

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

APRIL 2026

Seacliff • Warrington • Evansdale • Waitati • Doctors Point • Pūrākaunui

BLUESKIN BAY SHOW - 2026



Waitati Militia vs Alfs Imperial Army



The battle of the brewery took place at 1pm on Sunday, 8 March. Conveniently at the brewery in case any participants lacked the ability to organise a proverbial piss up afterwards. Stakes were high - the losers would shout the winners a round of beer!

The Waitati militia, like a finely oiled machine, arrived at high noon well in advance of the opposition. Although it is noteworthy that Captain Spig of the 13th Lady Penelope's Own Mounted Defaulters did manage to arrive first, in a flower covered van after hitching a ride with a ray of sunshine. There were nurses and tea ladies, and many making their debut on their first campaign.

The first round, to raise the blood of the enemy was some fierce fighting talk delivered by our most elite assault poet SAS. Our frenemies said "It is the most artfully merciless assault poetry that ALF's have ever endured, delivered by a man who is the man that John Cooper Clark is trying to sound like. Having seen its effect on my troops, and our eventual defeat, I should like to commend this poet to his Waitati Militia commander for the suitable recognition of his gallantry."

This set the tone for the rest of the battle, being that it was International Women's Day, the full fury of our femme fatales followed. The battlefield filled with the smoke of a million flour bombs, and many a man fell to the mighty poking of our swords.

After a sky sausage launch from the lads it was time for a tea break. Light refreshments were served and we united briefly under tea amnesty. The second part of the battle kicked off with an aggressively loud advance of "I am a little teapot", that had the enemy grimacing in pain immediately. Our first aiders bravely did their best as A and E (aggravate and exacerbate) disabling as many of their fighters as they could. After a jolly energetic half an hour or more it was declared we should stop for beer.

And then in an unprecedented turn of events, they made captain Mayhem of the militia -the Imperial Wizard! Then proceeded to pledge her their armies. This is to go with the set of Clan McGillicuddy Ylesmonn of her own, gifted to defend and protect her.

Many thanks always to Jono of Arc brewery for tolerating our shenanigans, a good time was had by all. Commendations to Laura Deaker, Juliet Perano, Mārama Grant , Rachel Wesley, Sylvia Edge, Leigh Morris, Rick Cracknell, Hilary Rowley, Alex Wilson and Diesel McGrath.

Welcome to the ranks of our tin pot organisation. The Waitati Militia needs you!

Photos Martÿn Buyck

Editor's Note

A collection of snippets this month:

I held back the printing of the BSN this month so I could include the Blueskin Bay Show. I'm so glad I did. The images on the front cover testify to the great event that it was, despite the somewhat inclement weather! Thanks to **Martijn Buyck, Sally Brown, Laura Deaker and Mandy Mayhem** for taking photos of the whole range of activities that were on offer and sending them to me so quickly. No room this month to list the winners in the produce and flower part of the day but look out for them next month.

A bit of a rant next. Why are the supermarkets offering us cheap imported butter from the United States? I know the theory behind it – it was bought when US production was high and their prices low, and would benefit NZ consumers in terms of price. We all know how food budgets are rising and it seems like a good deal; but I wonder at the effect on our own dairy farmers and should we not buy local when we can? Added to that it is not the same as NZ butter, American dairy cows are typically fed on grain not on grass, like our NZ cows, which gives the butter a white appearance and a slightly slimy texture. As far as taste goes I'll stick to Pam's! And don't get me started on lemons!

I hit three score years and ten this month, biblically this is the lifespan we should expect. Actually I am expecting (hoping for) quite a few more years. I still have lots more to do and count my lucky stars that I have ended up in such a wonderful location. I'm not going anywhere!

And on that note, I am supposed to be flying through Doha to the UK on the 9 May to see my family (especially my grandson) and attend a family wedding. I received an email this morning offering me the choice of rebooking my ticket for a later date or getting a refund. All I can say is Thank You Mr Trump!

Keep safe, warm and well Bernie



Waitati Community Hui
Getting ready for emergencies – together

Join us for a community hui to talk about local hazards, share ideas, and look at how we can support each other during emergencies.

We'll also cover a few simple ways to get prepared at home and what a Community Resilience Group could look like for Waitati.

Everyone is welcome.

Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location:
Waitati Hall
26 Harvey Street
Waitati

Brought to you by:
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

With support from:
Emergency Management Otago

Blueskin Bay Community Spaces

Warrington Hall

Available for birthdays, family gatherings, exercise classes, dances and dos etc, at reasonable rates. Hire includes a fully equipped kitchen and tables and chairs – we have a large viewing screen and a new sound system.
Contact Lyn 482 2896 or Rowena 482 2667

Waitati Hall

Suitable for large meetings, weddings, parties, concerts, dances etc (up to 120) features kitchen, toilets, stage, sound system and large projection screen.

Contact Blueskin Nurseries on 482 2828

Waitati Hall Meeting Room

Suitable for committee meetings, small gatherings, demonstrations etc (up to 20 people) features kitchen and toilets.

Contact Blueskin Nurseries on 482 2828

Blueskin Bay Library Meeting Room

Suitable for committee meetings, presentations, training, interviews etc. (up to 12 people) features modular tables, large projection screen, kitchenette and toilets.

Contact Blueskin Library 482 2444, blucirc1@dcc.govt.nz

Waiputai Hub – Stephenson St, Warrington

Warm and cosy meeting space, community gatherings, classes, children's parties, and workshops for up to 20 people. Features include small kitchen, comfy couches, tables and chairs, fenced grounds including playground for under 5s and toilets. Available to hire for workshops, courses, children's parties or family events etc. at a reasonable hourly rate. **Booking enquiries to waiputai@gmail.com or Nancy 482 1198 or 021 171 0226.**

Hire charge is usually applicable, details on request.



Blueskin Bay ANZAC DAY Commemoration

Waitati Cenotaph (Beside Waitati Hall)

10.00 am Saturday 25th April

All Welcome

'Lest we forget'

Otago caregiver receives Excellence in Foster Care Award

On Friday 6 March, Waitati local Donna Illingworth received the highest possible accolade for caregiving for vulnerable children – an Excellence in Foster Care Award, presented by CEO of Caring Families Aotearoa Linda Surtees and the Minister for Children Hon Karen Chhour.



