the spades out and the hoses on and have been creating mighty rivers and lakes for the tractors to traverse and the sharks to swim in!

Next month: what do our mums and dads really love about Playcentre?

All welcome for children 0 - 6 years. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Contact Kerry for details on 752 8095

**NOTICE: AGM to be held Friday 23 October, 7pm, at Lahar Cafe.**



Front: Jasmin and Oliver Kemsley. Back left: Aidan Appert. Back right: Austin Pollard and Mac Moffitt.

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## TOM CLASSIFIEDS

### PSYCHIC

TAROT - For accurate readings and consultations please phone Lisa Lister on 06 751 2687 or 027 563 2828.

### STUDENT MASSAGE

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### HOUSE SITTER

AVAILABLE November - December  
Happy to look after pets and gardens, responsible and mature with references available. Please call Kirsten on 03 443 6684 or 027 457 6353, or email [incline@xtra.co.nz](mailto:incline@xtra.co.nz). Thanks!

### FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISING

IN TOM - Contact Cyril Henderson, 753 6885, or email [cyril@thetom.co.nz](mailto:cyril@thetom.co.nz)

## Okato Historical Society

The Okato Historical Society gathers quarterly in the Community Trust Hall, Cumming Street, Okato.

**The Hall will be open over the weekends of the Rhododendron Festival, starting 30 October through 8 November.**

This is an opportunity to have a wander through and reminisce over the photos or to learn more about the history of Okato. For information, contact Iris Putt on 752 4182.

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## OAKURA CLUBS & GROUPS

### Playcentre

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

### Playgroup

St Luke's Hall, Main Road Okato. Wednesday morning, 10am - 12 noon. Contact Vanessa 752 4431 or Danelle 752 4916.

### Plunket

Meet bi-monthly at Jaclyn Fisher's home. Contact Jaclyn 752 4872.

### Okato Fire Brigade

Weekly. Monday night trainings, 7pm - 9pm. Contact Barry Harvey 752 4568.

### Historical Society

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

### 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.

### New Zeal Church

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

### Okato Co-operating Parish Women's Fellowship

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

### Care and Craft

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

### Highway 45 Craft

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

### Tumahu Rural Women

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

### JKA Karate, Okato

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

### Squash Club

Monday evening club night. Contact Steve Kelly 027 2333 229

### Tennis Club

Contact Maree Moffitt 752 8107 or Raewyn Lawn 752 4466

### Okato Bowling Club

Club day held every Sunday at 9.30am onwards  
President Bruce Peacock 752 4538, Secretary Fiona Liddall 752 4509, Convenor Cheryl Neilson 752 4218

### Okato Pool

*Learn to Swim* - Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5.15 - 6pm.

*Swim Club*: Swimming Training - 6 till 7 - 7.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more inquiries contact Fiona Lacey 752 4535.

### St Peter's Guild

Meet fourth Friday of each month. Contact Angela Montgomery 752 7738.

### Probus

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

### Coastal Garden Circle

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

### Pony Club

Contact Carey Brophy, 752 4458.

**Apologies for any clubs or groups that have been missed out. Please contact Milly 752 4425 for any additional listings or amendments.**