Donna, Minister for Children Hon Karen Chhour and Chief Executive of Caring Families Aotearoa Linda Surtees.

Donna was one of ten caregivers, or caregiving couples, selected by Caring Families Aotearoa and its partners* for going above and beyond to provide a safe and therapeutic home to kids in care. They were celebrated at Parliament.

A single caregiver and registered nurse at Dunedin Hospital, Donna began caregiving over 25 years ago. She has cared for over 40 children in state care at her rural Otago home, many of whom have returned several times.

Currently, Donna has six tamariki in her care, all under the age of 10, including two children she cares for permanently. Over the years Donna has accepted emergency, transitional, short-term and long-term placements from Oranga Tamariki. "The only limit is how many my car can carry!" she quips.

The Excellence in Foster Care Awards, now in its 19th year, recognises caregivers for not only caring for and protecting vulnerable children, but also for being their strongest advocates and a pillar of support for other caregivers in their communities. "Extraordinary people like Donna inspire us – and all care agencies – to continue striving to provide the support caregivers need to help heal our tamariki and give them the future they deserve," says Caring Families Aotearoa CEO Linda Surtees. * Barnardos, Open Home Foundation and Kia Puāwai.

Joanne Dean Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Caring Families Aotearoa E: joanned@caringsfamilies.org.nz



This is an opinion piece designed to promote feedback. If you feel you'd like to respond email blueskin.input@gmail.com

The Nature our Children Need

We were sitting on Waikouaiti beach recently with our two year old grandson enjoying the sun and admiring the dynamics of a nearby young family who were making the most of all the beach had to offer. We got talking to their mum and partner who were sitting beside their newly-purchased caravan. She shared how they'd become despondent with how screen-technology had dominated their children's lives in such a two-dimensional way. But she went on to say how much family life had changed for the better with the caravan purchase, spending weekends at Waikouaiti campground and days packed with outdoor experiences.

The next generation is faced with huge pressures, all competing for their time and attention. For centuries most children have grown up with experiences that have

developed them into well-rounded and functioning individuals, and prepared them for transition to adulthood. Much of this development happened outdoors in backyards, local parks, reserves, bush areas etc. where 'free play' flourished amongst their peers. This outdoor environment gave them opportunities to engage all the senses, learn to take risks, overcome fears, problem solve, regulate emotions and create imaginary worlds; all things that would serve them well as adults. I came across the word 'biophilia' recently which captures what I'm trying to say: it's the idea that 'all humans have a biologically driven need to affiliate with nature for mental and physical well-being' (popularised by Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson)

There is a large body of evidence showing the benefits of getting children outdoors regularly. Sadly, there's also growing evidence that shows the adverse effects of excessive screen time on children: socio-emotional problems such as anxiety and depression leading to withdrawal from social contact, increased aggression and hyperactivity in some children and reduced physical activity. I certainly saw an increase in these conditions during my career as a primary school teacher.

Screen technology for fun and information has opened up a vast world to explore and I myself make good use of the information highway. But there are potential side effects from excessive use, especially for our tamariki. New Zealand children have some of the highest rates of screen usage in the world. I'm the first to agree there are pressures that today's parents have to grapple with including the high cost of living and demanding jobs, and the associated wearing down and tiredness this can bring. As a firm believer in the benefits of outdoor experiences and learning, I would encourage all parents to give their tamariki more opportunities to explore nature in all its forms and see the increased well-being this brings. Richard Louv said it best: "When truly present in nature, we use all our senses at the same time, which is the optimum state of learning" (from 'Last child in the woods – Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder').

It's certainly that engagement and wonder that we hope for with our grandchildren.



Forever Wild

Wild Dunedin 2026 roars to life with hundreds of opportunities for you to get out and explore nature – many free or discounted. Get planning your school holidays with the festival that showcases all that makes Ōtepoti Dunedin the wildlife capital of Aotearoa.

From big attractions like Pitch Choir, NatureDome and a Masquerade Ball, to boutique workshops, bioblitzes and bike rides – there's truly something for everyone.

Festival guest Steve Mushin will be visiting Blueskin Library for a special model-making workshop on Monday 13 April, places are limited so book early. The Botanists invite you to join them at St Brigid's Church for a fun group drawing exercise based on the surrealist 'exquisite corpse' game – adapted for plants. And don't forget Kids Go Free at Orokonui during the school holidays.

**Hoake ki te Taiao
City Nature Challenge**

Ōtepoti Dunedin has joined this four-day global bioblitz – a worldwide movement to document nature and help fight biodiversity loss.

Join us, every observation you make of WILD nature in Dunedin is a data point that helps scientists and researchers understand and protect nature for all of us.

Take photos: 24–27 April 2026
Upload your photos: 28 April–10 May 2026
Results announced: 13 May 2026

Learn more at www.wilddunedin.nz

By participating in the City Nature Challenge, we can connect with nature, connect with each other, and connect with cities all over the world.

Partners: University of Otago, Dunedin Botanic Garden, Otago Regional Council, Forest & Birds, NZ Birds, Citizen Science Association of Aotearoa

This year the festival celebrates Dunedin's growing network of cycleways. Dust off your wheels, oil the gears and join the Wild Ride on Sunday 19 April. The harbour trail will be packed with activities and 'ologists' stationed along the route to help you identify and learn about your surroundings.

Pick up a programme from your local library or favourite café. Visit www.wilddunedin.nz for all booking details.

A Poor Move

Punishing the poor and homeless for being poor and homeless is a familiar tactic of many governments. Neoliberal economic policies which have enriched some, enslaved many, and impoverished the rest, encourage our current Prime Minister (the owner of 7 houses), to label the poor and homeless as 'bottom feeders'. And while nothing screams 'bottom feeder' louder than sleeping in door-ways and begging for food, what's off-putting neoliberalism's consumers, is having to see them while they shop.



These new 'move on' laws empower police to vanquish the great-unwashed to less visible locales. By this, they will improve the consumer experience and increase their likelihood to spend. After all, consumption: the utilization of resources, goods, or services to satisfy human needs and desires, is the backbone of profit-driven neoliberal economics. Interference can not be tolerated. Therefore, neoliberalism has no place for the needs and desires of the poor and homeless. There's no money in it.

Glaringly, these 'move on' laws are a 'kick them while they're down' neoliberal reaction, when what's needed is a socially democratic 'help them up' strategy. As for threatening the homeless-poor with fines and imprisonment: that's as ironic as irony can get. But what isn't ironic is the human trait of demonizing those less fortunate than one's self. Barbara Kingsolver, in a passage from *The Poisonwood Bible* (highly recommended), wrote this:

"... the lonely look down upon the hungry; the hungry look down upon the starving. The guilty blame the damaged. Those of doubtful righteousness speak of cannibals, the unquestionably vile, the sinners and the damned. It makes everyone feel much better."

Doug Nuttall

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

A rather busier month at the Heritage Centre over the past month, due in part to the better weather I feel. We also had approximately 40 volunteer firemen (plus wives) celebrating over ten years of service to their communities at the local RSA Hall. They came for a visit to our Heritage Centre and a tour of the old bank. The comments from their visit were very positive, this included some locals who confessed to never having visited our facilities.

Volunteering in our communities, has lots of benefits, not only for the community but for the volunteers themselves. Here at the Heritage Centre we are always keen to attract new volunteers. If you are new to the area it is a great way to meet like-minded people in an informal way. According to research, more than a million people in NZ volunteer each year, volunteering can help counteract the effects of stress/anxiety, increase self-confidence, reduce depression and increase your skills.

At the Heritage Centre we provide orientation/training and partner you with another volunteer until you feel confident enough to be on your own. We currently have 20 people who fill our rostered open days, and we couldn't do without them. If you've ever thought about volunteering with us and have an interest in history and/or retail do get in touch with me. I'd love to hear from you.

The museum has been busy over the past month in setting up a display of items from our military collection, which is quite extensive. The display will run until the end of May. After which we are planning to celebrate our new facility having been open for 5 years (since 2021) beginning on Wednesday 3rd June with an afternoon tea followed by a major art exhibition of local artists during the month of June.

Finally, great news regarding progress for the bank restoration project. The Dunedin City Council Heritage Fund have granted us \$35,000 to enable a detailed architectural design and background scheduling to be completed, which will then enable employment of a Project manager and work to restore the banks exterior to be started.

Shirley McKewen, Treasurer
Ts.mckewen@gmail.com

Waitati Music Festival News

We had a summer off, enjoying festivals and events that other people have organised!

WMF crew have still been meeting regularly because, as well as actually enjoying each others company, we still had some work to complete.

The government in 2022 introduced a new act that requires all existing Incorporated Societies to reapply using a new frame work and guidelines. The deadline was April 2026 so we knew we had a few years, but how quickly the time did pass! However, we did the mahi and wrangled the website portals and are happy to say we have received our new certificate of incorporation.

To incorporate means to legally form a company, non-profit, or organisation into a separate legal entity. In New Zealand, this involves registering with the Companies Office.

That done we sought to follow our constitution and the achieve our organisational aim, which is to produce events focussed around music and art.

To that end we are delighted to announce two events we have planned for 2026. Firstly, on Kings Birthday weekend (30 May 2026) at the ARC Brewery – it is called ARC fest and is based on the mini-fest format of 30 minute sets, Band, DJ, Band, DJ etc. This event promises to be mega entertainment! We will use the courtyard and big room at the end and will have limited 100 tickets for sale. It will run from 3pm until 11.30pm and tickets will be available soon from Humanitix.com/nz.

The second show will be a minifest during springtime on Bland Park, details TBC. So yay! Fun times ahead...

Katie Peppercorn



Art as Advocacy

**Talk and Walking Tour
with Artist Clare Reilly
Orokonui Ecosanctuary
Sunday 19 April
10-11am Talk
11.30-1.30 Walking Tour**

New Zealand Artist **Clare Reilly** will be giving an illustrated talk about the role of her paintings in wildlife conservation.

This year she is celebrating 50 years of exhibiting and art practice. Throughout her career, Clare has supported numerous conservation projects with money raised from the sale of her paintings, cards and calendars. It has been an important part of her ethos to raise awareness of our endangered species and their habitats and help people enjoy and become more familiar with our bird species through her work.

Clare moved to Blueskin Bay from Christchurch nine years ago and a big motivation for choosing the area was the close proximity to Orokonui Ecosanctuary and the abundant bird life in the area.

This talk and walk will be a fundraiser for Orokonui and is part of the Wild Dunedin Festival. Cost: \$10 Talk, \$85 guided tour of the Ecosanctuary with Lead Guide Madison Kelly and Clare Reilly

Bookings can be made at orokonui.nz



WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin



Meeting up with Ross and Scott, we tootle over the hills to arrive at Martin and Robyn's, where the others are already with glasses in hand, engaged in a garden inspection with our hosts ruminating on the effects our terrible summer has had on our gardens. Later, we moved indoors, and the usual banter and camaraderie ensued in that by now very familiar manner.

THE BOOK

Slow Horses: Mick Herron, from The Slough House Novels series, which has won two CWA Daggers, been published in 20 languages, and adapted into a TV series. An updated, engaging version of a Le Carré novel and maybe a little in the style and fashion of a John Rebus novel (Ian Rankin) ... focusing largely on the internal intrigue and drama of the British intelligence services. Apart from Peter, who had his reservations, this book generally found favour with the group and was even very much enjoyed by several of us, especially me. If you like a good spy story, you will probably enjoy this ... recommended.



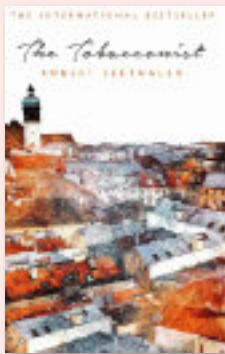
MUSIC

Seasick Steve: You Can't Teach An Old Dog New Tricks. Great, earthy, grungy blues ... he plays a variety of guitars and banjos, including a homemade cigar box guitar, and a banjo made from two Chevrolet hubcaps. Love this sample; '1973 Ford Air filter' live on YouTube, or 'Treasures'. Seasick Steve website videos for something a little slower and quieter with great lyrics.



OTHER BOOKS

Marc - The Tobacconist: Robert Seethaler. Set in Vienna in March 1928 at the point of Austria being annexed by Nazi Germany, it tells the story of a young man who comes to the city from the countryside to work in a tobacconist's shop. In the model of a Bildungsroman, the political tensions between factions and friendship with Sigmund Freud temper his morality. Seethaler avoids prolonged focus on the brutality of the period, portraying the central character's loss of innocence. A unique take on a grim period of history, written engagingly.



BEER

Two Thumbs Brewing Co: Black Forest Rye Milk Stout from the can, inspired by Gladfields Black Forest Rye Malt, which gives it a fantastic rich spicy dark fruit complexity ... 'best served not chilled'. 'Our Brewery is completely solar powered, utilises rainwater catchment, and has a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system.' **Ian:** not only that, it tastes damn good as well. Recommended.



WORD OF THE MONTH

Adolescence: "Both had crossed a line at the same time, and now it was like trying to have a conversation with a pair of refrigerators. How had that happened? Change should come with a warning, and besides, shouldn't there have been a breathing space where his nine year old was concerned? More childhood to negotiate before adolescence crept in". From **Slow Horses: Mick Herron.**

MEANING OF LIFE

"Wanna put a little fire in my life
climb a little higher, that is right
tired of this ordinary bullshit
Maybe I need to change my style
Been this way for a long while
Maybe theres a few things I oughta fix
Can you teach an old dog new tricks
Maybe I should leave well enough alone
I might not be perfect but I'm me to the bone
I don't need to change my style
Been this way for a long long while
There ain't nothing that I need to fix
You can't teach an old dog new tricks...
You can't teach an old dog..."

You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks: Seasick Steve.



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET

No Market on Sunday 5 April
due to it being Easter Sunday



The Halo Project, managed by volunteer group the Landscape Connections Trust (LCT), are looking for a trustee with financial nous!

Established in 2009, the Trust that was set up with a mission "To create healthy landscapes that support resilient communities".

The LCT vision is "from Silver Peaks to sea, communities and nature thriving in balance".

The Halo Project mission is to inspire and work with our communities to enhance, protect and connect with this landscape.

We strive to achieve this through our **Strategic Goals:**

- Community Action: Working with our community to be kaitiaki of this landscape.
- Community Education: Building and sharing resources to expand our collective knowledge.
- Governance: Operating at the highest standards of governance and delivery.
- Leadership: Inspiring transformational change for increased landscape resilience.
- Partnerships: Working in partnership with our community, Māori and our funders.
- Science and Research: Collaborating with science providers to fill our knowledge gaps.

The LCT's primary role is to support the planning, administration, fundraising, development and implementation of a variety of environmental projects under the name 'The Halo Project'.

Currently, these are:

- Predator control through our Predator Free project.
- Freshwater enhancement through our Source to Sea project.

To advance the Trust objectives the LCT is recruiting an experienced and enthusiastic Trustee who possess skills, knowledge and expertise in accountancy.



Halo Project Director Rhys Millar and LCT Trustees Margaret McFarlane, Katy McIntyre, Gerald Fitzgerald, Jill Hetherington (Chair), Dave Sharp, Marieke Mahoney.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trust Governance

- Ensuring the Trust meets its contractual, ethical and legal obligations
- Ensuring resources are sufficient and well managed
- Ensuring the Trust's objectives/mission are developed and sustained
- Planning and monitoring organisational achievements in relation to these objectives/mission
- Ensuring the ongoing viability of the Trust.

Commitment:

The Trust meets once monthly, for 2-3 hours. Trustees are provided the agenda and supporting documentation in advance. Outside of meetings Trustees respond to any issues that arise, generally by way of email or phone.

The Trust is supported by Moore Markhams who manage the accounts and financial reports.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jill Hetherington (Chair) hetherington.j4@gmail.com

East Otago Plunket Round Up

The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti continues to run weekly on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon at the Plunket Rooms in the East Otago Events Centre, providing the opportunity to connect with other parents and caregivers and to give your child a chance to socialise, play and build connections with other children. A number of families regularly travel over from Blueskin Bay to join this friendly and welcoming group. It's free to join - just come along on the day!

Need help on transitioning back to work and starting your child at preschool? Or maybe child oral health, toilet learning, sleep or settling or starting solids?

Whether you ticked one or all of the above, we've got you covered in our free, monthly virtual bites sessions! These regularly cover the above and more such as infant massage, toilet learning, sleep or settling and food progression. These free webinar-style meetings are held monthly on Microsoft Teams, which is free to download. Just pop onto the Otago Plunket Facebook Page and look for the advert with links to register for these group



sessions hosted by our Community Karitāne health workers and community services coordinators.

You'll get advice and support, have a chance to ask questions, and connect with whānau wanting similar advice.

If your child needs a Plunket appointment, or for any other clinical enquiries please call 0800 184 803.

Kā mihi nui Annabel

BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY



28 HARVEY STREET, WAITATI | 03 482 2444 | DUNEDINLIBRARIES.GOVT.NZ
OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 11AM-1PM AND 2-5.30PM | SATURDAY, 10AM-1PM

COM2TECH COMMUNITY DIGITAL DROPINS

Tuesdays, 11- 12pm

Advice and learning around purchasing, maintaining and using your digital devices effectively and securely for your lifestyle and capabilities.

STORYTIME WITH STEPHANEY

Fridays, 11am (except school holidays)

Introduce your child to the wonderful world of books and language. Visit the Library for half an hour of stories, rhymes, and songs, both old and new. Suitable for pre-school children and their caregivers.

BLUESKIN BAY KNITWITS

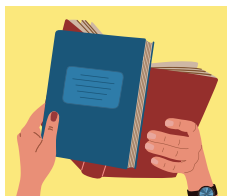


Mondays, 6.30 - 8.30pm
Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Contact Christine
021 133 9340

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE



Tuesday 23 April,
3.30 - 4.30pm

Join us for tea and a chat about what you're currently reading and get ideas for what to read next. All welcome.

TECH HELP 1-2-1



Second Wednesday of the month, 2- 3pm

Drop in sessions providing 1-2-1 help with a range of tech topics. This month's session is on Wednesday 8 April.

CRAFTERMORNING



Wednesday 1 April,
11 - 12.30pm

Come along and join us for our Adult CRAFTER morning sessions. Each month there will be a new project and it is free! This month we will learn to weave using Tetrapack.

EASTER AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

We have a few activities planned for Easter and the upcoming holidays so please watch this space for more details.

WILD DUNEDIN FESTIVAL

Check out the Wild Dunedin Festival timetable www.wilddunedin.nz (10 - 19 April) as there are lots of cool activities throughout Dunedin that are family orientated and many of them are free. The following two events are taking place at Blueskin Bay Library:

ULTRAWILD MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP WITH STEVE MUSHIN

Monday 13 April, 2 - 4pm

Cost \$10. Limited places. Booking essential. www.wilddunedin.nz

BONES - THE FRAMEWORK OF LIFE

Tuesday 14 April, 2.30 - 4pm

A show and tell with artist Bruce Mahalski and items of his Museum of Natural Mystery.

Free. Limited places. Booking essential. www.wilddunedin.nz

DCC SERVICE CENTRE

Open until 5pm weekdays for: dog registrations, Bokashi buckets, parking fines, rates, 75+ parking permits and Bee Cards.

BLUE SKIN GARDEN CLUB

Autumn is here and winter is just around the corner, so time in the garden is precious.

Now is the time to plant, plants, that can survive the winter temperatures, and be the first to mature in the spring.

I have found baby carrots, broad beans, and sugar snap pea seeds, planted now do well, and successive plantings of broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage plants are the first to be ready when vegetables are expensive to buy.

In March, garden club members enjoyed a day out visiting a garden in Milton, the Wake Robin plant nursery in Balclutha, and spent several pleasant hours wandering around the Mine Creek

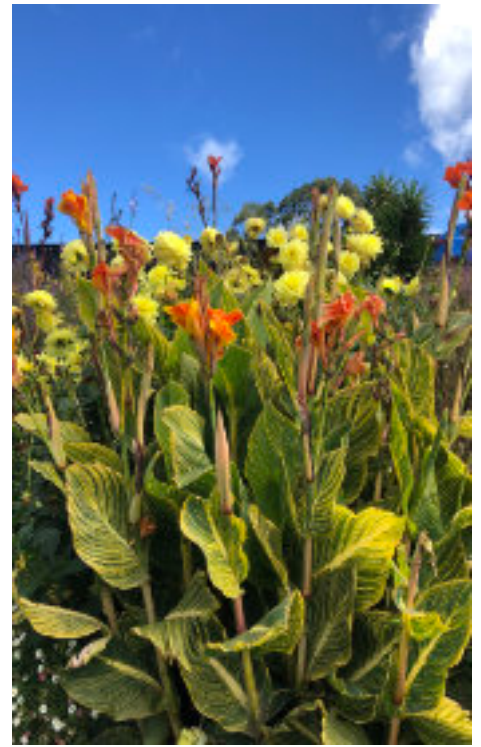
Gardens at Kaitangata. We enjoyed wandering through the rows of dahlias and lilies, perennials, and ponds, overlooked by several Clydesdale horses in the adjacent paddocks. It's a lovely place to visit.

We finished the day at the memorial to the fallen miners of the 1879 Kaitangata mine explosion, a tragic day for the families and community.

On 18 April we will be visiting Dylan Norfield's garden in Doctors Point Road.

This amazing garden has been awarded the title 'A Garden of Distinction' so we are all looking forward to viewing this.

For more information contact **Bev Lyon** 027 533 2238.



Join your hostess with the mostest Miss Keira Scene for an extra special Waitati edition of of drag bingo!

We will we fund-raising for the new Waitati Library Playground!

Tickets will be available for \$20, cash door sales only!

Be into win fabulous prizes!

One night only at 7pm on Saturday April 4 at the Waitati Hall, 26 Harvey St!

This is a camp night out not to be missed!

Waitati music festival presents ...

ARC fest

7 bands / 7 DJ's
3 pm - 11 pm
Sat 30th May

ARC brewery
humanitix.com/nz



Foraged acorn flour

Crazy stuff happening in the world makes me want to hide under a rock. It's always better to actually do something positive - Run for office, sign petitions, have a party and burn effigies...but all you can really do is take care of your own little corner of the world.

If food supplies become insanely expensive, be thankful that you can grow your own. There are not many landless apartment dwellers in Blueskin bay, some space can be found for many good edible foods here.

Some things which are hard to grow in a backyard are complex carbohydrates, protein and oils. This is because they usually need a lot more space than is available in a backyard. Fortunately there are ways to work around this problem.

Early European settlers in Aotearoa had an obsession with planting European trees, and the oak tree is deeply rooted in British folklore, so consequently you will find it planted everywhere. Because of the misconception that acorns are inedible, they are very easy to forage in large quantities with almost zero competition (just me). Many cultures in the world used acorns extensively because they are so easy to gather, store well and are nutrient dense, complex carbohydrates (41%) and between 25% and 53% oil. Their oil is not just any oil either it contains unsaturated fat and phytosterols which improve cholesterol levels and protect against heart disease, it is also rich in antioxidants.

First, gather your nuts- I found a tree which has really large acorns, so they require so much less work to get your acorn flour. Any acorn will do. Lay your acorns out to dry until the shells are brittle, it's then pretty easy to crack off the shell. Put the kernels into a bowl of cold water which will turn brown as the toxic tannins leach out. Change the water daily until the water stays clear because all the tannins are gone.

Dry the kernels out on a tray, and when they are really dry store them in a jar. When you are ready to make acorn flour, grind the acorns in a strong blender (we have a commercial one), or a Breville coffee and spice grinder, until you have what looks like pale brown flour. The resulting flour is gluten free so will need some help to get it to stick together. Follow gluten free recipes. I mix it with Maize corn flour and seeds to make crackers, there are techniques like adding guar gum, phylum husk or eggs to get the dough to bind, or you can mix it with wheat flour.

The flavour is mildly sweet and nutty. Anything you bake with acorn flour will be quite brown when cooked, this is normal. You can make crackers, cakes, biscuits and pancakes with your foraged acorn flour.

Try this recipe for acorn flour pancakes.

- 2 Cups of acorn flour
- 1 cup of wheat flour
- 2 tsp Baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tbs sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups of milk

This mixture will be quite thick so smear it around the pan with a spatula.

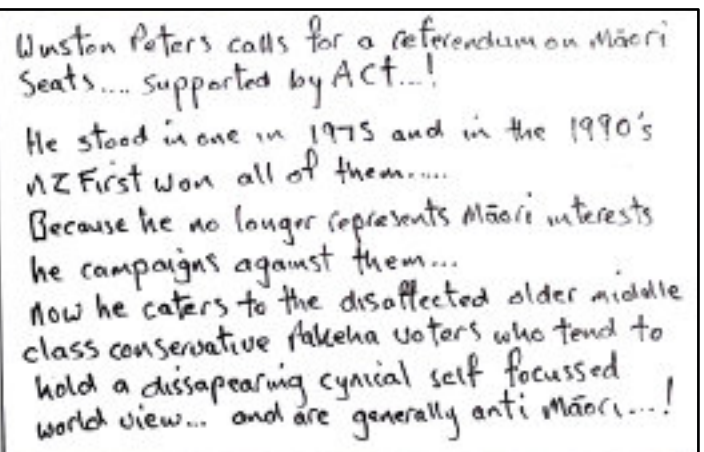
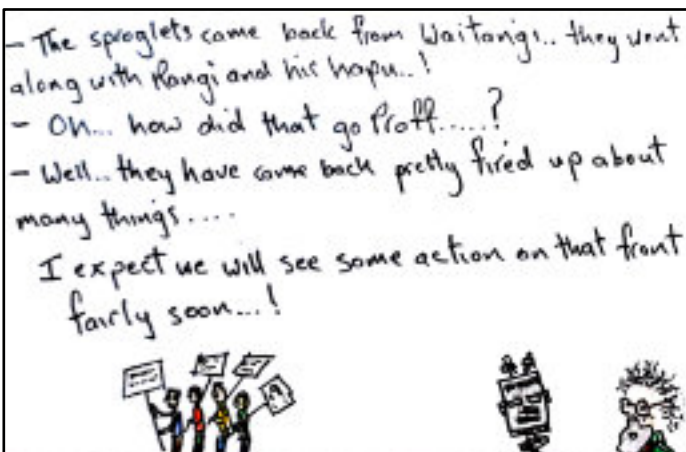
When cooked drizzle with maple syrup or honey, or a seasonal blackberry compote.

I have a baby oak tree sprouted from the biggest acorn I have ever seen, found near Akaroa. If anyone knows of a public place where I can plant it let me know, otherwise, someone is welcome to it if they have plenty of space for an oak tree. I am at houseonhill@ymail.com

Hilary Rowley

Madness vs Sanity

Lunkhead & Proff



rates increase in Otago Regional Council's draft Annual Plan

Balancing important environmental work and finding cost efficiencies were the key focus for the draft 2026-27 Annual Plan.

ORC's draft plan delivers an overall zero rates increase in 2026-27 – a significant drop on the 8.7% increase forecast during the Long-Term Plan process.

For the average residential property in Dunedin, Clutha, Waitaki and Central Otago, rates drop slightly. In Queenstown, properties that pay a public transport rate will see an increase. This is due to the cost of extra services introduced after public consultation, such as the new Arrowtown to Jack's Point bus service and increased frequency of services on other bus routes.

While there's no increase in the value of the overall rates amount collected, rates for each property vary depending on things like location and the services provided. Some properties will still see a change with rates increasing or decreasing.

See more information about the draft Annual Plan on ORC's website and look up estimated rates at orc.govt.nz/ap2026



Blueskin Playcentre

I thought I'd run through a typical Blueskin Playcentre day so that you could have an idea of what time would most suit you to arrive when you're first visiting Blueskin Playcentre:

8.45 Blueskin Playcentre opens. The room is incredibly tidy, neat, and clean. There are fun activities set out at tables for children to interact with. This is a great time to arrive to have a quiet play in a calm setting.

9.30 Most people tend to arrive over the next hour. This is a very social time, mostly indoors, although there's no restrictions on where you can play. This is a wonderful time to arrive if you'd like to meet lots of people, play indoors, have a coffee and a chat.

10.30 Shared kai time. This is a special time in the morning when everyone comes together - the children sit around a large table, with the adults sitting or standing near them. We all sing a karakia (words are written out for you to read) and then the children have a range of fruit, crackers and cheese to choose from. This is a lovely time to arrive if your child is hungry, likes to watch others before playing, and in order to meet everyone in a quiet setting.

11.00 Shared kai time has finished and the tamariki will have settled into a new activity, probably a mixture of outside and inside play, unless it's a beautiful day, in which case mostly outside. There's a range of activities and toys, which include bikes, the massive sandpit, water play, the playhouse, and also the climbing gym. This is a fun time to arrive if you like outdoorsy play, only want to stay for a short time, if your little one has a sleep in the morning, or if you want to burn off some energy before their next nap.

12 - 12.15 Pack-up time and time to head home. Only arrive now if you're really into a good tidy and pack-up session!

We're looking forward to seeing you and your preschooler children/babies at Blueskin Playcentre!

Heather

Information for voters – DCC by-election candidates

Voters in Ōtepoti Dunedin can now find more information about the candidates vying for the role of councillor in the upcoming Dunedin City Council by-election.

The by-election was called after the unexpected death of Councillor Jules Radich in January. Voting will open from 10 April, and the polls will close at midday on 12 May 2026. As in last year's local election, voters can now watch short videos of by-election candidates answering key questions. All 14 candidates standing in the by-election were offered the opportunity to take part, and 12 opted to participate in the filming.

The candidates were asked the same three questions: what are your top priorities for Dunedin, why do you think you are right for the role of councillor, and what do you see as the biggest opportunity on the horizon for Dunedin?

Along with candidate statements and photos, the videos are now online at [View the 2026 by-election candidates - Dunedin City Council](#). The videos are also available as a playlist at [Dunedin City Council - YouTube](#).

DCC Deputy Electoral Officer, Robyn Dillon, says a lack of information about candidates is one reason people say they don't vote.

"The videos offer voters a chance to find out more about those standing for election, in addition to the public statements and photos the candidates provide," she says.

"We have strong turnout of candidates standing in this by-election and we want to see as many eligible voters casting their ballots as possible. Every vote matters, so be sure to have your say on who should join the Council table."

For more information about the by-election, visit www.dunedin.govt.nz/elections

Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

Bus Service Upgrade – we recently invited Julian Phillips, Transportation Lead at Otago Regional Council, to give us an update on the bus service affecting our area – Route 1. He advised as follows

- Thirty-seven new electric buses will be introduced to Dunedin's public transport network from October, following the award of two major contracts by the Otago Regional Council to Go Bus Transport. This is a change of operator from Ritchies to Go Bus, who have previously operated the route in years gone by.
- The contracts cover about half of Dunedin's bus network and will significantly increase the number of electric buses in operation.
- We will also introduce larger, purpose-built buses for longer-distance services on Route 1 between Palmerston and Dunedin.
- The two larger buses, targeted for use on Palmerston–Dunedin services only, have been designed for a more comfortable ride on longer-distance trips - the Palmerston service requires sustained 80–90km/h open-road running. They are a unique low-floor vehicle design for enhanced safety and comfort on longer open road journeys.
- Further to that, we recently asked for and were granted an exemption from NZTA for a special type of seat with thicker base cushions, more ergonomic design and higher head rests. The exemption was required because public buses in New

Zealand have to follow a very specific set of guidelines in their design, and these seats were larger/different than the specified criteria. But they were approved and will also have seat belts fitted.

- The EV drivetrains are also optimised for energy use at highway speeds
- The seats are covered with an NZ Camira fabric, which I think is wool.
- Independent axles for smoother ride and suspension tuned for open-road conditions.
- These vehicles have capacity for 89 passengers, versus a typical bus with space for 55-ish, so no overcrowding either and plenty of priority space for parents or mobility users. As far as I'm aware, it will be the only vehicle of this type in NZ right now.
- Virtually all services will pass through Warrington. We are currently working with DCC to see if we can establish an additional stop in Warrington for Northbound passengers.
- We're also revising the timetables to remove issues with late running and we're really looking forward to seeing how the community reacts to these changes.

Alasdair Morrison,

Chairman, Waikouaiti Coast Community Board
info@calmarine.co.nz

Blueskin Bay A&P Show

Blueskin Bay A&P show is a super special event that should be preserved or bottled, it would certainly win first prize for community spirit! Lots of our community groups, clubs, organisations, local schools, Playcentre, neighbours and friends gathered on Bland Park to enjoy the beautiful blooms, longest beans, coolest mullets, tastiest kai, bounciest castle, funkier band, fire truck, pony rides, a digger and all the car boot bargains.

There are so many people to thank, as all of the infrastructure, entertainment and prizes were either donated or sponsored.

Thankyou to... Purakaunui, Warrington and Waitati Schools (yummy kai); Tiny pieces of 8, F-Team dancers, Etopik beats & Jay the Juggler (entertainment); Emily, Mia and Benji (supervising the bouncy castle & noddly train); Celebrity hairdresser Rhi and Mandy (mullet comp); Cargills Contracting (digger and generator); Colin Thom builders (bouncy castles); Blueskin Nurseries & Cafe (sponsoring Juggler & prizes); Hilary Rowley & the View St crew (Produce tent); Arc Brewery & Orokonui Ecosanctuary (prizes); East Otago Transport Company (truck/stage); Graeme & Marie Bennett(hay bales); Barry Oliver(sign); Eastern Rugby Club (produce marquee); Matt Sumpter (firewood).

A special thanks to the Blueskin A&P committee volunteer team- It is a pleasure putting the show together, you are a great bunch people with a community first approach!

If you attended – thank you. It's so great to have a get together, we should do it more often.

Katie Peppercorn (President A&P soc)



Produce and Flower

The number of entries was amazing. The quality of entries very high. I loved the cup cakes, they were a real standout. Great having so many children getting involved. There were so many and various types of preserves, fruits and vegetables. Those Dahlias... wow, so many and so gorgeous. 31 entries in that section alone.

So apart from being completely exhausted by it all, the team of us who organised this part of the show had a fantastic time, and it was great to keep this part of the show going.

Hilary Rowley

Around the Bay – April Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
10 – 19 April WILD DUNEDIN FESTIVAL	Check out the Wild Dunedin Festival timetable www.wilddunedin.nz ULTRAWILD MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP WITH STEVE MUSHIN Monday 13 April, 2 – 4pm Cost \$10. Limited places. Booking essential. BONES – THE FRAMEWORK OF LIFE Tuesday 14 April, 2.30 – 4pm A show and tell with artist Bruce Mahalski and items of his Museum of Natural Mystery. Free. Limited places. Booking essential
MONDAYS	Blueskin Bay Knitwits: 6.30 – 8.30pm Contact Christine 021 133 9340
TUESDAYS	Blueskin Bay Knitwits: 2.30 – 4.30pm Contact Christine 021 133 9340
TUESDAYS	FREE Community Digital Dropins: 11am – 12.30pm
FRIDAYS	Story Time with Stephaney: 11am

WAIPUTAI HUB	
MONDAYS	Piano Lessons: 4 – 6.30pm. All ages and levels, Roseanna O’Neill, 027 9585 838
TUESDAYS	Homeschoolers: 10am – 2:30pm Contact: Nathan Parker, Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info Ping Pong: 2.30 – 4pm. All ages, levels and drop ins. Contact 022 647 4738. Piano Lessons: 4 – 6.30pm. All ages and levels, Roseanna O’Neill, 027 9585 838
WEDNESDAYS	Kōrero te reo Māori: 7 – 8pm Starts 4 March \$5 registration koha Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily Sterk Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info

WAITATI HALL	
MONDAYS	Steady As You Go: 1.30pm Age Concern Gentle Yoga: 6 – 7pm Bring your own mat \$10pp Contact: hagino.yoga@gmail.com Table Tennis: 7.30pm til late Contact: Nigel 021 236 2818
TUESDAYS	NIA Dance Class: 11.30am-12.30pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350
WEDNESDAYS	Energetic Yoga Restore & Rejuvenate 6 – 7pm Bring your own mat \$10pp Contact: hagino.yoga@gmail.com
FRIDAYS	Community Acupuncture: 9am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake cblake@siacu.nz
SATURDAYS	NIA Dance Class: 4 – 5pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Wednesday 1	Quiz 7 – 9pm no cover charge

ST BARNABAS CHURCH	
Thursday 2	Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
Friday 3	Good Friday at 10am
Sunday 5	Easter Day service at 10 am

WARRINGTON HALL	
TUESDAYS	Indoor Bowls: 7.30pm
THURSDAYS	Yoga – All levels: 6.30 – 7.30pm Bring your own mat \$10pp Contact: hagino.yoga@gmail.com
SUNDAYS	Waitati Warblers: Singing for joy 4 – 5.30pm Contact: nancymiller140@gmail.com

ARC BREWERY	
SUNDAYS	Live Music: 2 – 5pm Contact 021 4108 1141

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 6	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 13	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 20	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 27	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste

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	1			7		8
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Sudoku composed by Andrew Bott and sent in by Michael Priestnall, answers in the next issue.

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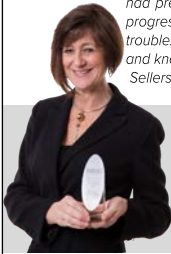
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2	1	5	7	6	8	9	4	3
9	5	2	8	1	4	3	6	7
3	6	1	2	7	5	8	9	4
8	7	4	9	3	6	2	5	1

Answer to February Sudoku

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Mihi o te Ngahuru – Greetings of Autumn

Kia ora Blueskin Bay whānau,

We have been enjoying a wonderful start to the season here at Warrington School, with plenty of exciting learning and activities happening across the kura.

Recently, we have been celebrating Sea Week, Aotearoa New Zealand's annual nationwide, community-led celebration of the sea. Here at Warrington School, the moana is deeply interwoven through many aspects of our learning and local environment. Our whakataukī, "Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te iwi – When land and water are sustained, the people will prosper," reflects the importance we place on caring for the natural world that surrounds us.

Our taura were fascinated to learn about the many creatures that live in our oceans, from animals found in the intertidal rock pools to the mysterious life of the deep sea. As part of our learning, the whole kura enjoyed a beautiful morning at Warrington Beach exploring the rock pools and helping to care for our coastline by collecting rubbish. It was wonderful to see the children taking pride in looking after such a special place in our community.

We have also welcomed Enviroschools to our kura, who brought along some fascinating visitors – bumblebees! The children learned about the important role bumblebees play in pollination and how they help support healthy ecosystems and food production. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that connected beautifully with our focus on caring for the environment.

Meanwhile, hockey season is getting underway, and our students have been enjoying training sessions with coaches from Hockey Otago. The tamariki have loved developing their skills, working as a team, and getting active on the turf.

There is always something happening at Warrington School, and we are incredibly proud of the curiosity, enthusiasm, and care our students show for their learning and environment. If you have been considering Warrington School for your child, we warmly invite you to visit our kura in action. Please feel free to get in touch or drop by for a visit – we would love to welcome you.



March Madness brings medals at Nationals

It's been another crazy busy month for the Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club. Jonathan Duncan and Molly Gilbert travelled to Tauranga to compete at "Oceans" a national competition for over 750 young people aged between 10-14. Molly made the semifinals in her age group for the Surf Race and Run-Swim-Run, while Jonathan reached the Surf Race final and semifinals in the Run-Swim-Run and Diamond.

A team also made the long trip to jhope for the Senior Nationals, coming away with successes in multiple events. Over 1200 competitors took part in over 25 different beach, swimming, board, ski, canoe, rescue and race boat events. Maddie & Phoebe Ozanne, Isabella Aldrich and Maggie Gorman claimed Silver in the Long Course Canoe and 4th in the Short Course. Carol Forbes, Rachel Ozanne, Patricia McNaughton and Naomi Ingram also took silver in the Masters Short Course Canoe. Karyn Becconsall-Ryan also took away some individual medals with 3rd in the Masters Sprints and Silver in the Masters Ski. As a club we are immensely proud of the achievements of our junior and senior competitors this season.

Sadly, the end of March has brought with it the end of weekend Lifeguard Patrols on the beach. It has been a memorable season with the opening of the new lifeguard patrol building, the qualification of new lifeguards to help patrol our beautiful beach, successes in both junior and senior competitions and a growing Rookies and Junior Surf programme. With the flags now lowered for the Autumn/Winter, please stay safe in the water, and if you still get the itch, make sure someone knows your going for a dip and take nice warm clothing for when you get out.!

- 1- Jonathan and Molly (Jonathan Duncan and Molly Gilbert)**
- 2- Female Masters Canoe Team (Patricia McNaughton, Naomi Ingram, Rachel Ozanne and Carol Forbes)**
- 3- Canoe Medalists (Maddie Ozanne ,Maggie Gorman, Isabella Aldrich and Phoebe Ozanne)**



The Mosgiel Trixie Walkers had seen in the ODT that our new estuary track was open and come to Waitati to walk it. They spotted the stage during their coffee and cake stop and asked for the photo to be taken.

They were a great bunch and said they'd so much enjoyed the lovely sunny day, the Blueskin Gallery and their walk.